

Information Sheet

R **Pettus, James R.**
704 **World War II memoir, 2001.**
 Two folders (219 pages).

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This is a memoir of service in the European theatre of World War II by James R. "Pete" Pettus of the 42nd ("Rainbow") Division of the U. S. Army. Pettus saw combat with the 232nd Infantry Regiment in France and Germany, and ended the war in Munich.

James R. "Pete" Pettus is a native St. Francois County, Missouri. His unit, Company K of the 232nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd ("Rainbow") Division, sailed for Europe on 23 November 1944 and arrived at Marseilles, France, on 8 December. Pettus's subsequent narrative describes the daily location and activities of the Second Platoon, in which he carried a Browning Automatic Rifle. He received a Bronze Star for his role in the battle for Wurzburg, Germany, on 4 April 1945.

In late December 1944, in response to the "Battle of the Bulge," Company K was rushed into a defensive position near Strasbourg in the Alsatian region of France. During January and February 1945 heavy fighting removed the German presence from the area, and on 14 March the final offensive began. On 18 March Pettus crossed in Germany and his unit began a successful assault upon the "Siegfried Line." There followed a rapid advance through southwestern Germany, passing through the cities of Dahm, Darstein, Worms (where Pettus crossed the Rhine River), Schweinfurt, Neustadt, and Munich. After occupation duty in Austria, Pettus returned to the United States in March 1946.

Pettus's memoir intersperses his personal narrative with excerpts from the Regiment's official history and the Company's morning reports, noting the frequent discrepancies between his experiences at the front and those officially reported by the troops in the "rear echelon." There are many useful and detailed maps that illustrate Pettus's daily movement, and many photographs, both contemporaneous and from later visits to the theatre of war.

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26 March 2001

James R. Pettus

Gift

Index Cards

Pettus, James R.
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 42nd.
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 232nd.
World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—France—Vosges Mountains (France), Battle of, 1945.
World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—Germany.
World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American.