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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**(Name of town) man served in top-secret WWII unit**

**that is the subject of a new PBS Documentary**

***THE GHOST ARMY* PREMIERES**

**ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013 AT (time) ON (local station)**

(Name of Town where veteran or family live) – During World War II, (Name of veteran) of (name of town) was a ghost. (Last name of Veteran), (age of veteran/or year they died), served in a top-secret unit that duped Hitler’s army with rubber tanks, sound effects and all the illusions they could conjure. These men are the subjects of a new documentary film, *The Ghost Army,* which premieres on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET on PBS. (Check local listings.)

In the summer of 1944, a handpicked group of G.I.s landed in France to create a traveling road show of deception on the battlefields of Europe, with the German Army as their audience. From Normandy to the Rhine, the 1100 men of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, known as the Ghost Army, conjured up phony convoys, phantom divisions, and make-believe headquarters to fool the enemy about the strength and location of American units. Every move they made was top secret and their story was hushed up for decades after the war’s end.

Each deception required that they impersonate a different (and vastly larger) U.S. unit. Like actors in a repertory theater, they mounted an ever-changing multimedia show tailored to each deception. The men immersed themselves in their roles, even hanging out at local cafés and spinning their counterfeit stories for spies who might lurk in the shadows.

Painstakingly recorded sounds of armored and infantry units were blasted from sound trucks; radio operators created phony traffic nets; and inflatable tanks, trucks, artillery and even airplanes were imperfectly camouflaged so they would be visible to enemy reconnaissance. The Ghost Army staged more than 20 deception operations in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, often operating dangerously close to the front lines. In the final days of the war they faced their ultimate test: a deception along the Rhine River in which thousands of lives depended on their delivering a convincing performance. What they accomplished was kept secret for nearly fifty years.

(Insert a paragraph or two here with more on the role played by the veteran, ie which unit he served in, a memorable experiences or perhaps a short quote. This can be followed by a bit about post-war life. Here is a sample, which you should replace with your own. )

A self-styled “kid from the Bronx,” Syracuse served as an officer in 3132 Signal Service Company, the 23rd’s sonic deception specialists. They operated half-tracks jammed with audio equipment that could project sound 15 miles to mimic the sound of armored columns on the move at night. “I used to refer to us as the Cecil B De Mille Warriors, “ sauys Syracuse. After the war, Syracuse moved to New Rochelle, where he spent more than 50 years working as a builder and developer in the communty. He remains proud of his service in a top-secret unit that used imagination and illusion to save lives.

The PBS documentary *The Ghost Army* was written and directed by filmmaker Rick Beyer of Lexington, MA, who is also the author of the best-selling *Greatest Stories Never Told*  series of history books. Beyer has worked more than eight years on the film, which was the audience-award winner at this year’s Salem Film Fest in Salem, MA, and is an official selection of the GI Film Festival in Washington DC. He is excited that the members of this secret unit are finally getting their due. “I think every one of these guys is a rock star,” says Beyer, “and I would like nothing more than to have everyone else think so too.”

For more information on the film, visit [www.ghostarmy.org](http://www.ghostarmy.org).

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