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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



College of Liberal Arts
Center for the Study of War and Society
220 Hoskins Library
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411
(615) 974-0128
or 974-7088

Mr. Woodrow M. Mitchell
419 South Main Street
Greeneville, TN 37743
August 16, 1995

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of August 2nd and your interest in the WWII Veterans Project. I hope that you are recovering well from your back surgery. I had back surgery two years ago so I can relate to what you're going through.

Whenever you are up to it, we would welcome hearing your story. You can write a memoir, make a tape, or perhaps we could arrange for you to come to Knoxville for an interview. Whatever mode of communication you are comfortable with is the one we will use.

Thanks again for your interest, have a pleasant recovery, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director
Center for the Study of War and Society

P.S. I have sent an informational letter to your brother Clyde.



Woodrow W. Mitchell
419 South Main Street
Greeneville, TN 37743

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A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

AUG. 2, 1995

Woody Mitchell, FIC
District Representative

DR. CHARLES JOHNSON
U.T. CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37916

DEAR DR. JOHNSON,

FIRST LET ME TELL YOU HOW MUCH I
APPRECIATED AND ENJOYED YOUR NEWS ARTICLE
IN THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL ON FRIDAY
JUNE 30, 1995. YOU WILL NEVER KNOW HOW
MUCH I VALUE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT
WW II.

THREE BROTHERS AND I ARE VETERANS
(COMBAT) OF WW II. TOGETHER WE RECEIVED
TWELVE BATTLE STARS FROM THE EUROPEAN
AND ASIATIC PACIFIC THEATER OF OPER-
ATIONS INCLUDING SUCH FAMOUS BATTLES
AS THE INVASION OF NORMANDY, BATTLE
OF THE BULGE, AND CORREGIDON. BUT THE
MOST INTERESTING STORY IS THE ONE
ENCLOSED (JOHNSON CITY PRESS) ABOUT
MY BROTHER CYLDE MITCHELL WHO SERVED
AS A PRISON GUARD OF S.S. TROOPERS
AWAITING TRIAL FOR ATROCITIES COMMITTED
DURING WW II.



Woodrow W. Mitchell
419 South Main Street
Greeneville, TN 37743

5538

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A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

Woody Mitchell, Inc.
District Representative

IF YOU WANT TO INTERVIEW HIM, HIS
NAME AND ADDRESS ARE:

Clyde E. Mitchell

117 Hebbes Dr.

Kingsport, TN 37664

TELE: 615-288-4004.

ALSO, I WOULD BE GLAD TO TELL MY
STORY. I WAS IN FIVE MAJOR BATTLES
IN THE ETO - FROM NORMANDY TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, I WILL
BE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A BACK
OPERATION (AUG. 8, 1955), BUT AS SOON
AS I RECOVER I WOULD BE AVAILABLE
FOR RECORDING OF MY WAR EXPER-
IENCES.

Woodrow W. Mitchell

615 638 6538

**All images on this document are files of the Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War -
the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.**

Mr. Woody Mitchell
607 S. Main Street
Greenville, TN 37743
July 15, 1993

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of June 8th and the enclosed interview transcript. You will be glad to know that you have made a valuable contribution to our collection. Thanks to the efforts of veterans like you, future researchers will be able to answer numerous questions relating to the American soldier in WWII.

I apologize for the tardiness of this reponse but I have only recently returned from a trip to France in which I visited all the Normandy invasion beaches and battlefields. The 2nd (Indian Head) Infantry Division saw more than its share of combat in WWII and it sounds as though you can say the same about yourself. If you have anything else you feel would be useful to us please feel free to send it along. Take care and please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

John C. McManus, Executive Assistant
Center for the Study of War and Society

All images on this document are files of the Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War -
the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

*Bringing Families
Together*



MODERN WOODMEN
OF AMERICA

607 S. Main Street
Greeneville, Tennessee 37743
Phone: Bus. (615) 639-4691; Res. (615) 638-6538

A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

Woody Mitchell, FIC
District Representative

June 8, 1993

Dr. Charles W. Johnson
Center for the Study of War & Society
University of Tennessee
220 Hoskins Library
Knoxville, TN37996

You will find enclosed a World War II, military history of myself.
This is a ~~copy~~ transcript of a audio taped interview conducted by my
brother Henry Mitchell. It certainly could use some "polishing up" a bit,
but if you will accept to the way it is written you are welcome to it.

In November 1991, I visited you and the museum and I was certainly
impressed and pleased. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Woody

Woodrow W. Mitchell

All images on this document are files of the Center for the Study of Tennesseans and War -
the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

July 20, 1990

Mr. Woodrow W. Mitchell
607 S. Main Street
Greeneville, TN

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Recently we received some correspondence from Col. Joseph Martin and Dean Cannon. Mr. Cannon mentioned yours, and your brothers' experiences in World War II and the poster you had put together. He also mentioned you might be interested in our continuing work here at the World War II Veterans Project.

Beginning in 1985, the Project undertook a major effort to locate, collect, and preserve the personal papers of veterans of WW II, especially enlisted personnel and junior officers. We are looking for letters, diaries, photos, camp newspapers, unit histories, orders, taped or written memoirs, etc. The donated (or copied) material is catalogued and stored in the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Special Collections to preserve it as long as possible.

It is then made available to historians and other interested researchers. We have received over three hundred donations at this point, and the collections is becoming a valuable resource for those interested in that great conflict.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I can be reached at the address and phone number below, and at the Center, 615/974-0128. If you have any materials or memoirs you think I might be interested in, please let me know. I am very interested in what Mr. Cannon mentioned already.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles W. Johnson, Director
Center for the Study of War and Society

CWJ:eb
Enclosures



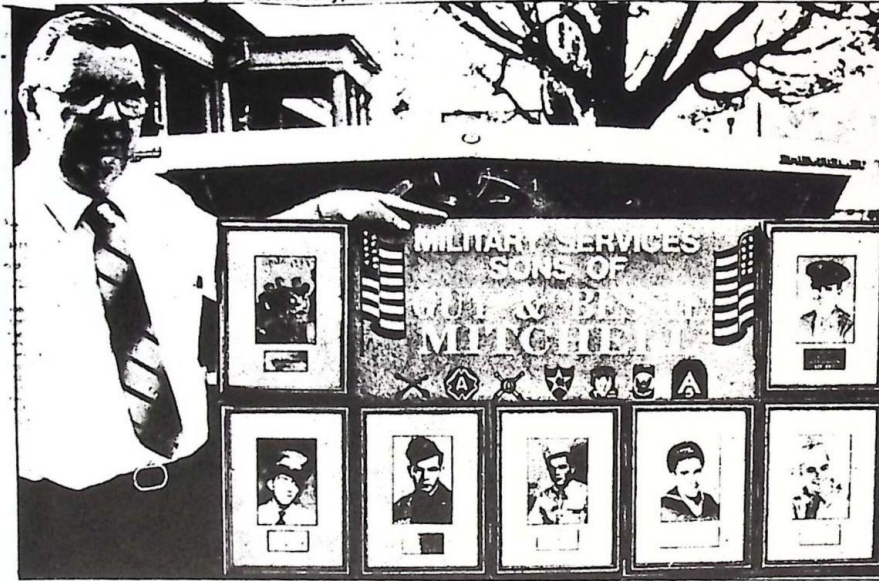
MODERN WOODMEN
OF AMERICA
1883-1983

Woody Mitchell, F.I.C.
District Representative
607 South Main Street
Greenville, Tennessee 37743
Phone 638-6538 or 639-4691

A Fraternal Life

Wednesday, November 11, 1987 THE GREENEVILLE SUN

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A Military Family

Woodrow Mitchell proudly displays a poster depicting the military services of seven of the sons of Guy and Bessie Mitchell. Upper left is Pvt. Ralph C. Mitchell, upper right is Pvt. Clyde E. Mitchell. From left, bottom row, is Pvt. Guy

N. Mitchell, Sgt. Woodrow W. Mitchell, Pvt. Raymond Mitchell, Seaman 1st Class Paul T. Mitchell, and Sgt. Henry R. Mitchell. (Sun Photo by Bob Coppedge)

Poster Shows Brothers' Military Service

By BOB COPPEDGE
Sun Staff Writer

Woodrow (Woody) Mitchell, 607 South Main Street, with help from his brother Henry, has completed a poster with his picture and six of his brothers who have served in the military service dating back to 1929.

"I've been working on it for several years," Mitchell said, "and with the help of my brother Henry, finally got it put together."

The poster includes the insignia of the different military units that the men were members of, pictures of the brothers, and a brief descrip-

tion of their military services.

Mitchell said the brothers and their military service includes:

Pvt. Ralph C. Mitchell, Citizens Military Training Camp, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., 1929.

Pvt. Clyde E. Mitchell, Battery "B", 141st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, European Theater of Operations, World War II.

Pvt. Guy N. Mitchell, Jr., Headquarters Battery, 16th Artillery, Hawaii, 1935-1939.

Sgt. Woodrow W. Mitchell, Cannon Company, 23rd Infantry, Second Infantry Division, European Theater of Operations, World

War II.

Pvt. Raymond Mitchell, 503rd Parachute Infantry, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, World War II.

Seaman 1st Class Paul T. Mitchell, serving on the S.S. Gulf Coast, the S.S. Henry S. Foote, the S.S. William Pepper, and the U.S.S. General Mitchell. European and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters of Operation.

Sgt. Henry R. Mitchell, "D" Battery, 250th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion, Fort Custer, Michigan, Korean war.

Old Soldier Brings The War Home For Neig

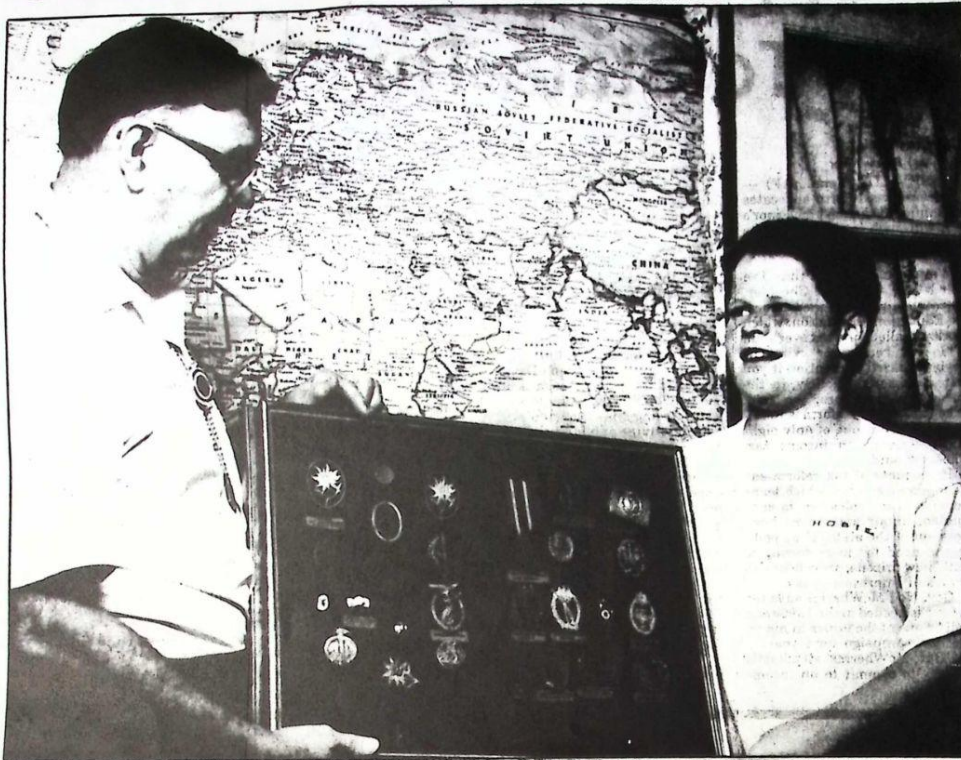


Photo by Bob Hurley

Duncan Cave, the paperboy, learns about war from the old soldier, Woody Mitchell.

By BOB HURLEY
Sun Columnist

D-day's anniversary had come and gone and there hadn't been a word said about it, or at least there hadn't where the old soldier and I could hear it.

"You do remember D-day? Or at least what it stands for? In case you were born just yesterday or in case you have simply forgotten, the old soldier would remind you that it was the beginning of the end for the hated Hitler and it was a time for the old soldier to be

shred to death himself. "D-day came June 6, 1944. The old soldier was much younger then, had thicker hair, a thinner waistline, and he really didn't think much about being part of such a big chunk of history.

Exactly 45 years later, the old soldier was telling two of his neighbors a very personal side of the war, about battles waged and deaths remembered, and about the little details of life for the ordinary foot soldier, about nights of rain and mud, pleasures sought and misery found.

The old soldier is Woody Mitchell, my neighbor just up the street. And this story is actually about him and the other neighbor I mentioned earlier. His name is Duncan Cave. He just graduated from Mrs. King's fifth grade at Henard School.

In addition to being Woody's neighbor, Duncan is also Woody's paperboy. Everyday between 3 and 4 in the afternoon, Duncan comes strolling by, the latest news in hand and a fresh batch of questions about the war in mind. I trust I don't have to tell you what newspaper we're talking about here.

It started simple enough. Woody had loaned some of his collection of World War II memorabilia to the Nathaniel Greene

Museum. Duncan was touring the museum one day and, seeing Woody's name on some medals that had been removed from the uniforms of some captured German SS stormtroopers, said, "Hey, that's my good neighbor and good customer. I didn't know he was part of all this."

On his paper route the next day, Duncan gave Woody the lowdown on how he had seen the stuff down at the museum. That was several months ago. The two are still talking about the war.

"He just seems so interested in history," Woody says. "And he's as sharp as they come. He remembers everything we've talked about, and he never runs out of questions."

Back before school dismissed for the summer, Duncan even arranged a time for Woody to come and speak to his whole class about his war experiences. The class had been studying World War II, and it was a perfect time for Duncan to parade Woody before the class for a little hands-on lesson from the war.

Displaying some captured weapons from the war, Woody and Duncan were able to make the kind of impression that textbooks simply can't provide. Duncan was credited with making history come alive right before the class, but, modest as he is, he simply shrugged off all the compliments, saying that his old soldier friend was due all the credit.

"He has opened my eyes to a lot of things about the war that I would never have otherwise realized," Duncan said, serious as ever. "He was there. He knows. The little details that he adds are the stuff you'll never find in the history books."

Actually, what my two neigh-

bors have done is form a beautiful friendship, the kind that young Duncan will tell his grandchildren about some day.

By telling the youngster about the war from an ordinary foot soldier's point of view, Woody has been able to instill the value of peace and freedom in his young neighbor.

Helping Duncan with his history has not only come naturally for the old soldier, it has made him more aware of the deep interest that youngsters have in our form of government, especially the historical part that has been played out by family and

friends.

"He never misses a trick," Woody says. "We've really had us a time, fighting the war all over again, taking on Hitler's SS troopers and all."

"I don't know. Maybe I should have been a teacher. Reckon?"

All the neighbors know that the old soldier wound up far from the classroom. During his first career after his Army days, he was a mailman, spending many years in the Greenville Post Office. Later, he began a second career in the insurance business.

But he can't escape doing a

Monday, June 12, 1989 THE GREENEVILLE SUN

A-9

ghborhood Paperboy

little teaching, especially as it came to light in Duncan's quest for answers about the war. Because, as Duncan found out, the war was a family affair for Woody. Five of the Mitchell brothers were in the war. Another brother was in the Army before World War II. Still another brother, the youngest, followed the footsteps of the first six and fought in Korea.

To preserve and display the role of the Mitchell brothers, Woody has converted his little backyard office into a miniature museum that is as charming as it is interesting.

Like millions of men in their generation, the Mitchell sons went off to war when the nation called almost half a century ago. They did all that their country asked them to do.

And when they came home, they brought an awful lot of war material with them. That is one of the things that perhaps makes the Mitchell boys different. Even then, they seemed to sense a value in the things that many GIs tossed overboard on the ship home.

It is amazing what an iron cross from the uniform of a captured SS stormtrooper can do for the imagination for a 12-year-old neighbor.

I was watching the old soldier and his student during the Memorial Day just past and I couldn't help but think to myself that this is exactly the way it is supposed to work. Here he was, an old soldier reminding a kid from across the street the price of it all.

Woody was talking about dodging bullets at places like Omaha Beach, and I couldn't help but remember places like the Marine Barracks in Beirut, the oily waters of the Persian Gulf, the little war in Grenada that everyone laughed at, crazy names like I Drang Valley, Heartbreak Ridge and Hue, frozen places like Chosin Reservoir and Pusan; bloody places like Pearl Harbor and Guadalcanal.

The old soldier might think he is teaching just one of the neighborhood kids, but he is doing more. Much more. D-day plus 45 Years was a good time for his latest lesson.