MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors
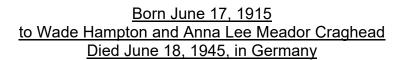
LEON CALHOUN CRAGHEAD
UNITED STATES ARMY

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
JANUARY 2025

Honoring her Cousin's Service and Sacrifice
Submitted by Glenda Willis
Sponsored by: **Neosho Chapter, NSDAR**

Born June 17, 1915
to Wade Hampton and Anna Lee Meador Craghead
Died June 18, 1945, in Germany

Leon Calhoun Craghead was born June 17, 1915, in Bixby, Oklahoma. His parents, Wade Hampton Craghead and Anna Lee Meador Craghead had recently moved to Oklahoma. They were born and raised in Callaway County, Missouri. Leon attended school in Collinsville, Oklahoma; he was one of four brothers. Leon was drafted and entered the Army in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. His brother Cleo joined the same day February 3, 1941.

Leon was assigned to the 161st Infantry Regiment 25th Infantry Division. His grave marker shows the 35th Infantry Division, this was a mistake that was never changed. Leon served in the Philippine Liberation. His regiment was involved in the Battle of Luzon Campaign, and he was one of the last casualties suffered by the regiment in this battle. He tried to save others, but they all died. Leon recovered from his injuries and was sent to Germany where he was riding in a truck with explosives when it was blown up, Leon gave his life killed in action on June 18, 1945.

Anna Lee, Leon's Mother, answered her door to find a telegram; her son Leon was killed in action. It would be three years before he returned home.

Leon was temporarily buried in Belgium. On July 11, 1948, Leon arrived in New York on the S.S. Oglethorpe Victory. He was one of 69 soldiers who were returned to the United States from Oklahoma and the first soldier to return to Collinsville. On August 13, 1948, he arrived early. Collinsville closed its shops and school. The funeral was that afternoon and held at the. Veterans Building. Military honors were held and his Mother was presented with the Purple Heart. Leon was buried at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Collinsville. His parents now rest beside him. His Mother never stopped talking about her son. A picture in an oval frame hung in the Living room with his medals around it. I now own the portrait and frame but don't know who has the medals

Private Leon C. Craghead earned the following decorations during his military service in World War I.

  Bronze Star Medal
  Purple Heart Medal
  Army Good Conduct Medal
  American Defense Medal
  American Campaign Medal
  Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
  World War II Victory Medal
  Philippine Liberation Medalbers
  Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon