Audie Murphy was the recipient of America's highest decoration known as the Medal of Honor. Originally authorized by congress during the Civil War this medal has had several versions since 1862. This particular version was authorized for the Army in 1904 and is known as the "Gillespie" version. It was issued to Medal of Honor recipients in the Army through the end of World War II but was later replaced with another, more recent version.

General Orders No. 65
WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington 25, D.C., 9 August 1945
MEDAL OF HONOR - Award

I. MEDAL OF HONOR. - By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), a Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty was awarded by the War Department in the name of Congress to the following-named officer:
Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, 01692509, 15th Infantry, Army of the United States, on 26 January 1945, near Holtzwhir, France, commanded Company B, which was attacked by six tanks and waves of infantry. Lieutenant Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to a prepared position in a woods while he remained forward at his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery by telephone. Behind him to his right one of our tank destroyers received a direct hit and began to burn. Its crew withdrew to the woods. Lieutenant Murphy continued to direct artillery fire which killed large numbers of the advancing enemy infantry. With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Lieutenant Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer which was in danger of blowing up any instant and employed its .50 caliber machine gun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to the German fire from three sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry attack to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an hour the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate Lieutenant Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw. His directing of artillery fire wiped out many of the enemy; he personally killed or wounded about 50. Lieutenant Murphy's indomitable courage and his refusal to give an inch of ground saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

OFFICIAL:
EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
Acting The Adjutant General
Chief of Staff
G.C. MARSHALL
Distinguished Service Cross Orders
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758
US Army
GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 21
Award of the Distinguished-Service Cross
28 January 1945
II - AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-SERVICE CROSS
By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-45, 22
September 1943, as amended, the Distinguished-Service Cross is awarded by
the Army Commander to the following named individuals:

AUDIE L. MURPHY, 01 692 509, Second Lieutenant, (then Staff Sergeant),
Infantry, Company "B", 15th Infantry Regiment, for extraordinary heroism in
action. Landing near Ramatuelle, France, with the first wave of the assault
infantry, at 0800 hours, 15 August until halted by intense machine gun and small
arms fire from a boulder-covered hill to his front. Leaving his men in a covered
position, he dashed forty yards through withering fire to a draw. Using this
defiladed route, he went back toward the beaches, found a light machine gun
squad and, returning up the rocky hill, placed the machine gun in position
seventy-five yards in advance of his platoon. In the duel which ensued,
Lieutenant Murphy silenced the enemy weapon, killed two of the crew and
wounded a third. As he proceeded further up the draw, two Germans advanced
toward him. Quickly destroying both of them, he dashed up the draw alone
toward the enemy strongpoint, disregarding bullets which glanced off the rocks
around him and hand grenades which exploded fifteen yards away. Closing in,
he wounded two Germans with carbine fire, killed two more in a fierce, brief fire-
fight, and forced the remaining five to surrender. His extraordinary heroism
resulted in the capture of a fiercely contested enemy-held hill and the annihilation
or capture of the entire enemy garrison. Entered military service from
Farmersville, Texas.
Adjutant General
ARTHUR A. WHITE,
Major General, GSC,
Chief of Staff
OFFICIAL:
W. G. CALDWELL
W. G. CALDWELL
Colonel, AGD
By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:
Silver Star Orders

GENERAL ORDERS
Number 66
HEADQUARTERS THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #3
25 February 1945
Award of Silver Star

1 - AWARD THE SILVER STAR. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded each of the following named individuals:

AUDIE L. MURPHY, 01 692 509, First Lieutenant (then Staff Sergeant), Infantry, Company "B", 15th Infantry Regiment. For gallantry in action. On the morning of 2 October 1944, near CLEURIE QUARRY, France, First Lieutenant MURPHY inched his way over rugged, uneven terrain, toward an enemy machine gun which had surprised a group of officers on reconnaissance. Getting to within fifteen yards of the German gun, First Lieutenant MURPHY stood up and, disregarding a burst of enemy fire delivered at such close range and which miraculously missed him, flung two hand grenades into the machine gun position, killing four Germans, wounding three more and destroying the position. Residence: Farmersville, Texas.

By command of Major General O'DANIEL:

CHARLES E. JOHNSON,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.
OFFICIAL:

/s/ S.J. Rogers
S.J. Rogers
Major, A.G.D.,
Adjutant General
Biography for
Audie Murphy

Birth name
Audie Leon Murphy

Height
5' 5" (1.65 m)

Mini biography
The son of poor Texas sharecroppers, Audie Murphy became a national hero during World War II as the most decorated combat soldier of the war. Among his 33 awards was the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for bravery that a soldier can receive. In addition, he was also decorated for bravery by the governments of France and Belgium, and was credited with killing over 240 German soldiers and wounding and capturing many more.

Murphy had tried to enlist in the army in his native Texas, but was rejected because he was too young. When he became old enough, he tried again and was accepted this time. After undergoing basic military training, he was sent to Europe, where he fought in nine major campaigns over three years and rose from the rank of private to a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant. Part of Murphy's appeal to many people what that he hardly fit the "image" of a war hero. He was a slight, somewhat skinny, shy and soft-spoken young man, whose boyish appearance (something he never lost throughout his life; he always looked at least 15 years younger than he actually was) often shocked people when they found out that, for example, during one battle he jumped on top of a burning tank—which was loaded with ammunition and cannon shells and could have exploded at any moment—and used its machine gun to hold off waves of attacking German soldiers, killing dozens of them and saving his unit from certain destruction and the entire line from being overrun.

In September 1945 Murphy was released from active duty and assigned to inactive status. His story caught the interest of actor James Cagney, who invited Murphy to Hollywood. For the next several years Murphy struggled to make it as an actor, but jobs were few and far between, mostly bit parts. He finally got a starring role in Bad Boy (1949), and was eventually signed by Universal Pictures, which put him in a string of westerns, a genre that suited his easygoing image and Texas drawl. He starred in the film version of his autobiography, To Hell and Back (1955), which was a huge hit, setting a box office record for Universal that wasn’t broken for 20 years. One of his better pictures was Night Passage (1957), a western in which he played the kid brother of James Stewart. He received critical acclaim for his role in director John Huston’s The Red Badge of Courage (1951) and again in Huston’s The Unforgiven (1960). In the mid-1960s Universal dropped the concept of contract players and hired actors on a per-picture basis, and Murphy, among others, was dropped by the studio.
By the war's end, Murphy had become the nation's most-decorated soldier, earning an unparalleled 28 medals, including three from France and one from Belgium. Murphy had been wounded three times during the war, yet, in May 1945, when victory was declared in Europe, he had still not reached his 21st birthday.

Audie Murphy returned to a hero's welcome in the United States. His photograph appeared on the cover of Life magazine and he was persuaded by actor James Cagney to embark on an acting career. Still very shy and unassuming, Murphy arrived in Hollywood with only his good looks and — by his own account — "no talent." Nevertheless, he went on to make more than 40 films. His first part was just a small one in Beyond Glory in 1948. The following year he published his wartime memoirs, To Hell and Back, which received good reviews. Later he portrayed himself in the 1956 movie version of the book. Many film critics, however, believe his best performance was in Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane's Civil War epic.

After nearly 20 years he retired from acting and started a career in private business. But the venture was unsuccessful, eventually forcing him into bankruptcy in 1968. Murphy, who once said that he could only sleep with a loaded pistol under his pillow, was haunted by nightmares of his wartime experiences throughout his adult life. In 1971, at the age of 46, he died in the crash of a private plane near Roanoke, Va.

Audie Murphy is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, just across Memorial Drive from the Memorial Amphitheater. A special flagstone walkway has been constructed to accommodate the large number of people who stop to pay their respects to this hero. At the end of a row of graves, his tomb is marked by a simple, white, government-issue tombstone, which lists only a few of his many military decorations. The stone is, as he was, too small.

**Audie Murphy**

- **Date of birth (location)**
  - 20 June 1924
  - Kingston, Texas, USA

- **Date of death (details)**
  - 28 May 1971
  - near Roanoke, Virginia, USA. (plane crash)

- **Mini biography**
  - The son of poor Texas sharecroppers, Audie Murphy became a national hero... (show more)

**Filmography as:** Actor, Producer, Writer, Himself, Notable TV Guest Appearances

**Actor - filmography**

(1960s) (1950s) (1940s)

1. **A Time for Dying** (1969) .... Jesse James
2. **40 Guns to Apache Pass** (1967) .... Capt. Bruce Coburn
3. **The Texican** (1966) .... Jess Carlin
   ... aka Texas Kid (Spain)
4. **Trunk to Cairo** (1966) .... Mike Merrick
   ... aka Cairo Campaign
   ... aka Einer spielt falsch (West Germany)
   ... aka Mivtza Kahir (Israel: Hebrew title)
5. **Gunpoint** (1966) .... Chad Lucas
6. **Arizona Raiders** (1965) .... Clint Stewart
7. Apache Rifles (1964) .... Jeff Stanton
8. Bullet for a Badman (1964) .... Logan Kelihier
    ... aka Renegade Posse (USA)
9. The Quick Gun (1964) .... Clint Cooper
10. Gunfight at Comanche Creek (1963) .... Bob 'Gif' Gifford aka Judd Tanner
    ... aka Gun Fight at Comanche Creek (USA: poster title)
11. War Is Hell (1963) .... Narrator
12. Showdown (1963) .... Chris Foster
13. Six Black Horses (1962) .... Ben Lane
14. Battle at Bloody Beach (1961) .... Craig Benson
    ... aka Battle on the Beach (UK)
15. "Whispering Smith" (1961) TV Series .... Det. Tom 'Whispering' Smith
16. Posse from Hell (1961) .... Banner Cole
17. Seven Ways from Sundown (1960) .... Seven Ways From Sundown Jones
18. The Unforgiven (1960) .... Cash Zachary
19. Hell Bent for Leather (1960) .... Clay Santell

21. The Wild and the Innocent (1959) .... Yancy Hawks
22. No Name on the Bullet (1959) .... John Gant
23. The Gun Runners (1958) .... Sam Martin
    ... aka Gunrunners (International: English title)
24. Ride a Crooked Trail (1958) .... Joe Maybe
25. The Quiet American (1958) .... The American
26. Night Passage (1957) .... The Utica Kid
29. Walk the Proud Land (1956) .... John P. Clum
    ... aka Apache Agent
30. World in My Corner (1956) .... Tommy Shea
31. To Hell and Back (1955) .... Audie Murphy
32. Destry (1954) .... Tom Destry
33. Drums Across the River (1954) .... Gary Brannon
34. Ride Clear of Diablo (1954) .... Clay O'Mara
    ... aka The Breckenridge Story (USA)
35. Tumbleweed (1953) .... Jim Harvey
    ... aka Three Were Renegades (USA)
36. Column South (1953) .... Lt. Jed Sayre
37. Gunsmoke (1953) .... Reb Kittridge
    ... aka A Man's Country (USA)
    ... aka Roughshod (USA)
38. The Duel at Silver Creek (1952) .... Luke Cromwell, The Silver Kid
    ... aka Claim Jumpers (USA)
39. The Cimarron Kid (1952) .... Bill Doolin
40. The Red Badge of Courage (1951) .... Henry Fleming (the Youth)
41. Kansas Raiders (1950) .... Jesse James
42. The Kid from Texas (1950) .... William Bonney ('Billy the Kid')  
    ... aka Texas Kid, Outlaw (UK)  
43. Sierra (1950) .... Ring Hassard  
44. Bad Boy (1949) .... Danny Lester  
    ... aka The Story of Danny Lester  
45. Beyond Glory (1948) .... Thomas  
46. Texas, Brooklyn and Heaven (1948) .... Copy boy  
    ... aka The Girl from Texas (UK)  

Filmography as: Actor, Producer, Writer, Himself, Notable TV Guest Appearances  

Producer - filmography  
(1960s) (1950s)  
2. The Guns of Fort Petticoat (1957) (producer) (uncredited)  

Filmography as: Actor, Producer, Writer, Himself, Notable TV Guest Appearances  

Writer - filmography  
1. To Hell and Back (1955) (autobiography)  

Filmography as: Actor, Producer, Writer, Himself, Notable TV Guest Appearances  

Himself - filmography  
(1970s) (1960s) (1950s)  
1. Travelin' Light (1971) .... Himself  
2. Audie Murphy in Nuremberg (1961) .... Himself  
3. Rock 'Em Cowboy (1957)  

Filmography as: Actor, Producer, Writer, Himself, Notable TV Guest Appearances  

Notable TV Guest Appearances  
2. "General Electric Theater" playing "Tennessee" in episode: "Incident" (episode # 6.18) 9 February 1958  
3. "Suspicion" in episode: "The Flight" (episode # 1.9) 25 November 1957  
In addition to his acting career—he made a total of 44 films—Murphy was also a successful rancher and businessman. He bred and raised thoroughbred horses and owned several ranches in Texas, Arizona and California. He was also a songwriter, and penned hits for such singers as Dean Martin, Eddy Arnold, Charley Pride and many others.

Hist postwar life wasn't all roses, however. He suffered from what is now called Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) but was then called "combat fatigue", and was known to have a hair-trigger temper. He was acquitted of attempted murder charges brought about by injuries he inflicted on a man in a bar fight, and director Don Siegel said in an interview that Murphy often carried a pistol on the set of The Gun Runners (1958) and many of the cast and crew were afraid of him. He had a short-lived and turbulent marriage to actress Wanda Hendrix, and in the 1960s his bouts of insomnia and depression resulted in his becoming addicted to a particularly powerful sleeping pill called Placidyl, an addiction he eventually broke. He ran into a streak of bad financial luck and was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1968. He campaigned for the government to spend more time and money on taking care of returning Vietnam War veterans, as he more than most others knew exactly what kinds of problems they were going to have.

On May 28, 1971, Murphy was aboard a private plane on his way to a business meeting when the plane ran into thick fog near Roanoke, Virginia, and crashed into the side of a mountain, killing all six people aboard. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. According to cemetery records, the only grave site visited by more people than Murphy's is that of former President John F. Kennedy.

Spouse

Pamela Archer  (23 April 1951 - 28 May 1971) (his death) 2 sons  
Wanda Hendrix  (8 February 1949 - 14 April 1950) (divorced)

Trivia

Most decorated US soldier of WWII. Among his 27 US decorations was the Medal of Honor, the US's highest award for military conduct "above and beyond the call of duty", plus 5 decorations awarded by France and Belgium.

At Arlington Cemetery, the tombstones of Medal of Honor winners are normally decorated in gold leaf, but Murphy requested that his tombstone remain plain and inconspicuous.

Audie Murphy Research Foundation established by Murphy family, for collection, preservation and distribution of historical information about AM. Location: 18008 Saratoga Way, Suite 516, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 Fax 805-251-8432.
June 20, 1996 was proclaimed Audie Murphy Day by the Greenville Area Postal Customer Advisory Council in Greenville, Texas. U.S. Highway 69 North, from North Greenville city limits to Fannin County line was renamed The Audie Murphy Memorial Highway. Audie Murphy was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame this year in Oklahoma.

Fan club contact: The Audie Murphy National Fan Club, 8313 Snug Hill Lane, Potomac, Maryland 20854-4057. Annual fee $14.00.

Chosen by Empire magazine as one of the 100 Sexiest Stars in film history (#55). [1995]

Audie Murphy was born in Kingston, Texas and grew up in Celeste, Texas. He went to school in Celeste until 8th grade when he dropped out to help raise his family.

Just before his death, Murphy was offered the part of the villain in the original Dirty Harry (1971).

June 20, 1996 was proclaimed Audie Murphy Day by the Greenville Area Postal Customer Advisory Council in Greenville, Texas. U.S. Highway 69 North, from North Greenville city limits to Fannin County line was renamed The Audie Murphy Memorial Highway. Audie Murphy was inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum this year in Oklahoma. For a video copy of this event send $25 to: National Cowboy Hall of Fame 1700 N.E. 63rd Street Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111 Attn: Lynda Hallar For information on obtaining movie posters or lobby cards of Audie Murphy at attractive prices contact: Jim Zicopula 166 Woodridge Lane Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014 (612) 483-9809 Home: 4PM - 10PM (612) 297-4603 Work: 7AM - 3:30PM A&E will air "Audie Murphy - Great American Hero" on their Biography series on July 1, 1996. Flowers for Audie can be sent to: Audie L. Murphy Grave 366-11, Section 46 Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia 22211

His ex-wife attended his memorial service.


First wife Wanda Hendrix claimed he had horrible nightmares and slept with a gun under his pillow.

Although commonly referred to as Sergeant Audie Murphey, Murphey was given a battlefield commission and was promoted to second lieutenant prior to receiving his Medal of Honor.

Personal quotes
"I can't ever remember being young in my life." (1956)

"I never liked being called the 'most decorated' soldier. There were so many guys who should have gotten medals and never did--guys who were killed."

Fellow officer in US Army: "Don't let that baby face fool you, that's the toughest soldier in the Third Division."

"I'm working under a great handicap...no talent."

Of the role of himself in 'To Hell and Back (1955)': "I don't think I'm the type. Maybe Tony Curtis would do."

Bill Mauldin: "In him, we all recognized the straight, raw stuff, uncut and fiery as the day it left the still. Nobody wanted to be in his shoes, but nobody wanted to be unlike him, either."

"I guess my face is still the same, and so is the dialogue. Only the horses were changed."-A.M. at 40.

Salary

**To Hell and Back (1955)** $400,000

Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia:

Seeing this slight, boyish actor on-screen in any of his many Westerns, you'd be hard pressed to recognize him as the most highly decorated American serviceman in World War 2: 24 citations in all, including the Congressional Medal of Honor. The poor son of Texas sharecroppers, he found himself in glamorous Hollywood in 1948, making his film debut in an Alan Ladd starrer, *Beyond Glory* Murphy gave a sincere performance as a belligerent delinquent in *Bad Boy* (1949), and something about the natural, untrained actor appealed to Universal-International's casting directors, who starred him in a series of budget Westerns, many of them shot in Technicolor, beginning with *The Kid from Texas* (1950), in which he played Billy the Kid. *Sierra, Kansas Raiders* (both 1950), *The Cimarron Kid, Duel at Silver Creek* (both 1952), *Gunsmoke, Tumbleweed* (both 1953), *Ride Clear of Diablo, Drums Across the River* (both 1954), and *Destry* (1955) followed, all of them tailored to Murphy's personality and limited acting ability. (His efforts at smoldering hatred or grim determination usually looked like adolescent petulance.)

In 1951 MGM borrowed Murphy from Universal to star in John Huston's adaptation of Stephen Crane's classic Civil War story, *The Red Badge of Courage* in which the young star was effectively cast as a young Union soldier who flees under fire. Murphy played himself in *To Hell and Back (1955)*, based on his best-
Audie Murphy BIO

Audie Leon Murphy, son of poor Texas sharecroppers, rose to national fame as the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. Among his 33 awards and decorations was the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States of America, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." He also received every decoration for valor that his country had to offer, some of them more than once, including 5 decorations by France and Belgium. Credited with either killing over 240 of the enemy while wounding and capturing many others, he became a legend within the 3rd Infantry Division. Beginning his service as an Army Private, Audie quickly rose to the enlisted rank of Staff Sergeant, was given a "battle field" commission as 2nd Lieutenant, was wounded three times, fought in 9 major campaigns across the European Theater, and survived the war.

During Murphy's 3 years active service as a combat soldier in World War II, Audie became one of the best fighting combat soldiers of this or any other century. What Audie accomplished during this period is most significant and probably will never be repeated by another soldier, given today's high-tech type of warefare. The U.S. Army has always declared that there will never be another Audie Murphy.

On 21 September, 1945, Audie was released from the Army as an active member and reassigned to inactive status. During this same time, actor James Cagney invited Murphy to Hollywood in September 1945, when he saw Murphy's photo on the cover of Life Magazine. The next couple of years in California were hard times for Audie Murphy. Struggling and becoming disillusioned from lack of work while sleeping in a local gymnasium, he finally received token acting parts in his first two films.
His first starring role came in a 1949 released film by Allied Artists called, Bad Boy. In 1950 Murphy eventually got a contract with Universal-International (later called Universal) where he starred in 26 films, 23 of them westerns over the next 15 years. His 1949 autobiography To Hell And Back was a best seller. Murphy starred as himself in a film biography released by Universal-International in 1955 with the same title. The movie, To Hell and Back, held the record as Universal’s highest grossing picture until 1975 when it was finally surpassed by the movie Jaws. In the mid-60s the studios switched from contract players to hiring actors on a picture-by-picture basis. Consequently, when his contract expired in 1965 Universal did not renew. This gave him the opportunity to work with other studios and independent film producers. In the 25 years that Audie spent in Hollywood, he made a total of 44 feature films.

Despite his success in Hollywood, Audie never forgot his rural Texas roots. He returned frequently to the Dallas area where he owned a small ranch for a while. He also had ranches in Perris, California and near Tucson, Arizona. He was a successful Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racehorse owner and breeder, having interests in such great horses as “Depth Charge.” His films earned him close to 3 million dollars in 23 years as an actor. Audie loved to gamble, and he bet on horses and different sporting events. He was also a great poker player. In his role as a prodigious gambler, he won and lost fortunes.

Audie Murphy wrote some poetry and was quite successful as a songwriter. He usually teamed up with talented artists and composers such as Guy Mitchell, Jimmy Bryant, Scott Turner, Coy Ziegler, or Terri Eddleman. Dozens of Audie Murphy's songs were recorded and released by such great performers as Dean Martin, Eddy Arnold, Charley Pride, Jimmy Bryant, Porter Waggoner, Jerry Wallace, Roy Clark, Harry Nilsson and many, many others. His two biggest hits were Shutters and Boards and When the Wind Blows in Chicago. Eddy Arnold recorded When the Wind Blows in Chicago for his 1993 album Last of the Love Song Singers which is currently in release by RCA.

Audie suffered from what is now known as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTS) and was plagued by insomnia and depression. During the mid-60’s he became dependent for a time on doctor prescribed sleeping pills called Placidyl. When he recognized that he had become addicted to this prescription drug, he locked himself in a motel room, stopped taking the sleeping pills and went through withdrawal symptoms for a week. Always an advocate for the needs of veterans, he broke the taboo about discussing war related mental problems after this experience. In a effort to draw attention to the problems of returning Korean and Vietnam War veterans, Audie Murphy spoke-out candidly about his personal problems with PTS, then known as "Battle Fatigue". He publicly called for United States government to give more consideration and study to the emotional impact war has on veterans and to extend health care benefits to address PTS and other mental health problems of returning war vets.

While on a business trip on May 28, 1971, (Memorial Day Weekend) he was killed at the age of 46. A private plane flying in fog and rain crashed in the side of a
mountain near Roanoke, Virginia. Five others including the pilot were also killed. Although Audie owned and flew his own plane earlier in his career at Hollywood, he was among the passengers that tragic day.

On June 7th, Audie Murphy was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. His gravesite, near the Amphitheater, is second most visited gravesite year round. President Kennedy's grave is the most visited.

In 1996 the Texas Legislature officially designated his birthday, June 20th, as Audie Murphy Day.