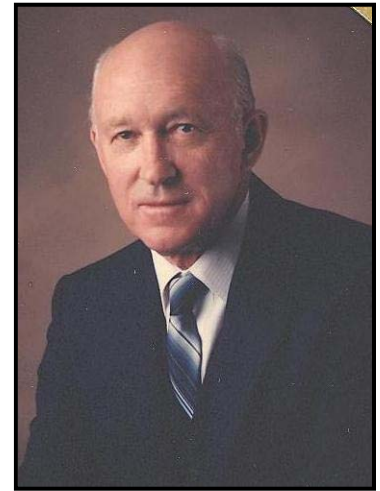


2nd LT Keith H. Rees



Keith was born May 18, 1921, at Coalville, Utah, to Ralph M. and Melva E. Crittenden Rees. He and his identical twin brother Kenneth were the first-born of eight children who grew up in rural Summit County, east of Salt Lake City. Keith and Ken shared a remarkable bond throughout their lives. They graduated from North Summit High School, and in the fall of 1939 enrolled together in Utah State University at Logan. Students were exempt from the draft until the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Keith & Ken were able to finish school by joining the Army



Reserves on October 1, 1942 and applying for advanced ROTC. They graduated in May, 1943, and shortly thereafter, Keith met the girl who was to become his wife—Lueen Leavitt. She was just 16 years old and was spending her summer vacation with her aunt and uncle in Salt Lake City. It proved to be more than a summer fling, for he carried her picture with him, across Europe and back.

He completed the Anti-Aircraft Artillery School at Camp Davis, NC on February 9th, 1944 and entered active duty on February 10th. He reported to OCS for Infantry Training at Ft. Benning, GA and graduated a 2nd Lt. on April 28th, 1944. He then served as an IRTC Training Officer and Platoon Leader at Ft. McClellan, AL through September 3rd. He deployed for overseas duty on September 19th and arrived on the 25th. Upon arrival he was designated a Replacement Officer and was shipped to France where on November 10th, 1944 he was assigned command of the 2nd Platoon of D Company, 409th Regiment of the 103d Division. He joined his platoon just as they were relieving the 30th Regiment of the 3d Division at the front lines just East of Epinal, France. 2nd Lt. Rees led his .30cal water-cooled (Heavy) machine-guns over the Vosges Mountains into the Alsace Plains, through the Siegfried Line and into Austria. Lt. Rees was wounded on May 5th, 1945. Postwar, he was assigned to Company M of the 179th Regiment, 45th Division where he was promoted to 1st Lt. on August 8th, 1945. On November 27th, he was assigned Platoon Leader for Company M of the 23rd Regiment, 2d Division. Keith married his sweetheart Lueen on January 22, 1946. He was discharged from active duty on June 23rd, 1946. Keith joined the Army Reserves on June 24th, 1946 where he retired a Lt. Colonel in March of 1972.

After completing active duty, he farmed with his father for the summer before moving to Teton City, Idaho, where he taught at the local elementary school and farmed in the summer. He became an instructor for the veterans-on-farm training program for the State of Idaho until he was able to acquire enough land to farm full time. In 1961, he became manager of the Federal Land Bank in Rexburg, Idaho. Six years later, he returned to school, graduating with a Master's degree in educational administration. He then taught in the Madison School District until his retirement in 1986.

He and Lueen were the parents of three daughters, and had two grandsons and one granddaughter. His love of country, home, and family guided his life. He died October 30, 2005, at the age of 84.