



No Better Place to Die: Ste-Mere Eglise, June 1944_The Battle for la Fiere Bridge

Robert Murphy

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The you-are-there story of one of the most ferocious small-unit combats in US history . . . As part of the massive Allied invasion of Normandy, three airborne divisions were dropped behind enemy lines to sow confusion in the German rear and prevent panzer reinforcements from reaching the beaches. In the dark early hours of D-Day, this confusion was achieved well enough, as nearly every airborne unit missed its drop zone, creating a kaleidoscope of small-unit combat. Fortunately for the Allies, the 505th Regimental Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division hit on or near its drop zone. Its task was to seize the vital crossroads of Ste Mère Eglise, and to hold the bridge over the Merderet River at nearby La Fièrè. Benefiting from dynamic battlefield leadership, the paratroopers reached the bridge, only to be met by wave after wave of German tanks and infantry desperate to force the crossing. Reinforced by glider troops, who suffered terribly in their landings from the now-alert Germans, the 505th not only held the vital bridge for three days but launched a counterattack in the teeth of enemy fire to secure their objective once and for all, albeit at gruesome cost. In *No Better Place to Die*, Robert M. Murphy provides an objective narrative of countless acts of heroism, almost breathtaking in its “you are there” detail. No World War II veteran is better known in 82nd Airborne circles than Robert M. (“Bob”) Murphy. A Pathfinder and member of A Company, 505th PIR, Bob was wounded three times in action, and made all four combat jumps with his regiment, fighting in Sicily, Italy, Normandy, and Holland. He was decorated for valor for his role at La Fièrè, and is a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. After the war, he was instrumental in establishing the 505th RCT Association. A selection of the Military Book Club

REVIEWS

"outstanding memoir...accounts and memoirs from many of his comrades plus supporting documents that give a fuller picture of what the 82nd accomplished on D-Day and the days after." WWII History, Winter 2009 "...brings readers a precise historical memoir ...Those wanting an up close and personal memoir ...have an opportunity to receive it from an American fighting man who lived to tell the tale." MILITARY, November 2010 "...well illustrated with plenty of relevant black and white photographs, this is an absolute gem of a book and a must for anyone interested in the Normandy Campaign." Combat and Survival, August 2011 ..."provides an objective narrative of countless acts of heroism, almost breathtaking in its you are there detail. Reenactor's Magazine "...a fascinating read... really well balanced and authoritative account" Military Modeling, 08/17/2011

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