



John M. "Corky" Corkran, Featured Member, Post 200

Born John M. Corkran on November 3, 1918 to his parents who were farmers, he graduated from Hurlock High School.

When John Corkran, of Manchester was just 22, he joined the Army. It was 1941, and Corkran, now 94, was obliged by his employer, the Glen L. Martin Company to complete one year of military service, and the Cambridge native decided to fulfill the requirement right away.

Four years later, Corkran had not only completed his yearlong commitment, but had also been part of campaigns in Northern France and Germany, and had stormed the beaches of Normandy one day

after D-Day. Trained as a rifleman, but because of his communications training while at Martin's, John served as a radioman. Corkran served with the 29th Division overseas from October 1942 through the end of the war in 1945. He went in as a Private and was honorably discharged as a Communications Sgt.

Before June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Omaha Beach, soldiers were brought to the French shore in two separate landing crafts. One boat carried soldiers sent to storm the beach on the first day, and another boat carried those who would follow on the second day of the attack. John was on the second boat where they had watched the carnage from way off shore. As they went in that second day, they didn't meet with as much fire power as the previous day, but it was still bad. They walked quite a ways before meeting their first resistance where they fought heavy all day before making it to the first town. Fence row after fence row met with more resistance.

The D-Day invasion secured the beaches of Normandy, allowing Allied forces to march into Europe and eventually defeat Hitler. John's unit was changing position with another unit and there were low fence rows there. The captain wanted to talk to him and on his way he was in the middle of a field and got hit by stray shrapnel in his leg. They had been out in the field for a month carrying their weapons as well as equipment to protect them from gas attacks, which they were told was evident, although that never happened. They were dirty and tired. He was taken to a field tent hospital, operated on, and then flown out to the 78th General Hospital in England, where his cousin who was a nurse worked. He did get to see her before going back into battle. Later he was shipping out to go home for what he thought was a leave, but the war ended while he was on a ship on his way home. Because of very rough seas, he was so seasick that he didn't think he was going to make it. He remembers the excitement of his fellow soldiers as they headed toward the New York Harbor and that everyone wanted to see the Statue of Liberty. Some did, but he was too sick.

Now widowed, John retired after 35 years from the C&P Telephone. He has a daughter, a son and 2 grandchildren. He still cuts his own grass and enjoys DAV gatherings and seeing his friends at the American Legion. We thank you John for your service to our country. God Bless You.