



159th Infantry Regiment

William Ray Decker
Private First Class U.S. Army
12 January 1943 – 13 December 1945

William was born in the village of East Texas, Pennsylvania, on 14 June 1924 where he lived his entire life. As a young boy he attended grades 1 – 8 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas. He attended Emmaus High School for one year and then went to work for Mack Manufacturing Corporation in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a tool grinder until he entered the service. He enlisted as a Private in the Army on 12 January 1943 in Allentown and was assigned to Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 7th Army Division, as a rifleman. He initially served in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska from 9 July 1943 to 24 December 1944 during the campaign to oust the Japanese from the island chain. After the Alaskan Campaign he returned to the States for two months before his unit was deployed to the European Theater. He served in Europe from 18 March 1945 to 13 December 1945, first in France and later in Frankfurt, Germany, for a year. William then returned to the States where he was discharged at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on 30 December 1945 as a Private First Class. After his discharge, William returned to East Texas and went back to work for Mack Truck Company for a while. He then started his own painting business which he operated until early 1949, when he went to work for Air Products Company, initially in Emmaus and later in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. William died in East Texas on 28 December 1990, and is buried there in the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church Cemetery on Willow Spur Road at the western end of the village. William was married to **Virginia Mary Yecker** (born circa 1925). His parents were **Everett L. Decker** (20 March 1900 – 1 January 1966) and **Eva J. Butz** (6 December 1904 – 19 April 1995).