

August 12, 1968

Maj. Gen. J. C. Fry, Ret.
3276 Juniper Lane, Ravenwood
Falls Church, Virginia 22044

Dear Mr. Warner,

I was glad to receive your lengthy letter commenting on COMBAT SOLDIER. Although I have received many letters yours was the most detailed.

I was glad to get the correction of Sam Rubin. If a second edition is printed I will try and have a correction inserted, for you are undoubtedly right. How I made the mistake was probably due to my habit of addressing men whom I remembered by their first name, and some how or other I got the name Levine, which found its way into my notes.

In spite of your comments I think my dates are pretty accurate. As I indicated I wrote the bulk of the composition during the winter of 1944 when names were fresh in my mind and I had access to all reports. I made the arrangements for Jack Delaney to write the Division History and I don't think his material was any more accurate than mine.

The decision to write such a book was made on May 27 1942 when I was with the British in North Africa. I kept notes from the time I joined the 88th and put all of the first part of the book together at Savanna, that first winter. Reference the diaries and histories. Each Battalion submits a Diary of activities each week and I made extracts. Additionally I have the Fifth Army History as well as several small histories that were written. *month*

The Army does keep records of combat actions which are available for properly authorized research. I am not sure where these are all kept.

Major Stratman brought the first manuscript back and turned it over to my wife in the fall of 1945. I now realize it was too detailed and publishers weren't interested. Four years ago I decided to pare it down and try again. You have read the results. Most of my original notes have been thrown away.

Thank you for your detailed letter. I enjoyed your comments.

Sincerely,

J.C. Fry
James C. Fry
Major General, U.S. Army, Ret.

*P.S. Stratman wrote me recently from Italy.
His home address is
60 Barrett Drive*