

# Harry Brown's Dog Tags

Harry Edward Brown, an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation of Indians of Oklahoma, earned the following insignia and awards for his service in WWII.

- Brass collar pins for Infantry and US.
- Blue lanyard for combat arms infantry service
- 82nd Airborne Patch
- Airborne/Glider patch
- Basic Parachutist Badge w/two bronze stars for combat jumps
- Sharpshooter Badge for M-1 rifle
- Combat Infantryman's Badge
- Africa/Italy/ European Theater ribbon w/ one silver star and one bronze arrowhead.
- Orange Lanyard award from Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands
- WWII Victory ribbon
- Good Conduct Ribbon
- WWII Victory lapel pin

Harry served in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, as part of the 82nd Airborne Division.

The 504th served in the North Africa, Naples, Foggia Sicily, and the Rome Arno offensives. By the time they had fought their way up the Italian Peninsula, a captured German Officer said of them, "We were holding our own pretty well until those 'devils in baggy pants' showed up".

In September of 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, Ordered the 82nd AIRBORNE Division to serve under General George Montgomery in "Operation Market Garden", an invasion to free the Netherlands of the Nazi German Occupation, and especially to capture bridges across the Rhine River for access into Germany by Allied Infantry and Armor. Thus began the Rhineland-Ardenne offensive.

On the 6th of October, 2012, the newspaper of the Sac and Fox Nation received the following message: "I am sending you this e-mail because I found the dog tags of Harry Edward Brown of the 504th Airborne Infantry Regiment. I found them in the Netherlands in Groesbeek, Nijmegen where operation "Market Garden" took place in WWII. I found an article in your newspaper in 2010 about Harry E. Brown. Since I am trying to contact the family to tell them about the dog tags...." It was signed Mark van der Pol of the Netherlands.

Upon discovering the e-mail which was posted to a previous editor, newspaper editor Ken Johnson contacted the enrollment department. Enrollment specialist Gwen Wilburn then replied to Mark van der Pol that she would be re-

sponsible for contacting the Brown family. After notifying the Brown family, enrollment wrote the following to Dennis Jennings, the secretary of the Sac and Fox Nation Veterans' Organization: "... The family of Harry Brown would like you to contact Mr. Mark van der Pol as their representative." Thus began weeks of conversations between the veterans' organization and the Van der Pol family.

After making contact and telling a little about Harry Brown and The family, Mark wrote back. "My mother always told me, "If you find the family of Harry Brown, I will take you back there to bring them back personally."

Dennis told them about Decoration Day (Memorial Day) as an appropriate time to come to our country for this occasion. After several letters, losing track of each other briefly and then establishing contact again after the Christmas and New Years' Holiday season, Dennis learned that their father had been ill, but now he is getting better. On March 4th, 2013, Mark wrote that "my mother explains some things." In two beautifully written e-mails, she says, "My name is Heidi van der Pol and I am Marks' mother. I am proud of my son for he never gave up searching for Harry. He was genuine Sad when he found out that Harry Passed away. He would have loved to meet him. Mark is very happy and honored that Harry's family wants to meet him. I know a lot of people that have offered him money for the dog tags as they are quite rare, and he always turned them down by saying that he would return them to their owner. That made me very proud. Mark is...in many ways very special. He has a good heart, and is a loving person with a great but modest personality. We have to find a way to be with you this day."

She asked questions about transportation and lodging and I replied immediately. Then on the 10th of March, she sent an e-mail that stated, "We, (myself, Mark and his girlfriend, Nadine), are trying to fly there via Houston on the 23rd of May. We will fly on a stand by basis. That means we will only call you after we have boarded the plane." She added "It looks like it is really happening!"

So the Sac and Fox Veterans' Organization would like to announce that on Saturday, the 25th of May, at the Veterans' Memorial on Hwy 99 in front of the flags, at 11am, we will greet our visitors from the Netherlands with the members of Harry Edward Browns' family. There will be a public handover of Harry's long lost and found (!) dog tags and we will present gifts to the van der Pol family. We intend to honor this young man



Photo of Harry Brown taken in Anzio and his dog tags that will be returned to the family by the van der Pol's (photos submitted by Dennis Jennings)

with a good heart and his mother at our Gourd Dance and War Dance activities for the rest of the day.

On Memorial Day (Decoration Day) the following Monday the 27th of May, the Brown family will give

the honor of placing a flag on Harry's grave at the Wakolee cemetery to Mark van der Pol.

Dennis R. Jennings, Secretary, Sac and Fox Nation Veterans' Organization Friday, April 19, 2013

## HELP WANTED! SAC & FOX NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF JOB VACANCIES WITH

THE SAC & FOX NATION:

- Tribal Administrator (Stroud)
- Controller (Stroud)
- Indian Child Welfare Coordinator (Stroud)
- Indian Child Welfare Specialist (Stroud)
- Compliance Officer (Gaming)
- IT Assistant (Stroud)
- Resident Advisor (Juvenile Detention Center/Stroud)
- Economic Development Director (Stroud)
- Surveillance Observer (s) (Gaming)
- Distribution Clerk/Outreach Driver (Shawnee)
- Accounting Clerk(s) (Finance/Stroud)
- Physician (Black Hawk Health Center/Stroud)
- Executive Assistant (Shawnee)
- Licensing Investigator (Gaming)
- Shift Supervisor (Gaming/Stroud)

Applicants must successfully pass an OSBI/National background check and drug screen. Preference in hiring is given to qualified Native Americans. Applicants claiming Indian Preference must provide a copy of their CDIB. For more information and to learn how to apply please visit our website at:

[www.sacandfoxnation.com](http://www.sacandfoxnation.com)

or contact Human Resources, Sac and Fox Nation, 920883 S Hwy 99, Bldg. A Stroud, OK 74079 or by phone (918) 968- 3526

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## Sac and Fox Elders Mother's Day Dance

MAY 11, 2013  
SAC AND FOX COMMUNITY BUILDING  
5 MILES SOUTH OF STROUD



Gourd Dance 2:00 p.m.  
Supper 5:00 p.m.  
Intertribal Dancing 7:00 p.m.

Head Singer: J. Paul Wilson  
Head Gourd Dancer: Edgar Butler  
Head Man Dancer: Troy Shackelford  
Head Lady Dancer: Muriel Wheeler  
Emcee: RG Harris  
AD: Jeremy Johnson and Anthoni Calderon

Drawing for the Big Ticket Raffle. See any Elder to purchase a raffle ticket.  
Drawing will be Saturday evening. Need not be present to win.  
Not Responsible for Accidents or Theft