



Daniel Tercha
First Lieutenant U.S. Army
17 Feb 1941 – December 1945

Daniel was born on 3 Jan 1919 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was the seventh of ten children and the sixth of nine sons born to **John Tercha** (31 Dec 1881 – Aug 1975) and **Mary Frys** (c.1883 – February 1945). Both parents were born in and emigrated from Poland to the United States. Sometime before 1930, the family moved from Philadelphia to Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. Daniel enlisted in the Army during January 1941 in Philadelphia, and was inducted as a Private on 17 Feb 1941 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. He was sent to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, for basic training, and was then assigned to the Corps of Engineers. He underwent engineer training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he also attended Officer Candidate School (OCS). Daniel graduated from OCS during March 1942, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He married **Anna Marie Angstadt** (born 20 October 1921) on 22 March 1942 in Alexandria, Virginia. Daniel was then ordered overseas and assigned to the 419th Engineer Dump Truck Company. He arrived in England in September 1942, where Allied Forces were training and preparing for the invasion of Normandy, France. His Company was later assigned to Southern Base Engineer Group 2, which formed on 1 August 1943. On 7 June 1944, Daniel landed at Normandy, advancing into Belgium. On 23 Nov 1944, while his unit was in Belgium, a German “flying bomb” struck a nearby civilian hospital, wounding scores of civilians. Daniel, two other officers, and a Sergeant hurried to the scene in advance of the rest of his Company, and climbed into the smoking ruins to search for and rescue buried victims before the rest of the Company arrived to clear debris and rescue scores of others. Daniel’s heroic efforts were cited on WSAW Radio Station in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on a program entitled “Salute to Our Heroes.” After Belgium, Daniel saw action in Luxembourg and Germany. After the war in Europe drew to a close in 1945, Daniel served as a military appointed mayor (*Bürgermeister*) for the German town Bad Oeynhausen on the Weser River until he was sent back to the States for discharge. He boarded ship in France, landed at Newport News, Virginia, and was discharged in December 1945 at Indiantown Gap. Daniel was awarded the American Campaign Medal, European-Africa Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and World War II Occupation Medal. After Daniel returned home, initially he became a self-employed contractor, then shut down the business and worked as a Union Carpenter until he retired in 1973. He and Anna initially lived on the Angstadt homestead in Minesite, Pennsylvania, from 1947 to 1952 before moving to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, and then settling in Macungie, Pennsylvania, in 1961. Daniel became Mayor of the Borough of Macungie from 1964 until 1968. He and Anna had a son, **John D. Tercha**, and a daughter, **Kathryn Tercha**. Daniel died on 12 May 2005 in Lehigh Center Nursing Home on Spring Creek Road in Macungie. He was a member of Solomon’s United Church of Christ in Macungie. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery in Macungie. Daniel had three brothers who served in World War II: **Alexander Peter Tercha** in the Army, who was killed in combat at the Bridge at Remagen; **Casmir “Charlie” Tercha** in the Army; and **Edward Tercha** in the Marine Corps.