

### **Leonard Paul Kelly (1923 – 1945)**

Leonard P. Kelly listed his home of record as California. His wife, the former Mss Winnie Stafford and their 15 month old daughter, Penny Lou reside with her parents at 640 Fifth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA.

Private First Class Leonard Kelly was the son of former Chula Vista Police Chief Merrill E. Kelly, who served Chula Vista for 16 years prior to retiring and moving to a ranch near Medford Oregon. PFC Kelly is a graduate of Sweetwater Union High School and the Boydan Preparatory School. He received an appointment to West Point while attending DePaul University in Chicago, ILL, where he was majoring in Chemical Engineering. He entered the United States Army in February, 1942. He married in the spring of 1943, and his wife, the former Miss Winnie Stafford of Chula Vista visited him in Bay City, Texas (Source: The *Star-News* dated May 14, 1943)

PFC Kelly went overseas in July 1944 and saw action at Leyte before going to Okinawa. He was cited for attempting to aid five comrades at the time of his death, by the adjutant general. He was a member of the 96<sup>th</sup> Division, 382<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion, and was personally leading a tank between the enemy fire and his squad and directing fire from the tank when he was killed on the island of Okinawa.

Besides his wife and parents, PFC Leonard Kelly is survived by his brother , LT Merrill E. Kelly, Jr., USN of Coronado, a sister, Mrs. Dorothy Greywacz, his maternal grandfather, James L Owen, and aunt, Mrs. Verna Moyer, all of San Diego, and an uncle Malvin H. Garton of Seattle, WA. He is buried at the Little Chapel of the Roses, Glen Abbey Memorial Park in Bonita, CA.

He was a member of the Pioneer mine platoon and a veteran of the China- India – Burma theater. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.



