



27th Infantry  
Regiment



25th Infantry  
Division



**Martin Henry Fink**  
**Staff Sergeant U.S. Army**  
**2 August 1943 – 13 February 1946**

Martin was born on 26 November 1914 on Lindberg Avenue, Salisbury Township, Pennsylvania. He attended 1st grade at Fink's School in 1920. The family then moved to Upper Milford Township, after which Martin continued grade school in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, from 1921 to 1924 and at Dillinger Station School from 1925 to 1928. He then went to work for Widder Brothers Silk Mill at 6th & North Streets in Emmaus as a Twister and Sizer from 1928 until 1943, when he was drafted into the Army while living in Weilersville in Lower Macungie Township. Martin entered the Army as a Private at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on 2 August 1943. After four months basic training and advanced infantry training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, as a Heavy Mortar Crewman and .30 Caliber Machine Gunner, Martin was assigned to Company M, 27th Infantry ("Wolfhounds") Regiment, 25th Infantry ("Tropical Lightning") Division, which was fighting in the Pacific Theater. On 21 December 1943 Martin arrived at Guadalcanal and then moved on to join his Regiment at Camp Riverina, New Zealand, where the 25th Infantry Regiment was re-organizing and resting from earlier combat. On 3 February 1944 they sailed for New Caledonia, arriving on February 27, where they conducted intensive preparations and training for the invasion of the Philippine Islands. They departed Noumea, New Caledonia, on 17 December 1944 to participate in the invasion of the Philippine Islands. On 11 January 1945, they landed on the shores of Lingayen Gulf at White Beach 2. His unit then underwent a series of land maneuvers on Luzon, arriving at Binalonan where they were attacked on 27 January 1945 by the Japanese. From that time on, Martin participated in combat operations for the Liberation of the Philippines at numerous places on Luzon. The "Wolfhounds" suffered 275 KIA and 685 WIA during the liberation, with 16 KIA and 27 WIA in Martin's Company. On 24 September 1945, Martin left Camp Patrick on Luzon to board ship at Lingayen Gulf for transfer to Japan. He arrived at Wakayama on Honshu Island on 7 October 1945 and remained in Japan until 19 January 1946, when he departed for the States by ship, arriving on 4 February 1946. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on 13 February 1946. Martin returned to Weilersville for a while before going to work successively as a Plumber for Burnell Schmoyer Plumbing & Heating Company in Macungie, Pennsylvania, and a Counterman at Lehigh Valley Plumbing & Supply Company near 13th and Liberty Streets in Allentown before becoming a self-employed Plumber in 1976, operating out of his home. Martin retired in 1987 after suffering a heart attack. He suffered a stroke a year later and then went into the Phoebe Nursing Home in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he died on 15 November 2004. Martin is buried at Western Salisbury Cemetery in Salisbury Township alongside his wife **Millie M. Lorish** (18 May 1919 – 20 July 1985), whom he married on 15 June 1940 in the Reformed Church, Old Zionsville, Pennsylvania. He was an active member in the Lutheran Congregation of Western Salisbury Union Church in Allentown, including singing in the choir and serving as Sunday School Superintendent. Martin loved singing and was a member of the Fink Family Band, the Neil Kline Band, and the Macungie Minstrelaires. He also sang for the Sesquicentennial Chorus of Emmaus, the Trexlertown and Macungie Grange Choirs, and the Salisbury Four Quartet. He was a Master of the Macungie Grange and lecturer for the Lehigh Northampton Pomona Grange. Martin's parents were **Henry Alfred Fink** (16 December 1887 – 20 July 1957) and **Edna Amanda Matilda Ritter** (28 August 1889 – 6 June 1990). Martin's brother, **Allen Daniel Fink**, also served in the Army during World War II.