Ira Tree, a son of Edward James Tree and Letty Jane Pace Tree, was born on June 30, 1906, in Coalville, Utah. He grew up in Coalville and his family moved to the Park City area. He married Stella May Rees. They had one child, Letty Norene Tree, in 1934. He later married Vera Broadhead.

He entered the military on March 16, 1944, and after basic training was assigned to the 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on September 23, 1944.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, wife and four brothers, Lewis Edward, Don Clarence, James Marion, and Delbert Lamar; and six sisters, Irene, Philinda, Eva June, Lily Pace, June, and Genevieve.

The 80th Division was first organized August 5, 1917 and consisted of men mostly from Pennsylvannia, Virgina, and West Virginia. It was nicknamed the “Blue Ridge Division”. The three mountain peaks on the patch represent the Blue Ridge Mountains in Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The patch has a white line and a gold field as the back ground. The Division also adopted the Latin Motto, "Vis Montium" or "Strength of the Mountains."

In World War II, the Division, landed at Normandy on Utah Beach on August 5, 1944. It helped trap the Germans in the Falaise Pocket. The Division then became one of the work horses of General Patton’s 3rd Army. The Division did not return to the United States until July, 1946.

The 317th Infantry Regiments Distinctive Unit Insignia pattern is as follows: The shield is blue for Infantry. The bend and alerions are taken from the coat of arms of Lorraine, but the tinctures are changed, and the lion represents service in the Picardy Sector. The motto translates to “By Arms and By Courage.”