

Washington Island Military Archives

PFC Ervin Leroy Cornell

Born: Jan 21, 1912
on Island

Died: April 28, 1976

Period of Service: WW II
Sources: Monument, JG
cemetery 249 S, JG, not in
Cornell book, JE, AL
Scrapbook-box 17

Service # 36765452
SS # 390-12-5527

Entered service August 9, 1943 in Chicago.
Discharged January 6, 1946, Ft Devon, MA.

Served with Company D 223rd Infantry 42nd Div from 8/43 to 2/44; Co M 314th Inf 79th Div 2/44 to 10/45;
Co F 358th Eng 10/45 to 1/46.

Engaged in battles in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Cherbourg, LeHavre Du Puits, Nogent Lahore, Fougeves, Laval, Lemans, Suo Santhe, Govenches, Lessay, Nantes, Gresicourt, St Gurand, Howardoise, Beima, Joinville, Neuskatan, Chames, and Luneville.

He sailed from Boston in the US 4/7/44 on the *Crystal Ball* and arrived in Liverpool on 4/16. Later arrived on Utah Beach 12/6/44, and from LeHavre, France on the *SS Augintania* 12/24/45, arriving in New York January 1, 1946.

His medals include Good Conduct, Victory, European, African, Middle Eastern, and Purple Heart.

He wrote from Germany, "In our division we have had some rather hard times and rough knocks. But going along through thick and thin, we usually come out on top. We all know that some of us have to die to bring this to an end. So all we can do is pray for a quick victory. God only knows that all of us have prayed like never before."

In September 1944, he spent time in the hospital recovering from burns when a buddy who was cooking with gas caused an explosion that burned Ervin's clothing while he was sleeping.

He was part of Bert Cornell family in Washington Harbor; Orville was his brother. Married to Helen Mary Freese from Chicago.

Lived in a house near Little Lake now owned by Sherrill Gans. Daughter of Don and Darryl Johnson.

He had a distinguished military career. He landed at Normandy with the invasion and marched all the way to Berlin with the fighting troops.