

*Gunkel, Morris*

## **Snapshots, Wallet Save Bath Soldier's Life In Germany**

*Jul 20 1945*  
A pack of snapshots of his loved ones back home saved the life of Pfc. Morris Gunkel, of Bath, while he was serving in Germany with the Fourth Infantry "Ivy" Division.

Back in the States wearing the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy; as well as a campaign ribbon bearing five stars and a bronze arrow-head which signifies an assault landing, Pfc. Gunkel related the harrowing incident to his family.

Air bursts of a German 88-mm. shell sprayed shrapnel in all directions as his Eighth Infantry Regiment rifle company fought its way through the Siegfried Line, according to Pfc. Gunkel, but a shell fragment which came his way inflicted only a scratch on the lucky dough-boy, after ripping through the leather wallet and pack of snapshots he carried in his breast pocket.

He went back into action immediately and completed his record of continuous combat extending from D-Day to V-E Day. The Eighth Regiment was the first Allied unit to storm the Normandy beaches.

A railroad worker before entering the Army three years ago, Pfc. Gunkel is 29 years old and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gunkel, R. 2, Bath.

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