



Camp Blanding, Florida
1940s

Robert Franklin Kauffman
Private First Class U.S. Army
1 November 1943 – 15 August 1946



SS Seatrain Texas

Robert was born on 7 August 1925 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school and graduated from Emmaus High School in 1943. He was drafted on 1 November 1943, and entered the Army as a Private in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He underwent basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, as a Rifleman, followed by training in Heavy Weapons (Machine Gun & Mortar). Robert was then ordered overseas to the European Theater, sailing on 6 April 1944 aboard *SS Seatrain Texas*. Eleven days later, he arrived in Glastonbury, Somerset, England, at “Abbey Camp” near an ancient cathedral. He remained there until he was transported to Normandy, France, on 16 June 1944. A few days later, he was assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored “Spearhead” Division at Normandy as a replacement for a rifleman who had been killed there. He was with his unit only a few weeks, when he was wounded on 10 July by a Panzerfaust (German anti-tank weapon), receiving burns and shrapnel wounds, and by a machine gun bullet during the Battle of St. Lo, France. He was evacuated to a hospital near Bristol, England. After recovering, Robert rejoined his unit at the beginning of September 1944 as they entered Belgium. After several months of fighting, Robert was wounded again on 15 January 1945 in the village of Mont-le-ban, Belgium, in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge. He was again evacuated, to a hospital near Coventry, England. After recovering, he joined his unit for the third time, stationed in the town of Kirchberg, Germany, shortly after the surrender of Germany on 7 May 1945. Later that year, Robert was involved in a serious traffic accident when he was riding in the bed of a truck that plunged over an embankment and into the Jagst River. He was evacuated to a hospital in Stuttgart Germany, and in early January 1946, he returned to the States aboard hospital ship *USHS Wisteria*, arriving at Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York, on 10 January 1946, where he was discharged on 15 August for disability as a result of his injuries. Robert was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart (w/1 oak leaf), the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater Medal, and the European/African/Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (w/3 battle stars). Robert returned home to permanently settle in Emmaus, where he worked as a Painter/Decorator with his brother, Clifford, for ten years, and then as a Rural Mail Carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 29 years. He retired from the Postal Service in January 1987. Robert married **Gertrude Anna Eroh** (25 September 1922 – 26 December 2009) on 7 April 1950 in Lehighton, Pennsylvania. They had three children: **Richard Timothy**, **Marjorie Jane**, and **Allan David**. Robert’s parents were **Edgar Franklin Kauffman** (14 July 1885 – 1992) and **Lucy Blackburn Moyer** (1 October 1886 – 12 February 1952). Recently, Robert completed writing his memoirs, which he had published in a book entitled *The Replacement* in 2009.



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