



FLORIDA FRANCE SOLDIER STORIES

UCF

George Paul Durst

1924 - 1944

Technician Fifth Grade (Tech5): US Army

15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division

This source packet contains digitally available sources documenting the life of a US Army soldier who served in Eastern France during World War II. The Memorial Museum of the Liberation of the Colmar Pocket preserves some of his personal items in its unique archival collection.

In this ongoing partnership UCF history students conduct research as part of the Florida France Soldier Stories project to assist the dedicated staff at the Memorial Museum of the Liberation of the Colmar Pocket. Our goal is simple yet profound: to help visitors connect not only with the events of the war, but with the individuals who lived them—bridging the distance between past and present and between the US and France.

Please note some news articles published online exist behind paywalls and require a subscription for digital access. We have provided links but have not reproduced them here. Similarly, remembrance pages include photos. Again, we have provided links, when applicable, but have not reproduced images without express written permission.



**Department
of History**



Libraries

Early Life

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
Frank Durst
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

APR 12 1923

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereon)

No. 21168

State of Pennsylvania,
Western District of Pennsylvania, ss: In the District Court of the United States

Frank Durst, aged 33 years
occupation **Butcher**, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color **White**, complexion **fair**, height **5** feet, weight **160** pounds, color of hair **Black**, color of eyes **Brown**, other visible distinctive marks **None**.

I was born in **Varasch Hungary** on the **10th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1890**. I now reside at **1132 Spring Garden Ave. W.B. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**.

I emigrated to the United States of America from **Bremen** on the vessel **Cassel** foreign residence was **Immigrant Hungary**.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to **FRANCIS JOSEPH, EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA** and **KAISER OF HUNGARY**, of which I am now a subject; arrived at the port of **New York**, State of **New York**, on or about the **24th** day of **May**, anno Domini **1902**; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this **19th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1913**.

W. S. Lindsey
By *[Signature]* Deputy Clerk.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

No. 31650

Frank Durst
1906 Street Street, Spring Garden
Bremen

The petition of **Frank Durst**, of the Western District of Pennsylvania, for the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

First. My place of residence is **1906 Street Street, Spring Garden**, **Pennsylvania**.

Second. My occupation is **Butcher**, **10th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1902**, **Varasch Hungary**.

Third. I was born on the **10th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1890**, in the **Western District of Pennsylvania**.

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from **Bremen**, **Germany**, on or about the **24th** day of **May**, anno Domini **1902**.

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the **10th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1902**, at **Pittsburgh Pa.** in the **Western District of Pennsylvania**.

Sixth. I am **single**, my wife's name is **Mary**, who was born on the **10th** day of **August**, anno Domini **1890**, in the **Western District of Pennsylvania**.

I have **children**, and the names, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Residence
Peter	Apr. 25, 1907	Pittsburgh Pa.	Spring Garden, Pa.
Katz	Mar. 29, 1909	Pittsburgh Pa.	Spring Garden, Pa.
Charles	Nov. 21, 1910	Pittsburgh Pa.	Spring Garden, Pa.
Anna	Oct. 16, 1912	Pittsburgh Pa.	Spring Garden, Pa.

I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching doctrine in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to **FRANCIS JOSEPH, EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA** and **KAISER OF HUNGARY**, of whom at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the **United States of America**.

I am able to read the English language.

I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least, immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the day of **24th** day of **May**, anno Domini **1902**, and in the State of Pennsylvania, continuously since the date of this petition, since the day of **24th** day of **May**, anno Domini **1902**, and in the State of Pennsylvania, continuously since the date of this petition, since the day of **24th** day of **May**, anno Domini **1902**.

I have not heretofore made petition for admission to any court. (I make petition for admission to the Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylvania, for the following reasons and causes, to wit, and the cause of each denied has since been cured or removed.)

Attached hereto and made a part of this petition are my declarations of intention to become a citizen of the United States and the certificates of the District Court, together with my affidavit and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses therein, required by law. Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.

Frank Durst
Declaration of Intention No. **21168** and Certificate of Intention No. **1214** filed this **12th** day of **April**, anno Domini **1913**.

AFFIDAVITS OF PETITIONER AND WITNESSES

The undersigned petitioner being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the petitioner in the above-entitled proceedings; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the said petition is signed with his full, true name; that the same is true of his own knowledge except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief; and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Frank Durst
Petitioner.

Peter Heister, Hotel Keeper, residing at **Pittsburgh**, Pennsylvania, and **Peter Antonio Strant**, Hardware Dealer, residing at **Pittsburgh**, Pennsylvania, each being severally, duly, and respectively sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the United States of America; that he has personally known the petitioner since the day of **1st** day of **January**, anno Domini **1910**, and in the State of Pennsylvania, continuously since the date of this petition, since the day of **1st** day of **January**, anno Domini **1910**; and that he has personal knowledge that the said petitioner is a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and that he is every way qualified, in his opinion, to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Peter Heister
Peter Antonio Strant

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named petitioner and witnesses in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Pittsburgh, Pa., this **12th** day of **April**, anno Domini **1913**.

J. Wood Clark
Clerk.

Naturalization Petition (1 of 2)

On August 19, 1913, Frank Durst, George's father, declared his intention to become a US citizen. He arrived in New York, NY, from Bremen, Germany on May 24, 1902, on the German ship the SS Cassel. He and his wife, Mary, were born in an anarchist; and their children, Peter, Katz, Charles, and Anna, were born in Pittsburgh, PA.

Le 19 août 1913, Frank Durst, le père de George, a déposé une demande de citoyenneté américaine. Il était arrivé à New York en provenance de Brême, en Allemagne, le 24 mai 1902 à bord du navire allemand SS Cassel. Lui et sa femme Mary étaient nés en Hongrie, alors que leurs enfants, Peter, Katz, Charles et Anna, étaient nés à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie).

"Pennsylvania, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1795-1945," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed February 22, 2026) Entry for Frank Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2717/records/1242369>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

[illegible]

Frank's petition for naturalization was accepted and he began the next steps to becoming a US citizen on December 10, 1920.

La demande de naturalisation de Frank a été acceptée et il a entamé les démarches nécessaires pour devenir citoyen américain le 10 décembre 1920.

“Pennsylvania, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1795-1945,” database, *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed February 22, 2026) Entry for Frank Durst.

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Early Life

STATE: Pennsylvania COUNTY: Allegheny TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: 8th Precinct

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: City of Pittsburgh WARD OF CITY: 24

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 1st DAY OF January, 1920. Charles J. Hall ENUMERATOR

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 24 SHEET NO. 8 B

ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 088

PLACE OF BIRTH	RELATION	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND BIRTH		OCCUPATION
							Place of birth	Place of birth	
105 53 107	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Salaman Bros. Co.
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Steel Mill
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
108	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Store
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
112 57 109	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
113 60 111	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
113 61 112	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
113 62 113	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
113 63 114	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
113 64 115	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
114	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
115	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
116	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
117	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
118	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
119	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
120	Head	M	47		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Wife	F	44		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None
	Son	M	21		German	High School	Germany	Germany	Butcher
	Son	M	19		German	High School	Germany	Germany	None

1920 Federal Census

In 1920, the Durst family lived in a rented home on Spring Garden Avenue. The family included Frank (39) and Mary (34) and their children Peter (13), Catherina (11), Charles (9), and Anna (7). Frank and Mary, originally from Hungary, are marked as having submitted their papers to obtain US citizenship. Frank worked as a butcher to support his family.

En 1920, la famille Durst vivait dans une maison louée sur Spring Garden Avenue. La famille était composée de Frank (39 ans) et Mary (34 ans), ainsi que de leurs enfants Peter (13 ans), Catherina (11 ans), Charles (9 ans) et Anna (7 ans). Frank et Mary, originaires de Hongrie, sont signalés comme ayant déposé une demande de naturalisation américaine. Frank travaillait comme boucher pour subvenir aux besoins de sa famille.

"1920 United States Federal Census," database, Ancestry (Ancestry.com: accessed February 12, 2026), entry for Frank Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6061/records/49872941>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/

<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

State Pennsylvania Incorporated place Pittsburgh City City DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

County Allegheny Ward of city 26 Block No. 320 Examination District No. 2-466 Sheet No. 30 B
Supervisor's District No. 12

Township or other division of county _____ Unincorporated place _____ Institution _____ Enumerated by me on April 11, 1930 Gray Joe Garland Enumerator

LINE NO.	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	BIRTH DATE	BIRTH PLACE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY	CODE	EMPLOYMENT	VETERANS	PLACE OF ABODE	
													APRIL 1, 1930	APRIL 1, 1920
1	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						1	1
2	Miller, Sophia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						2	2
3	Wilhelm, John	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						3	3
4	Meisner, William	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						4	4
5	Stella, Charles	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						5	5
6	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						6	6
7	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						7	7
8	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						8	8
9	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						9	9
10	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						10	10
11	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						11	11
12	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						12	12
13	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						13	13
14	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						14	14
15	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						15	15
16	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						16	16
17	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						17	17
18	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						18	18
19	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						19	19
20	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						20	20
21	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						21	21
22	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						22	22
23	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						23	23
24	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						24	24
25	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						25	25
26	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						26	26
27	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						27	27
28	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						28	28
29	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						29	29
30	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						30	30
31	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						31	31
32	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						32	32
33	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						33	33
34	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						34	34
35	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						35	35
36	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						36	36
37	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						37	37
38	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						38	38
39	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						39	39
40	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						40	40
41	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						41	41
42	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						42	42
43	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						43	43
44	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						44	44
45	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						45	45
46	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						46	46
47	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						47	47
48	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						48	48
49	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						49	49
50	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						50	50
51	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						51	51
52	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						52	52
53	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						53	53
54	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						54	54
55	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						55	55
56	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						56	56
57	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						57	57
58	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						58	58
59	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						59	59
60	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						60	60
61	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						61	61
62	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						62	62
63	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						63	63
64	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						64	64
65	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						65	65
66	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						66	66
67	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						67	67
68	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						68	68
69	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						69	69
70	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						70	70
71	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						71	71
72	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						72	72
73	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						73	73
74	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						74	74
75	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						75	75
76	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						76	76
77	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						77	77
78	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						78	78
79	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						79	79
80	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						80	80
81	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						81	81
82	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						82	82
83	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						83	83
84	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						84	84
85	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						85	85
86	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						86	86
87	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						87	87
88	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						88	88
89	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						89	89
90	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						90	90
91	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						91	91
92	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						92	92
93	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						93	93
94	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						94	94
95	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						95	95
96	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						96	96
97	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						97	97
98	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						98	98
99	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						99	99
100	Starchewicz, Julia	Head	1860	Romania	Romania	Romanian	Naturalized						100	100

1930 Federal Census

In 1930, the Durst family, composed of Frank, Mary, Peter, Catherine, Charles, Anna, Margaret, and George, lived in Pittsburgh, PA. George's parents, Frank and Mary, this time listed as from Romania, owned their home, valued at around \$4000, and owned a radio. Father, Frank, worked as a butcher in the meatpacking industry, where it appears he helped three of his children find jobs.

Early Life



Veterans of three wars in which the United States has been involved featured a Memorial Day program at the John Burroughs Schools, North Side, last week.

Peter Guibert, drummer in the Civil War, is shown in the lower photo here being saluted by George Durst, 6, a first grade pupil at the school.

William Haler, janitor at the school, represented the Spanish-American War. He is shown in the top photo with a youngster on his knee.

The World War representatives are shown on the top steps in the upper picture. They are William C. Vaupel and Louis Blumenschein, members of Allegheny Post No. 41, American Legion.

Guibert is a member of Post No. 88 among Civil War veterans.

Haler is a member of Malate Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

C. H. Donnell is principal of the Burroughs School. Miss Anna B. Ossenbeck is head teacher.

Edison Contestants Have 'Crazy' Tests

How high is up?

If a piece of string continues from end to end to retain a certain diameter how many times can it be curled around the left eye of a potato?

Not real questions, these, but sound just as possible to many students as might those answered by Edison scholarship competitors recently in local eliminations sponsored by local schools and The Pittsburgh Press.

The tests, covering advanced physics, chemistry and mathematics, were designed to be difficult even for the 11-hour students from schools of the county who had gained entrance to the contest only through recommendation of the principals.

Ernest Plesset, Peabody High School senior, had the best grade on two of the tests and rated second on the third but even his marks were not perfect on the two tests

would be required to convert 1.0 g. of sodium hydroxide into sodium acid carbonate?

(a) How do the boiling and freezing points of a solution differ from those of the solvent?

(b) How do the boiling and freezing points of a molar solution of sodium chloride compare with those of a molar solution of sugar? Explain.

Give a concise account of the composition of the atmosphere.

State proofs that the atmosphere is a mixture and not a compound.

Explain why mortar "sets."

Outline a good commercial method for the preparation of ammonia from the air.

A cubic foot of lead weighs 705.12 pounds in air: Find weight when completely submerged in water.

A ball rolled down an inclined plane one foot the first second: How

Article from *The Pittsburgh Press*

On June 1, 1930, *The Pittsburgh Press* released an article describing the Memorial Day program at the John Burroughs Schools. The article featured a photo that included "Peter Guibert, drummer in the Civil War... being saluted by George Durst, 6, a first grade pupil at the school."

Le 1er juin 1930, le journal *The Pittsburgh Press* a publié un article décrivant le programme organisé à l'occasion du Memorial Day dans les écoles John Burroughs. L'article était illustré d'une photo sur laquelle on pouvait voir « Peter Guibert, tambour pendant la guerre de Sécession... salué par George Durst, 6 ans, élève de CP à l'école ».

"Heroes of Three Wars on Pupils Program," *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA), June 1, 1930, page 83. We wish to thank the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* for giving us permission to include this article.

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-pittsburgh-press-george-durst/181239771/>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/

<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

State Pennsylvania Incorporated place St. George Ward of city 2C Union or port place Union Sheet No. 3A
County Allegheny Township or other division of country Union Block No. 54-55 Institution Union Department of Commerce-Bureau of the Census
Fifty-ninth Census of the United States: 1940
Enumerated by me on May 5, 1940 Walter H. Brown Enumerator

POPULATION SCHEDULE

RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY—DO NOT WRITE IN THESE COLUMNS

STANDARD EXPLANATORY NOTES

1940 Federal Census

In 1940, George, his siblings, and his mother remained in Pittsburgh, PA, still living in the home they owned on Gebart St. George's parents had divorced. George's brother, Charles (24), worked in a packaging company to support the family. Margaret, George's sister, had recently entered the workforce, while George was in his second year of high school.

En 1940, George, ses frères et sœurs et sa mère vivaient toujours à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie), dans la maison, rue Gebart, dont ils étaient propriétaires. Les parents de George avaient divorcé. Charles, le frère de George (24 ans), travaillait dans une entreprise d'emballage pour subvenir aux besoins de la famille. Margaret, la sœur de George, venait d'entrer sur le marché du travail, tandis que George était en deuxième année de lycée.

"1940 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 14, 2025), entry for George Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

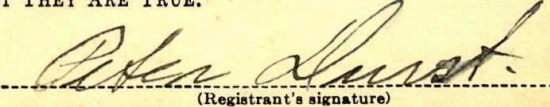
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2442/records/23595614>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/

<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)			ORDER NUMBER
1237	Peter Frank Durst (First) (Middle) (Last)			1740
2. ADDRESS (Print)				
1730 Overbeck St Pgh ALly Pa (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
3. TELEPHONE	4. AGE IN YEARS	5. PLACE OF BIRTH	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	33	Pgh		
DATE OF BIRTH		(Town or county)		
Cedar 0361		Apr 23 1907	USA	
(Exchange) (Number)	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(State or country)		
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON	
Mrs Ella Durst			WIFE	
(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)				
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON				
1730 Overbeck St Pgh ALly Pa				
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME				
SELF				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS				
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 (over)		16-17105  (Registrant's signature)		

World War II Draft Registration Card (Front)

Peter, George's brother, registered for the World War II draft in 1940. Peter lived at 1730 Overbeck Street when he registered, was self-employed, and listed his wife, Ella Durst, as his contact.

Peter, le frère de George, s'est présenté au recensement militaire pour la Seconde Guerre mondiale en 1940. Au moment de son inscription, Peter habitait au 1730, rue Overbeck ; il exerçait une activité indépendante et avait indiqué que sa femme, Ella Durst, était son contact d'urgence.

"U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed February 15, 2026), entry for Paul Frank Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238/records/7062736?tid=&pid=&queryId=79a99b85-f6ce-4489-aa81-6581116af8c5&phsrc=xzw412&phstart=successSource>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

REGISTRAR'S REPORT					
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	6	200	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light		
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy		✓
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled		
	Brown	Black	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification-----

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for 7 24 Pgh Pa.
(Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration -----

Local Board No. 24
Pittsburgh City

L. B. No. 24
018 PERALTO STREET

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.)

PENNSYLVANIA

World War II Draft Registration Card (Back)

The back of Peter's draft registration card provided a description of his physical appearance: he was 6'0" and 200 lbs., with brown eyes, brown hair, and a ruddy complexion.

Au dos de cette fiche figurait une description physique de Peter : il mesurait 1,83 m, pesait 90 kg, avait les yeux marron, les cheveux châains et le teint rougeaud.

"U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed February 15, 2026), entry for Paul Frank Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238/records/7062736?tid=&pid=&queryId=79a99b85-f6ce-4489-aa81-6581116af8c5&phsrc=xzw412&phstart=successSource>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER N <u>436</u>	1. NAME (Print) <u>George Paul Durst</u> (First) (Middle) (Last)	ORDER NUMBER <u>12048</u>
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) <u>1906 Gebert St Pittsburgh Allegheny Pa</u> (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)		
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]		
3. MAILING ADDRESS <u>Same</u> (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)		
4. TELEPHONE <u>Rgh</u> <u>Ce 4752</u> (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS <u>18</u> DATE OF BIRTH <u>Feb 26 1924</u> (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH <u>Pittsburgh Pa</u> (Town or county) (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <u>Mrs. Mary Durst (mother) 1906 Gebert St Rgh Pa</u>		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS <u>Pittsburgh Cut Wire 318 Penn Ave Rgh Pa</u>		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS <u>Same</u> (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-1-42)	(over)	George Durst (Registrant's signature)

World War II Draft Registration Card (Front)

George registered for the World War II draft on June 30, 1942. He still lived at 1906 Gerbert St., Pittsburgh, PA, and worked at "Cut Wire," which may have been an abbreviation for Curtiss Wright, the military airplane manufacturer. He listed his mother, Mary Durst, as his point of contact.

George s'est présenté au recensement militaire pour la Seconde Guerre mondiale le 30 juin 1942. Il habitait toujours au 1906 Gerbert St. à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie) et travaillait chez « Cut Wire », qui était sans doute l'abréviation de Curtiss Wright, le constructeur d'avions militaires. Sa mère, Mary Durst, était son contact d'urgence.

"U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 13, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238/records/7062688>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Early Life

REGISTRAR'S REPORT					
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	5'10"	140±	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light		
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy		
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled		
	Brown	Black	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....
None

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board *Joseph Pellegrini*
(Signature of registrar)
26 (Number) 19th (City or county) Pa (State)
Date of registration June 30, 1942

LOCAL BOARD NO. 26

CITY OF PITTSBURGH 32

Perry High School 703

Perrysville Ave. & East Street

PITTSBURGH, PENNA. 026

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16c-21630-1

World War II Draft Registration Card (Back)

The back of George's draft registration card provided a description of his physical appearance: he was 5'10" and weighed 140 lbs., with brown eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion.

Au dos de cette fiche militaire figurait une description physique de George : il mesurait 1,78 m et pesait 63 kg. Il avait les yeux marron, les cheveux châtons et le teint clair.

"U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 13, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2238/records/7062688>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

Full Name	Peter F Durst
Army Serial Number	33280472
Enlistment Place	Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
Enlistment Date	19 Jun 1942
Army Branch	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
Branch	Army
Race Or Ethnicity	White
Enlistment Term	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
Source Of Army Personnel	Civil Life
Army Component	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Level Of Education	2 years of high school
Occupation	Skilled mechanics and repairmen, motor vehicles
Marital Status	Married
Birth Date	1907
Birth Place	Pennsylvania
Source Box Number	0636
Source Film Reel Number	1.153
Conflict	World War II
Served For	United States of America

Enlistment Record

Peter, George's brother, enlisted in the US Army on June 19, 1942, in Pittsburgh, PA. He had completed 2 years of high school, was married, and worked as a skilled mechanic.

Peter, le frère de George, s'est enrôlé dans l'armée le 19 juin 1942 à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie). Au moment de son entrée dans l'armée, il avait suivi deux années d'études secondaires, était marié et travaillait comme mécanicien qualifié.

"US, World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946", database, *Fold3* (Fold3.com: accessed September 18, 2025), Entry for Peter Durst, service number 33280472

<https://www.fold3.com/record/86964221/peter-f-durst-us-wwii-army-enlistment-records-1938-1946>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

Name	George P Durst
Race	White
Marital Status	Single, with dependents (Single)
Rank	Private
Birth Year	1924
Citizenship	Citizen
Education	4 years of high school
Enlistment Date	11 Mar 1943
Enlistment Place	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Service Number	33667155
Branch	No branch assignment
Component	Selectees (Enlisted Men)
Source	Civil Life
Height	34
Weight	119

Enlistment Record

George followed his older brother's footsteps less than a year later. He enlisted in the Army on March 11, 1943, in Pittsburgh, PA. He had completed high school and was single.

George a suivi les traces de son frère aîné moins d'un an plus tard. Il est rentré dans l'armée le 11 mars 1943 à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie). Il avait terminé ses études secondaires et était célibataire.

"US, WWII Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 10, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8939/records/4738710>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

Herron Hill And North Side Help Fill Draft Contingent

Crafton Heights Group Included In Large Group Selected For One Of Four Services

City Draft Boards 5, of Herron Hill; 26, Upper North Side, and 28, Crafton Heights, called men for induction here yesterday for Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard service.

They were:...

...
George P. Durst, 1906 Gabert [sic] St.
...

Excerpt from an article from *The Pittsburgh Press*

On March 13, 1943, *The Pittsburgh Press* published a list of men inducted into the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. George was among this long list of men.

Le 13 mars 1943, le *Pittsburgh Press* a publié une liste des hommes incorporés dans l'Armée de terre, la Marine, les Marines et les Gardes côtiers. George figurait sur cette longue liste.

"Heron Hill and North Side Help Fill Draft Contingent," *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA), March 13, 1943, page 11, Newspapers.com.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/148019718/?terms=durst&match=1>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

Advanced to Sergeant –
Corp. Peter F. Durst, 1730 Overbeck St.,
has been advanced to sergeant on the
western desert. Sgt. Durst, an aircraft
mechanic, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank
P. Durst, 1906 Gilbert [sic] St.

Transcription from *The Pittsburgh Press*

On May 22, 1943, *The Pittsburgh Press* published an article regarding George's brother, Peter, when the Army promoted him to sergeant while he trained in the American West. Peter served with the US Army Air Forces as an aircraft mechanic.

Le 22 mai 1943, le *Pittsburgh Press* a publié un article sur la promotion au grade de sergent de Peter, le frère de George. Peter servait dans l'armée de l'air en tant que mécanicien aéronautique pendant sa formation dans l'Ouest américain.

"Advanced to Sergeant," *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA), May 22, 1943, page 19, Newspapers.com.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/147919042/>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

Full Name	Durst, George P
Race	White, includes Mexican
Admission Date	Dec 1944
Admission Type Of Injury	Casualty, battle
Military Service Number	33667155
Rank	Enlisted Man
Branch	Infantry, General or Unspecified
Injured In Line Of Duty	In line of duty
Medical Diagnosis	FirstLocation: Thorax, generally; SecondLocation: Unknown, code not applicable; ; CausativeAgent: Bullet, Missile Not Stated
Discharge Type	Died
Discharge Date	Dec 1944
Conflict Period	World War II
Served For	United States of America

Hospital Record

A December 1944 hospital admission record showed that a bullet fatally struck Tech 5 George Paul Durst's thorax, the medical term for the chest, above the abdomen. He was 20 years old.

D'après un dossier d'admission à l'hôpital datant de décembre 1944, une balle a mortellement touché le thorax, c'est-à-dire la partie supérieure de la poitrine, du technicien de 5e classe George Paul Durst. Il avait 20 ans.

"U.S. WWII Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954," database, Fold3 (fold3.com: accessed September 16, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.fold3.com/record/705164340/>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Military Service

290

HISTORY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION



The 3d Signal Company posted similar signs throughout the area to aid the campaign to keep in communications.

298 killed, 327 prisoners, and an estimated 1185 wounded. In addition the enemy lost four tanks, twelve mortars, two Flakwagons, forty machine guns, and a large number of artillery pieces.

The 41st Field Artillery Battalion fired 7226 rounds of 105mm howitzer ammunition in seventy-four concentrations and ten TOTs (time on target, a system whereby the fire of all guns of a given number of artillery units is brought to bear simultaneously). Cannon Company fired 5864 rounds of 105 and 75mm ammunition, and a total of ninety-nine rounds of 4.2 mortar ammunition were expended by Company B, 99th Chemical Battalion.

(Beginning December 16, the Fifth and Sixth *Panzer* Armies of Field Marshal von Rundstedt lashed out in a counteroffensive in Belgium and Luxembourg which stunned the entire Allied camp. Known later as "Battle of the Bulge," German elements achieved a maximum penetration of approximately fifty-five miles before the tide of battle turned and Third and Ninth Armies to either flank of the attacked United States First Army began slashing at the sides of the Bulge. Colmar Pocket, in the big picture, was an irritating little red grease-pencilled twist on the lower end of the situation map, only a minor battle—unless one was there.)

On December 17 the 3d Infantry Division began moving south for the continuance of the relief of 36th Infantry Division. The 2d Battalion, 15th Infantry, was first relieved, to commence its move to the vicinity

of Riquewihr, where it closed in on the following day. It was followed by the 3d and 1st Battalions on December 19. The 1st and 2d Battalions, 7th Infantry, were completely relieved on defensive positions in Strasbourg by other elements of the 36th Division, and command of the former 36th sector passed to Brigadier General Robert N. Young (commanding the Division in the absence of General O'Daniel, on temporary duty in the United States) at 1430, December 21.

Two days later, December 23, the 15th Infantry launched an attack against the two towns of Bennwihr and Sigolsheim, as the first step in securing a more stable line of defense. Defense was the keynote at this time. Seventh Army had received a sizable German counterattack against its barely-won positions in southern Germany and was forced to withdraw to a more tenable line in lower Alsace. It was known that the Germans had announced their intentions of retaking Strasbourg, if possible, as a "Christmas present" for *der Führer*, and a pincers between the forces opposing Seventh Army forces and those opposing French First Army, of which the 3d Infantry Division was now a part, was considered a definite possibility. Our first step, therefore, was to secure Bennwihr and Sigolsheim, the last two towns of any size between that part of our line and the key city of Colmar, and to drive the Germans from all high ground north of a line Sigolsheim-Kayersberg.

Sigolsheim and Bennwihr are located at the extreme western edge of the Alsace Plain and just east of the last high slopes of the Vosges. Advance reconnaissance indicated that Sigolsheim in particular was strongly occupied by the enemy, and later events proved this to be entirely true.

Besides drawing the assignment to take the two towns, 15th Infantry also had the mission of clearing Hill 351, a high mass that lies between them.

The 15th's drive was directed east from positions in the vicinity of Kientzheim, which was held by the 2d Battalion, 30th Infantry. The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Keith L. Ware, was to capture Sigolsheim; the 3d Battalion, under Maj. John O'Connell, to attack Bennwihr, and the 2d Battalion, under Lt. Col. Eugene A. Salet, was to block and support the attack of the other battalions from positions on the northern slope of Hill 351.

At H-hour, 0730, Companies A and C attacked. Particularly stiff resistance was encountered just before reaching the town when a convent just north of it was found to be an enemy stronghold, with enemy manning machine guns, mortars, and small arms. After a stiff two-hour fight Company A succeeded in pressing through and past this opposition to reach the edge of town at noon.

History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II (1 of 2)

The *History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II* dedicated a chapter to its fight in the approach to the Colmar Pocket (pages 282-324). The 15th Infantry Regiment participated in the liberation of many Alsatian towns, including Ammerschwihr, Riquewihr, Sigolsheim, and Bennwihr. As a soldier in this regiment, George likely took part in these objectives before his death on December 25, 1944.

L'ouvrage intitulé « L'histoire de la 3e division d'infanterie pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale » consacre un chapitre aux combats de la poche de Colmar (pages 282 à 324). Le 15e régiment d'infanterie a participé à la libération de nombreux villages alsaciens, notamment Ammerschwihr, Riquewihr, Sigolsheim et Bennwihr. En tant que soldat de ce régiment, George a probablement pris part à ces opérations avant sa mort, le 25 décembre 1944.

Donald G. Taggart, *History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II*. vol. I. Infantry Journal Inc., 1947, 282-324.

<https://archive.org/details/HistoryOfTheThirdID/page/290/mode/1up>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

485

[illegible]

19

Legacy

918

HEADSTONE INSCRIPTION AND INTERMENT RECORD									
SECTION A	INSCRIPTION (Front) (Name, Rank, Organization, State, Date of Death, Grave No.)								
	GEORGE P. DURST TEC 5 15 INF 3 DIV PENNSYLVANIA DEC 24 1944 10								
	INSCRIPTION (Rear) (Service Number)								
33667155									
PERMANENT CEMETERY					BLOCK	ROW	GRAVE	☐ S OF D ☒ CROSS	
ST. AVOLD 3503					E	42	10		
SECTION B	CREED	RACE	SEX	DECORATIONS					
	2	1		PH					
	TEMPORARY CEMETERY				BLOCK	ROW	GRAVE	D-D NUMBER	ARM
	3574				UU	7	81	3242	1
NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN								ROSTER REFERENCE	
MRS. MARY DURST 1906 GEBERT ST. N. S. PITTSBURGH, PA.									
REMARKS									
MOG RC-8 C-8									

ABMC FORM-1
1 DEC. 48

chf
17

Interment Record

George was buried at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, earning a Purple Heart for his ultimate sacrifice. The records listed his mother, Mary, as his next of kin.

George a été inhumé au cimetière américain de Lorraine, à Saint-Avold, en France, et a reçu la Purple Heart en reconnaissance de son sacrifice ultime. Les registres indiquaient sa mère, Mary, comme sa plus proche parente.

"U.S., Headstone and Interment Records for U.S. Military Cemeteries on Foreign Soil, 1942-1949," database, *Ancestry* (Ancestry.com: accessed September 11, 2025), Entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9170/records/29780?tid=&pid=&queryId=6b421e37-8006-4e68-b334-16c523ba59c9&phsrc=xzw437&phstart=successSource>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

ALLEGHENY COUNTY (Cont a)

DANNER LOUIS E JR	33035302	CPL	DNB	DELO RAYMOND W	02068190	2 LT	DNB	DORRIS JOHN T	13107538	S	SG	KIA
DANTER THOMAS W	33709268	PFC	KIA	DELO EDGAR C	13130919	S	SG	DORSCH F J JR	0-443765	CAPT	KIA	
DANTONIO DARIO D	33709385	PVT	KIA	DEMBSOWSKI LEONARD A	13685732	PFC	KIA	DORSCH PETER C	33284483	S	SG	DNB
DANVER RICHARD C	13171807	SCT	DNB	DEMCIANZYK PAUL	13109139	PVT	KIA	DORTENZO REYNOLDS A	33399914	CPL	KIA	
DASH LEONARD C	13170728	T	SG	DEMCO JOHN	33031867	SCT	DNB	DOTTAVANIO JOSEPH	33439205	PVT	KIA	
DATTOLA LOUIS R	0-556044	2 LT	KIA	DEMPLER WALTER J	01011854	1 LT	KIA	DOTTAVIANO M F	13088789	S	SG	KIA
DAUNCEY FRED W	33400075	PFC	DNB	DEMPESEY BERNARD F	33280041	SCT	DNB	DOTZLER WALTER B	13038494	TECS	DNB	
DAVENPORT HOWARD A	13107165	PFC	M	DEMPESEY COYLE A	13009593	S	SG	DOUGALL WILLIAM M	0-660975	CAPT	DNB	
DAVIDOVICH ANDREW J	33696177	PVT	KIA	DEMPSER HOWARD F	33401455	PFC	KIA	DOUGHERTY DANIEL M	33934654	PFC	KIA	
DAVIDSON GEORGE R	33276959	PVT	DNB	DEMPSER THOMAS E	33141148	S	SG	DOUGHERTY HUGH C	0-439128	2 LT	DNB	
DAVIDSON JAMES E	33426564	PFC	KIA	DENNIS JOHN F	13009554	SCT	KIA	DOUGHERTY VINCENT R	33701486	PVT	KIA	
DAVIDSON PAUL G	33419745	T	SG	DEPTICE JOHN	33146057	PFC	DNB	DOWD JAMES T	33668304	SCT	KIA	
DAVIES PAUL L	0-790528	2 LT	DNB	DEPTULA CHESTER J	33150037	S	SG	DOWDS PAUL R	33667061	SCT	KIA	
DAVIES STEPHEN	13190725	PVT	DNB	DERAHO ANTHONY A	33307251	PFC	KIA	DOWNING TIMOTHY J JR	13189165	PFC	KIA	
DAVIES WAYNE C	7025862	TECS	KIA	DERISH RAYMOND	33668740	PVT	KIA	DOWNSLEY JAMES F	33043907	PVT	DNB	
DAVIES WILLIAM E JR	33678540	S	SG	DERENBERG FRANK W	0-751278	2 LT	FOD	DOYLE JAMES E	13060470	PVT	KIA	
DAVIS ALEX E	01316992	2 LT	KIA	DERENCE LEONARD A	33697311	S	SG	DOYLE JOHN F	13170213	CPL	DNB	
DAVIS CHARLES W	0-716715	1 LT	KIA	DERRICK JOHNATHAN A	33704838	PVT	DOW	DRESSEL JOHN JR	33925515	PVT	DOW	
DAVIS CLARENCE W	33703357	PVT	DOW	DERVINSKAS JOHN	01169482	2 LT	KIA	DRON ALBERT D	33928719	S	SG	KIA
DAVIS DANIEL E JR	0-872202	2 LT	M	DERZILSKI JOHN	33713890	PFC	KIA	DRISCOLL WILLIAM J	02037049	2 LT	DOW	
DAVIS DAVID E	33076562	SCT	KIA	DESCIPIO SILVIO A	33692704	PFC	KIA	DRISTAS JAMES L	33430906	TECS	KIA	
DAVIS FRED R	33667902	PVT	DNB	DESIDERIO ERNESTO M	01288523	1 LT	KIA	DROZENSKI WALTER S	6422247	PVT	DNB	
DAVIS GEORGE R	33426688	S	SG	DESKO EDWARD J	33699195	PFC	KIA	DUBIEL FRANK J	33674043	PFC	KIA	
DAVIS GEORGE	33172029	PVT	DNB	DEVERTS GILBERT L	33668617	PFC	DOI	DUCEY THOMAS J	13169500	AV	C	DNB
DAVIS HENRY P	33100680	PVT	DNB	DEVINE MARTIN L JR	33269499	S	SG	DUDASH JOHN G	33275169	PFC	KIA	
DAVIS HOWARD W	33031817	SCT	DOW	DEVORE HERBERT G	0-800333	CAPT	KIA	DUDASH STEVE A	33033362	PFC	DNB	
DAVIS JOHN W	152114	SCT	DNB	DHARMAU PAUL F JR	33038171	SCT	KIA	DUDICZ MICHAEL	33276915	PFC	KIA	
DAVIS JOHN B	6999567	CPL	DNB	DI ACOSTINO JOSEPH	33793091	PFC	DOW	DUFF BENJAMIN M	0-430190	2 LT	DNB	
DAVIS JOHN E	13060015	PVT	DNB	DI COCCO RICHARD A	33308147	PFC	KIA	DUFFY JOSEPH M	01017852	2 LT	KIA	
DAVIS ROBERT C	33276434	CPL	KIA	DI LUIGI PETER	33713737	PVT	KIA	DUGAN DANIEL L	33141215	PVT	DOW	
DAVIS ROBERT G	13111833	S	SG	DI PIERO ARMAND A	33686198	PVT	KIA	DUGAN LEO F	33141226	TECS	KIA	
DAVIS THOMAS	33404050	PFC	KIA	DI PIETRO S J	33440337	PVT	KIA	DUGAS WILLIAM F	33307262	TECS	KIA	
DAWLDA MICHAEL	33419836	T	SG	DI POPI JOSEPH B	33405066	PVT	DNB	DUKE BYRON K JR	7-004319	FL	O	DNB
DANSON LESTER E	33431540	PFC	KIA	DI SANZI ORESTE J	33269611	PVT	KIA	DULZ RUDOLPH M	33676691	PFC	KIA	
DAY HAROLD J	33706708	PVT	KIA	DIAS JAMES D JR	13111094	PVT	KIA	DUNBAR EUGENE F JR	33690419	PFC	KIA	
DAYTON JOHN W	13146245	PVT	DNB	DICKEY EUGENE D	0-661724	1 LT	FOD	DUNBAR HARRY M	33686613	PVT	DNB	
DE FAZIO JOSEPH	33714259	SCT	FOD	DICKINSON ROBERT L	33686743	PFC	KIA	DUNBAR WILLIS J JR	13085806	CPL	DNB	
DE GRAZIA VINCENT J	33921995	PFC	KIA	DIEGELMAN E R JR	33700386	PFC	DNB	DUNCAN JOHN T	33685866	PFC	KIA	
DE GREGORY HENRY R	33666890	PFC	KIA	DIETRICH JAMES A	33708562	SCT	KIA	DUNHOFF HENRY C JR	13187584	CPL	KIA	
DE JOHN RUSSELL N	33925440	PVT	KIA	DIETZ HOWARD J	33399888	PVT	DOW	DUNLOP ROBERT C	33696186	CPL	DNB	
DE LANZO JAMES	33414762	SCT	FOD	DIETZ REGIS E	0-798766	2 LT	FOD	DUNN CHARLES G	33667264	PFC	KIA	
DE LIA GEORGE A	33161296	SCT	KIA	DIGIACOMO TONY J	33115555	SCT	KIA	DUNN ROBERT M	0-424931	CAPT	FOD	
DE LOCHE LOUIS E	6787541	S	SG	DIGHAN THOMAS JR	0-690553	2 LT	KIA	DUNWIDDIE W L JR	33305541	PFC	KIA	
DE MARCO PHILIP M	33263446	PVT	DNB	DILL CHARLES	33676906	PFC	KIA	DURGAN LAWRENCE F	33703268	PVT	DNB	
DE RUSE ROBERT A	33279875	PVT	DOW	DILLON LLOYD R	33439684	PFC	KIA	DURISEK WILLIAM J	33107944	S	SG	KIA
DE SABATO HERMAN A	33776442	PVT	KIA	DIMMOCK CHARLES A	0-706366	2 LT	KIA	DURKIN JOHN M	33141284	CPL	KIA	
DE SAVAGE GEORGE JR	33668091	TECS	DNB	DINGELDEIN ELMER F	33424448	SCT	KIA	DURNIAC PAUL	33424274	PVT	KIA	
DE SAVAGE JOSEPH	33266199	PFC	KIA	DINGELDINE JESS F	13041856	CPL	KIA	DURSH ALPHONSE T	33141256	PFC	KIA	
DE VEANEY CHARLES C	33278922	PVT	KIA	DISKIN WILLIAM L	33702187	PVT	DNB	DURST GEORGE P	33667155	TECS	KIA	
DE VITIS ANTHONY F	33706179	PFC	KIA	DOBLER KARL C	33930871	PFC	DOW	DYORAK ROBERT C	33284044	T	SG	FOD
DE VITO JAMES J	33693218	PVT	KIA	DOELFEL GEORGE H	33667794	S	SG	DWOREK EDWIN F	33439607	PFC	KIA	
DE VOS LOUIS A	0-748590	2 LT	DNB	DOENCK WILLIAM J	33084278	CPL	DNB	DYER JAMES JR	13011222	S	SG	KIA
DEAK ANDREW J	0-813273	2 LT	KIA	DOENGES CLARENCE J	33418540	PVT	KIA	DYKE LAWRENCE	33678303	PVT	KIA	
DEAN PAUL E	0-456029	1 LT	DNB	DOKISH MIKE	33147660	PVT	KIA	DZURICHKO ANDREW	6893898	S	SG	DNB
DEESARE JOSEPH J	33147653	CPL	DOW	DOLAN ROBERT R	33175779	PFC	KIA	DZURKO MICHAEL	33035841	PVT	KIA	
DECUSSER ROBERT	33428189	PFC	DOW	DOLEZAL EUGENE J	13133738	PVT	DNB	DEADOVSKY JOHN A	33141257	PVT	KIA	
DEESER WALTER E JR	33950487	PFC	KIA	DONALDSON LEONARD R	0-777449	2 LT	FOD	DEIK CASIMIR J	01286805	1 LT	KIA	
DEGENOVA DANIEL F	33153294	PFC	KIA	DONALDSON RUSSELL H	33394637	PVT	KIA	EAGLESON ROBERT M	33927177	PFC	KIA	
DEGNAN JAMES T	13170021	CPL	KIA	DONATELLI JOHN R	33689350	PFC	KIA	EARHART CHARLES E	33701673	TECS	KIA	
DEHL KARL A	33716284	PVT	FOD	DONESEK ROBERT H	33921737	SCT	KIA	EARHART IRVIN R	33240344	TECS	KIA	
DEISS ERNEST F	33708958	PVT	KIA	DORNICK IGNACY E	13037796	T	SG	EASLER WILLIAM E	6082170	PVT	KIA	
DEL CHMUTO JR	13133729	S	SG	DONALDSON RUSSELL H	33394637	PVT	KIA	EASTBURN LINFORD M	32952613	SCT	FOD	
DEL CORSO NICOLINO	33289819	PFC	DNB	DONATELLI JOHN R	33686086	PVT	DNB	EATON CHARLES E	33113646	PFC	KIA	
DEL SARDO JOSEPH M	33696347	PFC	KIA	DONELSON ALFRED M	0-819394	2 LT	FOD	EBBITT ROBERT E	33940305	PFC	DNB	
DELAFIELD JAMES F	33140115	PFC	KIA	DONNELLY JOHN R	33162378	SCT	KIA	EBER EDWARD J	33697185	CPL	KIA	
DELANEY EDWARD J JR	33924064	PFC	KIA	DONOGHUE JOSEPH M	13058400	PFC	KIA	EBERHART FRANK J	33405573	PFC	KIA	
DELEUZE CHARLES	33692189	PVT	KIA	DONOVAN JOHN G	01540450	2 LT	FOD	EBERHART R J JR	33419488	PVT	KIA	
DELL CARL W	13038323	S	SG	DOOLIN JAMES T	33669248	PFC	KIA	EBERSBERGER JOHN C	6082045	1	SG	KIA
DELL JOHN J	33261245	S	SG	DORAZIO RONEY B	01185016	2 LT	KIA	ECKER WILLIAM C	33923297	PFC	KIA	
DELO CHARLES W	33676742	PFC	FOD	DORN HARRY T	0-814266	2 LT	FOD	ECKERT EVELYN C	N-760263	2 LT	KIA	

5

US World War II Army and Air Force Casualty List

The US Army and Air Force Casualty List organized entries by state and county. It listed George Durst as KIA under Allegheny County, with service number 33667155 and rank of Tec 5.

La liste des victimes de l'Armée de Terre et de l'Armée de l'Air américaines classait les noms par État et par comté. Elle mentionnait George Durst, tué au combat, originaire du comté d'Allegheny, avec le matricule 33667155 et le grade de Tec 5.

World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing, State of Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C: War Department, 1946), 5, accessed September 10, 2025, Fold3.

<https://www.fold3.com/sub-image/299437755/>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/

<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

Yank Here, Ex-War Worker, Killed Dec, 24 in France

T/8 George P. Durst, 20, was killed in action in France December 24, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Mary Durst, 1906 Gebert Street, North Side.

A former employee of Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Beaver, Durst attended Latimer Junior High School, Allegheny High School and Connelley Trade School.

Besides his mother, he leaves three sisters and two brothers. One brother, Sgt. Peter, is in China.

Excerpt from an article from the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram*

On January 27, 1945, the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram* published an article about George with a portrait of him in his military uniform, reporting that he died in France on December 24, 1944. The article noted the schools he attended and that he had worked in the war industry at the Curtiss-Wright Corporation. The obituary listed his surviving family members and mentioned that his brother, Sgt. Peter Durst, was currently serving in China.

Le 27 janvier 1945, le *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram* publia un article sur George, accompagné d'un portrait de lui en uniforme militaire, précisant qu'il était décédé en France le 24 décembre 1944. L'article mentionnait les écoles qu'il avait fréquentées et indiquait qu'il avait travaillé dans l'industrie de l'armement chez Curtiss-Wright Corporation. La nécrologie énumérait les membres de sa famille encore en vie et mentionnait que son frère, le sergent Peter Durst, servait alors en Chine.

"Yank Here, Ex-War Worker, Killed Dec. 24 in France," *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph* (Pittsburgh, PA), January 27, 1945, page 10, Newspapers.com.

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/pittsburgh-sun-telegraph-george-durst-ob/181240260/>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

Corp. G.P. Durst
Corp. George P. Durst, 20, son of
Mrs. Mary Durst of 1906 Gebert
St., North Side, was killed in action
Dec. 24 in France.

He attended Latimer and
Allegheny High Schools and
Connelly Trade School, and before
entering service in March 1943, was
employed at Curtiss-Wright plant in
Beaver.

Corp. Durst is survived by his
mother, three sisters and two
brothers, of whom Sgt. Pete F. Durst
has been stationed in China for the
past two and a half years.

Excerpt from an article from *The Pittsburgh Press*

The Pittsburgh Press featured George in an article highlighting three servicemen who were killed in action and three more who were missing on January 27, 1945. The article presented a civilian portrait of George, briefly noting the schools he attended, where he worked, and his surviving family.

Le *Pittsburgh Press* a consacré un passage d'un article à George, mettant en avant trois militaires tombés au combat et trois autres portés disparus le 27 janvier 1945. L'article illustré d'un portrait de George en civil, évoquait brièvement les établissements scolaires qu'il avait fréquentés, son lieu de travail avant la guerre et les membres de sa famille encore en vie.

"3 Servicemen From District Killed in Action," *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA), January 27, 1945, page 2, Newspapers.com.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/147624450/?clipping_id=191628850

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

The image shows a 1950 U.S. Federal Census form for Allegheny, Pennsylvania. The form is titled "1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING" and includes sections for "HOUSEHOLD", "PERSONS", and "FAMILY". It contains handwritten entries for names, birth dates, and addresses. The form is numbered "P1" and "1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING".

1950 Federal Census

By 1950, Peter, George's brother, had returned to his wife, Ella. They lived in his mother-in-law's home at 1730 Overbeck Street in Pittsburgh, PA with two of Ella's siblings and a brother-in-law. With housing shortages after World War II, many families initially lived in multigenerational homes. At 43, Peter ran his own auto repair shop, while Ella owned a beauty shop.

En 1950, Peter, le frère de George, était retourné auprès de sa femme, Ella. Ils vivaient chez la belle-mère de Peter, au 1730 Overbeck Street à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie), avec deux des frères et sœurs d'Ella et un beau-frère. En raison de la pénurie de logements après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, de nombreuses familles vivaient au départ dans des foyers multigénérationnels. À 43 ans, Peter tenait son propre garage, tandis qu'Ella était propriétaire d'un salon de coiffure.

"1950 United States Federal Census," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed September 14, 2025), entry for Peter Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/records/240772475?tid=&pid=&queryId=05faf850-f873-4cf1-8609-0468c92fa6cb&_phsrc=xzw502&_phstart=successSource

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

1950 Federal Census

In 1950, George's mother, Mary, and his sister, Margaret, continued to live at 1906 Gerbert St. in Pittsburgh, PA. Margaret supported the household by working 40 hours a week as a store clerk at an optical manufacturer.

En 1950, la mère de George, Mary, et sa sœur, Margaret, continuaient de vivre au 1906 Gerbert Street, à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie). Margaret subvenait aux besoins du foyer en travaillant comme vendeuse chez un fabricant de lunettes, 40 heures par semaine.

"1950 United States Census", database, *FamilySearch* (familysearch.org: accessed February 22, 2026), entry for Mary Durst, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9J-5QHW-F9NQ-W?view=index&action=view&cc=4464515&lang=en&groupld=>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

Form No. 1-10

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU

APPLICATION FOR WORLD WAR II COMPENSATION—TO BE USED BY HONORABLY
DISCHARGED VETERAN OR PERSON STILL IN SERVICE

IMPORTANT—Before Filling Out This Form Study it Carefully.
Read and Follow Instructions—Print Plainly in Ink or Use Typewriter. DO NOT
Use Pencil—All Signatures Must Be in Ink.

1—Name of Applicant.
Last First Middle or Initial
Durst, Peter, F.

2—Address to Which CHECK and MAIL is to be Sent.
House No. St. R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State
1730 Overbeck St. N.S. Pgh 12 Allegheny Pa.

3—Date and Place of Birth.
Month Day Year City or Town County State
Apr 23 1907 N.S. Pittsburgh Allegheny Pa.

4—Name Under Which Applicant Served in World War II.
Last First Middle or Initial
Durst, Peter, F.

5—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Applicant Was In DOMESTIC SERVICE.
Date of Beginning Date of Ending
June 19 - 1942 3/2 Sept 21 1942
Apr 13 - 1945 1/7 May 19 - 1945

6—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Applicant Was In FOREIGN SERVICE.
Date of Beginning Date of Ending
Sept 21 - 1942 30/23 Apr May 13 1945

7—Date and Place Applicant Entered Active Service.
Month Day Year Place
June 19 1942 Pgh. Pa.

8—Service or Serial Numbers Assigned To Applicant.
Service No's.
Serial No's. 33 R80 472

9—Date and Place Where Applicant Was Separated From Active Service.
Month Day Year Place
May 19 1945 Fort Dix N.J.

10—Is Applicant Now Serving in Armed Forces On Active Duty? Yes No X
If Answer is YES—Be Sure To Have Certificate Executed And Filed With Application—See Instruction Sheet.

11—Mark "X" Above Name To Indicate Sex And Branch of Service.
Male X Female X Army Navy Marine Corps Coast Guard Other—Describe

12—Applicant's Residence At Time of Entry Into Active Service.
House No. Street R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State
1730 Overbeck St N.S. Pittsburgh 12 Allegheny Penna

13—Applicant Was Registered Under Selective Service As Follows.
Draft Board No. City or Town County State
RH N.S. Pittsburgh 12 Allegheny Penna

Applicant Must Not Write In Space Below

MAY 3 1950
Date Application Was Received

Batch Control Number
16762

Active Domestic Service
Months 4 \$ 40
Days \$ 40
Amount Due \$ 40

Active Foreign Service
Months 31 \$ 465 460
Days \$ 465 460
Amount Due \$ 465 460

Total Amt. Due \$ 500

Audited By Refactor Kelly

Service Computed By Refactor

Amounts Extended By Refactor

MA Approved For Payment

Date

For A. G. Refactor

For Aud. G. Refactor

For S. T. Refactor

Application Disapproved By

Veteran Compensation Application (Front)

Following the passage of the Mustering-Out Payment Act of 1944, the Army granted Veterans compensation based on their length of service to facilitate their transition to civilian life. In 1950, George's brother, Peter, requested compensation for his service from June 19, 1942, to May 19, 1945, including over two years abroad.

À la suite de l'adoption de la loi de 1944 sur les indemnités de démobilisation, l'armée a accordé aux anciens combattants une indemnité calculée en fonction de leur durée de service afin de faciliter leur retour à la vie civile. En 1950, le frère de George, Peter, a demandé une indemnité pour son service effectué du 19 juin 1942 au 19 mai 1945, dont plus de deux ans à l'étranger.

"Veterans Compensation - Pennsylvania, U.S., Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed February 19, 2026), entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3147/records/159067>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

14—Did Applicant Apply For, or Receive From Any State, or From Any of the Allies of the United States, A Bonus or Gratuitous Payment Based Upon His (Her) Service in the Armed Forces of the United States or Her Allies During World War II?
No

If Answer is Yes, Show Amount Received \$ _____ Source _____

15—Names And Addresses of Beneficiaries.

Name of Present Wife *Ella J. Durst*
 Address *1730 Overbeck St* Street *N.S. Pittsburgh 12* City or Town *Allegheny* County *Pa.* State

Full Name, Address and Age of Minor Living Child or Children.
None

Name _____ Address _____ Age _____

Full Name of Living Mother and Father and Address.

Mother's Name *Mary Durst* Address *406 Gebart St N.S. Pgh 12 Pa.*

Father's Name _____ Address _____

16—Applicant Was Discharged Under Honorable Conditions and as Evidence Thereof, Attached Hereto Is Original Discharge or Separation Papers or Other Official Record of Separation—Showing Active Service Between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945.

17—Complete the Following Only In Case Applicant's Service Was In the Navy or Its Components. List Below the Stations, Posts, Camps, Vessels or Units, At, On, or With Which Applicant Served From December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) Showing Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service For Which SEA DUTY PAY was RECEIVED.
None

Stations—Posts—Etc. _____ Beginning Date _____ Ending Date _____

18—The Applicant, Whose Signature Appears Below, Applies To The Adjutant General Of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, For World War II Compensation As Authorized By Act 248 Approved June 11, 1947—P. L. 565.

Date of Application *Feb 14-1950* Signature of Applicant *Peter J. Durst*

COUNTY OF *Allegheny*
 STATE OF *Pennsylvania* } SS.

Personally appeared before me _____, a Notary Public in and for the aforesaid County and State, the above named applicant, who being properly sworn or affirmed, states that he or she is the person who has signed this application, and that he or she is familiar with the contents thereof and that they are true to the best of his or her knowledge, information and belief.

Subscribed and Sworn to This *14th* Day Of *Feb* 19 *50*

My Commission Expires: _____ Notary/Public

HARRY HEEG, Notary Public
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
 MARCH 2nd, 1953

Veteran Compensation Application (Back)

In the back of his Veterans' compensation application, Peter listed his wife, Ella, and his mother, Mary, as his beneficiaries.

Au dos de sa demande d'indemnisation en tant qu'ancien combattant, Peter a désigné son épouse, Ella, et sa mère, Mary, comme bénéficiaires.

"Veterans Compensation - Pennsylvania, U.S., Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed February 19, 2026), entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3147/records/159067>

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

Legacy

Form No. 2
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU

APPLICATION FOR WORLD WAR II COMPENSATION—TO BE USED IN CASE OF DEATH IN SERVICE OR IN CASE OF DEATH AFTER HONORABLE DISCHARGE—OR OF MENTALLY INCAPACITATED VETERAN

IMPORTANT—Before Filling Out This Form, Study it Carefully—Read and Follow Instructions—Print Plainly in Ink, or Use Typewriter. DO NOT Use Pencil—All Signatures Must Be Signed in Ink.

1—Name of Applicant Filing as Representative of Veteran.
Last: DURST First: MARY Middle or Initial: M.
2—Address to Which CHECK and MAIL is to be Sent.
House No. St. R. D. P. O. Box: 1906 GEORGE ST. City—Town: Pgh. County: Allea. State: Pa.
3—Relationship of Applicant to Deceased or Mentally Incompetent.
MOTHER
4—Information Required Relative to Deceased or Mentally Incompetent Veteran—Answer Each Question.
4—Name: DURST George P.
5—Name Under Which He (She) Served in World War II.
Last: Same First: Middle or Initial:
6—Date and Place of Birth.
Month: Feb Day: 26 Year: 1924 City—Town: Pgh. County: Allea. State: Pa.
7—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946—(Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Veteran Was in Domestic Service.
Date of Beginning: Date of Ending:
8—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946—(Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Veteran Was in Foreign Service.
Date of Beginning: Date of Ending:
9—Service or Serial Numbers Assigned to Veteran.
33667155
10—Mark "X" Above Name to Indicate Sex and Branch of Service.
X Male—Female Y Army—Navy—Marine Corps—Coast Guard—Other—Describe:
11—Date and Place Veteran Entered Active Service.
Month: MARCH Day: Year: 1943 City or Town: Pgh. County: Allea. State: Pa.
12—Veteran's Residence at Time of Entry into Active Service.
House No. St. R. D. P. O. Box: 1906 GEORGE ST. City or Town: Pgh. County: Allea. State: Pa.
13—Veteran Was Registered Under Selective Service as Follows:
Draft Board No.: 26 Perry High School City or Town: Pgh. County: Allea. State: Pa.
14—If Death of Veteran Occurred in Service—Give Date and Place.

Applicant Must Not Write in Space Below
MAY 11 1950
Batch Control Number: 50499 80978
Active Domestic Service
Months: \$ Days: Amount Due \$:
Active Foreign Service
Months: \$ Days: Amount Due \$:
Total Amount Due \$:
Full Compensation \$: 500.
Audited By: JEC CO
Service Computed By:
Amounts Extended By:
Approved For Payment
Date: APR 14 1951
For A. G.:
For Adm. G.:
For S. G.:
Disapproved By:

Veteran Compensation Application (Front)

In 1950, George's mother, Mary, completed an application for compensation under a provision of the Mustering-Out Act of 1944. Under Section 691D, surviving spouses, children, or parents could receive the mustering-out payment if their loved one died in service. Mary was approved for \$500 in compensation. Possibly to avoid complications when the money was distributed, Mary declared she did not know who George's father was.

En 1950, Mary, la mère de George, a déposé une demande d'indemnisation en vertu d'une disposition de la loi de 1944 sur la démobilisation (Mustering-Out Act). En vertu de l'article 691D, les conjoints, enfants ou parents survivants pouvaient percevoir une indemnité de démobilisation si leur proche était décédé en service. Mary s'est vu accorder une indemnité de 500 dollars. Il est possible qu'afin d'éviter toute complication lors du versement de cette somme, Mary ait déclaré ne pas savoir qui était le père de George.

"Veterans Compensation - Pennsylvania, U.S., Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed September 16, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.comh/search/collections/3147/records/159043>

For more information visit:

projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
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15—If Death of Veteran Occurred After Honorable Discharge Give Date and Place.
 Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ *Does Not Apply* City/Town _____ County _____ State _____

16—Date and Place Veteran Was Honorably Discharged From Active Service.
 Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ *Does Not Apply* Place _____

17—If Veteran is Mentally Incompetent—Complete the Following:
 Name of Hospital or Institution in Which Veteran is Patient _____ Location _____ *Does Not Apply*

Home Address of Veteran—House No. _____ St. _____ City—Town _____ County _____ State _____

18—Was a Bonus or Similar Gratuity Received From Any Other State or From Any of the Allies of the United States Based Upon the Services of the Deceased or Mentally Incompetent Veteran Described Herein? If Answer is Yes—Amt. Received. Source. *No*

19—Complete the Following ONLY in case Service Was in the NAVY or its COMPONENTS—List Below the Station—Post—Camp—Vessels or Units—At, On, or With Which Veteran Served From December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946. (Both Dates Inclusive) Showing Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service for Which SEA DUTY PAY was Received.
Does Not Apply

Station—Post—Etc. _____ Beginning Date _____ Ending Date _____

20—Following Information Must Be Furnished Showing Marriage of VETERAN.
None

Date and Place of Each Marriage _____ To Whom Married _____ How Marriage Terminated _____

21—Following Information Must Be Furnished Showing Marriage of Widow or Wife.
None

Date and Place of Each Marriage _____ To Whom Married _____ How Marriage Terminated _____

22—Did Applicant Divorce Veteran? Yes No *Does Not Apply*

Date _____ Place _____

23—Was Applicant Living With Deceased At Time of Death? If Answer is NO—Explain.
NO IN SERVICE

24—Following Information Must Be Furnished Showing Living Minor Children Of Deceased.
None.

Name of Child _____ Date and Place of Birth _____ With Whom Living _____

25—Following Information Must Be Furnished Showing Parents of Deceased:
 X *MARY M. DURST* 1906 *Gerbert St.* *Pgh Pa.*
 Name of Mother _____ Address _____
(UNKNOWN)

Name of Father _____ Address _____

26—The Applicant, Whose Signature Appears Below, Applies to THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, For World War II Veterans' Compensation, Authorized by Act 248, Approved June 11, 1947—P. L. 565, as the Rightful Claimant According to the Law.

23 Feb 1950 & *Mary M. Durst*
 Date of Application _____ Signature of Applicant _____

STATE OF *Pennsylvania* } SS
 COUNTY OF *Allegheny*

Personally appeared before me *Andrew J. Bagay*, a Notary Public in aforesaid State and County, the above named applicant, who being properly sworn or affirmed, states that he or she is the person who has signed this application, and that he or she is familiar with the contents thereof and that they are true to the best of his or her knowledge, information and belief.

Subscribed and Sworn to *Andrew J. Bagay*
 This *23* Day of *Feb* 19 *50* My Commission Expires: _____ Notary Public

Veteran Compensation Application (Back)

On the back of her application for Veterans' compensation, Mary wrote that she still lived at George's childhood home at 1906 Gerbert St, Pittsburgh, PA.

Au dos de sa demande d'indemnisation, Mary a indiqué qu'elle vivait toujours dans la maison d'enfance de George, située au 1906 Gerbert Street, à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie).

"Veterans Compensation - Pennsylvania, U.S., Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed September 16, 2025), entry for George Paul Durst.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3147/records/159043>

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Headstone

George Paul Durst's headstone at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France, indicated his rank as Tech 5, his service with the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, his home state of Pennsylvania, and his date of death, December 24, 1944. He rests in Plot E, Row 42, Grave 10.

La pierre tombale de George Paul Durst, située au cimetière américain de Lorraine à Saint-Avold, en France, indique son grade de Tech 5, son appartenance au 15^e Régiment d'Infanterie de la 3^e Division d'Infanterie, son État d'origine, la Pennsylvanie, ainsi que la date de son décès, le 24 décembre 1944. Il est enterré dans la section E, allée 42, tombe 10.

Florida France Soldier Stories collection, credit to Amelia Lyons & Marie Oury.

For more information visit:
projects.cah.ucf.edu/fl-francesoldierstories/
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200M 10-48

H105-143 REV. 9-69

LOCAL REG. NO. 3669

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

PRIMARY DIST. NO. 02001

43891 71

1. DEATH OCCURRED IN: a. County Allegheny b. City or borough Pittsburgh

2. DECEASED'S MAILING ADDRESS: a. Street address, R. D., or Box Number 1906 Gebhart Street
b. Post Office, State and Zip Code Pittsburgh 15212, Pa

3. VETERAN: Yes ☐ No ☒ a. Which War _____ b. Serial No. _____

4. NAME OF DECEASED: a. (First) MARY b. (Middle) DURST c. (Last) _____

5. DATE OF DEATH: (Month) May (Day) 13 (Year) 1971

6. WHERE DID DECEASED ACTUALLY LIVE? a. State Penna. b. County Allegheny c. Did deceased live in a township? ☐ Yes, deceased lived in _____ township. ☒ No, deceased lived within actual limits of Pittsburgh city or borough.

7. SEX: F 8. RACE: W 9. MARRIED ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☐ 10. DATE OF BIRTH: (Month) Feb (Day) 88 (Year) 83

11. AGE (in years last birthday): Months _____ Days _____ Hours _____ Min. _____

12. USUAL OCCUPATION (even if retired): Housewife 13. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: None 14. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country): Germany 15. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA

16. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE: Frank Durst 17. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: NOT KNOWN

18. FATHER'S NAME: Johnnes 19. INFORMANT'S NAME, ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE: Ann Armstrong 1620 Emanuel St Pittsburgh Pa

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (Items 20 through 23 must be completed by physician only)

20. CAUSE OF DEATH: Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b) & (c).
PART I. Death was caused by:
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Hypertensive heart disease
DUE TO (b) Generalized arteriosclerosis
DUE TO (c) Cerebral hemorrhage

Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last.

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: contributing to death but not related to the immediate cause given in Part I (a) _____

21. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? Yes ☐ No ☒

22. a. ACCIDENT: Yes ☐ No ☒ 22. b. DESCRIBE HOW ACCIDENT OCCURRED _____ 22. c. TIME OF ACCIDENT: Hour _____ m. _____ Day _____ Year _____

22. d. ACCIDENT OCCURRED: While at work ☐ Not while at work ☒ 22. e. PLACE OF ACCIDENT (e.g., home, farm, street, etc.): _____ 22. f. CITY, BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____

23. I hereby certify that I attended the above named deceased and that death occurred from the causes and on the date stated above at 3:37 m., EST.

a. Signature R S Mulligan M. D. 5840 Brownsville
b. Address PGH PA 15236 Date signed 5/14/71

24. a. BURIAL ☒ CREMATION ☐ REMOVAL ☐ 24. b. DATE May 17, 1971 24. c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Allegheny County Mem. McCandless Twp. Allegh Co. Penna. 24. d. LOCATION (City, Boro., Twp., & County) (State) _____

25. DATE REC'D BY REG. 5-14-71 26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Margaret J. Dougherty 27. SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR James Mulligan 11322 W. 4th Ave

Death Certificate

George's mother, Mary, died on May 13, 1971, at Allegheny General Hospital. The death certificate listed her as the 83-year-old widow of Frank Durst. Mary lived at 1906 Gerbhart St., Pittsburgh, PA, until her death.

La mère de George, Mary, est décédée le 13 mai 1971 à l'hôpital Allegheny General. Le certificat de décès la mentionnait comme veuve de Frank Durst, âgée de 83 ans. Mary a vécu au 1906, rue Gerbhart, à Pittsburgh (Pennsylvanie), jusqu'à son décès.

"Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1972," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed September 16, 2025), entry for Mary Durst

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/records/41954385?tid=&pid=&queryId=0a8e868d-31f3-4d19-a250-341ba7105233&_phsrc=xzw514&_phstart=successSource

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Memorial

In Ammerschwihr, France, a metal plaque on a rough sandstone boulder typical of the region honors the 3rd Infantry Division's sacrifice during the town's liberation. The 3rd ID played a pivotal role in liberating the village in December 1944, and George likely took part in that operation.

Le village d'Ammerschwihr (France) a érigé, sur un rocher de grès typique de la région, une plaque métallique rendant hommage au sacrifice de la 3e division d'infanterie lors de la libération de la ville. La 3e Division d'Infanterie a joué un rôle central dans la libération du village en décembre 1944, et George y a sans doute participé.

Florida France Soldier Stories collection, credit to Marie Oury.

For more information visit:

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<https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/en/>

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Memorial

This hilltop memorial next to the French military cemetery honors the American divisions that fought to reduce the Colmar Pocket. The memorial stands atop Hill 351, also known as 'Bloody Hill,' near the place where George suffered his fatal wounds on December 24, 1944.

Ce mémorial situé au sommet d'une colline, à côté du cimetière militaire français, rend hommage aux divisions américaines qui ont combattu pour réduire la poche de Colmar. Le mémorial se dresse au sommet de la colline 351, également appelée « Bloody Hill », près de l'endroit où George a été mortellement blessé le 24 décembre 1944.

Florida France Soldier Stories collection, credit Marie Oury.

For more information visit:
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