

25 Feb. 2005
KARNAL, LITAK

Dear Art.

Thanks for writing me. I'm sorry but I don't have any e-mail. So I'll try to write & tell you about "Bobo"

We met in France, I didn't ^{enlist in} join the Paratroops until I reached England. I took my training near Hampstead & made 5 jumps in one day to qualify. It was a rough 5 weeks of hard body building, out of 250 men only 81 of us got our wings.

It was after we flew to France & was ready to jump into Holland that I first met your bro. He & I just kind of hit it off right at first, & it grew better in the short time we were together. He was in the same Platoon with me, but not in my squad.

We got a couple of passes & got to see London together. I remember he was writing to one of the twins, Barbara I think, & he had me write to her sister Betty. I don't recall if she ever wrote back or not.

We went through Bastogne all right & on to the Rhine. Just as we were getting ready to get in the boats, my sgt. said for me to keep my motor guard on this bank & be ready to help it if they needed us. It was a night deal so I couldn't see to make that went on until just at day break, they started to withdraw & the German tanks came in view.

there was a lot of fixing going on, & I was trying to do my share, so I didn't get to see everything that went on, ~~only~~ that a number of boats were capsized. It was real hard to hear that Bob was missing, later they found his body down the river a number of miles.

He & I were buddies because we didn't drink or smoke, I never did find out his faith, but he was like me. In an S.D.S.

I made it through ~~the~~ from Bastogne to the end of the war, at ^{the} Austrian border. Like God loved was watching over me all the way.

They put us two men to a fox hole for Buddy, Buddy system, I lost 4 Fox hole Buddies.

After the war, we were occupation troops & I got to get in the motor pool, & enjoyed it very much.

I didn't have enough points to get out early so they put me in the 8th ^{Patrol} ~~Patrol~~, & shipped us home enroute to Japan. we got to march in the

"Victory Parade" in ~~Japan~~. Boy I didn't know they had buildings that tall & so many of them, after it was over I came to S.I. City, & got my discharge on the 20 Jan. 1946 & the girl I was dating before I left Vernal met me in S.I.C. & we were married on 21 Jan. 1946.

We have had a great 59 yrs. together.

(3)

we have 7 children, 5 girls + 2 Boys. 34 grandkids
+ 55 great grand kids. we feel real blessed,

my wife + I have ~~now~~ moved a number of times
4 yrs. in Wyo. 12 years in Idaho, farming + then
I gave up the farm + went to work as a carpenter,
I retired at 66 + have been busy around the house
+ ~~our~~ friends + family. I'll be 82 next month,
but still going strong. My heart stopped 4 yrs ago
+ they put in a pacemaker + it is doing great.

Please write + tell me about your family + you.

we live in a little valley 12 miles n.w. of Vernal.

we have 14 acres, mostly pasture, I gave up the cows
3 yrs ago + just rent the pasture out.

we have had a pleasant winter, only down to -5
but we have had snow since Oct. there is still 11 inches
on the level in our yard + fields. we are at 6400 ft.
elevation, we have been here the last 26 yrs.

I'll sign off for now. Raymon + Ella Bascom
we have a new address.