



**Paul
Ybarra**
Army

Paul Ybarra

Jun 25, 1925 -

BIRTHPLACE: Wellington, KS

SOLDIER DETAILS

HIGHEST RANK: PFC

DIVISION: Army, Company G, 8th Infantry Regiment

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

SERVED: Sep 22, 1943 - Nov 4, 1945

BATTLE: Normandy, N France, Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge

MILITARY HONORS: Purple Heart with Oak clusters, EAME ribbon with 3 Bronze stars

HONORED BY: The Ybarra Family

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Ybarra was born in Wellington, KS June 25, 1925, one of twelve children. He attended school until 7th grade and was drafted at age 18. Basic training was in Tyler, TX until deployment to Europe. Ybarra arrived in England sometime in May 1944, and began preparing for combat but he was not told of the big operation planned for June 6. Ybarra recalls being awoken early on June 6 and loaded into a boat to cross the English channel. He is unsure of the beach he landed on but his unit received little if any resistance. They patrolled the beach until ordered to push through the line and continue on into France. In his video Ybarra talks about the accidental bombing from American pilots due to the smoke laid as targets, being blown by the wind. Part of his unit was taken out with these bombs. Ybarra and his unit marched through France, to Paris. Ybarra engaged in the Battle of the Bulge that winter and continued fighting until the end of the war. Ybarra was wounded twice but returned to battle each time. After the war Ybarra returned to Wellington and worked for the Railroad. He earned his GED, married and had four children