

U.S. soldiers buried

NEUVILLE-EN-CONDROZ, Belgium (AP) — Three unknown American soldiers who died 31 years ago on the Belgian-German border were buried today with full military honors at the U.S. military cemetery here.

Officials said the three were killed during the Allied drive against Germany in the winter of 1944-1945. Their bodies were found earlier this month in the Hurtgenwald Forest near Simmerath, just across the Belgian border and about 35 miles east of Liege.

The bodies were discovered by a West German bomb disposal team clearing the woods of mines and live ammunition that still remain from the heavy fighting that took place in the area.

"We only know for sure they were American because of the clothing and equipment we found. We could not identify them beyond that," said Francis Duffy, superintendent of the U.S. military cemetery where thousands of American soldiers are buried nine miles southwest of Liege.

The three were thought to be members of the 78th Division, which was leading a push through the area, but Duffy said even that was not sure.

Funeral rites were conducted by a Roman Catholic priest, a rabbi and a Protestant minister, a customary procedure when the religion of the dead is unknown.

An eight-man military police detail fired a salute as the coffins, covered by the stars and stripes, were lowered into the graves and a bugler played taps.

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