



INDIVIDUAL DECEASED
PERSONNEL FILE

BEST COPY POSSIBLE
POOR QUALITY ORIGINAL

3

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

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 6 January 1945
 MRJ/ess/4824

FULL NAME Smella, John		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 42 077 168		GRADE Pvt									
HOME ADDRESS New York, New York		ARM ON SERVICE INF		DATE OF BIRTH 30 Nov 1919									
PLACE OF DEATH European Area		CAUSE OF DEATH Wounds received in Action		DATE OF DEATH 9 Dec 1944									
STATION OF DECEASED European Area		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 6 Mar 1944		LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS Over 3 years									
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mrs. Olga T. Smella, wife, 33 Cortright St., Lansford, Pa.													
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mrs. Olga T. Smella, wife, same as above Mr. John M. Smella, son, same as above Mrs. Kristine V. Smella, mother, 57-15 157 St., Flushing, N.Y.													
INVESTIGATION MADE?		IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT		WAS DECEASED 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
													X

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

BATTLE NON-BATTLE

Beneficiaries continued:
 Mrs. Anna Nemecek, sister, same as mother's
 Evidence of death rec'd in WD 27 Dec 1944

FILED
 JAN 28 1945

COPIES FURNISHED:		
S. O. O.	F. D. I.	F. O. U. S. A.
S. O. O. M. G.	O. F. D.	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
S. A. O.	VET. ADMIN.	CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
		A. G. 201 FILE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

[Signature]

ADJUTANT GENERAL

FILE NUMBER NO. 293 - Smells, John (Pvt. 42077168)

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

Letter

8 Jan. 1945

FROM: Congress of the U. S., House of Representatives.
TO: OCMG.

RE: Next of kin of following soldiers desire information as to their
place of burial:.....

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 293 - Bernhard, Willard C. (Lt. O-1309897)

tjh

DAVID 245
(Smella, John, Pvt.)

16 January 1945.

4001 Honorable Francis E. Walter,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Walter:

Reference is made to your inquiry in behalf of Mrs. Olga Smella, 55 Center Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania, who desires information regarding the burial of her husband, Private John Smella, 42977168.

It is regretted that a burial report for Private Smella has not, as yet, been received in this office. Due to the existing conditions under which these reports must be prepared and submitted, there is considerable delay before they reach here. You are assured, however, that as soon as any information is received, you will be immediately informed.

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

JAMES V. HUNT,
Lt. Colonel, U.S.M.C.,
Assistant.

JVH/bh
Ex. 2644.



EXTRACT COPY

33 Centright St.
Lansford, Pa.
April 4, 1945

Dear Sir:--

I am writing to you in regard to my husband, Pvt. John Smella, who died on Dec. 9th, 1944 in a Holland Hospital suffering from being seriously wounded.

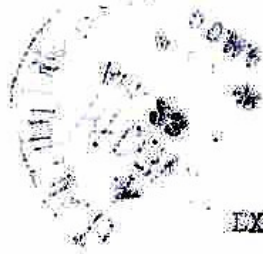
Where was he buried? I would feel more at ease if I knew all these facts as I am entitled to know what happened.

Please try to send me this information as soon as you possibly can.

Thanking you and hope to hear from you in the very near future, I remain,

Yours truly,

Mrs. Olga T. Smella



EXTRACT

COPY

8

243
AGRD-C 201 Smella, John
(4 Apr 45)

20 April 1945

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
33 Cortright Street
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Smella:

I am referring to your letter of 4 April 1945 addressed to The Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., requesting additional information concerning the death and burial of your husband.

An official casualty message received from the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations stated that Private John Smella, Army serial number 42 077 168, Infantry, who was previously reported seriously wounded in action on 6 December 1944 in Germany, died on 9 December 1944 in Holland as a result of those wounds. Additional records now available show that he received his wounds at Linnich, Germany and that his death occurred in the hospital, but unfortunately the nature of his wounds was not given.

The Quartermaster General of the Army, Washington, D. C., has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the burial of our military personnel who die overseas. A copy of your letter has accordingly been forwarded to that officer for necessary action.

Permit me to extend my sympathy in the loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

E. C. GAULT
Colonel, AGD
Chief of Branch

COPY FOR:
The Quartermaster General
Washington 25, D. C.

1 Incl
Extract copy ltr 4 Apr 45

EX-100

[Handwritten signature and notes]

33 Cortright Street
Laneford, Pa.
May 4, 1945.

Dear Sir:-

A month ago I sent a letter to the War Dept. asking for information as to where my husband was buried, and ~~that~~ he died; where he was wounded as yet there hasn't been a word about it so I am writing to you direct to see if I can't have this information.

^{BP}₅₋₂₀ ^{HSTB} I would like to know ^{of} all this, as after all he was my husband, and I believe I am entitled to know the truth.

SPQY 293
Smella, John
S.N. 42,077,168

31 May 1945

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
33 Cortright Street
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information concerning your husband, the late Private John Smella.

The official records of this office show that the remains of your husband were interred in the United States Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland, Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42.

The Adjutant General's Office is charged with the responsibility of furnishing information pertaining to the circumstances surrounding the death of our military personnel. A copy of your letter has been forwarded to that office for reply to you in order that you may be informed of the details of your husband's death.

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

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

MAYO A. DARLING
Lt Colonel, QMC
Assistant

114
CCP

nb

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

TO THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER INDICATED:

	NAME OR TITLE	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	INITIALS
1	Liaison Br.	OPC DIVISION		DATE
2				
3				

1. Representative Walter should be advised that Mrs. Olga T. Smella, 33 Cortright Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania, has been furnished the information as per attached letter.

Darling
DARLING

ccp
CC:

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	DATE
FROM:	MEMORIAL DIVISION, PLANNING & REGISTRATION, TEMPORARY C, WASHINGTON, D. C.			31 May 45
				TELEPHONE
				nb

W. D., A. G. O. Form 0115
1 October 1944

This Form supersedes W. D., A. G. O. Form 0115, 23 March 1944, which may be used until existing stocks are exhausted.
16-31046-2 GPO

SPQYG 293 Smella, John Private 42077168

1st Ind.

ASF, OQMG, Washington, D. C.

31 May 1945

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

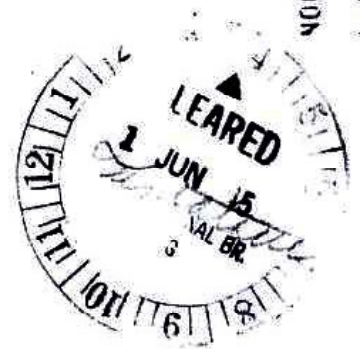
Forwarded for reply to so much thereof as pertains to your office.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

C. C. PIERCE
Captain, QMC
Assistant

Handwritten:
MAY 2 11 11 AM '45
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

JUN 4 10 20 AM '45
MEMORIAL DIVISION



SPQEL 293
(Smella, John, Pvt.)

5 June 1945.

Honorable Francis E. Walter,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Walter:

Further reference is made to your inquiry in behalf of Mrs. Olga Smella, 33 Center Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania, regarding the burial of her husband, Private John Smella, who died of wounds received in action.

The official records of this office indicate that the remains of Private Smella were interred in the United States Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland, in Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42. Mrs. Smella may be assured that her husband was buried with the utmost respect and reverence, with an appropriate ceremony conducted at the grave by an Army Chaplain. The cemetery is well cared for and under the immediate supervision of our military authorities. A temporary marker has been erected, with a fitting inscription thereon, and the grave has been properly recorded.

It is sincerely hoped that this information will be of some comfort to Mrs. Smella in her great sorrow.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Very truly yours,

JAMES V. HUNT,
Lt. Colonel, Q.M.C.,
Assistant.

JVH/fo
Ex. 2644.



293 Bolles, William J.
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 6, 1945

Lt. Colonel James V. Hunt
Office of the Quartermaster General
2nd & P Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Hunt:

I am enclosing herewith a list of servicemen killed in action and the next of kin of these men, who desire that a burial report be furnished. If possible, I will appreciate your furnishing these reports,

Sincerely yours,

s/ FRANCIS E. WALTER

C Smella, John Pvt.
Serial 42,077,168

O

P O'Brien, Edward J. Pfc.
Serial 33,775,212

Y

Doll, Herman C. S/3gt.
Serial 20,302,494

Saylor, Wilmer Carl Pfc.
Serial 33,937,606

tjh Bolles, William J. Pfc.
Serial 33,830,299

Mrs. Olga Smella, Wife
33 Cortright St.
Lansford, Pa.

Mrs. Margaret O'Brien, Wife
227 W. Ridge St.
Lansford, Pa.

Mrs. Edith Doll, Wife
420 N. Courtland St.
E. Stroudsburg, Pa.

Mrs. Carrie M. Saylor, Mother
RFD #2, Northampton, Pa.

Mrs. Emma Bolles, Wife
272 Van Gelder St.
Tamaqua, Pa.

X 293 Smella, John

(42,077,168)

WAR DEPARTMENT, O.Q.M.G.

DATE: 8 June 1945
SUBJECT: Communication from Rep. Walter.
FROM: Liaison Branch, OP&C

FILE NO: 293--- RLD NO: 8593
TO: Memorial Division.

DATE 13 June 1945

FILE: SPQYG 293

FROM: Memorial Division

TO: Liaison Branch, OPC Division

1. There are attached copies of letter written to the families as per the list submitted by Congressman Walter, for his information.
2. In the case of Private First Class William J. Bolles, Mrs. Bolles, was furnished the information under date of 4 June 1945.
3. In the case of Private John Smella, Mrs. Smella was furnished this information under date of 31 May 1945, and Congressman Walter under date of 5 June 1945.

DARLING

C
O
P
Y

tjh

Smella, John 42,077,000

16 June 1945.

X201

Honorable Francis E. Walter,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Walter:

Reference is made to your inquiry regarding the burial of Private John Smella, Private First Class Edward J. O'Brien, Staff Sergeant Herman C. Doll, and Private First Class Wilmer C. Saylor.

There are inclosed for your information, copies of letters dated 13 June 1945, written to the families of Private O'Brien, Sergeant Doll and Private Saylor, regarding this matter.

As you were informed in a letter from this office dated 5 June 1945, the remains of Private Smella were reverently interred in the United States Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland, in Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Very truly yours,

JAMES V. HUNT,
Lt. Colonel, G.M.C.,
Assistant.

3 Incls.
Letter, 13 June 1945.
Letter, 13 June 1945.
Letter, 13 June 1945.

X343 Doll, Herman C 20, 302, 494
X293 Saylor, C 33, 937, 609
X293 O'Brien, C 33, 725, 212

RECEIVED
19 JUN
Cleared
5 JUN 1945

REPORT OF BURIAL

TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815

4639 Dec. 1944 ⁰⁰⁸²⁰ ^{all}

293
Smella

John

~~Unk.~~

42077168

Last Name		First	Initial	Rank	Serial No.
Smella		John		Unk.	42077168
Unit			Date of Death		Organization
48th Field Hospital			9 Dec. 1944		DOW
Place of Death		Date of Death		Cause of Death	
0920		9 Dec. 1944		U. S. Mil. Cem. Margraten, Holland - VK 645482	
Time and Date of Burial		Name of Cemetery		Name or Coordinates of Location	
42		J		Wooden Cross	
Grave Number	Row Number	Plot Number		Type of Marker	
42	2	J		Wooden Cross	

Disposition of Identification Tags: Buried with body Yes No Attached to Marker Yes No

If No Identification Tags
How were remains identified?

What means of identification were buried with the body?

To determine Right or Left use Deceased's Right and Left.

Who is buried on:	Daniel Mc Kenzie 37583639 Pvt. 48th Armored Div.				41
Deceased's Right:	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Organization	Grave No.
Deceased's Left:	James G. Carwile	35044988	Unk.	Unknown	43
	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Organization	Grave No.

Signature or Name, Rank and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial.



If print of identification tag is not affixed fill in below:

Emergency Addressee Unknown Name

Address

Religion

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same:
None

FILE
MAY 28 1945
AK

Edwin J. Donovan
EDWIN J. DONOVAN reporting burial
1st Lt. QMC, GRS Officer
611th QM Gr. Reg. Co.

March 1, 1946

298
RE: Smella, Pvt. John .
ASN: 4,077,168
Infantry Company I
APO #15478, c/o PM New York, NY.

Born: Nov. 30, 1919
Entered Service: March 6, 1944

(Mother;) Mrs. Kristine Smella
c/o Milan Kozak
33 W. Kline Avenue
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Adjutant General's Office
Casualty Branch
War Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Will you please forward to me details of the death of the above captioned serviceman, including how he was wounded and in what hospital he was attended. I am also interested in knowing just where his body is buried.

Pvt. Smella was wounded in Germany December 6, 1944 and died December 9, 1944.

Thank you for your cooperation and service and may I have a reply from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. KRISTINE SMELLA
c/o Milan Kozak
333 W. Kline Avenue
Lansford, Pennsylvania.

4-10

AGPC-0 201 Smella, John
(12 Mar 46) 42077168

19 March 1946

Mrs. Kristine Smella
c/o Milan Kozak
233 West Kline Avenue
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Reference is made to your recent letter in which you requested information concerning your son, Private John Smella.

The distress you have suffered since your son's death is most understandable and I realize your desire to know the attending circumstances. Information received in the War Department from Chaplain Raphael C. O'Brien discloses that Private Smella was seriously wounded in action at Linnich, Germany on 6 December 1944, when the company of which he was a member had the important mission of holding a defensive position in the town. The company was subjected to a great deal of enemy artillery and mortar fire and upon entering the outskirts of the town they were met by a particularly heavy barrage of artillery which caused a number of casualties, your son among them. He received multiple shrapnel wounds of a serious nature. The company aid men quickly evacuated him while still under fire and brought him to the Aid Station. There he was given plasma, redressed, and promptly sent to a field hospital in the rear. The doctors at the hospital did everything possible to save his life but he passed away on 9 December 1944, despite the constant attention of doctors and nurses. He was unconscious almost all the time so you may be sure he did not suffer.

The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the burial of our military personnel who die overseas and I am, therefore, forwarding a copy of your letter to that official for direct reply to your inquiry regarding this matter.

I realize how futile any words of mine may be to assuage your grief but I trust that the knowledge of your son's heroic sacrifice in action may be a source of sustaining comfort.

You have my heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

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

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

TO THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER INDICATED:

	NAME OR TITLE	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	INITIALS / fms/
1	Dir., Memorial Division,	OQMG	Room 1005, Tempo C Building	DATE 17 Mar 46
	Washington, D. C.			
2				
3				

1. For necessary action.

2.



WJ

Incls

Copy of basic ltr dtd 1 Mar 46

Copy of our reply dtd 17 Mar 46

FROM:	NAME	ORGANIZATION	BUILDING AND ROOM	DATE
	Casualty Branch, Composite Section #		C	
	Family Relations Sub-Section			TELEPHONE 79815

SPQYG 293
Smella, John
S.N. 42 077 168

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

30 March 1946

Mrs. Kristine Smella
c/o Milan Kozak
233 West Kline Avenue
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter to The Adjutant General concerning your son, the late Private John Smella, has been referred to this office.

The official Report of Burial discloses that the remains of your son were interred in Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42, in the United States Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland, located approximately twelve miles northwest of Aachen, Germany and eight miles southeast of Maastricht, Holland.

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

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

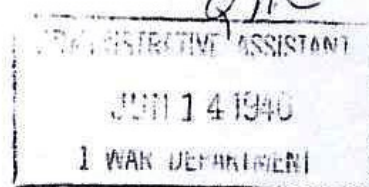
LOUIS M. STAGGS
2d Lieut., QMC
Assistant

LMS

RECEIVED
MARCH 31 1946

137 E. 40th Street.
N. Y. C., 16, N. Y.
June 13, 1946

War Department
Washington , D. C.



Dear Sir:

I am writing you in regard to a matter which I would like some information about.

I saw where they are starting to bring back the bodies of soldiers who died overseas. Now my husband also died overseas and was buried in a United States Military Cemetery in Holland. What I am trying to find out is does the government pay these expenses? Also if I wanted to leave the body there to rest and his mother insisted to bring it over here does her word go over mine or does mine count more than hers? Who has the say over this?

Please give me all the necessary information available on this if possible. Hoping to hear from you in the very near future, I remain,

Yours truly,

095) Mrs. Olga T. Smella

293 Smella, John

OMGYG 095
~~Smella, Mrs. Olga T.~~

42077168

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

12 July 1946

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
137 E. 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter addressed to the War Department, concerning your husband, has been referred to this office.

In order to furnish you with the desired information it will be necessary that you forward to this office the full name, rank, and serial number of your husband.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

S. D. COCHEU
Lt. Colonel, QMC
Assistant

SDC

ah

[Handwritten signature and scribbles]

[Handwritten notes and scribbles]



137 E. 40th St.
N. Y. 16, N. Y.
July 15, 1946

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of
July 12, 1946 here is the additional
information which you requested.

My husband's full name was

Pvt. John Smella
42077168

Hoping I can receive the informa-
tion in the near future I remain,

Yours truly,

Mrs. Olga T. Smella

C
O
P
Y

July 20, 1946

Veterans Administration
Washington, D. C.

Re: John Smella, Deceased Armed
Forces
Serial Number 42077168

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly advise me if you could have a photo picture taken of my son's grave (the above mentioned) who died in action December 6th 1944 in Holland, Germany. Also, is it true all his belongings were to be sent next to kin.

Any other information you can give me about my son's death will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Kristine V. Smella
Mother

Mrs. Kristine Smella
c/o Terriberry
1205 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

AGPC-O 201 Smella, John
(20 Jul 46) 42 077 168

12 August 1946

Mrs. Kristine V. Smella
c/o Terriberry
1205 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Reference is made to your letter of 20 July 1946, addressed to The Veterans Administration, in which you requested information concerning your son, Private John Smella, who died on 9 December 1944 in Holland, as a result of wounds received in action on 6 December 1944 in Germany.

Your earnest desire to learn the full details of the heroic action in which your son served his country is most understandable. It is sincerely regretted that no further information has been received in the War Department regarding the circumstances surrounding Private Smella's death, other than that conveyed to you in my letter of 19 March 1946.

The Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the personal effects of our military personnel who die overseas and I am, therefore, forwarding a copy of your letter to that official for direct reply to your inquiry regarding this matter.

I realize how futile any words of mine may be to assuage your grief, but I trust that the knowledge of your son's heroic sacrifice in action may be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

You have my heartfelt sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

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

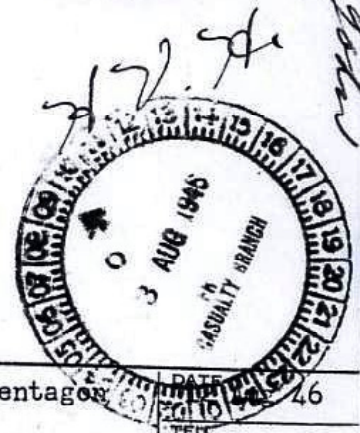
W

TO THE FOLLOWING IN THE ORDER INDICATED		CHECK ACTION	
TO: (Name, organization, building) 1. Dir Memorial Division, QMGO 2401 Tempo B Washington 25, D. C.	INITIALS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE
	DATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE
2.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE AND RETURN
		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTE AND FORWARD
		<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPLETE ACTION
		<input type="checkbox"/>	CIRCULATE
3.		<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION
		<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE

1. For necessary action



2 Incls
cpy ltr dtd 12 Aug 46
cpy ltr dtd 20 Jul 46



993 Smith's John

FROM: (Name, organization, building) Operating Section, 1C522 Pentagon	DATE 20 10 46
MP/cmm	TEL 72450

QMGYG 293
Smella, John
S.N. 42 077 168

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

15 August 1946

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
137 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter concerning your husband, the late Private John Smella, has been received in this office.

The War Department has now been authorized to remove the remains of our honored dead, at Government expense, to the final resting place which next of kin may designate.

When the necessary verification of records has been completed, a letter with an information pamphlet and a "Request for Disposition" form attached will be mailed to you. The "Request for Disposition" form, when properly filled out, will constitute the formal expression of your detailed desires as next of kin. Until you receive these forms, therefore, it will not be necessary for you to communicate with this office regarding this subject, unless you desire to report any change of address.

As you probably know, the supply of steel for the manufacture of caskets is at present uncertain. Without this essential item, the projected movement of remains cannot properly be initiated. This fact and the necessity for complete coordination of movement in many parts of the world make it impossible, at this time, to estimate when the mentioned forms will be mailed. Every effort, however, will be made to shorten the time between now and the date of mailing and your desires will be acted upon with a minimum of delay.

This office has noted a change in your address and it is requested that if this is to be your permanent mailing address that this office be advised.

The records of this office indicate that you are the next of kin of the late Private John Smella and the person authorized to designate the final resting place of his remains. Please be advised that your decision will be recognized.

QMGYG 293 Smella, John, S.N. 42 077 168

15 August 1946 (Cont'd)

ml
This office regrets sincerely the delay in answering your letter.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

RE

JAMES L. PHENN
Major, QMC
Assistant

JLP

Aug 15 11 15 AM '46
RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM

1 15

low

Q.M.G.Y.G. 293
Smella, John
S.N. 42 077 168

137 E. 40 Street
N.Y.C., 16, N.Y.
August 19, 1946.

Dear Sir:-

Received your letter of August 15th. Also in this letter you said your office noted a change in my address. This is only a temporary address and I would appreciate, when you mail out the blanks "Request for Disposition" that it be mailed to the correct address as shown below:-

33 Cortright Street
Lansford, Pa.

Thanking you for your co-operation I remain,

Yours truly,
Mrs. Olga T. Smella

QMGYG 293
Smella, John
SN 42 077 168

6 September 1946

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

Mrs. Kristine Smella
c/o Terriberry
1205 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter to Veterans Administration concerning your son, the late Private John Smella, has been referred to this office.

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.

Your inquiry concerning personal effects will be the subject of a later communication.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. PRIENN
Major, QMC
Assistant

rw

Card made"

SEP 13 1946
MEMORIAL DIVISION

MEMORIAL DIVISION

SEP 6 2 00 PM '46

RECEIVED

SCV

WJG 293
Smella, John
SN 42 077 168

6 September 1946

Address Reply To
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Attention: Memorial Division

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
137 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter concerning your permanent change of address has been received in this office.

A notation has been made that you wish to be notified at 33 Cortright Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania, when the remains of your husband are ready to be returned to the United States for final interment.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

JAMES L. PRENN
Major, AMC
Assistant

REGISTRATION AND
RECORDS BRANCH
SEP 6 2 01 PM '46
GENERAL DIVISION

SEP 5 1946
RECORDS BRANCH

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

TO THE FOLLOWING IN THE ORDER INDICATED		CHECK ACTION	
TO: (Name, organization, building)		INITIALS	CONCURRENCE
1. Commanding Officer Kansas City Quartermaster Depot 601 Hardesty Avenue		R/GBK	SIGNATURE
		DATE	NOTE AND RETURN
		19/9/46	NOTE AND FORWARD
2. Kansas City 1, Missouri ATTENTION: Effects Quarter- master			COMPLETE ACTION
			CIRCULATE
3. ²⁹³ RE: Smella, John Pvt. (293) SN 42 077 168			INFORMATION
			FILE

For necessary action. GRS Form No. 1 lists no personal effects on body of decedent.

KEGLEY

1 Incl:
Ltr dtd 20 July 1946

Handwritten: NOTED
19 Sept 46

FROM: (Name, organization, building)	DATE
OMG, MEMORIAL DIVISION, EFFECTS BRANCH	19 Sept. 46 3821



Nov. 15, 1946.

Veteran's Administration
Grave's Registration
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Re: Deceased Veteran Pvt. John Smella.
No. 42077168.

Will you kindly advise me if, and when, you are going to return deceased veteran's of World No. 2 to America, also what procedure is taken.

My son, Pvt. John Smella, who died in action in Germany, and is buried in Holland. I believe an American Cemetery.

Your information will be greatly appreciated, and trusting you will favor me with an early reply.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Kristine Smella
MOTHER.

Mrs. Kristine Smella.
4 Terriberry
1205 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 20, 1946.



YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

Mrs. Kristine Smella,
5 Terriberry,
1205 Lexington Avenue,
New York, New York.

249
IN REPLY REFER TO: 3BA
S-#42,077,168 BA C
SMELLA, John KOC
(deceased)

Dear Madam:

Your communication of November 15, 1946, in regard to the return of the remains of the above named, has been referred to the Quartermaster General's Office, War Department, Washington 25, D.C., for attention.

Any future correspondence relative to this matter should be addressed to that office.

Very truly yours,

W. C. BLACK,
Director,
Administrative Service.

Oct 31, 1947

Quartermaster General
Dept of Army
Washington, D.C.
Att: Memorial Branch

Gentlemen:

I would like to have my son's body brought back to the U.S. However, understand when and if that particular area is to be considered, it is up to the next of kin to make the decision.

In this case my son's wife would be next of kin. I do not know of her intentions as our relationship is very distant and there is a possibility she may refuse to have it transferred. Would I then have the authority to claim his body?

Mrs. Kristine Smell
341 E. 76th St.
N.Y.C., N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

QMGHF 293
Smella, John
SN 42 077 168

20 November 1947

Mrs. Kristine Smella
541 East 76th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Smella:

Your letter pertaining to the remains of your son, the late Private John Smella, has come to my attention.

The Department of the Army records indicate that your son was married at the time of his death. Consequently, his widow has prior right to designate the disposition of his remains in accordance with the precedence among relatives to determine disposition as established by the Secretary of the Army.

The desires of the widow for final disposition will be recognized and complied with by the Department of the Army unless she has remarried or relinquishes her prior eligibility to direct disposition.

If the widow of your son voluntarily relinquishes her rights or remarries the disposition right will automatically revert to you.

Please be assured of my continued sympathy in your great loss.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. GOOMBS
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

B
RBC

Pvt John Smella, 42 077 168
Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42,
United States Military Cemetery
Margraten, Holland

28 November 1947

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
33 Cortright Street
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Smella:

The people of the United States, through the Congress have authorized the disinterment and final burial of the heroic dead of World War II. The Quartermaster General of the Army has been entrusted with this sacred responsibility to the honored dead. The records of the War Department indicate that you may be the nearest relative of the above-named deceased, who gave his life in the service of his country.

The enclosed pamphlets, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," and "American Cemeteries," explain the disposition, options and services made available to you by your Government. If you are the next of kin according to the line of kinship as set forth in the enclosed pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," you are invited to express your wishes as to the disposition of the remains of the deceased by completing Part I of the enclosed form "Request for Disposition of Remains." Should you desire to relinquish your rights to the next in line of kinship, please complete Part II of the enclosed form. If you are not the next of kin, please complete Part III of the enclosed form.

If you should elect Option 2, it is advised that no funeral arrangements or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

Will you please complete the enclosed form, "Request for Disposition of Remains" and mail in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, within 30 days after its receipt by you? Its prompt return will avoid unnecessary delays.

Sincerely,

THOMAS B. LARKIN
Major General
The Quartermaster General

Incls. 5
P.H.

sb

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

GRADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL

DATE:

Pvt John Smella, 42 077 168
Plot J, Row 2, Grave 42,
United States Military Cemetery
Margraten, Holland

28 November 1947

A		C	
B		D	

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly signed by the next of kin, it should be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose.
If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

PART I

I, Mrs. Olga T. Smella

(Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

- WIDOW WIDOWER SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD DAUGHTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- FATHER MOTHER BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OLD SISTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE (Specify) _____

HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE DECEASED DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: (Please place an "X" in the box opposite the option you have selected.)

1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS. Margraten
2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

3. BE RETURNED TO _____ (FOREIGN COUNTRY) THE HOMELAND OF THE DECEASED OR NEXT OF KIN, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED)

(Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the selected national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the proper box)

- YES NO

THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE SERIAL NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: (If no corrections are necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.)

None

APR 28 1948

5 APR

K...

CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET

Mr. Miss. Addressee: Mrs. [Handwritten Name] Relationship Wife
 State NY 341 E. 76th Street
 City, State New York City, N. Y. Date letter 1947
 Cemetery Temporary: _____
 Permanent: _____

Plot	Row	Gr	Cem. Name or No.	City	Country
-- ADDITIONAL -- DATA -- MODIFICATIONS --					

PARAGRAPHS (sequence)

Decedent: Sullivan, Helen
 Last First Initial Rank ASN

165A
 159

1st 2 paras. only
 Para. 1, omit the later --
 Close para. 2. after "disposition" in
 line 3.
 If the widow of [Handwritten Name] voluntarily relinquishes her rights or remarries the disposition right will automatically revert to you.

D.6-211

[Handwritten Signature]

Analyst Typist Reviewer _____ Modifications _____ OKed _____

PART I (Continued)

If on Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Number 2 or 3, or Option Number 4 with your own funeral ceremonies desired at a location other than the selected national cemetery, complete one of these sections.

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSON WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
		TELEPHONE No.

OR I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

FULL NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR			
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	TELEPHONE No.	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NEXT IN LINE OF KINSHIP AFTER ME, AS SET FORTH IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," IS:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (For additional space use page 4.)*

AS EXPLAINED IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," I AM THE NEXT OF KIN AND THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SAID REMAINS.

I, the undersigned, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that the statements made by me in the foregoing document are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mrs. Olga T. Smella (SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN) 33 Cortright Street (STREET AND NUMBER)
Mrs. Olga T. Smella (NAME PRINTED OR TYPED) Lansford, Pennsylvania (CITY AND STATE)

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me according to law by the above-named applicant this 3 day of December, 1947, at city (or town) of New York, county of New York, and State (or Territory or District) of New York.

Mark J. Cushman
(SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS)
MARK J. CUSHIN
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK
RESIDING IN NEW YORK COUNTY
N.Y. CO. CLK. NO. 850, REG. NO. 1015-C-8
EXPIRES 12/31/52

*NOTE.—Page 4 is part of the notarial attestation.

28 January 1949

Mrs. Olga T. Smella
33 Cortright Street
Lansford, Pennsylvania

Pvt John Smella, ASN 42 077 168
Plot A, Row 7, Grave 26
Headstone: Cross
Margraten U. S. Military Cemetery

Dear Mrs. Smella:

This is to inform you that the remains of your loved one have been permanently interred, as recorded above, side by side with comrades who also gave their lives for their country. Customary military funeral services were conducted over the grave at the time of burial.

After the Department of the Army has completed all final interments, the cemetery will be transferred, as authorized by the Congress, to the care and supervision of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission also will have the responsibility for permanent construction and beautification of the cemetery, including erection of the permanent headstone. The headstone will be inscribed with the name exactly as recorded above, the rank or rating where appropriate, organization, State, and date of death. Any inquiries relative to the type of headstone or the spelling of the name to be inscribed thereon, should be addressed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Your letter should include the full name, rank, serial number, grave location, and name of the cemetery.

While interment activities are in progress, the cemetery will not be open to visitors. However, upon completion thereof, due notice will be carried by the press.

You may rest assured that this final interment was conducted with fitting dignity and solemnity and that the grave-site will be carefully and conscientiously maintained in perpetuity by the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS B. LARKIN
Major General
The Quartermaster General

1	USMC. Margraten. Plot A. Row 7. Grave 26 Date of Burial: 9 Dec. 48 Verified by <i>Capt. W. L. B. BY M. MANN</i>		Right: William G. Thompson. 38297251 Left: William T. Penny 31180553	
	SECTION A - NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED		DIRECTIVE NUMBER 4650 14765	DATE 15 04 48 DAY MONTH YEAR
NAME SMELLA JOHN		SERIAL NUMBER 42077168	RANK PVT	ARM 1
CEMETERY MARGRATEN - AACHEN			DATE OF DEATH DAY MONTH YEAR 1 4601 80 DISPOSITION OF REMAINS CODE DIST. PT.	
PLOT J	ROW 2	GRAVE 42	COUNTRY HOLLAND	
SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN				CAUSE OF DEATH
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE MARGRATEN, HOLLAND		NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN MRS. OLGA T. SMELLA (WIFE) 33 CORTRIGHT STREET LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA		
SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION				
NAME JOHN SMELLA		SERIAL NUMBER 42077168	RANK PVT	DATE OF DEATH 24 JUNE 48
IDENTIFICATION TAG ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMAINS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKER		ORGANIZATION USAGF	RELIGION P	IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY PAUL W. HAMMOND CAPT., QMC NAME AND TITLE
SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT				
NATURE OF BURIAL MATTRESS COVER		CONDITION OF REMAINS BODY COMPLETE - ADVANCED STATE OF DECOMPOSITION		
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION NONE				
MINOR DISCREPANCIES NONE				
RAT FILE RECORDS ANNOTATED DATE <u>FEB 24 49</u> NAME <u>Kimberly</u> R & R BR.				
REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET				
DATE 1 JULY 48		BY LEON C. DESMOND, EMBALMER		
CASKET SEALED BY LEON C. DESMOND		EMBALMER (Signature) <i>Leon C. Desmond</i> LEON C. DESMOND		
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED DATE 1 JULY 48 BY STEVEN J. HALASZ IDENT TECH		SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY TAGS, MARKINGS & PLATES VERIFIED BY FRITZ J. TOLTZIEN, 1ST LT., F.A.		
I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.				
<i>Fritz J. Toltzien, 1st Lt. F.A.</i> SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR				
1 Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.				