

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

AN OCCURRENCE ON THE WAY TO THE FOURTH AND FINAL OBJECTIVE

April 1945
Ten miles northwest of Munich, in southern Germany

The cool spring wind struck his face as the M1 armored artillery vehicle squeaked and popped as it lurched along the roadway toward the fourth and final objective.

"Oh, to be home in Kentucky again," Private First Class Charles Edward Wilson, 19, thought while peering beyond the cramped driver's compartment and hatch of the 26-ton armored vehicle that had literally been a large part of his home for almost a year.

For the briefest of moments he wished that he were once again back home



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Maxton

hometown by the thousands on an almost daily basis. Maybe he would soon be in the comfort of a nice warm bed.

It was a frequent fantasy of all of the survivors of his unit.

He'd promised himself many, many months ago in the frozen Hell of the Hurtgen forest and later at Bastogne, that if he were lucky again and nearly fell completely asleep as he steered his vehicle, the lead vehicle in the armored column of a dozen similar vehicles that made up Battery C of the 42nd Field Artillery unit of the Army's 4th Division.

The war was coming rapidly to an end now and every one in his unit felt it, even General George Patton had boasted of it, and there was no denying it now. German soldiers were surrendering from the ruins of their

body and soul, in a surreal fog of consciousness, and part of the overall fog of war.

"You nowhere, and without warning, the putrid smell of rotting flesh hit him with the too familiar force of an exploding German mortar.

He slowed his armored vehicle down and listened as the rest of the crew grimaced and remarked about the horrid smell that seemed to be everywhere around them.

The stench of death was nothing new to them, but this smell was beyond description.

Just off the road he saw buildings and portions of a wall.

He squinted his eyes and clenched them shut before blinking rapidly in a futile attempt to shake the weary tiredness that left his mind,

slightly above him, tapped his head twice and pushed down slightly with the second tap, the universal armor signal for the driver to stop.

Wilson stopped the tank and left it in park but did not shut down the diesel engine. You just never knew when you might have to get going in a hurry and find cover. He'd made it too far along now in this madness to start slipping and taking unnecessary chances now.

He grabbed his Tommygun and, at a few extra clips, and then he climbed out onto the vehicle.

He couldn't quite believe what he was seeing, as he continued to squint and rub the sleep from his eyes.

Skin-covered skeletons, 15 or 20 of them, were standing there near the road. Some

were shuffling slowly toward them.

The rest of the crew gathered near him and behind the ghastly spectacle.

No one spoke a word for just stood there, staring. Just beyond where the 20 or so skin covered skeletons stood they saw what appeared to be mounds of jumbled white trash.

These jumbled pale mounds appeared to be about 300 feet in length, about the size of a football field someone would later remark. They were piled up about head tall and ten or so feet wide at the base of the mounds.

"Oh, my God," someone said and began to vomit.

Another began to weep.

Carl & "Babe" Steele 1928-2007

Carl C. "Babe" Steele, Sr., 78, husband of Geneva Tubbs Steele, died Fri., Nov. 2, 2007 at his home.

He was born Feb. 15, 1929 in Bath County to the late Floyd and Lida Mae Hatton Steele. He was a retired employee of Forest Retreat Farm and a member of Carlisle United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, two sons, Carl C. Steele, Jr. and Lexington and Gary (Marsha) Steele, his Sterling seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Mon., Nov. 5, 2007 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Eric Carmichael. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Guestbook is available at www.mathersgaunce.com

School. He also graduated from Jones Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in business.

He retired from Masonite Corp and served one term in the Mississippi House of Representatives. He was a member of the American Legion, who will conduct his graveside services. As a member of the Kiwanis International, he received the Tablet of Honor and was Lt. Governor of the District 3, Mississippi, Louisiana, and West Tennessee Division. He served on the Council on Aging and was a former President of the Jones County Baptist Brotherhood. He served as a Deacon in the Baptist Church for over fifty years and faithfully taught a men's Bible class for forty-nine years. He was a long-time member of the American Red Cross, where he served as a board member and disaster worker.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Edna, daughter and son-in-law, Lynne and J.M. Blackledge, Laurel, and Robert Furr, Brookhaven, son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Cindy Garvin, Laurel; two brothers, Ed and Ann Garvin, Hattiesburg, Miss. and Robert and Carol Garvin, Carlisle; one sister, Bernadine Johnston, Laurel; seven grandchildren, Lisa and Jeff Elmore, Columbus, Miss., Jeffrey and Misty Blackledge, Laurel, Chris and Kathryn Furr, Mountain View, Ark., Katie Furr, Brookhaven, Miss., Cliff and Angela Furr, Wesson, Miss., and Matt Garvin and Kaylyn Garvin, Laurel; three

great grandchildren, Jade, Malloy and Jacob Blackledge, Laurel, a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Deborah Furr. Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Matt Garvin; Jeff Blackledge, Chris Furr, Cliff Furr, Jeff Elmore, and nephews Larry Johnston and Bill Garvin. Honorary pallbearers will be Harry Garvin and members of the Senior Adult Men's Class of Highland Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held Wed., Oct. 31, 2007, at Highland Baptist Church, Rev. Tim Hubbard and Rev. Joe Garvin conducted the service.

Memorial services were held Wed., Oct. 31, 2007, at Highland Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Red Cross or Highland Baptist Church or your favorite charity.

Alice Willoughby Fields 1946-2007

Alice Willoughby Fields, 61, Clay City formerly of Winchester, died Wed., Oct. 24, 2007 at her home.

A long time resident of Nicholas County, she was born Aug. 5, 1946 to the late Leonard Thomas and Lilla Mae Willoughby. She was a former self-employed house cleaner and a member of the Frenchburg Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Ricky County and Eslie, Jr. and Pamela Ashby, Carlisle; a

OBITUARIES

daughter and son-in-law, Wanda and Jeff Tucker, Paris; seven grandchildren, Brandon and Nichole Tucker, Jeffrey Tucker, Chelsea Ashby, Ashby, Cash, Moore and Jonathan Moore; two step-grandchildren, Sierra and Brian Layne; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Ila and Robert Himes, Winchester and Faye and Bobby Fox, Cecilia; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Danny Powell, Winchester and Deane and James Means, Clay City.

She was preceded in death by four brothers; three sisters and a granddaughter, Jessica A. Tucker.

Pallbearers were: Michael Willoughby, Jeremiah Taulbee, Jeff Shields, James Love, Lonnie Everette, Craig Roger, Harlin McIntosh and Mark Gabbard.

Funeral services were held Sat., Oct. 27, 2007 at Scobee Funeral Home, Winchester with burial in Winchester Cemetery.

Memorials may take the form of contributions to Hospice East, 407 Shopshire Drive, Winchester, KY 40391.

Myron Patrick Berry 1951-2007

Myron Patrick Berry, 56, Mountain, Ky., died Sat., Oct. 27, 2007.

He was born June 29, 1951 to the late Myron and Christine Crump Berry.

Survivors include his former wife, Catherine Karl Berry; three sons, Matt, Na-

than and Elliott Berry, all of Columbus, Oh., two brothers, Michael Hart Berry and James Keith (Shelly) Berry; a sister, Marlene (Michael) Breitenstein; three grandchildren, Autumn, Aiden and Isabelle and numerous other family members and friends.

Prayer services were conducted Fri., Nov. 2, 2007 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. John Curtis. Burial followed in Carlisle Cemetery.

Guestbook is available at www.mathersgaunce.com

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Find this turkey hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Carlisle Mercury* (not the one below).

The deadline for entries is 12 noon November 16. Winners will be CALLED after noon on November 16. Winners can pick up their turkey at Crockett's IGA.

Turkeys provided by *The Carlisle Mercury*

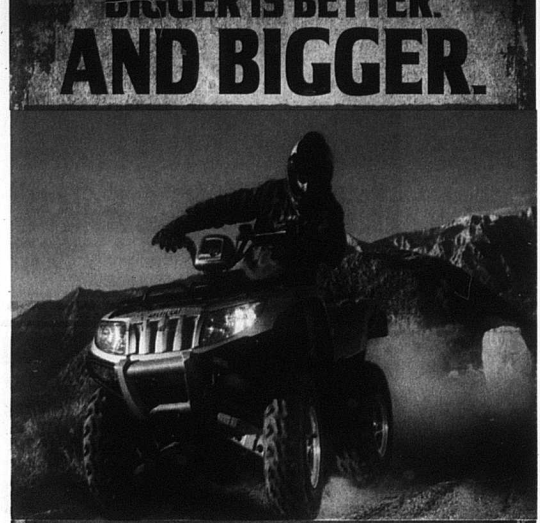
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The County Clerk will be closed on November 12 for Veteran's Day. The office will also be closed Tuesday, November 13 and Wednesday November 14 for training at the County Clerk's Convention.

The Nicholas County Courthouse will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2007 in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday. It will re-open on Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

The Nicholas County Convenience/Recycling Center will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2007 in observance of the Veteran's Day Holiday. It will re-open on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.

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