

Andrew Perry.

WWII Code Talker Andrew Perry was nineteen when he enlisted in the United States Army. He was one of the 45th Infantry Division (Thunderbirds) serving under the US Seventh Army. Private Perry is one of four WWII Choctaw Code Talkers, is buried at the Rhone American Military Cemetery in Draguignan, France.

This cemetery is the last resting site for many members of Operation Dragoon, an allied invasion of southern France often called the Second D-Day. Beginning August 15, 1944, the main objective was to develop a second battle front in France. The goal was to split enemy forces between northern France and southern France, giving the Allied Forces a better chance of taking Western Europe. This effort helped liberate France.

The sacrifice paid by the service members laid to rest in the cemetery continues to be honored by the people living in Draguignan. The Souvenir Franco-Americain (SFA) or Franco-American Society chooses a soldier buried in the Rhone American Cemetery each year, and hosts two family members of that soldier over Memorial Day holiday.

In 2018, Andrew Perry was honored, with his niece, Debbie Cheshwalla and cousin, Chad Renfro, traveling to France for a ceremony.

The other three WWII Choctaw Code Talkers were Forreston Baker, Schlicht Billy (both of whom returned home) and Davis Pickens, who was killed while overseas.