

MY STORY OF ELSENBORN, BELGIUM 1944-1945
BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

I WAS IN A FARMHOUSE AT THE OUTSIDE OF ROCKERATH WHEN THE GERMAN OFFENCE STARTED DECEMBER 16, 1944. AFTER FOUR DAYS, WE WERE ORDERED TO GO TO ELSENBORN. WE STARTED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. DUE TO THE DARKNESS AND THE BAD ROUTE THE TRUCKS TOOK, SOME OF US WERE SEPARATED FROM OUR UNITS. I STAYED IN A BUNKER ON ELSENBORN RIDGE ALL NIGHT. WE WERE NOT SURE THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE TAKEN PRISONER. THE NEXT MORNING WE LOOKED AROUND AND SAW NOTHING. WE STARTED WALKING AND RAN INTO A MEDIC TRUCK. THEY WERE OUT LOOKING FOR US.

WE WERE TAKEN TO A HOUSE AT THE CROSSROADS IN ELSENBORN WHERE THE AID STATION WAS SET UP. THAT NIGHT IT WAS RUMORED THAT GERMAN TANKS WERE COMING UP THE ROAD FROM ~~KALTERBERG~~. IN THIS HOUSE WAS A FRUIT CELLAR SOMEONE LEFT A BAZZUKA IN THE AID STATION SO WALTER PAWLOSKI AND I DECIDED TO TAKE IT TO THE CELLAR AND FIRE IT AT THE TANK. THERE WAS A SMALL WINDOW FACING THE ROAD. AN AMERICAN OFFICER CAME IN ABOUT THAT TIME AND STOPPED US. HE SAID THE TANK WAS ALREADY DISABLED AND IF WE WOULD HAVE FIRED THE GUN, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED FROM THE CONCUSSION. THE GERMAN ARTILLARY WAS FIRING AT THE INTERSECTION. I TOLD MAJOR JAMES FYVIE OUR MEDICAL COMMANDING OFFICER THAT HE SHOULD HUNT US A BETTER LOCATION FOR AN AID STATION. HE LEFT AND CAME BACK A LITTLE LATER. HE FOUND A SCHOOL HOUSE THAT WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE. WE MOVED IN THE SCHOOL. TWO DAYS LATER, A GERMAN SHELL HIT THE HOUSE THAT WE MOVED OUT OF AND DEMOLISHED IT ALSO HIT A JEEP BESIDE THE HOUSE KILLING TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS. [I WILL DRAW A SKETCH OF THE LOCATION OF THE HOUSE LATER]

THE SCHOOL WAS A VERY GOOD LOCATION. WE USED TWO ROOM TO HELP WOUNDED SOLDIERS. WE HAD A LOT OF CASUALTIES. ALSO A LOT OF FROZEN FEET TO TAKE CARE OF FOR THE MEN OUT ON ELSENBORN RIDGE. THE FIRST ROOM ON THE RIGHT AS YOU ENTERED THE SIDE DOOR WAS THE AID STATION ROOM. THE SECOND ROOM ON THE RIGHT WAS USED TO ALLOW THE SOLDIERS TO GET A REST. WE HAD A POT BELLY STOVE IN THERE. WE HAD THE WINDOWS COVERED SO THE LIGHT WOULD NOT SHOW THROUGH. ONE NIGHT THE STOVE PIPE GOT REAL HOT AND SET THE RAGS ON FIRE. THE SMOKE PIPE WENT OUT THROUGH A WINDOW. ANOTHER TIME A GERMAN SHELL CAME IN THE BIG DOORS LANDED ON THE FLOOR BUT DID NOT EXPLODE. THANK GOD FOR THE DUDE. OUR KITCHEN WAS BELOW THE CHURCH. ON CHRISTMAS DAY WE HAD TO RUN FROM THE SCHOOL TO THE KITCHEN FOR OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER. THE SHELLING WAS FIERCE. BY THE TIME WE GOT BACK TO THE SCHOOL MOST OF OUR DINNER WAS LOST IN THE MUD.

OUR FOOD SUPPLY WAS SCARCE AND SINCE THERE WERE NO CIVILIANS THERE TO TAKE CARE OF TH COWS AND PIGS, WE BUTCHERED ONE OF EACH FOR FOOD. SINCE IT WAS SO COLD, WE KEPT THE MEAT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE SCHOOL. I WILL AGAIN APOLOGIZE TO THE PEOPLE WHO OWNED THE COW AND PIG FOR SLAUGHTERING THEM'

IT WAS AT THIS SCHOOL WHEN I WAS ON MY WAY TO MALMEDY TO PICK UP MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT JOSEPH MANER AND I WAS STRAFED BY A GERMAN FIGHTER PLANE I WAS WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT LEG. I STAYED IN ELSENBORN AND WAS TREATED THERE. I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT