



84th Infantry Division

**John Daniel Ibach Jr.**  
**Technician 5/C U.S. Army**  
**22 March 1943 – 20 December 1945**

John was born on 25 December 1924 in the Village of East Texas, Pennsylvania. He lived with his family in one of the three original buildings in East Texas, a stone house built in 1830 at the crossroads in the center of the village. He attended grades 1–8 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, and graduated from Emmaus High School. Prior to entering the service, John worked as a Shipping Clerk. John was inducted into the Army as a Private on 15 March 1943 and reported for processing at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on 23 March 1943. He was assigned to Battery A, 557th Coast Artillery (AAA) Battalion and underwent training at Camp Davis and Fort Fisher in North Carolina, and Fort Jackson in South Carolina. John was assigned duty as a light truck driver, responsible for driving and maintaining a 2½-ton truck equipped with an M51-



Camp Davis Barracks

.50 caliber machine gun and used for hauling troops and equipment into combat. On 23 July 1944 his Battalion departed for overseas on the Queen Mary, which had been converted to a troop ship. They arrived in Scotland on 28 July 1944 and deployed from there to Continental Europe where he participated in four major battles while his Battalion was attached to several Army Divisions; i.e., the Battles for Northern France, the Rhinelands, the Ardennes, and Central Europe.

In December 1944 he was attached to the 84th Infantry “Railsplitters” Division until the end of World War II. John remained in Europe after the war for a while as part of the European Occupation Forces. John returned to the States on 14 December 1945 via England and was discharged as a Technician 5/C on 20 December 1945 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.



Troop Ship *Queen Mary*

After his discharge, John married **Catherine V. Hersch** (3 Jan 1929 – 22 Sep 1999) of East Macungie, Pennsylvania. He and Catherine initially lived in an old house located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lower Macungie Road and Cedar Crest Boulevard. They later moved to 517 Chestnut Street in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, circa 1957. After the war, John was an appliance repairman and service manager for Harwick Appliances in Emmaus for 22 years. He died on 24 September 1969 of a heart attack and is buried at St. Paul’s Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. John had two brothers who served in the Army: **Robert Ray Ibach Sr.** and **Daniel Sherman Ibach**; and a son, **Bruce Daniel Ibach**, who served in the Army in Vietnam. John’s parents were **John Daniel Ibach Sr.** (11 October 1897 – 13 February 1949) and **Beulah M. Hinkle** (19 March 1903 – 23 May 1976).