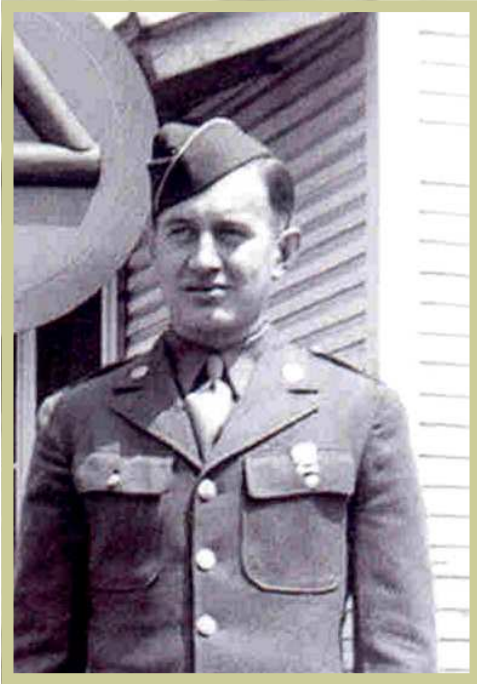


Robert D. Stremsterfer

U.S. Army

44th Infantry Division/57mm Anti-Tank Gun Squad



Robert D. Stremsterfer
U.S. Army
Led 57 Mm Antitank Gun Squad

I entered the U. S. Army on January 9, 1943 at the age of 19 from Virginia, Illinois. I became a squad leader of a 9-man antitank gun squad supervising them in firing the 57-mm antitank gun, the .50 caliber machine gun, 2 kinds of bazookas and rifles. My job was to select the gun sites and selected positions to form the best possible defense for the command post.

I was sent overseas with the 44th Infantry Division and served in England, France, Germany and Austria. My squad maintained contact between the squads and the command post by use of field telephones. I was assigned to analyze the situation, issue fire orders to the squad and directed fire against the German Infantry, tanks and aircraft. I was also trained as the Division's demolition expert. I was also responsible to see that my men were properly clothed and fed. Our Division spearheaded the drive to the Rhine River and on to Austria. I was

in combat 11 1/2 months. I received the bronze star for valor, four unit citations and four bronze campaign stars.

At Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, I was promoted to platoon sergeant where I supervised the activities of 3 antitank gun squads and the cleaning and maintenance of all weapons and vehicles of the platoon.

I was discharged on November 22, 1945 at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. My wife Ruth and I were married and farmed near Springfield for 17 years. I then worked in the insurance industry for 29 years until retirement.

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

Bob Stremsterfer
Springfield, Illinois.