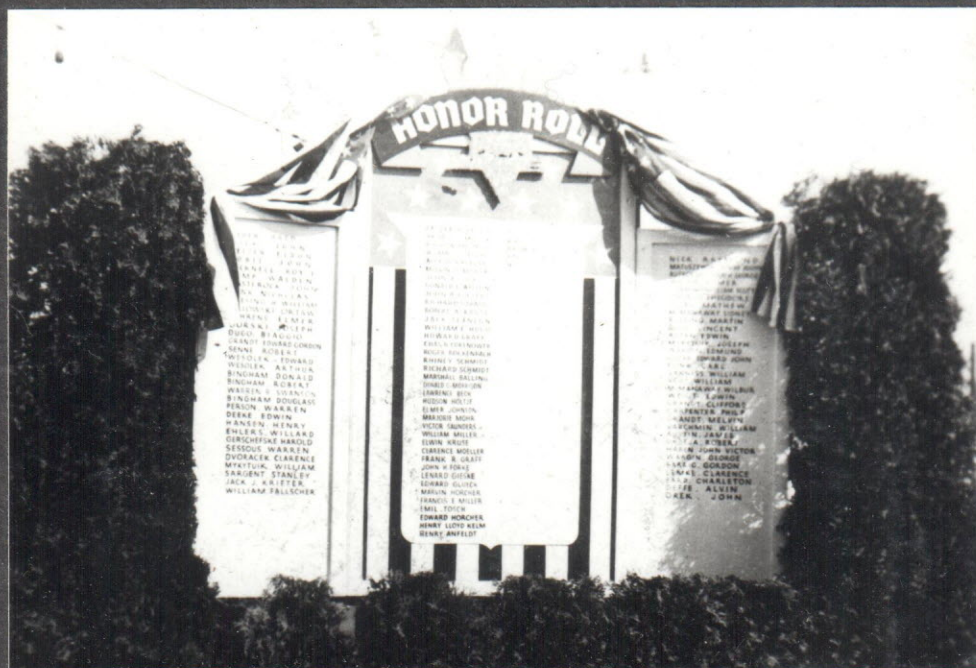




Wheeling boy reported missing in action

Word was received Tuesday morning by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Carpenter of McHenry Road, Wheeling, that their oldest son, Philip, is missing in action since June 29, somewhere in France. Philip was a second lieutenant in the infantry of the ninth division.

He graduated from the Highland Park high school and entered service in December, 1942. He received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark., accepted in officer's candidate school in March and graduated at Fort Benning September 4, 1943. He was assigned to the 166th infantry and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

He married Miss Frances Henkel of Chicago at a ceremony performed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in November, 1943.

Lt. Carpenter's last visit to his home was in March of this year, going overseas shortly afterwards.



ARMY SERVICE FORCES

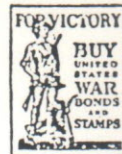
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

IN REPLY REFER TO SPQYG 293

Carpenter, Philip M.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

S.N. 01 324 753



23 August 1945.

Mrs. E.L. Carpenter
Wheeling, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Carpenter:

Your letter has been referred to this office for necessary reply relative to the burial of your son, the late Second Lieut. Philip M. Carpenter.

The official report of interment received in this office reveals that the remains of your son, were interred in the U.S. Military Cemetery #1, St. Laurent Sur Mer, France, Plot W, Row 1, Grave 5. This cemetery is located approximately eight miles northwest of Bayeux and twelve miles northeast of Isigny both in France.

A copy of your letter has been forwarded to the Office, Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D.C., for direct reply to you regarding the burial services of your son, as that office has jurisdiction over such matters.

This office regrets, sincerely, the delay in answering your letter and wishes to extend its deepest sympathy in the loss of your son.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Warren

ARTHUR L. WARREN
Colonel, GIC
Assistant

Anita, Iowa
23 - January 1946.

My Dear Mrs. and Mr. Carpenter,

I have been meaning to write for some time but I thought I might get a chance to come and see you, but it looks as if I won't get to come to Chicago for some time, so knowing how anxious you are to know the details about Phil, I thought I'd better write.

Phil was with me from about June 10th until he was killed. He and I were very close, and hearing him talk of you both and also Fran, I feel as if I know you well. You spoke of his telling you about sharing a fox-hole with some one - That was me. We were together all of the time.

On June 26th, I believe it was, I was ordered to send Phil and a 12 man patrol to Hqts. for orders on a patrol which they were to make.

I sent Phil and the men to Hqts. at about 6 in the evening. They were given the orders, and Phil came back and told me what he was to do, and where he was to go. He wrote a letter to his wife and asked me to mail it if anything should happen. He had supper together and he left on his patrol at about 10 P.M. - He advanced about 600 yards and ran into a German patrol and a fire fight ensued. That was about 11:30 P.M. - At about 12:45 Sgt. Robertson, who was with Phil, reported to me that Phil had been shot in the left side of the neck with a burst of machine gun fire, and that he was dead. Sgt. Robertson handed me Phil's watch which he took off Phil's arm when he felt of his pulse. He told me he crawled up to see how badly Phil had been hit and as soon as he turned him over he said he knew he was gone. It was a very moon light night - Almost as light as day. He felt his pulse then had to withdraw because of the terrific fire that was being placed on that area. There wasn't a chance of bringing Phil's body out at that time. What was left of the Patrol returned to my Hqts. and at about 1:15 A.M. Sgt. Robertson and another Patrol went back to try and get Phil's body but he had been moved by the Germans, and they couldn't find him. We looked that area over good when we did take it, about 2 weeks later, but nothing was found. This all happened at St. Germain D'Elle, France, about 12 miles south of Corisi Forest. I do want you to know that Phil was the best officer I had in my command, and my closest friend. I submitted Phil's promotion 5 days before he was killed. He was so pleased - He said, "Thanks, Capt. Joe, I know this will please Fran and the folks". I'm only sorry he didn't live to be a 1st Lt. He wanted it so badly. He was a fine boy.

Well, I guess that's the story - I was hoping to get to come and see you both personally, but as you know, I was called away from Chicago unexpectedly due to an illness of my wife - I almost lost her, but she is getting along fine now, for which I'm very thankful. I would appreciate hearing from you at any time, and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

On the 25th of January I am moving to Omaha to attend Creighton Univ. I have one semester left for a degree. My address in Omaha will be: Capt. Joe M. Vetter - 6618 Minne Lusa Blvd., Omaha, Nebraska.

May I express my sincerest sympathy to you both and also to Phil's Fran -

God bless you both always,

Sincerely, Joe Vetter.