

SGT Sahlmann's Bio

Born 28 September 1910 in Neuenwalde, Hanover, Germany to Hinrich and Meta Miessner Sahlmann. Not much is known about his early life, but at the age of 27, he was able to escape Nazi control from the Bremerhaven, Germany area on a luxury cruise ship called the SS Columbus in 1937. When the ship docked in the New York harbor on 25 June 1937 to drop off passengers at Pier 86, he was discovered and listed as a "Deserting Seaman". He was allowed to stay in Brooklyn and held residence at 322 100th Street and then 156 96th Street while working as a barber. He would later enlist to serve in the U.S. Army on 26 March 1943 and was assigned to the 35th Infantry Division. In the early 1940s, he met a woman named Ethel W. Suden (Born: 08 January 1911) and they were later married in May of 1941. He then applied for U.S. Citizenship through the county clerk of Montgomery, Alabama on 22 July 1943 and was witnessed by two of his Army friends, Staff Sergeant Dale Rankin and Staff Sergeant Emil Nelson. The 35th Infantry Division arrived in England on 25 May 1944 and received further training to prepare for combat. His unit landed on Omaha Beach, Normandy in early July and entered combat on the 11th. He would see action at St. Lo, the Cotentin Peninsula, and the Mortain-Avranches corridor.

His unit raced across France through Orleans and Sens, Moselle, captured Nancy, secured Chambrey, and drove on to the German border, taking Sarreguemines while crossing the Saar. After crossing the Blies River, the Division moved to Metz. His unit also took part in the fighting to relieve Bastogne. The Division left England on 05 September 1945 and arrived in New York City on 10 September. He was discharged one month later on 11 November.

According to the decorations the organization rescued, it appears SGT Sahlmann was wounded on three different occasions. For his actions and service in WWII, his decorations and awards consist of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. Later in life, he was awarded the New York Conspicuous Service Cross on 07 October 1991 by State Senator Christopher J. Mega. George passed on 08 January 2006 at the age of 95. His bride Ethel, died two years later on 04 November 2008.

About Purple Hearts Reunited

Purple Hearts Reunited is a national non-profit organization. Our mission is to return lost or stolen military medals of valor to veterans or their families, in order to honor their sacrifice to the nation. Out of an estimated 40,000 non-profits serving Veterans, we are the only organization providing this service. Founded in 2012 by wounded combat Veteran, PHR is led by headquarters based in Vermont and supported by three specialty divisions — Valor Research, Valor Rescue, Valor Guard. These teams are led by dedicated volunteers from across the country and primarily consist of Veterans, wounded Veterans and Military families. As a team, we work together to honor our nation's heroes and return Valor across the country.

Purple Hearts Reunited does more than rescue and return medals; we reunite and heal families. We return what is often the last tangible piece of a veteran to his or her family. This is often the solace that is needed for a military family to commemorate their loved one's service. We have returned 375 medals in 46 states across the country over the last three years.