

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



THE WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL



Robert S. Watson **23-42**

Captain, U.S. Army

Service # O1167267

**66th Field Artillery Battalion
4th Armored Division**

Entered the Service from: Pennsylvania

Died: 1-Aug-1944

Buried at: Plot C Row 11 Grave 24

Normandy American Cemetery

Colleville-sur-Mer, France

Awards: Purple Heart

Extract from the 66th Field Artillery Battalion After Action Report for August 1944:

On 1 August 1944 the Bn moved out at 1100 displacing by batteries. It soon became a run toward the South and a position was taken up near Patton, France outside the city of Rennes. While the Bn was moving into position we were subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. Casualties suffered by this Bn were 54. Capt R.S. Watson, Btry "C" Commander was killed and Lt F. J. Savarinski was wounded. Sgt Vanderpool, 1st Sgt of Btry "C" took over the Btry and did a fine job until relieved by an officer of the Div Arty. Lt E.V. Williams, Surrey Officer was killed by sniper fire. In attempting to go back and remove Lt Williams body S/Sgt Templeton was wounded seriously. 1st Sgt Zelin of Btry "B", who accompanied Sgt Templeton did not return. He has been officially carried as missing in action. Mention might be made here that the 66th Arm'd FA Bn were directly behind the leading elements and in some cases in front of the Inf. A reluctance was noted on the part of Infantrymen to get out of their half-tracks when subjected to small arms and mortar fire. In many cases they dug in and did not attempt to send out patrols.