

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Jones/30896/17 January 1980

SUBJECT: Recovery of Skeletal Remains (Germany)

- 1. Case papers received from the U. S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe, Frankfurt, Germany, indicate that portions of two (2) "Believed to Be" World War II remains had been partially recovered in two separate locations in the forest outside Wallendorf, Germany. The remains had been recovered by the staff of the Bitburg Air Force Base Mortuary Office. No identification tags were found, however, numerous remnants of US type clothing, equipment, and ammunition were recovered.
- 2. A search and recovery team from the Frankfurt Mortuary was dispatched to Bitburg and, together with the Air Force team, proceeded to the recovery sites. After two days of thoroughly searching and sifting of both graves, the search was terminated and the remains were returned to the Frankfurt Mortuary for processing.
- 3. Upon examination of remains designated Unknown X-9451, recovered from grave #2, it was determined that these were the remains of an adult Caucasoid male of slender muscularity. The paucity of the recovered portions precluded an estimation of height or more precise age. The mandible and maxilla are missing and no loose teeth wee found.
- 4. Case summary for the associated recovery, Unknown X-9450, will be submitted separately.

CONCLUSION:

While it is possible that the skeletal remains may represent the recoverable portions of a deceased serviceman killed in the vicinity of Wallendorf, Germany, the lack of any identifying media and the extreme paucity of the skeletal portions precludes an association with any unresolved US casualty. Therefore, it is concluded that Unknown X-9451 meets the criteria for CIL classification.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this headquarters concur with the recomendation that remains designated Unknown X-9451 be classifiedd as CIL portions, and that disposition be made in accordance with established policy (FM 10-286, June 1976, Chapter 2, Para 2-12, and Chapter 4, Para 4-7e).

Submitted by

M. T. JONES

Identification Technician Memorial Affairs Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY MEMORIAL AFFAIRS ACTIVITY, EUROPE APO NEW YORK 09757

14 JUN 1979

AERAF-Mort.

SUBJECT: Recovery of World War II Remains (S&R #5134)

Thursday 7 June 1979

0830 hours, 7 June 79, Mr. Rogers and team of 4 men departed Frankfurt Mortuary for Bitburg AB, and surrounding area. Arrived at Bitburg AB and was met by Capt. Carter of Services Division. Capt. Carter briefed the team on what had already been recovered from the sites. Mr. Rogers and Capt. Carter departed for the base hospital to view the skeletal remains already recovered. Capt. Carter and Mr. Rogers returned to Services Division and team departed for Wollendorf, FRG which was the closet town to the recovery sites. The team checked into the hotel in Wollendorf and changed into fatigues and both the Air Force and Army teams departed for the first site. Both teams then proceeded to dig and sift through the site, only a few miscellaneous items such as, American and foreign made coins, buttons, parts of a poncho, and a few minor skeletal portions. Also uncovered was 1 hand-grenade, Air Force EOD personnel was notified of the hand-grenade. After awhile the Air Force team departed saying they would return the next day to show the Army team the second site. After working for awhile longer the German who found the remains arrived at the site, and departed saying he would return the next day with his metal detector. At 1630 hours work stopped and team returned to the hotel.

Friday 8 June 1979

The team departed for the first site at 0900 hours, worked for about one hour and then Mr. Rogers had SP4 Napoleon drive him back to the hotel to call the AB and find out what was taking them so long to get out to the site. SP4 Napoleon and Mr. Rogers returned to the first site and had the team gather up all the digging equipment and wait for the Air Force team to arrive on the scene. At 1145 hours the Air Force team arrived and showed the Army team the second site. After which both teams departed for lunch. After lunch both teams returned to to second site and commenced digging and sifting the area. Teams found numerous items including personal equipment such as remains of a poncho, chewing tabocco case, bandage, ammunition, magazine, Hand-grenade, EOD people again contacted. After digging and sifting thoroughly the entire area the teams stopped work at 1530 hours and the Army team returned to the hotel.

SSG WILLIAM D. BOOTH

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS 36TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (USAFE) APO 09132

11 June 1979

MEMO FOR RECORD

Actions taken on 5 June 1979 by SSgt Scheidt, Ingrid Laub, Secretary, and SrA Tilley and AlC Beagle, Search and Recovery Team members.

Mrs. Laub was contacted at approximately 1615 hrs by the German Police, Bithurg that skeletal remains were found by Wallendorf, Germany, by a Mr. Norbert LASCAK, # 5 Sauertalstr., 5529 Wallendorf. Mr. Becker, Secretary of the War-Remains-Recovery Group, Rhine-Hessia-Pfalz and a german specialist for skeletal remains was at the scene and stated that he believed the remains to be american from WWII. I notified Frankfurt Mortuary, Mr. Zega, who advised me to make a sketch of the area and remove the remains. I notified USAFE Mortuary Affairs, Capt Christensen, and briefed her on the status. Then I contacted the Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Steadman and after briefing him on the status, requested permission to have a photographer to accompany the team out and to get a vehicle to go to the scene. Security Police contacted me and stated they were going to send an investigator and an OSI agent along.

We all met at the Services Division Office and left at 1740 hrs for the scene. Shortly after we left the base, the car with the Security police men and the OSI agent turned around and returned to the base. We proceeded to Wallendorf. After arriving there, we talked to Mr. Lascak and Mr. Becker. After a 30 minute wait, I called back to the base and asked Security Police desk about the status on their people. I was then informed that the remains had been recovered and they were not needed. I informed the desk sergeant that no americans other than ourselves had been out there and the remains were still in place. The desk sergeant stated that he would assemble the team again and send them out. At this point, we proceeded up the mountain about 2 km from Wallendorf to where the remains were located, lead by Mr. Becker and Mr. Lascak.

After arriving at the site (1900 hrs), I sent SrA Tilley back to the main road to wait for the Security Police car. We proceeded down the hill to where the remains were located. After surveying the area, we waited for approximately 45 minutes for the arrival of the Security Police and then decided to move on to the next site about 1 km away from the first site. We checked out the location and findings and returned to the first site where we bagged the remains due to darkness. Mr. Laub, who was accompanying his wife, went down and had our driver with the truck return to the site. Recovered remains from the first site were loaded and we then moved to the second location where we bagged those remains. We returned to the base at approximately 2230 hrs.

I then contacted Capt Carter, Bitburg AB Mortuary Affairs Officer, and briefed him on the status and I also called the Security Police Desk Sergeant whom I briefed. Mr. Condiff, OSI Agent, who was passing down the hall by our office was informed by me of the findings.

STATUS OF REMAINS FINDING:

Remains #1:

Remains had been removed from the hole and assembled on the edge of the bank by Mr. Becker and Mr. Lascak (at first they were believed to be remains of a German soldier). The following listed remains were missing: right fore arm, head and both feet. Mr. Becker advised us that the remains were found lying face down with left arm bent slightly behind his back, legs slightly raised at the knee and body slightly bent in a right hand direction. Along with the remains, the following items were found: I medicine bottle, canteen cup, mess kit fork, comb-partial, tooth brush, remains of a billfold, change (money), buttons from uniform, buttons and miscellaneous parts from web-belt, approximately 75 rounds of M-1 ammunition and I first aid kit bandage. Remains are at the Bitburg AB Hospital Morgue. Ammunition removed by base ammunition experts at 0845 hrs, 6 June 1979.

REMARKS: Area should be excavated for possible location of more remains.

Remains #2:

These remains were located approximately 1 km from site where remains #1 were found. Apparently the GI was sitting with his poncho over his head in his foxhole for protection when he was killed. Helmet with 2 pieces of skull located over top of shoes. Findings: both lower half of boots with galoshes over them with all bones below ankle still inside, possible upper arm bones, skull (top parts), in 2 pieces, helmet, helmet liner (broken in half), parts of tent of poncho, canteen with cup, both upper boot leathers, approximately 25 rounds M-1 ammunition, possible leather gloves (1 ea), and miscellaneous pieces of material. Remains moved to the Bitburg AB Hospital Morgue. Ammunition removed by base ammunition experts at 0845 hrs, 6 June 1979.

REMARKS: Location and area should be excavated for possible findings of more remains.

ACTIONS TAKEN 6 JUNE 1979:

Mrs. Laub obtained verbal permission to do excavation in county-owned woods by Wallendorf. We also checked with Lt Col Brothers, Staff Judge Advocate, about any legal problems which he might foresee. He said there were none unless we were unable to obtain verbal permission. I also updated Mr. Condiff, OSI Agent. Mr. Rogers from Army Mortuary Frankfurt asked us not to return to the site until next day when he and his team can go along. We complied with his request.

ACTIONS TAKEN 7 JUNE 1979:

Mr. Rogers and his team arrived at approximately 1130 hrs at Bitburg. He was briefed on the status and I took him over to the Hospital morgue to look at the remains already recovered. We then proceeded to the site and started to excavate site #1. Several more items were located and removed from location:

6 pennies, 3 buttons, 3 vertebrae, 1 hand grenade, pieces of socks, clips snaps from combat gear, uniform material, a red and black pen like item.

ACTIONS TAKEN 8 JUNE 1979:

I contacted EOD at Spangdahlem for them to accompany us to site to remove the hand grenade. Sgt George, EOD, checked and was refused permission to respond. I contacted Lt Col Steadman, briefed him on the situation and he stated that he would take a look at the problem and see if he could get EOD to respond. Lt Col Steadman called back and advised us that Colonel Lukens, Wing Commander, Spangdahlem AB, refused permission for the EOD team to respond. About 1100 hrs, Mr. Rogers called, and asked what had happened to our team as they were not out at the site. I then briefed him on the problem of EOD and told him the team would be out there soon. He stated that the first excavation had been completed and they were waiting for the team to show him the location of the second site. At 1430, Lt Col Steadman called and stated that the Office Instructions were still being researched at EOD but no results as of yet. At 1630, the S&R team returned to the office and briefed about the findings. Mr. Rogers and his team are concluding their search. Mr. Rogers will give an outbriefing on 9 June 1979, at 1000 hrs. ** At approximately 1745 hrs. Lt Col Steadman contacted me at home and informed me that the EOD would like to remove the grenades from the sites and would I go along to show them the location. I agreed. At approximately 1815, Security Police (SPI) contacted me and informed me that the EOD will be over at Bitburg at about 1900 hrs and would I meet them and go along to the sites. I agreed. At 1920 we departed Bitburg AB and en route picked up Mr. Rogers. We located the first grenade found during the 7 June 1979 diggings but were unable to locate number 2. We returned to Bitburg AB where I tried to notify Lt Col Steadman but was unable to.

** Findings at Site #2: About 20 rounds M-1 ammunition, tobacco box, metal, 1 piece of bone from behind the ear, 1 metal fork, 1/2 of mess kit knife, part of C-ration bag, part of rain gear, buttons, another grenade.

REMARKS: There seems to be conflict as to who should perform EOD at that location. Air Force says the German EOD should respond, (German EOD was contacted, however they are not available, they departed for a field problem reported to them); the German EOD says the Air Force should respond in this case

Lt Col Steadman has Capt Gaudino, OI, checking out this problem to find out who is responsible to respond in cases like this. The fact however remains that we not only have 4 Air Force S&R team members out there but 5 Army personnel as well.

ACTIONS TAKEN 9 JUNE 1979:

Upon returning to our office this 0900 hrs, I had a note to call Lt Col Littlefield at Rumstein (3 - 6552). I contacted him and he stated that he would like to be briefed about the live ordnance. I informed him that we were able to locate one grenade but failed to find the second one. He stated then if the Base Commander would give amnesty to anyone who would return the grenade. I contacted Lt Col Steadman to check with everyone before we notify the local mayors about the hand grenade still missing. Mr. Rogers and his team stopped by for the briefing and I questioned them about the missing hand grenude. They informed me of the location. We then proceeded to the Hospital Morgue to transfer the remains to Frankfurt Mortuary for their processing. On my way back to the base, I saw AlC Beagle (S&R Team member) and asked him about the location, which he described to me. At about 1230 the EOD notified me that they were on their way, I met them at approximately 1250 at Bldg 102 and we proceeded on to the site. After about 10 minutes search we located and secured the grenade and returned to Bitburg AB (1430). I then notified Lt Col Steadman and Capt Blackshere (the new Chief of Services/Mortuary Affairs Officer for Bitburg AB), that the grenade was found and search and recovery operation was complete.

SLORGE H. SCHEIDT, SSgt, USAF Acting NCOIC, Mortuary Affairs

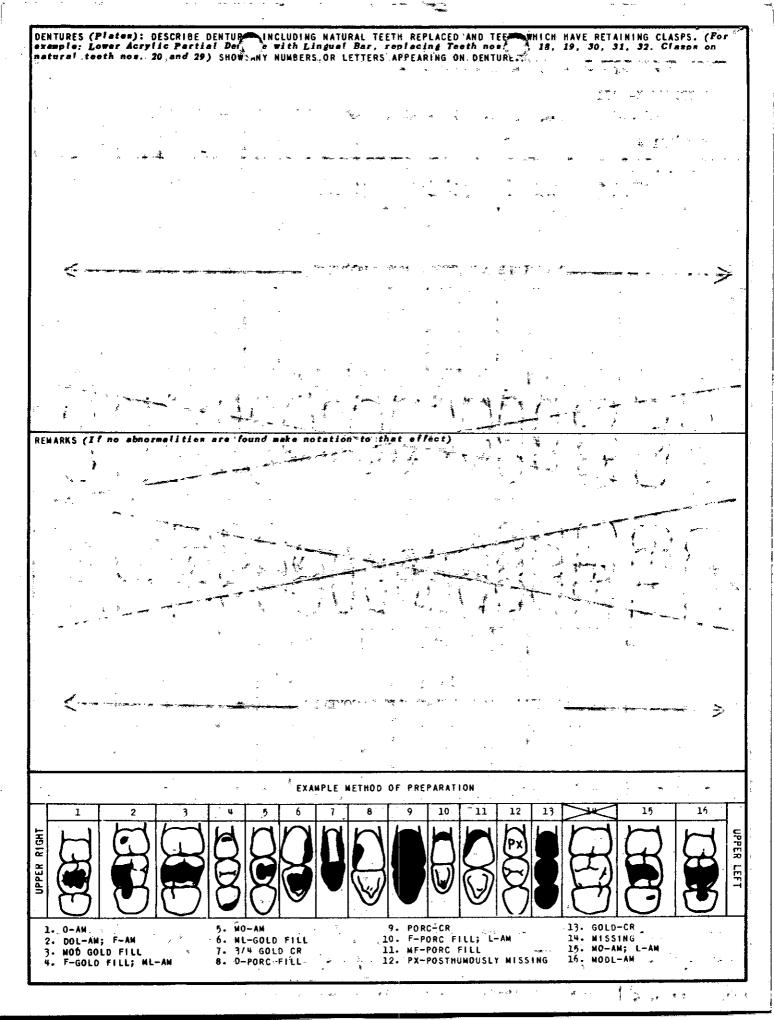
'Approved:

WILLIAM M. CARTER, Jr., Cape/ USAF

Wing Mortuary Affairs Officer

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CONCURRENCE:

ROBERT E. BERRY

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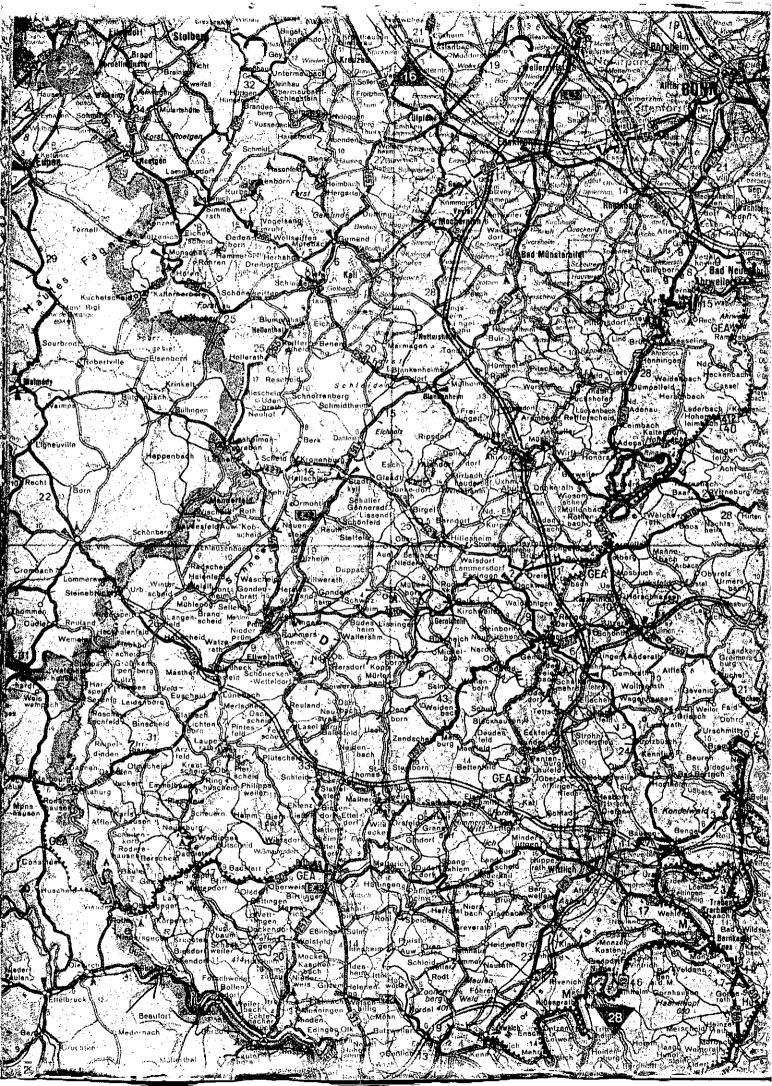
APPROVED:

ELLSWORTH S. CLARKE

Date: 21 JAN 1980

LTC, GS

Chief, Memorial Affairs Division



World War II foxholes

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covery team.

The chief morthary dilices from the U.S. Army Mortnary liq-fattoge, John G. Rodgers, visited the site with an Army Search and Recovery Team. The Air Force and Army teams conducted joint excayations.

Rodgers, an identification specialist,

said. "Everything possible will be done to alentify file remains." for his action that his positive existing has then recovered...

Fill templetication is not wish. The is-makes will be buried with half military appears at Archames American Certebery in

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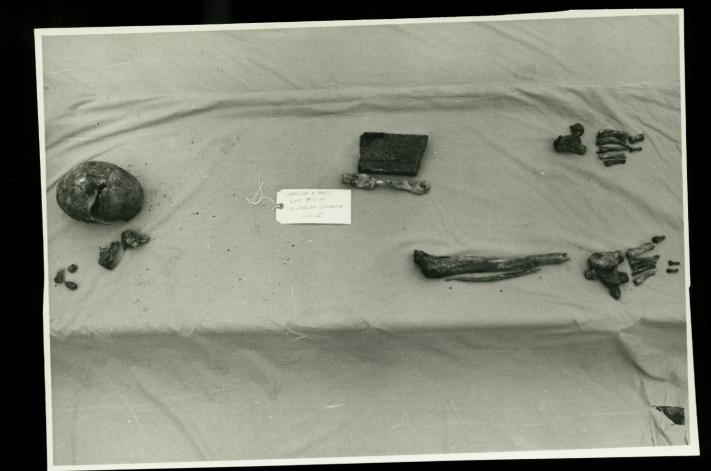












OPEN ALLOTMENT COST DATA SHEET FOR THE MONTH OF: ETEBRUARY 1980

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INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE //AEAGD-SM-F//

CDR 21ST SUPCMD KAISERSLAUTERN GE //AERLO-SV//

UNCLAS F 0 U 0

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS (WW II) GERMANY

- A. AERAF LTR OF TRANSMITTAL DTD 24 OCT 79
- L. CONCUR IN RECOMMENDATION THAT UNKNOWN X-9451 MEETS CRITERIA FOR CIL CLASSIFICATION, AND THAT DISPOSITION BE MADE IAW ESTABLISHED POLICY (FM 10-286 JUNE 1976, CHAP 2, PARA 2-12M AND CHAP 4, PARA 4-78).
- 2. FOUO MARKINGS MAY BE REMOVED UPON RECEIPT OF MSG

WM.M.ANNETTI, DSPO PROG DIR, DAAG-PED, 21 JAN 80, 31116

m.m.annetti, DSPO PROG DIR, 31116

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Jones/30896/17 January 1980

SUBJECT: Recovery of Skeletal Remains (Germany)

- 1. Case papers received from the U. S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe, Frankfurt, Germany, indicate that portions of two (2) "Believed to Be" World War II remains had been partially recovered in two separate locations in the forest outside Wallendorf, Germany. The remains had been recovered by the staff of the Bitburg Air Force Base Mortuary Office. No identification tags were found, however, numerous remnants of US type clothing, equipment, and ammunition were recovered.
- 2. A search and recovery team from the Frankfurt Mortuary was dispatched to Bitburg and, together with the Air Force team, proceeded to the recovery sites. After two days of thoroughly searching and sifting of both graves, the search was terminated and the remains were returned to the Frankfurt Mortuary for processing.
- 3. Upon examination of remains designated Unknown X-9451, recovered from grave #2, it was determined that these were the remains of an adult Caucasoid male of slender muscularity. The paucity of the recovered portions precluded an estimation of height or more precise age. The mandible and maxilla are missing and no loose teeth wee found.
- 4. Case summary for the associated recovery. Unknown X-9450, will be submitted separately.

CONCLUSION:

While it is possible that the skeletal remains may represent the recoverable portions of a deceased servicemen killed in the vicinity of Wallendorf, Germany, the lack of any identifying media and the extreme paucity of the skeletal portions precludes an association with any unresolved US casualty. Therefore, it is concluded that Unknown X-9451 meets the criteria for CIL classification.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this headquarters concur with the recomendation that remains designated Unknown X-9451 be classifiedd as CIL portions, and that disposition be made in accordance with established policy (FM 10-286, June 1976, Chapter 2, Para 2-12, and Chapter 4, Para 4-7e).

Submitted by

M. T. COUNES

Identification Technician Memorial Affairs Division (Unknown X-9451, USA Mem Aff Actv, Eur, Frankfurt, Ger)

CONCURRENCE:

ROBERT E. BERRY
DSpo. Off.

ERNEST J. DEMESTER
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APPROVED:

ELLSWORTH S. CLARKE
LTC, GS

Chief, Memorial Affairs Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY MEMORIAL AFFAIRS ACTIVITY, EUROPE APO NEW YORK 09757

AERAF-Chief

23 July 1979

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

Director
Personal Affairs Directorate
ATTN: DAAG-PED
Forrestal Bldg
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314

1. Forwarded herewith are laboratory photographs, processing documents and S&R report concerning the recovery and laboratory processing of the following remains:

UNKNOWN REMAINS X-9450)
SER #5134
UNKNOWN REMAINS X-9451)

2. Request your review of all documents and furnish this activity with disposition instructions.

John G. ROGERS

Chief

USA Memorial Affairs Acty, Europe

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY UNITED STATES ARMY MEMORIAL AFFAIRS ACTIVITY, EUROPE APO NEW YORK 09757

20 July 1979

SUBJECT: Report on Recovery and Processing of WW II Remains, Unknowns X-9450 and X-9451 during SGR Mission #5134.

1. CIRCUMSTANCES:

a. On Wednesday, 6 June 1979, the Bitburg AFB Mortuary Officer notified the undersigned that two BTB WW II remains had been partially recovered in two separate locations in the forrest outside Wallendorf, FRG by his staff the previous evening. I requested further S&R efforts be stopped until I could arrive on site. The next morning, accompanied by four GR Specialists, we drove to the site and recovered additional WW II artifacts and minimal skeletal remains. After two days of thouroughly excavating and sifting of both graves, the search was terminated. No identification media could be located.

PROCESSING OF REMAINS:

a. Unknown X-9450 from grave #1 - The anthropological examination of these remains revealed the following physical characteristics:

RACE - CAUCASOID EST. HEIGHT - 69.95" AGE - 20 TO 24 YEARS OLD SEX - MALE MUSCULARITY - AVERAGE

BONE MALFORMATION - Osteomyelitis of the left proximal tibiofibular articulation which probably produced a pronounced limp.

b. Unknown X-9451 from grave #2 - The anthropological examination of these minimal remains revealed the following physical characteristics:

RACE - CAUCASOID EST. HEIGHT - UTD AGE - ADULT SEX - MALE MUSCULARITY - SLENDER

3. CONCLUSIONS:

a. Remains Unknown X-9450 and X-9451 were recovered in separate graves (filled-in-foxholes) approximately one kilometer apart.

20 Jul 79 .

SUBJECT: Report on Recovery and Processing of WW II Remains, Unknowns X-9450 and X-9451 during S&R Mission #5134.

- b. Recovered with both remains were multiple, American manufactured clothing, equipment and ammunition that was used by US soldiers during WW II.
 - c. No name association was found for either remains.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. With regard to Unknown X-9450, it is recommended that your staff compare the post mortem physical characteristics of these remains against available health records of World War II casualties missing in the vicinity of Wallendorf, FRG near the Luxembourg border for possible identification. It is further recommended that if no name association is possible, that remains Unknown X-9450 be interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium with full military honors, as an unknown American soldier KIA during WW II.
- b. With regard to Unknown X-9451, paucity of remains recovered leads me to believe that these are additional portions of a previously recovered remains. Therefore, it is recommended that remains Unknown X-9451 be declared a CIL case and disposed of IAW, AR 638-40.

John S. Rogers

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Supv Mortuary Officer/ID