



National Defense
Service Medal



Camp Kilmer, New Jersey



Paul John Stephen
Corporal U.S. Army
7 August 1951 – 22 July 1953



Second Army



Paul J. Stephen
2006

Paul was born on 27 March 1929 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. His parents were **Calvin O. Stephen** (5 April 1902 – 31 January 1979) and **Mary C. Stephen** (1903 – July 1970). Paul was raised by Mary's parents, **William A. Stephen** (1882 – 1949) and **Anna A. Stephen** (1883 – 1956), who also lived in Wescosville. Paul attended grade school in Wescosville, and subsequently worked on the Bastian Farm until May 1946. He then went to work as an Automobile Mechanic for Town Auto Company at 634 Linden Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Paul worked for Town Auto until he was called to active duty from the Army Standby Reserve as a Private on 7 August 1951. After his induction in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and completion of basic training, Paul was assigned to the Army Engineer Corps, and was ordered to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. Before reporting to Aberdeen, Paul returned home to marry **Ora May Iobst** (born 2 May 1934) on 14 October 1951 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. While at Aberdeen, Paul underwent 10 weeks training as a Welder at the Army Ordnance School. On 19 July 1952, Paul left for duty overseas in the Western Pacific with the Second Army on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands. He was assigned to the 596th Engineering Field Maintenance Unit at the Ryukyu Command General Depot, and served there as a Mechanic for a year before returning to the States for release from active duty. He left active duty as a Corporal at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, on 22 July 1953, and was transferred to the Army Reserve to complete the remainder of his obligated service until 21 August 1959. After his release from active duty, Paul returned to live with his wife and daughter **Debra May Stephen**, initially in Allentown, where he went to work as a Mechanic for Mack Trucks until retiring in 1987. They later moved back to Wescosville to live with Paul's grandmother, Anna, in her house. They subsequently purchased the house, and lived there until Paul and Ora were divorced in 1976. After his daughter Debra married, also in 1976, Paul moved to a condominium in Wescosville. Beginning in 1977, he lived there with **Louise Ann Hartman** and her two children for many years until they separated. After their separation, Paul moved to Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, where he lived until his death on 12 August 2006 in Lehigh Valley Hospital, Salisbury Township, Pennsylvania. He was buried with military honors at St. Paul's Cemetery in Trexlertown. Paul was a member of American Legion Post 217 in Topton; Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 9264 in Macungie and 8282 in Breinigsville; Alburtis Rod and Gun Club; and Wescosville, Fullerton, and Emmaus Fire Companies.