

LT James A. Brantley

556<sup>th</sup> BS, 387<sup>th</sup> Bt (M)

KIA 8/6/44

at base

Stony Cross, U.K.



INDIVIDUAL DECEASED

PERSONNEL FILE

BEST COPY POSSIBLE  
POOR QUALITY ORIGINAL

RRE Form #43  
20 Sep 48

Attached hereto correspondence and/or other identifying media of possible archival value, pertaining to:

BRANTLEY                      JAMES                      H                      1st LT                      0-663838  
(Last Name)                      (First Name)                      (Initial)                      (Rank)                      (ASN)

Subject remains have been permanently interred overseas in the United States Military Cemetery CAMBRIDGE

I M M E D I A T E A C T I O N

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
104th (U.S.) General Hospital  
Com Z ETOUSA

RLI/jrw



APC 178  
August 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Death (Battle Casualty)  
TO : Commanding General, Com Z, ETOUSA, APO 871, U S Army.  
(Attn: AG Casualty Branch)

1. In compliance with Cir 46, Rq, ETOUSA, dated 22 April 1944, the following report of death is submitted:

Name:	<u>BRANTLEY, JAMES H.</u>
Grade:	1st Lt
ASN:	O-663838
Organization:	556th Bomber Squadron, 387th Bomber Group.
Diagnosis:	Compound fracture of skull.
Date and Time:	6 August 1944, 1130 hours
Line of Duty:	Yes
Religion:	Protestant
Next of Kin:	Mrs. Ruth O. Brantley (Wife)
Address:	422 Alvarez Place San Antonio, Texas



Note: Dead on arrival at 104th General Hospital.

For the Commanding Officer:

*Robert L. Ireland*  
ROBERT L. IRELAND  
1st Lt, MAC  
Registrar

Distribution:  
AG Cas Br - 1  
Ch of Graves Reg Service - 1 ✓  
CO, 556 B Sq - 1  
File - 1

I M M E D I A T E A C T I O N

26-7

DW MMM

1

USM CAMBRIDGE  
PLOT ROW 7 GRAVE 11 DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE  
DATE OF BURIAL 5 OCT 48

VERIFIED BY  
W.C. ENTENMINGER

DIRECTIVE NUMBER  
1615 00541

DATE  
15 08 48  
DAY MONTH YEAR

SECTION A -  
NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

NAME  
BRANTLEY JAMES H

SERIAL NUMBER GRADE ARM  
0-6638381 LT 1

RACE RELIGION  
1 1

CEMETERY  
CAMBRIDGE BR ISLES

PLOT ROW GRAVE  
M 7 20

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS  
1601 80  
CODE DIST. CTR.

SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN *Flag sent 10 Feb 49*

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE  
CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN  
A. L. BRANTLEY (FATHER)  
3901 POLK STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME  
BRANTLEY JAMES H

SERIAL NUMBER  
0-6638381

GRADE DATE OF DEATH  
1/LT 6 AUG 44

DATE DISTINTERRED  
5 MAY 48

IDENTIFICATION TAG ON  
 REMAINS  
 MARKER

ORGANIZATION  
USAAF

RELIGION  
P

IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY  
DONALD E. ATKINSON 1 LT  
540 QM SV CO NAME AND TITLE

SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL  
UNIFORM UK CASKET

CONDITION OF REMAINS SKULL. LT. HUMERUS.  
HANDIBLE FRACTURED; BODY COMPLETE; 3RD  
STAGE OF DECOMPOSITION

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

1ST LT'S BARS; PILOT'S WINGS ON UNIFORM

MINOR DISCREPANCIES (Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.)  
RECORDS IN 60TH QM BN SHOW RELIGION AS "P" 10.548

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE 7/5/48  
CASKET SEALED BY

HARRIE D NELSON

BY

HARRIE D NELSON

EMBALMER (Signature)

HARRIE D NELSON EMB

CASKET BOXED AND MARKED

DATE 7/5/48

BY LAWRENCE L MOLE  
CLERK RECORDER

SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY

SIMON C VANGE 1ST LT CAC

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

SIMON C VANGE 1ST LT CAC  
SIGNATURE OF AGRS INSPECTOR

REMARKS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

NAT  
FILE  
RECORDS ANNOTATED  
DATE APR 20 1949  
NAME NUMBERLY  
R & R BR.

*att*

*792*

6 April 1949

1/Lt James H. Brantley, ASN 0 663 8 38.  
Plot F, Row 7, Grave 11  
Headstone: Cross  
Cambridge (England) U. S. Military Cemetery

Mr. A. L. Brantley  
3901 Polk Street  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Brantley:

This is to inform you that the remains of your loved one have been permanently interred, as recorded above, side by side with comrades who also gave their lives for their country. Customary military funeral services were conducted over the grave at the time of burial.

After the Department of the Army has completed all final interments, the cemetery will be transferred, as authorized by the Congress, to the care and supervision of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission also will have the responsibility for permanent construction and beautification of the cemetery, including erection of the permanent headstone. The headstone will be inscribed with the name exactly as recorded above, the rank or rating where appropriate, organization, State, and date of death. Any inquiries relative to the type of headstone or the spelling of the name to be inscribed thereon, should be addressed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Your letter should include the full name, rank, serial number, grave location, and name of the cemetery.

While interments are in progress, the cemetery will not be open to visitors. You may rest assured that this final interment was conducted with fitting dignity and solemnity and that the grave-site will be carefully and conscientiously maintained in perpetuity by the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

H. FREEDMAN  
Major General  
The Quartermaster General

*H*  
APR 7 4 08 PM '49  
U. S. M. C.  
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

reg

1625 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Lissiana Texas  
April 15, 1945

Lt. Colonel Mays A. Darling  
Quartermaster General Office  
Washington D.C.

GRAVES REGISTRATION SECTION  
APR 19 11 46 AM '45  
MEMORIAL DIVISION  
APR 19 1945  
MEMORIAL DIVISION

Dear Colonel Darling,

I have received your letter telling me when my son, First Lieutenant James H. Brantley - O, 663838, was buried in England.

Thank you for the information. However what I am trying to find out most of all is why the members of his crew (he was pilot of a B-26) were not permitted to go to his funeral. I sent a copy of the letter from his Navigator to the War Department and was informed the letter was sent to you who should have information concerning his funeral. I have only been able to read the letter twice - once when it came, and once when I copied it to send to the War Department.

So I shall not send a copy to you now, assuming you have it on file.

I have talked to many returnees, and they say they always attended a buddy's funeral who had been killed in action. So I can not understand it.

and it hurts and grieves me to think that  
small comfort was not sent. It is bad  
enough to die tragically far from home;  
it is beyond my understanding that the  
War Department would not permit a dead  
soldier's close friends to accompany his  
remains to the lovely, strange cemetery.

I am trying as hard as any body you  
ever heard of to get back to normal - to  
quit being so grieved and hurt and lonely.

I think it actually is killing me, as well.  
But it is hard to do, in spite of the  
fact that my son could not bear a "long  
face" or unhappiness or sadness, and I  
know he does not want me to grieve so.

But I can't rest as long as there is  
a single thing I can do - and I think  
surely I can find out why my son had  
to take that last lonely journey on this earth  
he loved and gave his life for alone. Why  
his crew members [the only friends in all  
that strange country: he was killed on his  
second mission, and had only recently arrived  
at the base] were not allowed to go with him.

I wrote to his Commanding Officer, and I  
did not answer, although the letter was not  
returned to me.

Please help me so I can [I pray]  
find some rest. Sincerely,  
Helen Mavr Walkers

AGPC-8 201 Brantley, James H.  
(2 Mar 45) 0663838

Permit me to express my heartfelt sympathy in the great loss you have been called upon to bear. It is my hope that the cherished memory of your brave son, who made the supremesacrifice in this struggle to maintain the freedom of our country, will be a source of pride and comfort to you and sustain you in the days ahead.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. ULIO  
Major General  
The Adjutant General



AGPC-G 201 Brantley, James H.  
(2 March 45) 0568838

15 March 1945

Mrs. Helen Marr Watkins  
1625 West Second Avenue  
Corsicana, Texas

Dear Mrs. Watkins:

I am referring to your letter of 2 March 1945, addressed to the Secretary of War, concerning your son, the late First Lieutenant James H. Brantley.

I am most sympathetic with you in your desire to know the details regarding your son's death, which would offer you some comfort in your sorrow. It is sincerely regretted that no information is available in the War Department, other than that contained in the official casualty message received from the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations which states that Lieutenant Brantley was killed in action in England on 6 August 1944. I hope you will understand that in order to fulfil the vital responsibility of reporting casualty information in the most expeditious manner, our overseas commanders have been obliged to limit their reports to include the fact, place, cause and date of death. However, under a procedure which has only recently been established, the immediate commanding officer or the chaplain is required to inform the next of kin or the emergency addressee of the circumstances surrounding death and to furnish all other information which may be available. You may be sure that every effort will be made to send his wife the desired information expeditiously.

Since The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C., is charged with matters relating to the burial and disposition of the personal effects of our military personnel whose deaths occur overseas, I am referring your letter to that official, who will, I am sure, communicate with you in the near future regarding your son's burial.

Your inquiry regarding the awards given your son has been referred to the proper military authority and will be made the subject of a further communication.

COPY FOR QMG

1625 West Second Avenue  
Corsicana, Texas  
2 March 1945

Secretary of War

War Department  
Washington, D/ C/

Dear Sirs,

My son, First Lieutenant James Hugh Brantley, O-663838, was "killed in action over England" on August 6th, 1944, according to your telegram. As soon thereafter as possible I wrote to you for any details you might be able to give me. You answered that, due to military secrecy, or some such implied reason (I've forgotten the exact wording) you had no further information than that given in the telegram, yourself. I then wrote to the Commanding Officer of his group, but the letter was returned for better address. Later I tried again, this time adding my son's A.P.O. number. That letter - written in Decmeber of last year - was not returned to me, although I had my return address written plainly on the outside of the envelope; so I assume it was delivered. However neither the C.O., nor the Chaplain, nor anybody - until, finally, the letter I am going to quote, from one of his crew members: (to my sister)

France 1-1-45

Dear Mrs. Williamson,

I am sorry that I have never contacted some of you before now. Only Army regulations are so strict on that matter that only by your writing me questions can I say anything that would make sense to you. I know how much in the dark you and Ruth have been. So I will take the time now to do my best to tell you all the facts. First of all, he was killed in a ground accident, on August the 6th. We were taking off when a flare exploded and blinded him and burnt him. He jumped out of the airplane and the propeller is what killed him. He never knew what hit him. He was buried near Southampton England. They wouldn't let us go to the cemetery and wouldn't tell us where it was. He had the same crew as he had in The States. I was in the airplane when it happened but only got a cracked knee out of it. We left England shortly after that and I have been in France ever since. If I can ever complete my tour of duty I will certainly look you folds up and explain all the details in person. I know how Ruth must feel and my feelings are certainly out to her. I know my wife worries the same way. You see I have a daughter and son myself. I know he did his share and you can all be proud of him as he was not afraid. He was the best pilot I ever had. I am giving the Germans hell for the both of us now. I will try and write to his mother, but I find it hard to write an intelligent letter as I can not get my mind on things at home. If I do I get to feeling bad . . .

C  
O  
P  
Y

Your Friend  
Vernon Briscoe

(Lt. Vernon Briscoe - 1066195