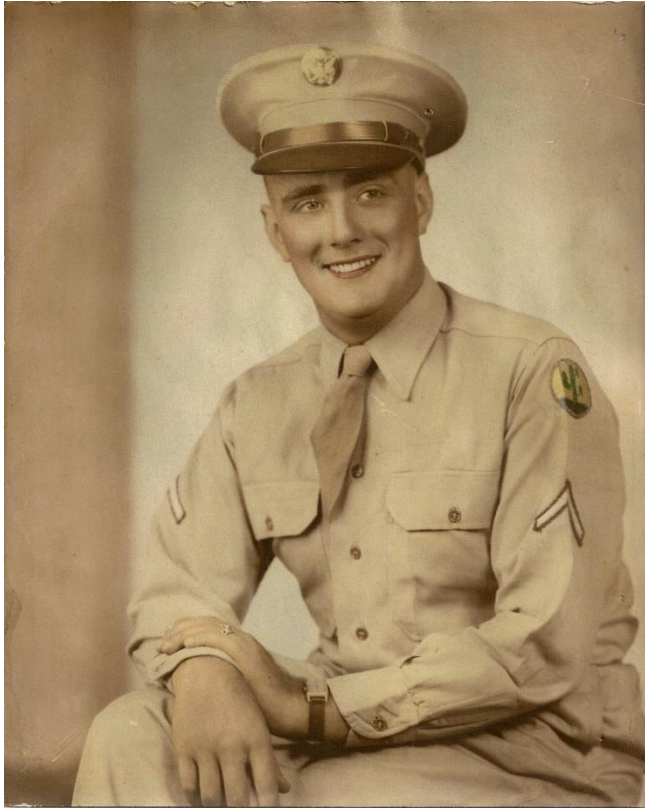


**Staff Sergeant Robert Carl "Bob" Heinsch
Company K, 3rd Battalion, 411th Infantry Regiment**



Bob was the oldest child and only son of Robert Frank and Mary Dorothy Berger Heinsch and had one younger sister. He was born at home at 1928 Lowrie Street, Troy Hill, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 20 December 1922. Both his father and sister died when Bob was a teenager. He graduated from Allegheny Senior High School in June 1940, and worked for The Pittsburgh Press (newspaper) and later, as an order clerk for Oswald and Hess Meat Company.

Enlisting in the US Army on 11 December 1942, Bob was at the Armored Replacement Training Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky in January 1943. On 19 May 1944, he transferred from the 86th Infantry Division, Camp Livingston, Louisiana, to the 411th Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division, at Camp Howze, Texas. He served with the 103rd until its return from Europe in September 1945.

With the 411th, he was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion. On 28 December 1944, Bob was promoted to Sergeant; on 01 February 1945, his MOS changed to 653 Squad Leader and on 04 February 1945, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. On 19 March 1945, the 411th began an attack on Nieder Schlettenbach (Niederschlettenbach) and a portion of the Siegfried defenses in the hills and on the high ground surrounding the town. The 3rd Battalion was assigned the Siegfried defenses. The attack continued on 20 March 1945; Bob was wounded by shrapnel on that day and was awarded the Purple Heart.

On 22 March 1945, the 3rd Battalion was advancing on Erlenbach and captured the town in the afternoon (1630 hours). During that day, Bob's actions earned him a

Bronze Star. The description of his actions was recorded in the Division's General Order 154 dated 29 May 1945 and follows.

Staff Sergeant Robert C. Heinsch, 13170851, Infantry, Company "K", 411th Infantry Regiment. For heroic achievement in action. On 22 March 1945 near Erlenbach, Germany, when machine gun and rifle fire from two pillboxes halted the advance of his platoon and inflicted several casualties, Sergeant Heinsch led his squad toward the enemy emplacements. Disregarding the heavy fire he maneuvered his squad to a position from which the enemy fire was silenced. Continuing the attack, he captured the crew of the two emplacements and forced a large group of the enemy to surrender. His aggressive actions which cleared a route of advance for the Battalion reflected the highest traditions of the military service. Residence: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On 14 November 1945, Bob was honorably discharged from Company K, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, at the Separation Center, Camp Fannin, Texas.

After the war Bob married Jean Dorothy Huber on 31 August 1946 in Pittsburgh. They had 3-sons, Robert C., Jr., William Henry, and Kenneth Alan. Bob continued to work in the meat industry with several companies in Western Pennsylvania. In 1971 he became plant superintendent with Redfern Meats, Atlanta, Ga.

Bob remained active in military service by joining the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Serving as Master Sergeant, Bob's unit, the 708th AAA Gun Battalion (120 mm), was activated with Increment Number 16 for the Korean War on 01 May 1951, and served at Fort Stewart, GA, until 28 February 1953. Bob rose to the rank of Captain with the National Guard before retiring.

He died on 04 October 1973 in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife are buried in St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, Saltsburg, Pennsylvania.