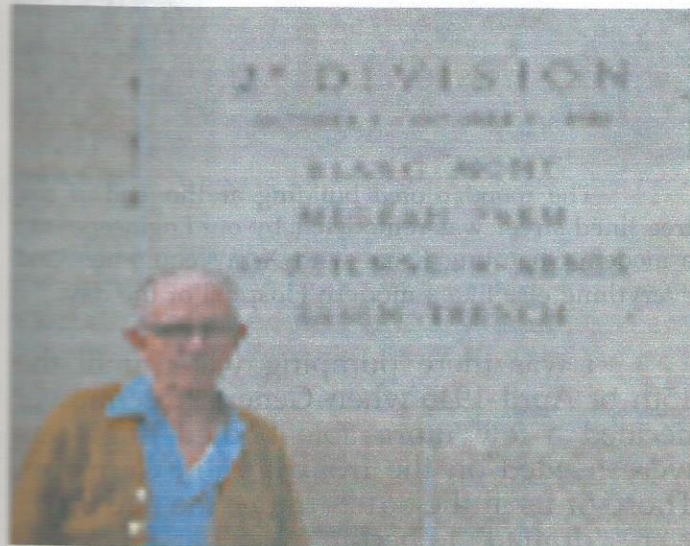


Inside the entrance to the tower is a plaque acknowledging the American operations in the Champagne Salient including Dad's Second Division.

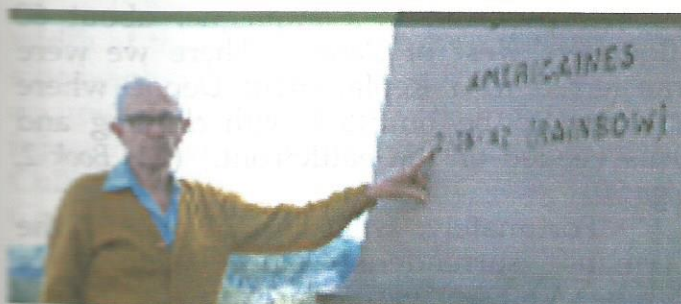
This plaque states, in part "The 2nd Division, supported on the left by the 21st French Division and on the right by the 157th in a brilliant operation captured Blanc Mont Ridge on which this monument stands."



The bright spots in the foreground are trenches and foxholes remaining from 1918.



Above: Dad with the inscription to the 2nd Division, in English and below: in French.



The view from the top of Blanc Mont monument toward the village of St. Etienne which is on the horizon beyond the grove of pine trees.

## Mutual Territory

We continued south on N77 to the town of Suippes which was Dad's jumping off point, on October 1, 1918, for a drive which culminated in the capturing of St. Etienne on the 10th of October.

We were now getting into some of my old stamping grounds from 1945. We proceeded through Cuperly, Vadenay, Bouy and Louvercy to Mourmelon le Petite. I had reached Mourmelon on the 24th of February 1945 traveling in 40 and 8 box cars from Normandy. *See Book 2, pages 42 thru 49.*



The siding in Mourmelon le Petite where my outfit, Company B, 361st Engineer Regiment, parked our 40 & 8 boxcars while I treated the six wells until VE Day.

Those boxcars each with eight guys in double stacked cots, were quite comfortable compared to Pup Tents. With a wood burning stove in each we kept warm thru the winter of 1944-45.

There was no river near Mourmelon, so we drilled six wells with a 200 gallon per minute turbine pump on each. My job, as the "Culligan Man," was to keep the pumps running and add chlorine to purify the water.