



New Products

► Introducing **products, services** for cattlemen; compiled by **Linda Robbins**, assistant editor

Books & Looks

Book about Alabama Angus breeder in WWII

A Hero's Walk tells the remarkable story of the experiences of Lt. B.B. Darnell in North Africa and Italy during World War II. Darnell, who passed away in 2011, raised Angus cattle in Lee County, Ala., and had been a life member of the American Angus Association since 1966.

Darnell grew up on a small farm near Notasulga, Ala. Like many growing up in Depression-era Alabama, he had never traveled far from home — even when he attended college at nearby Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API, now Auburn University). With a degree in agriculture, Darnell entered the army after graduation from API in 1942.

By the time the war was over, he had journeyed thousands of miles and had

become a decorated combat veteran with the singular purpose of making it home to marry the woman he loved.

His overseas journey began on Christmas Eve 1943, when members of the 85th Infantry Division loaded onto a troop ship in Hampton Roads, Va., bound for North Africa. They joined the war in Italy in March of 1944. From Naples to Trieste, Lt. Darnell slogged northward in that bloody conflict, enduring physical, emotional

and mental ordeals he could never have imagined. Along the way, he was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism, a Silver Star for gallantry in action, an Oak Leaf Cluster for the Silver Star (in lieu of another Silver Star) for gallantry in action, and a Purple Heart for wounds received in battle.

In the fall of 1944, he was an artillery forward observer moving with the infantry in the Apennine Mountains of northern Italy. After three brutal weeks of assaults and counter-attacks in the effort to break the Nazi's infamous Gothic Line, his commanding officer wrote the following:

"When Lt. Darnell was relieved and returned to the battery he was staggering from sheer fatigue and illness. He had been in the assault with the infantry for twenty-one days. Two different forward observer parties had been with him and

were completely exhausted. He had always been with the spearhead of the attack, never faltering, never asking for relief and even refusing it when he was told to take it.

"Upon return to his organization he was placed under immediate medical care, but refused evacuation to a hospital, remaining with his battery, which was moving in the attack in support of the infantry. Lt. Darnell's devotion to duty, his extreme courage in the face of withering enemy fire, severe illness and extreme fatigue, as well as his superior leadership at the most critical moments were an inspiration to his men and are in the finest tradition of the service."

Lt. Darnell's story is similar to thousands of other young men of that era — an era of heroes who came from farms, small towns, and cities in the United States to confront evil on the opposite side of the world. When the

enemy was defeated, the survivors returned home forever changed.

After the 2011 passing of B.B. Darnell, author Mike Darnell researched his father's time overseas during World War II and discovered the compelling and inspiring story.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to USA Cares, a nonprofit organization that supports military families by providing emergency financial assistance in the forms of grants, not loans. Donations are used to prevent evictions, foreclosures, and auto repossessions, plus keeping the electricity turned on and food on the table. For additional information about USA Cares, go to www.usacares.org.

Released on the 70th anniversary of Nazi Germany's surrender in WW II, *A Hero's Walk* can be purchased online through Amazon.com.

