



Queen Mary



Ellis Hunsicker Stephens
Private First Class U.S. Army
22 March 1943 – 19 December 1945



84th Infantry Division Patch



40 mm AAA Gun

Ellis was born on 14 October 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. As a boy he lived on Lower Macungie Road at the western end of East Texas, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-8 from 1930 to 1938 at a two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, and he graduated from Allentown High School in 1942. After high school, Ellis worked for Mack Trucks Company in Allentown as a Lift Truck Operator until he was drafted into the Army. He was inducted as a Private on 22 March 1943 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He then was assigned to Battery C of the newly activated 557th AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion (Mobile) at Camp Davis, North Carolina. He underwent basic and advanced training as an AAA Crewman. On 29 May 1943, in preparation for overseas deployment, the Battalion conducted further training, including field maneuvers at Fort Fisher, North Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Camp Forest near Lebanon, Tennessee; and Camp Stewart, Georgia. They then returned to Fort Jackson on 1 February 1944 to make final preparations for overseas deployment. On 15 July 1944, they left for Fort Slocum, New York, and from there boarded the luxury liner *RMS Queen Mary*, which sailed on 23 July 1944. They arrived at Gourock, Scotland, on 28 July 1944 and proceeded to Camp Blackshaw Moor near Leek, England, where they prepared for crossing the English Channel. They left Camp Blackshaw for Southampton, England, where they boarded Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) and landed on Utah Beach at St. Germain, France, on 13 August 1944. From there they moved inland to provide AAA cover for various infantry, artillery, and other support units as well as installations such as airfields and ammunition dumps. Throughout the next few months, they moved through France, Belgium, and Luxembourg as the Army pushed toward Germany. On the 28th of November the Battalion was attached to the 84th Infantry "Railsplitters" Division, which was its parent unit for the remainder of the war, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Allied breakthrough in the Ardennes Forest in January 1945. Subsequently, they crossed the Roer River in March 1945 and the Rhine River on 8 May 1945, the day after Germany formally surrendered to the Allies. Subsequently, Ellis was detached from the 84th Infantry Battalion and sent to England where he served as a Military Policeman until boarding the *Queen Mary* once again at Southampton for the return trip home. He arrived at Norfolk, Virginia, on 14 December 1945, and then traveled to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, where he was discharged on 19 December 1945. Ellis was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with 4 bronze battle stars) and World War II Victory Medal. After returning home, he went to work for Arbogast & Bastian in Allentown as a Beef Boner until 1954. He then he returned to Mack Trucks to work as a Mechanic until retiring in 1986. Ellis married **Eleanor Edna Bush** (born 25 May 1925) on 20 April 1946 in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania. They purchased his parents' home on Lower Macungie Road where they raised their son, **Ellis Steve Stephens**. Ellis died at home in East Texas on 16 December 2003. He is buried in St. Paul's Union Cemetery in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. Ellis's parents were **Ellis Oliver Stephens** (19 April 1900 – 14 November 1966) and **Esther Adaline Hunsicker** (27 June 1903 – 14 April 1960). Ellis's son served in the Navy (1970 – 1974), and his brother, **Allen Hunsicker Stephens**, served in the Army during World War II (1943 – 1945).