



THE MEN OF COMPANY E CHRONICLE TO DATE

ALFRED LUGO

Documentary Producer/Playwright/Veteran Advocate



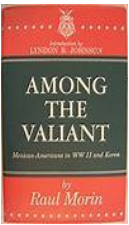
May, 2018



ALFRED LUGO

In 1980 working at a PBS station, I realized there was a lack of positive Mexican-American programming. I inquired about the lack and was informed that there was not a supply of programs available. I thought this was just another typical excuse.

I read the book, "Among the Valiant" by Raul Morin. Two stories which I remembered were on Major Gabriel Navarrete and the Men of Company E and WWII Marine PFC Guy Gabaldon and decided to write and produce a documentary on the Men of Company E and later one on Guy Gabaldon... So began the chronicle.



First published in 1963, this book by Raul Morin, who served in the 79th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, was the first book to chronicle in detail the heroics of the Mexican-American soldier during World War II and Korea. It also provides information about the Chicano Medal of Honor recipients during these wars. The book is a tribute to all American fighting men.



In 1983 I produced my first documentary, "The Men of Company E" which aired on several PBS stations from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. It won Third Place at the New York Joseph Papp Museo Del Barrio Film Festival. The rights were purchased by the Armed Forces Radio and Television to be broadcast to ships overseas during Hispanic Heritage Week.



Joe Olvera is a long-time friend and journalist whose latest book is - Chicano Sin Fin: Memoirs of a Chicano Journalist © 2011. He passed away 2 years ago.

El Paso Times reporter Joe Olvera got behind my documentary and wrote several articles on the Men of Company E.

We received several questions as to why we didn't recognize the many Anglo Texans in WWII. Our rebuttals were never contested.

Joe Olvera; (Excerpt from his El Paso Times article) "Capt. Gabriel Lechuga Navarrete, seemingly speaking from the grave. But, no, he wasn't speaking from the grave. He was speaking in a documentary filmed by Mestizo Productions in 1983. Produced and written by



Alfred Lugo's documentary

veteran advocate Alfredo Lugo in California, the documentary was produced at a time when most of the men from Company E were still alive, including Navarrete. For years, the story of the bravery of the Men of

Company E languished in obscurity, and efforts to arrive at the truth of the infamous river crossing were not taken seriously by the media or the military command. It wasn't until Lugo and his Mestizo Productions took the challenge to tell the truth. Even that documentary didn't open the gates for recognition of the men and their heroics. It's taken more than 60 years for the recognition that had been denied to begin to appear."



Delta Park, 4321 Delta Dr., El Paso, Texas

In 2008 the city of El Paso honored The Men of Company E. The Memorial is a bronze brass monument honoring the group of young Mexican-American Soldiers from the City of El Paso who were sent to Southern Italy on a tragic mission to cross the Rapido River on the night of January 21, 1944. Amidst WWII, the river was heavily fortified by the German Army, making it what some historians describe as one of the insurmountable missions in World War II. World War II's worst blunder.

THE FIRST BOOK

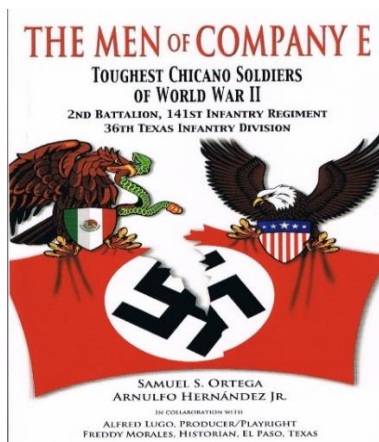
In 2015 I was received a telephone call from Mr. Arnulfo Hernandez Jr., Sacramento Attorney, who I met at a G I Forum National Convention. He informed me that he and author Samuel S. Ortega will be in Los Angeles researching for the book they were writing and publishing based on my documentary and asked if I had any research material and copies of my documentary.

We met at the Super Burrito in Whittier, Ca. for Menudo and exchanged ideas. I took them to my car where in my trunk were boxes of research material which I handed to them for their research. They were elated and I was happy that someone was interested in the story of the Men of Company E. That was the reason why I wrote and produced my documentary.

I later received another phone call informing me that they were on their way to do more research in Texas and if I wanted to join them. I did not hesitate. We traveled to El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Davis, Marfa and Alpine, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

As we traveled researching, we met five individuals who were the last members of Company E. Being a cameraman and documentarian I decided to video tape the interviews for posterity. The research result was a book published on their heroic actions in Italy.

I was very appreciative to have been a consultant in the design of the book cover which my suggestions and ideas were submitted.



In 2014, I again received a call from Mr. Arnulfo Hernandez Jr. and was informed that he started a campaign to have the remaining five members of Company E awarded their Bowie High School diplomas which they never received due to fighting in the war.

GRADUATION DIPLOMAS

FORT BLISS, TX, UNITED STATES

07.28.2014

Story by Sgt. Jarred Woods

16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



FORT BLISS, Texas - Gratitude, remembrance, and recognition were the themes of the evening as members of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Texas Division, 5th Army were presented their high school diplomas from Bowie High School by Texas Independent School District Superintendent Juan Cabera, July 25.



The graduation ceremony, held in BHS's fine arts auditorium, honored those who had previously attended the school.

Texas state law allows for service members that had either been drafted or who left school in order to serve in the armed forces during a time of war to obtain their high school diploma.

WWII Veterans, Andres Saucedo and Alex Rivas of El Paso, Richard Palacios of Austin, and Angel Ponce of Rowland Heights, Calif., were among four surviving members being honored. Also, family members of Abner Carrasco, Alfonso Hernandez and Roque Segura were in attendance to receive diplomas on behalf of their deceased heroes.

Rivas, now in his nineties, had few, yet fitting, words to express his enthusiasm

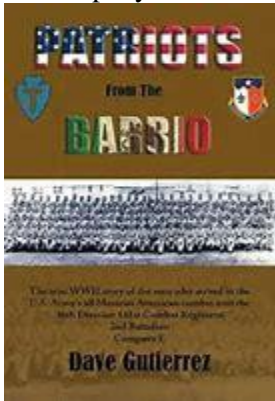
"I was in school, but I was in the National Guard and was called to duty," said the 4th platoon veteran. "I'm surprised, but I'm happy that I got a diploma. I feel much better."



Not a single element was overlooked throughout the combination of a military and graduation ceremony, to include the posting of the colors, singing of the national anthem and invocation. Following a personal welcome from BHS Principal Jesus Teran, attendees viewed the documentary produced by Alfred Lugo entitled, 'Men of Company E,' introduced by Arnulfo Hernandez, a member of the BHS Alumni Association and organizer for the event. After the awarding of the diplomas, those in attendance were given a historical overview of Company E in WWII.

SECOND BOOK

Again in 2014 another book was written about the Men of Company E.



Patriots from the Barrio is the true story of a US Army combat unit during WWII. Author Dave Gutierrez started to research the biography of relative Ramon G. Gutierrez, who served in the Thirty-Sixth Division, 141st Regiment, Second Battalion, Company E. The unit was comprised entirely of Mexican Americans from the barrios of south Texas.

EL PASO PRESENTS KEYS TO THE CITY



June 4, 2015

Seven members of Rifle Company E were honored Thursday morning for their bravery in the liberation of Rome during World War II. Ricardo Palacios Jr., Angel Ponce, Alex Rivas, Apolonio Reyes and Andres Saucedo, who were part of the only Mexican-American

unit in the army during World War II, were presented with keys to the city at a ceremony in front of the monument honoring Company E near the Chelio Acosta Senior Center in South El Paso.



MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DEDICATION

THE CITY OF EL PASO,
BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL
&
BOWIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

present a special

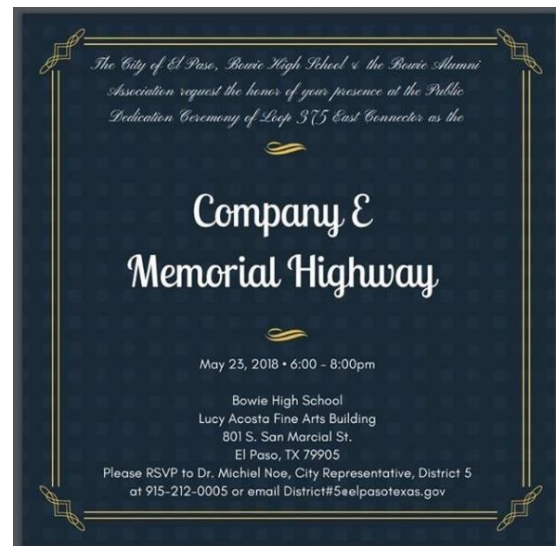
Dedication Ceremony

Company E
Memorial Highway
(Loop 375 East Connector)

May 23, 2018
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Lucy Acosta
Fine Arts Building

Bowie High School
801 San Marcial St.
El Paso, Texas 79905



Legacy of Valor

May 14 at 3:15pm

You are invited to "Memorial Highway Dedication Ceremony in Honor of the Brave Men of Company 'E' of El Paso, Texas who fought in World War II!"

Ceremony will take place at "Lucy Acosta Fine Arts Building", Bowie High School, 801 S. San Marcial, El Paso, TX.

Program will include members of "Viva El Paso" who perform a segment in honor of "The Men of Company E."

Honors Continue to Pay Tribute to The Men of Company E 141st Infantry

Bowie High School El Paso, Texas

El Paso, Texas once again saw a need to honor their veterans, especially The Men of Company E.



I was once again invited to attend another ceremony in El Paso, Texas. Due to my work schedule I was unable to attend the monument unveiling dedication which I was looking forward to seeing again the men who were in my documentary.

COMPANY E MEMORIAL HIGHWAY



Attorney Arnulfo Hernandez Jr. appeared at City Council and asked them to pass a resolution calling for naming the Loop 375 East Connector

to be named the Company E Memorial Highway.

The City Council's approval included funding the costs of the signs, including the mini replica that was displayed on the stage for the presentation and dedication.

Mr. Hernandez again, asked the City, Bowie Alumni Association and Bowie High School to co-sponsor the Dedication Ceremony where family and friends of Company E will be attending.



Bowie High School ROTC cadets were the official hosts and participants in the ceremony. It took Mr. Hernandez a couple of years but he got it done.

Hernandez gave appreciation to

Placido Salazar, Bronze Star Vietnam, for the idea.

Participation of the Bowie High School ROTC provided ushers, guides and hosting on stage of the program.

Mr. Ray Mancera, past National V.P. of the Southwest of the League of United Latin American Citizens, was instrumental in guiding Hernandez through the bureaucracy of city hall insuring him with positive support and on how to navigate the administrative process to get it done. Without his guidance and invaluable advice, the naming would not have been done.



Producer Alfred Lugo at the Men of Company E Monument Delta Park, El Paso, Tx



Bowie High Lucy Acosta Fine Arts Building



Speakers and Performers at Dedication



Attorney Arnulfo Hernandez Jr. and Producer Alfred Lugo



Performance by "Viva El Paso"

"Vengo a Decirle Adios a Los Muchachos"



Alfred's New Cap