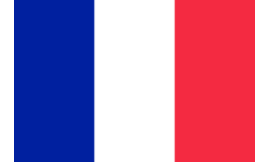




USA



USAREUR 7th US Army



France



3rd Inf. Div.



36th Inf.Div.



45th Inf. Div.



442nd RCT



USAAF

French-American Commemorations From Besançon to St-Dié

On the trail of the Soldiers of the 7th US Army and the USAAF

September 2011

Part III : Vesoul area 1/2

- **The Liberation of Haute-Saône area**
- **Grammont, Medal of Honor 2nd Lt Almond E. Fisher**
- **Noroy le Bourg,**
 - **Medal of Honor 2nd Lt Raymond Zussman**
 - **Distinguished Service Cross S. Sergeant John H. Stanton**
 - **Silver Star Staff Sergeant Rene Deltieure**
- **Liberation of Vesoul**
- **Saulx de Vesoul, Medal of Honor 1st Lt John J. Tominac**

Eric Vandroux

The Liberation of HAUTE-SAÔNE area

September - November 1944

september 9th : Sorans-lès-breurey, Aubertans, Rioz, Etuz, Bussièrès, Quenoche, Hyet.

september 10th : Pesmes, Montbozon, Marnay.

september 11th : Gray, Noidans-lès-Vesoul, Echenoz-la-Méline, Pusey.

september 12th : **Vesoul**, Quincey, Frotey-lès-Vesoul, Champlitte

september 13th : Fallon, Esprels, Dampierre-sur-Salon, Villersexel.

september 14th : Marast, Senargent, Pomoy, Mollans, Combeaufontaine, Aillevans, Longevelle, Saulx, Citers

september 15th : Jussey, Ormoy, Gevigney, Faverney, Quers, Amblans.

september 16th : Amance, Luxeuil, Lure, Saint-Loup sur Semouse, Adelans, Faverney, Magny-Vernois, Bouhans-lès-Lure, Gouhenans, Vy-lès-Lure.

september 17th : Fougerolles, Adelans, Lantenot, Linexert.

september 18th : Franchevelle, Saint-Germain, Froideterre, Raddon, Aillevillers, Roye, Athesans.

september 19th : Senargent, Saint-Ferjeux, Faucogney, Courchaton.

september 20th : Melisey, Malbouhans, Frotey-lès-Lure, Moffans, Vacheresse, Mignafans, Vellechevreux.

september 21st : Courbenans.

september 22nd : Les Aynans.

september 23rd : Corravillers.

september 25th : Palante, Magny-Danigon,
Lyoffans, Andornay, Longevelle.

september 26th : La Côte.

september 27th : Fresse, Ternuay, Clairegoutte,
Frédéric-Fontaine, Magny-Jobert.

september 28th : Servance, Courbenans,
Secenans, Mignavillers, chapelle de Ronchamp.

october 2nd : Eboulet, Ronchamp.

november 16th : Corcelles, Villers-sur-Saulnot.

november 17th : Trémoins, Tavey, Coisevaux,
Faymont, Courmont, Malval, Lomont, Saulnot,
Bussurel, Granges-le-Bourg, Chavanne.

november 18th : Etobon, Belverne, Echenans,
Crevans, Chagey, Luze, Chenebier, Courchamp,
Héricourt, Coisevaux, Champey.

november 19th : Frahier, Champagney,
Châlonvillars, Echavanne, Gènechier.

november 20th : Plancher-Bas, Plancher-les-Mines,
Errevet.

november 23rd : Col des Croix et le fort.

november 25th : Château-Lambert.

GRAMMONT

12-13 September 1944

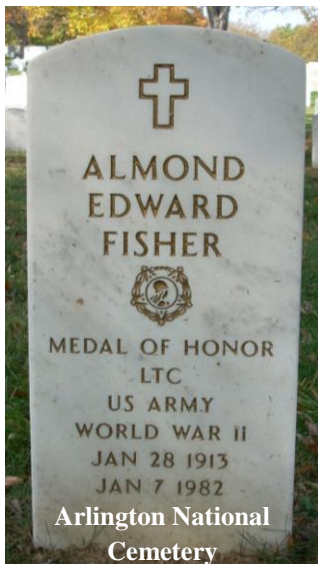


45th Infantry Division 157th Inf. Regiment
2nd Lt Almond E. FISHER
 **Medal of Honor**

Almond Fisher † Jan. 7th, 1982

“Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company E, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Grammont, France, 12-13 September 1944. Entered service at: Brooklyn, N.Y. Birth: Hume, N.Y. G.O. No: 32, 23 April 1945.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on the night of 12 13 September 1944, near Grammont, France. In the darkness of early morning, 2d Lt. Fisher was leading a platoon of Company E, 157th Infantry, in single column to the attack of a strongly defended hill position. At 2:30 A.M., the forward elements were brought under enemy machinegun fire from a distance of not more than 20 yards. Working his way alone to within 20 feet of the gun emplacement, he opened fire with his carbine and killed the entire guncrew. A few minutes after the advance was resumed, heavy machinegun fire was encountered from the left flank. Again crawling forward alone under withering fire, he blasted the gun and crew from their positions with hand grenades. After a halt to replenish ammunition, the advance was again resumed and continued for 1 hour before being stopped by intense machinegun and rifle fire. Through the courageous and skillful leadership of 2d Lt. Fisher, the pocket of determined enemy resistance was rapidly obliterated. Spotting an emplaced machine pistol a short time later, with 1 of his men he moved forward and destroyed the position. As the advance continued the fire fight became more intense. When a bypassed German climbed from his foxhole and attempted to tear an M1 rifle from the hands of 1 of his men, 2d Lt. Fisher whirled and killed the enemy with a burst from his carbine. About 30 minutes later the



platoon came under the heavy fire of machineguns from across an open field. 2d Lt. Fisher, disregarding the terrific fire, moved across the field with no cover or concealment to within range, knocked the gun from the position and killed or wounded the crew. Still under heavy fire he returned to his platoon and continued the advance. Once again heavy fire was encountered from a machinegun directly in front. Calling for hand grenades, he found only 2 remaining in the entire platoon. Pulling the pins and carrying a grenade in each hand, he crawled toward the gun emplacement, moving across areas devoid of cover and under intense fire to within 15 yards when he threw the grenades, demolished the gun and killed the guncrew. With ammunition low and daybreak near, he ordered his men to dig in and hold the ground already won. Under constant fire from the front and from both flanks, he moved among them directing the preparations for the defense. Shortly after the ammunition supply was replenished, the Germans launched a last determined effort against the depleted group. Attacked by superior numbers from the front, right, and left flank, and even from the rear, the platoon, in bitter hand-to-hand engagements drove back the enemy at every point. Wounded in both feet

by close-range machine pistol fire early in the battle, 2d Lt. Fisher refused medical attention. Unable to walk, he crawled from man to man encouraging them and checking each position. Only after the fighting had subsided did 2d Lt. Fisher crawl 300 yards to the aid station from which he was evacuated. His extraordinary heroism, magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank enemy fire is an inspiration to his organization and reflects the finest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces.”

From “U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY”



3rd Inf. Div.



12 September 1944



756th Tank Battalion

Raymond Zussman

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army



Born: Jul 23, 1917 at Hamtramck, MI
Entered Service : Detroit, MI
Date/Place of Action: Sep 12, 1944 - Noroy le Bourg, France
Unit: Co A, 756th Tank Battalion, 3d Infantry Division
Presentation: *May 24, 1945*
Date of Death: Sep 21, 1944 (Killed In Action)
Buried at: The Machpelah Cemetery - Ferndale, MI



Medal of Honor

Lt Zussman † Sept. 21 1944

“On 12 September 1944, 2d Lt. Zussman was in command of 2 tanks operating with an infantry company in the attack on enemy forces occupying the town of Noroy le Bourg, France. At 7 p.m., his command tank bogged down. Throughout the ensuing action, armed only with a carbine, he reconnoitered alone on foot far in advance of his remaining tank and the infantry. Returning only from time to time to designate targets, he directed the action of the tank and turned over to the infantry the numerous German soldiers he had caused to surrender. He located a road block and directed his tanks to destroy it. Fully exposed to fire from enemy positions only 50 yards distant, he stood by his tank directing its fire. Three Germans were killed and 8 surrendered. Again he walked before his tank, leading it against an enemy-held group of houses, machinegun and small arms fire kicking up dust at his feet. The tank fire broke the resistance and 20 enemy



Machpelah Cemetery Ferndale MI

surrendered. Going forward again alone he passed an enemy-occupied house from which Germans fired on him and threw grenades in his path. After a brief fire fight, he signaled his tank to come up and fire on the house. Eleven German soldiers were killed and 15 surrendered. Going on alone, he disappeared around a street corner. The fire of his carbine could be heard and in a few minutes he reappeared driving 30 prisoners before him. Under 2d Lt. Zussman's heroic and inspiring leadership, 18 enemy soldiers were killed and 92 captured.”

From “U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY”

**NOROY-LE-BOURG**

Sept. 12th, 1944



3rd Inf. Div.



7th Inf. Regt

John H. Stanton**3rd Infantry Division**

7th Inf. Regiment Company L

Staff Sergeant**Originaire de Russell, PA**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

« Tôt ce 12 septembre 1944, le 3^{ème} Bataillon (bleu) continua son avance et occupa son objectif, la colline 397. En même temps les bataillons Rouge et Blanc envoyèrent des patrouilles en direction de « Les Belles Baraques » et sur la route de Vesoul. Le bataillon bleu se dirigea tout droit sur Noroy le Bourg où un combat se déroula.

Quand l'avance de la compagnie L fut stoppée, le Staff Sergeant John H. Stanton chargea seul une puissante position de mitrailleuse, se déplaçant en de longues courses sur 125 yards de terrain plat et exposé au feu de l'ennemi.

A 25 yards de son objectif il ouvrit le feu et mis hors de combat tous les servants de cette mitrailleuse. Puis il se dirigea vers une grange à 25 yards sur sa gauche quand une batterie anti-aérienne se mit en position. Il tua un allemand et mis les autres en fuite.

Continuant seul son attaque il avança au bas d'une rue de Noroy le Bourg sous le feu d'un sniper allemand, en direction d'une grange tenue par plusieurs soldats allemands. Il lança une grenade à main à travers la porte forçant ainsi 10 allemands à se rendre, après en avoir blessé plusieurs autres. Continuant seul son assaut il se heurta presque à un soldat allemand lorsqu'il tournait à un coin de rue. Arrachant le fusil de l'allemand effrayé, il le tua pendant que ce dernier essaya de se sauver. Puis faisant feu avec son fusil M-1 dans une cave dans laquelle l'ennemi s'était réfugié en nombre il contraignit 15 allemands de plus à se rendre. Après avoir tué et capturé au moins 25 ennemis et éliminé 2 positions d'armes lourdes, le Staff Sergeant Stanton attendit sa compagnie.

En raison de son extraordinaire héroïsme il lui fut décerné la « Distinguished Service Cross ». La compagnie L fut créditée de 100 des 150 prisonniers pris par le 3^{ème} Bataillon du 7^{ème} Régiment d'Infanterie à Noroy le Bourg. »

Extrait du livre du 7th Infantry Regiment



René Deltieure † Sept. 10th, 1996

NOROY-LE-BOURG

Sept. 11th, 1944



3rd Infantry Division



7th Infantry Regiment

**Sergeant Rene P.J. Deltieure
Company M**



Silver Star



Oak Leaf Cluster

Oak Leaf Cluster (Silver Star medal) : September 11th, 1944 , Noroy Le Bourg (East of France). Citation :

"Rene P.J. Deltieure, 42 036 953, Sergeant (then Private), Infantry, Company "M", 7th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On or about the night 11 September 1944, near *** (in fact Noroy le Bourg), France, Sergeant Deltieure set his heavy machine gun up alone on the shoulder of a road when vehicles were heard approaching in the darkness. As two vehicles drew alongside him, Seargent Deltieure recognized them as an enemy truck carrying personnel and a flakwagon, and he opened fire at them. Despite a hail of return small arms fire directed at him from distances of 25 to 35 yards, Sergeant Deltieure kept his finger on the trigger until he emptied a bolt. His fire exploded the flakwagon, killing seven. He also wounded several others and caused the capture of 12."

... "During the same period the 7th Infantry, in the center of the Division sector, occupied high ground past Noroy- le-Bourg, which it cleaned out en route. The 3d Battalion performed this task during the night of September 12-13, taking 100 to 150 prisoners and killing and wounding an unknown number. At 1830 2d Battalion had been ordered into Division reserve, and 1st and 3d Battalion had advanced toward Hill 452 past Noroy-le-Bourg. By 2030 the 1st Battalion had captured the hill, with 3d Battalion almost directly to the north. At 1000 September 13, 3d Battalion attacked toward Hill 410 and Montjustin. Company C attacked from Hill 459 at 1030 and pushed toward Hill 430. There was scattered, unorganized small- arms and machine-gun fire in opposition to the morning attacks of 1st and 3d Battalions..."

From "HISTORY of the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II"



3rd Inf. Div.

VESOUL

September 12th, 1944



36th Inf. Div.



“Pressing north to Vesoul, an enemy force of some strength was met first at Oiselay-et-Grachaux by the 143rd and then just beyond Fretigney on September 10. Fighting advance guard actions, by daylight of September 11 the 143rd had reached its objective, the high ground overlooking Vesoul. The 141st on the right launched a frontal assault at daybreak of September 12. The 143rd moved around its left flank, sending strong blocking parties toward Port-sur-Saone while one battalion seized the dominating heights overlooking Vesoul from its northern edge.”

[From the “36th Infantry Association” Website](#)





“With the 1st and 3rd Battalions abreast, the 141st attacked the town in conjunction with 3rd Division elements on its right. The 1st Battalion on the left was hit by heavy artillery concentrations as it jumped off and the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. William A. Bird, was wounded. Reorganization delayed its advance. The 3rd Battalion on the right pressed over a canal and into Vesoul to engage the enemy in house-to-house fighting. After nine hours of stubborn battling, resistance was overcome and the 141st moved into the town.”
[From the “36th Infantry Association” Website](#)



“Vesoul was the first town in the path of the 36th Division where the Germans elected to make a stand. The enemy was met and beaten down on September 12.

At daybreak, the 141st Infantry Regiment made a frontal attack. The 143rd moved around it's left flank, sending strong blocking parties towards Port-sur-Saone, while one battalion seized the dominating heights overlooking Vesoul from its northern edge.

Two battalions abreast, the 141st attacked the town, and the Third Battalion pressed over a canal, meeting heavy resistance as it broke into the streets to engage the enemy in house-to-house fighting. The Second Battalion, 143rd, in position on the hill, was engaged with machine gun fire and self-propelled fire, and enemy tanks launched a strong counterattack against the positions to the northwest of Vesoul. But, when, after nine hours of stubborn fighting, resistance in the town was overcome and the 141st moved up behind the advance roadblocks, the enemy pressure relaxed. The enemy continued to shell the area to cover his tanks' withdrawal, until the 143rd moved forward to clear out the few detachments which still resisted. Then the Germans fell back.”

[“From the Riviera to the Rhine”](#)



“The 3d Infantry Division was on the western foothill approaches to the Vosges Mountains when Vesoul fell on September 12. The 2d Battalion, 15th Infantry, which was one element of the forces which took the town, did not pause but continued through, and by 1645 September 12 was on Hill 349, a dominating feature northeast of the town in the direction of Velleminfroy. Movement of the Division at this time was pivoting to the northeast on 30th Infantry, the hub of which was generally at the town of Valleriois le Bois.”

From “History of the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II”



“The 3d Battalion, 15th Infantry was committed on the regiment's left flank, by-passing 2d Battalion, and advancing to the southern outskirts of Vesoul. By noon of September 12 it was in the first few buildings there. The 1st Battalion advanced against constant enemy resistance with a mission of advancing north and flanking the town from the east. The 2d Battalion advanced through La Demie with a mission of blocking a road in that vicinity. Vesoul finally fell during the afternoon of September 12 to elements of the 15th Infantry and two battalions of the 36th Division.”

From “History of the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II”

12 September 1944



SAULX



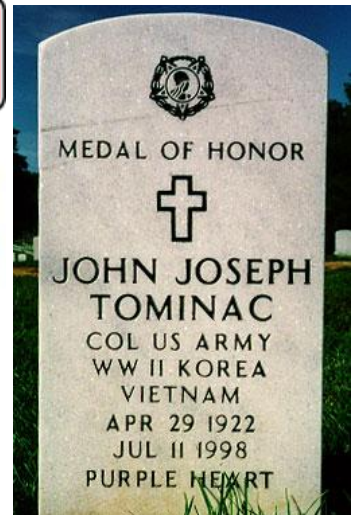
3rd Inf. Div.



15th Inf. Regt



Medal of Honor and Purple Heart



Medal of Honor Citation :

Arlington Cemetery

“Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company I, 15th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Saulx de Vesoul, France, 12 September 1944. Entered service at: Conemaugh, Pa. Birth: Conemaugh, Pa. G.O. No.: 20, 29 March 1945.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 12 September 1944, in an attack on Saulx de Vesoul, France 1st Lt. Tominac charged alone over 50 yards of exposed terrain onto an enemy roadblock to dispatch a 3-man crew of German machine gunners with a single burst from his Thompson machinegun after smashing the enemy outpost, he led 1 of his squads in the annihilation of a second hostile group defended by mortar, machinegun automatic pistol, rifle and grenade fire, killing about 30 of the enemy. Reaching the suburbs of the town, he advanced 50 yards ahead of his men to reconnoiter a third enemy position which commanded the road with a 77-mm. SP gun supported by infantry elements. The SP gun opened fire on his supporting tank, setting it afire with a direct hit. A fragment from the same shell painfully wounded 1st Lt. Tominac in the shoulder, knocking him to the ground. As the crew abandoned the M-4 tank, which was rolling down hill toward the enemy, 1st Lt. Tominac picked himself up and jumped onto the hull of the burning vehicle. Despite withering enemy machinegun, mortar, pistol, and sniper fire, which was ricocheting off the hull and turret of the M-4, 1st Lt. Tominac climbed to the turret and gripped the 50-caliber antiaircraft machinegun. Plainly silhouetted against the sky, painfully wounded, and with the tank burning beneath his feet, he directed bursts of machinegun fire on the roadblock, the SP gun, and the supporting German infantrymen, and forced the enemy to withdraw from his prepared position. Jumping off the tank before it exploded, 1st Lt. Tominac refused evacuation despite his painful wound.



Calling upon a sergeant to extract the shell fragments from his shoulder with a pocketknife, he continued to direct the assault, led his squad in a hand grenade attack against a fortified position occupied by 32 of the enemy armed with machineguns, machine pistols, and rifles, and compelled them to surrender.

His outstanding heroism and exemplary leadership resulted in the destruction of 4 successive enemy defensive positions, surrender of a vital sector of the city Saulx de Vesoul, and the death or capture of at least 60 of the enemy.”

From “U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY”