

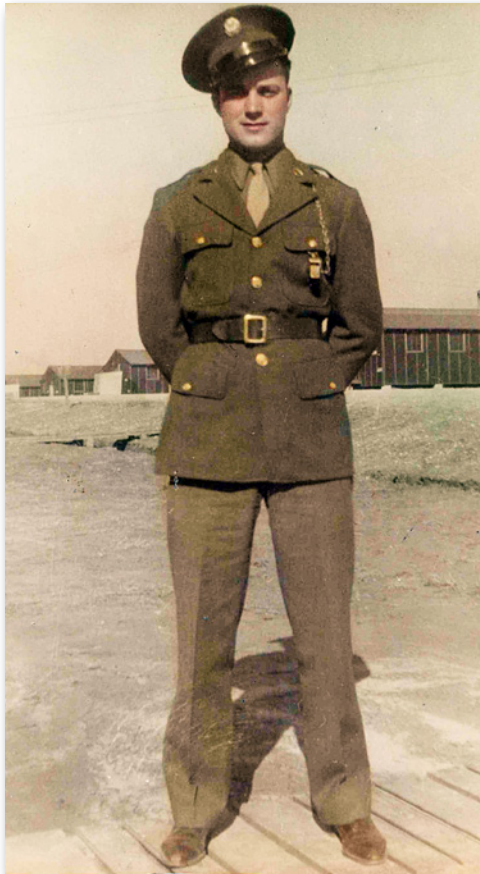
Staff Sergeant Franklin A. Eberle

**U.S. Army, Company K of the 394th Infantry Regiment,
99th Infantry Division**

*Medals: Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal,
World War II Victory Medal*

MHS CLASS OF 1940

**Inducted into the St. Marys MHS Alumni Foundation Hall
of Fame for Military Service to Country in 2025**



SSgt. Eberle at Camp VanDorn.

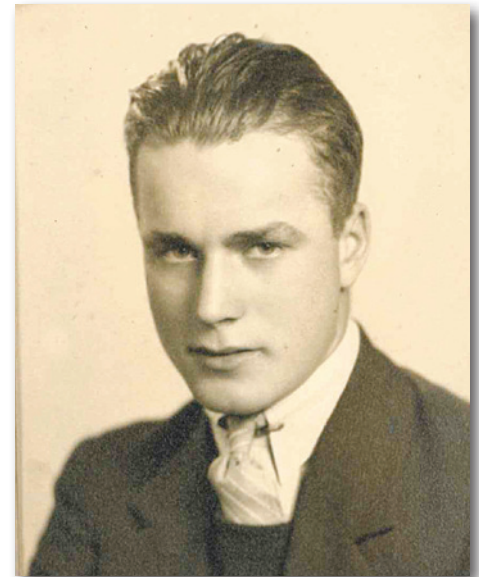
Franklin Andrew Eberle was born on September 20, 1922, the eldest son of Albert and Sylvia Eberle. During his early years, Frank lived with his parents and sisters, Mary (Poppe), Patricia (Burden), Vivian (Glass), and one brother, Albert, at 424 Derrick Street, St. Marys, Ohio. He is a 1940 graduate of St. Marys Memorial High School. After High School, Frank secured a job at Goodyear Tire and Rubber and was soon promoted to a supervisory position.

After a conversation with his father, Frank decided to avoid being drafted that he would instead join the Army. Frank enlisted on November 30, 1942, in Toledo.

Between January and March, 1943, Frank completed basic training at Camp VanDorn, Mississippi. He soon joined Company K of the 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division as a Private First Class. In June, 1943, Frank was promoted to Sergeant.

Frank married Elizabeth "Betty" Chappie on April 16, 1942. Betty remained with her parents in St. Marys, when she gave birth to their only child, Sharon Ann Eberle in February 1943.

During the months of October and November 1943, the 99th Division participated in the 3rd Louisiana Maneuvers as World War II raged in Europe. It was in Louisiana that Frank saw spiders of unimaginable size along with snakes, insects, and armadillos. Following the maneuvers, Frank and the remainder of the Division moved to Camp Maxey, Texas, where they would spend nearly a year in training. During his time at Camp Maxey,



*Frank's High School
Graduation portrait.*

**Franklin A.
Eberle**



On August 1, 1942, Frank married Elizabeth (Betty) Chappie.

During a brief stay in southern England, Frank was able to take in the English countryside and made a visit to Scotland. On November 9, 1944, the 99th Division departed England and arrived at Le Havre, France.

From Le Havre, the Division moved through France into

Frank had the opportunity to get furloughs home, and Betty was able to make extended visits to Texas. Frank was promoted to Staff Sergeant not long after arriving in Texas.

During the period of September 9 through September 13, 1944, the 99th Division departed Camp Maxey by train bound for Camp Miles Standish, Massachusetts (Boston). Transportation to the European Theatre of war awaited the Division. In a letter home postmarked September 20, 1944, Frank made a profound observation:

"On the way here I pass[ed] so close to the home town that I could see the lights of it. Right through the county seat. Boy it seems funny not to be able to get off and go home."
 – SSgt. Franklin Eberle, Sept. 20, 1944

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

REGISTRATION NUMBER 1. NAME (GIVEN)
 N. 0165 FRANKLIN ANDREW EBERLE ORDER NUMBER 11875

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (PHONE)
 424 DEARBORN ST. MARYS AUGLAIZE, OHIO

3. MARITAL STATUS
 SAME

4. TELEPHONE 220 5. AGE IN YEARS 19 6. PLACE OF BIRTH ST. MARYS, OHIO

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST RELATIVE WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
 CHARLES EBERLE SAME

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
 ST. MARYS MFG. CO.

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
 ST. MARYS, OHIO

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. R. S. FORM 1 (Revised 6-1-42) (1947) 16-5100-8 Frank Eberle

From Massachusetts, the 99th Division departed for Europe on the Army transport ships, Argentina, Explorer, and George W. Goethals only to receive orders while underway to proceed to England.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT		COMPLEXION	
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	
White	5'11"	140	Sallow
	EYES	HAIR	Light
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Buddy
	Gray	Red	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
	Brown	Black	Light brown
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown
	Bald	Bald	Black
Philipino			

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification
 17. Bird scars on back.

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board: [Signature]
 Date of registration: June 30, 1944

LOCAL BOARD No. 1
 FOR AUGLAIZE COUNTY
 SECOND FL., CT. HOUSE
 ST. MARYS, OHIO

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant should be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-5100-1

Franklin A.
Eberle

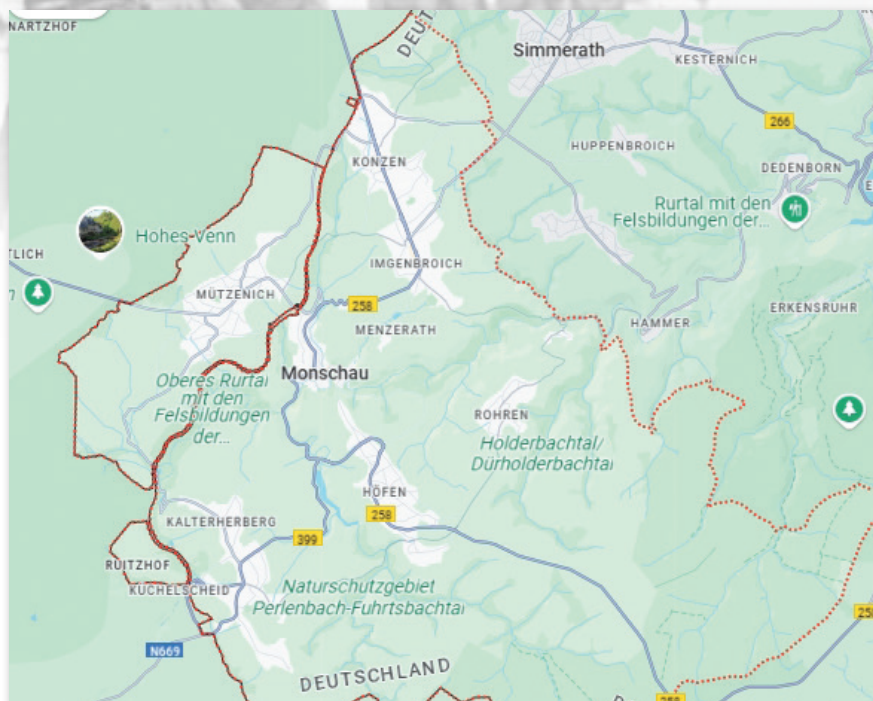


Troops at Camp Maxey.

Belgium. They were then deployed to the "Ghost Front" around Elsenborn, Belgium, near the German border. The 99th Division area covered Monschau, Germany, and Elsenborn, Honsfeld, Rockerath-Krinkelt Belgium.

On November 14, 1944, Company K took up positions one-quarter mile east of Losheimergrasben, Belgium and just across the German border. The snow was seven inches deep and the weather was very cold with intermittent falling snow causing generally low visibility.

Company K's mission was to maintain their defensive position and send out daily patrols to probe the German lines, which were approximately a mile and



Monschau region where the forest was nearby and where Frank led the patrol on November, 19, 1944.



The 394th Infantry disembarking in the harbor at Le Havre, France. The facilities were so damaged that the Division had to use landing crafts to come ashore.

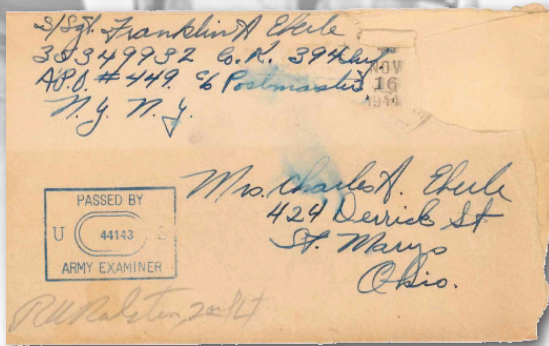
a half away. Frank led a patrol on November 19th with two other soldiers, Privates Fritz and Campbell. The following events were described in a letter written by a fellow soldier, Kenny Weeks, and sent to Frank's wife, Betty, in April, 1945.

The three-man patrol crossed into Germany and into the Monschau Forrest near the town of Monschau where at dawn, they stopped at an outpost manned by Kenny Weeks' squad. Weeks shared a cup of coffee with Frank before the three of them continued on the patrol.

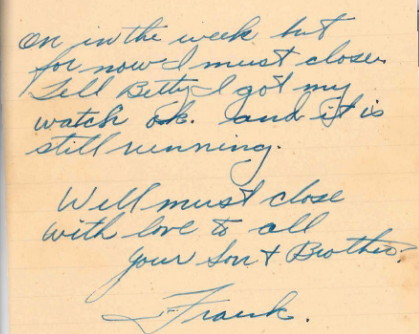
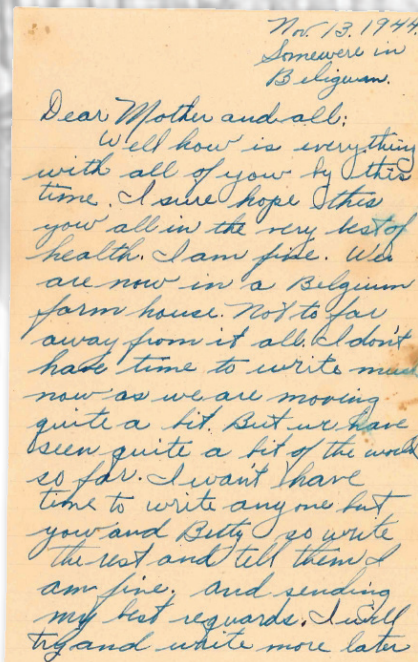
Several hours later, Campbell and Fritz returned to the outpost and reported that Frank had been killed. They reported that the patrol was stopped so Frank could check the map when he was struck by German machine gun fire. Frank, now wounded, told the two privates to leave the area when he was struck by a second burst of machine gun fire and fell dead.

It was impossible to re-enter the area for several days. A patrol led by Al Caruso, reached Frank's body and retrieved the remains. Kenny Weeks was present at the outpost when the body was returned and attested that Frank probably died immediately from the machine gun fire.

**Franklin A.
Eberle**



The last letter written by Frank Eberle on the way to the battle front somewhere in Belgium, near the German border – six days before he was killed.



SSgt. Franklin Eberle was the first casualty suffered by K Company, but he would not be the last. The Battle of the Bulge commenced on December 16th. Many soldiers from the Regiment were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner, including Kenny Weeks who, at the time of his letter to Betty, was convalescing in a Colorado hospital.

Frank's last letter home was written on November 13, 1944, while staying in a farmhouse somewhere in Belgium. This is the day before the Regiment took up positions near the front lines.

According to Frank's younger brother, Albert, soon after Frank was killed, Mary Jacobs, a close neighbor of Frank's parents, received a letter from her brother, Bud Jacobs, who was serving in the 394th Infantry Regiment as a headquarters clerk. The letter was somewhat cryptic, but Frank's father knew immediately after reading it that something must have happened to Frank. He kept it to himself so he would not upset Frank's mother, Sylvia.

Betty Eberle was eventually notified by the Department of the Army via Western Union that Frank was listed as missing in action. Weeks went by before Betty received the telegram that Frank had been killed in action.

Three weeks after SSgt. Franklin Eberle was killed, the German Army kicked off their last offensive against the Allied Armies, better known as the Battle of the Bulge.

During the fighting, both sides took heavy casualties. In order to accommodate all of the war dead, both Allied and German, a temporary burial site was established near Hombourg, Belgium, known as Henri-Chapelle Cemetery. It was here that the remains of SSgt. Franklin Eberle were interned. By the end of WWII, Henri-Chappelle would hold over 17,000 American graves.

After the war, Paul Axe of St. Marys visited Frank's grave in Belgium and noted that there was a nice white cross marking his grave. While at the cemetery, Paul Axe scooped



The Henri-Chappelle military cemetery.

Franklin A.
Eberle



BODY OF S-SGT. FRANKLIN EBERLE WILL ARRIVE HERE FRIDAY AFTERNOON

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR SOLDIER KILLED SHORTLY BEFORE BATTLE OF BULGE WILL BE HELD AT 2 O'CLOCK SATURDAY AT EUB CHURCH WITH AMVETS PARTICIPATING.

The body of Staff Sgt. Franklin A. Eberle, 22, killed on November 19, 1944, in Germany, just before the Battle of the Bulge, will arrive in St. Marys Friday and funeral services will be held Saturday. His body will arrive in Wapakoneta at noon Friday and will be brought from there to the Yoder Funeral Home where friends may call Friday and up to the time of the funeral.

The funeral services are arranged for Saturday at 1:30 o'clock at the Funeral Home and at 2 o'clock at the First Evangelical United Brethren church. The Rev. Paul Strouse will officiate and the AMVETS will conduct the military rites. Burial will be made in Gethsemane cemetery.

Staff Sgt. Eberle was the son of Charles and Sylvia Grunden Eberle, North Derrick street, and was born in St. Marys on Sept. 20, 1922. On August 1, 1942, he married Betty Chappie, now Mrs. Ralph Lewis, and to them was born a daughter, Sharon Ann. He was a graduate of Memorial high school with the class of 1940 and was employed by Goodyear before entering service on December 9, 1942. He trained at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and then was sent to Camp Maxey, Texas, from where he was shipped overseas.

Surviving him are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Eberle, three sisters, Mrs. John (Mary) Poppe, Mrs. Alvin (Vivian) Glass, of Villa Nova, and Patti Ann, at home, one brother, Albert Eberle, at home; his daughter, Sharon Ann, and Mrs. Ralph Lewis. There are a great many friends.

He was popular among many St. Marys.



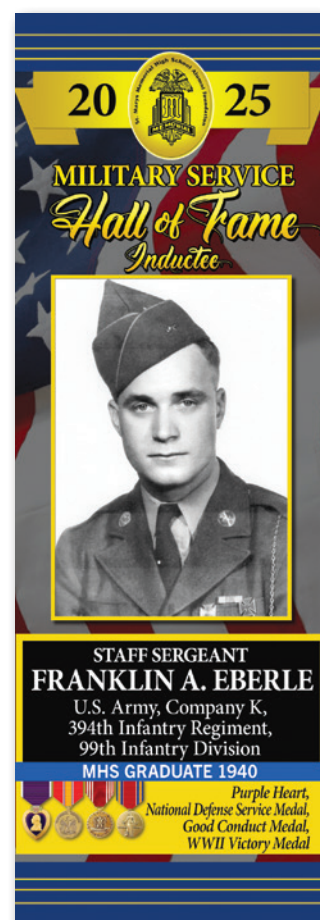
up a small amount of Belgium soil from Frank's grave and brought it home for Frank's parents.

The repatriation of America's war dead began on July 27, 1947 at a special ceremony at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery. The first ship with the remains of 5,600 American war dead from Henri-Chapelle left Antwerp, Belgium the first week of October, 1947. Over 30,000 Belgian citizens lined the streets of

Antwerp to honor America's war dead.

The remains of SSgt. Franklin Eberle arrived in New York Harbor onboard the U.S. Army Transport, Robert Burns and Frank's body was delivered to Yoder Funeral Home by train. The remains were escorted by First Sergeant Max Campbell. A funeral was held on December 20, 1947, at United

Brethren Church, officiated by Reverend Paul Strouse. The bearers were fellow veteran soldiers Forest "Bud" Jacobs, Henry Burden, Virgil Steinecker, Gilbert "Bud" Ice, Geary Bupp, and Glen Botkin. Burial took place at Elm Grove Cemetery, where the Belgium soil was mixed with the soil at Frank's final resting place. On September 15, 1945, Betty Eberle received a Purple Heart medal posthumously awarded to her husband, SSgt. Franklin A. Eberle.



Newspaper clipping for Frank's funeral.

In addition to the Combat Infantry Badge, Frank earned the Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, and the World War II Victory Medal.



Franklin A.
Eberle