

March 21, 2020

From Altoona to the Front

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, J. Gleim, Museum Curator)

Private First Class Carl E. Robinson of Altoona, PA entered the military in October 1943 and was assigned to the US Army 9th Infantry Division Military Police Platoon. During World War II, Military Police supported operations by providing traffic control, performing route reconnaissance, managed enemy prisoners, and served as regular infantrymen when needed. He arrived with his unit in England on April 6, 1944 to prepare for the D-Day invasion.



PFC Robinson, Carl E.

The 9th Division MP Platoon arrived in Normandy on D-Day plus 4 (June 10, 1944), they were part of only two American infantry divisions on the beachhead with prior combat experience, and provided essential support protecting and guiding men and materiel inland.

Later, during the Rhineland campaign in March 1945, the 9th Division MP Platoon was charged with traffic control at the Lunderdorff Bridge, Remagen Germany. There, under heavy German artillery fire, the platoon ensured traffic could flow freely across the bridge by removing disabled vehicles, evacuating wounded, and laying communication lines.



PFC Robinson items being cleaned & prepped for acceptance into collection.

PFC Robinson participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe campaigns. Robinson was wounded in action July 13, 1944 and awarded the Purple Heart. The Pennsylvania Military Museum recently added Robinson's uniform, overcoat, and combat boots to its collection.