

Alden L. Abbott Info Sheet

Name of Soldier: Alden L. Abbott

Branch of Service: U.S. Army/National Guard

Home State: Colorado

County/Town: Boulder

Enlisted City: Boulder

Serial Number: 20838340

Family Numbers: Parents Joseph & Florence Abbott, 8 siblings

Education: 1 year of high school

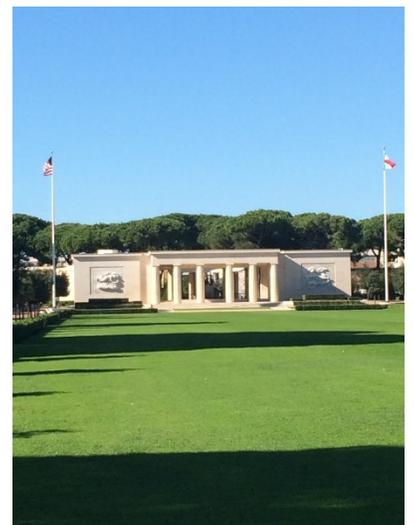
Job Prior to Entering Military Service: Actor

Birthdate: January 31st, 1921

Date of Death: May 28th, 1944

Age when Died: 23 years old

Awards: Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal



Alden L. Abbott's Story

Corporal Alden L. Abbott was born on January 31st, 1921. He enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1939 at the age of 18; right at the start of WWII. He enlisted out of his hometown, Boulder, Colorado and fought with the 45th infantry division. Prior to enlisting in the army, Corporal Abbott was an aspiring performer. After one year of high school, he dropped out in order to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. However, once he turned 18, he decided to join the US Army and serve his country. He served in the army for almost 5 years before he was killed in action on May 28th, 1944.

Corporal Abbot's tour in Europe began on June 22nd, 1943 with his landing in North Africa. At this point, the region had already been secured by Allied powers, so the 45th began training in Arzew, French Morocco.

In this period preparations were being made for the invasion of Sicily, where Allied intelligence estimated 230,000 Axis troops were stationed. The 45th had a leading role in the ambitious assault on Sicily, where they landed ashore on July 10th. The division pushed onward to the Axis airfields at Biscari and Comiso, and by the end of July, the 45th had occupied the city of Messina. On September 3rd, 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies.

Hoping to gain as much ground as possible before the Germans could react, the 45th and 36th landed in Agropoli and Paestum on September 10th. There they encountered German forces and after a week of heavy fighting the Allies pushed forward to the Calore River. On November 3rd, they took Venafro, pushing further into Italy. On January 9th, 1944, the 45th along with British troops began their assault on the Gustav Line near Montecassino. The fighting was harsh on both sides until on May 23rd, the Allies managed to push forward, towards Rome. It was just five days after this great advance that Corporal Abbott was killed in action. His

Corbin Raeford
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medals include the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters, The Combat Infantryman Badge, the American Campaign Medal, and the WWII victory medal.

Our Homage to Corporal Abbott

Corporal Alden L. Abbott served in the US. Army for almost 5 years with the 45th infantry division. The main motto of said division was “Semper Anticus”. This is a Latin phrase meaning “always forward”.

Because Corporal Abbott was in the US Army and their motto was “always forward” we decided to play the official song of the US Army, “The Army Goes Rolling Along” as our homage. The reason we want to do this is because the title and lyrics of the song relate to the motto of the 45th infantry division. We are extremely excited to honor this great man with these short but noteworthy lines.

Thoughts Prior to Visiting Cemetery

I am really excited to be visiting the Rome-Sicily American Cemetery in Anzio. Before starting this project, I was not so enthusiastic because I had no idea what to expect from this particular venture. However, after researching more about Corporal Alden L. Abbott with Edward and our Italian partners, I have grown more eager to visit his grave and pay him the homage he deserves.

I think that one of the reasons I am so interested in visiting Corp. Abbott’s grave is because he died in battle at the young age of 23. That is the hardest thing for me to wrap my head around because he was only 4 years older than I am now, and he died serving our country in World War II. To think about it is sad and somewhat surreal. I have only been to the cemetery once, to visit a specific grave, however, I was extremely young when that happened, so I am interested to see what it will be like to visit Corp. Abbott’s grave next Wednesday.

Thoughts After Visiting the Cemetery

Visiting the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery was a surprising and amazing feeling, especially considering we went right after the U.S. elections. This project, and the life of Corporal Abbott have taught me so much about life.

Especially the main motto of the 45th infantry division, "semper anticus" had a great impact on me. Because no matter what happened, they had to unite as one division... as one army... as one nation and just keep moving forward. This project has taught me that today is no different.

The best way we can get past the hardships is if we unite as one country, the United States of America, instead of a divided America. That's why our homeland is so great. Because no matter what happens, we are still one nation and we can overcome anything as long as we stand together. But none of this hit me until I stood in the cemetery and just stared at this man's grave, alongside the graves of all the other men and women that served our great country. This project as a whole and especially visiting the cemetery itself was truly a blessing, because it helped me realize that we can accomplish anything and everything as long as we stick together and just keep moving forward.