

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Ann Lukey

Current home town: Cincinnati, Ohio

Age: 90

Frank E. Lukey entered the Army on August 3, 1942, at Ft. Thomas, Ky. He joined the Quarter Master Division, Trucking Co. He was so fortunate to be where his talents were. He was stationed at Ft. Breckinridge, Ky., and then moved to "Tent City" in California. Eventually, he was shipped out. He was in Australia, Philippines and New Guinea for nineteen months (He never wanted to go camping after that). After all these moves, he was on his way to Tokyo and was delayed on the water when the Armistice was signed. After setting up, he was able to see the devastation of the bomb.

While Frank was in the service, I had a regular office position, but, as my war effort, I was a Volunteer Red Cross Nurse Aide at a hospital. There was a shortage of nurses. While he was home on a furlough, during a black out, he gave me an engagement ring. I wrote him every night and still remember his service number.

Since he wasn't dating and didn't gamble, he was able to save money for our future home. He was about to return home, but due to lack of transportation, he was delayed. We made wedding plans, via phone from Oregon. On January 8, 1946, he was discharged. His mother, father, grandmother and I traveled to Indianapolis to pick him up. It was the longest trip to Indiana and the shortest trip home, same distance. On Feb. 2, 1946 we were married. 1946 was probably the year of the most marriages because so many waited until the war was over. Two brothers and I were married within six months.

Frank's service time and experience were an asset to his future as he changed positions in the same company, and was happier and more successful in his transfer. We raised three boys, traveled and vacationed with them. After retirement, we traveled to all fifty states and some countries. After 45 ½ happy years of marriage with three sons, Frank died on Aug. 2, 1991 (age 72). He is sadly missed by me, his sons and their spouses, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.