

Albert Emil Anderson, Jr.

Army Infantry—Corporal



Albert Emil Anderson

Hometown: Norwood Park Township, IL

Albert served in the Army from April 18, 1941 to November 18, 1945. Originally, Albert served in the United States. However, when it began to look like Germany would lose the war, Albert was sent to Europe to be a truck driver. He transported officers in Germany, France, and Belgium as part of the Army of Occupation. Albert was made a truck driver because he wrote that he had truck driving experience on his enlistment form.

Albert said sometimes that the War was probably the greatest time of his life. He did not see action, but he developed close friendships with his fellow soldiers in the Army of Occupation. Some of his stories included how he never learned to speak

French, but did take the time to learn egg (which he pronounced like "oof"), chocolate, and cigarette.

His friends convinced him to drink cognac one time. He must have drunk a lot of it, because he said he had the worst hangover of his life the next day. Albert refused to touch cognac for the rest of his life. A German soldier gave Albert a rifle, which the soldier had hidden in his



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barn, because he would have been in trouble if he had been caught after the war in possession of a weapon. He had come to like my Albert and trusted him. Albert also smuggled a woman into Belgium without telling anybody which would have gotten him into huge trouble—however, Albert was a Corporal. He helped people his whole life; this woman was just another person whom he could assist.

Albert had a bit of a temper and was demoted a



few times from higher ranks back to Private.

By the time he finished his service Al's half brother, Bob, to whom he was very close also served

in World War II.

Bob was in the Pacific Theatre as part of the Marine Corps. He enlisted after graduating from high school at age 18. Albert told his wife, Violet, once that if Bob was killed during the war then he didn't want to come home. When the news that Bob had been killed in January of 1945, it was devastating to Albert. After that Albert almost never talked about Bob — even 50 years later. I think the memory was still too painful.

Submitted by:
Megan McGovern
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