

# Corporal vet earns purple heart

By Anthony Rhodes  
Staff reporter

Keith DeWyke was a corporal in the 42nd infantry rifle company and served in Europe.

He was drafted during his freshman year of college at Emporia State University at the age of 18. He was offered a deferment to go back to the farm where he grew up, but instead decided the military was the best way for him to get away from the farm.

DeWyke had a number of stories to share, including one about how his Sergeant ordered him to clean the rifle of a man who was shaken up after witnessing a couple of men get wounded in combat.

He was cleaning the man's rifle and had set it down next to him. He picked it up again, not realizing that instead of picking up the rifle he had been cleaning he picked up his own loaded rifle. He pulled the trigger of the rifle and fired a shot into the roof of the house they were in.

He said this wouldn't have been a problem if it hadn't been for the fact that there was a commanding officer sleeping in the room directly above him. For the rest of the night and the following morning, "My only concern was if I had accidentally killed

the man above me" said DeWyke.

This story took a grim turn towards the end though, because DeWyke revealed that one of the men who had been wounded was one of his good friends from his platoon. The man had lost his leg. A tear rolled down his cheek as he told this story. Nobody knew that Keith and this man were friends. That is why the sergeant ordered him to clean the other man's rifle.

DeWyke was taken prisoner by German soldiers during a battle, luckily one of his artillery spotters saw them take him into the house and later his platoon came and rescued him.

DeWyke took a couple of things back with him from the war. These items included a couple of German marks, which were worthless, and a pocket watch he took off of a German prisoner. Most importantly of all was his purple heart, which he received after catching a bullet in the leg during a firefight.

DeWyke was discharged from the Army in 1946. He began taking classes at Kansas State in the summer, and ended up graduating a couple years later with a degree in accounting.

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Keith DeWyke served in World War II as a corporal in the 42nd infantry rifle company. During the war he was taken prisoner by Germans. An artillery spotter saw it happen and reported it. He was later saved by his platoon. (Anthony Rhodes/Collegian photographer)

# Navy veteran serves in two wars



Wendell Forsse is a World War II and Korean War Veteran. He served in the Navy. (Tricia Cook/Collegian photographer)

By Garrett Chapman  
Staff reporter

Before the military, Wendell Forsse, WWII and Korean War veteran, worked for the railroad doing sectional work.

He enlisted in the military at the age of 18. He served in the Navy during WWII and the Korean War.

Although he never saw action, he was stationed overseas.

While on duty, he stayed in many different places. He went from San Diego to Hawaii, then to Guam and on to China where he stayed two months. He spent a short time in Singtow to get supplies.

Forsse was on duty from 1946 to 1948. He worked in the offices doing paper work, taking care of all the supplies they needed.

While in other countries, he experienced different cultures, and different ways of living. Forsse said, "We went onto China. It was

a pretty poor country when we saw it. People were literally dying on the streets."

He came back to the states in December and began his education. He went to Bethany College for two years.

He transferred to Kansas State to finish. Forsse majored in business administration.

After graduating college, Forsse got called back into the service. He went to the Philippines for eight months. He was a storekeeper in a supply store for MCB No. 3.

During his free time, he loved to get out and play basketball with his fellow Americans.

While in the Philippines he enjoyed watching movies outside. Not even the typhoons could stop them, "We literally had to wear sun helmets and ponchos to keep dry," said Forsse.

When his time in the service was done, he went back to work. Forsse said, "I went to work for

an American oil company called.

He moved into the Kansas Veterans Home on May 28, 2012. He enjoys living here, especially on Mondays.

"We play bingo on Monday nights for free. Nothing better than some free bingo with prizes," said Forsse.

Forsse feels strongly toward every veteran, the ones who saw action and those who did not, the ones who received medals and awards, and those who did not are all important.

"Veterans Day means a lot. We need to preserve our country. I think we should celebrate by thinking of the people that were and are doing their duty. Honor those people if they got a medal or not. Support our troops and honor them," said Forsse.

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