

HOMETOWN OF BROOKINGS, SD. LT CLEFISCH ENTERED SOUTH DAKOTA STATE AND THE ROTC PROGRAM IN FALL OF 1940. AFTER COMPLETING 3RD YEAR OF COLLEGE, THE ARMY DECIDED THEY NEEDED BODIES NOW, RATHER THAN LATER. TOOK BASIC TRAINING AT CAMP WOLTERS, TEXAS. LT CLEFISCH COMPLETED OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS) AT FT. BENNING, GEORGIA ON APRIL 18TH, 1944 AND WAS COMMISSIONED A 2ND LT.

HE WAS ASSIGNED TO LEAD THE 2^{ND} PLATOON OF 409^{TH} , D-COMPANY WATER-COOLED 30CAL MACHINE GUNNERS AT CAMP HOWZE, TEXAS.

DURING THE TRIP TO FRANCE, HE UNDERWENT SURGERY FOR APPENDICITIS ABOARD TRANSPORT SHIP. IN OCT. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO 409^{TH} HQ AS REGIMENTAL LIAISON OFFICER WHILE RECOVERING.

IN EARLY 1945, LT CLEFISCH RETURNED TO D-CO AS 3RD PLATOON LEADER (81MM MORTARS) AND FORWARD OBSERVER. HE WAS WOUNDED ON MARCH 22ND, 1945 AND RETURNED TO D-CO AS WAR WAS ENDING IN EARLY MAY WHERE HE SERVED ANOTHER YEAR OF OCCUPATION DUTIES INCLUDING DISPLACED PERSONS AND RECRUITING OFFICER.

HE WAS DISCHARGED MAY 26, 1946 AS 1ST LT.