



Personal info

Full name

BOOTH, Edwin Bray

Date of birth

27 April 1925

Age

19

Place of birth

Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Hometown

Islington, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

Military service

Service number

31366468

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**HQ & HQ Company,
3rd Battalion,
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
17th Airborne Division**

Awards

Purple Heart

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

24 March 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Plot	Row	Grave
E	1	11

Immediate family

Members

Edwin P. Booth (father)
Elizabeth F. Booth (mother)
Harry F. Booth (brother)
Francis Booth (brother)

More information

Sgt Edwin B. Booth graduated from Westwood High School and completed two terms at Harvard.

He enlisted in Boston, Massachusetts on 12 July 1943. He trained at Fort Benning and Camp Forrest and was promoted to sergeant in January 1945. Later that month he was wounded in action in Belgium, but returned to the front.

From an article by Mr. Booth, after visiting his son's grave at Margraten:

"As to many an American parent whose son is buried in a foreign land, so to me came the longing to visit the cemetery where he lay. he was killed in action when his regiment, the 513th Infantry, was parachuted into the German lines at Wesel, on March 24, 1945. The British troops followed in and buried him, with other American dead, on or near the field of battle. One month later his body was transferred to the United States Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland. From that time on I longed to take my family and stand by his grave, going, as it were, to him since he could not come to us. And so we came, my wife and I, and our two sons, his brothers. We did not speak to each other much, and each knew only what was in his own mind. But I had come to stand in tribute at the grave of my son, and so his mother and brothers. It was a thing of awe and majesty to see the quiet peaceful field of crosses. Row upon row, they lie as they marched. Side by side, they sleep in death or as they had slept in camp, no rank or honor sets one aside from the other. No great room is needed for each. But perfectly spaced, in beautiful order, under clipped grass, before white crosses and stars of David of uniforms and appropriate size, each soldier's body lies. They face a little south of west, looking toward the homes they loved so much and never more shall see. We followed the broad gravel walks to the plots and came finally to stand by a cross with our own beloved name upon it."

He was first buried at Margraten in a temporary grave on 23 April 1945. He was disinterred on 12 August 1948 and his remains were prepared and placed in a casket on 17 August 1948. He was given his final resting place on 24 January 1949.

Photos



Source of information: Tom Verheijden, www.ancestry.com - 1930 Census / U.S. City Directories, 1928, 1935, 1941 / New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, 17th Airborne Historical Report of Operation Varsity, U.S. School Yearbooks, Silkeston Standard Silkeston, Missouri, 7 March 1947 - sons grave, Book: The Last Drop, Operation Varsity 24-25 March 1945 by Stephen L. Wright

Photo source: Tom Verheijden, U.S. School Yearbooks, The Harvard Album, The Boson Globe 19 June 1945