**PAUL GECKLE**

Brick Location: B2

Paul E. Geckle was inducted into the U.S. Army in February 1942. He completed basic training in Fort Leonard, Missouri, and then went to California for additional training. It was in California that the engineering corps unit was formed. From Fort Dix, N.J., in August 1942, the unit was among a convoy of ships carrying 400,000 men, supplies and artillery. It took 30 days to reach England and the unit was stationed near London. The engineering corps maintained airdromes for planes to transport wounded back to Paris.

From June through December 1945 the unit was stationed at Orly Airfield near a suburb of Paris. From the end of 1945 through November 1946 the unit was stationed at Ansbaugh, Germany, where they maintained airfields. Paul returned to the United States in January 1947, sailing aboard a victory ship for 12 days. He was discharged in March 1947 as a T-4 sergeant.

While overseas he received newsletters from Waldo High School and St. John’s (Windfall) Lutheran Church in Cardington. Through these newsletters he was able to locate relatives and friends who were also serving in the military. Paul was glad to know that the National World War II Memorial would be built in Washington, D.C. He wasn’t able to see the finished monument having died on Memorial Day weekend 2000.

Submitted by:

Gretchen Geckle Brooks

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