



WW I Victory Medal



Purple Heart Medal



28th Infantry Division



79th Infantry Division

**James Ash Schellenberger Sr.  
Private U.S. Army  
2 November 1917 – 13 January 1919**

James was born on 19 August 1893 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He lived at 631 Tilghman Street in Allentown with his family, attended school there, and worked there for several years before enlisting in the Army on 2 November 1917 as a Private. He underwent training as a Machine Gunner at Camp George G. Meade, Maryland, with Company A, 310th Machine Gun Battalion, 79th Infantry Division. On 1 April 1918, James was transferred to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, and assigned to Company C, 109th Machine Gun Battalion, 56th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, also known as the “Keystone” and “Iron” Division. During the last week of April 1918, the Division left Fort Hancock by train for New York for further transfer overseas. They sailed from New York in a joint U.S.–British convoy, departing for Europe on 7 May 1918. James and his Battalion sailed aboard the British ship *HMS Aquilana*, which arrived in Liverpool, England, a week later. After a few days at Camp Notty Ash near Liverpool, they took a train to Dover, England, where they boarded ship once again and crossed the English Channel to Calais, France. The Division immediately took up defensive positions at Charly Bridgehead on 9 July 1918, experiencing heavy shell fire through July 19. They then began fighting their way inland, engaging the Germans in the battles of Château-Thierry, Fismes Bridge, Argonne Forest, and Metz Sector. Château-Thierry became a turning point by putting the Germans on the defensive for the first time and opening the way for the Allies to begin offensive operations. In late October the Allies began moving into the Metz Sector of the Argonne. James was gassed in the Metz Sector on 31 October 1918, just prior to pushing the Germans back and forcing Germany to surrender. James was evacuated and remained in theater for a month and a half, eventually sailing for the States on 26 November 1918. He underwent an additional month and a half of convalescence at Fort Dix, New Jersey, before being discharged there on 13 January 1919. After his return home to Allentown, James worked on Watts Produce Farm in Bellwood, Pennsylvania, from 1921 to 1926, and in 1927 began a career as a Civil Servant for the Post Office in Allentown, retiring in 1957. He married **Anna H. Boyer** (25 July 1893 – 1 November 1978) on 30 March 1918. In April 1926 they bought a house in Brookdale along the Upper Little Lehigh Creek in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. They raised three sons, **James Ash Jr.**, **Paul Joseph**, and **William Morris** and two daughters, **Dorothy Rosa** and **Jean Sarah**. **Dorothy Rosa** and **Paul Joseph** served during WW II: Dorothy in the Women’s Army Corps, and Paul in the Navy. James died on 23 September 1979 in the Laurel Nursing Center in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. He is buried in Highland Park Cemetery in Allentown alongside Anna. James’ parents were **William Morris Schellenberger** (19 June 1870 – 11 January 1945) and **Sarah Ash** (? - ?).



*HMS Aquilana*