



Motor Machinist  
Rating Patch

**Herbert George Rohrbach Jr.**  
**Motor Machinist Mate 2/C U.S. Navy**  
**16 November 1943 – 23 March 1946**

Herbert was born on 22 June 1924 in Lanark, Pennsylvania. He attended grade school in Allentown, Pennsylvania, 9th grade at Central Junior High School in Allentown, and William Allen High School in Allentown. While attending the last two years of high school, he worked as a Helper for Leon Furniture Company in Allentown. Herbert was drafted into the Navy in Allentown as a Seaman Recruit on 16 November 1943 and underwent recruit training at Naval Training Center, Sampson, New York. He was then ordered to the Landing Craft Infantry (Large) Amphibious Ship *USS LCI(L)-2*. All types of LCIs were used to take invasion troops ashore during an amphibious landing, providing close-in fire support with machine guns and rockets for their landing. LCI(L)s had a crew of up to 60 sailors and carried 200 troops who descended from ramps on each side of the craft. The LCI fleet acquired the nickname “Waterbug Navy” when an admiral looked down from his battleship and, as he watched the LCIs down below scurrying back and forth, commented that they looked like a bunch of waterbugs. While aboard *LCI(L)-2* Herbert earned the Motor Machinist Rating, responsible for operating and maintaining internal combustion engines and engine auxiliaries. He served aboard *LCI(L)-2* the entire time he was in the Navy, and served in the American, European, and Pacific Theaters, and participated in the landings in Southern France while his ship was based in Italy. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Theater Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Herbert was discharged as a Motor Machinist Mate 2/C at Bainbridge, Maryland, on 23 March 1946. He returned to live in Allentown and went to work for Mack Truck Company for two years before becoming a subcontractor installing windows and doors for Wargo Brothers, Keystone Window, and Pilizzotto Roofing and Siding Company, all in Allentown. He worked as a subcontractor from 1947 to 1995, when he retired. Herbert was married to **Dorothy Mae Heil** (born 3 July 1931) on 28 June 1952 at Solomon’s Church in Macungie, Pennsylvania, by the Reverend Ralph Althouse. Herbert moved to Macungie in 1952, and after he was married he and Dorothy lived there until moving to Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, in 1961, where they settled. Herbert and Dorothy had three children: **Ann**, **Thomas**, and **Barbara**. Herbert was the fifth of ten children born to **Herbert George Rohrbach Sr.** (30 November 1891 – 1941) and **Elsie Irene Fogel** (1894 – 7 October 1969).