

Richard Franklin Irvin 589th Field Artillery Headquarters 106th Infantry Division

Honored veteran
01/19/2008

This week's honored veteran is Richard Franklin Irvin. Born at home in Gloucester on June 25, 1912, he was the son of Frank and Etta Irvin. He attended Gloucester schools and married Avis Tanner of Gloucester on March 28, 1935. They had three children: Edward Leon, Ellen Dorothy and William George. Irvin was employed at Davis Brothers Fisheries Co. Inc. before entering the service.

From July 1931 to May 1934, Irvin was a member of Battery A of the National Guard. The private entered the Army on March 15, 1943, and his specialty was in the infantry. He trained at Fort Devens and Fort Jackson, S.C. He underwent maneuvers in Tennessee before being shipped to Camp Atterbury.

Irvin was killed in action Jan. 23, 1945, by small arms and machine gun fire during an attack in the vicinity of Outhre, Belgium. He was 32. He left his wife, Avis, and his three young children as well as siblings Evelyn G. Irvin, Ellen E. Macleod and Oscar L. Irvin.

He was awarded the Purple Heart on March 24, 1945.

After the war had ended, Irvin's body came home by train to Gloucester. His family, friends, public officials and numerous veterans organizations representatives met the train and escorted the casket to the Armory, where it lay in state before the funeral service. He is buried at Beechbrook Cemetery, MA.

The flag was requested to fly in his honor by his son, Bill, and daughter-in-law Roseann Irvin.

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