

24 Nov 1951

Lt. Col. Benjamin King  
Memorial Div. GMC.

Dear Col. King

REGARDING YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEATH AND BURIAL PLACE OF <sup>293</sup> CAPT. JOHN J. DUNN, I RECALL THE INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS:-

CAPT. DUNN WAS DECAPITATED BY AN 88 mm A.P. SHOT WHICH HIT HIGH ON THE TURRET OR TURRET RING OF OUR TANK. HIS BODY, OF COURSE, FELL BACK INTO THE TANK. THE NEXT SHOT SET FIRE TO THE TANK MAKING THE REMOVAL OF HIS BODY IMPOSSIBLE. THE TANK WAS COMPLETELY GUTTED BY THE BURNING GASOLINE AND EXPLODING AMMUNITION INCLUDING WHITE PHOSPHORUS SHELLS.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER I WAS TOLD BY OUR 1ST. SGT. STEPHEN WALAS THAT THE HULL OF THE TANK HAD BEEN EXAMINED BY A CAPTAIN FROM OUR SERVICE COMPANY WHO COULD FIND NO VESTIGE OF HUMAN REMAINS IN OR NEAR THE TANK. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THIS CAPTAIN BUT I BELIEVE SERVICE CO. HAD 2 CAPTAINS AT THAT TIME. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR BODIES TO BE COMPLETELY CREMATED INSIDE A BURNING AND EXPLODING TANK BECAUSE THE TANK'S HULL USUALLY HOLDS TOGETHER INSTEAD OF BURSTING AND SCATTERING THE CONTENTS AROUND. I WAS THEN ASKED BY SGT. WALAS TO SIGN A PAPER TESTIFYING TO CAPT. DUNN'S DEATH. OUR COMPANY C.O. AT THAT TIME WAS LT. FLOYD SWANGER WHO SUCCEEDED LT. HAROLD LEACH WHO SUCCEEDED LT. HENRY TALLIAFERRO WHO SUCCEEDED CAPT. DUNN ALL ON MARCH 28.

CAPT. DUNN'S ATK. took place just outside the small town of Rookiem Germany. The "WISSMAR" mentioned in your letter must have been where the morning report was made out next morning. It is spelled "Wismar" in my German Commercial Road map and is a few miles N.W. of the city of Giessen. Rookiem, which is too small to be listed on my map, I would judge to be about 5 miles west of Wismar.

Perhaps the tank is still there as it was in an open farm field well away from any road. No other tanks were burned near here. (See map below)

I thought that the Army had this information or I would have made an attempt to contact Capt. Dunn's relatives.

Sincerely yours:

Allen C. Montague.

