

20th Combat Engineer Association

of World War II



November 2009

Lost But Not Forgotten

Irwin M. Jurs (F/20th; C/1340th) died April 21, 2009, with pneumonia and heart failure according to his widow, Betty M. Jurs. In 2004, Irwin wrote "I will not be able to attend the Final Reunion because I had a stroke. It affected my eyes, and I can no longer drive. We have moved from New York, and now are living full time at 1050 Geneva Way, Grand Island, Florida 32735. Have a good time at the Reunion, and give my regards to all, especially the boys of C Company, 1340th." Betty concluded her report on Irwin's death, "We had a wonderful life with so many good memories, and he enjoyed me reading the *Wavy Arrow* to him."

George N. Spivey (A/20th) died October 1, 2009, at the age of 90 years, after a brief stay in the Portsmouth, Virginia hospital. He served as a sergeant with A Company of the 20th from North Africa to Czechoslovakia and ended his working career as a claims supervisor for Allstate Insurance Company. A grave side service with military honors was held at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens in Chesapeake. Spivey hosted 20th Reunions in 1962, 1969, 1980, and 1987; and he attended the 2004 final Reunion accompanied by his wife, Juanita Spivey, and two daughters, Janet Shaw and Susan Cohen, all three of whom survive George Spivey.

Peter M. Tarsi (B/20th) died October 11, 2009, in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania, at the age of 90 years. According to his widow, "his death came after a short illness." One of Peter's last letters to the editor of the *Wavy Arrow* expressed how much he enjoyed reading "all of the experiences we went through," and added, "Company B of the 20th Engineers was "an outfit of which I will always be proud." He made frequent contributions to support the publication and mailing of the *Wavy Arrow*.

Status of Another Veteran

Thomas M. Cooksey, Jr. (H&S Company, 1340th). This 84-year old veteran, is now suffering from Alzheimer, according to a letter received from Tracy Blair, 3360 Kirklees Road, Winston Salem, NC 27104. "I have been trying to help my mother to find out more about my dad's military experience. I have learned that he was wounded during one of the five campaigns in which he fought. I came across a recent issue of the *Wavy Arrow* and this has proven to be a great resource. I am looking for anyone who might remember my father." **Editor's Comment:** Thomas Cooksey joined the 20th in January 1944 in England, participated in the Normandy invasion, and remained with the 1340th through VE Day. I would guess that he was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest between November 2 and November 10, 1944.

