



4th Infantry Division



22nd Infantry Regiment

LaMar Arthur Funk
Private, U.S. Army
5 July 1944 – 7 August 1945

LaMar was born on 16 March 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He probably attended grade school there and graduated from Allentown High School in 1942. He continued to live in Allentown and worked as an Automobile Mechanic at Smith & Peifly, Inc., in Allentown until he was drafted into the Army. He entered the Army on 5 July 1944 as a Private and underwent basic training and training as a .30 Caliber Machine Gunner at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. He left for the European Theater aboard ship from New York on 12 December 1944 and was assigned to Company H, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry (“Ivy”) Division. The Division had been fighting in Europe since it landed with the Allies at Normandy on 6 June 1944. After joining up with his unit, LaMar saw action when his Division met the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest near the German/Belgian border. After holding the Germans, the Division counterattacked in January 1945 across the Sauer River in Belgium and overran the German positions in Fohren and Vianden in northeastern Luxembourg. The Division was halted at Prum, Germany, in February 1945, where it met heavy enemy resistance until the Division finally fought its way across the Kyll River near the German border with Belgium on March 7. LaMar was wounded in action on 8 February 1945 on the outskirts of Prum when his platoon came upon a German machine-gun emplacement. A machine-gun bullet shattered LaMar’s left tibia and fibula just below the knee. LaMar, the sole survivor in his platoon, lay on the battlefield two days before medics could remove him to a field hospital. He was evacuated from Europe from Paris, France, and arrived in the States on 26 February 1945, where he was transferred to the Army Convalescent Hospital at Camp Picket, Virginia, until his discharge from there as a Private on 7 August 1945. Besides the Purple Heart, LaMar was awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. LaMar returned to Allentown and resumed working at Smith & Peifly until he retired in 1987. He married **Betty Jean Poh-Gruver** (born 2 September 1925) on 5 June 1943 in Allentown. They initially lived in Allentown and later moved to the Wescosville area in 1946. LaMar and Betty Jean had two sons, **Thomas LaMar** and **Timothy Allen**. LaMar died on 10 January 1994 in Allentown and is buried at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. LaMar’s parents were **LaMar Henry Funk** (20 November 1903 – June 1986) and **Helen Marguerite Allender** (26 January 1906 – November 1974).