



Army Ordnance Corps

Theodore Henry Reitz
Technician 5th Grade U.S. Army
July 1942 – September 1945

Theodore was born 8 November 1921 in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, where he lived on his grandparents' farm and peach orchard located between Meyersville and Mechanicsville until 6th grade. He attended grades 1–6 in North Whitehall, Pennsylvania, and then moved to Lizzie Reinhard's farm on Riverbend Road, which his parents were renting while he was attending grades 7–8 at Riegel's School in Lower Macungie Township. After he graduated from Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1939, Theodore moved from the farm to a house on the corner of Cedar Crest Boulevard and Riverbend Road in Minesite, Pennsylvania, and went to work as a Landscaper for Kuss Brothers Nursery on Cedar Crest Boulevard from 1939 to 1940. He then went to work on the loading dock and assembly line for Mack Truck Company from 1940 to 1942. Theodore was drafted into the Army as a Private at Fort Eustis, Virginia, on 13 July 1942, where he underwent basic training until October 1942, followed by assignment to an anti-aircraft unit. He stood guard duty there for about two months. He then left with his unit for Seward, Alaska, on 6 November 1942, arriving 10 days later. He served in Seward unloading ships until September 1943. He spent the next seven months helping to build an airstrip on Shemya in the Aleutian Islands. On 23 April 1944, he returned to the States where he underwent additional training in the Brownwood, Texas, area for three months before being ordered to the European Theater in February 1945 for duty in Germany. He arrived in Germany in March 1945 and served there with the 968th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Company in the Ordnance Parts Department, ordering and issuing parts until returning to the States. He returned via ship sailing out of Marseilles, France, and arriving in New York on 28 August 1945. He then was assigned to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, while awaiting his discharge as a Technician 5th Grade on 22 October 1945. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. After his discharge, Theodore returned to Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He was married to **Rose Balint** (21 October 1919 – 21 September 2006) on 15 September 1945 in the Neffs Church Parsonage in Neffs, Pennsylvania, by the Reverend Kidd. He returned to work at Mack for three years before joining Woolworth 5 & 10 Cent store on Hamilton Street in Allentown, where he worked in the Stock Room from 1948 to 1949. He then went to work for Western Electric Company (Vacuum Maintenance Systems) at 555 Union Boulevard in Allentown, performing maintenance from 1950 until he retired on 2 July 1981. Theodore and Rose initially lived in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, for 2½ years, moving to Allentown in April 1947 where they lived until 1953, when they had a new house built at 814 North Broad Street in Wescosville, where they settled. Theodore and Rose had a daughter **Marianne** and a son **James**. Theodore's parents were **Chester Henry Reitz** (27 June 1897 – November 1980) and **Mamie Elizabeth Wotring** (2 May 1903 – March 1984).

December 14, 2006