

Russell E. Sewell

Army Infantry—42nd Field Hospital—3rd Platoon



First Lieutenant Russell E. Sewell
Photo: South Chicago Station
B & O Railroad – January 1944

Russell Earl Sewell (Brick #2286) was born in Jacksonville, Illinois April 29, 1913 to Cora May Olson Sewell and Earl Othello Sewell. Russell attended grade school at Roach School in Decatur, Illinois and graduated from Calumet High School in Chicago. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942 when he was working for Oscar Mayer in Chicago. Russell and Bernice Alvina Overgaard, who was also employed at Oscar Mayer in Chicago, were married in March 1943.

Russell attended basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas and from there went on to X-Ray school at O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri where he graduated as Technician 5th

Grade. From there he went on to Camp Livingston, LA where he became Technician 4th Grade. From there Russell went on to Camp Barkeley, Texas where he attended the medical administrative corps officer candidate school and he was commissioned Second Lieutenant. From there he went on to Camp Carson, Colorado where the 42d Field Hospital was activated. Then on to Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base, Maxton, North Carolina and then to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and then on to Cp. Kilmer, Stelton, New Jersey and then on to Belfast, Northern Ireland, Gourock, Scotland, and finally to Bromyard, Herefordshire, England where they awaited D-Day and then on to Normandy and the European Theatre of Operations. Russell was commissioned First Lieutenant while in Belgium Feb. 1945.

The whole history of Russell's unit can be read on this website: <http://www.med-dept.com> under unit histories, hospital units, 42nd Field Hospital. Russell was in the third platoon of the 42nd Field Hospital. This is the link directly to the unit's history: http://www.med-dept.com/unit_histories/42_fld_hosp.php

After WWII, Russell was in the Illinois Reserve Corps until Dec. 1952.

Russell and Bernice later moved to Wisconsin where Russell was a member of the American Legion, the VFW, The Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star, Trinity United Methodist Church, Shriners, Scottish Rite and 40 et 8 and was a lifelong Cubs Fan.

Russell and Bernice had three children. Russell passed away on March 30, 2001 at the age of 87.

Submitted by Russell's daughter and her husband:

Susan Sewell King and David King
Estes Park, Colorado