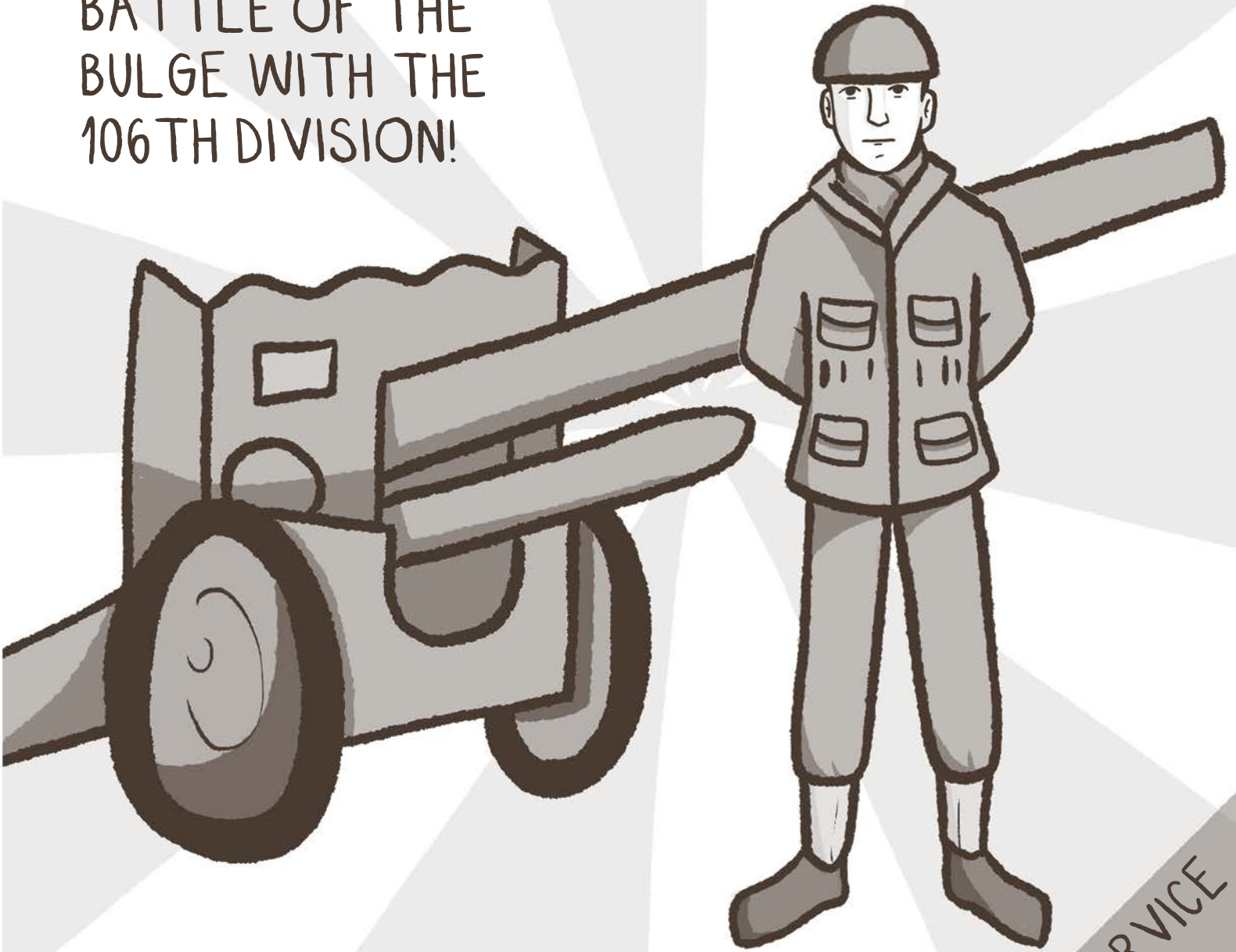




2

UN-BLEIALF-ABLY LUCKY

NAVIGATE THE
BATTLE OF THE
BULGE WITH THE
106TH DIVISION!



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MELINA TESTIN

STORY PROVIDED BY RICHARD LOCKHART VIA THE HOLT ORAL
HISTORY PROGRAM, LISTEN AT PRITZKERMILITARY.ORG

DESIGN A SERVICE
FLAG!
Pg. 8

Richard Lockhart



WWII / 106th Golden Lions Div.

Born 20 January 1924 in Lima, OH, "Lucky Locky" grew up in Fort Wayne, IN where he dreamed of becoming a journalist. WWII delayed this dream, but Lucky's time in the Army taught him not to be complacent. By 1951, Lucky had a degree from Northwestern University, a wife, and a long, successful career in journalism and politics ahead of him, until his death in 2019.

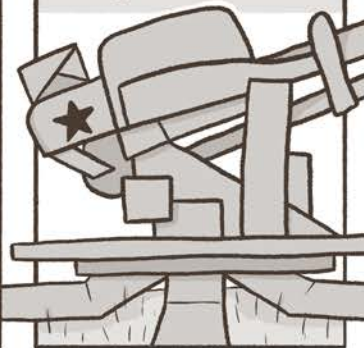
I enlisted 7 December 1942. It was several months before I found my permanent place in the Army... just in time for the Battle of the Bulge.

I studied at Purdue University until



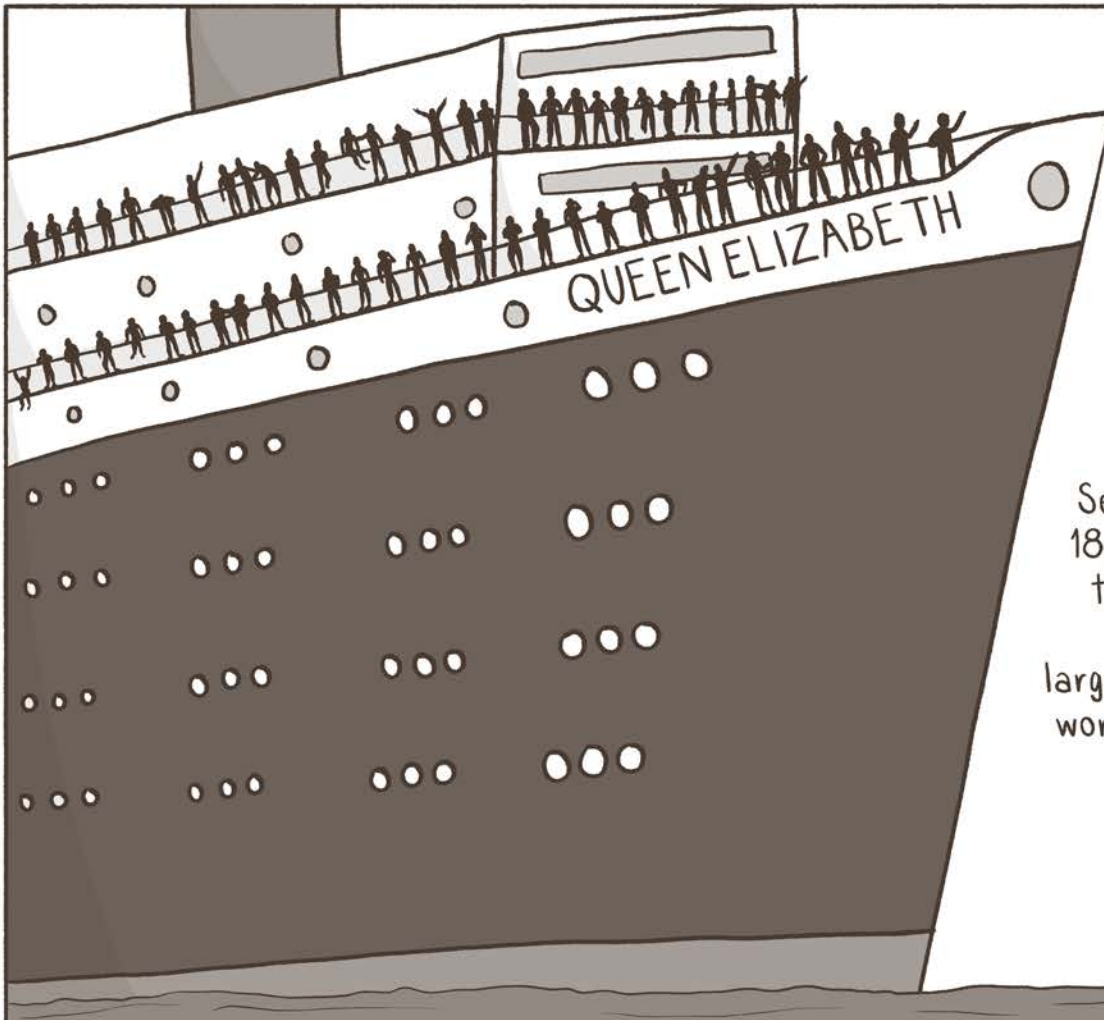
compulsory ROTC was cut short.

Loading the 120mm Anti-Aircraft Gun grew tiresome.

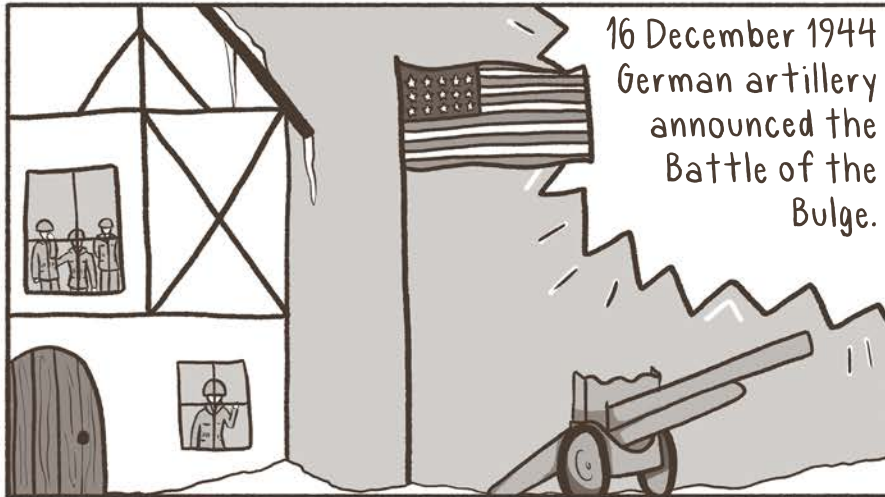


My eyesight was not up to snuff for the paratroops.

Finally, I learned to operate the 57mm Anti-Tank Gun in the 106th Division.



September 1944, 18,000 of us rode the RMS *Queen Elizabeth*, the largest ship in the world, to England.



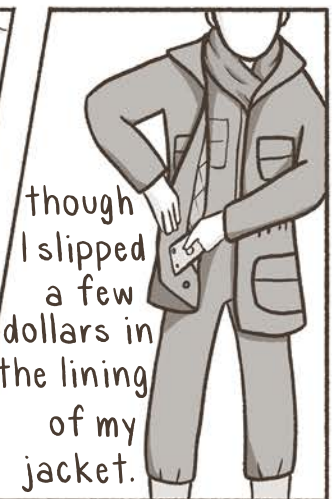
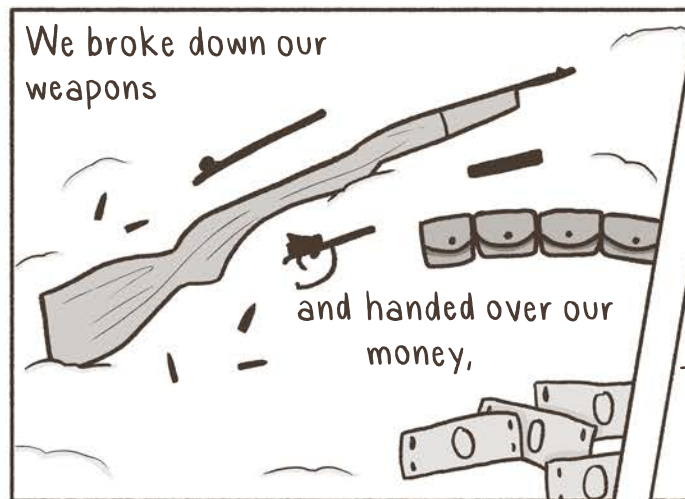
The order came for the 106th to pull back.

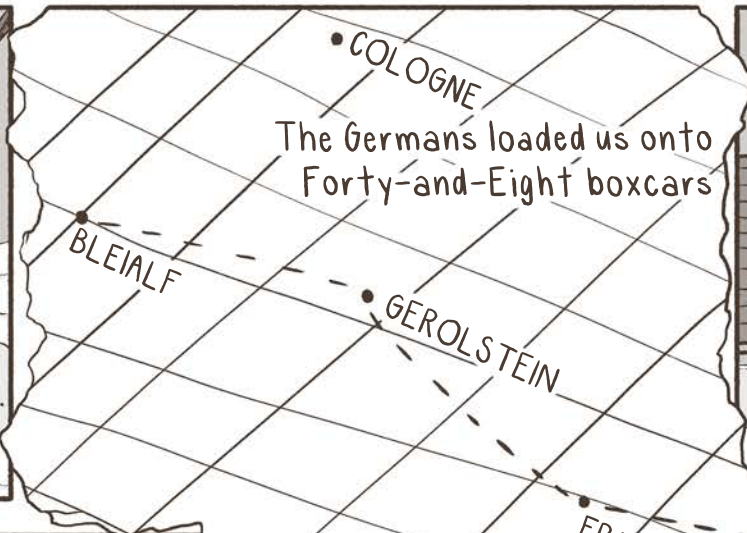


We felt like children, forced to obey orders that did not make sense to us.

We were here to fight, not run away.

But it was too late. The 106th surrendered to the Germans 19 December.





• COLOGNE
The Germans loaded us onto
Forty-and-Eight boxcars

...sixty to a car.

We took turns
sitting and
standing
for four
days and
four
nights.

STALAG IX-B

The officers and
NCOs were
separated, and the
Jewish soldiers
were sent to a
labor camp. We
privates arrived
at Stalag IX-B.

The guards
photographed each
prisoner

and issued new dog tags.

From this point on, we
were just numbers.

We ate "grass soup" made of
turnip tops
and drank
melted snow.



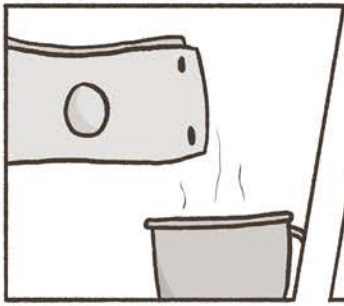
I made lists of
all my favorite
restaurants
and meals
back home.

The money I had
hidden bought
me extra soup

and more food
could be earned
through work.

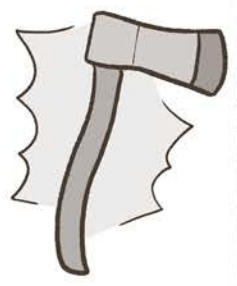


But the guards
would hit us
with
branches



if we worked
too slowly.

February 1945, a
prisoner attacked



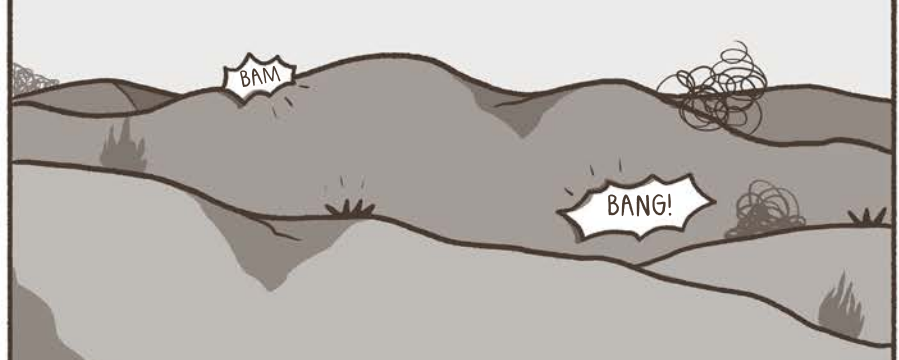
a guard for more
food.

The guards lined us up. Every 10th man was to be shot until
the guilty man stepped forward.



The blood on
the man's
clothes gave
him away,
and we
escaped
the firing
squad.

Soon I could hear artillery in the mountains.



Rescue was on its way.

2 April 1945 the Germans left Stalag IX-B disguised as civilians and we were liberated by the 44th Division.



I did not realize how weak I had become until I needed help onto the truck.



In Le Havre
at



I showered,



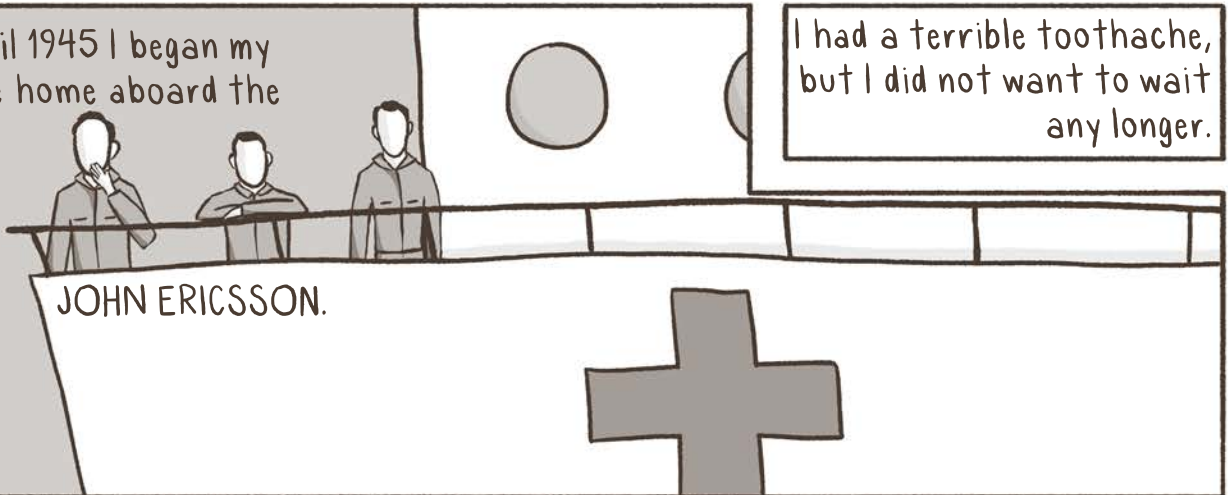
got a clean,
lice-free
uniform,



and ate until
was sick.



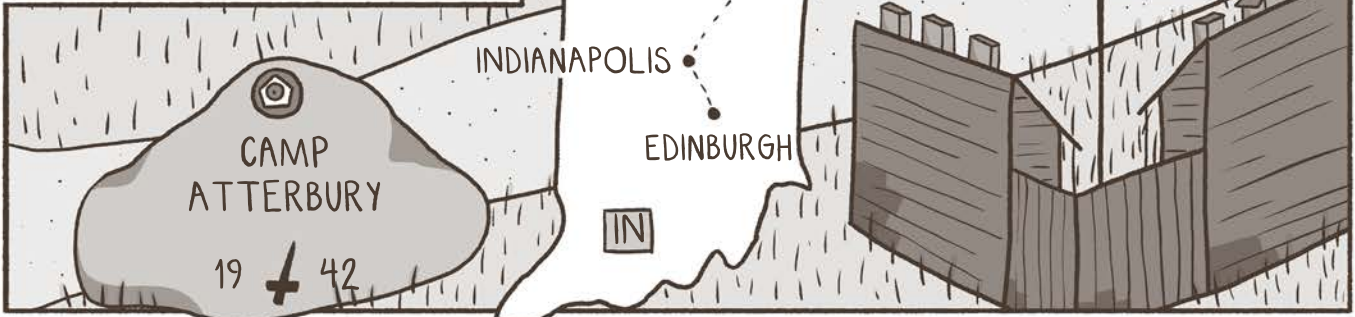
13 April 1945 I began my
voyage home aboard the



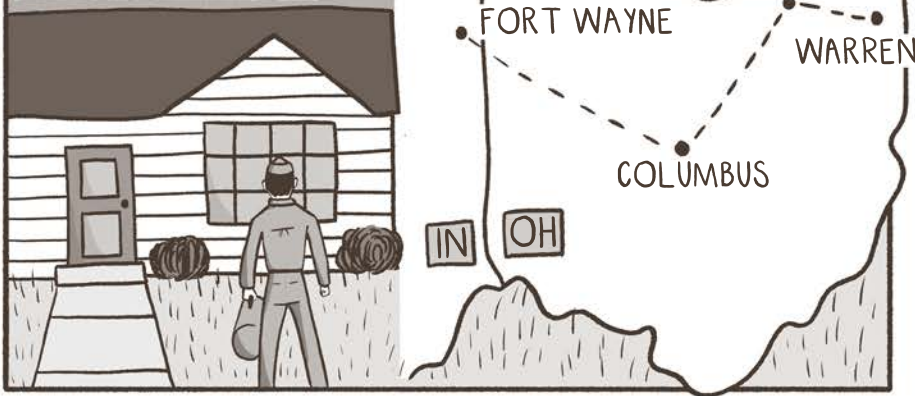
I had a terrible toothache,
but I did not want to wait
any longer.

The Army dropped me off in Indiana and I hitchhiked from

to Fort Wayne.



But when I got home, my parents were gone.



When they heard I was MIA, they moved to Ohio to be with my mother's family.

None of my letters from Stalag IX-B ever arrived,

they had thought I was dead.

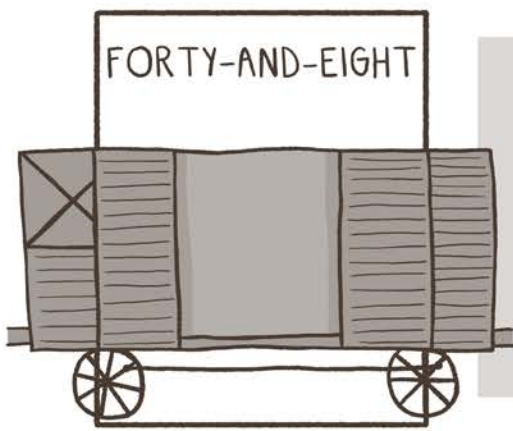


Soon I had my discharge, and a case of "Chicago-itis" that had been growing since I visited the 1933 World's Fair.



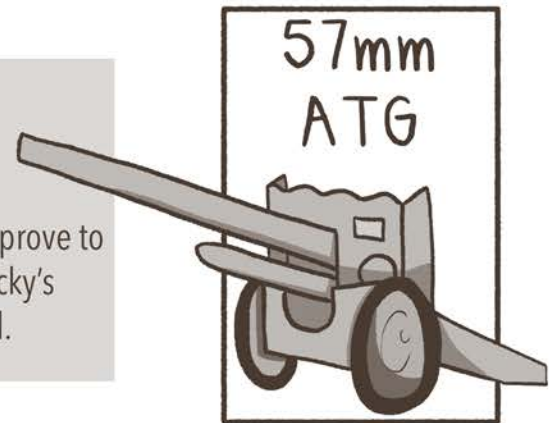
In 1946 I moved to the city to start my life.





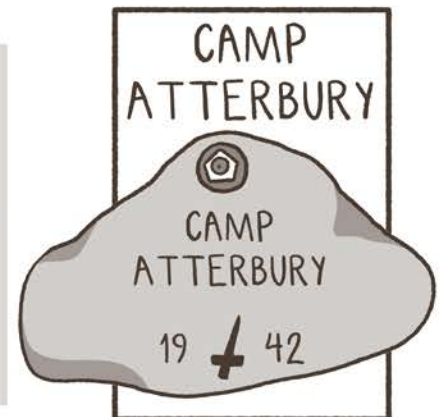
A **Forty-and-Eight** (Quarante et huit) was a French boxcar common across Europe during WWII. At first made popular for their ability to transport large loads of personnel and materiel—the name comes from the boxcar’s capacity for forty people or eight horses—Nazi Germany found more sinister uses for the boxcars. Lucky remembered at least sixty prisoners crammed into the 40/8 on the way to Stalag IX-B. 40/8s soon became synonymous with the transportation of prisoners.

The **57mm Anti-Tank Gun (ATG)** was modeled after the British Quick-Firing 6-pounder. Approximately 5000, 57mm ATGs were delivered to British and Soviet troops through the lend-lease program of American war aid. Unfortunately, the 57mm ATG did not prove to be effective against heavily armored German tanks. In the case of Lucky’s ATG, blown up early in the battle, it did not prove to be effective at all.



The **106th Golden Lions Division** was formed as an expansion of the 80th Division during WWII. In the first days of the Battle of the Bulge (16-19 December 1944), two of the three regiments became surrounded by the Germans. More than 6,000 soldiers, including Lucky, were forced to surrender, and were taken prisoner.

Camp Atterbury is a military training facility in Edinburgh, IN. Lucky and the 106th, along with the 30th, 83d, and 92d Divisions, trained at the camp 1942-1944, and the Indiana National Guard still uses the facility today. Camp Atterbury held 15,000 Italian and German prisoners during WWII. The carved rock and a chapel on the grounds were both constructed by POWs whose experiences differed greatly from the suffering of their American counterparts in Axis-controlled prison camps.



The **Battle of the Bulge** was a German offensive in the Ardennes Forest 16 December 1944 - 25 January 1945. It was the last German offensive of WWII.

Cigarette Camps like **Camp Lucky Strike** were staging areas on the French coast for Americans waiting to return to the United States on ships after WWII.

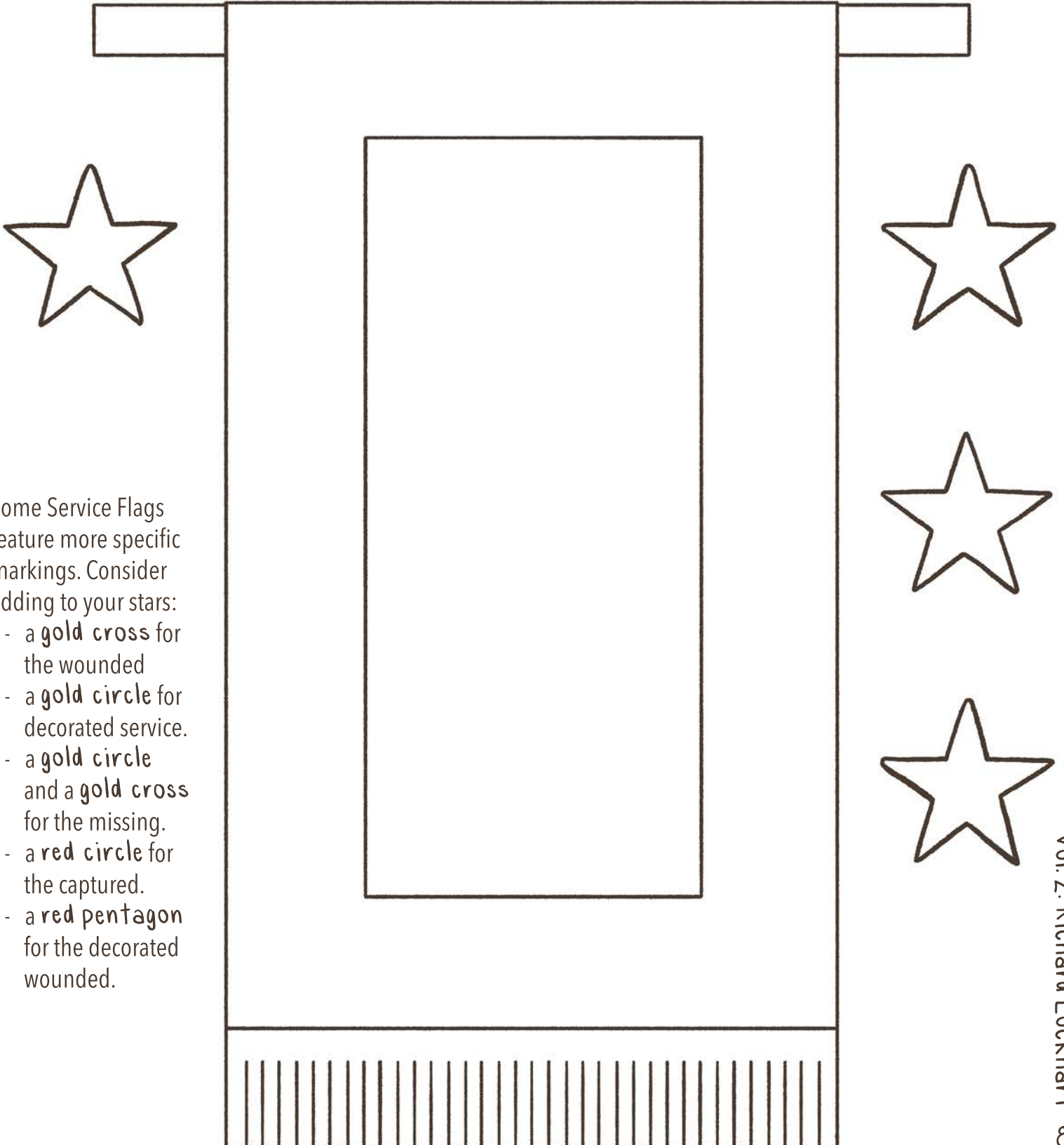
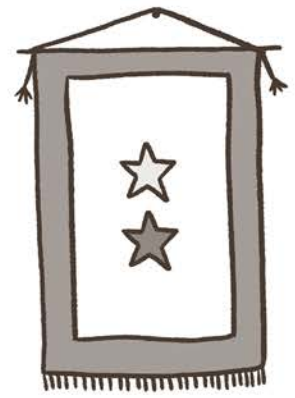
Stalag is an abbreviation of the German word for Prisoner of War Camp. Lucky and others at Stalag IX-B were later recognized as victims of prisoner abuse.

The **M1 Garand** was the standard semi-automatic rifle issued to American infantry troops in WWII. Over 5 million Garands were produced during the war.

Design a Service Flag!

During WWII it was very popular for a family with members in the military to display a Service Flag in their window. Think about your own family history or others you may know as you follow the directions to color and assemble your own Service Flag.

- A Service Flag is **white** with a **red border** and **gold fringe**.
- One **star** is added for each member of the family serving.
- A **blue star** indicates a living member of the family.
- A **gold star** indicates a family member who has died in service.



Some Service Flags feature more specific markings. Consider adding to your stars:

- a **gold cross** for the wounded
- a **gold circle** for decorated service.
- a **gold circle** and a **gold cross** for the missing.
- a **red circle** for the captured.
- a **red pentagon** for the decorated wounded.

1945 SERVICE FLAG

RICHARD LOCKHART