

CONTROLLED CASE

NAME Thompson, Chester H.	GRADE Pvt.	SERIAL NO. 37 363 874
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DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THIS FILE WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:

<input type="checkbox"/> LIAISON OFFICE, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials)
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFICATION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials) Lt. Barry
--	------------------------------------

UNKNOWN X -	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO. 6604	A-2 CARD FLAGGED BY	333 CARD FLAGGED BY
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IMPORTANT

THIS FORM MUST BE MAINTAINED ON TOP OF 299 FILE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL CANCELLED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION. ONLY THE "CONGRESSIONAL TOPPER", OQMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.

NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS REEXAMINATION OF RECORDS

AREA OF DEATH Germany	CASE NUMBER
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NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Thompson, Chester H	RANK Pvt	SERIAL NUMBER 37 363 876
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IN THE COURSE OF THIS REEXAMINATION IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH WERE SUCH THAT: (Check appropriate box)

- THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED
- 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:

	INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF DECEDENT	
2. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA, COMPARED WITH DECEDENT	
3. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES	

REMARKS

RECOMMEND APPROVAL		APPROVED	DATE
NAME OF CASE ANALYST <i>Cyrus</i>	CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION	CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>Mary A. Edwards</i> MARY A. EDWARDS QMG	MAY 10 1951

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

THOMPSON, CHESTER H.

RANK

PLT

SERIAL NUMBER

37 363 876

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

29 MAR. 45

AREA OF DEATH

GERMANY

NAME OF AUDITOR

GRAVES

DATE

27 APR. 51

NAME OF REVIEWER

W. D. GILLY

DATE

REMARKS

292 Thompson, Charles H.
137,363,876

15 April 1949

FOR RECORD:

Per VA, Widow remarried 7 - 7 - 47

Parents separated - Father's name and

address, Mr. Charles H. Thompson
Norwood, Missouri

XC-3986880
Branch Office # 13

15 April 49
file
Vohf
FL



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

IN REPLY REFER TO

QMGMF 293

Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

29 March 1949

Mrs. Della Thompson
Box 1241
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

More than three years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your husband, the late Private Chester H. Thompson, and it is with reluctance that I am writing you, for I must furnish information which may bring you added sorrow.

Full consideration has been given to all available information pertaining to your husband since he was killed in action on 29 March 1945, near Wermertshausen, Germany.

Information on file in this office discloses that your husband and four other crew members were occupants of a tank which was struck by anti-tank fire, resulting in destruction of the vehicle. Two of the crew members escaped without injury and later returned to duty. Your husband and the remaining two occupants were killed.

Units of the American Graves Registration Service conducted extensive investigations in the area in which your husband lost his life. American Graves Registration Service Search Teams obtained information from the Burgermeister at Wermertshausen which indicates that two American Tanks were knocked out in the vicinity of Wermertshausen, on 29 March 1945. One of the tanks did not burn and was removed by American Troops the same day, while the other tank was completely demolished. According to the Burgermeister, charred remains were seen in the wreckage and remained there until a German demolition team blasted the tank some time later. All the remains and parts of the tank were scattered over a four hundred meter area by this explosion. The investigators went to the scene of the blast and discovered that the tank was completely destroyed and no trace of human remains could be found.

In a final effort to secure information, this office dispatched letters to members of your husband's Company. In reply to these inquiries, one member of the Company stated that he saw the burning tank and went to render his assistance, but reached the tank too late. He further stated that the three crew members who lost their lives never

Widow Remarried per VA

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QMGMF 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

29 March 1949

left the turret of the tank. Another member of the Company stated that although he did not see the tank at the time it was hit, he did see it five or ten minutes afterwards, but due to the fire he could not get within twenty feet of the tank. No information however, was received from these inquiries which might possibly lead to the recovery of the remains of your husband and his crew members.

These unfortunate circumstances surrounding the death of your husband have been thoroughly reviewed and, since no association can be made between your husband's records and the records of unknowns recovered from the general area of the disaster, 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 our possession, you will be informed immediately.

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

Sincerely yours,

James F. Smith

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

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

not here

RECEIVED
MAR 30 1949
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAR 30
6:30 PM
1949

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APR 13 1949
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FAM. LETTERS SECT.
MEM. DIV.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMG)

UNCLAIMED

QUONIP 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

29 March 1949

Mrs. Bella Thompson
Box 1241
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

More than three years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your husband, the late Private Chester H. Thompson, and it is with reluctance that I am writing you, for I must furnish information which may bring you added sorrow.

Full consideration has been given to all available information pertaining to your husband since he was killed in action on 29 March 1945, near Wermertshausen, Germany.

Information on file in this office discloses that your husband and four other crew members were occupants of a tank which was struck by anti-tank fire, resulting in destruction of the vehicle. Two of the crew members escaped without injury and later returned to duty. Your husband and the remaining two occupants were killed.

Units of the American Graves Registration Service conducted extensive investigations in the area in which your husband lost his life. American Graves Registration Service Search Teams obtained information from the Bürgermeister at Wermertshausen which indicates that two American tanks were knocked out in the vicinity of Wermertshausen, on 29 March 1945. One of the tanks did not burn and was removed by American Troops the same day, while the other tank was completely demolished. According to the Bürgermeister, charred remains were seen in the wreckage and remained there until a German demolition team blasted the tank some time later. All the remains and parts of the tank were scattered over a four hundred meter area by this explosion. The investigators went to the scene of the blast and discovered that the tank was completely destroyed and no trace of human remains could be found.

In a final effort to secure information, this office dispatched letters to members of your husband's Company. In reply to these inquiries, one member of the Company stated that he saw the burning tank and went to render his assistance, but reached the tank too late. He further stated that the three crew members who lost their lives never

QW047 293
Thompson, Chester H.
ON 37 363 876

29 March 1949

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These unfortunate circumstances surrounding the death of your husband have been thoroughly reviewed and, since no association can be made between your husband's records and the records of unknowns recovered from the general area of the disaster, 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 our possession, you will be informed immediately.

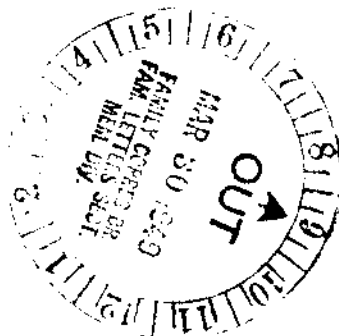
Realizing the extent of your grief and anxiety, it is not easy to express condolence to you who gave your loved one under such circumstances so difficult that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your husband's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort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

Sincerely yours,

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

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as/nsj

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37 9 MAR 30 1949
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MEMORIAL DIVISION



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JRS

QMOXF 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

29 March 1949

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson
Star Route
Mangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Our office promised to communicate with you further regarding your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson, and it is with reluctance that I am writing you, for I must furnish information which may bring you added sorrow.

Full consideration has been given to all available information pertaining to your son since he was killed in action on 29 March 1945, near Wermertshausen, Germany.

Information on file in this office discloses that your son and four other crew members were occupants of a tank which was struck by anti-tank fire, resulting in destruction of the vehicle. Two of the crew members escaped without injury and later returned to duty. Your son and the remaining two occupants were killed.

Units of the American Graves Registration Service conducted extensive investigations in the area in which your son lost his life. American Graves Registration Service Search Teams obtained information from the Burgermeister at Wermertshausen which indicates that two American Tanks were knocked out in the vicinity of Wermertshausen, on 29 March 1945. One of the tanks did not burn and was removed by American Troops the same day, while the other tank was completely demolished. According to the Burgermeister, charred remains were seen in the wreckage and remained there until a German demolition team blasted the tank some time later. All the remains and parts of the tank were scattered over a four hundred meter area by this explosion. The investigators went to the scene of the blast and discovered that the tank was completely destroyed and no trace of human remains could be found.

In a final effort to secure information, this office dispatched letters to members of your son's Company. In reply to these inquiries, one member of the Company stated that he saw the burning tank and went to render his assistance, but reached the tank too late. He further stated that the three crew members who lost their lives never left

GROUP 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

27 March 1949

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These unfortunate circumstances surrounding the death of your son have been thoroughly reviewed and, since no association can be made between your son's records and the records of unknowns recovered from the general area of the disaster, 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 our possession, you will be informed immediately.

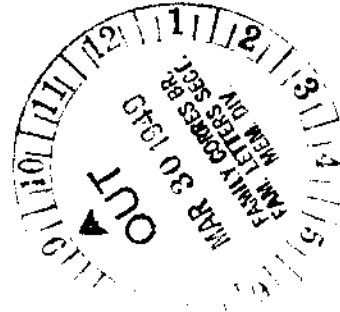
Realizing the extent of your grief and anxiety, it is not easy to express condolence to you who gave your loved one under circumstances so difficult that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your son's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, GSC
Memorial Division

son
17/23J
5/26/49
3/3/49

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JFS



FORM 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

21 March 1949

SUBJECT: Non-recoverability of Remains

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

1. Reference is made to Proceedings of Board of Officers that convened at your Headquarters and determined that the remains of the following decedents are non-recoverable:

293	Loyd, Raymond T.	Sgt.	36 312 940
	Thompson, Chester H.	Pvt.	37 363 876
	Rusch, Raymond C.	Cpl.	37 681 441

2. Findings of the Board have been reviewed and approved on the decedents whose names appear in par 1, above.

3. It is requested that all records of your office pertaining to these decedents be marked to read REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

T. W. REIF
Lt. Colonel, (SG)
Memorial Division

WRD

MGB/wb

NJS

cc: AGO

cc: Asst Sec, R & Br.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
MEMORIAL DIVISION

6604 (3)

RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL
NON-RECOVERABLE CASE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>
Thompson, Chester H.	Pvt.	37 363 876

The proceedings of the Field Board of Review concerning the determination of non-recoverability in the above case have been reviewed and the following sources have been examined in this Office for additional clues:

	<u>INITIALS OF ANALYST</u>
a. A-Z file of known interments in U.S. Military Cemeteries, isolated locations, and sea burials.....	VAT
b. Alphabetical index file of "Believed to Be" and tentatively identified unknowns.....	VAT
c. Alphabetical file of former unknowns now identified.....	VAT
d. Geographical clue index file of unknowns from pertinent area.....	VAT
e. 293 file of subject deceased, including Report of Death.....	VAT
f. Status Review and Determination from The Adjutant General.....	Not necessary
g. Missing Air Crew Report (when applicable and available).....	Not applicable

The facts and circumstances have been found to be substantially as presented in the attached proceedings of the Field Board of Review and substantiate the findings of non-recoverability. Exceptions are noted below:

See attached Statement in detail.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

APPROVED:

E. S. Dutcher
E. S. Dutcher
Case Reviewer, Final
Determination Section

William R. Deweesse
WILLIAM R. DEWEESE
1st Lt., QMC
Chief, Fin. Det. Sec.,

T. H. Metz
Capt QMC
T. H. METZ
Lt. Col., QMC
Chief, Ident. Br.,
14 Mar 1949
Date

Loyd, Raymond T.
Thompson, Chester H.
Rusch, Raymond S.

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

11 March 1949

1. Subject decedents, members of Company C, 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, were three crew members of a five man tank which was destroyed by enemy fire, and burned near Wermertshausen, Germany on 29 March 1945.

2. The driver and assistant driver of the tank escaped without any injury, and eventually were returned to duty. The identifiable remains of the decedents were never recovered.

3. According to the information submitted by Sgt. Loyce S. Westernman, Platoon Sergeant of the decedents at the time of the destruction of the tank, subject tank was hit by three eighty-eights. The decedents never left the turret of the tank, and were incinerated inside the tank. Sgt. Westernman stated that when he saw the fire, he went to render his assistance, but it was too late. (Tab "A") M/Sgt. John Dutch, a member of Company C, stated that he did not see when the tank was hit, but he saw it five or ten minutes after, and no one could get within twenty feet because of the fire. He further stated that in all his experience, the tank burned longer than any he had seen. (Tab "B")

4. Information obtained from the OCMG Form 371 of Pvt. Chester H. Thompson gave the location of casualty as Hesseltn, while that of Sgt. Raymond T. Loyd gave the location as Mernertschausen. However, the information submitted by Sgt. Westernman and M/Sgt. John Dutch placed the location as Wermertschausen. According to Historical Records, the 7th Armored Division had captured Kirchhain and Gemunden on 29 March 1945. (Tab "C") Wernertschausen is approximately nineteen (19) miles from Gemunden. It is evident that Mernertschausen is in error.

5. Investigations were made by two Search Teams, one on 15 December 1947 at Hesseltn, Hermershausen, and Borghalshausen, the other on 27 April 1948 at Wermertschausen.

a. The first Investigation and Search Team was dispatched to Hessel, Herraershausen, and Borghalshausen. According to statements from the Acting Buergermeister at Hessel and the Administrative Director of twelve (12) villages including Hessel, no American tank was destroyed in those communities during the war. (Tabs "D" and "D₁") This investigation produced negative results.

b. The second Investigation and Search Team obtained information from the Buergermeister at Wermertschausen who states that two American tanks were knocked out in his community on 29 March 1945. One of the tanks did not burn and was removed by American Troops the same day, while the other was knocked out on the Wermertschausen-Rossberg Road (Tab "E") and burned completely out. Burnt human bones were seen in the wreckage and remained there until October 1946 when a German demolition team blasted said tank. All the bones and parts of the tank were scattered within four hundred meters by the explosion. (Tabs "F" and "F₁")

6. The information given relative to date and location coincide with the facts pertinent to subject decedents. However, since the tank was demolished and the bones were scattered, there was no positive evidence which made it certain that wreckage and bones were those of subject decedents.

7. Association cannot be made between unknowns recovered from the surrounding area in Germany and subject decedents.

8. The following files have been checked by this office, with negative results, in an endeavor to find any possible burial location of subject decedents either as knowns or unknowns:

- a. A-Z file of known interments in U. S. Military Cemeteries, isolated locations and sea burials.
- b. Alphabetical index file of "Believed to be" and potentially identified unknowns.

- c. Alphabetical file of former unknowns now identified.
- d. Geographical clue index file of unknowns interred in U. S. Military Cemeteries in the general area in which the subject deceased was last reported.
- e. 293 files of subject deceased.

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

Vincent A. Thomas
VINCENT A. THOMAS
Analyst

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

14 SEPT 1948

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

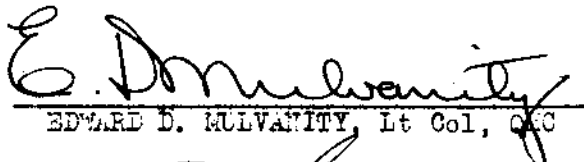
The board convened pursuant to par 4, SO No. 33, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Command, APO 58, U S Army, 22 March 1948, at the Astoria Hotel, Paris, France on 14 SEPT 1948
 The purpose of the board was to determine the non-recoverability status of certain casualties now under the jurisdiction 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
	LOYD	Raymond T	Sgt 36812940
	THOMPSON	Chester H.	Pvt 37363876
	RUSCH	Raymond A.	Cpl 37681421

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.


 EDWARD D. MULVANY, Lt Col, QMC

GROSVENOR W. FISH, Maj, QMC


 FRANCIS P. SWEENEY, Maj, Inf


 OWEN F. MCCANN, Capt, QMC


 GEORGE L. FREEMAN, 1st Lt, QMC

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

22 Mar 48

RAG 300.4

SPECIAL ORDERS

NUMBER 33

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-368, 14 May 47 and AR 420-5, the following Board of officers is appointed to meet at Liege, Belgium, or at such other places as the president may designate at the call of the president thereof, for the purpose of considering whether such EL as may be brought before it should be discharged prior to the expiration of their term of service. Proceedings of the Board will be in conformity with AR 420-5. Findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the Commanding General, and entered on WD AGO Form 37.

LT COL	PARK W. BAILEY	0242216	INF
MAJ	DAVID WIMS, JR	0228758	FA
MAJ	JOHN W. LONG	0333779	INF
CAPT	THOMAS C. HAYDEN	01584337	QMC
1ST LT	ALVIN C. BECK	01646841	INF
1ST LT	ROBERT VANINA	01786119	MC

2. Par 3 and 4, SO 6, this hq, 14 Jan 48 pertaining to appointment of Board of Review for identification of Unknown Dead (European Area), are rescinded.

3. PAC ltr WD 9 Apr 47, subj "Establishment of Boards for identification of Unknown Dead", the fol off, this hq, are aptd a Board of Review for identification of Unknown Dead (European Area):

LT COL	PATRICK W. GUINEY	019066	QMC
MAJ	GEORGE M. VER HULST	40650035	USAF
MAJ	MARSHALL J. BLACKMON	0277013	INF
CAPT	JACK C. HAYES	01577297	QMC
1ST LT	JOSEPH E. McCLUSKEY	01338110	INF

4. PAC ltr WD 9 Apr 47, Subj: "Establishment of Boards for identification of Unknown Dead", the fol off, this hq, are aptd a Board of Review for non-recoverability of remains (European Area) :

LT COL	EDWARD D. MULVINITY	0359598	QMC
MAJ	GROSVENOR W. FISH	042932	QMC
MAJ	FRANCIS P. SWEENEY	034485	INF
CAPT	OWEN F. McCANN	01595620	QMC
1ST LT	GEORGE L. FREEMAN	0159551	QMC

5. VOCC 6 Jan 48 auth CAPT GORDON L. ALDERMAN 0479536 CHC to tvl fr Second Zone, AGRC, APO 58, Carentan, France, to First Zone, AGRC, APO 58, Liege, Belgium, by TPA are confirmed, the exigencies of the service having been such as to prevent the issuance of orders in advance.

AUTH: Sec I, Cir 157, Hq USFET, 23 Oct 46 & Cir 28, Hq EUCOM, 9 May 47.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL PECKHAM:

OFFICIAL:

CARL W. RAGUSE
Colonel, QMC
Chief of Staff

/s/ Frank Francis
FRANK FRANCIS
Major, - AGD
Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION "A" & "E" plus:

Ea Unit concerned 4
Ea Indiv concerned 4
P & A Div 10
P & A Div EUCOM 1
AG EUCOM 1

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY;

Robert E. Barry
ROBERT E. BARRY
1st Lt., QMC

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

RPE 293. 9 (IB)

SUBJECT: Non-recoverable Remains

TO: Non-recoverable Board ADR

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

NAMES:	LOYD	Raymond T.	Sgt	36312940
	THOMPSON	Chester E.	Pvt	37363879 See Insert
	RUSCH	Raymond A.	Cpl	37681421

ORGANIZATION: Co "C" 7th Armored Div, 17th Tank Bn

PLACE OF DEATH: Wermertshausen, Germany

DATE OF DEATH: 29 March 1945

SYNOPSIS OF CASE: The above were crew members of a tank which was severely hit by enemy fire, burst into flames and continued to burn for some time. O-NG Form 371 (Loyd) gives location as Wermertshausen (believed to be Wermertshausen) while O-NG Form 371 (Thompson) gives vicinity of Hasseln, 20 miles from Osnabruck. Extensive field investigations were conducted with negative results. At Hasseln, Borholzhausen, Bockhorst, Hermershausen, Herhausen. At Wermertshausen it was found that the American tanks had been knocked out in the community on 29 March 1945. (see Narrative, dtd 2 May 1948) One did not burn and was removed by American troops the same day. The other burned completely out. Later in the tank wreckage some burnt bones were seen. The bones were not removed. The Burgermeister expressed the belief that some crew members were killed in action where the tank was hit. In October 1946 a German demolition team from Giessen blasted this tank, in which the bones of crew members were found. Part of the tank were scattered within a circle of about 400 meters by the explosion. There are no American soldiers buried in the local cemetery or in the community territory.


The investigator inspected the place where the tank was blasted and established that the tank was completely destroyed. No human remains or any identification were found. Due to the statements obtained during this investigation it can be concluded that the tank knocked out on 29 March 1945 on the road Sermertshausen-Rosberg, is subject tank since all information which has been obtained corresponds with this case. The burnt remains and identification means of deceased crew members were scattered within a wide circle where the tank was blasted. It is further concluded that it is impossible to locate any remains of subject deceased at the place where the tank was destroyed. Complete negative report on this case was forwarded OASD 25 June 1948. A reply received 13 August 1948 states "Recommend that this Congressional case be processed in accordance with the provisions of AAO letter, dated 9 April 1947, file AAO-S 293. 2 (27 March 1947) HQ, Subject: Establishment of Boards of review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas," and that the findings of your Board be expedited to this office for continuation of action."

reference is made to OASD forms 371 (Loyd, Thompson); 2nd Ind AGRG dated 26 March 1948; Letter, HIC, dtd 17 January 1948; Narrative, dated 17 December 1947; Narrative, dated 2 May 1948.

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

3. Every effort has been made to correlate this case with records in this headquarters pertaining to unknown deceased interred in U.S. Military Cemeteries and reported isolated burials. The results are negative.

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


R. E. LYLE
Major, MC

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION
AT HERMERSHAUSEN, GERMANY
COORDINATES: (L-51/G-64)

RJE/fr

2 May 1948

On 27 April 1948 I was dispatched from this headquarters to HERMERSHAUSEN (L-51-G-64) to investigate AGRC Case # 10267 pertaining to Sgt RAYMOND T. LLOYD and Cpl RAYMOND A. RUSCH who both were members of the 17th Tank Bn and were killed in action near HERMERSHAUSEN in the vicinity of HACHBORN (L-51/G-73) on March 29th, 1945. Basic documents show that information received from OQMG gives location as vicinity of WERMERTSHAUSEN (believed to be HERMERSHAUSEN) near HACHBORN.

I proceeded to HERSHAUSEN and contacted Mr. HERMANN who is acting for the local burgermeister and who was during the last war in this village (see Incl #1). He stated positively that no American tank was knocked out in this village and within a radius of 15 kilometers. No American soldiers were buried in the local cemetery.

I next went to the Landratsoffice in MARBURG (L-51/G-74) which is in charge of the area around HACHBORN and HERMERSHAUSEN. There I contacted the Landrat and checked the records concerning Allied deceased. But I could not obtain any information about the subject deceased or about a tank which was knocked out in this area. I checked the list of towns of the Landkreis of MARBURG. Here I found the name of the village of WERMERTSHAUSEN (L-51/G-83) near HACHBORN).

I proceeded to WERMERTSHAUSEN and contacted the local Burgermeister who stated that two (2) American tanks were knocked out in his community on 29 March 1945 (see Incl #2). One of these two tanks was hit in the village. One of the tanks did not burn out and was removed by American troops the same day. One (1) deceased of this tank was also taken by the Americans at the same time.

The other tank was knocked out on the WERMERTSHAUSEN-ROSSBERG Road about 200 meters from WERMERTSHAUSEN. (See Incl #3). This tank burned completely out. I could not find any witnesses who were able to give an exact statement about the tank-crew, because the local population was not allowed to enter the street at that time. The Burgermeister saw several American ambulances riding to the place of accident after the tank was hit. Later Mr DIETZ saw in the tank wreckage some burnt human bones. Therefore Mr DIETZ expressed belief that some crew members were killed in action when the tank was hit.

I went to the place where the tank was blasted. I established there that the tank was completely destroyed. I could not find any human remains or any identification means at the subject place.

CONCLUSION: Due to the statements obtained during this investigation it can be concluded that:

a. The tank in question was knocked out on 29 March 1945 on the road WERMERTSHAUSEN-ROSSBERG, since all the information which has been obtained corresponds with basic documents as for the time, date and tank battalion it is believed that this investigator that there is a great possibility that this tank is the same one mentioned in basic documents. Therefore, it is believed that the remains are unrecoverable.

b. The burnt remains and identification means of deceased crew members were scattered within a wide circle when the tank was blasted by a German demolition team.

c. It can be further concluded that it is impossible to locate any remains of the subject deceased at the place where the tank was blasted.

ROBERT J. ERWIN
Pfc RA 345993395
FFC AGRC
Investigator.

Incls:

- # 1 Statement of Mr Herman in HERMERSHAUSEN
- # 2 Statement of Mr Dietz in WERMERTSHAUSEN
- # 3 Sketch

ROTHWESTEN DETACHMENT
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMPANY
APO 171, U. S. ARMY

IAR/ld

17 December 1947

NARRATIVE REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I was dispatched from this headquarters, (Rotenburg Detachment) on 15 December 1947 to Hesseln, Germany (K-53/B-48) to investigate AGRC case # 10287. Basic documents with OCMG for pertains to Pvt Clester E. Thompson, 37363876, of Co "C" 17th tank Bn 7th Armd Div. According to basic documents Pvt Thompson was killed on 29 March 1945 in the vicinity of Hesseln. His tank was hit by enemy fire and burst into flames.

I first contacted the Bürgermeister of Hesseln. He states (see Incl #1) that no American tank was destroyed in his community. He was in this community during combat activities and never heard that an American tank was destroyed in the vicinity of Hesseln. He further stated that there was no cemetery in Hesseln.

I next went to Borgholzhausen (K-53/B-39) Germany, which is an administrative town of twelve (12) villages including Hesseln. The administrative director (see Incl # 2) does not know about any American tank having been destroyed in any one of the twelve towns under his jurisdiction. He further stated that no Allies are buried in the area under his jurisdiction.

I next proceeded to Bockhorst (K-53/B-38) Germany, where I contacted the local Bürgermeister. He stated (see Incl #3) that an American tank was destroyed in his community. He checked his note book and found out that this happened on 2 April 1945. This tank was hit by a "Panzerfaust". He further stated that an American ambulance removed some wounded from this tank, but he had no knowledge of any deceased having been recovered from this tank. The tank was removed two or three days later by an American unit. He knows of no other American tank having been destroyed in his community of vicinity.

CONCLUSION:

It is concluded that said tank was not destroyed in Hesseln (K-53/B-48), since statements received in Hesseln and vicinity are negative. It is further concluded that tank mentioned in Incl #3 is probably not tank in question, since date does not correspond with basic document.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that case be returned to
AGRC Hq. with request that an attempt be made to establish
a more close location where unit of subject deceased was
fighting on 29 March 1945/

LEVI A. RUYBALID
Sgt. RA 19213387

Incls:

#1 Statement Burgermeister of Hesseln
#2 " Amtsdirector of Borgholzhausen
#3 " Burgermeister of Bockhorst

RRB 293.9 (IB) 2nd Ind

Hq American Graves Registration Command, European Area, APO 58,
U S Army, 26 March 1948

TO: Commanding Officer, First Field Command, AGRA, EA,
APO 62, U S Army

1. A check with Historical Records Branch, this head
quarters, gives an entirely different location. On 29 March
1945 the 7th Armored Division had captured Kirchhain (L-51/
G-84) and reached Gemunden (L-51/G-80).

2. No unknowns on record as having been recovered from
the above towns.

3. Reinvestigation of the case will be conducted,
at the new location.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL PECKHAM:

WALTER F. MORROW
Major, Infantry
Actg Asst Adj Gen

Incl: n/e
copies w/d

Tel: Paris S/L 5400 Ext 407

FIRST FIELD COMMAND
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
APO 17, U. S. ARMY

AGRX-293

17 January 1948

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report of findings (negative), AGRC
case # 10267, Hessel, Germany (K-53/P-48).

TO: Commanding Officer, First Field Command, American
Graves Registration Command, EA, APO 403, US Army

1. Subject case received this headquarters as Incl #1
Transmittal Letter # 20, your headquarters, dated 20
November 1947.

2. Investigation conducted at Hessel failed to locate place
place of casualty referred to in basic document.

3. Forwarded your information and action as deemed
appropriate.

FOR THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER:

JOHN G. GERL
1st Lt. Inf

Incls;
a/s

Telephone: Kassel-Rothwesten # 63

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) THOMPSON, Chester H.		GRADE Pvt	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 37363876
ORGANIZATION Co "C" 7 Armored Div. 17th tank Bn		RACE white	CREED Catholic
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 29 Mar 45	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA European Area	
DATE OF FOD			
HEIGHT 5'10"	WEIGHT 132	COLOR EYES Brown	COLOR HAIR Brown
			SHOE SIZE 9 - 1/2

DENTAL CHART **13 May 1944**

UPPER RIGHT 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 0	UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
LOWER RIGHT 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 X	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 X

X=Extracted

O=Carious

I=Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

AGI or RECOPI

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A E: 32 years

His tank received a direct hit from the enemy and burst into flames. This occurred in the vicinity of Hesseln, Germany about 20 miles from Osnabruck, Germany.

Operational Instructions # 100

Coordinates for Hesseln (K-53/B-48) Germany

Investigation will be conducted.

26 April 1948

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET REC'D OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) LOYD, Raymond T.		GRADE Sgt	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 36312940
ORGANIZATION Co. "C" 17 Tank Battalion	RACE White	CREED Protestant	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 29 Mar 1945	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in Action	PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA Germany	
DATE OF FOD			
HEIGHT 5'10"	WEIGHT 175	COLOR EYES Blue	COLOR HAIR Brown
			SHOE SIZE 9 1/2 E

DENTAL CHART 2 Jan. 1942

UPPER RIGHT X 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	UPPER LEFT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 O X
LOWER RIGHT X O 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	LOWER LEFT 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 X
X = Extracted O = Carious 1 = Carious Non-Restorable	

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK
-------------------------	--------------------------

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 5 June 1923

KIS in Germany when his tank was severely hit by enemy fire and burst into flames. He was not seen to evacuate the tank, which continued to burn for some time.

HEADQUARTERS 17 TANK BATTALION

SUBJECT: After Action Report

29 March 1945: Assembled task force at Heuchelheim preparatory to following TF Rhea on new mission. The division mission was to attack and secure the dam on the Eder River in vicinity of 925000 and the area bounded by the north edge of the lake from 804000 west to the dam. The attack was to be made by two combat commands abreast with one following in reserve. CC"R" was to attack on left and CC"B" on right with CC"A" following. TF Hample moved out behind TF Rhea at 1215 on 29 March 45 and moved into forward assembly position at Allendorf. The task force outposted the town during the night and remained on the alert to follow the attacking elements.

LOSSES IN ACTION, OFFICERS AND MEN:

NAME: LOYD, RAYMOND T. 36 312 940 KIA 29 March 1945

...on 29 March 1945 Sgt. Loyd commanded the lead tank of the Task Force as it drove on Marnetschausen, Germany. When strong anti-tank fire was encountered, Sgt. Loyd deployed the other vehicles of his platoon and moved forward boldly in his own tank."

On 31 March 1945, Instructions #54 - Forwarded as additional information to letter, this headquarters, dt. 31 March 1945, pertaining to the above named casualty.

HERMERSHAUSEN, den 27/ IV. 1948

E R K L A E R U N G

Mein Name ist Johann HERMANN, stellvertretender Buergermeister in HERMERSHAUSEN. Ich erkläre hiermit: Ich war waehrend des ganzen Krieges hier in HERMERSHAUSEN. Ich kann mit Bestimmtheit sagen, dass hier in HERMERSHAUSEN und in der Umgebung von etwa fuenfzehn (15) Kilometern kein amerikanischer Tank zerstoert worden ist. Auf dem hiesigen Friedhof ist kein amerikanischer Soldat beerdigt; es ist auch kein unbekanntes Grab hier worauf man schliessen koennte, dass es sich um einen alliierten Soldaten handelt.

Vorstehende Erklaerung habe ich nach meinem besten Wissen angegeben.

gez.: JOHANN HERMANN

HERMERSHAUSEN, 27 April 1948

S T A T E M E N T

My name is JOHANN HERMANN, Acting for the Buergermeister in HERMERSHAUSEN. I declare hereby:

I was during the war here in HERMERSHAUSEN. I can state positively that in HERMERSHAUSEN and in the vicinity of about 15 kilometers no American tank was knocked out. There is no American soldier buried in the local cemetery and there is no unknown grave which probably is one of an Allied soldier.

Above statement is given to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ JOHANN HERMANN

A TRUE COPY:

I certify that this is
a true translation to
the best of my ability

Hans Koch

Incl. #1

PAUL H. MUELLER
Major Cavalry
Operations Officer

WERMERTSHAUSEN, den 29. IV. 1943

E R K L A E R U N G

Am 29. März 1945 wurden in der Gemeinde WERMERTSHAUSEN zwei amerikanische Tanks abgeschossen. Ein Tank ist in der Ortschaft abgeschossen worden; dieses Fahrzeug war nicht ausgebrannt und wurde am gleichen Tage durch amerikanische Truppen abgeholt. Ein Besatzungsmitglied dieses Tanks wurde bei dem Abschuss getötet. Der Tote wurde durch die Amerikanischen Truppen sofort mitgenommen.

Der zweite Tank wurde auf der Strasse WERMERTSHAUSEN-ROSSBERG, etwa 200 m von WERMERTSHAUSEN, abgeschossen. Dieser Tank brannte vollständig aus. Ich weiss nicht, ob aus diesem Tank lebende Besatzungsmitglieder herausgekommen sind, da es zu diesem Zeitpunkt der Kesselherstellung verboten war die Strasse zu betreten. Mir ist nur bekannt, dass einige Mitglieder der Besatzung bei dem Abschuss getötet worden sind, da später in den Trümmern des Tanks einige verbrannte Knochen gefunden wurden. Zu dem Zeitpunkt des Abschusses sah ich mehrere amerikanische Sanitätsautos zu der Unfallstelle fahren. Vermutlich haben sie Tote oder lebende Besatzungsmitglieder des Tanks geborgen, was mir jedoch nicht bekannt ist. Etwa zwei Monate später wurde der Tank durch Amerikaner an die Strassenseite geschleppt, damit die Strasse fuer den Durchgangsverkehr frei wurde. Ungefähr im Oktober 1946 kam ein deutsches Sprengkommando aus GIESSEN und sprengte den obengenannten Tank, in dem sich noch einige Knochenreste von Besatzungsmitgliedern befanden. Durch die Sprengung wurden die Teile dieses Tanks in einem Umkreis von etwa 400 m verstreut. Namen von Mitgliedern dieses Sprengkommandos sind mir nicht bekannt. Bei der Sprengung waren keine Amerikaner anwesend.

Auf dem oertlichen Gemeindefriedhof oder im Gemeindegebiet sind keine amerikanischen oder alliierten Soldaten beerdigt worden.

Vorstehende Angaben habe ich nach meinem besten Wissen gemacht.

Stempel:
Gemeinde
WERMERTSHAUSEN
Kro. Marburg/Lahn.

Gex.: WILHELM DIETZ
Buergermeister in
WERMERTSHAUSEN

WERMERTSHAUSEN, 29 April 1943

S T A T E M E N T

On 29 March 1945 two (2) American tanks were knocked out in the community of WERMERTSHAUSEN.

One (1) tank was knocked out right in the village. This vehicle did not burn out and it was taken away by American troops on the same day. One (1) crew member of this tank was killed in action when his tank was hit. The deceased was taken away by American troops at once.

The second (2) tank was knocked out on the road WERMERTSHAUSEN-ROSSBERG, about 200 meters from WERMERTSHAUSEN. This tank burnt completely out. I do not know whether or not any surviving crew members left this tank because the local population was not allowed to enter the streets at that time. Due to the fact that some burnt bones were found in the tank-

Basic: Statement of Buergermeister of WERMERTSHAUSEN, AGRC Case # 10267, contd.

Wreckage later on I know that some crew members were killed in action when the tank was hit. I saw several American ambulances riding to the scene of accident after the tank was knocked out. I presume that deceased or surviving crew members of this tank were recovered, however I do not know anything about it. About Two (2) months later the tank was moved to the road-side by Americans so that the road was free for the thorough traffic.

In about October 1946 a German demolition team came from GIESSEN and blasted the above mentioned tank, in which some bones of crew members had been. By the explosion the parts of the tank were scattered within a circle of about 400 meters. I do not know any names of members of this demolition team. No Americans were present when the tank was blasted.

There are no American or Allied soldiers buried in the local Community-Cemetery or in the community territory.

Above statement is given to the best of my knowledge.

Seals:
Community
WERTSHAUSEN
Krs. Marburg/Lahn

/s/ WILHELM DIETZ
Buergermeister in
WERMERTSHAUSEN

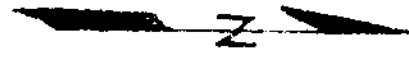
A TRUE COPY:

I certify that this is
a true translation to
the best of my ability

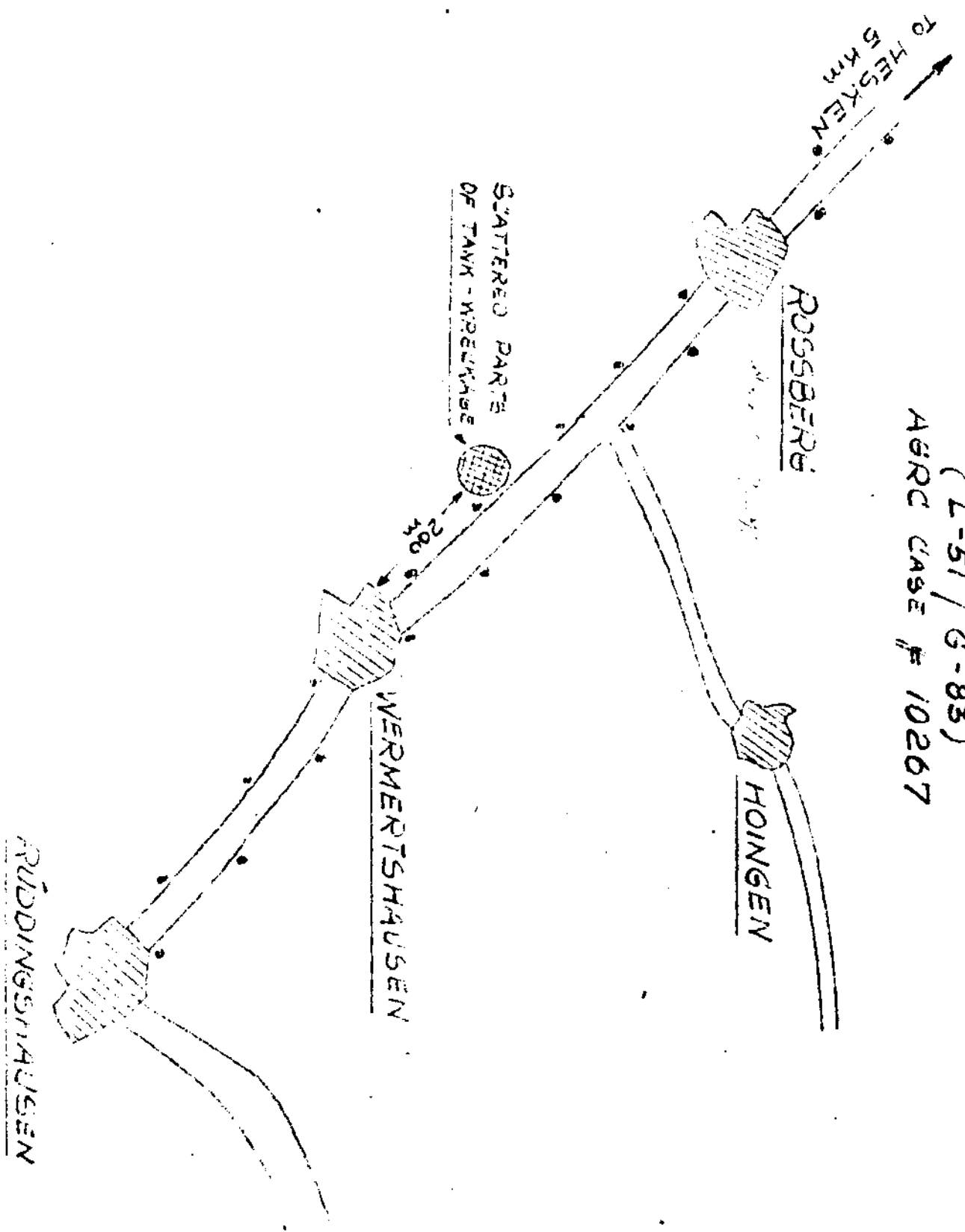
Hans Koch

PAUL H. MUELLER
Major Cavalry
Operations Officer

Incl. #2



TANK - WRECKAGE NEAR WERMERTSHAUSEN
(L-51 / G-83)
AIRC CASE # 10267



HEADQUARTERS 17TH TANK BATTALION
APO 257, c/o Postmaster New York

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Month of March 1945.

28 March 1945: By 0645 the first objective had been secured and a platoon of tanks, platoon of infantry and a section of TD's was left to hold the road block. Here we met with small arms fire and one tank was knocked out by Bazooks. Eight prisoners were taken at that time. By 0730 we had secured the second road block the one at Nauheim without resistance. A Section of tanks and a squad of infantry was left to hold the block. By 0800 a block at Dorlor had been secured and a section of tanks and two squads of infantry was left to hold the block. Four prisoners were taken here but they did not resist. The block at Atsbach was established by 0820 without resistance. Upon approaching the last objective at Heuchelheim, leading elements received small arms fire from vicinity of 622210 also some AT and arty fire. One tank was knocked out by AT fire and we knocked out the enemy gun. By 1055 our tanks were in the town and by 1140 the position had been consolidated and blocks established. About 75 PW's were taken at this point. The Hq was established at Heuchelheim and we held all of the positions during the afternoon and night. At 1500 we received notice that we would be relieved by an ACT from the 99th Inf Div during the morning of the 29th

29 March 1945: Assembled task force at Heuchelheim preparatory to following TF Rhea on new mission. The division mission was to attack and secure the dam on the Eder River in vicinity of 925880 and the area bounded by the north edge of the lake from 804880 west to the dam. The attack was to be made by two combat commands abreast with one following in reserve. CC"R" was to attack on left and CC"B" on right with CC"A" following. TF Wemple moved out behind TF Rhea at 1215 on 29 March 45 and moved into forward assembly position at Allendorf. The task force outposted the town during the night and remained on the alert to follow the attacking elements.

30 March 1945: The leading elements of task force Wemple moved out at 0600 following route "B" of the original attack plan. By 1115 the head of the column had reached phase line Bronze in the vicinity of Rosenthal at which time we were ordered to move on the phase line Skeet. By 1242 we had reached phase line Skeet in the vicinity of Willersdorf at which point eight Germans surrendered to our advance elements. We did not do any fighting during the day for we were following the other two combat commands, however, we did pick up about 25 prisoners without fighting for them. The task force was assembled in the vicinity of Willersdorf until 1400. The task force closed at Dainrode at 1645 where we remained for the night. The task force was on constant alert to repel any counterattack that night develop in or near the division zone.

MAP REFERENCE:

GSGS 4416
Map: CENTRAL EUROPE 1/100,000
Sheets # R-3 & S-3

1
O
P
Y

AGPO-CG 201 Thompson, Chester H.
(12 Mar 47) 37363876

15 April 1947

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson
Star Route
Siangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I have your letter of 12 March 1947, concerning your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson.

It would be gratifying indeed to be able to encourage you in the hope for your son's survival, but no report has been received to discredit the official message from the overseas commander which revealed that Private Thompson was killed in action on 29 March 1945, the date he was previously reported missing in action. Supplemental information available discloses that Private Thompson was a member of Company C, 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, which was engaged against the enemy in the vicinity of Hesseln, Germany. Unfortunately, the tank in which he was serving received a direct hit from an enemy anti-tank gun and burst into flames. Your son is reported to have been killed instantly during this action. Hesseln is located about twenty miles from Osnabruck, Germany.

Your wish to be furnished the names and addresses of the members of your son's former organization is fully appreciated. I regret that due to the large number of similar requests the War Department has been obliged to adopt a policy of refraining from making the extensive searches required in such cases, unless they are directly connected with military expediency. However, this policy does not preclude the furnishing of some of the names and addresses of members of an organization and in this connection the following data are given:

First Sergeant John Dutch, 6890610
Company C, 70th Tank Battalion
Fort Knox, Kentucky

Mr. Herman J. Lee, (separated from military service)
Route 3, Box 354
Bakersfield, California

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson

Mr. Bernard L. Agent (separated from military service)
General Delivery
Neshoba, Mississippi

In your letter, reference is made to your belief that Private Thompson might be hospitalized and a victim of amnesia; however, no information has reached this office to indicate that such is the case. Permit me to explain that when a soldier is admitted to a hospital and cannot make his name known properly, he is identified through the comparison of fingerprints and dental charts with those on file in Washington, D. C. After identity is established conclusively, a report is submitted to the appropriate headquarters and the family of the soldier concerned is notified immediately of his status.

With reference to the burial of your son's remains, The Quartermaster General, this city, is concerned with matters of this nature and he has been asked to reply further to you in this respect.

You have my continued sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

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

COMPANY "C", 14TH TANK BATTALION
APO 257, c/o Postmaster, New York, New York

26 August 1945

Mrs. Ollie Thompson
Star Route
Niangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter of 3 August 1945, addressed to the Chaplain of Company "C", 17th Tank Battalion, has been referred to me for reply. I can well understand your perturbed state of mind, and know it is very difficult for you to understand why it took so long to receive more details concerning your son's death. The information I have is very scanty, but I hope it will afford you some consolation.

On the 29 of March 1945, while in combat in central Germany, the tank in which your son was leader received a direct hit from an enemy anti-tank gun, and burst into flames. Your son was killed instantly. The tank was in a heavily contested area at that time, and it was not until the middle of April that a witness to your son's death was discovered. As soon as possible thereafter, you were notified accordingly.

I realize that this information is slight in comparison to the loss you have suffered, but it is all the information available to us. As you must know, Chester was a fine and brave soldier. His performance of duty was in every sense excellent. He will long be remembered by his comrades.

Very truly yours,

/s/ James L. Sparing
/t/ JAMES L. SPARING
1st Lt. Cavalry
Commanding

C O P Y

COMPANY "C" 17TH TANK BATTALION
APO 257, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

JCW/pae

18 April 1945

Mrs. Della Thompson
Box 1241, Grand Junction
Colorado

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

It is with the greatest personal sorrow that I write to express our sense of loss in the death of your husband and our comrade, Private Chester H. Thompson, 37 363 876.

He was killed in action on 29 March 1945 while we were engaged in a particularly hazardous undertaking in Germany. You will, I am sure, be glad to know that the rites of his religion were extended him by an Army Chaplain before he entered battle.

During the course of the engagement fierce enemy resistance was encountered and the lives of many of our soldiers endangered. Private Thompson, by his heroic actions on that occasion, contributed materially to the success of our mission and in so doing lost his life.

Those of us who knew your husband always respected him and admired him for his courage and devotion to duty. Your sorrow and ours on his loss is something beyond writing or speech. We are proud to have known him and will always remember him with affection. He died for his country.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN C. WILSON JR.
1st Lt., Infantry
Commanding.

C O P Y

COPY

Fullerton Calif.
Feb/15/49

Dear Mr. Metz:

Recieved your letter pertaining to Raymond Loyd, Chester Thompson, and Raymond A. Rusch; and there is very little information of their "Death" I can give you.

It is true they were in my platoon and the time and place of their unfortunate accidents happened Mar. 29/45, and were faced with the enemy at Wermerthausere Germany.

I have tried to find Maps of the Area in which the Battle took place, but have had no luck. Therefore I cannot give you a Geographical location of where they were hit.

About the only helpful information I can give you is that they were incinerated in the Tank. I can't seem to recall who were Loyd's Driver and Asst. driver. We were getting replacements all along, and it was hard to keep up with all the men.

I can't say whether the remains of the boys were picked up or not. The Grave Registration took care of all the deceased.

In Loyd's tank there were 5 men. The driver and Asst. driver escaped without any injury. Loyd, Rusch, and Thompson never left the Turrett of the Tank. I can truthfully swear that they were burned inside the Tank. The Tank was hit with three 88's right through the front of the Turret. I left my tank, when I noticed Loyd's tank was on fire and went back to see if there was anything that could be done, but it was too late. So that is about all the information I can give you. I only hope that what I have told is helpful in your investigation and in the meantime I will try to find out more information on the Area of "Wermerthausere Germany" and try to send you a map of where the scene of the Battle ocured.

Respectfully yours,

s/ Loyce S. Westerman

COPY

C O P Y

Fort Knox, Kentucky
20 January 1949

Department of the Army
Office of the Quartermaster General
Washington 25, D. C.
(Attention: Lt Col. T H Metz)

In reply to your letter of 7 January 1949 reference QMGMU World War II Unrecoverables regarding Sgt Raymond T Loyd ASN 36312940, Cpl Raymond A Rusch, ASN 37681421 and Pvt Chester H Thompson ASN 37366876, all of Company C, 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division.

To the best of my knowledge, I last saw Sgt Loyd and his tank crew and talked to them in Giessen, Germany just before the Company pulled out of Giessen Germany. We were in contact with the enemy advancing through six (6) or eight (8) small towns and I do not recall seeing any of the crew or having talked to any of them after leaving Giessen, I did see the tank as we advanced along the route. The tank was knocked out near Wertshausen, Germany. I did not see the tank get hit but did see the tank about five or ten minutes after it was hit and the tank was on fire. No one could get within twenty feet of the tank while we were in that area. I would say that area over an hour. I questioned some men who were there when the tank was hit and the two Enlisted Men that got out of the tank. They stated that the three men mentioned above did not get out of the tank.

I do not remember the other two crew members names. It is my personell belief that there were no remains to be found. I have seen tanks burn for five or six hours and that tank was still burning when the Company left the area. I believe that Staff Sgt Loyce S Westerman, who was Platoon Sergeant at that time, saw the tank get hit. His last known address is Rt. 1 Box 304, Fullerton Calif.

JOHN DUTCH
MASTER SERGENT

C O P Y

C O P Y

10 November 1948

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

In reference to QMGMU 293 World War II Unrecoverables

Gentlemen:

Just returned from a two week trip and hence the delay in replying to your letter of the 29th of October. Also kindly pardon the paper here since it is all I have on hand tonight and I want to get this off quickly so as to enable you to further your search in the right direction.

Your records are incorrect as regards my being in command of the men who you are endeavoring to trace. They were involved in the Wermertschausen action prior to the time I became commanding officer of Company "C", 17th Tank Battalion.

However, I do believe I answered a query requested of me by the parents of one or two of these men's (i.e. Loyd, Thompson and Rusch) parents while I was in charge of the above-mentioned Company "C" sometime in August or September of 1945. I answered said requests to the best of my ability, but my information was strictly second-hand, since I based it on the battle records of the 17th Tank Bn. I cannot now recall just what the exact data was, but I faintly recollect that these men might possibly be the ones who were allegedly in a tank that was hit and its occupants (3 or 4 of them) were burned beyond identification. Please do not give my recollections much weight in this matter, since I do not remember the names of the men who might have been in said tank. However, I do know that 17th Tank Bn records do contain some data on one or two such cases where several men were burned beyond recognition in a single tank.

I would like to aid you somewhat as to who to seek out as the commanding officer of these men at the time of the action above referred to. However, I do not remember the names of the officers we relieved when two fellow officers and I took over Co "C" 17th Tk Bn. I might aid you to some extent by informing you that when you peruse the records of said Co "C", such officers as Capt Roy Nelson and Lts. Deutser, Goldie and myself cannot aid you since we were transferred from the 40th Tank Bn of the same 7th Armd Division quite sometime after hostilities ceased, in fact after the 7th Armd was classified as a "4" division (one which was destined for dissolution after it returned to the States.) You might check "C" Co records for a Lt Patton—now that I think of it—since I faintly remember seeing his name somewhere in said records. There was also a Staff Sgt named Seifert who was one of the very few original Co "C" men who made the trip home with the outfit.

C O P Y

Page Two

Sorry I cannot aid you any further in this matter for I know just how hard some of these matters are to trace. However, altho I was the last commanding officer of Co "C" of the 17th before it disbanded, I was actually a tank officer in Co "C" of the 40th Tank Bn at the time of the incident referred to above.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ James L. Sparing
James L. Sparing
1717 E. 78th St. - Chicago

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO QMGMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

IMPORTANT

Address reply and envelope to:
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Do NOT include the name of the
official who signed the communica-
tion.

23 November 1948

Mr. Francis J. Seifert
Coles Mill Rd.
Franklinville, N.J.

Dear Mr. Seifert:

This office is conducting an investigation to determine the recoverability of the remains of Sergeant Raymond T. Loyd, ASN 36 312 940, Private Chester H. Thompson, 37 363 876, and Corporal Raymond A. Rusch, 37 681 421, Company "C", 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, who were killed in action 29 March 1945, in the vicinity of Wermertschausen, Germany.

The records of this office indicate that you were a former member of Company "C", and it is therefore believed that you may be able to furnish information regarding the following:

① Error of the original
1920 Linden Ave
Lansville, Tenn

11-402 - Sherman (either
C-402 - Company number) Δ

1 Sgt. John Ketch 6890610
Co A 10th Med Tank Bn T A S
Fort Knox, Ky

③ Campbell
Address Unknown

9 Δ - C-402

- a. What other men comprised the crew of the tank in which the three (3) men were killed?
- b. Can you place the location where the tank was knocked out?
- c. Can you provide the name of the tank, the number, and unit symbols?
- d. Can you suggest a witness to the disaster, or anyone else who might have this and other information?

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely yours,

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

1 Incl
Self-addr. Env.

293
Campbell
Address Unknown



10

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

QMGMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

7 January 1949

Mr. Elmer H. Harper
1920 Linden Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Harper:

This office is conducting an investigation to determine the recoverability of the remains of Sergeant Raymond T. Loyd, ASN 36 312 940, Private Chester H. Thompson, ASN 37 363 876, and Corporal Raymond A. Rusch, ASN 37 601 421, Company "C", 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, who were killed in action 29 March 1945, in the vicinity of Wermertshausen, Germany.

Information recently received in this office indicates that you were a surviving crew member of said tank which was destroyed by enemy action on 29 March 1945. It is, therefore, believed that you may be able to furnish information regarding the following:

- a. Can you place the location where the tank was knocked out? *Left of the barrel of the gun.*
- b. Can you provide the name of the tank, the number, and unit symbols? *A medium sized tank. Don't remember the unit symbols.*
- c. Were the remains of the deceased removed by other tankmen, and if so, what final disposition was made of the remains? *I never did see the boys no more after I got out. But the tank burnt up.*
- d. If the remains were not removed from the tank, what was the condition of the remains (incinerated, dismembered etc.)? *I don't know I had to keep moving on.*
- e. How many comprised the tank crew, and how many survived? *3 got killed in the tank and 1 more boy got out.*

Any additional information that will assist this office in locating or ascertaining the remains of subject decedents will be most helpful.

QMGMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

7 January 1949

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.
A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl
Self-addressed Env.

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

1. FILE UNDER NO. 293 - THOMPSON, Chester H. 37363876

SYNOPSIS

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT:

Letter

3. DATE:

7 Jan 49

4. FROM:

OCM

5. ~~TO:~~

**CO, Co. A - 10th Med. Tank Bn TAS, Ft. Knox, Kentucky
1st Sgt. John Dutch, Co. A. - 10th Med. Tank Bn TAS, Ft. Knox,
Kentucky**

6. SUBJECT:

Request for Casualty Information

7. DOCUMENT FILED

UNDER NO. 293 - GCS, Europe

(Ident.)

is

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
7. File classification under which the document is filed.

~~QJ030 293
World War II
Unrecoverables~~

293 [unclear] Europe
Ident - Loyd, Raymond T.
7 January 1949

Mr. Elmer H. Harper
1920 Linden Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Harper:

4 293 This office is conducting an investigation to determine the recoverability of the remains of Sergeant Raymond T. Loyd, ASN 36 312 940, Private Chester H. Thompson, ASN 37 363 876, and Corporal Raymond A. Busch, ASN 37 501 421, Company "C", 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, who were killed in action 29 March 1945, in the vicinity of Wermertshausen, Germany.

Information recently received in this office indicates that you were a surviving crew member of said tank which was destroyed by enemy action on 29 March 1945. It is, therefore, believed that you may be able to furnish information regarding the following:

- a. Can you place the location where the tank was knocked out?
- b. Can you provide the name of the tank, the number, and unit symbols?
- c. Were the remains of the deceased removed by other tankmen, and if so, what final disposition was made of the remains?
- d. If the remains were not removed from the tank, what was the condition of the remains (incinerated, dismembered etc.)?
- e. How many comprised the tank crew, and how many survived?

Any additional information that will assist this office in locating or ascertaining the remains of subject decedents will be most helpful.

293
THOMPSON, Chester H.
37363876

QMGMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

7 January 1949

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.
A self-addressed envelope is inclosed for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely yours,

VT/mc

1 Incl
Self-addressed Env.

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

HEB

JCM

1. FILE UNDER NO.

293 - THOMPSON, Chester D. (37 363 876)

SYNOPSIS

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT:

Letter

3. DATE:

22 Nov 1948

4. FROM:

OQMG

5. TO:

Mr. George A. Petten, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

6. SUBJECT:

Investigation to determine the recoverability of remains of Sgt. Raymond T. Loyd, killed in action 29 March 1945, in the vicinity of Wermertschausen, Germany..
.....

7. DOCUMENT FILED

UNDER NO.

293 - GRS European

(Ident.)

mab

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
7. File classification under which the document is filed.

1. FILE UNDER NO. 293 - THOMPSON, Chester H. (37 363 876)

SYNOPSIS

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT: **Letter** 3. DATE: **29 Oct 1948**

4. FROM: **OQMG**

5. TO: **Mr. James L. Sparing, Chicago, Ill.**

6. SUBJECT: **This office is conducting an investigation to determine the recoverability of the remains of Sgt. Raymond T. Loyd. . . . who were killed in action 29 Mar 45, in the vicinity of Wasmertschausen, Germany.**

7. DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. **293 - GRS Europe (Ident.) (Loyd, RaymondT.)**

mab

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

- 1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
- 2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
- 3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
- 6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
- 7. File classification under which the document is filed.

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
MEMORIAL DIVISION

ZJR

IDENTIFICATION DATA

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <i>Thompson, Chester H.</i>			ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <i>37-363-876</i>		GRADE <i>Pvt.</i>
HEIGHT <i>5'10"</i>	WEIGHT <i>132</i>	COLOR EYES <i>Brown</i>	COLOR HAIR <i>Blonde</i>	SHOE SIZE <i>9B</i>	DATE OF BIRTH <i>39 Mar 45</i>

LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give complete designation)
Co C 17th Tank Bn

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA
Heckem, Germany

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

STATION	DATES
<i>Ft Knox, Ky</i>	<i>May 44 to Sept 44</i>
<i>Co Chaffee, Ark</i>	<i>Oct 44 to Nov 44</i>
<i>Ft Knox, Ky</i>	<i>Nov 44 to Dec 44</i>
<i>Ft Belvoir, Mo</i>	<i>not of record to Jan 45</i>

FROM: T.O. AGO CLINICAL RECORDS BRANCH
NO RECORDS ON FILE

FILE
SEP 27 1948
S. J. [unclear] [unclear]

<p>FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS</p> <p><i>not of record</i></p>	<p>TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTH MARKS</p> <p><i>not of record</i></p>
--	---

DENTAL CHART *13 May 44*

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
UPPER RIGHT								UPPER LEFT							
X	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



QMGMF 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 361 876

Information concerning Gold Star Button

Medals and Badges Section
Decorations & Awards Br., AGO
Room 2B923, The Pentagon

OQMG
Memorial Division
Family Corres. Br.

29 Sept 1948

Smith
Ext - 2289

1. Forwarded for reply to so much thereof as pertains to your office.
2. Writer has not been advised of this reference.

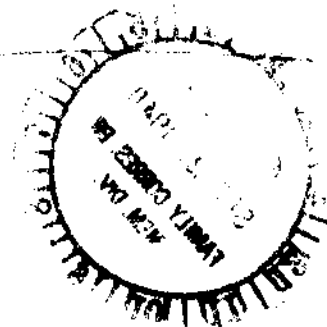
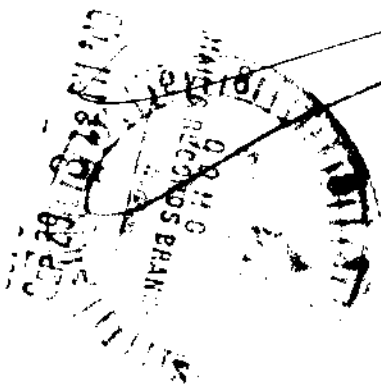
FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMG
Memorial Division

JFS

hek

1 Incl
Cy ltr fr Mrs. Mary O. Thompson



QMEMF 293
Thompson, Chester H.
SN 37 363 876

29 September 1948

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson
Star Route
Niangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter to The Adjutant General, concerning your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson, has been referred to this office.

With deep regret I must inform you that no information has been received in this office indicating that the remains of your son have been recovered.

A continuous and intensive search is being made of the area in which he died, and it is my sincere hope that it will be possible to recover and rebury the remains of your son in an established Military cemetery. Meanwhile, please rest assured that when a report is received I will inform you immediately.

Please do not hesitate to call upon us at any time if you believe we can assist you further.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

bak

67

SEP 29 9 12 AM '48
QMC
MEMORIAL DIVISION

8

CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET

NAME OF DECEDENT (Last, First, Middle)

Thompson, Chester H.

PREVIOUS BURIAL LOCATION (Cemetery and Country)	PLOT	ROW	GRAVE
---	------	-----	-------

PRESENT BURIAL LOCATION (Cemetery and Country)	PLOT	ROW	GRAVE
--	------	-----	-------

ADDRESSEE MRS. MRS. <i>MARY C. Thompson</i>	ADDRESS (Street, City, State) <i>Star Route Niangva, Missouri</i>
RELATIONSHIP <i>Mother</i>	

PARAGRAPHS (Sequence)	ADDITIONAL DATA — MODIFICATIONS
<i>165 B</i>	<i>-Adjutant General</i>
<i>41 A</i>	
<i>166 C</i>	

GRADE

Pvt.

SERIAL NUMBER

37 363 876

ANALYST INITIALS AND DATE
Gary 27 Sep 1948

TYPIST INITIALS

REVIEWER INITIALS AND DATE

MEMORIAL DIVISION
FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH

DATE 16 Sept 48

TO: Identification Branch

FROM: Family Letters Section

SUBJECT: Case Name Hampson, Chester H. Pvt.

Request situation paragraph, and cemetery if appropriate, 37363876
applicable to this case.

R.W.E.

No Burial information.

*R. Willis
23 Sept. 48*

24 Sept. 1948

Findings of non-recoverability have not been received from the field
to date.

D
ADEN
73472

76

Nangua, MO: by
Star Route
Aug. 23-1948

Mr. Edward F. Witsell

JMS

Major General.

In regard to my son ²³ Chester H. Thompson, 37343 876.

He was killed in action March 29-1945 in vicinity of Hesselrn Germany; He was member of 1st Army Co: C:

17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Div.

the last report of War Department

my son was buried up and

if there are any remains - it had not

been found.

Please do not send his body

home. But let me know where

the remains are buried.

Mrs Mary O. Thompson

Star Route

Nangua, MO;

Please let me know if
his remains are ever found.
also I'd like a gold star
also I want those prisoners
of war released. we gave our
sons for freedom?



A I R M A I L

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

In Reply Refer to
QMGM 293

15 July 1947

Thompson, Chester H.
SN-37 363 876

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

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

1. There is attached hereto, ~~in duplicate~~, OQMG Form 371
(covering all available information in the Office of The Quartermaster
General and is in addition to any previous information forwarded by
this office to your headquarters) for the following deceased individual:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SERIAL NO</u>
Thompson, Chester H.	Pvt	37 363 876

2. It is requested that information on the above deceased be
furnished this office in accordance with provisions of Letter, The
Adjutant General's Office, file AGAO 293.9 (27 Mar 47) D-M, subject
Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead
Overseas, dated 9 April 1947.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Incl
Form 371 (5 cys)

MARTIN G. RILEY
Major, QMG
Memorial Division

A I R M A I L

AMP
J

293 FILE		D. A ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)			GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER	
Thompson, Chester H.			Pvt	37 363 876	
ORGANIZATION		RACE	CREED	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If Applicable)	
Co "C" 7 Armd Div. 17th Tank Bn.		White	Catholic		
DATE OF DEATH/WFA	CAUSE OF DEATH		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA		
29 Mar 45	Killed in action		European Area		
DATE OF FOD					
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR	SHOE SIZE	
5' 10"	132	Brown	Brown	9-8	
DENTAL CHART 15 May 44					
UPPER RIGHT			UPPER LEFT		
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 O O			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
LOWER RIGHT			LOWER LEFT		
X 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9			9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 X		
X = Extracted O = Carious I = Carious Non-Restorable					
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS			TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK		
NOT OF RECORD					
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION					
AGE: 32 years His tank received a direct hit from the enemy and burst into flames. This occurred in vicinity of Hesseln, Germany about (20) miles from Osnabrook, Germany.					

QACMF 293
Thompson, Chester H.
S.N. 37 363 876

29 May 1947

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson
Star Route
Niangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter to the War Department concerning your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson, has been referred to us for reply.

It is with deep regret that you are advised that, up to the present time, information pertaining to the burial of the remains of your son has not been received in this office. An inquiry is being made to obtain information regarding his remains. Upon completion of this inquiry you will be advised as to the results.

Our continued sympathy is with you in your great loss.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. COOMBS
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

ok

20

Handwritten notes and stamps:
21 MAY 1947
SA WMA
OFFICIAL

Postmark:
MAY 29 1947
MAIL ROOM
UNIT
W.

Handwritten note at bottom:
File handed to ...
... ..

CORRESPONDENCE ACTION WORK SHEET

Send Letter to Mrs. Mary O. Thompson mother
Star Route Relationship

ADDRESS Osage, Missouri

Army Serial Number 37 363 876 Rank Pvt

OPENING PARAGRAPH: 62-1 62-2 62-3 62-4
u.d.

BURIAL INFORMATION: 6 6A 7 8 9 10 10A 11 12 12A 13 13A
 14 14A 14B 15 16 17 20 21 22 22B

Temp. Cem.
 Perm. Cem.

Plot	Row	Grave	Name of Cem.	City and Country
------	-----	-------	--------------	------------------

RETURN OF REMAINS: 78 79 81 82

OTHER PARAGRAPHS	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	35	36	40	41	42
	43	51	53	54	55	56	57	58	58A	60	61	63A
	63B	65	65A	65B	65C	65D	66	67	68	68A	69	70
	73	74	76	84	85							

INDORSEMENTS: To AG (47 71) To Ch of Chap (48 71)
 To Other Agencies: (71)

PERSONAL EFFECTS: 50 64

SUSPEND _____ days

Copy of letter to AGO and Identification Section*

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS * * PERMANENT CHANGE OF ADDRESS
 BUCK SLIP TO RECORDS SECTION
 COPY TO ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dates of Letters for which Copies are Necessary to AAF:

OTHER:

NAME OF DECEASED

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE INITIAL

CLOSING PARAGRAPH: 62-8 Regret Delay *
Our continued sympathy is with you in your great loss.

Letter to be Dated Shaw Analyst Typist Reviewer

* Note: Circle paragraph numbers and/or starred phrases that are applicable.

F-8

TO: Identification Section

Case Name Thompson, Chester H., 37 36 38 76

Request situation paragraph, and cemetery if appropriate, applicable to this case.

*Miss Sabina
Carver
260 "B"*

0008155

Tab A

WAR DEPARTMENT

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

DISPOSITION FORM

FILE No.
AGFO-CG 201

SUBJECT
Private Chester H. Thompson, 37 363 876

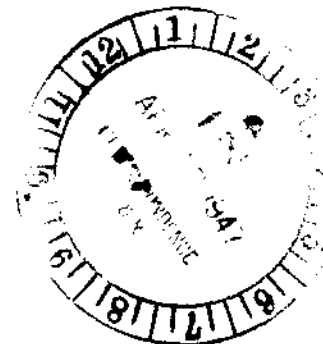
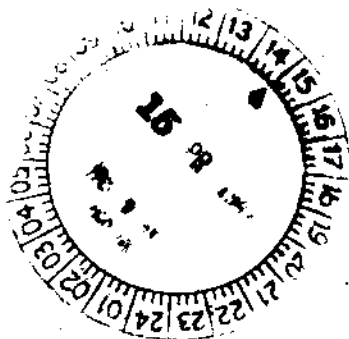
TO	FROM	DATE	COMMENT No. 1
Director Memorial Division, OCMG Rm 2035 Tempo Bldg B Washington, D. C.	Personnel Actions Branch Casualty Section Inves & Corres Subsection Rm 5C 826 The Pentagon	15 Apr 47	Topper/4494

For further direct reply to the foregoing copy of letter from Mrs. Mary O. Thompson, Star Route, Niangua, Missouri, who has been advised of this reference, relative to the recovery and burial of the remains and location of the grave of Private Chester H. Thompson, 37363876, who was killed in action on 29 March 1945, in Germany.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

R. Topper
 JOSEPH CLAYTON MARSHALL, Maj, AGD
 Ex Off, Cas Sec, PAB

2 Inclosures
 Cpy ltr dtd 12 Mar 47
 Cpy reply fr this office



*no B/r in 47
 mt 21 April 47*

AGPO-CG 201 Thompson, Chester H.
(12 Mar 47) 37363876

15 April 1947

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson
Star Route
Niangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I have your letter of 12 March 1947, concerning your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson.

It would be gratifying indeed to be able to encourage you in the hope for your son's survival, but no report has been received to discredit the official message from the overseas commander which revealed that Private Thompson was killed in action on 29 March 1945, the date he was previously reported missing in action. Supplemental information available discloses that Private Thompson was a member of Company C, 17th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division, which was engaged against the enemy in the vicinity of Hessel, Germany. Unfortunately, the tank in which he was serving received a direct hit from an enemy anti-tank gun and burst into flames. Your son is reported to have been killed instantly during this action. Hessel is located about twenty miles from Jansbruck, Germany.

Your wish to be furnished the names and addresses of the members of your son's former organization is fully appreciated. I regret that due to the large number of similar requests the War Department has been obliged to adopt a policy of refraining from making the extensive searches required in such cases, unless they are directly connected with military expediency. However, this policy does not preclude the furnishing of some of the names and addresses of members of an organization and in this connection the following data are given:

First Sergeant John Dutch, 6890610
Company C, 70th Tank Battalion
Fort Knox, Kentucky

Mr. Herman J. Lee, (separated from military service)
Route 3, Box 354
Bakersfield, California

Mrs. Mary O. Thompson

Mr. Bernard L. Agent (separated from military service)
General Delivery
Neshoba, Mississippi

In your letter, reference is made to your belief that Private Thompson might be hospitalized and a victim of amnesia; however, no information has reached this office to indicate that such is the case. Permit me to explain that when a soldier is admitted to a hospital and cannot make his name known properly, he is identified through the comparison of fingerprints and dental charts with those on file in Washington, D. C. After identity is established conclusively, a report is submitted to the appropriate headquarters and the family of the soldier concerned is notified immediately of his status.

With reference to the burial of your son's remains, The Quartermaster General, this city, is concerned with matters of this nature and he has been asked to reply further to you in this respect.

You have my continued sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

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

C
O
P
Y

Niangua, Mo.

March 12 - 47

War Department

Would like to know if you have learned any more about the death of my son chester h. thompson 37363876 was reported killed at Hes in Germany (I cant find that place on map) on March 29 - 1945 - He was in Company C, 17 Tank Battalion, 7 Armored Div., would you give me names of crew and address. Do you think he could be in some Hospital; with loss of memory? and if you are positive of his death then could I have the remains. Please check over all unidentified soldiers. I still hope to find him.

/s/ Mrs. Mary O. Thompson

Star Rt

Niangua, Mo.



*with him as
not a soldier*

Ed 1 Spec No 4-21-47 712

SPCYG 293 Thompson, Chester H. 1st Ind.
S.N. 37 363 876

Handwritten initials

~~ASF, OQMS, Washington 25, D. C.~~ 2 November 1945

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

Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your office.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

JAMES L. PRENN
Major, QMC
Assistant

1 Incl.
copy ltr e/d

Handwritten notes and stamps:
NOV 2 2 22 24 43
O. G. M. G.
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

NOV 2 1 48 PM '45
MEMORIAL DIVISION

SPONS 293
Thompson, Chester H.
S.M. 37 363 876

2 November 1945

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

Mrs. Ollie Thompson
Star Route
Niangua, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter addressed to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been referred to this office for reply concerning your son, the late Private Chester H. Thompson.

A copy of your letter has been forwarded to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C., for direct reply. That office has jurisdiction over releasing information concerning military personnel.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your son.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

irz

JAMES I. PRENN
Major, QMG
Assistant

NOV 2 2 23 PM '45

MAIL & RECORDS SECTION

VE VETS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
War Service Commission
Tower Building Washington 5, D. C.

JOSEPH M. STACK
Director

GEORGE L. MAC ELROY
Asst. Information Officer

July 27, 1945

Office of the Quartermaster General
Memorial Division
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention Miss Riordan

Dear Miss Riordan:

In compliance with our telephone conversation of this date
you will find enclosed communication relative to the three
men we spoke of.

Any information will be appreciated by this organization.

Very truly yours,

S/S/ George L. MacElroy

T/T/ George L. MacElroy
Assistant Information Officer

GJM:mef
Encl: 3

copy

Niangua, Mo.
July 20, 1945

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Tower Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I have a son reported killed in action March 29. Please get me information as to when and where he was, the last the Army knew of him, also his buddies names and addresses. He was on the Armored Division.

Pvt. Chester Hoyt THOMPSON, 37363876
Co. C. , 17th T. K. Bn.
A. P. O. 257, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Ollie Thompson
Niangua, Missouri
Star Route

C
O
P
Y

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

DATE 3 June 1945 blh/ 34

REPORT OF DEATH

FULL NAME THOMPSON, CHESTER H.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 37 363 876	GRADE PVT
HOME ADDRESS Gunnison, Colorado		ARM OR SERVICE AMD	DATE OF BIRTH 9 Nov 1913
PLACE OF DEATH European Area	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in Action		DATE OF DEATH 29 Mar 1945
STATION OF DECEASED European Area		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 13 May 1944	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS

EMERGENCY ADDRESSES (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS)

Mrs. Della Thompson, Wife, Box 1241, Grand Junction, Colorado

BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS)

Mrs. Della Thompson, Wife, Same as above
Kenneth C. Thompson, Son, Mary J. Thompson, Daughter, Same as above
Mr. Charles H. Thompson, General Delivery, Mountain Grove, Mo. * (father)

INVESTIGATION MADE		IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT		WAS DECREASED ON DUTY STATUS		AUTHORIZED ABSENCE		IN FLYING PAY STATUS		OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW)	
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
											<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

Beneficiaries Continued

Mrs Mary O. Thompson, General Delivery, Niangua, Mo. (mother) BATTLE NON-BATTLE

The individual named in this report of death is held by the War Department to have been in a missing in action status from 29 March 1945, until such absence was terminated on 27 April 1945, when evidence considered sufficient to establish the fact of death was received by the Secretary of War from a commander in the European Area.

COPIES FURNISHED:

S. S. O.	F. B. I.	F. O., U. S. A.
S. O. C. M. S.	O. F. D.	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
S. A. O.	VEY. ADMIN.	CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
		A. S. 201 FILE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

R. E. Hubler
 ADJUTANT GENERAL