Luther Curtis   Luxembourg
January 8, 1945
U.S. Army
Company K, 319th Infantry Regiment
80th Infantry Division

Sources: *Chillicothe Gazette,* 80th Division Veterans Association website: 80thdivision.com

     Luther Curtis was born to Andrew and Martha (Lott) Curtis in Ross County, Ohio, on June 25, 1908, and had closer ties to earlier American warfighters than most World War II soldiers. His father was a Civil War veteran of Company A, 122nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which fought under General Ulysses S. Grant in the 1864 campaign in Virginia and was present at General Robert E. Lee's surrender in 1865. Curtis had five sisters and six brothers, one of whom was almost 20 years older and a veteran of World War I. Luther was 10 years old when his brother served at Camp Sherman, located north of Chillicothe.

     Luther enlisted in the Ohio National Guard prior to 1930 and was mentioned in *The Chillicothe Gazette* as one of the local soldiers who had been called to Columbus to quell the riots in the Ohio Penitentiary on May 2, 1930. Luther was employed by William H. Ringwald, who owned a plumbing shop on Second Street. His unit, Company A, 166th Infantry, was mobilized and sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi in 1940.

     The 166th became a separate unit on January 16, 1942, and moved to New Orleans. Luther may have remained in Mississippi, as his brother's obituary on March 12 listed Luther as being in Camp Shelby, although other parts of his unit were on the islands of Aruba and Curacao off the coast of Venezuela, which were under threat of shelling by German submarines. On October 15, 1942, *The Chillicothe Gazette* reported that Luther was assigned to Company K, which moved to Ft. Barrancas, in Pensacola, Florida. In April 1943, Luther's battalion returned to Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Portions of the unit would transfer to Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, but many individual soldiers became replacements. Luther was eventually assigned to Company K, 319th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, either before it deployed to England in June 1944, or shortly thereafter.

     The 80th Infantry Division was part of the 3rd Army, commanded by General George S. Patton, Jr., which rapidly pushed across France. When the Germans counterattacked in the Ardennes, the 80th was moved northward to Luxembourg and was one of the units Patton committed to relieve the encircled 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium. Afterwards, the 80th was ordered to capture the towns of Goesdorf and Dahl. On January 6, Companies K and L entered Goesdorf and began "mopping up" operations. The morning report for January 7 noted that Pfc. Luther Curtis, 35002270, had been killed in action north of Goesdorf. Two other soldiers of his company, Pfc. Charles D. Bryant and Pvt. Edward M. Adzema, were wounded the same day. Luther is buried in Plot F, Row 12, Grave 13 of the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the same cemetery as General Patton.