

Rayburn Martin

U.S. Army Medic-Railsplitters-84th Infantry



Rayburn Martin,
U.S. Army
WWII Veteran

Served as a Medic in the 84th Infantry-“Railsplitters”

I was born in 1916 in Kentucky and entered the regular Army on June 28, 1940. After basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, I was assigned to the 4th Armored Infantry Division, Medical Corps and trained as a medic. When we arrived in the ETO, I was assigned to the 84th Infantry Division known as the Railsplitters.

We landed D-Day on Omaha Beach. We followed the 84th Infantry throughout the war in all five ETO campaigns. They included Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. In a battle near Gailenkirchen, Germany, as my fellow medic and I were evacuating a wounded G.I., I was hit by shrapnel in the neck, which hit an artery. Within five hours, I was in a hospital in England where I stayed for five weeks. I returned to my Division in late January, 1945 and finished the war without further injury.

I received a Purple Heart, Campaign Battle Stars, the American Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and ETO Ribbon. I served for 5 years, 10 months and 21 days and was discharged on October 7, 1945.

After leaving the Army, I began work at Chicago, Illinois for International Harvester Company and stayed for 40 years. I married Gloria Lanham and we had two daughters. In



1986, I moved to Springfield to be near my girls.

At present, I am the Chaplain for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 159 in Springfield, Illinois. I was proud to have served my country and have a special regard and passion for all veterans, especially those who gave their lives or those who were disabled from the war.

Rayburn Martin
Springfield, Illinois