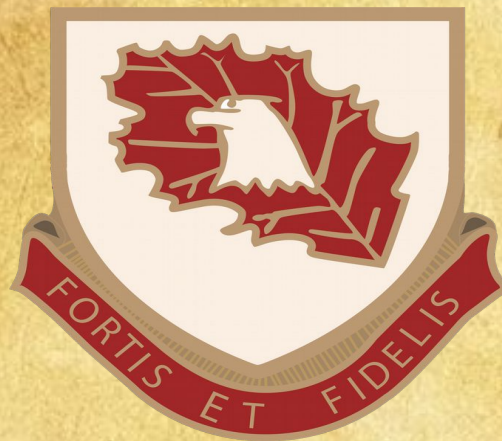


Le "111th Engineer Combat Battalion" at Bonlieu-sur-Roubion.

History:

The "111th Engineer Combat Battalion" was a unit of the 36th Infantry Division. Its missions included the construction of floating bridges and the removal of dangers during amphibious landings. Their duties also included serving as sappers, deploying and deactivating explosive charges and ordinance, mapping, camouflage, and a wide variety of construction services to support frontline troops. They had a secondary combat role as infantry if necessary, armed with .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, bazookas, and grenade launchers, depending on the quartermaster.

It's Motto "Fortis et Fidelis" is "Strong and Faithful"



Insignia of "111th Engineer Combat Battalion"

The battalion participated in the First World War in France beginning in July 1918 under the 36th Infantry Division in Bar-sur-Aube. It repaired roads, backfilled captured trenches, and built bridges. The unit spent most of October following the American advance, providing road construction work as the armies advanced and clearing mines from the roads.



*Soldiers of the "111th Engineer Train" at Chacenay in Aube on March 16, 1919.
In the center, 1st Lieutenant T.H.Coghill and 2nd Lieutenant W.H.Chown.*

Returning to Texas after World War I, the 111th trained with the 36th Infantry Division and, during WWII, deployed overseas out of New York on April 2, 1943, arriving in North Africa on April 13, 1943. They landed at the Salerno beachhead in Italy on September 9, 1943 and proceeded to the south of France on August 15, 1944. They then moved up the Rhone Valley, the Vosges, Alsace, and Danube Valley, ending the war near the Austrian-German border on May 7, 1945



Insignia of "36th Infantry Division"

Composition of "111th Engineer Combat Battalion" in 1944 :

Headquarter
Headquarter & Service Company
Medical Detachment
Company A
Company B
Company C

A Company has 3 Platoons (1st Platoon, 2nd Platoon, 3rd Platoon), each Platoon is broken down: (1st Squad, 2nd Squad, 3rd Squad, Platoon Headquarter).
Approximate strength is: Squad/12 men, Platoon/50 men, Company/150 men.



Battalion Staff (Headquarter) of the "111th Engineer Combat Battalion", somewhere in Italy in January 1944. We find its commander Lieutenant-Colonel Stovall, as well as 2nd Lieutenant Corwin.

Prémices d'un combat :

On August 22, 1944 Company B and 2nd Platoon Company C were sent north of Gap on the road to Grenoble. The rest of the 111th branched off west of Aspres, for the Rhône valley towards Crest.

On August 23, 1944 Company B prepared the bridges southwest of Buis-les-Baronnies, as well as 3 roadblocks towards Rosans and 2 towards Nyons. The 2nd Platoon Company C accompanied the 143rd Infantry Regiment to Grenoble, joining the 111th only on August 25 in the afternoon.

In the afternoon the rest of the 111th arrived at Crest, then turned off for Marsanne. The 3rd Platoon Company A, with the help of 50 resistance fighters, advanced from Marsanne towards La Coucourde to destroy a bridge, wanting to reduce the German retreat. After a reconnaissance, the German forces present were too numerous, the mission was not accomplished on the evening of August 24.

On the afternoon of August 24, 1944, the Americans had a shortage of infantry forces, due to the large front to defend on the outskirts of Montélimar, and the surprise of the German forces to their disadvantage. A force set out on reconnaissance to establish itself at Bonlieu-sur-Roubion under the command of Captain Warren W. Ausland.



*Captain Warren W. Ausland
Commander of the Force in Bonlieu*



*Lieutenant Colonel Stovall C. Oran
Commander 111th Engineer*

The Strength of Bonlieu:

- 1st et 2nd Platoons Company A
- 1st Platoon Company C

- A provisional Platoon (37 men composed of the Headquarters & Service Company)

In the evening Captain Ausland established a provisional defense with the little force they had:

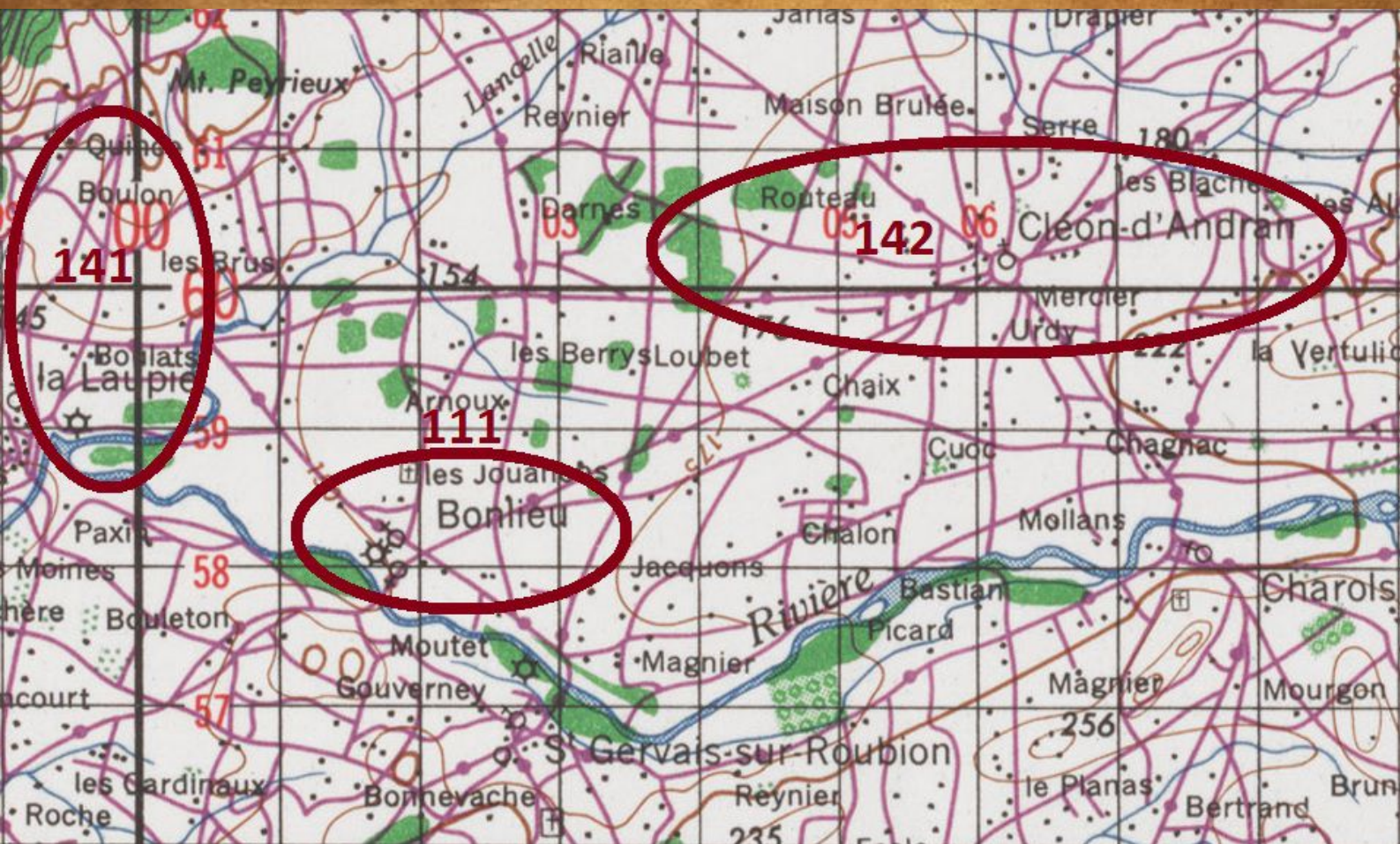
- 1st and 2nd Platoons Company A west of the village
- 1st Platoon Company C in the village
- The provisional Platoon in reserve.

At Bonlieu, the squads were positioned 100 meters at equal distances: 1 machine gun, 1 bazooka, and riflemen, all the posts being connected for a means of communication to the "Command Post." (via Telephone, radio, or messenger).

Geographically, the 141st Infantry Regiment was in support to the west (La Laupie), and the 142nd Infantry Regiment to the East (Cleon d'Andran). During the night, some contact was made but without incident. The only big incident at the end of the day was the loss of the jeep of 1st Lieutenant Benjamin P. Jagiello, the liaison officer at Headquarters of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. He abandoned his jeep at a German roadblock, leaving division orders and strategic plans. The Germans recovered these documents and immediately transmitted them to their generals, realizing that Bonlieu was the weak point of the American line, then preparing an attack the next day against these positions. Jagiello, for his part, joined a Command Post on foot the next day, August 25, at 5:10 A.M. He informed them of the loss of his vehicle and documents, considering them to be in the hands of the enemy.

A Platoon from the 753rd Tank Battalion led by Lieutenant Anderson assisted Company F of the 344th Engineer General Service Regiment at 7:00 p.m., to prepare the demolition of the 3 bridges over the Roubion. General Butler ordered the destruction at 9:30 p.m., thinking of cutting off German access, to compensate for its weakness along the Roubion. But with summer and the heat the Roubion is dry, the ramières are easily crossable.

The area south of Roubion was considered enemy territory, with little information on the forces present



American allocation card for the Montélimar area.

An unequal fight:

On August 25, 1944 at 10:00 A.M., around ten Germans were spotted on the hill south of the Bonlieu bridge. They carefully observed the defensive positions of the 111th and directed artillery fire which arrived on the positions of 1st Platoon, Company A, then on 2nd Platoon, Company A, and onto the village during the day. At 4:00 P.M., two Panther tanks fired on the village to cover the infantry assault. Once on the outskirts, the Germans launched a final attack on the village with four tanks and one infantry battalion equipped with heavy and light machine guns. The village was infiltrated and the 111th hit hard, retreating to a second line of defense to the north. The second line lasted for forty-five minutes, forcing them to fall back to a third line at 7:00 P.M. At 9:00 p.m. the 1st Battalion of the 143rd Infantry Regiment arrived running across the fields from Roynac, just after the defeat of Valence the day before, it relieved the heavily tested 111th and retook the village of Bonlieu.

On August 26, 1944 the 111th was placed in reserve at Marsanne until August 28 without further commitments.

On August 28, 1944, Companies A and C were ordered to join Puy-Saint-Martin in preparation for the pursuit to the North. Company B assisted the 142nd Infantry Regiment in the north to capture Livron. Then, on August 30th, they built two fords (one at Livron and one at Allex-Grane) while a tank dozer pushed carcasses onto the RN7.

Loss report:

The 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, for the defense of Bonlieu on August 25, 1944, had 8 Killed:

-George B Butt (Tech/5) Company H&S.

-Charles P Kemeny (Pvt) Company A.

-Volney B Simpson jr (Pvt) Company A.

-Ephraim F Watson (Pfc) Company A.

-Joseph A Calvari (Pvt) Company A.

-Louis F Rullo (Pvt) Company A.

-Norval E Sparks (Tech/5) Company H&S.

(his body was found a few days later, in a field near the Peyremorte farm, then transported to the Montélimar cemetery).

-David A Newcomer (Colonel) Corps of Engineer

(seriously wounded in the stomach by a shell in the village, then captured by the Germans,

he died a few hours later).

3 Injured:

-Terry m Rimes (Cpl) A Company.

-Malcolm e Cox (Tech/5) H&S Company, gunshot wound to the thigh.

-Frank s Szczesny (Pvt) A Company, shrapnel wound to neck.

and 25 soldiers captured by the Germans, several being wounded.

The medals :

The following Engineers received the Silver Star posthumously:

Charles P Kemeny (Pvt) Company A
Volney B Simpson jr (Pvt) Company A
Ephraim F Watson (Pfc) Company A
Joseph A Calvari (Pvt) Company A
Louis F Rullo (Pvt) Company A

Citation: "For bravery in combat on August 25, 1944 in France. Three platoons from the 111th Engineer Combat Battalion are responsible for establishing a line of defense on the outskirts of Bonlieu. When a numerically superior enemy force launched a savage attack with infantry troops and tanks. 5 comrades manned a machine gun in an outpost position. When the enemy charged, they resolutely remained in position, braving heavy small arms fire aimed at them in order to delay the enemy advance. It was only when the enemy soldiers had almost reached the position that the 5 comrades withdrew. They took up a more advantageous position across the road and continued to harass the attackers with fire. Aware that their suicidal attitude would allow their comrades to fall back and establish a more favorable defense, they valiantly remained behind, delaying the enemy with effective small arms fire. When hostile troops finally managed to overrun their position, all 5 comrades were killed by a wave of rifle and machine gun fire. Their magnificent courage and selfless dedication to the well-being of their comrades allowed other elements of the platoons to withdraw and establish a stronger defense. The action of the 5 companions brings honor to the United States armed forces".

Next page :

Silver Star and Purple Heart medals awarded posthumously to Volney B Simpson jr, as well as his citation at Bonlieu-sur-Roubion on August 25, 1944.

Volney Barton Simpson, Jr.

1918-1944
Private First Class
36th Infantry Division
Combat Engineers Battalion

SILVER STAR

"For gallantry in action on 25 August 1944 in France. Three platoons of the ** Engineer Combat Battalion were assigned the mission of establishing a line of defense on the outskirts of an important town. When a numerically superior enemy force launched a savage attack with infantry troops and tanks, Private First Class Simpson and four comrades were manning a machine gun in an out-post position. When the enemy charged, they remained determinedly in position, braving the heavy small arms fire directed at them in order to retard the hostile advance. Only when the enemy soldiers had almost reached the position would Private First Class Simpson and his companions withdraw. They took up a more advantageous position on the other side of the road and continued to harass the attackers with rifle fire. Aware that their suicide stand would enable their comrades to withdraw and establish a more favorable defense, they valiantly remained behind, delaying the enemy with effective small arms fire. When the hostile troops finally succeeded in overrunning their position, Private First Class Simpson and his four comrades were killed by the hail of rifle and machine gun bullets. Their magnificent courage and unselfish devotion to the welfare of their fellow soldiers enabled other elements of the platoons to withdraw and establish a stronger defense. The gallant action of Private First Class Simpson and his companions reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."



Communications study:

The American report (*G-3 Journal: Operations & Training*) shows the tensions and precariousness of the position:

August 24 6:30 p.m.: Lieutenant-Colonel Stovall 111th Engineer "Under the circumstances,

I don't think I can cross the Roubion river at Bonlieu."

August 24 11:45 p.m.: General 36th Division "Ask advanced elements of the reconnaissance squad to send resistance fighters to determine the enemy concentration zones south of the Roubion river.

August 25 1:50 a.m.: Captain Bellamy 111th Engineer "the Bonlieu bridge is blown and other explosions are heard which should be the other bridges. The 111th is in position but is terribly lightened."

August 25, 7:00 a.m.: Captain Bellamy 111th Engineer to Captain Stallings "the Engineers were unable to cross the river last night to carry out the demolitions assigned to La Coucourde."

August 25 5:30 p.m.: Major O'Brien 141st Regiment to Captain Hunley "Engineers no longer hold Bonlieu, 141st unable to provide support."

August 25 5:25 p.m.: Captain Cattis 36th Division to Captain Newell "Colonel Taylor of the 131st says that the Germans have broken through at Bonlieu and are progressing towards Marsanne. The Engineers and the 131st retreat. Need support."

August 25 5:30 p.m.: Captain Hunley to Lieutenant-Colonel Stovall 111th Engineer "Request a report on the strength of the enemy attack at Bonlieu. Stovall said that it had no connection other than the fact that the enemy's strength was superior to his own. He also said he had sent a squad to Crest to prepare the bridge for demolition and blow it up if necessary."

August 25, 5:00 p.m.: Captain Alston 111th Engineer at G-3 "I'm trying to organize myself, I don't know if I can hold on. 2 Panthers on this side of the stream, machine guns in position, cannot advance, 1/3 of the way is without cover, 3.65kms with 1/2 company only..."

Morning Report study :

The study of the Morning Report (Daily Report) provides details regarding the AAR (After Action Report), as well as the elements present by section.

111th Medical Detachment - Strength: 2 officers 16 soldiers.

On August 23, departure from Aspres to install the Command Post on Marsanne. August 24 arrives in Bonlieu at 10 p.m.: 1 officer and 1 soldier are sent to the village to find a suitable place for the Aid Station. The location is approved by the Force Commander.

Trucks with the equipment are then sent for installation.

On August 25, no casualties for the first 16 hours, then at 4 p.m. the enemy attacked, most of the troops with drawers from the village, the dental surgeon was pinned down by small arms fire then captured. He will be released later to treat the injured. Two nurses are left with the troop to install rear defenses south of Marsanne. An officer and the rest of the soldiers with all their equipment retreat to the Command Post in Marsanne until 00:15.

On August 26, departure for Puy-Saint-Martin at 2:00 a.m., the Aid Station was set up, the dental surgeon returned through enemy lines at 11:00 a.m.

August 27 return to Marsanne at 2:15 a.m.

On August 28 at 9:40 p.m. departure for Puy-Saint-Martin. Assistance for the evacuation of the dead in Bonlieu, and recovery of captured materials.

111th Headquarters & Service Company - Strength: 5 officers 131 soldiers (106 present).

August 23 arrives in Marsanne.

On August 24 departure for Bonlieu, 27 soldiers in reserve for Company A, 10 soldiers engaged as infantry on the front line.

On August 25 at 4 p.m. in an engagement against the Germans, they passed the 1st line, forcing them to retreat from the village several hundred meters. Fierce fighting for 3 hours, the group with Company A was relieved at 9 p.m. by the 1st Battalion 143rd Infantry Regiment. A certain quantity of rifles and machine guns were lost, six telephones, 1 telephone exchange and a coil holder were abandoned in the Bonlieu retreat.

MIA (Missing in Action) on August 25 in Bonlieu:

- Cachora George (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
- Watson Otis (Pfc) Captured by the Germans
- Maier Philip (Tech/5) Captured by the Germans
- Cyr Rosario (Pfc) Captured by the Germans
- Beatty John j (S/Sgt) Captured by the Germans
- Sparks Norval e (Tech/5) Found dead a few days later
- Butt George b (Tech/5) Found dead a few days later

WIA (Wounded in Action) on August 25 in Bonlieu:

- Cox Malcolm e (Tech/5): Injury Code (GSW Perf W) Gun Shot Wound perforating with right thigh pain.

On August 28 Jack King (Tech/4) returned through the enemy line, he had been missing since the Bonlieu attack.

August 30 Hines Melvin (Pvt) is hospitalized (right knee meniscus: old injury) as well as Towler William a jr (Captain commanding the company) is hospitalized (ill)

1st Lieutenant Kunze Keith then took command.

111th Headquarters – Strength: 11 officers (4 1stLieutenant, 4 Captain, 2 Major,

1 Lt-Colonel:

August 23 Command Post on Marsanne at 7 p.m., August 24 leaves Marsanne at 12:30 p.m. for Puy-Saint-Martin at 3 p.m. until August 25, August 26 departure for Marsanne at 12:30 a.m. August 28 at 10 p.m. departure, to Puy-Saint-Martin for 11 p.m. until August 30.

111th Company A – Strength: 7 officers 174 soldiers (154 present)

On August 23, he arrived in Crest, 2nd Lt Corwin Thomas p (Photo page 3) made a reconnaissance on the Aspres/Grenoble road, a bridge needed repair. Lt Jones Robert p carried out reconnaissance on the Aspres/Alex road, a bridge was demolished in Pontaix.

On August 24 in Marsanne, a Squad of the 3rd Platoon had the mission to cross the RN7 at La Coucourde to destroy 2 bridges, the rest of the troop left for Bonlieu. On August 25, the 3rd Platoon Squad returned from La Coucourde, it was impossible to destroy the bridges. The 1st and 2nd Platoons are in position at Bonlieu and must cover 3.2 km of front. The Germans infiltrate through the lines and attack the western flank, and the rear with the strength of two companies, this attack has Panzers in support. Heavy street fighting in Bonlieu and the outskirts followed. Company A was forced to retreat towards the woods and the canal to the north, and took up a new line of defense. The 131st Field Artillery is supporting the engineers at Bonlieu, and will shell the Germans.

MIA (Missing in Action) on August 25 in Bonlieu:

-Jones William j (Sgt) Captured by the Germans

-Rich Rocco (Cpl) Captured by the Germans

-Bedder Rex h (Tech/5) Captured by the Germans

-Otis Watson (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Dodd John (Tech/5) Captured by the Germans

-Luera Leon (Tech/5) Wounded left shoulder, captured and treated by the Germans.

-Nichols James j (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Fordham Grady l (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Gallagher Michael j sr (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Holm Clovis c (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Wray David c (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

-Henderson Arthur m (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

- Mattleman Murray m (1/Lt) Captured by the Germans
- Jones Robert p (2/Lt) Wounded and captured by the Germans
- Kemeny Charles p (Pvt) Found dead a few days later
- Simpson Volney b (Pvt) Found dead a few days later
- Watson Ephraim f (Pvt) Found dead a few days later
 - Rullo Louis f (Pvt) Found dead a few days later
 - Calvari Joseph a (Pvt) Found dead a few days later
- Middleton Samuel p (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
 - Pierce John d (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
 - Rukas Chester i (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
 - Sheperd Fred j (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
- Walker Talmadge p (Pvt) Captured by the Germans
 - Engledow Gens (Pvt) Captured by the Germans

WIA (Wounded in Action) on August 25 in Bonlieu:

- Rimes Terry m (Cpl) small arms fire and shrapnel left hand and face.
- Szczesny Frank s (Pvt) rifle shot to the right of the neck.

Company A is relieved by the 1st Battalion 143rd Infantry Regiment and goes to
Divajeu

On August 26 at Divajeu, a Squad of the 3rd Platoon was still used to destroy the
bridges at La Coucourde.

On August 27, the 3rd Platoon Squad was at La Coucourde, the mission to destroy
the bridges was impossible, due to intense fire and panzers. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd Platoons go
to Marsanne in reserve.

August 28 at Marsanne in reserve, awaiting probable attack.

Cpl Lindsay John h (Photo Page 16) and Pfc Palm return through the line
enemy, they had disappeared at the Bonlieu front.

August 29 Baker Walter L (Tech/4) is hospitalized (penis injury) The 1st and 2nd
Platoons are with 60 FFI and 4 Stuarts of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion, they are
doing RoadBlocks in Marsanne, Chiffe, North Roche/Grâne, South Autichamp, Roynac
and Puy-Saint-Martin.

August 30 at Beaume-Cornillane.

111th Company B - Strength: 7 officers 174 soldiers (154 present)

On August 23 in Nyons at 9 a.m., the resistance said that 4 German Divisions were in the Rhône valley, officers carried out reconnaissance to establish Roadblocks, Lt Findlay Robert, Sgt Griffin and Pfc Engelhardt Kenneth came across 50 Germans and 1 anti-tank gun preparing a Roadblock. The Germans shoot at the 3 Americans, slight damage to the jeep, but no injuries, the Americans abandon the jeep.

A Squad goes there 30 minutes later, the Germans have left the area. 5 Roadblocks are established: South-East and East of Nyons, South, West and South-East of Rosans. The 142nd Infantry Regiment and engineers guard the Roadblocks. Company B then heard its first shells from Fréjus.

On August 24 she left the area at 7:45 p.m., they arrived on August 25 southwest of Crest at 5:45 a.m. The 2nd Platoon destroyed 1 bridge on the Roubion (St Gervais) then at 3 p.m. remained in bivouac and on alert. On August 26, the 3rd Platoon prepared the Pont-de-Barret tunnel for destruction. In the morning, the bridge was left to the resistance. The 1st Platoon prepares to destroy the Manas Bridge during the day. August 27 in Marsanne, at 11:30 p.m. gathering for a probable attack. On August 28, departure from Marsanne at 1 p.m., arriving at 3 p.m. on Allex in support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

111th Company C - Strength: 6 officers 174 soldiers (153 present)

On August 23 at Crest, the 1st Platoon in reserve, the 2nd Platoon cleared the obstacles on the airfield southwest of Grenoble and assisted the 143rd Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Squad 3rd Platoon clears the entrance to Sisteron and the Bailey Bridge. On August 24, departure from Crest at 7:45 p.m. for Marsanne at 8:30 p.m. The 2nd Platoon assists the 143rd Infantry Regiment with the 2nd Squad 3rd Platoon.

-Jacobson James (Pvt) is hospitalized: under observation for malaria

On August 25, northeast of Puy-Saint-Martin, the 1st Platoon was with Company A in a defensive position at Bonlieu, the 2nd and 3rd Platoon left the 143rd and returned.

-Giordano John (Pvt) is hospitalized: inguinal hernia.

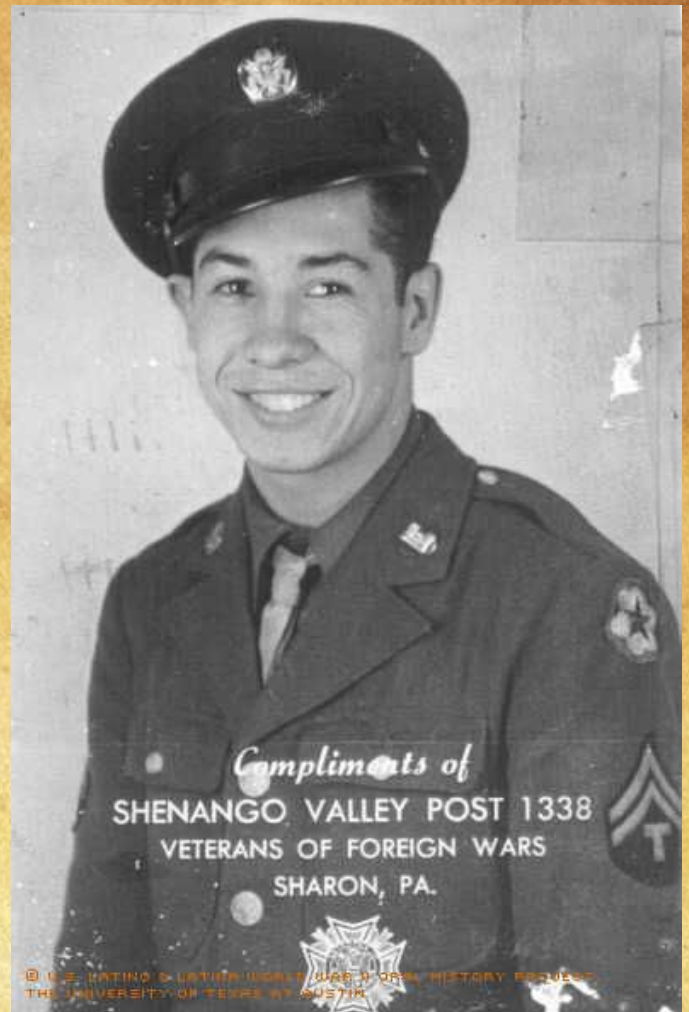
On August 26, the 2nd Platoon remained in camp, the 3rd Platoon prepared the demolition of 3 bridges on the Drôme towards Crest.

On August 27, east of Marsanne, on August 28 the 3rd Platoon removed the demolition charges from the 3 bridges towards Crest.

Portraits :

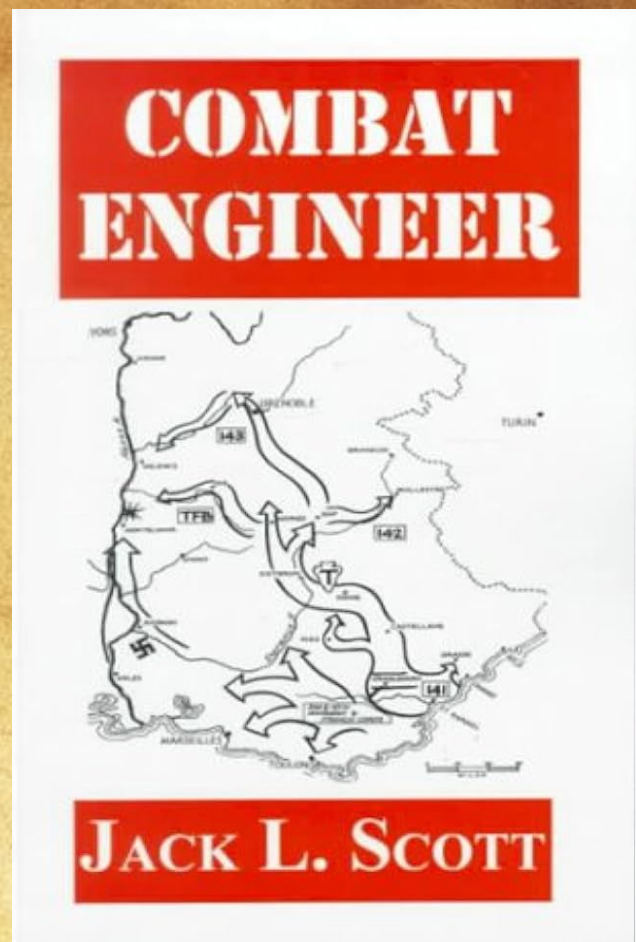
On August 25, 1944, while defending Bonlieu with Company A, Leon Luera was wounded in the left shoulder. The Americans did not have the firepower to fight the German tanks and were forced to give up. Some German soldiers find Leura and two other American soldiers. "They saw that I was bleeding, they talked among themselves, one of them told me to come with him and I thought he was taking me to kill me. He took me across the river and continued walking towards a large tent, a field hospital. They stopped the bleeding and gave tetanus shots." The Germans give him a large loaf of bread, sausages and two cigarettes.

Then the Germans put the prisoners in covered wagons with others and they moved to a camp. For six months, they drink coffee in the morning and a bowl of soup in the afternoon



On August 25, 1944 in defense at Bonlieu, 1st/Lt Liebert Herbert M, was captured with 7 of his men, after being guarded for 1h50 they master the guards and the captures.

Book by 2nd Lt Jack L. Scott, commander of Platoon Company B. On August 25, the Germans attacked and captured the town of Bonlieu. 2nd Lt Jones Robert known as "Bob Jones" and his Platoon hold the line, they take the 1st German attack. The entire company must move back approximately 300 yards to another line of defense, Jones' Platoon must hold and provide defensive cover for the rest of the company. Then they have to withdraw, but the Germans have surrounded the area. Several Platoon soldiers are dead or injured. Jones was wounded in a house where he had his command post. He looks through the windows, in the courtyard the four tanks aim directly towards the house. Jones told his men: "Don't shoot anymore, you're out of luck, we'll have to give up." Jones and what remained of his Platoon, about ten men, abandoned and became prisoners of war.



Gets out of Bonlieu: Lindsay John (Cpl)



Wounded in Bonlieu: Terry Rimes (Cpl)





DAVID ALBERT NEWCOMER
Washington, D. C.
Dave, Sadie

David A Newcomer (Colonel)



Ephraim F Watson (Pfc)

Killed in Bonlieu on August 25, 1944

Charles P Kemeny (Pvt)

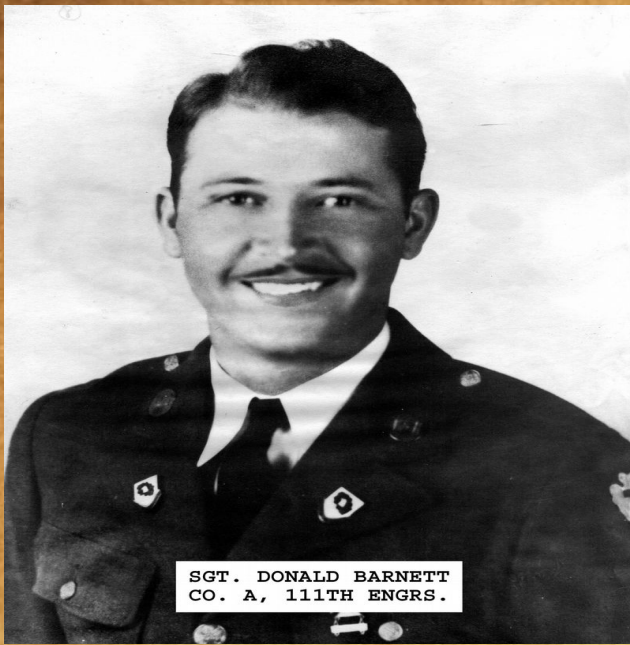


Norval E Sparks (Tech/5)



George B Butt (Tech/5)





Sergent Donald Barnett, Company A



Captain Towler William A jr, commander of 111th Headquarter&Service Company.



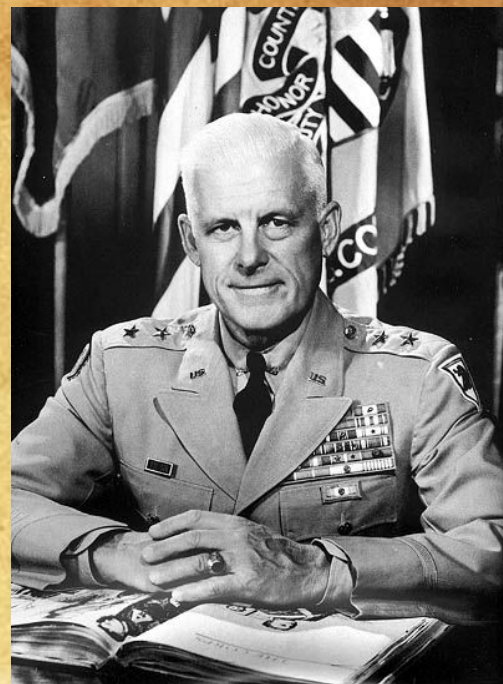
Helmet of Captain Towler William A jr, Thanks Dave G. (USA)



A Colonel dead in Bonlieu?

Lieutenant-Colonel Oran C. Stovall, commanding the 111th Engineer Combat Battalion, is considered by his men to be the best! Notably when the Engineers provided support during the Battle of Velletri in Italy, crowning themselves with success.

Operation "Anvil/Dragoon", the landing of August 15, 1944 in Provence, was prepared in Naples during several conferences. Stovall expresses his concern because Red Beach is heavily defended, with obstacles underwater and on the sand. He spoke to General Dalhquist about it, and wrote a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers. At another conference, Stovall challenged Brigadier General Garrison Davidson of the 7th Army Engineer that his letter had gone unanswered. The discussions continue with good arguments, with no one on Stovall's side except one Colonel: David A. Newcomer (An observer from the Office of the Chief Engineer in Washington). Newcomer attests that Stovall is within his rights to be concerned, and that the problems will be resolved. The problems are not resolved for Stovall, and he is preparing a strategy with many engineers to clean up the beaches. Because of this discussion, Newcomer decides to be attached as an observer to Stovall's 111th Engineer, what a mistake! He died on August 25, 1944. During the landing on August 15, 1944, Newcomer landed with Company A of the 111th Engineer, assisted by the 141st Infantry Regiment. Stovall remembers not wanting this observer, but agrees with his Executive Officer Major Orville Crisman, that he can bring a gain to the unit, show his superiors that it is the best engineering unit of the Army. On August 25, 1944 during the defeat of Bonlieu, Stovall arrived just when Captain James Mueller counterattacked to restore the line, he called for artillery because the enemy and the panzers were advancing.



Top photo : Brigadier-Général

Garrison Davidson

*Captain James Mueller who
tried to take back Bonlieu*



Thanks :

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Photos by Alex Drury and his website "36thdivisionarchive"



NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) photos

Ancestry.com portraits and their families

Morning Report "111th Engineer' Combat Battalion"

After Action Report "36th Infantry Division"

Book by Jack L. Scott "Combat Engineer"

Corrections Nadège Borne