

Labuda, Joseph

Paratrooping Pals Meet on War Front

JUL 22 1944



PVT. JOSEPH LABUDA



PVT. NICHOLAS MOSKO



PVT. MICHAEL PERLOW

Local Lads, Inducted Same Day, Cross Paths In Three Countries; Meet In Cherbourg Peninsula

War, which has a habit of separating people, recently drew three local paratroopers into bonds of even closer friendship than could have been anticipated in their carefree boyhood days together in Bethlehem.

The three are:

Pvt. Joseph Labuda, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Labuda, 712 Atlantic Street, a graduate of Bethlehem Catholic High. Aged 18 when he left for overseas duty.

Pvt. Labuda was a former Globe-Times carrier. His brother, Francis, age 10, is continuing with his paper route.

Pvt. Nicholas Mosko, second of the boys is a son of Mrs. Sophie Mosko, 1509 East Third Street. He was a student at Broughal High and was employed in the open hearth of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Pvt. Michael Perlow, third of the trio, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Perlow, 225 Diamond Street, is a graduate of Liberty High School and a former employe of the Bethlehem Steel Company. His brother Pvt. Peter Perlow is also serving somewhere in France.

Inducted the same day, July 9, 1943, the three young men were in training together at Camp Croft, S. C. and at Fort Benning, Georgia. All three completed their training on Christmas Day, 1943 and after a 15 day furlough at home, shipped overseas February 5, 1944.

The landing of the three was followed by a few weeks together in Ireland and in England. Then came bleak months of separation. Now

once more they are together again somewhere in France!

In the words of Pvt. Labuda, the meeting with Pvt. Mosko was one to be long remembered: "While here in France with troops passing one another so fast, I bumped into Nick (Mosko) again. Boy were we happy! We stood clasping hands for about 10 minute before either of us could say a word. Later we spent some time with Michael Perlow. Was that a reunion!"

Later in the same letter to his mother, Pvt. Labuda continues: "I was with a buddy of mine in a fox-hole hugging good old mother earth for 5 days while the Jerries were trying to raise Hell with us. But they didn't succeed. All they did was put a little fright in us and in return we put a couple of bullets in them."

Since the three were among the first to land in France on Invasion Day with their paratrooper regiments, their eagerness to assure their families of their safety brought recent cablegrams to Bethlehem, a cable having been received by Mrs. Labuda Wednesday of this week and by the Mosko and Perlow families last week.

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