



Your speaker this afternoon is William R Hill. He is from Indianapolis and served his country in WWII. He has spoken to groups several times and has also interviewed several times. His experiences in the service and especially Okinawa are well recorded on his website, which has been on-line six years.



The father-daughter team shown here is William on the left and Janet Wharton of Grand Lake, Colorado on the right

Mr. Hill joined the Deadeyes in May of 1945 as a replacement. He was in M Co.

There are other notable Hoosiers covered on this site. Famous Actress Margery Main from Action, Indiana was the Deadeyes Pin-up girl.



She met them in San Francisco when they came home.



The official Deadeye shoulder patch is shown here.

Mr. Hill's US Army unit was the 96th Infantry Division, and was also known as the "Deadeyes" for their marksmanship. General Easley shown here shows correct firing form.



Another very famous Hoosier is Ernie Pyle from Dana. He was a war correspondent for Scripts-Howard in both the European Theatre of operations and the Pacific. He was killed by a sniper on the Island of IE Shima just west of Okinawa in April, 1945 while with the 77th Infantry Division. There is a museum in Dana.

The 96th Division participated in two major battles. The first battle was for the Island of Leyte in the central Philippines. It was needed to regain the initiative and to secure a foothold in that area against the Japanese. The Island was invaded in Oct of 1944.



The second island; Okinawa, was needed for a base of operations to attack mainland Japan. It was about 325 nautical miles south of Japan proper. 300,000 Americans were involved in that battle, and many Americans died.

