PVT. SANFORD LEHRHOFF

1921 – April 6, 1945
Graduated June 1939

Legend: “He’s not in the roll of common men”

Boxing Club, Wrestling Club, Intramural Baseball, Intramural Basketball, Intramural Football, Varsity Football 3, 5, 7.

General Missouri University



Pvt. Sanford Lehrhoff attended college for two years and enlisted in the Army on June 11, 1942. He served in the 128th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Division, known as the Red Arrow Division.

The 128th Regiment participated in the assault on Buna, New Guinea beginning in December 1942. It was a nightmare campaign with difficult terrain, fierce Japanese defenses, and harsh jungle conditions. On January 5, 1943 the 128th Infantry Regiment begins advancing from Buna northwest along the coast toward Tarakena as preliminary moves for an assault against Sanananda. In 1944 it defeated Japanese General Adachi’s divisions at Saidor and Aitape, New Guinea; defeated the Japanese Imperial First Marines in Leyte (Imperial First Marines only loss in 200 years); and pierced the Yamashita Line in Luzon. On March 22, 1945 the 128th Infantry Regiment relieved the 127th Infantry on the front line of the Villa Verde Trail and continued to advance eastward.

After a prolonged and costly battle, the 128th Infantry Regiment captured the Salacsac Pass No.2 on the Villa Verde Trial on April 10, 1945. Pvt. Sanford Lehrhoff was killed on April 6, 1945 during that battle. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery:

> "Private SANFORD LEHRHOFF, (32307800), Infantry, United States Army. For heroic achievcmcnt in connection with military operations against the enemy near Imugan, Luzon, Philippine Islands on 6 April 1945. Private Lehrhoff was a member of a rifle squad protecting the members of a demolition crew while they set an explosive charge in a cave occupied by a large force of the enemy. A strong concentration of enemy machine gun and small arms fire was directed at anyone who exposed himself on the ridge above the cave, but Private Lehrhoff courageously kept his position and placed covering fire on the cave until the task of the demolition crew was completed and the enemy pocket destroyed. Next of kin: Mother Celia Lehrhoff, 25 Van Velsor Place, Newark New Jersey.

Sanford also received a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

He was buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Plat N, Row 5, Grave 187.

In addition to his mother he was survived by his father Marty Lehrhoff and his younger brother Herbert Lehrhoff who served in the Marines in WWII and died in 2019.