



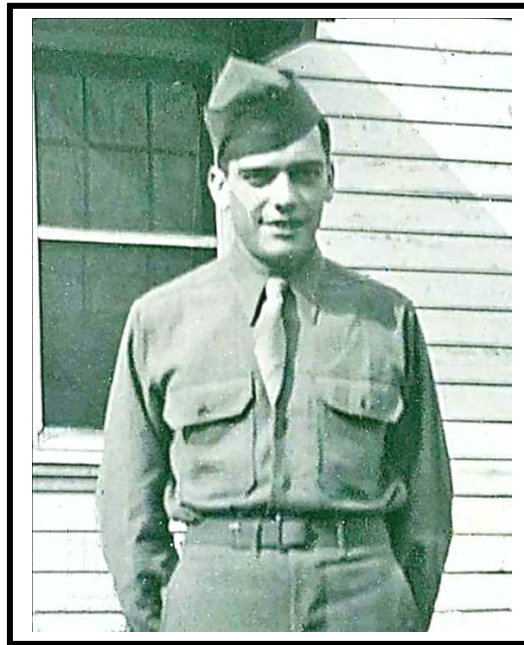
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment



12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment



2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division



**Robert Ernest Heist**  
**Private First Class U.S. Army**  
**7 February 1946 – 10 August 1947**

Robert was born on 26 November 1927 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school from 1933 to 1941. Prior to entering the Army, he worked in Allentown, Pennsylvania, successively, as a truck driver for City Coal and as a laborer for Brown’s Laundry. He was drafted into the Army as a Private on 7 February 1946 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for basic training and training for the Field Artillery Branch. In 1946, he was assigned to Battery A, 12<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (“Indian Head”) Division at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Washington. The Division was undergoing land and amphibious training at the time. He served at Fort Lewis as a military policeman (radio dispatcher) until he was discharged there as a Private First Class on 10 August 1947. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. After his discharge, Robert returned to Wescosville, where he lived with his brother **Earl Oliver Heist**, who served in the Army during World War II. Robert went to work for C.Y. Shelly Hardware in Allentown as a truck driver. Robert married **Elizabeth Morrell** in Zion Lutheran Church in Northampton, Pennsylvania, on 7 May 1949, at which time they established their permanent residence in Northampton. Robert left C.Y. Shelly in 1953 to work for Keystone Portland Cement Company in Bath, Pennsylvania, where he was promoted to Packhouse Foreman in 1962. He remained with Keystone until retiring in 1992. Robert and Elizabeth had three children: **Daniel Robert**, **Roberta Jane**, and **Nancy Jean**. Robert was always very active in the Zion Lutheran Church in Northampton, including occasionally serving on the Church Council. He was also active in the church’s Boy Scout Troop 26, for which he received a 30-year pin for his volunteer work. He was an avid bowler during the 1950s and 1960s, and later pursued golf with the same enthusiasm. Robert’s parents were **Oliver George Heist** (30 June 1889 – 28 February 1936) and **Beulah Florence Reichard** (28 February 1890 – 3 March 1974). Besides Robert, they had 11 other children. In addition to Robert’s brother Earl, three other brothers, **Paul Martin**, **Wilbur Richard**, and **Morgan Reuben**, also served in the Army: Paul in Korea, and Wilbur and Morgan in World War II.



Ft. Lewis, Washington, Army Barracks, World War II