

## Story #920 James Smith

Sergeant Tech 4 James Smith (1919-1975) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

James enlisted in the Army on March 12, 1942 at Ft. Sheridan IL with serial number 36237469. He was assigned to Company A of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineer Battalion. Later from August 1944 to discharge on October 20, 1945, he was stationed at Ft. Polk LA and Ft. Riley KS. James served three and one-half years. He was known to be a military cook. When he made coffee, he referred to it as "jungle coffee." James received the Good Conduct medal with ribbons and the Certificate of Merit. He was also reported to have earned an award for providing food on the front line.

James Henry Smith was born in Centerville, Carrol County MS on September 23, 1919 to dairy farmer, Nathan Smith and Bessie Lewis. "The first record of James was in 1920 as a newborn in Mississippi with his farming family. His family is farming in Dodgeville Township, Iowa County WI at the 1930 US Census and in Mazomanie Township at the 1940 US Census. The 1940 US Census listed him as a 20 year old, single kitchen worker. His October 16, 1940 Draft Card listed him as 5'-8", 136 # with a light completion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was listed as living in Mazomanie working for his father.

James married Verda Wallace (1924-2013) while in the Army on October 8, 1942. She was the daughter of Mazomanie carpenter and Village Marshall Charles Wallace and Louisa Harrison.

After the war, James returned to Mazomanie. The 1950 Mazomanie US Census listed the married couple. He is a house contractor. James passed away in Mazomanie on October 10, 1975 and is buried in the Ebenezer Eastside Cemetery of Ridgeway WI. They had five children.

