

## My Grandpa (Wilbur Marion Reck)

Wilbur Marion Reck joined the military on June 19, 1943. He entered into the Army under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Medical battalion as a Medical-Aid man. The only experience which he ever shared with his sons about the war was that his pocket knife was once used to amputate one man's leg. Though he spoke little of his experiences during the war, through some research I have found out a little about the battalion which he served in and the great service they did for their country.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> medical battalion, which Wilbur served in, trained in Ireland for about ten months before entering battle. When they did go to battle they were deployed and landed at Omaha beach (one of the bloodiest beaches during the battle of Normandy) on --- --, 1943, one day after the initial assault. The carnage would have been very fresh that day and they would have had to carry off the dead and the wounded.

Wilbur also served in Northern France as a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> medical battalion which fought to gain control of the key port city of Brest, France. The battalion then went on to seize the Roer River Dam area in part of the Battle of the Bulge. The battalion in which Wilbur served was also stationed in Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland fronts.

For his service in the military Wilbur was awarded the American Theater Service medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory medal, and the Combat Medical Badge. The Combat Medical Badge was the most prestigious of these awards and was not given out lightly. It was given only to soldiers who had "borne combat duties befitting the Bronze Star" and received the "recommendation of the commander and a citation in orders." (Army Regulations)

Wilbur was honorably discharged from the army on Dec. 7, 1945 in Fort Lewis Washington. His name is remembered along with hundreds of others' at the Marysville Washington WWII Warriors Monument where he lived when he joined the army. My grandfather, Wilbur Reck did a great service to this country by fighting for it and saving the lives of those who fought alongside of him. Though, I did not know him well in this life, I have grown closer to him by learning about his experiences. He was a great man, he was a brave man and he was and is a great hero to his family and all those who enjoy the freedoms of this nation.

William Clayton Thomas Reck - Grandson

Information compiled from USU - Military History Class - taught by Officer LTC Paul Dunn