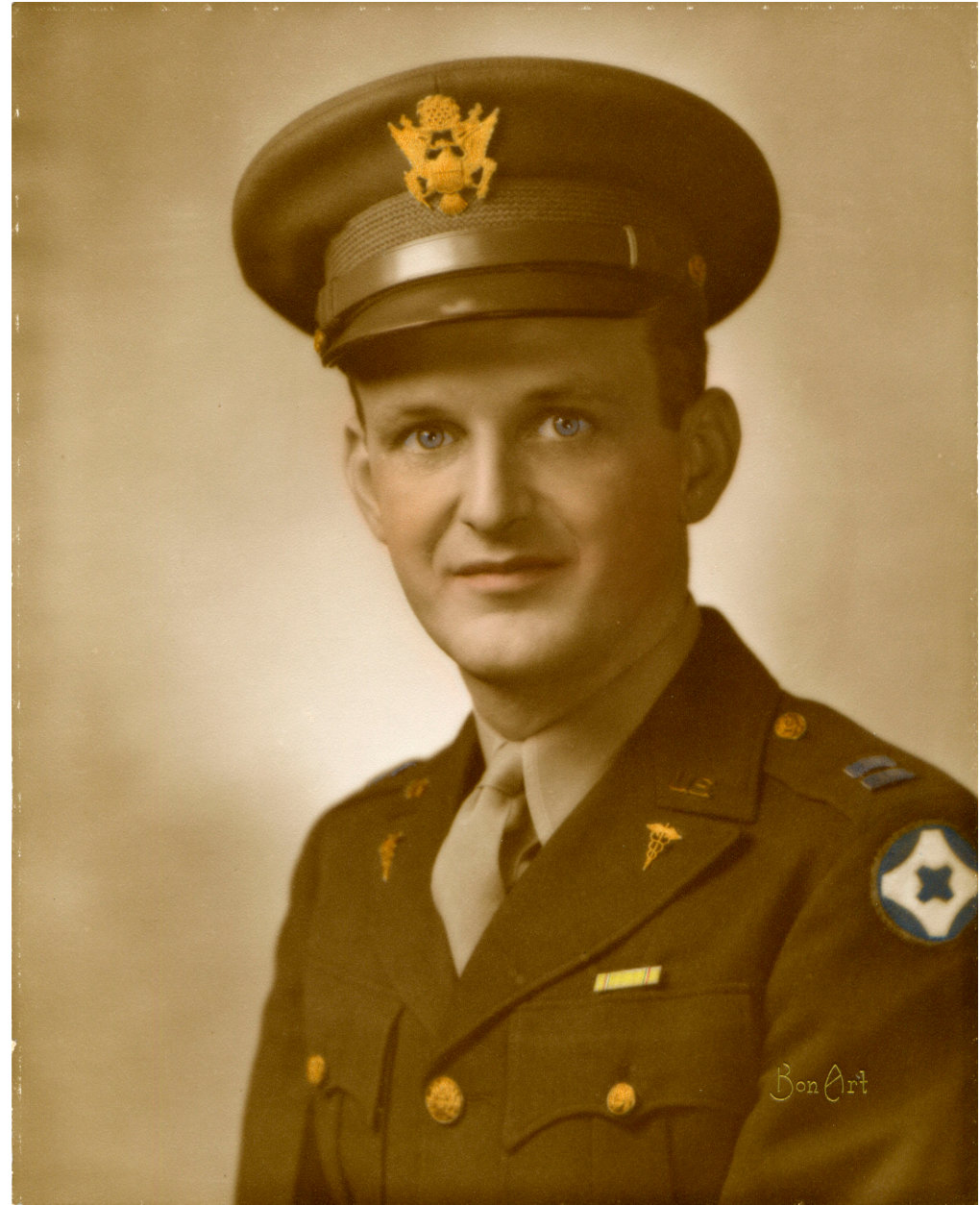


Robert Scott in WWII

By Jim Scott
September 2020

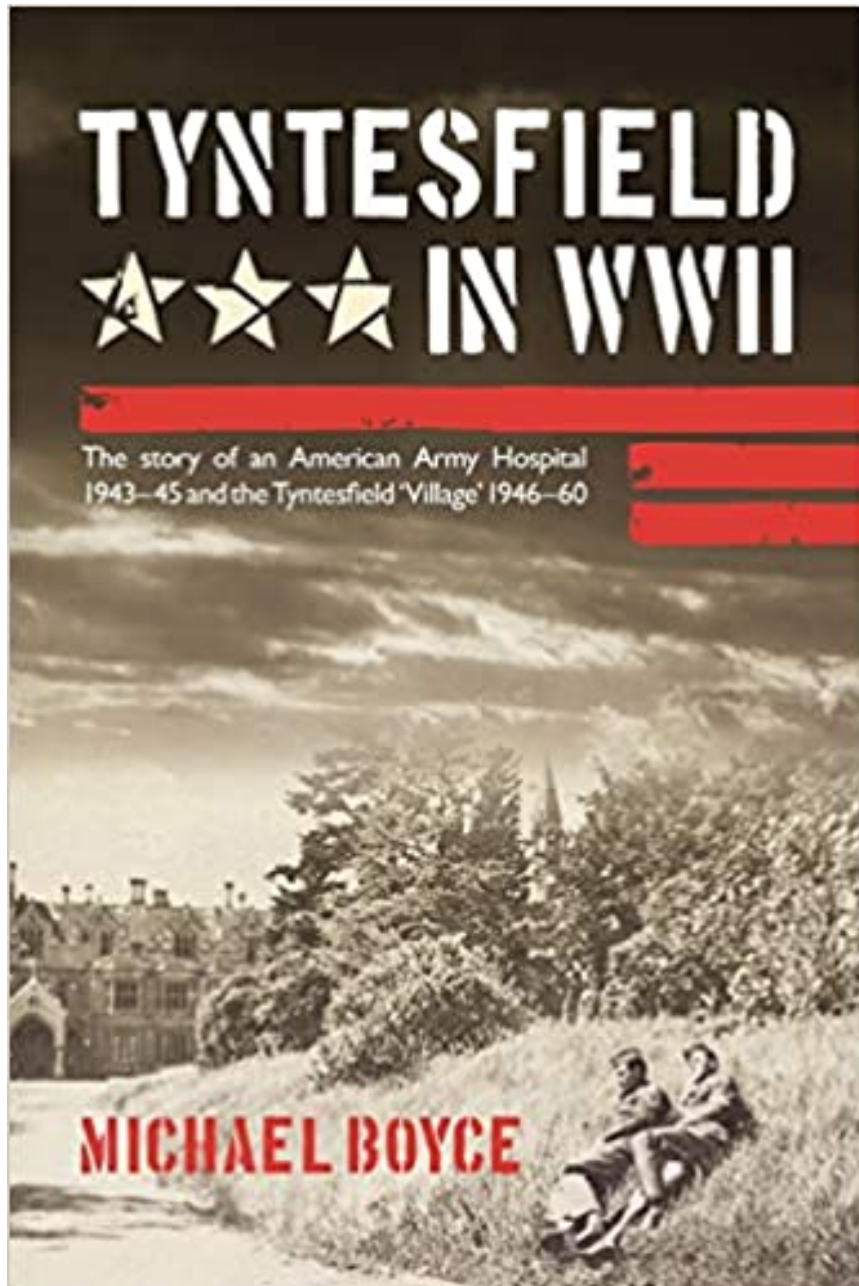
Robert J. Scott, MD,
was a captain in
the Third US Army,
5th Infantry
Division, 11th
Infantry Regiment,
5th Medical
Battalion.



He was assigned to the 56th General Hospital.

A General Hospital was a military hospital intended mainly to care for battle casualties, in contrast to a *Station Hospital* which was intended for soldiers wounded in training and those suffering from everyday ailments.

Each of these two types of hospital was a military *unit*, and could move from place to place.



The following chronology is based largely on the book *Tyntesfield in WWII* by Michael Boyce (2012, SilverWood Books), along with the captions on snapshots that Robert sent home from the war.

February 1941 - The 56th General Hospital was formally activated as a unit, located initially at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

July 30, 1941 – Robert's military service began.

May 1943 - Lt. Col. Daniel S. Sheehan, commanding officer of the 56th, was ordered to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to prepare the unit for overseas service.

July 1943 - The 56th's officers, nurses, and enlisted men received further training at Fort Jackson's two station hospitals.

August 4, 1943
– With Ruth and
little Jimmy



October 9, 1943 - The 56th General Hospital (56 officers, 100 nurses, 500 enlisted men, and 5 female Red Cross workers) set sail from Boston harbor on the British liner Mauretania (a luxury liner converted to a troop carrier).



Picture credit: By MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (FOXHILL) -
<http://london.iwm.org.uk/server/show/conMediaFile.48327>
Imperial War Museum, London, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7063946>

October 18, 1943 – Nine days later, the Mauretania tied up in Liverpool.

November 8, 1943 - Part of the 56th went to Tyntesfield, where construction was not quite complete.

Tyntesfield is an estate approximately seven miles SW of Bristol, UK. At that time, the estate and its manor house were owned by Lady Wraxall.



Chepstow Castle

Bristol

Tyntesfield

Broadmayne

Weymouth

SOUTHERN UK



Tyntesfield Manor House

In the fall of 1942, the British War Office had requisitioned approximately fifty acres of land on the Tyntesfield Estate, to be the location of a hospital for the American army.

November 15, 1943 - The hospital at Tyntesfield opened, occupied by the 56th General Hospital.

Later in the war, it would be occupied by the 74th General Hospital.

Tyntesfield Grounds



Manor house



Probable location of hospital

Perennial Green Playground

Battlexes at Wraxall
Temporarily closed

Airline Services

The Grove

B3130

Bristol Rd

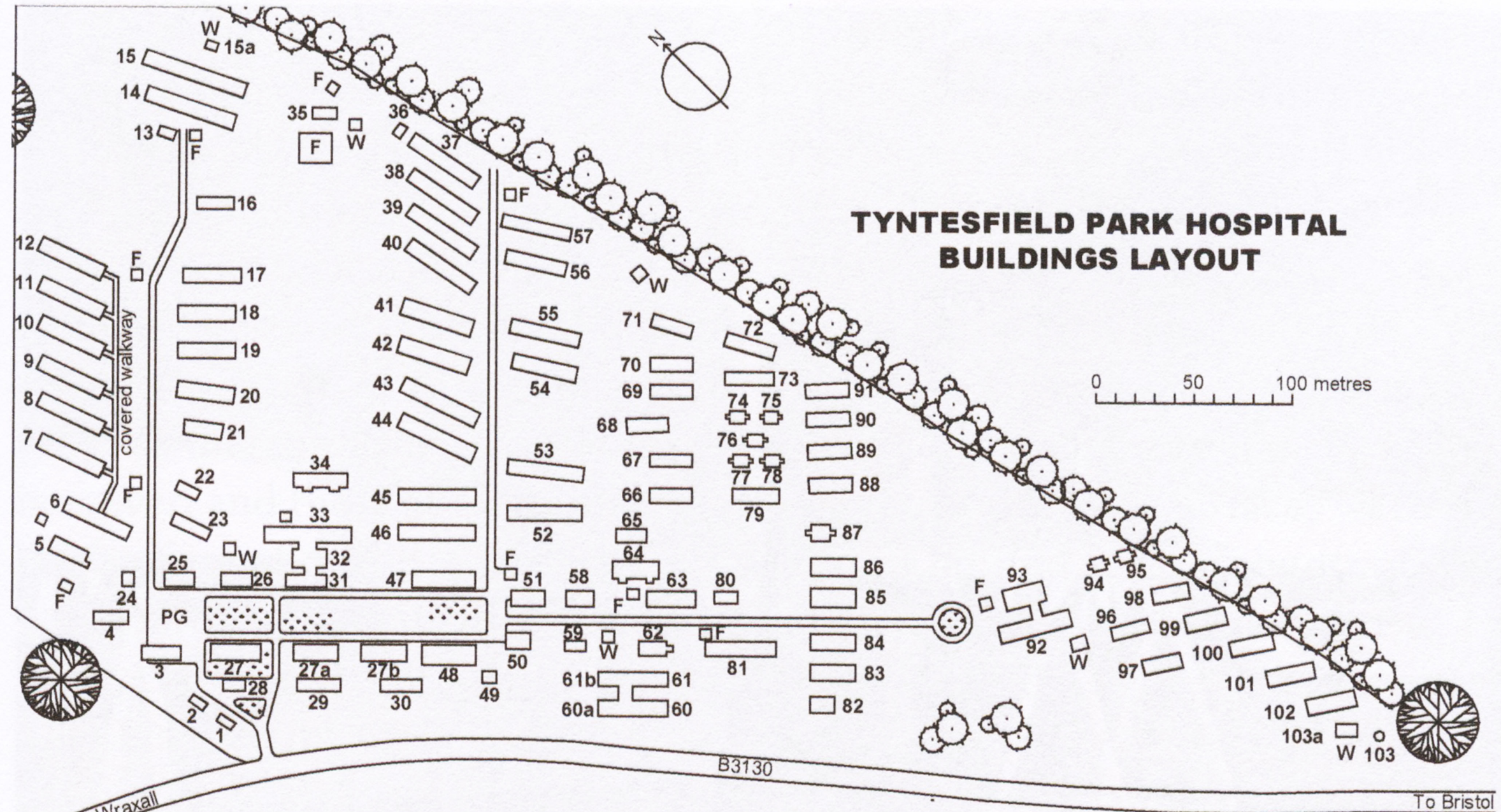
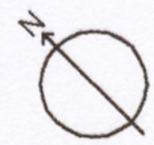
Chaplain's Lodge


Chaplains Lodge

Tyntesfield

Tyntesfield Kitchen Garden

TYNTESFIELD PARK HOSPITAL BUILDINGS LAYOUT



- PG Parade ground
-  Grass



Bristol University England
Dec. 1943

December 1943 –
Robert visited
nearby Bristol
University.

January 13, 1944 -
The rest of the 56th
arrived at
Tyntesfield.

Winter 1943-1944
(photo) - One of
the wards of the
56th GH in
Tyntesfield.



At this point in the war, almost all battle casualties in United States forces in the UK were Air Force air and ground crews.

These received medical attention at other hospitals, near the air bases.

Meanwhile, the 56th at Tyntesfield was doing the work of a station hospital, treating illnesses and training injuries from the large numbers of nearby troop concentrations.

With a relatively light patient load, the doctors, nurses, and other staff of the 56th received training to prepare them to treat battle injuries.

At training centers throughout the UK, they observed actual operations on real casualties.

They learned much from British doctors about treating burn victims and about plastic surgery.

And they studied the properties of new drugs, particularly penicillin, which had just become available to general hospitals.

April 23, 1944 - Lt. Col. Sheehan received orders confirming that the 56th would be one of the hospital units to transfer to France about six weeks after the invasion.

Its role would be to provide forward surgical and medical facilities near the front line.

May 1944 – The 56th left Tyntesfield, turning it over to the 74th GH, and moved north to Hoylake, near Liverpool, for intensive training.

June 6, 1944 – D-Day. The Allies invaded Normandy.

July 13-23, 1944 – The 56th moved south to Broadmayne, and finally to the port of Weymouth.

July 23-24 – Partly on a landing craft and partly on the Belgian passenger liner SS Leopoldville, they made an uneventful crossing of the channel and landed on Utah Beachhead near Montebourg, Normandy, France.



Chepstow Castle

Bristol

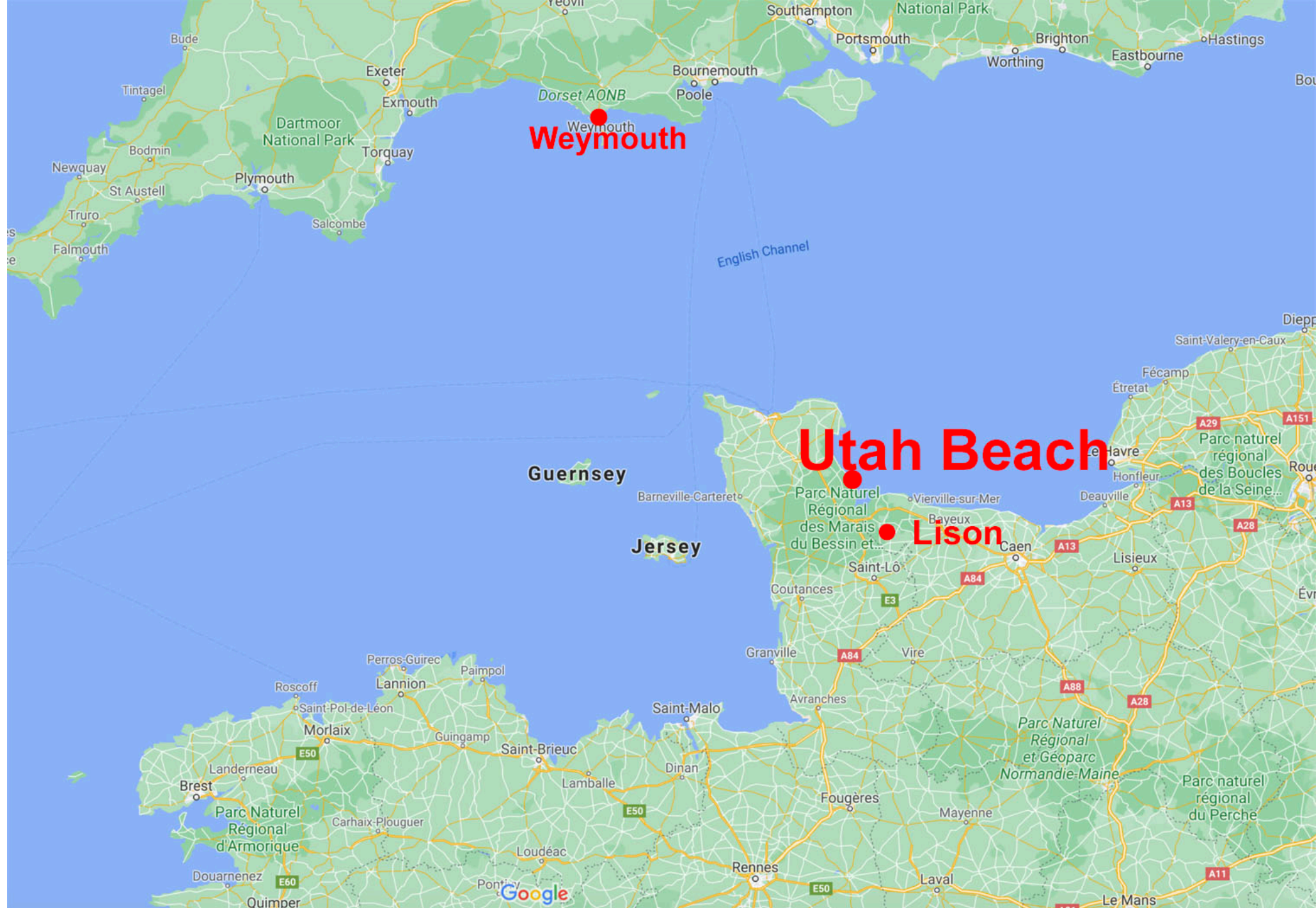
Tyntesfield

Broadmayne

Weymouth

SOUTHERN UK

July 25-28 –
They moved
to a farming
area one
mile north
of Lison,
where they
began
setting up a
general
hospital –
from
scratch.



They started by erecting tents and digging foxholes for shelter from nightly heavy aerial activity.



First Fox Hole normally July 1944 on Isigny Road near
Lison normally (~~to normally~~) Calvados



September
1944 -
The
hospital
opened
and began
receiving
patients.

*Isigny Rd near Lisieux ^{Calvados} Normandy
Sept 1944*

October 23, 1944 - The Lison hospital was turned over to the 168th GH, as the 56th prepared to move closer to the front.

October 26, 1944 - The first 55 members of the 56th left Lison by motor convoy and headed for their new post at Caserne Fonck, Liège, Belgium, to set up and operate a 1000 bed general hospital.

Caserne
Fonck is
on an
island in
the
middle
of Liège,
Belgium.



“Caserne” means “barracks” in French. Here’s what I was able to learn about the history of Caserne Fonck.

“The Val des Écoliers [“valley of the schoolboys”] monastery was founded in the 13th century and lasted until the Revolution, when it was transformed into a barracks. Deeply modified and refurbished in the 19th century, there are still some vestiges of the monastery, including the old chapter house dating from the 14th century. Among the buildings constructed in the 19th century, the imposing merry-go-round from 1837 is used today for events. The barracks are named after the cavalier Antoine Fonck, the first Belgian soldier killed during the Great War. His regiment, the 2nd Lancers Regiment, was quartered in these buildings. Disused, the old barracks has been occupied since 1999 by an art school.”



Entrance to Caserne Fonck today

Google

Google Street View

Image capture

November 1, 1944 – The rest of the 56th arrived and continued with setting up the hospital.

November 17, 1944 – V-1 pilotless flying bombs began falling on Liège, at least 50 on most days, until the end of the month.

November 20, 1944 – It opened as a 300-bed holding hospital.

November 24, 1944 – A V-1 fell on the 15th GH. Patients evacuated to the 56th GH brought its patient population to 700.

December 15, 1944 – Bed capacity reached the goal of 1000.

December 16, 1944-mid February 1945 – Bombing of Liège resumed, with V-1s as well as V-2 supersonic rockets. The Battle of the Bulge began. 80-170 casualties arrived each day.

December 17, 1944 - A V-1 fell across from the 56th GH.



December 25, 1944 –
“Christmas Day 1944
Liège Belgium in
Bomb Shelter”



Christmas Day 1944
Liège Belgium
in Bomb Shelter.

According to the book *Tyntesfield in WWII*, "In the early months of 1945 . . . numbers of hospital personnel generally reduced as some were transferred to other hospital units and some returned home to the States."

It must have been during this time that Robert Scott was reassigned, because a couple of subsequent photos place him in Luxembourg on January 16, 1945.

Beyond this time, I know little except what I can deduce from photo captions.



February 1945 (photo caption) - "Siegfried Line as seen from front door of building that my aid station was in during the attack on the line. Pill boxes are along the edge of the woods just above the national S on the side of the distant hill. Feb 1945 just north of ECHTERNACH LUX."



Echternach, Luxembourg, is just across the border from Ernzen, Germany. The Siegfried Line was a German defensive line built during the 1930s opposite the French Maginot Line. It ran just east of the eastern borders of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

Central Europe



Ruhr

Liege

Ernzen

Echternach

Frankfurt

Oppenheim

Nuremberg

Forst

Deggendorf

Austria

February 1945 – Ernzen
Germany Feb 1945

The sign implies that, having left the 56th GH, he was now in the 1st Medical Battalion of the 11th Infantry. At the 56th, he had been in the 5th Medical Battalion.



Ernzen, Germany, Feb 45

March 12, 1945 (photo caption) – "1st Bn 11th Inf Med Sect
Forst Germany 12 Mar 1945"



March 23, 1945 (Bronze Star citation) - Rhine River bridgehead operation near **Oppenheim**, Germany. "Captain Scott, a battalion surgeon, moved his aid station across the river under intense enemy artillery, tank and small arms fire immediately after the second wave of infantry after the assault crossing. He operated his aid station during the entire bridgehead operation, treating and evacuating the wounded. Captain Scott's courageous action resulted in the saving of many and in the alleviation of their suffering, reflecting great credit upon himself and the armed forces."



Central Europe



Ruhr

Liege

Echternach

Ernzach

Frankfurt

Oppenheim

Forst

Nuremberg

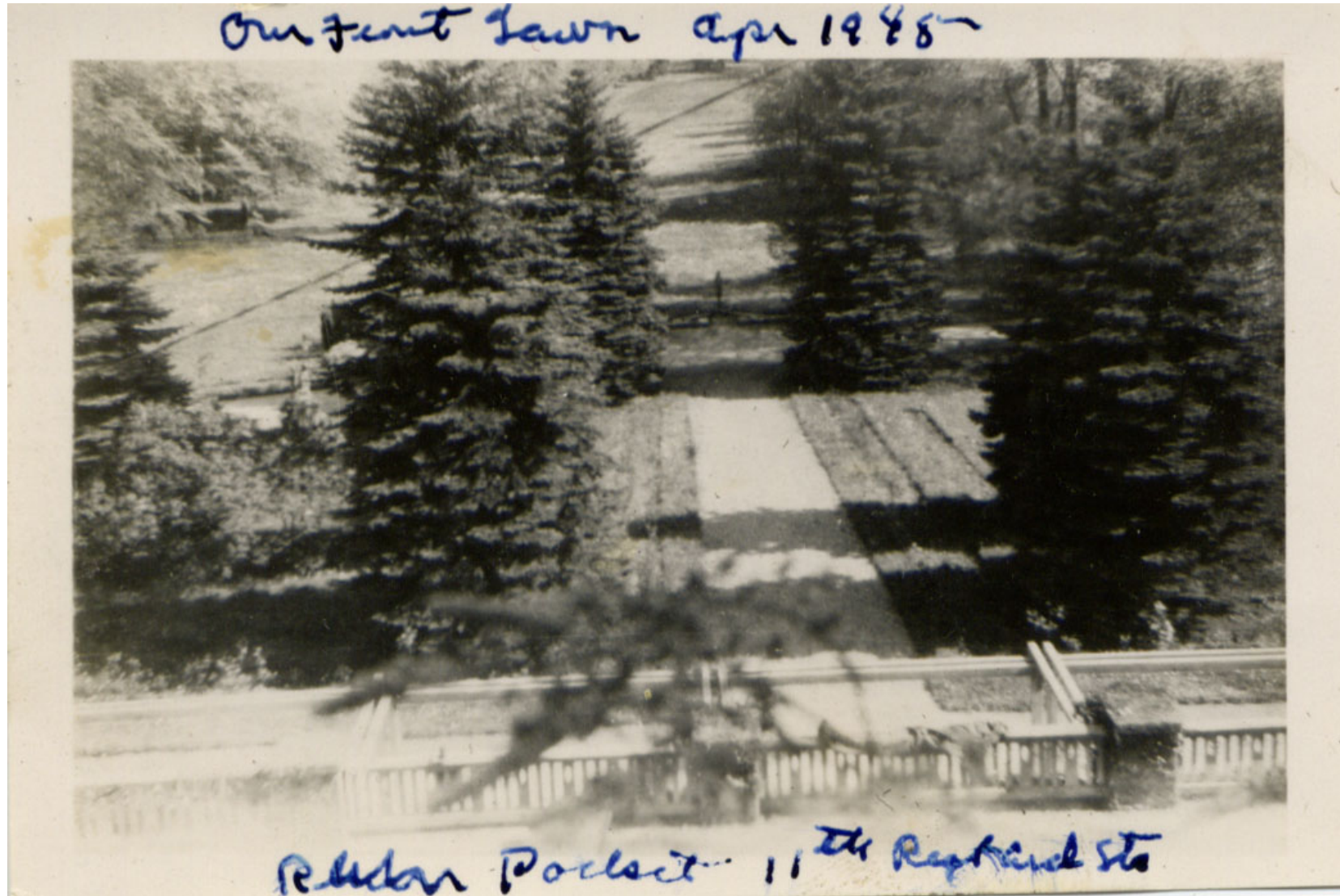
Deggendorf

Austria

April 1945 (photo caption) - "AR Sintzel Palmengarten April 1945 / **Frankfurt** am Main Germany" (Sintzel is the man on the right. Palmengarten is a 19th-century botanical garden in Frankfurt, Germany.)



April 1945 (photo caption) - "Our Front Lawn Apr 1945 / **Ruhr** Pocket 11th Regt Aid Sta" (The Ruhr area is about 150 miles NW of Frankfurt.)



April 25, 1945 (photo caption) - "En route **Ruhr** to **Austria** / 26 April 1945" (This would have been a long trip, from northwestern Germany to southeastern Germany and beyond.)





Austria 4 May 1945

May 1, 1945 (approximate)
(citation for First Oak-Leaf
Cluster, i.e. second Bronze
Star) - "Meritorious
achievement in ground
operations against the
enemy". (No other
information)

May 4, 1945 (photo caption) -
"Sintzel & Scott / **Austria 4**
May 1945"

June 1945
(photo caption)
- "Officers MED
DET. 11th Inf
5th Div 3rd
Army /
Deggendorf
Germany June
1945"

Officers MED DET. 11th Inf 5th Div 3rd Army



Deggendorf Germany June 1945

Central Europe



Ruhr

Liege

Ernzien

Echternach

Frankfurt

Oppenheim

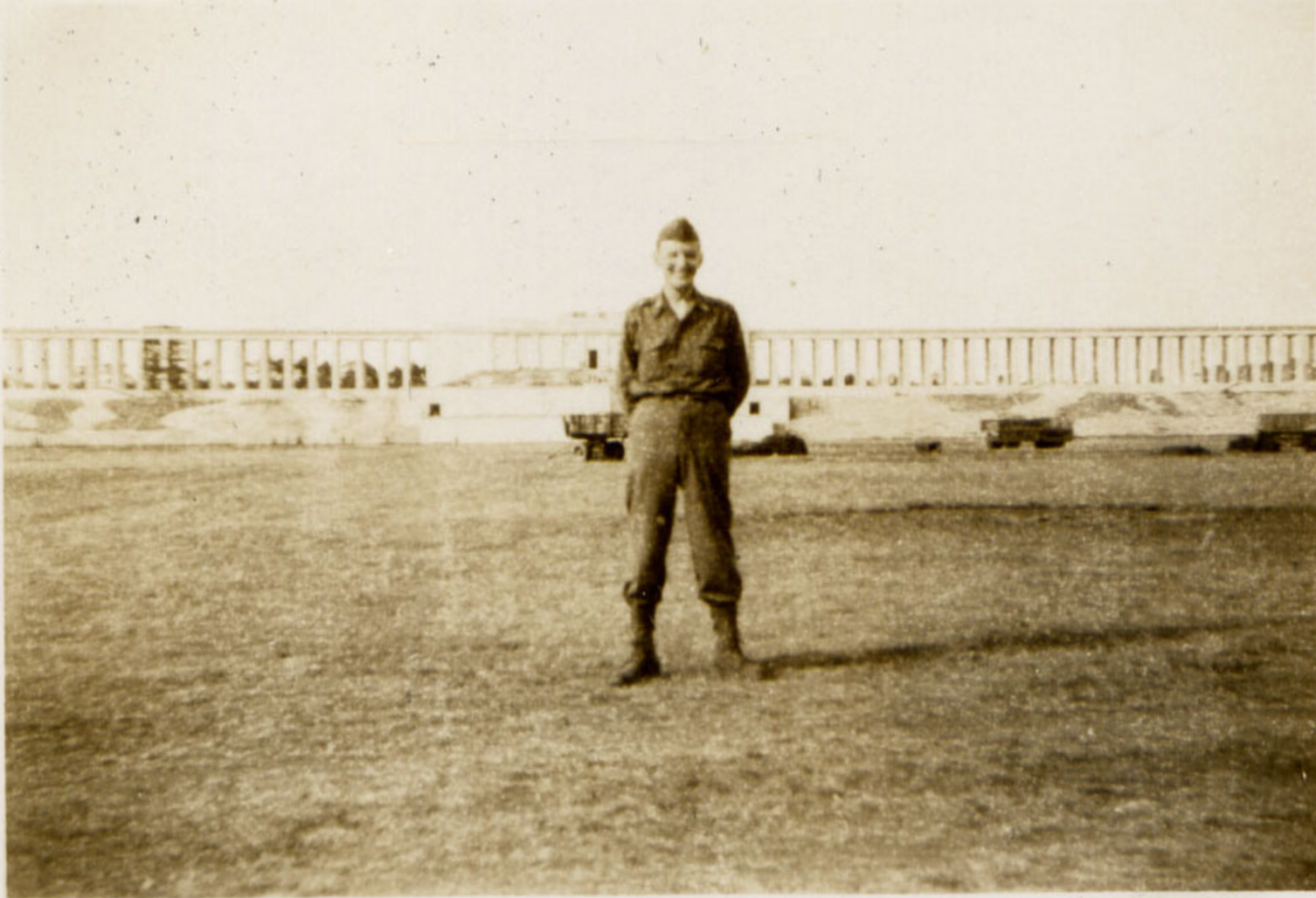
Forst

Nuremberg

Deggendorf

Austria

Nurnberg Sportplatz Germany



20 June 1945

June 1945 (photo
caption) -
"Nurnberg
Sportplatz
Germany
20 June 1945"
("Nürnberg" is
the German
equivalent of
"Nuremberg".)

September 4, 1945 – A letter home to his wife Ruth shows that he was located at Fort Campbell in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on September 4. At that time, he was expecting to be “getting out of the division and transferred to a permanent job in the states”, but didn’t know how soon. He also expected “that discharge will be some time after transfer.”

Certification of Military Service

This certifies that Robert J. Scott

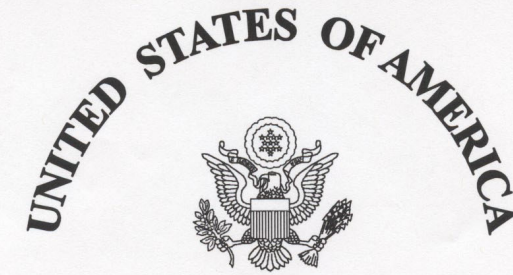
was a member of the: Officer
Reserve Corps

from: July 30, 1941

to: September 20, 1945

Service was terminated by:
Honorable Relief from Active Duty

Last Grade, Rank, or Rating:
Captain



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This certifies that Robert J Scott
O- 355 100

was a member of the Officer Reserve Corps

from July 30, 1941

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Service was terminated by Honorable Relief from Active Duty

Last Grade, Rank, or Rating Captain

Active Service Dates Same As Above

Date of Birth: March 16, 1916 Place of Birth: Onancock, VA

Given at St. Louis, Missouri on June 16, 2006

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
National Archives and Records Administration

THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN OF THIS PERSON'S MILITARY RECORD
This Certification of Military Service is issued in the absence of a copy of the actual Report of Separation or its equivalent. This document serves as verification of military service and may be used for any official purpose. Not valid without official seal.