



159th Infantry Regiment



7th Army "Bayonet"
Division

William Ray Decker
Private First Class U.S. Army
12 January 1943 – 30 December 1945

William was born on 14 June 1924 in the Village of East Texas, Pennsylvania, where he lived his entire life. As a young boy he attended grades 1–8 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas. He attended Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, for one year and then went to work for Mack Trucks in Allentown, Pennsylvania as a Tool Grinder until he entered the Service. He enlisted as a Private in the Army on 12 January 1943 in Allentown and was assigned to Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 7th Army Division, as a Rifleman. He initially served in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska from 9 July 1943 to 24 December 1944 during the campaign to oust the Japanese from the island chain. After the Alaskan Campaign, William returned to the States for two months before his unit was deployed to the European Theater. He served in Europe from 18 March 1945 to 13 December 1945, first in Northern France and then, after the Armistice in Europe was signed, he was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. William returned to the States, arriving on 25 December 1945. He was discharged at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on 30 December 1945 as a Private First Class. For his wartime service, William was awarded the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and World War II Victory Medals. After his discharge, William returned to East Texas and went back to work for Mack Trucks for a while. He then started his own painting business which he operated until early 1949



East Texas School



Salem Church

when he went to work for Air Products Company in Emmaus and later in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. William died in East Texas on 28 December 1990, and is buried there in the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church Cemetery on Willow Spur at the western end of the village. William married **Virginia Mary Yecker** (born 11 October 1925) in St Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, on 20 April 1946. They had two children: **Frank William Everett** and **Linda Marie**. William's parents were **Everett L. Decker** (20 March 1900 – 1 January 1966) and **Eva J. Butz** (6 December 1904 – 19 April 1995).