



*103d Infantry Division (Cactus)
HQ Co, A&P Platoon, 3d Battalion,
409th Infantry Regiment*



1LT Arthur M. Flynn



1LT Arthur M. Flynn, United States Army from 1942 – 1946, serving as Ammunition & Pioneer Platoon Leader, 3d Battalion, 409th Infantry Division, 103d Infantry Division. LT Flynn joined ROTC at Georgia Tech in September, 1942, enlisting in the Army in December, 1942. He took basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama and was selected for Officer Candidate School graduating from Fort Benning in April, 1944. LT Flynn was assigned as Platoon Leader, A&P Platoon, Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 409th Infantry Regiment at Camp Howze. Prior to overseas deployment, LT Flynn trained in Chemical Warfare at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, then Mountain Warfare at Camp Carson, Colorado, and Glider Transported Infantry at Camp Howze. He was placed in charge of ammunition, bridge building, demolition, mine removal, and served as an instructor in chemical warfare and flame thrower schools.

In March 1946, he earned a Battlefield Promotion to First Lieutenant and was wounded that same month. In July, 1945 he was assigned to 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, departing for Le Havre, France in September, 1945. In November, 1945 he was transferred to the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Bowie, Texas. In April 1946 he was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas for discharge and promoted to Captain in May, 1946 just before his discharge. At the time of his discharge, Captain Flynn was appointed to the Officer Reserve Corps, 357th Infantry where he served until his discharge from the Reserve in April 1953.

Captain Flynn's decorations include, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 battle stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, the French and Belgian Fourragere.

Arthur M. Flynn's twin brother, 1LT Charles H. Flynn was assigned to Company A, 409th Infantry Regiment, 103d Infantry Division (Cactus). During their careers, Arthur picked up the nickname, "Bridgehead Flynn", while his brother was dubbed "Pillbox Flynn." The name Bridgehead came about when the 103d Division launched an attack southeast of Stuttgart, Germany on April 23, 1945. The Division had reached the Danube river by mid-afternoon and the mission of crossing the river in canvas boats was given to

Company K, 409th Infantry Regiment. Later that afternoon, intelligence revealed that a German armored column was headed north toward the 409th Infantry Regiment crossing point. 1LT Arthur Flynn was given the mission to destroy the only standing bridge in the area and to do it as quickly as possible.

As night fell, LT Arthur Flynn approached the bridge to the sound of hobnail booted German guards patrolling back and forth across the two-way, four-section long bridge. Using darkness as their ally, LT Flynn and his men placed charges on the bridge pilings. Just after midnight, while the German guard detail was enjoying a smoke break on the south side of the bridge, LT Flynn blew the bridge, completely destroying it.

Later LT Arthur Flynn and his men assisted in the canvass boat crossing conducted by Company K, which occurred at 0235 hours, 26 April 1945. Hence, from that day forward Arthur M. Flynn was known as 1LT "Bridgehead" Flynn.