

PFC John McCoy Patrick, born on February 4, 1920, was the son of James William Patrick and Laura Slaughter. He had 4 siblings: Marcus Patrick, Nannie (Patrick) Harris, Jesse Patrick and Clifton Patrick. He grew up in the Collins River valley near the Grundy and Warren County lines.

McCoy entered the Army in 1941 and served in the 5th Division of Patton's 3rd Army. He was the "BAR" man for his Squad which meant he operated the Browning Automatic Rifle.

The Red Diamond Division traveled from the United States to Iceland, England and Northern Ireland for training. They entered Normandy at Utah Beach on July 9, 1944. Between July and late November of that same year, they crossed countless rivers and liberated many towns in France. By early December they were in Germany and by mid-December they entered Luxembourg. Before the war's end, they would travel through Czechoslovakia and Bavaria before returning to the United States.

Sadly, McCoy never got the chance to return home to Tennessee. While out on a morning patrol, he was killed by a German sniper on December 25, 1944 near Echternach, Luxembourg. He was buried in Luxembourg National Cemetery where General Patton is also interred. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Janelle Taylor

From: "Mike & Donna OBrien" <obrien729@sbcglobal.net>
To: "Janelle Taylor" <jcoats@cafes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2005 8:42 AM
Subject: Re: WWII Soldiers from Grundy

Great! Will it be in the newsletter or in the paper? I'd love to have a copy when it's done if you could send it to me. I'll give you me regular address if you need to mail it to me. My family still lives in Grundy Co. and McCoy has a brother who is still living there... Clifton Patrick. He lives off Beersheba Hwy. just beyond the Collins River bridge.

I will definitely write up something later today and send it back to you. I did a lot of research on McCoy, including meeting a couple of veterans in his Co. and the son of the veteran who was with him on the morning he was killed. I have a picture I'll send you too.

Thanks.....

Donna O'Brien
 208 E Littleton Trail
 Hainesville, IL 60030

Janelle Taylor <jcoats@cafes.net> wrote:

A friend and I are doing a Veteran's Day article about soldiers from Grundy County who died during WWII. I want a brief biography of a couple hundred words telling briefly who his family was and where he lived in Grundy County, where he served, where and when he died and where he is buried. I'd love you to write it if you will. (You will get credit in the article.)

Oh yes, a picture would also be very nice is you have one.

Thanks,

Janelle Taylor

Grundy County Historical Society

----- Original Message -----

From: Mike & Donna OBrien

To: jcoats@cafes.net

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 9:27 PM

Subject: WWII Soldiers from Grundy

McCoy Patrick was my great-uncle and I have tons of information about him. Let me know what you're looking for.

Donna O'Brien

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.

Version: 7.0.344 / Virus Database: 267.11.3/106 - Release Date: 9/19/2005

9/21/2005