

PFC Charles Franklin Grasty

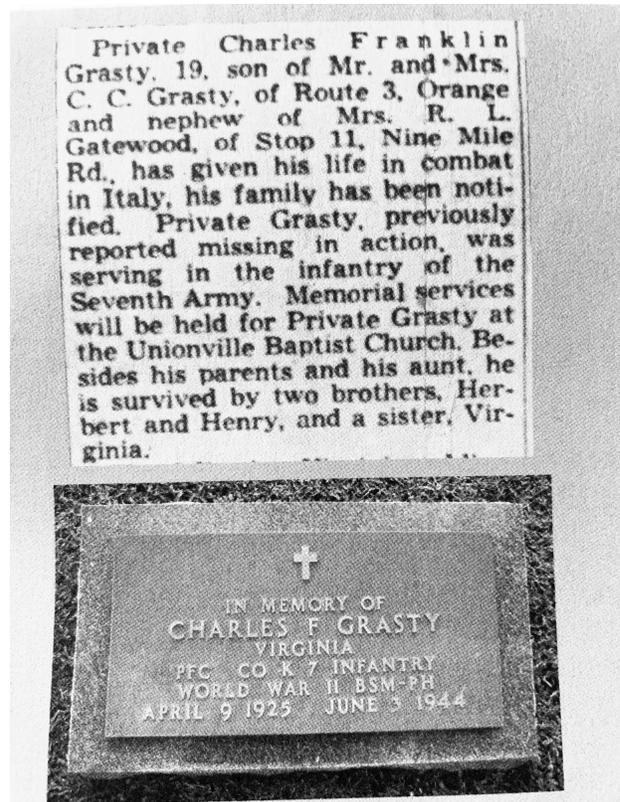
From Paul Carter in the Orange County Historical Society *Record*:¹

“Private First Class Charles Franklin Grasty, son of Charles C. and Barbara Knight Grasty, was born on 9 April 1925 in Orange County, the oldest of four children. He was 6’-2” tall and was a mechanic before entering the military, working at the American Silk Mill in Orange according to his U.S. World War II Draft Card, filled out on his birthday in 1943.

“Charles was inducted into the U.S. Army infantry on 23 September 1943 and served at Camp Wheeler, Georgia performing his basic training until 30 January 1944. He left for overseas duty on 23 February 1944 assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Infantry Regiment.

“He was missing for 47 days before he was declared dead on 3 June 1944 in Italy. His body was never recovered. He was just 19 years old. Charles is one of 153 soldiers still missing from the 3rd Infantry Division during World War II.

“Charles’s father was furious and extremely upset that his son had been killed. He was known to state that he wanted to kill President Roosevelt for starting the war. A marker was placed at Unionville Christian Church cemetery noting his death. The Bronze Star and Purple Heart were awarded to Charles posthumously. His name also appears on the Tablets of the Missing at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy.”



¹ Paul Carter, “PFC Charles Franklin Grasty,” *Orange County Historical Society Record*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Spring 2014), 3.