



ARR1-352874872

RES23281102

WNR-01-09-020-1-005-07-001

Transfer#: W092-70A0001

8916 Box: 178 CC:00

Asset#: AAC1-23781396

Whole Container: N

C/F: SASAOKA, ITSUMU, S SGT, 30101548

Created: 3/28/2011

General Reference

On-Site Review

Standard

On-site Review

N/A

*Done*

To: **REVIEW**

8115 8341 8750 8785 (8916)

**CONTROLLED CASE**

NAME  Sasaoka, Itsumi	GRADE  S/Sgt.	SERIAL NO.  301 01 548
DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THIS FILE WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIAISON OFFICE, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFICATION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials)  Lt De Weese	
UNKNOWN  X -	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO.  11495	A-2 CARD FLAGGED BY  333 CARD FLAGGED BY

**IMPORTANT**

THIS FORM MUST BE MAINTAINED ON TOP OF 293 FILE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL CANCELLED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION.  
ONLY THE "CONGRESSIONAL TOPPER", OQMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE  
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

SASAKA ITSUMU

RANK

SSG

SERIAL NUMBER

30 101548

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

1 MAR 46

AREA OF DEATH

POLAND

NAME OF AUDITOR

KATZ

DATE

18 SEP 53

NAME OF REVIEWER

M. DANT

DATE

21 SEP 53

REMARKS

file  
DANT  
22 SEP 53



31 DEC 53

QMGMO 293 Sasacka, Itsumu, S/Sgt.  
S. N. 30 101 548

*dk*

TO: CO, M11 Pers Rec Cen, TAGO FROM: OQMG Date: 30 Dec 53 Comment No. 2  
St. Louis, Mo. Memorial Div Mr. Kerscher/54309

Information quoted in letter to the next of kin pertaining to the death of S/Sgt. Itsumu Sasacka was received from the Overseas Command with the non-recoverable board findings. A careful review of the file indicates that this statement is in error. The letter to the next of kin should have stated "since he was reported missing on 31 January 1945 in the vicinity of Alt-Drewitz, Poland". All references in this letter pertaining to death or being killed are in error.

FOR THE ACTING THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Dec 30 1 35 PM '53

R.J. THOMAS, Lt. Colonel, QMG  
Memorial Division

FJK  
CRA

17846

AGRC-GS 201 Sasaoka,  
Itsumi 30 101 548  
(4 Dec 53)  
The Quartermaster General  
of the Army

Casualty Status

CO, Mil Pers Rec Cen, TAGO  
St. Louis 20, Mo.

23 Dec 53  
Mr. Medley/js/774

1. The records show that Itsumi Sasaoka, 30 101 548, was reported missing in action 22 October 1944, and based on information received through PMGO, records were amended 14 March 1945 to show that he was a German prisoner of war. He failed to return to military control after liberation of Stalag III-C, Altdrewitz, Poland, by Russian troops on 31 January 1945 and his status was officially changed to MIA on that date. His death was presumed to have occurred 1 March 1946, pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Missing Persons' Act (PL 490, 77th Cong).

2. The records show that on 6 June 1949 a review of the circumstances surrounding EM's disappearance was made and it was concluded that there was insufficient information available to justify issuance of an official report of death in his case.

3. There is on file a copy of TQMG letter to the mother of this former EM, dated 22 November 1949, file reference QMGMF 293, Sasaoka, Itsumi, SN 30 101 548, in which it is stated that he died on 31 January 1945. It is requested that this office be furnished a report on which this statement was based.

4. It is further requested that reply be expedited since action on a priority case is pending.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

H. H. Newman  
Colonel, AGG

Adjutant General



AGRC-GS 201 Sasaoka,  
Itsumi 30 101 548  
DEC 28 1953

3146 QMGMT ~~293~~  
GRS - EUROPEAN (Postic)  
*mde*

17 September 1953

SUBJECT: Deferred Search Roster, Poland

THRU: Commander-in-Chief  
United States Army, Europe  
APO 403, c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York

TO: Commanding Officer  
7770 USAREUR QM Mortuary Service Detachment  
APO 757, c/o Postmaster  
New York, New York

1. Recent review of files for decedents listed on the Deferred Search Roster, Poland resulted in the deletion of fifty-five (55) names. Inclosed is a listing of the deleted names.

2. All of subject cases are reinstated as nonrecoverables with the exception of Miller, Richard G., Z-412941 (civilian), which is considered closed by administrative decision. Public Law 383 has expired and there are no funds available to the Department of the Army to effect disposition of these remains.

FOR THE ACTING THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

1 Incl  
Listing

/s/ J. C. MacFARLAND  
/t/ J. C. MacFARLAND  
Lt Colonel, QMC  
Memorial Division

*copy for 293*

*MacFarland, J. C.*

*30101548*

## DELETION DEFERRED SEARCH CASES - POLAND

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
AHO, Edward W.	Sgt	36 831 090
ANDERSON, Frank	T/Sgt	19 101 445
ARBOGAST, Linn S.	Sgt	37 537 640
BAILEY, Walter A.	T/Sgt	13 094 692
BANIS, Paul P. C.	T/Sgt	11 057 199
BATES, Cecil R.	1/Lt	0 796 282
BEIMBRINK, William J.	2/Lt	0 715 691
BREWER, Robert R.	S/Sgt	14 163 552
BROWN, Frederick H.	S/Sgt	12 209 075
BURKLUND, Joel	Sgt	16 118 932
CAPUTO, Carl G.	S/Sgt	13 092 084
CURRAN, Joseph J.	T/Sgt	12 009 163
DAVIS, Otto S.	S/Sgt	18 118 499
EHRET, Clinton L.	2/Lt	0 742 186
ERICKSON, Bernard G.	Pvt	37 021 176
FARMER, Pat	Pvt	18 031 779
FOREMAN, Harry W., Jr	Sgt	33 562 898
FRY, William D.	Cpl	33 916 793
GILMORE, John H., Jr	2/Lt	0 682 109
GRAPEY, Sidney S.	1/Lt	0 719 850
HEIMBUEGER, John A.	S/Sgt	32 731 239
HILGER, James W.	2/Lt	02 060 988
KERLEY, Herman L.	Pvt	15 055 640
KESSEY, Clarence S.	S/Sgt	39 275 833
KIBBEE, Forrest H.	S/Sgt	6 143 557
KING, Theodore C.	1/Lt	0 820 033
LANGLEY, Theodore C.	T/Sgt	32 625 944
LUNETTA, Salvatore J.	Pfc	12 043 320
MASSIE, John, Jr.	Sgt	35 649 870
MAZUR, Michael F.	Sgt	32 120 824
McLEAN, Aloysious J.	Pvt	36 042 935
MERCER, Melvin A.	2/Lt	0 750 813
MILCZEWSKI, Edmund J.	T/Sgt	35 288 051
MILLER, Howard G.	S/Sgt	37 539 423
MILLER, Richard G.	M/Seaman	2 412 941

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>
MOORE, Lamoine C.	S/Sgt	15 714 587
MULLINS, James S.	1/Lt	0 805 517
MUNOZ, Ralph	2/Lt	0 757 018
MURRAY, Wallace G.	1/Lt	0 821 535
NAVINS, William G.	1/Lt	0 557 995
OFFER, Carl G.	Pfc	35 550 126
PETERSON, Donald P.	2/Lt	0 686 134
POPE, Donald E.	S/Sgt	13 127 857
SASACKA, Itsumu	S/Sgt	30 101 548
SCHAMS, Bernard W.	1/Lt	0 824 910
SHAFFER, Lukey C.	S/Sgt	18 219 607
SHIFE, Cletis P.	S/Sgt	6 944 175
SPANO, Frank	S/Sgt	16 025 333
SUMMEY, Bennie	Sgt	34 013 087
TRAUTMAN, Dale E.	T/Sgt	19 148 230
VICKERY, Joe P.	1/Lt	0 706 472
WALKER, Robert K.	2/Lt	0 754 396
WILLIAMS, Glenn A.	S/Sgt	20 813 905
WOOD, James N.	S/Sgt	35 320 174
ZIRN, Richard H.	T/5	35 289 235



*GA*

NAME SASAOKA, Itsumi  
RANK S/Sgt.  
ASN 30 101 548

MAP SHEET POLAND

*copy*

14 Nov. 51

# DEFERRED SEARCH CASE

# CANCELLED

1. Decedents name is currently on Deferred Search Agenda.
2. Request all action be suspended until otherwise notified by Liaison Office.

*Mary A. Edwards*

MARY A. EDWARDS  
Captain, QMC  
Chief Nonrecoverability Section  
Identification Branch

FILE NAT

*L. A. Cauffman*  
CAUFFMAN

Deferred Search Unit  
Investigation Section  
Identification Branch  
Memorial Division

*21 Nov 51*

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

TO: <i>PENTAGON LIAISON SECTION, MEMORIAL DIVISION</i>		DATE <b>1 Dec 1950</b>	
FROM (Branch and Section) <b>Identification Br., Final Det. Sec.</b>	REQUESTED BY <b>Line</b> <i>AK</i>	TEL. EXT. <b>73216</b>	ROOM NO. <b>1521 B</b>
NAME OF DECEDENT (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>SASAOKA, Itsumu</b> <i>ms</i>	RANK <b>S/Sgt</b>	SERIAL NUMBER <b>30 101 548</b> ✓	

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

All available dental information on above decedent.

## INFORMATION FURNISHED

Completed form attached

PENTAGON LIAISON SECTION OFFICER (Signature)

*R*  
D. A. KENNER  
MAJOR, QMC (R)  
QM PENTAGON LIAISON

293 FILE

**DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED**

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>SASAOKA, Itsumu</b>		GRADE <b>S/Sgt</b>	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER <b>30 101 548</b>
ORGANIZATION	RACE	CREED	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)
DATE OF DEATH/MIA	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA	
DATE OF FOD			
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR
		SHOE SIZE	

**INDUCTION DENTAL CHART**      DATE  **30 June 41**

UPPER RIGHT 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
LOWER RIGHT 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

ON ITSUMU SASAOKA RPT SASAOKA 30101548 ENL RECORDS & 201S SENT LYBROOK PA BR CAS SEC ROOM 1B739 17 MAY 49 201S HERE BUT ENL RECORDS NOT FOUND AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SRCH FORMS 79 NOT FOUND

TWX FR REC ADML GEN AGO SL NO 2 6 JAN 51

*21*

*No Dental Records available; ER & 201s reported to Be charged to P.A. Cas Br Pentagon 1B739- on 17th MAY 49 - Records not found in Pent. 31 Jan 51*

## NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS REEXAMINATION OF RECORDS

Area of Death Germany		Case Number
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) SASAKA, Itsumu	Rank S/Sgt.	Serial Number 30 101 548
In the course of this reexamination it has been determined that the circumstances of death were such that: (Check appropriate box)		
<input type="checkbox"/> The remains of the decedent could not have been recovered		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The remains of the decedent could have been recovered. However, after review of the following it has been determined that evidence does not exist to contradict a finding of non-recoverability:		
1. 293 File of Decedent		INITIALS OF ANALYST <i>DM</i>
2. Geographical clue index file of unknowns recovered from appropriate area, compared with decedent		<i>DM</i>
3. Other documents or sources		

## Remarks

*Dental - Same  
negative  
alt - security, Poland*

Identification data for the above decedent has been compared with QMC Forms 1944 for all Unresolved World War II Unknowns recovered from Alt-Drewitz, Poland, with negative results.

D. M. DEGEN

RECOMMEND APPROVAL		APPROVED	Date
Name of Case Analyst <i>DM Dege</i>	Case Reviewer, Final Determination Section <i>Drewitz</i>	Chief, Final Determination Section <i>Mary A. Edwards</i>	JUL 3 1951
		Mary A. Edwards 1st Lt. QMC	

TO: Chief, Investigation Section

SUBJECT: Deletion from Deferred Search Roster - Poland

SASAOKA, Itsumu, S/Sgt. ASN 30 101 548, Co "A", 100th Bn, 442 Inf Regt.

1. Nonrecoverable Findings for the above listed decedent were approved 20 October 1949. The next of kin has been advised of nonrecoverability.

2. S/Sgt Sasaoka was initially reported missing in action in France, 22 October 1944. According to records in the Adjutant General's Office, S/Sgt Sasaoka was last known to have been a prisoner of war at Stalag III-C, Alt-Drewitz, Poland, on 31 January 1945. Available information discloses that German POW Camp, Stalag III-C was liberated on 31 January 1945 by the Russians. Statements by returned POW's reveal that shortly after the prisoners were forced to evacuate the camp, they were fired upon by Russian tanks at a distance of 600-800 yards. Several men were killed or wounded at that time, while other prisoners were forced to find protection from the Russian and German cross fire.

3. S/Sgt Michael M. Tokunaga made the following statement concerning S/Sgt Sasaoka:

"\*\*\*\*Sgt Sasaoka lived with me in the same barracks and on the morning of Jan 31st, moved out together under German orders \* \* \* Approximately 2½ to 3 miles out of the camp, were suddenly fired upon by Russians who had mistaken the identity of the marching column. \* \* \* Sgt Sasaoka was alive at this moment. \* \* \* I crossed the road and lay down behind a tree. After that I did not see Sgt Sasaoka \* \* \*. I made my way back to the camp with the aid of two friends. I was separated from another Japanese-American boy, Sgt. Harry Kamikawa, the only one in this camp besides Sgt Sasaoka and myself. This boy went with a group of approximately 300 to be immediately rescued by the Russians. We each thought that Sgt Sasaoka was with the other. About two weeks later, I met Sgt Kamikawa in a small Polish town near the German border and was surprised to find that Sgt Sasaoka was not with him. \*\*\*\*I inquired but could not locate Sgt Sasaoka or learn of his fate. I do know that some bodies became unidentifiable due to shell fire and the result of Russian tanks crushing bodies. \*\*\*\*I believe the Russians could have identified him by means of his dog tags \*\*\*\*or a German prisoner identification tag, both of which I definitely know he had on his person. \*\*\* I cannot say that I saw the body of Sgt Sasaoka or saw him wounded but I believe that he is now dead. \*\*\*\*"

4. Sgt Harry Kamikawa states: \*\*\*\*"In all that excitement I did not see where Sgt Sasaoka went to, but I know for sure he wasn't one of the three hundred that ran toward the Russians because I was in that group and I asked all the boys if they had seen him and the answer was no."\*\*\*\*"

5. Information in file indicates that thorough investigations have been conducted by AGRS in an attempt to recover the remains of U.S. personnel buried near Stalag III-C campsite. Because of the restrictions imposed by the Polish Government on AGRC S&R activities it has not been possible to exhume all remains from large mass graves or unmarked graves. Remains recovered from the area have either been identified, or are carried as unidentifiable because of lack of identification media.

NAN  
File

Earl M. Coffey  
29 Jul 53  
Identification Branch

6. S/Sgt Sasaoka's name is not listed in the Alphabetical German Records file. Physical and dental data recorded for unknown remains recovered from the vicinity of Alt-Drewitz have been compared with like data recorded for S/Sgt Sasaoka with negative results.

7. Findings of nonrecoverability have been approved for the other nine (9) enlisted men listed on Board Findings with S/Sgt Sasaoka, however, the case of Paul J. Wisniewski, 32605898 has been approved for retention on the Deferred Search Roster inasmuch as German Records indicate a specific burial location in the cemetery at Alt-Drewitz, Poland. The other eight (8) cases are being submitted under separate cover for deletion from the Deferred Search Roster.

RECOMMEND deletion from the Deferred Search Roster.

*Nell M. Farmer*  
Nell M. Farmer - Investigator  
Investigation Unit #3

CONCURRENCES:

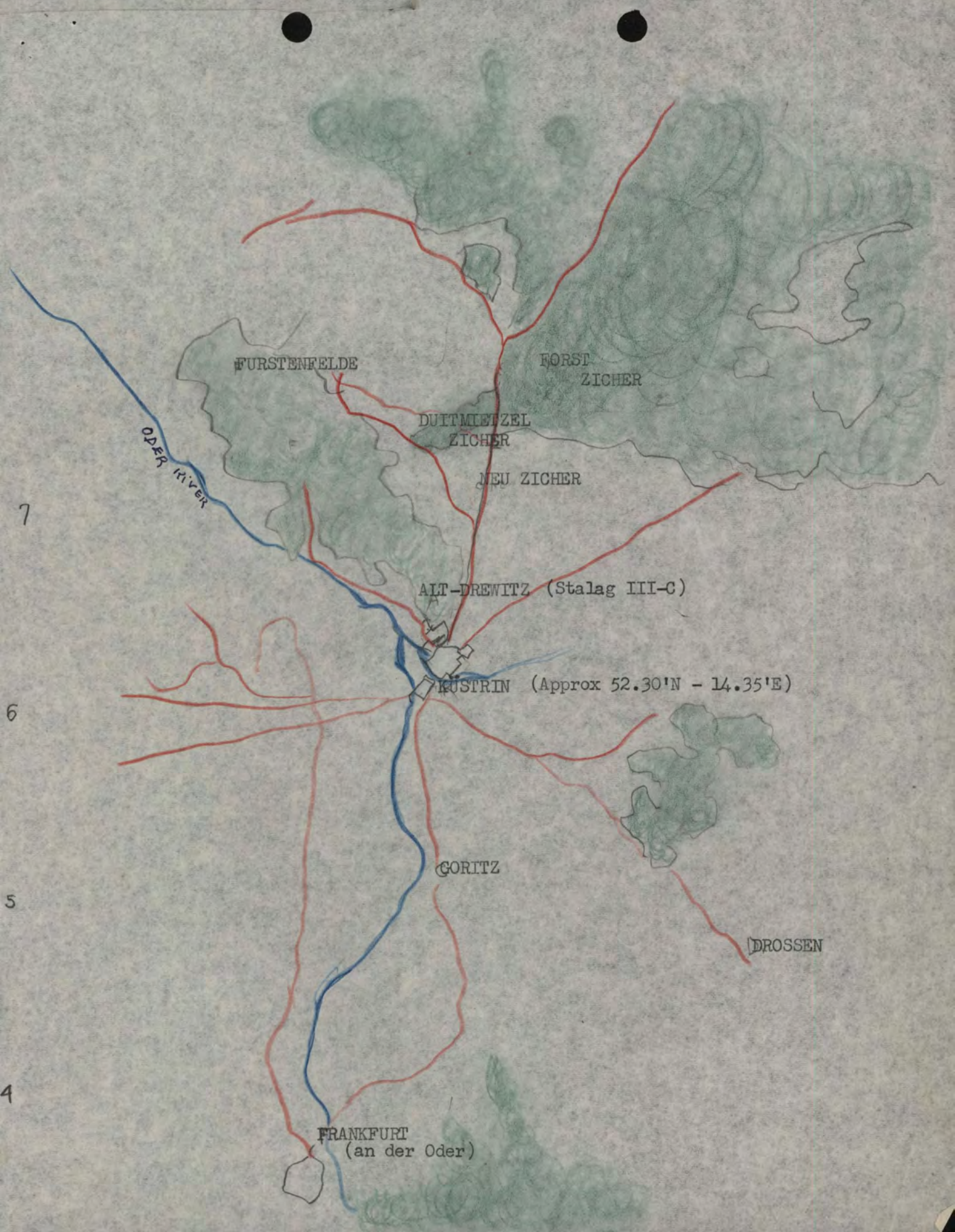
*C. J. Moyer*  
C. J. Moyer - Supervisor  
Investigation Unit #3

*Mary A. Clements*  
Unit #1

*C. C. Salser*  
C. C. Salser - Section Supervisor

JOHN L. JACKS, JR.  
Major, QMC  
Chief, Investigation Section

*Amman  
Jan  
58 July 5 '3*



TESTIMONY OF AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

Testimony of S/Sgt Othold, S/Sgt Udvardy, Sgt Coletti and Cpl Vavro

"Details of Evacuation of Stalag 3C and death of Cpl Hall"

The Germans, realizing that the Russian forces were close, made two attempts to get the prisoners out of the stalag. Both attempts were unsuccessful because before the column had gone three (3) miles, the Russians had fired at the head of the column with their tanks. The Germans then left and we were soon under control of the Russian forces. All this occurred on January 31, 1945. We left the camp in a body and went to a town called Zorndorff on Feb. 3, 1945.

We left Zorndorff in small bodies on Feb. 5 and our mission was to reach Landsberg where we hoped to get help from the American Consul. We reached Landsberg on Feb 9. We were delayed at Heudamm by the Russians for 3 days. We then learned we would receive help at Friedberg. We arrived at Friedberg on Feb 17 staying at small towns on the way. We lived in civilian homes and traveled by trucks and foot. Finding no help there we made our way to Gnesen, Poland. We arrived there on Feb. 23, staying at civilian homes as before and the Polish civilians were very good to us. We stayed at the Red Cross for 4 days at Gnesen. On the 27th we left for Warsaw which we arrived at on March 1. On the way we passed the towns of Wrzesmiz, Kolo, Sohogen, and Praga. We left Warsaw March 2, and arrived in Lublin the same day.

Cpl Hall slept in the same room with me at the Stalag. On Feb 2 around 3:30 P.M. he left the barracks, saying that he was going to walk around the compound. At 4:30 P.M. German planes attacked the Russians who were outside the camp. The German planes strafed and bombed; some of the bombs landed in the camp. The next morning we found out that he had been hit by a butterfly bomb, which was dropped by a German plane the day before Feb 2. He was hit in the back of the neck and head. We buried him in the corner of our compound. He was buried with prayers and as well a funeral as we could give him. His grave is marked by a cross.

Copied from 293 file of Francis R. Hall, Cpl.  
38021715

^ Gnesen or Gniezno  
^ Wrzesmiz

NOTE: All places mentioned were checked for possible recoveries which might be associated with S/Sgt Shipe or S/Sgt Sasaoka - Negative results. nmf



## T E S T I M O N Y

16 December 1947  
Kostrzyn (Kustrin)

Translation:

To the American Military Mission of Exhumation in Warsaw.

The Town Administration states that the town Kostrzyn is destroyed 98% and therefore it is impossible to locate American graves, especially because there are about 50,000 graves in our territory, including the Camp of Drezewice (Alt-Drewitz), Stalag III C - and in one common grave in the forest near Drzewice where the prisoners of war were buried.

It is stated that the prisoners of war were buried in common graves without clothing and the graves were not marked with crosses nor plates.

When the American Mission arrived here, thanks to the report in the possession of this Mission we found five American graves. Two graves were found in the area of Stalag III C.

One American grave was found in the German cemetery (the territory was mined by Germans) in the forest "Waldfriedhof". The grave was located between the graves of French POWs and marked with a cross with a plate with the inscription which read the first and second name of the deceased. There was also an American flag.

Besides that there were two American graves at Zicher found after the information which was given by the local people. One grave was marked with a plate with Russian inscription which read that "here lays an American airman". The second grave was not marked although the local population told us that there was a plate before, giving the information that the remains were that of an American citizen.

In spite of a thorough search conducted by myself and by Lt. Lapinski we were unable to find more American graves.

If the Administration of the Town is able to get some additional information we shall immediately call the American Military Mission, Hotel Bristol, Warsaw.

(SEAL)

/t/ Kazimierz Reszka  
Burgermeister of Kostrzyn

NOTE: The above Testimony copied from 293 file of LUNETTA, Salvatore J.  
FTC, 12 043 320.

C  
O  
P  
YC  
O  
P  
Y

AGEX -293.9

1st Ind.

POLAND DETACHMENT, PFC, AGRS, APO-742, US ARMY.

12 May 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, First Field Command, AGRS, APO-62,  
US Army

1. The attached case has been partially solved with three or four deceased remaining unrecovered.
2. Cpl Francis R. Hall and Pvt William C. Calhoun were found in the compound of Stalag III C and shipped to CIP as identified under evacuation number IF-10, 151 and IF-10, 152 respectively. Stalag III C is located at Alt-Drewitz (O-53/V-66) Poland.
3. S/Sgt Robert J. Abney was recovered from Zicher (O-53/V-77) Poland with one unknown and shipped to CIP as IF-10, 155.
4. No trace of the three listed in para 1a was found or any indication of a positive burial during the two investigations that were conducted at Kustrin. A large number of unknown graves were opened in Kustrin and vicinity on both investigations but no American dead were found.
5. Attached as Incl. 2 is a burgermeister's statement from Kustrin. He has conducted a supplementary search for American graves in Kustrin and vicinity for the last four months without results.
6. *x-7273 New York (unidentifiable)* One unknown was found at Zicher near S/Sgt Abney and shipped to the CIP as IF-10, 154. All findings should be reexamined to compare him with S/Sgt Herman Curley listed in ld basis. If the body is not that of Curley he must be considered unrecoverable.

/s/ Charles J. Jorgensen  
/t/ CHARLES J. JORGENSEN  
Maj FA  
Detachment Commander

NOTE: The above was copied from 293 file of LUNETTA, Salvatore J. 12043320

INVESTIGATION CASE # 254923 April 1948

1. At Kustrin (Kostrzyn) (O-53/V-66) Poland we went to the community cemetery which is located in the center of the town. This is a large cemetery of Russian, German, civilian and Polish graves. Uncovered many graves but nothing was found to indicate American remains.

2. We went to the Burgermeister's office to check some burial records which he has. We found a list of the Russians which are buried here, which has been translated to Polish. We checked this and found there were no names as listed in cases: #2549 and 10146.

24 April 1948

3. We went back to the community cemetery in the center of the town, and uncovered a common grave which was pointed out by a civilian who states that he heard from other people that American deceased were buried there. Upon disinterment we found the deceased to be Russians as they were dressed in the Russian Army uniforms. To make sure we checked the teeth but they do not correspond with our OJMG forms 371.

/s/ T/Sgt Wilmer C. Fason  
/t/ T/Sgt WILMER C. FASON  
Investigator AGEC  
PFC Poland Detachment

NOTE: The above investigation was copied from 293 file of LUNETTA, Salvatore J., PFC 12 043 320.

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

In Reply Refer to OSMG 293  
Wisniewski, Paul J.  
32 605 898

9 July 1946

BURIAL INFORMATION

NAME: Wisniewski, Paul J.

GRADE: T/5

A S N 32 605 898

DATE OF DEATH: 12 December 1944.

The following information has been received in this office, and is forwarded for aid in recovering this deceased.

PLACE OF DEATH: Prisoner of War Hospital, Division at Alt Drewitz III C,  
Kuestrin, Germany.

PLACE OF BURIAL: Community Cemetery at Alt Drewitz/Kuestrin, Germany

Above information has been obtained from: Captured German Records.

Transmittal Ltr No. 19/E, dtd 9 July 1946

Incl 36

OJMS FORM 319

7 May 1945

## BURIAL INFORMATION

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) :	ASN	:	GRADE
WISNIEWSKI, Paul J.	32605898	:	
ORGANIZATION		:	Date of Death
Medical Corps		:	12 December 1944
PLACE		:	Date of Burial
Alt Drewitz, "Kustrin Community Cemetery		:	15 December 1944
		:	Date of Reburial

## REMARKS

The above named was taken prisoner in France 12 June 1944. He died in a POW Camp Hospital at Alt Drewitz/Kustrin, 12 December 1944 of Cerebral Emboly and Apoplectic seizure. Funeral took place on 15 December 1944 at 15:00 o'clock with military honors. The Catholic Priest officiated. Personal effects will be sent to the Information Bureau of the German Armed Forces. Family address: 13 Henry Place, Hackensack, New Jersey.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland.

Alt Drewitz is in the suburbs of Kustrin.



WISNIEWSKI, Paul J.

Stalag X

32605898

24.8.44 Stg IV B

German Records -- Died 12 Dec 44 at 1525 at P.W. Hosp. Div. at Alt  
Drewitz (Küstrin III C.)

Buried 15 Dec 44 at 15 at Alt-Drewitz/Küstrin

(Original records in file of Paul J. Wisniewski with photograph with name)

26 Aug 44 from XII A to IV B

19 Sep 44 from IV B to III C

12 Dec 44 died IIIC Alt Drewitz/Küstrin (cerebral embolism)

MEMO ~~293~~ 293  
100th Infantry Battalion

4 August 1950

Mr. Masaji Yamagata  
Executive Secretary, Club 100  
1444 Nuuanu Avenue  
Post Office Box 1636  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Yamagata:

On 26 May 1949 the Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, Pacific Zone, sent us a roster of certain decedents of the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) and asked in your behalf that we furnish information on the status of the cases. Certain of the remains were at that time unrecovered.

We are now in a position to furnish you final information on certain names on the roster:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. HONDA, RICHARD M.<br>Pfc., 30 100 958 | Individually identified and reinterred in Plot P, Grave 401, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at the request of his father, Mr. Seisaburo Honda, 1363 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.                            |
| 2. OTSUKA, JIRO<br>Pvt., 30 103 675      | Individual identification recently established. Remains are to be reinterred in the Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Hanapepe, Kauai, T. H., at the request of his mother, Mrs. Sano Otsuka, Post Office Box 1053, Lihue, Kauai, Territory of Hawaii. |
| 3. SASAOKA, ITSUMI<br>S/Sgt., 30 101 548 | Remains have been declared non-recoverable. Information has been furnished to his mother, Mrs. Chiyono Sasaoka, Kabanachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi, Asagun, Japan.  |

According to our records, with this letter we have furnished you information on all the cases about which you made inquiry. If I can be of further service to you, please feel free to write at any time.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. W. HUGHAN, JR.  
Colonel, JAC  
Memorial Division

eek

HM

*Copy  
use as given*

X-293, Sasaoka, Itsumi SN 30 101 548 S/Sgt.



QMCMF 293  
Sasocka, Itsumu  
SN 30 101 548

22 November 1949

Mrs. Chiyono Sasocka  
Kabemachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi,  
Asagun, Japan

Dear Mrs. Sasocka:

More than four years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II which cost the life of your son, the late Staff Sergeant Itsumu Sasocka, and it is with reluctance that I am writing to you, for I must furnish information which may bring added sorrow.

Full consideration has been given to all available information pertaining to your son since he was reported killed on 31 January 1945 in the vicinity of Alt-Drewitz, Poland. According to the reports received from our Overseas Command and Department of the Army records, the German Prisoner of War Camp Stalag III-C was liberated on 31 January 1945 by the Russians. At that time your son, with other Prisoners of War were forced to evacuate the camp. All of the prisoners, according to statements obtained from several of the survivors, had marched only a short distance when they were caught between Russian and German cross fire and were forced to find what protection they could in the open field, where the skirmish took place. When the fighting ceased there were many Prisoners of War dead and wounded, and your son was one of the dead.

Subsequent to the reported death of your son, units of the American Graves Registration Service thoroughly searched the area in which he was known to have been killed, however, no trace could be found of his remains. In order to determine whether your son's remains had been recovered, a check was made of the records of all the cemeteries throughout the vicinity of which he was reported killed, but no information pertaining to the location of his remains was found. A further contact was made with the Russian authorities in the hope that they might have records of American prisoners released by them, but they state there are no such records in Potsdam or Berlin.

In view of the fact that the extensive investigations conducted by our forces in the field failed to reveal any trace of your son's remains, the Department of the Army has been forced to conclude that his remains are not recoverable. I wish to assure you that, should any additional evidence come to our attention indicating that his remains are in possession, you will be informed immediately.

QMCMF 293  
Sasocka, Itsumu  
SN 30 101 548

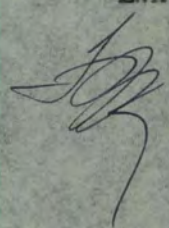
22 November 1949

Realizing the extent of your grief and anxiety, it is not easy to express condolence to you who gave your loved one under circumstances so difficult that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your son's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

L. W. ALLEN  
Lt. Colonel, QMC  
Memorial Division

LWA



*HLW/bc*  
*cc:AGO*  
*Emailed direct*

NOV 22 4 05 PM '49  
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH  
P.O. M.C.



NON-RECOVERABLE CASE RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL		CASE NUMBER 11 495 (10)	
		AREA OR ZONE(S) European	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) <u>SASAKA, Itsumi</u>	RANK S/Sgt.	SERIAL NUMBER 30 101 548	
THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND THE FINDINGS OF NON-RECOVERABILITY OF THE REMAINS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) ARE APPROVED. (Corrections in name, rank, and/or serial number have been effected when appropriate.)			
The above decedent and nine (9) others.			
IN THE COURSE OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN EXAMINED FOR ADDITIONAL CLUES. COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS BELIEVED MATERIAL TO THE CASE ARE ATTACHED FOLLOWING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW.			
	INITIALS OF ANALYST	(CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE)	INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S)	<i>ABK</i>	a. <del>REPORT OF DEATH</del> b. FINDING OF DEATH c. <del>STATUS REVIEW &amp; DETERMINATION</del>	<i>ABK</i>
3. A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS	<i>ABK</i>	4. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN(S) RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	<i>ABK</i>
5. ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWN(S)	<i>ABK</i>	6. ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UNKNOWN(S) NOW IDENTIFIED	<i>ABK</i>
7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES	NONE		<i>ABK</i>
THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY AS PRESENTED IN THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:			
SEE: ATTACHED STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION.			
NAME OF CASE ANALYST <u>A. Kennedy/vmw</u>		CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO <u>Repatriation Br - Correspondence Sec.</u> FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.	
RECOMMEND APPROVAL	APPROVED	DATE	
CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>W.A. Wolf</i> W. A. WOLF	CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>W.R. DeWeese</i> W.R. DeWEESE, 1st Lt QMC	CHIEF, IDENTIFICATION BRANCH <i>G.W. Rogers</i> by G.W. ROGERS, Capt QMC	20 Oct 1949

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

18 October 1949

The ten (10) decedents referred to in the attached Board Findings are believed to have been killed by gun-fire from Russian tanks on the 31 January 1945 during the evacuation of a German Prisoner of War Camp, Stalag III-C, near the village of Alt-Drewitz, Poland.

Information extracted from the Adjutant General's Casualty files reveals that the German guards forced the American and Russian Prisoners of War to leave Stalag III-C. They had marched only a short distance when they were caught between Russian and German cross fire.

An investigation revealed that Stalag III-C had been burned to the ground when the Russians liberated it. No records could be found and it is believed that they were lost in the fire.

At the Community Cemetery which is very large, the American Graves Registration Service made a search and found many unmarked single graves. Since the old German population had been completely evacuated, the people now living in the village have no idea who are buried in these graves. The 293 file of Paul Wisniewski contains a German burial card showing the Community Cemetery at Alt-Drewitz as his burial place. Possibly he is in this group of unmarked graves.

An extensive exhumation of unmarked graves in this town and vicinity was unsuccessful. The American Graves Registration Officials found that most of the bodies exhumed were without clothing or other identification and they were unable to identify any one of them as American by comparing the tooth charts on OQMG Forms # 371.

At Forest Cemetery a visual check was made. There is a large plot of French Prisoner of War Graves but they all have names and the French Colors on the crosses and were buried during 1940 and 1941. There were no graves that could possibly be those of Americans.

No unknowns recovered from this area can be associated with subject decedents.

All information secured confirms the Findings and substantiates the recommendations made by the Overseas Board.

*A. Kennedy*  
A. KENNEDY  
Analyst

3 Oct 49  
11,495

13 SEPT 1949

HEADQUARTERS  
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND  
EUROPEAN AREA  
APO 58 U S ARMY

Proceedings of a Board of Officers appointed in accordance with letter AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47), D-M, War Dept, TAGO, 9 April 1947.

The board convened pursuant to par 4, SO No.33, Headquarters American Graves Registration Command, APO 58, U.S. Army, 22 March 1948, as amended by par 1, SO 43, Hq AGRC dated 19 April 1949 and par 4, SO 92, Hq AGRC dated 17 August 49, at the Astoria Hotel, Paris, France on 13 SEPT 1949. The purpose of the Board was to determine the non-recoverability status of certain casualties now under jurisdiction of this command.

The board reviewed report of investigation, statements of witnesses and other papers contained in the files of American Graves Registration Command, EA, pertaining to the case of the following named casualty/casualties, the remains of which have not been recovered. The case records and other data considered, are attached.

CASE NO	NAME	ASN	GRADE
<i>Farmer</i>	SASACKA, Itsumi	30101548	S/Sgt
<i>Farmer</i>	SHIPE, Cletis P.	6944175	S/Sgt
<i>Fields</i>	AHO, Edward W.	36831090	Sgt
<i>Dumigan</i>	FOREMAN, Harry W. Jr.	33562898	Sgt
<i>Martin</i>	SUMMEY, Bennie	34013087	Sgt
<i>Rosen</i>	CURRAN, Joseph J.	12009163	T/Sgt
<i>Sparks</i>	ZIRN, Richard H.	35289235	T/5
<i>Sparks - app. Retention</i>	WISNIEWSKI, Paul J.	32605898	T/5
<i>Martin</i>	OPFER, Carl G.	35550126	Pfc
<i>Fleming</i>	McLEAN, Aloysius J.	36042935	Pvt

**FINDINGS:** The board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds the remains of said casualty/casualties are non-recoverable.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the case concerning subject casualty/casualties be forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General for final approval.

JACK C. HAYES, Capt. QMC

*Gaylord E. Lutz*  
GAYLORD E. LUTZ, 1 Lt., QMC

*E. D. Mulvanity*  
E. D. MULVANITY, Lt Col. QMC

*H. P. Henry*  
H. P. HENRY, Colonel, QMC

(Non-Recoverable)

HEADQUARTERS  
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND  
EUROPEAN AREA  
APO 58 US ARMY

RRE 293.9 (IB)

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

TO: Non-Recoverable Board AGRC

1. It is recommended that the board take action on the following case:

NAME:	<sup>0/</sup> SASACKA, Itsumi	S/Sgt	30101548
ORGANIZATION:	Co "A" 100th Bn 442 Inf Rgt		
NAME:	SHIPE, Cletis P.	S/Sgt	6944175
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "G" 60th Inf. Rgt.		
NAME:	AHO, Edward W.	Sgt	36831090
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "D" 134 Inf Rgt		
NAME:	FOREMAN, Harry W. Jr.	Sgt	33562898
ORGANIZATION:	Hq Co. 117th Inf Rgt 30 Inf Div		
NAME:	SUMMEY, Bennie	Sgt	34013087
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "A" 117 Inf Rgt 30 Inf Div		
NAME:	CURRAN, Joseph J.	T/Sgt	12009163
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "K" 18 Inf Rgt 1 Inf Div		
NAME:	ZIRN, Richard H.	T/5	35289235
ORGANIZATION:	Hq Co. 401 Glider Inf.		
NAME:	WISNIEWSKI, Paul J.	T/5	32605898
ORGANIZATION:	Med. Det. 115 Inf Rgt 29 Inf Div		
NAME:	OFFER, Carl G.	Pfc	35550126
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "C" 508 Paracht Inf		
NAME:	McLEAN, Aloysious J.	Pvt	36042935
ORGANIZATION:	Co. "A" 17 Tank Bn		

PLACE OF DEATH: Vicinity of Alt-Drewitz, Poland

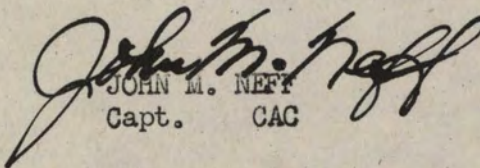
DATE OF DEATH: 31 January 1945

SYNOPSIS OF CASE: The above ten men were killed on 31 January 1945 during the evacuation of Stalag III C, by fire from Russian tanks. The following information was extracted from AG Casualty files: " We were told by our German guards that we were to prepare to leave the camp. At the time we did not want to leave so we tried our best to stall as long as we could. We were supposed to leave at 7 o'clock and finally at 11 in the morning they made us leave by force. We started out marching. About 3 or 4 kilometers from the camp, Russian tanks at a distance of about 600-800 yards opened fire at the front of the column. There were about 25 to 35 men killed at the time and quite a few wounded. After that happened we were all disorganized. -- We had not marched long before we were caught between Russian and German cross fire. We were forced to find what protection we could in the open field where the skirmish took place. When the fighting ceased there were many dead and wounded. The wounded we took to a Russian Aid Station. At that point we were told to make our way, the best way we could to Warsaw. I wish that I could give more definite information concerning these men, but each of us was thrown upon his own, and the struggle to get across Poland and down to Odessa, occupied each man individually." "G-1 assigned an officer to the investigation and after obtaining a Russian permit that officer proceeded to Alt-Drewitz where he contacted the Russian authorities. He found that Stalag III C had been burned to the ground at the time the Russian Army liberated it. This had been done by the freed American and Russian prisoners of War and Polish civilians. The Russians have no records pertaining to the camp and it is assumed they were lost in the fire. There are quite a number of dead buried there in a common grave, but there is no way to identify them and to distinguish the Americans from the Russians. A further contact was made with the Russian authorities in the hope that they might have records of the American prisoners released by them, but they stated that there were no such records in Potsdam or Berlin." Two thorough investigations have been conducted on this case with negative results. Extensive exhumations of un-marked graves in Alt-Drewitz and vicinity was unsuccessful. Most of the bodies were found to be without clothing or identification. In Poland AGRC has been limited to one exhumation team, therefore it has been impossible to work on large mass graves or on all unmarked graves in localities where they were extremely numerous. All graves that were suspected were opened. The village is practically deserted due to almost total destruction and there are no residents left who were there during the war. There is no question that the burials of the dead listed above occurred, however, no clues were found to substantiate this supposition. In view of the fact that it is unlikely that Graves Registration teams will be permitted to re-enter this area for further investigations, it is suggested that the case of subject ten deceased be closed.

Reference is made to OQMG Forms 371 (ten men); Narrative, 13 July 1948; Letter FFC, 12 May 1948; Narrative, 23 April 1948.

2. All attached supporting documents are copied from records in file headquarters American Graves Registration Command.

3. It is recommended that the remains, based upon the above information and research, be declared non-recoverable.

  
JOHN M. NEFF  
Capt. CAC



283 FILE

## DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) SASACKA Itsumi		GRADE S/Sgt	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 30101548	
ORGANIZATION Co "A" 100th Bn 442nd Inf		RACE Japanese	CREED none	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 22 Oct 44	CAUSE OF DEATH POW declared dead	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA France		
DATE OF FOD 22 Oct 44				
HEIGHT 5'5½"	WEIGHT 125	COLOR EYES brown	COLOR HAIR brown	SHOE SIZE 7 E

## DENTAL CHART 30 Jun 41

UPPER RIGHT 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
LOWER RIGHT 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

X=Extracted

O=Carious

1=Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK
	None

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
MIA in France. Last shown to be a POW at Stalag IIIC, Germany.

BERLIN DETACHMENT (PROV)  
FIRST FIELD COMMAND  
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND  
EUROPEAN AREA  
BERLIN GERMANY

APO 742-A  
13 July 1948

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION  
Seefeld, Germany  
(N 53/V 06; 1:250.000)

The undersigned, with S/Sgt Koch, interpreter, T/5 Mike Zuber, interpreter, and a Russian escort officer, arrived in SEEFELD at 1900 hours, to investigate AGRC Case # 4064.

We talked with Herr Zeimer, the Burgermeister, and the chief of police. The chief of police said he had been in Bonn during the war. However, Herr Zeimer said he had lived in Seefeld during the entire war.

According to Herr Zeimer, statement attached, only the headquarters to Stalag III C came to Seefeld during the month of February 1945. The camp and the prisoners of war were moved from Kuestrin, now in territory claimed and occupied by Poland, during the latter part of January and the first part of February. No records remained in the town.

The incident of the shooting of American POW's during the interception of a forced march by the Russians occurred on 31 January 1945. This is mentioned in connection with cases 4064 and 5255, and the cases involving Harry W. Foreman, Jr., Itsumi Sasacka, Bennie Summey, and Carl S. Opfer. The above dates correspond with this story.

The Russians did not arrive in Seefeld until April 21 of that year so it is hardly possible that they intercepted a forced march of prisoners in January on that year in this vicinity.

The Burgermeister also states that the prisoners were not brought to Seefeld but were transported to Luckenwalde Map sheet N 53/Y 07. He was also unfamiliar with any incident involving Americans in this town but said all allied dead were buried in a military cemetery in WERNEUCHEN Map sheet N 53/V 06. This unit had disinterred five (5) deceased airmen from that town in September 1947.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the remains of deceased recovered in POLAND in the vicinity of KUESTRIN be compared with the physical records of these believed to have been killed in this incident. The date of the incident places it beyond doubt on the eastern side of the Oder-River.

OWEN L. NEATHERY  
1st Lt INF  
Investigating Officer

POLAND DETACHMENT  
FIRST FIELD COMMAND  
AGRC  
US MILITARY ATTACHE WARSAW, POLAND

12 May 1948

SUBJECT: Unrecovered Remains

TO : Commanding Officer, First Field Command, AGRC,  
EA, APO 62, US Army.

1. Transmitted herewith are basic reporting documents for AGRC Case # 3390 which we have been unable to solve.

2. Two investigations by this detachment at Alt-Drewitz (Drzewice) (O-53/V-66) Poland and vicinity failed to disclose any information that would aid in locating the graves of these dead.

3. Extensive exhumation of unmarked graves in this town and vicinity was also unsuccessful. Most of the bodies exhumed were found to be without clothing or identification and we were unable to identify anyone of them as American by comparing the tooth charts on OQM Form # 371. In Poland we have been limited by the Polish Government to one exhumation team and have not, therefore, been able to work on large mass graves or on all unmarked graves in localities where they were extremely numerous. All graves that were suspected were opened.

4. The village is practically deserted due to almost total destruction and there are no residents who were there during the war. This is not unusual in that part of Poland, but is more true here than elsewhere as it is only 2 km from the German frontier and the old German population has been thoroughly evacuated.

5. There is no question that the burials of the dead listed on the attached cases occurred but we have found no clues and must close them as unrecoverable. If any former prisoner of war from Stalag III C can be located who can say precisely where any of these men are buried it is just possible that a special re-entry into Poland to recover the bodies could be arranged.

CHARLES J. JORGENSEN  
Major FA  
Detachment Commander

## NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

23 April 1948

1. Alt-Drewitz (Drzewice) O-53/V-66, Poland is a village which is practically deserted due to the damage caused by artillery fire during the war. We went to the Burgermeister's home and asked Grzegorz Torbiczuk if he knew about any American deceased or burial place. He states that he has only been here for the past two years and that there are no burial records. We tried to get the name and addresses of some of the old Germans who were here during the war but he states that they have all left and most of them are in Germany.

2. We then started asking every civilian on the street if they knew of the burial place of any American prisoners of war who died in the Stalag Camp here. They all gave the same answer that they have only been here a short time. We tried to locate some of the old Germans who were in this area during the war but there are none living here at the present time. We drove to the forest cemetery where we made a thorough visual check with negative results. There is a large plot of French Prisoners of War graves but they all have names and the French colors on the crosses. There were no graves that we thought could be possibly American. The French were buried in 1940 and 1941.

3. At the Community Cemetery we made a search of the cemetery and found many unmarked single graves. The people of the village have no idea who are buried in these graves. We have a German green burial card showing the community cemetery Alt-Drewitz as the burial place of Paul Wisniewski, possibly he is in this group of unmarked graves. Started opening the graves from one end of the unmarked rows. We found the deceased all buried without clothing and in coffins. As we opened each coffin we checked the teeth with each form 371 on the men we have missing in this area. We have been unable to find dental work which corresponds with any of the form 371. There is positively no information as to who is buried and since the deceased have no clothing the only thing we have to depend on is the dental work. To-morrow we will return and continue our exhumations.

24 April 1948

4. We went to the Community Cemetery and continued uncovering the unmarked graves. Many unmarked graves were uncovered but nothing was found to indicate American remains.

5. The Community Cemetery here is very large. One big section has no mounds at all and it is possible that there may be some burials there with the dirt just leveled off even with the ground. It would be impossible to dig up this complete area in a few weeks or months. The complete absence of mounds made any effective work impossible.

T/Sgt Wilmer C. Fason  
Investigator AGRC  
Poland Detachment

*Handwritten mark*

QMGMS 293  
Sasocka, Itsomi  
SN 30 101 548  
Foreman, Harry W.  
SN 33 562 898

28 February 1949

Mr. Alton McGraw  
Meadow Bridge, West Virginia  
Dear Mr. McGraw:

This Office is trying to obtain all possible information relative to the fate of S/Sgt. Itsomi Sasocka, 30101548 and Sgt. Harry W. Foreman, 33562898, reported in Stalag III C Drewitz, Poland when the camp was liberated by the Russians on 31 January 1945.

Records this Office reveal that you were a POW in Stalag III C at this time and it would be of the utmost value if you could furnish information relative to their exact place of burial.

Any information you may be able to furnish this Office will be greatly appreciated.

In reply, please use the self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, in order to expedite delivery.

Sincerely yours,

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

1 Incl.  
Envelope

FEB 20 1 50 PM '49  
QMGMS  
M R C



JCP/rvs

*Handwritten initials*

*Handwritten initials*  
GWR  
NJS

*Reclassified 10-10-49  
JH mJ*

QMGMS 293  
Sasocka, Itsemi  
SN 30 101 548  
Foreman, Harry W.  
SN 33 562 898

28 February 1949

Mr. Edward Imbirowicz  
1219 Jervis  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Mr. Imbirowicz:

This Office is trying to obtain all possible information relative to the fate of S/Sgt. Itsemi Sasocka, 30101548 and Sgt. Harry W. Foreman, 33562898, reported in Stalag III C Drewitz, Poland when the camp was liberated by the Russians on 31 January 1945.

Records this Office reveal that you were a POW in Stalag III C at this time and it would be of the utmost value if you could furnish information relative to their exact place of burial.

Any information you may be able to furnish this Office will be greatly appreciated.

In reply, please use the self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, in order to expedite delivery.

Sincerely yours,

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

1 Incl  
Envelope  
FEB 22 1949  
JCF/rvs

GWR  
NJS

QMMS 293  
Sasocka, Itsomi  
SN 30 101 548  
Foreman, Harry W.  
SN 33 562 898

28 February 1949

Mr. Gilbert Gann  
1513 East Broadway  
Long Beach, California

Dear Mr. Gann:

This Office is trying to obtain all possible information relative to the fate of S/Sgt. Itsomi Sasocka, 30101548 and Sgt. Harry W. Foreman, 33562898, reported in Stalag III C Drewitz, Poland when the camp was liberated by the Russians on 31 January 1945.

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In reply, please use the self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, in order to expedite delivery.

Sincerely yours,

FEB 20 12 55 PM '49  
QMMS  
Incl Envelope  
JCP/rvs

T. H. METZ  
Lt. Colonel, QMC  
Memorial Division  
FEB 28 1949

JmmR  
GWR

NJS

AG 704 (31 Jan 45)

Lmmh/1B739/4846

6 June 1949

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Review of Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance  
of Personnel Presumed Dead

1. The following personnel were determined to be missing in action on 31 January 1945 when they failed to return to military control after the liberation of Stalag 3C, Altdrewitz, Poland, on 31 January 1945, by Russian troops:

293

T Sgt	Curran, Joseph J.	12009163
S Sgt	Sasaoka, Itsumu	30101548
S Sgt	Shipe, Cletis P.	6944175
Sgt	Aho, Edward W.	36831090
Sgt	Foreman, Harry W., Jr.	33562898
Sgt	Summey, Bennie	34013087
Pfc	Opfer, Carl G.	35550126
Pvt	McLean, Aloysious J.	36042935

Under the provisions of Section 5, Missing Persons Act, a Finding of Death was issued for each of these men, showing the presumed date of death as 1 March 1946 (SR&D No. 5506).

2. Inquiries were addressed to personnel known to have been at Stalag 3C in an effort to determine the status of these men. The pertinent portions of the replies received are quoted below:

a. About T Sgt Joseph J. Curran former T Sgt Frank Hegodus, 12014540, Infantry, furnished the following statement in a letter dated 17 October 1945:

\*\*\*

"When the Germans evacuated the Americans out of camp, they ran into a Russian patrol, the Russians open fire, and few Americans were killed, T/Sgt. Curran was one of them. I didn't see T/Sgt. Curran body, but friends of mine say that they saw him dead."

b. About S Sgt Itsumu Sasaoka S Sgt Michael M. Tokunaga, 30101011, furnished the following information in a letter dated 12 December 1945:

\*\*\* Sgt Sasaoka lived with me in the same barracks and on the morning of Jan. 31st, moved out together under German orders \*\*\*. Approximately 2½ to 3 miles out of the camp, we were suddenly fired upon by Russians who had mistaken the identity of the marching column.\*\*\* Sgt. Sasaoka was alive at this moment. \*\*\* I crossed the road and lay down behind a tree. After that I did not see Sgt. Sasaoka \*\*\*. I made my way back to the camp with the aid of two friends. I was separated from another Japanese-American boy, Sgt. Harry Kamikawa, the only one in this camp besides Sgt. Sasaoka and myself. This boy went with a group of approximately 300 to be immediately rescued by the Russians. We each thought that Sgt. Sasaoka was with the other. About

FILE  
JUL 11 1949  
G. W. Rogers  
Capt., QMC  
Application Branch

AGO  
MEMO  
6 June  
1949



AG 704 (31 Jan 45)

4846

two weeks later, I met Sgt Kamikawa in a small Polish town near the German border and was surprised to find that Sgt. Sasaoka was not with him. I did not personally see the wounded or dead, the result of Jan. 31st. I inquired but could not locate Sgt. Sasaoka or learn of his fate. I do know that some bodies became unidentifiable due to the shell fire and the result of Russian tanks crushing bodies. \* \* \*

"If Sgt. Sasaoka was among those killed when fired upon by the Russians, there is every reason to believe that the Russians could have identified him by means of his dog tags other than a German prisoner identification tag, both of which I definitely know he had on his person.\*\*\*

"I cannot say that I saw the body of Sgt. Sasaoka or saw him wounded but \*\*\* I believe that he is now dead \* \* \*"

In a letter dated 10 December 1945 Sgt Harry Kamikawa, 30104450, gave this version of the incident during which Sergeant Sasaoka disappeared:

\* \* \*

"I last saw him on the morning of the 31st Jan 1945 about 10:00, as we were being marched out of our P.W. camp, Stalag III C near Kurstin, Germany \*\*\* we were ambushed by the Russian Tanks, and fired upon. \* \* \* The Russian Tanks kept on firing until a American soldier went up to them explaining that we were Americans, in that firing by the Russians a few of our boys got killed and a few wounded \*\*\*. The Russians called us toward them, and about three hundred of us ran toward them, by then the German guards gathered up the rest of the boys and marched them back to camp, taking them as hostages, in all that excitement I did not see where Sgt. Sasaoka went to, but I know for sure he wasn't one of the three hundred that ran toward the Russians because I was in that group and I asked all the boys if they had seen him and the answer was no. The following day the rest of the boys that were marched back to camp were liberated, except about two hundred that were taken as hostages by the Germans and were marched in the direction of the town of Kurstin. I asked the boys that were liberated the following day if they had seen Sgt. Sasaoka, and the answer was no again and no one could tell me if he was one of the two hundred that were taken as hostages to Kurstin \*\*\*."

c. S Sgt Cletis P. Shipe was the subject of a special investigation as the result of his family's inquiries when he failed to return home at the end of hostilities. The European Theater informed this office that efforts to search for personnel in the area were hampered because it was in the Russian Zone. The only information on file concerning Sergeant Shipe is a casualty questionnaire filled in by Vernon Mugerditchian, 16011834, which states that he does not know for sure that Shipe was dead, but the Stalag was bombed and Sergeant Shipe was hit.

d. No definite information was received to our inquiries about Sgt Edward W. Aho. Sgt Michael Badis, 33171289, replied that he did not know Sergeant Aho, but furnished the information that two soldiers were killed in Odessa, Russia, when a wall collapsed on them and that they were buried there in Odessa.

e. No information concerning Sergeant Harry W. Foreman, Jr., 33562898, has been received other than that he was known to have been alive on 31 January 1945.

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f. An inquiry to the field regarding Sgt Bennie Summey, 34013087, produced a negative report. Sgt Leroy Coleman, 31091507, stated in a letter dated 27 November 1945 in reply to an inquiry from this office dated 21 November 1945 (file AG 704) that Sergeant Summey was badly wounded by shrapnel in both legs on 31 January and was left behind in the care of Tec 5 Arthur H. Huard, 11038185, and Tec 5 Jesse W. Moore, 38400057, who have returned since to the United States.

g. In the case of Pfc Carl G. Opfer, 35550126, Sergeant Coleman stated in the same letter referred to in (f) that Private Opfer was wounded in the back at the same time and was left behind with Corporal LaVerne V. Johannesen, 37324473, and John A. Blakeman, 38002791, who have since returned to the United States. The mother of Private Opfer stated in a letter to this office that Clifford E. Dennis, 35317084, had informed her that her son was killed when the Russians fired on this column of prisoners.

h. The mother of Pvt Aloysious J. McLean, 36042935, sent several letters to the office which had been sent her by men who knew Private McLean in Stalag III-C. One, signed "Vernon", and dated 6 December 1945, states that he had discussed efforts to escape with McLean and they had agreed to make the attempt if they had the opportunity. "Vernon" goes on to state that, when the Russians started to fire on the column, he and Private McLean threw themselves to the ground and he heard McLean say, "Now's our chance." After that he did not see Private McLean as they became separated in the confusion. Vernon joined the group that ran over to the Russian troops and he is certain that Private McLean was not in that group.

3. On 17 October 1945 Major George B. Wood, Chaplain of the 82d Airborne, wrote Mrs. Garnett Opfer the following information concerning the liberation of Stalag III-C:

"After a month and a half of investigation I regret to inform you that the Division has been unable to find out anything further about your son. G-1 assigned an officer to the investigation, and after obtaining a permit that officer proceeded to Altdrewitz, Poland, where he contacted the Russian authorities. He found that Stalag III-C had been burned to the ground at the time the Russian Army had liberated it. This had been done by the freed American and Russian prisoners and Polish civilians. The Russians have no records pertaining to the camp, and it is assumed they were lost in the fire. There are quite a number of dead buried there in a common grave, but there is no way to identify them and to distinguish the Americans from the Russians. I give you this summary in the words of the official report which was made to our chief of staff.

"A further contact was made with the Russian authorities in the hope that they might have records of American prisoners released by them, but they state there are no such records in Potsdam or Berlin."

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4. Since the foregoing constitutes all the information available concerning these men, it is concluded that in no instance can a report of death under the provisions of Section 9, Missing Persons Act, be justified until further information, such as a report from The Quartermaster General that a burial report is on file, is received. Such facts as are at hand give no basis for stating where, when, and under what circumstances these men died.

*Lulu May Lybrook*  
Lulu May Lybrook  
Investigator

CONCUR:

*James A. Frix*

JAMES A. FRIX  
Captain, AGD  
Asst. OIC, Determination Unit  
Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

COPY FOR: Central Files

AG 201 and 293 file of each individual named in par. 1.

Source material obtained as a result of this investigation is filed in the AG 201 file of T Sgt Joseph J. Curran, 12009163, unless otherwise indicated.

AIRMAIL

*Handwritten initials*

QJGMS 293  
Foreman, Harry W.  
SN 33 562 898

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Request for Information

Dept. of the Army, OJG, Washington 25, D. C., 30 March 1949

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

Survivors from Stalag III C have been contacted for information on individuals listed in basic communication. Upon receipt of reply, your headquarters will be promptly notified.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

2 Incls n/c

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

*293 Foreman, Harry W. SN 33 562 898*

AIRMAIL

IDENTIFICATION SECTION  
MEMORIAL DIVISION

17719

IDENTIFICATION DATA

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <i>Sasaoka, Itsumi</i>			ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <i>30161548</i>		GRADE <i>Sgt.</i>
HEIGHT <i>5ft 5 1/2 in</i>	WEIGHT <i>125 lb.</i>	COLOR EYES <i>Brown</i>	COLOR HAIR <i>Bro.</i>	SHOE SIZE <i>7E</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>17 Mar. 1946</i>

LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give complete designation)  
*Co "A" 100th Bn. 442d Inf.*

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA  
*Missing in action in France 22 Oct 1944.  
Last shown to be a P.O.W on 31 Jan 1945 at Stalag III C, Germany.  
Presumed death 17 Mar. 1946.*

LIST ALL CAMPS IN WHICH STATIONED IN U.S. PRIOR TO SERVICE OVERSEAS, WITH INCLUSIVE DATES AT EACH.

STATION	DATES
<i>Co "D" Recept. Cent. Schofield Barracks, TH.</i>	<i>Sept 1941</i>
<i>Co: 298th Inf.</i>	<i>Sept 1941 June 1942</i>
<i>Co HAWN Prov Bn Inf.</i>	<i>June 1942</i>

FROM: 1100. AGO CLINICAL RECORDS BRANCH  
NO RECORDS ON FILE

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS <i>None</i>	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTH MARKS <i>None</i>
--	---

DENTAL CHART — *June 30, 1941*

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
UPPER RIGHT	UPPER LEFT
16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
LOWER RIGHT	LOWER LEFT

X - EXTRACTED      O - CARIOUS      / - CARIOUS NON-RESTORABLE

(Indicate dentures, bridgework, etc., if shown.)

293 FILE

## DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

203  
SASACKA, ITSUMI

GRADE

S/SGT.

PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER

30 101 548

ORGANIZATION

98th BN.  
442 ND INT.

RACE

JAPANESE

CREED

NONE

FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)

DATE OF DEATH/MIA

22 OCT 44

CAUSE OF DEATH

P.O.W. DECLARED DEAD

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

FRANCE

DATE OF FOD

22 OCT 44

HEIGHT

5' 5 1/2"

WEIGHT

125

COLOR EYES

BROWN

COLOR HAIR

BROWN

SHOE SIZE

7E

## DENTAL CHART

30 JUNE '41

UPPER RIGHT

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

UPPER LEFT

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

LOWER RIGHT

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

LOWER LEFT

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

X = Extracted

O = Carious

1 = Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

NONE

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

M.I.A. IN FRANCE. LAST SHOWN TO BE A  
P.O.W. AT STALAG III C, GERMANY.

FILE

MAY 28 1948

E. J. Sullivan, 1st Lt., QM&D  
IDENTIFICATION BRANCH

Form prescribed by  
Comptroller General, U. S.  
7 October 1944

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

5506

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 Staff Sergeant Itsumu Sasaoka, Army Serial Number 30,101,548, Infantry, to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 31st day of January 1945. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 1st day of March, 1946.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

*George M. Weir*

ADJUTANT GENERAL  
ACTING CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

AREA European	FLYING STATUS No	JUMP STATUS No	LINE OF DUTY Yes	OWN MIS-CONDUCT No	ON DUTY STATUS Yes	ABSENCE AUTH'D
PREVIOUS REVIEWS 1 February 1946, continued in status of missing in action.						
DATE OF BIRTH 18 May 1915	HOME ADDRESS Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 30 Jun 1941	LENGTH OF SERVICE (AS OF PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH)			
			YEARS Over	MONTHS three	DAYS years	

EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS
Mrs. Chiyono Sasaoka	Mother	Kabemachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi, Asagun, Japan

BENEFICIARIES

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS
Mrs. Chiyono Sasaoka	Mother	Kabemachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi Asagun, Japan
Mr. Masaru Sasaoka	Brother	Waipahu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

REMARKS

Distribution - 56--

Soldier entitled to wear Combat Infantryman Badge per GO #2, Hq 100th Inf Bn Sep. 7 Apr 44. Awarded Distinguished Service Cross by GO #30, dated 3 Feb 45. 442d Inf Regt Bn Inf Regt.

Circumstances of disappearance: Last known to be a prisoner of war of the German Government at Stalag III C on 31 January 1945.

Form prescribed by  
Comptroller General, U. S.  
7 October 1944

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
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			YEARS Over	MONTHS three	DAYS years	

## EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE

NAME Mrs. Chiyono Sasaoka	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS Kabemachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi, Asagun, Japan
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## BENEFICIARIES

NAME Mrs. Chiyono Sasaoka	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS Kabemachi Nichome, Hiroshima Shi Asagun, Japan
NAME Mr. Masaru Sasaoka	RELATIONSHIP Brother	ADDRESS Waipahu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii

## REMARKS

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FILE

MAR 6 1946