

WORLD WAR II VETERAN "TED" MASTERS

by Richard Long

At the age of 18, Ralph "Ted" Masters received an "invitation" from Uncle Sam to join the US Army. He accepted it and was sworn in on March 24th, 1943, joining two of his brothers already serving. After basic training, he was sent to Africa, then to Italy. He joined the 143rd Infantry Company E 1st Battalion, T Patchers, as a replacement. He was a point man with a radio and manned a BAR while with the invasion forces of Rome, Naples and Anzio.

On December 7, 1943, while advancing on the Germans at Monte Cassio Italy, Ted was wounded. He healed, received a purple heart, and returned to the front. The following winter, still in Italy and still in pursuit of the Germans, while crossing the frozen Rapido River Ted fell thru the ice and froze his hands and feet. He spent the next year at the 33rd General Hospital in Africa, a hospital that specialized in amputations. However, he credits God's grace, his own stubborn determination, and inventing circulation therapy routines with his ability to leave the hospital on his own two feet. However, nerve damage and related pains have persisted through out his life.

Upon being released from the hospital, Ted was placed with the 555th Anti Aircraft division until his discharge May 3rd, 1946, He received the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, EAME Ribbon, 3 Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

Ted, Thank You for your service.



Ted Masters