



6th Army



**Wilmer Lewis Werner**  
**Technical Sergeant 4th Class U.S. Army**  
**17 November 1941 – 6 April 1946**

Wilmer was born on 8 April 1920 at 143 South Cedarbrook Road in South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1–7 at James W. Good School in Cetronia, Pennsylvania, and grades 8–12 at South Whitehall High School. After graduating from high school in 1941, Wilmer worked as a Milling Machine Operator for Mack Truck Company on South 12th Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, until he was drafted into the Army. He entered the Army as a Private at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on 17 November 1941 and was assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for basic training. In March 1942 he was sent to Camp Murry, Washington, while waiting to be shipped to Cordova, Alaska, where there was an airfield being built for wartime staging on the southeast shore of Orca Inlet on Prince William Sound. Wilmer's unit, the 42nd Engineer Construction Battalion, was assigned to build a camp there. They slept on the ground in sleeping bags, later in tents, and eventually in small huts. Wilmer was involved in general construction of the camp. He was then transferred to Attu Island in the Aleutian Island Chain where the 42nd Engineers maintained the airfield there and built roads. On 17 July 1944, Wilmer returned to the States and was assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington, for eight months, during which the Battalion performed routine military duties while awaiting assignment to the 6th Army in the Philippine Islands. On 20 March 1945, he left for Manila where preparations were being made for the invasion of Japan. The Battalion was assigned to clean up rubble from bombing and shelling of the area. On 30 July 1945, Wilmer broke his leg while running after a truck to hitch a ride back to his quarters. The break was severe, right below the hip, and he was put into traction until he could be safely returned to the States. He was put into a temporary cast to be flown back to the States. He arrived at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in September 1945, where he was put in traction again. He remained at Ft. Dix, recuperating until he was discharged. He was discharged as a Technical Sergeant 4th Class at Fort Dix on 6 April 1946, and returned home to 143 S. Cedarbrook Road where he lived until 1951. He then moved to East Texas, Pennsylvania, where he went to work for about eight years, initially filling and maintaining propane cylinders and later driving a cylinder delivery truck for Happy Cooking, a propane distributor in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. He lived in East Texas until 1958, when he moved to Allentown where he settled and went to work driving both cylinder and bulk liquid propane trucks for Trexler-Haines Gas Company, Inc., first on Route 222 near Dorneyville, later on Tilghman Street in Chapmans, Pennsylvania, from 1960 to 1997 when he retired. Wilmer married **Shirlene Irene Kern** (born 7 January 1933) on 5 October 1963 in Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church in East Texas. They had a son, **Timothy Wilmer Werner**. Wilmer became an active member of church choirs for over 45 years, singing first at Emmanuel United Brethren Church in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, followed by Bethany United Methodist Church on Brookside Road in Lower Macungie, and then at Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church in Allentown. Wilmer's parents were **Josiah Adam Werner** (7 August 1889 – 30 April 1949) and **Annie Maria Sarah Bortz** (15 September 1893 – 2 December 1923).



Wilmer and friend  
feeding bear cub in  
Alaska