

Otis Eugene (Gene) Hull– Private to Private First Class

Served with distinction in the Hq1 Battalion Intelligence Section (S2) from February 6, 1944 to July 3, 1944. Gene Hull was seriously wounded in Normandy ending his career in the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and U.S. Army.



Gene Hull was an Hq1 “Hell’s Half Acre” survivor (See Chapter II, Combat Operations – Normandy).

Gene Hull was a distinguished member of the “Greatest of the Greatest Generation.”

Gene Hull was an outstanding, courageous soldier, a loyal comrade and a cherished friend. Gene Hull was awarded:

- ?? Bronze Star Medal
- ?? Purple Heart Medal
- ?? Combat Infantry Badge
- ?? Parachutist Qualification Badge with a star for a combat jump (Normandy)
- ?? European African Middle Eastern Theatre of Operations (ETO) Medal with an Invasion Arrowhead and a battle star.
- ?? Presidential Unit Citation
- ?? French Fourragere
- ?? Numerous defense medals including the European Victory Medal.

Gene says.

“I entered the Army in March 1943 at Indianapolis, Indiana. After basic training at Camp Butner, North Carolina with the 75th Infantry Division, I grasped an opportunity to volunteer for parachutist training at Fort Benning, GA. Following several weeks of strenuous physical and mental conditioning, I made five parachute jumps, and on January 1, 1944 graduated as a qualified parachutist. [Notice, no time off, even for New Years Day.] I was shipped with a group of “casuals” to an Army Base near New York City [Camp Shanks, NY, Camp Kilmer, NJ, or Fort Dix, NJ]. We were permitted passes into the city that I thoroughly enjoyed.

After a few days, our contingent of casuals boarded a ship and we sailed for Belfast, Ireland. After orientation and processing, in Belfast, we were sent to units in England that needed replacements. I went to Nottingham, England and was assigned to the Hq1 Battalion Intelligence Section (S2) of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment [508th PIR].” Gene Hull’s introduction into Hq1 and into combat in Normandy is described in Chapter II, Combat Operations – Normandy.]

Gene’s continues. “In Normandy, after our small group was relieved from what was later called ‘Hells Half Acre,’ I joined up with Hq1. As a member of the battalion S2 section, I performed day and night patrols and lead attacks.

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On July 3, the First Battalion was moving to attack and seize Hill 131. It would become the departure point for the attack on Hill 95. The capture of Hill 95 was important. It would help us seize the town of La Haye-du-Puits.

As we were approaching a crossroads, the Germans fired three or four artillery shells at the intersection. We ran to the right side of the road, that was covered with large trees and hit the ground.

The Germans increased the artillery fire and placed several rounds in the trees under which we took cover. I was hit with shrapnel in my back and hip - and one golf ball size piece of shrapnel cut my sciatic and perennial nerves that controlled my leg movement and feeling. I was a long way from home, and seriously injured.

Beginning at that moment, my life became a series of periods of consciousness, starting with when I was on a jeep stretcher going down Hill 131, to waking up in a hospital bed.

I can associate my periods of consciousness with events or activities. For example,

Coming down Hill 131, I saw a column of American soldiers stretching as far as I could see.

Staying for a short time in a field hospital.

Periods when I was in a very clean, quiet and orderly hospital room somewhere in Southern England.

Being placed in a bed with wheels and pushed into a large room where members of Glenn Miller's band played for us. After hearing that great music, in this orderly hospital, I felt things would turn out O.K. A real morale-raising event.

Flying in a four-engine plane filled with stretchers lining both sides from floor to overhead.

Landing somewhere in New York State, and nurses bringing us large pitchers of cold milk – a real treat, as none of us had had cold fresh milk since leaving the United States.

Finally, being in Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterbury, IN (my home state) which specialized in Neurology and skin grafts.

After 18 months of surgery, my nerve grafts had failed to connect and on January 10, 1946, I was discharged from the service.

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Gene and Dorothy Hull were married April 5, 1969 in Santa Monica, California.



Gene & Dorothy Hull

Mrs. Dorothy Hull resides at 5557 Sea Forrest Drive Unit 111, New Port Richey,
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This Album is Not For Sale

This excerpt from the “We Served Proudly, The Men of Hq1” album contains the recollections of men who in their youth risked their lives in furtherance of our national interests. These memoirs are sacred to them -- especially those events alluding to activities in which comrades lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe.

This album was prepared for perpetual residence in the archives of the Camp Blanding Museum complex, operated by the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, Inc. Starke, Florida. We are grateful for the support and assistance of the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, and for their kindness in having the museum make our album available to historians, students, researchers and others interested in our background and brief history.

No reproduction or distribution restrictions are imposed or implied for the album or pages thereof – providing such actions are not undertaken for profit.

Copies of the album have been presented to the Hq1 veterans or their survivors that contributed information for the effort. To facilitate reproducing copies of individual memoirs for relatives or friends, the memoirs have been developed as separate entities.

October 19, 2004

George . Stock

Hq1 Album Collator