

Raymond A. Allen (192. – 1943)

The closest reference to a “Raymond A. Allen” whose name appears in Memorial Park in Chula Vista that has yet been found was a “Ray A. Allen” who listed his home of record as the state of California. The information found on this WWII veteran is therefore furnished.

Ray A. Allen was from California and was a Private first Class in the United States Army. His serial number was 39418402.

He was assigned to the 30th Infantry of the Third (3rd) Infantry Division On March 6, 1945, he was killed in action (KIA) . He is buried at Plot H, Row 6, Grave # 59 at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

A brief history of the 30th Infantry, 3rd Division follows:

It left the United States in October 1942 and landed in Morocco during Operation Torch , coming ashore at Fedala and capturing half the country. On 10 July 1943, the Division, as part of the U.S. Seventh Army in Operation Husky, made an assault landing on Sicily, fought its way into Palermo before the armor could get there, and raced on to capture Messina, thus ending the Sicilian campaign. Nine days after the Italian invasion, 18 September 1943, the 3d landed at Salerno and in intensive action drove to and across the Volturno and to Cassino. After a brief rest, the Division was ordered to hit the beaches at Anzio, 22 January 1944, where for 4 months it maintained its toe-hold against furious German counterattacks. On 29 February 1944, the 3d fought off an attack by three German Divisions. In May the Division broke out of the beachhead and drove on to Rome, and then went into training for the invasion of Southern France when the *Seventh Army* was assigned to the American 6th Army Group in Operation Dragoon. On 15 August 1944, another D-day, the Division landed at St. Tropez, advanced up the Rhone Valley, through the Vosges Mountains, and reached the Rhine at Strasbourg, 26-27 November. After maintaining defensive positions it took part in clearing the Colmar Pocket, 23 January-18 February 1945, and on 15 March struck against Siegfried Line positions south of Zweibrucken. The Division smashed through the defenses and crossed the Rhine, 26 March 1945; then drove on to take Nurnberg in a fierce battle, capturing the city in block-by-block fighting, 17-20 April. The 3d pushed on to take Augsburg and Munich, 27-30 April, and was in the vicinity of Salzburg, (Units from the 3rd were the first allied troops to arrive at Berchtesgaden which they secured along with the Berghof Hitler's Alpine residence), when the war in Europe ended.

Members of the Regiment had been awarded 12 Medals of Honor and 58 Distinguished Service Crosses and each battalion had been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The 30th Regiment had suffered a total of 8,308 casualties of which 1,876 were killed in action. The Regiment participated in ten campaigns during World War II:

Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Arizio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland and Central Europe.

PFC Allen had been awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

