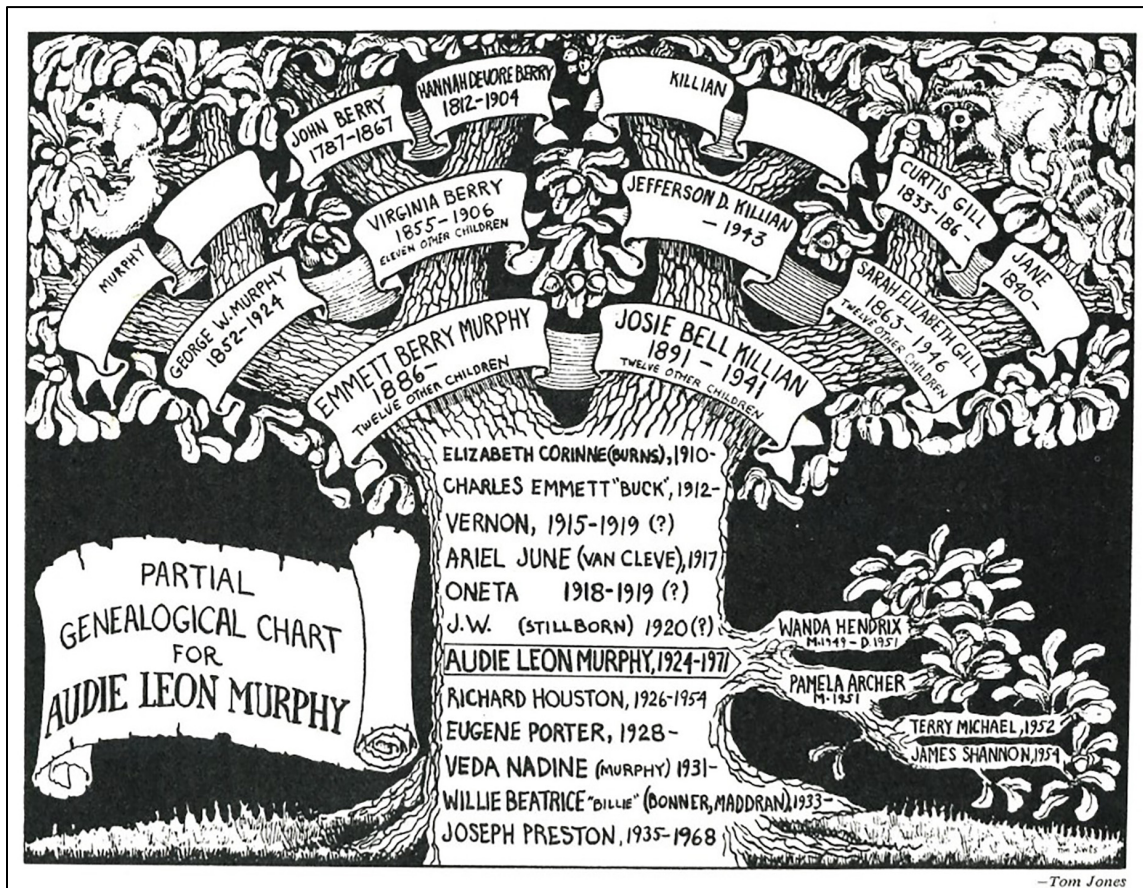


Upgrading Audie Murphy's Family Tree

By Richard L. Rodgers

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4745>



Simpson's Original Murphy Family Tree. The original Audie Murphy's family tree researched by Colonel Harold B. Simpson and published in his 1975 biography, AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER. Some errors and a lot of gaps exist in the 1975 version.

COLONEL Harold B. Simpson's biography AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER written in 1975 is well-known and accepted as the

definitive biography on Audie Murphy's life. It was also the first written account of Audie's entire life. Unfortunately, the

book is no longer in print. Used copies today are rare and expensive.

When Colonel Simpson¹ began his research, he relied on old-fashioned gum-shoe detective work to document the facts surrounding Audie's life. His methods included personally locating countless newspaper and magazine articles. He met with and interviewed scores of people as an effort to locate personal documents, photographs, and letters while recording stories and accounts that would have otherwise been lost. He also made every effort to gain access to official local, state, and federal documents. Simpson's research was exhaustive. Even still, some information was elusive and escaped notice.

Simpson's 1975 family tree illustration is an example. Much of Audie's ancestral information was missing at the time of the biography's publication. In fairness to Simpson, he was only able to report the information that was available. Much of it was based on fading memories of people he interviewed, and documentation that was difficult to obtain – both of which were sometimes in error.

For these reasons, some information on the family tree is wrong. Audie's birth year is an example and shows 1924 instead of 1925. This is understandable and should not be held against Simpson since he relied on a falsified birth

certificate Audie used when he lied about his age as he enlisted in the Army. The proof needed to establish the real birth year would not be found until over a quarter of a century later – long after the year Simpson penned the biography. No published update to Audie Murphy's family tree has ever been produced – until now.

Thanks to the resources of publicly accessible Internet-based services like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, and FindaGrave.com a more accurate look at the Murphy genealogy is now possible and has been made.

And the result? Well, the proof is in the pudding as the expression goes. Audie Murphy's lineage can now be traced as far back as the 8th century.

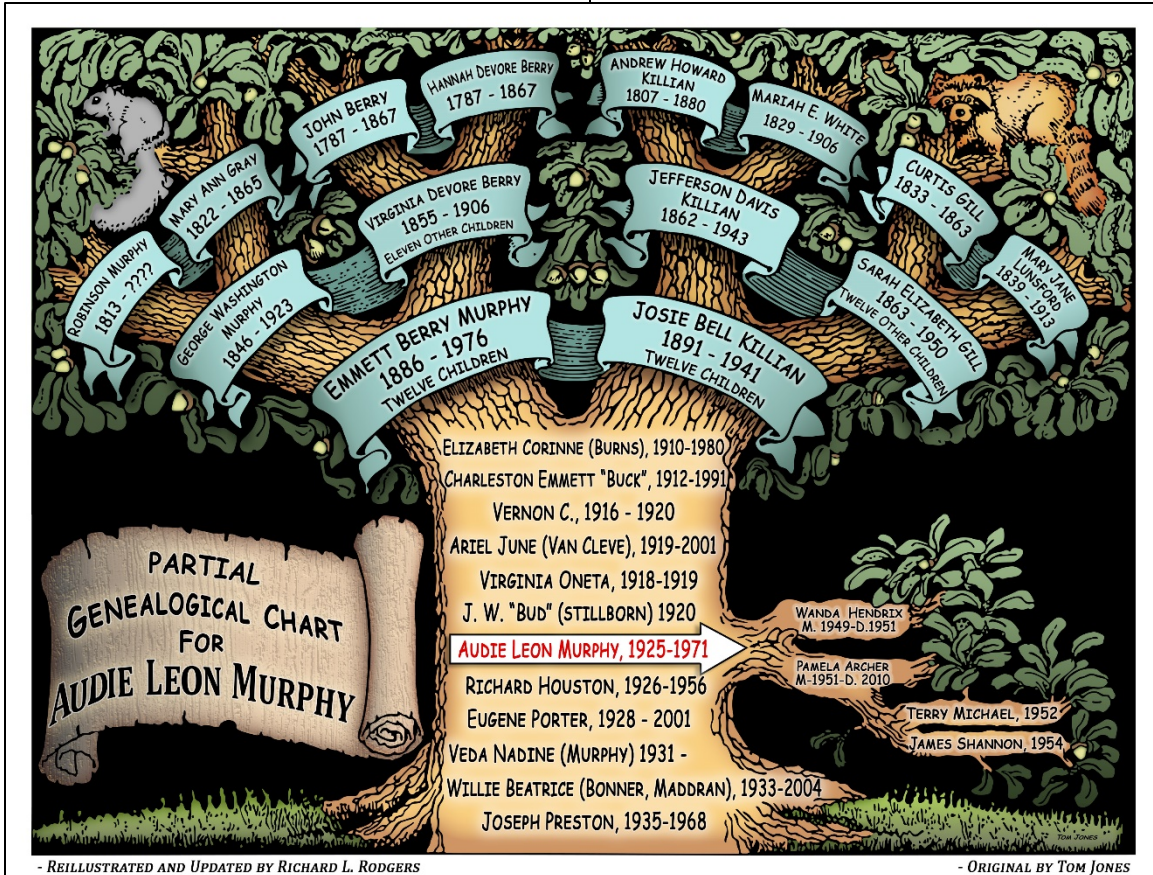
There are still holes in the data. This is should be expected. As any family tree is expanded backward over time, the probability that more gaps in data will occur increases. Even still, Audie's new family tree is remarkably detailed. Yes, there is still missing information – but not much.

So, what are the improvements?

First, the original Simpson family tree has been corrected. Missing details that were recently discovered are now included. The original drawing of the

¹ Colonel Harold B. Simpson (1917-1989) was a retired Air Force officer and a prominent historical writer from the state of Texas and the founder of the Hill College Press.

Source: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/simpson-harold-brown>



Murphy tree was also re-illustrated and colorized.

Second, three tables – found at the end of this document – have been separately constructed which show the Murphy, Killian, and Lunsford lineages. The Murphy branch stretches back as far Ireland in the 1600's and the Killian lineage goes even farther back to Germany in the 1500's.

The new tables also include Internet links that take you to the source of the information. The tables include record numbers for genealogists to access the data.

Some interesting details surface from the expanded genealogy.

As an example, the Murphy family came out of Ireland from the area of Ulster. Later, the Murphy's ventured across the ocean and became established on the east coast in the American colonies in an area known as the "Upper Potomac Hundreds" which is found in Montgomery County, Maryland. This area historically includes the settlements of Darnestown, Dawsonville, and Seneca.²

Spelling with the Murphy family name was also an issue. Audie's great-great grandfather, born in 1780 in Maryland,

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_County,_Maryland

apparently preferred the spelling of "Murphey". Perhaps spelling of one's name back in the early days of America was an arbitrary thing.

In the meantime, on Audie's mother's side, it seems that the Killian's original spelling, in Germany, was "Kilian". Once in America, the family spelling changed.

Another interesting fact is that the Killians' roots are in the German state of Bayern and include the Bavarian region. This is where Audie fought with the 3rd Infantry division.

Finally, Audie's great-grandmother, Mary Jane Lunsford Gill on his mother's side, was from the Lunsford family. The Lunsford family history can be traced as far back to 790 A.D. and has connections to British aristocracy (see the Lunsford table at the end of this document). This predates the Battle of Hastings and the beginning of the Norman Conquest on October 14, 1066 A.D.³ This earliest generation of Audie's ancestry is just

three hundred and eighty years after the departure of the Romans from England.⁴

Keep in mind that like any family tree, the quality of the genealogy is only as good as the information available and the amount of effort that goes into the research. Undoubtedly some errors are probably still present. Gaps in the information still exist today. Even still, more tiers to the family genealogy will likely be added in the future.

It can be said confidently that the quality of Simpson's original work on the Murphy genealogy was remarkably good despite the limitations of the time when the research was conducted. Simpson laid down an excellent foundation that has since been built on and refined. Today's genealogists, descendants of the Murphy family, and related family branches owe a great deal of gratitude to Colonel Simpson for his excellent work.

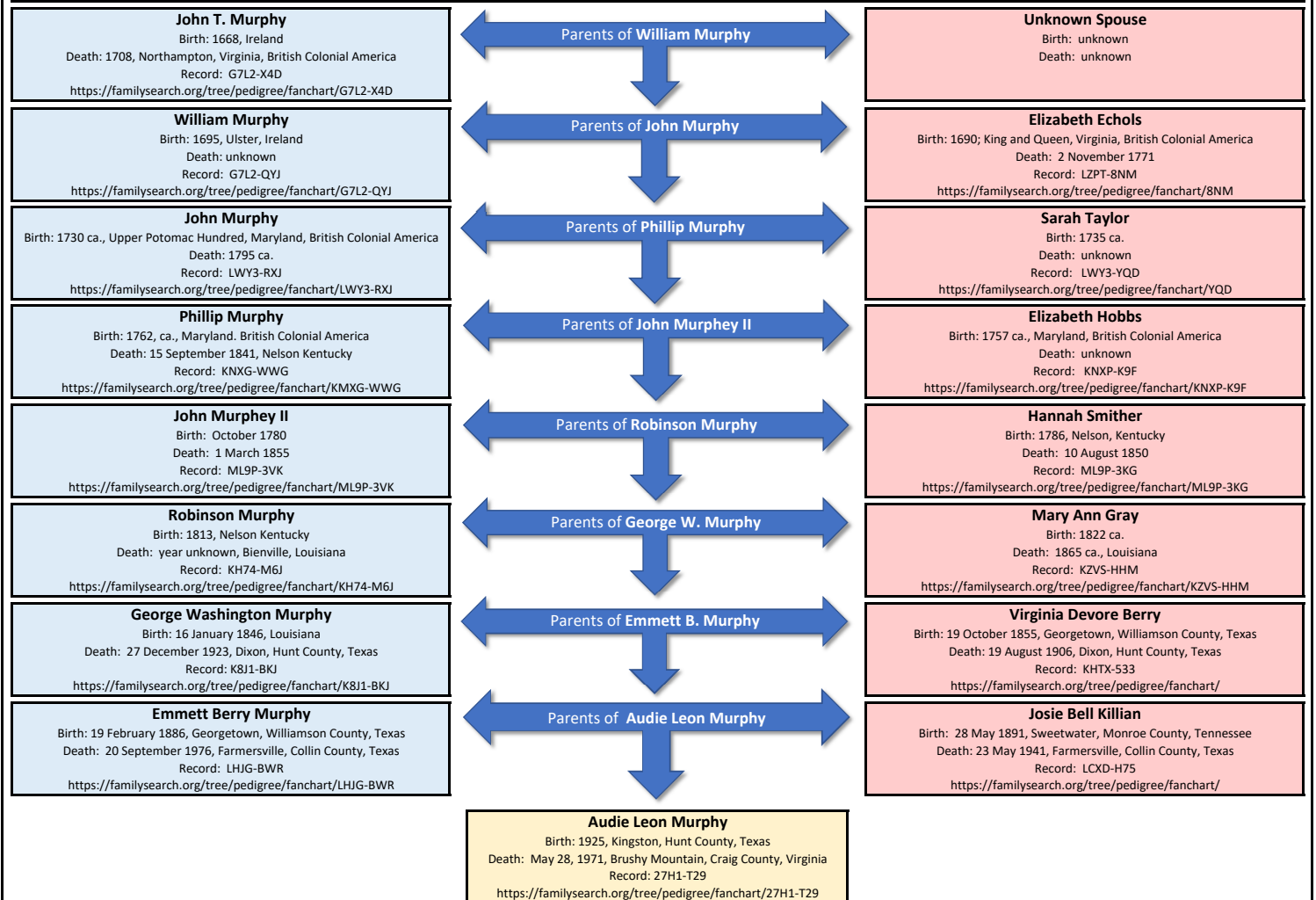
- *Richard Rodgers*

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1>

⁴ In AD410, the Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote, "fight bravely and defend your lives...you are on your own now".

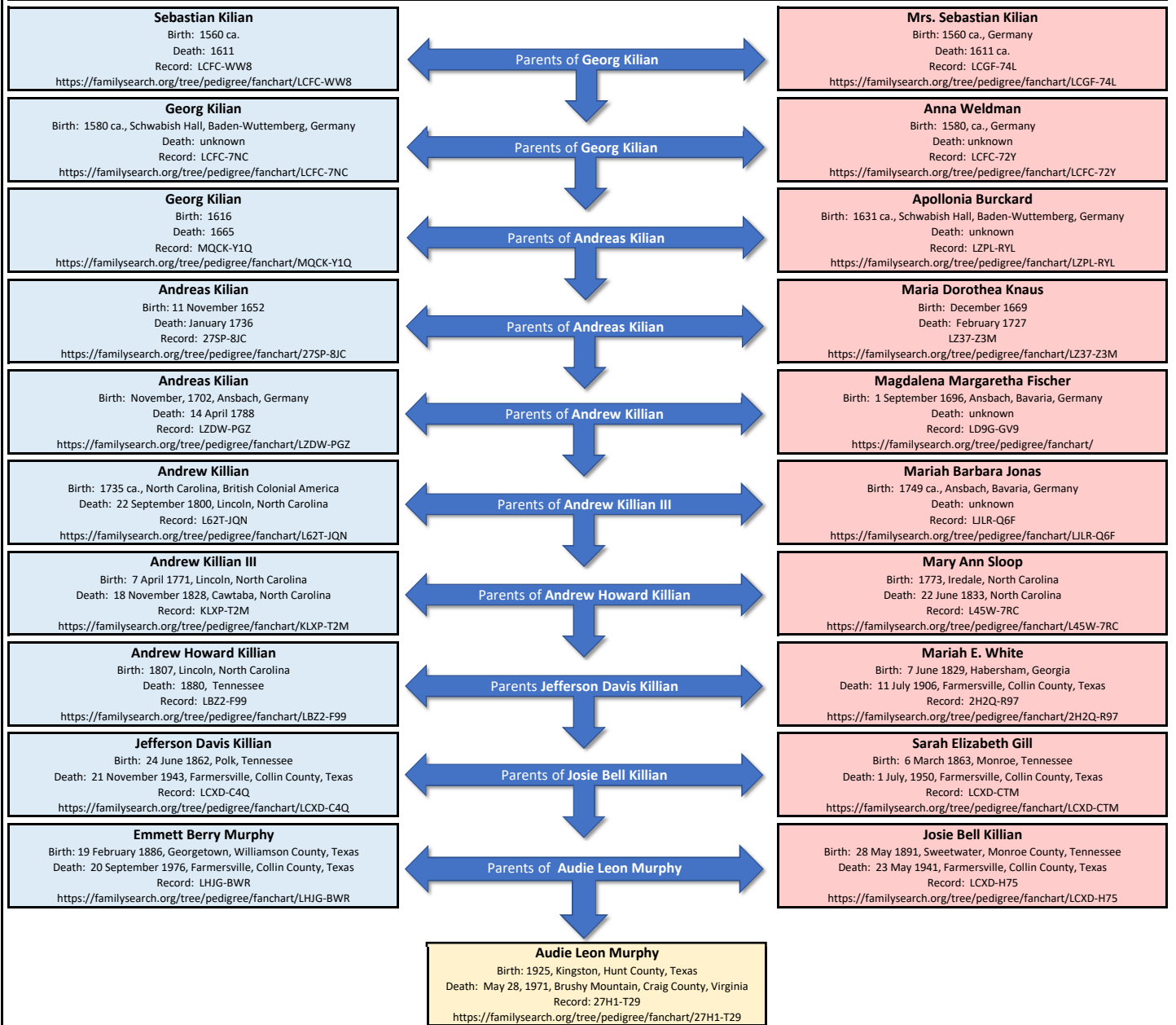
Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/z2dr4wx>

Murphy Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*



* Sources:
<https://www.familysearch.org>
 Garry Murphy, Murphy Family Geneologist
 Bill Allen, Dockery Family Reunion

Killian Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*



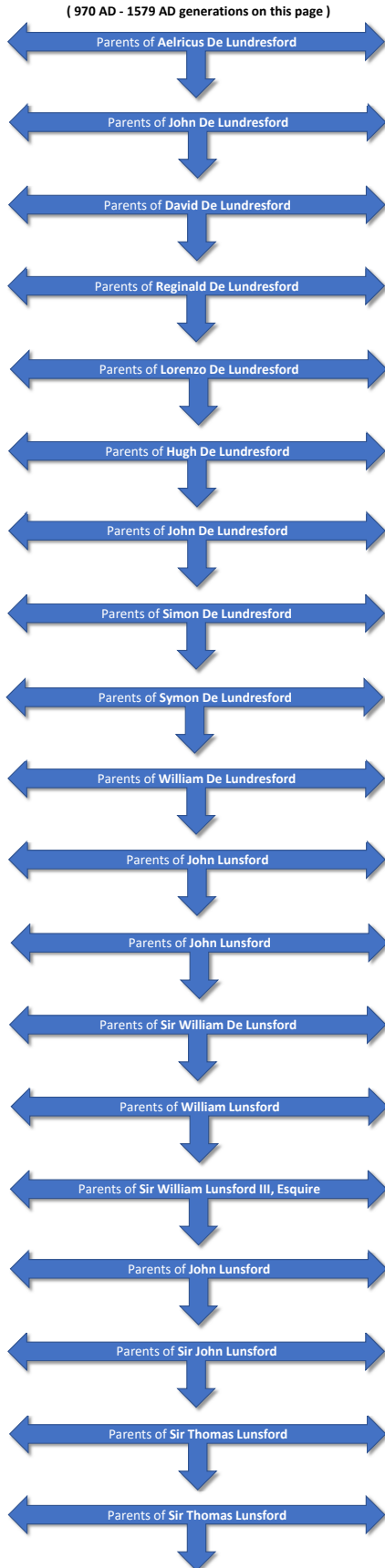
* Sources:

<https://www.familysearch.org>
Garry Murphy, Murphy Family Geneologist
Bill Allen, Dockery Family Reunion

Lunsford Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy*

(970 AD - 1579 AD generations on this page)

Ingram De Lundersford Birth: 970, ca. Death: after 1042 Record: 2WN5-LGD https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/2WN5-LGD
Aelricus De Lundersford Birth: 992 ca. Death: after 1066, Sussex England Record: KG72-ZWL https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KG72-ZWL
John De Lundersford Birth: 1015, Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: after 1067 Record: 2WN5-GSS https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/2WN5-GSS
David De Lundersford Birth: 1040, Sussex, England Death: 1089 Record: KFX4-53H https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KFX4-53H
Reginald De Lundersford Birth: 1072, Sussex, England Death: 1138, Sussex England Record: KG72-CLD https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KG72-CLD
Lorenzo De Lundersford Birth: 1105 ca., Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: 1168, Sussex England Record: KG72-CFX https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KG72-CFX
Hugh De Lundersford Birth: 1140, Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: 1203 Record: GSXL-VX5 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/GSXL-VX5
John De Lundersford Birth: 1180, Lunsford, Echingham, Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: LH71-Y15 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LH71-Y15
Simon De Lundersford Birth: 1215, Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: LH71-143 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LH71-143
Symon De Lundersford Birth: 1255 ca., Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: LHWM-M7Z https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LHWM-M7Z
William De Lundersford Birth: 1295 ca., Lunsford, Echingham, Sussex, England Death: 1352 Record: GSXL-G4S https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/GSXL-G4S
John Lunsford Birth: 1330, Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: after 1374 Record: KG7K-K2X https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KG7K-K2X
John Lunsford Birth: 1360 ca., Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: 1428, Lunsford, Sussex, England Record: G3J4-QYF https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/G3J4-QYF
Sir William De Lunsford Birth: 1417, Lunsford's Cross, Echingham, Sussex, England Death: 3 May 1451, Lunsford's Cross, Sussex, England Record: L17H-SWZ https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/L17H-SWZ
William Lunsford Birth: 1448, Sussex, England Death: 16 January 1498 Record: M5G7-IJ9 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/M5G7-IJ9
Sir William Lunsford III, Esquire Birth: 1471, Etchingham, Rother District, East Sussex, England Death: 3 May 1531, East Hoathly, Sussex, England Record: LK3Z-LWY https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LK3Z-LWY
John Lunsford Birth: 1519, East Hoathley, Sussex, England Death: 8 December 1581, East Hoathley, Sussex, England Record: LZDY-376 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LZDY-376
Sir John Lunsford Birth: 1551 ca., Lunsford, Sussex, England Death: 5 May 1618 Record: LZDY-S2M https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LZDY-S2M
Sir Thomas Lunsford Birth: 1576, Willegh Hall, Sussex, England Death: 4 November 1637, Greenwich, Kent, England Record: LH75-SSD https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LH75-SSD

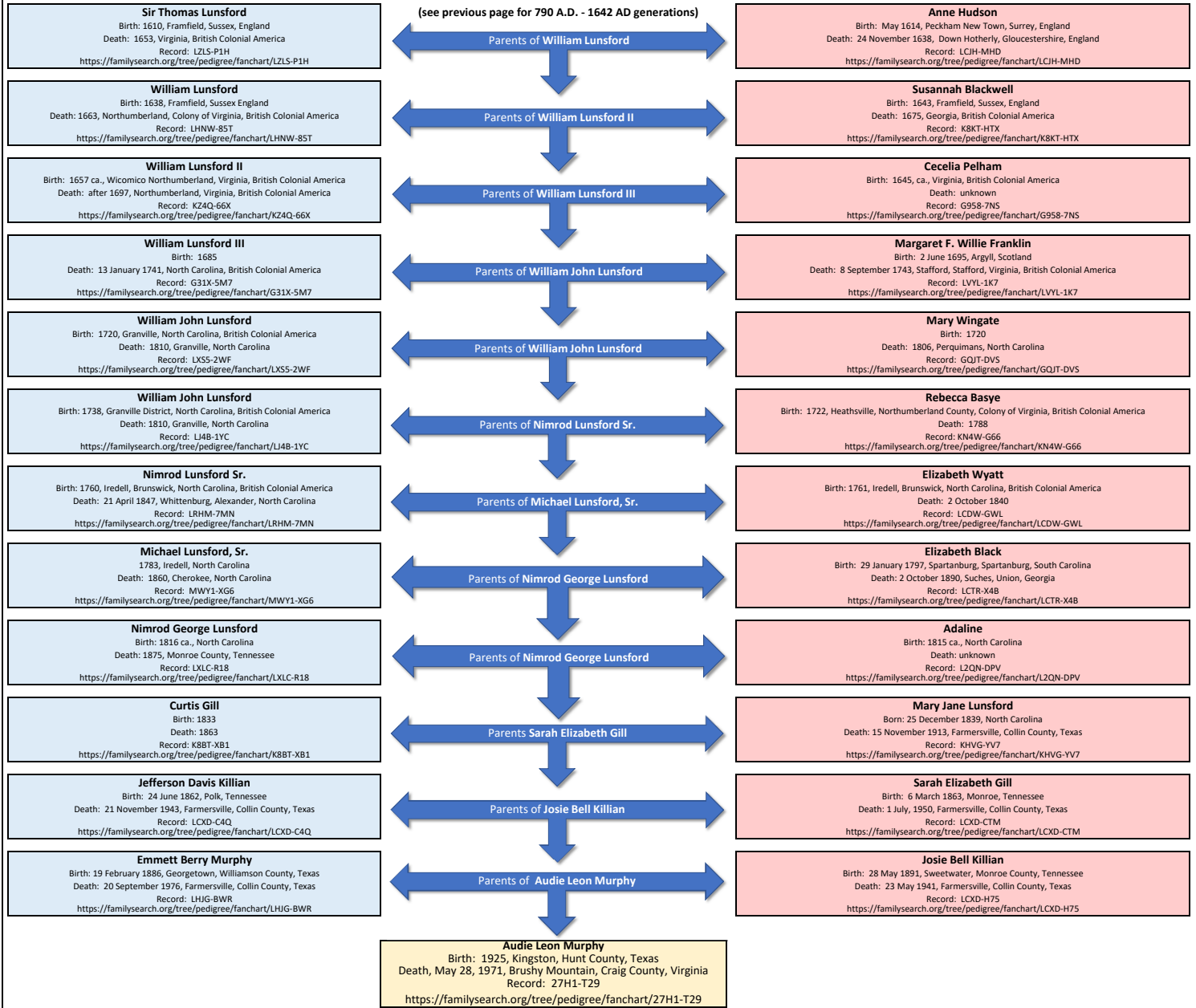


Mrs. Ingram De Lundersford Birth: 972 ca. Death: unknown Record: 2WN5-LST https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/2WN5-LST
Mrs. Aelricus De Lundersford Birth: 995 ca. Death: unknown Record: 2WN5-LT5 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/2WN5-LT5
Mrs. John De Lundersford Birth: 1018, Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: 225X-79R https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/
Mrs. David De Lundersford Birth: 1045 ca., Sussex England Death: unknown Record: 2WN5-GHM https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/2WN5-GHM
Eleanor Moreville Birth: 1073 ca., Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: K82W-C4G https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/K82W-C4G
Johanna de Vere Birth: 1110 ca., Oxfordshire, England Death: unknown Record: K4PZ-SLD https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/K4PZ-SLD
Miss de Beatrice De St. Martin Birth: 1150 ca., Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: LH71-KTR https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LH71-KTR
Mrs. John De Lundersford Birth: 1185, Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: 92HW-NJ https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/92HW-NJ
Mabel Asburnham Birth: 1220, Ashburnham, Sussex, England Death: Unknown Record: LH71-185 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LH71-185
Anna De Cantelowe Birth: 1265 ca., Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: KG7K-G9B https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KG7K-G9B
Johanna De Woknolle Birth: 1300, Sussex England Death: unknown Record: KCYN-V4R https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/KCYN-V4R
Agnes De Rochele Birth: 1335 ca., Sussex, England Death: unknown Record: L78L-N8N https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/L78L-N8N
Elizabeth de Etchingham Birth: 1400, Etchingham, Sussex, England Death: 3 December 1452, Etchingham, Sussex, England Record: MY1T-Y78 https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/MY1T-Y78
Thomasine Barrington Birth: 1423 ca., Battle, Sussex, England Death: 16 January 1498, Blythburg, Suffolk, England Record: LDJB-RRJ https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LDJB-RRJ
Cecelia Pelham Birth: 1450, Sussex, England Death: before 1486, Lunsford Willegh, Suffolk, England Record: 92C4-WVK https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/92C4-WVK
Margarette Fiennes Birth: 1475 ca., Sussex, England Death: after September 1533, Sussex England Record: LK3Z-L8G https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LK3Z-L8G
Mary Sackville Birth: 1524, Chiddingleigh, Sussex, England Death: 10 July 1571, East Hoathly, Sussex, England Record: LZDY-3WQ https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LZDY-3WQ
Barbara Lewknor Birth: 1560, England Death: 1617, Somerset, England Record: LZDY-S2L https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/LZDY-S2L
Katherine Fludd Birth: 5 December 1579 Death: 19 May 1642 Record: 9NGX-HFK https://familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/fanchart/9NGX-HFK

(see next page for 1610 A.D. - 1971 AD generations)

* Sources:
<https://www.familysearch.org>
 Garry Murphy, Murphy Family Geneologist
 Bill Allen, Dockery Family Reunion

Lunsford Lineage of Audie Leon Murphy (continued)*



* Sources:
<https://www.familysearch.org>
 Garry Murphy, Murphy Family Geneologist
 Bill Allen, Dockery Family Reunion

“It’s a Small World” (My third observation¹)

By Michael P. West

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.

<http://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4743>

AUDIE Leon Murphy died in a plane crash on May 28, 1971 in Craig County, Virginia. It would have been his mother’s 80th birthday.

On May 23, 1941, Josie Bell Killian died in a small house on Neathery Street in Farmersville, Texas. The street was named for a very prominent family – the Neatherys.

The Neathery family of Farmersville, Texas gave us doctors, lawyers, merchants, and – dare I mention – politicians. Harriett, or simply “Miss Hattie”, was a daughter of Dr. Allen Hill Neathery and she was equally prominent in social work and various charities. Even being the pillar of philanthropy that she was, she was always known as “Miss Hattie.”

In the July 16th, 1945 Life Magazine spread featuring Audie Murphy, there appears a picture of Audie and Miss Hattie sitting on her front porch having a “chat”. According to the caption, we learn that Audie delivered newspapers to Miss Hattie.



Figure 1: Audie has a chat. July 16, 1945
Life magazine photo of Audie talking to Ms. Hattie Neathery.

Photo by James Laughead

Is there more here than simply a friendly visit?

Now the rest of the story.

Miss Hattie Neathery had family not only in Texas but in Louisiana where she had second cousins. (This is not a bad affliction – we all have them.)

¹ The third observation of three presented by the author in a speech during the summer 2016 Audie Murphy Days at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas.

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

One of her second cousins was Mary Susan "Mollie" Neathery. Mary Susan, a daughter of Tillman S. Neathery (see figure 2), would marry William Fletcher Lambert, December 1896, in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana and from that marriage would be born six children. One of their daughters was Eula Thelma Lambert (see figure 3).

Several years later, Eula married Marcus Brown Butler, December 24, in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana and she too had a family. There were at least four children, two daughters, and two sons. One son

was named Herman. Herman's middle name was Lavelle. Herman's last name was Butler (see figure 4).

You see, Miss Hattie's - Hattie Neathery's second cousin twice removed - was Herman Lavelle Butler, the pilot of the airplane in which Audie Murphy was killed on May 28 1971 (figure 5 and 6).

It is a small world after all.

[7-296.]

Page No. 73 1880
 Supervisor's Dist. No. 3
 Enumeration Dist. No. 3

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1870, and ends May 31, 1880.
 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Ward Ten, in the County of Caldwell, State of Louisiana
 enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1880.

J. B. Godfrey
 Enumerator.

Line	Name	Sex	Color	Personal Description	Relationship	Profession, Occupation or Trade	Health	Education	Society	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Place of Birth
26	Tillman Neathery	M	W	Farmer						Miss N. C.	Miss	Miss
27	Mary E.	F	W	Washing house	Wife					La	La	La
28	Charles B.	M	W	Work on farm	Son					La	La	Miss
29	Thomas S.	M	W	Work on farm	Son					La	La	Miss
30	Melvin S.	M	W	Work on farm	Son					La	La	Miss
31	Hester	F	W	At Home	Daughter					La	La	Miss
32	Samuel	M	W	At Home	Son					La	La	Miss
33	Faith	F	W		Son					La	La	Miss
34	Charles	M	W		Son					La	La	Miss
35	Susan	F	W		Daughter					La	La	Miss
36	Preston W.	M	W	Farmer	Son					La	La	Miss

Note: Lines 1 to 25 and 37 to 50 removed to provide clarity

Figure 2: 1880 Federal Census and Neathery family details. Tillman Neathery (line 26) was the first cousin Dr. William Allen Neathery. Dr. Neathery's daughter, Miss Hattie's Neathery, was first cousin to Susan Neathery (line 35). Susan would later marry William Fletcher Lambert in Louisiana. Susan's daughter, Eula Thelma Lambert, would later marry and have a son named Herman Lavell Butler.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

STATE *Illinois* DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 COUNTY *Wabash* THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. *2* SHEET NO. *B*
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY *Ward 7* NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE *Ward 7* WARD OF CITY *2*
 NAME OF INSTITUTION *A* ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE *26* DAY OF *April*, 1910. ENQUIRATOR *Doug Brown*

LINE NO.	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SIBLINGS	SEX	AGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	REMARKS	PROPERTY	VALUE	REMARKS
71	<i>William Fletcher Lambert</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>W 37 12 2</i>	<i>Lambert Lambert Lambert</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>250 0</i>	<i>1/4 200</i>	<i>2 5 20</i>	
72	<i>Mary Susan Neathery</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>W 37 32 7 1/2 18</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
73	<i>Myrtle Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
74	<i>Susan Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
75	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
76	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
77	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		
78	<i>Uula Neathery</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W 37 12 5</i>	<i>Neathery Neathery Neathery</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Homemaker</i>		<i>1/4 200</i>		

Note: Lines 51 to 71 and 80 to 100 removed to provide clarity

Figure 3: 1910 Federal Census and Lambert family details. William Fletcher Lambert (line 72) was married to Mary Susan “Mollie” Neathery (line 73). Dr. Neathery’s daughter, Miss Hattie’s Neathery, was first cousin to Susan Neathery (line 35). Susan’s daughter, Uula (sic), or Eula Thelma Lambert (line 78), would later marry and have a son named Herman Lavell Butler.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

Eula Thelma Butler
 ALBION — Eula Thelma Butler, 85, died Dec. 2, 1991, at the White County Hospital.
 She was born Sept. 11, 1906, in Catahoula Parish, La.; the daughter of Fletcher and Frances (Nethery) Lambert.
 She married M.B. “Pop” Butler on Dec. 17, 1924, in Columbia, La., he preceded her in death.
 Surviving are two daughters, Velda Morrow of Albion and Mary Fran Messman of Browns, 16 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.
 She was preceded in death by two sons, Herman and Marcus Bernard Butler; two brothers, Davis and Govie Lambert; and one sister, Myrtle Horn.
 Mrs. Butler, a homemaker, was a member of Easter Star.
 Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Albion; the Rev. Randy Miller will officiate and burial will be in Graceland Cemetery.
 Visitation is from 6 to 8 this evening at Ingram Funeral Home.

Figure 4: Obituary of Eula Butler. This article establishes that Eula Lambert was married to Marcus Brown Butler and their children’s names.

Source: The Daily Republican Register, p.12, Wednesday, December 4, 1991, Mt. Carmel Illinois

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA - CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS - RICHMOND

182 54-3

COPY A FOR BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

REGISTRATION AREA NUMBER 122	CERTIFICATE NUMBER 11	MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE		STATE FILE NUMBER 71 018535
1. FULL NAME OF DECEASED (first, middle, last) HERMAN LAVELLE BUTLER			2. SEX male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. DATE OF DEATH (mo., day, year) May 28, 1971		4. AGE OF DECEASED 43 years		5. COLOR OR RACE White
6. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION OF DEATH None			7. COUNTY OF DEATH (if independent city, leave blank) Craig County	
8. CITY OR TOWN OF DEATH (if rural, so state) New Castle			9. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF PLACE OF DEATH Brushy Mountain	
10. STATE (OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE Illinois			11. COUNTY OF DECEASED'S (if independent city, leave blank) RESIDENCE 612	
12. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE Albion			13. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF RESIDENCE Box 165 ZIP CODE 62806	
14. NAME OF FATHER OF DECEASED Marcus Brown Butler			15. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF DECEASED Eula Lambert	
16. DECEASED CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY U. S. A.		17. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>		18. IF MARRIED OR WIDOWED, NAME OF SPOUSE Colleen Webster
20. IF VETERAN, name war, or if peacetime only, so state World War II		21. BIRTHPLACE (state or country) Louisiana		22. DATE OF BIRTH (mo.) (day) (year) December 30, 1927
23. USUAL OR LAST OCCUPATION Director		24. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Telestar Corporation		25. INFORMANT - OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION Family
26. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (A), (B), and (C). PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A): Massive Trauma				INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH Immediate
DUE TO (B) _____ DUE TO (C) _____				26a. AUTOPSY? AUTHORIZED BY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (A)				
26b. IF FEMALE, WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN PAST 3 MONTHS? yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/>		26c. EXTERNAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS PRIMARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or CONTRIBUTING <input type="checkbox"/>		26d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in part I or part II) Airplane Crash
26e. TIME OF INJURY (mo.) (day) (year) 12:43 A.M. May 28, 1971		26f. INJURY OCCURRED while at work <input type="checkbox"/> not while at work <input type="checkbox"/>		26g. PLACE OF INJURY (home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) Mountain 26h. (city or town) (county) (state) Craig County, Virginia
26. I CERTIFY that I took charge of the remains described above, viewed the body, made inquiry and in my opinion death resulted at or about 12:43 P.M. from: NATURAL CAUSES <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> UNDETERMINED <input type="checkbox"/> PENDING <input type="checkbox"/>				
ACTUAL SIGNATURE <i>Frank M. Johnson</i>		M.D. MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR Roanoke County June 3, 1971		
27. BURIAL REMOVAL CREMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		28. PLACE OF BURIAL REMOVAL, ETC. (name of cemetery or crematory) (city or county) (state) Welcome Home Cemetery, Grayson, Louisiana		
29. (signature of funeral director or person acting as such) <i>John Oakey</i>		NAME OF FUNERAL HOME AND ADDRESS: John M. Oakey Inc. Roanoke, Virginia.		
30. (signature of registrar) <i>Maria West</i> , Deputy		DATE RECORD FILED: 6-14-71		

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. Use black ribbon, stab-staple, or print legibly. Seal with wax. This is a permanent record and subject to reproduction by immediate and other parties applying for same.

NOTE: If "pending" must be indicated, notify registrar of final decision as soon as possible.

V.S. 2-A 2-70

Figure 5: Death Certificate. The death certificate of Herman Lavelle Butler which includes lineage and family details.

Source: Department of Health – Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, Commonwealth of Virginia



Figure 6: Grave of Herman Lavelle Butler. Herman Butler was the pilot of the twin-engine Aero Commander 680E, N601JJ that crashed on Brush Mountain, Virginia on May 28, 1971 taking the lives of all six people on board including Audie Leon Murphy. In a strange twist of fate, Butler was also related to Miss Hattie Neathery, Farmersville, Texas resident who was photographed 26 years earlier with Audie Murphy in the Life Magazine article, July 16, 1945..

Photo Source: Karen Klemm Pinckard, www.findagrave.com
Plane Accident details: www.thisdayinaviation.com/tag/heman-lavelle-butler/

How Lattie Tipton Got His Distinguished Service Cross

By MD Marks

IN July of 1966, *The New York Herald Tribune* carried a story titled, “Why I Gave My Medals Away”. Audie Murphy was credited with authoring that article. The article was the result of a question asked by Mrs. Joanne Gerhard, the wife of a World War II veteran and Wichita professor.

In the article Audie stated, “I gave away my medals at the end of the war because I never felt that they entirely belonged to me. My whole unit earned them, but I didn’t know how to give them to the whole unit.”

On an earlier occasion during 1947 in an unpublished Life Magazine photo¹, Wanda Hendrix holds her soon-to-be husband’s Medal of Honor. Audie’s other medals, still in their holders, are scattered about on the floor next to them. Wanda’s gaze on her husband and the gentle manner she cradles the medal in her open hand, suggests respectful concern while Audie’s tense body posture and his closed left hand may be communicating a different one for him.

In a letter to Lillian Bailey dated July 19, 1981, David “Spec” McClure offers some insight into just what did happen to Audie’s original medals.

“I am enclosing a copy of the article ‘Why I Gave My Medals Away.’ It appeared in *The New York Herald Tribune* in July 1955. The article sounds just about the way Audie thought and talked. Actually, he did not give all of his medals away—although he might have thought he had.”

In the earlier Life Magazine article, Audie made this comment on medals. “War is a nasty business, to be avoided if possible, and to be gotten over with as soon as possible. It’s not the sort of job that deserves medals.”

During his post war life, Audie was asked again and again to pose for some photographer or another with his medals. The Army was constantly having to replace them because the last set seemed to disappear. But what of

¹The photo is unpublished but from a series printed in the November 17, 1947 issue of Life Magazine, pp106, 108, and 111. The photographer is not identified but maybe Allan Grant based on the style. Mr. Grant was a well-known Life Magazine photographer at the time.

the originals, those seen in the Life photo and the Medal of Honor so lovingly held by Wanda Hendrix, what happened to them?

Spec continues with his explanation in his letter:

“When he and Wanda were married, they lived in a duplex. The medals were stored in a box



Audie shows girlfriend military awards. Similar to a series of other photos which appeared in the November 17, 1947 issue of Life Magazine (pp.106, 108, and 111) Audie shows his military decorations to his soon-to-be-bride Wanda Hendrix. This photo was not published. This photo was probably acquired on request from Life Magazine by the late Lillian Bailey, a former Audie Murphy Fan club president.

Photo source: from the collection of Lillian Bailey

in the garage. After that marriage broke up, both he and Wanda moved away and left the medals. The son of the woman who owned the duplex found the medals in the garage and kept them. After Audie's death, he brought them to either me or Pam—I forgot which, but they were intended for Pam.

“All of the major medals were there with the exception of the Distinguished Service Cross --- usually called the DSC. This is the second highest medal the Army gives for extraordinary heroism in actual combat. In the action for which Audie won his DSC, his best friend, Lattie Tipton, was killed. Tipton and Audie had made a wild charge against a German strong point. They had taken their first objective—an enemy machine gun—when a sniper killed Tipton.

“Audie always resented the fact that Tipton was awarded no medal for his part in the action, and he promised in an interview that he was going to give his own DSC to Claudean Tipton - Lattie Tipton's young daughter. So, when we did not find the DSC among the original medals, I thought he had sent it to Claudean. Pam gave the rest of the original medals to the VA Hospital in San Antonio.

“[Carl] Swickerath located Claudean, who was living in South Carolina. I had met her when she was out here for a "This Is Your Life" radio show about Audie in 1949. So, after Swickerath located her, I called her. She said that she had read in the newspapers that Audie had promised to give her his DSC, but she had never received it.

“I thought that it might have been lost in the mail. Then a strange—almost spooky—thing happened. The Memorial Museum Room in San Antonio did not have room for all the items I had sent it, so after the room was opened, the surplus items were sent back to me. Among those items was that missing DSC. I was almost shocked. It was as if Audie were speaking from the grave and telling me to do something that he had neglected to do in his lifetime.

“I told Pam the story behind the DSC and she asked me to send the medal to Claudean. I did. I also wrote the biggest [news]paper nearest the town in which Claudean lived. The newspaper did as I thought it would. It sent out a reporter and a photographer to interview Claudean. So more than thirty years after he was killed, Lattie Tipton finally got

the credit that Audie always wanted him to have.”

The story of how the medals found their way back to the Murphy family was verified by family friend, Terri Eddlemon Prim, in a recent interview with the AMRF. Ms. Prim related a story that Terry Murphy told her about Audie's medals. Terry Murphy told Ms. Prim that shortly after his father's passing, a man came to the door of the Murphy home. Terry answered it and the man handed him a box. He said, “Here, these belong to you” and walked away.

Through Audie's point of view, he did give his medals away. They were never “his” from the beginning. Perhaps Audie's closing words in the *Tribune* article best relates his feelings.

“That's why—because of my own feelings at certain times—I didn't feel comfortable with my medals. I am grateful to the Army for giving them to me. But I feel today, some 10 years later, just as I did when I received them: that they rightfully belong to Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, Third Division.”

... MD Marks



Photo courtesy of Claudean Tipton Carpenter

“Faces in a Window” (My second observation¹)

By Michael P. West

Comments? *Your thoughts are always welcome. Leave a note on our message board.*
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4739>

I SUSPECT most folks who know of Audie Murphy are quite familiar with the Life Magazine issue of July 16, 1945, the cover of which has the smiling face of this American hero.



One of the many photos in the feature of that issue is an iconic Norman Rockwell-like picture showing Audie sitting in a barber chair getting his haircut by a lady

barber. We know the names of the barber, and we know Audie – but who are the others?

Many answer this question by replying “What others?”

According to the caption beneath the photograph, we are only told “Audie has a haircut in the Greer barbershop by Mrs. J. C. Greer ...”. No other names were mentioned. When the photo and caption was published, I suspect that this came as quite a surprise to Mr. Greer since his name was Aubrey Alanzo Greer.

Did you know that Mr. Greer was a barber as well? Did you know he did his barbering from a wheelchair?

Mrs. Greer was actually Lucy Elizabeth Ray Greer Gladden and was still living in Garland, Texas in 1996 when I visited her. In our brief conversation, I had to ask her the barbershop photo.

She said the Life photographer posed the picture. He wanted to show Audie

¹ The second of three observations presented by the author in a speech during the summer 2016 Audie Murphy Days at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas.

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com



Faces in the Window. Ms. Lucy Ray Greer Gladden cuts Audie's hair while 7 onlookers and a small boy stare. Mr. Robert Clay Vicars is the left most figure and Mr. Charles Harris Stanford stands second from the left. This photo originally appeared in the July 16, 1945 Life Magazine edition.

Photographer: James F. Laughead

getting his haircut by a lady barber which was rare at that time.

Audie and Mrs. Greer are not the only people visible in that picture. One can see on the right a little boy and on the left a host of adult men peering through the front window of the shop.

I for one have always wondered who were those men? I wanted to know not

simply their names but *who were they?* Did they have stories?

As one studies that famous picture, there are seven identifiable faces staring through the window. After researching them, I now know the war came home to two of them well before the taking of that iconic barbershop photo.

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

The left-most figure, Robert Clay Vicars, a retired letter carrier, had just one and a half months earlier learned that Henry Clay Vicars, his grandson, had been officially declared “killed in action” in a bombing raid over Merseburg, Germany.

Mr. Charles Harris Stanford is the second figure and stands just next to Mr. Vicar. Mr. Stanford was a truck driver according to the 1940 census, a longtime resident of Farmersville, Texas, and still later a cotton buyer. Mr. Stanford’s son Cleo Wesley Stanford was killed in a military training accident in 1942.

Please allow me one final observation about Mr. Vicars. He was born near

Copper Creek, Russell County, Virginia. Russell County is located four counties southwest of Craig County, Virginia where Audie was killed in 1971.

As I close, allow me to remind you that there are many untold stories of “just plain folks” who knew Audie and perhaps influenced his life. For this reason, I would hope to see many more “hunters and gathers” busy harvesting truth at work.

If so, perhaps someday we will know the stories of the other men and that little boy in the Greer Barbershop window.

Six Texans at Camp Wolters

By Mike West

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.

Editor's note ... insert link to message board here

“SIX TEXANS at Camp Wolters” so reads the caption which is followed by their names. Six young men look back at us from a nearly lost photograph¹ taken 78 years ago. They are all gone now. As we look upon their faces, we know now what they could not have known in 1942.

We know what awaits them.

We know that one will live about a year and will be killed in battle. We know that all will receive the Purple Heart – some more than once. We know that two will be captured. We know one will become the most decorated combat soldier of World War II.

We know that one will serve 27 years in the military and fight in Korea as part of the 15th Infantry Regiment. We know four of the remaining survivors will return to civilian life with one maintaining close ties to the military.

We know one will become an actor, another a carpenter, another a mechanic and yet another a telephone company executive. All but one will marry and have families.

We know that 70 years will separate the death of the last in 2013 from the death of the first in 1943. We know that one died in a plane crash while the other survivors of the war died of natural causes.

We know that all the survivors bore both physical as well as emotional scars for the rest of their lives. Loud noises, sudden movements, and certain smells would trigger old memories perhaps long forgotten and for a moment they would be forced to remember.

We know that only two thirds of them were really Texans. Four hailed from such places as Bonanza, Kingston, Leonard, and Savoy, Texas. While one came from San Francisco the last hailed from Experiment, Georgia. We know two were first cousins and someday would be buried in the same cemetery.

We know that one in the words of an author would have his legs “nearly sawed off below the knees” by machine gun fire while another – having already

¹ The photo on the following page comes from Colonel Harold Simpson's *Audie Murphy, American Soldier*, p61. In the book, Colonel Simpson credits the source of the picture to Corinne Burn's, Audie's oldest sister.

been wounded – would be shot yet again for having asked for water.

We know that all six were assigned to the Third Infantry Division. Four would go to the 15th Infantry Regiment



Six Texans. Rear, left to right: Corliss Rowe, Bob Steele, Wirt Jerry
Front, left to right: Front Row: Milt Robertson, Audie Murphy, Avery Dowdy

while the remaining two would serve in the 7th Infantry Regiment.²

One was seen as the “old man” at age 34 and another as the “baby”. One would escape from capture on Anzio to return to Company B and be present on January 26, 1945 when another of his fellows would earn the Medal of Honor.

We know that four came from farming backgrounds, another was the son of a career military man and the last worked odd jobs in a cotton mill.³

We know their names. They are listed as Corliss Rowe, Bob Steele, Wirt Jerry, Milt Robertson, Audie Murphy, and Avery Dowdy.⁴

Outside of Audie Murphy few would ever know these other men, but I hope to change that. True, it is Murphy we know but each of these men stood in battle and they too sacrificed their youth, health, and in one case his life.

Let's get to know them better.

Corliss Rowe - actually Carlis Tate Rowe - twin brother to Arlis, was born in Leonard, Texas to a farming family.⁵ Both Carlis and his first cousin, Avery

Dowdy, joined the service about the same time. Rowe along with Audie Murphy would be assigned to the third platoon, Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment in North Africa.⁶



Corliss Rowe

Rowe would fight through Sicily, Salerno, where he would be wounded, and onto the Anzio Beachhead where – while taking German prisoners to the rear – he would be cut off and captured by the enemy. Somehow, Rowe managed to escape and return to his unit.⁷ The 15th would land in Southern France, August 15, 1944 and continue to fight its way into eastern France where on January 26, 1945, Rowe along with a greatly depleted Co. B, would engage the enemy north of Holtzwhir and witness the Medal of Honor action of Audie Murphy.⁸

Mr. Rowe would return to north Texas after the war and become a carpenter. He practiced this trade until his death in 1998 in Hopkins, County, Texas. He is buried in Greenview Cemetery.⁹

² Simpson, p. 65; Wirt Terry Grave Marker Request; Unpublished Manuscript by Robert H. Steele, titled "Audie Leon Murphy" given to author by Mr. Steele.

³ Various censuses: 1930 Hopkins County, Texas (Rowe/Dowdy), 1940 Fannin County, Texas (Terry), Spaulding County, Georgia (Steele).

⁴ Simpson, p. 61

⁵ 1930 census Hopkins County, Texas (Rowe).

⁶ 6. Simpson, p. 65.

⁷ Simpson, p. 202 (Letter to Avery Dowdy from ALM); Fort Worth Star-Telegram 9/23/1943.

⁸ Simpson, p. 155

⁹ Findagrave: Carlis T. Rowe; Rowe obit: The Hopkins County Echo, 6/12/1998.

Bob Steele was in fact, Robert Hunt Steele, and came from Experiment, Georgia. He lost his father at a very young age and would work at various jobs to help his mother and younger siblings.¹⁰



Bob Steele

Steele even though not in the same training company at Camp Wolters ended up in the 15th in North Africa. Initially assigned to the regimental band. (He never understood that assignment.) He would later become a member of Cannon Company, 15th Regiment. (A cannon company was designed to give close artillery support for a regiment.)¹¹

During the war, Mr. Steele would receive the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with V device, the Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge. He would remain in the service for 27 years going on to fight in Korea as a part of the 15th Infantry. Steele would retire as a Command Sergeant Major.¹²

Having left the military, Mr. Steele worked 20 years for the Georgia Department of Public Safety as Chief

License Examiner. He retired to Rocky Ford, Georgia where he died in 2013.¹³

We now come to Wirt Jerry. He was in fact Wirt Boone Terry from Savoy, Fannin County, Texas. Born July 12, 1908 and raised on a farm, he would become the “old man” of the group at 34. Mr. Terry would be assigned to Company B, 7th Regiment in North Africa. Private First Class Terry would turn 35 two days after the landing in Sicily and be killed eight days before the island was captured.¹⁴



Wirt Jerry

He died in the heavy fighting in northeast Sicily as the 3rd Infantry Division closed in on Messina, the objective of both the Americans and the British. Terry was killed on August 10, 1943 likely in the effort to cross the Di Zappulla river.

As Donald Taggart said in his historical book, *History of the Third Infantry Division in World War II*,

“Reaching the Di Zappulla river, the 7th encountered heavy resistance and Company B sustained unusually severe

¹⁰ 1940 census Spalding County, Georgia (Steele)

¹¹ Steele, Unpublished Manuscript.

¹² Steele, On line Obit.

¹³ Findagrave: Robert Hunt Steele, obit.

¹⁴ Selective Service Record: Wirt B. Terry; Grave Marker Request: Wirt B. Terry

losses from mines in the bed of the river, which the company crossed at daybreak.”¹⁵

Meanwhile, the Terry family back in Fannin County vainly waited for news. According to a local newspaper, Pvt. Jerry was first listed as missing then as having returned to duty and finally as killed in action. He lies buried in Collin County, Texas.¹⁶

Milt Robertson was born Milton Daniel Robertson, son of a career military man, born in San Francisco, California. Robertson joined the military while his father was posted at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.¹⁷



Milt Robertson

Assigned to I Company, 15th Infantry Regiment in North Africa, he was badly wounded October 31-November 1, 1943 near Mignano, Italy during the Salerno Campaign. He and his fellow soldiers were attacked by a large German patrol after which only he and one other American survived.

Robertson was wounded multiple times with his right arm reduced to near uselessness.

When asking for water, he was shot yet again.¹⁸

Initially listed as missing in action, Robertson would spend seven months in various German POW camps until he was exchanged in May 1944 and returned to the United States.¹⁹

Robertson would be awarded the Bronze Star with the V device, three Purple Hearts, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.²⁰

In 1948, Mr. Robertson, would join Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He would remain their employee until 1976 when he would retire as Marketing Project supervisor. He later moved to California where he died in 2007.²¹

Audie L. Murphy, I think you know.

Finally, Avery Dowdy, who was born Avery Finis Dowdy and was from

¹⁵ Taggart, Don History of the third Infantry Division In World War Two, p.71

¹⁶ Findagrave: Wirt B. Terry; Bonham Daily Favorite, 8/30/1943, 9/6/1943 (both issues found on Findagrave.

¹⁷ Robertson obit: 2007

¹⁸ Simpson, pp. 90-91; Fort Worth Star-Telegram 11/14/1944.

¹⁹ Fort Worth Star-Telegram: 12/29/1943, 5/19/1944, 5/20/1944, 11/14/1944.

²⁰ Fort Worth Star-Telegram 11/14/1944; Robertson obit:

²¹ Fort Worth Star-Telegram 11/3/1967, 9/8/76

Bonanza, Hopkins County, Texas. Avery was first cousin to Carlis Rowe and was assigned to Company K, 7th Infantry Regiment

Apparently, he made it in fine shape to Sicily but was to have a rough going during the attempt to cross the Volturno River October 13, 1943. As



Avery Dowdy

Dowdy approached the crossing site, he was struck multiple times by machine gun fire. As Simpson said in his biography of Audie Murphy,

“A burst of enemy machine gun fire almost sawed his legs off just below the knees.”²²

So severe were his wounds, Dowdy returned to the United States in 1944 never to see combat again. Later Audie Murphy learned that Dowdy wanted to return to combat and, in a letter, gently chided him against such a move.

In time, Avery healed to the point that he could walk without a limp, but his legs were badly scared and very thin. This did not stop his pursuit of a career as an airplane mechanic. He would live most of his post-war life in Irving, Texas until his death in 2003. He is buried in Greenview Cemetery, Hopkins County, Texas.²³



Avery Dowdy and Audie Murphy
... From the Sue Gossett Collection

These six young men, two smiling and four wearing their “battle faces”, stare across 78 years and we know what they did. The bravery and courage of one of them is well documented but the fact remains that the others too – when the call came – stood in battle and faced the enemy.

Near the end of his autobiography, Murphy described men he believed in and I think it applies here,

“But I also believe in men like Brandon and Novak and Swope and Kerrigan; and all the men who stood up against the enemy, taking their beatings without whimper and their triumphs without boasting.”²⁴

... Mike West

²² Simpson, p. 89

²³ Simpson, p. 89; Irving, Texas City Directories 1967, 1972; Findagrave: Avery Dowdy

²⁴ To Hell and Back, p. 273, Bantam Ed., 2nd Printing May 1983.

Audie and the Munsters

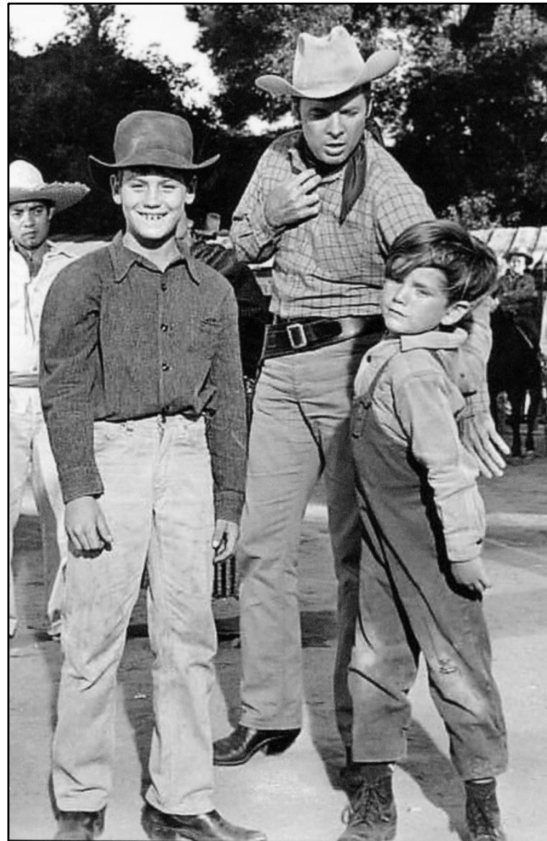
By MD Marks

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4734>

It is unusual to read anything about Audie Murphy without something in the text referring to his sense of humor. He was noted for his wit and sarcasm at even the most difficult times of his life. To this part of his persona, we offer a little humor – and to have some fun this day of Halloween in 2020.

So, here is the story of how Audie Murphy met “The Munsters”.

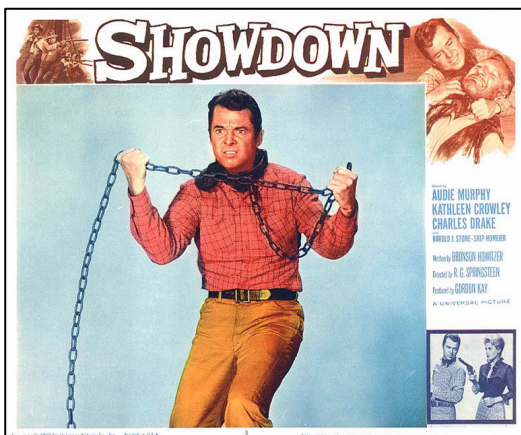
During the month of September 1962, Audie filmed one of his last black and white films – “Showdown”. Appearing in the film were two child actors - Kevin



Showdown for a Munster. Butch Patrick, right, and Kevin Brodie, left, stand with Audie Murphy in a movie still photograph from the 1962 film “Showdown”.

Photo source: the Lillian Bailey Collection

Brodie, and Butch Patrick. The two boys were only a year apart in age, but



Lobby Card. A lobby card from Audie Murphy’s 1962 movie “Showdown.”

Photo source: the Eva Dano collection

Brodie's larger size made him look like a much older brother. In just two years, Butch Patrick would become the better-known star.

Not long afterwards, in the fall of 1963, Audie made one of his better received films - the western "Bullet for a Bad Man" with Darren McGavin. Audie's character, Logan Keliher, was the husband of Susan, played by actress Beverly Owen.

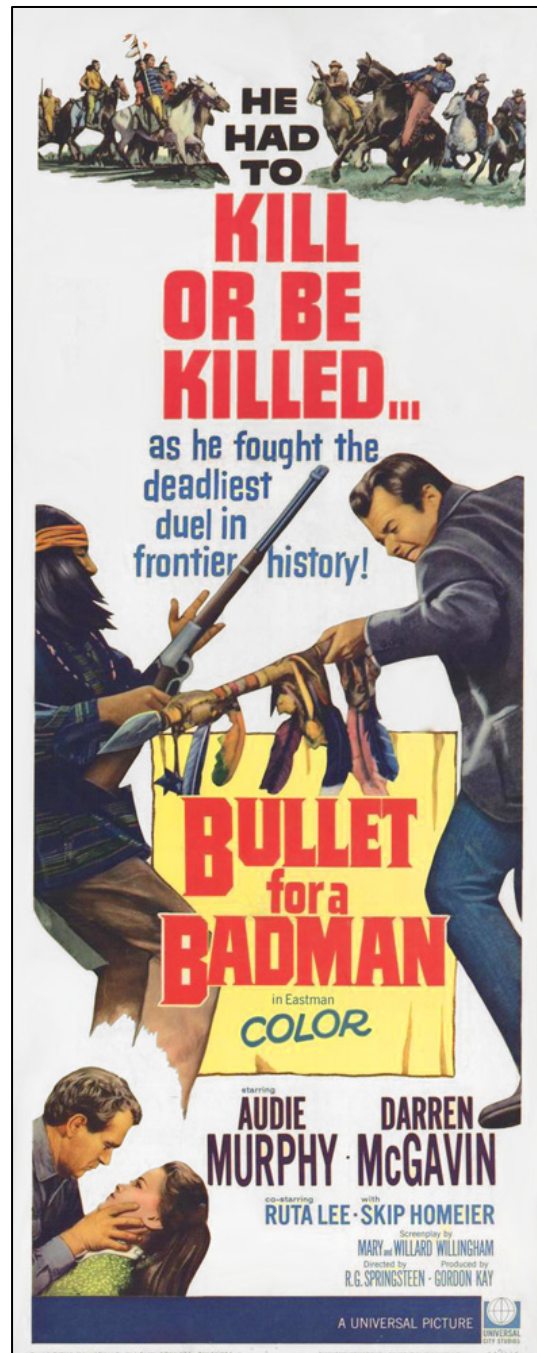
On September 24th, 1964, both Butch Patrick and Beverly Owen would debut in starring roles as part of the famed Munster Family from their spooky television home at 1313 Mockingbird Lane. It aired on CBS from September 1964 to its 70th and final episode on May 12th, 1966.

It does not end there. Another Munster star, the "Munster Koach" - an inanimate object - would also become famous and a popular icon of television folklore making its debut that same first evening. More on the Koach later.

Butch Patrick played the Munster son, Eddie Munster, and sported his famous "widow's peak" hairline, for both seasons of the program

Beverly Owen, who was growing tired of acting, played cousin and niece Marilyn Munster for the first season's episodes 1-13. The part was then taken over for the duration of its run by actress Pat Priest.

But what of the Munster Koach? What



Movie Poster. A movie poster from Audie Murphy's 1963 movie "Bullet for a Badman."

Photo source: the Eva Dano collection

relationship did it have to Audie Murphy? This can be explained with an excerpt from Thomas Morgan's "The War Hero" which stems from an interview with Murphy from 1967 which was published after his death, in *Esquire* magazine in December of 1983. Morgan writes that ...

"In the carport [of Murphy's home], there were a Camaro sports car and a Toronado sedan, both popular among motor fans at the time. I learned later that Murphy had recently owned an expensive Lincoln Continental "kustomized" by George Barris, a specialist in restyling production cars [which included the Munster Koach.]

Murphy's Barris creation had one-way vision back windows, special sound and temperature insulation, a half dozen stereo speakers, and compartments for guns and other weapons. But Murphy had sold the car a while back ...

.... We drove in the Camaro to Barris Kustom City, where his late Lincoln Continental had been restyled. Murphy said he liked to hang around Barris's garage-and-showroom when he couldn't think of anything better to do. "It's a way to beat the boredom," he said. The place had the feel, if not the charm, of a toy shop. There was



Barris Kustom City. An early photo of a place Audie Murphy liked to hang out at on Riverside Drive, in North Hollywood, CA.

Photo source: Barris Kustom City

a half-dozen cars on display, each tailored like a teenager's dream of superpower with enormous hoods, jazzed-up interiors, and phallic tail fins. A mechanic, "kustomizing" a new Cadillac, waved to him. He said, "Hiya, Murph." Murphy got into the Cadillac, tried the wheel, punched some buttons, climbed out again. "Nice," he said. Murphy stood around watching the mechanic for about twenty minutes. Then he asked me if I was bored. I said no."

The Munster program had been filmed at Universal City, Universal Studios, so it is possible Audie received his first taste of George Barris and his shop's creative talents during filming. Perhaps Audie was around when the Munster Koach traveled along the studio's back lot roads. This seems reasonable. It would have been hard to miss the

Koach which was made from three Ford Model T bodies and measured to 18 feet length. Its design featured an ornate and custom hearse body, with rolled steel scroll work too.

The Koach was only one of two special vehicles Barris created for the show, the other being a dragster called "DRAG-U-LA". The fiberglass body of DRAG-U-LA was built from a real fiberglass coffin that was purchased from a funeral home in North Hollywood. It featured a 350 HP Ford

Mustang V-8 engine.

The fate of Murphy's special Lincoln is unknown, but to Audie fans, it would be the more desirable collector item than either of the Munster vehicles. And with Audie Murphy at the wheel, it would have been much less scarier – or would it?

And that is how Audie Murphy met "The Munsters".

... MD Marks



The "Munster Koach" created by George Barris at his "Kustom City" shop in Hollywood where Audie Murphy liked to spend time. In the rear are Butch Patrick and Beverly Owen who played roles separately with Murphy in *SHOWDOWN* and *BULLET FOR A BADMAN*. Unrelated to Audie Murphy: sitting in the front seat are Yvonne De Carlo and Fred Gwynne.

Photo source: the Everett Collection

Audie Murphy and Wanda Hendrix in Costume

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.
<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4735>

NOT much is known about the attached photo which was recently spotted on the Internet.

The time frame is roughly during the late 1940's when Audie was either dating or was married to Wanda Hendrix. The setting could be a movie studio set – or it could be a costume party.

If anyone has details of when the photo was taken and other related information, we would love to hear. Please let us know what you think.

Happy Halloween 2020!
Audie Murphy Research Foundation



A Halloween Costume Party? Not much is known about this picture except Audie Murphy is with Wanda Hendrix and an unidentified individual – all who are dressed in costume.

Photo source: unknown

“I am Convinced Audie Was Named for Someone Named Audie” (My first observation¹)

By Michael P. West

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.

<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4733>

COLONEL Harold Simpson, in his excellent book AUDIE MURPHY, AMERICAN SOLDIER, tells us the story surrounding the birth and the subsequent naming of Audie L. Murphy.

Simpson refers to two local ladies, Mrs. S. H. Adams and Mrs. Jack West, as looking after Josie Bell Murphy during the birth of Audie Murphy. We learn a little later that Mrs. Jack West was known as Audie Lee West. Simpson continues by saying that Audie Murphy was named ... “after a neighbor, Audie Lee West, whom the Murphy’s particularly liked. Mrs. West had attended Mrs. Murphy when Audie was born.”

This brief description of Audie’s birth and naming would seem to settle the issue of Audie’s name until the Audie Murphy Research Foundation publication during the winter of 1998-99 included the article titled “How Audie Leon Murphy Got His Name”² written by its executive

director and attorney, Ms. Larryann Willis.

The thrust of the article suggested that the naming of Audie L. Murphy was to be co-shared by Mr. Audie B. Evans, Sr. and Mrs. Audie Lee West. It seems Mr. Evans Sr. was exceedingly kind to the Murphy family and was so honored.



Audie B. Evans photo published in the winter 1998-1999 edition of the Audie Murphy Research Foundation newsletter. (see footnote).

Photo courtesy of Audie B. Evans, Jr.

¹ The first observation in a 3 part series presented by the author in a speech during the summer 2016 Audie Murphy Days at the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas.

²https://www.audiemurphy.com/amrf/amrf_news6.pdf

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com

After reading this article, I found myself in a quandary. Colonel Simpson gives one scenario and the Audie Murphy Research Foundation suggests another. How do I resolve this? As it turns out, I may not be able to – I may simply complicate it further.

Having said this, allow me to add yet another name for consideration – and before doing so say it is not my desire to further muddy the waters – I seek only to find clarification by examining evidence.

With the surname of West, my personal interest was also kindled concerning the last name of the person for whom Audie Leon Murphy was named according to Colonel Simpson.

In checking the 1920 and 1930 censuses for Hunt County, Texas, I found no Jack West nor Audie Lee West. You might be thinking, as did I, perhaps that particular West family arrived in Hunt County after 1920 and left before 1930 thus missing both censuses. A possibility? Yes. Problem solved? No.

The fly in the ointment is this: there was an Audie L. West in both the 1920 and 1930 censuses for Hunt County, Texas. As it turns out this Audie was not a “she” but the son of Wylie J. and Allie Mae West.

So what happened to Jack and Audie Lee West who were referred to in Colonel Simpson’s book? Did they simply vanish? The answer is “no”.

They were not only in the 1920 and 1930 censuses but also in the census of 1940). I think they were in fact, Wylie Jackson and Allie Mae West (see census figures 1, 2, and 3 on the last page).

May I suggest that we consider another source for Audie Leon Murphy’s given name as that of Audie Lewis West?

Like so many aspects of Audie L. Murphy this is yet one more riddle regarding his life that makes him such an interesting historical figure.

1920, 1930, and 1940 Federal Census extracts, Hunt County Texas
source: National Archives and Records Administration

Figure 1. (1920 Census)

A partial extract from the 1920 Census, Hunt County, Texas. Source: National Archives and Records Administration (lines 1 through 18 and 24 through 50 removed to provide clarity)

PLACE OF ABODE		NAME	RELATION	HOMER	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE			OCCUPATION	
1	2						PERSONS	FATHER	MOTHER		
19	19	Walter West	Head	W	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	Farmer	General
20	20	Alma	Wife	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None
21	21	Alma	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None
22	22	John	Son	M	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None
23	23	Lucy	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None

Figure 2. (1930 Census)

A partial extract from the 1930 Census, Hunt County, Texas. Source: National Archives and Records Administration (lines 1 through 22 and 28 through 50 removed to provide clarity)

PLACE OF ABODE		NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH			MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY		EMPLOYMENT	VETERANS
1	2						PERSONS	FATHER	MOTHER			31	32		
23	23	Walter West	Head	W	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	Farmer	General	W	19		
24	24	Alma	Wife	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	23		
25	25	Alma	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	25		
26	26	John	Son	M	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	26		
27	27	Lucy	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	27		

Figure 3. (1940 Census)

A partial extract from the 1940 Census, Hunt County, Texas. Source: National Archives and Records Administration (lines 5 through 50 removed to provide clarity)

LOCATION		NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940			PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER - EMPLOYMENT STATUS																																																																																									
1	2						3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
1	1	Walter West	Head	W	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	Farmer	General	W	19																																																																																						
2	2	Alma	Wife	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	23																																																																																						
3	3	Alma	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	25																																																																																						
4	4	John	Son	M	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	26																																																																																						
5	5	Lucy	Daughter	F	W	W	Texas	Georgia	Georgia	None	None	W	27																																																																																						

The Tell-Tell Clues Needed to Interpret a WWII Photo of Audie Murphy

By Richard L. Rodgers

Comments? Comments are welcome. Just use the link below to our message board.

<https://www.audiemurphy.com/msgb/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=4731>

AUDIE aficionados may recognize this photo or may remember seeing a closely cropped version. The photographer is unidentified as far as the Audie Murphy Research Foundation knows. In fact, not much is

known about it although there are some interesting details that can be gleaned from it which suggests its origin, timeframe, and can help put the image into context. Let us start by looking at some of the photo's obvious



Audie Murphy in an undated photo from World War II. The original source and photographer of the photo is unknown.

aspects before discussing some of the more obscure ones.

The picture was taken during the war and there is a large chip of masonry prominently missing from an otherwise well-maintained building. Maybe the hole is from a bullet's impact.

Audie is also standing in front of a beat-up military sign and seems to be in good spirits carrying something tucked under his arm.

What else is there to be seen?

There is no visible rank worn by Audie but if you stare carefully at his combat helmet's webbing and cover, front and center, you may detect the faint outline of a single bar underneath its netted material. Perhaps it was standard practice in World War II, as in later wars, to cover the rank on one's helmet in a combat zone to prevent snipers from zeroing in and picking off important targets.

Audie is also carrying an officer's leather holster on his right hip which appears to contain what is probably an M1911 Colt .45 caliber pistol – the standard sidearm issued to officers back then. Consistent with this is a small ammo pouch clipped to his utility belt which was ideal for carrying extra clips of ammunition.

Audie is wearing what appears to also be a clean set of crisp battle fatigues with a smart looking neckerchief tucked into his uniform. This may surprise some because it is well known

that Audie fought and led his soldiers through some of the dirtiest, muddiest, and most miserable conditions imaginable in Europe. If we did not know better, we might think Audie had quick access to a Laundromat and maybe a shower facility.

Under Audie Murphy's arm is a map. These maps were sometimes placed in a clear acetate casing. Audie's map could be in such a casing. If so, the casing was flexible and could be folded up after inserting a map. It was used to protect a leader's map from bad weather and the unpleasantness of war. The acetate casing could also be drawn on using a grease pencil which could later be easily cleaned off by rubbing it with a cloth. These map cases typically had boundaries, routes, direction of attack, and friendly and enemy military unit locations and other symbols drawn all over them.

Military maps, which were based on aerial photographic surveys, were carefully drawn by professional cartographers. The maps were preprinted with the silhouettes of known buildings, roads, elevation and contour intervals, forests, and any other terrain feature – manmade or natural – that could assist a soldier perform his duties.

If Audie is carrying a map, it implies he is going somewhere – and if true then let us become like Audie and move on too.

The weathered military sign has its own story to tell. Note the temporary manner it is tied to the metal railing.

The scratched sign appears to belong to a headquarters command post (CP) for either the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry or the 15th Infantry Regiment.

As we already know, Audie was a member of the 15th Regiment; however, the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry regiment was actually a part of the 8th Infantry Division. The shape of the final numeral, even though it looks like a “3” is actually a stenciled “5” suffering from a lot of wear and tear.

What looks to be the characters “IN1” are probably the letters “INF” which is a standard abbreviation for “infantry”.

So why does the “F” character look like a “1”?

On close inspection, the sign is stenciled. There are clear breaks built into many of the sign’s visible characters. This is how stenciled characters are formed.

In the case of the “F” the left-side stem is what we seem to be looking at. Admittedly, it also looks like a “1”. On the other hand, the arms of a stenciled “F” are unconnected. In the photo the arms are probably hidden by the metal frame. Perhaps the soldiers stenciling the numbers did not position the numerals enough to the left and failed to consider the size of the metal framing that the sign would later be mounted to.

These signs were standard fare for any battalion headquarters and were designed to be portable. They were

carried in the back of military command transport vehicles as units traveled across the landscape moving with the flow of battle.

As they did, a headquarters CP would eventually stop and set up as far forward as possible, as the battle permitted, in a pre-selected location.

The CP would then become a thriving hub of planning where staff officers could manage logistics, personnel matters, intelligence, and other details critical to the conduct of war and the success of their subordinate units. The CP would do this until the battle dictated the need to move again.

When a CP set up in a new location, a sign announcing which unit resided there was usually erected. Its purpose was to help friendly visitors find their way to the unit’s new position so they could discuss strategy and other key topics of interest.

On a final note concerning the military sign, Audie Murphy wrote in his book *TO HELL AND BACK* of a time in Anzio, Italy when he attempted to return to his unit after a stay in a field hospital where he was recovering from an episode of malaria. In this account, when he was released, an unknown 3rd Infantry Division sergeant attempted to assign Audie to an unexpected detail. Audie says ...

““Aw, go to hell.” Slinging my carbine on my shoulder I start up a road marked by an arrow and blue

diamond, which is the code symbol of my regiment.”¹

Although the photo is black and white, it is probably reasonable to say that the unit sign and its symbol definitely represent the command post of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment.

In our photo we also see an abundance of communication wire – or “commo wire” – that has been unreeled along the ground and is traveling up and down the building’s front. A window is partially opened allowing the wire to be routed inside a ground floor room behind Audie. The other end of the wire travels up and possibly into other rooms on the upper floors which are not seen. Smaller gauge wire – harder to notice – also connects the two visible windows in a hastily strung fashion.

The commo wire is probably connecting portable military hand-held phones on either end which are needed as one staff officer coordinates with another about some detail of combat.

Battalion staff officers generally liked to have their own office space to conduct their business too. For this reason, setting up portable phones was standard operating procedure. Wire could also be placed between adjacent and subordinate units to allow for lateral and forward communication.

Conclusion? The rope tying the sign to the railing and the commo wire which crisscross the building’s front is an

indication that this unit is moving a lot – its current location appears to be temporary.

And what of the small sign fixed to the outside of the building? On close examination you can read the German words “Roth Brauerei, Schweinfurt”.

The small black bar near its bottom contains illegible text which should tell us the “stadt” – or state - the city of Schweinfurt belongs to.

Based on similar signs used by the same beer company today which are found on the Internet, the text in that dark box says “Bayern” – a large German state. As it turns out, Schweinfurt is in the northwest end of the state of Bayern. The region of Bavaria and the country of Austria, which Audie would eventually reach, are several hundred miles to the south.

The Roth brewery sign does not mean that this unit was headquartered in a brewery. No, no – there is a better explanation. It indicates that the command post was taking temporary refuge in a gásthaus – which translates to “inn”. Gasthouses in Germany commonly served beer and meals while also having comfortable rooms for travelers to rent and stay in.

As it turns out, the sign is an advertisement designed to entice customers. The sign was a statement that the gasthaus owner proudly served Roth Bier. Today, this beer is

¹ Chapter 7, TO HELL AND BACK

still a popular beverage found in the same part of Germany.

And what of the windows? The lace curtains in the windows are yet another hint that this was a gasthaus with cushy rooms. Were there soft down-filled pillows and thick, plump comforters on the beds inside? Maybe. These furnishings were common (and still are) in German Gasthauses. Someone needing a place to stay would be tempted to stop and investigate. Certainly, any war-weary soldier would too.

It seems reasonable that whenever a battalion commander ordered his headquarters' advance party to seek out a new location for the CP's next "jump forward" the advance party team would hunt for accommodations that were not only safe and functional but comfortable too – not an easy thing to do in Germany during World War II. The discovery of a gasthaus that may have possibly served beer and offered nice rooms would have been hard to resist. Best of all, reservations would not be necessary since it was wartime as any intrepid advance party soldier would know.

And what about the date? If Audie were a lieutenant, the time of the year was probably late winter 1945. We know the winter of 1944-45 was one of the coldest, most bitter winters on record despite the absence of snow in this photo. Audie is definitely dressed warmly. Maybe the winter was in retreat like the Germans were when the photo was taken.

So, what is the likely context of this photo?

After Audie was promoted to lieutenant and earned a recommendation for the Medal of Honor for his efforts in the Battle of the Colmar Pocket on January 26, 1945 he was transferred away from his beloved B Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry regiment to a safer assignment with the 3rd Infantry Division's headquarters deep in the division's rear area of operation.

The intent of the new assignment was to protect Audie and prevent him from becoming mixed up in more unfriendly enemy shenanigans which could get him killed before his pending Medal of Honor could be approved and awarded.

So, Audie was attached as a courier to the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters and delivered important messages and collected reports to and from subordinate units. There is no doubt that even this proud and fine battalion needed to have a message or two delivered to it on occasion. Audie probably tried to deliver and pick up as many 1-15 INF messages and reports as he could.

And what about Audie's attire and personal state of grooming? Likely, the 3rd ID Headquarters probably had a military laundry unit and bath detachment not far from its headquarters. While working at the 3rd ID headquarters, Audie probably made sure his uniform always looked its very best and that he frequently washed since his new job required him to hang

around and rub shoulders with big-wig divisional, regimental, brigade, and battalion-level VIP's.

If you agree, then it could also mean that the photo was may have taken between early February and maybe late March 1945, possibly in the northwestern area of the German state of Bayern near the city of Schweinfurt. The war was probably still going on because Audie's rank was masked and he was with not only armed with a tactical map but with an officer's sidearm too as he stood in front of a temporary CP clearly ready to "shoot, move, and communicate".

As history tells us, Audie was moving across the countryside during this period visiting unit CP's as part of his attachment to the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters. On this day at this specific stop he was probably recognized and approached by an Army public affairs correspondent who wanted a photo.

It is a pretty safe bet to say that today, new soldiers that are assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry at some point during their in-processing are indoctrinated to the unit and its history. There is no doubt this would include the heroics of the legendary Lieutenant Audie Murphy – a 19-year-old from northeast Texas who briefly commanded B Company and became the most decorated combat soldier of World War II.

Skeptics can refer to the picture if they need proof.