



Marvin Charles Strohl
Private First Class U.S. Army
3 February 1944 – 16 May 1946

Marvin was born on 20 October 1925 in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, to Stanley Allen Nathaniel Strohl (28 January 1895 – 3 July 1968) and Pearl Irene (Freas) Strohl (13 February 1897 – 2 November 1951). Marvin attended grade school in Fogelsville, graduated from Allentown High School in 1943, and worked as an automobile mechanic in his father's garage (Strohl Chevrolet) until he entered the Army. He enlisted on 13 January 1944, was inducted on 3 February 1944, and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division for basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then underwent paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he earned his paratrooper wings in April 1944. He was then assigned to Company G, 517th Paratroop Infantry Division, at Camp Mackall, near Fort Bragg, where the 517th was making final preparations for deployment to Europe as the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team with other units attached, including the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and the 596th Airborne Engineer Company. The Team moved to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, for overseas staging and, on 17 May 1944, sailed from Newport News, Virginia, aboard converted luxury liner USS *Santa Rosa*.



On 31 May 1944, they arrived at war-torn Naples, Italy. After debarking, they set up bivouac nearby in an extinct volcano crater until 14 June 1944, when they boarded LSTs (Landing Ship Tanks) bound for Civitavecchia Port at Rome, Italy. There they joined the 36th Infantry Division on 17 June 1944, to begin a year of combat duty which would take them through campaigns in Italy, France, and Belgium. After engaging and driving the Germans back along Highway 1 north of Rome, they prepared for the invasion of Southern France as part of Operation Dragoon (15 August – 14 September 1944). On 15 August 1944, they left Italy and parachuted into Southern France, engaging in heavy fighting around the towns of Le Muy, Les Arcs, La Motte, and Draguignan. Later, after the Allies had the Germans in full retreat, they left Southern France for Belgium to join in counterattacking the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge (16 December 1944 – 25 January 1945) near the towns of Soy, Sur-Les-Hys, Hotton, and Manhay. After Manhay was taken on Christmas of 1944, the 517th was assigned to the 13th Airborne Division to take part in Operation Varsity, the airborne crossing of the Rhine River. However, prior to the operation, they received orders to prepare for redeployment to the Pacific Theater to take part in Operation Coronet, a planned airborne invasion of the Japanese Homeland. After a series of moves within France, on 14 August 1945 they left from Le Havre, France, for the Pacific Theater in two groups aboard transport ships USS *Oneida* (APA 221) and USS *Madawska* (AP-29). Two days after leaving Le Havre, they received word of the Japanese surrender, and they were diverted to New York City, arriving there by 22 August 1945. They were then sent to Camp Shanks, New York, for processing. Those who were not due for discharge, including Marvin, returned to Fort Bragg. Marvin was later discharged there on 16 May 1946, after three weeks of furlough. After returning home, Marvin

established a turkey farm in the Ziegel's Church area of Breinigsville, Pennsylvania. He married Kathleen Mae Hoffman (born 12 Nov 1929) of Wescosville, Pennsylvania, on 30 November 1946, at Zion's Union Maxatawny Church in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Initially, they made their home in Wescosville. In 1948, after Marvin earned an Associate's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania State College Campus in Allentown, Pennsylvania, they moved to Breinigsville, and Marvin went to work performing electrical maintenance for Lehigh Portland Cement Company in Fogelsville. They moved to Fogelsville in 1960. In 1973, Marvin went to work for Muhlenberg College, also doing electrical maintenance, until his death. Marvin died on 13 August 1976 in Allentown Hospital. He is buried in Ziegel's Union Cemetery in Breinigsville. He and Kathleen had four children: Bruce Darryl Strohl (9 March 1950 – 8 August 1960); Marvin Charles Strohl Jr.; JoAnne (Strohl) Shafer; and Susan Irene (Strohl) Campanelli. Three of Marvin's siblings also served in the Army during World War II; Lorraine Mae, Roderick George, and Kenneth Elmer.



Roderick, Kenneth, Lorraine, Marvin