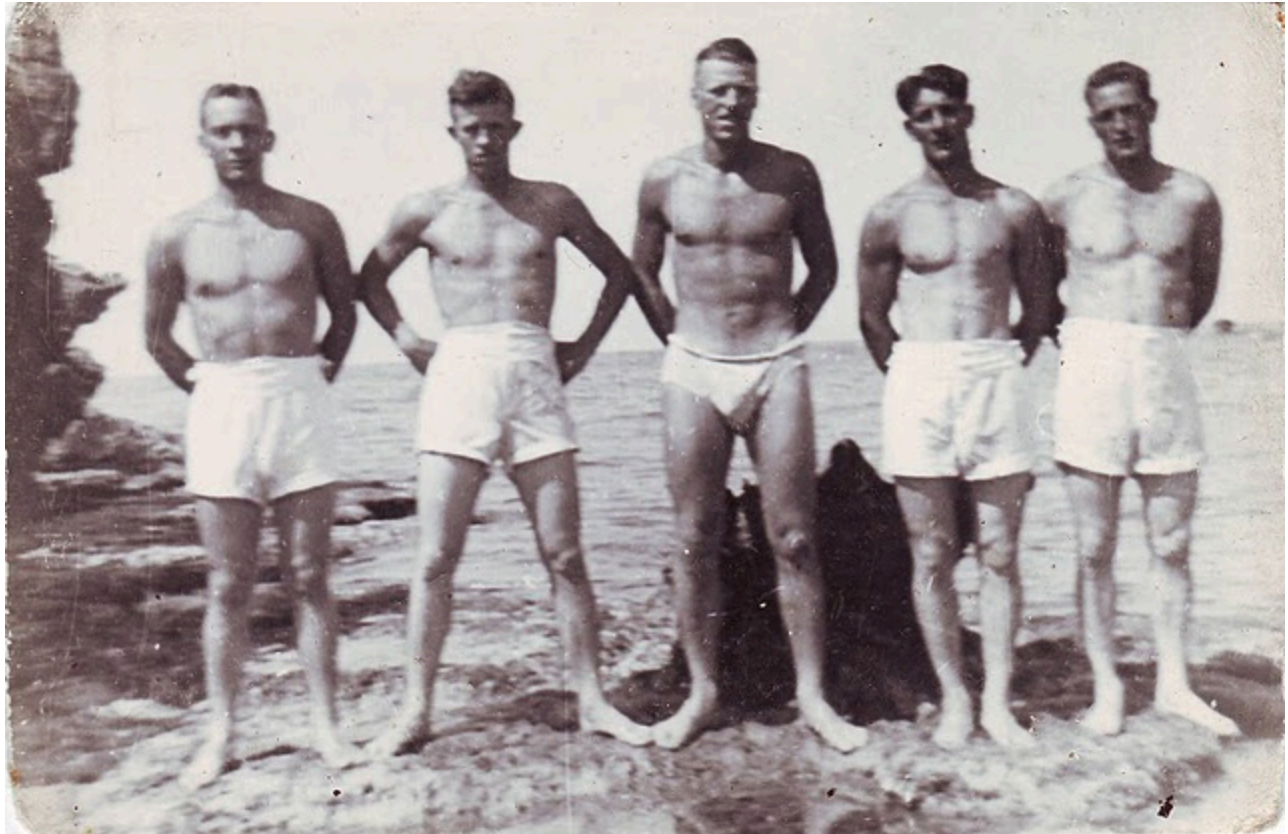


Earl Minier and Gene Minier
109th Combat Engineers, 34th Infantry Division, World War II

Earl Minier was a major in the 109th during the War (he retired as a Lt. Col, and passed away in 1989) His son Gene Minier was also a member from 1939 until he was killed in 1944 near Anzio. Gene graduated from Brookings High School in 1939 -- and joined the guard to serve in his father's unit before Pearl Harbor.





Minier, Gene F. 20717466 Tech 5 05/22/44 Mor KIA

MINIER, GENE F. - Technician 5th Grade - Company "A" (Brookings, South Dakota): Clif Hullinger remembers Gene Minier well. The two went to college together at SDSC (South Dakota State College) and went into the Guard together. Gene Minier was a National Guardsman with Company "B" - 109th Engineer Regiment out of Brookings, South Dakota. Minier's father was a Major in the South Dakota National Guard. Minier was later transferred to Company "A". It is believed that Minier was killed at Anzio. Sergeant Edward J. Jaeger was with Minier when he died. Jaeger was Minier's squad leader and Jaeger took his squad out one night at Anzio. Minier was seriously wounded and Jaeger carried Minier out piggyback to the aid station. Jaeger found that Minier was dead by the time he got him back to the aid station.

Craig and Cliff,

Fantastic! I can't wait to hear from you Cliff. My own father was born in 1939 – and has no memory of Gene. His sisters were a bit older – but as children, they really don't have many interesting memories they can share with me about him – especially nothing about the 109th/34th division. My grandfather always told stories – mostly about politics in Brookings – but some about his time in WWII. At the time, I was really too young to know enough to pay attention and to listen carefully to what he said. I had hoped that one day, I would learn the entire chronology of the 109th/34th division, where the men went, what they saw, what they endured, but it's been a bit difficult to find this information.

As for me, I can't begin to describe the respect and love I feel for my uncle, my grandfather and the men of 34th division. To be honest, I get a little teary-eyed already thinking about having the opportunity to correspond with you, Cliff.

I can't wait.

Military Services Held Monday at Greenwood for Gene Minier, Brookings

Impressive military services were held Monday evening at Greenwood cemetery for T/5 Gene Minier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Minier, who was killed in the Anzio beachhead engagement.

Father F. X. Dooley chanted the committal rites. The National Guard unit escorted the body from Bartling's funeral home to the cemetery. Members of the American Legion furnished the color guard and fired the final salute as the casketed remains of this Brookings war hero were lowered into the grave. Two trumpeters played Taps, one sounding the echo of the other.

T-5 Minier was a member of the 109th Engineers, 34th division. He was killed April 29, 1944, when his outfit was engaged in clearing a mine field in preparation for a troop advance.

He was born Oct. 15, 1921, and graduated from Brookings high school in 1939. He was a sophomore at the State college, enrolled in the school of journalism, at the time of his enlistment.

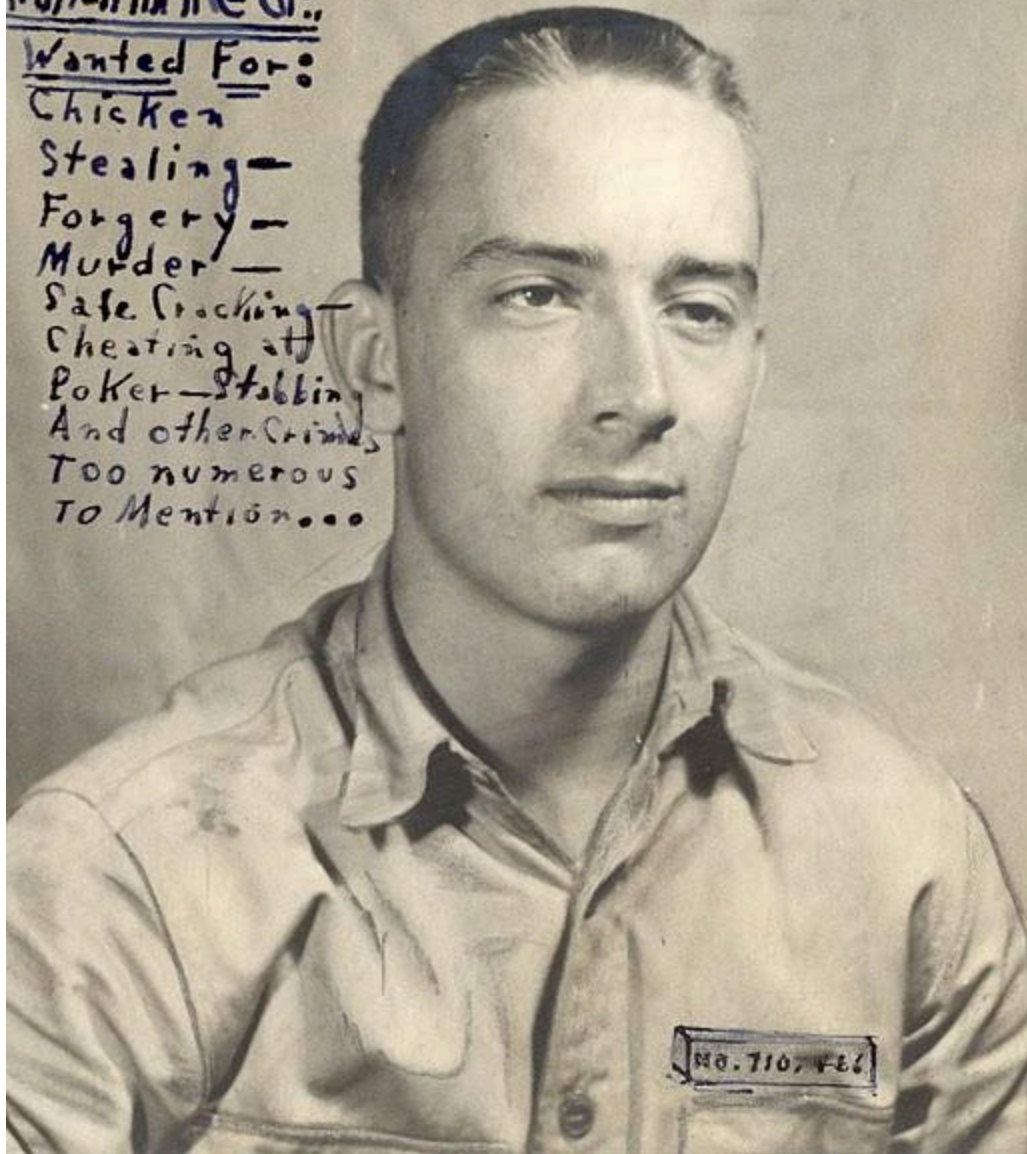
He is survived by his parents; three sisters, Marian, Barbara and

— No. 7107466 —

Wanted!!

Wanted For:

Chicken
Stealing—
Forgery—
Murder—
Safe Cracking—
Cheating at
Poker—Stabbing
And other crimes
Too numerous
To mention...



NO. 710, 7466

Maj. Minier and Son Gene Are In Ireland

Arrive In Ireland Month Apart.—
Meeting Under Dramatic Cir-
cumstances Told In Broadcast
Stories of Landing of Historic
A. E. F.—Capt. Ray Schultz
Also Mentioned.

The City of Brookings and county and State college are all well represented in the AEF in Ireland now. Reports have just been released by Washington of the landing of the largest American Expeditionary Force to cross the Atlantic since the first world war, without the loss of a single man. Among the troops are several from Brookings city and county and State college. Previously a large number from this area landed in Ireland. Maj. Earl Minier and son, Private Gene Minier, and Capt. Ray Schultz were mentioned in the dispatches from Ireland, published in the U. S. dailies Tuesday morning. An Irishman, named O'Neal, from Phillip, S. D., was the first American soldier in this AEF to set foot on Irish soil.

Maj. Minier Greets Son, Gene

The Ireland dispatch said: Both the Miniers—father and son—serve in the same regiment but are stationed in separate camps.

It was not until Private Minier's company was ashore and lined up in the embarkation shed, ready to

move off to the railway station, that Major Minier found his son. The boy was so startled he forgot himself momentarily and stepped out of rank, saying:

"Dad, you've got to pay that bet now. I told you I'd get over here."

They had made a small bet some months concerning the war sector where each might be sent.

Young Minier quickly recovered himself and hastily stepped back into line as his father chuckled. The unit commander, Capt. Ray Schultz of Brookings, excused Private Minier from the ranks and arm and arm, father and son walked over to a quiet corner of the shed for a real reunion.

REUNION IN IRELAND

S.D. Major Greets Son as Third AEF Arrives

By ROBERT G. NIXON

NORTHERN IRELAND—(INS)
—Father and son are bearing arms together with the American forces in Northern Ireland.

A reunion took place between Major Earl F. Minier, Brookings, S. D., and his 21-year-old son, Pvt. Gene F. Minier, when the latter arrived with the



Maj. Minier third expeditionary force to land on Irish shores.

Major Minier, who served in the last war, came to Northern Ireland with the first AEF which arrived last winter. Father and son will serve in the same regiment, but they are stationed in separate camps.

Not until young Minier's company was ashore and lined up in the embarkation shed ready to move off to the port's station did Major Minier find his son. The boy was so startled when he saw his father he forgot himself mo-

mentarily and stepped out of rank.

"Dad, you've got to pay that bet now," he shouted. "I told you I would get over there."

The two had made a small bet some months ago on where each might be sent.

Suddenly realizing he had stepped out of place in the excitement, young Minier hastily jumped back in the ranks. The father chuckled.

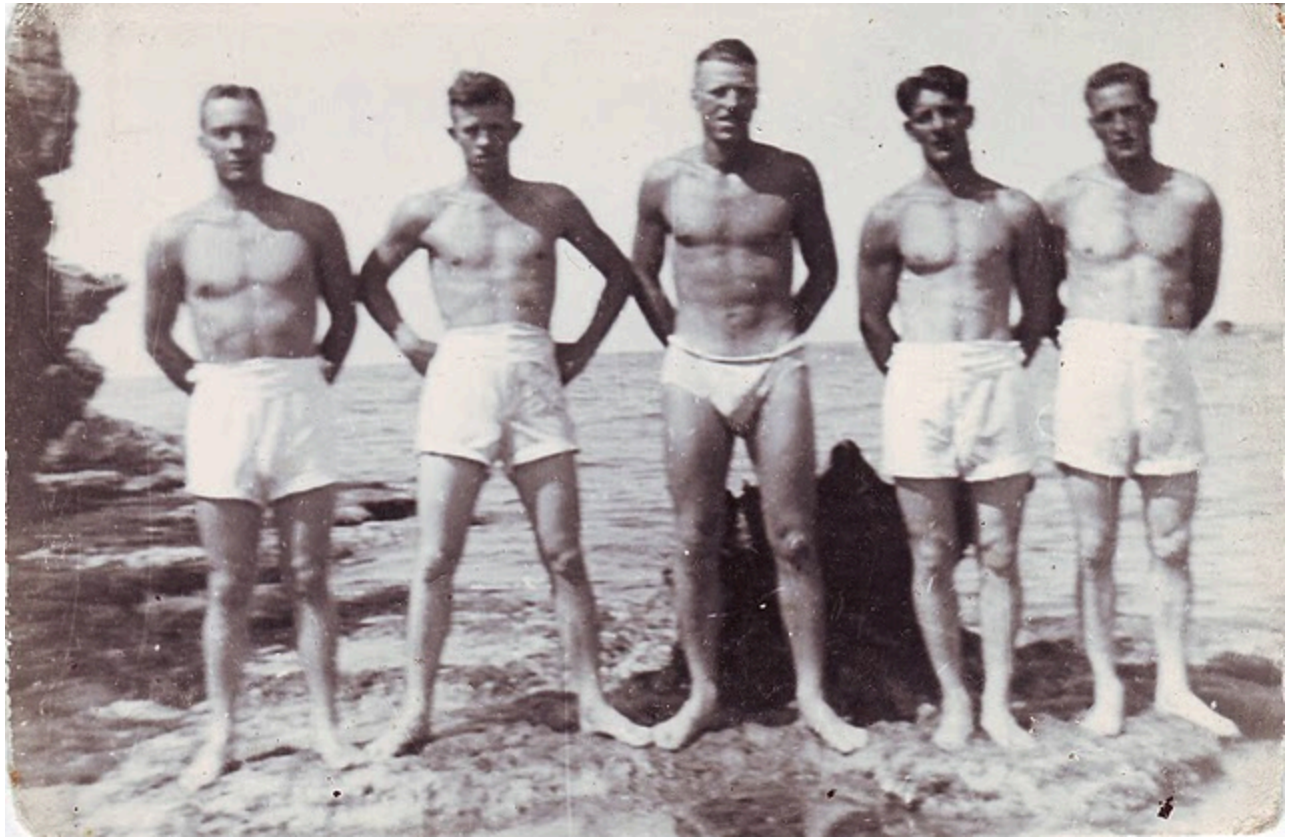
Then the unit commander, Captain Ray Schultz, also from Brookings, excused his charge and the father and son walked arm in arm to a quiet corner of the shed for a good chat.

* * *

Second man ashore was Sergeant Raymond Martin, a former from White Lake, S. D. Tucked under his arm was a guitar. Pointing to the instrument and his rifle, he said:

"I BROUGHT BOTH KINDS OF MUSIC."

The colonel commanding the



Clif Hullinger and Jeff Minier August 2011

Jeff is the grandson of LtCol Earl Minier of the 109th Engineers who passed away in 1989 and the nephew of Gene Minier of the 109th, killed near Anzio, Italy. Jeff was learning more about his Grandfather and Uncle and the 109th Combat Engineers.

