



**James Samuel Wert**  
**Sergeant (T) U.S. Army**  
**2 February 1942 – 6 May 1952**

James was born on 18 December 1919 in Patterson, New Jersey. His family moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from Emmaus High School in 1937. After graduation he went to work for Mack Trucks Company in Allentown as an Inspector in the Machine Shop from 1939 to 1942. James was drafted and inducted into the Army as a Private on 2 February 1942 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, where he underwent basic training. He was then transferred successively to Camp Polk, Louisiana; Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Fort Benning, Georgia, during which time he was trained as a Medic and as a Radio Operator. In June 1944, James was assigned to Headquarters Company, 77th Armored Medical Battalion, 7th Armored Division, and left for the European Theater. He served as a Radio Operator with the Battalion in Northern France–Ardenne, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, participating in numerous battles and in the liberation of several concentration camps and prisoner-of-war camps. He returned to the States and was discharged on 23 October 1945 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. James was awarded the American Theater Medal, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and WWII Victory Medal for his wartime service. After his discharge, James returned to Emmaus, but then moved to East Texas, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township where he lived from 1945 to 1949, during which time he joined the Army Reserves. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict and served another three years in the Army. During that time, he attended Ordnance Mechanics School at Atlanta, Georgia, until 1951, when he was re-assigned to the 882nd Ordnance Company at Camp Carson, Colorado, as a Vehicle Repairman. He was discharged as a Sergeant (T) on 6 May 1952. James initially returned to Emmaus and, in late summer 1952, he and his wife and their three sons moved to Allentown and worked for Fontaines Interior Decorating in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as both Bookkeeper and Salesperson for drapes and slip covers, and later was as a part-time employee of Grants as a Salesman until 1972, when health issues prohibited him from continuing employment. James married **Mae Pauline Decker** (born 21 May 1922) of East Texas on 25 December 1941 in Emmaus. They raised three sons who served in the Armed Forces: **James Michael Wert** and **Barton E. Wert.**, who served in the Army, and **David Alan Wert** who served in both the Marine Corps and Navy. James died on 13 October 1994, and is buried at Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church Cemetery in East Texas. His parents were **Joseph Wert** (21 September 1887 – 1962) and **Lillian Brinkerhoff** (c. 1888 – 1944).