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C/F:RICKS, FRED B. #38185551

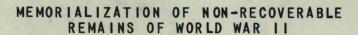
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On-Site Review

General Reference

Standard Standard (billed) N/A TO REVIEW

7611,7761,7907,7948



THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME	(Last,	rirst,	Midale)	

RICKS, FRED B

SERIAL NUMBER

38185551

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

AREA OF DEATH

6 DEC 45

FRANCE

NAME OF AUDITOR

DATE

KINKEAD

UP H

NAME OF REVIEWER

DATE

M. Cox

24 APRSI

REMARKS

CONTROLLED CASE					
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RICKS, FRED B.		PFC	38 185 551		
O NOT TAKE ANY ACTION O	N THIS CASE OR RELEASE INF	FORMATION FROM THIS FILE	FLAGGED BY (Initials)		
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LIAISON OFFICE, MEMOR	RIAL DIVISION				
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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

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NON-RECOVE BL	LE REMAINS REEXAMINA	TION RE	CORDS
EA OF DEATH	of Villers-sur-Nied, Fr	200.00	CASE NUMBER
E (Last, First, Middle Initial)	RANK	rance	15456 SERIAL NUMBER
Ricks, Fred B.		Pfc	38 185 551
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(e. Miller)		1	

NON-RECOVERABLE CASE RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CASE NUMBER

(1)15456

AREA OR ZONE(S)

European

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	RANK	SERIAL NUMBER
Ricks, Fred B.	Pfc	38 185 4

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) axxerorxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	INITIALS OF ANALYST
A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN 3. U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS	Vat	GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE 4. INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNS RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	M
ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED 5- TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWNS	Vat	6. ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UN- KNOWNS NOW IDENTIFIED	Vat
7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES			

After Action Report

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

None

NAN

MAR 3 0 1951

Identification Bra

ME OF CASE ANAL Vincent A. Thomas/cwt

CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO

FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO. RESTED PARTIES.

APPROVED

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

CHIEF, FINAL

MARY A. EDWARDS

CATION BRANCH

OOMG FORM 1916

CASE REVIEWER, FINAL

TION SECTION

49 9635

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

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

The Board convened pursuant to par 4. SO 139, headquarters, 788 Graves Registration Detachment, AFO 757, US Army, 15 November 1950, at Liege, Belgium . The purpose of the Board was to determine the non-recoverability status of certain casualties now under jurisdiction of this command.

The Board reviewed report of investigation, statements of witness and other papers, contained in the files of 7887 Graves Registration Detachment, EA, pertaining to the case of the following named casualty/casualties, the remains of which have not been recovered. The case records and other data considered, are attached.

CASE #

NALE

GRADE

ASN

RICKS, Fred B.

Pfc 38 185 551

FINDINGS: The Board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds the remains of said casualty/casualties are non-recoverable.

RECOMMENDATION: That the case concerning subject casualty/casualties be forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General for final approval.

EDWAND D. HULVANITY, Lt. Col. C-359598, MC JAMES C. MacFAMLAND, Jajor, 0-1576321.

GEORGE GUNDERMAN, JR Major, 0-1289071, OMC STEINSIEK,

LEWIS A. McAMIS, Capt, 0-1543042, MSC/QMC

ALLAN L. LAWSON, Capt. 0-1288075, OMC ROBERT W. GANSEL, 1/Lt, 0-1599085, QMC

JOHN A. BOUTIN, 2/Lt 0-947298, OLC

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

GROP 293.9

SUBJECT: Non Recoverable Remains

TO: Non Recoverable Board, AGRC

1. It is recommended that the Board take action on the following case:

NAME: RICKS, Fred B. Pfc 38 185 551

ORGANIZATION: Co. "G", 137th Inf. Regt.

DATE OF DEATH: 5 December 1944

PLACE OF DEATH: Vicinity Villers-sur-Nied, France

SYNOPSIS: The only available information concerning subject casualty is that contained in a Status Review and Determination Report, #4844, which describes the casualty incident, as follows: "The Casualty Branch file of Pvt Ricks contains a Missing Report, dated 20 January 1945, which reveals that he was a member of a rifle platoon which attacked Villers-sur-Nied, France, 5 December 1944. He disappeared at some point during the action and was not missed immediately, due to the confusion of battle. Neither search nor inquiry at aid station and clearing station revealed any information."

A Field Investigation conducted on 8 October 1950 at Villerssur-Nied and the adjoining towns of Marthille, Brehain and Chicourt, France,
failed to locate the identifiable remains of subject casualty. According
to local residents, the fighting on 5 December was in the vicinity of
Forbach. The German troops retreated from Villers-sur-Nied without strong
resistence and no isolated graves were ever found in the area. Police
and local authorities were unanimous in stating that no American remains
have ever been recovered or reported in the area concerned.

Interment Records on file at this Headquarters reveal no remains

CROP 293.9 SUBJECT: Non Recoverable Remains

of unknown deceased recovered in the vicinity of localities named. All attempts to associate subject casualty with remains of unknown deceased have proven negative.

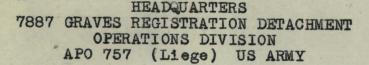
From the aforementioned facts, and in the absence of an official report of his capture, it is concluded that Pfc Ricks was killed on the date as reported and his remains were reduced as a result of battle action to a state which precludes their recovery.

Reference is made to: OQMG Form 371; Status Review and Determination Report, #4844; On file in the Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

2. It is recommended that the remains, based upon the above information and research, be declared non-recoverable.

C. W. STEINSIEK
Captain QMC

Moselle 12342 I.D. 471





6 October 1950

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

I. AUTHORITY

In compliance with the instructions contained in Investigation Directive # 471, dated 18 September 1950, an investigation was conducted in the vicinity of VILLERS S/NIED, (France Map Sheet 9Q13) in an effort to recover the remains of Pfc Fred B. RICKS, 38 185 551, Co "G" 137 Inf Regt, reported killed in action in this vicinity on 5 December 1944.

II. FACTS & CIRCUMSTANCES

Information furnished indicates that subject casualty was a member of a rifle platoon which attacked Villers-sur-Nied on 5 December 1944 and that he disappeared at some point during this action.

III. FINDINGS

Contact was made with the mayor of Villers-sur-Nied and also with the mayors of the adjoining towns of MARTHILLE, BREHAIN and CHICOURT.

Information furnished indicates that no American casualties were ever buried in these communities (See Inc. # 1-2-3-4). All persons contacted stated that the area in question was liberated in November 1944, Dates given indicate a period between the 12th and the 23rd. According to local residents, fighting on 5 December was in the vicinity of FORBACK. Germans retreated from Villers-sur-Nied without a great deal of resistance and no isolated graves were ever reported in the area. The Gendarmerie having jurisdiction over this area located at DELME was also contacted with negative results. Due to the absence of the officer-incharge, a statement was not secured but the policeman on duty agreed to have one prepared and forwarded to this headquarters. (Should be attached to this case as Inc. # 5)

Narrative of Investigation (con't)

6 October 1950

IV. CONCLUSION

Police and local authorities are unanimous in stating that no American remains have ever been recovered or reported in the area in question. Information furnished also indicates that the entire area was liberated sometime prior to the 23rd November 1944 and that no fighting took place in this vicinity in December 1944.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

That a re-check be made of battle position of the 137th Inf. Regt on 5 December 1944.

That the gazetteer of France be checked for additional towns called VILLERS which may be situated geographically in the area occupied by this organization on this date.

HAROLD E. WARNER DA CIV D-046899 Investigator HEADQUARTERS
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
APO 757 (LIEGE) US ARMY

15 November 1950

SPECIAL ORDERS)
NUMBER 139)

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

4. PAC, Ltr., WD-AGO-S 293.9, dtd 9 Apr 47, Subject: "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas", and par 118 b, SR 830-110-5, DA, dtd 2 Mar 49, a Board of O's 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 EDWARD D. MULVANITY, O 359 598, QMC., President MAJOR JAMES C. MacFARLAND, O 1 576 321, QMC., MAJOR GEORGE GUNDERMAN, Jr., O 1 289 071, INF/QMC., CAPT CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, O 1 040 311, QMO., CAPT LEWIS A. McAMIS, O 1 543 042, MSC/QMC., CAPT JOHN M. NEFF, O 1 055 924, 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/t/ EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., CAPT., QMC Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

ROBERT & LAY

AGPO-CR 201 Ricks, Fred B. 38,185,551 (19 Apr 50)

2/11

ALW/gvg/1C664a/8317 19 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Review of Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance of Private First Class Fred B. Ricks, 38,185,551, Infantry

- 1. Private First Class Fred B. Ricks, 38,185,551, Infantry, was reported missing in action in France on 5 December 1944 and was presumed dead as of 6 December 1945 by SR&D 4854.
- 2. The Casualty file of the subject person contains a Missing Report of Company G, 137th Infantry, dated 20 January 1945, which discloses the he was a member of a rifle platoon and participated in a mission to attack the enemy in the vicinity of Villers-sur-Nied, France, and that his last known whereabouts was in that location. The Brief Resume of circumstances states as follows:

"EM was a member of a rifle platoon in this organization when they jumped off on the attack against Villers-sur-Nied. He disappeared at some point during that action, and was not missed immediately, due to the confusion of battle."

The report concluded with the statement that "Neither search nor inquiry at any aid station or clearing station revealed any information."

3. The AG 201 file of the subject person contains a letter of inquiry from his mother, dated 27 January 1944 7457 to the Commanding Officer of his company, which was forwarded by first indorsement, dated 18 February 1945, to the Commanding General, ETOUSA. The indorsement includes the following paragraph:

"Private 1st Class Fred B. Ricks, 38 185 551; Company G, 137th Infantry has been missing in action since 5 December 1944.

"On 5 December 1944 Company G attacked the enemy near the town of Erstoff, France. Pvt lcl Ricks, an automatic rifleman, had been designated as the left flank guard of the unit. An enemy artillery barrage landed in the company's area and when the company again moved forward Pvt Ricks could not be found. The commanding officer of Company G believes that Pvt Ricks received a direct hit by one of the German artillery shells, but his body has never been found.

4. No record has been found of the subject person upon search of Captured German records or upon search of the files of the OMER 26 1950

ezmy

Tdentification Branch

AGPO-CR 201 Ricks, Fred B. 38,185,551 (19 Apr 50)

5. The subject enlisted man was a member of a rifle platoon and on 5 December 1944 took part in a mission; to attack the enemy. He was last known to be at the place of attack, in the vicinity of Villers-sur-Nied, France, which is located approximately 22 miles southeast of Metz, France. No trace of him was found upon inquiry or at any aid station and he was reported as missing in action on that date. There has been no trace of him during the more than five years which have elapsed since the date of this action. Therefore, it is concluded that sufficient information is not available at the present time to warrant issuance of a report of his death under the provisions of Section 9 of the Missing Persons Act.

Alice L. Ward Investigator

CONCUR:

N. B. STARR
Captain, AGD
Asst. OIC, Det. & Rev. Unit
Casualty Section, AGO

QUGIUS 293 Ricks, Fred B.

1st Ind

SN- 38 185 551

SUBJECT: Request for Information

Dept. of the Army, OQMG, Washington 25, D. C.,

28 February 1949

TO: Commanding General, American Graves Registration Command, European Area, APO 58, c/o Postmaster New York, New York

In compliance with request made in basic communication, forwarded herewith is all the available information in this Office pertaining to Pfc. Fred B. Ricks, SN - 38 185 551.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

jab

gsg

1 Incl:

Extract cy SR&D Report

4844

T. H. METZ Lt. Colonel, QMC Memorial Division

NJS



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GAGNA 293 Alona, Find B. (84- 38 185 551

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None: of the Army, ON O. Washington 25, D. G., 25 February 1949

10: Compard: g Conerel, American Graves Registration Command, European Area, AIC 58, c/o Postesator New York. New York

In compliance with request ands in basis communication, forestood herewith is all the available information in this Office pertaining to Pic. Fred B. Mickey, SW - 38 left 551.

FOR THE QUARTER OFFICE OFFICE

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(Moselle) 12342

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND EUROPEAN AREA APO 58 U S ARMY

RRE 293.9 (IB)

10 December 1948

SUBJECT: Request for Information

TO:

The Quartermaster General Washington 25, D.C.

1. Reference is made to OQMG Form 371 for Pfc Fred B. Ricks, 38185551.

2. It is requested that, if available, additional data which may aid in the recovery of the remains, be forwarded this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

E. D. MULVANITY Lt Colonel, QMC Actg Asst Adj Gen



Pentagon Lisison 1 S JAN 1949 PREM. DIV. OQMG (Moselle)

AMERICAN CHAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND EUROPEAN AREA AFO SO U S ARMY

RRE 298.9 (IB)

:07

to December 1948

SUBJECT: Request for Information

The Quartermeater General Washington 25, D.C.

1. Reference is made to COMG Form 371 for Pfc Fred B. Rieks, 38185551.

2. It is requested that, if symilable, additional data which may ald in the recovery of the remains, be forwarded this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERALS

E. D. MULVANITY Lt Colonel, CMC Actg Asst Adj Gen



Pentagon Liaisun
1 9 JAN 1949
MEM. DIV. DQMG

EXTRACT COPY

AG 704 Dead (6 Dec 45) S.R. & D. No. 4844

6 December 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Casualty Branch

SUBJECT: Review and Determination of Status Under the Missing Persons Act.

I. - FACTS

1. The persons named below of the organizations indicated were reported missing in action, not in flying or jumping pay status, in France and Germany as of 5 December 1944, by ETO Shipments 270, 274, 277, 278, 279, 289, 290 and 291:

Ricks, Fred B.

38,185,551 Private First Class Co. G, 137 Infantry

10. The Casualty Branch file of Private Ricks contains a Missing Report, dated 20 January 1945, which reveals that he was a member of a rifle platoon which attacked Villers-sur-Nied, France, 5 December 1944. He disappeared at some point during the action and was not missed immediately, due to the confusion of battle. Neither search nor inquiry at aid station and clearing station revealed any information.

HEADQUARTERS 137TH INFANTRY APO 35 US ARMY

SUBJECT: Report After Action Against Enemy:

December 3, 1944

The 137th Infantry moved seven miles, approximately northeast, to its new assembly area on the morning of December 3 and remained in division reserve. Regimental Headquarters, Special Units and the 2nd Bn closed into Erstroff by 1000. The 1st Bn moved to Linstroff by 1055 and the 3rd Bn was billeted in the town of Grening by 1140. Service Co continued its stay in Villers.

The regiment was ordered into Corps reserve, and suitable reconnaissance was conducted, in view ofthe fact that the 137th might be employed in any sector of the Corps. Two Quartermaster Truck Companies, the 443rd and the 3905th were attached to the 137th to provide transportation for the regiment's next movement. The 443rd located itself in Morhange by 1100 and the 3905th was established by 1415 in Brenestroff.

December 4, 1944

On this day the 137th Infantry remained in its assembly area and its status of Corps reserve.

*** December 5, 1944***

Again the 137th Infantry remained in its assembly area as Corps reserve.

December 6, 1944

The 137th Infantry made a motor movement approximately fifteen miles east through the early morning rain of December 6 and closed into its forward assembly area by 0900. The 3rd Bn had remained in Grening. Regimental Headquarters opened in Hirbach at 0730, 2d Bn in Bettring by 0840, and the 1st Bn in Holving by 0900. No enemy artillery fire was received by any units of the regiment during the day.

The two Quartermaster Truck Companies, the 443rd and the 3905th, became detached from the regiment, with the exception of the trucks providing transportation for the 3d Bn, which was still located in Grening.

December 7, 1944

There was no change in the status of the 137th Infantry on this day.

I DENTIFICAT MEMORIAL	ION SECTION DIVISION					
IDENTIFICATION DATA						
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	ARMY SERIAL NUMBER GRADE					
Ricks Fiel B HEIGHT COLOR EYES	38/8555) PFC COLOR HAIR SHOE SIZE DATE OF DEATH					
LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give c	Brown 10D 50er 44					
P						
PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF WA						
Vicinity of Villers - sur- V	ed France					
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AGRAC FORM 1-380





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PICE

MAY 2 6 1948

& A. Sullivan, 1st Lt., QMC IDENTIFICATION STRANCE

Form prescribed by Comptroller General, U.S. 7 October 1944



WAR DEPARTMENT



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

4844

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (Public Law 490 77th Cong.) as amended, upon direction and delegation by The Secretary of War, The Chief, Casualty Branch, The Adjutant General's Office, finds Private First Class Fred B. Ricks, Army Serial Number 38,185,551, Infantry,

to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 5th day of December 1944. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 6th day of December , 1945.

293 Ricks, Fred B

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF

CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH

PER LANCO	SOMMART OF IN	FORMATION			100000000000000000000000000000000000000		
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EMERGENCY ADDRES NAME ADDRESS Route One Mrs. Virdie Ricks Mother Vienna, Louisiana

BENEFICIARIES RELATIONSHIP Route One Virdie Ricks Mother Vienna, Louisiana NAME RELATIONSHIP ADDRESS Route One William Wiley Ricks Father Vienna, Louisiana

REMARKS

Distribution

Circumstances of Disappearance: Soldier failed to return from an attack in the vicinity of Villers-sur-Nied, France.

Awarded Combat Infantryman Badge, G.O. #6, Hq. 137th Inf., 2 Aug 44.