

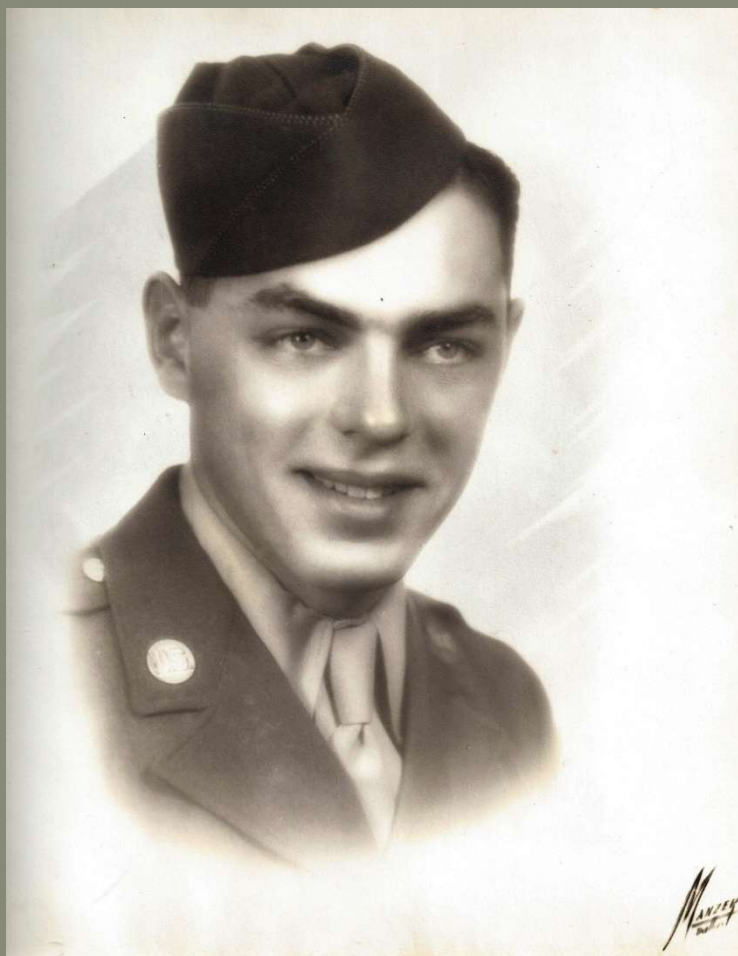
# 160<sup>th</sup> Engineering Combat Battalion WWII 1944 - 1945



Sergeant Robert J. Steinke  
United States Army  
Service Background and  
European Campaign



# Sergeant Steinke - Background



Sergeant Robert J. Steinke  
160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers  
Company A, Second Squad  
SN: 35554264

Induction Date: 21 Apr 43 (Age 18 years Old)

Entry Into Active Service: 28 Apr 43

Place of Entry: Camp Perry, Ohio

Honorable Discharge: 8 Jan 46

Place of Separation: Camp Atterbury, Indiana

Battles and Campaigns: Normandy, Northern  
France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

Length of Service

- Continental: 1 yr, 2 mos, 20 days
- Foreign: 1 yr, 5 mos, 21 days

Home Town: Mishawaka, Indiana







# Separation Records

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES		
SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD		
SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST		
<p>This record of job assignments and related training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its possession, information taken from reliable Army records and supplemental personal fragments. The information was civilian education and credit experience is based on the individual's own statement. The material may prompt his knowledge to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of educational agencies, or assist in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.</p>		
<p><b>1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL</b></p> <p><b>STEINAE ROBERT J</b></p>		
<p><b>2. ARMY SERVICE NO.</b>      <b>3. GRADE</b>      <b>4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.</b></p> <p><b>56 554 264</b>      <b>Sgt</b>      <b>312-20-6266</b></p>		
<p><b>5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)</b></p> <p><b>RFD 2 BOX 98</b> <b>KASHAWAKA ST JOSEPH IND</b></p>		
<p><b>6. DATES OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE</b>      <b>7. DATE OF DISCHARGE</b>      <b>8. DATE OF RELEASE</b></p> <p><b>28 Apr 43</b>      <b>8 Jan 46</b>      <b>28 Aug 1954</b></p>		
<p><b>9. PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b></p> <p><b>Camp Atterbury, Ind.</b></p>		
<p><b>10. SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS:</b></p>		
<p><b>11. TITLE DESCRIPTION RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION:</b></p> <p><b>CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN:</b> Served with Company A, 160th Engineer Combat Battalion, in ETO for 18 mos. Supervised a construction crew, in the construction of roads, air strips, bridges, (fixed and trendway) and buildings. Read blueprints. Assigned work to different individuals.</p>		

MILITARY EDUCATION			
14. GRADE OR TYPE OF SCHOOL WHICH WAS ATTENDED FOR MILITARY TRAINING (Indicate Department)			
None			
CIVILIAN EDUCATION			
15. GENERAL GRADE COMPLETED	16. GRADE OF DIPLOMA	17. YEAR OF GRADUATION	18. OTHER TRAINING OR INSTRUCTION
11	None	1942	None
19. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED			20. DURATION
Mishawaka, Ind.			
21. FAVOR COURSE OF STUDY			
Academic			
CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS			
22. TITLE—NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER INCLUSIVE DATES—DESCRIPTION			
<p>DETAILER II: Worked for Mishawaka Rubber Co., Mishawaka, Ind. from Jan 43 to April 43. Made detail drawings of machinery, inserted dimensions, and made final drawing on glossy paper. Had some experience operating blueprint machine.</p>			
23. REMARKS			
None			
24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED		25. SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR (Classification)	26. NAME OF OFFICE (Typed or Stamped)
<i>E. R. Crook</i>		<i>E. R. Crook</i>	E. W. CROOK, 1st Lt. A.C.



# Treadway Bridge Crossing the Rine River into Germany

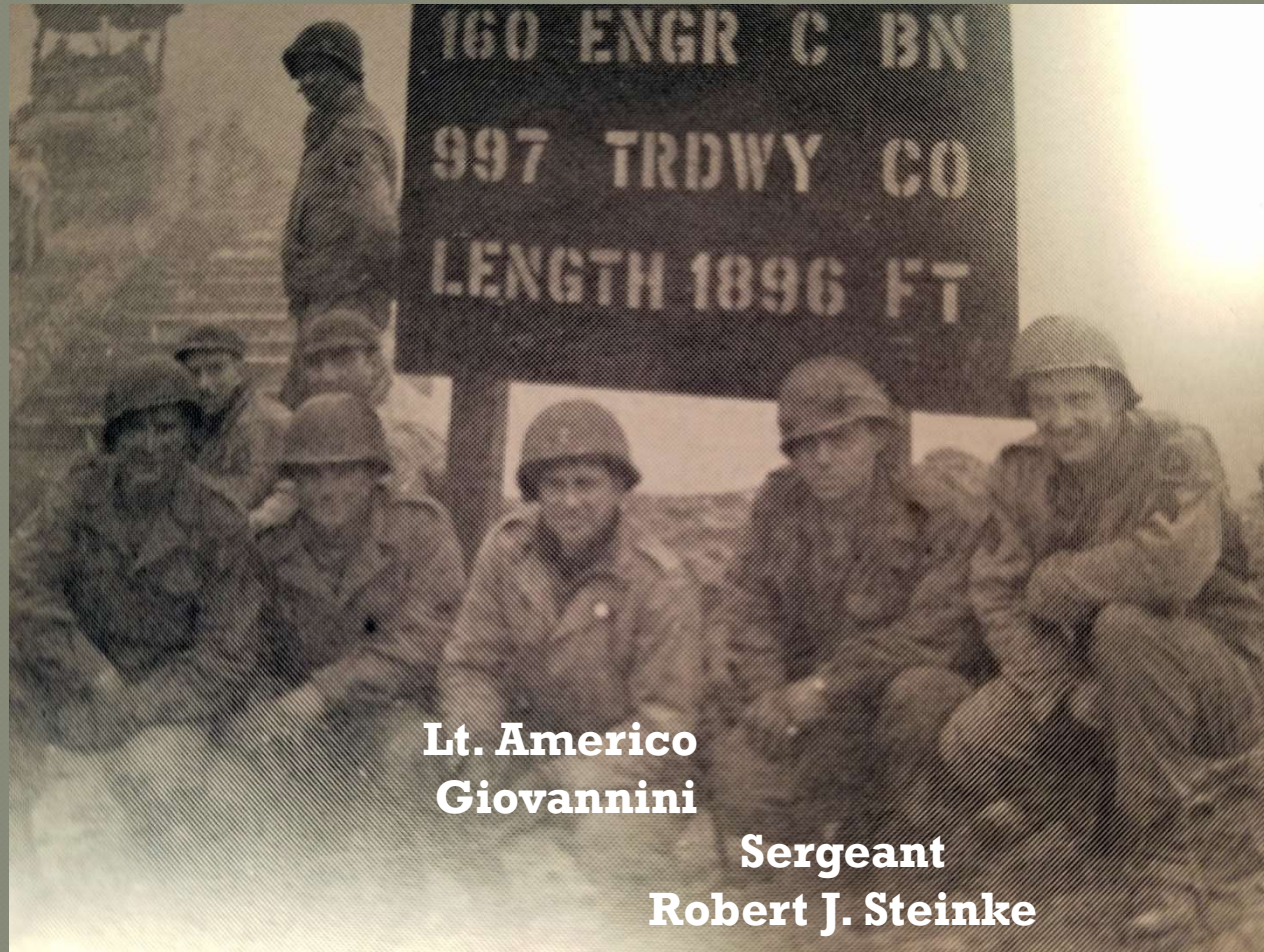


**Sergeant**  
**Robert J. Steinke**

**Company Commander**  
**Lt. Col. John H. Jackson**



# Treadway Bridge Crossing the Rine River into Germany



**Lt. Americo  
Giovannini**

**Sergeant  
Robert J. Steinke**



# Hospitalized in Paris France with Tonsillectomy



Sergeant Tom Sites

Sergeant Robert Steinke

# Destroying Captured German Weapons - Mauser Rifles



Sergeant Steinke and  
Assistant Squad Leader Holland

We are breaking  
German rifles  
in this picture  
the fellows beside  
me is my  
assistant squad  
leader. His name  
is Holland he  
is from Florida.  
Bob



# Sgt. Steinke (Second from Right) with Squad Members in France



Wearing Captured German Pistols Luger and Walther PP



# Sgt. Robert J. Steinke and 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad Mainz, Germany

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# Sergeant Steinke with Local Girl Gisele near Epermay France

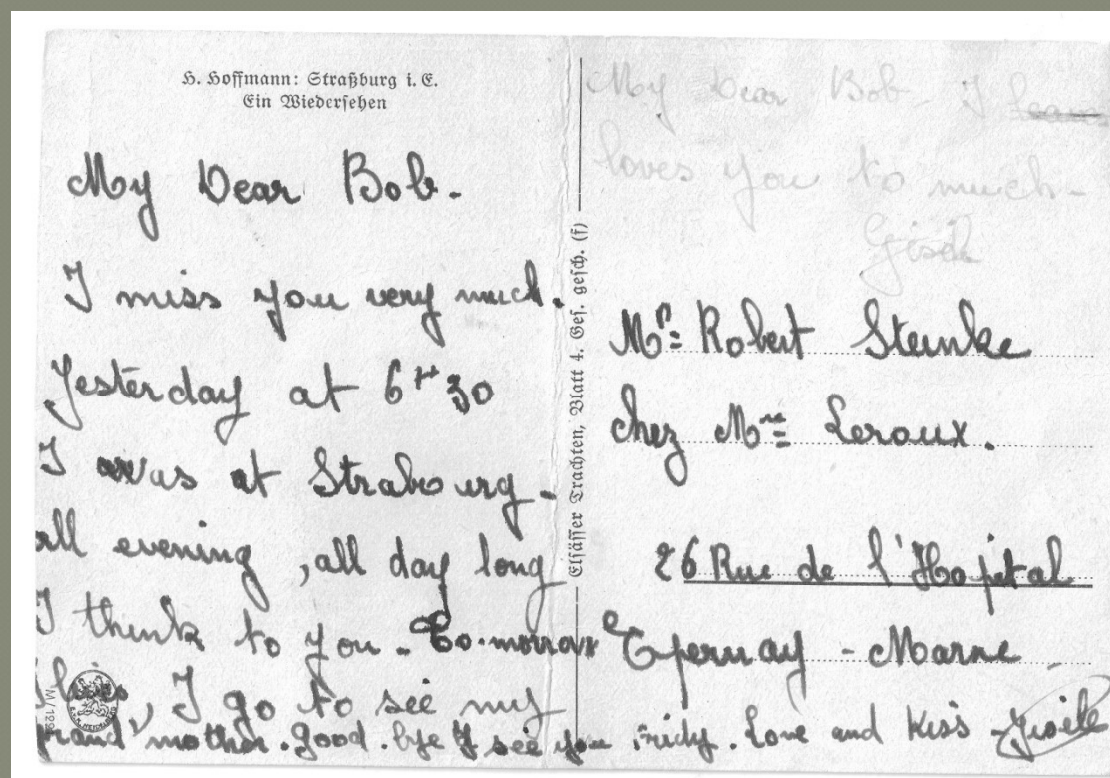


Post Card from Gisele





# Post Card sent by Gisele to Sgt. Steinke Epermay France





# Sergeant Robert Steinke (left) on Leave to Epermay France



HEADQUARTERS 365TH INFANTRY

AFB 89, U.S. Army  
31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Leave of Absence.

TO : Sgt Robert J. Steinke, 35554264, Co C 314th Engr C Bn. AFB 89, U.S. Army.

1. Sgt Robert J. Steinke, 35554264, Co C 314th Engr C Bn is granted a leave of absence for a period of three (3) days plus travel for the purpose of visiting Epermay, France.

2. EM will have arranged for messing and quartering prior to his departure from his organization.

3. Rail transportation authorized.

(Auth: EMBUSA Cir 20, 16 Feb 45)

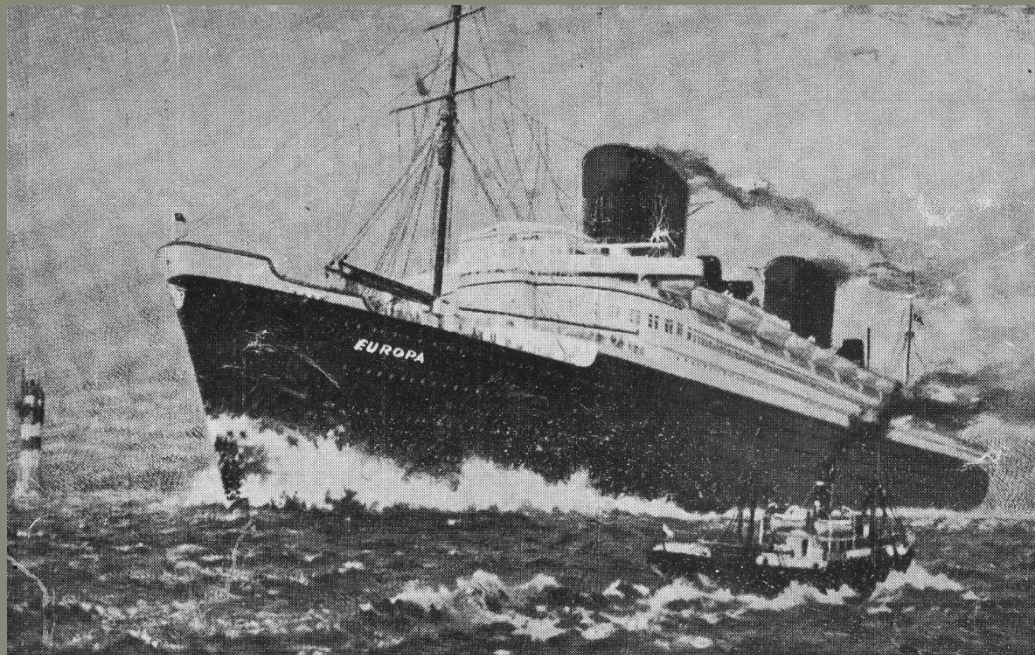
By order of Colonel HARRIS:

*Jack E. Warts*  
JACK E. WARTS  
WOJG U.S.A.  
Asst. Adjutant.



# Captured German Cruise Ship “Europa”

---



Built By Blohm & Voss Shipyard, Hamburg, Germany 15 Aug 1928  
Captured by US in 1945 – used to transport troops home to the  
US post WWII. Brought my Father Robert Steinke home 17 Dec 1945



# Local Newspaper Documenting the US Troops Return - Europa

## SHIPS RETURN 55,000 TROOPS

72 Transports Due  
to Dock at Eight  
Ports Today.

Continued from Page One, Column Three.

LCT 74; assault Cargo Ostara; LSM's 314, 388, 395, 454. All from Pearl Harbor, 1,441 navy, marine and coast guard personnel.

### At Los Angeles, Calif.

Miscellaneous personnel on following—Briscoe from Manila, 941; Neville, 644; Flyaway from Yokohama, 10; Sea Perch, 2,566; West Virginia from Pearl Harbor, 2,126; Nehenta Bay from Pearl Harbor, 991; Windham Bay from Pearl Harbor, 1,184; Minneapolis from Pearl Harbor, 769; San Saba from Okinawa, 1,968; Tanamo, from Pearl Harbor, 10; Samuel G. French from Guadalcanal, 10, and destroyer escorts Leland Thomas, Jesse Ruthersford, Key, Chester T. O'Brien, Howard, Robert Brazier, Neiffin and Bivin from Pearl Harbor, 290.

### At San Francisco.

Miscellaneous personnel on following—Alfred E. Smith from Pearl Harbor, 798; American Legion from Taclobo, 2,040; Cape Esperance from Manila, 1,381; Callender from Agusan, 1,878; Chester from Kwasalein, 1,022; Compel from Pearl Harbor, 103; Conque from Pearl Harbor, 33; Cottle from Leyte, 1,923; Dade from Manila, 1,446; Imperial from Philippines, 1,827; Navarao from Manila, 1,738; Sanctuary from Gunn, 1,074; Santa Monica from Leyte, 1,541; San Francisco from Pearl Harbor, 547.

### South Bend and Mishawaka.

On the Europa due New York today—Capt. Maurice E. Jessup, T/5 Calvin Beckman, Corp. Thomas P. Rzeszewski, Pfc. Virgil B. Houck, Pfc. Robert L. Whiteman and Corp. Raymond J. Kazmierzak, 2504 West Kenwood avenue, (all South Bend)—and Sgt. Joseph J. Stelinski (Mishawaka).

On the Thompson due New York yesterday—Pfc. Logan due San Francisco yesterday—T/5 Fred Ginder, S/Sgt. James R. Gaugh, Sgt. Marion E. Stephenson, Sgt. Joseph M. Bruck, Sgt. Lewis L. Haney, Corp. Henry D. Hagedorn, T/3 Marvin E. Rach, T/5 Joseph Zakrzewski, Pfc. Dee L. Goltz, Pfc. Eugene L. Harrell, Pfc. Richard Hoffman, Pfc. James H. Livengood, Pfc. Logan C. Pickeral and Pfc. John V. Strom (all South Bend).

On the James W. Riley due Boston, Mass., yesterday—First Lieut. Stephen J. Horvath (South Bend).

On the Admiral Camp due Newport News, Va., last Saturday—T/Sgt. Rob-

## SHIPS RETURN 55,000 TROOPS

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to Dock at Eight  
Ports Today.

By Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—At least 72 troop-carriers with nearly 55,000 servicemen are due today at eight east and west coast ports.

Eight ships with more than 11,000 men are due at New York, five with more than 3,000 at Boston, and four with 668 at Newport News, Va.

From the Pacific, 14 ships with more than 17,000 men are due at San Francisco, 19 ships with more than 11,000 at Los Angeles, Calif., 45 with 1,441 at San Diego, Calif., four with almost 5,000 at Seattle, Wash., and three with more than 5,000 at Tacoma, Wash.

### Ships and units arriving:

#### At New York.

Kemp Battle from Le Havre, 478 troops including 713th military police battalion and miscellaneous troops.

William Richardson from Marseilles, 562 troops including headquarters and headquarters company, second battalion, and companies E and F of the 314th infantry regiment.

F. Marion Crawford from Marseilles, 563 troops including headquarters and headquarters battery 336d field artillery group; headquarters and headquarters battery 194th field artillery battalion; 3519th ordnance maintenance company.

Miscellaneous troops on following—Former German liner Europa, 6,105; Gustavus Victory, 1,507; U. S. Savannah, 1,204; James Turner from Le Havre, 571, and Fitzhugh Lee from Antwerp, 613.

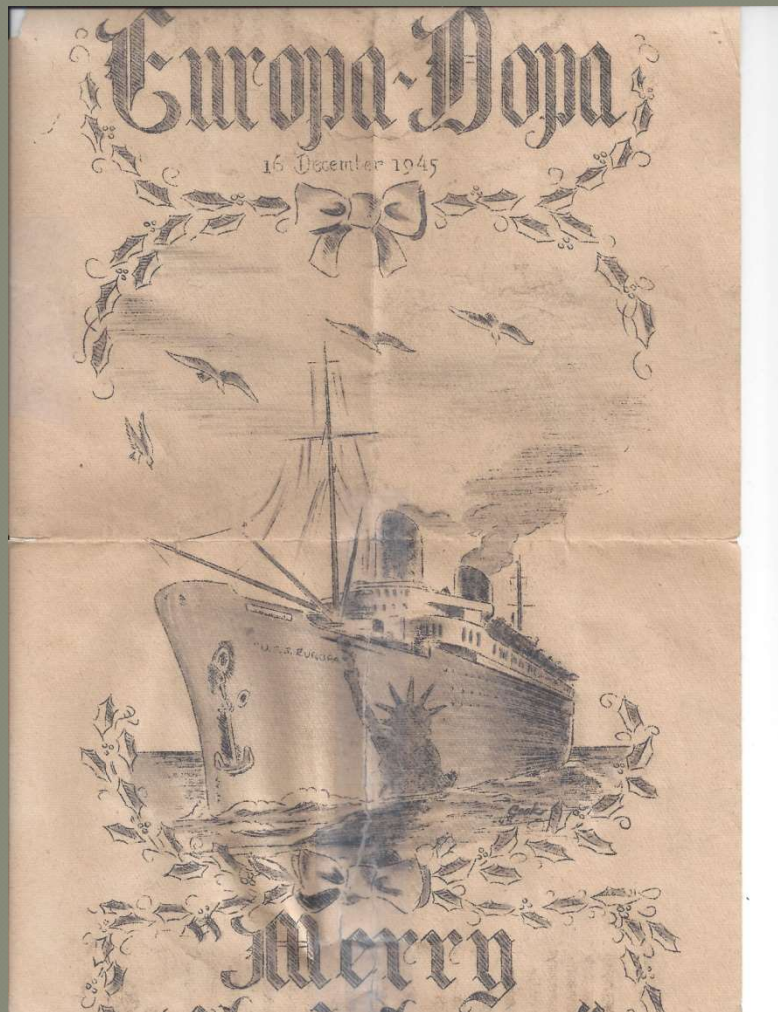
#### At Newport News, Va.

Former German  
Liner Europa

Sergeant  
Robert J. Steinke



# Europa "Events" on the Voyage Home to the United States





# U.S. BUREAU

# EUROPA-BOPA

DECEMBER 1945

## CLUE

Our reporter looked all over the ship yesterday for our boy **CLUE**. No, the reporter, had just about given up, when someone mentioned the fact that he had seen **CLUE**, heading for the Gun Deck.

The reporter chased up to the Gun Deck, opened the door, and was greeted by a mixed compilation of all types of barrels and bombs from the various divisions, sitting in the midst of all the pots was our **CLUE**, immediately checking a large, billed cigar and playing cards with a cute waif called **BOPE**.

It was the most amazing sight the reporter had ever seen in his career of chasing news and stories strange sights. When he opened his mouth to say his report about a **CLUE** in the area, the crew playfully put him two front paws on the reporter's shoulders and wiped his face.

**CLUE** finally noticed the existence of our man and **WHIPPED**, "Shh, we're playing Oh Navy", the reporter walked and realized, "That **CLUE**, a card-playing dog! What a stung!!"

**CLUE** looked up with that funny grin of his. "Well, he's not so hot. I've already beaten him two years out of three. There's our boy **CLUE**, he's really living.

## THE WATER SITUATION

Like yesterday we received the following report on the water situation direct from Army Engineers Headquarters.


"The water situation at board ship is dangerously critical, unless it improves we will be out of fresh water at least 26 hours before we reach port. This is largely due to inadequate storage facilities and variations. To have equipped the ship with adequate facilities would have kept it out of service 50 days, and you would not be going home on her."

The article, something to think about on page 3 will explain the technical reasons for the water shortage. If the weather, they had with the men who are getting in across the Atlantic. Use the water sparingly! This time next week you'll be drinking **ICE** Higallies.

## HE SAYS, WOULD IT YOU

There was a **CLUE** who was taken a boat and never told a word.

He tried to put the stopper in, but he was right over the hole....



# MOVIES

CLUE

I SAW THAT TOO!

Cartoon

[illegible]



# Letter from President Truman “Heartfelt Thanks”



ROBERT J. STEINKE

*To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.*

*Harry Truman*

THE WHITE HOUSE



# 160<sup>th</sup> Engineering Combat Battalion WWII 1944 - 1945

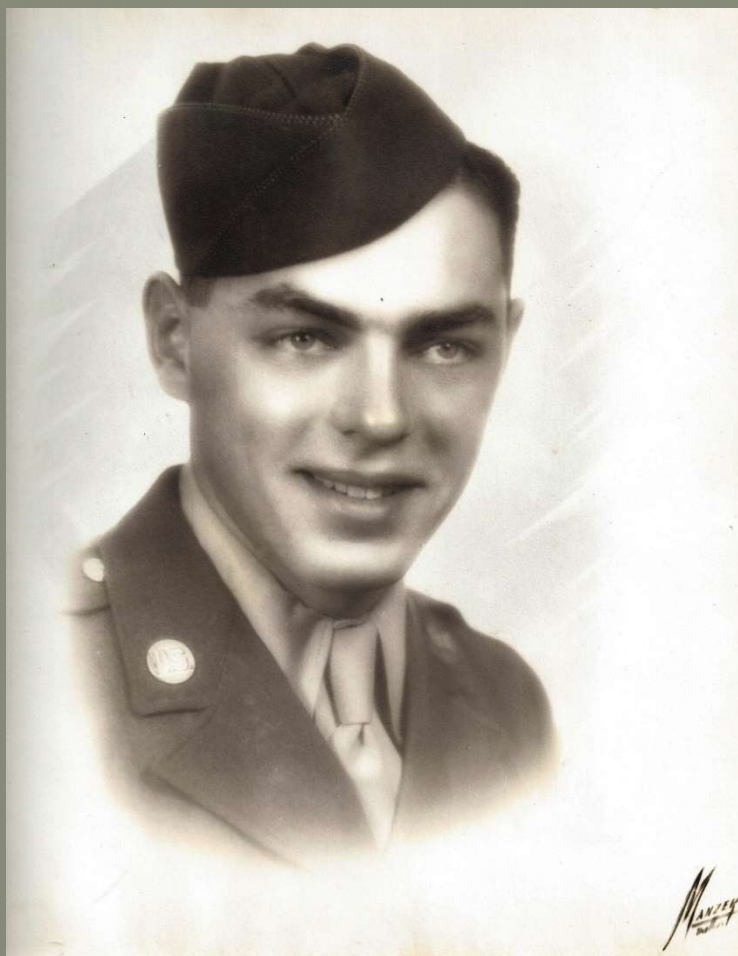


Sergeant Robert J. Steinke  
United States Army  
Service Background and  
European Campaign





# Sergeant Steinke - Background



Sergeant Robert J. Steinke  
160<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers  
Company A, Second Squad  
SN: 35554264

Induction Date: 21 Apr 43 (Age 18 years Old)

Entry Into Active Service: 28 Apr 43

Place of Entry: Camp Perry, Ohio

Honorable Discharge: 8 Jan 46

Place of Separation: Camp Atterbury, Indiana

Battles and Campaigns: Normandy, Northern  
France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

Length of Service

- Continental: 1 yr, 2 mos, 20 days
- Foreign: 1 yr, 5 mos, 21 days

Home Town: Mishawaka, Indiana







# Separation Records

8-28-43 LED

## Army of the United States

### SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and related training is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from individual's Army records and supplemental or personal sources. The information is not official and does not represent the official position of the Army. The values may prove this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME-NAME		2. ARMY SERIAL NO.		3. GRADE		4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		5. DATE OF BIRTH		6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE		7. DATE OF SEPARATION		8. DATE OF REENTRY	
STEINKE ROBERT J		36 684 264		SGT		312-20-6266		28		8 Jan 43		28 Aug 1924		28 Aug 1924	
9. PLACE OF BIRTH															
Mishawaka, Ind.															
10. PLACE OF RESIDENCE															
Camp Atterbury, Ind.															
11. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY															
Basic Eng. (729)															
12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY															
Construction Foreman (068)															
13. SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS															
CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN: Served with Company A, 160th Engineer Combat Battalion, in ETO for 18 mos. Supervised a construction crew, in the construction of roads, air strips, bridges, (fixed and trendway) and buildings. Read blueprints. Assigned work to different individuals.															

NO 860 FORM 101 1-1-43

### MILITARY EDUCATION

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED

2. DATE OF GRADUATION

3. COURSE

4. OTHER INFORMATION

5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER

6. DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

7. DATE OF SEPARATION

8. DATE OF REENTRY

9. PLACE OF BIRTH

10. PLACE OF RESIDENCE

11. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY

13. SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

14. REMARKS

15. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

16. SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLERK

17. NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped)

18. NAME OF OFFICER (Typed or Stamped)

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# Treadway Bridge Crossing the Rine River into Germany

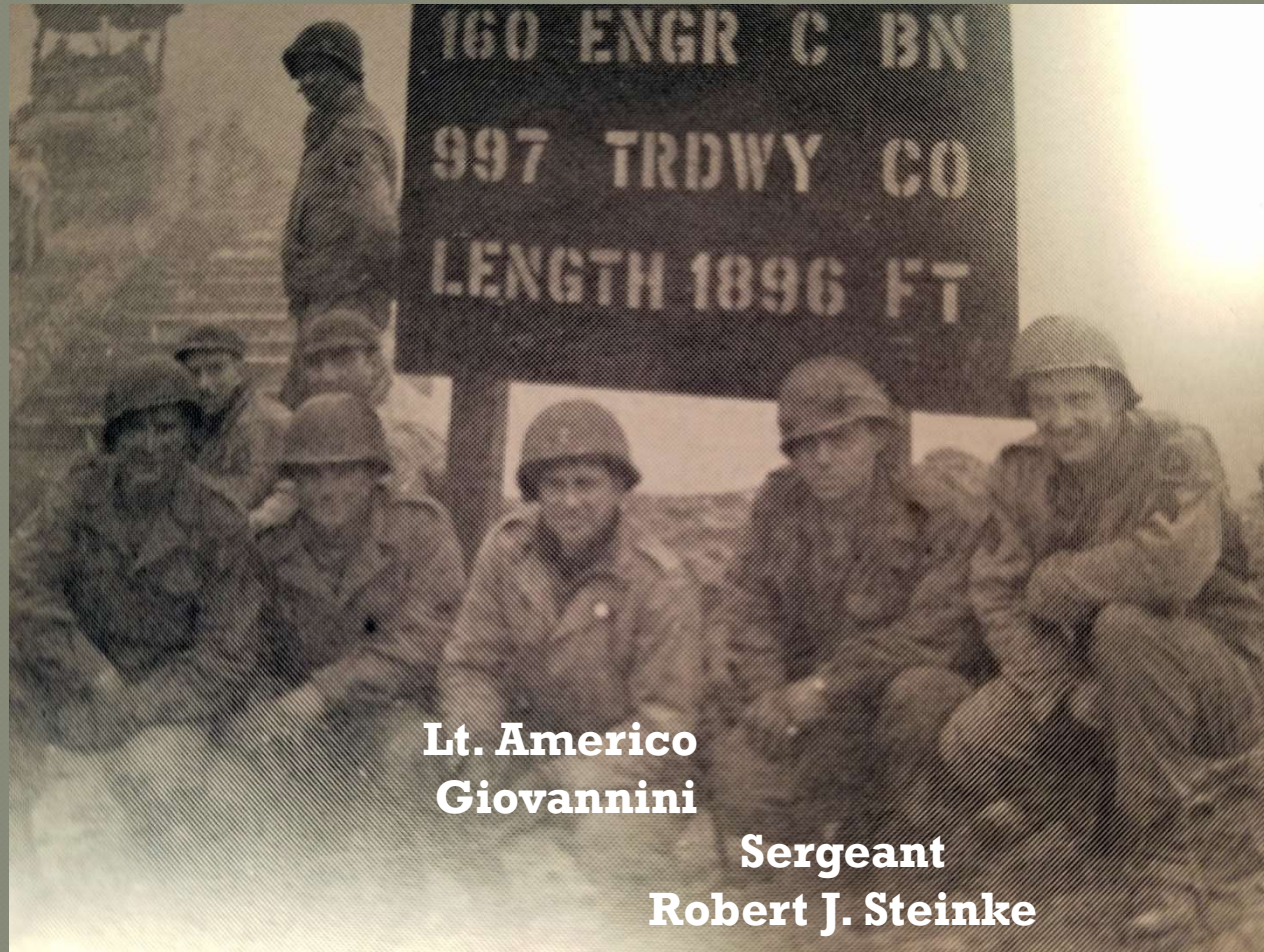


**Sergeant**  
**Robert J. Steinke**

**Company Commander**  
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# Hospitalized in Paris France with Tonsillectomy



Sergeant Tom Sites

Sergeant Robert Steinke



# Destroying Captured German Weapons - Mauser Rifles



Sergeant Steinke and  
Assistant Squad Leader Holland

We are breaking  
German rifles  
in this picture  
the fellows beside  
me is my  
assistant squad  
leader. His name  
is Holland he  
is from Florida.  
Bob



# Sgt. Steinke (Second from Right) with Squad Members in France



Wearing Captured German Pistols Luger and Walther PP



# Sgt. Robert J. Steinke and 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad Mainz, Germany

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# Sergeant Steinke with Local Girl Gisele near Epermay France

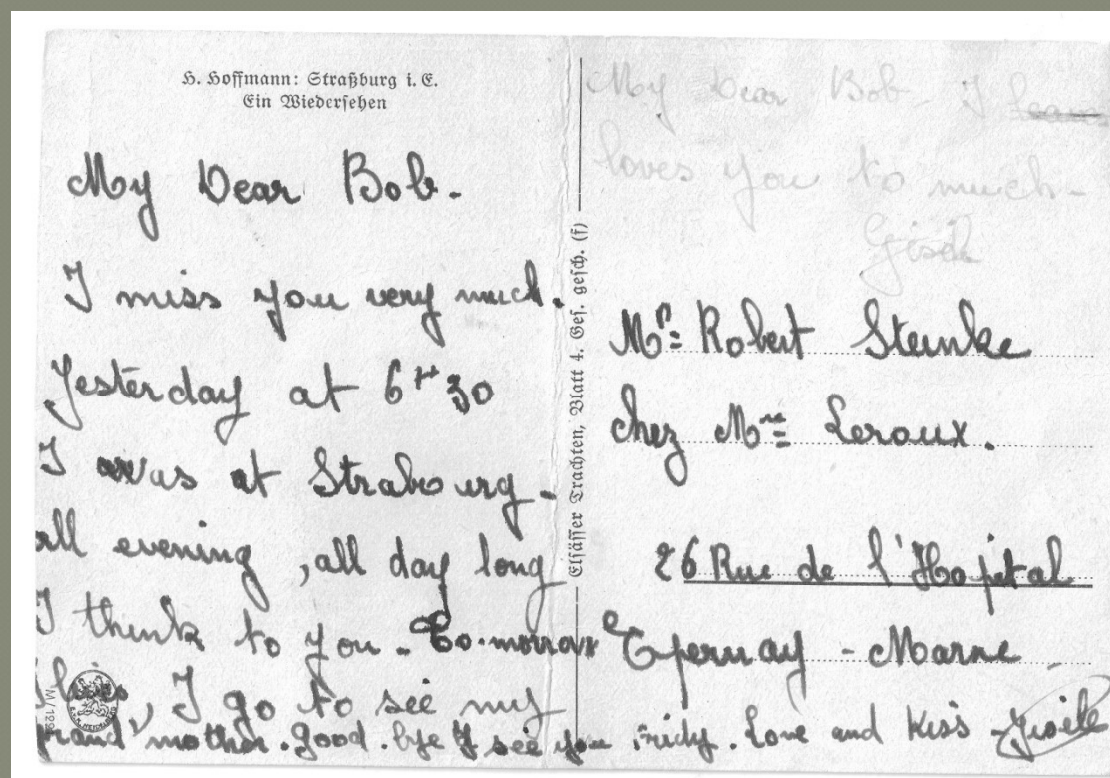


Post Card from Gisele





# Post Card sent by Gisele to Sgt. Steinke Epermay France





# Sergeant Robert Steinke (left) on Leave to Epermay France



HEADQUARTERS 365TH INFANTRY

AFB 89, U.S. Army  
31 October 1945

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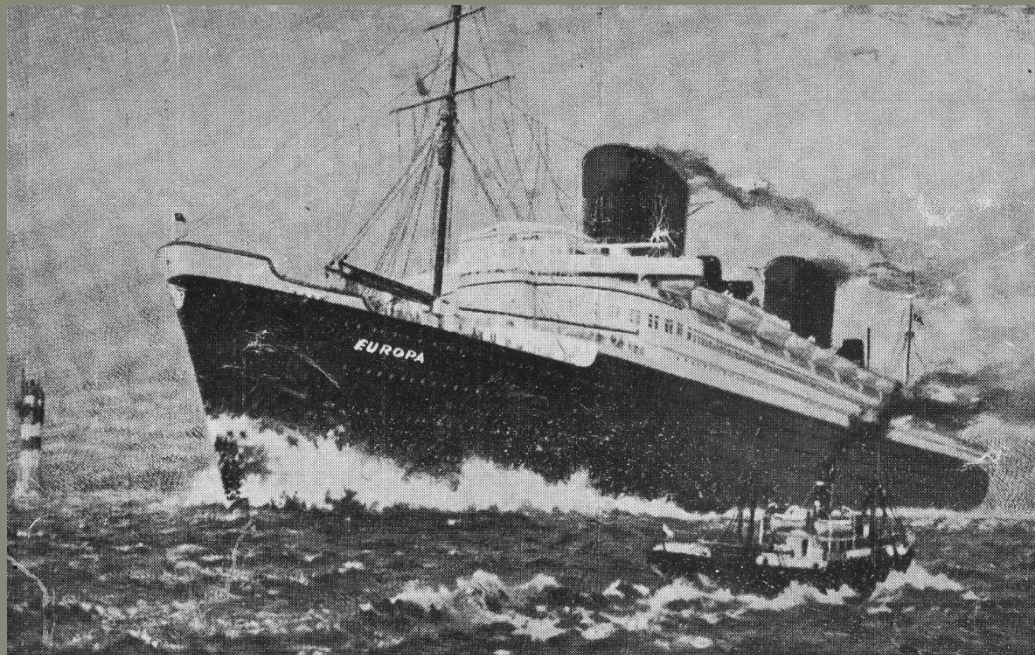
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*Jack E. Warts*  
JACK E. WARTS  
WOJG U.S.A.  
Asst. Adjutant.



# Captured German Cruise Ship “Europa”

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Built By Blohm & Voss Shipyard, Hamburg, Germany 15 Aug 1928  
Captured by US in 1945 – used to transport troops home to the  
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### At New York.

Kemp Battle from Le Havre, 478 troops including 713th military police battalion and miscellaneous troops.

William Richardson from Marseilles, 562 troops including headquarters and headquarters company, second battalion, and companies E and F of the 314th infantry regiment.

F. Marion Crawford from Marseilles, 563 troops including headquarters and headquarters battery 333d field artillery group; headquarters and headquarters battery 194th field artillery battalion; 3519th ordnance maintenance company.

Miscellaneous troops on following—Former German liner Europa, 6,105; Gustavus Victory, 1,503; U. S. Savannah, 1,204; James Turner from Le Havre, 571, and Fitzhugh Lee from Antwerp, 613.

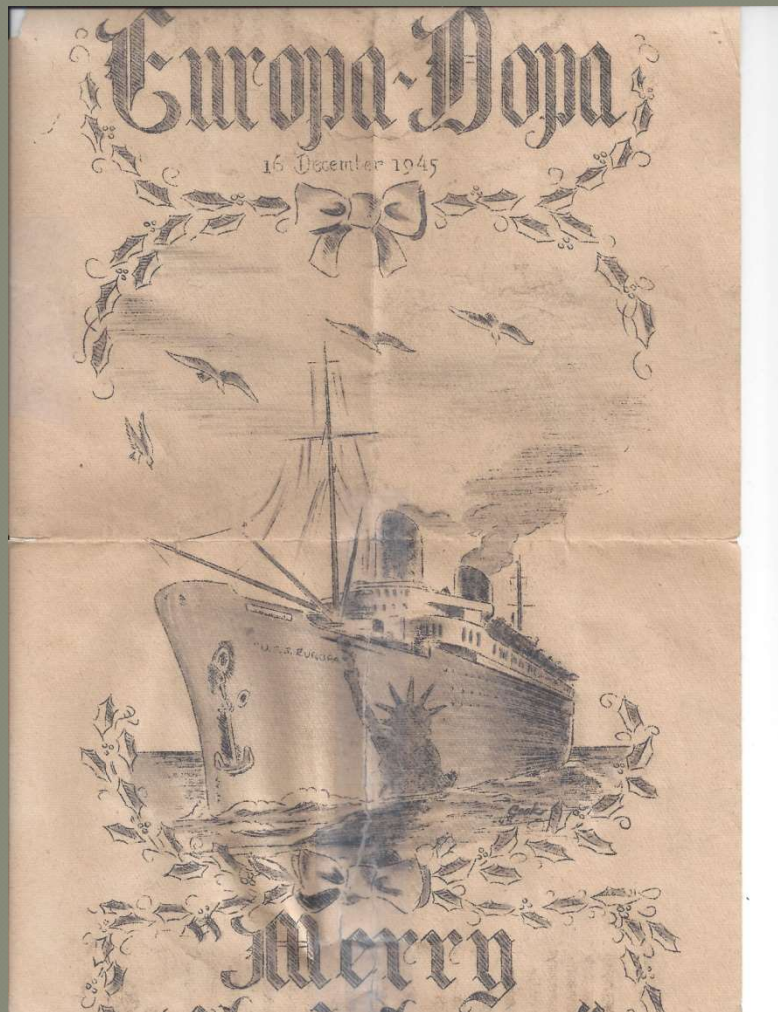
At Newport News, Va.

Former German  
Liner Europa

Sergeant  
Robert J. Steinke



# Europa "Events" on the Voyage Home to the United States





# U.S. BUREAU

# EUROPA-BOPA

DECEMBER 1945

## CLUE

Our reporter looked all over the ship yesterday for our boy **CLUE**. No, the reporter, had just about given up, when someone mentioned the fact that he had seen **CLUE**, heading for the Gun Deck.

The reporter chased up to the Gun Deck, opened the door, and was greeted by a mixed compilation of all types of barrels and bombs from the various divisions, sitting in the midst of all the pots was our **CLUE**, immediately checking a large, billed cigar and playing cards with a cute waif called **BOPE**.

It was the most amazing sight the reporter had ever seen in his career of chasing news and stories strange sights. When he opened his mouth to say his report about a **BOPE** and **CLUE** in the end playfully put his two front paws on the reporter's shoulders and kissed his face.

**CLUE** finally noticed the existence of our man and **WHIPPED**, "Well, we're playing this game," the reporter noticed and realized, "That **CLUE**, a card-playing dog! What a stung!"

**CLUE** looked up with that funny grin of his. "Well, he's not so hot. I've already beaten him two years out of three. There's our boy **CLUE**, he's really living.

## THE WATER SITUATION

Like yesterday we received the following poem on the water situation direct from Army Transport Headquarters.

"The water situation at board ship is dangerously critical, unless it improves we will be out of fresh water at least 26 hours before we reach port. This is largely due to inadequate storage facilities and vapors. To have equipped the ship with adequate facilities would have kept it out of service 50 days, and you would not be going home on her."


The article, something to think about on page 3 will explain the technical reasons for the water shortage. If the weather, they had with the men who are getting in across the Atlantic. Use the water sparingly! This time next week you'll be drinking the highballs.

## HE SAYS, SAYS IT YOU

There are a lot of who think a lot, and never said a word.

He tried to put the stopper in, but he was right over the hole....

## MOVIES



## CLUE

I SAW THAT TOO! *Cartoon*

[illegible]



# Letter from President Truman “Heartfelt Thanks”



ROBERT J. STEINKE

*To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.*

*Harry Truman*

THE WHITE HOUSE