

# Erwin Frederick "RED" Hutchins

was born on November 27, 1915  
of Cloyd Elmer and Bertha (Rowe) Hutchins in Allegan County  
His brothers and sisters are shown in photo below.



Irwin's

league award Medallion

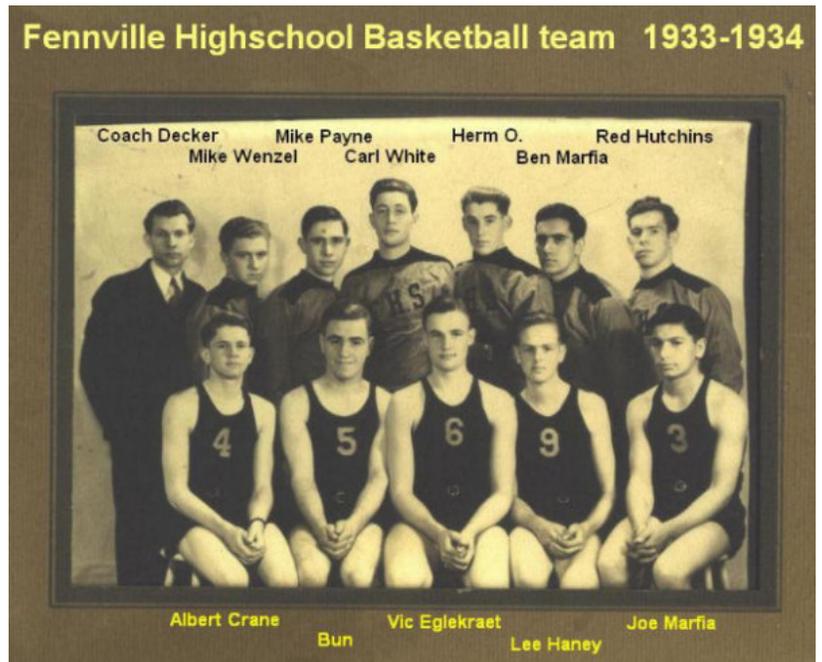
A 1920's photo



Lawrence Dorothy  
Keith Irwin Helen



Fennville Highschool Basketball team 1933-1934



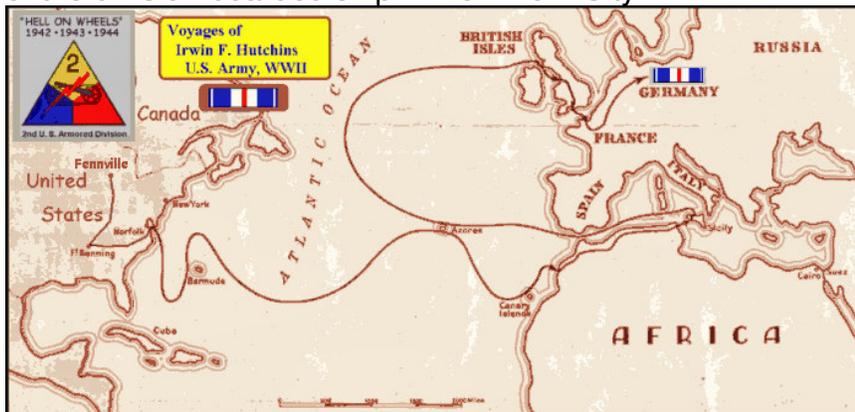
Irwin graduated from  
Fennville High  
In 1934

Pictured above, team photos of about 1930 and 1933.

Irwin was a grinding machine operator for Blood Brothers in Allegan for over a year before he entered the Army on June 6 1942. He traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia for 3 months of basic training then to Fort Knox, Kentucky for additional training on truck driving. His work at Blood Bros. on universal joints got him this job. His unit was the 78th Field Artillery Regiment, 13th Cavalry which soon traveled to Norfolk. Here Irwin was advanced to Private First class. They boarded a troop ship and were bound for Africa. Some of the division boarded ship in New York City.



In time the division was grouped up with other ships. When the time was right, they landed and saw their first war action at Casablanca, Morocco on November 8th, 1942.



Irwin's specialty was "TRUCK DRIVER LIGHT" where he drove 1/4 and 2 1/2 ton trucks hauling personnel, supplies and equipment. On crossing Africa, there was an event Irwin related to LaVerne. The unit's convoy was traveling at night with blackout lights and they stopped for some reason. In the morning he started to step out of the truck but stopped short, they were at the edge of a steep cliff.

**Press writer Hal Boyle, described some of the action:** In February 1943 Rommel foresaw that German troops left in Africa would be bottled up between the British First Army and the



American Second Corps forces to the west, and Montgomery's pursuing Eighth Army which was pushing up the south toward the Mareth line. Hoping to deal with these enemies one at a time, he broke his Panzers from Faid Pass through the weakest point in the American lines which were buttered thin over a long line. Two battalions of the 34th Infantry Division holding positions on two hills outside the pass delayed the Germans precious hours until reinforcements could be summoned.