



Robert G. Burrows, Staff Sgt.
U. S. Army
World War II



“I had just turned 20 and the Army put a Browning Water Cooled Machine Gun in my hands and told me I was headed for Germany. I was no one’s hero but I survived....” Robert Burrows, now 91 years young, served with the U.S. Army from 1944 through 1946 in the 79th Division, 313th Regiment, Company H during some of the heaviest combat in the Rhineland Campaign.

The area surrounding the Rhine River was flooded by the Germans in an attempt to keep the Americans, British and Canadian troops out. “I remember us dragging our boats up over the flood Dykes and hauling that 1918 Browning along with me at the same time.”

One of the most memorable times during our march along the River Rhine was arriving in Cologne, Germany and being told we were to head south to the Remagen Bridge. The waters north of the Remagen were too wide and deep for a safe crossing. Our men were surprised to find the Remagen still standing as the Germans had tried unsuccessfully to destroy it. We, and the allies, captured the Remagen and established a bridgehead on the eastern side of the Rhine. We fought the Germans off constantly for the next 10 days as they would try to infiltrate and take the Remagen down. Finally on March 17th, 1945 the Remagen collapsed taking 18 Army Engineers with it. This was one of the deciding factors in the ending of World War II as it allowed the deployment of over 25,000 troops, six Army divisions, tanks, heavy artillery and trucks. This was one of Germany’s last major lines of defense and our troops ended their advance about 10 miles outside of Berlin when the war in Germany came to an end. After working our way back to our supporting ships we were reoutfitted and readied to sail for our next deployment during the late summer of 1945 – our destination was Japan. This was all changed abruptly – as we headed to Japan we got word on August 6th that the Americans had dropped the atomic bomb on Japan and we headed back to the U.S. where our Division was broke up.

“I can remember coming home and thinking how great it was to be back and thinking about my Grandfather telling me about his time in the Civil War. My Grandfather, John White, had fought in the

Civil War and had come home to live to be 100 years old. I'm 91 years old now and I have plans of being around for quite a while."

Robert Burrows lives in the Jackson Center area with his wife, Pat. Together they raised his 4 step-children, Peg Sealand, Ron Kocher, Doris Kocher and Kathy Greggs. Their family is completed by 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren (soon to be 7 great grandchildren).