



Austin P. Turner

Lt. Colonel Army Reserve, United States Army
810 Signal Corps Battalion
October 15, 1941 – October 15, 1945

(Austin was a member of the Care and Share Sunday School class at GABC. He died Dec. 29, 1997. The following information was shared by his widow, Dr. Rita Bryant Turner.)

Austin grew up in Tyler. He attained a pilot's license and graduated from Tyler Junior College before entering the service. After three months of basic training in Camp Callon, California, he was assigned to the Signal Corps. He served two years as a Cryptograph Technician and a year and a half as a Cryptographic Code Compiler.

From December 1941 to February 1943 Austin was stationed in several places, including at Ft. Richardson, Alaska, as a member of Battery C 75th CA, 14th Signal Svc. Co. of his battalion. In the fall of 1947, Austin met with five of his former comrades who had shared the misery of winter when they were housed in primitive quarters in frozen Alaska. Fort Richardson was built during 1940-41 on the site of what is now Elmendorf Air Force Base. He was in the Aleutian Islands to Attu during fighting, and to Shemya.

Under ' 'Battles and Campaigns' ' on Austin's discharge papers are listed: Normandy, Northern France and the Aleutian Islands. His record states that he enciphered and deciphered classified messages, handled secret communications and classified documents. He supervised Cryptographic sections of as many as 45 men in the Aleutian Islands and France.

He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and returned to the United States in February 1943. Austin had served more than three years and thought that he would be stationed in the States for a year. He had been denied leave when his father died. His only brother was a Marine pilot who was later killed in Korean War. Within three months Austin was shipped to England, and soon after D-Day he landed in France. As a Cryptograph Technician, he was attached to different groups, including the 90th Infantry Division who referred to themselves as George Patton's Tough 'Ombres. He was in France and Germany until October 1945.

During the later part of WWII, Austin was stationed in Paris. One of two WACs who had clearance to enter the area where Austin worked was Harriette. A few months after she was discharged from the service, she and Austin began a marriage that lasted until her death more than 48 years later.

Austin retired from the Army Reserve in 1980 as Lieutenant Colonel.