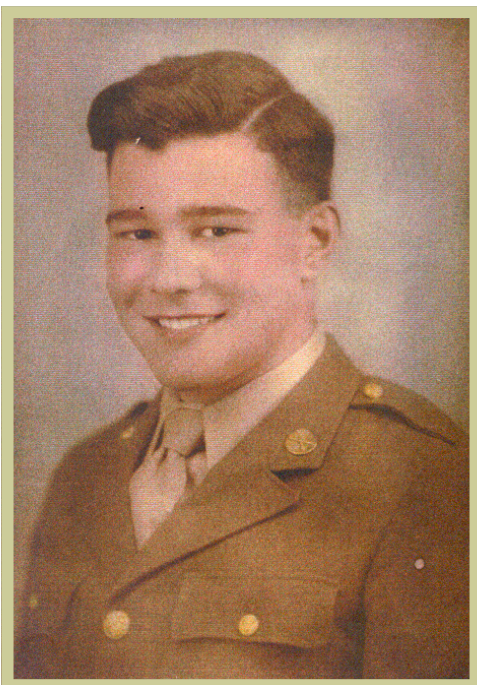


William D. Ippolito

U.S. Army
285th FAOB



William D. Ippolito
U.S. Army
Served In Three ETO Campaigns

I was born in Riverton, Illinois on January 19, 1925. On June 13, 1943, I was inducted into the United States Army at Forty Custer, Michigan. I was assigned to the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion and sent overseas. Our battalion had 3 batteries and were independent of each other. Each battery had what was called flash and sound. Visual forward observers triangulated on enemy gun flashes and sound. Microphones were used on the front lines and carried back to Headquarters. As the enemy guns were fired, the flash and sound were recorded and the distance measured by a machine. By this method, we learned the enemy's gun positions.

The 285th FAOB was engaged in 27 battles from September 19, 1944 to May 11, 1945. I was around Aachen, Germany when the Ardennes Campaign began in December, 1944. Battery B, one of our 3 batteries, was sent to aid General Patton and the 2nd Army at St. Vith, Belgium. Eighty of our men

were captured by the Germans and sent into a field. There, they were all machine-gunned down. This was later called the 'Malmedy Massacre'.

The 285th FAOB fought in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and in the Central Europe Campaigns. I had the distinct pleasure of being in Paris on a 3-day pass when the war ended. Later, I received a 10-day pass to the French Riviera. I received three Overseas Service Bars, the American Campaign Medal, the Europe-Africa-Middle East Campaign Medals, W/3 Bronze Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the WW II Victory Medal.

In February, 1946, the 285th arrived back at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, USA. I was discharged at Camp Grant, Illinois on February 13, 1946 and returned home. I married Doris Ferrari and we had one son, William G, who is a Vietnam veteran. I want to thank the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial Committee for building the Memorial to all those from Illinois who served their country in WW II. I am proud to have an engraved brick in Veterans Plaza at the Memorial.

William D. Ippolito
Riverton, Illinois