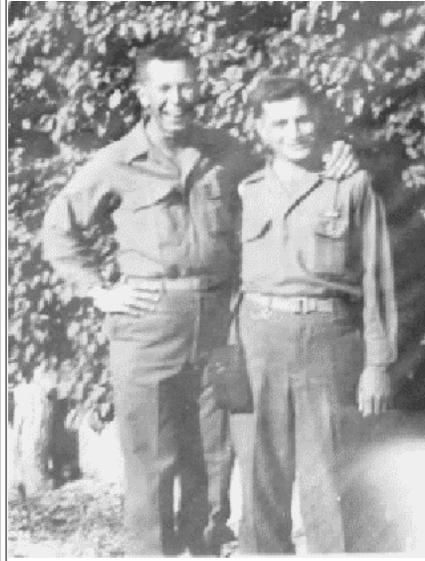


RAYMOND J. OBERDECKER

2ND Platoon



Ray after being assigned to the 2nd ID in fall of 1945



squad leader Sgt. Paul Hiser (on the left) and Raymond Oberdecker, in Bieber, Germany in April, 1945.



Ray Oberdecker in Freezing, Germany, July 1945



Ray Oberdecker in Innsbruck, Austria, June 1945

To Go Overseas



RAYMOND OBERDACKER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Oberdacker of Standard Shaft, is a private in an Army unit now stationed at Baltimore, Md., waiting for assignment overseas. He has been in the Army since June, 1944, and received his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla. In civilian life he was employed at the Glenn Martin aircraft factory at Baltimore.



Ray took basic training at Camp Blanding in Florida from 7/6 - 11/44.

From there he went to Fort Meade for about 2 month. He embarked from NY on 1/13 on the Santa Rosa and arrived in Le Havre, France on 1/15/45. After traveling in box car trains for two weeks, he joined the 103rd, D-Company. He was a member of the machine gun crew. His first major action was taking part in the battle for the Siegfried Line. He took part in operations in the Rhine Valley in Germany. They then moved on to Innsbruck, Austria in May. His sergeant was Manning who initially picked him for his platoon, the squad leader Hiser, platoon leader Lt. Rees and platoon sergeant Max Irwin.

He remembers going over the Alps and being loaded onto tanks for the entry into Innsbruck. He also has some darker memories of passing by a concentration camp that had been liberated. He was the company clerk for a week in Innsbruck. In July, 1945 he was attached to the 45th Infantry division and performed occupation duties in Freising Germany. He then was sent back to France and then spent a short time in England as a clerk. (He knew how to type!) He arrived in NY in September, 1945, and he was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division and he was sent to Texas. He actually arrived home ahead of his brother Barney who had been in the Army for 3 years. Ray was certain that he was going to be sent to Japan, when luckily for him and probably a lot of other guys Japan surrendered. He was discharged in April 1946