



Herbert Paul Smith
Private First Class U.S. Army
1917 – 1919

Herbert was born on 17 Aug 1896 in Seibertsville, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. He later moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, and worked at Bethlehem Steel prior to entering in the Army. Herbert entered the Army as a Private sometime in 1917, and was assigned to the Signal Corps, 221st Field Battalion. The Battalion was constituted on 1 July 1916 at Camp Alfred Vail (formerly Camp Little Silver and later re-named Fort Monmouth), New Jersey. The Battalion was assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Division on 24 May 1917, which was re-designated the 1st (“Big Red One”) Division on 6 July 1917, and ordered overseas. The first units of the 1st Division sailed from New York and Hoboken, New Jersey, on 14 June 1917 to join the Allied Expeditionary Force in France. The rest of the Division followed, with the last unit arriving in St. Nazaire, France, on 22 December 1917. The Division assembled and readied itself for action in the Gondrecourt Training Area southeast of Bar-de-Luc, France. During April 1918, they moved into the Picardy Sector to bolster the French First Army where they countered a German thrust toward Paris in early June 1918. Herbert probably joined the Division during late June 1918, and fought in the Picardy Campaign (14 June – 8 July 1918); Aisne-Marne Campaign, (18 July – 6 August 1918); St. Mihiel Campaign (12 – 15 September 1918), and Meuse-Argonne Campaign (26 September – 11 November 1918) as the war drew to an end. The Division then moved into Luxembourg and Germany for occupation duty at several locations until 15 August 1919, when they sailed from France for Hoboken, New Jersey, and demobilization in September 1919. The Division was awarded the World War I Victory Medal, the WWI Occupation Medal, and two French Croix de Guerre for the Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne Campaigns. After Herbert was discharged, he attended Girard Business School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then settled in Lower Macungie Township and went to work at Traylor Engineering & Manufacturing Company in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as Assistant Paymaster. Herbert married **Edna Lizzie Hinkle** (23 February 1902 – April 1993). They raised two children: **Paul V. D. Smith**, who served in the Army during World War II, and **Lona J. Smith**. Herbert died in Allentown in 1961. He is buried at St. Paul’s Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. Herbert’s parents were **Daniel Benjamin Smith** (c.1883 – ?) and **Jenny R. (maiden name unknown)** (c.1883 – ?).