



**Charles
Coleman**

Army

Charles Coleman

Dec 3, 1917 - Apr 25, 2013

BIRTHPLACE: Pueblo, CO

SOLDIER DETAILS

DIVISION: Army, C Co., 93rd Recon.

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

SERVED: Nov 20, 1942 - Jan 31, 1946

HONORED BY: Dorthey R. Coleman

BIOGRAPHY

For many veterans, talking about their service to their country isn't easy. Nearly 60 years have gone by and Asher Coleman still has trouble talking about his experience in World War II. Coleman fought in General George Patton's Army as part of the 93rd Recon Squadron as a scout section sergeant. He served in the Army for three years and three months. His job as part of the recon division was to drive ahead and draw fire from the Germans, then fall back and allow the rest of the Army to fight. 'I was fortunate,' Coleman said, referring to his safe return from the war. 'I was pretty fortunate.' The highlight of Coleman's military career was his capture of a German general and about 150 soldiers. As Coleman described the event, he said he saw white flags waving up the hill. As he approached, he noticed it was a general in a German army, along with his staff of about 150 men. They were surrendering to U.S. forces because they thought they were about to be captured by the Russians. Asher said he parked his Jeep and had the soldiers throw their guns in the river. He had each soldier place his pistol inside his Jeep. When asked if he still had the one of the collector's items, Asher said he traded the pistol he had taken home for fishing equipment. The modest Colman insisted that he was just in the right place at the right time to make the capture. 'The commander gives you the order and tells you where to go,' Coleman said. The 60th anniversary of D-Day was June 6, 2004. Asher recalled he was in Texas at the time of the actual D-Day. He didn't go to war until December 1944. When asked what his fondest memory of his time in the military, Coleman said, 'When I got the orders to come home'. Coleman also recalled a fond memory of his time with the 93rd Recon basketball team. To this day, he still keeps in touch with Phil Ayers, the youngest player on their team. Coleman recalled a time he and his division came upon a couple of German soldiers at the top of the hill. The soldiers ran and left their weapons behind. Asher and his division went to destroy the weapons with explosive charges as a standard procedure. What he didn't realize was that the soldiers had already put charges in the guns and destroyed their own guns. About that time, Lieutenant Dayhoff came over the hill and commended Coleman and his division. Coleman said he took credit for the deed. It was not until some 40 years after the war at a reunion that Coleman shared the secret with Dayhoff. When the war in Europe ended, Coleman was back in the United States on a 45-day furlough. 'We were

headed for Japan when we got the news (when Japan surrendered ending the war in the Pacific Theater),' Coleman said.