



Tropic Lightning Division



Wolfhound Regiment

Donald William Beitler
Private U.S. Army
12 September 1946 – 5 June 1947

Donald was born on 19 November 1923 in Cetronia, Pennsylvania, and later on lived in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He attended Raub High School in Allentown and worked on a farm until he entered the Army. He enlisted in the Army as a Private on 12 September 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After completion of basic training, Donald was designated an Infantryman and ordered to Japan. He left the States on 20 December 1946, and on 5 January 1947, he joined the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry (“Wolfhound”) Regiment, 25th Infantry (“Tropic Lightning”) Division, which was serving as part of the Allied Occupation Forces in Osaka, Japan on the Island of Honshu after World War II. While serving in Japan, the Battalion earned the nickname “Gentle Wolfhounds” for its support of the Holy Family Orphanage in Osaka, which continues to this day. Every December, two Wolfhound soldiers visit Osaka bearing Christmas gifts for each of the children at the orphanage. Donald left Japan for return to the States on 6 May 1947, arriving in the States 17 days later on 23 May. He was discharged as a Private on 5 June 1947 at Camp Stoneman, California, as part of the post-World War II demobilization. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal for his service. After Donald returned home, he continued to live in Wescosville. He went to work as a bus driver for the Lehigh Valley Transit Company and later as a custodian for the East Penn School District. He also worked part time for Leibensperger Transportation in East Texas, Pennsylvania. In 1972, he moved to East Texas where he lived until the early 1990s, at which time he relocated to Slatington, Pennsylvania. Donald died in Slatington on 8 July 1996. He is buried in the Salem Methodist Church Cemetery in East Texas alongside his wife, **Sarah Elizabeth Smith** (24 January 1930 – 27 January 2003). Donald and Sarah were married on 30 November 1946 at the Reformed Church parsonage in Macungie, Pennsylvania, by Reverend Ralph Althouse. They raised three children: **Bruce Donald, Stewart Edwin, and Cynthia Ann**. Donald’s parents were **Ralph Franklin Beitler** (23 Nov 1905 – 18 Feb 1996) and **Myrtle Mary Appel** (13 May 1906 – July 1992), both of whom are buried in Cetronia.

October 4, 2010