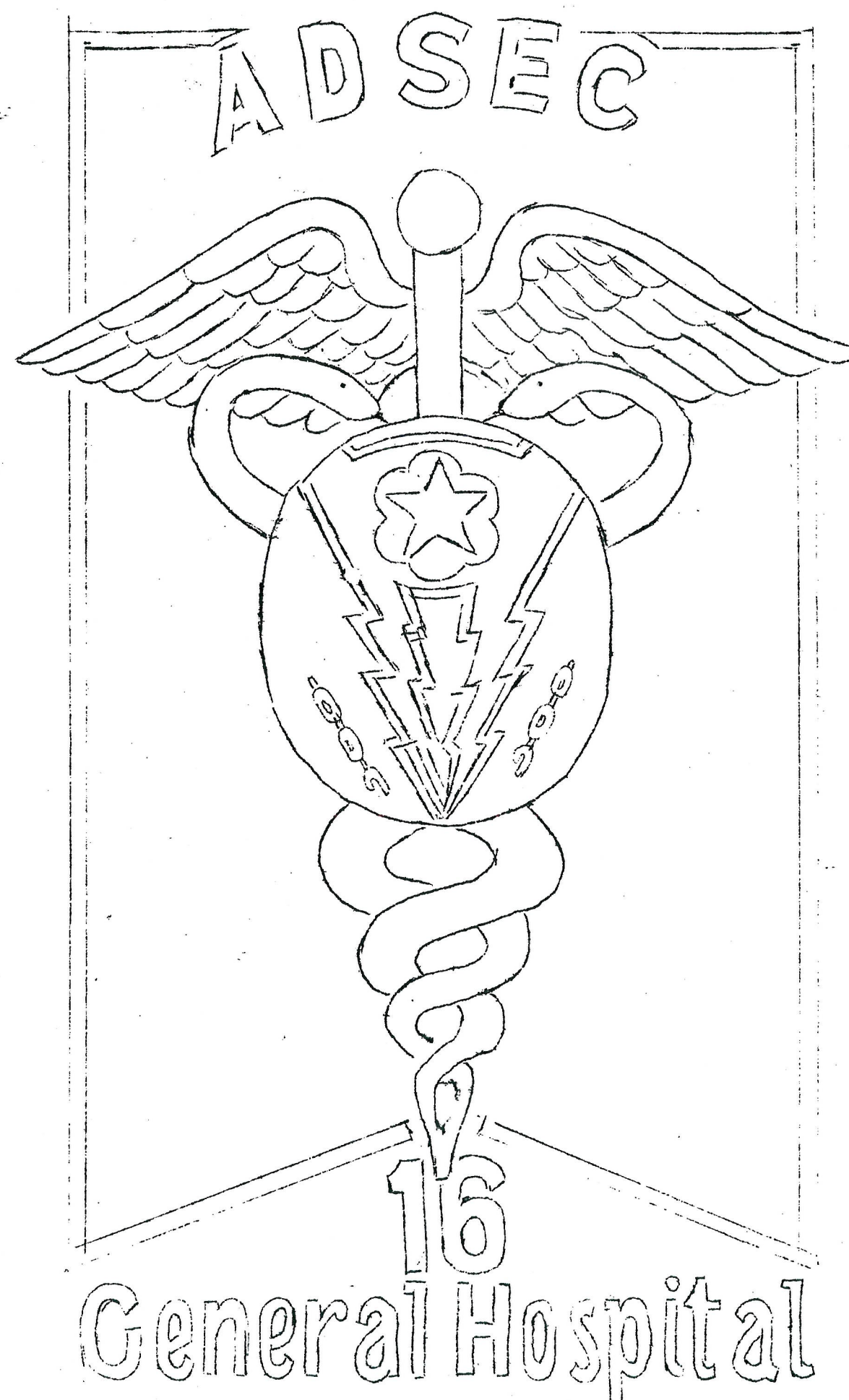


Thou that stupendous truth
believed,
And now the matchless deed's
achieved,
Determined, dared, and done.

From "A Song To David"



Châlons 1945. By J.R. CAITHAM L

FACTS ABOUT - YOUR UNIT

BATTLE STARS

The 16th General Hospital has earned battle participation stars for the campaigns "Northern France, Ardennes" and "Rhineland".

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Tec 4 Benedict Hess for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 10 October 1944 to 7 March 1945.

LEGION OF MERIT

Colonel Milford T. Kubin for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 7 October 1944 to 15 March 1945. The decoration was awarded for supervising the construction and operation of a model Tented General Hospital during a critical period of the war.

PURPLE HEARTS

- Capt D Greeney
- 1st Sgt J Ehmke
- 1st Sgt W Bushay
- 1st Sgt R Sebring
- Tec 5 R Henry
- Tec J Scanlon
- Tec J Hamilton
- Tec E Jones
- Tec Kreitzberg
- Tec M Farano
- Tec C Schrenko
- Tec W Brock
- Tec W Mc Gee
- Tec E Plympton
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- Tec R Cunningham
- Tec R Norton
- Tec Sgt Swanson
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- Tec 5 C Nelson
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- Tec G Bloodworth
- Tec W Brooks
- Tec 4 H Bisfeldt
- Tec W Storie (with two oak leaf clusters)
- Tec S Cheslock (cluster to previous award)
- Tec Lt Elizabeth Wright (with one cluster)

SOLDIERS REST

Soldier, rest: thy warfare o'er
 Sleep the sleep that knows not
 breaking;
 Dream of battled fields no more,
 Days of danger, nights of waking
 In our isle's enchanted hall.
 Roads unseen thy couch are
 strewing.

HIGHLIGHTS

by 1st Sgt Jack Ehmke

It is extremely difficult to put into a few words, even just the "Highlights" of such a long and varied history of such a unit as ours. Each of you will have to write your own history of the unit prompted by these words, dates, and events. Let us start at the beginning:

Boston Harbor-Ft Andrews Sept. 1 1942 the 16th General Hospital with total personnel of 32 left off. Dec 1 1942 we had grown to 654 MM. 15 mile (full pack) hike on the mainland, twice around the obstacle course, and around Prin Head with "Commando" Guernsey. The Techs. feeling like commuters, shuttling to and fro on DS. The infiltration course at Camp Edwards. Can't ever forget that memorable move from the "Rock" to Devens Aug 43. Wat little we left on the island-Major Hurney could put in one of his boiler rooms.

Ft. Devens - dances at the Shirley USO, the first of our major concrete projects, 10:00 o'clock coffee at the Service Club, hikes (short and sweet) by Lt. "Chuck" Avery, those ex-WAC barracks, the dummy hospital and class room, terminal furloughs, alerting of unit 20 Nov (shades of Col. Davis Myles Standish--the desert breeze, KP, inoculations, Christmas dinner (that's enough for this year).

THAT BOAT -- KP, rough sailing and the epidemic of "feeding the fishes", more KP, rumors from "Baker", -- dry land -----
 Culton Park -- the fission introduction to powdered eggs, egg shortage, Col. Barksdale's field demonstration (did we show him in Penley Hall - Our first hospital landscaping more concrete work, bicycles, the ATS and the Land Army mild & bitter, orders to move, the "Lost Battalion" (the advance party the hurried evacuation, the all-night trainride.

Bridport -- 10 July 1944. A month of loafing, Retreat Reviews on the parade grounds, West Bay with its swimming and golfing; the English belles changing sans bath house; by train to the Marshalling Area, by truck to the port, the overcrowded boat with underfed passengers. Aug. 16th hitting the beaches of Normandy.

EMINISCENCE OF AN OLD TIMER

M/Sgt Ermal T Lindquist

Today we, the 16th General Hospital, stand in a strange and distant land and with eager hearts turn our eyes Westward--westward to the land we call home. But it is not always so--three long years ago we stood on the opposite shore and with anxious eyes looked Eastward across the blue Atlantic, not knowing what fate was to decree for us in the years which were to come. Those three years were anxious years--years of training, preparation, joys, heartaches, yes, and for some of us, even death itself.

It is the prerogative of those individuals who share a common experience to view in retrospect and evaluate those experiences. The history of the 16th General Hospital will never be recorded in the pages of history, but the contacts, friendships, trials, and achievements of our unit will forever be imbedded in our minds.

On this wet and dreary night in France, as the newspapers on the table before us cry out in bold type "PEACE", and the radios proclaim in many tongues that the war is over, our thoughts turn to the days gone by.

We see the island of Ft. Andrews. It is September 1942. The "Grimes" arrives at the dock loaded with khaki clad men. The first individuals to join the 16th have arrived. In ragged columns they march up to the front of Building 11- disgusted, complaining, laughing, comforting, weeping. Their first instructions and orders are given--they are now part of a unit. The days pass by, training becomes their lot. The unit is new. Men must fit into new places. Farmers, mechanics, clerks, and butchers must become skilled technicians. Merchants, painters, and carpenters must be made into cooks and bakers. Later more men arrive. Soon the unit takes shape

DONYOU REMEMBER?

T/3 Jack Braverman

...the first time you boarded the "Girard" and realized that you were to be stationed on an island...

when you arrived at Fort Andrews and found acting Cpl Hygas Carl Mason Hakalmazian in Squad Room #3? What a mess--that room!

When Gobi almost fell off the gangplank into the Bay because the barracks bags were too heavy for him.....

The old battle cry..Wheres's Harrington? Uhhhhh. Nuff said.

That personality Irisher-Mess Sgt O'Toole singing "Danny Boy" at our beer parties.....

...and the early dawn Fishing Trip with the "suckers" in front of Building #11 wearing their raincoats over their lojohns.

The Sunday afternoon brawls, dances I mean with those luscious things from nearby Beantown way...Amour, Amour....

Those sleeping sessions or should we say--Classes in medical basic. Have you seen 8-250 lately?

...when Larry "Gargantua" Gargano used to put Coke bottle tops in beds and the retribution "in spades" he received.

arriving at Fort Devens in the midst of 10,000 WACs but they moved out two days later. Wonder why? Guy wasn't safe then.

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Sleep the sleep that knows not
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Dream of battled fields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking
In our isle's enchanted hall.
Roads unseen thy couch are
strewing.
Tears and strains of music fall
In every sense in slumber dawning..
Soldier, rest; thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more;
Sleep the sleep that knows not
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Man of toil, nor night of
waking.

From "Lady of The Lake"
(con't on page 4)

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Lison - souvenir hunting, hedgerows, dust, mail call, bedding rolls, winterized tents (the pup variety), trips to St. Lo, the showers, digging those trenches (they didn't last long). Who can forget that infamous ride to Paris by Hospital Train???

(con't on page 4)

tail, stand in a strange and what land and with eager hearts turn our eyes Westward--westward to the land we call home. But it was not always so--three long years ago we stood on the opposite shore and with anxious eyes looked Eastward across the blue Atlantic, not knowing what fate was to decree for us in the years which were to come. Those three years were anxious years--years of training, preparation, joys, heartaches, yes, and for some of us, even death itself.

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It still doesn't seem possible that these men will some day join together and render outstanding service to their fellow men wounded in battle. But the unit grew and developed. Reports arrived from the various camps and stations where our men were on detached service, indicating that the farmers, mechanics, clerks, and butchers were becoming

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when Guadalcanal Mike Guerin yelled "Lets go!" and out jumped his new porcelain choppers.

That infamous night before shipping over from Camp Myles Standish? Did you get your V for Victory haircut?

as the last strains of Taps faded away the blast of "Blow It Out Your.." could be heard reechoing through the Normandy night. And Lev was so sensitive

EDITORIAL

Fascism is through, the United Nations with a true spirit of Democracy, combined with the efforts, skills, and enegeries of a Free People, have routed the forces of reaction throughout the world. Now millions are returning to their homes, free, independent, and sure fo the peace that they have so dearly won.

Freedom, bitterly fought for and stubbornly defended to maintain a Free World must be insured so that Democracy might live. To that we pledge ourselves and dedicate our efforts.

Now, we are standing on the threshold of a World made bright by the dimming of Fascist thoughts and ideals. We must carry out our pledge; "that it will not happen again." To succeed we must be alert, eternally, ready to strike at the ugly head of discrimination against race, creed and religion. We dare not permit our vigilance to flag, ever. The Principals of Freedom, Equality and Justice must be our guiding beacon. The men that died as a result of our fight and struggle against the vile forces of oppression can rest in peace, for we will carry out the mission that now is before us; To fight to keep the peace and Freedom that comes from our blood and tears shed thousands of miles away from home, but still, near enough to know that international Fascism was at our door, the door of America. As we go about our Civilian jobs, shortly, the Watchword of the world will be in front of us. Freedom and Democracy...

Sgt Phil Kreitzberg

DO YOU REMEMBER? (Contd)

T/3 Jack Braverman

- First glimpses of Parea, the Eiffel Tower, and those yummy gals on the bicycles. OCHLA IA!
- Copy Rose reciting The Rubiyat when I got the affluence of inchohol. (Hic)
- Life in a Fryenbois apple orchard with only the coss on the Not Verboten list.
- Pot...So Strange Interlude, MUD MUD MUD
- the boys on Pot Likker Edlers tent hauling detail cussing and groaning while Elmer did the sneaking....
- Chester jumping in the grease trap when the Fly-Bomb was launched. Maista had his own chair.
- The super-deluxe foxhole built by the little boys. Turned out to be a swimming pool after the first bain.

Some men were carried from the field and will play no more. Some men were injured and couldn't finish the game. Others were farmed out and gained new glory for our team in other leagues. Some from other leagues are finishing the season with us and really "carrying the ball".

The Game is not yet over. The time clock shows that there is still a little time left for team play. But the result of the game is certain in my mind.

I've said this before, I'd like to repeat it again. I feel like the manager of a ball club who has just won the championship. You did all the work--yet! -- I shared in the glory. My commendation and thanks to each one of you. It has been the highest honor of my life to be chosen to lead such a great team!

HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

by Jack Ehmke

Enghein - A day in Gay Parea, pup tents in the lake; perfume for the gal friend.

Liege - A tent hospital, the bombing of Aachen, mud, patients and more patients, the robot bomb (moose gate), the Bulge, a dreary Christmas, the Air Force armada of destruction overhead, losing personnel for infantry retraining, Bernice, madamoiselles, a new CO, the end of the War, celebrations.

Chalons - after Liege, this??From the sublime to the ridiculous. A hospital in buildings, more changes in personnel, a new CO, the end of the War with Japan, how many points??, who will be next, the Minus-85-Club--where do we go from here, to Germany, Australia, China, Home ----?????

FACES ABOUT YOUR UNIT (contd)

by M/Sgt Art Clark

DEATHS

- Pvt August W Horton died 15 October 1944
- Pfc Nathan E Fisher died 3 June 1944
- Pvt Eugene N Taylor killed in action 24 December 1944
- Sgt Leonard H Catton died of wounds 25 December 1944.

...And so, to the men who are here, to those that left us, for home, for duty in other units, for those who left us forever, here is your Book from your outfit....

team to perform their assigned mission. In the Summer of 1943 tremendous steps were taken to organize the individuals into a unit. The orders that came from the 16th would move overseas added to the drive and impetus to get the unit ready. Additional officers and nurses joined the organization. Late in December 1943, over six hundred laughing, lone-some cursing, frightened, heavily packed members of the 16th GH boarded the U.S.S. Alexander for their maiden voyage across the waters.

As 1944 dawned, the unit arrived in England. Time sped by rapidly. A few more weeks of training and final preparation, then the test. 19 April 1944 the first soldier in need of care and treatment arrived. Could we care for the sick and wounded? Had our training been adequate? We were still not sure that the group of individuals thrown together some months ago could meet the test. The answer can be found in the records filed away in government archives. But before yet, it can best be remembered in the memories of the soldiers themselves--the soldiers to whom we gave new hope, the soldiers to whom we brought comfort and ease from pain, the soldiers for whom we repaired broken bones, and bodies, and minds. In England, France, and Belgium--the thousands who entered our gates filled with fear, pain and suffering departed smiling and thankful, blessing us for what we had done.

It was not always pleasant. There was mud, dirt, filth, cold, bombings, strafing, and other forms of Nazi terror. There was danger of being overrun as the enemy's advanced closer and closer in the most desperate lunge. Casualties among us were many--sometimes more than seemed necessary. But through it all the unit covered itself with pride and glory.

During the years many have left us to be replaced by others. They like their predecessors carried on with the same spirit, enthusiasm, and devotion to duty. We like we "old timers" are proud to speak of the 16th as "our outfit."

Our work may not yet be over, but we will always remember this epoch in our lives and know that we accomplished that which we were assigned to do. From the letters of generals and others in high places to the letters of commendation and praise, more important, from the burning lips of the plain soldier came the hushed whisper "thank you"--expressing appreciation for a job well done and the chance for life in the world of tomorrow.

- - - - -

The town was quite convenient to our hospital but we soon found that everything there in the way of enjoyment was absolutely conspicuous by its absence. Our hospital was situated in a kind of compound, surrounded by a 14' wall. It gave one the feeling of being a prisoner. This plus the fact of sweating out re-deployment made us realize we must have something to pass our idle hours or get off the beam. About this time liquor rations became available to noncoms, so a meeting of department heads was called to decide on what to do. From department heads various men voted in a council of nine men to represent all the men in the outfit and this council voted to have the liquor rations divided evenly between the men in the outfit. The council then voted to start our own club. Our CO and Det CO gave us every co-operation and they made available to us a three story building situated across the street from our hospital. Everyone was showing a keen interest by this time and in a few days we had the building cleaned up and painted a stand for our orchestra built, pot chutes hung from the ceiling for decorations, tables and chairs on the outside giving it that cafe effect. When we were ready to open we found we needed \$1000 Toot Sweet with which to buy rations. The only place to get it was from the men themselves. The council stationed themselves on the pay line and collected \$1500 in short order. This money was paid back by the end of the month.

We had auspicious opening--plenty of American beer, many madamoiselles--this was followed by two dances every week. These nights all drinks were free so the scotchmen including myself made sure to be around on these nights.

As well as the ballroom we had a game room and writing room, but with the advent of Champagne, Cognac, liquors and other misc, drinks these rooms turned into a night club. Order was kept by NCOs of the day and there was very little trouble.

Our club was a much better affair than our officers had and everyone was loud in its praise. We ran the club at a slight profit to cover any shortage and as the profits mounted we gave it back to the men with free beer & cokes dance nights and Bingo parties.

At this writing we are giving a farewell dance to the whole unit and everything left will be given away at Bingo.

It has been the best thing our outfit ever had for it's men and the effect of it on the moral of our outfit is outstanding.

We will always remember this desert-like wilderness and club as the great Oasis even though we named it the Minus 85-Club. To all, good luck, good health, and bottoms up.

STAFF

Sgt Phil Kreitzberg ---Editor
1st/Sgt Jack Ehmke---Highlights
M/Sgt Ernel T Lindquist---In 3 years
T/3 Jack Braverman---Remember When
T/5 James Caithaml---Art
M/Sgt Art Clark---Unit Facts
AND
Colonel Thompson---Commanding Officer
Captain Raymond---Detachment Commander

EDITORIAL

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Poppy Rose reciting The Rubiyat when under the affluence of inchohol. (Hic)

Life in a Fryenbois apple orchard with...

FIRST IMPRESSIONS (cont'd)

Captain Raymond

No stars -- just teamwork. All for one and one for all, a heady, justling team which while not spectacular plays a hard game -- and plays it to win.

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FACTS ABOUT YOUR UNIT (contd)

by M/Sgt Art Clark

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MINUS-85-CLUB (Cont'd)

By M/Sgt Ernel Lindquist

...skilled technicians. Individually the unit was ready but it was now necessary to mold the individual personnel into a team to perform their assigned mission.

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During the years many have left us to be replaced by others. They like their predecessors carried on with the same spirit, enthusiasm, and devotion to duty. We like we "old timers" are proud to think of the 16th as "our outfit."

Our work may not yet be over, but we will always remember this epoch in our lives and know that we accomplished that which we were assigned to do. From the mouths of generals and others in high places we have received letters of commendation and praise,

MINUS-85-CLUB

By T/Sgt Thomas Fay

After our outfit left Liege we set up again in a place by the name of Chalons-sur-Marne in France.

The town was quite convenient to our hospital but we soon found that everything there in the way of enjoyment was absolutely conspicuous by its absence. Our hospital was situated in a kind of compound, surrounded by a 14' wall. It gave one the feeling of being a prisoner. This plus the fact of sweating out redeployment made us realize we must have something to pass our idle hours or go off the beam. About this time liquor rations became available to noncoms, so a meeting of department heads was called to decide on what to do. From department heads various men voted in a council of nine men to represent all the men in the outfit and this council voted to have the liquor rations divided evenly between the men in the outfit. The council then voted to start our own club. Our CO and Det CO gave us every co-operation and they made available to us a three story building situated across the street from our hospital. Everyone was showing a keen interest by this time and in a few days we had the building cleaned up and painted a stand for our orchestra built, partitions hung from the ceiling for decorations, tables and chairs on the outside giving it that cafe effect. When we were ready to open we found we needed \$1000.00. TooT Sweet with which to buy rations. The only place to get it was from the men themselves. The council stationed themselves on the pry line and collected \$1500 in short order. This money was paid back by the end of the month.

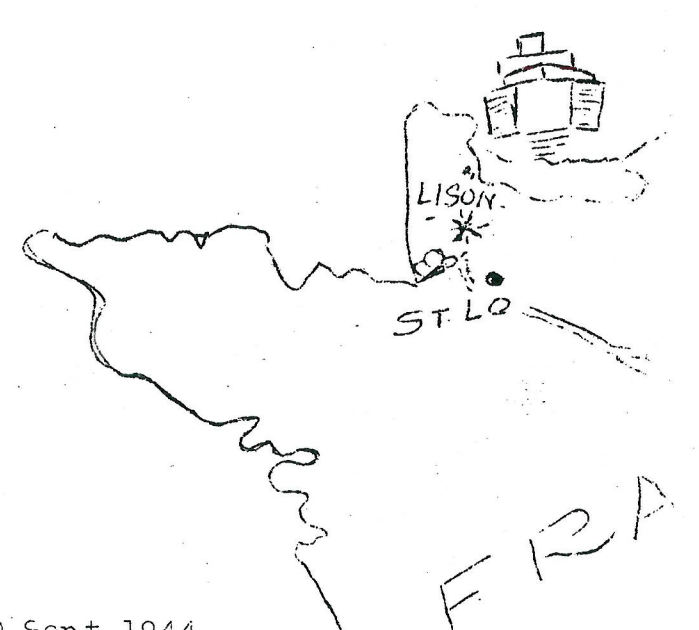
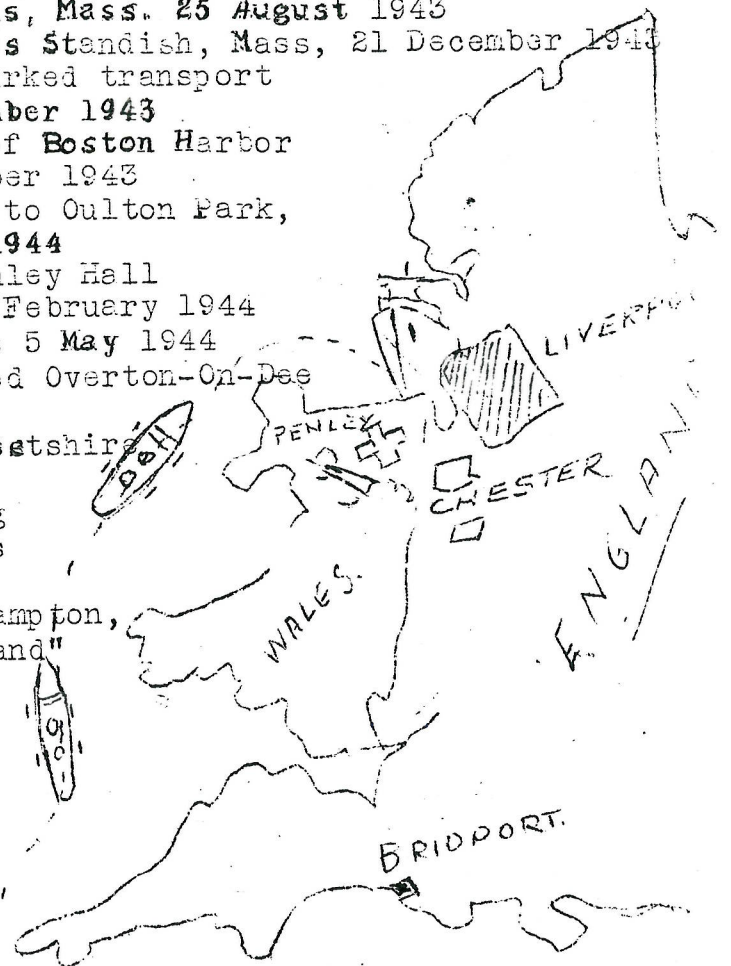
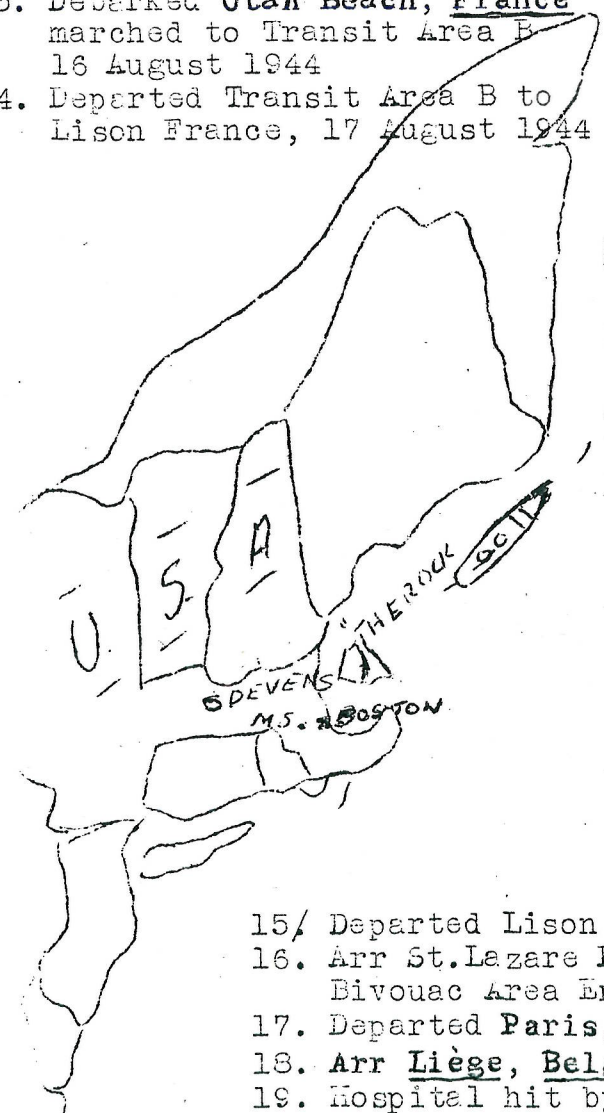
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As well as the ballroom we had a gym room and writing room, but with the addition of Champagne, Cognac, liquors and other misc, drinks these rooms turned into a night club. Order was kept by NCOs of the day and there was very little trouble.

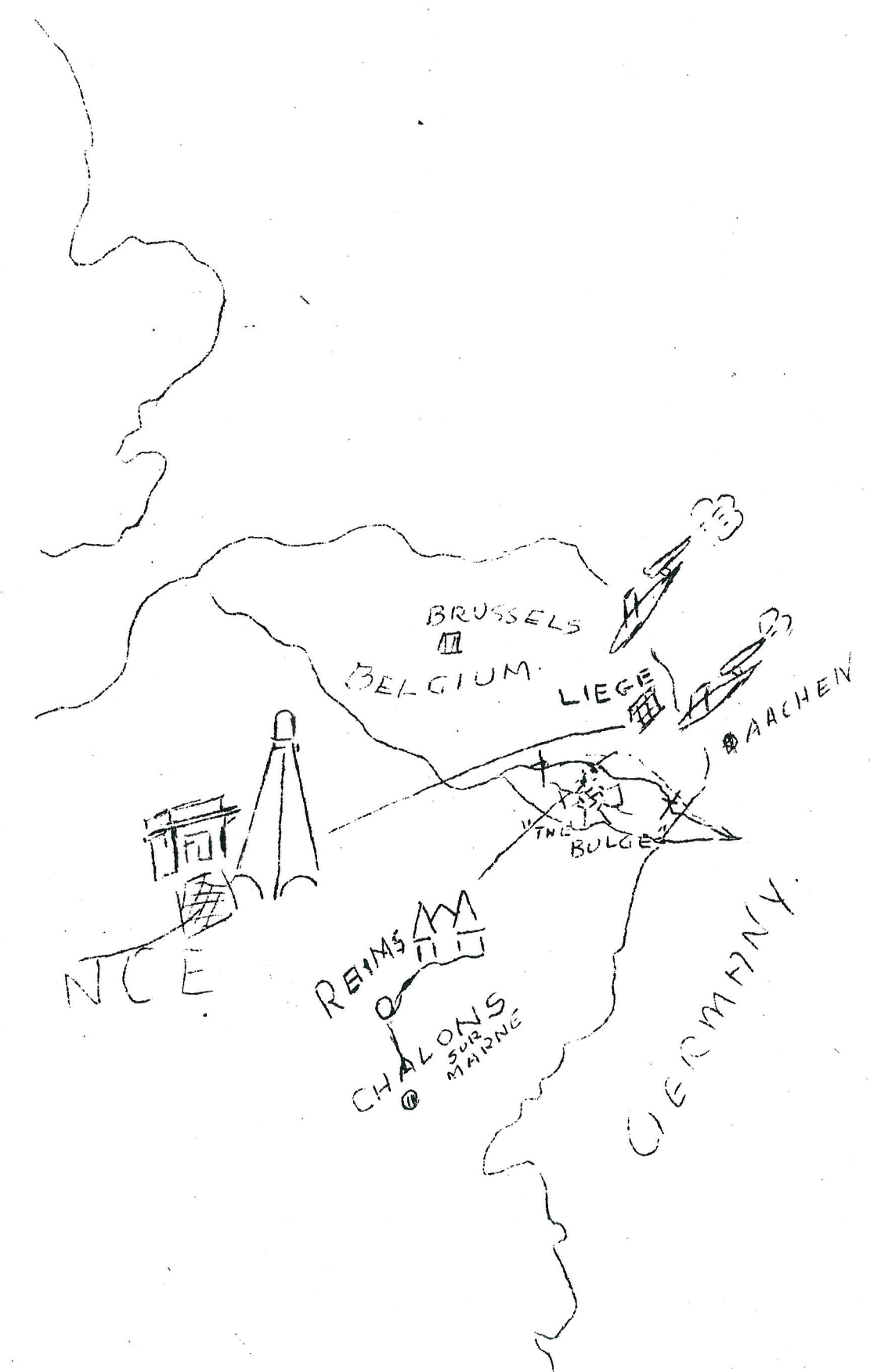
Our club was a much better affair than our officers had and everyone was loud in its praise. We ran the club at a slight profit to cover any shortage and as the profits mounted we gave it back to the men with free beer & cokes dance nights and Bingo parties.

LEGEND---From 1 September 1942 To September 1945

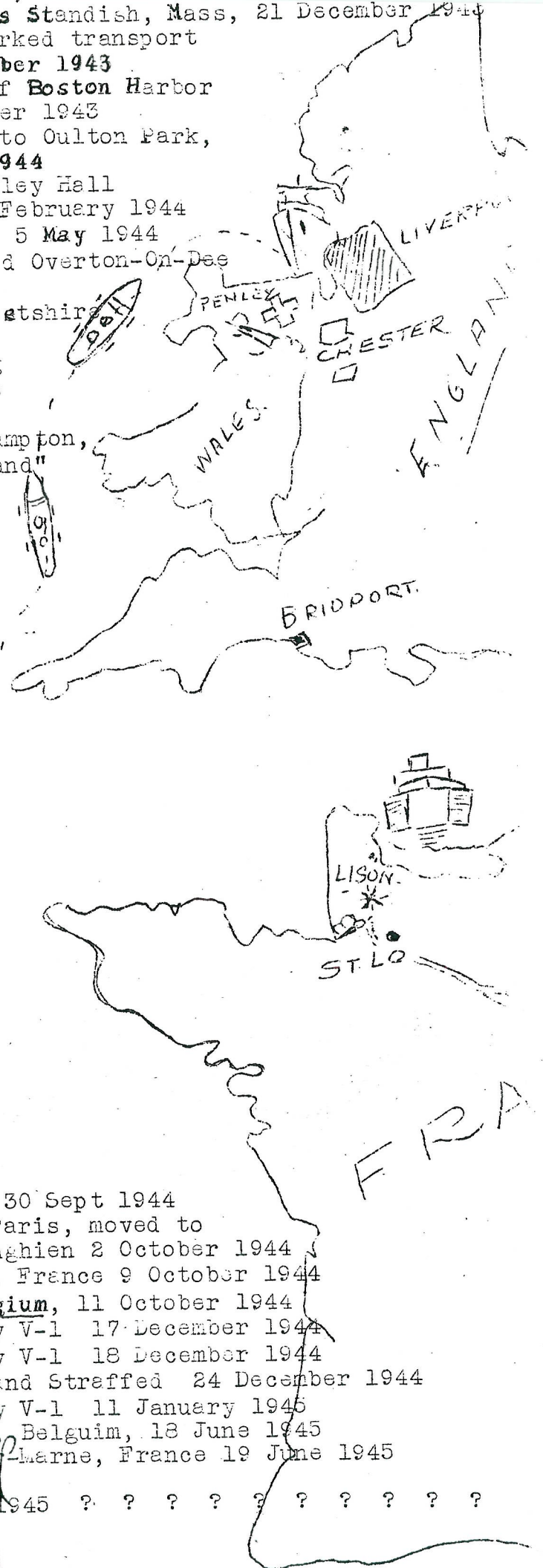
1. Reorganization, Ft. Andrews, Mass. 1 September 1942
2. Left Ft. Andrews, arr Ft. Devens, Mass. 25 August 1943
3. Left Ft. Devens, arr Camp Miles Standish, Mass, 21 December 1943
4. Left Camp Miles Standish, Embarked transport "Edmund B. Alexander" 28 December 1943
5. Weighed Anchor and moved out of Boston Harbor passing Ft. Andrews, 29 December 1943
6. Arr. Liverpool, England, moved to Culton Park, Cheshire England, 8 January 1944
7. Left Culton Park Camp, arr Penley Hall Flintshire, England, Wales 19 February 1944
8. Plane crashed on Hospital Site 5 May 1944
9. Departed Penley Hall, entrained Overton-On-Dee 9 July 1944
10. Arr "Rest Area" Bridport, Dorsetshire, England, 10 July 1944
11. Left Bridport, arr Marshalling Area, Camp C5 Brushfield Hants County 11 August 1944
12. Left Camp C5, moved to Southampton, embarked Transport "Nieu Holland" 13 August 1944
13. Debarked Utah Beach, France marched to Transit Area B 16 August 1944
14. Departed Transit Area B to Lison France, 17 August 1944



15. Departed Lison 30 Sept 1944
16. Arr St. Lazare Paris, moved to Bivouac Area Enghien 2 October 1944
17. Departed Paris, France 9 October 1944
18. Arr Liège, Belgium, 11 October 1944
19. Hospital hit by V-1 17 December 1944
20. Hospital hit by V-1 18 December 1944
21. Hospital Bomb and Straffed 24 December 1944
22. Hospital hit by V-1 11 January 1945
23. Departed Liège, Belgium, 18 June 1945
24. Arr Chalons-sur-Marne, France 19 June 1945

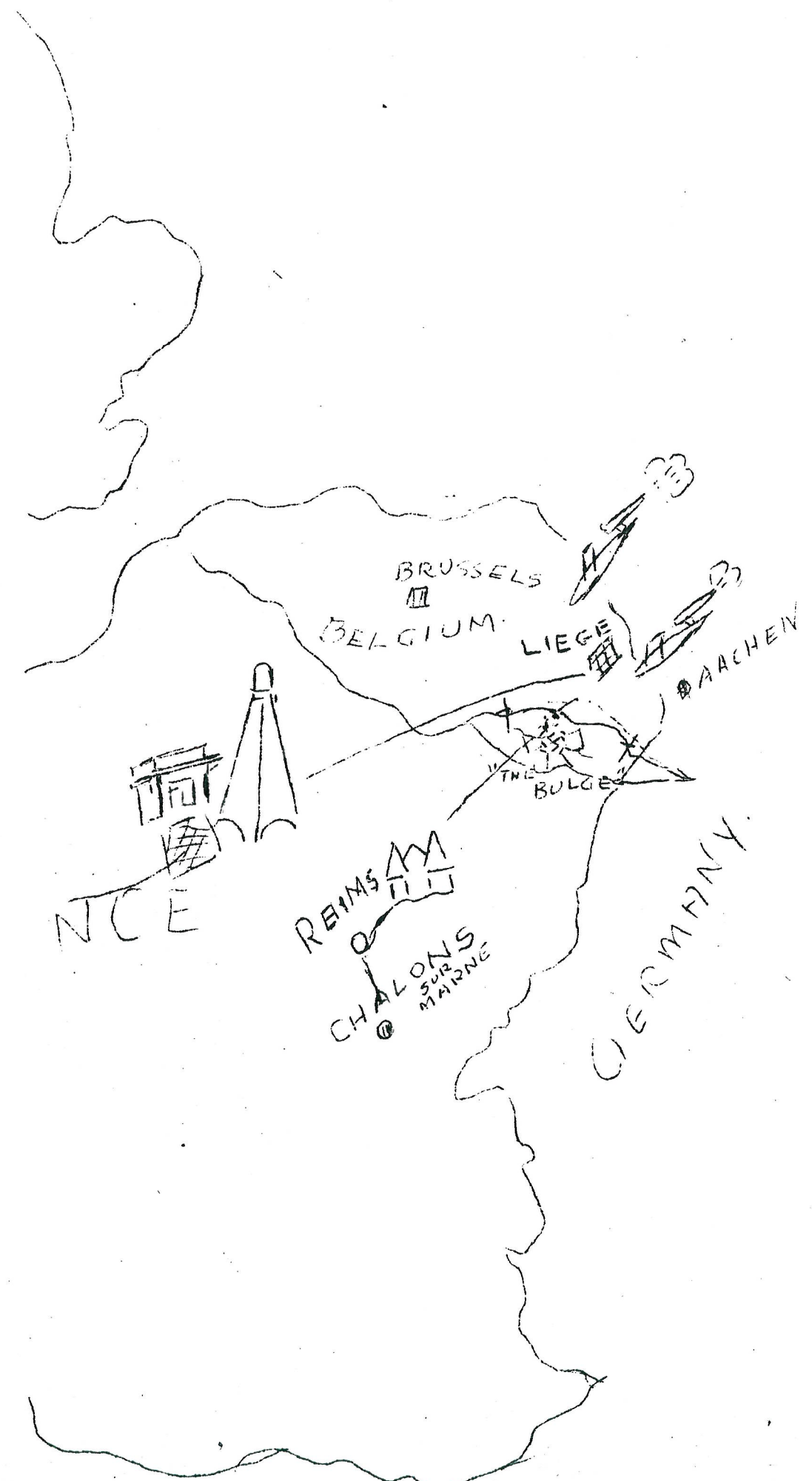


1. Left Ft. Andrews, arr Camp Miles Standish, Mass, 21 December 1943
2. Left Camp Miles Standish, Embarked transport "Edmund B. Alexander" 28 December 1943
3. Weighed Anchor and moved out of Boston Harbor passing Ft. Andrews, 29 December 1943
4. Arr. Liverpool, England, moved to Oulton Park, Cheshire England, 8 January 1944
5. Left Oulton Park Camp, arr Penley Hall Flintshire, England, Wales 19 February 1944
6. Plane crashed on Hospital Site 5 May 1944
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22. Hospital hit by V-1 11 January 1945
23. Departed Liège, Belgium, 18 June 1945
24. Arr Chalons-sur-Marne, France 19 June 1945

? ? ? ? ? ? ? September 1945 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?



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