

## War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Mary Lou Shepherd

Current home town: Milford, Ohio

Age: Not given

Enclosed is an article published in early 1946 by Thompson's Restaurant, which was located in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, regarding my father, Sgt. Wm. D. Warren, who is deceased. One thing the article does not mention was that he took part in the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

I am his oldest surviving daughter. My twin sister and I were almost five years of age when he joined the U.S. Army. At the time he went in, I had three sisters and our family was not well off to say the least. I remember one time in particular while he was away that my mother went to the Red Cross for help with food and before they would give her any assistance, a representative from that organization came to our house and went through all the kitchen cupboards to be sure we had nothing. When they did give us help, she was charged for it. My mother had no money, so the debt carried over until my dad returned from the war and he had to pay the bill.

I remember the day he left home (there was a lot of crying), the telegram we received saying he had been wounded in action, and the day he returned home. I was six at that time and remember it well. He had gotten off the bus at the end of our street and was standing there looking at our house. I didn't recognize him and I told my mother there was this soldier looking at our house. That was a very happy day for all of us.

### **Baker Bill Is Back**

With a Purple Heart and a thrilling record of gallant deeds on the fighting fronts in Europe, Ex-Sgt. William Warren has reenlisted in the Thompson's organization as Head Baker at our Cincinnati bake shop.

Baker Bill originally joined Thompson's in November, 1928, as a dish washer. A month later he became an apprentice in our bakery, advancing steadily till he was a Head Baker on the Thompson system.

August 1, 1944, he joined the Army, and after four months of basic training, followed by Cooks and Bakers School, he was sent overseas January 3, 1945. His tank battalion supported the 83rd Infantry Division at the last stages of the Belgium Bulge battle.

Three weeks later, his tank battalion was assigned to the 78th Infantry. Bill's tank was the 5th to cross Remagen bridge across the Rhine. After 10 days at Remagen bridge, the battalion captured the city of Honnef, Germany. While making a house to house search of the captured city, Bill was shot in the thigh.

After six weeks' hospitalization in Paris, he was sent back to his tank, then attached to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, which had orders to attack Hitler's home town of Berchtesgaden when the war ended.

He arrived in New York from Marseilles, France, Dec. 21, 1945, was discharged December 27, 1945, and returned to Cincinnati Thompson's January 5, 1946.

In addition to being decorated with the Purple Heart, Bill has 3 battle stars, the ETO ribbon, and the good conduct medal. He is very thankful to be back at the old job and back to Mrs. Warren and their four lovely daughters. Bill is 27. He's seen more of life and of the world than most of us will ever see.



Ex-Sgt. Wm. Warren has reenlisted at Thompson's.