

## World War II - 1945 Europe Ends, Pacific Push

### Communication Improves

Despite the chaos of World War II, 616 Elks did occasionally learn of the death of a member in a timely manner, were able to hold a Lodge of Sorrow, and acknowledge the member's sacrifice. Such was the case of Elk **Sidney Rosenberg**. His wife, Audrey, wrote from San Francisco to say her husband had been Killed in Action Jan 11, 1945. His name is shared by several casualties in military records, leaving us unable to determine the details of the events concerning our Sidney Rosenberg.

February brought news to Brother **Ottman** that his son had been wounded in action in the Philippines.

In March it was news from a wife in North Dakota. Elk **Eldon E. Edin**, Private 1st Class, US Army 167th Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion, was lost in France. Awarded a Purple Heart, he remains today at the Rhone American Cemetery, Draguignan, France. A Lodge of Sorrow was held and a fitting eulogy was given.

In May 1945, joy came with the unconditional surrender of all German forces to the Allies in Europe. The Ottman family celebrated their son's recovery from his wounds, but was sobered by his return to duty.

[Tents Down: troops in Italy break camp.](#)

[Thousands of men left Europe to wait in Puerto Rico for possible use in a land invasion of Japan.](#)



Now resources were poured into the Pacific. Military planners were unsure how the Pacific campaign would unfold. Men not needed in the European post-war occupation, might be needed for a land invasion of Japan's main island. Reluctant to return the men to the US, remote but secure locations such as Puerto Rico became troop holding areas. Men spent many months waiting with no duties, minimal facilities, and plenty of time to think - well aware of what might await them. For some, concern led to constant drunkenness. For some, even the dullness of alcohol couldn't block reality: "I tried it. It didn't work. I still knew what might come." For other Elks the Pacific war was already very real. The war was not finished. Elks had work to do in the Pacific and sacrifices would be required.

Anita Manning, 616 Lodge Historian

References:

*616 Membership records and Minutes*

*Advertiser-Star Bulletin* morgue University of Hawaii Hamilton Library

American Battle Monuments [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

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National Archives World War II online Archival Databases

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) & [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)