

S/SGT. Lenoir Gwynn "Bud" Shook

SN, 14130439

Born: 20, November 1921

Died: 16 January 2006

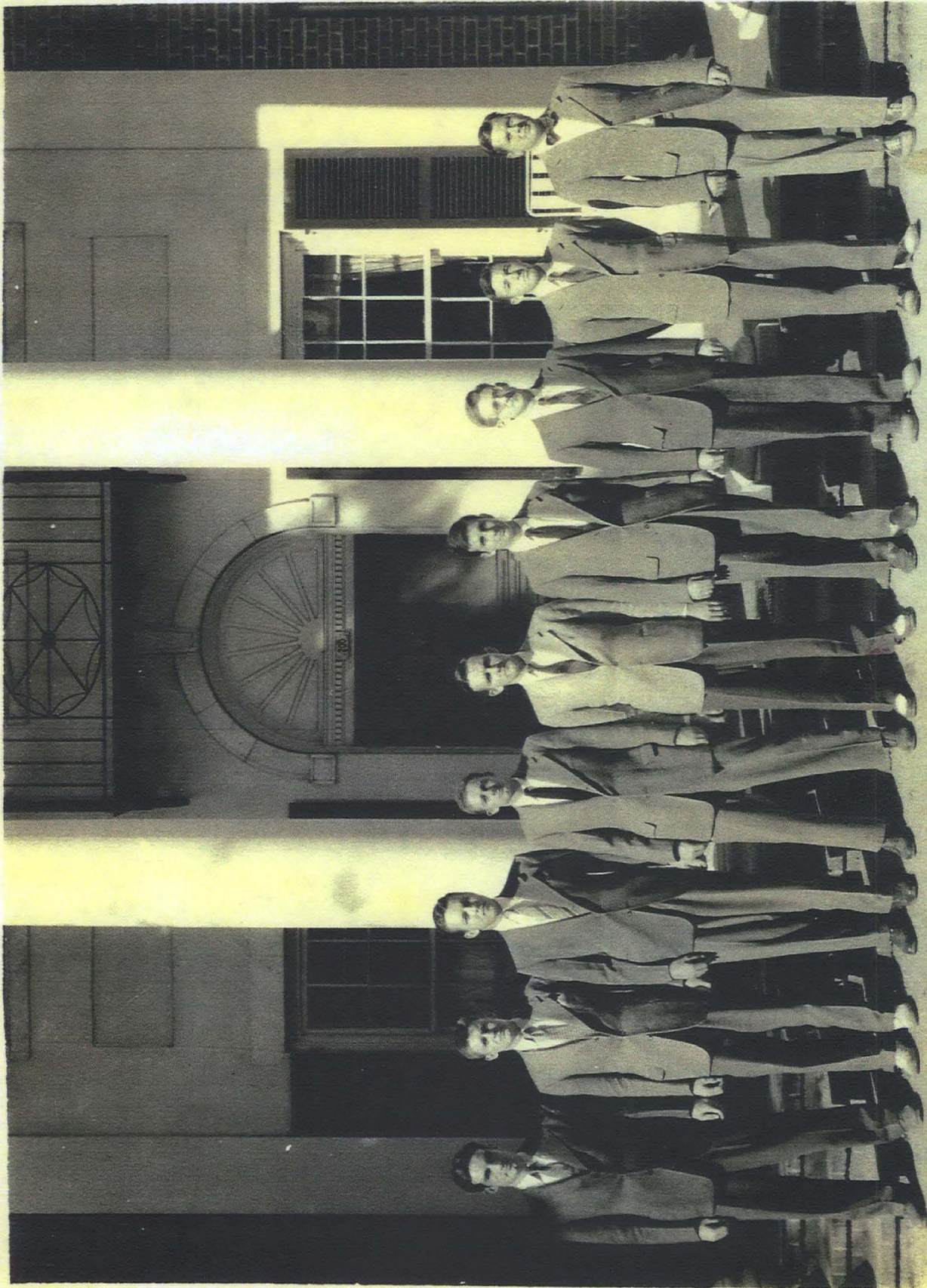
On September 1939 after graduation from Tarboro High School. He joined the Sigma Chi Fraternity in the fall of 1940 at the start of his sophomore year. He went into sports and became manager of The Zete's Intramural Sports League. In 1941 continuing for 1942 and 1943 until called to active duty in the U.S. Army. In his leadership The Zete's won the fraternity intramural trophy each year. On September 7, 1941 as the campus was preparing for fall quarter exam week, the attack on Pearl Harbor and Manila, starting the participation in WWII. Bud was born on November 20, 1921, his 19th birthday the month before. The draft age was 21 at this time, on his 21st birthday Japanese admiral Yamamoto made the comment to one of his naval officers: "The United States has Awakened A Sleeping Giant". In 1940 the United States had a population of just over 130,000,000 men ranking in size number 16 in the world, just behind the Soviet Union. On VE Day in 1945 the US had 16,000,000 men and women under arms. The mass mobilization training and war production is another story and the success of the U.S. in the war. We all knew we would be a part of this war. Bud had a class schedule and enrolled in summer school to speed up our education. The Navy has taken on campus a naval ROTC unit in 1940. In 1942 the navy put a ROTC unit on campus called V-7 and V-12 programs. As UNC students went to active service, navy cadets took their place on campus, taking over dorms and classrooms. Bud went to Raleigh and joined the army July 10, 1942 at age 19. He was part of the U.S. Army Enlisted Reserve Program and was told to return to active duty, and he would receive longevity from date of enlistment. He had a "C" average at UNC. What was not known by the us, at the time is that we did not have the camps-cadre-uniforms or weapons with which to train new recruits. At the end of 1942 summer school there were hundreds of enlisted reserve corpsmen. To do what they could to get themselves ready for military service, they used obstacle courses, target fields and ERC members who had been to military prep school taught them. The Navy had had built a standard obstacle course on campus for the V-7 and V-12, so the ERC's used this for physical training. In February of 1943 the ERC's who had chosen the U.S. Army Air Corp. were called to active duty. At the end of winter quarter, in March of 1943, all the rest of the ERC's were to report to Fort Bragg at Fayetteville, N.C. on April 5, 1943. Bud was called to active duty from graduation. At Fort Bragg. Bud was issued his wool and khaki uniform. He had a Springfield 30 cal. rifle still in cosmoline grease from WWI, and blue jeans which were very worn in WWI. Before the first week had ended groups of about 100 were sent to Army Training Camps all over the U.S.A. Bud was sent to

Fort Leonard Wood MO. for the standard 17 week infantry replacement training program. This included physical training, short order drill, regular hikes by company that started out the first week with two mile hikes and ended in the 17th week with two 25 mile hikes with full field pack, rifle, gasmask, ammo belt, bayonet, canteen and first aid kit. The weekly classes included map reading, orientation, 30 cal rifle range, 30 cal machine guns, browning automatic rifles, 60mm and 81 mm mortars, hand grenade, rifle grenade, brazooka, and 30 cal. carbine, the infiltration course with live fire, fox hole digging, and two weeks of field maneuvers.

After the 17 weeks of, basic training Bud was assigned to a regular infantry company. The basic infantry unit is the 16 men infantry squad, 4 squads to a platoon, 4 platoons to a company and 4 companies to a battalion, and so on up to regiment and Army division. Bud's leadership ability was recognized early on and he became a staff sergeant, the leader, of a 16 men infantry squad. Bud's training division moved around to several camps and training areas in the southern U.S.A. Bud's call to overseas service came in July of 1944. He embarked aboard an Army C-3 transport from New Jersey and crossed the Atlantic in a troop convoy. On board the C-3 transport, the enlisted men slept in navy hammocks strung five deep in the hold of the ship, with limited space. They were allowed on deck to exercise in rotation. The navy mess hall served two meals a day. Salt water was used for all sinks and showers, fresh water on board was for drinking only. About a week later the convoy passed through Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea. Bud was landed at Naples, Italy, on July 21 1944 and was sent to the U.S. Army replacement depot at Naples. The U.S. Army has been fighting its way up the Italian Boot against fierce German resistance. Shortly he was assigned to Company A 133 Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division. The 34th has been in constant combat since the Anzio Beach Head on January 22 1944. Three months later the break out passed through German defense positions, started the move up the Italian Boot from one river to the next in a *German* fight and a fall back strategy. The allies had taken Rome on June 4 1944 (note how close this was to the D/day Normandy invasion). The German Defenders had been pushed back to the Florence /Arno River line by August 1944. When Bud joined the 34th infantry in August of 1944 they were facing the German Army in the North Apennine Mountains near Rimini and San Marco on the Adriatic Seas. Bud's squad entered combat on September 18 1944 as part of the push near Corte Italy in the Apennines Valley. In a night fire fight on the night of September 20 and 21st 1944 Bud's squad was engaged in close combat from behind a stone wall with German positions less than 50 yards ahead. Bud was firing his M-1 Garand Rifle with his left arm steadying it on the wall. His muzzle blast attracted German attention. A German "potato masher" grenade was thrown toward the wall and exploded just outside the wall. The explosion caught Bud's left upper arm and the first joints of his right trigger finger, thumb, and hand. He was removed to an aid station for first aid and then to the 15th evacuation hospital near Corte, Italy where he was stabilized. On September 23, 1944 he was removed to the 12th General Hospital in Rome, here he recovered until he was sent to 300th General Hospital in Naples then to a transport ship returning to the United States. His ship left Naples for Charleston, S.C. on November 8, 1944, arriving in Charleston November 20, 1944. Tarboro native Francis "Tish" Jenkins, a Navy man stationed in Charleston saw Bud's name on the incoming manifest and alerted his family long before the official notice got to Tarboro. Bud was in Stark General Hospital in Charleston, until sent for more rehab to Northington General

Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on December 1, 1944. On May 12, 1945 Bud was sent to Welch Convalescence Hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida, here he walked the beach every day carrying a bucket of rocks in his left hand to straighten and strengthen his damaged left arm. He was discharged at Fort Oglethorp, Georgia in October 20, 1945 with a certificate of disability. Bud's army medals included Expert Rifleman Badge, Expert Infantry Man's Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, North Apennine Campaign Ribbon, and the European-North African-middle and Eastern Campaign Ribbon. Bud reentered the University of North Carolina in January of 1946 and graduated in June of 1946.

Zeta Psi Juniors + Seniors - 1942-43



- JOHN HAGNEY JR.
- LEONARD "BOB" SHOOK
- FRANK MURDECH
- JOHN WOOD FOREMAN
- HARRY WEYHER
- HENRY HUNTER
- ALEX DAVIS
- BOB KITRELL
- TOM ELLIS