

Veteran: RICHARD V DANIELS (BORN 1913)

Army Service:

RV Daniels joined the Army in 1930 at age 17 to avoid legal troubles and because of the depression. He remained enlisted for his career.

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| Infantry | Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah | 1930 - ? |
| Re-enter service, infantry | Fort Douglas, Utah | 1938-1942 |
| Cold weather training | Upper Michigan | 1942-43 |
| Landing at Omaha beach | France | June 1944 |
| Wounded by hand grenade | St. Lo, France | June 1944 |
| Surgery on face, eyes | England | June-July 1944 |
| Recovery hospital, regains vision | France | 1944-1945 |
| Rotate to USA, recruiter | Helena, Montana | 1945-1947 |
| Recruiter | Butte, Montana | 1947-1949 |
| Korea/Recreation/Supply | Ft Lewis, Tacoma, Washington | 1949-1953 |
| Supply | Ft Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX | 1954-1957 |
| Electronics training | Ft. Bliss, El Paso TX | 1957-1958 |
| Missile Maintenance | Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane. WA | 1958-1960 |
| Technician | Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama | 1960 |
| Retired | Redstone arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama | 1960 |

Notes:

Sgt Daniels was sent to Upper Michigan to learn to ski cross country because the Army was preparing to attack Germany from the north. The plan was aborted but while in Michigan, Sgt Daniels met his wife in a local dance pub.

Sgt Daniels landed on Omaha beach on the second day of the invasion and was wounded in France near St. Lo by a hand grenade which blew off his face and one eye. He held his face on with his hand to preserve it and it was soon re-attached successfully. He had lost his vision in his one remaining eye but it came back unexpectedly. His injuries earned him the Purple Heart.

Sgt Daniels got training in many things including glider pilot airplane pilot, ranger, and electrical technician. After the war he remained in the military through the help of friends in spite of his injuries and disabilities.

Sgt Daniels didn't tell people he had only one eye and even learned to fly. Because he had no depth perception he learned to fly by watching the size of the grass near the runway so he knew when to land.

One of Sgt Daniels friends(Hilary Jones) was sent to the Philippines just before it was attacked. He suffered as a POW for years but survived and was liberated. They remained friends and Jones helped Sgt Daniels with his schooling.

Other notes from Hilary Jones and Kenneth Daniels:

Most of this was recounted by Jones to Kenneth Daniels during a visit after RV Daniels had had his debilitating stroke.

Apparently, while Daniels was stationed at Fort Douglas, he met a Latter-day Saint girl and wanted to marry her. When he ran into opposition from his Nazarene family, the engagement fell apart.

While Hilary was in the Philippines POW camp he got to know three Latter-day Saint men who never abandoned their faith while everyone else seemed to do so in the harsh POW conditions. He later joined the church due to their example. It was Jones who hosted Sgt Daniels in Fort Bliss while he was in training in electronics. Sgt Daniels attributed his conversion to the Latter-day Saint faith to Jones.

While at Fort Bliss, it seemed apparent that Daniels was going to fail his course. Partly, it was because he was color-blind and could not read the resistors which were color-coded. To buy himself some time and get a chance to restart his training, Daniels "lost" or broke his glass eye and had to go to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC to get another one made. He was then able to restart his course and figure out how to read resistors. Sgt Jones went with Sgt Daniels and on the way recounted some of his POW stories to Sgt Daniels who was impressed by the Mormons.

Sgt Daniels had to stop flying because of a bad landing which damaged some equipment. Knowing there would be an investigation and his vision problem would be discovered, he transferred away and never flew again.

Sgt Daniels joined the LDS church in Spokane in 1959 while stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base. One day, he asked his sons if they wanted to go to church or take a ride in the country. The boys opted for the shorter church option. Daniels could not remember the name of the church to look it up. He instructed his son Jim to look up Romney in the phone book because all Romney are Mormons – something he had evidently learned while in El Paso. Sure enough, Norm Romney was a Mormon and the Daniels went to his church and joined it.

After retiring from the Army, Sgt Daniels tried to find more work – He held a few jobs including working as a salesman for Sears and carrying mail with the postal service. A friend in the church who was a full colonel in the Army helped him rework his file and his resume so he could be hired by the civil service as an instructor. He worked as an instructor for about 10 years and retired again. He had 26 years in the Army but retired with a high disability rating. His years with the military were then counted toward his civil service retirement making that based on 36 years and giving him a small military retirement check and a large civil service retirement check. Sgt Daniels let his wife handle the larger check and he got the smaller one – which he blew right away each month because he loved to spend money.