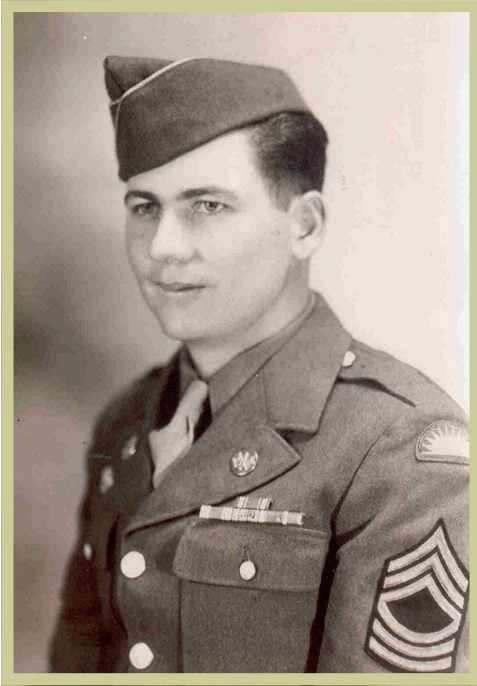


Lawrence C. Edwards

U.S. Army WW II - 41st Infantry Division



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Larry Edwards enlisted in the U. S. Army on August 10, 1942 at Chicago, Illinois. He completed basic training and Signal Corps training at Ft Sheridan, Illinois and Camp Crowder, Missouri. He arrived at Camp Stoneman, California, port of embarkation on July 5, 1943 and sailed on a Dutch troop ship for Brisbane, Australia.

At Rockhampton, Australia, Larry received intensive combat training and was assigned to the 41st Signal Corps where his unit was reviewed by General Douglas MacArthur. He left by troop ship for a staging area near New Guinea where a large task force assembled during a bombing raid on March 14, 1944. Larry was assigned to the 186th Infantry Regiment on detached service and debarked on April 17, 1944 on an LST. Larry's regiment made a D-Day landing on Hollandia, New Guinea on April 22 and survived their first front line combat experi-

ence. General MacArthur came ashore after the beach was secured. No casualty report was available.

A second amphibious landing occurred on May 27 at Biak Island in the Dutch East Indies. Many Japanese were holed up in the coral rock caves and a long drawn out battle resulted. Casualties were high: 474 killed, 2,400 wounded, and 7,234 brought down by sickness and disease (including Larry). The Japanese lost 6,100 killed outright. Larry's 41st Division debarked Biak Island on February. 2, 1945. Arriving at Leyte Gulf, Larry's unit waited to support the battle of Manila, which went faster than expected. The 41st was diverted to a staging area on Mindoro Island where it was split up. Larry went with the 186th Infantry Regiment landing on Palawan Island with losses of 12 killed in action and 40 wounded. The Japanese lost 890 killed. The 41st landed and captured Mindanao in the Philippines and prepared to invade Japan when the A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

After Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945, the 41st was assigned to occupy Kure and Hiroshima. Larry was responsible for setting up a telephone network for more than 15, 000 troops in a 20-mile area including Kure and Hiroshima. Larry debarked Nagoya, Japan on November 14, 1945 aboard the U. S. S. Almaach and arrived in Portland, Oregon on November 27. After 28 months overseas and attaining the rank of M/Sgt., Larry was honorably discharged at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on December 6, 1945.

Larry Edwards was elected the first President of the WW II Illinois Veterans Memorial at Springfield and has served on the Board of Directors throughout the Memorial's history.

Larry Edwards
Rochester, IL

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