



### **Sgt. Edward T. French**

Sgt. Edward Theodore French was the son of Clifton French and Mary Alice Smith French. He was born in Boyle County, KY on August 16, 1917. Like his father, Edward was a farmer outside Harrodsburg before the war. He was the brother of Sgt. Morgan French.

Edward joined the Kentucky National Guard in Harrodsburg and was called to Federal duty on November 25, 1940. After 10 months of training at Fort Knox, KY, he was sent home due to a pre-existing medical condition. In fact, the Army doctors tried to get

Edward to take a medical discharge and he refused. As a result of his medical condition, he did not participate in the 1941 Louisiana maneuvers with the rest of D Company.

However, when the men of D Company traveled back to Kentucky for a 14-day leave prior to shipping out to California, Edward traveled to Camp Polk, Louisiana, and waited for his brother and the other men in D Company to return. When Morgan and the others returned to Louisiana to supervise the loading of their equipment onto railroad cars, Edward was there and traveled to San Francisco with Morgan and the others.

Edward and the other men of D Company sailed for the Philippine Islands, landing at Manila on Thanksgiving Day, 1941. He survived the initial Japanese attack on December 8, 1941. During early-1942, Edward was assigned to the 192<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Maintenance unit until he was injured in March 1942. Edward and Morgan saw each other for the last time in early-April 1942, only a few days before the surrender of Bataan. Morgan recalls that Edward had been injured by shrapnel from Japanese bombing.

Edward was in a field hospital on Bataan recovering from his injuries when a shell fired from Ft. Drum ("the concrete battleship") fell short and hit the hospital. Edward, along with 24 other soldiers, was killed on April 22, 1942, as a result of this "friendly fire" incident. He was 24 years old at the time of his death.

Edward is buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Manila. Edward was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries received during combat.