

Story #912 William Linley

Tech Sergeant William Linley (1921-1988) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

William enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Milwaukee on November 19, 1940. He mustered out on June 6, 1945, having served nearly four years. William served in the South Pacific with the 15th Task Force of the 23rd Bombardment Squadron. He was a B24 Bomber ground area chief. B-24 Liberators flew from bases in the Central and Southwest Pacific, conducting long-range bombing missions against Japanese targets. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, but escaped harm.

William Francis Linley was born in Mazomanie on February 5, 1921 to Mazomanie farmer, truck driver and maintenance man Henry “Hank” Linley and Ethel Borman. He is found there with his family at the 1930 as a nine year old. William graduated from the Mazomanie High School in 1938. At the 1940 US Census, the nineteen year old is still living in Mazomanie with his family, now working for the CCC Park Service.

After the war, William returned to Mazomanie. His June 15, 1945 Draft Card listed him as 5’-8½”, 175 # with a light complexion, brown hair and green eyes. He was listed as self-employed. William married Illinois born teacher Verona Hurd (1921-2009) in Madison on September 7, 1946. She was the daughter of Madison garage owner Vernon Hurd and Rose Allen. The 1950 Middleton WI Census listed the young married couple. He is a telephone installer. William retired from Wisconsin Bell Telephone Company after 35 years of service. He passed away in Madison on October 12, 1988 and is buried in the Mazomanie St. Barnabas Cemetery with his wife. They had seven children.

