

# Ervin D. Thuerk

U.S. Army  
Tech. 4th Grade Sgt.



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U.S. Army  
Technician 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sgt)

I entered the Army on 19 April 1944 at Fort Sheridan, IL at the age of 18. My basic training was at Camp Maxey, in Paris, Texas from April 25<sup>th</sup> to November of 1944. After basic training, I was transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for shipment overseas. I departed from New York on 9 December 1944 aboard the S.S. Dominion Monarch for the European Theatre of Operations arriving in Southampton, England on 22 December 1944 and was shipped to France, Belgium, and Germany.

I trained and served in the 125<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital, semi-mobile as a medical and surgical technician serving 18 months overseas during the war and in the army of occupation in Germany.

I returned to the United State from Bremerhaven, Germany to New York via the Liberty Ship, S.S. Alhambra on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1946. I then shipped back to Fort Sheridan, IL where I received my honorable discharge on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1946. With a crisp new

uniform, the medals we earned and \$100.00 mustering out pay. Free again.

Decorations and citations received include: Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle-Eastern Theatre Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Bar, Victory Medal and 3 overseas service bars.

My 26 months of service were important to me as it allowed me to become a mature person, serve my country in time of need, and gain many experiences which have influenced the rest of my life.

During my service overseas, I witnessed many injured soldiers, some with trench foot and frozen limbs, due to the extremely cold winter in Europe along with shrapnel wounds and battle fatigue resulting in psychological problems. It was not a pretty sight. The most disturbing event was the release of prisoners at Dachau, Germany prison camp. This will always remain in my memory and it troubles me to hear that some people comment that this event never occurred.

To this day, I have never regretted the time spent in the service of my country. It was a true learning experience with a very maturing effect on my life.

Submitted by:  
Ervin D. Thuerk

