

Under the Southern Cross

THE SAGA OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION



BY CAPTAIN FRANCIS D. CRONIN

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In Memoriam

In an address given at the U.S. Military Cemetery on Bougainville on Memorial Day of 1944, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure, then commander of the Americal Division, brought forth a message which we may well take to heart today.

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY IN THIS AMERICAN CEMETERY, thousands of miles from our homeland, in respect and memory of our fellow soldiers who have died on this island. Without distinction as to creed or heritage we offer our united prayers in their behalf to our Maker. And as we pray that their sacrifices may not have been in vain we grieve for their loss as we would for our own sons and brothers.

As we look over this quiet and Christian scene, so peaceful now in the morning light, these brave and dauntless dead seem to answer us and say: "Grieve not! We have lived to the full our youthful lives and are satisfied that our sacrifices and efforts will make for a better world among men. We fought to preserve forever those ideals, institutions and freedoms, which in the privacy of our hearts we call America. There can be no real tragedy in dying such—unless they are lost. Grieve not, brothers, friends and comrades: keep up the fight."

We will keep up the fight and we ask Almighty God for a share of their strength, loyalty, bravery and willingness for self-sacrifice. If we can thus infuse ourselves with the essence of their spirit, they will truly never die, but will live forever with us, strengthening and guiding us in the fight ahead. Then we will be loyal to these gallant men and we pledge to them that they have not died in vain for America. Battles are won by those who fall.

St Sgt Kenneth R Olson
Pvt Sherman R Olson
Sgt Richard W Oman
Pvt Percy E O'Neal
Sgt George D Ortega
Sgt Albert J Osmon
Pvt John D Osteen
Pfc Jerry L Ottaviana
Pvt Roy R Owens
Pfc Clinton S Pacetti Jr
Capt Andrew H Panettiere
Pfc Eugene J Parenteau
Pfc Wendell A Paulson
Pfc John R Pavao
Pfc Eugene T Pawlicki
Pvt Elton L Pederson
Pvt Welford E Pemberton
Pvt Alfred Perkins
Pfc Peter Perrino
1st Lt William K Pflugrath
St Sgt Harvey J Phillips
Pvt Wenzel A Picha
Pfc William E Pinkham
Pfc Harold M Poppen
Pfc Henry J Preston
Pvt Jack Price
Pfc Marvin P Quamme
Pvt Arnold G Rahja
Pfc Millard E Rasmussen
Pfc Ralph P Reedy
Pfc Fred J Reid
St Sgt Pat G Reilly
Sgt Victor Reisenauer
Pfc Frank Resko
Pfc Roy W Reynolds
Pfc Howell D Richardson
Pfc Gerald W Roberts
Pfc John L Roberts
Pvt Gordon R Rockholt
Sgt Paul B Rockstad
1st Lt David B Rosenberg
Sgt Norman A Roy
Pvt George J Ruis
Pfc Rudolpho C Ruiz
Pfc Joseph Ryan
Pfc Vernon W Rydell
Pvt Manfred E Schmalfluss
Pvt John E Senterfeit
St Sgt Miles O Shelley
Pfc Richard L Shipe
Pfc Charles W Shockey
Pvt Joseph Shuster
Pfc James C Simpson
Pvt Tony A Simunaci
Pvt Lonnie L Sistrunk
Pvt John F Sloss
2d Lt Kermit G Sloulin
Pfc James B Sones
Pvt Victor C Spaczenski
Pvt Weldon C Spease
Pvt Joseph M Sperl
WOJG B E Starkenberg
St Sgt George H Stephenson
Pfc Frank T Steinkamp
1st Lt James J Stieffel
Pvt Charles L Stimmel
Pfc George F Strachota
Pfc Truman G Swenson
Sgt Donald A Syverson
Pfc Albert Tait
2d Lt Carl F Tetlak
Pfc Lawrence D Thieling
St Sgt Douglas W Thompson
1st Lt Tilman A Thompson
Pfc Paul Tomaski
Pvt Adam E Tomczyk
Pfc Charles B Turner
St Sgt Robert J Turner
Pfc Charles R Updegraff
Pfc Dale W Utecht
Pvt Marion Van der Werff
Pvt Murray Velcoff
2d Lt Carl E Vettel
Pvt Mardel D Vronholt
Pvt Harold F Wagner
2d Lt Egbert T Watt Jr