

Sgt Luther, ST 75, and the 328th HCC

Dan Friend Jan 30, 2019

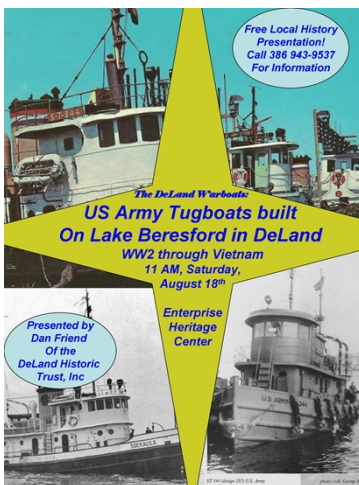
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Sgt Richard Luther and ST 75/ The 328th Harbor Craft Company/ST 698



It's been quite some time since I added info on tugs...last story was in July of 2015....3.5 years ago...but, more wonderful information generated from a website contact just showed up...here is the story of *Sgt. Richard Eugene Luther* recently received along with some priceless photos....with just a few more details of what happened off the coast of France in 1944....***please note we have changed our name to the DeLand Historic Trust, Inc., and our historic preservation mission now includes all things military... and local history of all kinds! Come visit our militaria rooms....especially our exhibit on the DeLand Warboats!***

Sgt Richard Eugene Luther, US ARMY SERVICE # 32131240

Born in Detroit, Michigan and entered service in Kenmore NY in 5/9/1941.

Stationed at Ft Jackson SC then with the 328th at Charleston, SC... was in the 328th Harbor Craft Company in Europe in WW2....very rare roster, group photo of the 328th. and several other photos including one of ST 698 were provided by his son Richard Luther.....His final assignment probably was at: 4th Major Port, Chanor Base Section, APO 562

From his son Richard Luther. Jan 30 2019

ST 75 goes down....Sgt Richard Luther may have been there..

Destination -- Berlin!" is a small booklet covering the history of the Transportation Corps. This booklet is one of the series of [G.I. Stories](#) published by the Stars & Stripes in Paris in 1944-1945.

"...The men of the harbor craft companies had a big hand in making **Cherbourg** a success. Harbor craft companies are an invention of this war and this theater. The first six companies were activated at the Charleston POE in May 1943. During the last war the Army depended on French civilian tugboats, but this time the enemy made that impossible. The Army had foreseen this situation and was prepared.

This is typical of what these companies were up against at Cherbourg: the crew of one ST-75 in a July 18 convoy from Southampton to Cherbourg was made up of men from the 328th and 335th Harbor Craft Cos. In a dense fog this ST-75 and five other boats became separated from the convoy about midnight. Fired on when he approached the shore on the following morning, the ST-75's ship's master set a course to the north. Before he could clear the Channel Isles, enemy shore batteries opened fire.

The first round took off the foremast. ***Seven of the crew went overboard.*** One soldier-sailor refused to abandon ship and went down. A sergeant was so badly injured that he later died. An officer was severely wounded in the leg. The survivors clung to a rubber raft until nearly dark the next day, when they were picked up by a British destroyer and returned to England." ***(The 328th was at Cherbourg...and might have had men on ST 75.....DF 1 30 2019) No roster for ST 75 is known....but two men might have been on the ST 75 that we know of....***

Sgt Richard Eugene Luther may have been on ST 75!!

"There is a story in my family about my dad's boat being sunk by enemy fire and his being pulled from water by the British much later after several men had died. I don't know any details..." *Richard Luther Jan 30, 2019*

One other person possibly might have been on the boat....

Master Sergeant Ray Bishop who was on several other tugs in the area inclusive of the DeLand-built ST 474 sent a letter home that while not complete, **may place him at the accident.** Unknown date letter excerpt: "...you ask about that little book I sent about crossing the channel where one boat was shot at. Yes, kid, I was....that (sic) when we all got lost in the fog. And my pants got

caught in the wheel...(apparently his pants were hanging out to dry and got caught in the boat's propeller...or the steering gear! Oops!) That ST was sinking that was shot at and one MTL (motor launch) was hit but made it to Cherbourg...." (The ST that sank probably was ST 75 off the Channel Islands in July of 1944 which was hit by shore based artillery as it got too close to land.)

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The 328th Harbor Craft Company

11th Transportation Company (HET) becomes the 328th Harbor Craft Co

"The mission of the 11th Transportation Company (HET) is to provide professional and timely transportation support to V Corps for movement of oversized and overweight cargo. On order, deploy from central region base to provide heavy lift transportation support for all V Corps unit within U.S. Army Europe's area of responsibility.

The 11th Transportation Company (HET) is one of two Heavy Equipment Transport Companies assigned to 3d Corps Support Command and V Corps. The unit plays a critical role within Europe by providing overweight and outsized transportation support within the V Corps area of responsibility.

The 11th Transportation Company was constituted and activated in the U.S. Army as the 328th Harbor Craft Company, Transportation Corps in Charleston, South Carolina on 1 May 1943. It was redesignated as the 328th Transportation Corps Harbor Craft Company on 21 April 1945. It was inactivated in France on 12 November 1945."

Richard Luther (mentioned earlier) shows up on the roster photo of the 328th taken just as they were leaving for Europe on 1 May 1943:

The men of the 328th, (inclusive of Sgt. Luther who is on the roster and in the group photo....was on ST 698), worked in and between Cherbourg, Le Havre, Dover, Liverpool, and several other English or Welsh ports....and would have been busy months ahead of D-Day and for months afterwards as well!

Here is a rare photo with a caption for the men going to Europe in November of 1943....just months before D-Day! *I know of no other group photo of a Harbor Craft Company... much less one with names!*

Sgt. Luther and his comrades were headed to England, France, and D-Day!



The 328th Harbor Craft Company was active in Europe in WW2 at Cherbourg, France, and had several tugboats under their control inclusive of ST 698

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328th HARBOR CRAFT COMPANY
SECTION "B", STAGING AREA,
CHARLESTON PORT of EMBARKATION,
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

20 NOVEMBER 1943

FRONT ROW (From left to right) Pfc Claiborne; T/Sgt King; T/5 Bozwell; Pfc Berk; Pfc Dutton; Pfc Franklin; T/Sgt Blood; Pfc Concollosi; Pfc Asham; Pfc H... Wilson; Pfc Weidman; Pvt Anderson; Cpl Caldwell; Pfc Beach; Pfc Hagensister; Pfc Waxam; Pvt Gault; Pvt O'Malley; Pfc Gilbrick; Pvt ...; Pvt Dugan; Pvt Moya; Pvt Boucher; Sgt Hakes; Sgt Cox; Cpl Fox; Pfc Allen; Pfc Morgan; Pfc Shaw; Pvt Baker; Pvt ...; Pvt Stolar; ...; Pfc Owen; Pfc Revis; M/Sgt Berner.

MIDDLE ROW (From left to right) Pvt Maples; Pfc Balf... T/5 Adams; T/5 Johns; Cpl Todd; T/4 Paul; Pfc Buron; Pfc Carrigan; Pfc Taylor; ...; Pfc May; Pvt A...; Pvt Brickley; Cpl Snow; Pfc Carbonate; Pfc Jeffries; Pfc Stec; Pvt Nelson, C.; Pvt Smith, E.; Pvt Menninger; ...; Pvt Salzano; Pvt Platt; Pvt Vasseur; Pfc Trudell; T/5 Benkey; Pvt Kolley; Pfc Colorito; Pvt Newburn; Pvt Pierson; Pfc Molico; Pvt ...; Pfc Russano; Pvt Mazur; Pvt Diest; Pvt Savares; Pvt Verstraete; Pvt Harwig; Pvt Henning; Sgt Dunlop; T/5 Duncan; Pvt Hanna.

THIRD ROW (From left to right) S/Sgt Watson; T/Sgt Strickler; M/Sgt Gardner; T/4 Tamasy; T/4 Lind; T/5 Horniak; Pfc Dzundza; Pvt Bantz; ...; Pfc Sawyer; Pfc Leifholtz; Pvt Sarnecki; T/5 Trimble; Pfc House; Cpl Hawkins; Pfc Garry; Pfc Martin; WOJG Riley; WOJG Hanson; ...; Lt Morgan; 2nd Lt Ottarson; 2nd Lt Curry; Capt Honold; 2nd Lt Robble; 2nd Lt Green; WOJG Hollas; WOJG Saoridan; WOJG Daily; Cpl Nelson, H.; ...; Pfc Beaulac; Pfc Bitter; Pvt Polhemus; Pvt Vigiletti; Pvt Volpe; Pvt Wakenight; Pfc Yurch; T/Sgt DuBois; Pvt Enos; Pvt Vaboncio; Pfc Young; ...; Pfc Ellingsworth; Pvt Westcott; Pfc Haugarth; Pfc Kolbas; Pvt Riggs; Pvt Maxley; T/5 Campbell; Pfc Vrlie.

FOURTH ROW (From left to right) Pvt Short; S/Sgt Hunter; T/5 Fagen; Cpl Brooks; Pvt Bucklin; Pvt Collier; Pvt Williams; Pvt Kollun; T/5 ...; Pfc Guzia; ...; Pvt Mikle; Pvt Plumb; T/5 Miles; Pvt Metcalf; Sgt Luther; T/4 Handvidt; Cpl Ashe; T/5 Matthews, B.; Pfc Hightower; ...; Pfc Corkran; Pvt ...; Pvt Evans; Pvt Moffitt; Pfc Partier; Pvt Schroeder; Pvt Anschault; Pfc Huffino; Pfc Brady; Pfc Cihura; Pfc Presson; ...; Pfc ...; Pfc Ronrod; Pvt Yake; Pvt Whalen; Pfc Indyk; Pvt Velasco; Pfc Sheffel; Pfc Bartles; T/5 Bressi; Pfc Barillo; Pfc Massina; Pfc ...

FIFTH ROW (From left to right) Pvt Stevens, J.; Pfc Schefers; T/5 Byrd; T/4 Garcia; Sgt LeCompte; T/5 Foster; Pvt Mills; T/5 Granada; T/5 ...; Pfc Spikes; Pfc Gilbert; T/5 Walker; M/Sgt Bohland; S/Sgt Dixon, H.; T/4 Rush; M/Sgt Bascheart; T/4 Brent; Pvt Hammond; Pfc Hagen; ...; Pfc Hensley; T/4 Tabing; T/5 Brookway; Cpl Stroff; S/Sgt Boege; T/4 Knight; Pfc Saar; Pfc Hulsizer; Pfc Tesch; Pvt O'Connell; T/5 Terranova; ...; Pfc Arnold, L.; Cpl Dixon, W.; Pvt Vandover; T/5 Nichols; T/5 Butler; Pfc Bergman; Pfc Lampinon; Pvt Turner; Pfc Arnold, C.; Pvt Stioven, R.; ...; Pfc Bachman; Cpl Gault; Pfc Hutchins; T/4 MacMillan; Pvt Elderkin; T/5 Mayne; T/5 Venezak; T/4 Pitts; 1st Sgt Clinoboll.

Caption for group photo of the 328th
just as they shipped out to Europe on
Nov 20 1943 Sgt Luther underlined

ST 698 and crew...

Two of the photos from Sgt Luther are of ST 698 which he undoubtedly served on. **Another crewmember on ST 698 at one point in time was Peter Dilullo:**

The tugs worked between Le Havre, Cherbourg, Dover, Liverpool, etc.
"...I served on the following ST's: 772, 698, 773, 898 and finally a tug named Tanac". Peter Dilullo, Page 220, "Little Ships: Tugboats at Normandy", Gerald Reminick.

Other ST 698 photos:



Sgt Richard Eugene Luther, US Army
1944 - tug probably was based in
Cherbourg, France

