

CONTROLLED CASE

NAME		GRADE	SERIAL NO.
PIHERA, Joseph J.		S/Sgt	15 013 922
DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THIS FILE WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:			
<input type="checkbox"/> LIAISON OFFICE, MEMORIAL DIVISION		FLAGGED BY (<i>Initials</i>)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFICATION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION		FLAGGED BY (<i>Initials</i>)	
		Lt de Weese	
UNKNOWN	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO.	A-Z CARD FLAGGED BY	333 CARD FLAGGED BY
X -	13862		

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.

NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS REEXAMINATION OF RECORDS

AREA OF DEATH France	CASE NUMBER
--------------------------------	-------------

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Pihera, Joseph J	RANK S Sg	SERIAL NUMBER 15 013 922
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IN THE COURSE OF THIS REEXAMINATION IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH WERE SUCH THAT: (Check appropriate box)

- THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED
- THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. HOWEVER, AFTER REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EVIDENCE DOES NOT EXIST TO CONTRADICT A FINDING OF NON-RECOVERABILITY:

INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF DECEDENT <i>JMD</i>
2. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNNS RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA, COMPARED WITH DECEDENT <i>JMD</i>
3. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES

REMARKS

*Poss assoc
Ft Driant, Metz, France
9 France*

Identification data for the above decedent has been compared with QMC Forms 1944 for all Unresolved World War II Unknowns recovered from the area of Ft. Driant, Metz, France.

D. M. DEGEN

RECOMMEND APPROVAL	APPROVED	DATE
NAME OF CASE ANALYST <i>Dm Degen</i>	CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>C E Newbaker</i>	CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>madeleine</i> MARY A. EDWARDS 1st Lt. QMC
		JUN 8 1951

Date of Death

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

PIHERA JOSEPH J

RANK

S 5G

SERIAL NUMBER

15013922

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

8 OCT '45

AREA OF DEATH

FRANCE

NAME OF AUDITOR

LUCUST

DATE

20 MAR '51

NAME OF REVIEWER

Clarke

DATE

21 MAR '51

REMARKS

1. FILE UNDER NO.

293 - PIHERA, Joseph J.

15 013 922

SYNOPSIS

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT: Ltr

3. DATE: 6 June 50

4. FROM: OQMG, Mem Div

5. TO: CO, 7887 GR Detachment, APO 757, NY, NY

6. SUBJECT: Non-recoverability of Remains

Pihera, Joseph J. S/Sgt 15 013 922

.....

7. DOCUMENT FILED

UNDER NO. 293 - GRS, European Zone

(Non-Recov)

mfs

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
7. File classification under which the document is filed.

NON-RECOVERABLE CASE
RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CASE NUMBER
13,862 (3)

AREA OR ZONE(S)
EUROPEAN

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

RANK

SERIAL NUMBER

JJ PIHERA, Joseph J.

S/Sgt.

15 013 922

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.)

PIHERA, Joseph J.

S/Sgt.

15 013 922

LEANO, Joseph A.

T/5

32 936 045

WEBER, Ross W.

Pfc.

16 017 602

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.

	INITIALS OF ANALYST	(CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE)	INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S)	<i>MW</i>	2. a. REPORT OF DEATH b. FINDING OF DEATH c. STATUS REVIEW & DETERMINATION	<i>MW</i>
3. A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS	<i>MW</i>	4. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN(S) RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA	<i>MW</i>
5. ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWN(S)	<i>MW</i>	6. ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UNKNOWN(S) NOW IDENTIFIED	<i>MW</i>
7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES a. Captured German Records.			<i>MW</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:

NONE

RAV
FILE

JUN 7 1950

Identification Branch

NAME OF CASE ANALYST

M. Walton
M. WALTON nih

CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO _____
FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

APPROVED

DATE

CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION

CHIEF, IDENTIFICATION BRANCH

6 June 50

A. J. Craten
A. J. CRATEN

Robert G. Lay
ROBERT G. LAY, Capt QMC

Thomas E. Cox
THOMAS E. COX, Capt QMC

HEADQUARTERS
7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT
REGISTRATION 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 3, SO #31, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Command, APO 757, US Army, 28 March 1950, at Liege, Belgium on 27 APR. 1950. 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 witnesses and other papers, contained in the files of American Graves Registration Command, 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.

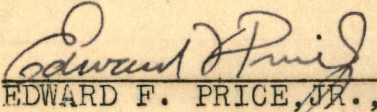
CASE No.	NAME	GRADE	ASN
5.	PIHRA, Joseph J.	S/Sgt	15 013 922
	IRANO, Joseph A.	T/S	32 936 045
	WEBER, Ross W.	Pfc	15 017 602

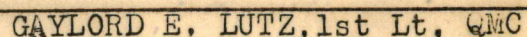
FINDINGS: The Board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds the remains of said casualty/casualties are non-recoverable.

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


EDWARD D. MULVANITY, Lt Col, QMC


JAMES C. MacFARLAND, Major, QMC


EDWARD F. PRICE, JR., Capt, QMC


GAYLORD E. LUTZ, 1st Lt, QMC

LEODORE GOUDREAU, CWO, USA

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

GRRE 293.9 (IB)

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

TO: Non-Recoverable Board, AGRC

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

NAMES: Pihera, Joseph J.	S/Sgt	15013922
Leano, Joseph A.	T/5	32936045
Weber, Ross W.	Pfc	16017602

ORGANIZATION: Co, "B", 10th Infantry Regiment,
5th Infantry Division

DATE OF DEATH: 7 October, 1944.

PLACE OF DEATH: Vicinity of Fort Driant, Metz,
France.

SYNOPSIS: The above mentioned unresolved casualties were killed in action against the enemy when their company attacked Fort Driant, near Metz, France on 7 October 1944. "SR & D Report" in 201 file of 2nd Lt. Goell, Julian D. indicated that the subject casualties were members of CO. "B", 10th Infantry Regiment which was ordered to attack a section of Fort Driant on 7 October, 1944. The platoon was surrounded in a concrete shelter where they had assembled for re-organization, and were killed by enemy small arms and artillery fire. No attempts could be made to evacuate the remains of casualties incurred in this action due to the tactical position of the enemy. Field Investigations were conducted in the appropriate area, in May 1948, and January 1950 with negative results. The last investigation revealed that the entire area and all subterranean passages and pillboxes which comprise the fortifications have been thoroughly searched during demining operations carried out by the French military authorities, without disclosing addi-

GRRE 293.9 IIB)

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

tional remains of American deceased. It is logical to conclude that S/Sgt. Joseph J. Pihera, T/5 Joseph A. Leano and PFC Ross W. Weber were killed in action in the vicinity of Fort Driant, Moselle, France on 7 October 1944 and that their remains were disposed of by the enemy in a manner which precludes recovery. The fact that Field Investigations were negative and the fact there are no unknowns on record that may be associated with the subject casualties would tend to substantiate this conclusion. It is therefore recommended that this case be deemed Non-Recoverable.

Reference is made to: OQMG Forms 371. "S R & D Report" in 201 file of 2nd Lt. Goell, Julian D.. On file in the Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington D. C.

Reference is also made to: Report of Field Investigation, dated, 19 May 1948; Report of Field Investigation, dated, 25 January 1950: Attached.

2. All attached supporting documents are copied from records on file headquarters American Graves Registration Detachment.

3. Every effort has been made to correlate this case with records in this headquarters pertaining to unknown deceased interred in US Military Cemeteries and reported isolated burials. The results are negative.

4. It is recommended that the remains, based upon the above information research, be declared Non-Recoverable.

C.W. Steinsiek
C.W. STEINSIEK
Captain QMC

rlc.

D I A R Y

19 May 1948

Left Nancy 1400 - Arrived Ars-sur-Moselle 1515 hrs.

Proceeded directly to the Town Hall where a statement was obtained declaring that since the last discovery of American remains in the territory of the commune, no others have been found. There was no information available concerning the soldiers Ross W. WEBER, Joseph A. LEANO and Joseph J. PIHERA.

At 1615 hrs a statement was received from Mr. Meunier Eugene, saying that to the best of his knowledge there were no longer any remains on the territory of the commune of Ars-sur-Moselle. He could give no information concerning the subject missing.

At 1700 hrs Mr. Wilhelm, Theophile, local policemen corroborated the above statement.

At 1730 hrs Contact was made with the chief-deminer, at Fort Driant, Mr. Marshal, who informed the investigator that all American remains found in the area of Fort Driant had already been removed by the American Military Authorities. As the demining operations have not been finished, he assured the investigator that in the event of a positive discovery, the information would be relayed to 3rd Zone Hqs.

Left Fort Driant 1800 - Arrived Nancy 1900 hrs.

Certified a true copy of
Mr. EPHRAIM's diary:

/s/t/ LOUIS A. BOCKSTAHLER
1st Lt INF
Asst Operations Officer

TOWN HALL OF MARIEULLES

S T A T E M E N T

The secretary of the town-hall of Marieulles and Vezon declare that to his knowledge there are not any more graves of American soldiers in the territory of the commune. The soldiers killed during the liberation combat in 1944 were removed by the American troops.

The only graves left at the present time are to my knowledge graves of German soldiers.

I cannot give any information concerning the soldiers Hunter Dudley and Currier Ellery.

Marieulles-Vezon

16 January 1950

The Secretary

s/ illegible

Seal

Certified a true translation:

/s/t/:JEAN LAURAIN
Investigator

S T A T E M E N T

I, the undersigned WEIDLICH Marcel, civil service engineer division (Service of the Forts) declare that I visited to-day with the representative of the American Graves Registration, the following sections of Fort Driant:

Shelter V, completely cleared
Caserne S and subterranean going to
Caserne R to Battery P.

The greatest part of these sections was cleared, except for Caserne R which is completely collapsed and under which debris, remains of soldiers may be located. Part of the underground is also demolished and these debris may also contain remains of soldiers.

All other parts of the fort were also visited and no human remains were found.

The collapsed parts of the Fort will not be cleared and the soldiers who may be buried under the debris should be considered as non-recoverable.

In other words, all accessible places of Fort Driant were visited and searched by the demining services, whose work is completed, and also by the engineer section

Statement of Mr. WEIDLICH Marcel, Cont'd
which has the surveyance of the forts.

The place called "MEININGEN" is not part of
Fort Driant and may be the German name of MAGNY located
at approximately 10 kms as the crow flies from Fort Driant.
IN German Magny is named MANNINGEN..

The territory located at the North of the Fort is
territory of Gravelotte.

s/ Weidlich

CERTIFIED A TRUE TRANSLATION

s/t/ Jean Laurain
Investigator
IB5

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

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

25 January 1950

I. Authority

Pursuant to Investigation Directives, dated 20 January 1950, received for cases Nos. Moselle 8797, 5812, 5078, 11768, 5864 and 5865, investigation was conducted at Fort Driant in an effort to recover any of the casualties carried under the above case numbers.

II. Facts and Circumstances

All of the above casualties are believed to have disappeared in or near Fort Driant during the assault which took place in the months of September and October 1944. Until recently the proper completion of the Fort Driant cases has been delayed by reason of the fact that the Fort had not been thoroughly demined.

III. Findings

A visit was first made to Major Rodier attached to the Arsenal of the French 6th Region at Metz. Major Rodier had supervised the demining activities of the military territory in the 6th Region. He informed the investigator that the demining had been completed and that the superintendance of Fort Driant had been relegated to the French Army Engineers.

Then proceeded to the headquarters of the Engineers (Genie) where contact was made with Mr Weidlich, Marcel who is responsible for the surveyance and maintenance of the Forts in the Metz area. The above conducted the investigator on a search tour of all the subterranean passages and pillboxes which could be visited. Particular attention was paid to Shelter V now completely cleared, Caserne S and the underground passage going to Caserne R and Battery P (see map attached). It was in this section that the unit led by Lt Goell was trapped and where the greatest amount of casualties were inflicted. The greatest part of this section has been cleared of debris and rubble, save for Caserne

25 January 1950

R, which was exploded during the combat and under which there may be American remains. Part of the subterranean is also destroyed and the same possibility exists. It is considered impossible to remove the enormous blocks of cement of the collapsed pillbox (R) without reexploding them. The fort has been completely searched twice before. Once by the deminers and once by Mr Weidlich and his crew who searched the underground passages in order to take inventory of all materiel, which has since been sold to individual buyers.

According to Mr Weidlich the fort will remain abandoned and the heavy rubble will not be cleared.

Reference is made to case number 5078 Moselle (Vitcusky) in which is noted the fact that the Germans had marked on an effects card for Vitcusky "Meiningen in Jan. 1945". A list of "Lieu dit" in German was referred to at the Town Hall of Ars-sur-Moselle and no Meiningen was located. There was a reference to "Menningen" which was the German appellation for the town of Magny. A check of burial records at the Town Hall of Magny indicated that no American graves were known to exist in the territory of the commune.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The area of Fort Driant above and underground has been thoroughly searched at three different occasions. The only possible places where remains may still exist would be under the "Concrete Barracks" R and the subterranean passage leading to it.

In the undersigned's opinion, (the reference to Meiningen in Case 5078 Moselle) it is believed that there was a personal effects or Graves Registration Depot (German) at Meiningen, Germany (M51/H82). The card made out for the personal effects of Vitcusky was probably marked there.

V. RECOMMENDATION:

That all of the cases mentioned in paragraph I be worked as Non-Recoverable.

/s/t/ HOWARD E. EPHRAIM
Hqs AGRC Re₆ Div

CB
AIRMAIL

QMGMS 293
GRS European *Ident* 1st Dnd
SUBJECT: Request for Information

Dept of the Army, OQMG, Washington 25, D. C., 27 October 1949

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

Submitted herewith are copies of all available dental information available for the following:

Crawford, James W.	S/Sgt	34254893
Hunt, Orville	Pfc	16006889
Nash, Willie G.	Pvt	34899335
<i>993</i> Pihera, Joseph J.	S/Sgt	15013922
Weber, Ross W.	Pfc	16017602
Buffolo, Bennie	Pvt	36214242
Leano, Joseph A.	T/5	32936045
Lobacz, Casimir P.	Pfc	36228207
McGregor, C. R.	Pfc	34147889
Pescik, Albin J.	Pvt	31274929
Van Dorn, James E.	Pfc	37503303
Van Horn, James B., Jr.	2/Lt	01303233
Vitousky, Charles F.	Pvt	33605102
Underwood, Wilburn	Pfc	34269372
Didello, Lewis S.	2/Lt	01326046

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

15 Incls
1-5. Photo cys Forms 79
6-14. Cys dental info
15. Photo cy TWX

T. H. METZ
Lt Colonel, QMG
Memorial Division

AIRMAIL

243 Pihera, Joseph J. (15013922)

ON JOSEPH J

PIHERA 15013922 REPEAT 15013922 ENLMT RECORD DATED 12 OCT 40 SHOWS
TEETH MISSING R 1 2 14 L 1 8 13 14 ONE FORM 79 BEING SENT

FILE

OCT 21 1949

U. S. ROYALTY
1207 . 56

REGISTER OF DENTAL PATIENTS AT

(1) SURNAME Phera (2) CHRISTIAN NAME Joseph J.

(3) RANK Cpl. (4) COMPANY B (5) REGIMENT OR STAFF CORPS 10th. Inf.

(6) AGE, YEARS 32 (7) RACE W (8) NATIVITY Ohio (9) SERVICE YEARS 1-2/12

(10) DISEASE OR INJURY WITH LOCATION, COMPLICATIONS, SEQUELAE, ETC.	(11) DATES AND NATURE OF TREATMENTS AND OPERATIONS	(12) RESULTS AND REMARKS
	<u>12/11 1941</u>	<u>B. Ruppel</u>
	<u>12/11 1941</u>	<u>B. Ruppel</u>

Form 79—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, U. S. A.
(Revised April 13, 1938)

GPO 3-10597

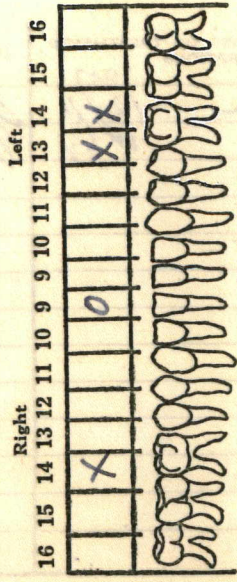
Report of Dental Survey

Date 12/11 1941

UPPER TEETH



LOWER TEETH



CLASS II
 0 Tooth crowned / Missing tooth
 O/O Fixed bridge
 Oclusion no Periodontoclasia no

*Caries
 Calculus: Slight, Medium, Heavy. No
 Dental foci suspected: Yes

Other conditions
Fold Crown on R-6
1-7-5 - Filling req.
R-9 - Filling req.

Copy of Report
 Dental Officer.

3-10597

Indicate by tooth number.

293 FILE

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Pihera, Joseph J.

GRADE

S/Sgt

PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER

15 013 922

ORGANIZATION

Co B
101 Inf Regt
5 Inf Div

RACE

White

CREED

Catholic

FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)

DATE OF DEATH/MIA

7 Oct 44

CAUSE OF DEATH

Finding of Death

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

MIA when company attacked Fort Driant near Metz, France

DATE OF FOD

8 Oct 45

HEIGHT

5' 4 1/2"

WEIGHT

130

COLOR EYES

Brown

COLOR HAIR

Brown

SHOE SIZE

8 D

DENTAL CHART 11 Oct 40

UPPER RIGHT

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

X X

UPPER LEFT

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

X

X

LOWER RIGHT

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

X

LOWER LEFT

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

X X

X = Extracted

O = Carious

1 = Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FILE

MAY 25 1948

**E. J. Sullivan, 1st Lt., QMG
IDENTIFICATION BRANCH**

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION
MEMORIAL DIVISION**

IDENTIFICATION DATA

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <i>Pihera Joseph J.</i>			ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <i>15013922</i>		GRADE <i>S SC.</i>
HEIGHT <i>5' 4 1/2"</i>	WEIGHT <i>130</i>	COLOR EYES <i>Brown</i>	COLOR HAIR <i>Brown</i>	SHOE SIZE <i>8D.</i>	DATE OF DEATH <i>Oct. 8, 1945</i>

LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give complete designation)

Co "B" 10th INF.

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

M.I.A. when Company attacked Fort Briant, near Metz, France

LIST ALL CAMPS IN WHICH STATIONED IN U.S. PRIOR TO SERVICE OVERSEAS, WITH INCLUSIVE DATES AT EACH.

STATION	DATES
<i>St. Hayes, Ohio</i>	<i>10-13-40</i>

FROM: **IND. AGO CLINICAL RECORDS BRANCH**
NO RECORDS IN FILE

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

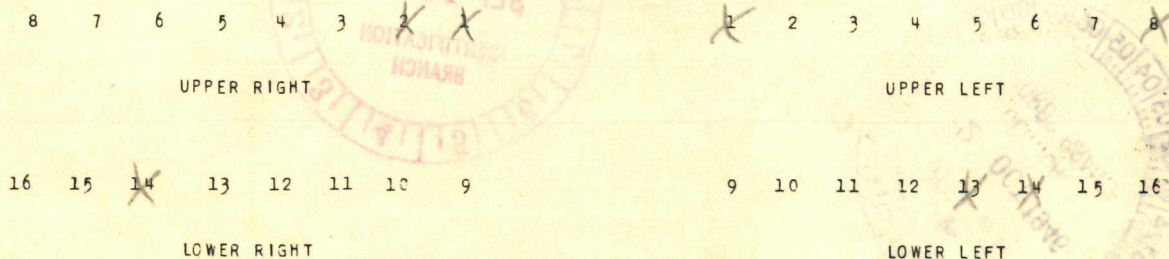
not of rec.

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTH MARKS

not of rec.

DENTAL CHART

Oct. 11, 1940



X - EXTRACTED

O - CARIOUS

/ - CARIOUS NON-RESTORABLE

Pihersa Joseph J.
Last Name First Name

15013 922

To Clinical Records Branch

For disposition

The records show medical treatment as follows:

Hospital	From	To	Register Number
Sta. Hosp. St. Custer, Mich	1-16-41	1-30-41	10003

Walter Hipson 9-27-46 DPRB
Clerk Date Branch

AG 704 DEAD (2 May 49)

2 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Review of Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance
of Personnel Presumed Dead.

1. The following-named enlisted personnel were reported missing in action in France, since 7 October 1944, by Casualty Shipment No. 223, ETO, and were presumed dead as of 8 October 1945, under the provisions of Section 5, Missing Persons Act: (AG 704 Dead (8 October 1945) SR&D No. 4305)

S Sgt.	Joseph J. Pihera	15 013 922	Infantry
Pfc	Ross W. Weber	16 017 602	Infantry

2. A "Missing Report", dated 24 November 1944, filed in Casualty file of both enlisted men, named above, shows as follows:

"Pinned down with artillery fire and machine gun fire and cut off at Pill Box V Fort Driant.

"Patrol sent out at 2230 hours. 7 October 1944 to Pill Box V. Contacted the enemy and had to withdraw back to S Group Fortified Driant."

Fort Driant is located on the Moselle River about 5 miles southwest of Metz in eastern France. The C.N.I. weekly, 11 October 1944, states that we held two corners of the upper part of the fort despite enemy counterattacks and artillery fire. The network of underground passages enabled the Germans to take our troops from the rear.

4. In view of the meager information of record in the Department of the Army, at this time, it does not warrant the issuance of official reports of death under the provisions of Section 9, Missing Persons Act.

A. L. O'Brien
A. L. O'BRIEN
Investigator

CONCUR:

T. J. Collum
T. J. COLLUM
Major, AGD
OIC, Determination Unit
Casualty Section
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

FILE

MAY 9 1949

G. W. Rogers
Capt., QMC
Identification Branch

COPY FURNISHED: Central files, AG 201 and
OQMG file of each individual named in par.1.

Source material obtained as a result of this investigation is filed in the AG 201 file of S Sgt, Joseph J. Pihera, 15013922, unless otherwise indicated.

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

4305

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 Staff Sergeant Joseph J. Pihera, Army Serial Number 15,013,922, Infantry, to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 7th day of October 1944. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 8th day of October, 1945.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

George F. Hebert

ADJUTANT GENERAL
CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

AREA European		PAYING STATUS No	JOIN STATUS No	LINE OF DUTY Yes	OWN MIS-CONDUCT No	ON DUTY STATUS Yes	ABSENCE AUTH'D
PREVIOUS REVIEWS None							
DATE OF BIRTH 22 Jan 1909	HOME ADDRESS Cleveland, Ohio	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 12 Oct 1940		LENGTH OF SERVICE (AS OF PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH)			
				YEARS Over	MONTH three	DAYS years	

EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE

NAME Mrs. Josephine Pihera	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS 3796 East 53rd Street Cleveland, Ohio
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BENEFICIARIES

NAME Mrs. Josephine Pihera	RELATIONSHIP Mother	ADDRESS 3796 East 53rd Street Cleveland, Ohio
NAME Benedict Pihera	RELATIONSHIP Father	ADDRESS 3796 East 53rd Street Cleveland, Ohio

REMARKS

Distribution 56

Soldier awarded Combat Infantryman Badge per authority GO #23, Headquarters, 10th Infantry, dated 29 September 1944.

Circumstances of disappearance: Soldier was a member of a company which attacked Fort Driant near Metz, France.

*71 11-15
SMB*