OROURKE ERECTED IN MEMORY OF OUR SON-TECH. JAMES W.O'ROURKE JR. 507"PARACHUTEINF. 82"AIRBORNE DIV LOST IN ACTION OVER NORMANDY. D.DAY JUNE 611944

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James W. O'Rourke Jr was born on December 1, 1911 in Camden, New York. The parents were James W. O'Rourke Sr and Nellie O'Rourke. James had one brother Joseph and grew up with his cousins. O'Rourke was a devout Catholic and belonged to St. John the Evangelist Church in the heart of Camden.

O'Rourke was drafted into the U.S. Army and joined of May 25, 1942. After completing his Basic Training, O'Rourke was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia and joined the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment of September 4, 1942. Private James W. O'Rourke Jr was assigned and joined Company F along with a total of 140 soldiers. January 20, 1943 saw O'Rourke transferred to Service Company. He was transferred to Service Company and would receive his Jump Wings.

Private O'Rourke was promoted to Technician 5th Grade and became the Dentist's assistant, working under John B. Long. Technician 5th Grade O'Rourke also became the Catholic Chaplin assistant for Captain John J. Verret. O'Rourke went overseas in December of 1943 with the 507th Parachute Infantry to England.

May 19, 1944 Technician 5th Grade O'Rourke was transferred from Service Company to the Medical Detachment. O'Rourke's duties remained the same. On June 5, 1944 O'Rourke and the rest of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment flew into history. The 507th Parachute Infantry was the last one into Normandy at 2:32 am. Technician 5th Grade O'Rourke was injured on the Jump breaking his right foot. He was taken to the 4th Infantry Division's Aid Station on Utah Beach on June 7, 1944. O'Rourke along with 20 wounded Paratroopers and Infantry men were placed on to a small boat (the ones that carried in the Infantry men on June 6, 1944 onto Omaha and Utah Beach). These wounded soldiers were being taken to a Hospital Ship, but before they reached their destination they hit a landmine killing all the men aboard including the Navy Sailors.

Technician 5th Grade James W. O'Rourke Jr was killed on June 7, 1944 in the Bay of Seine, France off of the coast of Normandy. During the beginning of the second week of July 1944 some of those men were found far out to sea. One of those men was O'Rourke. His body was identified by his dog tags. Like the Navy Sailors, Technician 5th Grade O'Rourke was buried at sea July 10, 1944. The paperwork was then forwarded ahead to the 605th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company and then to the British in England.

O'Rourke's effects were found on his body and were sent ahead to the 605th Quartermaster Graves Registration on August 12, 1944 from The Naval Officer-In-Charge, Isle of Wight, R.N. Establishment, Service, Isle of Wight. At this point the U.S. Army decided that they did not receive the information about the burial of James O'Rourke. The U.S. Army never informed the parent's of his death, instead told them that James O'Rourke Jr was Missing in Action and never told them what they knew.

Only on May 29, 2011 was a family member told about the death of James W. O'Rourke Jr. I was able to contact James O'Rourke (his second cousin with the same name) and told him that his cousin had in fact been Killed in Action, not Missing in Action. James W. O'Rourke's parents placed a Headstone in his memory after WWII at St. John the Evangelist Church in Camden, New York.

Postscript

I just received two photos from John Pietrowski (James's Cousin). The one is James and the second is from James' parents Nellie and James. John's Cousin Barbara remembers when Nellie was dying she called out for her son who died in Normandy. John said that Nellie used to sit by the window waiting for him to come home.

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FOR THE MONTH OF

September 1942

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FORM B PARACHUTE

5 June 6 June 44 DATE

A/C NO. (TAIL NO.)

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43-15121 -CHALK NO. 35

PERSONNEL

DROF ORDER		ASN	RANK	NAME AND INITIALS	UNIT
]	レ	0-128894	8 Capt	Rae, Robert D.	Ser
2	V	39237835	Pvt	Booth. Wayne J.	Ser
3	~	39237166	s/set	Kriebel, Howard M.	Ser
4		15100191	Pfc	Perley, Joseph W.	Ser
5				Pipolo, Sandy E.	на & на
6	1	16025725	Pvt	McPherson, Bartus F.	Ser
7	V	35590136	Pvt	Osborne. Frad A.	На & На
8		32573618	Pfc	Peringian. Charles A.	На & На
9	Ľ	32370027	T-5	O'Rourke, James W. Jr.	Med
10	V	0-357927	Capt]	Long, John B.	Med
11	~	12042940	T/Sgt	Short, Charles F.	Med
12	v	18108224	Sgt	Kelly, Kelly L.	Med
13	V	31210270	Pvt	McCarthy, John D.	Med
14	~	13082976	Pvt	Boucher, Donald M.	Med
15	V	38007288	Pfc	Nash, Freeman J.	Ser
16	V	12056109	Sgt	McDonald. Robert (NMI)	Ser
17	V	20736868	T/Sgt	Hoback, Richard W.	Ser
18	10	-1300124	lst Tit	Broadaway, Rufus K.	Ser
19	V	0-384675	Capt	Rosenbollom, Alan D.	Ser
20	14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 1				
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CONTAINERS

RACK NO.	TYPE CONTENTS	GROSS WEIGHT	FARACHUTE COLOR
1.	A-5 SCR 300	150	
2.	A-5 Medico	180	
3.	A-5 Medico	193	
4.	A-5 Medico	185	
5.	A-5 S-4	125	
6.	A-5 Supply	150	
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Inspection completed 1200, 5-6-44

Signed Robert D. Rae, Capt.

ECEM B PARACHUTE

 EXERCISE-OPERATION	 DATE	5 June 6 June	44
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There ?

DETAILS OF AIRCRAFT

SQUADRON 305 A/C TYPE C-47 TAIL NO.43-15121 CHALK NO. 35

AIRCREW

Pilot 2nd Lt John C. Paulson 0-815219 <u>Co Filot 2nd Lt Frank J. Tomesek 0-696610</u> <u>Navigator 2nd Lt Joseph (NMT) Jagiello 0-814074</u> Engi neer Sgt John B. Evins 34508197 Radio Operator S/Sgt Don S. Aldridge 38091005

I certify this to be a true copy.

tel pasteració

JOE A. GUAYANTE lst Lieut., 507th Prcht Inf Adjutant

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SECRET - (when filled in)

FORM B LOADING MANIFEST (PARACHUTE)

Exercise/Operation NEPTUNE

Date 5-6 June 1944

A/C No. (Tail No.) 43-15121 Chalk No. 35

PERSONNEL

Regtmtl Hq & Sv Co, 507th Prcht Inf.

Drop Order	Sorial hunbor	Rank	Full Nanc	Ronerks
1.0	0-1288948	Capt	Rae, Robert D. P	P
2	39237835	Pvt	Booth, Wayne J. (WA	LWA (EVAC)
3	39237166	S/Sgt	Kriebel. Howard M. P	P
4	15100191	Pfc	Perley, Joseph W. KIA	KIA
	6710092	1st Sgt	Pipolo, Sandy E. LWA	LWALEVAC
	16025725	Pvt	McPherson, Bartus F. P	P
	35590136	Pvt ·	Osborne, Fred A. P	JD
	32573618 32370027	Pfc T-5	Peringian, Charles A. P O'Rourke, James W. Jr. Fra	SIA (EUDE)
10	0-357927	Capt	Long, John B. P	P
11 -	12042940	T/Set	Short, Charles F. P	2
12	18108224	Sgt	Kelly, Kelly L. P	p
13	31210270	Pvt	McCarthy, John D. P	p
	13082976	Pvt	Boucher, Donald M. P	P
15	38007288	Pfc	Nash, Freeman J. P	P(Ria)
10	12056109	Sgt	McDonald, Robert (NMI) P	p_ /
-17	20736868	T/Sgt	Hoback, Richard W. LIA	Atto
13	0-1300124	lst Lt.	Broadaway, Rufus K. P	R
19	0-384675	Capt	Rosenbloom, Alan D. LIA	-LIA
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CONTRINERS

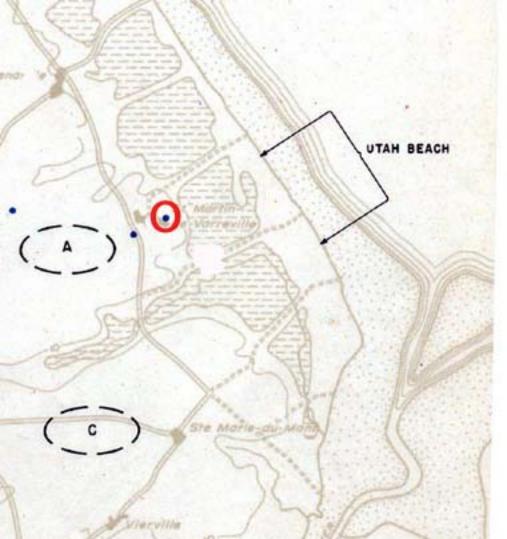
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Inspection Correlated 1200 5-6 June 1944 Signed

Rack No.

Type

FORM B LOLDENG MANIFEST (PARACHUTE)



AG 201 O'Rourke, James W., Jr.

Ha. AGO. Washington 25, D. C. 10 May 1946

To: Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C.

I. Reference is made to the above named soldier, Technician Fifth Grade James W. O'Rourke, Jr., 32 370 027, Infantry, in which you requested further information.

2. Technician Fifth Grade James W. O'Rourke, Jr., was last seen in plane before the Invasion of the Continent, since that time, he has never been seen by any member of this command. Extracts of the 4th Infantry Division Medical Blotters indicated that Technician Fifth Grade O'Rourke was admitted to the 4th Infantry Division medical aid station on 7 June 1944, with a fractured right foot. When first casualty reports were received, Technician Fifth Grade O'Rourke was listed with a fractured right foot; this information having been taken from a statement signed by Sidney M. Goren, Captain. (Org Unk)

BY COMMAND LIEUTENANT GENERAL LUTES:

ADJUTANT GENERAL

SPQYZ 293 (O'Rourke, James W., Jr. 4th Ind. T/5)

with

ASF, 0000, Mashington 25, D.C., 18 May 1946 To: Comparing Officer, American Graves Registration Command, Muropean Theorem Area, 200 387, New York, New York.

UATERFICASTIN GENTERAL:

attention to preceding 3rd Indorsement.

ANTHONY D. DAYDA Major, QMC Assistant

8. Technician Fifth Grade O'Rourke, was initially reported seriously injured in action by ETO Shipment Number 107, and his status was subsequently changed to missing in action 6 June 1944. His AG 201 file contains a copy of a letter of this office to the Commanding General ETOUSA dated 28 March 1945 requesting clarification of his status. Information contained in the Fourth Indorsement to this communication reveals that he was reported as seriously injured in action on 6 June 1944 per a casualty report by Captain Disney N. Goren, organization unknown, and that extracts of medical blotters of the 4th Infantry Division indicated that this soldier had been admitted to the 4th Infantry Division aid station on 7 June 1944 with a fractured right foot. The tenth indorsement to this communication states that Nec 5 O'Rourke jumped in Normandy, France, with the Medical Detachment of the 507th Parachute Infantry, at about 0200 hours, 6 June 1944, and that so far as could be determined no member of that unit had seen him since. It is also stated that he was roported seriously injured in action, on the basis of the report that he had received medical treatment. The combat report and combat morning report showed him as Missing in action. Tec 5 O'Rourke's service record shows that he became missing in action 6 June 1944. There does not appear any information in dicating that he was hospitalized.

Did Not HANdl.E. Rod Serial No. 32370027 Name JAMES W. D'ROVRKE Rank Grade 7-5 Organization Address..... NPOURKE Nearest Relative M.R.S. Address 3 WATKINS AVE Died of Disease Killed in Action Date D-A 10 July 44 Hospital Information Battle Area BURIEDATS Place of Burial Point of Coordination Description of Body... Members Missing. Signed T-SQT MCKAU SO5th QM Graves Registration Co.

HEADQUARTERS 605TH OH GRAVES REGISTRATION CO. A.F.C.649 U.S. ARIX

AG 293

9 August 1944

10197

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Inventory of Personal Effects

TO : Effects Quartermaster, EPOUSA, Depot (1-14, APO 507, U.S. Army

1: Transmitted herewith in accordance with Adm Cir #80, dated 25 Oct 1943, Hq, SOS, ETOUSA, is Inventory of Effects (WDAGO Form #54) in triplicate concerning subject named below.

O'Rourke, James W.	Tec 5	32370027
(Hame)	(Rank)	(ASN)
(Organization)	<u>see Note</u> (Status)	on o/a 10 July 1944 (date)
2. Cash found in effects	. ,	
	which was conv	verted to:
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3. The effects were forwa	rded to Effects QI, ETOL	ISA by Truck
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For the Co	mmanding Officer:	A D Brons
1 Incls. Incl 1 - WBAGO #54 (Trip) Incl 2 -	$\frac{1}{2}$	DEN D. EROVIN st Lt., OMC pronnel Officer APO 507 APO 507 APO 507
NOTE: This body was not handle Naval Officer-In-Charge, of Wight, who reported t	Isle of Wight, R.N. Est	s were received from The cablishment, Seaview, Isle
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WAR DEPARTMENT

Formiprescribed by Comptroller General, U.S. 7 October 1944

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (Public Law 490 77th Cong.) as amended, upon direction and delegation by The Secretary of War. The Chief, Casualty Branch, The Adjutant General's Office, finds Technician Fifth Grade James W. O'Rourke, Junior, Army Serial Number 32,370,027, Infantry,

to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 6th day of June 1944. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 7th day of June , 1945.

		•		_	BY	ORDER	of the	SECRE	TARYO	f yar
	0 Kour	ke vames U		NFORMATIO	earg	L , CHIEL	DJUTAN F, CASU	en b VT GENE VALTY	ERAL BRANCH	
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	None						•			
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l r)ec 1911	Camden, New Yo	rk		25 Ma	ay 1944	2	3	монтн О	DAYS 13
			EMERGENCY A						<u>. </u>	
NAME	Mrs. Nell	ie O'Rourke	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS	3 Wat	tkins A en, New				
			BENEFICIA							
NĂME	Mrs. Nell	ie O'Rourke	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS	3 Wat	tkins en, New				
NAME			RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS	3 Wo	tkins .	Avenue			
	Mr. James	s O'Rourke, Senior	Father		-	en, Nei			/	
			REMARI	KS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
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THE REMAINS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUA been effected when appropriate.)	L(S) ARE APPROVED.	(Corrections in ne	me, rank, and/or seria	[number have
IN THE COURSE OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLO	WING SOURCES OF INF	ORMATION HAVE BEEN	EXAMINED FOR ADDITION	AL CLUES. COPIES
OF ANY DOCUMENTS BELIEVED MATERIAL TO	THE CASE ARE ATTACH	ED FOLLOWING THE PF	ROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD	BOARD OF REVIEW.
1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S)	Val	2. D. FINDING OF I	KADUCK	Vat
 A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN B. U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS 	Vat	GEOGRAPHICAL CI 4. INDEX FILE OF U FROM APPROPRIAT	UNKNOWNS RECOVERED	Vat
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7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES	None			
THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH THE FOLLOW MIA on 6 Ju British Naval Officer-In- decedent was buried at se relative to the burial is cepted as an authentic se considered nonrecoverable	ING EXCEPTIONS: ane 1944 during od in the 293 f -Charge, Isle o ea on 15 July 1 s not given, it ea burial, ther	the invasion ile of the dec f Wight report 944. Inasmuch appears that	of France edent indicates t ed that the body as detailed info this case cannot	hat the of the rmation: be ac-
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