

XIX Corps in Action



Private Bob Williams with the XIX Corps somewhere in Germany sent his mother, Mrs. Maie Williams a very interesting map recently. This map shows the progress made by his corps. from D-Day (June 6, 1944) on to Germany. Mrs. Williams kindly brought this map in for the Hoover Rail Staff to look over and we have enjoyed it immensely. While we look at the map and trace the progress Bob's corps has made, we realize that he and many other Cleveland County boys have participated in the events that make up this altogether interesting map - its not an ordinary map like we studied in school, its more like a pictorial map, showing the line of arch made by this Corps, with all the land marks designated by a small picture and description. The one that appealed to us the most was the picture depicting the fall of St. Lo on the 18th of July. This long bitter battle will go down in history as one with a great deal of human appeal - everyone of this present generation will long remember the "Major of St. Lo" that gallant soldier, who told his men they would be the first at St. Lo's fall and had promised them "You will see me in St. Lo," and children in the coming generations will read of the "Major of St. Lo" and be inspired by his greatness and the love his men bore for him. To us, in Cleveland County, the Major becomes someone we know, when we realize that he is Major Thomas D. Howie, brother of Mrs. Hubert Plaster of Shelby. While most of us do not know Mrs. Plaster, many of us do know her husband, Dr. Hubert Plaster, and thus we feel that Major Howie is really very close to all of us. And though Mrs. Plaster and her immediate family feel his loss very keenly now, they have the comfort of knowing that the "Major of St. Lo" shall never die in men's hearts.

We are publishing the following poem, "Incident at St. Lo" by the American poet, Joseph Auslander, to memorialize the taking of the body of the Major into St. Lo by his troops.

Incident At St. Lo

They rode him in, propped straight and proud and tall,
Through St. Lo's gates...He told the lads he led
That they would be the first at St. Lo's fall —
But that was yesterday—and he was dead:
Some sniper put a bullet through his head,
And he slumped in a meadow near a wall;
And there is nothing further to be said;
Nothing to say—nothing to say at all.

Ride, soldier, in your dusty, dizzy jeep,
Grander than Caesar's chariot! O ride
Into the town they took for you to keep,
Dead captain of their glory and their pride!
Ride through our hearts forever, through our tears,
More splendid than the hero hedged with spears!

We'd like to tell you more about the XIX Corps map, but space prohibits. Thanks, Bob to you and to your Moms, for letting us see this wonderful map - We're proud of your XIX Corps, proud of the part you've played in their many undertakings and wish for you all the luck in the world.

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Late News Flash

Feb. 1st—S/Sgt. George H. Hart, Jr. has just completed his 50 missions as nose turret gunner on a B-24 in Italy. George is with the 15th Air Force and believe you me, little George may be "sweating out" his transportation home, but he's not the only one who is "sweating it out" - his Moms & Pops are too, they're simply walking on air and just waiting for that telephone call, saying "Moms, I'm home"!!!!

