

Steve Tetak – Private First Class

Served with distinction in Hq1 81mm Mortar Platoon until he was killed German tank gunfire on January 22, 1945.

Steve's survivors could not be located and very little information about Steve Tetak was available for the album. We know he was married and came from the Zanesville, Ohio area.

Many of us remember and admired Steve Tetak and we will attest that he was a noteworthy member of the "Greatest of the Greatest Generation." We loved and respected our cherished comrade.



Joe Bressler a close friend of Steve Tetak says:

"Steve Tetak was a big overgrown coal minor, strong as an ox. Steve always carried more than his share of the 81mm mortar and ammunition. Then he would 'bitch' every step of the way. His favorite expression was: 'The Germans have horses for carrying this Sh _ _.'"

Steve went through all three of Hq1 operations without a scratch until that fatal day in January. I think he became over confident.

All that morning a Panzer Tank had been firing its weapons at us. We had dug a good hole and the tank could not hit us. Finally, we fired three HE (high explosive) 81mm mortar rounds at the tank, and it quickly backed off.

Steve Tetak got over confident and ran for the barn where he had left his pack. Apparently, the Germans saw him and fired a tank gun round into the barn. Steve was killed instantly. Sgt. Glenn Sommerville lost an eye and an arm, and Sgt. William Goudy received a severe head wound.

Steve was a good person and a cherished friend. He never went to town or gambled, always saving his money to send home.

It was a sad day in Hq1 when we carried Steve out and left him by the side of the road. Steve was one great guy and we loved and respected him."

We never forget our cherished comrade – Steve Tetak.

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This Album is Not For Sale

This excerpt from the “We Served Proudly, The Men of Hq1” album contains the recollections of men who in their youth risked their lives in furtherance of our national interests. These memoirs are sacred to them -- especially those events alluding to activities in which comrades lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe.

This album was prepared for perpetual residence in the archives of the Camp Blanding Museum complex, operated by the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, Inc. Starke, Florida. We are grateful for the support and assistance of the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, and for their kindness in having the museum make our album available to historians, students, researchers and others interested in our background and brief history.

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Copies of the album have been presented to the Hq1 veterans or their survivors that contributed information for the effort. To facilitate reproducing copies of individual memoirs for relatives or friends, the memoirs have been developed as separate entities.

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George S. Stoket

Hq1 Album Collator