



**David Owen Newcomer**  
**Corporal U.S. Army**  
**7 January 1953 – 6 January 1955**

David was born on 11 June 1932 in Pennsylvania in the Allentown Hospital while the family was living in Slatington, Pennsylvania. His parents were **Samuel Seifried Newcomer** (3 November 1905 – 3 July 1984) and **Claire Mae (Owens) Newcomer** (27 October 1907 – 12 February 1972). The family moved to Allentown in 1935, where they lived until 1950, the year David graduated from Allen High School in Allentown. They then moved to Weilersville in Lower Macungie Township, and David then attended pre-medical school at Muhlenberg College for a year before going to work for Vale Chemical Company in Allentown during the summer. He then took a semester off to earn money to continue school, and went to work for Bethlehem Steel Co. in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. With the outbreak of the Korean War, David was drafted and inducted into the Army as a Private on 7 January 1953, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He underwent processing at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he received his basic infantry training as a Tank Gunner with Company C, 36<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion. In May 1953, David left for additional training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he was stationed when the Korean War Armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. On 1 August 1953, David was transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was assigned to the 187<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Observation Battalion until completion of his two-year active service requirement. He was released at Fort Sill as a Corporal and assigned to the Army Reserve. After returning home, David attended Muhlenberg College for another year until his interest shifted to aviation. He then enrolled in Central Technical Institute in Kansas City, Missouri. After he graduated from Central Tech, he held several positions while working for Eastern Airlines at several locations including Newark, Miami International, Rockefeller Center in New York City, Dulles, and Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton (A-B-E) Airports. When Eastern flight engineers were on strike, he temporarily worked for Trans World Airlines for two weeks in December 1958 at Westside Airline Terminal in New York, where he met his wife-to-be, **Bertha Ellen Yopp** (born 5 October 1938). They were married in Middleton, Tennessee, on 3 April 1960, and have two children, **Janet Louise (Newcomer) Hower**, and **David Gordon Newcomer**. David retired on 31 October 1988. They built a home in Ancient Oak in 1969 after he got a job for Eastern Airlines at A-B-E Airport. They lived with David's parents in Weilersville while the house was being built. David's hobbies included photography, and traveling and camping with his family. As a young boy, he became interested in bird watching and remained an avid birdwatcher his entire life. David's son served in both the Army and the Marine Corps, and three of David's brothers served in the Armed Forces; **Owen Samuel** in the Army and Air Force, **Ronald Alan** in the Army (who was wounded in action in Korea), and **Charles Samuel** in the Marine Corps. David died on 24 August 2011. He is buried in Union Cemetery in Slatington.