



AMERICAN BATTLE
MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Office of the Secretary

April 3, 2017

Mr. Brian Siddall
P.O. Box 3897
Ithaca, NY 14852

Dear Mr. Siddall:

This letter is in response to your e-mail query sent to the American Battle Monuments Commission on March 24, 2017. We have already responded to your queries in regard to our policies and the SGT Ray headstone several times and we consider both matters closed. The simple fact is that we are honoring the request of SGT Ray's widow. Attached is a copy of her request to keep the headstone in place, a letter to you from her attorney requesting that you discontinue your efforts to change the headstone, and a letter from Secretary Cleland to SGT Ray's widow pledging to keep the original headstone at the grave site.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dalessandro
Acting Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Dalessandro Robert SES [mailto:dalessandror@abmc.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:09 AM

To: bnsiddall@gmail.com

Cc: Nosal Timothy

Subject: RE: 82nd Abn Div

Mr. Siddall,

Thank you so much for your note and your interest in the American Battle Monuments Commission. I am impressed by your scope of research on the matter.

Unfortunately, the American Battle Monuments Commission does not change the unit inscription on headstones without direction/consent from the effected individual (s) Service Secretary, in this case the Army.

As such, you will need to reach out to the historians at the U.S. Army of Center of Military History (CMH), who are the final authority on unit designation and lineage. Their website is: www.history.army.mil/; you can communicate with them through the "CMH Answers" button.

If CMH agrees with your research, they will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army, who can then direct the change.

I must inform you that my staff's initial research into this matter indicates that the 401st was attached, and not assigned to the 82nd, and thus would retain the 101st Division designation.

Good luck on your endeavors and thank you for your interest in memorializing our fallen.

Regards,

Robert J. Dalessandro,
Deputy Secretary

American Battle Monuments Commission
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Arlington, VA 22201

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."
General of the Armies John J. Pershing
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