

Article first published in the December 26, 2008 edition of the New Hampshire Union Leader
Reprint courtesy of the New Hampshire Union Leader.



SSgt. Mudge 1945



**Raymond & his son Alan
1993 photo of Raymond congratulating
Alan on being Installed as Post 79 Commander**

Staff Sergeant Raymond F. Mudge

(The 4th in a series of articles about Manchester's heroes, the men and women who served in our country's armed forces during World War II.)

Raymond Mudge was born in Goffstown on New Years Day 1917. He attended local schools and in 1941 began his long association with the Public Service Company of New Hampshire. He was drafted into the United States Army on January 13, 1943. Following basic training, he was deployed to the 189th Chemical Mortar Company in the Pacific. The 189th made significant contributions to the successful employment of 4.2-inch Mortar Gunboats. While in Hawaii, the company under the direction of Lt. Col. Joseph E. Atchison trained Navy personnel in the use of mortars to deliver effective support to assault troops. Mortars mounted on landing craft, including the LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry) and LCTs (Landing Craft Tank) were used to support an amphibious assault after the naval and air bombardment abated.

Ray rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was the 189th's Supply Sergeant. He participated in the Ryukus Campaign of Operation Iceberg, the battle of Okinawa, which was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater. The battle had one of the highest number of casualties of any World War II engagement: the Allies suffered more than 50,000 casualties, with over 12,000 killed in action. The Japanese lost over 100,000 troops. Ray also served in the Philippines and Hawaii. He received the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. He completed active duty in January 1946 receiving his honorable discharge at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Following his discharge, he returned to work at PSNH which had held his job open for him. In all, he worked for PSNH for more than 40 years.

Mr. Mudge was active in the American Legion. He was a past Commander of Manchester Post 79, a past District Commander, a past State of New Hampshire Commander, served 8 years as a National Executive Committeeman, and 12 years on the American Legion National Public Relations Commission. He was a member of the 40/8 Voiture 548, and a past National Vice Commander of the American Legion. He was Post 79's Adjutant for 33 consecutive years, and he was also one of the founders of the Manchester Veterans Council. In his spare time he actively lobbied for expansion of veterans' benefits on both state and national levels.

Ray married Bertha Chancey in 1941. They were married almost 55 years and had two children, Alan and Paula.

Raymond F. Mudge, one of Manchester's heroes, passed away at age 78 on November 19, 1995.

Those wishing to honor the memory of Manchester's heroes by contributing to the World War II Memorial should send their donations to the Manchester World War II Memorial, One City Hall Plaza, Manchester, NH 03101.

Gene Mackie