



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
249TH ENGINEER BATTALION (PRIME POWER)
10011 MIDDLETON ROAD
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060



January 3, 2008

Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial
Hamm, Luxembourg
50 Val du Scheid
L-2517 Luxembourg

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of the soldiers, non commissioned officers, and officers of the 249th Engineer Battalion, I wish to thank you for your ongoing commitment to honor our battalion soldiers that fell defending our freedoms during the Second World War.

During a recent 249th Engineer Combat Battalion Association meeting, I reflected on "Black Lion" veterans of past wars – in particular, those who served in World War II. In fact, seeing the veterans of "The Greatest Generation" that evening brought to mind a comment by the great Major Dick Winters during the final episode of the "Band of Brothers" TV series on Easy Company, 506th PIR. Major Winters noted that when he was asked by his grandson if he had been a hero in the war, he replied, "No, but I served in a company of heroes."

That, frankly, is how I also feel as I carry out my duties as the current commander of the 249th Engineer Battalion. And I feel very much in the company of heroes as I continue to meet so many of those veterans who earned for the 249th Engineer Battalion the distinguished record and great reputation it has enjoyed for so long. They blazed a trail marked by heroism, sacrifice, and selfless devotion to duty.

At the 249th Engineer Battalion Reunion, I was informed that your cemetery honors the remains of soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion. I would be appreciative of any information you could provide on the "Black Lions" that gave the last full measure. I am also honored to offer the cemetery our battalion's limited "Gold Coin," as well as my commander's coin of excellence in recognition of your eternal support to the fallen soldiers of the 249th Engineer Combat Battalion, as well as those of our Army and its allies.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Olsen
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding

Enclosures