



**Harry Buchin**  
**Technician 5**

**12 January 1943 – 19 January 1946**



XV Army Corps



6th Army Group



44th Infantry Division

Harry was born on 20 October 1922 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. At the age of 5 his family moved to Zionsville, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-8 at Koch's School in Upper Milford Township, and graduated from Emmaus High School in 1941. He then went to work in the Time Study Department for Mack Trucks, Inc., in Allentown, Pennsylvania, until he was drafted and inducted into the Army Signal Corps at Camp Crowder, Missouri, on 12 January 1943, where he underwent basic training and advanced training as a Radio Operator until 1 May 1943. He then attended Carleton College in Minnesota from 2 May 1943 to 15 April 1944 to study engineering under the Army Specialized Training Program, which had been instituted after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor to fulfill an expected shortage of college-educated soldiers for the War. After Carleton College, he left for Camp Phillips, Kansas, where he was assigned to a weapons platoon in Company K, 324<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, after undergoing intensive combat training. Harry's original assignment was with the 60 mm Mortar Squad. The Division left Camp Miles Standish in Brockton, Massachusetts, for overseas, landing in Cherbourg, France, on 15 September 1944. After training for a month in the Normandy area, the Division traveled by train in old World War I "Forty and Eight" box cars across France to relieve the 79<sup>th</sup> Division near the Forêt de Parroy in the Embermeniel area. Because of very serious losses to his unit in combat, Harry was assigned to a Light Machine Gun Squad in which he served successively as Ammunition Carrier, Assistant Gunner, and First Gunner. Harry's unit took a part in securing passages through the Vosges Mountains during November 1944 and through the mountains east of Lenity, capturing Avricourt and assisting the French in liberating Strasbourg. They then took Ratzwiller before entering the Maginot Line at Bitche. Lingering "trench-foot" caused Harry to be hospitalized just after the Battle of the Bulge began. He then was a patient at the 36<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in Dijon, France, from December 15, 1944 to 15 April 1945, after which he was transferred to Paris where he served in the Personnel Section of a Finance Unit. He was transferred with the unit on 15 June 1945 to the Pacific Theater, where he served in Manila in the Philippine Islands, maintaining personnel records until 12 January 1946. He returned to the States for discharge on 19 January 1946 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. In addition to the Bronze Star Medal, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with 3 bronze stars), the Pacific Theater Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal, Harry was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and several citations and medals from France. After returning home and marrying, Harry settled in Macungie, Pennsylvania, and resumed working for Mack Trucks as a Time Study Engineer until 1950. He then opened Buchin Hardware in Macungie, retiring in 2004. Harry also was a Justice of the Peace for the Macungie during part of the time that he had his hardware store. Harry first married **Rachel Irene Gehman** (11 March 1923 – 14 March 1989) on 4 May 1946 in Macungie Bible Fellowship Church. They had a son, **Richard James**. After Rachel's death, Harry married **Margaret Helen Wendlandt** (born 11 July 1924) on 6 May 1990 at St. Peters Union Church in Macungie. Harry's parents were **Anthony Buchin** (1894 – 1972), who was born in and emigrated from Poland, and **Tessie Bandura** (1890 – 1968). Two of Harry's brothers, **John** and **Joseph**, served in the Korean War, John in the Marine Corps, and Joseph in the Army. Harry became active with the local VFW as a Life Member, was also a Life Member of the American Legion, and a member of both the 324<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Associations. He has been a Notary for almost 50 years, including performing notary service for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and for several local banks.