

ARNOLD AND DOROTHEA MEYER TIMELINE

1939 – Germany invades Poland and declares war. Dorothea's father a WWI veteran was drafted into Germany's army as a Field Cook Sargeant. About the same time her brother was drafted into the German Marines.

1942 – After Pearl Harbor Arnold Meyer enlisted in the US Army. He wanted to join the cavalry, but horses were not used in WWII and he became a combat infantry in the 90th Infantry Division as an 81MM Mortar 2nd Class Gunner.

1944 –Early 1944 Arnold arrived in England to train and prepare for the invasion of Normandy.

1944 – June 8, Arnold arrived on Utah Beach

1944-45 – Arnold battled across France, Belgium and Germany. 07 May 45, the 90th Infantry Division was halted by Headquarters near Prague, the Czech Republic.

1945 – early June Arnold was assigned to the US Army Occupation Forces in Berlin. Probably because he spoke German. He was a Sargeant in charge of assigning US Officers to German housing.

1939-1945 – 12 year old Dorothea Schnittke and her mother Charlotte survived without their father, husband, son and brother, the war in Berlin, the Berlin bombing and the Russian occupation.

in June 1945 - On a beautiful Spring day shortly after the capitulation of Germany and death of Hilter, Dorothea and her girlfriend for the first time since heavy fighting in Berlin enjoy an afternoon in their favorite Berline Park. They met two American Gi's with only one speaking German. Arnold, and 18 year old Dorothea were inseparable thereafter.

1948 – Apr 28 Arnold separated from the Army and returned to the US without Dorothea. June 1948, she arrived in Minneapolis, MN through Ellis Island after Arnold paid a \$500 bond. They immediately went to a judge to get married and get the \$500 returned. On D-Day Dorothea's brother, Ernest the German Marine, was taken as a prisoner of war (POW). Ernest spent the war in Greeley, CO USA returning to Berlin between the time Arnold left Berlin and Dorothea left 2 months later. Dorothea's father was missing in action in Belarus, Russia during heavy fighting.

1948-1949 – Arnold and Dorothea (Dotty) traveled to Portland, OR because Arnold's brother-in-law had a construction company but because of the steel strike they returned to Minnesota, farmed in southern MN. Their first daughter, Krista, was born in Portland and Diana in Minnesota in 1952 and Gary in 1957 in Des Moines. In 1953, they moved to Slater, IA and Arnold worked in Des Moines. For 45 years they lived in Des Moines, raised their family and became invested in the Slater community.