

# Robert E. Alderson

## U.S. Army Air Forces



**Robert E. Alderson**  
Served in France, Germany and  
So. Pacific

I graduated from high school in 1943 at Auburn, Illinois and was drafted. I reported to the Field Artillery Basic in Fort Rucker, Alabama and then transferred to the Army Air Force Cadet Program at Birmingham, Alabama. The Air Crew Program was filled so I transferred to Service Force in Cheyenne, Wyoming where we formed and trained as a 100-man unit. In 1944, our outfit shipped out of New York for Europe.

On our first day in France, we were involved in a terrible incident and 240 GI's were wiped out. We moved on through Paris, Liege, Belgium, Aachen, Cologne, Frankfurt, and Germany. I was in Nurnberg, Germany when the war ended. Our unit moved to Marseille in Southern France and shipped out on a 42-day cruise to the South Pacific via the Panama Canal. We arrived in Manila, Philippine Islands in the spring of 1946. The war soon ended.

I received the Europe-Africa-Mideast Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the American Theater, WW II Victory Medal, and Two Bronze Stars.

Later in 1946, I was discharged and returned to Auburn, Illinois where I married in 1950 and went to work at Allis Chalmers. I retired in 1983. The reunion of the 100 Man Army Unit was held in 1984. Twenty-seven men attended. A reunion has been held each year. In 2000, we met in Branson, Missouri and only seven of us were able to attend. Soon after, one the seven passed on. The future of our reunion is questionable; however, I think the widows and families will continue to meet long after the last of the original members has passed on.