

Radiomen of 1-15

By Richard Rodgers

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4774>

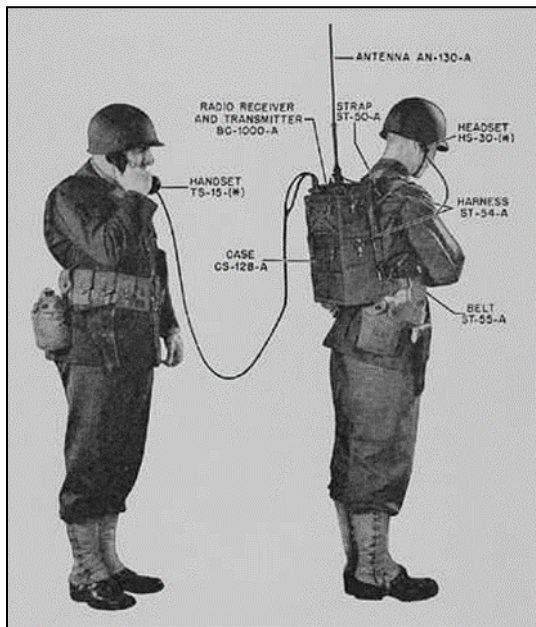
PEOPLE reflecting today on the American soldier in World War II and their combat equipment most likely think of a foot soldier armed with an M1 rifle and a bayonet. Maybe they also envision a soldier sporting a canvass-encased canteen with a tin cup, and a bevy of hand grenades attached to their utility belt. The image may include the soldier low-crawling in pools of mud below coils of barbed wire with bullets whizzing overhead. Or, maybe it is an unshaven paratrooper jumping out of the open door of a low flying airplane or someone rapidly shoving artillery rounds into the breach of a howitzer as another soldier yanks on a firing lanyard.

It is probably safe to say that enlisted soldiers serving as combat radiomen rarely, if ever, come to mind. Nevertheless, Audie Murphy mentions them and their equipment in his memoir, TO HELL AND BACK.

In Chapter 18, Audie Murphy writes of a time when his understrength company was ambushed by five well-camouflaged German machinegun nests carefully dug into a woodline at the base of a slope. As Lieutenant Murphy's men are surprised and caught in the open, he "borrows a walkie-talkie radio" from someone and begins crawling on his back "dragging the radio" with him. Eventually, Audie managed to destroy the machinegun nests with the help of the radio by calling in artillery fire on the enemy position.

Later, in Chapter 19, Audie Murphy wrote that a radioman along with a forward observer were sent to B Company to provide fire support from a neighboring artillery battalion during a pivotal battle.¹ At the time Lieutenant Murphy's men had just occupied hasty defensive positions along a frozen woodline north of the town of Holtzwihr, France. As the event unfolded, an overwhelming number of attacking Germans and

¹ The forward observer, Lieutenant Walter Weispfenning, was from the 39th Field Artillery Battalion and had a radioman assisting him. Weispfenning would later provide a handwritten eye-witness account which was used as supporting evidence to Audie Murphy's Medal of Honor recommendation.



Motorola Walkie-Talkie, Model SCR-300. Illustration from the War Department Technical Manual TM11-242. The original walkie-talkie weighed about 38-pounds and had a range of about 3 miles.

tanks emerged from the left side of the forest. The situation was hopeless, and Lieutenant Murphy refused to risk the capture of the valuable radio to the enemy. The loss of a functional radio would be catastrophic. So, Lieutenant Murphy was forced to order the radioman with everyone else, to retreat to safety while he alone remained.

Of course, you probably recognize this story as the event where Murphy earned his Medal of Honor. But this article is not about that award or those two events. Instead, it is about the radios and two of the brave men charged with their operation while

assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment (1-15 INF).

The Radios

There were two Signal Corps Radio (SCR) sets authorized for use by United States infantry battalions and their rifle companies. One was known as the SCR-300 and the other was the SCR-536. These radios were new battlefield innovations in World War II and gave platoon leaders and company commanders the ability to quickly talk directly to commanders and supporting units without the need to use telephone wire or messengers. The Germans had nothing like the portable combat radio either.

SCR-300 FM Radio Set²

The SCR-300 radio set was built by Motorola and weighed a little over 38-pounds. It required 18 glass vacuum tubes to operate. It had an impressive range of about 4.8 kilometers (almost 3 miles). Its components included a radio receiver and transmitter that was normally strapped to a radioman's back by a harness. Accessories included an attachable whip antenna, several large spare dry-cell batteries, spare vacuum tubes, and an attachable cord with a handset on one end. But this was not all a radio operator had to carry. Besides having to lug the radio equipment, he also had to carry his other gear and weaponry too. The job was a difficult and strenuous one.

² See <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2019/01/26/scr-300-ww2-radio-backpack-the-walkie-talkie-that-shaped-the-war/>

When introduced, the SCR-300 radio was given the nickname “walkie-talkie” by soldiers – a term that would quickly be applied to other smaller hand-held radio devices.

Only six of these radios were authorized by the Military Table of



Walkie-Talkie, Model SCR-536. With a range of two or three hundred feet, this Walkie-Talkie weight about 5-pounds and was found at company level. Image source: War Department Technical Manual TM11-235.

Equipment (MTOE) for the infantry battalion and all of them belonged to Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC).³

The SCR-300 radio came with its own radio operator who had a skill code of either 740 or 776. Like the equipment they used, the radio operator was assigned to the communications platoon in Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) where they had immediate access to a solitary radio repairman and a stash of necessary spare parts. The total number of radio operators available to the infantry battalion was four.⁴

This radio and its operator were normally used by the battalion commander, the executive officer, and staff officers. They could be “attached” to a company on a temporary basis depending on the importance of a mission and the need of a company commander to have reliable radio communication. Radio operators in many cases travelled with senior officers and frequently visited subordinate companies.

SCR-536 FM Radio Set⁵

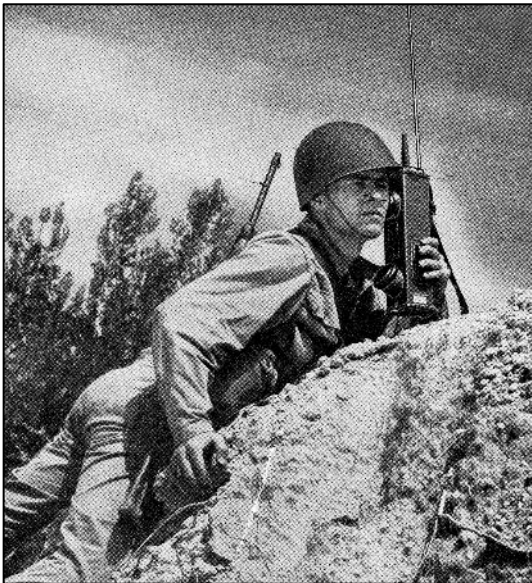
Then there was the SCR-536. It was the smallest portable radio device in the Army’s inventory during World War II.

³ See MTOE 7-15, dated February 1944, www.militaryresearch.org/7-15%2026Feb44.pdf

⁴ See MTOE 7-16, dated February 1944, <http://www.militaryresearch.org/7-16%2026Feb44.pdf>

⁵ See TM 11-235, dated May 1945, <https://ia802700.us.archive.org/7/items/Tm11-235/Tm11-235.pdf>

This radio was hand-held and weighed only 5 pounds. No backpack or dedicated radio operator was needed to make it work. It sported a long narrow rectangular case which had a built-in earpiece and a mouthpiece on one side. Like its larger counterpart, it operated on a dry-cell battery and used glass vacuum transistor tubes. Its range was extremely limited. The SCR-536 normally transmitted several hundred feet in obstructed areas but up to 1 mile if used in flat, unobscured terrain. To turn it on, all you had to do was extend the retractable antenna from the top. A large rubber button on its side was then pressed to talk.⁶ Six of these radios were authorized at the rifle company level and were to be used by company commander, platoon



Using the SCR-536 in the prone position.
Image source: War Department Technical Manual TM11-235.

leaders, first sergeant and platoon sergeants.⁷

The Radiomen – two kinds

Radiomen with the 776-skill identifier were required to transmit 13 five-letter code groups per minute without error. They were known as “slow radio operators”. The battalion was authorized only 3. These fellows were trained to use the SCR-300’s. Soldiers classified as 740 were required to transmit an impressive 18 five-letter code groups. The battalion was only authorized one who was also trained to use the SCR-300.

In total, the battalion was only authorized 4 radio operators and their ranks were either T4 or T5. T4 was the higher of the two ranks and was generally addressed as “sergeant”.

Revisiting the Ambush

Referring to the machinegun ambush described earlier Lieutenant Murphy wrote that as he and his patrol crested a hilltop, they were ambushed by five well-concealed machine gun nests at the hill’s base. As his men were being decimated, Lieutenant Murphy ordered his men to take cover. He then “borrows a walkie-talkie radio”. Was this the hand-held SCR-536 or the larger SCR-300? By this time, both were probably known as a “walkie-talkie.”

⁶ <https://ia802700.us.archive.org/7/items/Tm11-235/Tm11-235.pdf>

⁷ See MTOE 7-17 at <http://www.militaryresearch.org/7-17%2026Feb44.pdf>

At the time Murphy was a platoon leader and was authorized a SCR-536. As a lieutenant who liked to “lead from the front” – a phrase Murphy used when describing effective leadership – a five-pound radio would certainly be easier to drag downhill. Of course, he also had his rifle – probably in the other hand – while he snaked his way in the prone position on his stomach toward the enemy.

As he did, Murphy had a difficult time radioing his request for mortar support. He wrote that his transmissions were garbled and filled with static, sometimes fading in and out. This would be more characteristic of the 5-pound SCR-536 which had limited range – especially when the terrain was hilly and forested. Lieutenant Murphy, as he laid flat on the ground, probably had the retractable antenna horizontal to the ground which would have limited its range even more.

Lieutenant Murphy used the callsign “Red 3” and spoke to “Red 6”.⁸ In the Army, the callsign number “6” was designated exclusively for a commander’s use – and still is today. “3” indicated that Murphy was the 3rd platoon leader.

As Lieutenant Murphy requested mortar fire, he pressed the “talk button” on his radio. The SCR-300 did not have a rubber button on its handset.⁹ You just talked into the hand-receiver’s microphone. On the other hand, the SCR-536 did have a large black talk button on its side.

So, which was it? Was it the SCR-300 or was it the smaller SCR-536? At this point, you can probably safely conclude – based on the earlier reading – that it was the five-pound SCR-536.

Back to the Holtzwihr Woodline

Now we turn our attention back to the second event that occurred January 26, 1945 at Holtzwihr, France. By this time, Audie Murphy had been appointed the B Company commander.

Defending the Holtzwihr woodline battle was one of the highest priorities of 1-15 INF on that famous day and crucial to the success of the 3rd Infantry Division. It follows that the B Company Commander would be better off if he had his own dedicated radio operator and SCR-300 attached to him for his use during that mission. On the other hand, an artillery forward observer may have come with his own radio operator with a different radio set¹⁰ authorized for field artillery units.

⁸ “Red” probably was the color designation for B-Company. If so, Lieutenant Murphy was transmitting to the B-Company commander who was relaying the call-for-fire information to the mortar crews in the heavy weapons platoon.

⁹ A copy of the SCR-300 war department technical manual, TM 11-242 can be found at www.mcmlv.org/Archive/Military/TM%2011-242_SCR-300-A%20Technical%20Manual.pdf

¹⁰ The SCR-619 had a range of about 5 miles and was authorized by the 39th Field Artillery. It was bulky and consisted of several separate units but suitable to their mission.



Livingston County War Museum display. Tech5 John Rodino, radioman assigned to HHC/1-15 INF becomes the focus of a local county war museum display on July 7, 2007. He stands next to his uniform and awards. *Image source: Livingston County War Museum, Pontiac, Illinois.*

There is no conclusive proof which unit provided the radio operator on that day. We only know one was assisting the 39th Field Artillery forward observer, Lieutenant Weispfenning.

As it turns out, Lieutenant Murphy wisely directed his men to run telephone lines back to the battalion command post. This created redundancy in communication. If things went sour with the radio, updates and requests for support could

still be passed via landline and a handheld telephone device. As it turned out, this is exactly what happened.

Tech4 Radioman John Rodino

John Rodino, service number 36480855, was a radioman for HHC, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry. Born August 19, 1923, at Pontiac, Illinois he enlisted at Peoria, Illinois as a private on April 5, 1943.¹¹ After getting his affairs in order, he then entered service on April 12, 1943 at Scott Field, Illinois. His

¹¹ National Archives and Records Administration; <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&cat=all&tf=F&q=36480855&bc=&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=6648323>

term of service was for the duration of the war plus six months. At the time of his enlistment, he was a college student and single.

After a brief period in basic training Private Rodino received specialty training as a radioman and earned the skill identifier 776.

Rodino would become one of the few radiomen for 1-15 INF; He also managed to survive the war.

On September 20, 1943 Rodino deployed overseas and arrived a month later in the European Theater of Operations. His unit of assignment was HHC, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment with the 3rd Infantry Division. Rodino would remain with his unit for the war's duration. By the war's end he had earned the rank of T4 (Technician 4th Grade).

His combat service included combat at the Anzio, Italy beachhead ¹², the invasion of southern France, and finally Rhineland, Germany.

His awards and decorations include the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, an overseas European African Middle Eastern theater ribbon with an affixed silver battle star¹³, a good conduct medal, a distinguished

unit badge, and the French Croix de Guerre.¹⁴

There are no direct military references that can be found which officially establish that Tech4 Rodino served directly with Audie Murphy or B Company, 1-15. On the other hand, there is no doubt that as a radioman, he had many opportunities to rub shoulders with B Company and Lieutenant Audie Murphy. These opportunities would extend to every other company in 1-15 INF too. Rodino was probably a well-travelled man on the battlefield and as one of four radiomen for 1-15 INF, he must have been well known among battalion and company level leadership.

Tech4 Rodino returned from the war on December 13, 1945. He would later marry Ms. Jeanette Wharrie in 1948. He passed away at the age of 85 on October 22, 2008.¹⁵

Tech5 Radioman John J. Larussa

John J. Larussa, service number 35060052, was also one of the radiomen for HHC, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry. Born December 30, 1923 at Geneva, Ohio he enlisted at Cleveland,

¹² Letter, April 23, 1944 written to sister Mary Rodino, April 23, 1944 from the Anzio, Beachhead. See the end of this article to read the letter.

¹³ An affixed silver battle star represents 5 battle campaigns (Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe).

¹⁴ US Army Record and Report of Separation John Rodino; see image at the end of this article.

¹⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30934717/john-rodino>

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER N. 376	1. NAME (Print) JOHN - JAMES - LARUSSA <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>	ORDER NUMBER 11,582
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 3367 E 135th ST CLEVELAND - COV - OHIO <small>(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)</small>		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME <small>(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)</small>		
4. TELEPHONE LO-5363 <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>	5. AGE IN YEARS 18 DATE OF BIRTH Dec. 30 - 1923 <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>	6. PLACE OF BIRTH GENEVA <small>(Town or county)</small> OHIO <small>(State or country)</small>
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS JOSEPHINE LARUSSA - 3367 E 135th ST - (MOTHER)		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS REPUBLIC STEEL CORP.		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS UPSON NUT - UNDER LORAIN BRIDGE CLEVE <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42)	(over)	e16-21630-3 John James Larussa <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>

Military Registration Card, John James Larussa. John J. Larussa enlisted in Ohio and would soon join HHC/1-15 Infantry where he would befriend fellow radioman John Rodino. *Image source: Ancestry.com.*

Ohio as a private on April 20, 1943.¹⁶ He began service seven days later at Fort Hayes, Ohio. Like most enlisted men of his day, his term of service was for the duration of the war plus six months. At the time of his enlistment, he lived with his mother and only had 3 years of high school. He worked in a machine shop for the Republic Steel Corporation as a lathe operator. He was single.

After a brief period in basic training Private Larussa received specialty

training as a radioman and earned the skill identifier 776.

After his training, he departed the U.S. on October 4, 1943 to North Africa – arriving two weeks later. He would not return until December 13, 1945.

His rank at the time of separation was T5 (Tech5) which is one rank below T4.

His awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, French Croix de Guerre, the

¹⁶ National Archives and Records Administration; <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=1&tf=F&q=35060052&bc=&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=5426352>

Distinguished Unit Badge with 1 oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star, and a European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with an affixed silver battle star.¹⁷

Larussa would later marry and have three children. After moving to Texas, he would pass away at the age of 66 in Kaufman County, Texas and is interred in Dallas, Texas with his wife.¹⁸

A Guestbook Entry

On April 9, 2013 a guestbook entry on the Audie Murphy Memorial Website was written by a Mr. Tom Larussa – the son of John Larussa. This entry eventually led to penning of this article. In the entry, Tom Larussa stated he was seeking information on his father's service but was having trouble because the US Army Records building in St. Louis was destroyed by fire in the 1970's with a loss of nearly 80% of all archived army service records. An incredibly significant part of history had gone up in smoke and with it, part of his father's life.

Mr. Larussa mentioned that his father John Larussa and John Rodino were good friends.¹⁹

Very recently, Mr. Tom Arnolts, the grandson of John Rodino left a separate guestbook entry which paid tribute to his grandfather, a radioman of 1-15. A series of emails and communications

were then made by the author with both individuals.

Tom Larussa stated that his father was very quiet about the events of World War II and practically never spoke of them. Tom Larussa did say that his father was very easily startled during sleep and his mother attributed this to his war experiences.

Tom Larussa has since come to the realization, along with his other siblings, that his father was deeply affected by the war and found it difficult to recount painful combat experiences.

John Rodino's and John Larussa's family have preserved letters and other valuable documents from these radiomen's service while assigned to HHC/1-15 Inf.

Prior to his passing, John Rodino was also honored in 2007 by a local museum which put together a display of John Rodino's uniform and service medals. John Rodino proudly posed for a picture on that day too.

To help preserve the memory of John Rodino and John Larussa, the Rodino and the Larussa families have shared official documentation, pictures, and - personal letters of their father and grandfather, respectively. The Audie Murphy Research Foundation hopes you will take a moment to reflect on the

¹⁷ US Army Record and Report of Separation – John J. Larussa; see image, page 12, of this article.

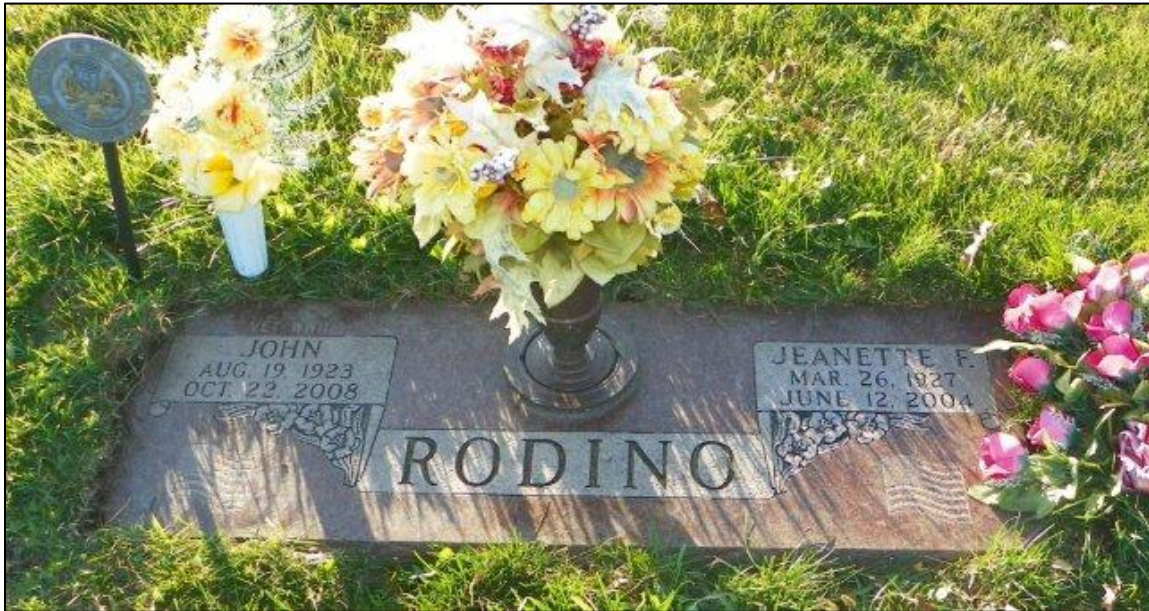
¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83721153/john-j-larussa>

¹⁹ <https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=3185&p=12331&hilit=John+Rodino#p12331>

service of these two radiomen and the awful combat they must have experienced.

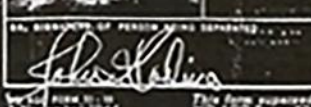
While these radiomen are no longer with us, it turns out that their voices are still heard these many years later.

- Richard Rodgers



Final resting places. John Rodino and John James Larussa, radiomen of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. *Image source: www.findagrave.com*

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

HONORABLE DISCHARGE									
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL RODINO JOHN		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 36 480 855		3. GRADE TEC 5		4. BRANCH INF		5. COMMENTS AUS	
6. ORGANIZATION HQ CO 1ST BN 15 TH INF		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 19 DEC 45		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION CAMP GRANT ILL SEPARATION CENTER					
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES RODINO SQUARE PONTIAC ILLINOIS				10. DATE OF BIRTH 19 AUG 23		11. PLACE OF BIRTH PONTIAC ILLINOIS			
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED SEE #9				13. COLOR HAIR HAZEL		14. COLOR EYES BROWN		15. HEIGHT 5 6	
16. MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED				17. U.S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES		18. SERVICE RECORDING AND PAY 147		19. GRADE 0	
20. EDUCATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COLLEGE (X-02) STUDENT COLLEGE (X-02)									
MILITARY HISTORY									
21. DATE OF INDUCTION 5 APR 43		22. DATE OF SEPARATION 12 APR 43		23. PLACE OF BIRTH (UNIT SERVICE) SCOTT FIELD ILLINOIS					
24. SERVICE NUMBER 2		25. CITY AND STATE LIVINGSTON ILL		26. BIRTH ADDRESS AT TIME OF BIRTH (UNIT SERVICE) RFD 5 PONTIAC ILLINOIS					
27. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. RADIO OPERATOR 776				28. SERVICE OCCURRENCE AND NO. (U.S. ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS, AIR CORPS) COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE MM: M1					
29. THEATERS AND CAMPAIGNS NAPLES FCGGIA ROME ARNO SOUTHERN FRANCE RHINELAND CENTRAL EUROPE									
30. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS 4 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER RIBBON W/1 SILVER BATTLE STAR GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL BRONZE STAR GO 350 3 INF DIV 25 SEP 45 DISTINGUISHED UNIT BADGE CROIX DE GUERRE*									
31. AWARDS RECEIVED IN SERVICE NONE									
32. LATEST ORGANIZATION DATES									
33. SERVICE VACD		34. STATUS ST		35. STATUS ST		36. DATE OF SEPARATION 20 SEP 43		37. ASSIGNMENT ETO	
38. DATE OF BIRTH 19 AUG 23		39. DATE OF SEPARATION 12 APR 43		40. HIGHEST GRADE HELD T/5		41. DATE OF SEPARATION 2 DEC 45		42. ASSIGNMENT USA	
43. PRIOR SERVICE NONE									
44. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION CONV OF GOVT RR 1-1 (DEMOBILIZATION) AR 615-365 DATED 15 DEC 1944									
45. SERVICE RECORDS ATTACHED NONE									
46. PAY DATA YOU 18275									
47. PAY GRADE 2		48. PAY RATE 175		49. PAY RATE 1,300		50. PAY RATE 1,700		51. PAY RATE 377.80	
52. PAY RATE 9.00		53. PAY RATE 652.55 G F DOLBEAR CAPT FD							
INSURANCE NOTICE									
IMPORTANT: THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.									
54. KIND OF INSURANCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIFE		55. HOW PAID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CASH		56. SPECIAL RATE OF ANNUAL PREMIUM 31 DEC 45		57. SPECIAL RATE OF ANNUAL PREMIUM 31 JAN 46		58. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO 6.50	
59. SERVICE NUMBER 36 480 855		60. REASON FOR SEPARATION (For completion of above items or entry of other items specified in M. O. Direction) LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED ASR SCORE (2 SEPT 45) 33 *1939 - 45 BRONZE ARROWHEAD AG 200 61 PO 26 MAY 45 WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL ERC FROM 5 APR 43 TO 11 APR 43							
61. SIGNATURE OF PERSON WHO SEPARATED 					62. PERSONNEL OFFICER'S SIGNATURE AND TITLE ROBERT O BURTON CAPT FA				

Enlisted Record, Report of Separation, Honorable Discharge - Tech5 John Rodino.
 Image is courtesy of Tom Arnolts and Tom Larussa and family.

607-25

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL LARUSSA JOHN J		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 35 060 052	3. GRADE TEC 5	4. ARM OR SERVICE INF	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION HQ CO 1ST BN 15TH INF		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 19 DEC 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION UNIT A SEP CTR 45 IGMR PA		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 3308 W 30TH ST CLEVELAND 9 OHIO			10. DATE OF BIRTH 30 DEC 23	11. PLACE OF BIRTH GENEVA OHIO	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE BOUGHT SEE 9			13. COLOR EYES HAZEL	14. COLOR HAIR BRN	17. NO. DEPEND. 2
15. RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE	18. MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	19. U.S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. LATHE OPER AUTO 6-78.164		

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 20 APR 43	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 27 APR 43	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE FT HAYES OHIO	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE FT HAYES OHIO
26. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 31	28. COUNTY AND STATE CUYAHOGA OHIO	29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 3367 E 135TH ST CLEVELAND OHIO
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. RADIO OPER 776		31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (I.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) COMBAT INF BADGE RIFLE M1 ERP 43	
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS GO 33 & 40 WD 45 NAPLES-FOGGIA ROME-ARNO SOUTHERN FRANCE RHINELAND CENTRAL EUROPE			
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE DISTINGUISHED UNIT BADGE WITH 1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER BRONZE STAR MEDAL EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL WITH *			
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NONE			
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			
SMALLPOX 1 JUN 43	TYPHOID 22 MAR 45	TETANUS 15 DEC 44	CITY PHOS 15 JAN 45
36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN		37. HIGHEST GRADE HELD	
DATE OF DEPARTURE 4 OCT 43	DESTINATION N AFRICA	DATE OF ARRIVAL 21 OCT 43	
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE		38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD	
CONTINENTAL SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 0 5 14	FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 2 2 10	TEC 5	
39. PRIOR SERVICE NONE			
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION AR 615-365 15 DEC 44 COVN OF THE GOVT RR1-1 DEMOBILIZATION			
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED NONE			
42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar 8 High School 4 College 0			

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS 2 0 0	44. MUSTERING OUT PAY TOTAL THIS PAYMENT \$ 300 \$ 100	45. SOLDIER DEPOSIT NONE	46. TRAVEL PAY \$ 30.15	47. TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ 330.15
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INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.					
48. KIND OF INSURANCE Nat. Str. U.S. Govt. None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	49. HOW PAID Allotment Direct to V. A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 31 DEC 45	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 31 JAN 46	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 6.90	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO Continue Only Discontinue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

54. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)

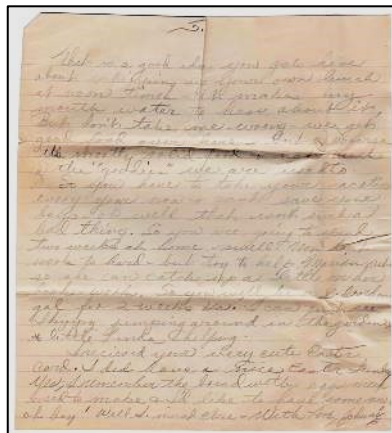
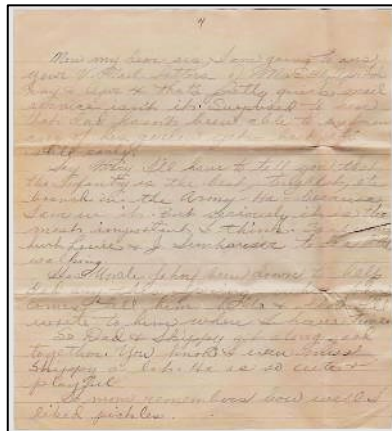
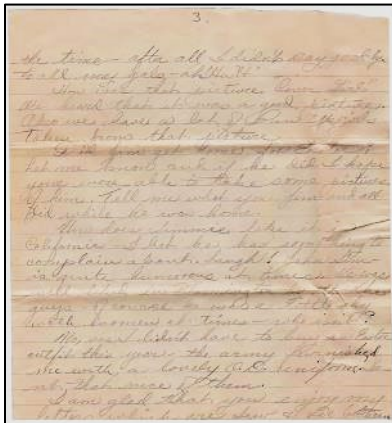
**LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED
 ASR SCORE (2 SEP 45) 82
 INACTIVE SERVICE ERC FROM 20 APR 43 TO 26 APR 43**

56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>John J. Larussa</i>	57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) RUSSELL WALCH 1ST LT AUS <i>Russell Walch</i>
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WD AGO FORM 83-55 November 1944 This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for qualified persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

OHIO WORLD WAR II CLAIM COMPENSATION APPLIED FOR No. **88085**

Enlisted Record, Report of Separation, Honorable Discharge - Tech5 John J. Larussa. Image is courtesy of Tom Larussa and his family.



humorous at times. He was well liked in Bloomington by all the guys - of course he was a little shy with women at times - who isn't?

No, sis I didn't have to buy an Easter outfit this year - the army furnished me with a lovely O.D. uniform. So nice of them.

I am glad that you enjoy my letters which are few & far between.

Now my dear sis, I am going to ans. your V-Mail letters of March 31, April Fools Day, & April 4. That's pretty quick mail service isn't it. Surprised to hear that dad hasn't been able to put in any of his garden yet - but it's still early.

Say Mary, I'll have to tell you that the Infantry is the best, toughest, etc. branch in the Army - Ha - because I am in it. But seriously it is the most important I think. So it wouldn't hurt Louie & J. Simhauser to do a little walking.

Has Uncle John been down to help dad any this Spring? When John comes tell him hello & that I'll write to him when I have time.

So Dad & Skippy get along good together. You know I even miss Skippy a lot. He is so cute & playful.

So mom remembers how well I liked pickles.

That is a good idea you gals have about whipping up your own lunch at times - it makes my mouth water to hear about it. But don't take me wrong - we get good food over here - but of course it's mostly solid food and not much of the "goodies" we are used to.

So you have to take your vacation every year now & can't save your days - oh well that isn't such a bad thing. So you are going to spend two weeks at home - swell. Now don't work too hard - but try to help Marian out so she can catch up a little on her book-work. So you will be a V-Garden gall for 2 weeks. Ha. I can just see Skippy jumping around in the garden & little Linda helping.

I received your very cute Easter card. I did have a nice Easter Sunday. Yes, I remember the bread with eggs mom used to make & I'd like to have some now. Oh boy! Well, I must close.

With Love, Johnnie.

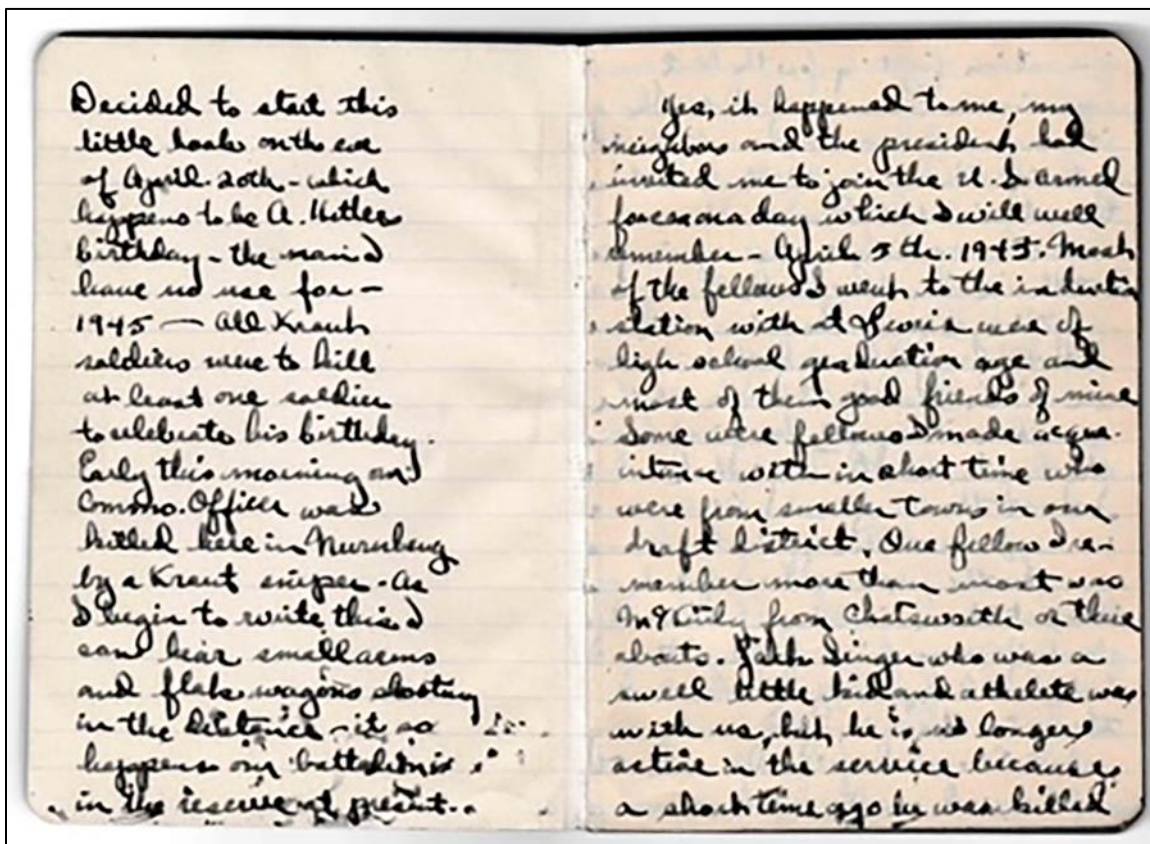
Conclusion of the Rodino letter from the Anzio Beachhead, April 23, 1944.

Images of letter are courtesy of Tom Arnoltz and the Rodino family.

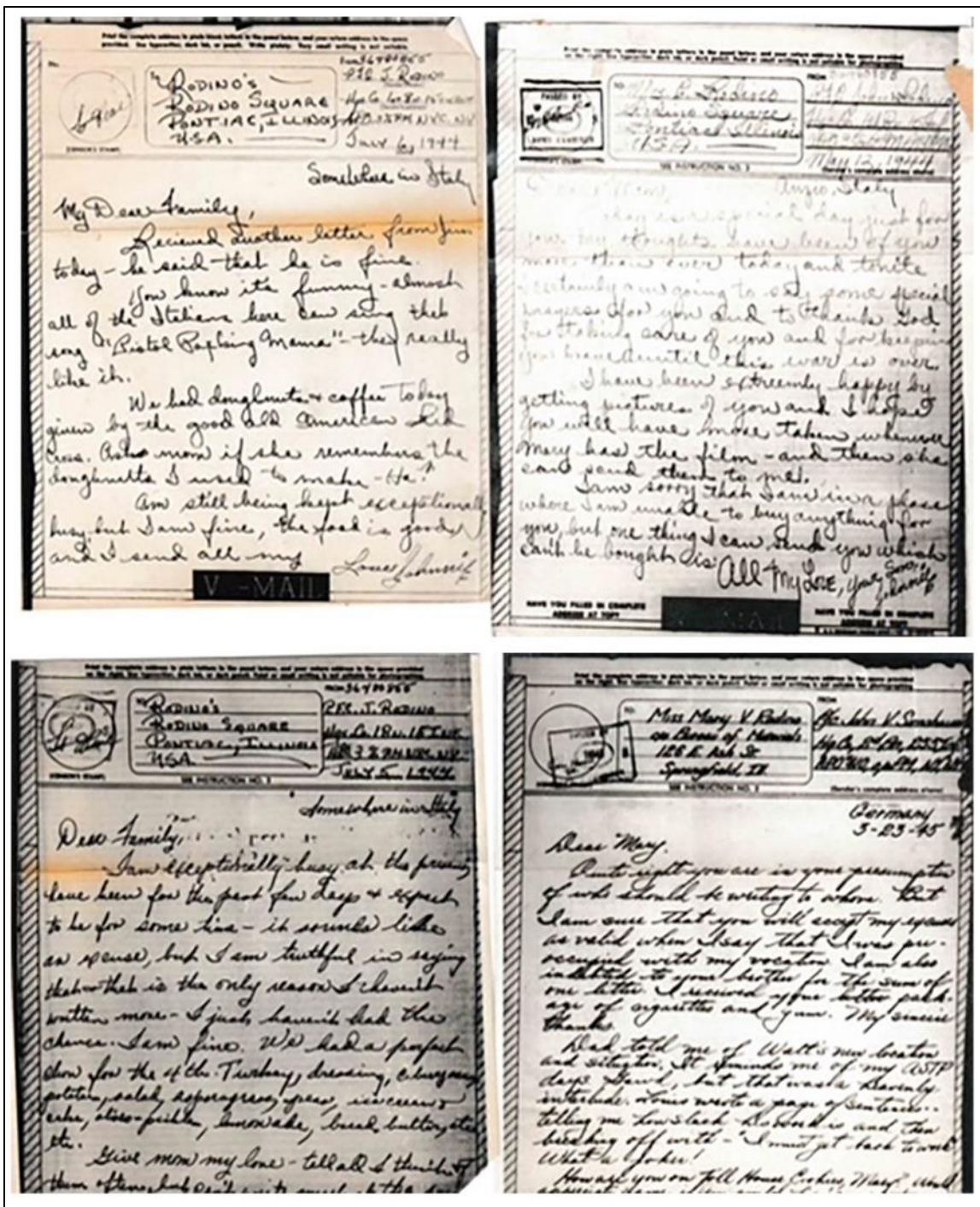
An Excerpt from the personal journal of John Rodino

“Decided to start this little book on the eve of April 20th – which happens to be on the eve of A. Hitler’s birthday – the man I have no use for – 1945. All Kraut soldiers were to kill at least one soldier to celebrate his birthday. Early this morning a Commo. [communications] Officer was killed here in Nuremberg by a Kraut sniper. As I begin to write this, I can hear small arms and flak wagons shooting in the distance – it so happens our battalion is in the reserve at present.

“Yes, it happened to me, my neighbors and the president had invited me to join the U.S. armed forces on a day which I will well remember – April 5th, 1943. Much of the fellows I went to the induction station with at Peoria were of high school graduation age and most of them good friends of mine. Some were fellows I made acquaintance within a short time who were from smaller towns in our draft district. One fellow remembers more than most [name obscured] from Chatsworth or thereabouts. Jack Singer who was a swell little kid and athlete was with us but he is no longer active in the service because of a short time ago he was killed ...”



Personal Journal excerpt of John Rodino
Images of are courtesy of Tom Arnoltz and the Rodino family.



V-Mail from John Rodino. Written on specially formatted stationery, it was designed to reduce the space needed to transport mail thus freeing up transportation resources. Once written, the letters were microfilmed then transported. Later they would be reprinted and delivered. Images of are courtesy of Tom Arnoltz and the Rodino family.