



**Willis Clayton Babcock**

**United States Army**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Division**

**Regimental No. 31422276**

**World War II**

**Born:** 18 July 1925

**Died:** 31 Aug 1944 (Normandy, France)

**Place of Birth:** Boston, Massachusetts,  
United States of America.

**Parents:** Nathan and Catherine Babcock

Parents, Nathan and Catherine, were both from Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. Their eldest son, John was born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland in 1920, while Willis and Nathan were both born in Massachusetts, USA.

The Babcock's moved to the United States in 1922 and possibly like many Newfoundlanders over the years moved in search of work. Nathan (sr.) found work as a carpenter and he and wife Catherine made the United States their permanent home.

The 1930 US Federal Census shows the Babcock's in residence on Hollis Place, Boston, Massachusetts. Nathan is 46, Catherine is 48, John 19, Willis 14 and Nathan (jr) 12.

Like his older brother, Willis enlisted in the Army. He enlisted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1943. He is described at the time as being 6' tall, 168 lbs, of light complexion with brown hair and blue eyes.

Willis was killed in action on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1944 during the liberation of Brest, France. His obituary is below:

## IN MEMORIAM

**BABCOCK** — In loving memory of Willis Clayton Babcock, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Babcock, 33 Easton Street, Allston, 34, Mass., who was killed in France in defence of his country, Aug. 31, 1944.

Somewhere in France there is a  
holy place,  
A piece of ground where every  
wind blows sweet.  
The sun is golden on that fair  
green space,  
Where his name shines in let-  
ters clear and neat.  
He left his home on jubilant  
young feet;  
How many miles he marched we  
do not know,  
But now his life, though ended,  
is complete,  
For Honor plucked him from  
that marching row.  
Somewhere in France he sleeps,  
wrapped in our prayers,  
Secure and peaceful in a strid-  
ent world,  
No longer harried by the  
strange affairs  
Into which he so suddenly was  
hurled.  
The heavens over him are blue  
and pearled  
With white embroideries of  
cloud and sun.  
The flag that flies above him is  
unfurled  
Because of battles boys like him  
have won.



Pvt. Willis C. Babcock (Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division) was killed in action on 31 August 1944 during the liberation of Brest, France.

His burial place is listed as Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton, Massacheuttes.