

Sgt. H. F. Hoff.



Company "E" 314th Engineers

American Expeditionary Forces.

May Tenth. Nineteen Hundred Nineteen.

"To our Mothers", from the boys of Co. E., "Homeward Bound"

*The Mother's Fight was the hardest,
When her son was "Over There".*

*If She could have been where He was,
She wouldn't have given a care.
But to stay back home,
With her Son away,
Swinging into, thru, and out of the fray,
Was harder by far than the Fight of the Son.*

*Then, Mother, here's to you,
With your worries, your cares, and your frets.
Your own dear boy, in Germany —
You — he never forgets.*

H. I. C.

Karthus

German

There are many holidays each year set aside for Americans to reflect on the various groups and symbols that make America the greatest nation in the history of civilization.

Flag Day asks us to remember the Stars and Stripes, that Grand Old Flag, and the trials and tribulations she has seen in her 230 years.

The 4th of July allows us to celebrate Old Glory's first major test of will and determination, which she and her supporters demonstrated at a level that will never be duplicated.

Memorial Day asks us to remember those who have fallen either in combat related or non-combat service to the flag, the Constitution, and the United States of America during all of the declared and undeclared challenges to a nation established on belief in the concept of individual freedom and the rejection of totalitarianism in any form.

And Veteran's day, is when we celebrate the living among us who still answer duty's call and rise to defend a nation that must not waiver in its responsibility to its own citizens, to the people of the world, and to Almighty God. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines...the coast guard, the national guard, the reserve forces, the retired, and probably most important on Veterans Day, the families of all of these defenders of freedom deserve and have earned our undying gratitude.

In a world filled with a movement of hatred and disdain for human life, American families have once again sent their sons and daughters to defend the defenseless, free the oppressed, and eliminate the evil that has chosen to assert its demands on the world stage. American wives, children, mothers, and fathers miss their loved ones and worry and pray that all will be well in the end. This is not a new experience for American families. Many who worry today were worried about in a time now past and unfortunately those at war now will be the ones worrying in the future.

When I was five years old, my daddy was off in the war and I was the proudest little boy in the world. My daddy was in the Army! When I was 22, my daddy would have given anything to go where I was going instead of me as he had to sit and worry about his son who was in the Army and headed for VietNam. My son is now 27 and, guess what, he is in the National Guard and I would give anything to go in his place, but it is my turn to sit and worry.

On Veteran's Day let's renew our commitment to our nation, to our flag, to our belief in the value of the individual, to our young men and women in hostile fire zones world wide, and to our American families without whose sacrifices we would never live to see another holiday in celebration of the greatest nation in the history of civilization.