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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.

