

Edward Winkler

U.S. Army



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Recollections of World War II

Edward Winkler was inducted into the U.S. Army on July 22, 1942. After eight weeks of basic training and eight weeks of automotive training, he was sent to the desert at Indio, California for 14 months to General Patton's training headquarters. He said that we lived in tents and foxholes and moved up and down the California coast. On Christmas Eve 1942 he attended midnight mass where an altar had been set up on the hood of a Jeep. Finally, the orders came to pack up and board a troop ship at San Francisco. Four days later we reached Honolulu, Hawaii and saw the sunken ship hulls from the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. Several months later, he boarded a liberty ship and went to YAP in the Caroline Islands. Our orders were changed in route and we spent two weeks in a lagoon of the Marshall Islands.

While anchored in the harbor, he witnessed a U.S. destroyer sink four Japanese submarines. My

next move was to Leyte Island in the Philippines where we repaired the equipment used to invade Guam and the Wake Islands. When the surrender came, we packed up and headed for Sapporo, Hokkaido in Japan. On the way to Tokyo, I saw the damage done by an atomic bomb. There was nothing left but smoke stacks. I was discharged on January 11, 1946 and realized how lucky I was to get back home in good condition.

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