

Albert Clyde Donald Willis, T-38

22 July 1921 – 17 November 2011

(aged 90)



*Trapped between the German lines in a snow-covered French orchard, Private First-Class Clyde Willis of Memphis and other members of an American patrol spent ten days in “the bitterest cold you can imagine.” They refused to surrender even when their own artillery, unaware of their identity began shelling their post. There were 23 soldiers in four foxholes to begin with. They ran out of food and obtained drinking water by holding helmets full of snow against their bodies to melt it. Adding chemicals as protection against disease. The remnants of the band were finally rescued when the American post overran their position.*

*Private Willis tells about the action in a letter to his wife and four-year-old daughter, who are not in Cherry Valley AR. He is in the hospital in England being treated for frost-bitten feet.*

*A former Firestone employee and son of Mrs. Jeff Willis, 1373 Florida St., Private Willis entered the Army a year ago.*

*Roberts Richards, Press-Scimitar and United Press staff writer, told about the heroric stand in The Press-Scimitar, January 31.*