

## **Passagen ous dën Erënnerungen vuam Grayson Hanks déi di Jugendlich vir gedroën hoan.**

Mir hun eis an eng kleng Kaul op der rechtser Säit vun der Strooss geworf. Wofier mir dës Säit gewielt hun, wou et keen Schutz gouf, kann ech nët soën. Déi Kaul war hallef mat Waasser gefüllt an huët äis keng Deckung virun dëm Maschinengewierfeier gin.

Mir louchen do 2 Minutten an hun eis gefroot wéini d'Maschinengewiermannschaft äis geséich an doud maachen géif ...

ech duécht et kéint sech just nach ëm Sekunden handelen, bis ech doud gemaach géif.

Ëch duécht nëmmen dass et keng Rettung géif an dass ech dën Posner nët mierken loossen dierft wéi vill Angscht ech hätt. Daat éischt waat ech iwer Verwondter héieren hun, war dass dën Nunamaker verletzt wier an en Sanitärer gebraucht géif gin. Dën Finestein, dën Sanitärer, haat Aangscht fir erop zë goën fir dën Nunamaker zë versuergen, mee mir hun heen iwerzeegt dass heen goën misst. Ëch konnt säng Aangscht gudd verstoën.

D'Werfergranaten waren nët esou schlëmm, well ech së kommen héieren hun, awer d'Projektilen vun den 88er Kanounen konnt ech nët héieren an alles waat ech maachen konnt war mëch op dën Buëdem zë werfen, wann déi aaner daat gemaach hun.

Em dës Zäit koum dën Whalen aus dëm Dall erop. Seng Fanger hun geblutt, well heen probéiert haat sech an dën Fiëls eran zë wullen, wéi d'Geschosser ageschloën sin. Hien stoung ënner Schock an huët duercherneen gegrommelt, dass heen ëlo direkt heem goën géif.

Bis zu der Zäit wou mir an Veianen eran koumen an fest gestallt hun dass dën Kampf eriwier war, haat ech keng Middegkeet gespuert. Mee wéi ech bis wusst dass d'Kämpfen eriwier war, dun war ech esou erschöpft an mëng Been goufen esou schwéier, dass ech kaum nach goën konnt.

(Op Lëtzebuergisch iiwersat vuam Josy Bassing)

### **Heather's statement for the February 12, 2020 event honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vianden's liberation**

Your Royal Highness the Grand Duke Henri, Mayor Claude Tonino, Your Excellencies Ambassadors, Ministers and Representatives of the Luxembourg Government, Town Council Aldermen and Councilors, Members of the "Veiner Geschichtsfrënn" and CEBA, citizens of Vianden and surrounding communities, Luxembourgers, friends...

Heartfelt greetings on behalf of the 1255<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion and their families!

My name is Heather Gould, daughter of John Gould (Company B). I live in Santa Monica, California, 5,270 miles southwest of Vianden, but I am there with you in heart and mind on this remarkable occasion, as are Misters Fife, Goldner, Mann and Shuman, surviving veterans who are no longer able to travel.

Seventy-five years ago today, a group of 18-23 year old Americans who had never before been battle-tested fought in inclement weather and rugged terrain to liberate Vianden's upper town.

The names of the 11 soldiers who died that day are inscribed on the Belvedere monument and are familiar to many of you. I would like to mention the names of just a few more, those who like my father survived the battle and, indeed, the war: Brown, Caylor, David, Dentzler, Fowler, Garrison, Gross, Hassoldt, Johnson, Kahn, MacLeay, Manown, McClymonds, Moncrief, Morris, Morrison, Pagano, Rentsch, Riggs, Slye, Sogge and Tyler. Let us remember them, too, and the hundreds more in Companies A, B, C and H&S that I cannot name here.

If my father were alive, he would simply say: "I was just doing my bit for the war." But such modesty, common among American GI's, belies the fact: On February 12, 1945, thousands of miles from their homes and families, the men of the 1255<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion rallied in the face of fierce resistance and fought for freedom. From my perspective, they were all heroes that victorious day so many years ago, and remain so today and forever.

Thank you for honoring them.

Vive Vianden! Lëtzebuerg soll ëmmer fräi bleiwen! Vive Lëtzebuerg!