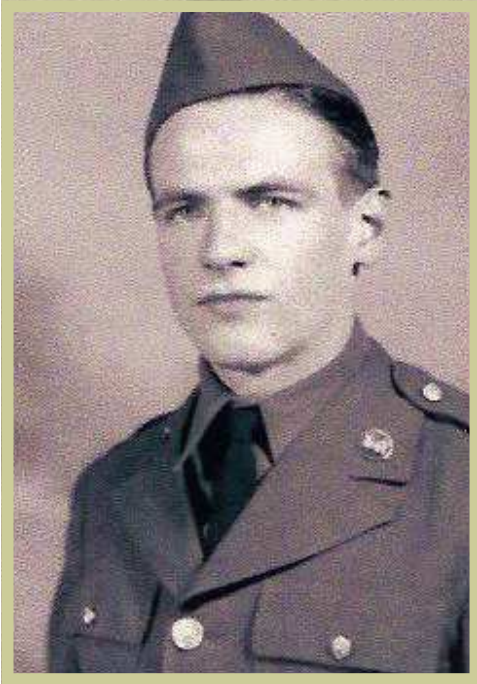


Marvin A. Smith

U.S. Army

340th Construction/Combat Engineers



Marvin A. Smith

U.S. Army

340th Construction/Combat Engineers

Rank at Discharge: PFC

Honors or Medals: 1 Service Stripe, 6 Overseas Service Bars, Asiatic/Pacific Unit Badge with 2 Bronze Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, World War II Victory Medal

Marvin Smith was born in Evanston, IL and was drafted into the Army on January 22, 1942. After some training, he was assigned to the 340th Construction Engineers. His Battalion was sent to Alaska/Canada to build the famous Alcan Highway. This was a major achievement since the men had to endure sub-freezing temperatures and it was a battle to keep the equipment running in the sub-freezing temperatures. For this project, his Battalion was awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge.

After the Alcan Highway was completed, his Battalion was shipped overseas to the Pacific Theatre where they hop-skipped through many islands

including Australia, New Zealand, Luzon, New Guinea, and Morotai. They built air strips and bridges and anything else that needed building. Many times, Japanese planes would shoot at them and enemy snipers were always threatening them. Marvin battled malaria as well as Japanese soldiers. His Battalion was starting to prepare for an invasion of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped and the war was over. He was very thankful

that the invasion did not have to take place.

He returned home and was honorably discharged on December 6, 1945 from Camp Grant, Illinois. As of this date, he is still living in his little hometown in Illinois.

Story Submitted by: Barb Smith

December 2009