



WW II Anti-Tank Gun



5th Marine Amphibious Corps



3rd and 2nd Marine Divisions

Edwin Franklin Hunsberger
Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps
21 March 1944 – 11 June 1951

Edwin was born on 5 July 1926 in Walnutport, Pennsylvania, while his family was living in Northampton, Pennsylvania, where he attended grades 1–6 at Franklin Elementary School, and grades 7–12 at Northampton High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and was inducted as a Private at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 21 March 1944. Edwin underwent recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, after which he was assigned successively to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Camp Pendleton, California, before being ordered overseas to the Pacific Theater where he was assigned as an Anti-Tank Unit Leader in Anti-Tank Company 414, 3rd Marine Division, 5th Marine Amphibious Corps. On 14 August 1944, he joined his unit on Guam, where the Division had been fighting and clearing the island of Japanese troops from 21 July 1944 to mid-August 1944. Guam was then turned into a base for further Allied operations in the Pacific. They remained there until mid-February 1945, when they embarked for the invasion of Iwo Jima. They landed on Iwo Jima and engaged in intense fighting from 21 February 1945 until 16 March 1945, capturing Mount Suribachi and clearing the Japanese troops from the island. Of over 20,000 Japanese troops on Iwo Jima, 18,000 died and 216 were captured. The Allied forces suffered 26,000 casualties, with nearly 7,000 dead, accounting for nearly one-third of all the Marine deaths in World War II. The Marines and Navy Corpsmen won 27 Medals of Honor on Iwo Jima. As a result of the intense fighting on Iwo Jima, including hand-to-hand combat, the 5th Amphibious Corps was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Edwin remained on Iwo Jima until 5 January 1946, when he was reassigned to the 1st Marine Occupation Forces in China. He returned to the States on 20 April 1946, and was discharged as a Corporal on 5 May 1946 at Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. Edwin later enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on 18 December 1947. He served in the Reserves until 19 September 1952, which included a deployment with the 2nd Marine Division to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, from 26 September 1951 to 13 November 1951. He was discharged from the Reserves as a Sergeant. After his release from active duty in May 1946, Edwin returned to Northampton and worked at Lentz Motor Company in Allentown until 1952. After that, he was employed by Richard R. Schmick Septic Tanks, Inc., in Allentown until 1959, when he became a self-employed contractor. Edwin married **Violet Iobst Fisher** (born 16 September 1926) in St. Johns Lutheran Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, on 22 July 1950, after which they settled in Lower Macungie Township. Edwin and Violet had two boys, **James Edwin Hunsberger** and **Bernard Edwin Hunsberger**. Edwin was Chairman of the “Voice of Democracy” Program for Emmaus High School for 20 years. The Program was sponsored by the VFW Post 9264 in Macungie, where he also was Post Commander from 1979 to 1980. In addition, he was on VFW All-State Team Post Commanders during those years, VFW Lehigh County Council Commander from 1981 to 1982, and VFW District Commander from 1984 to 1985. Edwin’s parents were **Franklin Wilson Hunsberger** (23 January 1903 – 6 June 1969) and **Pearl Florence Diehl** (26 August 1904 – 23 April 1990).