



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



Homer Daniel Gehman
Corporal U.S. Army
10 November 1943 – 9 January 1946



3rd Armored



7th Army



Gehman Family Farm

Homer was born on 2 August 1925 on the Gehman Dairy Farm on Gehman Road in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. Homer was the ninth of twelve children born of **Paul Clarence Gehman** (7 November 1891 – 20 June 1970) and **Anna M. Weaver** (1 October 1890 – 23 February 1942). In 1942 the family moved to another farm in the hamlet of Spring Creek near the intersection of Route 100 and Spring Creek Road. He attended Fogel's School, graduating from 8th grade on 14 June 1941. He attended Emmaus High School for less than a year before returning to work on farms in the Lower Macungie area. At the time he was drafted into the Army on 10 November 1943, Homer was living with his brother William in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. Homer entered the Army as a Private and was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for 17 weeks, where he underwent basic training and training as a Tank Driver. He left for overseas from New York on 24 May 1944 aboard a Troop Ship, arriving in England on 2 June 1944. He was ordered in as a replacement for personnel assigned to the 33rd Armored Battalion, 33rd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored ("Spearhead") Division, which had landed at Omaha Beach. He joined the Division on 10 June 1944 in France and was assigned to Company G. In addition to the fighting at Normandy, Homer fought as a Tank Driver in the Campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe throughout World War II, for which he received the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with five bronze stars. Homer also was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in action on 13 April 1945 in the Ruhr Valley just after the Division captured Cologne and crossed the Saale River. He was evacuated to the 177th General Hospital in the rear, where he spent 52 days recuperating before returning to his unit. Of the fourteen U.S. Armored Divisions in Europe in World War II, the 3rd Division saw the most combat, inflicted the most damage, and took more casualties than any other Division. They saw action in France, Belgium, and Germany, including the Siegfried Line and the Battle of the Bulge. They also participated in the Liberation of the Nordhausen Slave Labor Camp in Germany. After the surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945, Homer remained in Europe where he served with the Army of Occupation Force in the 7th Army Western Military District, located south of Frankfurt and extending east to Aschaffenburg and west to the Rhine River. He returned to the States on 25 December 1945 and was discharged as a Corporal on 9 January 1946. He returned to Lower Macungie where he worked on farms until 1956. Homer then went to work for Warren-Ehret-Link Company, a roofing wholesaler and contractor in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He worked there for 26 years, retiring in 1982. Homer married **Lorraine Schmeltzle** (born 7 September 1926) on 16 November 1946 in Solomon's Church in Macungie. They lived in Macungie Borough from 1958 to 1959, Emmaus from 1959 to 1982, Albrightsville from 1982 to 1987, and then Upper Milford Township, where they settled. They raised two sons and three daughters: **David, Randy, Karen, Sharon, and Kathy.**



Sherman Tanks in Cologne, Germany