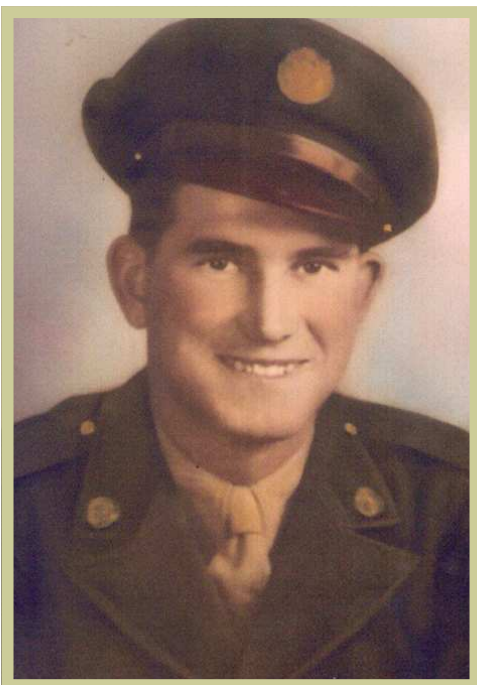


William A. Kruger

U.S. Army 22nd Infantry



and William A. Kruger
With 22nd Infantry Regiment In Europe

William A. Kruger, born on Christmas Day 1921, was drafted into the U.S. Army on September 9, 1944 at Springfield, Illinois. He went through basic training at Fort McCellan, Alabama and was assigned to the 3rd Army, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Company D. His specialty was that of a truck driver. He was also qualified on the MM rifle and received a combat infantry badge.

Bill left for Europe on the Queen Mary on February 19, 1945 along with thousands of America's citizen soldiers. They landed in Scotland and went by train and boat to France. He arrived at the front at the end of February as a replacement in D Company. This was a heavy weapons company containing two heavy machine gun platoons and one platoon containing six 81 mm mortar squads. Company D was in the 1st Battalion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment. Replacements were desperately needed as a result of high casualties from the Hurtgen Forest and Battle of the Bulge battles. On March 3rd the

1st Battalion received fierce resistance as they crossed the Moselle River and lost four tanks.. The next morning they attacked Weinsheim, Germany and, as they advanced, they saw the white flags flying that told them the Germans had withdrawn during the night. On March 8th the outfit was ordered to Lunneville, France for rest and recuperation. This outfit had not had a rest since they landed on D-Day June 6, 1944.

Bill saw combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. After chasing the Germans across the Rhine in February and March, 1945, the 22nd was placed in reserve. After V-J day they served occupation duty in Nuremberg, Germany. He received 2 bronze battle stars and a good conduct medal. His regiment was demobilized on January 15, 1946 and returned to Ft. Sheridan, Illinois where he was discharged on January 29, 1946.

Bill has been an active member of the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial.

William A. Kruger
Rochester, Illinois