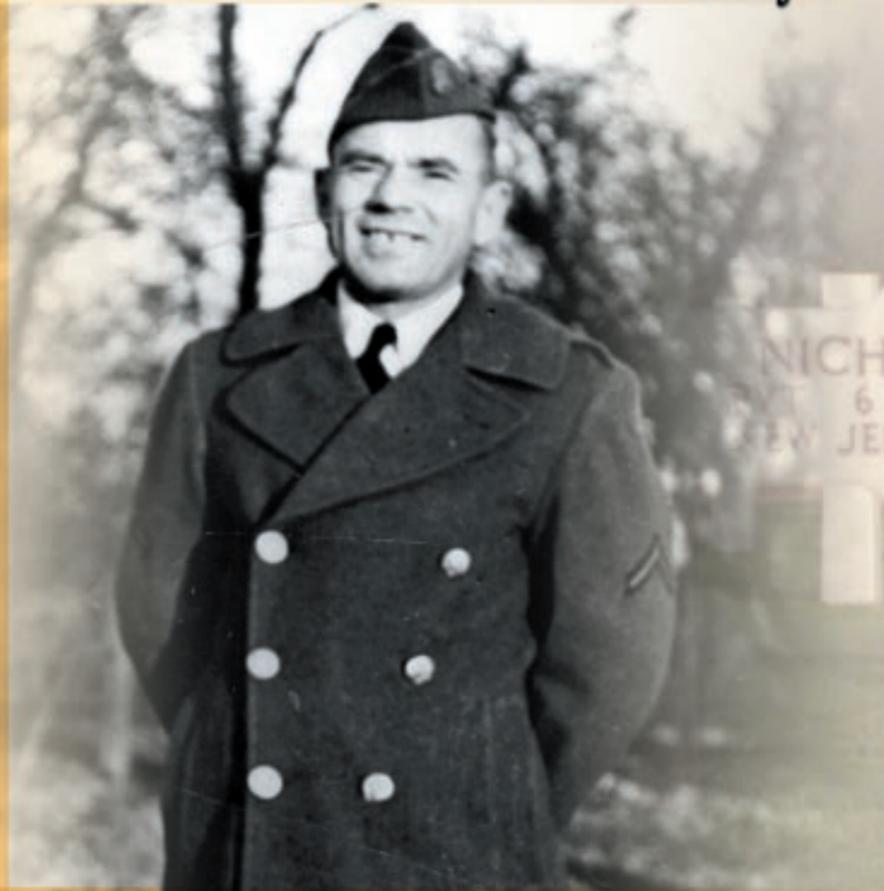


# Division CSM honors memory of WWII soldiers



**“The soldiers assigned to 1st Armored Division remember those soldiers who went before them, even as they continue to serve on freedom’s frontiers throughout the world.”**

- Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston, 1st Armored Division

Pvt. Nicholas Minue of Company A, 6th Armored Infantry, 1st Armored Division was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallant actions in the face of inevitable death during World War II near Medjezel Bab, Tunisia on April 28, 1943.

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**T**UNIS, Tunisia - The sound of “Echo Taps” reverberated across the 2,833 white limestone crosses that stand vigilant in the North African American Cemetery near Tunis, Tunisia. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, two 1st Armored Division soldiers visited the site that became the final resting place to 480 1AD soldiers.

At a time when 1st, 2nd and 4th Brigade soldiers are again making history by maintaining a vigilant peacekeeping

mission in Kosovo and 3rd Brigade soldiers are in the middle of a four-month deployment in Kuwait, Division Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Woodcock paused to remember the historic sacrifices made by 1AD soldiers more than a half-century ago. More than 60 military and diplomatic dignitaries also gathered for the Veterans Day ceremony near Tunis.

“This cemetery is a lasting tribute to the enduring will of American men and women toward lasting peace,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles Simpson, chief of Plans and Policy for the European

Command, the guest speaker for the ceremony.

During the ceremony, a Marine Honor Guard laid wreaths honoring the World War II veterans that gave their lives to free North Africa from the German and Italian forces that had occupied French Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

The battles fought there are a matter of legend, the historic sites where titans clashed. In North Africa, German General Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps reigned supreme over the desert in their iron chariots for more than two years, repeatedly defeating the Allied forces.

In November 1942, the Allies launched Operation Torch, an American operation under the command of

# April 28, 1943 at Tunisia ceremony

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, into North Africa. The Allies’ objective was “to gain complete control of North Africa from the Atlantic to the Red Sea...to clear the [region] of all Axis forces.”

The invasion force did not match the magnitude of the Normandy invasion, but the Allies considered it to have a great chance of success. The operation involved fewer landing crafts and was considered “a more suitable baptism for unblooded U.S. troops.” Soldiers of the 1AD came ashore in Oran, Algeria. Among the 1AD soldiers who landed there was Pvt. Nicholas Minue, of Company A, 6th Armored Infantry.

Minue, a Polish native that had migrated to the United States, enlisted from his new home in Carteret, N.J. He was one of thousands of U.S. forces that came ashore

in Algeria in November. Minue and his fellow soldiers were not only new to desert warfare, this was their first time in combat. They faced a formidable opposition. Under Rommel’s command, the Axis forces numbered more than 100,000 soldiers with more than 170 tanks.

Minue, a member of Company A’s assault element fighting near Medjezel Bab, Tunisia, on April 28, 1943, single-handedly gave his unit the offensive edge in the battle. Minue’s assault team could not advance because they were pinned down by enemy flanking fire. Under enemy machine gun and rifle fire, Minue charged the enemy entrenched position, killing approximately 10 enemy machine gunners and riflemen. After completely destroying their position, Minue continued forward. With bayonet fixed, he continued to kill enemy riflemen in other dugout positions until he was fatally wounded. His action in the face of certain

death, gave his fellow soldiers the offensive spirit to advance and drive the enemy from the entire sector. For his actions, Minue was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The star on the headstone signifying a Medal of Honor recipient and the black lettering makes Minue’s grave stand out among the nearly 3,000 in the cemetery.

Following the official ceremony, Preston laid a bouquet of fresh-cut flowers on Minue’s grave, as a reminder that Minue’s actions stand out among the distinguished history of the 1AD. More than 57 years after that historic battle and his heroic achievements, Minue’s and other 1st Armored Division soldiers’ achievements are not forgotten by the soldiers who serve in the 1AD today, according to Preston.

“The soldiers assigned to 1AD remember those soldiers who went before them, even as they continue to serve on freedom’s frontiers throughout the world,” Preston said.



First Armored Division Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston places flowers on the grave of Pvt. Nicholas Minue, 1AD Medal of Honor recipient, in Carthage, Tunisia. Preston was in Tunisia for the Veterans Day ceremony.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Woodcock stands with the 1AD guidon during the Veterans Day ceremony in Tunisia.