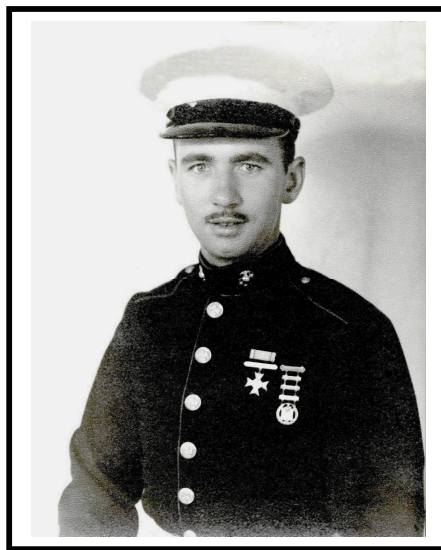




*USS Mount Vernon (AP-22)*



**Robert John Bohrer**  
**Corporal U.S. Marine Corps**  
**23 January 1942 – 25 January 1946**

Robert was born on 27 October 1920 in Mauch Chunk, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. His parents were **John Bohrer** (born c. 1877) and **Louise Vogelsang** (born c. 1895). Both were born in Germany and immigrated to America, John in 1891, and Louise in 1905. Around the time of Robert's birth, his parents were living in Slatington, Pennsylvania. Sometime before 1930, the family relocated to a farm which straddled Lower Macungie and South Whitehall townships in Lehigh County. Robert graduated from Allentown Preparatory School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and worked in his father's butcher shop at 309 Hamilton Street in Allentown until enlisting in the Marine Corps as a Private on 23 January. He underwent recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then trained as a Combat Engineer, probably at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. In March 1943, he reported to the newly activated 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. He was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Marine Pioneers, 9<sup>th</sup> Combat Team, and underwent amphibious training in the San Diego-La Jolla area. On 8 September 1942, the Regiment marched up the coast to Camp Pendleton and became part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division which was conducting amphibious training in the San Diego-Oceanside area. On 24 January 1943, the Regiment set sail aboard Troop Ship USS *Mount Vernon* (AP-22) for Auckland, New Zealand, arriving on 5 February 1943, where they conducted jungle and amphibious warfare training. On 29 June 1943, they boarded five transports bound for Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, where they were assigned to the I Marine Amphibious Corps which was scheduled to land at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, in the Solomons on 1 November 1943 to capture and defend the airfield on the island. After 57 days of clearing the Japanese from the Empress Augusta Bay area, the 9th Marines were relieved, and assisted in the consolidation of the Northern Solomon Islands from 1 December 1943 to 20 January 1944. They then returned to Guadalcanal to rest, refit and train for a full-scale division landing on Guam in the Marianas. On 21 July 1944, the 9th Marines landed on Guam, and fought through the island jungles until the last day of organized fighting on 10 August 1944. They then conducted mopping-up operations until 30 October 1944. After Guam, Robert was assigned to Engineer Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, which had been formed on Guadalcanal during September 1944. On 1 April 1945, after training on Guadalcanal, the Division left to land on Okinawa, with the mission of capturing the northern half of the island. After securing that area in late April 1945, they redeployed to join the assault against a strong Japanese defensive line that had been constructed across the southern part of Okinawa. The Japanese were entrenched in hills honeycombed with caves and passages. The battle was fierce, and lasted 82 days. After Japan surrendered in September 1945, the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment became part of the Allied Occupation Forces in Japan until November 1945, when it was reassigned to Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and relocated back to Camp Pendleton. Robert returned to Camp Pendleton on 1 December 1945, where he performed garrison duty with the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. On 1 April 1946, after downsizing, the 6<sup>th</sup> Division was designated the 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Marine Brigade. Robert later crossed country to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, for discharge. He was discharged as a Corporal on 25 January 1946. Among his awards were the Combat Action Ribbon and the Navy Occupation, American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, World War II Victory, and Good Conduct Medals. After returning home, Robert established a grocery business next door to his father's meat market for a year or two. He married **Sarah Mary Lewis** (born 3 June 1923) on 26 October 1946 at Christ Lutheran Church at 13<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Streets in Allentown. They had no children. Initially they lived with Sarah's mother in Allentown, and about a year later they built a home on South Cedar Crest Boulevard where they lived until moving to the Bohrer family farm in 1961. At that time Robert became a dog breeder and handler at the farm where his father was raising Great Danes. Robert and Sarah divorced in 1966. Robert subsequently operated the Shear Heaven Pet Shop at 15th and Allen Streets in Allentown, and later opened another pet shop on Hamilton Boulevard in South Whitehall between the farm and Cedar Crest Boulevard. Robert married **Betty Jane (Musto) Gruver** (25 May 1929 ó 22 September 2000). They made their home near Kutztown, Pennsylvania. In his later years, Robert worked for Kelly dealerships located on State Road in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, initially as a driver delivering vehicles and later as foreman/dispatcher of drivers until the time of his death in Kutztown on 22 November 2008. He was buried with Military Honors at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Robert was a member of several canine kennel clubs and associations.