Three Murphys in Boston
By Neal Murphy

As an effort to help keep the memory of Audie alive – especially in a time when youngsters equate a “hero” to be an overpaid professional athlete who frequently has an issue standing for the U.S. National Anthem – I have decided to share who I think a real hero is.”

“I have enclosed a professionally taken picture of Audie with my dad, William G. Murphy who is standing on the far-right. To the far-left side of the photo is someone who I think may be the Boston Police commissioner or was associated with the Boston Police department in some capacity and whose name was also Murphy.”

“Unfortunately, I have no personal knowledge of the third Murphy. At the time there were many ranks in the Boston Police Department and the commissioners were appointed by the mayor. My wife’s uncle was a deputy police chief for many years.”

“At the time of the photo I was about fourteen years old when my dad took me and my older brother to see TO HELL AND BACK. The photo was taken circa 1955 in Boston, Massachusetts around the time of the film’s premiere. The exact date is on the rear of photo, but I am reluctant to check it because removing the photo from the frame might damage it.”

“At the time, my dad was head of security for William Filene’s and Sons department stores in Boston which had locations throughout the northeast. Back then after the war credit charges for stores were innovative and dad was a pioneer in the collection aspect of this new form of sales. Dad performed so well that Filene’s Security Department was added to his capable hands.”

“My dad had a good relationship with the police department. He employed many Boston police officers, so he was familiar with the force. During the Christmas season the Boston Police horse-mounted police officers would help direct foot traffic and auto traffic. Of course, all of this was many years before the creation of shopping malls.”

1 Compiled from a series of emails, dated November 10, 2020, written to the Audie Murphy Research Foundation, by Mr. Neal Murphy
“Filene’s was innovative at the time having a basement level where everything was dramatically reduced in price. If the item did not sell in a week it was reduced. If it did not sell in a month the item was donated to charity. The basement was world-famous, and dad even had to open it exclusively for Mamie Eisenhower while Ike was President – she just wanted to witness and partake of the bargains. Discounting was a new concept at the time.”

Three Murphy’s in Boston. Shown here are the head of security for Filene’s and Son’s Department Stores in Boston, a Boston police department official and Audie Murphy. The photo was taken around the time of the city premiere of the film TO HELL AND BACK at Boston Massachusetts.

From Left to Right: an unknown Murphy official from the Boston Police Department, Audie L. Murphy, and William G. Murphy head of security for Filene’s and Son’s Department stores.

Photo courtesy of Neal Murphy

For more information visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website at www.audiemurphy.com
“I remember my Dad appearing in the television show *Route 66* where the two stars came into an exclusive fur salon and my dad was on film as the salesperson. Dad was a ham!”

“I remember my Dad being extremely impressed by Audie and his modest demeanor. I was and still am no different. Whenever I watch the film of Audie receiving his Medal of Honor it still puts a chill through my body the same way our nation’s flag does as it goes by in a parade.”

So that is the story of my photo and its connection to my family. This photo proudly hung on Dad’s wall and I know he would be thrilled to know it is now part of the Audie Murphy Research foundation and its website.”

... Neal Murphy