

Gene Franz

U.S. Army

Machine Gunner With The Timber Wolves Division In Germany



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It was a sad day, December 5, 1942, and my mother's birthday when I enlisted in the U.S. Army. I was shipped by bus to Scott Air Force Base and got on a troop train heading west. Everyone was trying to guess where we were going, but no one knew it was Camp Adair, Oregon. At this location, we received basic training and had field maneuvers. In the spring of 1943, we went to Arizona for desert maneuvers. After a 30-day furlough home, I reported to Camp Carson, Colorado where I stayed for the summer and fall.

In October 1943, I was sent to Ft. Dix, New Jersey for overseas duty. Arriving overseas, we were assigned to the 1st Canadian Army, 104th Infantry Division under the command of General Terry Allen. Our Division was called the Timber Wolves. I was assigned to M Company as a machine gunner in the

413th Regiment. Our Division served in Belgium and Holland and in the Northern France campaign. We relieved the 1st Army at Aachen, Germany and while in battle there, I was wounded on November 23, 1945. I was flown to London, England for treatment and recuperation.

After I was discharged from the hospital, I was shipped home for a 30-day furlough and then ordered to Camp Shelby, Mississippi where I stayed until my discharge on November 23, 1945. At Camp Shelby, I was assigned to headquarters of the 322nd Ordnance Bn. Three years after enlisting, I was home in Springfield, IL, worked for the U.S. Post Office, got married and raised a family. I received the Purple Heart, Northern France Campaign Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal.

Gene Franz
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