EDWIN M. SCHWIETERMAN

KILLED IN ACTION – WORLD WAR II

Edwin ("Ed") Schwieterman was the youngest of four sons of John and Martha (Schell) Schwieterman, a prominent St. Elizabeth family. He married his sweetheart, Eula Hawkins, before he shipped out.

Ed was in the infantry in World War II, a member of the 142d Infantry Regiment, 36 Infantry Division. The 142nd fought numerous battles in Italy and France in 1944 and early 1945. The men of the regiment were engaged in heavy fighting in the Vosges Mountains in western France and across the Rhine into the Black Forest region of Germany.

On March 20, 1945, less than two months before the war in Europe ended, Ed was killed by a German sniper. The circumstances of his death in combat were described in a letter to his young widow from the Adjutant General of the Army, a copy of which accompanies this summary. She shared the letter with the *Miller County Autogram* where it was published March 28, 1946.

PFC Schwieterman is buried in Plot B, Row 22, Grave 37, Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold, France. This military cemetery covers 111 acres and contains 10,481 American service members who were killed in that region in WW II. It is the largest American military cemetery in Europe. *https://www.abmc.gov/Lorraine*

The dog tags Ed Schwieterman wore and the Purple Heart medal he was awarded posthumously are treasured possessions of his nephew, Al Luetkemeyer, and his family.

Americans in World War II. World War II began in September 1939 when the German army attacked Poland and Britain and France declared war. The United States was brought into the war on the Allied side with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. America mobilized, and 16 million Americans were either drafted or volunteered for service during the war: 405,000 were killed, 671,000 wounded.

European Theater. Two million American soldiers served in the European theater of operations. Between the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, and the end of the war in Europe on May 8, 1945, 105,000 died in service. Edwin M. Schwieterman was one of them.