



86th Infantry Division

**Paul Alfred DeLong Jr.
Staff Sergeant U.S. Army
February 1945 – 1946**

Paul was born on 24 June 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on 7th Street. In 1925 he and his family moved to Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He attended grade school in Wescosville and 9th grade at William Allen High School in Allentown. In 1940 the family moved to Langhorne, Pennsylvania, where Paul attended grades 10 to 12 at Middletown High School, graduating in 1942. After graduation from high school, Paul continued to live in Langhorne for two years and worked for General Electric Corporation in New Jersey from 1942 to 1944. He entered the Army in February 1945 as a Private while living in Langhorne, and underwent basic training at Camp Howze, Texas. From there he was assigned to the 342nd Infantry Regiment, 86th (Blackhawk) Division, as a radio operator. The Division left for the European Theater on 19 February 1945, arriving in France on 4 March 1945, and immediately deployed to Köln, Germany, and took over defensive positions near Weiden, Germany, on 24 March. After a short period of patrolling on both sides of the Rhine River, the Division was relieved and moved across the Rhine to Eibelshausen, Germany, on 5 April. In a rapid offensive advance, the 86th moved across the Bigge River, cleared Attendorn, and continued on into the Ruhr Valley taking Eichstätt on 25 April, crossing the Danube River securing the bridge over the Amper Canal, crossing the Isar and reaching the Mittel Isar Canal by the end of the month. On 2 May they were ordered to move east into Salzburg, and were securing the left flank of the XV Corps when the war in Europe ended. They were then redeployed to the United States, arriving in New York 17 June 1945 for a period of training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, from 21 June to 11 August 1945. Paul left with the Division from San Francisco, California, on 24 August 1945 for the Pacific Theater where he participated in mop-up operations in the Philippine Islands. The Division was inactivated on 30 December 1946 on Leyte in the Philippines. Paul was discharged as a Staff Sergeant and returned to the States, settling in Wescosville on Brookside Road, where he lived for nearly 50 years. He then worked 11 years driving for his family's huckster route before being employed by Bethlehem Steel Corporation for 28 years as a Materials Expeditor in the Weldment Department. He retired from Bethlehem Steel in 1985. In 2005 Paul moved to live with his daughter in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. Paul was married to **Dorothy Mae Harwick** (born 27 December 1923). His parents were **Paul Alfred DeLong** (1900 – 1965) and **Anna Victorine Koch** (1901 – 2000). Both parents are buried in Wescosville Cemetery.