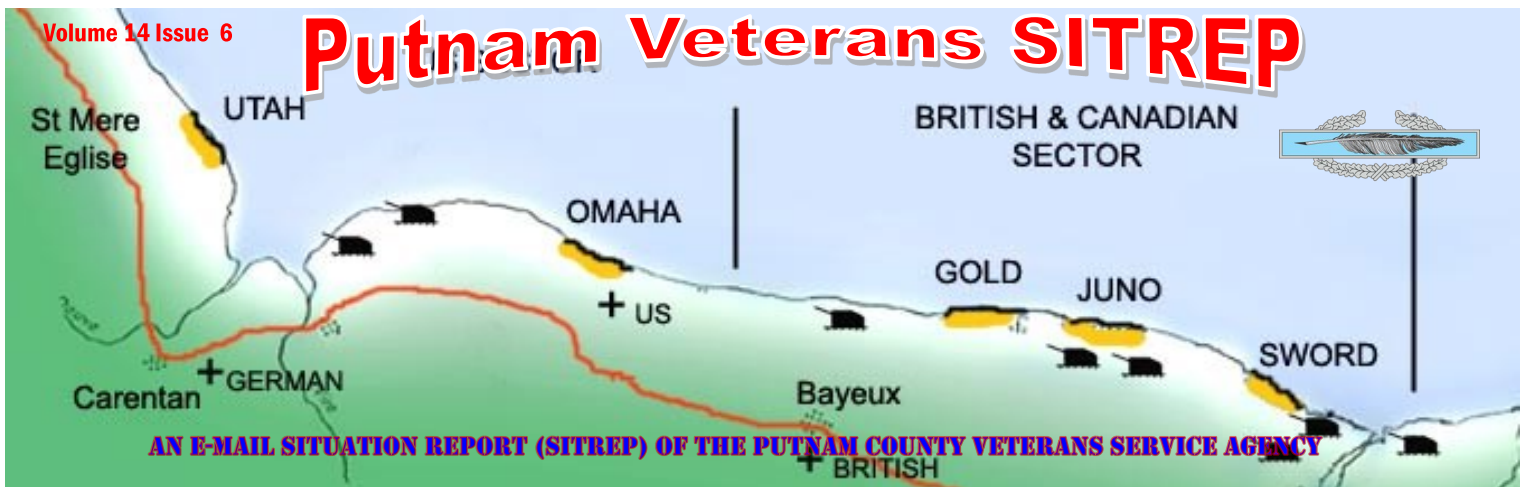


Putnam Veterans SITREP



Special Bulletin: Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6th, 1944

D-Day also known as Operation Overlord was the name given to the June 6th, 1944, invasion of the beaches at Normandy in Northern France by troops from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and other countries during World War II. The invasion began shortly after midnight on the Morning of June 6th with extensive aerial and naval bombardment as well as an airborne assault -the landing of 24,000 American, British and Canadian Airborne troops. The early morning aerial assault was soon followed by Allied amphibious landings on the coast of France. The 50 mile stretch of the Normandy coast was divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Strong winds blew the landing craft east of the intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha. The men landed under heavy fire from gun emplacements overlooking the beaches, and the shore was mined and covered obstacles such as wooden stakes, barbed wire, metal tripods, making the work of the beach clearing teams difficult and dangerous. Casualties were the heaviest at Omaha, with its high cliffs. At Gold, Juno, and Sword, several fortified towns were cleared in house to house fighting. Only two beach heads were connected on the first day; Omaha and Juno, the remaining beachheads were not connected until 12 June 1944. The operation had gained a foothold that would expand over the coming months. German casualties on D-Day have been estimated at 4,000 to 9,000 men. Allied casualties were documented for at least

10,000 with 4,414 confirmed dead. Today we pay tribute and commemorate these brave men and women for their accomplishments and ultimate sacrifices. Putnam County Veterans Museum located at Veterans Park is a treasure trove of artifacts from Putnam County Residents that have served and for some made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, the United States. I had the opportunity to look through many of the artifacts that are stored at the museum. I found a dust covered footlocker that had never been opened. As I sifted through a soldiers' personnel effects, I was astonished to find a War Department letter; yellowed and fragile. The envelope was addressed to a Mr. Bill Greenbaum of 1452 Wilkens Avenue, New York City, NY dated 23 September 1947. The War Department was writing to Mr. Greenbaum as the nearest relative of the deceased PVT William Beer, Plot C, Row 6, Grave 117, United States Military Cemetery Ste Mere Eglise #2, France to discuss the disposition of remains for this particular soldier, referred only as "World War II Armed Forces Dead." The letter was asking what the relative's wishes were to either have the deceased soldier remain in the American Cemetery in France or be brought home for private burial.

I continue to sift through the footlocker, noting his dress uniform with awards carefully laid inside the trunk along with letters, a picture, and certified documents. There was a yellowed, framed certificate signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States; commemorating this soldier, Pvt William Beer who died in service of his country in the European Area, July 6th 1944. Being curious, I continued to dip deeper, and started wondering who this soldier was and how did Putnam County Veterans Museum wind up with a very personnel family treasure. I started researching PVT William Beer and it led me

down a confusing rabbit hole. First, he is not the only PVT William Beer to die, serving his country in 1944 making it more difficult to locate any information. There is another William Beer but its John William Beer that died July 6th 1944 from the British Army. The same date that is on the framed certificate I mentioned earlier for the Putnam County, PVT William Beer. I finally locate the PVT William Beer in question; he is named in the Airborne Museum at Sainte Mere Eglise. He served with the 79th Infantry Division died of wounds (DOW) June 7th 1944. His final resting place is Mount Moriah Cemetery Fairview Bergen County, New Jersey. The Putnam County Veterans Service Agency is asking anyone who has information regarding this soldier and his relation to Putnam County to please contact the office at 845-808-1940 or email Tanya.Pennella@putnamcountyny.gov. We would like to feature this brave soldier and his courageous story as it unfolds. To be continued...

By **Tanya Pennella**, Deputy Director Putnam County Veterans Service Agency

WILLIAM BEER



Registration number

32183094

Grade

Private

Unit

Division

79th Infantry Division

date of death

06/07/1944

Original cemetery

Sainte Mère Eglise n°2

Current cemetery

Mount Moriah Cemetery Fairview Bergen County, New Jersey USA

Medals




European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



WWII Victory Medal

The above description came from the Airborne Museum at Sainte-Mere-Eglise, France. It's the only on-line mention of PVT William Beer. As you can see there is no known picture of PVT Beer at the museum in France. The picture to the right was found in the personal affects of PVT William Beers' footlocker located at the Putnam County Veterans Museum. Tanya

DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3
CARMEL NY 10512
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
845-808-1620

KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR
ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TANYA PENNELLA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR





Dear Friends at the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency,

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our newest program, **Guardian Homefront!** This initiative represents an exciting new chapter in our ongoing commitment to improving the lives of families in guardian communities. ***The Homefront** – the family of a guardian – has the unique experience of being both civilian and part of the military and/or first responder community. While there are benefits and special aspects of these lifestyles, they also include their own set of specific circumstances & challenges.*

Guardian Homefront is dedicated to supporting the family members of guardians by providing experiences, education, and support. We believe it will be an invaluable resource for spouses, partners, and children of veterans, active duty military,

and first responders.

Key features of **Guardian Homefront** include:

-
-
- **Empathy:**
We understand the unique experience of the family environment around a guardian.
-
-
-
- **Education:**
We provide support and training about health and wellness for family members.
-
-
-
- **Engagement:**
We offer fun experiences for quality time and building connections as couples, families, and a broader community.

• We are confident that **Guardian Homefront** will foster resilience, support health and wellness, and promote community to ensure that no guardian family member feels alone in their jour-

ney. All of our offerings are **FREE**, no cost for participants, just their commitment to attend and enjoy themselves.

Whether you are a spouse, partner, family member, child, or caregiver of a guardian, **Guardian Homefront** offers a unique opportunity for you to prioritize yourself and your family. We invite you to join

Guardian Homefront and be part of this exciting journey. Together, we can promote and improve the health and well-being of our guardian families. Let's make **Guardian Homefront** a resounding success!

Sincerely,

Megan Castellano
Program
Executive
Director |
Guardian Homefront



GUARDIAN HOMEFRONT

support & resources for military & first responder families

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Guardian Homefront **focuses on the family** and provides experiences, education, and support for spouses, partners, and children of military and first responders.

We are here to foster resilience, support health & wellness, and promote community to ensure that no family member feels alone in their journey.



EMPATHIZE

We understand the unique experience of the family environment around a guardian



EDUCATE

Support & training about health & wellness — for yourself, your guardian, and your family



ENGAGE

Fun experiences for quality time & building connection as couples, families, and a community

OUR EVENTS

Join us for **quality time & building connection** as couples, families, and a community. We cover the logistics & the costs, so everything is **free to attend**. You just need to show up & enjoy!

FAMILY

Designed for adults and kids of all ages. Bring your guardian if they're available!

COUPLES

These events are specifically for spouses / partners and their guardians.

PARTNERS & SPOUSES

These events are for spouses / partners ONLY (no guardians, no kids).

JOIN US



guardianrevival.org/homefront

Guardian Revival is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that improves the mental health & well-being of military & first responders — our guardians — and their families, at no cost to them.