



9th Infantry Division



60th Infantry Regiment

Richard Howard Litzenberger
Private First Class U.S. Army
17 February 1943 – 8 August 1944

Richard was born on 12 November 1923 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township, where he was raised and lived until he enlisted in the Army. After attending grammar school, Richard went to work at Brown's Shoe Factory. He enlisted as a Private on 17 February 1943 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and underwent basic training and advanced training as an Infantryman at Camp McCain, Mississippi, and Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After completing training, Richard was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. The Division left for the European Theater and arrived in England on 27 November 1943, where they underwent training for the invasion of France. The 2nd Battalion landed in Normandy at Utah Beach on 11 June 1944, on the Cotentin Peninsula, and first entered into combat on 14 June 1944 in Normandy in the vicinity of Plaux, France. They drove hard toward St. Colombe, outdistancing the rest of the Division, and overran German defenses in the face of murderous fire. The battalion set up a bridgehead on the Douve River and held the position for seven hours until the rest of the Division caught up to them. That action by the 2nd Battalion greatly facilitated the capture of the vital Port of Cherbourg on 25 June 1944, and earned them the Presidential Unit Citation. The Regiment then fought in numerous battles within the area, entering St-Aubin-des-Bois on 5 August 1944. Three days later, on 8 August 1944, they entered La Tuilerie, one mile southeast of Calvados, France, the day and area where Richard was killed in action. Richard initially was buried in Europe, and was re-interred four years and four months later on 19 December 1948 at St. Paul's Church Cemetery in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, next to where his parents were later buried. In addition to the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the American Campaign, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, and World War II Victory Medals, Richard earned the Purple Heart for his wounds and ultimate sacrifice. Prior to going overseas, Richard married **Bernice Dorothy Sittler** (born c.1926) of Trexlertown. They had a son, **Terry Richard Litzenberger**, who was born in 1944 while Richard was serving overseas. Richard's parents were **Howard Irwin Litzenberger** (10 March 1904 – July 1984) and **Laura Anna Kunkle** (15 August 1903 – April 1974). Richard's brothers, **Luke Arlin** (1926 – 1999) and **Sterling R.** (24 July 1927 – 1 April 1994), served in the Navy during World War II.