

War Era Story Project 2012

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Current home town: Cincinnati, Ohio
Age: Not given

Tour of Duty: U. S. Army

I was inducted into the Army Jan. 30, 1943, and reported to draft board #35 in Cheviot, Ohio. From the draft board, we went to Ft. Thomas, Ky. From there, we boarded a troop train. We were never told where we were going; Rumors were flying. Along the way, we would add cars that were loaded with other inductees. After about two days, we reached our destination: Camp McCain, Miss. The camp was located approx. 100 mi. south of Memphis, Tenn.

We were told we would be part of the 87th Inf. Div. It was known as the Golden Acorn Div. Our patch was green with a yellow acorn. I was assigned to "B" Battery in the 335th F. A. Bn. The Battery consisted of four 155mm howitzers. The projectile is approximately six inches in diameter, weighing 95 lb. The 155's maximum range is about seven miles, but most of ours were less than two miles. We trained at McCain until mid Nov. Then, we went on Tenn. maneuvers (war games) for three months.

From Tenn. we moved to Ft. Jackson, SC. Ft. Jackson is a permanent post; we thought we were at the Ritz-Carlton compared to McCain. We trained at Ft. Jackson until the end of October. With the news of D-Day, we were anxious to take part in the war. We went to Camp Kilmer, NJ the latter part of October. We knew we were heading to Europe.

After a few days we boarded a ship named the *Louis Pasteur*. It was a French ship, but manned by the English navy. Since we did not travel in a convoy, we changed course every six minutes. We debarked at Liverpool, England. From here we traveled by rail to a small town of Macclesfield. It was here where we caught up with our guns and equipment. We had to degrease our guns and our equipment and get them ready for combat.

We left by convoy and traveled south to Liverpool. There we boarded LSTs and crossed the English Channel. We disembarked at Rowen, France, and fired our first combat rounds at Metz. Our division was part of the Third Army led by Gen. Patton. We were in most of the major battles encountered by the Third Army including the Battle of the Bulge. On May 8, the war ended. On July 4th we boarded *U.S.S. Marine Fox* and sailed for the USA. We landed at Newport News, VA on July 13th we were given a 30 day leave.

After our leave, we were to report to Ft. Benning, GA to prepare for the invasion of Japan. While on leave, the A-bomb was dropped; this made for big changes. I didn't have enough points to be discharged, but enough so that I didn't have to leave the country, I was sent to Indiantown Gap, PA and worked in the finance office computing final pay vouchers of returning GIs being discharged. On Jan. 7, 1946 I was discharged (one happy camper).