



Wesley M. Trexler
Private First Class U.S. Army
12 June 1942 – 14 January 1944

Wesley was born on 11 August 1917 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township, where he was raised, went to school, and lived to adulthood. He was the eleventh of twelve children, the last of six boys, born to **Jeremiah F. Trexler** (24 June 1874 – 4 March 1962) and **Alice D. Boyer** (8 December 1875 – 30 July 1941). Wesley enlisted in the Army as a Private in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on 12 June 1942. He was assigned to Company F, 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry (“Red Bull”) Division, which was assembling in the vicinity of Caledon, Northern Ireland, for intensive training. In December 1942, his Regiment moved from Ireland to England and, on Christmas Day of 1942, they boarded the *Empress of Australia* and sailed for North Africa, landing at Mers El Kabir, Algeria on 3 January 1943. In February, the Regiment assembled in the vicinity of Lavayssiere, Algeria, and moved by truck over the Atlas Mountains to the vicinity of Maktar to relieve French units. From mid-



Empress of Australia

February to 10 April 1943, the Regiment engaged in heavy combat as they pushed toward and reached Oran, including the battles at the Kef-el-Amar Pass, the Fondouk Pass, Makatar, Sidi Nsir, Eddekhila, and the Chougui Pass. On 19 September 1943, they sailed from Oran to land at the Bay of Salerno, Italy, on 22 September 1943. From there they advanced northward and engaged in numerous battles which included Benevento, Alife, San Angelo D’Alife, Ciorlano, and Colli. In early January 1944, as the Regiment continued the attack, they seized several hills, including Mount Capraro on 13 January 1944. The next day they continued the attack Northwest of Cevaro, and on that day Wesley was killed in action in the area. He was buried in Italy until his remains could be brought home and re-interred next to his parents in the family burial plot at Zion’s Union Church Cemetery in Maxatawny, Pennsylvania. In addition to the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and campaign medals that he was awarded, Wesley earned the Purple Heart for his wounds. Prior to entering the Army, Wesley was active in the Wescosville Union Sunday School activities from the Primary Department through the Adult Bible Class. He was baptized and confirmed a Lutheran and was a member of the Maxatawny Zion’s Church where he is buried. Wesley was a very devout person, and just two months prior to his death he wrote home to the Superintendent of the Sunday School and asked that the hymns “Faith of Our Fathers” and “O King Eternal” be sung for him in Sunday School.