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Jack O'Connell / Richard McElroy,  
Betty Ray and Harry  
Weyher

Add this to  
the McElroy / Weyher  
Service history  
written by

Jack O'Connell  
- Steers Maternal  
Grandfather was  
George D Green -  
Margarit Nelson  
in 1890's. - O

Richard is great  
Grandson of Robert  
Alpheus Brown  
(Sheppie's grand  
father)

Richard  
Richard McElroy  
Harry Weyher  
Jack O'Connell



Captain JOHN:

Sept<sup>p</sup> 16, 2005

Can't find the old photo I remember seeing.  
I looked for it for 3 hours of my busy time, but  
I then remember that the only 2 guys from North  
Carolina in our 3259<sup>th</sup> company were Harry &  
Dick McElroy.

And these 3 pages enclosed say everything about  
the fact that Harry & Dick started out in the  
94<sup>th</sup> Signal Company. And beyond these 3 pages  
it's about Harry & Dick & me etc. sailing to Europe  
(LIVERPOOL) on the AMERICA (9,000 of U.S.) with NO  
protection (GASP).

And then, beginning with 50<sup>VIa,</sup> we became 250 to  
then BOIL us down to the 120 of US <sup>WHO</sup> became  
our 3259<sup>th</sup> company - really "starting" the  
war at Cologne (as you know).

Anyway, Capt. John, stay young forever.

Sade O'C.



May 1, 1992

### The History of Our 3259th Signal Service Company

As a fellow soldier in our 3259th Sig. Sv. Co. in WWII, you might find some interesting memories in this history of our company.

Of our standard roster of 120 fellow soldiers, officers and enlisted men (EM), the majority of us did our basic U.S. Army training in the 94th Signal Battalion that was first activated in May 1942, and did most of its original training at A.P. Hill Military Reservation in Warsaw, Virginia. The total battalion roster ranged between 813 to 1,036 soldiers, who spent an awful lot of time at firing ranges learning how to fire the Springfield .30, the Thompson submachine gun and the carbine. And 95% of our EM eventually qualified as marksmen or better.

On overnight bivouac marches, we were taught how to build miles of telephone lines--all over the hills of Virginia. And basic experience with helmets, gas masks and cartridge belts ad infinitum. And the climbing of hills, fully packed -- as basic signal service training.

Before the 94th left A.P. Hill behind it, 26 EM were awarded Good Conduct Medals and everybody else was awarded two bottles of PX beer (and liquor coupons) and all sang to the heavens the 94th version of "Old King Cole," for having survived all the foxholes we had to dig and the pup tents, mess tents, mosquito nets, citronella "perfume" and tetanus, typhoid and small pox shots that all of us enjoyed in the course of learning, in terrible heat, deep mud, and in freezing snow, how to set up communication wire systems all across the A.P. Hill area.

On July 22, 1943, the 94th moved on to Elkins, West Virginia, and spent seven more months of training there before moving to Fort Dix, New Jersey, our final post in the U.S.

At Elkins the basic training for the 94th was setting up open wire lines, telephone systems, switchboards and message centers. And following the training for wire installation, maintenance and repair service, and the setting up and operating of short wave radio nets, the basic training shifted a bit to radio operation itself.

At the same time, a motor pool was organized for driver training and vehicle maintenance. And map training,



especially for officers' jeep chauffeurs. Also various companies in the 94th, for several weeks, sent platoons to other Army bases so they could become experts in various fields, including climbing real mountains. One company actually installed 164 miles of field wire and 43 telephone centers in only three weeks. All of this operating perfectly. Right?

But what we all did together were six mile hikes that were soon pushed up to 14 mile hikes so that eventually standard 10 to 12 mile marches became easy. And anyway what's wrong with a corn or a blister or two!

And our mess Sergeants, cooks and KPs were becoming so expert at setting up stoves and mess tents that our Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys, cakes and pies parties became weekly G.I. chow events! Right?

The 94th finale at Elkins was on January 9, 1944, when a surprise ammunition dump explosion in the middle of the night occurred right across the road from the battalion HQ. Outside of flying bullets and projectiles, it outdid any 4th of July fireworks, and didn't injure anybody. It just deflated a bit of our battalion pride.

By the time the 94th Sig. Bn. arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey, on February 23, 1944, almost two years after the 94th had been activated in May 1942, it had become a group of pretty well trained radio communication systems soldiers.

And after having lived most of the time during the previous 22 months in the wilderness, living in soggy tents in wet blankets and almost drowning in our own foxholes, when the 94th moved into the Fort Dix garrison camp, it seemed to everybody as if we were moving into luxury hotels. Electric lights instead of kerosene lamps and candles, and mess halls with real plates instead of mess tents and mess kits. Plus real showers and latrines! Wowee!

The 94th had moved from the South to the North, by then well trained at setting up Radio Intelligence Headquarters, Radio and Message Centers with Traffic Analysis sections, and even a Carrier Platoon. And in March 1944, when 90 privates arrived from the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) which program had been terminated, the number of officers and EM numbered 1,036. Everybody was getting ready to be shipped overseas. And in a standard examination of 15% of our battalion in the Physical Fitness Test, 92% passed the test as being physically ready for overseas duty. And some platoons were starting to sleep



outdoors at night all over again for final training at nighttime map reading that certainly did become a steady activity in the European fields. And in April, the 94th roster was trimmed to 979 in number.

On October 4, 1944, our 94th became a part of a group of over 9,000 U.S. soldiers, and we all sailed from Boston, Massachusetts, in the luxury ship AMERICA, that in peacetime had cabin space for 1,000 passengers. But as a group of 9,000 soldiers, as many as 36 of us were jammed together in some cabins. And while a lot of us spent a few days overcoming seasickness, the AMERICA was crossing the Atlantic by zipping northeast and then southeast because we had no naval ship protection at all and we all knew that one German submarine torpedo would drown all 9,000 of us. But the AMERICA was a fast ship that was able to zip-zap swiftly, so that we all arrived safely in Liverpool, England, on October 12, 1944.

And when our more than 9,000 soldiers disembarked and lined up in formation on the dock in Liverpool, for most of us who had been doing our basic training in the 94th Signal Battalion the 3259th Signal Service Company was then and there "born" for us. It had just been activated four weeks before in England on Sept. 16, 1944.

Each of us had our I.D. tag and a name plaque on our uniform, and down the line of the 94th two U.S. Army Officers, whom we had never before seen, passed by us, company by company, and name by name called us to step forward and cross the deck to the other side, where up a little hill was a train track. Each of us, one by one, in a small cabin on the dock, was then interviewed by a Colonel and a Captain who asked each of us, one by one, a very basic question. At this point of the war, if it became necessary, would you be willing to go behind the German lines doing signal intelligence service?

Each of us fellow soldiers of the 3259th Sig. Sv. Co., at one time or another, either at the docks in Liverpool or somewhere else in Europe during WWII, said Yes. You were one of those volunteers.

In fact, Harry F. Weyher, who eventually became our First Sergeant in the 3259th, was informed by the Pentagon in the late '70s that, across the U.S., for a year and a half, U.S. Army officers had "secretly" tested over 38,000 EM as potential volunteers. But none of us knew that in 1944.

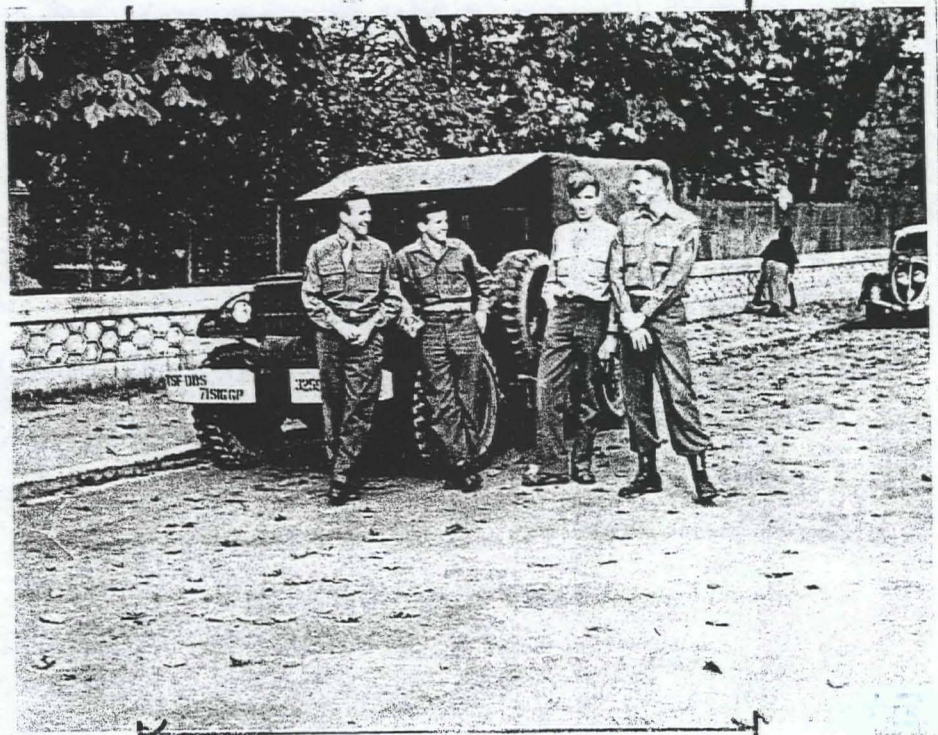
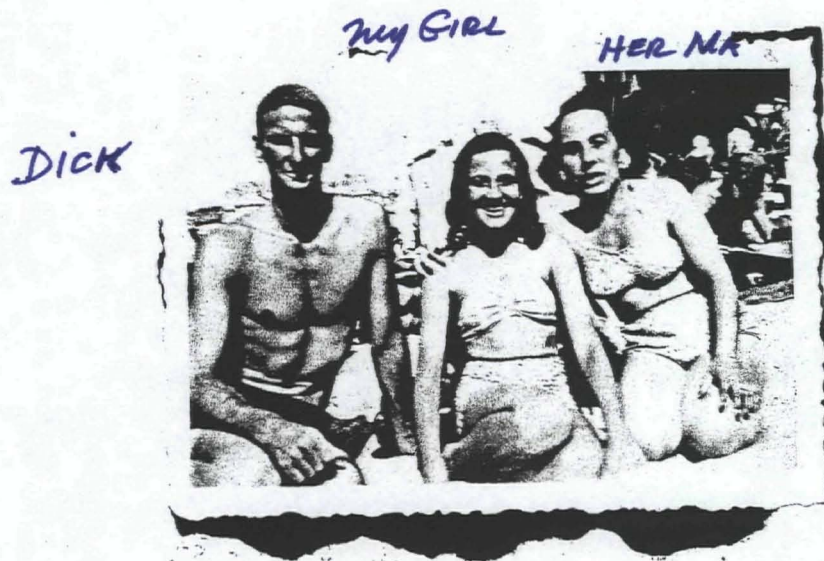


McELROY O'CONNELL + WEYHER MAAR DARTFORD, KENT, 25 MILES SOUTHEAST  
from LONDON





It's OVER! We're at BIARRITZ, France, on the  
BAY of BISCAY.



Harry, Jack, Dick  
at LOURDES



mission and a member of the Northeast "B" Mother's Fellowship. She was also a member of the Forbes Court No. 586 Order of Calanthe. She leaves to rejoice in her memories one daughter, Linda V. Tucker-Gooding of the home; a foster daughter, Jeanette (Howard) Williams of Philadelphia, Pa.; a sisters,

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day at Norcott Memorial Chapel, 520 Third Street, Ayden. The family will receive friends at the home. Arrangements by Norcott and Company Funeral Homes LLC, Ayden. (Paid Obituary)



**Harry F. Weyher Jr.**  
LA GRANGE — Harry

he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. During this same time, Mr. Weyher also passed the CPA exam and in the summers worked for the Kinston accounting firm of S.C. Sitterson Jr. Following his graduation from Harvard, Mr. Weyher joined the New York law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore. From 1951 to 1952, he served as special assistant attorney general to the New York State Crime Commission, charged with investigating pervasive waterfront corruption in the ports of New York and New Jersey. In 1954, he co-founded the law firm of Olwine, Connelly, Chase, O'Donnell & Weyher. As a lawyer specializing in tax and accounting matters as well as corporate mergers and acquisitions, Mr. Weyher wrote numerous articles on these subjects and co-authored two books, "The Employee Stock Ownership Plan" in 1985 and "Hanging Out A Shingle, A Guide to Starting a Law Practice" in 1987. He also served as a member on several committees of the American and New York State Bar Associations and he was an adjunct associate professor at New York University of Law. In the mid-1990s, Mr. Weyher returned to North Carolina, buying a small farm in La Grange, where he continued to serve as president of the Pioneer Fund, a non-profit foundation supporting the study and research of the hereditary basis of human nature. He was also a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Society of Colonial