



90th Infantry Regiment



29th Infantry Division



29th Infantry Division



Camp Haan – WW II



Camp Carson – WW II

Clifford Wilbert DeFrain
Private First Class U.S. Army
25 June 1943 – 30 November 1945

Clifford was born at home on 6 March 1925 on a farm near Route 100 just north of Macungie in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. When he was five, the family moved to a Hess-Lehigh farm on Mill Race Road, just upstream from Laudenslager’s Mill. While living there, he attended first grade at Riegel’s School on the old Cedar Crest Boulevard (now Farr Road) just downstream from Riegel’s Mill. Before he started second grade, his family moved to another Hess-Lehigh farm farther upstream on Macungie Road at the intersection of Krick Lane. While living there, Clifford completed grades 2 through 8 at Ritter’s School, just down Macungie Road from his home. He attended Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, for one year. He left high school in 1941 after his freshman year to work as a Shipping Clerk for Wallcraft Manufacturing, a manufacturer of pajamas, in Emmaus until he was drafted into the Army. He was inducted as a Private in the Infantry at New Cumberland Army Depot, Pennsylvania, and was then sent to Camp Haan, California, where he was assigned to the 816th Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA) Battalion. Clifford trained there as a Tracker on an Antiaircraft gun from 4 July 1943 to 10 May 1944, when he was transferred to the 90th Infantry Regiment at Camp Carson in Colorado near Colorado Springs. Besides being a training camp, Camp Carson served as a Prisoner of War (POW) internment camp during World War II. Clifford trained there as a Rifleman before leaving for the European Theater on 10 August 1944 aboard the ship *Columbia*, one of 10 French passenger ships seized by the U.S. Government while in a U.S. port. On 12 September 1944, he joined up with the 29th Infantry Division at Brest, France, where the Division was engaged in attacking the city and port facilities. He was assigned to the Division’s 115th Infantry Regiment. The city and port were taken from the Germans a week later, and the Division began its push toward Germany for the start of the Rhineland Campaign. In late September 1944, Clifford was wounded under the eye and in the chest by shrapnel from an 88mm shell. He remained with his unit, but was captured and taken prisoner in Holland on 5 October 1944. After his capture, he was taken to Limburg, Germany, near Munich, then to Landshut where he was assigned work detail loading boxcars. He was released there on 25 April 1945, and on 3 May 1945 was flown from Hamburg, Germany, to Paris, France, on a C-47. He was then transferred to Camp Lucky Strike at Janville, France, near the port of Le Havre, from which he sailed for New York on Liberty ship *SS Jonathan Trumbull* on 13 May 1945 with a stop in England for refueling. He arrived in New York on 2 June 1945. He was discharged at Fort McClellan, Alabama, on 30 November 1945. In addition to the Purple Heart, Clifford was awarded the Bronze Star, POW, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign, American Campaign, and World War II Victory Medals. He returned home to resume working for Wallcraft in the Shipping Department for a while, followed by employment at Flexer’s Excavating Company in Emmaus as a Truck Driver, and then Bally Case and Cooler in Bally, Pennsylvania, in 1973 until retiring in 1992. Clifford married **Delphine Mae Schaffer** (born 3 September 1927) on 19 October 1946 in Emmaus Reformed Church. Initially, they made their home in Emmaus, and later moved to and settled in Lower Macungie Township. Clifford and Delphine had four children: **Larry Clifford**, **Dennis Clifford**, **Dale Richard**, and **Sharon Eileen**. Clifford’s parents were **Jonas DeFrain** (15 June 1882 – 30 April 1953) and **Carrie Schuler** (23 May 1888 – 4 February 1954). Clifford’s older brother, **Walter Charles Benjamin**, also served in the Army during World War II. Clifford’s son, Larry, served in the Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War.



Tent City at Camp Lucky Strike
1945