



Luther Dale Yopp

Private First Class
United States Army
315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division
Born 1925
Killed in Action 29 November 1944
France

Luther Dale “Luke” Yopp was the oldest child and only son of John and Lena Yopp. He was born in 1925 in Kansas. Luke’s father worked on ranches, primarily working with horses. Originally from Texas, the family lived in Kansas, then to Oklahoma, on to Arkansas (where little sister Delores “Doty” was born 8 years later), then on to California.

The family lived off Holt Ave., Santa Ana city boundaries, but Luke’s father John listed Tustin as his home by 1942. Luke attended only one year of high school before going to work on the local ranches.

He enlisted into the United States Army on March 22, 1944, in San Pedro, and after training was sent to the European Theater with the 315th Infantry. Although his sister was much younger and was only 12 when Luke was killed, she always shared with her family that Luke was very protective of her. A story shared by Luke’s nephew was that his mom remembered going with her mom and dad and taking Luke to the bus station in Santa Ana so he could catch the bus to boot camp. Prior to catching the bus, they all ate at a diner nearby and while there, his mom noticed a handsome bus boy named Tom Nieblas. They were married several years later. The last time Doty Yopp saw her brother was the day she met her future husband.

Luke Yopp was killed in France just a few months after arriving there. He was 19 years old. He is buried at the American Military Cemetery in Epinal France. It is common for the people of France and the Netherlands to “adopt” American soldiers buried in their country. They have not forgotten and honor those men that they call “their liberators.” Although he has not been adopted, volunteers place flowers on his grave to honor Luke.

