



John Henry Angstadt
Staff Sergeant U.S. Army
15 Mar 1943 – 15 June 1946



7th Army



103rd Infantry Division



Hartzell's Schoolhouse

John was born on 22 June 1923 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where his family was living at the time. Sometime before 1930, his family moved from Ward 4 in Allentown to Minesite Village in Lower Macungie Township, just a few doors away from the Hartzell's Schoolhouse where John attended grade school from 1929 to 1937. After graduating from Allentown High School in 1941, John worked as a Machinist Helper at Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, until he enlisted in the Army in Allentown as a Private on 15 March 1943. He was assigned to the Infantry and underwent basic training Camp Polk, Louisiana, followed by advanced infantry training at Camp Howtze, Texas, where he was assigned to the 103rd Infantry ("Cactus") Division, 7th Army. In October 1944, the Division left for combat operations in France, landing at Marseilles on 20 October, 1944. They relieved the 3rd Infantry Division at Chevry, France, on 8 November 1944, and eight days later attacked west of St. Dié on a drive through the Vosges Mountains. They crossed the Meurthe River, took St. Dié on 23 November 1944, and captured Diefenbach on 29 November and Selestat on 4 December. The 103rd then crossed the Zintzel River at Griesbach, Germany, on 10 December, crossed the Lauter River into Germany, and on 15 December 1944 assaulted the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line. During the first day of Siegfried Line assault John received shrapnel wounds in his right shoulder and was evacuated to two hospitals in France (one in Paris) before being evacuated to the Army 15th General Hospital in England until June 1945. He was then evacuated to the States where he was placed in hospitals in Boston, Massachusetts; Virginia; Georgia; and Kentucky until his discharge. John was discharged as a Staff Sergeant at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on 15 June 1946. In addition to the Purple Heart, John was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, European-Africa Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. After John returned home to Minesite, Bethlehem Steel put him on the payroll pending another operation he needed and until he was able to return to work. In the meantime, John studied Mechanical Engineering during 1946 and 1947 under the G.I. Bill at Pennsylvania State College in Allentown, from which he received an Associates Degree. He then resumed working for Bethlehem Steel where he was an Apprentice Tool and Die Maker in the Drop Forge Department. He was then transferred to the Plant Engineering Department where he worked as a Draftsman. He was later transferred to the Central Tool Department and rose to Shop Engineer, a position that he held until 1980, when he was promoted to Shop General Foreman. He retired in 1983. John married **Dianne Fritch Diefenderfer** (born 6 August 1927) on 20 July 1947 in St. John's Lutheran Church in Emmaus, and built a house at 518 North Seem Street in Emmaus where they settled. They had two children: **Michael John** and **Susan Joan**. John became a member of the Lions Club in Emmaus, where he served as Vice President. John's parents were **Ralph Earl Angstadt** (6 January 1896 – 7 February 1954) and **Mary Agnes Scholl** (2 April 1900 – 5 June 1988). Two of John's brothers, **William Earl Angstadt** and **Richard Augustus Angstadt**, also served in the Army during World War II.



John (black robe in front)
outside of hospital