



1st Infantry



5th Infantry



45th Infantry



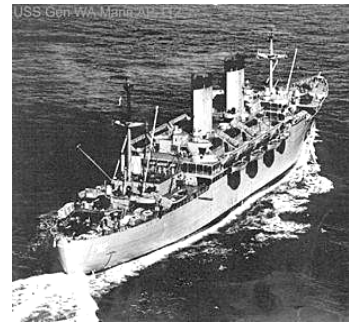
79th Infantry



103rd Infantry



90th Infantry



USS General W. A. Mann (AP-112)

Roland Stanley Schaffer
Private First Class U.S. Army
24 July 1943 – 30 December 1945

Roland was born at home on 22 Oct 1915 at home in rural Coopersburg in Lower Milford Township, Pennsylvania. He was the last of eleven children born to **Frank H. Schaffer** (b. 11 November 1866) and **Susanna Y. Fritz** (b. 22 March 1869). He attended grades 1-8 at Dietz School near Steinsberg in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1932. He then attended Kutztown College for two years, after which he began a career in education as a grade school teacher in the Center Valley, Pennsylvania, school system in Lehigh County. After his marriage to **Marian Elizabeth Ibach** (2 May 1917 – 10 July 2011) on 5 November 1938, he moved to East Texas, Pennsylvania, where he lived with Marian in the East Texas Hotel, a combination tap room, restaurant, and living quarters. His brother-in-law, **Vincent Walter Ibach**, who rented and operated the hotel, his mother-in-law **Sallie (Reinhart) Ibach**, and his sisters-in-law, **Dorothy May Ibach** and **Betty Jane (Ibach) Buss** and her family lived there with them. Roland was drafted into the Army on 24 July 1943 at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, Reception Center. He then was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he received Basic and Field Artillery (FA) Training as a Cannoneer in the 2nd Regiment (Regt), successively with A Battery (Btry), 5th FA Battalion (Bn) and A and B Btrys, 15th FA Bn. In January 1943, he was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland, where he was assigned to D Btry, 19th FA Bn, 5th Infantry Replacement Division for further training in preparation for overseas deployment. On 30 January 1944, he left the States via the staging area at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, and the Port of Norfolk, Virginia, where he boarded Troop Ship *USS General W. A. Mann (AP-112)*. Eight days later he disembarked at Casablanca, Morocco, and proceeded inland to a training area Near Oran, Algerian border. On 29 February 1944, his Battalion sailed from the Port of Oran for the 5th Army Replacement Depot in Italy, located about 20 miles northeast of Naples near the city of Caserta. He continued to train there, and at the end of March he left the Depot via the Port of Naples for assignment as a replacement in A Btry, 938th FA Bn, 45th Infantry Division on the Anzio Beachhead. The Allies broke out from the Beachhead on 23 May, forced the Germans to retreat from Anzio, and took Rome on 4 June and Viterbo a few days later. On 11 June 1944, the 45th Infantry Division was sent to Battipaglia near Salerno, Italy, for a month's rest from battle. On 1 July 1944, they relocated south to nearby Paestum where they prepared for an amphibious invasion on the beaches of southern France. They left from Naples on August 8, and Roland's Battalion landed in the area of St. Maxime and St. Tropez on August 15. Over the next nine months they fought their way northward through southern France to the Alsace region and into Germany, and continued on through Bavaria and, temporarily attached to the 103rd Infantry Division, into Austria as the war in Europe drew to a close. The formal surrender was signed on 8 May 1945. Soon thereafter, Roland left the 45th Infantry Division and performed post-war occupation duties, including guarding German prisoners and Military Police duties with the 1st, 79th, and 90th Infantry Divisions. He left Germany for the States from the Port of Marseilles, France, on 12 December 1945. He disembarked at Norfolk ten days later and underwent processing at Camp Patrick Henry before being discharged at New Cumberland on 30 December 1945. Roland returned to East Texas and the East Texas Hotel, where he and Marian continued to live until 1947, when Vincent moved his business into the Ibach Tavern which he had built about a mile away. Roland and Marian lived there until 1950, when they moved into a house they had built nearby. Roland resumed teaching and eventually became Principal of Center Valley Grade School until his retirement. Roland and Marian had a son, **Terry Roland**, and a daughter **Sandra**, who died at the age of seven as a result of an automobile accident near their home. Roland died in his sleep of a heart attack at home on 26 June 1988. Marian died on 10 July 2011, at the age of ninety-four, in Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown. Roland, Marian, and Sandra are buried at St. Paul's Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania.