



Blair Thomas Schnyder
Technician 5th Class U.S. Army
17 April 1943 – 4 January 1946
Private First Class U.S. Army
1 December 1950 – 11 September 1951

Blair was born on 6 January 1925 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1–8 in Wescosville, and Raub Junior High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1940 for one year. Prior to entering the Service, Blair lived in Wescosville and worked in Allentown for the Mountain Weaving Company Silk Mill as a Sizer. He was drafted into the Army Air Corps in Allentown as a Private, and was inducted on 17 April 1943 at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He underwent basic training for two months at Atlantic City, New Jersey, followed by assignment to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where he was trained as a Radar Operator for the Signal Corps at the Army Signal Corps School. He was then assigned to the 595th Signal Air Warning Battalion at Ocean View, Delaware, until he left for Kearns Field, Utah, for overseas training. He returned to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he boarded the British troop ship *Glen Earn* and sailed through the Panama Canal heading for New Guinea on 16 August 1944. The New Guinea Campaign had been in progress since January 1943. Blair arrived in Hollandia, New Guinea, on 4 October 1944 and was stationed at Biak where the infantry had secured the airfields on 20 August 1944. The broader New Guinea Campaign ended in December 1944. Blair's unit left New Guinea for redeployment to the Philippine Islands to support the Philippine Campaign, first on Leyte and then on Luzon. He left the Philippines for the States on 9 December 1945, arriving on Christmas Eve. He was discharged on 4 January 1946 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Blair returned to live in Wescosville and married **Lillian Louise Yocum** (born 9 December 1924) on 16 August 1946. He returned to work for Mountain Weaving, where he worked as a Foreman from 1946 to 1949. He then attended Carpentry School under the G.I. Bill at 7th and Tilghman Streets in Allentown. Blair was recalled to active duty as a Carpenter and Private First Class in the Army on 2 December 1950 at Fort Meade, Maryland. He was then assigned to the 2998th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company in Korea, where he spent almost a year building pontoon bridges for river crossings from Pusan north to the 38th Parallel. He returned to the States for discharge during September 1951 and was discharged at Indiantown Gap as a Private First Class in the Army Reserves on 11 September 1951. Blair returned to Wescosville where he was self-employed and built six houses in the Wescosville area prior to starting the Blair Schnyder Used Car Dealership in the area for 16 years. He retired from the Dealership in 1973. In 1954 he learned to fly light aircraft under the tutelage of Warren Christ at the Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, Airport, again using the G.I. Bill. Blair and Lillian lived in Wescosville until 1973, when they moved to Auburn in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, for 11 years. In 1984 they moved to State College, Pennsylvania, until 2000, and then they moved back to settle in Wescosville. Blair and Lillian had no children. Blair's parents were **Dennis Cleveland Schnyder** (13 December 1885 – November 1963) and **Myrtle Mae Confer** (7 September 1891 – June 1982).