



Earl Oliver Heist
Corporal U.S. Army
1 April 1943 – 11 December 1945

Earl was the second son and the fourth of twelve children born to **Oliver George Heist** (30 June 1889 – 28 February 1936) and **Beulah Florence Reichard** (28 February 1890 – 3 March 1974). Earl was born on 19 July 1920 at home in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township. He attended grade school in Wescosville, after which he worked as a Truck Diver for C.Y. Shelly Hardware Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania, until he entered the Army. At the time he entered the Army, Earl was married to **Loretta L. Koehler** (30 December 1925 – 8 August 1982). He was drafted into the Army as a Private in Allentown on 1 April 1943, and underwent basic training at Camp Wheeler near Macon, Georgia, and advanced infantry training



Camp Wheeler



Camp Swift

at Camp Swift near Bastrop, Texas. Both camps also served as prisoner of war camps during World War II. On 13 September 1943, Earl left for North Africa, arriving there on 6 October 1943, where he was assigned to the 715th Engineer Depot Company. He continued to serve in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater as a Supply Clerk throughout the remainder of World War II, including the campaign to defeat the German Army in Italy. His unit underwent demobilization after the war ended, and he left the theater on 26 November 1945.

He arrived back in the States on 4 December 1945 for discharge, and received his discharge seven days later as a Corporal at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Earl was awarded the European-African-Middle-Eastern Theater and the World War II Victory Medals for his service. After his discharge, Earl returned to Wescosville where he resumed working as a Truck Driver for C.Y. Shelly Hardware until August 1960, when he moved to Santa Monica, California, where he worked for United Van Lines. Four years later he returned to Wescosville and was self-employed as a carpenter until 1965, when he went to work for Western Electric Company in Allentown until he retired in 1985. Earl and Loretta divorced in 1968, at which time Earl moved to Macungie, Pennsylvania, and then

later to Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, where he settled. Earl and Loretta had four children: **Donald Earl**, **Barbara Ann**, **Dale Robert**, and **Sharon Marie**. Earl's second marriage was to **Ellen Elizabeth Ruth** (born 16 November 1920) of Lower Milford Township, Pennsylvania, in 1970. Earl died on 2 August 2005 in Breinigsville, and he is buried at Western Salisbury Church in Allentown. Earl's son, Dale, served in the Army during the Vietnam War, and four of Earl's brothers, **Wilbur Richard**, **Morgan Reuben**, **Robert Ernest**, and **Paul Martin** also served in the Army: Wilbur and Morgan during World War II, Robert from 7 February 1946 to 10 August 1947, and Paul in Korea.