

1

WILLIEM ST JAMES
 PLOT 1 ROW 1 GRAVE 10
 DATE OF BURIAL: 27 NOV 51
 VERIFIED BY: /S/ ISADORE EISENSMITH, CAPT, QMC

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

Att.

SECTION A —
 NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

DIRECTIVE NUMBER
 1200 00004

DATE
 19 12 51
 DAY MONTH YEAR

NAME UNKNOWN X-9002	SERIAL NUMBER 293 tank	GRADE Liege Maus.	ARM 8	RACE 0	RELIGION 6
CEMETERY AGRS MAUSOLEUM LIEGE BELGIUM	ROW 10	GRAVE 3	DISPOSITION OF REMAINS 3504 80		

SECTION B — CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE ST. JAMES, FRANCE	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN (BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION HQ 7887)
--	---

SECTION C — DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	DATE OF DEATH	DATE DISTINTERRED
IDENTIFICATION TAG ON <input type="checkbox"/> REMAINS <input type="checkbox"/> MARKER		ORGANIZATION UNKNOWN	RELIGION	IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY NAME AND TITLE

SECTION D — PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL	CONDITION OF REMAINS
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION	
MINOR DISCREPANCIES (Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.)	

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE	BY	EMBALMER (Signature)
CASKET SEALED BY		
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED	SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY	
DATE	BY	

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

SIGNATURE OF AGRS INSPECTOR

REMARKS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

REMAINS ARE APPROVED UNIDENTIFIABLES. REMAINS PERM INTERRED IN ST. JAMES, FRANCE, PLOT 1, ROW 1, GRAVE 10.

DATE
 FILE
 RECORDS NEGOTIATED
 DATE
 NAME
 REGD. NO. KTH. ETC.

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

SECTION A —
NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

DIRECTIVE NUMBER

DATE

17 APRIL 1951
DAY MONTH YEAR

NAME UNKNOWN X-9002	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	ARM	RACE	RELIGION
CEMETERY AGRS MAUSOLEUM, LIEGE BELGIUM	PLOT	ROW	GRAVE 3	DISPOSITION OF REMAINS CODE DIST. CTR.	

SECTION B — CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

SECTION C — DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME UNKNOWN X-9002	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	DATE OF DEATH	DATE DISINTERRED ABOVE GROUND REPOSITORY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMAINS <input type="checkbox"/> MARKER	ORGANIZATION	RELIGION	IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, CAPT QMC NAME AND TITLE	

SECTION D — PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL ABOVE GROUND REPOSITORY	CONDITION OF REMAINS REMAINS CONSIST OF: 6 VERTEBRA SEVERAL FRAGMENTS, FRAGMENTS OF: THE PELVIC GROUP, RT & L/ FEMUR, RT TIBIA & FIBULA, RT PATELLA, AND 7 HAND BONES.
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION	

MINOR DISCREPANCIES (Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.)

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE 17 APRIL 1951	BY E. H. FIELDS
CASKET SEALED BY E. H. FIELDS	EMBALMER (Signature) E. H. FIELDS
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED	SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, CAPT QMC

I hereby certify that all ~~the foregoing operations were conducted and completed under my immediate supervision and that the reports above are correct.~~ PLATES, TAGS AND MARKINGS WERE VERIFIED BY:

CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, CAPT QMC
SIGNATURE OF AGRS INSPECTOR

REMARKS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

I certify that the entries on this form are true copies of the entries on Copy Number 4 of this disinterment Directive which contains the signatures of the persons whose names are typed hereon.

[Handwritten Signature]

att

6

W11 CEM ST JAMES
PLOT 1 ROW 1 GRAVE 10 DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE
DATE OF BURIAL: 27 NOV 51
VERIFIED BY: S/ ISADORE EISENSMITH, CAPT, QMC

SECTION A -
NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

DIRECTIVE NUMBER

DATE

1200 00004

19 12 51
DAY MONTH YEAR

NAME

SERIAL NUMBER

GRADE

ARM

RACE

RELIGION

UNKNOWN X-9002

8

0

6

CEMETERY

PLOT

ROW

GRAVE

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

29th
AGRS MAUSOLEUM LIEGE BELGIUM

3

3504
CODE

80
DIST. CTR.

SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

ST. JAMES, FRANCE

(BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION HQ 7887)

SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME

SERIAL NUMBER

GRADE

DATE OF DEATH

DATE DISTINTERRED

IDENTIFICATION TAG ON

ORGANIZATION

RELIGION

IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY

- REMAINS
- MARKER

UNKNOWN

NAME AND TITLE

SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL

CONDITION OF REMAINS

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

MINOR DISCREPANCIES (Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.)

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE BY

CASKET SEALED BY

EMBALMER (Signature)

CASKET BOXED AND MARKED

SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY

DATE BY

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SIGNATURE OF AGRS INSPECTOR

REMARKS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

REMAINS ARE APPROVED UNIDENTIFIABLES. REMAINS PERM INTERRED IN ST. JAMES, FRANCE, PLOT 1, ROW 1, GRAVE 10.

*File 51
1951
AGRS*

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

18 October 1951

293. Unk, Liege Maus X-9002
~~GROP 200.2~~

CERTIFICATE OF UNIDENTIFIABILITY OF REMAINS

1. The records pertaining to Unknown X-9002, Plot , Row , Grave 3, USMC Liege Mausoleum have been reviewed in accordance with par 159, SR 830-110 5, DA dated 3 March 1949, and it is the opinion of the Board of Review appointed by par 2, SO No 89, this headquarters, dated 16 October 1951, that sufficient evidence is not available to establish the identity of the deceased concerned, and it is recommended these remains be classified as unidentifiable.
2. Report of reprocessing of remains was forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General, by Transmittal Letter No. 6275, dated 4 May 1951.
3. Remarks: See attached narrative.

Lt Col JAMES C. MacFARLAND, O-1576321, QMC Maj THOMAS E. COX, O-1582173, QMC

Maj FRANCIS R. MacDONALD, O-1579961, QMC Maj CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, O-1040311, QMC

Capt ISADORE EISENSLITH, O-1587230, QMC Capt WILLIAM P. HASTINGS, O-50054, QMC

Capt THEODORE C. MURRAY, O-1591338, QMC Capt JAMES V. NOVACO, O-1590704, QMC

Capt EDWARD F. PRICE, JR, O-1588236, QMC 1st Lt ROBERT W. GANSEL, O-1599035, QMC

Received 16 Oct 1951 OQMG
Not identifiable from
information presently
available

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten notes]

CASE HISTORY

UNKNOWN X-7002

AGRS - BANGALOR - 10/10/51

On 10/10/51, AGRS received information from a civilian source at Bangalore (ID# 1001), Bangalore.

Subject of this case is a soldier in the 1/1st Battalion, 10th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, who was reported MIA, 1 April 1951, when truck in which he was riding was ambushed near Kanchi, Bangalore.

Association was made by subject's date and place of birth, the fact that an other casualty reported a victim of the same incident was recovered from the same vicinity as unknown X-7002 and that 1/1st Battalion was the only unit in the area from which X-7002 was recovered.

Processing revealed fragments very small and in effort at identifying media to permit identification.

Furthermore, a drawing to sketch submitted by GMR 1001 and Major Cox indicates following points of identification.

a. Witness statement in leave 1/1st Battalion was seen riding the truck alive. Truck's driver, 1/1st Battalion, stated Johnson was not in the vehicle when he was removed by U.S. German medals.

b. Discrepancy in name of casualty reported by civilian source in this incident.

c. Estimated age of subject (24 years) compared negatively with age of 1/1st Battalion (25 years 7 mos) at time of death.

d. Remains recovered from vicinity Bangalore are those of 1/1st Battalion, who was riding in jeep following Johnson's truck.

In view of the above and since unknown X-7002 can not be associated with any other casualty reported in this area, it is believed that unknown X-7002 should be a soldier in 10th Infantry.

H. A. Schaefer
H. A. SCHAEFER
10 Oct 1951

1951 OCT 24 09 49

FROM 7887 GRREG DET LIEGE
MSG NO AGRC 4168
D.T.G. 200700Z Oct
ACTION QMC
DAIN NO 63702

FM 7887 GRREG DET LIEGE BELGIUM

TO CQMG DEPTAR WASH DC
GRAVRS GRMC

REF AGRC 4168 RPT AGRC 4168 PD

FOR MEMORIAL DIVISION PD RE XRAY FIVE EIGHT SIX SEVEN NEUVILLE

CAM NINE ZERO ZERO TWO CMA NINE ZERO FIVE FIVE LIEGE MAUSOLEUM CMA

SUBJECT CASES REVIEWED AND APPROVED UNIDENTIFIABLE MY MAJOR COX PD

RECORDS OF THIS HQ AMENIED ACCORDINGLY PD SGT MAC FARLAND

CFN MAJ COX
191200Z

*file
Kofrey 2d
10-25-51*

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

GROP 200.2

7 May 1951

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

TO: The Quartermaster General
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: Memorial Division

1. Reference is made to Report of Burial, dated 17 April 1951, and the attached inclosures thereto, forwarded your Office by Transmittal Letter # 6275, dated 4 May 1951, for Unknown X-9002, AGRS Mausoleum, Liege, Belgium.

2. Remains designated X-9002 have been associated with T/4 Robert F. JOHNSTON, 33 166 719, member of the 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, MIA 4 April 1945, for the reasons outlined below:

a. Estimated date, place, and circumstances of death are in agreement.

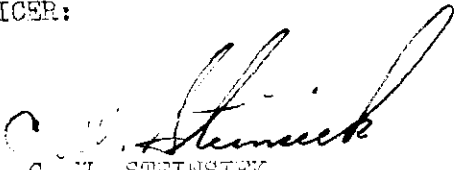
b. T/4 George E. FRAGA, 13 077 490, a casualty sustained in the incident with T/4 Johnston, was disinterred from the same civilian cemetery as X-9002.

c. T/4 Johnston is the remaining casualty to be accounted for in the area from which X-9002 was recovered.

3. However, as the processing of Unknown X-9002 revealed fragmentary remains and insufficient identifying data to substantiate this association, it is requested that your Office review the above findings for final analysis regarding the resolution of subject Unknown.

4. Subject case will be held in suspense pending reply from your Office.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:


C. W. STEINIEK
Capt, QMC
Operations Division

Handwritten vertical text on the right margin: "ITL-6275"

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

GROP 200.2

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a. Estimated date, place, and circumstances of death are in agreement.

b. T/4 George E. WRAGA, 13 077 490, a casualty sustained in the incident with T/4 Johnston, was disinterred from the same civilian cemetery as X-9002.

c. T/4 Johnston is the remaining casualty to be accounted for in the area from which X-9002 was recovered.

3. However, as the processing of Unknown X-9002 revealed fragmentary remains and insufficient identifying data to substantiate this association, it is requested that your Office review the above findings for final analysis regarding the resolution of subject Unknown.

4. Subject case will be held in suspense pending reply from your Office.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:



C. W. STEINSIEK
Capt, QMC
Operations Division

314.60858
(TL-6275)

File
9 Oct 51
Hudson
Shields

SUMMARY

JOHNSTON, Robert F. T/4 33 166 719

Unknown X-9002, AGRS Mausoleum, Liege

1. Reference is made to letter dated 7 May 1951, (Tab A), concerning the association of the above listed Unknown with T/4 Johnston.

2. This association cannot be substantiated in view of the following:

a. Statement from T/5 Baerman, who was driving the truck reveals that Johnston was not in the vehicle when Baerman was removed by "German medics", also that the vehicle did not burn prior to that time. (Tab B).

b. Statements of other witnesses indicate that Johnston was seen leaving the truck after it struck the mine. (Tab C).

c. Discrepancy in number of casualties, i.e., civilian statements indicate that there were three casualties in this incident, while organizational records list only Baerman and Johnston as MIA on 4 April 1945. (Tab D).

d. The estimated age of the remains, (24 yrs), compares negatively with the age of Johnston, (34 yrs, 7 mo), at time of death.

e. The recovery of the remains of T/4 George E. Wraga, 13 077 499, from the cemetery at Uengserode, Germany, is not conclusive evidence since Wraga was not riding in the truck with Baerman and Johnston, but was in a jeep which was following the truck. (Tab E).

~~It is suggested that the remains of Unknown X-9002 be considered Unidentifiable.~~

DENTAL COMPARISON CHART

UNKNOWN	NAME
X- 9002, Maus, Liege	JOHNSTON, Robert F., T/4, 33166719
R-8	R-8
R-7	R-7
R-6	carious
R-5	S
R-4	R-4
R-3	K
R-2	R-2
R-1	U
L-1	L-1
L-2	L
L-3	L-3
L-4	L
L-5	L
L-6	carious
L-7	carious
L-8	L-8
R-16	M
R-15	carious
R-14	I
R-13	carious
R-12	R-13
R-11	R-12
R-10	R-11
R-9	R-10
L-9	R-9
L-10	L-9
L-11	L-10
L-12	L-11
L-13	L-12
L-14	L-13
L-15	carious
L-16	carious
ESTIMATED HEIGHT	HEIGHT
UTD	5'9"
ESTIMATED WEIGHT	WEIGHT
150	135
ESTIMATED AGE	AGE
24	34 yrs, 7 mos
HAIR	HAIR
None	Brown

REMARKS Slightly burned	Shoe - 8 C DFD - 5 April 1946
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MISSING REPORT

To accompany WD AGO Forms 66-1 or 24 of Missing or Missing in Action Personnel (other than those covered by Missing Air Crew Report).

NAME Robert F. Johnston ASN 33166719 GRADE Tec 4 Arm or Service Inf
Date
ORG Serv Co-9th Armd Bn Inf APO 256 Reported MIA 4 April 1945

MISSION Resupply of Rations

POINT OF DEPARTURE _____ DATE 4 April 1945

INTENDED DESTINATION Hersfeld, Map R-4 Germany 144893

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS Hersfeld, Map R-4 Germany 144893

BRIEF RESUME OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DISAPPEARANCE:

Was returning to his organization with ration truck. Amine in the road was hit and vehicle wrecked.

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, IF ANY:

See attached sheet.

REMARKS: (Any information not covered above, including details and results of search, if any, conducted)

En believed to be alive and captured. Driver of truck first carried as MIA but status later changed because of request for records fr DOP 4149 US Hosp Plant, APO 63, US Army. No trace found of either men at scene of accident.

Date of Report April 22, 1945 /s/ LESLIE H. HAGEN
1st Lt., Inf
Commanding.

STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES, IF ANY:

On April 4th while returning to my Company, I met a Co A peep with driver and two others. Following Service Co ration truck for about fifteen miles the truck hit mine. Enemy opened fire with ack-ack, and small fire. Two boys from peep dismounted for cover. I seen the assistant driver dismount from the truck. Peep driver and I went to Trains for help. Going back to rescue the boys, was Task Force of peep, light tank and medics. Before getting to Serv Co truck, they open fire with bazooka, 88 and small arms. Got too hot so we withdrew to trains again.

Signed: S/sgt Luke N. Saleme,
34236184
Co A, 9th Armd Inf Bn

Three men and myself from A Co, 9th AIB were returning to our unit in a jeep from Ord. Ord sent us to Div Trains where we met Sgt Johnston in Serv Co's ration truck and he said to follow him to our Co. We had gone about fifteen mi when the truck ran into a mine and into a ditch, Johnston got out of the truck but Baerman (driver) didn't. Small arms fire was being directed at us from the front and both sides. One of the men on the peep took cover in a ditch, one feel off injured and Sgt Saleme said, Lets get out of her and get help. We returned to trains. Capt Marsden went back with us in a tank to rescue the four men. When we were within 300 yards of the truck when bazooka, small arms and an 88 opened up on us, also a 20 millimeter ack-ack. We had to withdraw and return to Trains.

Signed: Floyd Battenfield
Pfc, 34235389
Co A, 9th Armd Inf Bn

At 1500 hrs 4 Apr 45 two men from A Co, 9th AIB reported to me that a truck was knocked out by enemy fire and men wounded. I took a light tank, ambulance and peep followed these men to Laudenbach, Germany. (Map E-4 Hersfeld) 45-97)

300 yds S.E. Of Laudenbach in a ditch was a truck. Bazooka and small arms fire opened up on us. We expended our ammo and were unable to rescue the men due to intense fire and had to withdraw when bazooka teams threatened to cut us off. My peep driver was killed, peep knocked out by bazooka fire.

Signed: JACK F MARSDEN O-438837
Capt, Cav.,
Div. Trains

TRUE CERTIFIED COPY
/s/ Earl S. Bloxham
Capt., Inf.
Asst Pers Off.

AG 704 - Dead (5Apr 46)
S. R. & D. No. 5688

5 April 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Casualty Branch

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

I - FACTS

1. The following - named enlisted man of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, has been carried on the records of the War Department as missing in action in Germany since 4 April 1945, as reported by ETO Casualty Card Shipment Number 107, received 19 April 1945:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Johnston, Robert F.	33,166, 719	Technician Fourth Grade

2. Found in the Enlisted Record of the subject soldier is a Missing Report, dated 22 April 1945, which states that on 4 April 1945, Sergeant Johnston was returning to his organization with a resupply of rations in the ration truck when the truck hit a mine in the road and was wrecked. Attached to this report are three statements made by two occupants of the jeep and the third gives no additional information.

a. Statement by Private First Class Floyd Battenfield, 34235389

"Three men and myself from A Co. 9th AIB were returning to our unit in a jeep from ORD. Ord sent us to Div Trains where we met Sgt Johnston in Serv Co's ration truck and he said to follow him to our Co. We had gone about fifteen mi when the truck ran into a mine and into a ditch, Johnston got out of the truck but Baerman (driver) didn't. Small arms fire was being directed at us from the front and both sides. One of the men on the jeep took cover in a ditch, one fell off injured and S-Sgt Saleme said, Lets get out of here and get help.

b. Statement by Captain Jack F. Marsden, 0438837

"At 1500 hrs 4 Apr 45 two men from A Co. 9th AIB reported to me that a truck was knocked out by enemy fire and men wounded. I took a light tank, ambulance

and jeep followed these men to Laudenbach, Germany.
"300 yds S.E. of Laudenbach in a ditch was a truck.
Bazooka and small arms fire opened up on us. We
expended our ammo and were unable to rescue the men
due to intense fire and had to withdraw when
bazooka teams threatened to cut us off. My jeep
driver was killed, jeep knocked out by bazooka fire."

3. The driver of the truck, Technician Fifth Grade Paul D. Baerman, 36,195,971, who was wounded and now in the States, and four members of Service Company were requested in letters, dated 4 March and 25 February 1946, to forward any information they might have concerning the fate of the subject soldier. Corporal Baerman reports that when he recovered consciousness after the explosion, he was alone in the truck and was later picked up by German medics. The other replies contain substantially the same information as that previously set forth and in addition the following pertinent information:

- a. Letter, dated 4 March 1946, from Garvin R. McCoach, Jr.
"Less than a week later the vehicle was recovered.
It had been stripped of all contents and there was
no trace of its occupants."

See AG 201 file.

4. Laudenbach, Germany is located approximately fourteen miles south-east of Kassel, Germany.

5. The names of the other two occupants of the jeep were secured from Staff Sergeant Luke P. Saleme, 34,236,184, and Private Battenfield in letters dated 19 and 18 March, respectively, in reply to our letters of 14 March 1946. Staff Sergeant Albert L. Broussard, 20,460,889 is now in the United States and Technician Fourth Grade George E. Wagna, 13,077,490 was reported as having been killed in action.

6. An examination of the files of this soldier in Casualty Branch and Enlisted Branch, AGO, does not reveal any additional information not considered

II - CONCLUSIONS

1. The subject enlisted man, member of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion and one other, were returning to their organization in a truck with resupply of rations when the truck hit a mine in the road and ran into a ditch. Immediately they and the four men from Company A, who were following them in a jeep were fired upon by enemy small arms fire and Sergeant Johnson was seen to leave the truck. Two of the occupants of

S. R. & D. 5688

the jeep left for help and returned with a tank, ambulance and peep but due to intense fire were forced to withdraw. When the driver regained consciousness he was alone in the truck and was later picked up German Medics. When the truck was searched less than a week later, it had been stripped of all its contents and no trace of its occupants could be found. One of the occupants of the jeep who had dismounted was later reported as having been killed in action and the other is now in the States. This action took place near Laudenbach, Germany, which is approximately fourteen miles southeast of Kassel.

2. In view of the foregoing and the lapse of time, it appears that the subject enlisted man may not reasonably be presumed to be living.

III RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a finding of death be made in the case of Technician Fourth Grade Robert F. Johnston, 33,166,719, as of 5 April 1946, under the provisions of Section 5 of the Missing Persons Act.

/s/ ELY
Investigator

TK
Captain, AGD

CONCURRED IN:

/s/ WDC
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD
Officer in Charge
Status Review and
Determination Section

APPROVED:

GLW
Lieutenant Colonel, AGD
Acting Chief, Casualty
Branch

March 4, 1946

War Department
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

With reference to your letter of February 25, may I advise that my only knowledge concerning the case of Technician Fourth Grade Robert F. Johnston, 33,166,719, of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion was gained through reading reports and affidavits submitted by other more closely connected with the case. As a clerk in the Battalion Personnel Section, traveling with the Division Administration Center, I had no personal contact with the Company at the time of this event.

On April 4, 1945, Techn 4 gr. Johnston was delivering rations to one of the forward companies between Mulhausen and Lengensal, Germany with Techn 5 gr. Harry Becker as driver. The truck in which they were riding was followed by a jeep, whose occupants were from another battalion and therefore unknown to me. The drivers of both vehicles became lost, and as they were driving along an unfamiliar road, an SS came in and struck the rear of the truck, immobilizing it. The jeep was far enough to the rear so that it escaped being hit. The occupants reported that they saw one of the men leave the truck and head for cover. The jeep left immediately and returned over the same road they had come and met some forward-moving tanks. Upon reporting, they were given an escort and returned to the scene of the above action, but enemy action prevented their reaching the truck. Less than a week later the vehicle was recovered. It had been stripped of all contents and there was no trace of its occupants.

Some time after May 8, 1945 the driver, Techn 5 gr. Becker was reported as being a patient in a hospital in England. To the best of my knowledge, up until the time of the deactivation of the Division, no report had been made by Techn 5 gr. Becker concerning Techn 4 gr. Johnston.

This is the extent of my knowledge of this case. The Battalion file should contain these affidavits, and was turned over to the officers at Camp Shanks, New York, Port of debarkation, on September 19, 1945.

Yours very truly,

Gavin R. McCoach, Jr.
134 Montross Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey

/s/ Gavin R. McCoach Jr.

5 April 1946

Mrs. Gladys B. Johnston
72 West Hallam Avenue
Washington, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Johnston:

Since your husband, Technician Fourth Grade Robert F. Johnston, 33,166,719, Infantry, was reported missing in action 4 April 1945, the War Department has entertained the hope that he survived and that information would be revealed dispelling the uncertainty surrounding his absence. However, as in many cases, the conditions of warfare deny us such information. The record concerning your husband shows that he was a member of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, and was returning to his organization in a truck with resupply of rations when the truck hit a mine in the road and ran into a ditch near Laudenback, Germany, which is approximately fourteen miles southeast of Kassel. Following the truck was a jeep with four occupants and your husband was seen to leave the truck. Several of the occupants of the jeep left for help as the enemy immediately began directing small arms fire at them. They returned with a light tank, ambulance and a jeep but due to intense fire were forced to withdraw. When the truck was searched less than a week later, it had been stripped of all its contents and no trace of your husband could be found. The driver of the truck, now in the States, reports that when he regained consciousness, he was alone in the truck and was later picked up by German Medics.

Full consideration has recently been given to all available information bearing on the absence of your husband, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered. In view of the fact that twelve months have now expired without the receipt of evidence to support a continued presumption of survival, the War Department must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved March 7, 1942, as amended.

The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death; however, as required by law, it includes a presumptive date of death for the termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In the case of your husband this date has been set as 5 April 1946, the day following the expiration of twelve months' absence.

I regret the necessity for this message but trust that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may give at least some small measure of consolation. I hope you may find sustaining comfort in the thought that the uncertainty with which war has surrounded the absence of your husband has enhanced the honor of his service to his country and of his sacrifice.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

11 40 East 8th Street
Brooklyn, New York
28 February 1946

Edward F. Witsell
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

Dear Sir:

In answer to your inquiry concerning the fate of Technician Fourth Grade Robert F. Johnston, 33,166,719, of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, who became missing in action on 4 April 1945 in Germany. I am sorry to say that I can't be of very much service to you. However, I will try to give you all the information I have which, by the way is all hearsay.

We are moving across Germany at a fairly rapid pace at the time so I am not certain as to the exact location I was in when we received a radio message from our Division Trains saying that our ration truck had been ambushed and that a rescue party from the trains Command had been unsuccessful. The closest I can guess at the location is a place called Spangenburg or thereabouts. Johnston was in the cab of the 2½ ton truck alongside the driver. Paul Baerman. From no source in particular, but from the little bits of information that always seem to accumulate in matters like this. I understand that someone saw both Baerman and Johnston jump to the ditches on their respective sides of the road. Paul Baerman was heard from, months later, in a US Army Hospital but could throw no light on the fate of Johnston.

It is my suggestion that you try to contact the personnel of the Division Trains Command who took part in the attempted rescue. Also, there were one or two men from "A" Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion who were along on that trip.

I hope I have been of some assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Sejour H. Brensilber

Statement of T/5 Paul D. Baerman concerning the disappearance
of T/4 Robert F. Johnston. - 12 March 1946

On about April 1 1945, T/4 Robert F. Johnston and myself were coming back from the ration dump when we hit what I think was a mine. There was an explosion and when I came to, there was no one in the truck with me. I was picked up later by the German medics and made a prisoner.

I was the driver of this ration truck and Johnston was sitting along side of me. After the explosion I had never seen Johnston again, and I know nothing of the extent of his injuries or wounds, and I do not know whether he is dead or not. I do not know the cause of his death if death did occur.

To the best of my knowledge there were no other witnesses nor any one present when this explosion occurred, except for a jeep which was following us. I don't know who the occupants of the jeep were and I do not know what happened to them. I have never met anyone who had witnessed the explosion which destroyed the truck in which T/4 Robert F. Johnston and myself were riding.

I have never received any information concerning the fate of T/4 Robert F. Johnston nor of any one else who might have been in the vicinity of the explosion.

/s/ Paul D. Baerman

Witnessed by:

/s/ Anthony L. Fratte,
1st. Lt., AUS
Summary Court

Bronx, New York
1 March 1946

Dear Sir:

In reply to letter AG 201 Johnston, Robert F. 33,166,719, (25 Feb 46), the following information is furnished.

On 4 April 1945 Tec 4 Johnston and Tec 5 Paul Baerman were dispatched to our division trains truck park to receive rations for our battalion. The point of departure was in the vicinity of Mulhausen, Germany. According to hearsay information Johnston and Baerman received the rations and started to return to our battalion with a $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck following them that was driven by either a pfc Battenfield or Tec Langford of Co "A", 9th Armored Infantry Bn. According to information from the driver of $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck they took a wrong turn in a fork on the road and ran into a pocket of the enemy not yet cleared, the ration truck hit a mine in the road and the $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck made a quick turn and went back to the division trains truck and to see if they could do any thing to get the men and the truck back but the enemy bazooka fire held off the tank and the truck was seen to have burned. 2d Lt Henry F. Herman received a message from the division trains truck park with the above information and also the map co-ordinates. Tec 5 Baerman was wounded in the action and later on was located in a hospital and then sent back to the United States, he was known to have been captured and then released, in his letter to our company he was asked what happened to Tec 4 Johnston.

In my opinion Tec 5 Baerman is the only individual capable of giving information as to what happened to Tec 4 Johnston.

Hoping the above information will help in clearing this situation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerome H. Rockman
Formerly of Serv Co, 9th Armd Inf Bn.
6th Armored Division

1101 R. R. Ave.
Morgan City, La.
March 19, 1946

Dear Sir:

This letter is in reference to the two men who left the jeep in April 4, 1945. The man who took cover was a new man in my company and I only knew him by his last name, Broussard. I'll be frank about it I am not even positive that Broussard is his name. The injured man's name was George Wraga.

If there is any more question which I can answer to help you in any way I'll be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

/s/ Luke P. Saleme

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

TO: PENTAGON LIAISON SECTION, MEMORIAL DIVISION		DATE 19 September 1951	
FROM (Branch and Section) Identification Branch Investigation Section		REQUESTED BY M. Martin	TEL. EXT. 72993
NAME OF DECEDENT (Last, First, Middle Initial) Johnston, Robert F.		RANK T/4	ROOM NO. 11430-B
		SERIAL NUMBER 33 166 719	

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Request photostatic copy of that section of Morning Report which reflects T/4 Robert F. Johnston, 33166719, Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, 6th Armored Division, as KIA or MIA. (AG Records reflect T/4 Johnston MIA 4 April 1945.)

(Assoc w/X-9002 Liege Mausoleum)

INFORMATION FURNISHED

8 October 1951

Inclosed herewith photostatic copy of Morning Report of Service Company, 9th Armored Infantry Battalion, dtd 10 April 1945.

LIAISON SECTION OFFICER (Signature)

S. GIBBS
Major, QMC.

HEADQUARTERS
AGR SEARCH AND RECOVERY UNIT # 2
AFO 751 US ARMY

30 March 1951

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION AND DISINTERMENT

I. MATTERS INVESTIGATED:

This case pertains to T/4 Robert F. JOHNSTON, A.S.N. 33166719 who was on a ration detail returning to his unit on 4 April 1945 when the truck in which he was riding hit a mine approximately 300 meters SE of Laudenbach (L-52/H-49) Germany.

Previous investigation conducted in the area concerned revealed a discrepancy in that the number of the deceased Americans buried in the Uengsterode civilian cemetery varies from one to three, while records AGR Hqs show the recovery of two (2) remains from this cemetery, i.e. T/4 Wraga and Pfc. Rector.

II. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

On 27 March 1951 the undersigned and Mr. Paetzold were dispatched from this Hqs. to reinvestigate this case.

A careful check at Laudenbach and Uengsterode and statements of various inhabitants interrogated revealed that the incident mentioned in Basic documents did not occur SE of Laudenbach but approx. 300 meters SW of Uengsterode.

The burgomaster of Uengsterode Mr. Gunther who recalled the incident fairly well, stated that three (3) American remains were found at the above mentioned place, i.e. two (2) complete remains and one (1) partial remains which burned in a truck.

The local cemetery caretaker, a Mr. Bernhard, who supervised the burial of these three (3) remains verified Mr. Gunther's statement and added that the American disinterment team which opened said grave site after the war, took two (2) remains only leaving the third partial remains behind.

A reopening of the grave site concerned revealed the presence of the above mentioned partial remains which according to the statements obtained during this investigation were recovered from the American truck that hit a mine 300 meters SW of Uengsterode on 4 April 1945.

The cemetery caretaker who witnessed both the interment and disinterment identified the remains as those coming from the truck.

III. FINDINGS:

It must be concluded after this investigation that the remains recovered during this operation from the Uengsterode civilian cemetery are those of T/4 Robert F. JOHNSTON, due to the fact that he is the only casualty missing in the area of Uengsterode-Laudenbach.

The fact that the truck in which T/4 JOHNSTON was riding struck a mine accounts for the condition in which the remains were found, i.e. broken bones and missing extremities.

IV. RECOMMENDATION:

That the partial remains recovered from the Uengsterode civilian cemetery assigned Evacuation # S & R 76 be sent to CIL Liege for final identification and an effort be made to associate these remains with T/4 Robert F. JOHNSTON A.S.N. 33166719.

Brunswick Mil 867

Paul V. Carter
PAUL V. CARTER
Sgt. RA-33869628
Investigator

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

AREA SEARCH

AGRC Form # 10 (Revised)

1 January 1946.

Date

NAME

X POOR

RANK

X

ASN

X

ORGANIZATION

X

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION NONE

(All statements above this line will be completed, upon final processing, by the clerical staff at the unit processing point.)

SECTION A - GENERAL (To be completed by investigators in all cases)

1. Was positive identity acquired for the deceased through the surface investigation?

If so, state the following information :

a. NAME

RANK

ASN

b. ORGANIZATION

2. Was partial identification established? **yes**

believe the deceased to be :

. If so, state the facts as to whom you

a. NAME **B.t.B. Robert F. JOHNSON**

RANK

T/4

ASN

b. ORGANIZATION

3. NAMES OF OTHER DECEASED BURIED IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY

(Use reverse side for listing of crew members from MACR)

a. Date of above burials **Est. 6.5.45** Common Graves? **yes**

15. Where was the place of death? Coords
Uengsterode (1-52/11-49)
 Give basis Form 371
16. Where were the remains found? Coords
Unknown
- a. By Whom?
- b. Is sketch attached?
17. Was a casket used? Who furnished the casket? Unk
Unk Unk
 Type of casket How marked?
18. Who made the burial (Civilian, American Mil, or German Mil).
German Military
- a. What are the names and addresses?
unk
- b. Are certificates and statements attached?
no
- SECTION B - AIR CORPS DECEASED (To be Completed only if Deceased is believed to be a member of the AAF).
19. Were remains found in the plane wreckage?
D.N.M.
- a. Give location in plane from which the bodies were removed
(Tail gunner, pilot, radio, turret, etc., or front, side, of plane)
- b. Near wreckage?
20. Scene of crash must be investigated. Give complete results of Investigation (if removed, state when and by whom).
- a. Type of Plane
- b. Markings and/or name on plane
- c. Give numbers on motors, machine guns, instruments, radios or other equipment:
21. How did crash occur? Anti-aircraft
Enemy Planes? Collision?

35. Number of tanks in immediate vicinity at time of disablement _____

36. Does specific time and date of disablement correspond with date of death of above named deceased?

37. Precise time and date of destruction of tank _____
(Night? Day?)

38. Did any of the crew members escape? _____ Prisoners? _____

SECTION D - OTHER BRANCH (To be filled out if B & C are not applicable)

mines

39. Did death occur from any other means? (i. e., truck, jeep, mines, drowning, or small arms fire)

If so, give, complete and thorough results of the interrogation.

a. Are all certificates and statements of people who possessed knowledge of the case attached?

40. State the specific clues and evidence that were obtained in securing the name and facts regarding the above listed deceased. **Jeep struck a mine and burned. Remains were found and buried at a later date.**

SECTION E - GENERAL (To be completed by investigation in all cases)

No

41. Were personal effects recovered by the investigating team _____

If not, state reason _____

Unk

a. Were identification tags found at the time of death? _____

Where? _____ By Whom? _____

Present disposition _____

If deceased is not identified, personal effects will not be forwarded to PE Depot, but will remain with this form until final identification is made, or investigation is abandoned. **Unk**

b. Were personal effects found at the time of death? _____

Where? _____ By Whom? _____

Present disposition _____

50. Has any information been given concerning isolated burials in the area outside the immediate vicinity?

No

51. Was investigation preceded by advanced publicity? No

(If special investigation, give case number)

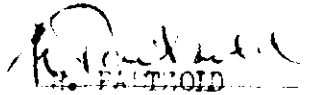
52. Give Brief Narrative -- ~~Vehicle in which deceased was in struck a mine and burnt. Three~~

~~(3) soldiers from this vehicle were killed and buried in the Uengsterode cemetery~~

(Use attached sheets, if necessary)

(L-52/H-49) also see attached

narrative.


R. FALTOLD

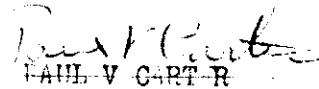
Signature of Interpreter

Civilian

Rank

ASN

7887 Gr. Reg. Det.
Organization


PAUL V. CARTER

Signature of Investigator

Sgt. RA-33869628
Rank ASN

7887 Gr. Reg. Det.
Organization

SR-76

IDENTIFICATION DATA

1. Remains of Unknown		2. Date of Report				
Unknown X-9002		18 April 1951				
3. Name of Cemetery		4. Plot	5. Row	6. Grave	7. Date of:	
AGRS Mausoleum Liege, Belgium				3	Disint- erment	Reint- erment
					XXXX	XXXX
8. Est. Age	9. Est. Height	10. Color of Hair		11. Race		
Approx 24	UTD	None found		UTD		
12. Give description of any official identification found with remains						
SR paper tag received with remains						
13. Give description of lacerations or scars on body and/or such information obtained from other sources						
None						
14. Was body burned?		To what extent.				
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Slightly				
15. Was body mangled?		To what extent.				
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		See skeletal chart				
16. Describe evidence of healed fractures and bone malformations.						
None evident						
17. List every item of clothing, equipment and personal effects found, showing the type, color, size, markings, service, etc. (If laundry marks are indistinct, such notation should be made and specimens forwarded through channels for examination when facilities are not available in the area.)						
None						

19. Black out parts of body not recovered

(SEE SKETCHED CHART)

20.

CLASS BONE GRANTHUMS (IF APPLICABLE)

(wherein segregation in whole or parts is impossible)

I certify that the group remains consist of parts of _____ decedents based on the presence of one or more of the following anatomical parts:

Signature of medical officer

21. Remarks and additional information

Remains received in skeletal state. No teeth recovered with remains

Est. Age: Approx 24

Est. Height: UTD

Est. Weight: Approx 150

Color of Hair: None found

Technician:

Mr. Lawrence

Clerk Recorder:

Miss Kempen

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I PERSONALLY VIEWED THE REMAINS OF _____ AND THAT THE
AFTER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Name, Grade, Branch or Service and
Organization

Signature

NARRATIVE

Remains received as SR-76 was processed and assigned Unknown X-9002.

	<u>AGE</u>	<u>HEIGHT</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>HAIR</u>
X-9002 (Remains)	Approx 24	UTD	Approx 150	None found
JOHNSON (371)	not given	5-9 1/2	135	Brown

No teeth were recovered with the remains. All major articulations are impossible due to the absence of skeletal portions. Due to insufficient skeletal portions an association is practically impossible. Age estimation was based on the pubic symphysis only.

CAUSE OF DEATH: The badly shattered and burned condition of this remains indicate a plane crash or some type of explosion.

Arthur R. Lawrence

ARTHUR R. LAWRENCE, B.S. (Tuskegee Univ.)
Lab. Identification Technician

Frans Vandervael

FRANS VANDERVAEL
M.D., Professor of
Anatomy and Anthropology
Liege University

REPORT OF BURIAL

SR-76

17 April 1951

Date

Unknown X-9002 Unk Unk

Last Name First Initial Rank Serial No.

Unk Unk

Unit Organization Vehicle struck a mine,

UENGSTERODE, Germany Est. 4 April 1945 plus German small arms fire

Place of Death Date of Death Cause of Death

1500 hrs - 20 April 1951 AGRS Mausoleum, Liege, Belgium

Time and Date of Burial Name of Cemetery Name or Coordinates of Location

3 Plot Number Type of Marker

Grave Number Row Number

Disposition of Identification Tags : Buried with body Yes No Attached to Marker Yes No

If No Identification Tags
How were remains identified?

Received *AGRS 4/16/51* OQMG
Not identifiable from
information presently available

What means of identification were buried with the body?

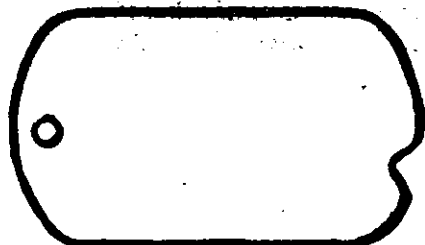
One copy of GRS Form # 1, placed in burial bottle and buried with remains

To determine Right or Left use **Deceased's** Right and Left.

Who is buried on :

Deceased's Right :	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Organization	Grave No.
Deceased's Left :	Name	Serial No.	Rank	Organization	Grave No.

Signature or Name, Rank and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial.



If print of identification tag is not affixed fill in below :

Emergency Addressee Unk
Name

Unk
Address

Religion Unk

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same : None
Remains previously buried in
Civilian Uengsterofe Community Cemetery,
Germany (L-52/H-49).

Received *AGRS 4/16/51*
Not identifiable from
information presently
available

Signature of Officer or other person reporting burial
L. C. Miller
LANO C. MILLER, SFC USA

Clyde W. Steinsiek
CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, Captain, USA

19 APR 1951