



Stephen Dennis Bandura Sr.
Staff Sergeant U.S. Army
May 1938 – 3 August 1945



19th Infantry Division



4th Infantry Division



4th Engineer
Combat Battalion

Stephen was born on 10 Nov 1918 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Sometime before 1923, the family moved to a farm, located in Minesite near the intersection of Hidden Valley and East Texas Roads in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended and graduated from grade school in Minesite in 1931. He then went to work as a Cook and Golf Caddy at Brookside and Lehigh Country Clubs until enlisting in the Army as a Private in May 1938, and he was sent to Hawaii. His brother **Paul**, also in the Army, was later stationed there with him. Another brother, **William Walter**, served in the Army from 1948 to 1952. Stephen was assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment, 19th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks on Oahu, where underwent training as a Machine Gunner until 14 June 1940. He became the top Machine Gunner, and was promoted to Corporal on that date, and was transferred to Company A, where he performed Maintenance duties. Stephen returned to the States in September 1940 aboard Troop Transport Ship *USS Leonard (AP-25)*, for discharge at Brooklyn, New York, on 9 October 1940. He then went to work at American Steel & Wire Company in Allentown as a Nailing Machine Operator/Supervisor, but was recalled to active duty just four months later on 14 February 1941. He was assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, initially as a Military Policeman, and was later assigned to Company A, 4th Engineer Combat Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, as a Construction Foreman. While with the 4th Engineers, he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. In January 1944, the Battalion left for England, where preparations were being made for the landings on 6 June 1944 at Normandy, France. Stephen landed at Utah Beach on D-Day with his Battalion. On 25 July 1944, as they were advancing into France, Stephen was wounded in the leg during the drive toward St. Lo. He was evacuated back to Southampton, England, to recuperate. Three months later he re-joined his unit as they were advancing toward Germany, and they assisted in the rescue of the 101st Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne in Luxembourg. On 18 April 1945, Stephen was wounded a second time as he was driving a Jeep in Germany which hit two road mines, receiving skin burns and partial hearing loss in his left ear. Stephen was discharged on 3 August 1945 at Ft. George G. Meade, Maryland. In addition two Purple Hearts, Stephen was awarded the American Defense, American Campaign, and European-Africa Middle Eastern Campaign (with Bronze Arrowhead) Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal. He returned home to the family farm in Minesite and went to work for Bethlehem Steel until being laid off because of his hearing loss. He then worked for the Whitehall School District in the Custodial Department for 18 years until retiring in 1980. He married **Helen V. Saganowich** (29 Oct 1922 – 4 May 2004) on 15 June 1946 in St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church in Northampton, Pennsylvania. They lived on the family farm until it was demolished for the construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in the mid-1950s. They then relocated to Cementon, Pennsylvania. They had three children: **Stephen Dennis Jr.**, who served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War; **Barry Walter**; and **Diane Marie**. Stephen died at home on 20 May 1990 in Cementon. He is buried alongside Helen at St. John the Baptist Greek Catholic Church in Northampton. Stephen's parents were **Harry Bandura** (1 Feb 1892 – Feb 1976), who was born in Jaroslaw, Poland, and **Mary Licholat** (31 Jan 1892 – Dec 1975).