



Signal Corps



John Elias Wieand
Technician 5 U.S. Army
3 February 1944 – 19 January 1946

John was born on 17 October 1925 in Lanark, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He was raised in Minesite, Pennsylvania, where he attended grades 1 through 8 at Hartzell's School. After graduating from 8th grade, John worked for his father doing remodeling and construction work until he was drafted into the Army. He was inducted as a Private on 3 February 1944 at New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, and was sent to the Eastern Signal Corps Training Center at Camp Sea Girt near Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, for basic training and training as a Telephone Switchboard Operator. In September 1944, he was ordered overseas to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He traveled to San Francisco, where he boarded ship and sailed for New Guinea on 28 September 1944. He arrived in New Guinea on 22 October 1944 and was assigned to Detachment X, 4025th Signal Service Group. He remained in New Guinea where he provided radio support to combat units during the campaigns conducted on the island. He left New Guinea and landed on Luzon in the Southern Philippines in January 1945. John remained on Luzon, where he provided radio communications support during the Luzon Campaign until it was over on 4 July 1944. After Luzon was taken, John remained there while some mopping-up operations were conducted in the mountains and preparations were being made for the invasion of the Japanese homeland. After Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945, John remained in the Philippines, billeted at the "Jockey Club" in Manila until 26 December 1945, when he left by ship for the States. He arrived at San Francisco on 11 January 1946. He then crossed country to Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania, where he was discharged as a Technician 5 on 19 January 1946. For his service, John was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal (with 1 bronze star), Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with 3 bronze stars), and World War II Victory Medal. After John returned home, he worked as a self-employed construction contractor in the East Penn area (1946 – 1953), as a laborer at Greenwood Cemetery in Allentown, Pennsylvania (1953- 1970), and as Night Foreman at Shoemaker School, East Penn District. John married **Mae P.M. Merkle** (10 October 1925 – 3 June 1976) on 31 March 1946 at Western Salisbury Church in Allentown. They made their home in Minesite and raised four sons: **John Elias Jr.**, **Edward John**, **David Edward**, and **Mark David**. John's parents were **Harry John Wieand** (7 June 1893 – 5 November 1963) and **Ellen Jane Mory** (5 March 1891 – 3 September 1948). John's brother, **James Benjamin Wieand** also served in the Navy (1942 – 1945), as did his brother **Joseph Charles Wieand** (1945 – 1946).