

Stanley J Abramczyk Info Sheet

Name of Soldier: Stanley J Abramczyk

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Home State: Pennsylvania

County/Town: Northumberland

Enlisted City: Harrisburg

Serial Number: 13090815

Education: High school

Job Prior to Entering Military Service: Semiskilled Chauffeur

Birthdate or Birth Year: 1924

Date of Death: December 12th, 1943

Age when Died: 19 years old

Awards: Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal



Stanley J Abramczyk was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania in 1924. He enlisted at the young age of 17. He was a part of the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, it was the first parachute infantry unit of the U.S. Army to make a combat jump during World War II.

While in the army, Stanley participated in Participated in Operation GIANT III the Combat Jump at Avellino, Italy, executed on September 14th 1943. He was one of 640 to land in the Sorrento mountains, behind enemy lines in order to disrupt enemy communications and delay the German Infantry Regiment from reinforcing in Salerno. It was considered a suicide mission but was necessary in order to gain control of Salerno.

Surprisingly, 3 weeks later, the troops were successful and 510 paratroopers, including Stanley, returned to friendly lines in September of 1943. It was only a few months after this great victory that Stanley was killed in action. He died on December 12th, 1943 and was only 19 years old. For his brave and incredible service, Stanley was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal posthumously.

Our Homage to Private Abramczyk

To pay homage to our fallen soldier, we decided it would be a nice tribute to read a poem for fallen soldiers in both English and Italian and leave flowers at his resting place. The poem we read goes as follows:

These heroes are dead. They died for liberty – they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, and the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or of storm, each in the windowless Place of Rest. Earth may run red with other wars – they are at peace. In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict, they found the serenity of death. I have one sentiment for soldiers living and dead: cheers for the living; tears for the dead. —Robert G. Ingersoll

Thoughts Prior to Visiting Cemetery

Before actually visiting the Rome-Sicily Cemetery, I imagined it to be somewhat similar to the Arlington National Cemetery. I imagined that the cemetery would be small compared to others, but with

rows and rows of white tombstones and a beautiful and clean-cut landscape. Because it is dedicated to American soldiers who died in WWII, I imagined there would be a big American flag soaring proudly somewhere. Sadly, I also imagined there might be a monument dedicated to the soldiers who were never found.

Thoughts After Visiting the Cemetery

Visiting the Rome-Sicily Cemetery was definitely a great experience. Based on what I thought it might be before visiting it, it was bigger than I had imagined. The reflecting pool was stunning, and I loved that there were 51 lily pads in the pool to symbolize the states and territories of the US.

I really appreciated the “Brothers in Arms” statue that was there. Furthermore, it was really touching that in the chapel, not only did they include the names of all the soldier that weren’t found, but the ceiling was painted as the night sky on the day of the landing of these brave soldiers in WWII.

It was moving to see the American and Italian flags soaring together side as if to show the comradery between the two. Overall, it was a great experience to be able to participate in this project as it was insightful, educational, and moving.