

## S/SGT CARL MINNEAR- (KIA)

410<sup>th</sup>, I-Company



was born July 4, 1921 in Jackson County, TN and spent his early childhood in the little farming village of Granville, Tennessee. He was orphaned at an early age, when his parents died during a flu outbreak and he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Vallee and Ben Agee, in nearby Gladdice. Carl, like his uncles, grew to be a large man as he stood over 6' tall and weighed nearly 200 pounds. The hard work of farming had strengthened and hardened the boy into a man. In late November 1942, Carl was drafted into service and he reported to Ft. Oglethorpe, GA, where he was sworn into the Army and sent to the 103d Division at Camp Claiborne, LA. He began basic training Jan 4, 1943, and following basic, he was assigned to Co I 410th Inf Regt. Training continued through 1943 and the movement to Camp Howze in Nov. of 43; as well as through 1944 and absorption of many fillers from the air corps and ASTP. By

the time Company I was ready to deploy to Europe in September, Carl was a S/Sgt squad leader in the 3rd Platoon. The 103d arrived in Marseille Oct 20 went on line Nov 9-11 in the Vosges Mountains of Eastern France. On the afternoon of Nov 29, 1944, Company I was advancing to the east just outside the town of Hohwarth, France with 3rd Platoon in the lead. The company was following a narrow cart path which cut through the surrounding forest. Suddenly, German artillery began to rain down on the column of men and the company was pinned down by intense enemy artillery fire. In the midst of the artillery barrage, S/Sgt Minnear, noticing the company medic, Aalsey Milburn of Carrier Mills, IL, had been severely wounded, left his cover and moved forward to assist the wounded soldier. As S/Sgt Minnear was attempting to evacuate his severely wounded comrade, he was struck by an enemy artillery round and killed instantly. S/Sgt Minnear was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action for his efforts in attempting the evacuation of his wounded medic. Minnear's Silver Star award citation states, "Throughout the entire action Sergeant Minnear's magnificent courage was in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service." On Jan 20, 1949, Carl Minnear was laid to rest in the Gene Butler Cemetery in Gladdice, TN. (*Information by cousin James Agee.*)