

# HOUESVILLE STELE

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**H/502 PIR**  
**101st Airborne**  
**Division**

June 03, 2024

By : Yvan, Max Le PAGE



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# Prelude

I've been fascinated by history since I was a teenager, particularly the two American airborne divisions that took part in the Allied Operations in Normandy on June 6, 1944. I was interested in the history of the 101st Airborne Division « *Screaming Eagles* » at an early age.

Meeting Dan Mc Bride and Guy Whidden in 2014 sealed my passion for this division, and in particular for the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

In 2018, we acquired a house in HOUESVILLE at a place called « La PIERRE ». A Village ideally located between Carentan and Sainte-Mère-Eglise. After major renovation work, we opened a lodging on this site the « Kyle Lodge Normandy HQ » whose interior design recalls the airborne operation in our sector.

Shortly after buying our house, I met several people from the village, including **Hubert HENOT**, whose two grandfathers had lived during the D-Day landings.

Hubert told me that his grandfathers, from the very first night, had been in direct contact with American paratroopers who had mistakenly landed in this area. He added that his forefathers had buried American soldiers who died in combat on the outskirts of the village during this period.

A surprising revelation for me, as there is no mention in any books of sticks dropping on HOUESVILLE...

Other elders had told me that the stone next to my house had been placed there because American soldiers had been killed there.

In the end, I would learn later that the stone had been placed on the initiative of **Raymond Brotin**, the commune's former mayor, to mark the spot known as « La Pierre » but the elders confirmed that soldiers had indeed been killed nearby.

Who were they? Where were they buried? What were the circumstances of their death? It remained a mystery, and I wanted to identify them to pay them the tribute they deserved, and finally bring them out of oblivion...

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## An investigation into history

For our purposes here, it all began some ten years ago with the discovery of a photo in a book by Mark BANDO on the history of the 101st US Airborne Division, during the Allied operations in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

The caption attached to this photograph stated : **502nd graves, at D+4** and stated that the photograph had been taken by an American soldier, Red LARSEN, in **HOUESVILLE** on June 10, 1944. Four 502nd soldiers, including Red LARSEN, take a stand in front of freshly dug 502nd PIR troopers graves without any further details.

Only the soldiers present are identified. From left to right, Thorwald « Red » LARSEN, Bill GIBBONS, Joe BASS and Dick BEAVER. LARSEN, BASS and BEAVER had jumped onto DZ "D" with the Pathfinders..



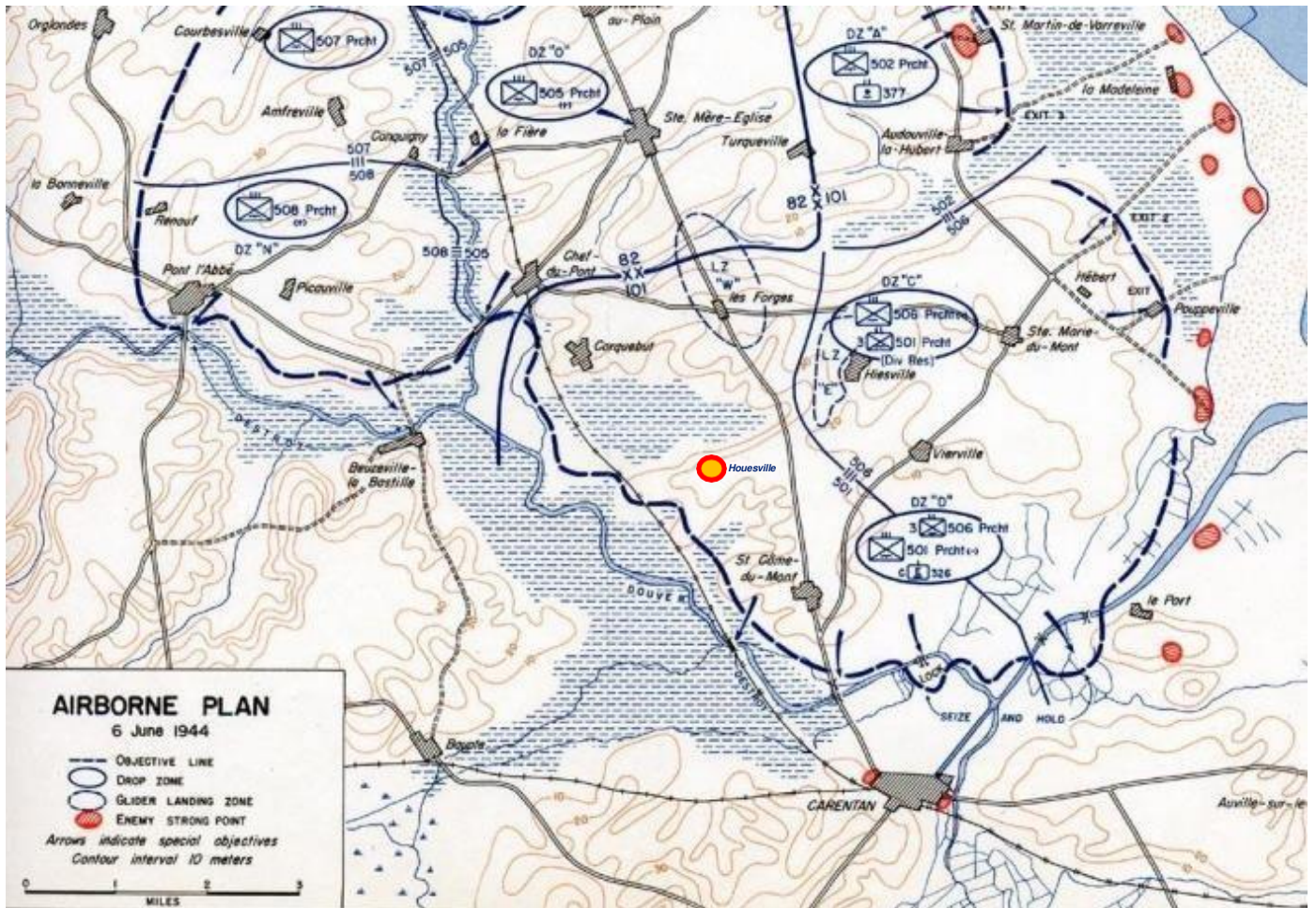
*(Sources book of Mark Bando)*

No indication was given in relation to the identity of the soldiers buried, or the location of the graves. However, there was no dispute as to whether these fallen soldiers belonged to the 502nd, given the small white hearts clearly visible on their helmets.

As everyone knows, during the preparations for the opening of a second front to the west and the decision by the Allied command to land in Normandy, after many changes, it was decided that the 82nd Airborne would jump over the Sainte-Mère-Eglise - Chef du Pont - Picauville areas to take 3 bridges and that the 101st Airborne's primary objectives would be to hold the 4 beach exits (502nd PIR & 506nd PIR) and the « La Barquette » lock (501nd PIR).

The weather and German air defences were to decide otherwise and, as we know, caused the para sticks to disperse well outside their planned jump zones.





But when I did my research, there was little information on the history of the village's liberation, other than that it had been liberated on June 8, 1944 by the 101st Airborne.

Was Hoesville spared from the fighting, as it was located on the edge of the zone of operations, or simply forgotten by the history books ?

With the help of **Philippe NEKRASSOFF** (historian and author), we began to search through his extensive personal documentation and initially realized that at least three sticks had possibly landed in HOUESVILLE, including the Pathfinders (stick 20) in charge of marking out the glider landing zone (LZ W) at a place called « Les FORGES » (BLOSVILLE). Another post-war map showed 3 sticks belonging to the 501st or 506th.

The presence of paratroops was not in doubt, since according to Hubert's information, both his grandfathers had specified that : the evening of June 5, 1944 :

*« night had fallen and they'd come face to face with a group of a dozen US Paratroopers gathered in their garden. For the record, one of them was eating onions he'd picked himself... »*

They asked for the direction of **Hiesville** which they confused with Liesville Sur Douve. It would appear that the elements of Stick 20 were trying to reach their mission area. In their memories, the paratroopers left shortly afterwards, heading north along the RN13 towards La Croix Pan crossroads. (Blosville / Carentan / Hiesville / Hoesville).

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This confirmed our cross-checks examinations on the presence of paratroopers in the commune, including Pathfinders, in the early hours of Operation Albany. Philippe's information proved that other sticks had fallen on top and around the village during the 101st Airborne's mass airdrop. This information was corroborated by the testimony of **Staff Sgt OYLER** (502nd) who belonged to the stick of 502nd Surgeon doctor **George Lage**, who told having landed at the church of Houesville. His stick was scattered over several kilometers, as 502nd Surgeon Doc Lage remembered landing near Le Holdy (Sainte Marie Du Mont).

A conversation with **Vincent LECUYER** whose family also comes from HOUESVILLE, confirmed that, according to his family, soldiers had been killed and buried next to « la PIERRE ».

The picture was the one we were interested in.

At the presumed date of the photo (June 10, 1944), the US Grave Registration Service (GRS), responsible for identifying the dead and burying them in temporary cemeteries, was already active. There was little logic in American soldiers killed in action being buried by a roadside other than by civilians. In fact, their services « collected » them in order to identify them formally and give them a decent burial, even provisionally.

On June 8, 1944, the village of HOUESVILLE was completely liberated by elements of the 101st AIRBORNE / 502nd PIR and more particularly by parachutists from the 3rd Battalion.

All that remained was a process of elimination to identify these men. To do this, we had to search the registers of provisional cemeteries opened during this period.

In fact, the U.S. Army's GRS service in charge of burying soldiers killed in action recorded in these registers many elements that made it possible to identify the body, the nature of its wounds, the place where the soldier had fallen, as well as the personal effects he held and what was returned to the family.

By enlarging the photo, we assumed that there were at least 5 graves visible and not four graves as we had originally thought.

**Philippe** has therefore proceeded by elimination, cemetery by cemetery, which was not easy, given the number of soldiers killed in action in the first days of D-Day. The most likely lead, given that soldiers were often buried side by side in the order of collection, was that we would find at least 5 soldiers belonging to the 502nd killed on the same day, at the same place..

The surprise came from the **provisional cemetery of BLOSVILLE** (Carquebut) « Clos de la Quarantaine » in which was recorded at **Square D - Graves 103 to 108**, several soldiers who could match to the ones we were looking for.

Indeed, six graves belonged to soldiers of the 502nd. Soldiers listed as killed during this period, four of whom mentioned they had been « picked up » at a place called « **Les SIMONS** ». The topographical coordinates placed them at a few distances from the place called « **La PIERRE** ».

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These four soldiers were **PFC Delbert L. TROUTMAN** (103), **CPL Wilbur E. CAMPBELL** (104), **PFC Ray E. SANDERS** (105) and **PVT Adrian J. PELLETIER** (106).

Assuming that there were at least 5 graves visible in the photo, we only had four bodies listed. « Aux SIMONS ».

Would the 5th be the **S/SGT Davis H. VAUGHAN** (107)?

And was **SGT Norwood A. CUMMING** (108) part of this group?

The lead of 6 graves seemed plausible and should be explored..

In the course of my research, I was surprised to learn the following on a forum dedicated to veterans' families seeking information about their forebears :

*« On the evening of June 8, 1944, Sgt Norwood Cumming of H/502 led a patrol between Houesville and St Côme du Mont, France.*

*This patrol went in search of another, led by Lt Ralph Gehauf from 3/502 S-2.*

*When the first patrol didn't return, Cumming's patrol went out to look for them, but was ambushed.*

*I believe that Cumming, Troutman and another H Co. man, whose name I don't remember, were ambushed and killed while searching for Gehauf's group.*

*After the research group was shot down, Gehauf's patrol returned unharmed.*

*Then a reply : « Thank you Mark for the additional information, 4 years ago when you explained the fate of the patrol. During my research on the parachutist whose grave I refer to the American cemetery of COLLEVILLE. The paratrooper is Adrian J. PELLETIER from H Company, you told me he fell with the patrol. I'm still looking for that photo! »*

This clarification led us to reconsider our original idea, and as Philippe had suggested, even if there were only 5 graves in the photo, there could be more. What became certain was that the patrol consisted of at least the SGT Norwood A. CUMMING, the PFC Delbert L. TROUTMAN and the PVT Adrian J. PELLETIER.

Information confirmed on another website : <https://www.database-memoire.eu/prive/fr/normandy-tous-soldats/51-colleville-p-fr/3984-pelletier-adrian-j-502-pir-101-ad>

So the lead on the 6 tombs (103 to 108) confirmed our initial research, even if there were anomalies in the presumed dates of death of two of them (VAUGHAN & CUMMING).

It is more than likely that they were killed on June 8, 1944, rather than on 7. Indeed, it would have been difficult to take over the patrol for CUMMING on the evening of the 8th, when he was declared dead on the 7th..



**Staff Sergeant  
Davis Hershel Vaughan**  
Born March 13, 1919  
In Cleburne, Alabama  
ID 6399370



**Sergeant  
Norwood A. CUMMING**  
Born Sept. 23, 1918  
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
ID 33135896

At this stage of our research, we could presume that they might be the following soldiers :

**PFC Delbert L. TROUTMAN #37523520**  
KIA Jun 08 44, Hoesville - Les Simons  
101AB/502nd/H Co  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 103  
Transfer of the body to Goodrich Cemetery - Goodrich - Kansas, USA

**CPL Wilbur E. CAMPBELL #34123319**  
KIA Jun 08 44, Hoesville - Les Simons  
101AB/502nd/HQ C/O  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 104  
Transfer of the body to Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery, Georgia, USA

**PFC Ray E. SANDERS #39407343**  
KIA Jun 08 44, Hoesville - Les Simons  
101AB/502nd/H Co  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 105  
Transfer of the body to Normandy American Cemetery, FR (Plot C Row 25 Grave 8)

**PVT Adrian J. PELLETIER #31082698**  
KIA Jun 08 44, Hoesville - Les Simons  
101AB/502nd/H Co  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 106  
Transfer of the body to Normandy American Cemetery, FR (Plot D, Row 25, Grave 35)

**S/SGT Davis H. VAUGHAN #6399370**  
KIA Jun 07 44 - Hoesville  
101AB/502nd/H Co  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 107  
Transfer of the body to Heflin Cemetery, Heflin, Alabama, USA

**SGT Norwood A. CUMMING #33135896**  
KIA Jun 07 44 - Hoesville  
101AB/502nd/H Co  
Provisional Cemetery of Blosville D 6 108  
Transfer of the body to Normandy American Cemetery, FR (Plot D, Row 18, Grave 11)



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Despite extensive internet research, all we were missing was the date of birth and the photo of **Sergeant Norwood A. CUMMING**. These documents have been kindly provided by Mr. **Eric BELLOC** from the Airborne MUSEUM in Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

Norwood is still in Colleville Sur Mer American Cemetery, Cumming has been repatriated to the United States Unis.

## TURN OF EVENTS

Everything seemed simple: one photo, six presumed graves, six soldiers who could be identified. It all seemed possible until another photo was sent to us by Mr. van den BRINK (see photo below).

This new (undated) photograph features 4 soldiers gathering at the graves. And there are only four graves present!

So we had to go back and, dare I say it, dig deeper into the story.



*(Source Denis van den Brink)*



Philippe Nekrassoff has succeeded in obtaining the « Morning Report » of the H/502 and no more possible doubts. VAUGHAN & CUMMING were reported killed in action on June 7, 1944..

So it's impossible for them to be buried there.

However, the Morning Report of June 9, 1944, lists the following as killed in action on June 8, 1944 : **PFC Delbert L. TROUTMAN** #37523520, **CPL Wilbur E. CAMPBELL** #34123319, **PFC Ray E. SANDERS** #39407343 and **PVT Adrian J. PELLETIER** #31082698.



**Private First class  
Delbert Lee TROUTMAN**  
Born Nov. 14, 1923  
Osawatomie, Kansas  
ID 37523520



**Caporal  
Wilbur Elvin CAMPBELL**  
Born Jan. 17, 1908  
Yorkville, Georgia  
ID 34123319



**Private First class  
Ray E. SANDERS**  
Born Oct. 26, 1923  
Kern, California  
ID 39407343



**Private  
Adrian J. PELLETIER**  
Born Feb. 23, 1920  
Essex, Massachusetts  
ID 31082698

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## PRECIOUS INFORMATION

To confirm these new information, I called on local memories that are still very much alive almost 80 years later. Mrs Jacqueline MARIE (1931), former Headmistress of the Houesville school and in particular to Mrs Denise FORTIN born MICHEL (1930).

Mrs MARIE had told me that as a child (13 years old), she would go to flower and pay her respects on these graves with Mrs FORTIN. For her, there were four in her memory.

Mrs FORTIN (93 years old) almost always lived in Houesville and spent a large part of his life in the village of « La Pierre ». Despite the years, her memories remain intact, and she gave me a small notebook in which she had transcribed her recollections on more than fifty pages.

In 2004, at the time of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings, she decided to write down all her memories in this notebook. This document was a gold mine, with so many details. Denise was 14 at the time of D-Day and lived with her parents in the hamlet « La Pierre » (3 houses at this time).

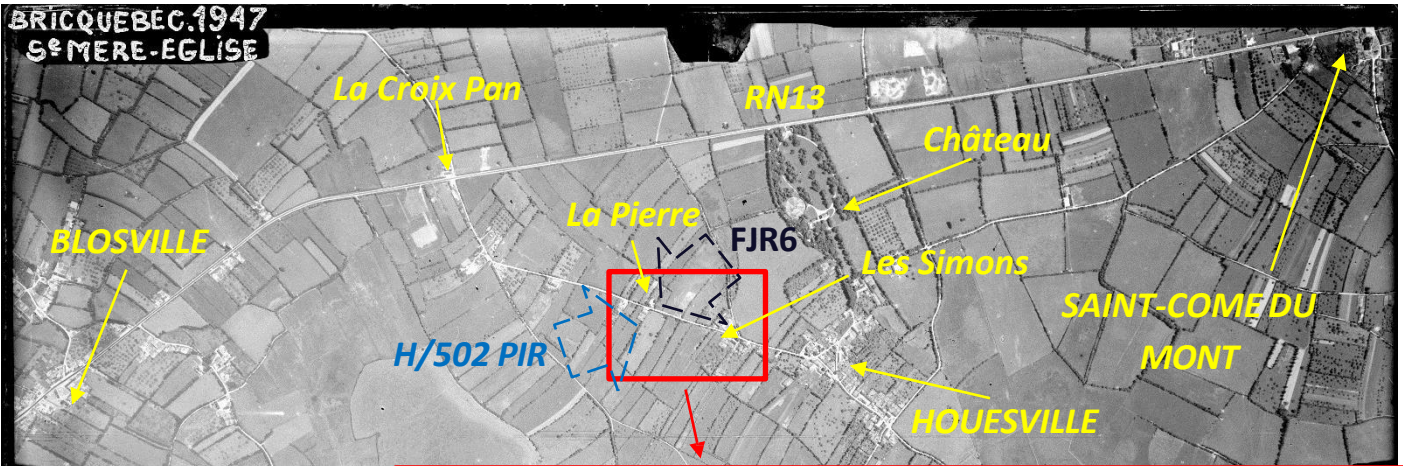
It would be impossible to transcribe all of it here, so I'm going to concentrate on the essentials and the part that interests us.

- Four American soldiers of the 502nd PIR were buried at « La Pierre » by the inhabitants of Houesville on the morning of June 8, 1944.
- These soldiers were killed in the fighting to liberate Houesville, which took place at « La Pierre » on June 8, 1944 between 2:00 a.m. and dawn (and I quote).
- The fighting was very violent and localized at the hamlet site « La Pierre ». German troops at the « ferme Mouchel » and the Americans in front of her house on the northwest side of the road on June 08, 1944.
- 3 of these soldiers (H/502nd) were killed on the road near my house towards the monolith and another at the Presbytery in the village, most probably Campbell (HQ/502nd). The body was brought back by American soldiers to be buried together.
- The graves were dug by local residents on the orders of American paratroopers. As an anecdote, one of the civilians present asked to take a break for lunch, which irritated a soldier who made him understand that he would not be allowed to eat until his comrades had been buried.
- The crosses were made by M. Jérôme LEVAVASEUR and bore the names of soldiers killed in action.
- The graves, which had been tended and decorated with flowers, were not removed until the spring of 1945, according to the witness.
- The location of the tombs is in conformity with our research and positioned as shown on the plan.
- 40 German soldiers were stationed at Château of Houesville.

The bodies of Ray E. SANDERS and Adrian J. PELLETIER are still in the Colleville-Sur-Mer American Cemetery, while the others have been repatriated to the United States.

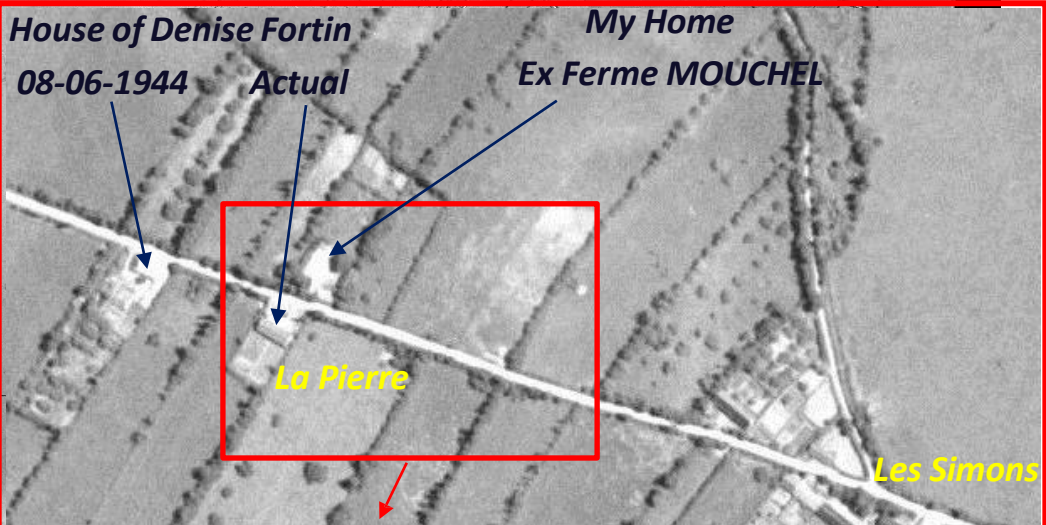


BRICQUEBEC.1947  
S<sup>TE</sup>MERE-EGLISE

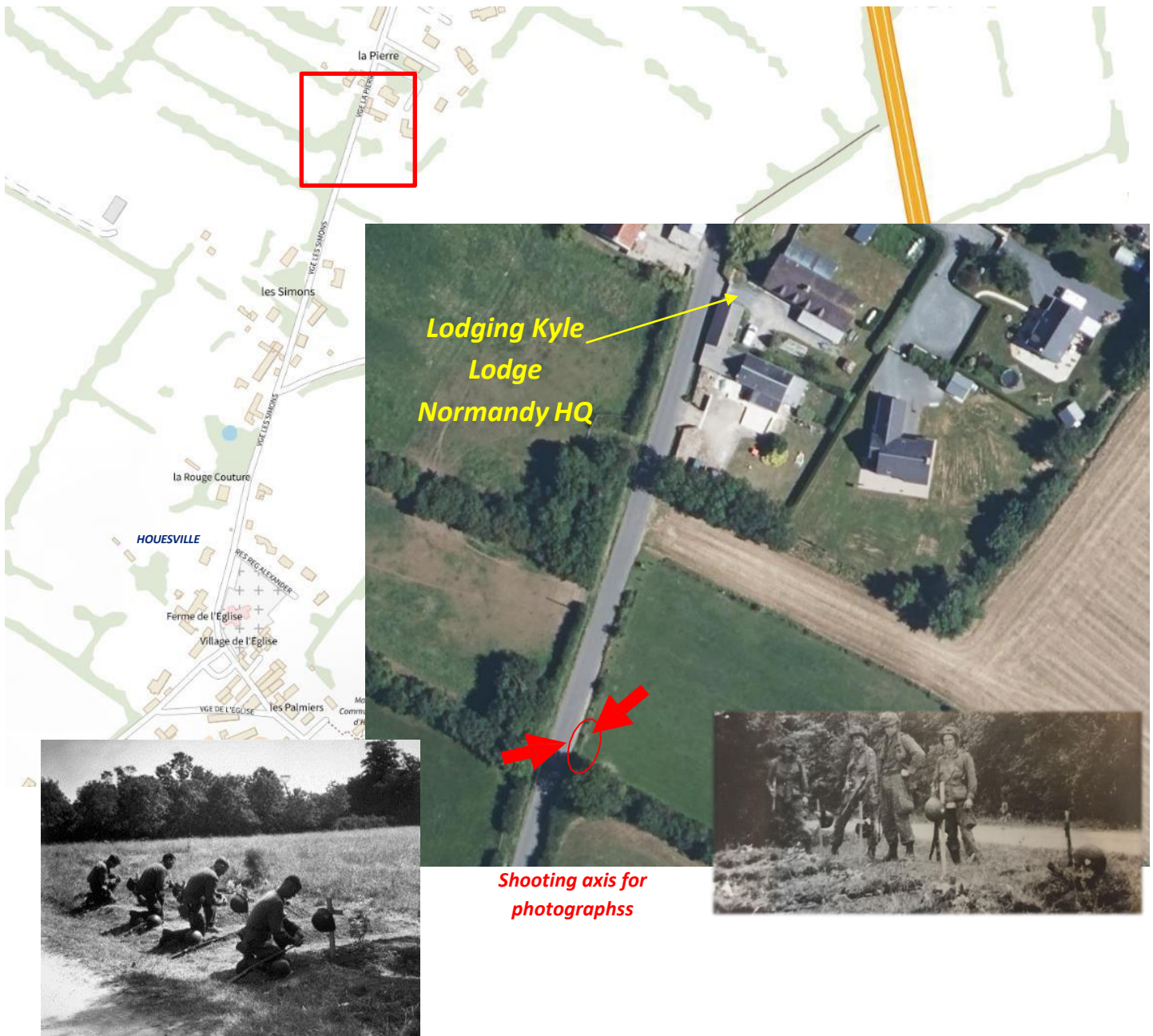


House of Denise Fortin  
08-06-1944

My Home  
Ex Ferme MOUCHEL







## MORE INFORMATIONS

Drop Zone A is the first D-DAY meet-up for the 502nd. Unfortunately, conditions decided otherwise, and the airdrops were scattered.

On June 7, 1944, the 3rd Battalion took up position on the western edge of Houesville, probably south of Blosville, at « La Croix Pan » (Houesville) facing the enemy lines. This location is a lock that blocks the RN13 and the Hiesville road, access to Blosville and the Forges crossroads.

On June 8, 1944, Company H, commanded by Captain **Cecil L. SIMMONS** (photo opposite) reject



Capt Cecil L. SIMMONS

A German attack (fallschirmjager - FJR6) west of the village.

On the evening of that day, a patrol commanded by the S2 Battalion (1st Lieutenant Ralph B. GEHAUF) was sent to make contact with the battalion's HQ, which was supposed to be at the « château de Blosville », which was in fact the château de FRANQUETOT (Carquebut - Eturville)...

### Morning Report

STATION <u>Chilton Foliat, VU 7791, Cassini</u>			
ORGANIZATION <u>Co H, 502d Preht Inf</u>		Inf	
<small>(CO, DET, ETC.)</small>		<small>(GRADE OR SERVICE)</small>	
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
12 092 923	Goldberg, Joseph	Pvt	M
Dy to KIA 6 Jun 44			
6 399 370	Vaughan, Davis H.	S/Sgt	M
33 135 896	Cumming, Norwood A.	Sgt	M
Dy to KIA 7 Jun 44			
37 523 520	Troutman, Delbert L.	Pfc	M
39 407 343	Sanders, Ray E.	Pfc	I
31 082 698	Pelletier, Adrian J.	Pvt	I
Dy to KIA 8 Jun 44			
14 015 118	Ingram, Thomas L.	Pvt	9
32 193 807	Kremer, Jean H.	Sgt	J
Dy to LMA Hosp LD 6 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unsgd to Co 6 Jun 44			
13 027 203	Yochum, Julius F.	Pvt	4
Dy to Hosp LD LMA 7 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unsgd to Co 6 Jun 44			
11 039 261	Blain, Joseph A.	Pfc	J
<b>RESTRICTED</b>			
OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT
	PRESEN ABSEN	PRESEN ABSEN	PRESEN ABSEN
ASGD			
ATCHD UNASGD			
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			
TOTAL			
AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY
			PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY
			ABSENT
			PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGD			
ATCHD UNASGD			
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			
TOTAL			
R	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR DAY OF WEEK		NUMBER
A	DATE		
T	MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT		TOTAL AVERAGE
I	BREAKFAST	DINNER SUPPER	
O	MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY		
N	MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS		NET
S	MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS		OTHERS MESSED
	PRESENT	LESS	PLUS
PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES			
<small>I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PART II REPRESENT AN ACTUAL COUNT AS REPORTED TO ME.</small>			
SIGNATURE			
<small>U.S. G.O. FORM NO. 1 (REVISED) JULY 1, 1943</small>			
<small>WD COPY THRU MRU OR SCU</small>			

**502nd - H co**  
(June 7 to 9, 1944)

It can be seen that:

Vaughan and Cumming were declared killed in action (KIA) on June 7, 1944.

Delbert L. Troutman, Ray E. Sanders and Adrian J. Pelletier were declared killed in action (KIA) on June 8, 1944.

This confirms our information that Sergeant Cumming could not have been at the head of the patrol that went in search of Lt GEHAUF on June 8, 44, as some on the Internet have suggested. We can also exclude Staff Sergeant Vaughan for the same reasons.



**MORNING REPORT** ENDING 15 Jun 1944

STATION Chilton Point, VU 7791, Cassini  
 ORGANIZATION Co H, 502d Prcht Inf Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
37 007 896	Moore, Curtis H.	Pfc	9
Dy to Hosp LD LWA 8 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 8 Jun 44			
35 287 200	Valek, Laddie	Cpl	9
33 131 170	McLaughlin, Frank A.	Pfc	9
Dy to Hosp LD LIA 6 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 6 Jun 44			
01 314 112	Duffy, Andrew P.	2d Lt	9
Dy to Hosp LD LIA 7 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 7 Jun 44			
20 341 076	Mentzer, Daniel A.	Pvt	9
20 309 033	Bisenberger, James G.	Cpl	9
Dy to Hosp LD LIA 8 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 8 Jun 44			
39 006 542	Owens, John E.	Pfc	9
Dy to Hosp LD LWA 8 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 8 Jun 44			

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLY O
	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST
ASGD					
ATCHD UNASGD					
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL					

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DT	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGD						
ATCHD UNASGD						
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN						
TOTAL						

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DAY OF WEEK DATE			NUM-ER
	BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER	
MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT				
MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY				
MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS				
MEN PRESENT				

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

STATION Chilton Point, VU 7791, Cassini  
 ORGANIZATION Co H, 502d Prcht Inf Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
RECORD OF EVENTS			
7-9 Moved fr St Germain de Varreville to Hoesville 7 Jun 44. action against Enemy Parachutists at Hoesville, casualties heavy. Set up defensive positions NE of Hoesville 9 Jun 44			
1 Off LIA			
6 EM KIA			
6 EM LWA			
4 EM LIA			

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLY O
	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST	PRES ABST
ASGD		3	5		
ATCHD UNASGD	1		1		
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN					
TOTAL	1	3	3	1	

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DT	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ASGD			98		1	99
ATCHD UNASGD					12	12
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			5			5
TOTAL			103		13	116

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR	DAY OF WEEK DATE			NUM-ER
	BREAKFAST	DINNER	SUPPER	
MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT				
MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY				
MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS				
MEN PRESENT				

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

SIGNATURE N. SWEENEY Capt Inf

On Page 3/3, the following is indicated :

« Event recording »

Moving from St Germain de Vareville to Hoesville on June 7, 44. Action against enemy paratroops in Hoesville, heavy losses. Setting up a defensive position north-east of Hoesville on June 9, 44.

1 officer wounded (LIA)

6 soldiers killed in action (KIA)

6 soldiers lightly wounded (LWA)

4 soldiers wounded (LIA)



# 502nd - HQ co 3rd Battalion

(June 7 to 9, 1944)

Page 1/2

Page 2/2

**MORNING REPORT** 2400 1944

STATION Chilton Foliat, VU 7791, Cassini  
 ORGANIZATION Hq Co 3d Bn, 502d Proht Inf Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
34 123 319	Campbell, Wilbur E.	Pvt	M
Dy to KIA 8 Jun 44			
01 289 657	Watson, Ralph A, Jr	1st Lt	9
38 071 201	Worham, Henry P.	Cpl	9
Dy to LWA remained for dy 6 Jun 44			
37 283 939	Watsch, Anton	Pfc	9
12 054 925	Cady, Willis M.	Pfc	J
20 402 383	Smith, R. V. (IO)	Pvt	Ax:9
Dy to Hosp LD LWA 6 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd & atchd unasgd to Co 6 Jun 44			
17 056 426	Outlaw, William L.	Col	9
Dy to LIA 6 Jun 44 remained for dy			
32 348 679	Curry, Bernard P.	Sgt	9
Dy to Hosp LD LIA Reld fr asgd & atchd to Co unasgd as of 6 Jun 44			
34 773 013	Grindstaff, Raymond SG	Pvt	9
Dy to Hosp LD LIA 8 Jun 44 Reld fr asgd			

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLT O
PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST
ASGD	4	6	2		
ATCHD UNASGD					
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN	2	1			
TOTAL	6	7	2		

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN		
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT
ASGD				133	133
ATCHD UNASGD					18
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			12		12
TOTAL			145	18	163

RESTRICTED

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF WEEK: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

BREAKFAST: \_\_\_\_\_ DINNER: \_\_\_\_\_ SUPPER: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY: \_\_\_\_\_ MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ NET: \_\_\_\_\_ O & OTHERS MESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_ LESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PART II REPRESENT AN ACTING COUNT AS REPORTED TO ME.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. G.A.S. FORM NO. 1 (MAY 31, 1943) (GRADE) (NAME) (LAST OR SERVICE)

STATION Chilton Foliat, VU 7791, Cassini  
 ORGANIZATION Hq Co 3d Bn, 502d Proht Inf Inf

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
& atchd unasgd to Co 8 Jun 44			

**RECORD OF EVENTS**

7-9 Moved fr St Martin de Varreville to position S of Housville. Engaged and drove enemy across Douve River 8 Jun Took up defensive position at Housville.

1 Off LWA
1 EM KIA
4 EM LWA
3 EM LIA

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	WO	FLT O
PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST	PRES	ABST
ASGD	4	6	2		
ATCHD UNASGD					
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN	2	1			
TOTAL	6	7	2		

AVN CADET & ENL STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN		
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PRESENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT
ASGD			133		133
ATCHD UNASGD					18
ATCHD FR OTHER ORGN			12		12
TOTAL			145	18	163

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RATIONS REQUIRED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF WEEK: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

BREAKFAST: \_\_\_\_\_ DINNER: \_\_\_\_\_ SUPPER: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY: \_\_\_\_\_ MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ NET: \_\_\_\_\_ O & OTHERS MESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEN PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_ LESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT RATION FIGURES IN PART II REPRESENT AN ACTING COUNT AS REPORTED TO ME.

SIGNATURE: H. A. Sweeney  
H. A. SWEENEY Capt Inf

U.S. G.A.S. FORM NO. 1 (MAY 31, 1943) (GRADE) (NAME) (LAST OR SERVICE)

- 1 / Wilbur E. Campbell is declared killed in action (KIA) on June, 8 1944.
- 2 / Defensive position at Housville.

Campbell would therefore be our 4th man, the one who was killed in front of the Housville presbytery and brought back to be buried on June 8, 1944 with the 3 paratroopers of the H Co (source Denise Fortin).

Notebook of Denise FORTIN

9

7 Juin

La journée se déroule normalement jusqu'au milieu de l'après-midi. Les Américains sont dans le petit état à pommices ou la vache est tirée puis viennent parler à papa. A ce moment 1 soldat allemand entre par la porte de devant pour demander des corps pour s'en débarrasser. Maman lui en donne 1 gratuite, heureusement car si il l'avait payé les Américains qui seraient arrivés pour allumer la cigarette de papa l'auraient vu, presque ~~enfin~~ le soldat <sup>allemand</sup> referme la porte à l'instant même ou les parachutistes s'avancent et là! Maman moi et Georges étions dans la cuisine plus tard une balle perdue est fichée dans la fenêtre sa trajecture était telle que le berceau de George aurait été touché, il était couché.

En soirée un groupe d'ants parais

10

Denise recalls that another group of paratroopers showed up and that her father believed them that they were Allies because he didn't know that uniform : round helmet with a camouflaged jacket. It was the color of the pants that had alerted Denise...

They were in presence of elements of FJR 6. This information confirms the presence of German paratroopers on the evening of June 7, 1944 in the commune of Houesville.

tes-allemands passent et demandent de l'eau, nous ne connaissions pas ces uniformes avec un casque rond différent de ceux qui nous étaient familiers, croyant que c'était des libérateurs <sup>de l'ouest d'un côté camouflés</sup>, papa leur donna du sucre et les a félicités, en patois, je lui fais remarquer la couleur du pantalon vert et il devient très prudent & Bever nous avait fait la même erreur. Ce que nous avait induits dans cette idée était que 1<sup>h</sup> plus tôt nous avions vu des planeurs descendre à hauteur des arbres arborescents de chez nous et avaient atterri certainement vers Houesville. Il y avait en ce jour la naissance de Beverly Langley prénommée par un américain.



8 Juin

Le 8 du matin, un grand coup de pied  
 dans la porte nous réveille en sursaut.  
 papa se lève sans promettre le temps  
 de son métier et en chemise et pieds  
 nus ouvre la porte aux amonciens  
 qui visitent la maison en cherchant  
 les « Boches, boches » avec leur lanterne  
 torche. m éclaire dans mon lit  
 sans que maman qui ne doit pas  
 être plus rassurée que moi et ils  
 repartent sans plus...  
 mais très peu de temps après la  
 bataille commença nous nous réfugia  
 dans l'office où nous fûmes très  
 sincèrement cela m'a semblé très  
 long, au moment d'une accalmie  
 nous voyons la fumée et un réfugié  
 de St. Harveng qui passe au galop  
 sur la route avec la fumée « facile »,  
 a 4. Deuxième trois officiers par la  
 mitraille.  
 Dans la matinée Luc Totin est venu

June 8, 44, the  
 battle to liberate  
 Houesville begins  
 shortly after 2  
 a.m.

avec son fusil

12

End of fighting in the morning of June 8, 1944.

The fighting are located in the hamlet of La Pierre and have been violent.

3 American soldier's bodies on the road (La Pierre)

Denise FORTIN later told me that she had seen a whole truck loaded with the corpses of German soldiers drive off.

mais dire que la bataille était finie  
Dans la cour les solaittes gisaient  
sans vie ou blessés. La vache est  
dans des branches de pommier coupées  
par la mitraille mais indemne sans  
une blessure, un miracle! la bataille  
se faisant entre les Forques-royes et  
les Pierres au 4<sup>e</sup> Saigney  
Quand nous avons sorti sur la route  
nous avons vu les 3 morts américains et  
des grenades partent, mais au passage  
quand papa était sorti dans la cour  
les américains ont vu que c'était un  
allemand désarmé puisque il avait  
des vêtements propres et l'ont immo-  
né dans le champs de St<sup>e</sup> Monche.  
Quand il a vu 5 ou 6 canons de fuzils  
braqués sur lui il a crié "Français,  
moi Français, papais en montrant  
sont indifférents, très surpris les soldats  
ont baissé leurs armes et l'on insiste  
à donner des renseignements, pendant

ce temps maman et moi étions gardes  
 par plusieurs soldats dans la porte  
 cela j'ai vu que nous appelions "Papa est tu là et  
 nous avons entendu "oui, oui je  
 donne des renseignements" et  
 un soldat l'esse avait une balle  
 dans la joue et des blessures au  
 corps nous ont dit ensuite ses ca-  
 marades - à la recherche des "Bobes  
 un soldat mitaille un petit tas de papiers  
 dans l'étable et tira dans la toiture  
 sans motif puis monta au grenier  
 confier que personne n'y était caché  
 Nous avons trouvé une terpille à  
 ailettes dans l'écurie et de très  
 nombreuses grenades que nous  
 supposions être des petites boîtes  
 jusqu'à ce l'on trouve une qui  
 avait un ruban marqué "off qu'on  
 et là nous ne touchons plus à rien!  
 Sur la route de la campagne de  
 la Seine, les Houeroullis commence

This soldier is  
 probably the Pvt  
 Daniel Mentzer or  
 the Cpl James  
 Eisenberger (LIA).

Beginning of  
 testimony about the  
 graves.



14

**Testimony :**

On the edge of the countryside (hamlet) of La Pierre, the Houesvillais begins burying the 3 soldiers killed and a fourth is brought by his comrades. Jérôme LEVAVASSEUR made 4 cross with their names on them, and these grave, flowered by the village remain there several months and will be raised the following spring (1945).

a enterrer les 3 soldats tués et un  
quatrième mit devant le presby-  
tère est appéte par ses camarades  
Jérôme Levavasseur a fabriqué 4  
croix avec leur nom et ces tombe-  
plumes par le village restèrent là  
plusieurs mois et sont relevées  
au printemps suivant  
5 croix pour 4 Français Houes  
ont été tués et plus loin chez  
M<sup>lle</sup> Eugène Marie, Maria-Josy <sup>Boana</sup> qui  
était bonne a été tuée d'un éclat  
dans les reins en jetant l'eau de  
vaisselle -  
Les allemands ayant décroché la  
bataille de Houesville était finie  
Sans nouvelles de Suzanne qui  
travaillait à Carentan nous sommes  
très inquiets  
Le 9 ou 10 juin au moment de  
partir à l'inhumation de Marie-Josy  
Auguste Légean arrive de Carentan

## A few details about the Private Pelletier



Information gathered on the **Private PELLETIER** did however raise questions... The photo shows him wearing the uniform of a mechanized unit, with corporal's stripes. Doubts have arisen as to the attribution of this photo to the Private Adrian J. PELLEIER.

Is a mistake possible ?

Further research on this subject revealed that Adrian J. PELLETIER first enlisted on August 22, 1942 at Fort DEVENS, Massachusetts, where he was assigned to an armored division unit based at Fort KNOX, Kentucky. He obtained the rank of non-commissioned officer. But he decided to join the parachutists, and agreed to sacrifice his non-commissioned officer rank in order to take the training and be commissioned as a parachutist in December 1943.

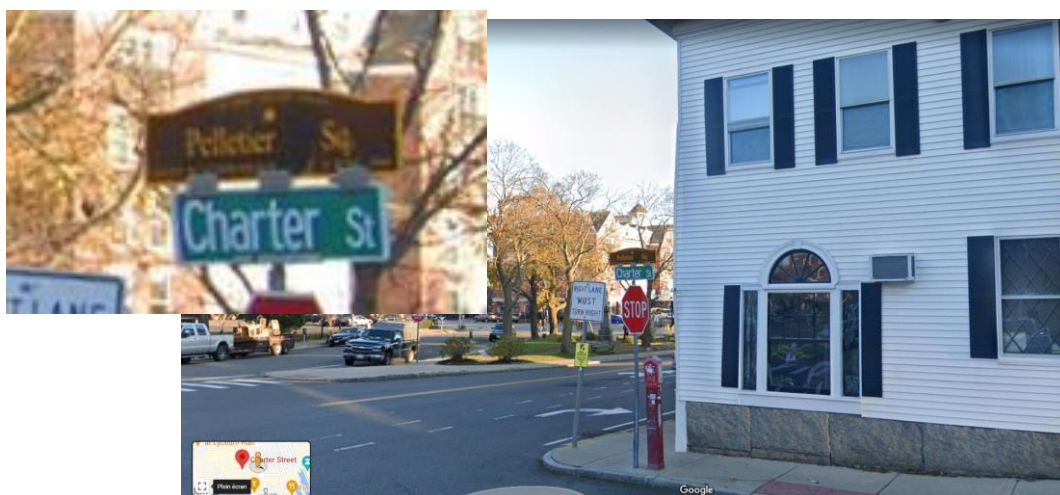
Integrated into the 502nd P.I.R. of the 101st Airborne Division, he and his brothers-in-arms followed the final preparations for their mission in England « La Normandie ».

Adrian was born in Canada, but grew up and was educated in the United States. He had 5 brothers, all of whom served in the U.S. Army during WWII. After graduating, he worked for the A.C. Lawrence Leather Co. Of the 6 Pelletier brothers, Adrian was the only one not to return home.

*(Sources: memory & database)*

To honor his memory, the city of SALEM will name an intersection after him, following a decision by the city council on October 25, 2012. Adrian PELLETIER had lived at 26 Charter Street...

*(Sources: City Of SALEM (USA)).*



*Crossroad Charter Street / Hawthorne Boulevard (City Of Salem - USA)*

## Anecdote concernant le Caporal Wilbur Campbell

Corporal Wilbur Elvin Campbell (mat 34123319) belongs to the HQ compagny of the 3rd Battalion of the 502nd.



According to the Morning Report, Campbell was demoted to 1st class on June 3, 44, following disciplinary action.

It would appear that this is not recorded on his personal file, as he is listed by the GRS as a corporal.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
38 070 915	Cruz GEORGE	Pfc	9
17 041 796	Winslow DENMAR C	s/sgt	1
6 942 575	Glinks JOSEPH W	Pvt	1
Dy to LIA (127) 6 Jun 44 - evacuated to 76 Gen Hosp APO 115			
34 123 319	Campbell	Cpl	
Dy to Conf Post Stockade 3 Jun 44			
34 123 319	Campbell	Cpl	1-8
Rd to Pvt 3 Jun 44 03/66			
34 123 319	Campbell	Pvt	
Conf Post Stockade to dy 5 Jun 44			

RECORD OF EVENTS

France - Three (3) EM LIA 6 Jun 44

RESTRICTED

OFFICER STRENGTH	FLD O & CAPT		1ST LT		2D LT		WO		FLY O	
	PRES	ASST	PRES	ASST	PRES	ASST	PRES	ASST	PRES	ASST
ABSD	4		6		2					
ATKCD UNASD										
ATKCD FR OTHER ORGN	2		1							
TOTAL	6		7		2					

AVN CADET & RES STRENGTH	AVIATION CADETS		ENLISTED MEN			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT FOR DUTY	PERCENT NOT FOR DUTY	ABSENT	PRESENT AND ABSENT
ABSD			149		3	152
ATKCD UNASD						
ATKCD FR OTHER ORGN			12			12
TOTAL			161		3	164

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

W. C. STONER

W C STONER WOJG USA

## CONCLUSIONS

Now we've come full circle.

I don't claim to hold the truth, but this research has been carried out by cross-checking as much information as possible in an objective manner.

At this level, the story resembles a police investigation made up of doubts, presumptions and evidence that are sometimes difficult to find today.

The living testimonies and the transmission of the history lived by the old people of Houesville have been primordial, especially the testimonies of the grandfathers of Hubert, Jacqueline Marie and Denise Fortin.



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As I write these last lines, I have a special thought for the people of Houesville, who had the courage to take care of these soldiers by giving them even a temporary burial..

Let's never forget that the success of Operation Overlord was not sealed in the early days of D-Day, and that they would certainly have paid with their lives for helping American soldiers in their own way.

Thanks to them for their sometimes anonymous commitment.

I hope that this research will be of use to a greater number of people, and in particular to the families of these six soldiers who fell defending our freedom on a June evening in Normandy, far from their homeland.

**« People only really disappear when their names  
are forgotten »**

**Thank you For Your Service and Rest In Peace**

Houesville 2023  
Yvan, Max Le PAGE

I would like to thank all the people who helped me with my research for their help and support, and in particular, M. **Hubert Enot**, M. **Philippe Nekrassoff**, Historian, M. **Vincent Lecuyer**, M. **Eric Belloc** of the Airborne Museum, Mrs. **Denise Fortin**, living memory of 94 years old, Mrs. **Jacqueline Marie**, living memory of 93 years old, M. **Michel Jean**, Deputy Mayor of Houesville, M. **Sébastien Laisné**, 1st Deputy Mayor of Carentan Les Marais, M. **Denis van den Brink**, Historian at city of **Carentan Les Marais**.

*In Memorium*



*Dan Mc Bride*  
502<sup>nd</sup> F-Co



*Guy Whidden*  
502<sup>nd</sup> HQ-Co



*H company - 502<sup>nd</sup> - 101 AB*

