



84th Infantry Division



**Paul V. D. Smith**  
**Private First Class U.S. Army**  
**22 March 1943 – 19 December 1945**

Paul was born on 22 March 1920 in East Texas, Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, while his family was living in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-4 at Cedar Heights School and grades 5-6 at James W. Abod School in Allentown, followed by South Whitehall High School for grades 7-12. After completing high school in 1939, Paul went to work as a Welder and Burner for Traylor Engineering and Manufacturing Company in Allentown until he entered the Army. Paul was drafted and inducted into the Army as a Private at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on 23 March 1943. He was assigned to the 557th AAA (Anti-aircraft Automatic) Weapons (Mobile) Battalion. He then underwent three months of training as a Fire Control Instrument Operator at Camp Davis, North Carolina; Fort Ogelthorpe, Georgia; and Fort Jackson, Mississippi. On 11 September 1943, while on furlough, Paul married **Mary Elizabeth Rohrbach** (4 February 1923 – 3 June 2001) of Cetronia, Pennsylvania, at St. Paul's Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. In July 1944, Paul's unit was ordered overseas. He boarded the *Queen Mary* on 23 July 1944, heading for Scotland where his unit was preparing for the landings at Normandy. His battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry ("Railsplitters") Division, which arrived in England on 1 October 1944. The Division landed on Omaha Beach in early November 1944, and moved quickly into the Netherlands in preparation for an offensive into Germany. They moved into the Rhineland, advancing northward and capturing the city of Hannover, Germany, on 10 April 1944. On 23 February 1945, the Division crossed the Roer River. The next day, as they were advancing toward Boenheim, Paul was wounded in action. After recuperating, Paul returned to his unit. As they advanced through Germany, they uncovered and liberated the Hannover-Ahlem and Salzwedel Concentration Camps in April 1945. They then advanced all the way to the Elbe River. After the war ended in Europe, the Division remained in Germany on occupation duty. In December 1945, Paul boarded the *Queen Mary* once again for return to the States. He was discharged as a Private First Class on 19 December 1945 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. He returned to work for Traylor Engineering and Manufacturing until he retired in 1985. After his return, he and Mary went to live in Shimersville, Pennsylvania, until 1947, when they moved to nearby Old Zionsville. They lived in Old Zionsville until 1999, when they move to Macungie, Pennsylvania. Paul and Mary had two sons: **Ronald J. Smith** and **Randall P. Smith**. Paul died on 13 February 2007 at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Salisbury Township. He was a member and benefactor of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Old Zionsville. He served as President and two terms as Post Commander of VFW Post 9264 in Macungie, and as Civil Defense Director for Upper Milford Township. He also served as Secretary for the Steelworkers Union and as Treasurer for the Lehigh County Labor Council. Paul was a member of Upper Milford Western District Fire Company and Macungie Fire Company. In his youth he played semi-pro baseball and played for a St. Louis Cardinal's Farm Team. Paul's parents were **Herbert Paul Smith** (17 August 1896 – 1961), who served in the Army Signal Corps during World War I, and **Edna Lizzie Hinkle** (23 February 1902 – April 1993).