

T/SGT MAX R. IRWIN, SR
D-Co, 409th – 2nd Platoon Sgt.



Max was born July 7, 1917 in Sherrard Illinois, to Eli & Grace Irwin. He had an older brother Winston. At eight years of age his father moved the family to Niles, Michigan due to lack of work in the Sherrard area. Niles was a thriving growing town in the twenties and Max was awestruck with the bricked roads and indoor plumbing. In February 1942 at the age of 24 he would marry the love of his life Joycelyn Fisher. That same year, on November 30, 1942 he reported for basic training at Camp Claiborne, LA.. He was assigned to D-Co, heavy weapons, 409th Regiment. He was cadre for the new ASTP'ers at Camp Howze and was given responsibility for the 2nd Platoon of water-cooled machine gunners.

Max was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions and bravery during a German counter attack at the Siegfried line on March 21, 1945. His actions were credited for successfully repulsing their attack. Max successfully led the 2nd Platoon from Marseilles, France to war's end in Innsbruck, Austria.

He returned home to Niles after the war to finally meet his first born daughter and start a life with his new family. He spent the next 62 years in Niles, loving and raising a family with Joycelyn. In September of 2007 he lost his beloved wife of 65 years. He and Joycelyn are the parents of 6 children + 2 stepsons, 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

