

Turnbull, Turner

First Lt. Turner Turnbull, was a member of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He was killed June 7, 1944 and is buried at the Normandy American Cemetery. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

Honor States website has the following information:

He was born in Durant, Bryan County, Oklahoma. He entered the service from Boulder county, Colorado. He was half Native American of the Choctaw Tribe. His great grandparents had walked infamous Choctaw Trail of Tears.

He enlisted in 1939 in the Oklahoma National Guard. When he served In the airborne invasion of Sicily, Turnbull's plane crashed and later he sustained a life threatening abdominal gunshot wound. This alone could have been his ticket home, but he chose to rejoin his men for the D-Day invasion.

At some point First Lt. Turnbull and ten of his men were crawling along a hedgerow, with Turnbull in the lead. They heard one of the many artillery shells coming but in their exposed position, there was no place to go but "flatten out." In a thunderous explosion First Lt. Turnbull was killed by the dead shrapnel.

The citation for the Silver Star reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Turner B. Turnbull (ASN: 0-1291728), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, in action against the enemy at Normandy, France, on 7 June 1944. His gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty, without regard for his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.