



**Allen P. Atwell**  
**United States Army**  
**1943—1945**

Allen P. Atwell grew up in a small town called Breesport, NY. It had few stop signs and no traffic lights. The day after his 18th birthday he went to all the recruiting offices to try to enlist. For some reason none were taking enlistments. They suggested he go to the Draft Board and volunteer. Within a weeks time he received an “official invitation” , , , he was inducted into the Army in October 1943 at Camp Upton on Long Island.

He took his basic training at Camp Croft, South Carolina. He went to England on the French liner Maritana. They crossed into England at night in a rain storm. He then boarded a small French ship which took him to the coast of Normandy. He waded ashore on Omaha Beach on Labor Day 1944. He was assigned to Company B, 109th Regt., 28 Infantry Division. He suffered “Frost Bite” in the Hurtgen Forest and lost feeling in both feet. He was hospitalized in Spa, Belgium. The Battle of the Bulge started on December 16, 1944. Everyone who could walk was discharged from the hospital with orders to report to Bastogne as riflemen. He got as far as Neufchateau where he was asked if he would like to be an MP. He made a quick decision and is sure that’s why he lived to tell his story. The War was over in Europe. They couldn’t get the men back soon enough. The rumor was that they were on their way to Japan. Later he read that the 28th Division would have been the third wave to attack Japan. That would not have been good. The War was over!!! He was discharged in October 1945.

He was hired by New York Telephone company one month after his discharge. He worked another twenty five years doing work for business customers in the in the Clifton Park area. He married his school sweetheart in June 1946. They enjoyed 73 years in raising three sons and two daughters. They have four Grandchildren and four Great Grandchildren.

Allen has been a volunteer fireman for over seventy years. He is currently Chairman of the Emergency Services Advisory Board for the Town of Clifton Park. He serves as the Director the Capital District Patriot Flight; an Organization that flies local veterans to Washington, DC for the day to visit sites like the WWII memorial, Vietnam Wall and more at no cost. He is also a member of the Elks, Masons, VFW and American Legion.

In December, 2019 Allen returned to Neschateau, Belgium for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.