

Military Record
Harry C. Van Zandt

Pre-World War II and World War II:

102nd Cavalry - N.J. National Guard. Westfield, N.J.. 10/10/39 to 9/20/40.
R.O.T.C. - Reserve - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J..
Called to active duty on 3/16/43. (End of 3rd College year.)
To Basic Training 6/2/43 - Fort McClellan, AL
To Fort Benning, GA. Infantry O.C.S.
Commissioned 2nd Lt., 8/15/44
Assigned to 65th Infantry Division, Camp Shelby, Miss.
Assigned as Platoon Leader, Hqs 3rd Bn., 259th Inf. Regt.. Anti-tank platoon.
To ETO with 65th Div. - Camp Shanks, N.Y. to Le Havre, France.
Transferred to Hqs, 3rd Bn as Bn. S-2 on 4/14/45. Ended war on banks of the Enns
River at Schmidding, Austria.

Army of Occupation:

Transferred to 26th Inf.Div. - Linz, Austria - 8/13/45
In charge of Displaced Persons Camp, Efferding, Austria.
Transferred to 83rd Inf.Div.. Bn. S-3. 10/13/45
Promoted to 1st Lt..
Transferred to 42nd Inf.Div. - 2/13/46. In charge of P.O.W. Camp just north of
Salzburg, Austria.
Embarked for States 5/13/46.
Separated from active duty to Reserves 8/4/46.

Awards and Medals - WWII:

Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster.
Good Conduct Medal
American Campaign Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Battle Stars.
Army of Occupation/Germany.
World War II Victory Medal
Combat Infantryman Badge

Korean War:

Orders received for active duty from Inactive Reserves as of 1/2/51.
To Korea, 2/2/51.
Assigned to F Company, 65th Regt., 3rd Infantry Division - 2/10/51
2/10/51 to 5/1/51 - Platoon Leader, F Co..
5/1/51 to 10/10/51 - Company C.O., F Co.
10/10/51 - promoted to Capt..
10/12/51 - transferred to Hqs Co., 1st Bn., 65th Regt. as C.O. Hqs Co..
1/31/52 - Enroute to States.
4/2/52 - Released from active duty - Fort Ord, CA..

Awards and Medals - Korea:

2nd and 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal.
Purple Heart
Korean Service Medal with 4 Campaign Stars.
National Defense Service Medal.
United Nations Service Medal

Awards and Medals - Korea: continued

Combat Infantryman Badge - 2nd Award
U.S. Presidential Unit Citation.
Korean Presidential Unit Citation.
Gold Medal of Bravery - Greece.
Korean War Service Medal
Korean Government Medal of Friendship

New York State Medals:

N.Y. State Conspicuous Service Cross.
N.Y. State Conspicuous Service Star.

NOTE:

The 65th Regiment of the Third Infantry Division was from Puerto Rico. It's E.M. were almost 100% Puerto Ricans. Approximately half its' Officers were "Continental". The Regiment had shipped from the islands as a full-strength, well-trained outfit. This was in contrast to the other U.S. Divisions that were rushed to Korea. The 3d Division was able to gather only two understrength Regiments to ship to Korea. Upon reaching Japan, their units were brought up to strength with the addition of Korean conscripts, and then joined the 65th in Korea.

I have always been ^{or}thankful that I ended up in this excellent regiment. Their abilities enabled me to survive the Korean War.