

DAVID C. McCLURE  
[Mailing address edited Out]

March 30, 1968

Mr. Henderson Schuffler  
Institute of Texas Culture  
P.O. Box 1226  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Schuffler:

Mrs. Audie Murphy asked me to write you regarding the display of her husband's medals at the Hemisfair. She did this because I have been a close friend of Audie's for over twenty years. During that time, I have attempted to straighten out Murphy's World War II record and to keep it as straight as possible. Audie himself would not do it. He feels that already far too much fuss has been made over him. After the book "To Hell and Back" and the movie based on it, Audie chose to draw the curtains on World War II as far as his personal exploits are concerned.

He is particularly sensitive about the medals because he feels – and has always felt – that the honors belong to a lot of dead men who shared or backed the actions that brought him the awards. The world has already forgotten, but not Audie. For one action, his best friend, Private Lattie Tipton, helped to put him in a key position before he gave his life. "For that action," Says Murphy, "I got the Distinguished Service Cross. Lattie got only a wooden cross over his head."

Audie is neither shy nor overly modest. But he believes that the medals are vested with a certain dignity that must never be cheapened. The dignity stands for not only what they represent in themselves, but also the blood of the men who dies. To my knowledge, this is the first time that Audie ever permitted the medals to be put on public display.

I have found that most members of the public have no idea of what an individual award means. Many could not distinguish between the Medal of Honor and the Bronze Star. They have little notion of the incredible heroism and incredible deeds that lie behind the awards. With all the publicity, people still ask me: "What kind of medal did Murphy win?"

I have written a brief account of things, which I am enclosing. The medals by no means represent the peak points in Murphy's army career. About three years ago, his former battalion commander told me that nothing had yet been written or shown about Audie's war deeds that equaled the fantastic reality. Another ex-member of the Third Division told me that Murphy deserved the Medal of Honors time and again before it

was awarded him. And this man was one of the eye-witnesses to the incredible one-man stand Murphy made against six tanks and approximately 250 German infantryman in the Colmar Pocket Battle.

With the type of war being fought today, I doubt whether any other individual will have the chance to equal Audie's record. With all of his skill and courage, there were times when just plain luck kept him alive.

If you have never read "To Hell And Back", I think Pamela Murphy will send you a copy. I helped Audie to put that book together; and it is fairly accurate, although I continued to dig up material on Murphy long after the book was published. For any information please feel free to write me. Being a war veteran myself, I believe that we can never do enough to remind the public of how our freedom was bought; and how it must continue to be bought.

Audie's jacket, which Pamela says she sent you, does not have its full compliment of decorations. The jacket should, above all, contain the Combat Infantryman's Badge. I am sure that the army can supply you with it and tell you where it belongs on the jacket. On the Campaign Medal in the case, an Arrowhead, signifying a participation in a D-day invasion is missing. Audie had no ribbon for the Belgium Croix de Guerre, which received only in the last month.

I was with Audie in Paris when he was awarded the French Legion of Honor, but I believe that Medal is also missing.

If I can be of any further service, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

David McClure