

November 2010 Historical Question

Question:

What resident of Cottonwood Heights was a B-24 tail gunner during World War II?

Answer:

Eugene W. Price of Union entered into military service on November 23, 1943. He flew 24 bombing missions over Northern Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, and Czechoslovakia before World War II ended on May 8, 1945.

"On my eleventh mission we had the most combat damage done to our plane of any of my missions," Gene said. "One of the engines was hit and put out of commission, the hydraulic system of the plane was hit and made useless, and we had hundreds of holes in our plane. We thought we would need to bail out over enemy territory, but our pilot decided to try to make it back to our base. We ran off the runway because of no hydraulic system to slow us down. We were lucky to make it back without any injuries."

Gene was honorably discharged on November 13, 1945. Cottonwood Heights salutes Gene and all of our veterans for their service to our country.