

World War II Victory Medal







102nd Infantry "Ozarks" Division

Howard Daniel Bush Private U.S. Army 8 December 1942 – 4 September 1943

Howard was born at home on 12 May 1911 in Schoenersville, Pennsylvania, in Allen Township. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to the Stephen farm on Krocks Road in Lower Macungie Township. While the family was living there, Howard attended grade school at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, Pennsylvania. Around 1927, the family moved to the O.C.R. Bastian farm on Grange Road. The farm straddled the Upper Macungie Township-Lower Macungie Township border, but because the farmhouse was located in Upper Macungie, Howard completed his primary school education at the Fogelsville School. A portion of this farm was later donated by Mr. Bastian for the construction of the Trexlertown Grange. Prior to being drafted into the Army, Howard worked as a General Repairman on the East Penn Branch of the Reading Railroad. He was inducted as a Private in the Infantry in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on 8 December 1942 and sent to Camp Maxey, a World War II infantry-training camp ten miles north of Paris, Texas. Howard was probably assigned to and underwent training there with the 102nd Infantry ("Ozarks") Division, an Army Reserve Division that had been activated on 15 September 1942 and the first infantry division to be ordered to form at Camp Maxey and undergo training there. Howard received an honorable disability discharge as a Private on 4 September 1943 at Camp Maxey. After he was discharged, Howard returned to Pennsylvania to live in Allentown until his marriage to Eleanor Jane Masonheimer (1919 – 15 May 1993). They were married on 31 December 1944 in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, where they initially established their home. After Howard's discharge from the Army, he was employed by Penn Dixie Cement Company in Bath, Pennsylvania, performing various jobs in the manufacturing of Portland Cement. When the cement plant closed, he found employment as a Floorman in a textile mill in Allentown until he received a disability retirement at the age of 62. Howard and Eleanor raised five children: Dennis Robert, John Alfred, Elaine Jane, Eileen Jane, and Howard Daniel Jr. In the early 1970s, Howard and Eleanor relocated to Zionsville, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Howard died on 30 July 1983. He is buried in Schoenersville Cemetery alongside Eleanor in a Bush Family plot. Howard was one of eight children born to Robert Daniel Bush (12 January 1889 - 7 May 1949) and Clara Agnes Gower (1 December 1890 – 11 September 1951). Howard's two brothers, Charles Freeman and Roy Samuel, also served in the Army during World War II.