



70th Infantry Division



Distinctive Unit Insignia

TEC 5 Lee Powell Staley

Lee Powell Staley, a son of Claude Solomon and Sybil Mellissa Powel Staley, was born on May 18, 1920 in Grass Creek, Utah. His family moved to Upton and he attended North Summit High School and then worked in the Union Pacific mines in Superior, Wyoming. He entered the army January 8, 1942. After finishing basic training, he fought in North Africa and the Italian campaign. He was then assigned to the 274th Infantry Regiment when it arrived in France.

T/5 Staley was fighting in the Alsace-Lorraine (Battle of the Bulge occurred here) area of France when he was killed on February 18, 1945. His body was returned home and he was buried in the Coalville, Utah cemetery.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, two sisters, Mary June and Carol Jean; and three brothers; Floyd Powell, Blair, and Darrell.

The 70th infantry division was activated at Camp Adair, Oregon on July 15, 1943. The division insignia includes a white ax, a snowy mountain, and a green fir tree on a red background. The white ax is in recognition of the pioneers who travelled the Oregon Trail and settled near Oregon's Mt. Hood. The snowy mountain represents Mt. Hood, and the green fir tree represents the origin of division from the 91st Division, from which the troops of the 70th Division were drawn. The division was activated on July 15, 1943 along with the 275th and 276th regiments. Originally, the division's task was to provide replacements to units in the Europe and the Far East. The division was then moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for further training and then shipped to France in November of 1944.

The distinctive unit insignia for the regiment was created after the regiment moved to Wisconsin after World War II. The colors blue and white are represent the army. The cross of Lorraine symbolizes the Regiment's first campaign honor awarded for service in France during World War II. The badger represents Wisconsin, the home station of the organization. The axe alludes to the unit's original assignment and World War II service as part of the 70th Infantry Division. The motto translates to "The Vanguard."