

## Sgt. Jesse Cleveland Lohr

From Paul Carter in the Orange County Historical Society *Record*:<sup>1</sup>

“Jesse Cleveland Lohr, son of Jesse B. and Novie Smith Lohr, was born 2 July 1914 in Somerset. He was the oldest of ten children. He attended elementary school until the seventh grade and helped his family on the farm in the Madison Run area. Before joining the army, he was a mechanic at the Silk Mill. He tried marriage at the age of 21, but that ended in divorce in less than a year.



“Jesse enlisted into the army on 4 February 1941 in Richmond and joined the 119th Infantry Regiment. The 119th Infantry Regiment was a unit of the 30th Infantry Division originally formed as a National Guard unit from North Carolina. It landed in Normandy between 10 and 15 June 1944, as a replacement unit of the 29th Division. The 29th Division was almost completely destroyed on the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944.

“Before Jesse was killed in combat on 9 April 1945, he had been in Europe for one year and was wounded four times. His parents received a telegram from the War Department on 20 April 1945. He was killed less than one month before the total collapse of Germany on 8 May 1945. At the time of his death, he had a brother, Otis, who had just returned from 19 months of duty in North Africa, Italy, and Corsica. Another brother, Noah, had just left for Europe with an infantry division.

“Jesse’s remains were buried in a temporary grave at the U.S. cemetery at Margraten near Aachen, Germany. During this stage of World War II, this cemetery was accepting approximately 500 bodies a day to be buried. It presently covers 65 acres with the remains of 8,300 soldiers.

“Jesse Lorhr’s body was returned and buried in the Culpeper National Cemetery on 2 December 1948. His medals included the Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters.”

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Carter, “Sgt. Jesse Cleveland Lohr,” *Orange County Historical Society Record*, Vol. 49, No.1 (Spring 2018), 7.