



**Elmer
Stoddard**

Army

Elmer Stoddard

Oct 15, 1916 - Mar 6, 2000

BIRTHPLACE: Cohasset, Massachusetts

SOLDIER DETAILS

DIVISION: Army, 68th AAA

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

SERVED: Jan 20, 1941 - Sep 19, 1945

HONORED BY: Charles R. Stoddard Family

BIOGRAPHY

The First Battalion participated in the Invasion of North Africa with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fedala, French Morocco. On Christmas Day, Elmer was bivouacked near Casablanca, and he noticed Sheldon's unit of the 8th Infantry Division moving by the area. With a little looking Elmer found brother Sheldon asleep in his pup tent. This was the first time they had seen each other for over two years. Sheldon was with the 34th Field Artillery 9th Infantry Division which had arrived on the same convoy from the States. The 68th moved across North Africa with rest stops at Algiers, Algeria and Carthage, Tunis. On Aug. 6, 1943, the Battalion moved by ferry from the port of Tunis and landed in Gila, Sicily. They moved up the west coast and took up position in the Palermo area before moving on to Italy. The 68th Regiment was reorganized and the First Battalion became the 68th AAA Gun Battalion; part of the 5th Army Anti-Aircraft force during the Italian Campaign. On Sept. 9, 1943, the unit moved to Salerno, Italy. In Nov. and Dec. the unit was at the Magnano Gap and Cassino Front. Sometime in the winter months of 1943, Elmer reported to sick call and was sent to a hospital in North Africa. He was diagnosed and treated for malaria and returned to his unit in Italy. The 68th took part in the Battle of Anzio Beachhead in Jan. 1944. The Battalion moved north along the coast during the Battle for Rome and took up position at the Port of Civitavecchia, Italy. After Rome was captured the unit moved back to Naples in preparation for the invasion of Southern France. The invasion force departed Naples, Italy Aug. 13, 1944, which at this time was the second largest amphibious landing of the war. Elmer's unit landed Aug. 15, 1944 at Green Beach at Saint Raphael, France. From Aug. until Dec. the 68th were based at a fort in the coastal mountain village of La Turbie, France. The next location for the 68th was at Belfort and Besancon, France, next to a French Army unit. The last known position for the 68th AAA Gun Battalion at the termination of the war was at Heidelberg, Germany in July 1945. Elmer received Special Orders on Aug. 3, 1945 from the headquarters 110th AAA Gun Bn. To report to the 14th Reinforcement Depot Thiensville, France on August 7, 1945. The 110th AAA Gun Bn. Departed Europe Sept. 4, 1945 with over one thousand troops aboard the Dutch cargo ship M.S. Brastagi and arrived in the States Sept. 13, 1945. After reporting to the Separation Center at Fort Devens, MA. For processing, Elmer was discharged from the Army Sept. 19, 1945. Elmer was later awarded disability

compensation from the Veterans Administration for contracting malaria during his service overseas. The award from the Veterans Administration was terminated in March of 1948.