

**bnsiddall@gmail.com**

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**From:** bnsiddall@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2016 6:47 PM  
**To:** 'clelandm@abmc.gov'  
**Subject:** Headstone issue at the Normandy American Cemetery

**Attachments:** Ray documents.pdf



Ray  
documents.pdf

Mr. Cleland,

It has come to my attention that Tim Nosal has arbitrarily decided to remove a headstone that the US Army and Nosal himself signed off on in November of 2015. Sgt John P. Ray died 13 June 1944. How the ABMC got the headstone wrong is unknown. Attached is the documentation showing that. I spoke with the widow's daughter back in December of 2015 and they were happy to know of the change and the circumstances of his death.

I always try to find someone who knew a soldier who's headstone is about to be corrected. In this case, of course, it was only a courtesy call as when Mrs. Ray married her new husband she lost her standing.

I know someone like yourself knows more than most how important the dates of death and injuries are. Sgt Ray took 8 days to die of Gangrene which is one of the most brutal was to go.

On August 3, 2016, the headstone was finally corrected. Then within 6 days it was changed back to the incorrect day. I called the NAC today August 15, 2016, and they were very specific saying that Nosal did this.

I called and left a message last week with your secretary and she said she would pass my message on to you but that didn't happen it seems.

I am emailing you directly as I know there is no way you would have known about this distasteful situation.

Here is the link to the narrative about Sgt Ray and all of the Army documentation showing the change to the correct 13 June 1944 date of death.

[http://www.airborneinnormandy.com/ray\\_file.htm](http://www.airborneinnormandy.com/ray_file.htm)

Could you imagine if one of your enlisted men who were killed in Vietnam find out that someone had decided on their own to change a correct date of death to one that they knew was false?

Thank you,

Brian

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