

INDIVIDUAL DECEASED PERSONNEL FILE

BEST COPY POSSIBLE
POOR QUALITY ORIGINAL

BIGNESS, VERNON L.

92 PGS

MM
JW

USMC HAMM, LUXEMBOURG
PLOT E ROW 4
Reburied 16 1948

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

* Verified by: s/W.R. Peyton

SECTION A - GRS OFFICER DIRECTIVE NUMBER DATE
NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED 6020 08492 15 06 49
DAY MONTH YEAR

NAME/ SERIAL NUMBER GRADE ARM RACE RELIGION
BIGNESS VERNON L 12081523 PVT 1 1 2

CEMETERY PLOT ROW GRAVE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS
HAMM LUXEMBOURG V 1 14 6001 80
CODE DIST. CTR.

SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN
HAMM, LUXEMBOURG KATHRYN L. BIGNESS (WIDOW)
257 COFFEEN STREET
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME SERIAL NUMBER GRADE DATE OF DEATH DATE DISINTERRED

IDENTIFICATION TAG ON ORGANIZATION RELIGION IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY
 REMAINS USAGF
 MARKER NAME AND TITLE

SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL CONDITION OF REMAINS

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

MINOR DISCREPANCIES (Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.)

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

CHANGE

DATE BY EMBALMER (Signature)

CASKET BOXED AND MARKED SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.



SIGNATURE OF AGRS INSPECTOR

REMARKS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

* Signature of GRS Officer is the same as signature on FILE for X-91
(Previous Designation) ROBERT V. DATEBAK
Capt NAME [Signature] DIV.

PREV. DISP. AS UNK. X-91
FINAL LETTER SENT 24 AUG 1949

24 August, 1949

Pvt Vernon L. Bigness, ASN 12 081 523
Plot E, Row 4, Grave 31
Headstone: Cross
Hamm (Luxembourg) U. S. Military Cemetery

Mrs. Kathryn L. Bigness
257 Coffeen Street
Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Bigness:

This is to inform you that the remains of your loved one have been permanently interred, as recorded above, side by side with comrades who also gave their lives for their country. Customary military funeral services were conducted over the grave at the time of burial.

After the Department of the Army has completed all final interments, the cemetery will be transferred, as authorized by the Congress, to the care and supervision of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission also will have the responsibility for permanent construction and beautification of the cemetery, including erection of the permanent headstones. The headstone will be inscribed with the name exactly as recorded above, the rank or rating where appropriate, organization, State, and date of death. Any inquiries relative to the type of headstone or the spelling of the name to be inscribed thereon, should be addressed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Your letter should include the full name, rank, serial number, grave location, and name of the cemetery.

While interments are in progress, the cemetery will not be open to visitors. You may rest assured that this final interment was conducted with fitting dignity and solemnity and that the grave-site will be carefully and conscientiously maintained in perpetuity by the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. MIDDLESWART
Major General
Acting The Quartermaster General

AUG 25 2 03 PM '49

MAIL SERVICES BRANCH

fat

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

BUDGET 49-R278

8612/49

NAME OF DECEASED AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL

DATE:

Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness 12 081 523
 Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14
 USMC Hamm, Luxembourg

25 May 1949

A		C	
B		D	

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Civilian Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly signed by the next of kin, it should be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose.
 If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

PART I

I, Mrs. Kathryn L. Bigness (Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)
 (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

- WIDOW
- FATHER
- RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE (Specify)
- WIDOWER
- MOTHER
- SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- DAUGHTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- SISTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD

HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE DECEASED DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: (Please place an "X" in the box opposite the option you have selected.)

- 1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS. HAMM, Luxembourg
- 2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

- 3. BE RETURNED TO _____ (FOREIGN COUNTRY) THE HOMELAND OF THE DECEASED, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

THE NAME OF THE DECEASED AND OTHER INFORMATION ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: (If no corrections are necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.)

CHANGE

PLEASE NOT APPLY

NAT

ms
 Coded 6-15-49
 L. Blatt

DDP AND NUMBER

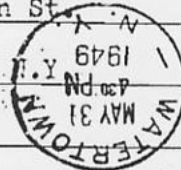
XX OQMG FORM 14 NOV 1948 346 CIVILIAN
 Taylor

JUN 9 1949

(CITY AND STATE)

293 Bigness, Vernon L. 12-081-523

DDMG FORM 381 11 MAR 47		NOTICE OF CHANGE IN ADDRESS	
NAME OF DECEASED Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness		RANK Pvt.	SERIAL NUMBER 12 081 523
NAME OF NEXT OF KIN Kathryn L. Bigness		RELATIONSHIP Wife	
OLD ADDRESS 681 Emerson St. Watertown, N.Y.			
NEW ADDRESS 257 Coffeen St. Watertown, N.Y.			
REMARKS Hamm #1 V-1-14			






Handwritten notes:
 File with
 Dept of
 War

OFFICE THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

Priority Cemetery
1969

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM-	3 TO-	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
2	Chief Repat Br Rec Sec Mem Div	Chief Repat Br Corr Sec	19 May 49	<p>Request dispatch of necessary letter to NOK of <u>BIGNESS, Vernon L.</u>, and dispatch of notification to <u>Effects QM.</u></p> <p>Return file to Capt. Snedigar.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>1 Incl 293 file</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SNEDIGAR 5198</p> <p style="text-align: right;">THOMAS 5198</p> <p style="text-align: right;">mmf</p>
3	Chief Repat Br Corr Sec Mem Div	Chief Repat Br Rec Sec Attn: Captain Snedigar	25 May 1949	<p>1. Returned herewith is 293 file for BIGNESS, Vernon L.</p> <p>2. Combination grave location - LOI and letter to Effects QM have been dispatched.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SMITH 5072</p> <p>Incl. n/c</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Spell</p>
4	Chief Repat Br Rec Sec Mem Div	M & R Br Admin Div	27 May 49	<p>File. Action completed in this office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>1 Incl 293 file</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SNEDIGAR 5198</p> <p style="text-align: right;">THOMAS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">mmf</p>

1969

OFFICE THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM-	3 TO-	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1.	Chief Id. Br. Mem Div	Chief Repatria- tion Br. Rec. Sec. IN TURN Chief Cor Sect	9 10 May 49	<p>1. Attached case files forwarded from necessary correction of records and deflagging.</p> <p>2. All records in Idnt. Section have been amended and the Field notified.</p> <p>1. For necessary Grave Location to NOK.</p> <p>2. For dispatch of notification to Effects,</p> <p>QM.</p> <p>1 Incl: METZ 293 File for 74059 Bigness, Vernon L. 12081523</p> <p><i>Barry</i> <i>guy</i></p> <p>BARRY 2462</p>
S. MCKENZIE				<p>NOTE: This 293 file contains no AGO Report of Death. Following action taken: Burial Report sent for Photostat: 17 May 1949, Photostat sent to AGD: 18 May 49.</p> <p>SNEDIGAR</p>

QMGMF 293

Bigness, Vernon L. SN 12 081 523

Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14

USMC Hamm, Luxembourg

att
25 May 1949

Mrs. Kathryn L. Bigness
681 Emerson Street
Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Bigness:

We are desirous that you be furnished information concerning the resting place of the remains of your husband, the late Private Vernon L. Bigness.

The official report of burial has been received and discloses that the remains of your husband were originally buried in an isolated grave at Ehrang, Germany, but were later disinterred by our American Graves Registration Personnel, and reinterred in Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14, in the United States Military Cemetery Hamm, located two and one half miles east of the city of Luxembourg.

The report further indicates that these remains have now been casketed and are being held at that cemetery pending disposition instructions from the next of kin, either for return to the United States or for permanent burial in an overseas cemetery.

Your husband's remains were identified by very favorable comparison of the tooth charts made for the deceased with those maintained in Army dental records for your loved one. Comparison was also made of the physical characteristics with favorable results. His identification is further substantiated by the fact that two tattoos were found on the remains which are in agreement with your husband's initials and your given name. In addition, the date and place of death, as given on the official report of burial, are in agreement with the records of The Adjutant General's Office.

There are inclosed informational pamphlets regarding the Return of World War II Dead Program, including a Disposition Form on which you may indicate your desires in this matter. Upon receipt of the properly completed form, you may be assured that the Department of the Army will attempt to comply with your instructions as indicated thereon.

In order that this office may take immediate action toward the final disposition of the remains of your husband, it is urged that you complete

QMGMF 293

Bigness, Vernon L. SN 12 081 523

Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14

USMC Hamm, Luxembourg

25 May 1949

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Watertown, New York

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In order that this office may take immediate action toward the final disposition of the remains of your husband, it is urged that you complete

QMCMF 293
Bigness, Vernon L.
SN 12 081 523

25 May 1949

the inclosed form, "Request for Disposition of Remains", and mail it to this office, without delay, in the inclosed self-addressed envelope which requires no postage.

May I extend my sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Hmb
hmb

Initial LOI

Incls: *BM*

Sincerely yours,

JFS

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

Hmb
QMCMF 293 BR



Initial LOI SENT 25 MAY 1949 to widow
BM

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply refer to QMGMF 293

Bigness, Vernon L.
SN 12 081 523

25 May 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of former UNKNOWN deceased.

TO: Commanding Officer
Quartermaster Activity
Kansas City Records Center
Kansas City 1, Missouri
Attn: Effects Quartermaster

1. The remains which were previously interred as UNKNOWN X 91,
Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14, USMC Hamm, Luxembourg
have been identified by a GRS Field Board of Review as those of Private
Vernon L. Bigness 12 081 523
whose Next of Kin, according to the records of this Office, is Mrs.
Kathryn L. Bigness (wife)
681 Emerson Street, Watertown, New York

2. The identification has been approved by this Office.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL FELDMAN:

James F. Smith
JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

MAY 27 2 55 PM '49
OQMG-M&R BR

GREEN COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

QMGMT 293

Bigness, Vernon L.
Pvt. 12 081 523

4 May 1949
DATE

SUBJECT: Identification of Former Unknown Deceased

TO : Commanding Officer
Army Effects Bureau
Kansas City Records Center
Kansas City 1, Missouri

1. The remains previously interred as Unknown X ⁹¹
Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14, USMC Hammond Blvd.
Registration Service in the Field as those of Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness,
12 081 523 whose emergency addressee
is: Mrs. Kathryn L. Bigness - Widow - 681 Emerson Street, Watertown, New York

2. The identification as established has been approved by the Identification Board Review, this office.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL *Feldman!*
~~MARTIN~~

T. H. METZ
Lt. Colonel, GMC
Memorial Division

1969
 293
 AG 201 Bigness, Vernon L. (12,081,523)
 PO-CO-140011

23 May 1949

Mrs. Kathyen L. Bigness
 681 Emerson Street
 Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Bigness:

I am writing you relative to the previous letter from this office in which you were regretfully informed that a Finding of Death had been made in the case of your husband, Private Vernon L. Bigness, 12,081,523, Coast Artillery Corps, and that the presumptive date of his death had been established as 24 December 1945.

The records of the Department of the Army are being amended to show that Private Bigness was killed in action on 23 December 1944 in Quint, Germany. This change in status from presumed dead to killed in action is based on burial information recently received. You will receive a letter from The Quartermaster General concerning the disposition of your husband's remains.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, 7 March 1942, as amended, official reports will now be issued by the Department of the Army which will indicate the actual date of his death as that shown above. The issuance of this official Report of Death will not affect any payment or settlement of accounts which has been made on the basis of the Finding of Death.

My continued sympathy is with you in the great loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WEISELL
 Major General
 The Adjutant General of the Army

file WAN
 K. Krauss
 2 June 49
 Report Br
 Corrobor. Sec

Copy for QMC

AG 201 Bigness, Vernon L.
PO-CO 140011

23 May 1949

Mrs. Rose D. Bigness
681 Emerson Street
Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Bigness:

I am writing you relative to the previous letter from this office in which you were regretfully informed that a Finding of Death had been made in the case of your son, Private Vernon L. Bigness, 12,081,523, Coast Artillery Corps, and that the presumptive date of his death had been established as 24 December 1945.

The records of the Department of the Army are being amended to show that Private Bigness was killed in action on 23 December 1944 in Quint, Germany. This change in status from presumed dead to killed in action is based on burial information recently received. You will receive a letter from The Quartermaster General concerning the disposition of your son's remains.

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My continued sympathy is with you in the great loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WISELL
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

*file - NAN
K. Krauss
2 June 49
Rept. Be
Comesp. Sec*

Copy for OMC

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO QMGT 293

Bigness, Vernon L.
12091523

10 May 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

TO: Commanding General
American Graves Registration Command
European Area
APO 58, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

1. The identification of Fvt. Vernon L. Bigness, 12091523
(formerly X 91, Plot V, Row 1 and
Grave 14, USMC Hamm, Luxembourg.)

as established by your Headquarters has been approved by this office.

2. Request all records be amended accordingly.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

T. H. METZ
Lt. Colonel, QMC
Memorial Division

5M S. McKenzie/pej

off Foy
REB

REB
REB

NJS

Re Class 5/16/49

IDENTIFICATION CHECK LIST			DATE			
UNKNOWN X- NO. OR OTHER DESIGNATION X-91			CEMETERY HAMM, Luxembourg	PLOT V	ROW 1	GRAVE 14
IDENTIFIED AS BIGNESS, Vernon L., Pvt., 12 081 523						
ITEM	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	UNKNOWN			
DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH	X					
CAUSE OF DEATH	X					
DENTAL CHART	X					
COLOR HAIR	X					
ESTIMATED HEIGHT	X					
ESTIMATED WEIGHT						
SCARS, FRACTURES, ETC. Tattoo	X					
LAUNDRY MARKS						
SHOE SIZE						
TYPE CLOTHING						
IDENTIFICATION TAG						
PERSONAL EFFECTS						
STATEMENT OF CIVILIANS						
ENEMY RECORDS	None available					
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TAG						
PAY BOOK (EM/OFF.)						
SIGNED STATEMENT OF IDENTITY						
Action took place: Near St. Vith, Belgium -- 50°17'N - 6°08'E.						
Last seen: Near Manhay, Belgium -- 50°18'N - 5°41'E.						
Place of death: Quint, Germany -- 49°49'N - 6°43'E.						
Remains recovered: Ehrang, Germany -- 49°48'N - 6°42'E.						
REMARKS						
<p>The remains of Unknown X-91 were recovered from a common grave of four deceased (X-88, X-89, X-90 and X-91) in a Civilian Cemetery at Ehrang, Germany. Two of these deceased (prev. X-88 and X-90) have been identified, approved by OQMG, as Paul F. Sam; 6850601 and John Howrelook, 33431281, respectively.</p> <p>Two tattoos were found on the remains of this deceased, one with the name of "Bubbie" on the left forearm and on the right forearm the initials "VLB" under the name of "Kathryn". The initials are in agreement with those for Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness, 12081523 and Kathryn is the given name of his wife. Information was requested from FBI whether Pvt. Bigness had the above tattoo marks. There was no record of the one on the left arm, however, their records indicate a tattoo on the right forearm, description not available.</p> <p>Pvt. Bigness was a member of the 7th Armored Division, Battery D, 203rd AAA Auto Battalion and became MIA on 23 December 1944 near St. Vith, Belgium.</p> <p>Information contained in SR&D Report #4973, page 14, para. 20, indicates subject decedent was captured by the Germans on 23 December 1944 and held as a POW at a camp in Gerolstein, Germany. He was last seen leaving the camp by T/5 Bud Christian on 21 January 1945. Although the Provo Marshall's Office has no record of Pvt. Bigness being a POW, the fact that said deceased was a POW is further verified by a letter from Mrs. Asa B. Golden, Jr. (see SR&D Report, page 15, para. 23).</p> <p>There is no other Report of Burial on file with the place of death as Quint, Germany, except X-89, which can be eliminated by dental comparison. Tooth chart for Unknown X-91 compares very favorably with available Army dental records for Pvt. Bigness, missing teeth are identical.</p>						

(continued)

*X-91
3 May 1949
Sylvia T. McKenzie*

3 May 1949

Unknown X-91 identified as BIGNESS, Vernon L., Pvt., 12 081 523
USMC Hamm, Lux.

Height of Unknown X-91 is very favorable to that of Pvt. Bigness.

NOTE: According to Capt. Fred W. Hofstetter, investigating Officer,
this deceased is believed to be one of the following:

Pollock, Walter	33788166	Unidentified
Sam, Paul F.	6850601	(prev.X-88) Hamm, V-1-11, Ident., accepted OQMG.
Howrelook, John	33431281	(prev.X-90) Hamm, V-1-13, Ident., accepted OQMG.
Vanegas, Manuel V.	39718098	(prev.X-130) Hamm, X-5-109, Ident., accepted OQMG.

TELEPHONE INFORMATION RECORD

DATE

28 April 1949

TELEPHONE NUMBER AND BRANCH CALLED

FBI -- Code 175, Ext.2293

NAME OF PERSON PLACING CALL

Sylvia McKenzie

CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION (X or Case Number) X-91

RX BIGNESS, Vernon L., 12 081 523, Pvt.

CEMETERY

V-1-14, Hamm, Lux.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Tattoo Marks

DATE CALLED BACK

29 April 1949

PERSON GIVING INFORMATION

Mr. Kays

INFORMATION RECEIVED

On the fingerprint card for Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness, 12081523, a tattoo on the right forearm was listed, but no description of it was recorded.

*File
4 May 49
S. McKenzie*

TELEPHONE INFORMATION RECORD

DATE

28 April 1949

TELEPHONE NUMBER AND BRANCH CALLED

Liaison Office -- Ext. 73090

NAME OF PERSON PLACING CALL

Sylvia McKenzie

CASE UNDER INVESTIGATION (X or Case Number) X-91

RX BIGNESS, Vernon L., 12 081 523, Pvt.

CEMETERY

V-1-14, Hamm, Lux.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Correct spelling of given name for Mrs. Bigness, wife of Pvt. Bigness.

DATE CALLED BACK

28 April 1949

PERSON GIVING INFORMATION

Miss Hughes

INFORMATION RECEIVED

On the Finding of Death, the wife of Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness, 12081523 was listed as Mrs. Kathyen L. Bigness, however, a check for the correct spelling of her given name with the Veberans' Administration revealed "Kathryn" as the correct spelling.

*File
4 May 49
S. McKenzie*

DENTAL CHART

Unknown X- 89 (Hamm)

Name: POLLOCK, Walter
T/4 33 788 166

R-8	
R-7	oA
R-6	moA
R-5	oA
R-4	
R-3	
R-2	
R-1	

R-8	X
R-7	caries
R-6	
R-5	
R-4	
R-3	
R-2	
R-1	

L-1	
L-2	
L-3	
L-4	
L-5	
L-6	IA oA
L-7	
L-8	

L-1	
L-2	
L-3	
L-4	
L-5	
L-6	X
L-7	caries
L-8	

R-16	
R-15	
R-14	foA
R-13	
R-12	
R-11	
R-10	
R-9	

R-16	
R-15	
R-14	X
R-13	
R-12	
R-11	
R-10	
R-9	

L-9	
L-10	
L-11	
L-12	
L-13	
L-14	
L-15	oA
L-16	X

L-9	
L-10	
L-11	
L-12	
L-13	
L-14	X
L-15	
L-16	

Reprocessed--6 November 19
(Est) Height: 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Hair: Medium Brown
(Est) 8 lbs remains recovered

QMG Form 371--Dental Chart dtd 2 July 43.
Height: 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Hair: Brown

UNIDENTIFIABLE by the Fie

49 sample

DENTAL CHART

Unknown X- 89 (Hamm)

R-8 _____
 R-7 oA _____
 R-6 moA _____
 R-5 oA _____
 R-4 _____
 R-3 _____
 R-2 _____
 R-1 _____

L-1 _____
 L-2 _____
 L-3 _____
 L-4 _____
 L-5 _____
 L-6 LA oA _____
 L-7 _____
 L-8 _____

R-16 _____
 R-15 _____
 R-14 foA _____
 R-13 _____
 R-12 _____
 R-11 _____
 R-10 _____
 R-9 _____

L-9 _____
 L-10 _____
 L-11 _____
 L-12 _____
 L-13 _____
 L-14 _____
 L-15 oA _____
 L-16 X _____

Reprocessed--6 November 1947
 (Est) Height: 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Hair: Medium Brown
 (Est) 8 lbs remains recovered.

UNIDENTIFIABLE by the Field.

Name: POLLOCK, Walter
 T/4 33 788 166

R-8 X _____
 R-7 caries _____
 R-6 _____
 P-5 _____
 R-4 _____
 R-3 _____
 R-2 _____
 R-1 _____

L-1 _____
 L-2 _____
 L-3 _____
 L-4 _____
 L-5 _____
 L-6 X _____
 L-7 caries _____
 L-8 _____

R-16 _____
 R-15 _____
 R-14 X _____
 R-13 _____
 R-12 _____
 R-11 _____
 R-10 _____
 R-9 _____

L-9 _____
 L-10 _____
 L-11 _____
 L-12 _____
 L-13 _____
 L-14 X _____
 L-15 _____
 L-16 _____

OJMG Form 371--Dental Chart dtd 2 July 43.
 Height: 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Hair: Brown

ryr

REGISTER OF DENTAL PATIENTS AT **33**

Dental Clinic #1 Ft. Eust., Va

(1) SURNAME (2) CHRISTIAN NAME
Bigness Vernon L. 12081523
 (3) RANK (4) COMPANY (5) REGIMENT OR STAFF CORPS
Pvt. C 2nd AARTC
 (6) AGE, YEARS (7) RACE (8) NATIVITY (9) SERVICE, YEARS
28 W. N.Y. 1/12

(10) DISEASE OR INJURY WITH LOCATION, COMPLICATIONS, SEQUELAE, ETC.	(11) DATES AND NATURE OF TREATMENTS AND OPERATIONS	(12) RESULTS AND REMARKS
Ab. Per R5	TE AnesOn Exam. 1942	C1-1 C1-1-2 JRB ABC
Caries R-2-m		
Caries L-1-d		
Caries L-2-m	7/20	E110

[Signature]
 Dental Corps, U. S. A.

REGISTER OF DENTAL PATIENTS AT **33B**

Camp Edwards, Mass;

(1) SURNAME (2) CHRISTIAN NAME
Bigness Vernon L.
 (3) RANK (4) COMPANY (5) REGIMENT OR STAFF CORPS
Pvt. Ho E. C. P. (D)
 (6) AGE, YEARS (7) RACE (8) NATIVITY (9) SERVICE, YEARS
30 W N.Y. Apr 6/42

(10) DISEASE OR INJURY WITH LOCATION, COMPLICATIONS, SEQUELAE, ETC.	(11) DATES AND NATURE OF TREATMENTS AND OPERATIONS	(12) RESULTS AND REMARKS
Examination		11
Caries R-6 m	0A 11/13	
Caries R-4 do	A 05	
Caries R-1 d	05	
Caries I-3 f	S	
Defective Filling	L-2 m 05	
Caries L-6 l	A 0A	
Caries L-7 o	11/13	11-14 CMD/e

[Signature]
 Dental Corps, U. S. A.

[Handwritten note]
 49
 S. Williams

**REGISTER OF DENTAL PATIENTS AT
DENTAL CLINIC #1
CAMP FORREST, TENN.**

(1) SURNAME		(2) CHRISTIAN NAME		
Bigness,		Vernon		
(3) RANK	(4) COMPANY	(5) REGIMENT OR STAFF CORPS		
Op1.		438 C.A.		
(6) AGE, YEARS	(7) RACE	(8) NATIVITY	(9) SERVICE, YEARS	
29		N.Y.	9/12	
(10) DISEASE OR INJURY WITH LOCATION, COMPLICATIONS, SEQUELAE, ETC.				
Caries R-4-MO Caries L-8-0				
(11) DATES AND NATURE OF TREATMENTS AND OPERATIONS				
A A 5 5 6/5/33				
(12) RESULTS AND REMARKS				
I.D. I.D. O1.11 I.D. O1.1V				

Dental Corps, U. S. A.

Form 79—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. A.
(Revised Feb. 24, 1941)

91

Restricted

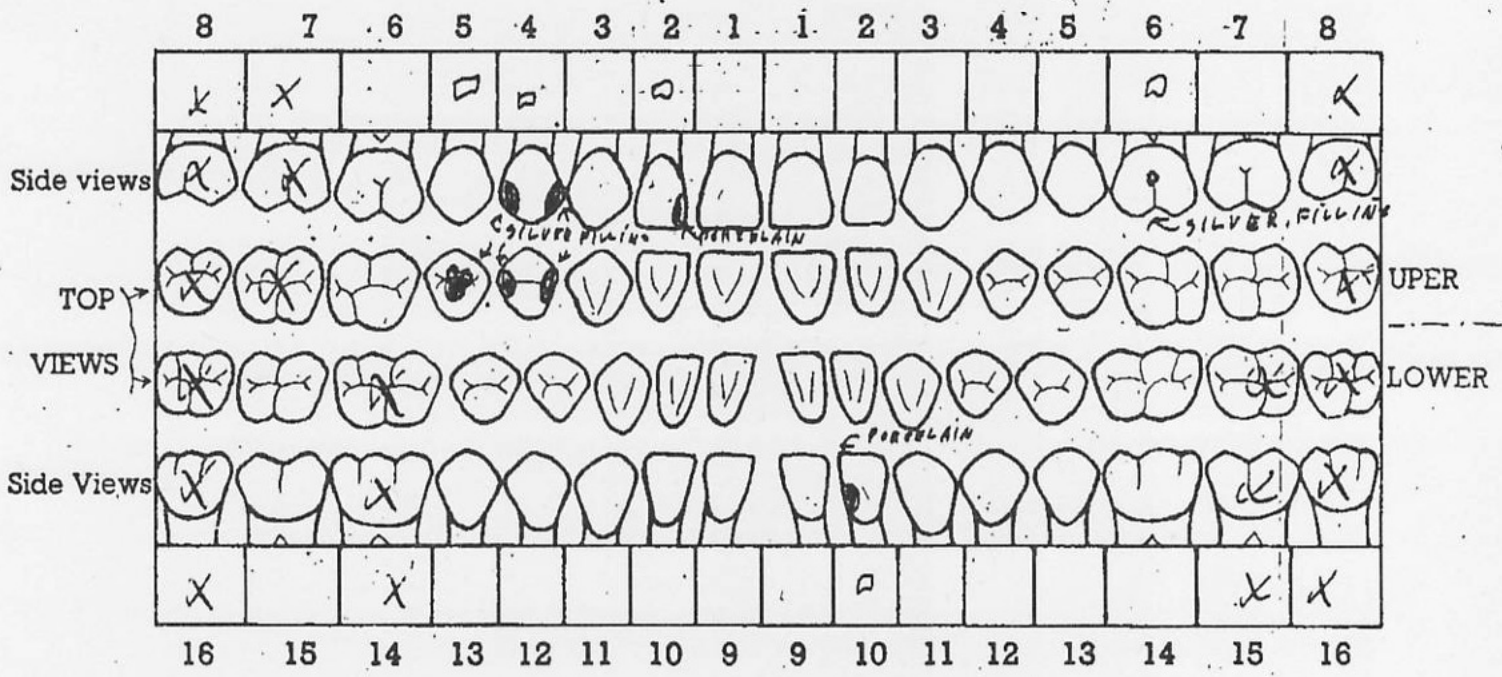
TOOTH CHART

5 April 1945
Date

Unknown X-91	Unknown	Unknown
Last Name	Rank	Serial No.
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Unit	Organization	
Quint, Germany	EST. 16 January 1945	GSW
Place of Death	Date of Death	Cause of Death

Right

Left



This dental chart is very important and should be filled in with great care. There are 32 teeth to be accounted for, as shown by the numbers on the chart. Beginning at the middle line in both upper and lower jaws, the teeth are arranged symmetrically on either side and classed as incisors (cutting teeth), cuspids or canines (tearing teeth), bicuspid (chewing teeth), and molars (principal chewing teeth). An examination should be made and findings charted to cover the following basic conditions: Lost teeth, crowned teeth, bridge work, fillings, caries (cavities of decay), dentures (plates), and any deformity of jaws found. See reverse side for illustrations.

Restricted

Beta J. Schmitt

Signature of Officer or other person who prepared Tooth chart

Gerald H. Myers

Verified by G. R. S. Officer

GERALD H. MYERS 2nd Lt., GRO., QMC.

*file
4 May 49
S. MacKenzie*

CHECK LIST FOR DISINTERMENTS

(To accompany Report of Reburial)

Only Part I should be completed, if identification tags are available.
Both Part I & Part II should be completely filled out if identification tags are not available.

If information is unavailable, so indicate.

PART I

(Positive Identification)

1. Unidentified X-91 Unk Unk Unknown
(Full name of deceased) (Rank) (ASN) (Organization)
2. State if identification tags were attached to remains, how many, and where attached No Identification tags.
3. Give exact location from which disinterred, furnishing coordinates and map series used Central Europe - Trier - 1,100,000 Sheet T. 1
I. 843351
- NOTE: ATTACH OVERLAY SHOWING EXACT LOCATION OF ISOLATED GRAVE TYING LOCATION IN WITH PERMANENT LANDMARKS.
4. Full name of cemetery (if buried in an organized cemetery) Civilian Cemetery, Ehrang, Germany
5. Approximate or established date of death (state which & give basis for date selected) Last day seen alive by civilians. 16 Jan 1945.
6. Approximate or established date of burial (give basis for date established) Unknown
7. Manner in which grave was marked and all information contained on the marker Markers marked. U.S. 9, 10, 11, 12
(4) bodies found in one hole.
8. List personal effects found in possession of civilian or unauthorized military personnel, furnishing name and address of individuals concerned
None
9. Names and addresses of all persons questioned concerning death or burial and information each furnished (contact local mayor, priest, cemetery caretaker, those responsible for burial and any other possessing important information)
Unknown

PART II

(Doubtful or Undetermined Identification)

10. Fill in any information available regarding name, rank, ASN, or organization (Check cemetery records and office) _____
11. 5'7" 170 Unknown Brown Unknown
(Est Height) (Est Weight) (Color of Hair) (Color of Eyes)
12. Give description of facial features and body characteristics if possible, including the presence of scars, moles, circumcision, tattoos, length of hair, presence of mustache or beard, etc. Face bearded, also tatoo.
"BUBBLE" on left forearm. Another tatoo, heart wth arrow and name
Kathryn on right lower forearm.

*file
May 49
J. H. [unclear]*

CASE HISTORY

UNKNOWN No X-91

U.S. Military Cemetery

HAMM

TO BE IDENTIFIED AS: Pvt Vernon L BIGNESS, 12081523

1. Unknown X-91(Hamm) was disinterred from isolated grave at Ehrang, Germany. Place of Death: Quint, Germany. Date of Death: Est. 16 Jan 1945. Cause of Death: GSW. Deceased interred in USMC Hamm, Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14 on 5 April 1945.

2. Pvt Vernon L Bigness, 12081523, was crew member of vehicle destroyed by shell fire on 23 Dec 1944, seven miles south of Manhay, near St Vith, Belgium.

3. One identified crew member of subject vehicle, Cpl Charles F. Adams Jr., 35747239, was recovered from Acquire, Belgium, in the St Vith area; his death 23 Dec 1944. CPL Adams was interred at USMC Henri Chapelle, Plot FFF, Row 1, Grave 16 on 20 January 1945.

4. One surviving crew member of subject vehicle, T/5 Bud W. Christian, 35645885, made following statement concerning Pvt Bigness in letter to OIC Casualty Branch; in response for information to ltr file: AGPC-5201, subject: Vernon L Bigness, 12081523, dated 25 Oct 1945:

"The action took place near St Vith in Belgium. We (meaning Pvt Bigness & Cpl Christian) were taken prisoner on the 23rd of December 1944. The last time I saw him was January 21st 1945. He was transferred to another camp from Gerolstein, Germany."

5. According to notation mentioned in Casualty Clearance Plan dated 26 August 1945 indicates no Tattoos for Pvt Bigness. This information being rendered eight months after MIA status, this remark is considered erroneous. Because, in effect, on subject Casualty Clearance Plan the physical description of Pvt Bigness' height, weight and color of eyes was unknown, at this time. Likewise unknown to subject organization was Pvt Bigness' shoe size, trousers size and shirt size. ~~It is a sworn fact that Sgt Peter J. Schmitt, 37555233, 612 QMGR Co, who disinterred the remains of X-91, found subject tattoos on remains.~~

R T Roche

*file
4 May 49
S. McKingre*

Before me, Captain Fred W. Hofstetter, Investigating Officer, Judge Advocate Section, Headquarters Third United States Army, being authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Sergeant Peter J. Schmitt, 37555293, 612th Quartermaster Grave Registration Company, who, being by me first duly sworn, made and subscribed the following statement:

On 4 April 1945 at the instance of Captain Fred W. Hofstetter, Investigating Officer, JA Section, Headquarters Third United States Army, I took a detail of five men to the civilian cemetery at Ehrang, Germany, for the purpose of disinterring four bodies.

At approximately 1400 on 4 April 1945, myself and crew arrived at the civilian cemetery in Ehrang, Germany, and were pointed out by Captain Hofstetter a plot. At this plot there were four temporary markers with the numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12, underneath each number was printed U.S.A. My crew started at the marker No. 9, and after digging down approximately 3 feet we found all four buried in the same grave. These bodies were removed from the grave and were transported to the United States Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg, where I personally made an examination of these bodies for the purpose of identification. Upon the examination of these bodies the following is what I have been able to find upon each body:

Body No. 1: Name unknown; height about 5 feet 7 inches, I noticed what appeared to be a gun shot wound in his right neck, coming out his left cheek. I also noticed that his right arm was broken above the elbow; on his right forearm there is a tattoo of a dagger with a ribbon wrapping around it, and written on the ribbon is "True Love Mother"; above that is a tattoo of a nude woman with trunk standing on a pair of legs having long hair with her right arm behind her head and her left arm on her hip; above that tattoo is the tattoo of a woman's head with a turban and on the turban is a crescent and a star, around this head is a wreath of flowers and right above the woman's head are three stars; on the right arm, on the inside of his upper arm there is a picture of a horse's head, with a wreath of flowers tattooed; on the inside of his lower right arm is tattooed a combination picture of a woman's head, her breast, and her legs; On the left lower arm is tattooed a picture of an American eagle with four stars above it; through this emblem on the ribbon is tattooed "Liberty" on one side and "1934" on the other; beneath this eagle is tattooed U.S.A., 3 stars, and underneath "Panama 1934", and underneath that a wreath of flowers; on the upper left arm is tattooed one rose; the body was dressed in wool O.D. shirt, pants, sweater, and field jacket; there were no shoes.

Body No. 2: Name unknown; height, approximately 5 feet, 6 inches; on the third finger of the left hand there was found a 14 carot gold wedding ring. There were no initials inside; I noticed that the upper right arm appeared to be broken; There appeared to be a gun shot wound in the left chest; this body was

dressed in coveralls, a wool mackinaw, sweater, fatigue tops, and field jacket.

Body No. 3: Name unknown; height approximately 5 feet 7 inches; on this body, upon an examination of the web belt, I found the mark H-1281; I also noticed that the body had received a severe blow on the right side of the head and had a gun shot wound in the middle of the chest; this body was dressed in O. D. pants, O. D. wool shirt, sweater, and field jacket.

Body No. 4: Name unknown; height approximately 5 feet 7 inches; I noticed what appeared to be a gun shot wound on top of the head and one in the right chest; on the left forearm I noticed tattooed the word "Bubbe"; on the inside of the lower right forearm there was tattooed a red heart with an arrow through it, the heart wrapped in a banner and on the banner was written the word "Kathryn," and underneath this picture were the initials VLB; this body was dressed in O.D. wool pants, O.D. wool shirt, overcoat, field jacket, and sweater.

From an examination of these bodies I found no dog tags, no pay books, no letters or any other personal effects in their pockets; there was every indication that attempts had been made to remove all possible means of identification from these bodies. There were no shoes present on any of the bodies.

Tooth charts will be prepared and forwarded through proper channels for the purpose of identification of these bodies.

This statement made at United States Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg this 5th day of April 1945. I swear before God that it is the truth.

Sgt. Peter J. Schmitt, 37555233,
612th QM Grave Registration Co.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Hamm, Luxembourg,
this 5th day of April 1945.

FRED W. HOPSTETTER,
Captain, Infantry,
Investigating Officer.

File
+ Mary + 9
P. McKeon

796 FILE

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) BIGHESS, Vernon <i>LB</i>		GRADE Pvt.	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 12031523
ORGANIZATION Bat D, 203rd AAA Auto-Bn.	RACE White	CREED Cath. Lic	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 23 Dec 1944	CAUSE OF DEATH Firing of Death	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA Near Mashay, Belgium	
DATE OF FOD 24 Dec 1945			
HEIGHT 5' 10"	WEIGHT 153	COLOR EYES Hazel	COLOR HAIR Brown
		SHOE SIZE 9 1/2 D.	

DENTAL CHART 5 June 1942

UPPER RIGHT X 7 6 X 4 3 2 1 8	UPPER LEFT 9 0 3 4 5 6 7 X 2 8
LOWER RIGHT X 15 14 X 13 12 11 10 9 16	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 X 15 X 14 16
See dental form att.	
X=Extracted 0=Caries 1=Caries Non-Restorable	

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS None shown	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK None shown
---------------------------------------	--

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Age: 30

FORM 371

IDENTIFICATION CHECK LIST

(To be completely filled out and attached to each copy
of Report of Interment WD QMC Form 1042)

Unknown X - 91
Cemetery Hamm, Luxembourg
Plot V Row 1 Grave 14

1. ~~Amvedak Cemetery~~ Date reprocessed: 6 Nov. 1947.
(Hour) (Date)
2. Place of death _____
(Name of closest town) (Coordinates and letter Prefix, maps)

(Sheet, scale and serials used)
3. Remains ~~recovered~~ disinterred by Mobile Team Central Identification Point
(Name and organization) AGRC RA
4. Evacuated to Cemetery by _____
(Name and organization)
5. Description of clothing and equipment: (if clothes do not fit, obtain size from body measurements)

Item	Clothing Markings	Sizes	Indicate unusual markings color, wear, tear, repairs, etc.
* Headgear	<u>none</u>		
	(Type)		
Raincoat	<u>none</u>		
Overcoat	<u>none</u>		
Jacket, Field	<u>none</u>		
Jacket, Combat	<u>none</u>		
Mackinaw	<u>none</u>		
Sweater	<u>none</u>		
Jacket, HBT	<u>none</u>		
* Shirt, Wool OD	<u>none</u>		
Undershirt, Wool	<u>Remnants of,</u>		
Undershirt, Cotton	<u>none</u>		
Trousers, HBT	<u>none</u>		
* Trousers, Wool OD	<u>none</u>		

*file
+ may + 9
S. Weitzel*

Belt, web none

Drawers, wool Remnants of,

Drawers, cotton none

Leggings, wool none

Socks, ~~cotton~~ wool, Remnants of two (2) pair

* Shoes none (type)

Overshoes none

Web Equipment none (type)

(Other item) none

(Other item) none

* If body is nude, sizes of these items should be computed by measuring the remains

Chevrons or Insignia none
(Type & location; shirt, jacket, coat, helmet)

Shoulder Patch none

Does clothing indicate that deceased was a member of the Air, Ground or Naval Force?
UTD

6. Description of Remains: (L.) Humerus 35,5; Radius 25,8; Ulna 27,3; Femur 47,9; Fibula 39,2; Tibia 40,0

Age Utd Height 5'9 1/2" Weight Utd Description of wounds Utd

Bandages or dressings Utd Scars Utd
(Length, width, location)

Utd Tattoos
(Number, location — illustrate on separate page)

Outstanding moles, warts or birthmarks Utd
(Yes-no; description, location)

Sunburn or tan, other than hand and face Utd

Complexion Utd
(Light, medium, dark, clear, pimples, pocks, freckles)

Build Utd
(Large, fat, thin, muscular)

Hair Medium brown, 2" long, straight
(Color, length, quantity, curly, wavy, straight, whorls, or definite parting)

Hair Utd
(Baldness, widows peak, distinctive cutting or other characteristics)

Sideburns Utd Mustache Utd Beard or Utd
(Color, setting, shape) (Color, size, shape) (Length, heavy)

Goatee Utd
 (Light, color, extent)

Eyes Utd Eyebrows Utd
 (Color, setting, shape) (Color, bushiness, extent across nose)

Nose Utd Ears Utd
 (Size, shape, straight) (Size, set close to or far from head)

Mouth Utd Lips Utd
 (Large, medium, small) (Small, large, full)

Teeth See Tooth Chart
 (White, size, unevenness, spacing, noticeable crowns, fillings, extracts)

Chin Utd
 (Prominent, receding, pointed, dimples, double)

Jaw Utd Circumference of head in inches 20 1/2"
 (Large, small, normal) (Hat band)

Neck Utd Larynx Utd
 (Size, length, short, normal, wrinkled) (Prominent, normal)

Shoulders Utd Arms Utd
 (Broad, straight, small, rounded) (Length, muscular, color, extent and quantity of hair)

Hands Utd

Fingers Utd
 (Short, thick, long, slender, size of knuckles, missing fingers or joints)

Utd
 (Unusual characteristics of fingernails)

Chest Utd
 (Size of nipples, color, quantity and extent of hair, large, small, normal)

Waist Utd
 (Size of navel, appendectomy, amount, quantity, and color of hair)

Back Utd Circumcision Utd Pubic Hair Light brown
 (Quantity and extent of hair) (Yes-no) (Color)

Hernioplasty Utd
 (Yes-no; location)

Legs Utd
 (Inseam, muscular, knock-kneed, bowed, normal, quantity, color and extent of hair)

Feet Utd Toes Utd
 (Size, corns, callouses, flat) (Slender, straight, crooked, overlap)

Evidence of healed fractures None
 (Nose, arms, legs, etc.)

NOTE: Use attached charts "A" and "B" to indicate parts not received.

See attached chart.

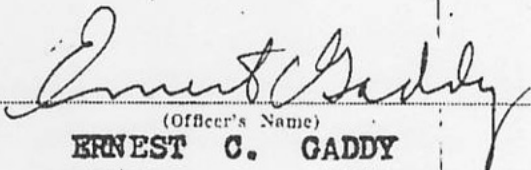
7. Have finger prints been placed on Report of Interment? _____ (Yes-no)

If not, explain fingers missing

8. Has tooth chart been prepared? Yes If not, explain _____ (Yes-no)

9. Remarks Remains received in skeleton form.
Few remnants of clothing received. No markings evident.
Burial Report recovered with remains. No CRS Tag found.
Estimated weight of remains recovered: 10 lbs.
Fluoroscopic Examination: unnecessary.
Nothing found to warrant Chemical Laboratory Examination.
Case remains "Unknown".

I certify that I have personally viewed the remains of subject deceased and all resulting information has been recorded to the best of my knowledge.



(Officer's Name)
ERNEST C. GADDY
CWO USA
Rank Service

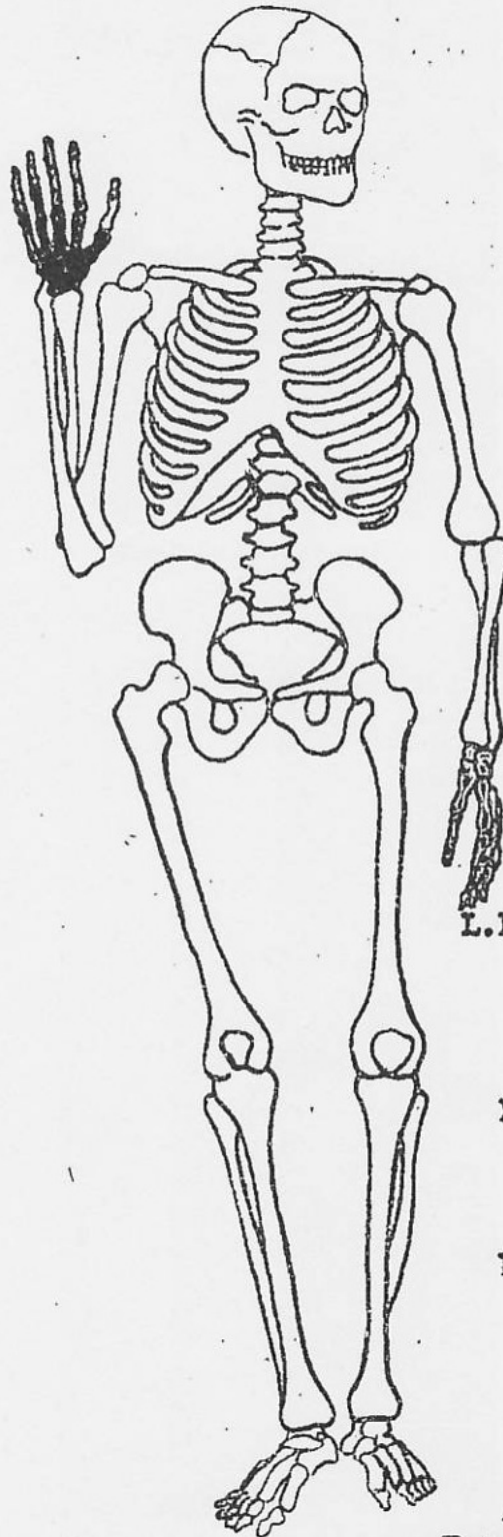
Central Identification Point

(Organization)

Unknown X-21
Cemetery, Luxembourg
Plot V, Row 1, Grave 14

SKELETAL CHART

(BLACK OUT PARTS OF BODY NOT RECEIVED AT CEMETERY)



L.Humerus 35,5

L.Radius 25,8

L.Ulna 27,3

L.Femur 47,9

L.Tibia 40,0

L.Fibula 39,2

Est.Height: 5'9 1/2"

CHART "A"

*File
+ may 49.
S. Muller*

USMC HAMM, LUXEMBOURG Buried on: Right: .E. KRIVANEC
 PLOT E ROW 4 GRAVE 31 39908133
 Reburied 16 Dec. 1948 **DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE**
 Verified by: *W. Beaton* Left: J.T. MASSEY, 32917656
 GRS Officer

SECTION A - NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED: **HAMM, LUXEMBOURG**
 DIRECTIVE NUMBER: **6020 00011**
 DATE: **15 07 48**
DAY MONTH YEAR

NAME: **UNKNOWN** SERIAL NUMBER: **X-000091** RANK: **2** ARM: **0**
DATE OF DEATH: DAY MONTH YEAR

CEMETERY: **HAMM, LUXEMBOURG** *St. Bigness, Vermont*
 DISPOSITION OF REMAINS: **6001 80**
CODE DIST. PT.

PLOT: **V** ROW: **1** GRAVE: **14** COUNTRY: **LUXEMBOURG**
 CAUSE OF DEATH: **6**

SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: **HAMM, LUXEMBOURG**
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN: **(BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION)**

SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION
 NAME: SERIAL NUMBER: RANK: DATE OF DEATH: DATE DISTINTERRED:
 IDENTIFICATION TAG ON: REMAINS MARKER
 ORGANIZATION: **UNKNOWN** RELIGION: IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY: **NAME AND TITLE**

SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT
 NATURE OF BURIAL: CONDITION OF REMAINS:

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION:

MINOR DISCREPANCIES: **SEE ATTACHED WORK SHEET**

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE: BY: EMBALMER (Signature):

CASKET BOXED AND MARKED: SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY:

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.
 NAT FILE SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR

1 Prepare Discrepancy Report, GMC Form 1194 for major discrepancies.
 DATE: **14 MAR 1949**
 NAME: *[Signature]*

1

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

SECTION A — NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED				DIRECTIVE NUMBER		DATE			
NAME: UNKNOWN				SERIAL NUMBER: X-000091		RANK	ARM	DATE OF DEATH	
CEMETERY							0	DAY MONTH YEAR	
PLOT: V				ROW: 1		GRAVE: 14		COUNTRY: HAMM LUXEMBOURG	
								DISPOSITION OF REMAINS	
								CODE DIST. PT.	
								CAUSE OF DEATH	

SECTION B — CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE		NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	

SECTION C — DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME: UNKNOWN X-91		SERIAL NUMBER: X-000091		RANK: UNK	DATE OF DEATH: EST 16 JAN 45		DATE DISTINTERRED: 26 APRIL 48	
IDENTIFICATION TAG ON		ORGANIZATION		RELIGION		IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMAINS EMB PL				UNK		ROGER E LEWIS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKER GRS						CAPT., CAV		
						NAME AND TITLE		

SECTION D — PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL: MATTRESS COVER		CONDITION OF REMAINS: BODY COMPLETELY DECOMPOSED- ALL MAJOR BONES PRESENT	
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION: NONE			

MINOR DISCREPANCIES: NONE

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET		TRANSFER BOX	
DATE: 30 APRIL 48		BY: THEODOR R. HARRISON, EMBALMER	
CASKET SEALED BY: ELAM E POORBAUGH		EMBALMER (Signature): Elam E. Poorbaugh	
		without disinfectant ELAM E POORBAUGH	
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED		SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY	
DATE: 23 JUNE 48		ALL MARKINGS TAGS & PLATES VERIFIED BY	
BY: JAMES L LAMM, CLERK		R E LEWIS CAPT CAV	

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct. EXCEPTING CASKETING

Fritz J. Toltzien
FRITZ J. TOLTZIEN, 1ST LT., F.A.

SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR

1 Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.

293
293 Bigness, Vermont

FILE UNDER NO. ~~293 - Unknown - X-91 - Luxembourg - (Hamm)~~

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

Lette

23 April 1946

FROM:
TO:
ATTN:

Q1800
CO, New Cumberland, Pa.
Post Surgeon.

SUBJ:

Identification of Unknown Deceased.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO.

293 - Unknown (Misc) Luxembourg (Hamm)

lll
FILE NO. 293 - Unknown X-91 Luxembourg (Hama)

UNDPX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

Letter

11 March 1946

FROM: SAC
TO: CO, Gp. Attorney, Ind.
ATTN: Post Surgeon.

SUBJ: Identification of Unknown Deceased.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO? 293 - Unknown (Misc) Luxembourg (Hama)

FILE UNDER NO. 293 - Unknown X-91 Luxenourg. (Hamm)

MEMORANDUM

SECRET

Memo

1 March 1946

FROM: Memorial Div. QMGO
TO: World War II Records Adm. Ctr. AGO, St. Louis, Mo.

RE: For necessary action.....

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 293 - Unknown (Misc) Luxembourg (Hamm)

bm

FILE UNDER NO. 293 - Unk. X-91 Luxembourg (Hamm)

I N D E X S H E E T

S Y N O P S I S

Letter

16 Nov 45

FROM: OQMG
TO: WW II Rec Admin Center, AGO, St. Louis Mo.

SUBJ: Information required for Graves Registration.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO.

293 - Unk. (Misc) Luxembourg (Hamm)

Jpm

Identification Section
Memorial Division

Identification Data

AK

BIGNESS VERNON

L

Last Name		First	Initial	ASN	Grade
<i>BIGNESS</i>		<i>VERNON</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>12,081,523</i>	<i>PV 5</i>
Height	Weight	Color Eyes	Color Hair	Shoe Size	Date of Death
<i>5/10</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>HAZEL</i>	<i>BROWN</i>	<i>9 1/2 D</i>	<i>Dec 24-1945</i>

Last Organization to which atchd or asgd (Give complete designation)

BAT D 203rd AAA AUTO BAT

Place of Death or place last seen if MIA

MISSING IN ACTION NEAR MANHAY BELGUIM

List all camps in which stationed in U.S. prior to service overseas, including inclusive dates at each.

STATION
Syracuse Ny
Camp Edwards Mass

DATES
June 5-42 to June 16-42
June 16-42 to Jan 18-1944

Fractures and/or Breaks	Tattoos and/or Birth marks
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

DENTAL CHART

June 5-1942

<i>X</i> 7 6 4 3 ② 1	① ② 3 4 5 6 7 <i>X</i>
Upper Right	Upper Left
<i>X</i> 15 <i>X</i> 13 12 11 10 9	9 10 11 12 13 <i>X</i> 15 <i>X</i>
Lower Right	Lower Left

X - Extracted O - Carious / - Carious non-restorable

Indicate dentures, bridgework, etc., if shown

PS

FILE UNDER NO. 293 BIGNESS, VERNON V. (12 081 523)

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

LETTER:

29 Nov 47

FROM: OCMG

TO: CO, Amer. GRS - E. A. APO 887, c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

SUBJECT: Additional Information That May Lead to the Recovery and Identification of Remains Not Yet Accounted For

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 293 Bigness, Vernon L. (12 081 523)

mm

FORM 100-100

293 - Unk X- 91 Luxembourg (Hamm)

INDEX SHEET

-INOPSIS

Memo Routing Slip

11/16/45

FROM: OMG, Ident Sect ^{Ham} Div
TO: AGO, WW II Rec Adm Center, St. Louis Mo.

RE: Information Required for Graves Registration

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO.
jpm

293 - Unk. (Misc) Luxembourg (Hamm)

293 Bigness, Vermont

FILE UNDER NO. 293 - ~~Unk. X-91, Luxembourg (Hamm)~~

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

Memo Routing Slip

9/4/45

FROM: OOMG
TO: AGO, Demob. Pers. Records Br., High Point, N. J.
RE: Information required for Graves Registration.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 293 - Unk. (Misc) Luxembourg (Hamm)

tjh

(Belgium 6)
5775

293 Bigness, Vernon R. (ID, O.F.I., 523)

(Basic Ltr WD OQMG, QMGM (293 Bigness, Vernon V. SN 12 081 523)
dtd 20 November 1946

RRE 293.9 (IB) 1st Ind

Hq American Graves Registration Command, European Area, APO 58,
US Army, 4 November 1947

TO: The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C.

1. Inclosed herewith all documents pertaining to negative report received from the field on investigation conducted for the recovery of the remains of the above individual.
2. Forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Walter B. Morrow
 WALTER B. MORROW
 Major, Infantry
 Actg Asst Adj Gen

Incl: w/d
added a/s

*File
10/8/47
L. J. ...*

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply Refer To
QMGR 293
Bigness, Vernon V
SN 12 081 523

20 November 1946

SUBJECT: Additional Information That May Lead to the Recovery and Identification of Remains Not Yet Accounted For

TO : Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Command
European Theater Area
APO 887, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

21	22	23	24	1	2	3
20	- I N -					4
19						5
18	29 NOV 1946					6
17	W. 24 96					7
16						8
15	14	13	12	11	10	9

1. Reference is made to letter this office, QMGG 314.6 Subject: Additional Methods of Locating and Identifying Unknowns and Resolving Cases of Remains Not Yet Recovered, dated 4 October 1946.

2. Attached hereto, in duplicate is OQMG Form 371 and copy of Dental Chart for the following deceased individual whose remains have not yet been recovered or identified:

NAME	GRADE	SERIAL NO.
Bigness, Vernon V	Pvt	12 081 523

3. The attached OQMG Form 371 contains all information available from the Office of The Quartermaster General, the Adjutant General, the AG Demobilized Personnel Records Branch and Clinical Records Branch, St. Louis, Missouri, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, and captured enemy documents, and is in addition to any previous information forwarded by this office to your headquarters.

4. It is requested that every attempt be made by your command to locate or identify remains of this individual and the results of your investigation, whether positive or negative, be returned to this office by indorsement hereon, within 60 days of receipt of this communication.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

NEGATIVE REPORT 2
Date 27 Nov 46 Initial CBS

27 NOV 1946

MARTIN G. RILEY
Major, QMC
Assistant

REBURIED U.S. CEMETERY
Date
Initial

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 November 1946

In Reply Refer To
OQMG 293
Bigness, Vernon V
SN 12 081 523

*293 Bigness, Vernon V.
(12, 081, 523)*

SUBJECT: Additional Information That May Lead to the Recovery and Identification of Remains Not Yet Accounted For

TO : **Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Command
European Theater Area
APO 887, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York**

1. Reference is made to letter this office, OQMG 314.6 Subject: Additional Methods of Locating and Identifying Unknowns and Resolving Cases of Remains Not Yet Recovered, dated 4 October 1946.

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>
Bigness, Vernon V	Pvt	12 081 523

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4. It is requested that every attempt be made by your command to locate or identify remains of this individual and the results of your investigation, whether positive or negative, be returned to this office by indorsement hereon, within 60 days of receipt of this communication.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

MARTIN G. RILEY
Major, QMG
Assistant

2 Incls - Par 2

tah

293 Bigness, Vernon V. (12, 081, 523)

RECORDS AND
RECORDS BRANCH

*wd
vd
enc*

293 FILE **● A ● ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED**

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) **Bigness, Vernon V** GRADE **Pvt** PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER **12081523**

ORGANIZATION **Bat D, 203rd AAA Auto-Ra** RACE **White** CREED **Catholic** FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If Applicable)

DATE OF DEATH **23 Dec 44** CAUSE OF DEATH **Finding of Death** PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA **Near Mambay, Belgium**
 DATE OF FOD **24 Dec 45**

HEIGHT **5'10"** WEIGHT **155** COLOR EYES **Hazel** COLOR HAIR **Brown** SHOE SIZE **9-1/2 D**

DENTAL CHART **5 June 42**

UPPER RIGHT
X **X** **O**
 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

UPPER LEFT
O **O** **X**
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

LOWER RIGHT
X **X**
 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9
SEE DENTAL FORM ATT.

LOWER LEFT
X **X**
 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

X = Extracted **O = Carious** **I = Carious Non-Restorable**

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS
NONE SHOWN

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK
NONE SHOWN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Age: 30

Belgium 5775

B/L: Hq. First Zone, AGRC, APO 887, US Army Subj: Isolated
Burials dated 21 Feb 1947.

GRU 293.9

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ZONE, 551st QM GROUP, AMERICAN GRAVES REGIS-
TRATION COMMAND, APO 887, US ARMY 31 March 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, American Graves Registration Command,
European Theater Area, APO 887, US Army

1. Attention is invited to 1st indorsement.
2. Investigation conducted in Manhay and vicinity failed to locate the remains of Pvt. Vernon V. Bigness, 12081523.
3. A check of records in this Headquarters does not reveal any unknowns that can be associated with subject deceased.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Incls: n/c

Tel: Liege 19526

TRUMAN D ECKOLS
Major Inf
Chief of Operations

Belgium 5775
DBH/ew

B/L: HQ, First Zone, 551 QM Gp, AGRC, APO 887 (Liege) US Army dtd 21 Feb 1947
Subject: Isolated Burials

1st Ind.

GRU 293.9

HEAD QUARTERS, 4527 QM SERVICE CO. (AC), FIRST ZONE, AGRC, APO 887 (Maastricht)
US ARMY 18 March 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, First Zone, HQ 551 QM Group, AGRC, APO 887 (Liege) US Army

1. An investigation was conducted in the vicinity of Manhay in an effort to locate the remains of Pvt. Vernon J. Bigness, ASN 12-081 523 with negative results. The Burgomaster of the vicinity was contacted and stated that whole Community had been previously searched and the remains found were removed during March 1945 by the Americans. He knows of no more remains within his Community.

2. The priest of Vauxchienne stated that two Americans, Albert F. Lopez and John Psiharis, 36 309 062 T 42-43 A, were found in the vicinity the 3rd March 1945 and were interred in the local cemetery and one month later the two remains were removed by the Americans to an American Cemetery.

3. Forwarded for action under existing regulations.

THEODORE C. THOMAS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding.

Incls:

Narrative - L. Bladow
Statement - H. Choffray
Statement - Burgomaster of Vauxchienne

Tel: Maastricht 4033, 4333

March 13, 1947

NARRATIVE

An investigation was conducted in the Manhay area in respect to finding the remains of Pvt. Vernon V. Bigness.

The village of Manhay is near Vauxchaianne so the Burgomaster was contacted. From him it was learned that the entire population of the villages of Manhay and Vauxchaianne were evacuated during the Ardennes offensive. When they returned the Americans had removed their dead and the German dead were buried by the Community. It was verified that they were definitely Germans by pictures shown to me by the Burgomaster.

In speaking with the Priest of the village church at Vauxchaianne, two American soldiers had been found in the surrounding forest by workers. These bodies were buried in the churchyard and later removed by the Americans.

Both the Burgomaster and the Priest testify that outside of these two remains no further American soldiers were found in the vicinity of these two villages.

Since the village of Manhay contained nothing but a few civilian houses and the population was evacuated during the offensive, no statements were secured. Statements of the Burgomaster and Priest of Vauxchaianne, which is 1 Km from Manhay, were secured.

There being no other villages in the general vicinity investigation was closed with negative results.

L. W. Blodow
L. W. BLODOW
Civilian
Investigator.

Belgium 5775

VauxChavainne 19 March 1947

S T A T E M E N T

The American soldiers:

ALBERT F. LOPEZ

and

JOHN PEIHARIS 36 309 062 T 42-43 A

were found on the territory of the community of Vauxchavainne on 3 March 1945, put in coffins and were buried in the cemetery after a church service. Afterwards, about one month later, the American Red Cross came and took the coffins to remove them to an American Cemetery.

To my knowledge, the laborers working in the forest did not find other American soldiers.

The priest of Vauxchavainne
/s/ H. Choffray.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Durrell B Hartman
DURRELL B HARTMAN
1st Lt. Infantry

Certified True Translation

E. de Wijs
E. de Wijs
4527 CH Service Co.

COMMUNITY OF VAUXCHIANNE

S T A T E M E N T

The undersigned Burgomaster declare, That American Inspectors visited him, to search deceased soldiers, killed during the German Offensive at the end of December 1944.

He further declares, that, to his knowledge, there are no remains in his Community anymore.

The remains found have been removed by the American Army during March 1945.

The Burgomaster
/s/ Illegible

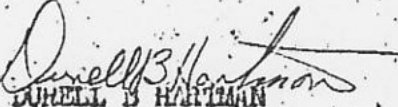
Vauxchianne, 13-3-1947.

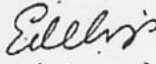
As the whole district, all forests and fields have been searched, he does not think that there are any remains left but German.

/s/ Illegible

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Certified True Translation


DUELL B. HARTMAN
1st Lt. Infantry


E. de Wijs
4527 QM Service Co.

AIRMAIL
WAR DEPARTMENT

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

27 FEB 1947

243
OQMR 293
Bigness, Vernon F., Pvt.
A.S.N. 12 081 583

SUBJECT: Additional Information That May Lead to the Recovery and Identification of Remains Not Yet Accounted For.

TO : Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Command
European Theater Area
APO 887, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

1. Reference is made to WD, OQMR Letter, file and subject as above, dated 20 November 1946, for which there is no record of receipt of a reply in this office.
2. It is requested that every attempt be made by your command to locate or identify remains of this individual and the results of your investigation, whether positive or negative, be returned to this office by indorsement on the above referred to letter within 20 days of receipt of this communication.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

MARTIN G. RILEY
Major, OQMR
Memorial Division

AIRMAIL

FEB 27 1 20 PM '47
O Q M R
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

FEB 27 12 19 PM '47
MEMORIAL DIVISION
RECORDS BRANCH

Jpm

RRR Form #43
20 Sep 48

Attached hereto correspondence and/or other identifying media of possible archival value, pertaining to:

EIGNESS VERNON L. PVT 12081523
(Last Name) (First Name) (Initial) (Rank) (ASN)

Subject remains have been permanently interred overseas in the United

States Military Cemetery HAMM

Incl #

STATION FILE

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 403

/dl

AG 295.10 - GNMCO-2

7 July 1945

SUBJECT: Request Identification of Deceased Personnel, (Unknown X-90).

TO : CG, Fifteenth Army, APO 408, U.S. Army.

1. It is requested that action be taken to determine if the four unknown soldiers described in the attached Reports of Burial can be identified as former members of units now assigned to Fifteenth U. S. Army.

2. Unknown X-90 is believed to be Pfc John Howrelock, 3343 1281, 109th Infantry. It is requested that his height, weight, color of hair, tooth chart, and a copy of the MIA Report be forwarded for confirmation of identity.

3. Two of the three other unknown soldiers are believed to be Tec. 4 Walter Pollock, 33768166, 527th Engr LP Co., and Pfc. Manuel V. Vanegas, 39718098, F.A, organization unknown. Request that the descriptions of the remains, the tattoos, and personal effects be compared and that the height, weight, color of hair, marital status of these men be furnished as well as copies of the MIA Reports, and statements of acquaintances containing information concerning tattoos, wearing of wedding ring, name of wife, nicknames, Etc.

4. The possible identity of the fourth unknown soldier is not known, but it is believed that the initials "VLE" and the names "Kathryn" and "Bubbie" may furnish valuable clues for further checking if Unidentified X-91 is not identified as one of the two men referred to in the preceding paragraph.

For the Commanding General:

M. A. ENGLER,
Major, A. G. D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

5 Incls:

Incl #1 - R/B X-88

Incl #2 - R/B X-89

Incl #3 - R/B X-90

Incl #4 - R/B X-91

Incl #5 - Statement by Sgt Peter J. Schmitt.

AG 704 GNMAG-Cas

1st Ind.

(7 Jul 45)

HEADQUARTERS, Fifteenth United States Army, APO 408, US Army, 12 Jul 45

TO: CG, Third US Army, APO 403, US Army. (Attn: AG Cas Div).

1. This headquarters is unable to comply with basic communication due to change in assignment of subject organizations.

2. The 28th Infantry Division is presently assigned to the Assembly Area Command, and the 527 Engineer LP Co., is assigned to Third US Army.

3. This headquarters has no record of Pfc Vanegas.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ C. F. DENNIS,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst. Adj. Gen.

5 Incls: n/c

GR COPY

R E S T R I C T E D

B/L TUSA AG 293.10 - GNMCCQ-2 dtd 7 July 45 Subj: Request Identification of Deceased Personnel, (Unknown X-90, Hamm Cemetery)

AG 293.10 - GNMCCQ-2 2nd Ind. AR/dl
(7 July 45)

HEADQUARTERS THIRD US ARMY, APO 403, US Army, 8 August 1945.

TO: CO, 527th Engineer L.P. Company, APO 403, US Army.

Your attention is directed to paragraph 3, of the basic correspondence and to the inclosures.

By command of General PATTON:

MORRIS SHWIFF,
Captain, A. G. D.,
Asst. Adjutant General.

5 Incls: n/c

AG293.10-GNMCCQ-2 3rd Ind TM/egs
(7 July 45)

527TH ENGINEER LIGHT PONTON COMPANY, APO 403, US Army, dated 13 Aug 45
To: The Commanding General, Third United States Army, APO 403,
US Army.

1. Enclosed is a true extract copy of Battle Casualty report No. 1 of this organization, dated 26 December 1944.

2. There is only one enlisted man and one officer in this organization at present who were assigned to this organization on 26 December 1944. These two individuals have examined the attached description of the remains but cannot identify any as Tec 4 Walter Pollack. These individuals were not well acquainted with Tec 4 Pollock and knew nothing of his personal habits or whether EM was tattooed.

3. Eight months have elapsed since Tec 4 Pollack has been declared MIA, and at this date the two individuals cannot accurately describe Tec 4 Pollack.

TIM MERCER
Capt., CE
Commanding

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

Ltr. Hq. Third U.S. Army., AG 293.10-GMCC-2, d. 7 July 1945, Subj:
Request for Identification of Deceased Personnel (Unknown X-90) Cont'd.

AG 293.10-GMCC-2
(7 July 45)

4th Ind.

rgi/vas

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY, OQM, APO 403, U.S. Army, 27
August 1945.

TO: CG, Gr Reg Serv Comd, USFET, APO 887, U.S. Army.

1. Captain Fred W. Hofstetter, War Crimes Division, of this headquarters, has requested assistance in obtaining identification of the four men described in the attached Reports of Burial. A record of all information now available is contained in the preceding correspondence and inclosures.

2. It is requested that this headquarters be furnished the following data:

a. The organization and status of Pfc Manuel V. Vanegas, 39713098.

b. The weight, height, color of hair, marital status and tooth charts of Pfc Vanegas, Pfc. John Howrelock, 33431281, T/4 Walter Pollock, 33786166, and Paul F. Sam, 6850601.

c. Copies of the MIA Reports for these men.

3. If information which would assist in identifying these deceased soldiers has been obtained from other sources, it is further requested that information copies be forwarded to this headquarters.

4. In the event that it should become impracticable to return to this office the information desired, the comparison should be directed to the War Crimes Division, Third U.S. Army, Attention Captain Hofstetter.

For the Quartermaster:

CHARLES E. HOY,
Major QMC.,
Army GRO.,

6 Incls: n/c

R E S T R I C T E D

G. R. File

Before me, Captain Fred W. Hofstetter, Investigating Officer, Judge Advocate Section, Headquarters Third United States Army, being authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Sergeant Peter J. Schmitt, 37555233, 612th Quartermaster Grave Registration Company, who, being by me first duly sworn, made and subscribed the following statement:

On 4 April 1945 at the instance of Captain Fred W. Hofstetter, Investigating Officer, JA Section, Headquarters Third United States Army, I took a detail of five men to the civilian cemetery at Ehrang, Germany, for the purpose of disinterring four bodies.

At approximately 1400 on 4 April 1945, myself and crew arrived at the civilian cemetery in Ehrang, Germany, and were pointed out by Captain Hofstetter a plot. At this plot there were four temporary markers with the numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12; underneath each number was printed U.S.A. My crew started at the marker No. 9, and after digging down approximately 3 feet we found all four buried in the same grave. These bodies were removed from the grave and were transported to the United States Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg, where I personally made an examination of these bodies for the purpose of identification. Upon the examination of these bodies the following is what I have been able to find upon each body:

None of these were disinterring

Body No. 1: Name unknown; height about 5 feet 7 inches; I noticed what appeared to be a gun shot wound in his right neck, coming out his left cheek I also noticed that his right arm was broken above the elbow; on his right forearm there is a tattoo of a dagger with a ribbon wrapping around it, and written on the ribbon is "True love Mother"; above that is a tattoo of a nude woman with trunks standing on a pair of wings having long hair with her right arm behind her head and her left arm on her hip; above that tattoo is the tattoo of a woman's head with a turban and on the turban is a crescent and a star; around this head is a wreath of flowers and right above the woman's head ~~is~~ three stars; on the right arm, on the inside of his upper arm there is a picture of a horse's head, with a wreath of flowers tattooed; on the inside of his lower right arm is tattooed a combination picture of a woman's head, her breast, and her legs; On the left lower arm is tattooed a picture of an American eagle with four stars above it, through this emblem on the ribbon is tattooed "Liberty" on one side and "1934" on the other; beneath this eagle is tattooed U.S.A., 3 stars, and underneath "Panama 1934", and underneath that a wreath of flowers; on the upper left arm is tattooed one rose; the body was dressed in wool O.D. shirt, pants, sweater, and field jacket; there were no shoes.

Paul F Sam Hamm 1-1-11

Body No. 2: Name unknown; height, approximately 5 feet, 6 inches; on the third finger of the left hand there was found a 14 carot gold wedding ring. There were no initials inside; I noticed that the upper right arm appeared to be broken; There appeared to be a gun shot wound in the left chest; this body was

dressed in coveralls, a wool mackinaw, sweater, fatigue tops, and field jacket.

Body No. 3: Name unknown; height approximately 5 feet 7 inches; on this body, upon an examination of the web belt, I found the mark H-1281; I also noticed that the body had received a severe blow on the right side of the head and had a gun shot wound in the middle of the chest; this body was dressed in O. D. pants, O. D. wool shirt, sweater, and field jacket. *John Hamm: 109 2nd
Hamm V-1-13
K-90*

X-91
Body No. 4: Name unknown; height approximately 5 feet 7 inches; I noticed what appeared to be a gun shot wound on top of the head and one in the right chest; on the left forearm I noticed tattooed the word "Bubbie"; on the inside of the lower right forearm there was tattooed a red heart with an arrow through it, the heart wrapped in a banner and on the banner was written the word "Kathryn," and underneath this picture were the initials VLB; this body was dressed in O.D. wool pants, O.D. wool shirt, overcoat, field jacket, and sweater.

From an examination of these bodies I found no dog tags, no pay books, no letters or any other personal effects in their pockets; there was every indication that attempts had been made to remove all possible means of identification from these bodies. There were no shoes present on any of the bodies.

Tooth charts will be prepared and forwarded through proper channels for the purpose of identification of these bodies.

This statement made at United States Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg this 5th day of April 1945. I swear before God that it is the truth.

Peter J. Schmitt
Sgt. Peter J. Schmitt, 37555233,
612th QM Grave Registration Co.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Hamm, Luxembourg,
this 5th day of April 1945.

Fred W. Hoffletter
FRED W. HOFFLETTER,
Captain, Infantry,
Investigating Officer.

293 FILE		DATE ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)			GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER	
Bigness, Vernon V			Pvt	12081523 5775	
ORGANIZATION		RACE	CREED	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If Applicable)	
Bat D, 203rd AAA Auto-Bn		White	Catholic		
DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA		
23 Dec 44	Finding of Death		Near Manhay, Belgium		
24 Dec 45					
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR	SHOE SIZE	
5'10"	153	Hazel	Brown	9-1/2 D	
DENTAL CHART 5 June 42					
UPPER RIGHT			UPPER LEFT		
X 7 6 X 4 3 0 2 1			0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 X		
LOWER RIGHT			LOWER LEFT		
X 16 15 X 14 13 12 11 10 9			9 10 11 12 13 X 14 15 16		
SEE DENTAL FORM ATT.					
X = Extracted 0 = Carious 1 = Carious Non-Restorable					
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS			TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK		
NONE SHOWN			NONE SHOWN		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION					
Age: 30					
<u>OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 27</u>					
MANHAY, Belgium, located at coordinates P-88					

21	22	23	24	1	2	3
20	- I N -			4		
19				5		
18	10 FEB 1947			6		
17				7		
16				8		
15	14	Date 100/10/47		Initial [Signature]		

NEGATIVE REPORT

IB
 CBS
 [Handwritten initials]

Belgium 5775

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ZONE
551ST QM GROUP
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
APO 887 (LIEGE) US ARMY

GRU 293.9

21 February 1947
Suspense 23 March 1947

SUBJECT: Isolated Burials

TO : Commanding Officer
4527th QM Service Co (AC)
AGRC, APO 887, US Army

1. Forwarded herewith for your information and necessary action is OQMG Form 371 for Pvt Vernon V. Bigness 12081523 reported last seen near Manhay (P-88).
2. It is requested that an investigation be conducted in the above mentioned locality and every effort be made to locate the remains of Pvt Bigness.
3. It is further requested that report of investigation be expedited to this Headquarters in compliance with suspense date indicated above.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL JOHNSTON:

Incl: a/s

Truman D. Eckols
TRUMAN D ECKOLS
Major Inf
Chief of Operations



Belgium 5775
DBH/ew

B/L: HQ. First Zone, 551 QM Gp, AGRC, APO 887 (Liege) US Army dtd 21 Feb 1947
Subject: Isolated Burials

1st Ind.

GRU 293.9

HEADQUARTERS, 4527 QM SERVICE CO. (AC), FIRST ZONE, AGRC, APO 887 (Maastricht)
US ARMY 18 March 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, First Zone, HQ 551 QM Group, AGRC, APO 887 (Liege) US Army

1. An investigation was conducted in the vicinity of Manhay in an effort to locate the remains of Pvt. Vernon W. Bigness, ASN 12 081 523 with negative results. The Burgomaster of the vicinity was contacted and stated that whole Community had been previously searched and the remains found were removed during March 1945 by the Americans. He knows of no more remains within his Community.

2. The priest of Vauxchaianne stated that two Americans, Albert F. Lopez and John Psiharis, 36 309 062 T 42-43 A, were found in the vicinity the 3rd March 1945 and were interred in the local cemetery and one month later the two remains were removed by the Americans to an American Cemetery.

3. Forwarded for action under existing regulations.



Theodore C. Thomas
THEODORE C. THOMAS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding.

Incls:

Narrative - L.W. Bladow
Statement - H. Choffray
Statement - Burgomaster of Vauxchaianne

Tel: Maastricht 4033, 4333

D/L: H2. First Zone, 551 CG, AGRG, APO 887 (Liege) US Army dtd 21 Feb 1947
Subject: Isolated Burials

1st Ind.

GRU 293.9

US D. VART RS, 4527 CG SERVICE CO. (AC), FIRST ZONE, AGRG, APO 887 (Maastricht)
US ARMY
18 March 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, First Zone, H2 551 CG Group, AGRG, APO 887 (Liege) US Army

1. An investigation was conducted in the vicinity of Lanhay in an effort to locate the remains of Pvt. Vernon W. Higgins, rank 12 OSL 523 with negative results. The burgomaster of the vicinity was contacted and stated that whole Germany had been previously searched and the remains found were removed during March 1945 by the Americans. He knows of no more remains within his Community.

2. The priest of Vauxchaianne stated that two Americans, Albert P. Lopes and John Polyzis, 36 379 062 T 42-43 A, were found in the vicinity the 3rd March 1945 and were interred in the local cemetery and one month later the two remains were removed by the Americans to an American Cemetery.

3. Forwarded for action under existing regulations.

THEODORE C. THOMAS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding.

Incls:

Narrative - L. J. Meadow
Statement - H. Choffray
Statement - Burgomaster of Vauxchaianne

Tel: Maastricht 4033, 4333

March 13, 1947

N A R R A T I V E

An investigation was conducted in the Manhay area in respect to finding the remains of Pvt. Vernon V. Bigness,

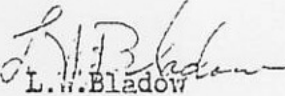
The village of Manhay is near Vauxchaisanne so the Burgomaster was contacted. From him it was learned that the entire population of the villages of Manhay and Vauxchaisanne were evacuated during the Ardennes offensive. When they returned the Americans had removed their dead and the German dead were buried by the Community. It was verified that they were definitely Germans by pictures shown to me by the Burgomaster.

In speaking with the Priest of the village church at Vauxchaisanne, two American soldiers had been found in the surrounding forest by workers. These bodies were buried in the churchyard and later removed by the Americans.

Both the Burgomaster and the Priest testify that outside of these two remains no further American soldiers were found in the vicinity of these two villages.

Since the village of Manhay contained nothing but a few civilian houses and the population was evacuated during the offensive, no statements were secured. Statements of the Burgomaster and Priest of Vauxchaisanne, which is 1 Km from Manhay, were secured.

There being no other villages in the general vicinity investigation was closed with negative results.


L.W. Bladow
WD Civilian
Investigator.

Belgium 5775

VauxChavaianne 13 March 1947

S T A T E M E N T

The American soldiers:

ALBERT F. LOPEZ

and

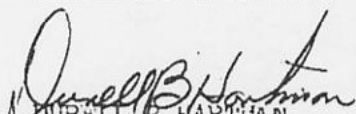
JOHN PSIHARIS 36 309 062 T 42-43 A

were found on the territory of the community of Vauxchanaianne on 3 March 1945, put in coffins and were buried in the cemetery after a church service. Afterwards, about one month later, the American Red Cross came and took the coffins to remove them to an American Cemetery.


To my knowledge, the laborors working in the forest did not find other American soldiers.

The priest of Vauxchanaianne
/s/ H. Choffray.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY


DURELL B. HARTMAN
1st Lt. Infantry

Certified True Translation


E. de Wijs
4527 QM Service Co.

Vaux-Chavaux le 13 mars 1947.

Belgium 5775

Ses Soldats américains :

ALBERT F LOPEZ N/WC
et

JOHN PSIHARIS (36309062 T 42-43 A)

furent retrouvés sur le territoire de la Commune de Vaux-Chavaux le 3 mars 1945 - mis dans des Cercueils - et - après service religieux - l'Eglise - furent enterrés dans le Cimetière - Puis, environ un mois plus tard, la Croix-Rouge Américaine, vint reprendre les Cercueils pour les transporter dans un Cimetière américain

à ma connaissance actuelle, les bureaux travaillant dans la bois, n'ont pas retrouvé d'autres soldats américains

Le Curé de Vaux-Chavaux



M. Hoffroy

(H. CHOFFRAY)

COMMUNITY OF VAUXCHALANNE

S T A T E M E N T

The undersigned Burgomaster declare, That American Inspectors visited him, to search deceased soldiers, killed during the German Offensive at the end of December 1944.

He further declares, that, to his knowledge, there are no remains in his Community anymore.

The remains found have been removed by the American Army during March 1945.

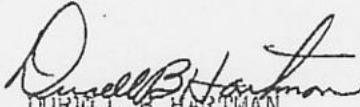
The Burgomaster
/s/ Illegible

Vauxchianne, 13-3-1947.

As the whole district, all forests and fields have been searched, he does not think that there are any remains left but German.

/s/ Illegible

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY


DURRELL B. HARTMAN
1st Lt. Infantry

Certified True Translation


E. de Wijs
4527 QM Service Co.

Commune de
Louschouane

Le bourgmestre soussigné déclare
que les Inspecteurs Américains
sont venus chez moi, pour rechercher
des corps de soldats tués à l'offensive
Allemande de fin décembre 1944

Il déclare en outre que à sa
connaissance il ne reste plus
aucun cadavre sur notre commune.

Les cadavres retrouvés avaient été
enterrés par l'Armée Américaine
début de mars 1945



Le bourgmestre
a Pravits

Louschouane le 13-3-1947

Toute la contrée bois et champ ont
été battus. Je crois qu'il ne reste
plus rien sur notre territoire
que des Allemands
a Pravits

Belgium 5775

B/L: Hq. First Zone, AGRC, APO 887, US Army Subj: Isolated Burials dated 21 Feb 1947.

GRU 293.9

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST ZONE, 551st QM GROUP, AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND, APO 887, US ARMY 31 March 1947

TO: Commanding Officer, American Graves Registration Command, European Theater Area, APO 887, US Army

1. Attention is invited to 1st indorsement.
2. Investigation conducted in Manhay and vicinity failed to locate the remains of Pvt. Vernon V. Bigness, 12081523.
3. A check of records in this Headquarters does not reveal any unknowns that can be associated with subject deceased.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Incls: n/c

Tel: Liege 19526



Truman D Eckols
TRUMAN D ECKOLS
Major Inf
Chief of Operations

Transmittal letter #2217 —

(Basic Ltr WD OQMG, QMGMM 293 *Higness, Vernon V SN 12 OEL 523*
dtd 20 November 1946

RRE 293.9 (IB) 1st Ind

Hq American Graves Registration Command, European Area, APO 58,
US Army, 6 November 1947

TO: The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C.

1. Inclosed herewith all documents pertaining to negative report received from the field on investigation conducted for the recovery of the remains of the above individual.

2. Forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Incl: w/d
added a/s

Walter B. Morrow
WALTER B. MORROW
Major, Infantry
Actg Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy - IB File
Copy - Central File

mb



4
BED

X-91 (HAMM)

V-1-14

REPATRIATION
CORDS BRANCH

MAR 1 2 06 PM '49

MEMORIAL DIVISION

CONNECTION TO BURIAL RECORDS AS UNRECORDED
CEMETERY HALL Cem. FLOT V ROW

NAME : BIGNESS Vernon L.

RANK : PVT

ASN : 12,081 523

DATE OF DEATH

23 DEC 44

[Handwritten signature]

AUTHORITY

L/C AND OCMG FORM 371

TC 15 FEB 49

SIGNATURE DATE

PRE FORM 13A

[Handwritten notes: 8 DP- 74 Dec 45]

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
EUROPEAN AREA
APO 53 US ARMY

IDENTIFICATION
RECOMMENDED

APR 15 1949

gdb
✓
B
--- BIGNESS, Vernon L. ---
(Name)

Pvt. ---
(Rank)

12081523 ---
(ASN)

previously buried as Unknown X- 91, USIC Hamm # 1
Identification accepted in accordance with Letter, File AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47)
D-II, War Dept, TAGO, 9 April 47, subject: Establishment of Boards of Review for
Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas, by the following members of the Board
of Review, established by Par 5, SO #16, Hq. A.G.R.C. dated 3 Feb 1949.

Stanley C. Tyrell

--- Capt. Jack C. HAYES, O-J577297 --- Cpl. Capt. Stanley C. TYRELL, O-1304296 Inf

--- Capt. Edward F. PRICE, Jr O-1588236 --- Cpl. 1/Lt Edward E. STOUT, O-1594512 ---

ACCEPTED. CE

APPROVED 49
4 May
Op Metz

Ernest J. ROGLESBY
1/Lt Ernest J. ROGLESBY, O-449004 Cav. Mortuary

APR 15 1949
Stanley C. Tyrell

- 9 FEB. 1949

T. H. METZ, Lt. Col. QASO
Chief, Identification
Memorial Division, OCSO

CORRECTED COPY

cb

REPORT OF BURIAL

31 January 1949
Date

Graves Registration
Form No. 1
(Revised Sept. 1945)

B I G N E S S

Take fingerprints of both hands of each individual and

Print name of deceased in full and in last name

12081523

Last Name

First

Initial

Rank

Serial No.

Battery D

Unit

PDD 24 Dec 45

Organization

Quint, Germany

Place of Death

203rd AAA (AW) Bn Sp

GSW Head & Chest

Date of Death 21 January 1946

Cause of Death

1600 - 5 April 1945

Time and Date of Burial

Name of Cemetery

US Military Cemetery HAMM #1, Luxemburg

14

Grave Number

Row Number, Column Number, Plot Number, and Approximate Location

CROSS

Type of Marker

Disposition of Identification Tags: Buried with body Yes No Attached to Marker Yes No

If No Identification Tags: Previously buried as Unknown X-91 (Hamm #1)

How were remains identified? Identified through: 1) Tooth chart of X-91 is in agreement with dental records for Pgt. Bigness. 2) Tatoo marked "KATHRYN" and "VLB" found on X-91 are in agreement with the name of Pvt. Bigness' wife and his initials. 3) Estimated height and color of hair of X-91 are in agreement with Pgt. Bigness. 4) Estimated date and place of death of X-91 are in agreement with AG Casualty records for Pgt. Bigness. 5) One identified member of 203rd AAA Bn, occupant of same vehicle as Pvt. Bigness, was recovered from the area from which X-91 was disinterred.

To determine Right or Left use Deceased's Right and Left.

Who is buried on

Deceased's Right

X-90

Serial No.

Rank

Organization

13

Grave No.

Deceased's Left

X-92

Serial No.

Rank

Organization

15

Grave No.

Signature, or Name, Rank and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial



If print of identification tag is not affixed fill in below

Emergency Addressee: Unknown

Name

Address

Religion: Catholic

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same:

REBURIAL

Previously buried in isolated grave located at: Ehrang, Germany

This corrected copy of Report of Burial, prepared in the Office of the American Graves Registration Command,

Signature of Officer or other person reporting burial

George L. Freeman

Verified by G.R.S. Officer

GEORGE L. FREEMAN

1st Lt.

QMC

DA-E. M. 188-39941-2310-2

*The
1st Lt.
of
QMC*

REPORT OF BURIAL

5 April 1945

BIGNESS, Vernon L.

TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815

Pvt

Date

12081523

~~Unidentified X-91~~

~~unk~~

~~unk~~

Last Name	First	Initial	Rank	Serial No.
unk	Btry D	203 AAA (AW) Bn SP	unk	unk

Unit	Date	Organization	Cause of Death
PDD 24 Dec 45	16 Jan 1945	GSW	Head & Chest

Place of Death	Date of Death	Name of Cemetery	Name or Coordinates of Location
1600 5 April 1945	US Mil. Cem. Hamm, Lux.		VP 8713

Time and Date of Burial	Name of Cemetery	Name or Coordinates of Location
14		

Disposition of Identification Tags: Buried with body Yes No Attached to Marker Yes No

If No Identification Tags Ident. by Field, accepted by Col. Metz - 4 May 49. jec
How were remains identified? Embossed Plate.

See cover dated 31 Jan 49

REBURIAL.

Previously buried in isolated grave located at Ehrang, Germany.

Embossed plate.

What means of identification were buried with the body?

Embossed plate.

To determine Right or Left use Decedent's Right and Left.

Who is buried on:	Unknown X-90	unk	unk	13
Deceased's Right:	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Grave No.
Deceased's Left:	Unknown X-92	"	"	15
	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Grave No.

Body brought in by 612 QM Gr. Reg. Co.

Signature of Name, Rank, and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial.

If print of identification tag is not affixed fill in below:

Emergency Addressee: Unknown

Religion: Unknown Catholic

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same:
No personal effects on body.

A true copy:
Fred W. Hofstetter, Capt.
Inv. Officer

File
5 May 49
Markle

Signature of Officer or other person reporting burial
Gerald H. Myers, 2nd Lt. GRO QMC

Verified by G.R.S. Officer

Restricted REPORT OF BURIAL

514

5 April 1945

BIGNESS, Vernon L.

TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815

Pvt: ~~Unk~~

12 081 523

~~Unidentified X-91~~

~~Unk~~

~~Unk~~

Last Name First Initial Rank Serial No.

~~Unk~~ Btry D 203 AAA (AW) Bn SP ~~Unk~~

Unit Organization

Quint, Germany (Est) 16 Jan 1945 PDD 24 Dec 45 G.S.W. Head & Chest

Place of Death Date of Death Cause of Death

1600 5 April 1945 U.S. Mil. Cem. #1 Hamm, Lux: VP 8713

Time and Date of Burial Name of Cemetery Name or Coordinates of Location

14 1 V Cross

Grave Number Row Number Plot Number Type of Marker

Disposition of Identification Tags: Buried with body Yes No Attached to Marker Yes No

If No Identification Tags, How were remains identified? **Embossed Plate**

Ident. by Field, accepted by Col. Letz May 1945

REBURIAL

What means of identification were buried with the body?

Embossed previously buried in isolated grave

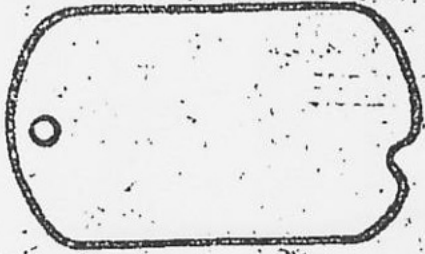
To determine Right or Left use **Deceased's Right** located at *Ehrang, Germany*

Who is buried on: Deceased's Right: Unknown X-90 Unknown 13

Deceased's Left: Unknown X-92 Unknown 15

Body brought in by 612th QM Gr Reg. Co.

Signature or Name, Rank and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial.



If print of identification tag is not affixed fill in below:

Emergency Addressee Unknown

Address

Religion Catholic Unknown

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same:

No Personal Effects on Body

*W 49
D
5
Carter*

Signature of Officer or other person reporting burial

Gerald H. Myers

Verified by G.R.S. Officer

GERALD H. MYERS 2nd Lt., GRO. QMC.

Restricted

WAR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1949 MAY 23 08 52

-BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

AG 201	NAME BIGNESS VERNON L ASN 12081523	GRADE PVT SON	DATE CAS. REPORT RECEIVED
NAME AND ADDRESS OF E. A.	MRS ROSE D BIGNESS 681 EMERSON STREET WATERTOWN NEW YORK		DATE TELEGRAM SENT <i>2 ltr</i> 53 May 49

THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED BELOW DESIGNATED THE ABOVE PERSON AS THE ONE TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, AND THE OFFICIAL TELEGRAPHIC AND LETTER NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THIS PERSON. THE RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY, IS SHOWN BELOW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS PERSON IS NOT NECESSARILY THE NEXT-OF-KIN OR RELATIVE DESIGNATED TO BE PAID SIX MONTHS' PAY GRATUITY IN CASE OF DEATH.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON

GRADE	NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING THEATRE	P OR J STATUS	SHIPMENT NUMBER
PVT	BIGNESS, VERNON L.	12081523	CAC			140011 U-1X
TYPE OF CASUALTY		PLACE OF CASUALTY	DATE OF CASUALTY			CASUALTY CODE
KILLED IN ACTION		IN GERMANY	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
			23	DEC	44	

REMARKS: AG 201 /19 MAY 49/ CORRECTED COPY

MEMO ACTG. OIC, CAS. SEC. PAB. PL. QUINT. SOURCE OF INFO. RPT OF BURIAL. IDENTIF. APPROVED BY OQMG. MEMORIAL DIV. SEE MSG. FOR DETAILS. FOD ISSUED PREV UNDER SEC 5, MPA, SHOWING PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH 24 DEC 45. RPT OF DEATH BASED ON INFO RECD SINCE THAT DATE ISSUED IN ACCORD WITH SEC 9 OF SAID ACT, AND ITS EFFECT ON PRIOR PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS IS AS PRESCRIBED IN SEC 9.

HOME ADDRESS: WATERTOWN JEFFERSON COUNTY NEW YORK

ROUTE TO LTR SUB-UNIT FOR NOTIF. COPY OF NOTIF. LTR TO BE FWD TO DET UNIT /FOR QMG/. Reports of death issued 25 May 1949slt/1B724

ACTION BY COMPOSITE SECTION: REPORT VERIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FORM 43	AG 201 REC
CASUALTY BRANCH FILE ATTACHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		OR CHARGED TO	DATE
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED: NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> (AS INDICATED BELOW):			
FILE NO.	MESSAGE NO.	TYPE	DATE AND AREA
	0353	Wed	24 Dec 45 E TO
E. A. NOTIFIED: 24 Dec 45			
FORWARDED TO	SPEC. IDEN.	C. & P.	TELEGRAM
			LETTER
			CERTIF.
			REL.
			CORRES.
			REPAT.
			S. R. & D.
			NON-DEL.
REPORT NOT VERIFIED: NO FORM 43		NO CAS. BR. FILE	CHECKED BY: <i>WBC</i>
			REVIEWED BY: <i>WBC</i>

DISTRIBUTION "A" COPIES DISTRIBUTION "B" 3 COPIES *mtm*

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

4973

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (Public Law 490 77th Cong.) as amended, upon direction and delegation by The Secretary of War, The Chief, Casualty Branch, The Adjutant General's Office, finds Private Vernon L. Bigness, Army Serial Number 12,081,523, Coast Artillery, to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 23rd day of December 1944. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 24th day of December, 1945.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

George F. Hebert

ADJUTANT GENERAL
CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

AREA		FLYING STATUS	JUMP STATUS	LINE OF DUTY	OWN MIS-CONDUCT	ON DUTY STATUS	ABSENCE AUTH'D
European		No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
PREVIOUS REVIEWS							
None							
DATE OF BIRTH	HOME ADDRESS	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE		LENGTH OF SERVICE (AS OF PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH)			
8 Jul 1914	Watertown, New York	5 Jun 1942		YEARS	MONTH	DAYS	
		Over	three	years			
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE							
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS					
Mrs. Rose D. Bigness	Mother	681 Emerson Street Watertown, New York					
BENEFICIARIES							
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS					
Mrs. Kathyen L. Bigness	Wife	681 Emerson Street Watertown, New York					
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS					
Mrs. Rose D. Bigness	Mother	681 Emerson Street Watertown, New York					

REMARKS

Distribution 2

Alternate Beneficiary: Mr. Charles E. Bigness (Father)
410 Flower Avenue, East
Watertown, New York

Circumstances of Disappearance: Subject soldier became missing in action when enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire was encountered during the bitter fighting in Belgium.

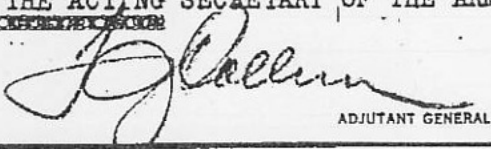
FILE
DEC 29 1945

SENSITIVE SURFACE - HANDLE WITH CARE ONLY

WAR DEPARTMENT THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPORT OF DEATH *7/5* slt/1B724

DATE 25 May 1949

FULL NAME Bigness, Vernon L.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 12 081 523		GRADE Pvt	
HOME ADDRESS Watertown, New York		ARM OR SERVICE CAC		DATE OF BIRTH 8 Jul 1914	
PLACE OF DEATH Germany		CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action		DATE OF DEATH 23 Dec 1944	
STATION OF DECEASED European Area		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 5 Jun 1942		LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS	
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (Name, relationship, and address) Mrs. Rose D. Bigness, mother, 681 Emerson Street, Watertown, New York.					
BENEFICIARY (Name, relationship, and address) Mrs. Kathyen L. Bigness, wife, 681 Emerson Street, Watertown, New York Mrs. Rose D. Bigness, mother, same as above. Mr. Charles E. Bigness, father, 410 Flower Avenue, East, Watertown, New York					
INVESTIGATION MADE		IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS		AUTHORIZED ABSENCE		IN FLYING PAY STATUS	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE					
Finding of death has been issued previously under Sec 5, Public Law 490, 7 Mar 1942, as amended, showing presumed date of death as 24 December 1945. This Report of death based on information received since that date, is issued in accordance with Sec 9, of said Act, and its effect on prior payments and settlements is as prescribed in Sec 9.					
<i>File</i> <i>13 June 49</i> <i>Wingfield</i>					
BY ORDER OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:  ADJUTANT GENERAL					

368154

ATTACHMENTS		EFFECTS INVENTORY ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU	STATUS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INBOUND INVENTORY		DECEASED	
	G. R. OR SUB GR LABEL		MISSING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	WILL OR POWER OF ATTY.		P. O. W.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TALLY IN FORM 43		ABANDONED	
		UNKNOWN		

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAGS, CLOTH OR TRAVEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	BELT	<input type="checkbox"/>	OVERCOATS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BELT, MONEY (NO MONEY)	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOOKS, ADDRESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	PAPERS, PERSONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BILLFOLD (NO MONEY)	<input type="checkbox"/>	BOOKS, PILOT LOG	<input type="checkbox"/>	PENCIL, MECHANICAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOOKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRUSHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	PEN, FOUNTAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BRACELET, IDENT.	<input type="checkbox"/>	CASE	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CAMERAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CLOTH, WASH	<input type="checkbox"/>	PIPES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CLOTHING	<input type="checkbox"/>	COATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	RINGS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MISC. ARTICLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOOTLOCKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	SCARFS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RELIGIOUS ARTICLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	FOOTWEAR, PR.	<input type="checkbox"/>	SHIRTS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RIBBONS, DECORATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	GLASSES	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOCKS, PR.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SHORT SNORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	GLOVES, PR.	<input type="checkbox"/>	STATIONERY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOUVENIR MONEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	HANDKERCHIEFS	<input type="checkbox"/>	TIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOUVENIRS	<input type="checkbox"/>	HEADWEAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOBACCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	TESTAMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	JACKETS	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOILET ARTICLES
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOWELS & WASHCLOTHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	KITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOWELS
<input type="checkbox"/>	U. S. MONEY (AMOUNT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	KNIVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	TROUSERS, PR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	WATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	LETTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRUNKS, PR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	WINGS	<input type="checkbox"/>	LIGHTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNDERWEAR

DAMAGED

CONTAINERS ADDRESSED TO

none

INFORMATION

Edna Stephenson
Falmouth Mass.

NAME AND STATUS VARIATIONS

CROSS REFERENCE

8-18-45
Carter

<input type="checkbox"/>	CHECK	REC'D BY	NUMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	BUREAU CHECK
<input type="checkbox"/>	MONEY ORDER		SYMBOL	<input type="checkbox"/>	TRANSMIT ORIGINAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOND		AMOUNT	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORIG. REG. MAIL
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRAV. CHECK		DATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	TO G. A. O.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FOREIGN CURRENCY		BANK OR PLACE OF ISSUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	MUTILATED
<input type="checkbox"/>	U. S. CURRENCY		PAYEE	<input type="checkbox"/>	TO ISSUING AGENCY

REMITTER OR DRAWER	

TALLY NO. 9997	ORIG. NO. OF PKGS. 1	EXAMINING DATE 9 Aug 1945	BOX NO.	SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS
----------------	----------------------	---------------------------	---------	---------------------

NAME VERNON L. BIGNESS	A. S. N. 12081523
ORGANIZATION 203 AAA 7th Armd Div.	RANK PYT CASE NO. 368154

WAREHOUSE SPACE 2493	EXAMINED BY H. H. H.	DIARY REMOVED
PACKAGE DESCRIPTION # 1ctm	PACKED BY W. C. Carter	PHOTO FILM REMOVED
	INSPECTED BY J. P.	NOTION PICTURE FILM REMOVED
WEIGHT	STORED BY	SHIPPED
		DATE AUG 27 1945 BY WHOM 580

RESTRICTED
INVENTORY FORM

13 JANUARY 1944

Date

SUBJECT: Inventory of Personal Effects of:

BIGHESS VERNON L PVT 12081523

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Rank) (ASN)

TO: Effects Quartermaster, Communication Zone, APO US Army

The above named individual of 203 A A A 7TH ARMORED DIVISION

(Unit) (Organization)

was reported NIA about 23 December 1944

Status (KIA, MIA, Hosp. etc.) (Date)

Designated Beneficiary if information readily accessible not known

INVENTORY OF EFFECTS

~~SOUVENIR BAYONET, HELMET, ASH TRAY, FORK, FLASH LIGHT CASE, CHIN GUARD, TABLE
CLOTH, RED FLAG, LIBRAIS, WHISTLES, MATCH CASE, ETC~~
PAIR ATHLETIC SHOES ✓
PAIR WOOL SOCKS ✓
RAZOR ✓
RIBBONS ✓
TIE PIE ✓
RELIGIOUS ROSARY ETC ✓
COLLAR IMEIONIAS ✓
MISCELL ✓
KAPSHONS ✓

Money in the amount of NONE has been turned into _____
(Name of Finance Office)

Form WDFD 38 enclosed:
and symbol number) NOT KNOWN

Names and addresses of any Banks in which accounts may be carried:

I certify that the above items constitute all of the effects, secured by me, of
the above named individual and that they were forwarded to the Effects Depot
by TRUCK on 13 JANUARY 1944
(Rail, Truck, etc.)

Name Sam B Plyler
Rank & ASN CAPT CMC 0-1016266
Organization HEADQUARTERS 7th A.D.

Any additional pertinent information:

AG ETO FORM NO. 26

RESTRICTED

I regret the circumstances prompting this letter,
and wish to express my hope for the safe return of your son.

Yours very truly,

P. L. KOOB
P. L. KOOB
1st Lt., CMC
Officer-in-Charge
SJ Unit

Incl--
Envelopes

Receipt acknowledged:

Mrs. Rose N. Bighess
(Signature of Beneficiary)

Aug 29, 1945
(Date)

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

ORDER FOR SHIPMENT

Mrs. Rose D. Bigness

681 Emerson Street

Watertown, New York

SHIP TO:

Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness

Effects of:

12081523

Name

368154 M

ASN

Case No.

Wt.

DATE 22 August 1945

RTB:FB:TW

C. Rain
FOR: Effects Quartermaster

REMARKS:

 Inclose Bureau Check
 Acct. No.
 Amount
 Inclose "Valuables" item
 Ship "Valuables" item(s)

 Remove G.I.
 Note discrepancy in
 Films removed
 Diary removed
 Laundry removed

ROUTING:

 Accounting Branch
1 Warehouse Division
2 Files Branch, Adm. Div.

AUG 27 1945

REMARKS: SHIP DAMAGED PROPERTY

PERMANENT
Franked
Est. Exp. Chgs.
Est. Frt. Chgs.
No. of packages 1

BD
Shipping Clerk

368154

(S-9-28-45)
RTB:MB:re
August 22, 1945

Mrs. Rose D. Bigness
691 Emerson Street
Watertown, New York

Dear Mrs. Bigness:

son, Private Vernon L. Bigness:

1 carton and contents.

son.

Yours very truly,

P. L. KOOB
1st Lt., QMC
Officer-in-Charge
SJ Unit

205

Mrs. Rose D. Bigness

681 Emerson Street

Watertown, New York

Pvt. Vernon L. Bigness

12081523

368154 M

22 August 1945
RTB:MB:rw

1
2

rw

SHIP DAMAGED PROPERTY

M

TALLY IN NO. 1-31

10-MIA-551
17 April 1945
K.C.

TALLY IN RECORDS

NAME BIGNESS, VERNON L. RANK PVT SERIAL 12081588

SHOWN ON SIGNORS T.O.M.S.

ORGANIZATION

DATE 15-3-45 CASE 40413 PARCEL CHR STATUS MIR

ITEMS	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
	TALLIED-EM BY <u>W.L.L. Croy</u>	
	TYPE OF CONTAINER	

9-34-63
1-31

C/1H0413

PHYSICAL PROPERTY

8 APR 1946

NAME : BIGNESS, VERNON, L.

RANK : PVT

ASN : 12081523

STATUS : MIA

ITEM : CTN

BIN : 284-B

DATE SHIPPED

INVENTORY NUMBER

INVENTORY

C/14041

RESTRICTED
INVENTORY FORM

1945 17 JAN

4 January 1945

Date

SUBJECT: Inventory of Personal Effects of:

<u>Eigness</u>	<u>Vernon</u>	<u>L.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>12081523</u>
(Last Name)	(First Name)	(MI)	(Rank)	(ASN)

TO: Effects Quartermaster, Communication Zone, APO 687 US Army

The above named individual of Etry D 403d AAA Auto Wpn Bn (SP)
 (Unit) (Organization)

was reported MIA about 25 December 1944
 Status (KIA, MIA, Hosp. etc.) (Date)

Designated Beneficiary if information readily accessible Rose D. Eigness (Mother)

681 Emerson Street, Watertown, New York

INVENTORY OF EFFECTS

None: All effects of ~~deceased~~ were lost or destroyed due to enemy action.

Money in the amount of None has been turned into _____
 (Name of Finance Office)
 Form WDFD 38 enclosed.
 and symbol number)

Names and addresses of any Banks in which accounts may be carried:

I certify that the above items constitute all of the effects, secured by me, of
 the above named individual and that they were forwarded to the Effects Depot
 by _____ on _____ 194____.
 (Rail, Truck, etc.)

Name E. P. Alworth
E. P. ALWORTH
 Rank & ASN 1st Lt., 61048689
 Organization 403d AAA AW Bn (SP)

Any additional pertinent information: