

# William P. Yasinski

## U.S. Army



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In France And Belgium

William P. Yasinski was drafted into the Army on October 1942 at Peoria, Illinois. I was 26 years old. After spending two weeks at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, I was sent off to Camp Callon, California for basic training in desert maneuvers and training with anti-aircraft guns. We had more training in Riverside, Santa Maria, California area. Then it was off to El Paso, Texas for more training before being sent overseas.

I was assigned to the 784<sup>th</sup> AAA Battalion which was name "Blood Hounds" This battalion made the supreme sacrifice serving God and country. I was proud to be a member of this outfit that provided protection for ten forward fighter planes, airfields and numerous other vital areas. This in-

cluded highways and railway bridges, ammunition and gasoline drums, harbors and railroad yards.

I sailed from Boston, Massachusetts on April 7, 1944 from Camp Myles Standish. Our group sailed on the "Susan B. Anthony" taking 12 days at sea. At one time, a submarine was sighted nearby and depth charges were dropped. All the soldiers ran to the rails, scared, but none too excited. We landed at the back door of England at the port of Swansea, Wales.

On July 11, 1944, we began to load our gun equipment on the ship that would take us to Normandy and Utah Beach on July 14, 1944. The following was our battle itinerary:

1. France Avbanche vicinity from August 14 to September 20, 1944
2. Laon, France and area from August 21 to October 5, 1944
3. Chievres, Belgium from October 6 to November 6, 1944
4. Back to Guigncourt, France from November 7 to December 1, 1944
5. Leige, Belgium from December 1 to April 15, 1945
6. Handover, Germany from April 16 to Victory Day, June 6, 1945.

While in Leige, Belgium on a pass, I ran into Pete Bartolozzi from Auburn, IL while walking down the street. I was so surprised and thrilled to see someone from home. On another pass, I went to Chamonix, France staying at the luxury Majestic Hotel in the beautiful mountains for a rest. While waiting for my orders to return home, I traveled from Austria, Germany and France in a box car and slept on a straw mat. Then I sailed on a Liberty Ship for the USA and was sick for 13 days while at sea.

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I was discharged from Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri and the state of Illinois gave the G I's a bonus of \$300.00 in December 1945. I received the Citation for the Belgium Fourragere, the 4 Star Badge for Normandy, France, the Germany Battle, the American Campaign Outside USA, the ETO Battle Medal, 1 Bronze Star for the ETO, the Good Conduct Medal, the WGDO Award, 3 Overseas Bars and the Victory Ribbon.

I returned to Kansas City, Missouri and was met by my wife, Naomi. We had been married on December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day) and have been married 59 years. I am 85 years old and Naomi is 80 years at the time of this writing, June 7, 2001.

William P. Yasinski  
Auburn, Illinois