

NARRATIVE ON INVESTIGATION
AT KIRCHHAIN, GERMANY
L-51/G-85

HP/gt
22 March 1948

In compliance with instructions given in basic documents, an investigation was conducted at KIRCHHAIN, Germany (L-51/G-85) in order to establish the following:

1. To get all possible information concerning Capt. John J. Dunn.
2. To find out if any Americans are buried in or within the community of Kirchhain.
3. To locate and search American tank-wrecks in and around Kirchhain.

Upon arriving at Kirchhain, I first contacted the Burgermeister of the town. Explaining him our case, I received a statement that they have no American tank wrecks in the community of Kirchhain and no American deceased are buried there. (See exhibit "A").

I myself conducted a thorough search through the cemetery records, but likewise without success. No US deceased were ever buried here.

In addition, the following towns and areas were checked:

Niederwald, Gross-und Klein Seelheim, Amoenburg, Schroeck, Niederklein, Langenstein, Allendorf, Stausebach, Anzefahr, but only one (1) American tank was found in a field on the road between Seelheim and Bauerbach (see sketch). The number of it is as follows:

U.S.A. 3032333 7 40 A 2

No information concerning the whereabouts of the tank-crew could be obtained.

We finally checked at Marburg but no information pertaining to our case could be obtained there.

Since the investigation proved entirely negative despite all-out efforts, I regret not to be able to furnish any positive information pertaining to Capt. John J. Dunn.

Hildred Peace
HILDRED PEACE
Cpl., RA 17032394
Investigator

COPY

AGRC case #10714 /gt

COPY

ERKLAERUNG

Ich erkläre hiermit, dass bei den Kampfhandlungen am 29. März 1945 in Kirchhain amerikanische Soldaten hier selbst nicht beerdigt worden sind. Abgeschossene amerikanische Tanks sind hier nicht vorhanden.

Kirchhain, den 16. März 1948

(Stempel)

Der Buergermeister
als Ortpolizeibehoerde
gez. unleserlich

TRANSLATION

STATEMENT

I herewith state, that no American deceased had been buried in Kirchhain, during the battles on March 29, 1945. No American tank wrecks are located here.

Kirchhain, 16 March 1948.

(seal)

The Burgermeister
and local police administr.

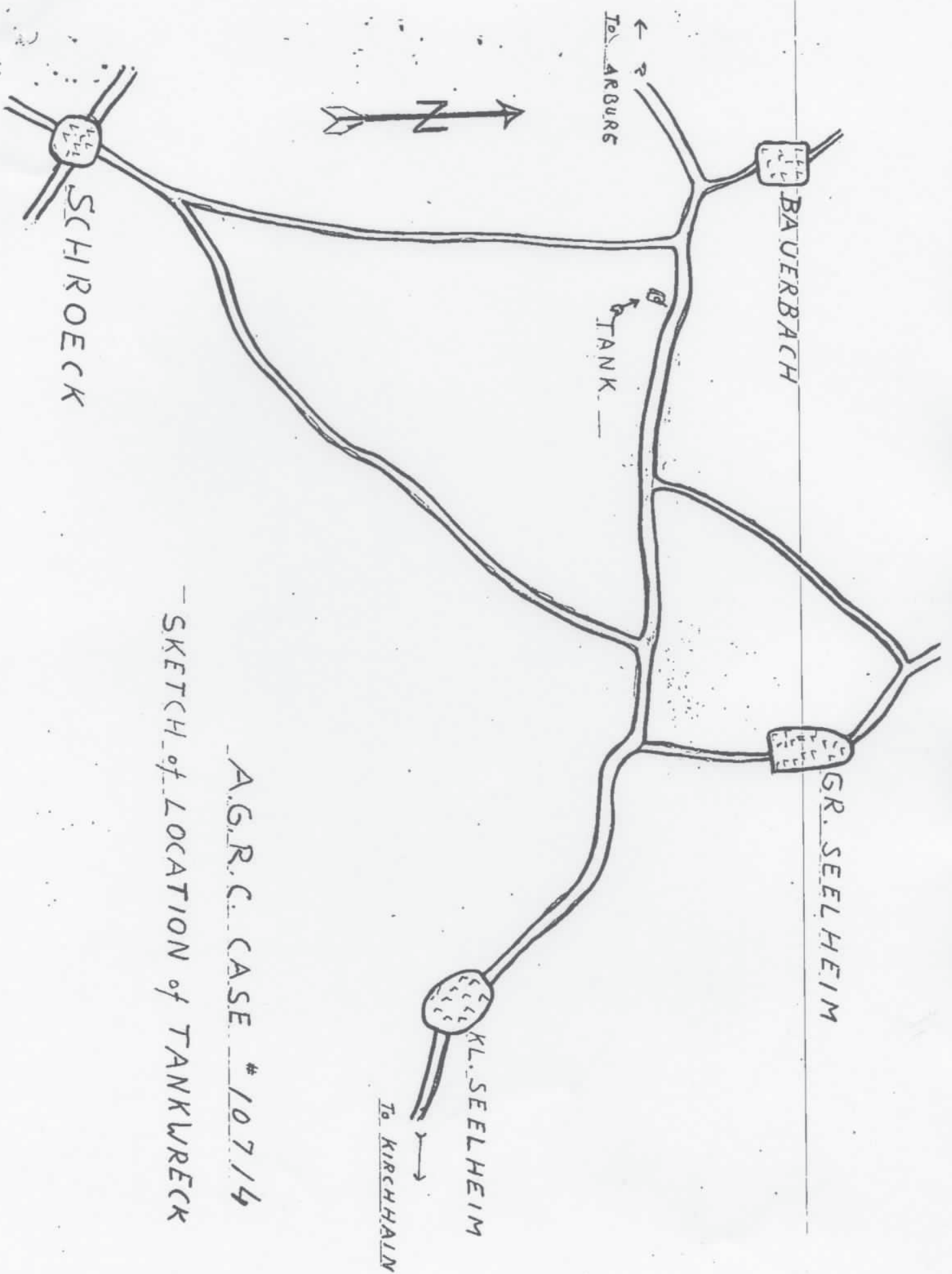
Signature: illegible.

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

Franz Seitz
Franz Seitz

A TRUE COPY:

Paul H. Mueller
PAUL H. MUELLER
Major Cavalry
Operations Officer



A.G.R.C. CASE # 10714
 - SKETCH of LOCATION of TANK WRECK

ID # 612
Case # 10714

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

1 March 1951

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION
AT WISSMAR (L-51/G-51), GER.

I. MATTERS INVESTIGATED:

Pursuant to instructions set forth in basic document, ID #612, Case # 10714, Germany L-51, dated 22 January 1951, an investigation was conducted at WISSMAR (L-51/G-51), Germany in an effort to recover the remains of Captain JOHN J. DUNN, O-1019119, KIA in the vicinity of WISSMAR, Germany on 28 March 1945.

II. FACTS & CIRCUMSTANCES:

According to the After Action Report for the 31st Tank Battalion, the above mentioned casualty was in the leading element of an attack approaching the outskirts of WISSMAR, when the tank in which he was commanding received a direct hit from enemy fire. No records exist of the recovery or disposition of his remains. A Field investigation was previously conducted in an erroneous location near KIRCHHAIN (L-51/G-85) in March 1948, as historical records show, the unit of which Captain DUNN was a member, was reported in action in this vicinity on the day Captain DUNN was killed.

III. FINDINGS:

Initial contact was made with the Burgermeister of WISSMAR, as well as with office employees WILHELM BITTENDORF and WILLI STROH, who all recalled one particular incident at WISSMAR on 28 March 1945, when a US tank received a direct hit from a German bazooka. This was known to be the one and only tank incident that ever took place in and around WISSMAR.

Witnesses to the incident were subsequently summoned to the Burgermeister's Office and in a detailed statement revealed that the leading tank of a US tank column, approaching WISSMAR from KROFDORF at approximately 1400 hours on 28 March 1945 received a direct hit in front of house # 23, Krofdorferstrasse, and was disabled immediately.

Mr. and Mrs., HEINRICH and KATHERINA STROH, residing in house # 23 as well as Mrs. JOHANNETTE STROH, residing Krofdorferstrasse # 8 witnessed that three (3) crew members of the tank in question were leaving