

## Marvin Charles Henry Kruse

He was born March 7, 1922 in Des Plaines, Illinois. Birth certificate states Riverview which was annexed in 1925 to Des Plaines. Riverview was at the southern end of the Village.<sup>1</sup> Further details in Certificate of Birth: Father age 28, birthplace Des Plaines, occupation Electric Supplier. Mother age 30, birthplace Wheeling, occupation House work. Number of children born alive and now living 2, born alive and now dead 1. Child born alive 2<sup>30</sup> am. Signature John H Krueger, M.D. Filed 4-8-1922 Registrar E. A. Behrens, Des Plaines.

Marvin had 2 middle names, common in German culture. He told me his middle names were from his two uncles, but he only used "Charles" in his correspondence.

The Certificate of Baptism states he was Child of Mr. Rudolf Kruse and his wife Mathilde, nee Rateike on April 2, 1922. Sponsors were Charles Kritsch, Henry Kruse, Bertha Mollenhauer<sup>2</sup>

The Immanuel Lutheran church bulletin dated Easter Sunday, April 12, 1936 lists Marvin Kruse in the Class of Confirmands of 1936<sup>3</sup>.

He completed elementary school at Immanuel Ev. Luth. School (District No. 62), Des Plaines on June 12, 1936.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://desplainsmemory.org/Documents/Detail/march-of-progress-1885-1956/1196?item=1201>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/f3814061-5224-4f51-ad96-1382ce2b02a0?\\_phsrc=BBE12334&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/f3814061-5224-4f51-ad96-1382ce2b02a0?_phsrc=BBE12334&usePUBJs=true)

<sup>3</sup> <https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/286-marvin-kruse-confirmand-in-1936.html>

His diploma from Maine Township High School certifies completion on June 6, 1940.

On July 1, 1941 he registered for the U.S. Draft. He was employed by First National Bank of Chicago. His address was listed as 1637 Whitcomb Av. Des Plaines which was **redlined** out. Also **redlined** out is another address: 604 Glendale Rd. Glenview, Ill., which is his address on Honorable Discharge dated October 2, 1945. His parents lived at 1077 Des Plaines Ave, Des Plaines. The registration includes height 5'8", weight 150, Blue eyes, Brown hair, and Light complexion. The stamp of local board lists Chicago Local Board No. 53 at 5452 W. North Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Marvin Kruse was asked question "What is the best household hint you could offer to housewives?" by The Inquiring Camera Girl (Freida Zylstra) at The Old Colony Building, Van Buren and Dearborn Streets. His answer was published in the Chicago Tribune, February 16, 1942.<sup>4</sup> **When I water the potted plant I take a long strip of ribbon - about 2 inches wide - and stick one end of it in a two quart jar of water and wrap the other end around the base of the plant. Then nature takes its course.**

He enlisted in the Army of the United States on September 28, 1942 (Height 64, Weight 138). Education: "1 year of college". His civil occupation states "Messengers, errand boys, and office boys and girls".<sup>5</sup> His Honorable Discharge states Civilian Occupation as "Bank Messenger" with Military Occupational Specialty as "Clerk Typist" and Military Qualification "Medical Badge".

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.newspapers.com/clip/51525475/chicago-tribune/?xid=637&\\_ga=2.184721833.148575654.1638993297-1648519617.1595021657](https://www.newspapers.com/clip/51525475/chicago-tribune/?xid=637&_ga=2.184721833.148575654.1638993297-1648519617.1595021657)

<sup>5</sup> <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8939&h=6774648&ssrc=pt&tid=47691281&pid=6824509243&usePUB=true>

Marvin Kruse kept a daily diary September 28, 1942 - September 13, 1943.<sup>6</sup> Initially he went to Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois then assigned to Camp Livingston, Louisiana with 110th Infantry, 28th Division on October 3, 1942. He was transferred to 103rd Medical Battalion on November 19, 1942. He was transferred to Gordon Johnson Camp at Carrabelle, Florida on January 23, 1943. He was transferred to Camp Pickett, Virginia on June 2, 1943. His diary has this personal description: Height 5'5", Weight 138, Hair Brown, Eyes Blue-Green, Hat size 8 1/4, Collar size 14 1/2.

Diary entries on September 11-12, 1943: Hitch hiked to Washington, Train to New York City. Night spots. Slept Waldorf Astoria lobby. Stage show. Statue of Liberty, Radio City, Empire State, etc. Bus back to camp.

Marvin had photographs from his World War II buddies.<sup>7</sup> He was in Swindon, England, June 1944. While here he had correspondence with a few local girls, Millie and Babs.<sup>8</sup> Millie addressed him as "Chuck"; Babs addressed him as "Marvin". The last letter was postmarked June 5, 1944. He landed on Normandy Omaha Beach, France, June 10, 1944.

The photographs show Versailles, Campagne or Compeigne, Laroche, Paris, Leon, Charleville-Meziers, Floize, Verdah, La Franchville, St. Die, Luneville, Alsace, Ribeauville, Colmar, Toul, Elbeuf, St. Germaine, Reims, Le Havre (in **France**), Pin, Breidfeld, Wiltz, Ettelbruck, Beford, Mersch (in Luxembourg), Arlon, Liege,

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<sup>6</sup> <https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/200-marvin-kruse-diary-sep-28-1942-sep-13-1943.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157683441085496>

<sup>8</sup> <https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/280-letters-to-marvin-kruse-pre-d-day.html>

Brussels (**Belgium**), Roentgen, Hurtgen Forest, Zweifall, Vossenack, Aachen, Limberg, Kaiserslautern, Ruppach, Bad Godesberg, Oggersheim, Ruppach, Heidelberg (**Germany**), and (**Holland**).

Marvin returned to Boston on the ship "James T. Parker" in July, 1945 and was discharged from the Army October 2, 1945. Four days later he was usher at wedding of Mae Rohs and Elroy Polhman.

Marvin married Margaret Elaine Adair on August 31, 1946 in Maywood, Illinois.

He joined the National Guard October 12, 1947 and was separated on October 11, 1950 in Maywood. Married with two dependents. He was assigned to Organization: Tank Co (M), 132d Inf Regt as Grade: Sergeant. Eyes Blue, Hair Brown, Height 5 ft, 4 in., Weight 163.

On May 14, 1951 Marvin entered into active service with U.S. Navy. He was assigned to U.S.S. Palau (CVE-122) in Norfolk, Virginia as PNI3 [Personnelman (Classification Interviewer) 3rd Class]. The ship went along the east coast as far south as Cuba. He was discharged February 20, 1952.