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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", OMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.

00MG FORM 1900

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NUN-RECUVERABLE REMA	INS REEXAMINATION	OF RECORDS
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3. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES	+ lentas	1 Buck
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		- Copy

DOMG FORM

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS OF JORLD JAR II

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THIS FILE HAS BEEN AU	DITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY
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WEBER POSS	W/
RANK	SERIAL NUMBER
	16017602
ARM OF SERVICE	
ARMY	
DATE OF DEATH	AREA OF DEATH
8007 45	FRANCE
NAME OF AUDITOR	DATE
SPIRO	4 14/13
NAME OF REVIEWER	DATE
REMARKS	

0QMG Form 23 Aug 50 1951

REQUEST FOR	INFORMATION	
TO: PENTAGON LIAISON SECTION, MEMORIA	22 May 51	
FROM (Branch and Section) Ident Br Nonrec Sec	Brooke Brooke	73940 1523-B
NAME OF DECEDENT (Last, First, Middle Initial) Weber, Ross W.	Pfc Pfc	SERIAL NUMBER 16 017 602

INFORMATION REQUIRED

All available dental information

Completed from attached

PENTAGON LIAISON SECTION OFFICER (Signature)

(8.0M.10.)

293 FILE	DAT	A ON REMAINS NOT	YET RECOVERED OF	IDENTIFIED
NAME (Last, First, Midd	le Initial)		GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER
			Pfc	16 017 602
Weber, Ross W. ORGANIZATION		RACE	CREED	I FORMER SERIAL
ORGANIZATION				NUMBER (If applicable)
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SE NUMBER 13,862 (3) NON-RECOVERABLE CASE TA OR ZONE(S) RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL EUROPEAN NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) RANK SERIAL NUMBER WEBER, Ross W 16 017 602 Pfc. 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. 5/8gt. 15 013 922 LEANO, Joseph A. T/6 32 936 045 WEBER, ROSS W. 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 INITIALS OF ANALYST (CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE) a- REPORT OF DEATH 1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S) STATUS REVIEW & DETERMINATION A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN 3. U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNS RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UN-KNOWNS NOW IDENTIFIED UNKNOWNS 7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES Captured German Records. 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: HONE 1950 Identification from NAME OF CASE ANALYST CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO nih FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES. WALTON RECOMMEND APPROVAL APPROVED CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINA-CHTEF, FINAL CATION DETERMINATION SEC TION SECTON TION A. J. CRATEN ROBERT Capt ON THOMAS R. COX. Capt OMO

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, Head-quarters, 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.	PIHERA, Joseph J. LEANO, Joseph A.	S/Sgt T/5	15 013 922 32 936 045
	WEBER, Ross W.	Pro	16 017 602

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, AMC JAMES C. MacFARLAND, Major

EDWARD F. PRICE, JR. Capt, Cac

GAYLORD E. LUTZ, 1st Lt, QMC

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 Enfantry Regiment which was ordered to attack a section or Fort Driant on 7 October, 1944. The plateon 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 addiGRRE 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 Cuptain QMC

DIARY

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
lst Lt INF
Asst Operations Officer

TOWN HALL OF MARIEULLES

STATEMENT

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

STATEMENT

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 Buttery 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

MARRATIVE 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

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 appelation 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 Reg Div ATIMATIA.

QUALS 298 GRS Baropean

lat Dad

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. Hunt, Orville	8/8gt	34254893 16006889
	Mash, Willie G.	Pvt	34899335
./	Pihora, Joseph J.	s/sgt	15013922
199	Weber, Rong II.	Pfg	16017602
	Buffolo, Bounts	Pvt	30214242
	Leano, Joseph A.	7/5	32936045
	Lobous, Casimir P.	Pfo	36228207
	McGregor, C. R.	Pfo	34147889
	Posoik, Albin J.	Pvt	31274029
	Van Dorn, James E.	Pfc	37503303
	Won Horn, Junes B., Jr.	2/10	01303233
	Vitousky, Charles F.	Pvt	33605102
	Underwood, Wilburn	Pfo	34269372
	Didello, Lewis S.	2/15	01326046

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

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T. H. METZ It Colonel, QMC Memorial Division

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MEAD (2 May 49)

AOB/mat/1B739b/6907

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. Pfc

Joseph J. Pihera Ross W. Weber

15 013 922 Infantry 16 017 602 Anfantry

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 G. W. Rogers to Pill Box V. Contacted the enemy and had to Toentification Pranc's 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 O.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 Investigator

T. J. COLLUM

Majer, AGD

OIC, Determination Unit

Casualty Section

Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

COPY FURNISHED: Central files, AG 201 and QQMG 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.

293 FILE	DATA ON REM	MAINS NOT YET	RECOVE 'D OR ID	ENTIFIED		
NAME (Last, First, Middle			GRADE	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER		
			PFC	16017602		
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QMG FORM 371

LAC U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DATE FORWARDED TO FIELD

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JUN 1 5 1948 E. J. Sullyan, Let LL, CAN DESIGNATION TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

WAR DEPARTMENT

4305

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

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

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 Ross W. Weber, Army Serial Number 16,017,602, 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.

ADJUTANT GENERAL CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AREA European No No Yes No Yes None DATE OF BIRTH HOME ADDRESS DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE LENGTH OF SERVICE (AS OF PRESUMED DATE OF DEATH 15 Jul 1917 Pontiac, Illinois 12 Dec 1940 Over three years EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE NAME RELATIONSHIP ADDRESS Route #2 Mr. Walter C. Weber Father Pontiac, Illinois BENEFICIARIES NAME RELATIONSHIP ADDRESS Route #2 Walter Weber Father Pontiac, Illinois RELATIONSHIP ADDRESS Route #2 Glenn E. Weber Brother Pontiac, Illinois

REMARKS

Distribution 56

Soldier awarded Combat Infantryman Badge per authority G.O. #6, Headquarters, 10th Infantry, dated 16 August 1944.

Circumstances of disappearance: Soldier was a member of a unit which was surrounded and cut off at Fort Driant near Metz, France.

110-115 mB

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

WAR DEPARTMENT

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

959.6060 278292

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Cleange ?. Herbert OF WAR

ADJUTANT GENERAL CHIEF, CASUALTY BRANCH

AREA ABSENCE European No No Yes No Yes PREVIOUS REVIEWS None DATE OF BIRTH HOME ADDRESS DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT LENGTH OF SERVICE (AS OF PRESUMED 15 Jul 1917 Pontiac, Illinois 12 Dec 1940 Over three years EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE RELATIONSHIP Route #2 Mr. Walter C. Weber Father Pontiac, Illinois BENEFICIARIES NAME ADDRESS RELATIONSHIP Route #2 Walter Weber Father Pontiac, Illinois ELATIONSHIP ADDRESS Route #2 Glenn E. Weber Brother Pontiac. Illinois

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

REMARKS

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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

-BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

NAME		sı	ERIAL NU	MBER	GRADE	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING THEATRE
WEBER ROSS W		16	017	602	PFC	INF	ETO
PLACE OF CASUALTY	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	FLYING O	TYPE OF	SHIP	MENT NUMBER
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(ALL WOUNDED MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ALL TYPES OF CASUALTIES PERTAINING TO CIVILIANS WHO ARE W. D. EMPLOYEES, EMPLOYEES OF W. D. CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS SUBJECT TO MILITARY LAW.)
COPIES FURNISHED: SEE CASUALTY BRANCH MEMORANDUM NO. 48, 1944.

COPIES

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W.D., A.G.O. FORM NO. 0365

596,050

RIE:AP:mf December 26, 1945

Dear Mr. Meber:

The Army Effects Bureau has received from oversess some personal effects of your son, Private First Class Ross W. Weber.

These effects are being forwarded to you in one carton.

If, by any chance, the property has not reached you at the expiration of thirty days from this date, please notify ms and tracer will be instituted.

The action of this Burson in transmitting personal effects does not, of itself, west title in the recipient. Such property is forwarded for distribution according to the laws of the state of the soldier's legal residence.

I regret the circumstances prompting this letter, and wish to express my sympathy in the loss of your son.

Yours very truly,

HARRY NIEGIEC 2nd Lt., QMC Chief, Correspondence Branch

12/26

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