



2nd LT John B Carter, US Army

5th Engineer Special Brigade, 34th Engineer Battalion

2nd LT John Carter was the second of five boys in a family of thirteen siblings born in 1918 in Hooper, Washington. Shortly after the start of WWII his four brothers enlisted in the military. In 1942 John joined the Army and was off to war because he felt the need to do his part as so many of his generation were doing. LT Carter was the father of Mill Creek resident Capt. Charles “Chuck” Turbak, USMC, a Vietnam veteran, who was only three when his father left for WWII.

2nd LT Carter was killed in action on Omaha Beach in 6 June, 1944 on D-Day during the invasion of Normandy Beach. He was a Combat Engineer tasked with clearing the mines on the beach head and was part of the first assault wave. His task was to secure a designated German Pill Box in the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach that was to be used as a command center. He landed about 0700 and was killed by German artillery next to the pill box around 0830. Easy Red sector turned out to be the hottest part of the beach and suffered the highest casualties of the landing.

Today there is a monument on top of the pill box with the 96 names of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade members that were killed on the beach during the landing. 2nd LT John Carter is buried in the cemetery located overlooking the beach. The monument and the American cemetery is an awesome beautiful site created out of carnage. If you ever have the opportunity to go there and experience the surreal feeling of awe – you will ask yourself – “how did they do it?”

