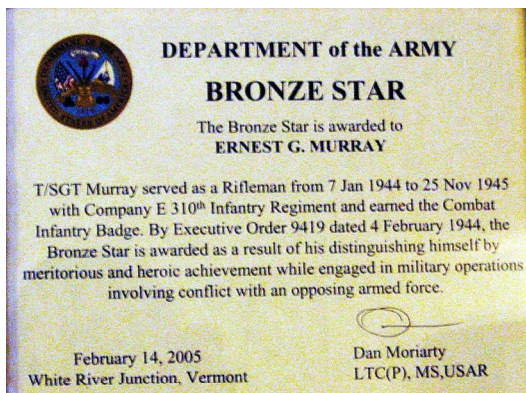




The Bronze Star was presented to Jim at the Veterans administration in White River Junction Vermont in 2005. 60 years after his release from a German POW camp



Jim circa 1943

After the war

Addendum

Jim's notes on his military travels.

Military Record

12/16/43 passed exam, sworn into Army
1/7/44 active duty Fort Devens Ma.
2/44 } Basic Training Camp Blanding Florida
6/44 }

7/44 Camp Van Dorn, Miss.

8/9/44 17th Birthday

Camp Peckett Va. about 7/1/44

Co E, 310 inf, 78 Div.

10/13/44 on troop ship NY harbor

10/14/44 sailed out of NY harbor

10/24/44 Bournemouth, England

November? La Haine France

Thanks giving in muddy France

On to Tongres Belgium

December 7? Germany. Bivouacked in forest
near Rötzen

12/13/44 Bickerath

12/14/44 Sommerath

12/15/44 Kesternich

April 4, 1990

12/13/44 Biekerath
12/14/44 Semmerath
12/15/44 Kesternich Battle of Bulge begins Co E wiped out
12/16/44 6 AM taken by Germans at Kesternich

12/17/44 Carried piggy back by German soldier after dark
across stream (Schwammenauel) put on
trunk. Frozen feet

12/18/44 * Siegburg - carried into a large church.
Early evening those who could walk
were taken out. I was not permitted
to go with them.

Heavy bombing that night. Church not
hit.

12/18/44 * Put on train at R.R. station (Passenger)
all windows broken. Taken to Bonn

1/1/45 Right foot improved enough so I could
hobble on it. Could not put foot
into shoe.

(12/25/44) Was in Bonn during holidays.
1/1/45) Was walked across bridge over Rhine to
another location. Was there either Christmas
or New Year's not sure which. Small
12 D? camp. Men had made Christmas decorations.
This was already done so it may have
been New Year's.

Was walked back to original place
in Bonn. More of a holding area. Not a regular camp

Date? Was marched from Bonn back to
Siegburg. Taken up a hill to building
large bare rooms. Some said it had
been a monastery. Questioned & searched.
Next day walked to R.R. station Siegburg.
Rode in to Box car. About 120 men/car.

Locked in Bay car at number 9 days
No good at winter Just track of time
I thought it was about 4 days Bill
Walpole said it was 9 days. Was lit
and once. More questioning and another
search. Germans were looking for
watches etc for their personal gain.
Why didn't find mine. I still have
it.

1/13/45 arrived at Stalag IV B Muhlberg

2/1/45* thereabouts Mark camp at Reichenbach

Muhlberg was close to Poland and
Czechoslovakia.

Reichenbach was south of Muhlberg
close to Czechoslovakia.

We didn't work much because we
were quarantined for Diphtheria most
of the time. Worked about the 1st
week or 10 days and the last week
or so.

4/17/45 Liberated by the 89 Div (The
Rolling Wheel. (W) There were
maybe 15 of us out of the original
30.

* approximate dates

4/20/45* Taken to air base, flown to Paris in
cargo plane. Moon like night. There 3 or 4
days. Then to camp Lucky Strike. (Jalouse).
On ship in England May 8, New York
bound.

"missing in action" status

tch/ona

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AG 201 Murray, Ernest G.
PC-N ET0289

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5 January 1945

Mrs. Addie S. Murray
South Vernon, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Murray:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your son, Private First Class Ernest G. Murray, 31,416,683, Infantry, has been reported missing in action in Germany since 16 December 1944.

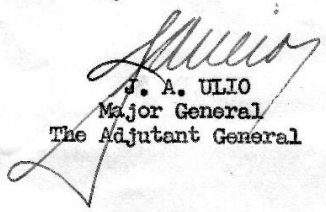
I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime no additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under war conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war, but as this information is furnished by countries with which we are at war, the War Department is helpless to expedite such reports.

The personal effects of an individual missing overseas are held by his unit for a period of time and are then sent to the Effects Quartermaster, Kansas City, Missouri, for disposition as designated by the soldier.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULLO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Bulletin of Information

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Murray, Ernest G.
PC-N ET0289

9 April 1945

Mrs. Addie S. Murray
South Vernon, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Murray:

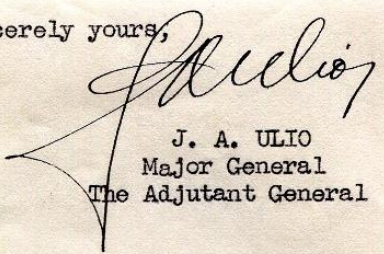
As promised you, I am writing again regarding your son,
Private First Class Ernest G. Murray, 31,416,683.

It has been my fervent hope that favorable information would be forthcoming and that you might be relieved from the great anxiety which you have borne during these months. It is therefore with deep regret that I must state that no further report in his case has been forwarded to the War Department.

I want to again emphasize the fact that the Commanding Generals in all our theaters of operations are making a continuous effort to establish the actual status of personnel who have been reported as missing, or missing in action. In many instances the War Department must rely upon the reports by a belligerent government through the International Red Cross for information.

You may be certain that when any information is received, it will be promptly transmitted to you. In the event no additional information is received within the next three months, I will again communicate with you.

Sincerely yours,


J. A. ULLOA
Major General
The Adjutant General

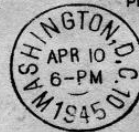
ROOM 3815, MUNITIONS BUILDING
WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.
(PMGC)

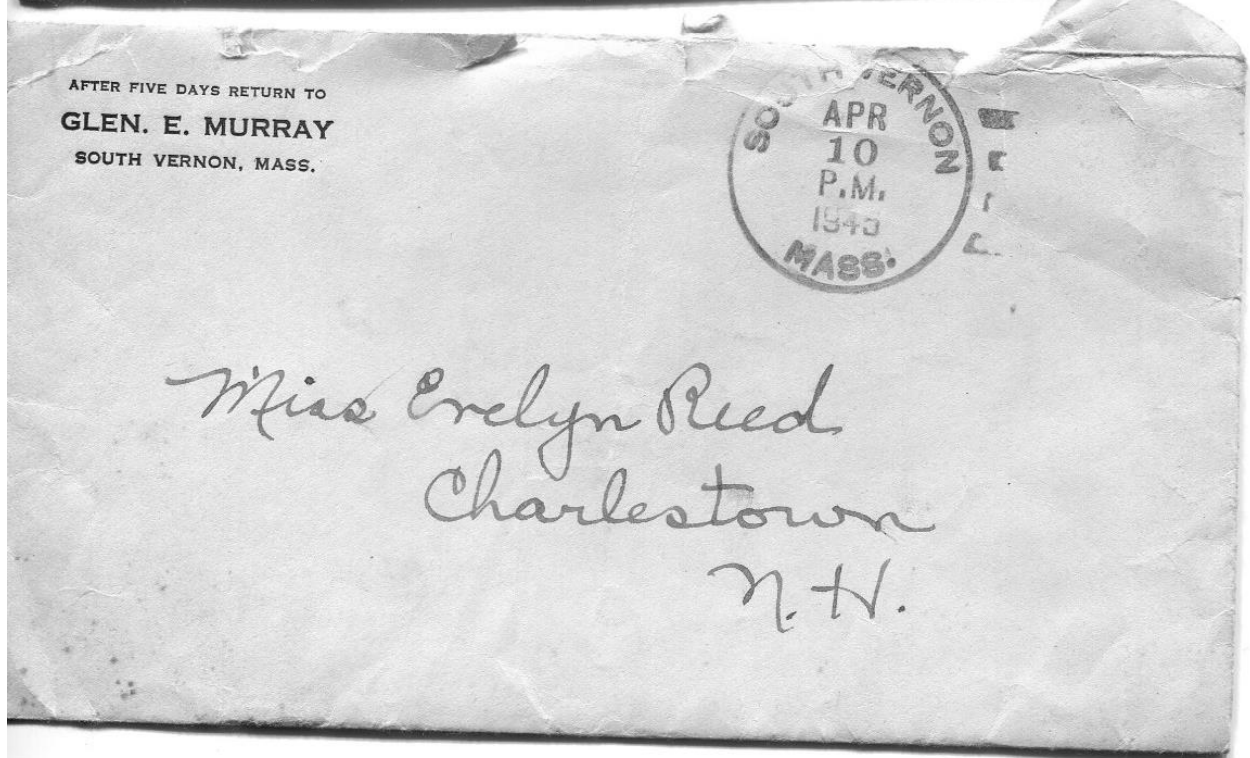
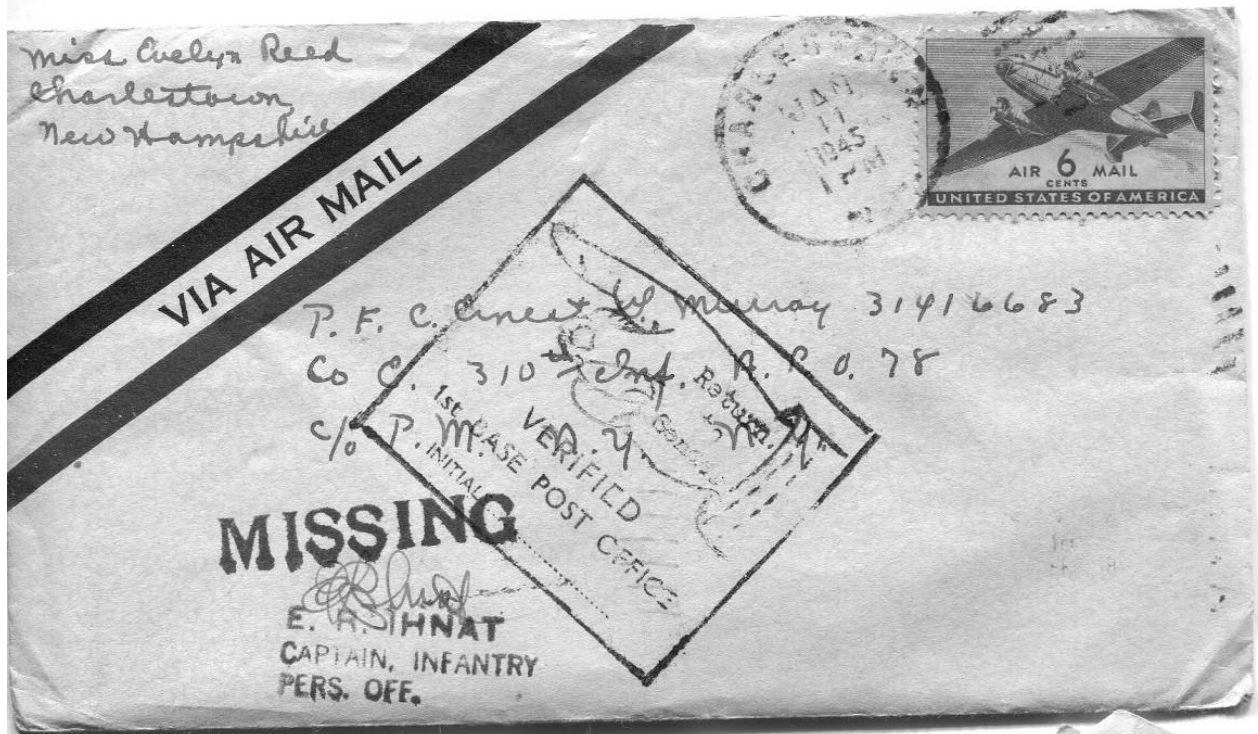
Mrs. Addie S. Murray
South Vernon, Massachusetts

ROOM 3815, MUNITIONS BUILDING
WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.
(PMGC)

TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Personal In the Service

F. F. Sherbert of Concord, N. H., is visiting in the home of his sister, Mrs. E. W. Brown of Belmont avenue.

Miss Joyce White of Western avenue took a position today as clerk at Baker's.

Mrs. Percy Parsons of South Main street is confined to her home with grip.

Eldridge Preston and son of Northfield, Vt., were business visitors in Brattleboro Saturday and called on friends in town.

Miss Loretta Prentice of Canal street went this afternoon to the West River Camp in Brookline to spend a week's vacation.

William L. Hunt and Porter N. Spencer will go to Boston tomorrow on a several days' business trip for Goodnow, Pearson & Hunt.

Dr. B. E. White resumed his practice today after being confined the past week by illness to his home on Vermont avenue.

Carl Anderson, who graduated from the Brattleboro high school in June, will continue to operate the taxi business owned by his father, the late Emil H. Anderson.

Dr. F. R. Newell, who had been confined to his home on Chestnut hill over three weeks by illness, was back at his offices at the Dunham Brothers Co. today.

Miss Mary Cabot Holbrook, student at Smith College, who has been at her home on Terrace street during the vacation, will return tomorrow afternoon to college.

Frederick Holbrook, student at Deerfield Academy, has returned there to resume his studies. He will return to Brattleboro to attend funeral services tomorrow for his grandfather, William J. Fisch.

Miss Lucille George will return tomorrow to resume her studies at Wheaton college at Norton, Mass., after spending the Christmas vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Caryl N. George of Myrtle street.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hawley of New

Corp. Edwin W. Milkey has arrived in England, according to news received by his wife.

Corp. Douglas Bieniek left Saturday night for Del Rio, Texas, after spending a 21-day furlough with his wife and son.

Mrs. Sanford A. Smith has received news that her brother, Lt. Col. Edward J. Rodden of St. Albans, with the Army mechanized cavalry, has arrived in France.

Capt. and Mrs. William B. Ferriter and daughter came Sunday from Camp Breckenridge, Ky., to spend a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Ferriter.

Mary F. Rugg returned Sunday to her home, having received a medical discharge from the WAC at Bradley Field, Conn. Miss Rugg had been confined to the base hospital the past four months.

Corp. Stuart Tyler of West Brattleboro, who has just completed four weeks of jump training at the Parachute School at Fort Benning, Ga., has won the right to wear "Wings and Boots" of the U. S. Army Paratroops.

Mrs. Robert E. Burnham, jr., of Pine street has received a letter from her husband, Sergeant Burnham, reported wounded in Germany on Dec. 18, stating that he is in a hospital recovering from a shrapnel wound in his left leg. Sergeant Burnham said he expected to be hospitalized for some time.

Mrs. Nettie Renaud received a telegram Friday from her son, Pfc. Romao Renaud, announcing his arrival at Halloran hospital, Staten Island, N. Y. Private Renaud, who had one leg amputated as the result of wounds suffered in France on Nov. 19, had been hospitalized in England. He expects to be transferred to a hospital nearer his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Grover of Chestnut street today received a letter written Oct. 22, by their son, Pfc. Paul A. Grover, a prisoner of the German government, the first news



MISSING IN ACTION—Pfc. Ernest Glen Murray has been missing in action in Germany since Dec. 16, according to news received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Murray of South Vernon.

Official Casualty List

Wounded in Action.

Pfc. Henry W. Barnes, Burlington, Mediterranean Area.
S/Sgt. Francis E. Clark, Bellows Falls, Mediterranean Area.
Pvt. Kenneth F. Foster, Essex Center, Mediterranean Area.
T/Sgt. Carl M. Knapp, Corinth, Mediterranean Area.
Pfc. Gordon A. Lombard, Ludlow, Mediterranean Area.
Pfc. Heaton B. Lyons, Montpelier, Mediterranean Area.
Pvt. Ira E. Sheldon, Burlington, Mediterranean Area.
S/Sgt. Leonard L. Unwin, Swanton, Mediterranean Area.

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Method of Selectin

Ernest G. Murray



Born in North Adams, MA on Aug. 9, 1925
Departed on Oct. 27, 2016 and resided in
Vernon, VT.

Visitation: [Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016](#)

Service: [Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016](#)

Cemetery: [South Cemetery](#)

Please click on the links above for locations, times, maps, and directions.

[SIGN GUESTBOOK](#)

[VIEW GUESTBOOK](#)

Vernon- Ernest Glen, "Jim" Murray, 91, of Railroad Station Road died Thursday night, October 27, 2016 in the comfort of his home following a period of declining health.

Mr. Murray was born in North Adams, Mass on August 9, 1925 the son of Glen Ernest and Adie (Sumner) Murray. At an early age he moved to South Vernon with his family where he attended school. He was a graduate of Northfield (Mass) High School, Class of 1943.

Against his father's wishes, at the age of seventeen he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 310th Infantry, 78th Division stationed in Germany. He was taken prisoner by the Germans on December 16, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge and was held captive in several POW camps until being liberated by American forces on April 17, 1945. He was proudly awarded the Bronze Star.

Upon returning home he continued his education by attending Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center where he earned his degree in Agriculture in 1950.

He had been employed for many years as a custodian at the Northfield School for Girls where he retired from in the mid-1980's. Previously he worked at several farms in the Vernon area that included the Cortland Dunklee Farm.

A man of faith, he had attended Northfield Baptist Church and Vernon Union Church.

Mr. Murray was a member of the Vernon Historians, a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vermont Chapter No 1, and held membership in the Wheelmen Bicycle Club.

He enjoyed riding and collecting antique bicycles, black powder guns and time shared with his family.

He was a quiet unassuming man who was known for his spirit of friendship and being a hard worker, very devoted to his family.

On February 16, 1946 in Charlestown, N.H. he was married to Evelyn Reed who survives.

Besides his faithful and devoted wife of 70 years he leaves three sons, Ernest J. Murray and Paul Murray both of Guilford and Eugene Murray of Northfield; three grandchildren, five great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Gertrude Molver and Emma Belle Murray.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. at Vernon Union Church with Pastor Bruce Burks, officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow in South Cemetery in Vernon.

Friends may call at the Atamaniuk Funeral Home on Tuesday from 6 to 8 P.M.

Memorial contributions in Mr. Murray's name may be made to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Vermont Chapter No. 1, in care of Richard Hamilton, 63 Hughes Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301 or to the Windham County Humane Society, PO Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302.

The U.S.Army of WWII

The U S Army divisions of WW II were smaller and more mobile than those of WWI. Every division didn't have every single thing it might need. Divisions shared special units they might only need on some occasions. For instance a full field hospital or more defensive weapons. It was felt that if the mission of the division was to attack and move quickly it didn't need to haul along a lot of defensive and other equipment that they may never need. It was a poor use of resources. They could share these other resources with other units and only have them when they were needed.

It also didn't need an elaborate command structure to issue too many orders and confuse progress. The new division structure was different with three regiments per division; the old division structure had two brigades, each with two regiments each; for a total of four regiments per division. This eliminated the brigade command layer.

These changes made the divisions a lot faster.

The idea of an invasion on D Day was to push quickly into Germany not fight around the edges, but take the fight right to Berlin.

The Germans were surprised by the speed of the Americans. The Americans were surprised the Germans were still using horses.

Ref; History of the United States Army, by Russell F Weigley, The Macmillan Company, 866 Third Ave, New York, NY, 10022. copyright 1967. Library of congress catalog number 67-16051

Footnotes

All photos are designed as -aø+ -bø
Family photo-Murrayødiary

1. Murrayø Diary (no pages listed)
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
2. Ibid
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
3. Ibid
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
 - a. Ibid. and Google search
5. www.canalblog.com. øLe Harve.ö
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Wikipedia.org. øLe Harve.ö
6. www.Panorami.com øHenri-Capella American Cemetery.ö
 - a. Ibid
7. www.ThenandNow.com øRotgen, Germany. Siegfried line.ö
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
8. www.army.mil/botb/overview.html. øBattle of the Bulge U. S. Armyö p 2
 - a. www.history.army.MIL.
9. www.BattleofBulgeMemoiresbe/HardisonTSgt Ervin. ø1-1/2 Unforgettable days in Kesternich.ö
10. Wikipedia.org. øBattle of Kesternich.ö
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
 - c. Google Earth photo by Danny Danaerb
 - d. Ibid.
 - e. Murrayø Diary
11. www.Scribd.com øKesternich and Beyond,ø Sol lederman
 - a. Army Archives. Stalag IV B Muhlberg Sachsen 51-33
 - b. Impression by N.Uchtman
12. Army Archives. loc.cit.
 - a. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
 - c. International Red Cross
13. Murrayø Diary

14. www.Skylighters.org. The Cigarette Camp. U S Army Camps Nov. 10, 2010.
 - a. Google Earth, Photo by N. Uchtman
 - b. Ibid.
15. Murray's Diary
 - a. www.Skylighters.org. Ibid.
 - b. Ibid.
16. Murray's Diary
 - a. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Weigley, Russel F. History of the US Army. Macmillan Co: NY.1967

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Mississippi digital library, Fort Devens Museum.

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Acknowledgements

I wish to thank, and express my appreciation to Lois Sucharski for her help and technical assistance in formatting and editing this story. Also my thanks to Susan Quinn for her transcription and typing services. 13 March 2020