



7th Infantry



USS Napa (APA-157)

William Kenneth Dorney
Corporal U.S. Army
8 January 1945 – 1 December 1946

William was born on 29 October 1926 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. His family moved to East Texas, Pennsylvania, in 1935. He attended grade school at James W. Good in Cetronia, Pennsylvania, and a two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, and graduated from Allentown High School in 1944. While attending high school, William also helped run the family-owned business, Dorney Printing Company, as a Printing Press Operator. William's father, **Warren Paul Dorney** (9 July 1903 – 30 December 1949), had started the business in 1939 in a chicken coop behind their home East Texas. William was drafted into the Army in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on 8 January 1945 and was assigned to the Infantry. He underwent basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, until March 1945, followed by advanced training as a Rifleman at Camp Rucker, Alabama. On 13 June 1945, William left for the Pacific Theater from Vancouver, Washington, on Attack Transport *USS Napa (APA-157)*, arriving at Honolulu, Hawaii, on 20 June 1945 for further transfer to Company C, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th ("Hourglass") Division, on Okinawa. William arrived on Okinawa in July 1945, just after the Japanese had capitulated. He remained there for a month before leaving for Korea aboard another Attack Transport where he served on occupation duty as an Infantry Squad Leader and performed carpentry work until leaving for the States on 18 September 1946, again on an Attack Transport. William arrived back in the States at Oakland, California, on 6 October 1946 and crossed country on a train pulled by a coal-operated locomotive to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland, where he was discharged as a Corporal on 1 December 1946. William returned to East Texas and resumed working for the family business, initially as a Printing Press Operator and later as a Lithographic Stripper. In June 1956, William's mother **Mabel Pearl (Stauffer) Dorney** (born 6 May 1908), and his two brothers, **Robert Cleon** and **Richard Paul**, formed a partnership called "The Dorney Printing Company." Another company, Day-Timers (owned by a local attorney, Morris Perkin), was a major client of theirs and, in January 1969, the two companies merged and continued under the name Day-Timers Inc. The business expanded into other buildings on the property, and eventually acquired adjacent property where the East Texas Hotel once stood to erect a new building. Day-Timers was bought by Beatrice Foods Company in 1972. William became Vice President for Manufacturing for Day-Timers under Beatrice Foods, and later under several other companies that subsequently bought Day-Timers, until his retirement in 1993. William married **Bernadine Marie Reilly** (born 27 August 1926) on 26 August 1950 in Sacred Heart Church in Allentown. In 1955, they moved from East Texas to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, where they settled. They had two children: **Dennis William** and **Janice Louise**. Both of William's brothers served in the Army: Robert in World War II and Richard in the Korean War. Of note is that during 1944 and 1945, Dorney Printing printed, at no charge, *The Home-Town Mirror*, a local newspaper sponsored by the Wescosville Fire Company to provide news of area servicemen and other area events for the servicemen, wherever they were serving, and for their families at home. Many local residents volunteered their services to publish the newspaper, including William's sister **Jean Arlene**, who was a reporter for *The Home-Town Mirror*.