



Alfred Daniel Hartzell
Private First Class U.S. Army
7 March 1944 – 14 December 1945

Alfred was born on 20 Feb 1917 in Minesite, Pennsylvania in Lower Macungie Township. He was the second of six children and the second of five sons born to **William Lewellyn Hartzell** (c.1895 – 1945) and **Pearl Katherine Webb** (c.1897 – 1976). He attended grades 1-8 from 1922 to 1930. In June 1939, he married **Arlene Catherine Leibensperger** (born 9 August 1920) in East Texas, Pennsylvania, where they lived. Prior to entering the Army, Alfred worked for two years as a Machine Operator for Hill Metal & Roofing Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was inducted into the Army as a Private at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on 7 March 1944. After four months basic training, Alfred was assigned to Company A, 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division, as a Rifleman, and on 17 August 1944, he left for the European Theater. On 24 August 1944, he joined the Division in France as they were crossing the Seine River and advancing to take Verdun, France. After capturing Verdun, they advanced toward the Moselle River near Dornot, France, where they were repulsed attempting to cross the Seille River. They then shifted operations to the Netherlands where, on 8 October 1944, they joined in defensive operations to protect the British-Canadian Forces as they were fighting to clear the northern and western approaches to Antwerp, Belgium. During the last week of October 1944, Alfred was wounded in action while serving in Holland. He sustained a serious wound to his lower right thigh, and was evacuated to the 30th General Hospital on the Cherbourg Peninsula in France. He remained hospitalized until March 1945, and instead of returning to his original unit he was assigned to a Service Command for the duration of his service. He returned to the States sometime in July 1945, when he went home on a 30-day furlough. The next month he reported to the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital in Staunton, Virginia, for further treatment until his discharge from the Army. Alfred was discharged as a Private First Class on 14 December 1945 at Camp Upton, New York, and returned home to Arlene and his son, **Terry Alfred Hartzell**, who was born before Alfred had left for overseas. Initially they lived in the Village of East Texas, and in 1950 moved to Brookside Road in Lower Macungie Township. Alfred went to work as a part-time bus driver for Arlene's cousin, Ray Leibensperger, who owned Leibensperger School Transportation Company in East Texas, serving the East Penn School District. Arlene also drove bus for the Company, and was the first woman to drive a bus in the area. Alfred continued to drive part-time, even after he returned to work full time in 1949 for Knoll International, Inc., in East Greenville, Pennsylvania, a manufacturer of solid wooden office furniture. He retired from Knoll as a Machine Shop Manager in 1974. In addition to their son Terry, Alfred and Arlene have a daughter, **Joanne Kay (Hartzell) Serfass**. During the 1960s, Alfred and his son Terry both coached a boys' baseball team in East Texas. Alfred was a member and former Council Vice President of the Lutheran Congregation of Jerusalem Western Salisbury Union Church where he also was a Boy Scout troop leader. He was a member of Pennsylvania Chapter 7 of Disabled American Veterans, and a Lower Macungie Township Fire Police volunteer for many years until he became too ill. Alfred died on 4 May 2005, and is buried at Western Salisbury Church in Allentown where his father is also buried. Four of Alfred's brothers also served during World War II: **Harold L.** in the Navy, and **Paul C., Reuben V., and Raymond W.** in the Army.