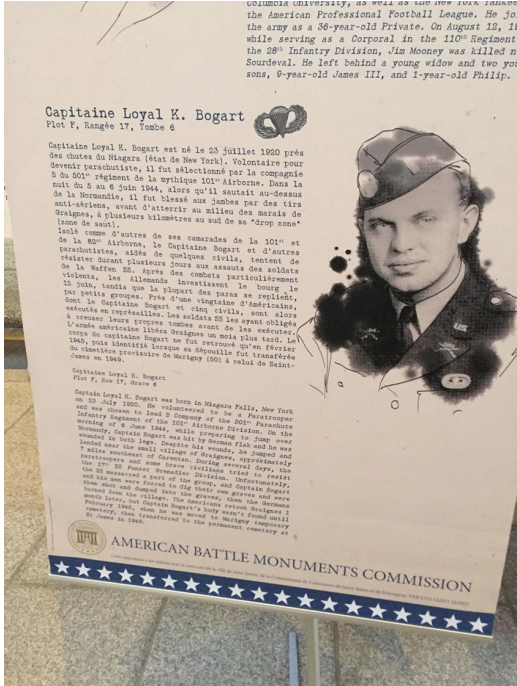


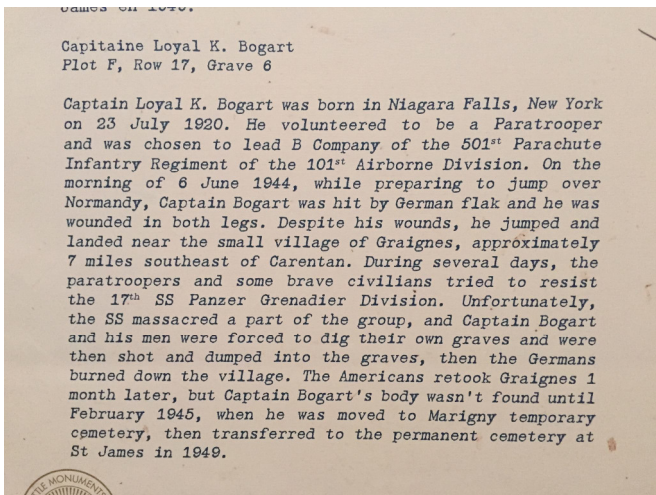
FOIA Request to American Battle Monuments Commission
 American Battle Monuments Commission
 Attn: Martha Sell, FOIA Assistant
 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 500
 Arlington, VA 22201

This is a FOIA request for the following information and Fee Waiver;

At the Brittany American Cemetery there is a display about Captain Loyal Bogart.



Requesting all the documentation pertaining to this display including the person or person who wrote this article shown below and who approved this display.



Thank you,

Brian Siddall
 PO Box 3897
 Ithaca, NY 14852
 researcher@airborneinnormandy.com



AMERICAN BATTLE
MONUMENTS COMMISSION

July 14, 2015

Mr. Brian Siddall
PO Box 3897
Ithaca, NY 14852

Dear Mr. Siddall:

I am responding to your undated Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which we received on June 29, 2015. Your letter was assigned FOIA Tracking No. #3-2015.

A complete or perfected FOIA request needs to state the requestor's willingness to pay any applicable fees or provide justification to support a fee waiver. Your request does not include such a statement. Should you desire the processing of your request to proceed under the FOIA regulations, please provide such a statement.

I will be happy to discuss your concerns about the temporary display at Brittany American Cemetery. If you want, please give me a call at 703-696-6789 or send me an e-mail at nosal@abmc.gov. I can probably answer your questions and dress your concerns over the phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Nosal".

Timothy A. Nosal
Chief of Public Affairs/FOIA Officer

FOIA Request to American Battle Monuments Commission
 American Battle Monuments Commission
 Attn: Martha Sell, FOIA Assistant
 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 500
 Arlington, VA 22201

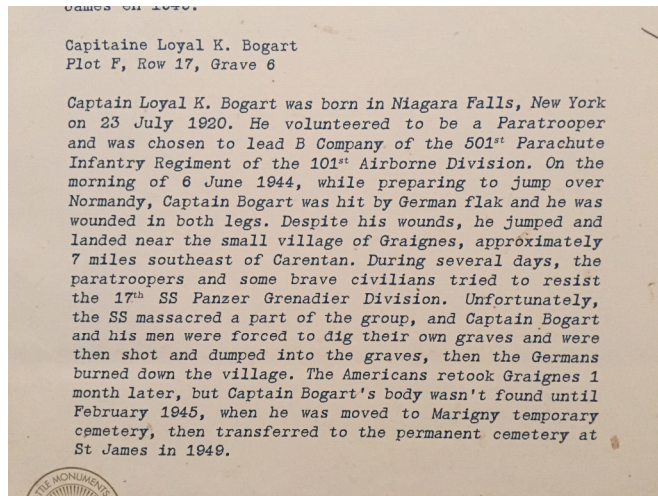
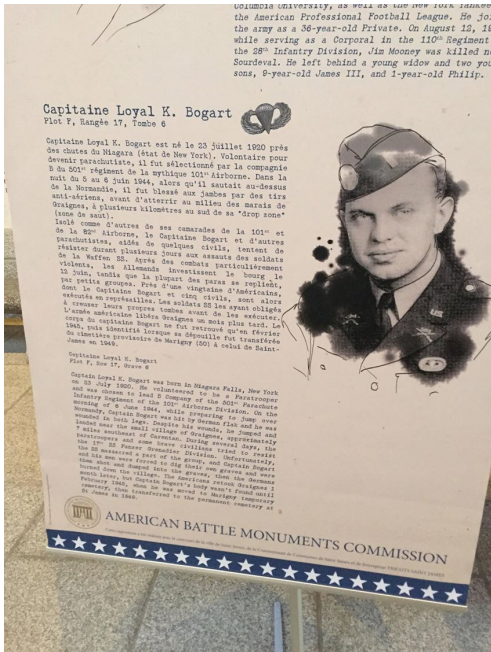
This is a FOIA request for the following information and Fee Waiver;

FEE WAIVERS

Under the FOIA it is possible to have all fees, including copying, waived by the agency if the material requested "is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

This is a scholarly and historical request and will also is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

At the Brittany American Cemetery there is a display about Captain Loyal Bogart.



Requesting all the documentation pertaining to this display including the person or person who wrote this article shown below and who approved this display.

Thank you,

Brian Siddall
 PO Box 3897
 Ithaca, NY 14852
 researcher@airborneinnormandy.com



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

August 12, 2015

Mr. Brian Siddall
P O Box 3897
Ithaca, NY 14852

Dear Mr. Siddall:

I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act request received by email on August 7, 2015. Your request has been assigned FOIA Tracking No. 2015-#4.

The temporary display exhibited at the Brittany American Cemetery was produced in 2014 by Big Red One Editions from St. Lo, France, on behalf of the Tricot Saint James Clothing Company, as well as the local community of Saint James, France. No U.S. Government funds were expended for this project. The project was a local community initiative which the then cemetery superintendent agreed to support. The superintendent did not write the narrative on the display. The narrative was authored by Big Red One Editions and the community participants. The superintendent's role was to review the French to English translation of the text and to provide the ABMC logo to show the cemetery's support for the project. The French text at the bottom of the panel explains that the panel was produced as a community initiative.

The enclosed documents are from the cemetery's interpretive file on Capt. Bogart. We are providing this file to show you the information that was shared by the cemetery with the St. James community.

The temporary exhibit was removed in June and the panel was later returned to the St. James community at their request. The panel was never intended to be a permanent.

The FOIA, 5 United States Code Section 552, generally requires federal agencies to make their records available to persons who make a proper request for them. A FOIA request must be in writing, reasonably described the requested records, and indicate agreement to pay applicable fees. The FOIA is not a process for presenting questions to or otherwise request that information be provided by an agency

The fees associated with your FOIA Request Tracking No. 2015-#4 are waived, as requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Nosal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy A. Nosal
Chief, External Communications
FOIA Officer

CPT LOYAL K. BOGART-PLOT F, ROW 17, GRAVE 6



Captain Loyal K. Bogart was born in Niagara Falls, New York on 23 July 1920. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1942 and was commissioned a 2LT in the US Army on 1 July 1942. Captain Bogart volunteered to be a Paratrooper and was chosen to lead B Company of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division.

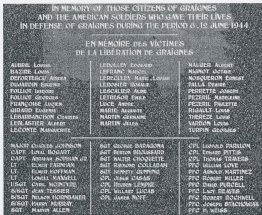
On the morning of 6 June 1944, while preparing to jump over Normandy, Captain Bogart was hit by German flak and he was wounded in both legs. Despite his wounds, he jumped and landed near the small village of Graignes, approximately 10 miles east of Carentan, where he linked up with over 180 other American paratroopers. The Americans decided that with their heavy weapons, ample ammunition, easily defensible position and manpower that the best strategy would be to defend Graignes, and so for six days, from 6 to 12 June, 1944, these brave men fought off elements of the German 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. Unable to fight because of his wounds, CPT Bogart took charge of the portable field telephone switchboard used to communicate among the scattered defenders of the village.

Frustrated by their inability to take Graignes, on 11 June, the Germans brought up two 88's and began shelling the village. As the attack continued into the night, and with their ammunition running out, the Americans decided to abandon the town and try to make it to Carentan. As they escaped, they were forced to leave their 19 wounded in the church. When the SS broke in, they split the Americans into two groups and led one group into a nearby swamp, where they were bayoneted and thrown into the swamp and the second group (including Captain Bogart) was forced to dig their own graves and were then shot and dumped into the graves, then the Germans burned down the village.

The decision to hold Graignes for 5 days turned out to be crucial, as it forced the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division into wasting precious time, and stopped them from reinforcing their garrison at a critical point in the battle for Carentan, ensuring American victory. The Americans retook Graignes 1 month later, but Captain Bogart's body wasn't found until February 1945, when he was moved to Marigny temporary cemetery, then transferred to the permanent cemetery at St James in 1949.

MASSACRE AT GRAIGNES

By Alan Amelinckx, Assistant Superintendent, BRAC



Graignes Memorial Plaque

On a windswept hill, in the village of Graignes, overlooking the Norman countryside, six miles south of Carentan, are the burned-out ruins of a 12th-Century Roman Catholic church surrounded by a small well-maintained cemetery. Inside the church is a granite plaque with the names of 32 French civilians and 31 American Soldiers killed in the fight for Graignes. What happened in Graignes is a story that is a relatively unknown chapter in the D-Day legend.

For six days, from the 6th-12th of June, 1944, 184 American Soldiers, most of them paratroopers from the 507th PIR, 82nd Airborne Division, fought off elements of the German 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division. Early on the morning of the sixth, several American paratroopers landed in the flooded fields that surrounded the town, saw the outline of the church steeple on the hill and headed towards it. Within the next 36 hours, over one hundred Americans had linked up in the village. Their group consisted of not just paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, but also two lost American infantrymen from the 29th Division, as well as several Basque prisoners under the command of two French gendarmes. Among the paratroopers who showed up that first morning was CPT Loyal K. Bogart, the CO of B Company, 501st PIR, along with a dozen other paratroopers from the 501st. Wounded in both legs by enemy flak while in his C-47 and unable to fight, CPT Bogart took charge of the portable field tele-

phone switchboard used to communicate among the scattered defenders of the village.

MAJ Charles D. Johnston, the 3rd BN XO from the 507th PIR, took command of the motley group, with CPT Leroy Brummitt, the 3rd BN S-3, as his second in command. That first evening, CPT Brummitt suggested that they should break out and conduct a night march to link up with the Americans near Carentan, but MAJ Johnston overruled him. He decided that with their heavy weapons, ample ammunition, easily defensible position, and manpower that the best strategy would be to defend Graignes.

SGT Benton J. Broussard, a French-Speaking Cajun from South Louisiana, served as the interpreter between MAJ Johnston and Alphonse Voydie, the acting mayor of Graignes. MAJ Johnston asked for support from the villagers to assist in the retrieval of the American equipment that had fallen in the marshes, as well as food for his Soldiers. Mayor Voydie agreed to call a meeting the next day to marshal their village resources to aid the Americans. The following day, on June 7, the villagers unanimously voted to help the Americans. Mme. Boursier, a local café owner, took charge of cooking and delivering meals to the village defenders, while several villagers infiltrated the German lines to retrieve the American heavy weapons and ammunition that had fallen into the marshes. Things were relatively quiet for the first few days, with only sporadic contact between

German and American patrols.

At 1000, on June 11, Sunday mass began at the village church of Graignes for the last time. MAJ Johnston allowed his men to attend mass, as the perimeter was quiet. Halfway through the service, however, the Germans began their attack. The Germans managed to close within 200 meters of the church, before the defenders were able to push them back. The Graignes defenders defeated the first attack, by using the church belfry as an OP in order to coordinate their mortars and heavy weapons to repulse the Germans whenever they threatened to break through the village defenses.

The Germans set-up 88mm artillery guns at Thieuville, a few kilometers from Graignes and began to fire on the village around 1900 that night. One of the first rounds scored a direct hit on the church belfry, killing the two observers inside. One of the next rounds scored a direct hit on the command post at the boys' school, killing MAJ Johnston. With their OP gone, the defenders were unable to launch their mortars with any accuracy, and the village defenses began to give. The artillery fire also killed SGT Broussard at this time, likely while acting as a messenger to relay orders to the various scattered defenders after the artillery fire cut their communication lines. Although heavily outnumbered, the defenders continued to use their heavy machine-gun fire effectively to blunt the German attack and were able to hold out until 0300, on the morning of June 12, when the Germans finally broke through the defenses and overran the village.

CPT Brummitt, now in command with the death of MAJ Johnston, escaped Graignes with a group of 75 men in the early morning hours and reached the 2nd Armored Division lines on 13 June. CPT Sophian, the Battalion Surgeon, his medics and the two priests and their housekeepers stayed at the church, (being used as the aid station), along with the wounded. Back in Graignes, the 17th SS broke into the church and shot the two priests and their housekeepers for helping the Americans, then captured the nineteen American prisoners (including CPT Bogart) in the aid station. The captured Americans were led away and executed by the SS and their bodies were dumped in a nearby pond and field.

Next, the Germans rounded up several villagers and brought them to the church, where they threatened to execute them unless they revealed the names of all the villagers who had assisted the Americans. Incredibly, the villagers did not reveal a single name. In retribution, the Germans ransacked the town, then on June 13, set the church on fire, and forced the residents out of the village at gunpoint. The fire burned out of control, and out of two hundred

houses in the village, only two were undamaged. One month and three days later, on July 18, the American Army re-liberated Graignes. On July 22, an American priest and a French priest celebrated Mass in the ruins of the church, in the name of the victims of the Graignes massacre.

The decision by MAJ Johnston to defend the village of Graignes played a pivotal part in the overall American victory in that sector of Normandy. Based on eyewitness American accounts, the Germans sustained 500 to 1,000 total casualties, while the official records of the 17th SS Panzer-Grenadier Division for the same period lists 79 KIA, 61 MIA, and 316 WIA.

Despite the difference in casualty figures, one thing is certain. By forcing the 17th SS Panzer Grenadier Division into wasting precious time at Graignes, the Americans stopped them from reinforcing their garrison at a critical point in the battle for Carentan, thus ensuring American victory.

There are nine Soldiers buried in Normandy American Cemetery who were killed at Graignes. These are CPL Jesus Casas, PVT Walter Choquette, SGT Kenneth Gunning, PFC William Love, PFC Arnold Martinez, LT Lowell Maxwell, SGT Harry Murray, PFC Lacy Reeves, and CPL Thomas Travers. There is also one name listed on the Wall of the Missing in Normandy, who went MIA at Graignes, SSG Nelson Hombaker. In addition, CPT Loyal Bogart, also KIA at Graignes is buried here at Brittany American Cemetery. Special thanks go out to both Geert Van den Bogaert of the Normandy American Cemetery and Martin Morgan, author of "Down to Earth: The 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Normandy" for their invaluable assistance in bringing this forgotten D-Day episode to light.



CPT Loyal K. Bogart,
501st PIR



Gaignes and incoming rounds quickly swept across the boys' school and the town square. As shells landed all around the church, "Pip" Reed looked up at the belfry just in time to see it take a direct hit. At the moment of impact, Lt. Naughton was on the field phone with Lt. Farnham in the belfry and the line just went dead. The enemy shell ripped through the observation post, killing Farnham and his assistant observer. But Farnham was not the only officer to lose his life to the 88s. When the bombardment began, Maj. Johnson was at the bedside of Lt. Maxwell, who had become violently ill since arriving in Normandy. While the two men were talking, an 88mm round tore into the command post and exploded, killing both men instantly.

The artillery barrage proved to be the beginning of the final assault against the Americans at Gaignes. After a thorough "softening up" of the target by the mortars and the 88s, German infantry moved in for the coup de grace. It was immediately obvious that this assault force was at least twice as large as the assault force from the afternoon battle. With the observation post in the belfry destroyed, it was no longer possible for the troopers to employ their mortars against the approaching enemy with any degree of effective accuracy. The mortar crewmen then cranked the elevation of their tubes to the maximum and made a last desperate attempt to stop the German infantrymen that were already closing ranks with the defensive perimeter in the village itself. As darkness settled over Gaignes, the Germans continued their relentless drive and, before long, it was clear that the paratroopers would not be able to hold on much longer.

By the time the Germans made the final thrust into Gaignes that night, the defenders had been reduced to a few isolated pockets of resistance spread out around the village. In many cases, men were beginning to run out of ammunition. As that happened, the enemy was quick to exploit the situation by overrunning the outer perimeter and moving into the streets of the center of the village. Those points of the line that were not overrun were cut off from communication with the command post and the aid station. With the Germans swarming over the center of the village, the American tactical situation in Gaignes fell apart at the seams once and for all. The defenders had done everything in their power to hold out, but they were simply too disadvantaged by the overwhelming numerical superiority of the enemy. With Major Johnson dead, command of the force at Gaignes devolved to Capt. Brummitt – who ordered the men to pair off and try to make it to either Carentan or Ste.-Mère-Église. With that, paratroopers began slipping away from the village and into the night.

After the Americans evacuated and the Germans captured the village, something terrible happened. Elements of the 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division had conducted the final assault on Gaignes. When the 17th attacked, it was with a regimental sized force of approximately 2,000. The odds were literally ten to one in the Germans' favor. Despite those odds though, the 182 paratroopers defending Gaignes inflicted an estimated five hundred killed and seven hundred wounded on the Germans during the course of the fighting on the 10th and 11th. The stubborn and determined American defense that gave the 17th such high losses brought on a vicious and brutal reprisal.

At the end of the June 11th battle, the 17th SS stormed the church and found Capt. Sophian's aid station. They promptly forced the Captain and all of the wounded outside where they were made to line-up against a wall. The men were then divided into two groups and marched away from the church. One group (nine troopers) was marched off to the south and the other group (five troopers) was marched down to the edge of a shallow pond behind Madame Boursier's café. At the edge of the pond, the SS bayoneted the wounded men and threw them into the water one on top of the other. The other group of 507th paratroopers was forced to march four kilometers to the south to a field near the village of Le Mesnil Angot. There, the nine wounded men were forced to dig a pit. As soon as the pit was complete,

Simon more deeply than the 50th anniversary.

8:55 PM

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French "baby boomers" are a little older and more interested in their history and they realize those who lived it will not be around for the 75th anniversary.

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At a recent gathering in Caen, which suffered more than any other French town from the bloody battle between the Germans and Allies, survivors spoke into a microphone, often shoking back or wiping away tears. And their stories were broadcast on French radio.

Caen, which was not liberated by the Allies until July 19, had been flattened by Allied bombing before the invasion began. Nearly 3,000 had been killed by Allied bombs.

Bernard Dubois was a boy of six at the time. His uncle was killed in a bombing raid on June 7. "He was so torn apart, you could see his heart," says Dubois. An older cousin of Dubois was executed by a German SS officer on the same day. During the invasion, Dubois was brought to an 11th century Abbey with other townspeople, especially children and women, that now serves as Caen's town hall where the recent remembrance meeting took place.

Though just a few miles from the Normandy beaches, Caen wasn't liberated for six weeks because of the tough German defense and difficulty the Allies had punching through the thick hedgerows of the countryside, which held up advancing American and British troops and provided excellent cover for German patrols and tanks.

Jacques Vico, a member of the French resistance, stood at the Caen gathering and implored attendees to remember his comrades who were executed by the Gestapo on June 6.

At 4 a.m. on June 6, as word spread that Allied ships were offshore and approaching fast, the commandant of a German make-shift prison was ordered to execute 120 Resistance prisoners. "They could not find a truck to take them away, so instead they decided to dispense with their conscience and kill them," Vico told his listeners.

Christian Vautier fled Caen with his parents, both in the Resistance, and spent much of the war avoiding the Germans.

Vautier recalled that it was the French Vichy police, part of the French government that acquiesced to and collaborated with German occupation, that arrested his father in 1940. A French family, Vautier recalled, betrayed his family's last hiding place, an apartment in the village of Cher.

"I can forget what the Germans did, though it costs me a deal of effort because I saw some terrible things, but those for whom I have absolutely no ..." he says, unable to finish the sentence, "are those French people who put on jack-boots to hand over their countrymen to the occupier."

It was not the only war atrocity committed by the German military that week as it reeled from the massive Allied assault, and tried to counter-punch after having the invasion take place much farther South along the French coast than German generals had believed. Nazi brass believed the landing would occur at Caais, the beach and port closest to the English coast, just 25 miles east of the Dover cliffs.

Last week, the History Channel aired a documentary that detailed a massacre of American troops and French citizens six days after the invasion. A squadron of American paratroopers were dropped 20 miles from their targeted drop zones in the village of Graignes.

French citizens joined up with 182 paratroopers to fight the Germans. Thinking the force was larger and better armed than it was, an entire SS Panzer regiment of 2,000 soldiers was sent to Graignes to suppress the American force. After six days of fighting, the Americans were overtaken. Nazis dragged the remaining wounded soldiers and French civilians (including two priests) to the outskirts of the village, forced them to dig pits, and brutally massacred them. The bodies were dumped into the pits, and the town was burned.

G H Bennett Destination Normandy: Three American Regiments on D-Day, Praeger, Wesport (Conn), 2006.

D-Day:Down to Earth - The Return of the 507th, Jump Cut Productions DVD, 2005.

Gary N. Fox,Graignes: The Franco-American Memorial, Gray Printing Co, Fostoria (Ohio), 1990.

Martin K.A. Morgan, Down to Earth: The 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Normandy, Schiffer, Atglen (PA), 2004.

Retrieved from "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graignes>"