

Theodore William Westhues, Jr. (Teddy)

Dates of service: Daddy enlisted at age 26-August 20, 1942. He served 2 years 0 months 12 days Continental and 1 year 4 months 3 days foreign service.

Rank & Role: Corporal. Light truck driver (Jeep) #345

Unit: 101st Infantry, 26th Division

Medals received: 4 Bronze Stars; Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal;

Entitled to wear: American Campaign Ribbon; European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon; 2 Overseas Bars; Victory Ribbon

Notable actions: His Division joined up with Patton's 3rd Army on Dec 7, 1944

Battles/Campaigns: Rhineland; Central Europe; Ardennes; Northern France

Familial link to William & Theresa: 3rd generation through Theodore William Westhues, Sr and Helen Cecelia Moorman Westhues

Nickname in the Army: "Westy." He could still recite his Army Serial Number well into his 90's.

Notable actions/deployments/stories:

Teddy was in the 101st Infantry. I believe they are headquartered in South Carolina. The 101st Airborne unit is located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Teddy was not in an airborne unit. I visited with him at the hospital in his later years and he described some of his experiences. Unfortunately I did not write down any of the information and my memory is vague. As I remember it, he was in the battle of the Ardennes Forest and a large percentage of his unit was wiped out. After that battle the people that knew him called him Lucky, because

Stories [cont'd]:

he had survived that hell. When I was a teenage my granddad (Theodore) told the story that after the Ardennes battle Teddy's unit came to a bridge over a river. They were reluctant to cross because they were concerned the bridge might be booby trapped. Someone suggested that the Lucky guy drive a jeep across and he did. In recent years there have been a number of documentaries on T.V. about that war. In one clip my cousins and I have seen, a jeep drives across a bridge turns around and returns. My cousins and I would like to think that was Uncle Teddy. I still have his uniform, dog tags, duffle bags, many letters and postcards he wrote "home", souvenir pillow cases that he sent to Grandma, German Walther pistol and certificate, Swastika flag and lots of pictures. He remained in close contact with several Army buddies and had visits with several of them. He and Mom were eventually able to travel to Germany and France to see a few of the places he'd seen during his time in the service.

Shield and Braid

MU AFROTC-DETACHMENT 440

Page of Honor



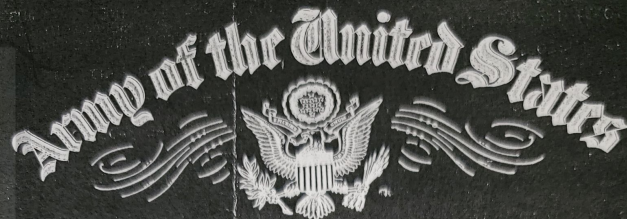
Detachment 440 would like to recognize and honor Theodore Westhues. During World War II he was a Corporal and a member of "M" Company, Third Battalion, 101st Infantry. His division joined up with General Patton's Third Army on 7 September 1944 in Cherbourg, France. After fighting several battles in northern France the Third Battalion of the 101st Infantry was awarded the Presidential Unit stating: "During the period 18-21 November 1944, the Third Battalion, wounded or captured more than twice its own strength in German Soldiers and advanced over 10 kilometers, having broken through three strongly organized German positions...their extraordinary heroism, bold courage and fighting determination reflected the finest traditions of the Army of the United States."

From there Corporal Westhues' unit continued on to Luxembourg to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. The Bulge, which lasted from December 1944 to February 1945, was referred to by many as "the toughest of the war." After the Bulge his unit fought their way across Ger-

nany into Czechoslovakia where they captured the factory where the atom bomb was being constructed. The war ended while he was in Czechoslovakia.

The following is what Sergeant Joseph C. Crane had to say about Corporal Westhues: "At all times, his work was done willingly, thoroughly, and without complaint. At risking his life during combat, to performing his necessary duties, his courage and bearing were as fine as in normal garrison life...his own duty."

Along with Theodore Westhues Detachment 440 thanks and honors all of those who were apart of the "Greatest Generation." Without their sacrifice we would not enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today.



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

THEODORE W WESTHUES 37 379 723 CORPORAL

COM 101ST INF 26TH DIV

Army of the United States

is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country.

Given at

SEPARATION CENTER
JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MISSOURI

Date

4 JANUARY 1946

Gayle H. Foster

GAYLE E. FOSTER
1st Col. U.S.A.C.