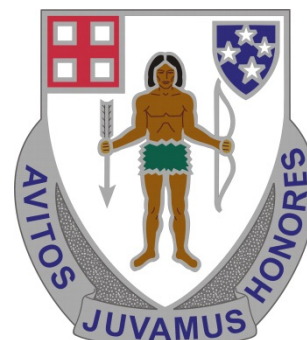




2nd Lieutenant Nathaniel Thomas Toole



Americal Infantry Division



Distinctive Unit Insignia

Nathaniel Thomas Toole, a son of William and Roberta Blanche Huntington Toole, was born on July 9, 1917, in Dixon Wyoming. As a young boy, he lived in Dixon until his family moved to Rawlins, Wyoming. He graduated from Rawlins High School, where he was a fine student and an outstanding athlete. After graduating, he followed two of his brothers to Coalville, Utah and worked for Mountain Fuel Supply. He met and married Hazel Marie Wright. As World War II, progressed, he waived his deferment and enlisted in the army on May 12, 1944, at Fort Douglas, Utah.

He was assigned to the Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; but near the end of his training, the school was closed and he was transferred to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia to be trained as an officer. He graduated from Officer Candidate School on January 27, 1945. He was sent to Leyte in the Philippine Islands and was assigned to the 182nd Infantry Regiment, Americal Infantry Division.

Lt. Toole joined the division on Cebu Island and went into the lines immediately. The fighting was fierce and casualties were high. Lt. Toole was killed on April 14, 1945. He was buried in the Philippines and his body was returned home and buried in the Coalville cemetery on October 3, 1948. At the time of his death, he was survived by his mother, wife, two sons; Doug and Tommy; and three brothers, Alfred, William and Frank. His brother, Doug, preceded him in death.

The Americal Division is unique in the annals of the Army because it was one of only two divisions that were not assigned a number. The division patch represents the four stars of the Southern Cross and the blue for infantry. The 182nd Infantry Regiment is one of the oldest regiments in the army. The components of its insignia are as follows: the shield is white, the old Infantry color, and also the color of the Massachusetts State flag. The Indian is that shown on the first seal of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, made in England and sent to this country in 1628 and used thereafter until 1680. The red square with the inner white squares, represent England and the right shield represents the Southern Cross. The motto translates to "We Uphold Our Ancient Honors."