

Charles Addison Downs was born on September 28th 1921 and lived on Varsity Avenue in the historic West Windsor community of Penns Neck. He volunteered for duty with the American Field Service while a student at Cornell University. Later, he served in the U.S. Tank Corps and was trained at Fort Knox. It was during his service as a Private in Company B of the 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion and 2nd Armored Division that he was killed in action in France on August 7, 1944, amid the Battle of Normandy. Charles was only 22 years old. He was survived by his parents – Edwin and Grace – as well as a brother, Edwin Jr. He was buried in Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

