

Tech Sergeant William Norman (Bill) Parker

116th Infantry 29th Division US Army

5653 N Gillette, Tulsa 74130

(918) 425-1947

(Mr Parker can't hear well, so it is best to call his friend, David Rule, (918) 698-5395.)

Biography

Technical Sergeant William Norman Parker was born on November 1, 1924 in Torrance, California. He graduated from McCurtain High School in 1943, and shortly after received his draft papers for World War II. He boarded a train for boot camp to prepare for war, training at Ft. Sill and later at Camp Wolters, Texas.

Eleven months later, on D-Day, June 6, 1944, Parker, followed by the rest of the 116th Infantry's 2nd Battalion, entered World War II when the ramp dropped he led the charge out of the English Channel and on to the French beach. He believes he was the first soldier to touch sand. The 116th lost over 1,000 men that day, mostly 18 and 19-year olds.

Parker was among the victorious on D-Day. He later learned he marched 600 miles (some of that with a foot so swollen from shrapnel, he briefly thought he was going to lose it) across France and Germany until "I met the Russians on the other side of the Elbe River."

Mr. Parker was discharged on October 25, 1945. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, multiple ribbons for battles fought, a Good Conduct medal, and a Sharp Shooter medal. Mr. Parker is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and in September was recognized for his service by Chief Gary Batton.

Mr. Parker now resides in Tulsa.