

I Carried Him Down the Hill by Robert Schepis

Somewhere in France, Mr. Robert Schepis can't remember the name of the town anymore, a Lieutenant (Robert does remember his name – but will not use it in this story) ordered the platoon to take a truck loader with mines on it and unload the mines on a hill in front of the local church.

Someone spoke up. “Are you crazy? The Germans have the church zeroed in!”

The Lieutenant didn't appreciate the commentary and responded with, “You will do what I order you to do.”

And they did.

The men had just starting to unload the mines when all hell broke loose. German 88 shells rained down on them. The Germans used the *Acht-acht* or 88 mm guns on almost every battlefield. Some called it FlaK, which was a German contraction for *Fl(ugzeug)a(bwehr)-K(anone)* or *Fl(ug)a(bwehr)-K(anone)*. Robert and other men of the 167th ran for cover. Some were able to run down the hill and into the church.

Theodore Lewandowski, Carl Kuehl and Paul Geshwind were hit. Hit pretty bad. Robert Schepis picked up Theodore Lewandowski and carried him down the hill to the church. When he looked down he could see that the left side of Lewandowski's face was missing. There was so much blood,

sticky and red, all over Robert. Theodore's life blood soaked both of their uniforms.

Robert never saw Theodore or Carl Kuehl again. They didn't return to the 167th. He did see Paul Geshwind whose wounds healed just in time to meet up with Schepis and the 167th at Nuth in the Netherlands. What a nightmare. But, then that is another story.

Carl Kuehl and Theodore Lewandowski are listed as transferred out of the 167th, though Robert is pretty sure neither survived their injuries. There are no purple hearts next to their names. The story of this attack and the three injured men is not mentioned in the History of the 167th. But it happened. Robert Schepis was there. And he carried Lewandowski down the hill.