



Donald R. Marsh

Donald R. Marsh was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1922. He enlisted in the US Army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois on December 2, 1942 and completed his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri.

He was originally assigned to the Army's 3rd Armored Division but as the Army was building up for Operation Overlord during WW2, was reassigned to the 2nd Armored

His division arrived in Normandy, France, landing at Omaha Beach Red Sector on the morning of June 9, 1944, where the US had suffered its heaviest casualties on the first and second day of the attack.

He continued with his Division in battles across France, Germany, Belgium, at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest, and with the liberation of the Netherlands. He was among the first US Troops to enter Berlin on July 4, 1945.

At the end of WW2, he enlisted and served three years as a Military Escort, for repatriation of the war dead, returning those killed in action to small towns throughout the Midwest. Upon completion of this solemn duty, he enlisted into the US Air Force, serving as a Recruiter four seven years in Wisconsin, with the 3rd Air Force in London, England, the Headquarters 17th Air Force at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, serving as the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the office of the Director of Personal Services, and later with the Strategic Air Command at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida.

He was the recipient of the World War 2 Victory Medal, The European Campaign Medal with one Silver Star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Netherlands Liberation Cross, the Belgian Fourragere for the Battle of the Bulge, two Good Conduct Medals for both the Army and the Air Force, the Air Force Longevity Medal, the French Legion of Honor Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired from active duty in 1964 and completed 10 years in the Air Force Reserves, retiring in 1974.

He moved to Tustin, after retiring from active duty, with his wife (and high school sweetheart) Phyllis, and children Judy, Donna and Gary in August 1966.

In retirement, he co-authored a book, Major General Maurice Rose- World War II's Forgotten Commander, with Steven L. Ossad (Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003).

