Henry Langrehr

Army Air Corps

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SOLDIER DETAILS

DIVISION: Army Air Corps, 82nd Division of the 101st Airborne

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

BATTLE: D-Day

HONORED BY: American Veterans Center and The Eisenhower Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

Born into the Great Depression, Henry Langrehr knew what it was like to be poor. So when he left school to join the war in 1942, the extra 'jump pay' was incentive enough for Henry to join the paratroopers. He would serve with the 82nd Airborne Division from D-Day to V-E Day. At 19 years old, Henry Langrehr was among the first to jump feet first into France behind enemy lines. His drop zone was the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise where Henry would crash through the glass roof of a greenhouse in what he described as a "rough landing". Langrehr, along with others from the 82nd would achieve their objective and secure the town and surrounding bridges. Henry spent the next few weeks fighting hedgerow-to-hedgerow in some of the most harrowing close-quarter fighting of the war. During this fighting he would be wounded by shrapnel from a German tank and taken prisoner. After receiving medical attention from German doctors, Langrehr was sent to work slave labor in a Czechoslovakian coal mine.