



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Army Occupation Medal



**Allen Hunsicker Stephens**  
**Private First Class U.S. Army**  
**21 January 1943 – 26 November 1945**



Field Artillery Corps



34<sup>th</sup> Infantry



185<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

Allen was born on 27 February 1923 on Krocks Road in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended elementary school at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, Pennsylvania, from 1929 to 1937, and graduated from Allentown High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1941. He then worked as a mechanic until he was drafted into the Army. He was inducted as a Private on 21 January 1943 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. After basic training, Allen was assigned to the 185<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which had been fighting in North Africa and was preparing for landings on the mainland of Italy after the German Army was defeated in Tunisia. During that time, the Division's field artillery battalions, day in and day out, hauled gasoline to airfields to supply bombers for the invasion of Sicily. At the end of July 1943, the 34<sup>th</sup> Division was assigned to the Fifth Army and was placed in reserve for the landings at Salerno, Italy. They soon sailed from Oran, Algeria, for the mainland. After Salerno was taken, the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division began a period of long, arduous fighting in Italy, interrupted only by some periods of rest and regrouping after intense combat that first took them through the towns of Caiazzo, Alvignano, Montaquilla, Sant'Angelo d'Alife, and Cervaro to Monte Cassino. They withdrew from Monte Cassino on 14 February and in late March sailed by Landing Ship Tanks from Naples to the Anzio Beachhead to relieve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. On 11 May, after a month of holding off determined enemy counter-offensives under arduous weather conditions, the Allies began their breakout from the beachhead. The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division fought its way from the beachhead to Rome, Civitavecchia, Cecina, and finally Leghorn on 19 July 1944. The Division was then given a month's rest at Rosignano-Solvay along the Mediterranean seashore just south of Leghorn. Next came the assault on the German Gothic Line at Florence, Monzuno, and Belmonte. In October the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division dug into defensive positions south of Bologna. By this time, with flimsy defenses, slim resources, and heavy German resistance, the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division dug in along the Gothic Line and went into a state of patrolling and watching. Just before the new year, the Division was relieved from the line and went back to the vicinity of Pietramala and the Radicosa Pass for another period of rest. On 12 January 1945 the Division was ordered back to the front and initially took up once again the task of patrolling and watching. In February 1945 the Allied drive on the plains of Bologna began, advancing through Brescia-Ivrea, and by the end of April the Germans were in headlong retreat. The war in Italy was essential over at that time, as it was in the rest of Europe. The formal German surrender in Europe was signed on 8 May 1945. Allen remained in Italy for occupation duty until November 1945, when he returned to the States and was discharged at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, Military Reservation. After returning home, Allen attended college for about two years. He then became a truck driver until retiring in 1985. He married **Mildred Florence Rabenold** (31 March 1922 – 9 July 2004). Allen died on 1 August 1988. He is buried alongside Mildred in the Zion Union Cemetery in Maxatawny Township, Pennsylvania. His parents were **Ellis Oliver Stephens** (19 April 1900 – 14 November 1966) and **Esther Adaline Hunsicker** (27 June 1903 – 14 April 1960). His brother, **Ellis Hunsicker Stephens**, also served in the Army during from 1943 to 1945.