



ARR1-638010454

RES204081301

WNR-01-09-028-1-015-03-006

Transfer#: W092-70A0001

Box:9999 CC:00

Asset#: AAC1-23791217

Whole Container: N

C/F: UNDERWOOD, WILBURN T. 34269379

Created: 4/5/2013

General Reference

On-Site Review

Standard

On-site Review

N/A

To:

REVIEW

9477, 9477, 9483, ~~9486~~ 9486*

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

On 10 September 1944, Private First Class Wilburn T. Underwood, SN 34269379, assigned to B Company, 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion was Killed in Action while holding a bridgehead on the East bank of the Moselle River, approximately one-half mile from Dornot, France.

The 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, advancing through Dornot, France was engaged in heavy fighting on 10 September 1944. Some elements of the Battalion had crossed the Moselle River, but determined enemy forces counterattacked in such large numbers, with artillery, mortar and tank fire that a withdrawal of all US troops from the bridgehead was ordered.

Private Underwood was considered to have been in a missing in action status from 10 September 1944 until such absence was terminated on 20 July 1945, when sufficient evidence established the date of death as 10 September 1944.

INVENTORY OF ARTIFACTS

CILHI NUMBER CILHI 0177-88	DATE OF RECOVERY 8 July 1988
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S&R NUMBER S&R #5159-A	PLACE OF RECOVERY Dornot France
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INVENTORY OF ARTIFACTS

QUANTITY	ITEM DESCRIPTION
1	ID tag, and chain, corroded W URN T UNDER 342 9379 T42 43
1	Metal ring with heart shape on top, corroded
1	Picture, in plastic cover, stapled closed
1	Pair combat boots, brown, Weathered
1	Pocket knife, rusted
1	Leaf in plastic cover
1	Bowling pin shaped ornament, on bottom, Pat Pending, KEM INC DETROIT MICH
1	Button, brown
1	Metal buckle with material attached
1	Piece of metal, rusted
5	Misc. pieces of cloth fragments
3	Pieces of plastic
1	Piece of leather
1	Metal buckle, rusted

RECOVERED BY (NAME GRADE UNIT) United States Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe (USAMAAE)	DD 567 ATTACHED YES NO
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INVENTORIED AT CILHI BY (NAME GRADE) Jay S. Warner, SFC	SIGNATURE/DATE
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J. Warner
20 December 1988

ANTHROPOLOGIST ASSIGNED (NAME GRADE DATE) Ms. M. Hinkes, GS-12 Dr.	SIGNATURE/DATE <i>Madeleine J. Hinkes, Ph.D.</i>
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ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY.

ANTHROPOLOGY SUMMARY

CILHI 0177-88

14 November 1989

BIOLOGICAL DETERMINATIONS

These fairly complete skeletal remains are one of two sets received at CILHI from the U.S. Army Mortuary, Frankfurt, FRG, on 12 September 1988 (the second set has been designated CILHI 0178-88). The bone is in good condition, with some deterioration of cancellous bone, notably in the vertebral column. The face is missing, except for the mandible and malars. Except for four duplicated left tarsal bones, all bones can be attributed to a single individual. The four commingled bones have been matched with the CILHI 0178-88 remains.

SEX

Cranial and pelvic indicators are all masculine.

AGE

The most commonly used age indicators are not present. Although most cranial sutures are obliterated, the sacral lines are not. Vertebral and joint surfaces cannot be evaluated. An age estimate of 25-35 years seems appropriate, and this individual appears older than the CILHI 0178-88 remains.

RACE

Cranial and postcranial conformation indicate Caucasoid ancestry.

STATURE & PHYSIQUE

Using the measured lengths of the left femur and tibia (47.4 cm, 39.4 cm) in Trotter's formula for White males yields a stature estimate of 69.3" S.E. 1.2". Muscle markings are average except for a pronounced supinator ridge on the right ulna.

TRAUMA

There is a projectile wound to the right rear frontal, with an asymmetrical defect measuring 1.75 x 1.5 cm. The defect is beveled inwards; no exit wound is apparent (but as noted above, the face is absent). Radiographs showed no metallic residue.

PATHOLOGIES & ANOMALIES

None are noted.

CILHI 0177-88, ANTHROPOLOGY SUMMARY, Cont.

COMPARISON WITH ANTEMORTEM RECORDS OF WILBURN T. UNDERWOOD

Received with the remains was a dog tag for Pfc Wilburn T. Underwood. Casualty records were searched for those individuals lost around the time and place of Pfc Underwood, and 33 associated cases were compiled. Dental evaluation excluded all but eight (two for whom no records were available). The other six include:

NAME	UNIT	DATE OF LOSS	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	AGE
Pvt Foy	23rd Armd	Sept 10, 1944	63.5"	145 lb	24 yr
Pfc Gebhards	11th Inf	Sept 8, 1944	68"	133 lb	26 yr
Sgt Matuszak	11th Inf	Sept 11, 1944	68"	170 lb	31 yr
Pfc Underwood	23rd Armd	Sept 10, 1944	70.25"	151 lb	26 yr
Pvt Williams	11th Inf	Sept 11, 1944	67"	135 lb	20 yr
Sgt Zalac	204th Engr	Sept 10, 1944	68"	175 lb	23 yr
CILHI 0177-88			ca 69"		25-35 yr
CILHI 0178-88			ca 64"		22-28 yr

The best fit with CILHI 0178-88 is Pvt Foy (refer to case file for CILHI 0178-88). Since both remains were found together, it is reasonable to assume that the two men were lost from the same unit and the same time. Given that assumption, the best match for CILHI 0177-88 would be Pfc Underwood. Age and height estimates, along with the recovered dog tag, are supportive of this identification.

Madeleine J. Hinkes
 Madeleine J. Hinkes, Ph.D.
 Diplomate, A.B.F.A.

14 November 1989

DENTAL SUMMARY: CILHI 0177-88

FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY SECTION
U.S. ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, HAWAII

RECOVERY OF REMAINS: The remains of CILHI 0177-88 were received from the United States Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe on 12 September 1988.

POSTMORTEM EVIDENCE: The dental remains of CILHI 0177-88 consist of a warped and fractured mandible with three right molars (#30, #31, and #32) that match their appropriate alveolar sockets. Teeth #17 through #29 appear to have been lost postmortem. No portions of the maxillae or maxillary teeth were recovered. Refer to DD Form 891 dated 8 November 1989 and Dental Photograph 1 for a graphic representation of the dental evidence. All teeth were radiographed in duplicate with Size 2 film at 10 MA, 80 KVP, and 18/60 seconds. The results are the 7 periapical films dated 8 November 1989.

NAME ASSOCIATIONS: Historical research, as described in the Memorandum dated 28 November 1988, resulted in a list of service members whose remains may have been represented by CILHI 0177-88. The dental records of 33 of these individuals were reviewed and 27 were excluded on the basis of incompatibility with the observed dental features of CILHI 0177-88.

ANTEMORTEM EVIDENCE: **Dental records:** All available written records for personnel listed on page 3 of the memorandum by the Senior Casualty Data Analyst. **Dental radiographs:** None available

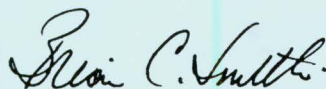
OPINION: I have compared the dental remains of CILHI 0177-88 with the records referenced above and found six individuals whose antemortem dental condition is consistent with the postmortem evidence. Each service member had no missing teeth in the mandibular arch or had clinically "missing" third molars that, considering their age, may have been incompletely erupted at the time of the examination.

FOY, Lloyd/PVT/34253686
GEBHARDS, Harry A./PFC/36052118
MATUSZAK, Thaddeus S./SGT/36214574
UNDERWOOD, Wilburn T./PFC/34269379
WILLIAMS, James L./PFC/36568028
ZALAC, Michael J., Jr./SGT/36813035

Two of the records requested were not received, and therefore unavailable for review. Those individuals are listed below:

BURTON, William R./PFC/1515898
HILLYARD, Johnny R./1LT/O-450246

Based on the circumstantial evidence and examination of the 33 records isolated by the Casualty Data Analyst, it is my opinion that the dental remains of CILHI 0177-88 represent one of the individuals cited above. No further conclusions are possible due to the limited antemortem evidence.



BRION C. SMITH
MAJ, DE, USA

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

CILHI 0177-88

PROPOSED IDENTIFICATION: Pfc Wilburn T. Underwood, USA

ACQUISITION

These remains were received from the United States Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe, on 12 September 1988.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

These are the remains of an adult male Caucasoid approximately 70 inches tall and 25-35 years of age. There is a projectile entrance wound on top of the skull toward the rear of the frontal bone.

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

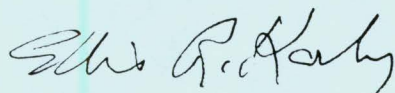
An identification tag for W _____ URN T UNDER _____ bearing the Army serial number 342_9379 was exhumed with the remains by the European Search & Recovery team. Comparison of the dentition with dental records of 33 American soldiers missing in the area of recovery in WWII narrowed the possibility down to six individuals. The stature of the remains most closely matched that of Pfc Underwood, the name represented by the identification tag. All military equipment recovered with the remains was consistent with that issued to Infantrymen in WWII.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of the anthropologist and odontologist, circumstance of recovery and the identification tag exhumed with the remains, it is recommended that these remains be identified as those of

UNDERWOOD, WILBURN T.
34269379
Pfc USA

12 January 1990


Ellis R. Kerley, Ph.D., D.A.B.F.A.
Scientific Director



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, HAWAII
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5480



25 January 1990

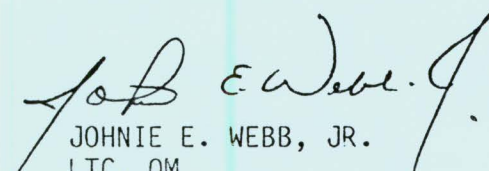
TAPC-PED-H (600-8-1m)

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND, ATTN: TAPC-PED-F,
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22331-0482

SUBJECT: Remains CILHI 0177-88

1. Forwarded for your review and evaluation are the processing charts, photographs, and associated documentation (Encl 1) to support the proposed identification of CILHI 0177-88 as the remains of Pfc Wilburn T. UNDERWOOD, SN 34269379, USA.
2. Upon completion of the board action on this recommendation, it is requested that this office be advised of the identification decision and disposition instructions.
3. Also enclosed are all original medical and dental records (Encl 2) of Pfc UNDERWOOD for appropriate disposition by the parent service.

Encls


JOHNIE E. WEBB, JR.
LTC, QM
Commanding

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA
22331-0482



TAPC-PED-F

A Board of Officers appointed by Commander, PERSCOM (MEMO, TAPC-PED-F, 24 Jan 90, subject: Announcement of HQ Department of the Army Casualty and Memorial Affairs Board of Officers) (Enclosure 1), convened for the purpose of reviewing all relevant data (Enclosure 2) pertaining to the cases cited below and to consider the recommended identification of these remains made by the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii. The Board, after considering all data presented, and the absence of any contradictory evidence, duly approved the identification of these remains as:

<u>PROC NO.</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>SN</u>
CILHI 0177-88	UNDERWOOD, Wilburn T.	PFC	USA	34 269 379

Robert M. Long
ROBERT M. LONG
LTC, GS-12

Lawrence J. Gomez
LAWRENCE J. GOMEZ
LTC, GS

James G. Cole
JAMES G. COLE
LTC, GS

APPROVED:

M. T. Spinello
M. T. SPINELLO
Colonel, GS
Director, Casualty and
Memorial Affairs

Date: 4 JUN 1990

2 Encls

1. Memo, TAPC-PED-F, 24 Jan 90
2. Memo, TAPC-PED-H, 25 Jan 90 w/encl

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)

WINDERWOOD, WILBURN T.

RANK

SERIAL NUMBER

PFC

34269379

ARMY OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

AREA OF DEATH

10 SEPT 144

FRANCE

NAME OF AUDITOR

DATE

NAPLES

2 MAY '51

NAME OF REVIEWER

DATE

W.T. BLATCHLEY

MAY 3 1951

REMARKS

**NON-RECOVERABLE CASE
RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

CASE NUMBER

15195 (1)

AREA OR ZONE(S)

European

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Underwood, Wilburn T.

RANK

Pfc

SERIAL NUMBER

34 269 379

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.)

Individual Case

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	(CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE)	INITIALS OF ANALYST
		<i>CBK</i>	2. a. REPORT OF DEATH b. FINDING OF DEATH BY STATUS REVIEW & DETERMINATION
3. A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS	<i>CBK</i>	4. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	<i>CBK</i>
5. ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWN	<i>CBK</i>	6. ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UNKNOWN NOW IDENTIFIED	<i>CBK</i>
7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES	None		<i>CBK</i>

THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY AS PRESENTED IN THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

Killed in action 10 September 1944 in the vicinity of Dornot, France

NAN

FILE

MAR 15 1951

IDENTIFICATION BRANCH

NAME OF CASE ANALYST

A. Kennedy
A. Kennedy/cwt

CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO Repatriation Branch, Correspondence Sec.
FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

APPROVED

DATE

CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

CHIEF, IDENTIFICATION BRANCH

A. Kennedy
for W. A. WOLF*Mary A. Edwards*
MARY A. EDWARDS, 1/Lt QMC*John M. Neff*
JOHN M. NEFF, Capt QMC

MAR 14 1951

C-O-P-Y

2

MISSING REPORT*

To accompany WD AGO Forms 66-1 or 24 of Missing or Missing in Action Personnel (other than those covered by Missing Air Crew Report).

NAME Underwood, Wilburn T. ASN 34269379 GRADE Pfc Arm or Service Inf.
 ORG Co B, 23d Armd Inf Bn APO 257 Date of Battle Casualty Report 14 Sep 44
~~Reported in~~

MISSION Mortor Gunner in squad to cross river at Dornot, France.

POINT OF DEPARTURE _____ DATE _____

INTENDED DESTINATION Unknown

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS East bank of Moselle River

BRIEF RESUME OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DISAPPEARANCE:

He was with the Company when given a mission to form a River Crossing. He did cross the river and from 8 Sep to 10 Sep 44, he was with the other members of his squad.

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, IF ANY:

REMARKS: (Any information not covered above, including details and results of search, if any, conducted)

No search was made by members of the organization due to the tactical condition.

Date of Report 23 September 1944

/s/ Robert L. Lloyd
 (Signature of preparing Officer)

/t/ ROBERT L. LLOYD, WOJC, USA
 Asst. Adj.