WNR-01-09-024-1-027-06-003 Whole Container: N Created: 09/30/2016 On-Site Review Asset#: AAC1-23786922 **|||||** RES909301601 General Reference C/F:PERRI, FERDINAND F. #33774742 Standard Standard (billed) N/A ARR1-2145111876

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY				
NAME (Last, Fire	, Middle)			
	PERRI FERDINAND F-			
RANK	SERIAL NUMBER			
	PVT 33774742			
ARM OF SERVICE				
	ARMY			
DATE OF DEATH	AREA OF DEATH			

25 SEPT 44

FRANCE

NAME OF AUDITOR

KATZ 13 DEC. SI

NAME OF REVIEWER DATE

AGSDALE 14 DEC 57

REMARKS

NAME		GRADE	SERIAL NO.
Perri, Ferd	linand F.	Pvt	33 774 742
DO NOT TAKE ANY A	CTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE I	NFORMATION FROM THIS FILE	WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:
LIAISON OFFIC	E, MEMORIAL DIVISION		FLAGGED BY (Initials)
			FLACOFO DV CT 111 1
1 DENTIFICATIO	N BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION		FLAGGED BY (Initials) Lt. Edwards
IDENTIFICATIO	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO.	A-Z 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.

00MG FORM 1900

48 7158

QMRRF 293
Perri, Ferdinand F., Pvt.
33 774 742

10 December 1951

Mrs. Anna Perri 7839 Nixon Street Philadelphia 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Perri:

Several years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your husband, the late Private Ferdinand F. Perri.

It is with deep regret that your Government finds it necessary to inform you that further search and investigation have failed to reveal the whereabouts of your husband's remains. Since all efforts to recover and/or identify his remains have failed, it has been necessary to declare that his remains are not recoverable.

Realizing the extent of your great loss, it is with reluctance that you are sent the information 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,

MAIL & RAIL & RAIL & BRANCH S BRANCH

DIGGS 52408 JAMES B. CLEARVATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division LAY



QMGMF 293 PERRI, Ferdinand F. SN 33 774 742

Mrs. Anna Perri 7839 Nixon Street, Philadelphia 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Perri:

Several years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your man, the late Private Ferdinand F. Perri.

It is with deep regret that your Government finds it necessary to inform you that further search and investigation have failed to reveal the whereabouts of your source remains. Since all efforts to recover and/or identify his remains have failed, it has been necessary to declare that his remains are not recoverable.

Realizing the extent of your great loss, it is with reluctance that you are sent the information that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your sants honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES B. CLEARWATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division

NON-RECOVERABLE CASE RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL

17131 (2)

AREA OR ZONE(S)

European

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Perri, Ferdinand F.

Pvt

SERIAL NUMBER

33 774 742

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 one (1) other

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.

1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S)	INITIALS OF ANALYST	2.	(CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE) a. REPORT OF DEATH BCCCONDENCE BRODENPER OCCURATIONS OF THE WAS CONTROPNED AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	INITIALS OF ANALYST
A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN 3. U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS		4.	GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNS RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	ape
ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED 5. TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWNS		6.	ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UN- KNOWNS NOW IDENTIFIED	

7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES

None

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:

MAM

FILE

None

NAME OF CASE ANALYST

CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO Registration Branch, Correspondence Sec.

FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL CASE REVIEWER,

CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SEC-TION

IDENTIFICATION BRANCH CHIFF.

2 9 001 1951

DATE

TION SECTION E. NEWBAKER

A. &. Craten/cwt

MARY A. EDWARDS, Capt QMC

APPROVED

BEN JAMIN B. KING. Lt HEADQUARTERS
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
OPERATIONS DIVISION
APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

11131

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

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

1. The Board convened pursuant to par. 4, SO 32, Headquarters, 7887 Graves Registration Detachment, APO 757, US Army, 10 April 1951, at Liege, Belgium, on 18 June 1951.

2. Members present:

JAMES C. MacFARLAND Lt Colonel, QMC GEORGE GUNDERMAN, JR. Major, QMC ALLAN L. LAWSON Captain QMC

- 3. PURPOSE: To review and determine, from evidence presented, the non-recoverability of the remains of World War II dead lost in the geographical area described below:
 - a. Area ½ mile Southeast of Longueville, Moselle, France, Case # 763.

b. FACTS:

The casualties listed below, members of the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, were reported as Killed in Action in the location as set forth above, on 25 September 1944.

PERRI, Ferdinand F. Pvt 33 774 742 PONCE, Alfonso Pvt 39 577 559

4. FINDINGS:

- a. The only information available on the two casualties is that given by Mr. John L. Margreiter Jr., who in two letters has outlined the area where the two casualties were last seen.
- b. Field Investigations were conducted in the appropriate area in April, December 1950 and 4 May 1951 in conjunction with information given by John L. Margreiter Jr., however, these complete investigations have ended negatively, thus the remains of the two casualties must be considered Non-Recoverable.

Non-Recoverable Board Proceedings: (Cont'd)

18 June 1951

- c. Reference is made to: OQMG Forms 371; Letters received from John L. Margreiter Jr., dated 21 May and 28 September 1948: On file in the Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.
- d. Reference is also made to: Narratives of Investigations. dated 25 April, 11 December 1950 and 4 May 1951: Attached.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: That the remains of the deceased herein considered, be determined Non-Recoverable.

JAMES C. MacFARLAND Lt Colonel, QMC

Member

GEORGE GUNDERMAN, JR

Major, Member

ALLAN L. LAWSON QMC Captain

Member

QMC

2

7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT APO 757 (LIEGE) US ARMY

SPECIAL ORDERS)

10 April 1951

NUMBER 32

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

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4. PAC, Ltr., WD-AGO-S 293.9, dtd 9 Apr 47, Subj: "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas", and par 118 b, SR 830-110-5, DA, dtd 3 Mar 49, a Board of Ofs as follows, is hereby apt to meet at the call of the President thereof, for the purpose of reviewing case records pertaining to the Identification of Deceased Determination of non-recoverability of Remains and for the purpose of reviewing Major Discrepancy cases.

LT COL JAMES C. MacFARLAND, O 1 576 321, QMC., President MAJOR GEORGE GUNDERMAN, Jr., O 1 289 071, INF/QMC., CAPT CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, O 1 040 311, QMC., CAPT ALLAN L. LAWSON, O 1 288 075, QMC., 1ST LT ROBERT W. GANSEL, O 1 599 085, QMC., 2D LT JOHN A. BOUTIN, O 947, 298, QMC.,

BY ORDER OF COLONEL AMLONG:

EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., Capt., QMC, Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/ EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., t/ EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., CAPT., QMC, Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

MARY A. EDWARDS 1st Lt QMC HEADQUARTERS
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
REGISTRATION DIVISION
APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

25 April 1950

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

I. AUTHORITY

In compliance with the instructions contained in Investigation Directive # 193 dated 7 April 1950, an investigation was conducted in the vicinity of LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS and BOUXIERE-sous-FROMONT in an effort to locate the foxhole described by John L. Margreiter Jr. in his letter dated 28 September 1948.

II. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

The information contained in the above mentioned letter and accompaning sketch, indicates that Pvt. Ferdinand PERRI and Alfonso PONCE were part of a group of replacements which were moved into position in the rear of "C" Company, 23 Armored Infantry Battalion, on the night of the 22 September 1944. The men were instructed to "dig in" along the edge of a road between BOUXTERE and LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS. This road had been "zeroed in" by the enemy, who were in possession of the town of LONGUEVILLE and a mortar shell landed in the foxhole which the two men were occupying.

III. FINDINGS

Upon arriving at the town of LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS, 25 kilometers South West of METZ, it was found through questioning of local residents, that the Gendarmerie having jurisdiction over this area is located in the town of SOLGNE, approximately ten (10) kilometers away. Upon arriving at this town, contact was made with the Commandant of the Brigade, Mr. Touvenot. He stated that he was familiar with the territory in question and that he had been stationed in the area in November of 1944. During part of the time subsequent to this date, he had been attached to a unit of the Military Police and had been instrumental in the recovery of the remains of several American deceased. He also stated that his office had never been previously contacted regarding the recovery of the two deceased involved in this case. After regarding the map which was inclosed as part of the letter from Mr. Margreiter, he suggested that the owner of a farm located near the scene of this incident

Narrative of Investigation

25 April 1950

might be able to furnish additional information. In the company of Mr. Touvenot, this investigator proceeded to the farm of Mr. Louis Borsenberger, located at MARLEY-AUX-BOIS. Here it was discovered that the brother of Mr. Borsenberger had found a wallet and prayer book sometime in 1945 and had turned them over to the Gendarmerie where they were forwarded to the AGRC headquarters either at Nancy or Paris. In addition it was discovered that this particular farm had been used by the American troops as a hospital and dispensary and Mr. Borsenberger was still in possession of a book or register in which were entered the names of patients treated between the 21 June 1944 and the 15 October 1944. This record is marked simply as "SICK CALL RECORD 3rd Bn" with no unit designation given and is being forwarded with this report only as a matter of record, as it is believed that it has no direct bearing on this case. Further questioning of Mr. Borsenberger disclosed the fact that the area indicated in the sketch inclosed as part of the letter from Mr. John L. Margreiter Jr. is situated slightly below this farm and that it has previously been investigated with negative results. A visit was then made to the area in question and it was discovered that many foxholes are still in this vicinity. Most of these holes show evidence of having been investigated. Brush and shrubs have been cut down and the dirt disturbed. These foxholes also show, by the presence of empty "C Ration" cans and traces of cardboard cartons, as well as the reinforcing of the sides by boards and burlap sacking, that they were occupied for a longer period of time than is indicated by Mr. Margreiter's letter.

In attempting to orient the sketch which was inclosed as part of this letter, it was found that the road, as indicated on this plan, is not shown in the correct geographical location. It is actually located further North East, as the road makes a sharp bend some three hundred yards below the spot indicated. In an effort to determine the exact location and the owner of the property concerned, I next visited the Mairie of the village of Cheminot where contact was made with the secretary. Examination of a large scale map of this section of the terrain disclosed the section, which appears to be that indicated by Mr. Margreiter, as being under cultivation at the present time. (see sketch of area attached). Mr. Hurstel, the secretary, stated that he had been told that a few foxholes had been found in this area but that they had been filled in by the owner of the land several years ago. He also stated that no report of the findings of any remains had ever been made to the Mayor's office. (Statement attached).

Narrative of Investigation

25 April 1950

The area in question was then visited and it was found to be under cultivation as previously stated. Three shallow depressions found along the edge of the road were investigated with negative results.

Mr. Touvenot, Commandant of the Gendarmerie stated that he would have a notice circulated in the area stating the fact that the remains of two American soldiers might still be buried there and that all foxholes and shell craters were to be investigated before being filled in by the land owners concerned. The correct address of this headquarters was left at the Gendarmerie and any information obtained by the Commandant will be forwarded.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Previous investigation in this area was made in a section which could not have been occupied by the subject casualties.

The area where the foxholes indicated by Mr. Margreiter were located, is now under cultivation and has been for several years.

Foxholes that may have existed have been filled in and no trace of remains has been found by persons working this land.

V. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Gendarmerie at SOIGNE be given time to inform the land owners in question of the facts as stated and that another investigation be conducted later when conditions will permit the excavation of parts of the area now under cultivation.

4 Incls

1. Statement
Mr. Touvenot

2. Statement
Mr. Victor Hurstel

3. "SICK CALL RECORD 3rd Bn"

4. Sketch of Area

H. E. WARNER

DA CIV Investigator

Moselle 765

STATEMENT

Cheminot, 25 April 1950

I the undersigned HURSTEL Victor, school teacher, secretary to the Mayor declare the American GRC, made an investigation concerning the soldiers killed in September 1944 in the territory of the Commune. This work was done in the presence of Mr. Thouvenot, Chief Policeman at Solgne.

Furthermore, searches were conducted in the course of the year 1949 by an employee of the searching services.

certified a true translation

/s/ HURSTEL

JOHN COUNTRY

Investigator

IBS

Seal

GENDARMERIE NATIONALE

Solgne 25 April 1950

Today 25 April 1950, we accompanied a searching party with the purpose of discovering the remains of an American soldier killed in 1944, near Cheminot.

We found the place indicated by the witness, but no remains could be found.

from the information obtained at Monly-aux-Bois, Longeville, and Cheminot, we located 50 foxholes, mostly killed in by the land-owners.

Certified a true translation:

JEAN LAURAIN Investigator

IBS

/s/ The Chief Policeman
Thouvenot

/s/ Illegible

Seal

11 December 1950

This investigation could not be completed due to the fact that the area in which excavation and probing operations are to be conducted, is flooded. It is recommended that the case be held in suspense until Spring.

H.S. EPHRAIM

HEADQUARTERS
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
OPERATIONS DIVISION
APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

4 May 1951

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

I. In compliance with the instructions contained in Investigation Directive # 554, dated 13 November 1950, an investigation was conducted in the vicinity of LONGUEVILLE-Les-CHEMINOTS and BOUXIERE-SOUS-FROIDMONT in an effort to recover the remains of Pvt FERDINAND F. PERRI, 33774742 and Pvt ALFONSO, PONCE, 39577559 reported to have been killed in action in this area.

II. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

Information contained in letters received from Mr John L. Margreiter Jr, indicates that Pvts Ferdinand PERRI and Alfonso PONCE were part of a group of replacements which were moved into position in the rear of "C" Company, 23 Armored Infantry Battalion, on the night of the 22 September 1944. The men were instructed to "dig in" along the edge of a road between BOUXIERE and LONGUEVILLE-LES-CHEMINOTS. This road had been "zeroed in" by the enmy, who were in possession of the town of LONGUEVILLE and a mortar shell landed in the foxhole which the two men were occupying, killing them instantly and almost completely covering the remains with earth, Due to the tactical situation, the remains were not evacuated and it is believed that the men were not reported missing until some time after their organization had left the area.

A previous investigation was made in this area in April 1950 with negative results. Area indicated in sketch furnished by Mr Margreiter was under cultivation and many of the foxholes had been filled in by the owners of the land.

III. FINDINGS:

As this case had been previously investigated with the assistance of Mr TOUVENOT, Commandant of the Brigade of Gendarmes for this region, located in the town of SOLGNE, he was visited in an attempt to find out if additional research carried out by the police had revealed any further information. Mr TOUVENOT stated that he had caused the story of the circumstances surrounding the death of the subject casualties to be circulated in the area concerned but that to date, no additional information had been received from land owners or local residents.

A visit was next made to the area concerned and a thorough search was made. Woods and fields were subjected to a foot by foot examination, the sides of the roads leading to BOUXIERE-SOUS-FROIDMONT and MARLY-AUX-BOIS were also checked as far as the outskirts of these two villages. All foxholes and shell craters were excavated to a depth sufficient to eliminate

Narrative of Investigation: (Cont'd)

4 May 1951

the presence of human remains. The area indicated in the sketch provided by Mr. Margreiter was also carefully checked and any depression resembling either a foxhole or a shell crater was excavated. The results of this search were completely negative.

Woodcutters at work cutting the trees along a portion of the road to BOUXIERE and local residents of LONGUEVILLE-LES-CHEMINOTS and CHEMINOTS at work in nearby fields were also questioned with negative results. All persons interrogated stated that they had never heard of any remains being discovered in this area.

Due to the fact that information furnished by Mr. Margreiter indicates the area where the subject casualties were killed as "½ mile South East of Longueville-les-Cheminots along the road to Bouxiere-sous-Froidmont", when this road actually runs South West of Longueville it had previously been supposed that this was a natural error on his part due to the lapse of time and circumstances involved. In order to verify this however, the region East and South East of Longueville was also investigated. The results of this further research were also negative. Nothing could be found in this direction which corresponds in any respect with the description of the area furnished by Mr. Margreiter.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The entire area between Longueville-les-Cheminots and Bouxiere-sous-Froidmont has been thoroughly investigated with negative results.

All foxholes and shell craters have been excavated and fields have been carefully inspected.

The condition of the area where the subject casualties occured; ie: under cultivation or open fields which are used for grazing, would seem to preclude the possibility of any remains being undiscovered after normal operations were resumed by local farmers. Local residents and persons cultivating the land in the area in question have been interrogated by the French police with negative results since the previous investigation in April 1950.

It therefore seems logical to conclude that the remains of the subject casualties were discovered and removed by American units that occupied the area shortly after this incident occurred.

V. RECOMMENDATION:

That a final attempt be made to associate the subject casualties with unknown deceased recovered from this area.

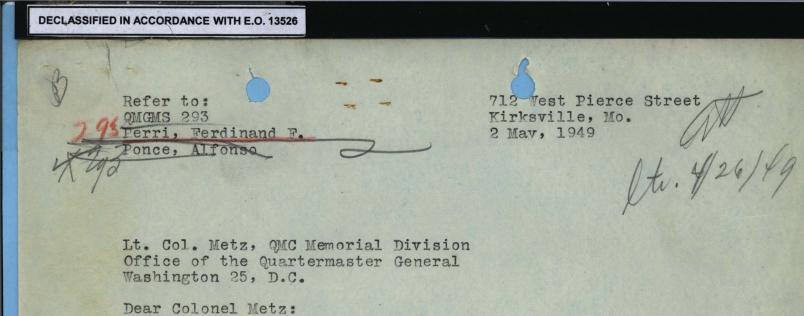
That if the results of this further research are negative, consideration be given for Non-Recoverable action in the case of the subject

Narrative of Investigation: (Cont'd)

4 May 1951

casualties, predicated upon the results of this investigation.

HAROLD E. WARNER DA- Civ. D-046899 Investigator



I received your letter of 26 April, 1949, concerning the remains of the late Pvts. Perri and Ponce and was very glad to learn that my story had been substantiated and that the search would be continued. I want to thank you personally for including the addresses of the next-of-kin, since I know that most relatives of men killed in action would like to know the details. I have written to both widows and explained that I was present and that death came instantaneously and painlessly. I also explained how I got their addresses and that I would give them all details if 'they so desired, at the same time making it clear that I was only hoping to ease their minds -- too many war widows have been victimized by people who offered spurious information for a sum of money. I have been interested in this matter and its solution primarily through a sense of duty and also because of the fact that if the mortar round that killed these men had fallen 25 feet shorter it would be me buried by that road in France.

If I may be of any further assistance in this matter please let me know. And, if it is not too much trouble I would like to ask if you would notify me when and if the remains are found, since I would like to see the end of this matter. Thanking you for your co-operation, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

File

MAY 1 8 1949

G. W. ROGERS

Capt., QMC

Identification Brand

John L. Magniter, gr.

NAN gerdward F.

1-le 293 Gerry,

Lespe &

QMCMS 293 Perri, Ferdirand F. Ponce, Alfons

26 April 1949

Mr. John L. Margreiter, Jr. 712 West Pirce Street Kirksville, Missouri

Dear Mr. Magreiter:

Further reference is made to your letters to this Office concerning the two persons killed in a fox hole in the vicinity of Longville or buxieres, France.

The to indiduals mentioned by you have been identified as Pvt. Ferdiand F. Perri, whose wife, Mrs. Anna Perri, resides at 7839 Nixon Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Pvt. Alfonso Ponce, whose wife, Mrs. Maria M. Ponce, resides at 810 North Hazard Avenue, LosAngeles, California. Both men were members of Company C, 3rdArmd Inf En, and were killed in action on 25 September 1944 hear Bouxieres, France.

To date, to information has been received in this Office indicating that he remains of Pvts. Ponce and Perri have been recovered. However, copies of your letters have been submitted to the Graves Reastration Command in Europe and it is hoped that the information contained therein will assist the Search Teams in the recovery of the bodies.

May we again ank you for your very commendable interest in this case and as re you that every effort will be made to recover the bodies of Pvts. Ponce and Perri.

Sincerely yours,

T. H. METZ

Vos se love

With Colonel, Mac

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NJS

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Colonel of the colone of t

Quaks 293 Perri, Terdirend F. a.

26 April 1949

Mr. John L. Margreiter, Jr. 712 West Pirce Street Wirksville, Sissouri

DOST MY. MEST LEST:

Nurths reference is made to your letters to this Office concerning the two persons killed in a fox hole in the vicinity of longville or buxieres, France.

The to indiginals mentioned by you have been identified as Pyt. Ferdiand F. Perri, whose wife, Mrs. And Perri, resides at 7830 Mixon Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Pyt. Alfonso Ponce, whose with Mrs. Maria M. Pence, resides at 810 North Hazard Avenue, Lockneeles, California. Both men were members of Company W. Stdirmd Inf In, and were idiled in action on 25 September 1944 seas Fourieres, France.

indicating the harmains of Pris. Ponce and Perri have been recovered. The wemains of Pris. Ponce and Perri have been recovered. The true copies of your letters have been submitted to the Graves selection Command in Europe and it is boped that the Information contained therein will assist the Search Teams in the recover of the bodies.

May we spain to you for your vary commandable interest in this ones and assert on that every effort will be made to recover the bodies of the Pence and Perri.

Sin carely yours, while the country of the country

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AIR MIL

Q100 291

Porce, Alfonso, 39577599 Perri, Fordinand F., 33774742

26 April 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of Unknown Decembed

Commanding Commal American Graves Degistration Command European Area APO 58, c/o Postmester How York, How York

1. Attached, for your information, are photostatic copies of two letters received from Mr. John T. Margreiter, Jr., a former member of Company G, 23rd Arad Inf Bn, concerning his eye-witness account of the deaths of two soldiers killed near Bouxieres, France on 25 September 1944.

The two individuals mentioned by ir. hergreiter have been identified as Pvt. Alfonso Ponce, 30577559 and Pvt. Ferdinand 7. Perri, 33774742. OSEG Forms 371 for both men were forwarded your Headquarters on 25 May 1948.

ENE THE QUARTERSASTER GREEKL:

2 Incle: Incl 1 by 1to dtd 21 may 48 Incl 2 cy ltr dtd 28 Sopt 48

T. H. MINTE Lt. Colonel, QUC Memorial Division

KH

SHIV

AIR WAIL

Of 293 Perri Ferdinant F.

ONR NJS

Cu 377472 710 West Main Street
Flat River, Mo.
21 May, 1948
West Main Street
Flat River, Mo.
21 May, 1948
Weshington 25, D.C.

Dear sir:

A few weeks ago I read an article, "The Search for Soldier A", in Foreign Service, the V.F.W. monthly. The article was a report on the search for the bodies of those still missing and caused me to think of a matter which I had almost forgotten -- a matter pertaining to two men whom I believe to be buried in the foxhole in which they died.

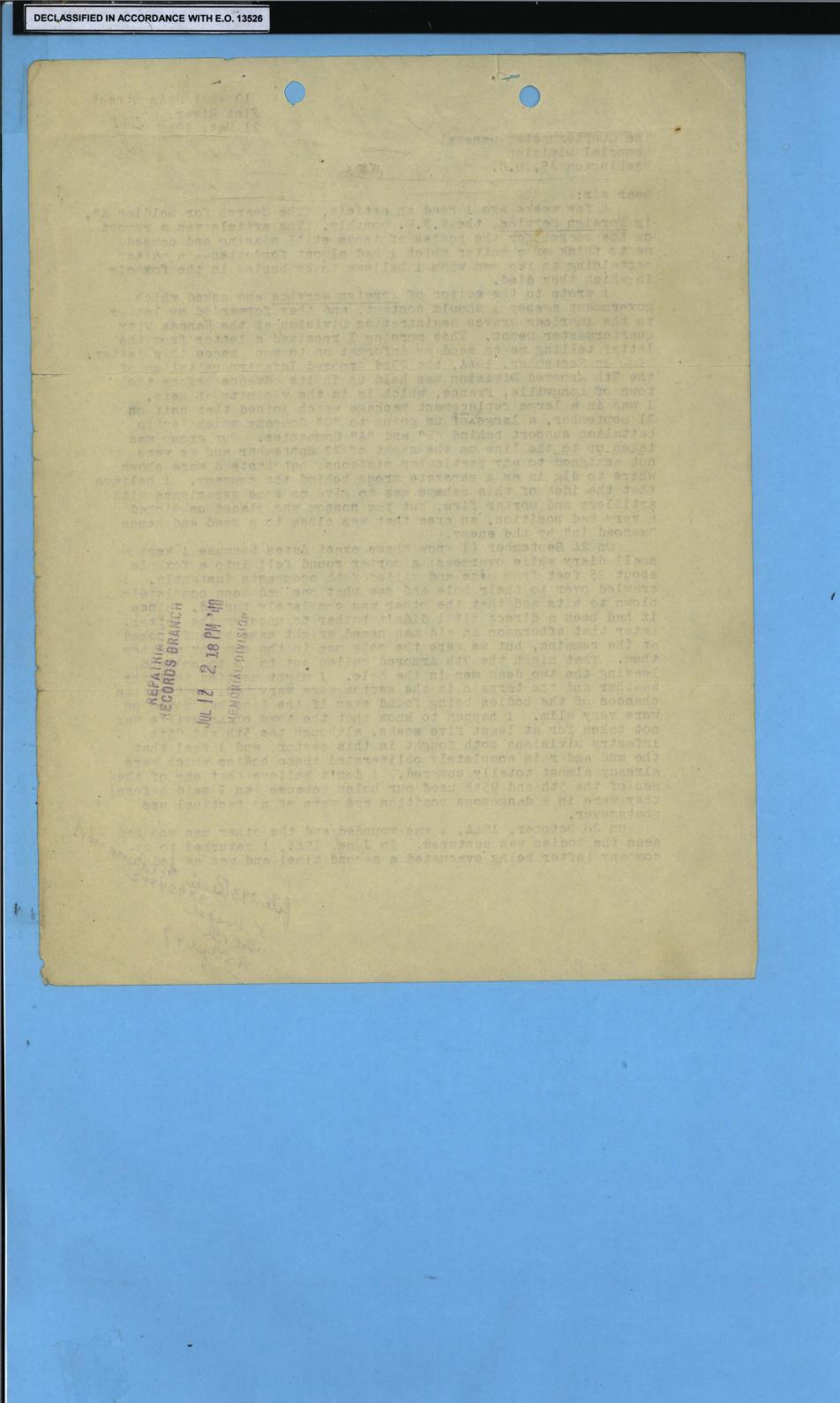
I wrote to the editor of Foreign Service and asked which government agency I should contact, and they forwarded my letter to the American Graves Registration Division at the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot. This morning I received a letter from the latter telling me to send my information to you, hence this letter.

In September, 1944, the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 7th Armored Division was held up in its advance before the town of Longville, France, which is in the vicinity of Metz. I was in a large replacement package which joined that unit on 21 September, a large of us going to "C" Company which lay in battalion support behind "B" and "A" Companies. Our group was taken up to the line on the night of 22 September and we were not assigned to any particular platoons, but instead were shown where to dig in as a separate group behind the company. I believe that the idea of this scheme was to give us some experience with artillery and mortar fire, but the noncom who placed us picked a very bad position, an area that was close to a road and hence "zeroed in" by the enemy.

On 24 September (I know these exact dates because I kept a small diary while overseas) a mortar round fell into a foxhole about 25 feet from mine and killed both occupants instantly. 1 crawled over to their hole and saw that one had been completely blown to bits and that the other was completely buried. Since it had been a direct hit I didn't bother to uncover the latter. Later that afternoon an aid man named Wright came by and looked at the remains, but we were the only men in the company who saw them. That night the 7th Armored bulled out to go to holland, leaving the two dead men in the hole. I might mention that the weather and the terrain in the sector were very bed, so that the chances of the bodies being found even if the line had moved on were very slim. I happen to know that the town of Longville was not taken for at least five weeks, although the 5th and 95th Infantry Divisions both fought in this sector, and I feel that the mud and rain completely obliterated these bodies which were already almost totally covered. I don't believe that any of the men of the 5th and 95th used our holes because (as I said before) they were in a dangerous position and were of no tactical use whatsoever.

On 28 October, 1944, I was wounded and the other man who had seen the bodies was captured. In June, 1945, I returned to my company (after being evacuated a second time) and was called how

file 293 Persi herar K. Hospel Sa Ble 49



the orderly room a few days later. There I was asked if I knew what had happened to the two men in question and I swore under oath that they were dead. The first sergeant told me that they had been carried as "missing in action" since September, so I believe that the bodies were never picked up.

I think that both men were from California; and I know that their names were Pancey (I'm not sure about the spelling of this but I donknow that the man was of Mexican extraction) and Perry. The former had at least one child and the latter had three, one of which he had never seen. If their bodies have been picked up I would like to have the names and addresses of their next of kin (if this is permissible) in order to write and but their minds at ease. If they were not recovered by Graves Registration them they are still in that foxhole between Bucsières (I'm not sure about the spelling of that name) and Longville. I doubt that I could find the spot on a man now, since it has been three years and eight months since I saw the area, but I do feel that I could find the place if I were and if the edge of the forest wasn't mangled too badly by the artillery fire. It might be of helm to you to know that these two men were in the replacement mackage which I believe (I have no record of this however) was designated "X-82-F" and had a temporary APO of 15422.

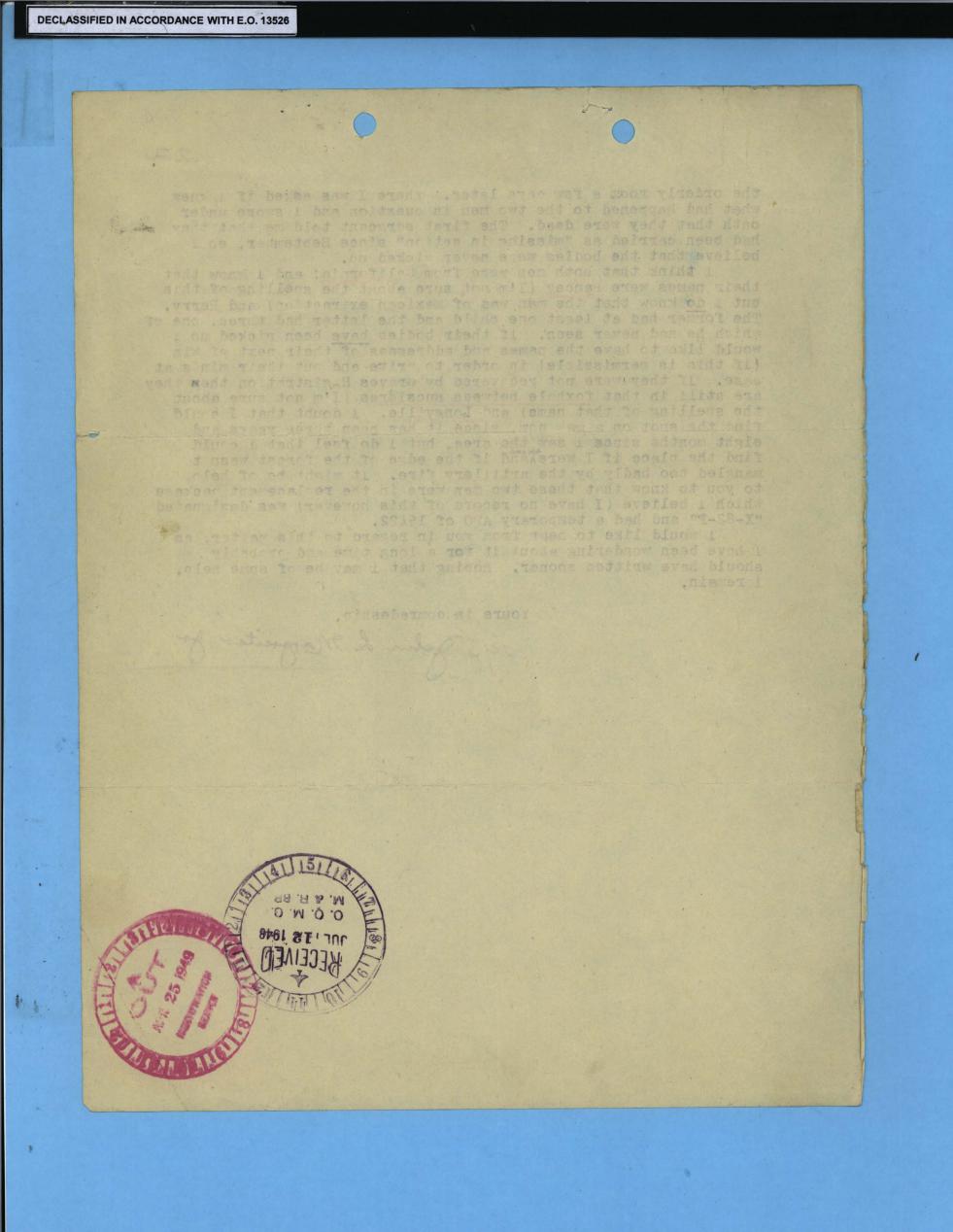
I would like to near from you in regard to this matter, as I have been wondering about it for a long time and probably should have written sooner. Hoping that I may be of some help, I remain,

yours in comredeship,

095 John L. Margreiter, fr.

PILLAD

PECEIVED STATES



712 West Pierce Street Kirksville, Mo. 28 Sentember, 1948

QMGMR 095

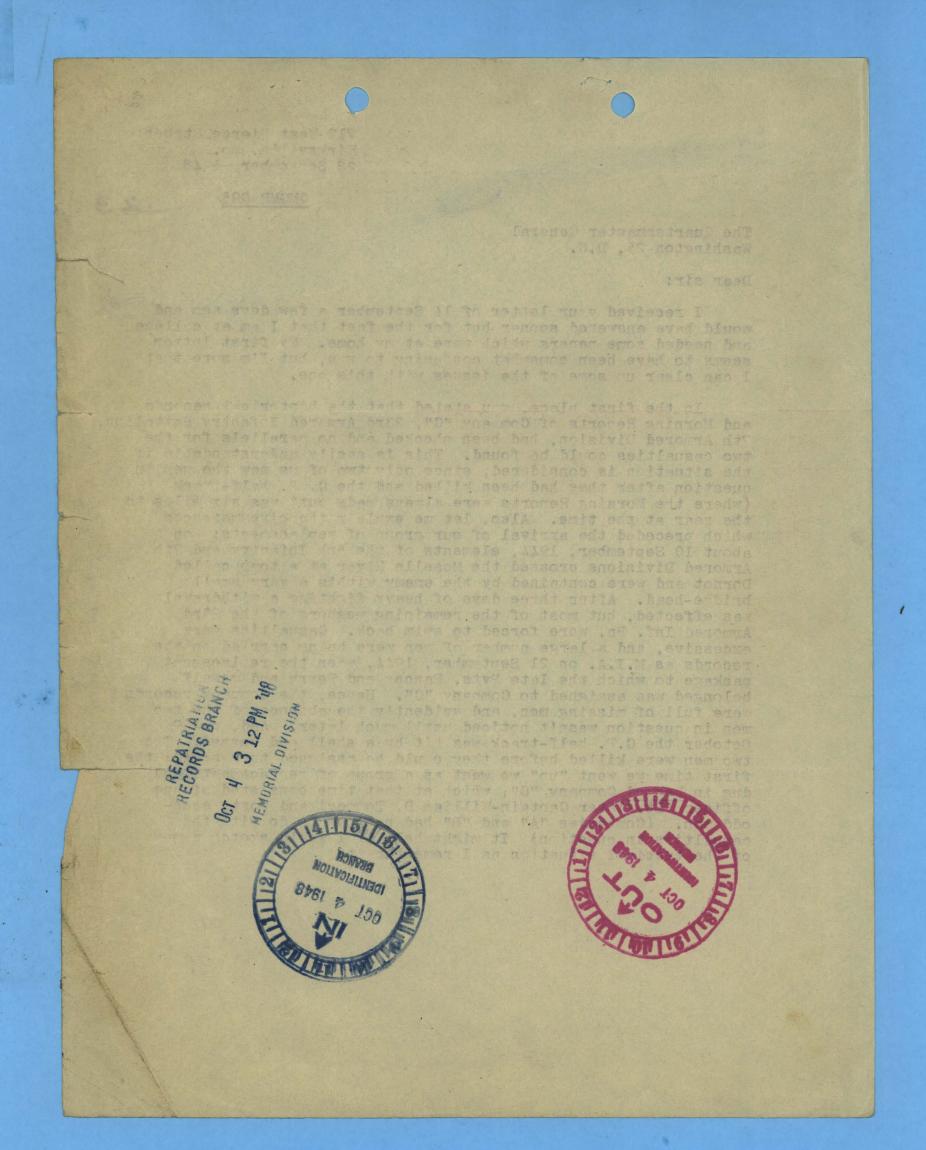
23

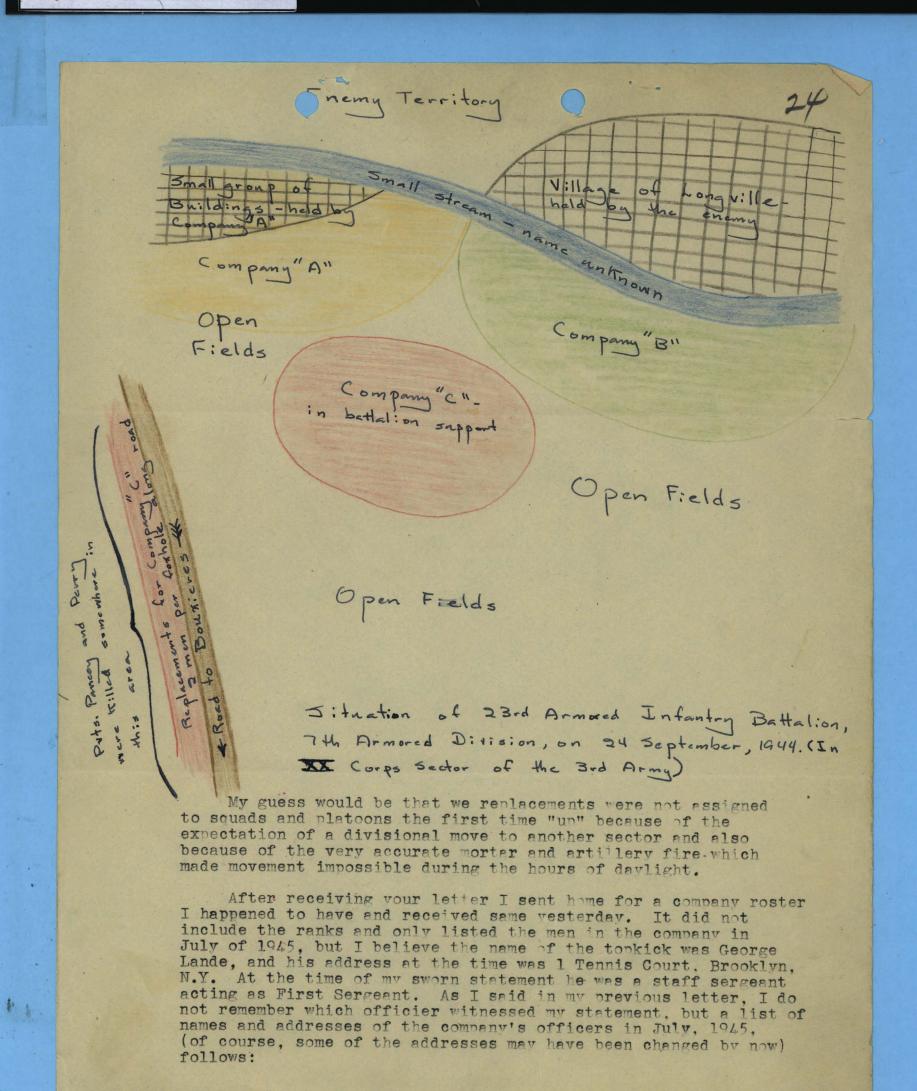
The Quartermaster General Washington 25, D.C.

Dear sir:

I received your letter of 14 Sentember a few days ago and would have answered sooner but for the fact that I am at college and needed some papers which were at my home. My first letter seems to have been somewhat confusing to you, but I'm sure that I can clear up some of the issues with this one.

In the first place, you stated that the historical records and Morning Reports of Company "C", 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, 7th Armored Division, had been checked and no parallels for the two casualties could be found. This is easily understandable if the situation is considered, since only two of us saw the men in question after they had been killed and the C. P. half-track (where the Morning Reports were always made out) was six miles to the rear at the time. Also, let me explain the circumstances which preceded the arrival of our group of replacements: on about 10 September, 1944, elements of the 5th Infantry and 7th Armored Divisions crossed the Moselle River at a town called Dornot and were contained by the enemy within a very small bridge-head. After three days of heavy fighting a withdrawal was effected, but most of the remaining members of the 23rd Armored Inf. Bn. were forced to swim back. Casualties were excessive, and a large number of men were being carried on the records as M.I.A. on 21 September, 1944, when the replacement package to which the late Pvts. Pancev and Perry and myself belonged was assigned to Company "C". Hence, the company records were full of missing men, and evidently the absence of the two men in question wasn't noticed until much later. And, on 29 October the C.P. half-track was hit by a shell and burned. The two men were killed before they could be assigned to a squad: the first time we went "un" we went as a group of re-lacements and dug in behind Company "C", which at that time consisted of one officer (Lt.-later Captain-William D. Tommev) and forty someodd men. (Companies "A" and "B" had nothing to do with the casualties in question) It might help if I would sketch a man of the tactical situation as I remember it:





Tommey, William D. (C.O.)

Murphreesboro, Ark.

25-

Amos, Charles L., Jr. Bray, Jack J. Finnell, Ishmael E. Harding, Richard D. Payne, Gordon H. Tennent, Henry D.

1034 Rockford Road, High Point, N.C.
401 Forest St. Marion, Ohio
925 Idlewild Ct. Lexington, Ky.
2402 Chase St. Falls City, Nebr.
2640 E. 5th Ave. Knoxville, Tenn.
513 Lawton St., S.W. Atlanta, Ga.

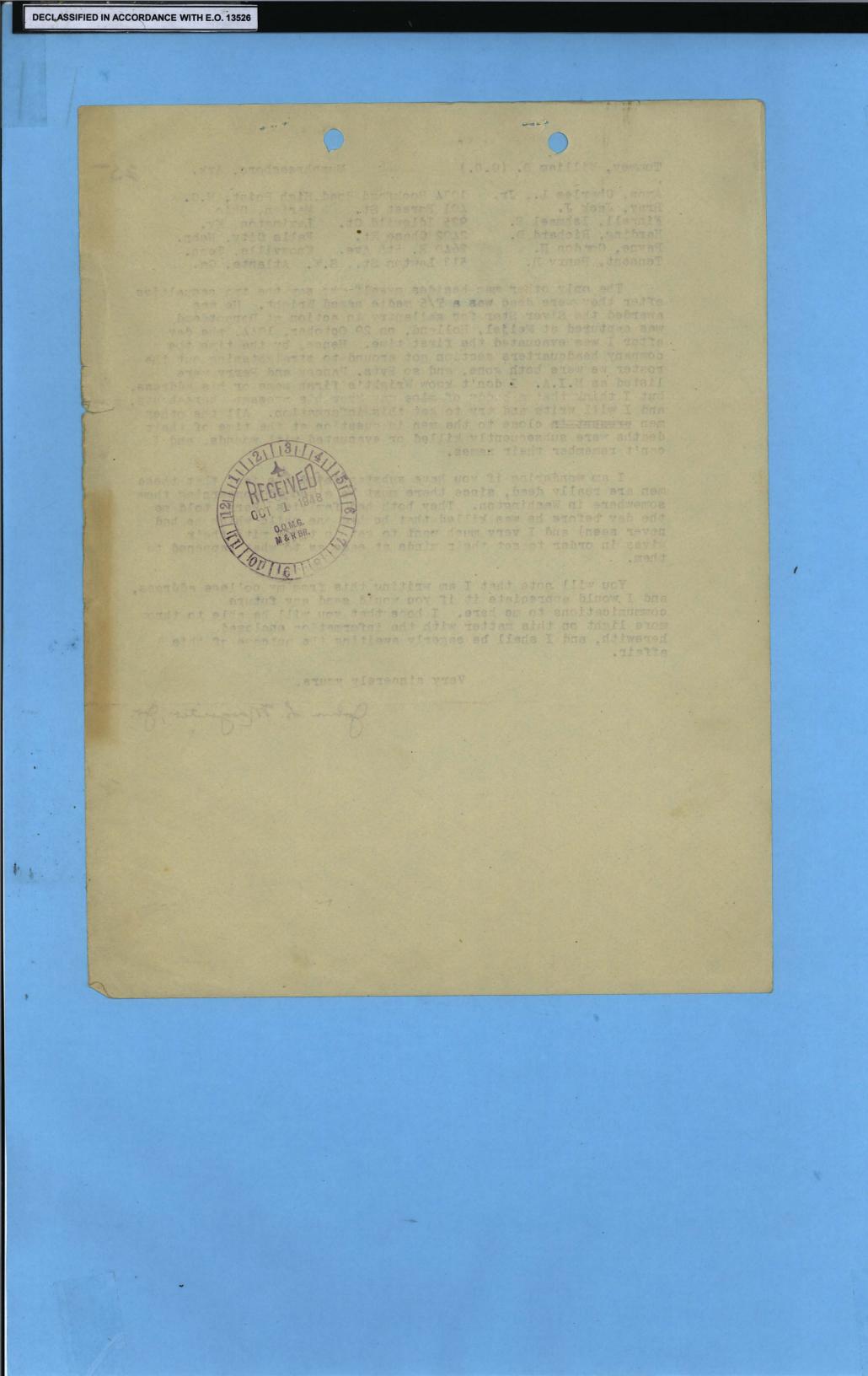
The only other man besides myself who saw the two casualties after they were dead was a T/5 medic named Wright. He was awarded the Siver Star for gallantry in action at Dornot and was captured at Meijel, Holland, on 29 October, 1944, the day after I was evacuated the first time. Hence, by the time the company headquarters section got around to straightening out the roster we were both gone, and so Pvts. Pancev and Perry were listed as M.I.A. F don't know Wright's first name or his address, but I think that a buddy of mine may know his present whereabouts, and I will write and try to get this information. All the other men present in close to the men in question at the time of their deaths were subsequently killed or evacuated with wounds, and I can't remember their names.

I am wondering if vou have substantiated the fact that these men are really dead, since there must be a record concerning them somewhere in Washington. They both had families (Perry told me the day before he was killed that he had one child which he had never seen) and I very much want to get in touch with their wives in order to set their minds at ease as to what happened to them.

You will note that I am writing this from my college address, and I would appreciate it if you would send any future communications to me here. I hope that you will be able to throw more light on this matter with the information enclosed herewith, and I shall be eagerly awaiting the outcome of this affair.

Very sincerely yours,

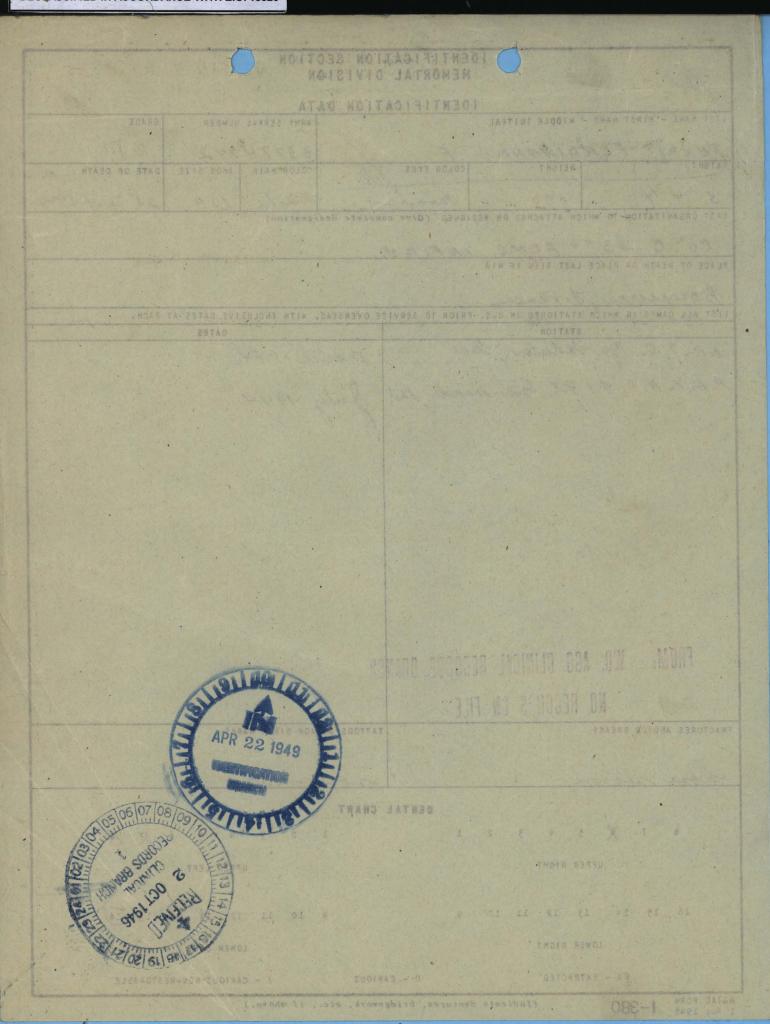
John L. Margreiter, Jr.



IDENTIFICAT MEMORIAL			9	
IDENTIFICATION DATA				
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL		RIAL NUMBER	GRADE	
PERRI FERDINAND F	1 337	74742	Put.	
PERRI FERDINAND F HEIGHT WEIGHT COLOR EYES	COLOR H		DATE OF DEATH	
5143/4 150 Brown	Black	U JOA	25 Sept 1944	
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CO C 23 PD ARMO. INF. BM.				
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Boupieres, France.				
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none shown	nonesho	wn		
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			9,000	
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LOWER RIGHT		LOWER LEFT		
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AGRAC FORM 1 Aug 1946 1-380

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



DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECO ED OR IDENTIFIED					
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER		
Perri, Ferdinand F. 0		Pvt	33 774 742		
ORGANIZATION CC 23 Aread inf Bn 7 Aread Div	RACE	CREED	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)		
DATE OF DEATH/MIA 25 Sep 44 DATE OF FOD Killed in Action	CAUSE OF DEATH		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA Bouxieres, France		
HEIGHT COLOR EY	COLOR EYES		SHOE SIZE		
5' 4 3/4" 150 / Brown		Black	10 A		
DENTAL CHART					
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LOWER RIGHT 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	LOWER LEF		X (6)		
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		A STATE OF THE STA			

FILE
MAY 2 5 1948

E. J. Sullivan, 1st Lt., QMO
MENTIFICATION BRANCH

SPOYG 293 Perri, Ferdinand F. A.S.N. 33 774 742

Address Reply To THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL Attention: Memorial Division 1 June 1946

Mrs. Anna Perri 7839 Nixon Street Philadelphia 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Perri:

Your letter concerning your husband, the late Private Ferdinand F. Perri, has been received in this office.

Units of the American Graves Registration Service are now engaged in searching operations in an endeavor to locate the remains of deceased Americans. As yet, however, no report has been received that your husband's remains have been discovered.

Information being untilized by these searching units includes dath gathered from captured enemy records, from reports submitted by various commanders as well as fellow soldiers, and from reports rendered after the interrogation of returned prisoners of war.

I sincerely hope that this intensive search will result in the discovery and identification of your husband's remains. Please be assured that when further information is received, you will be informed with a minimum of delay.

There are no provisions at the present time whereby the War Department may furnish photographs of individual graves located overseas. However, it is anticipated that, within the current calendar year, the War Department through the Headquarters, Army Air Forces, will be able to provide, upon request of the next of kin, a photograph of the military cemetery in which rest the remains of their loved one.

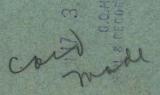
Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your husband.

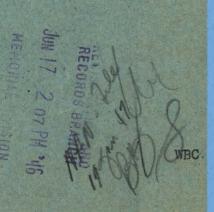
FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

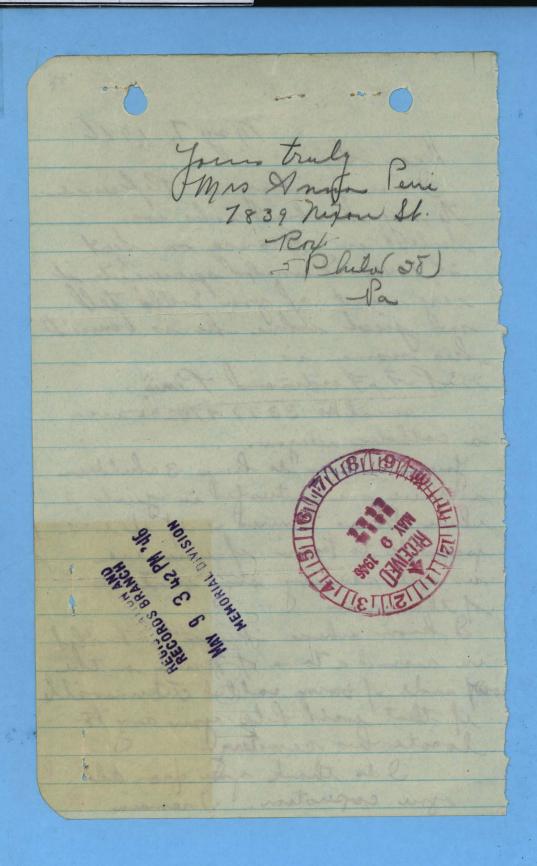
WM. B. CHRISTENSEN 1st Lieut., QMC Assistant

Aller





Den Si: May 7, 1946 I am juriting in Reference to my husband who was fulled in Trance on Sept 35 1944. I would appreciate it very much of you could tell me gisst where he is burned 293 for Ferdinand Penis serial no. 3377 4742 the was a catholic religion. for see we do have 3 children and we are intrested in Just where the is timed of it were possible to know if you are us yell sending any pectors of the spirits. I know where he are tolly in around a town of having on the out side of troop called Louwille if that will help you any to locate his remetary. you coperation. I remain





THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 20 December 1944

FULL NAM	42									ot/46	32				
								ARMY SERIA	L NUMBER	G	GRADE				
Perri, Ferdinand F.								33774742			PVT				
HOME ADDRESS									ARM OR SER	RVICE	D	DATE OF BIRTH			
Philadelphia, Pa.								Infan	try		31 Jul 09				
PLACE OF DEATH CAUSE OF DEATH								н			D	DATE OF DEATH			
European Area Killed in							ed in	action		25 Sen 44					
STATION OF DECEASED								DATE OF EN	CE	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES					
	Europ	ean Are	a						16 Mar 44			EARS	MONTH	S DAY	
EMERGENO	CY ADDRES	SEE (NAME,	RELATIONS	HIP & ADDRE	iss)										
	Mrs.	Anna Pe	erri, w	ife, 78	39 Nix	on Str	eet, Ph	ilade:	lphia Pa	a。					
BENEFICIA	RY (NAME,	RELATIONS	HIP & ADDR	ESS)		S. Contract									
	Mrs.	Anna Pe d Perri	rri, w	ife, sa a, Perr	ine as	above obert,	Perri,	child	dren, sa	ame as	above				
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ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

The individual named in this report of death is held by the War Department to have been in a missing in action status from 25 Sep 44, until such absence was terminated on 15 Dec 44, 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:

VET. ADMIN.

WD. AGO. FORM NO. 52-1, 29 MAY 1944 @

S. G. O. F. B. 1. 2. O. Q. M. G. O. F. D. F. O., U. S. A.

ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

CASUALTY BRANCH FILE

A. G. 201 FILE

X BATTLE

NON-BATTLE

BY ORDERO HE SECRETARY OF WAR!

ADJUTANT SENERAL

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPORT OF DEATH

263,985 PS

- And Control of the	DATE 20 De						
Perri, Ferdinand F.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE PV	T			
Philadelphia, Pa.	Infantry	DATE OF BIRTH 31 Jul 09					
European Area	action	DATE OF DEATH 25 Sep 44					
STATION OF DECEASED	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES					
European Area		16 Mar 44	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS		
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mrs. Anna Panni wife 7820 N	livon Street Philade	lubia Da					

lirs Laura L. Mcaninch

Mrs. Anna Perri, wife, same as above

Alfred Perri, Julia, Perri, & Robert, Perri, children, same as above

INVESTI		IN LINE	OF DUTY	OWN MIS	CONDUCT		CEASED	AUTHO	RIZED				Y STATUS Y BELOW)
YES	No	YES	МО	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO X	YES	NO

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

The individual named in this report of death is held by the War Department to have been in a missing in action status from 25 Sep 44, until such absence was terminated on 15 Dec 44, 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. G. O. F. B. I. F. O., U. S. A.

2. O. Q. M. G. O. F. D. ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
G. A. O. VET. ADMIN. A. G. 201 FILE

WD. AGO. FORM NO. 52-1, 29 MAY 1944 @

X BATTLE

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BY OFDER OF HE SECRETARY OF WAR.

ADJUTANT ENERAL

263985



WAR DEPARTMENT

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

-BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

NAME		SI	ERIAL NUN	MBER	GRADE	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING THEATRE
PERRI FERDINAND F		337	7747	7.42	PVT	INF	ETO
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MRS ANNA PE	RRT			WIFE				DP 44
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W.D., A.G.O. FORM NO. 0365				10, 1044.			43	

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

263985

CHE: LD: rfs
July 3, 1946

fo

Mrs. Anna Perri 7839 Nixon Street Philadelphia 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Perri:

This refers to our previous correspondence concerning the personal effects of your husband, Private Ferdinand F. Perri.

After checking the European Area records, which were recently forwarded to this Bureau, it was found that no effects of Private Perri were recovered. Further tracer action at this late date is deemed inadvisable, in view of the inactivation of overseas units.

Anticipating the disappointment, I regret to convey this report.

Yours very truly,

C. H. ESSERT
Administrative Assistant
Army Effects Bureau

RLS:dp 19 June 1946

REPLY

TO:

Correspondence Branch - Army Effects Bureau

No record of any efficient No record of missing (*) Inventory received	ng items.		
(Dated) Effects shipped to:		(Signed by)	
Parcel Parcel	Date Baggage Date Baggage		Sheet
Funds: \$	Transmitted on List	F	Date

Remarks:

- 1. ETA records do not reveal the existence of/or disposition of effects belonging to this soldier.
- 2. Inventory dated 4 November 1944, submitted by the 23rd Armd. Inf.
 Bn., and signed by 1st Lt. Stephen M. Kew, states no effects were recovered in the unit area.
- 3. It is recommended that burial records of the Memorial Division be checked to ascertain if any personal property was found with the remains.
 - 4. Further tracer action in the European Theater is inadvisable at this late date.

ROBERT L. SMITH Chief Clerk

ETA Records Branch

(*) This information need not be given on inventories covering property already received at AEB.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

Case No. 263985	NW:LD:mcb 12 June 1946
REQUEST	
TO: European Theater Records Branch - Army Effects	Bureau
Request examination of ETA records and report cor allegedly missing, personal effects of:	oncerning missing,
Perri Ferdinand F. (Last Name). (First Name) (MI)	33774742 Pyt. (ASN) (Rank)
Infantry Deceased 25 September 19 (Organization)	Status)
Bureau records do not indicate that any property or received here.	f subject has been
Property received at AEB is listed on following ov	erseas inventories:
Allegedly missing items, not received here, consis	t of:
Remarks:	
Tit. To traced of Education Stemas	
N. WIPPLE	

N. WIPPLE Chief Clerk Correspondence Branch

Eff. QM Form 29 May 1946 118

(Reply on Reverse)

263985

DSJ:LD:pw May 22, 1946

Ay

Mrs. Anna Perri 7839 Nixon Street Philadelphia 28, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Perri:

This will acknowledge your letter of recent date, concerning the personal effects of your husband, Private Ferdinand F. Perri.

We have carefully checked our records and regret to state that we have not received any information regarding his belongings.

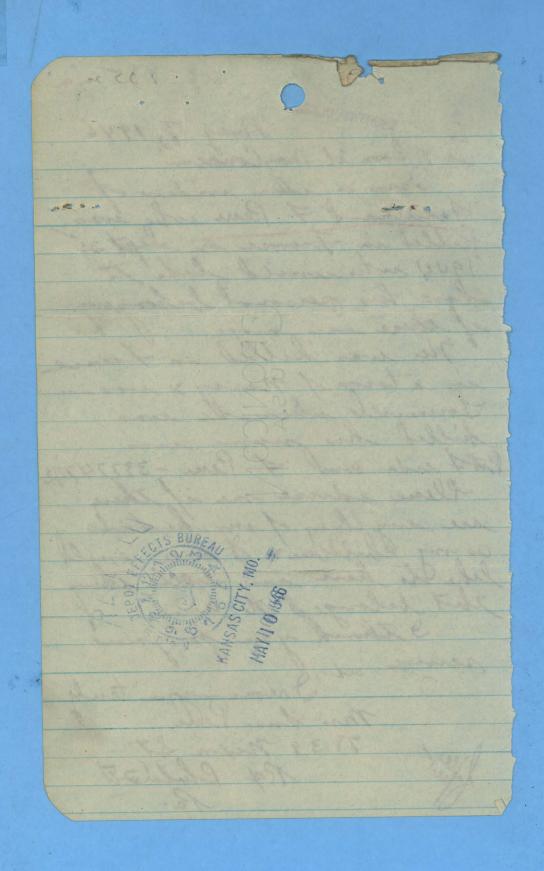
Records pertaining to recovery of personal effects of men who served in the European Area have been forwarded to this Bureau. After a complete check of these records to ascertain whether any personal property belonging to Private Perri was recovered, you will be informed promptly.

Yours very truly,

D. S. JOHNSTON 2nd Lt., QMC / Chief, Adm. Division

263985 my no May 7, 1946 To Whom it May Concern Jam a wan widow o Ferdinand of Peri who Willed in France on Sept 33 1944 who would like to have his personal belongings if there are vary. in a town of nancy &. Townwille when the was Pott endinand of Peni - 33774742 Please advise me if there are anything of my husbands as my children & suce would like to have any little the that belonged the him. I thank you for your Mr Anna Peni truly 7839 nigon St Ry Phila 28)

P. S.



DECLASSIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13526 11/44/52:6