

Story #911 Gerald Shackelton

Corporal Gerald “Bud” Shackelton (1918-1949) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

Gerald enlisted in the Army on August 31, 1940, with SN 16005981 and mustered out on September 3, 1945, having served five years. He was in the Battery B of the 34th Field Artillery. The Regiment played a significant role in the war, participating in key campaigns in the European Theater and contributing to the Allied victory. The unit left for Europe on 9 June 1944, participating in the DDay landings and subsequent battles. The regiment was involved in significant engagements, including the North African campaign, where it provided artillery support during the invasion of Algiers and the subsequent battles in Tunisia. Gerald spent time in a hospital in Algeria from a battle injury in July 1944 from an artillery shell.

Gerald William Shackelton was born in Mazomanie on July 27, 1918, the son of Canadian born Mazomanie railroad bridge builder and Black Earth farmer Colin Shackelton and Mary Higgins. Gerald is first found with his family as a one year old with six other siblings living in Mazomanie at the 1920 US Census. At the 1930 US Census the family has moved to Black Earth and then moved back to Mazomanie for the 1940 US Census. In 1940 Gerald is a 21 year old mine orderly.

After service Gerald returned to Wisconsin, where his September 6, 1945 Draft Card listed him living in Waunakee. He is 5’-8”, 170 # with a ruddy complexion, brown hair and brown eyes. Gerald never married and passed away on September 27, 1949 at only 31 years old. He is buried in the Mazomanie St. Barnabas Cemetery.

