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As the United States mobilized for world war in the European theatre, many volunteered for service and were sent off to fight the Axis Powers. Many soldiers from Young County didn't come home, and were buried in the countries where they paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. It's often contemplated by families and government officials whether American Soldiers' graves overseas are looked upon with the same reverence as they would be in America. Do the countries who care for these hallowed grounds understand that some of these soldiers had children who were waiting for them to come home, only to associate the absence of a parent with gold stars in windows? Do they realize that the parents and brothers and sisters who lay there would have an empty place at a dinner table forever? In a place called Margraten in The Netherlands, they understand, and they go above and beyond.

There are over 10,000 U.S. service members buried at Margraten, and according to press releases, since 1945, many Dutch families have adopted the graves of the fallen soldiers, and show up regularly to decorate them with flowers. In 2015, they went one step further, holding a memorial week for those soldiers called "Faces of Margraten," where photographs of some of the liberators were placed on the monuments.

The organizers of the "Faces of Margraten" found pictures for approximately one-third of the 10,023 American soldiers who are buried there, and 25,000 people showed up to honor these heroes.

"The number of people that came out showed that people widely continue to recognize the importance of remembering those to whom we owe our freedom, even 70 years after the end of World War II. Moreover, the visitors' responses revealed that people were touched by the fact that they could look straight into the eyes of our liberators," said Sebastiaan Vonk, chairman of the Foundation United Adopters American War Graves, which organizes The Faces of Margraten tribute. "We sought out personal pictures of the soldiers. Pictures that show the soldiers with their families, so the people who came to pay their respects could see that these soldiers are just like us, with families and people that loved them."

The second annual "Faces of Margraten," will be held May 1-5. The Olney Enterprise was contacted by Teresa Hirsch, a volunteer with the "Faces of Margraten" to help find two pictures of Young County soldiers who were buried in that cemetery in the Netherlands. Their names are Arnold O. Jeske and Paul Valadez. The Olney Enterprise was able to find photographs of Jeske.

"People have searched databases and file photos off and on for two years trying to find pictures of these two soldiers," said Teresa Hirsche, a volunteer with Faces of Margraten. "After an

exhaustive search, we tend to rely on people in or near the communities the soldiers claimed as their hometown as a last ditch effort. We are so pleased to learn that Arnold Jeske's picture was located."

According to military records, Arnold O. Jeske was a Technician, Fifth Grade in the Army during World War II. Jeske resided in Archer County, Texas before enlisting on March 13, 1942. At the time of enlistment, Arnold was 31 years old. Two years later, Arnold was captured by the Nazis while serving in Germany, and was sent to Stalag 4B, a POW camp near Muhlberg, Germany where 8,412 other American POWs were held. Jeske's capture was first reported to the International Committee of the Red Cross on December 17, 1945. Jeske died as a prisoner of war.

A picture for the second soldier, Paul Valadez, has not been located. "We are hoping that if we get the information about the "Faces of Margraten" tribute to the public, and the fact that we are trying to find a picture of Valadez, someone might be able to help."

According to the database "Fields of Honor," Paul Valadez was born in 1916 in Young County, Texas, and he resided in Newcastle. Valadez's father's name was Ben Valadez, and he had a brother named Leo. He was a Private First Class, US Army, 610th Engineer Landing Equipment Company. Valadez's date of death is April 4, 1945, but it is unknown how or where he died, only that he is buried at Margraten, Plot A, Row 16, Grave 6.