



# World War II Honoree

**Killed in World War II**



## Robert I. Rutherford

BRANCH OF  
SERVICE  
**U.S. Army**

HOMETOWN  
**Bergen County,  
NJ**

HONORED BY  
**Orville L. Kline**



### ACTIVITY DURING WWII

RANK: PRIVATE. SERVED AS A TRUCK DRIVER IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARMY SERVICE COMPANY, 501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 101ST AIRBORNE 'SCREAMING EAGLES' DIVISION. KILLED IN ACTION JANUARY 5, 1945 DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CAMPAIGN. HIS TRUCK LOADED WITH LANDMINES AND PARKED NEXT TO A HUGE MINE DUMP EXPLODED IN A SEMINARY COURTYARD IN THE VICINITY OF BASTOGNE, BELGIUM. THE LETHAL EXPLOSION ALSO KILLED 11 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEMOLITIONS PLATOON AND ANOTHER TROOPER, WHO WAS A TRUCK DRIVER ASSIGNED TO THE REGIMENT SERVICE COMPANY. IT HAS BEEN UNDETERMINED IF A DIRECT ENEMY MORTAR OR ARTILLERY SHELL CAUSED THE FATAL EXPLOSION OR THE DETERIORATION OF THE MINES. A MARKER HAS BEEN ERECTED ON THE NORTH SEMINARY WALL WITH A PLAQUE, BEARING AND HONORING THE NAMES OF THE PARATROOPERS. HIS BODY WAS RETURNED TO SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI FOR BURIAL, WITH INTERMENT IN THE JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY.