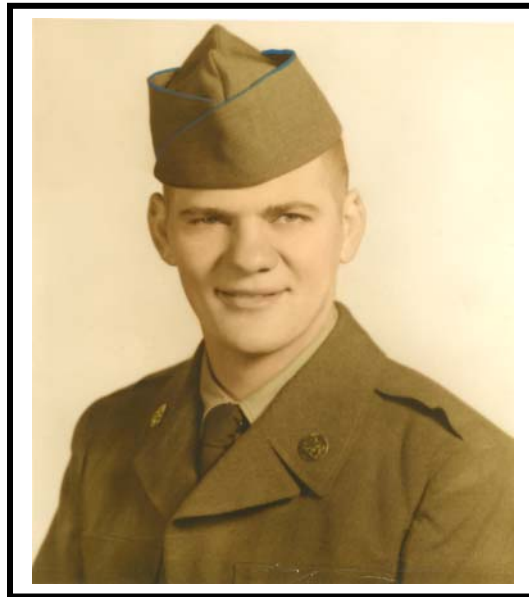




5th Army  
Patch



1st Army Patch



**Leon Earl Bieber**  
**Specialist 3/C U.S. Army**  
**9 December 1954 – 4 December 1956**



Army Engineer Corps



101st Airborne  
Division

Leon was born on 10 August 1931 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where he attended grades 1–8 from 1937 to 1945. He graduated from Emmaus High School in 1949. After high school, Leon worked in the Labor Union for H.E. Stoudt & Son General Contractors in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a Construction Laborer for about a year, and was then hired by The Austin Company from New York to help build a plant in Lanark, Pennsylvania, for New Jersey Zinc Company. Around 1951, Leon entered the Union-542 Engineers and worked for numerous companies to which he was assigned by the Union. Leon was drafted into the Army as a Private in Philadelphia on 9 December 1954. He was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for eight weeks of basic training with the 101st Airborne (“Screaming Eagles”) Division, followed by an assignment to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for another eight weeks of basic training and eight weeks of advanced training where he graduated from Engineer Foreman School. In mid-1955, Leon was assigned to the 5th Army, 39th Combat Engineers, at Fort Riley, Kansas. Around May 1956 the 39th moved from Fort Riley to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin, where they trained both Army National Guard and Reserve units in bridge building. Leon operated a crane for this training. In October 1956, the 39th Engineers was split up, and Leon was assigned to the 1st Army Infantry (“Big Red One”) Division for about six weeks before being discharged from the Army at Fort Riley on 4 December 1956 as a Specialist 3/C and assigned to the Inactive Reserve for four years. After his discharge, Leon returned to work for a number of contractors for the Union-542 Engineers. Leon married **Bonnie Lou Davis** (born 9 May 1934) on 13 April 1956 in New Cambria, Kansas. They lived in Salina, Kansas, until 1959, when they moved to Wescosville, where they purchased Bieber’s Mobile Home Park. They ran the Park until 1971 when they sold it and had a house built in Alburdis, Pennsylvania. They lived in Alburdis until 1996, when they sold their house and moved to Green Acres Mobile Home Park in Breinigsville, Pennsylvania. Leon was an active member of the Western Lehigh Lions Club in the 1960s. He and Bonnie Lou had three children, **Debra Sue**, **Thomas Earl**, and **James Edward**. Leon’s parents were **Charles Joel Bieber** (6 January 1893 – 26 April 1968) and **Clara Mabel Meitzler** (26 October 1894 – 1 November 1959). Three of Leon’s brothers, **Russell L. Bieber**, **Harold Jeremiah Bieber**, and **Forrest Charles Bieber**, served in the Army during World War II. Another brother, **Herbert John Bieber**, served during the Korean Conflict. Leon’s brother-in-law, **Edward Francis Henry**, husband of his sister **Naomi Clara Bieber**, served in the Navy during World War II.



Camp McCoy – 1950s