



Earl Howard Milton Butz
Corporal U.S. Army
20 June 1942 – 11 June 1944

Earl was born on 17 October 1919 in East Texas, Pennsylvania. He lived in East Texas with his mother and his grandparents, **Howard L. M. Butz** and **Carrie Matilta Butz**, on the Butz Farm at Willow and Willow Spur roads. He initially attended grades 1–4 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas. He then moved to 100 South Church Street in Macungie, Pennsylvania, to live with his mother **Carrie Maria Butz** (20 August 1901 – 22 October 1990) and **Earl R. Schoch** (1 December 1902 – 22 August 1994) whom Carrie married, and their two other sons **Marvin W. Schoch** and **Robert C. Schoch**. Earl attended grades 5–8 Macungie School. He was active in Boy Scout Troop 71 and in the Young Men’s Christian Association and was a member of Solomon’s Reformed Church in Macungie. While living in Macungie, Earl attended Emmaus High School, graduating in 1937, and went to work for Western Electric Corp., Allentown, Pennsylvania. After World War II came along, Earl enlisted as a Private in the Army on 20 June 1942 in Philadelphia. He underwent initial infantry training at Camp Croft near Spartanburg, South Carolina, after which he was assigned to the 502nd Paratroop Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he underwent parachute training. Before leaving for overseas, Earl became engaged to **Dorothy Shiffert** of Emmaus. On 4 September 1943, he sailed with his Division for England aboard the *SS Strathnavar*, a passenger liner that was used as a troop ship. The journey across the Atlantic took 44 days, as the ship had to pull into Newfoundland for repairs. On 18 October 1943, the Division arrived in England. The troops were quartered at Wiltshire and Berkshire, England, where they underwent intensive training for 7 months in preparation for the Normandy invasion on 6 June 1944. The Division’s mission was to drop by parachute near the town of Ste. Mère-Eglise during the night before the landing on Normandy Beach to secure the roads that led from the beach to obstruct enemy efforts to reinforce their beach defenses and to secure road junctions and beach exits from which the VII Army Corps could push inland to capture Carentan, France. The British and some of the American airborne troops came to ground near their objectives, including the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, but most were scattered over a wide area. The 101st Division succeeded in clearing much of the way for the VII Corps to move inland. As they advanced, the Germans launched a strong counterattack. Earl was wounded, but continued to fight for several days until he was killed in action by enemy machine gun fire on 11 June 1944, just one day prior to the day his unit was to be relieved by the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Earl initially was buried in a military cemetery in France. In 1948 he was brought home and buried with military honors in Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church Cemetery on Willow Spur Road in East Texas, where he had attended Sunday School as a child. Earl was awarded the bronze star and the Purple Heart.



SS Strathnavar