

## **Corporal Eugene Charles (Andy) Bartlett**

By Irving T. Shanley

Andy Bartlett volunteered for the Army and parachute duty in October 1942 from his hometown of Chicago, Illinois and was assigned to the newly formed 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Camp Blanding, Florida as a member of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion. He underwent 13 weeks of intense basic and advanced infantry training at Blanding and then was transferred with his unit to Fort Benning, Georgia for three weeks of parachute training. Andy and his Regiment were then assigned to Camp Mackall, North Carolina for nine months of tactical training, including maneuvers in South Carolina and Tennessee.

The Regiment was next transferred to Camp Shanks, New York and was shipped overseas to Northern Ireland in late December 1943. After two months in Northern Ireland the Regiment moved to Nottingham, England for training and to await instructions for the invasion of mainland Europe. The instructions came in late May 1944 when the Regiment was informed that it would be part of the 82nd Airborne Division during the invasion. During World War II the Division was commanded first by Major General Matthew Ridgeway and later by Major General James Gavin. Andy participated in the parachute invasions of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, D-Day, and Nijmegen, Holland on September 17, 1944. He also served with the Regiment in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium during the winter of 1944-1945. Andy served in the 81mm Mortar Platoon in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion from the time he entered the Army until he was honorably discharged in late 1945.

Andy was also a member of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's honor guard at Frankfurt, Germany from June 1945 until November 1945. Andy returned to his home in Chicago in late 1945. Andy and his wife, Jean, had four children-- three daughters and one son. Andy retired from the United States Postal Service after 30 years service.

Andy's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Africa-Europe Campaign Medal with four battle stars and one invasion arrowhead, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, World War II Occupation Medal, Parachute Wings, Combat Infantry Badge, United States Distinguished Unit Citation, French Fourragere, Belgium Fourragere, and The Militaire Orde degree of Knight from Holland.