



Motor Transport Corps
Sleeve Patch



Robert S. Yenser
U.S. Army
21 February 1918 – 24 July 1919

Robert was born on 24 February 1894 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he grew up with his family. Prior to entering the Army, Robert worked as a gas station attendant and mechanic for Pennsylvania Independent Oil Company in Allentown. He enlisted in the Army in Allentown on 21 February 1918 and was ordered to Camp Crane, which was located at the present site of the Allentown Fairgrounds, for training as a Cook in the Motor Transportation Corps. The camp originally was a Civil War encampment site, and from May 1917 to April 1919 was used as a training site for ambulance drivers who, during World War I, were assigned to the Motor Transportation Corps. On 31 August 1918, Robert left from New York for overseas to serve with the Motor Transport Corps in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France under the command of General John J. Pershing. The AEF initially took defensive positions along the Western Front in July 1918. In September 1918 the Americans joined the British and French in an all-out attack, capturing the St. Mihiel salient, and in October 1918 the Allies achieved victory over the Germans in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, which paved the way for the signing of the armistice on 4 October 1918. Through oral family history, it has been said that while in France with the AEF, Robert knew Ernest Hemmingway who also served there as an ambulance driver for the Red Cross. After World War I ended, Robert returned to the States, arriving on 15 July 1919. Robert was discharged on 24 July 1919 at Camp Dix, New Jersey, and returned to Allentown where he went to work once again for Pennsylvania Independent Oil Company in Allentown. Robert married **Martha B. Schick** (27 July 1895 – 1 July 1965) on 29 September 1923. They first lived on the Reinhard farm on Minesite Road, Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where their son **Frederick Charles** was born. Later they moved to a farm in South Whitehall Township near the site that became the Allentown Rose Garden in 1931, where their son **Robert Lee** was born. Both sons served in World War II; Frederick in the Army and Robert in the Navy. Around 1928 the family moved back to Lower Macungie, where they lived at several locations in Wescosville and East Texas. They had another son, **Howard William**, while living in East Texas. Robert died in East Texas on 13 August 1947. He is buried at Western Salisbury Church Cemetery in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, alongside his wife Martha. Robert's parents were **Cyrus Yenser** and **Rosa Schneck**; their dates of birth and death are unknown.



WW I Ambulance



Camp Dix