

### **Story #149a Gayle Holcomb**

Corporal Gayle “Red” Holcomb (1918-2001) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

Red enlisted in the Army on April 27, 1942, with SN 16050647. He served in the Army Air Corps in Burma, India and China. His MOS was 747, airplane and engine mechanic. It is not known how long he served, but he is recorded as arriving in New York City on September 26, 1945 on the USS General Greely, a transport ship from Calcutta. Red probably served four years.

Gayle Francis Holcomb was born in Mazomanie on June 9, 1918, the son of Mazomanie railroad bridge carpenter Frank Holcomb and Jennie Jordan. Gayle is first found with his family as a one year old boy with six other siblings living in Mazomanie at the 1920 US Census. He remains with his Mazomanie family at the 1930 and 1940 US Census. Gayle graduated from Mazomanie High School in 1935 and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His October 16, 1940 Draft Card listed him living in Mazomanie, working for Cy Jordan. He is 6’, 160 # with a ruddy complexion, red hair and blue eyes.

After service Gayle returned to Wisconsin, where married Eleanor Adler (1906-1994) in Dubuque IA on June 27, 1949. She was the daughter of German born Cross Plains hotel keeper John Adler and Gretchen Buttcher. This was her second marriage. The couple are found in Madison at the 1950 US Census, where the 31 year old is working as a telephone installer. Red and Eleanor continued to live in Madison as he worked for the telephone company. He passed away on August 31, 2001 in Waunakee and is buried in the Roselawn Cemetery of Monona WI with his wife..