

# Richard Breeden

## U.S. Army



**Richard Breeden**  
78<sup>th</sup> Lightning Division,  
309<sup>th</sup> Armor Service Infantry

I was inducted into the army March 12, 1943 at Fort Sheridan and reported to Scott Field for active duty on March 19, 1943. From there I went to North Carolina for basic training. On June 3, 1944; I boarded the Mereposia at Boston Harbor Pier 3 and arrived in Glasgow, Scotland on June 11, 1944. From there, we took a train to Bath, England where we remained about three months. I entered France at Omaha Beach and was assigned to a vehicle replacement outfit. Our job was to deliver vehicles to the front line to replace those that had been destroyed. About the time Paris was liberated, I was running supplies with the Red Ball Express. From then on, our headquarters was in Paris. I remember being on

the subway in Paris when I saw a picture of President Roosevelt in the paper a French man was reading. It was he that told me the president was dead.

When we took some trucks up to the front lines of the "Battle of the Bulge", they were in the process of retreating. Upon arrival, the first thing the commanding officer asked me and my partner was if we could drive a tank. Seems that the men available did not know how. So, we helped them move the tanks back about 50 miles.

Another incident I remember well happened when my partner and I attempted to find my twin brother in Germany. We had stopped the trucks we were driving on a bridge to look at a map. We looked and saw a German tank coming around a mountain. About that time, the front truck blew up. We quickly backed the remaining truck off the bridge and got behind the Allied line. I never was able to meet up with my brother.

I loaded a boat to return to the states on December 13, 1945 and crossed a very stormy Atlantic Ocean. I arrived in at Staten Island, New York on the day after Christmas, December 26, 1945. From there to Fort Dix, New Jersey; and then a train to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was honorably discharged in Chicago at Fort Sheridan on December 31, 1945

Submitted by:  
Sandra Bunnell, Daughter