



William C. Alford
1912 - 1996

Phyllis (Hughes) Alford

William C. Alford
Aug 6 1912 - Jun 20 1996
 AAFA# 0631

**William Cornelius "Bill"
 Alford**
 AAFA #631

Source unknown

A resident of Roseland, he died at 5:40 a.m. Thursday, June 20, 1996, at Amite Nursing Home, Amite. He was 82 and a native of Greenlaw. Visiting at McKneely Funeral Home, Amite, 9 a.m. until religious services at 1 p.m. Saturday.... Interment in Arcola-Roseland Cemetery, Arcola. Survived by wife, Phyllis H. Alford, Roseland; three sons, James R. Alford, Holden, Donald W. Alford, Roseland, and David M. Alford, Kentwood; a daughter, Bonnie Newman, Pass Christian, Miss.; a stepdaughter, Mary Lou A. Caceres, Terrytown. a sister-in-law, Mrs. Thelma Alford, Bogalusa; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



William C. and Phyllis (Hughes) Alford

AAFA NOTE: William Cornelius Alford was born Aug 6 1913, Greenlaw, Tangipahoa Parish, LA. A welder and policeman, Bill married (1) Dec 24 1934, Elizabeth Russell, who was born Apr 17 1916, Arcola, Tangipahoa Parish, LA, and died Jun 12 1984, Amite, Tangipahoa Parish. Bill married (2) Jan 1 1985, Phyllis Hughes, who was born Dec 15 1919, Roseland, Tangipahoa Parish, LA, (daughter of T. Gordon Hughes and Julia Mae Street). "Alfords at D-Day," AAFA ACTION, Summer 1994, pp. 52-53, is an article about Bill's brother Hollis Maury Alford, who was the first husband of Phyllis, killed in the 1944 invasion of France. This article includes a photograph of Bill and Phyllis.

ALFORD ANCESTORS

Parents

2. James W. Alford born Apr 6 1886, Mt. Hermon, Washington Parish, LA, occupation boiler maker, married Dec 3 1908, in Washington Parish, Louisiana, Mamie Bennett. James died Aug 4 1933, buried: Roseland, Tangipahoa Parish, LA. He was a Baptist

3. Mamie Bennett.

Grand Parents

4. Jesse E. Alford born Dec 29 1855, Washington Parish, Louisiana, married Sarah W. Simmons. Jesse died Sep 15 1904, buried: Mt. Hermon Cemetery, Washington Parish.

5. Sarah W. Simmons born Mar 24 1865, died Aug 13 1940.

William C. Alford 0631
 b. Aug 6 1912 & d. Jun 20 1996
 Lived in Roseland, LA
 Family JOH807LA/JAM687VA
 Attended 0 meeting(s).

Great Grand Parents

8. John Seaborn Alford (Jacob⁴, Julius³, James², John¹) born Oct 11 1807, Washington Parish, LA. A farmer, he married 1834, Margaret Brumfield. John died Nov 15 1891, Washington Parish, LA, and is buried in the Alford Cemetery, Washington Parish, on property that was his farm. It was later known as the Iddo Alford Farm and in the 1990's was owned by Nolan David Alford, AAFA #425.

9. Margaret Brumfield born Feb 9 1819, Pike County, MS, died Sep 18 1855, Washington Parish, LA, buried: Iddo Alford Farm, Washington Parish.

DESCENDANTS

Children by Elizabeth Russell:

- +2. i Bonnie Sue Alford born 1936.
- +3. ii James Russell Alford born Feb 25 1939. He is AAFA #706.
- +4. iii Donald William Alford born Sep 22 1941.
- +5. iv David Marshall Alford born Jan 10 1944.

Second Generation

2. Bonnie Sue Alford born 1936; married Harold Newman, born 1936, Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, LA.

Children:

- 6. i Diana Newman.
- 7. ii Keith Newman.
- 8. iii Kay Newman.
- 9. iv Matthew Newman.

3. James Russell Alford born Feb 25 1939, Roseland, Tangipahoa Parish, LA; married Sep 4 1970, in Greensburg, St. Helena Parish, LA, Janie Courtney, born Sep 13 1947, Holden, Livingston Parish, LA, the daughter of Elwood N. Courtney and Hortense Bookter. He is a Baptist and served in the U.S. Army 1963-65.

Children:

- 10. i Lessha Lynnette Alford born Apr 3 1972, Billings, Yellowstone Co., MT.
- 11. ii Shawn Russell Alford born Dec 28 1976, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA.

4. Donald William Alford born Sep 22 1941, Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, LA. A logger, he married Midge Dykes, born Jan 11 1948, died Sep 16 1992, buried: Arcola Cemetery, Roseland, LA. He is a Baptist.

Children (all b. Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, LA):

- 12. i Janet Alford born Jan 16 1970.
- 13. ii Willie John Alford born Oct 17 1979.
- 14. iii Julia Alford born Sep 8 1981.

5. David Marshall Alford born Jan 10 1944, Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, LA; married Anna Lee Smith.

Children:

- 15. i Jennie Alford.
- 16. ii Jason Alford. ♦

Alfords at D-Day

By Gil Alford, Executive Director

HOLLIS MAURY ALFORD

If you watched television at all during the early part of June, you saw the many white crosses in the military cemeteries in France. If you had looked closely you would have seen the name above on one of them. He was not killed in the D-day invasion but a couple of months later.

Hollis was the first husband of Mrs. William C. (Phyllis) Alford, AAFA #631. William C. Alford was a younger brother to Hollis M. Alford. After William's first wife, Elizabeth Russell, died in 1984, Bill married his widowed sister-in-law, Phyllis Hughes Alford in 1985. Many readers already know another AAFA couple who had a similar experience—Bob and Maxine Alford, AAFA #207, of Texas. Through AAFA these two couples have made contact and met and visited in Hot Springs, AR.

Hollis was born 11 October 1913 in Tangipahoa Parish, LA, the son of James W. Alford and Mamie Bennett. He is a cousin of all of us who descend from Jacob Alford, born 1761 in NC. Hollis married Phyllis Hughes on 28 December 1941. They resided in Roseland, Tangipahoa Parish, and New Orleans, LA. Hollis was in the CCC and worked as a plumber and auto salesman. Like most in that area he was Baptist.

Hollis and Phyllis had one daughter, Mary Lou Alford, who was born 6 April 1943 in Roseland. She married Isidro Caceres on 21 January 1962 in Amite, Tangipahoa Parish, and they have three children.

Hollis was a staff sergeant in the 9th Infantry, 2nd Division. He went into service in early 1941 and had been overseas since late in 1943.

On 28 August 1944 Phyllis received this Western Union telegram: "THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES THAT I TENDER HIS DEEP SYMPATHIES TO YOU IN THE LOSS OF YOUR HUSBAND STAFF SERGEANT [sic] HOLLIS M ALFORD WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION REPORT NOW RECEIVED STATES HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION TWO AUGUST IN FRANCE LETTER FOLLOWS."

On 20 December 1944 Phyllis received a letter from the War Department:

Your letter of 1 October 1944, addressed to the Chaplain of the organization to which your husband, Staff Sergeant Hollis M. Alford, belonged, has been forwarded to this office for reply.

The distress you have suffered since you received the sad announcement of your husband's death is understandable and, realizing your desire to know the attending circumstances, I wish to advise you that an additional report has been received in the War Department. This



S/Sgt. Hollis M. Alford—1944

report state s that Sergeant Alford was instantly killed in action, on 2 August 1944, by machine gun fire, while performing his duties as a platoon guide with his company, in the vicinity of La Favrie France. The report further states your husband was a very good soldier and his death was a great loss to his company.

The Quartermaster General, Washington 25 D.C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the burial of our military personnel who die overseas and any inquiry, regarding the location of your husband's grave may be addressed to that official.

I realize how futile any words of mine may be to assuage your grief but I trust that the knowledge of your husband's heroic sacrifice in action may be a source of sustaining comfort.

You have my heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Dunlop

Brigadier General,

Acting The Adjutant General

It was later learned that he was killed crossing the Vire River with his company near St. Lo. Hollis was buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, St. Laurent Sur Mer, France. The cemetery sits above Omaha Beach and looks over the English Channel. In 1984 Phyllis, her daughter Mary Lou Alford Caceres, Mary Lou's husband Isidro, and their children Simone, Keith, and Kirk visited Isidro's family in Dreux, France. While in France they visited the cemetery. Phyllis wrote that upon arrival they were met by an American tour guide, who picked up a small sand bucket with sand and a cloth and escorted them to one of the 9,386 crosses of white Italian marble. He stopped at one of the crosses, rubbed it with some of the sand and then used the cloth to brush the sand off. Gold letters began to appear:

Hollis M. Alford
S/Sgt. 9 Inf. 2 Div. Louisiana
Aug 2, 1944

Phyllis sent two newspaper obituaries from unnamed, undated sources:

S-SGT HOLLIS ALFORD IS REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

S/Sgt. Hollis M. Alford who was reported missing in action in France is now reported killed, according to official wire received by his wife, Mrs. Phyllis Hughes Alford of Roseland. The report stated that he was killed on August 2, and that further information will follow in a letter from the War Department.

S/Sgt. Alford was 32 years old, born near Kentwood on October 13, 1911. He has been in service for three and a

half years, and has been overseas for the past ten months.

He is survived by his wife and their 16-months old daughter Mary Lou, his mother Mrs. Mamie Alford, his grandmother Mrs. Loren Bennett, and by the following three brothers and one sister: Loren and Otis Alford of New Orleans, W.C. Alford of Arcola, and Mrs. Norman Courtney of Amite. He was a son of the late Jim Alford formerly of the Mt. Hermon community.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ARCOLA CEMETERY FOR S/SGT. HOLLIS ALFORD

Memorial services for S/Sgt. Hollis M. Alford were held at the Arcola cemetery Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The Rev. T.H. Daffin, pastor of the Amite and Arcola Presbyterian churches conducted the rites, and a choir from the Arcola church furnished special music. Two hymns, Faith of our Fathers and Love Divine, were used.

Unveiling of a stone erected to the memory of Sgt. Alford formed a part of the service. The unveiling was done by Emmett Corkern, former technical sergeant in the Army, and intimate friend of the deceased and his family.

Sgt. Alford was killed in action at Cherbourg, France, on August 2, 1943, and is buried at St. Laurent Ser Mer [sic] memorial cemetery in France.

Among the relatives attending the service were Sgt. Alford's little daughter, Mary Lou, his wife the former Phyllis Hughes, his mother Mrs. Mamie Alford, and his grandmother Mrs. Loren Bennett, together with a large number of other relatives and friends of the family.