

## TOM CHANDLER RECALLS "THE BIG ONE"

Walter Darrell Haden

I didn't care for army life.  
I didn't care for the infantry.  
I'd have much preferred to be home in bed  
Than in the thick  
Of infantry service overseas.

I walked in front of Patton through France  
With my sub-machine gun  
From Utah Beach to east of Paris;  
I rode a Sherman tank to Belgium,  
Then walked to meet the Seventh Army  
Marching up from the south.  
I made it through the Bulge, but  
Outside a little town in South France,  
I caught hot shrapnel from sniper fire;  
Recuperated in Naples for four months,  
Reclassified an M.P.,  
I spent three months on the Isle of Capri,  
Guarding some of Hitler's stooges.

But my discharge November 30, 1945,  
I value higher than the Purple Heart,  
The Bronze Star, and the seven  
Other medals I keep buried in boxes.  
I'm glad I was mentally and physically able  
To serve my country honorably  
But wouldn't want to do it again.  
I didn't care for army life.  
I didn't care for the infantry.

