

Alvin Geiken honored for 70-year American Legion membership

Alvin Geiken was 20-years old when he left for U.S. Army basic training at Camp Wallace, TX, and was ordered to go to Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, IL, in 1943.

"I was at telephone school and had no interest in going to radio school," Geiken said. "Telephone school was complicated enough for me."

Regardless of his lack of interest, the Army sent Geiken to radio school in Chicago for 13 weeks.

"That's what the Army does," Geiken said. "It sends you where it wants you and you have no choice."

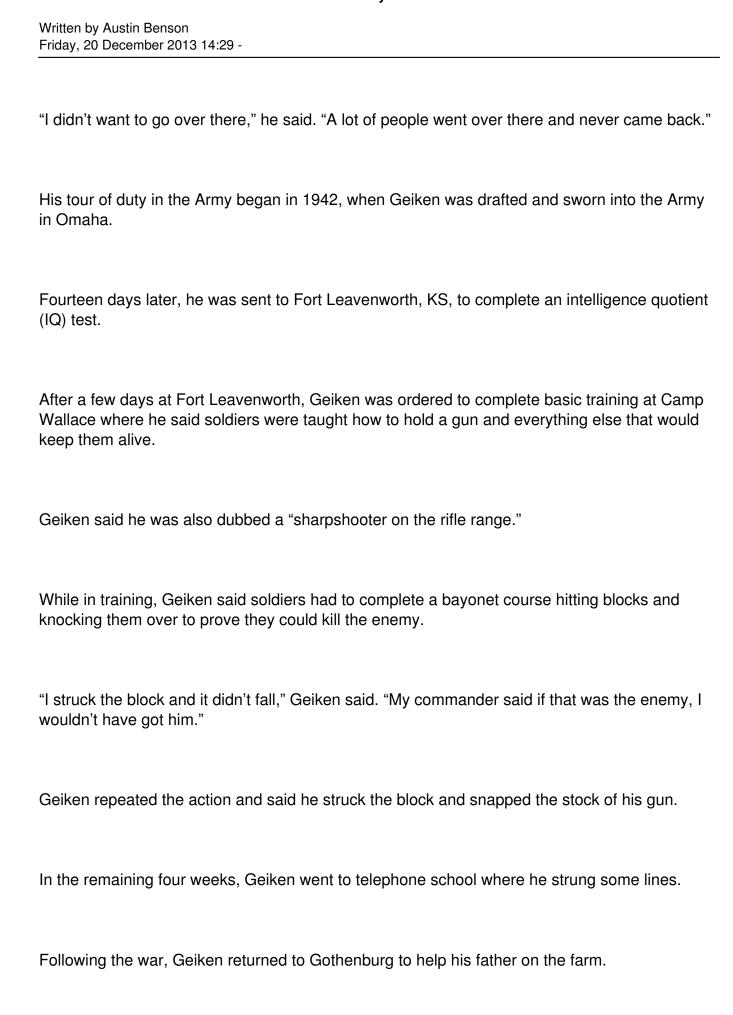
There, the 49 members of the class were taught international Morse code. To graduate from the course, Geiken said students had to code 16 words in a minute.

After graduation, he was sent to Kinder, LA, by mistake.

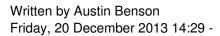
The mistake was corrected after a few days and Geiken was sent to serve in Hulen, TX, and remained there writing code throughout World War II.

Geiken, who is now 91, was never sent overseas.

Local veteran wrote Morse code for the U.S. Army in WWII



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Geiken has called Gothenburg home for nearly a century.

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