



34th Infantry Division

Franklin Lewis Fulmer
Sergeant U.S. Army
17 February 1943 – 29 December 1945

Franklin was born on 28 January 1924 in Brookdale, Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He was a son of **Clinton Levi Fulmer** (13 July 1876) and **Annie L. Sease** (1888 – 1955). His father died in the latter 1920s when Franklin was a young boy. Franklin received his grade school education at Bethany Orphanage in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania. After grade school, Franklin worked as a Fork Lift Operator prior to enlisting in the Army on 17 February 1943. He entered the Army as a Private in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. After basic infantry training, Franklin left for overseas on 25 April 1944 for assignment to Company I, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry (“Red Bull”) Division. The Regiment had been fighting in Italy after landing at Salerno in September 1943, and had fought its way north to the vicinity of Anzio Beachhead where it established defensive positions along the Mussolini Canal in preparation for further attacks. Franklin joined his unit there in May 1944, and subsequently fought in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley Campaigns, all of which involved numerous battles including, among others, the battles for Rome, Livorno, Bologna, Civitavecchia, Tarquinia, Cecina, the Gothic line, and Monte Belmonte. The Gothic Line was one of the most strongly defended and heavily fought-for German sectors in the Apennine Mountains. While fighting with the 133rd Regiment, Franklin rose to the rank of Sergeant and became a Squad Leader. He left Italy on 30 November 1945 after Germany surrendered to the Allies, and arrived in the States on 8 December 1945 for discharge. In addition to the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Franklin was awarded the Bronze Star, American Campaign, European-Africa Middle Eastern Campaign, and World War II Victory Medals. He was discharged from active duty on 29 December 1945 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and then served in the Army Reserves until 15 September 1947. After the war, Franklin returned to Lower Macungie and married **Gladys Myrle Warmkessel** (born 29 April 1926) on 11 January 1946 in Lehigh Zion Church in Lower Macungie Township. He went to work for Buckeye Pipeline Company in Macungie, Pennsylvania, as a Deliveryman for about 25 years, retiring circa 1991. Franklin died on 13 May 1997 in Manor Care Nursing Home in Allentown, and is buried at Lehigh Zion Church. Franklin and Gladys had five children: **Dwight, Dawn, David, Dan, and Drew Fulmer**. Dwight served in the Army in Vietnam in 1969/1970. Drew served in the Navy from June 1977 to 1981, and in the Naval Reserves from 1982 to 1986. Franklin also had three grandsons: **Jason Scott** and **Todd Mathew Fulmer**, who served in the Army, and **Christopher James**, who served in the Navy. Franklin’s brother, **Jack Fulmer**, served in the Army as a Paratrooper during World War II; he died in a motorcycle accident while serving in Germany.