

(Unknowns X-9423, X-9424, X-9425, USA Mem Aff Actv, Frankfurt, Ger)

3. The remains (assigned S&R 1093) and effects were released to US custody and transported to the Frankfurt Mortuary for identification processing. The skeletal parts were found to be commingled, fragmentary and still under progressive erosion caused by prolonged natural weather elements. It was determined, after laboratory examination, that the skeletal remains consisted of portions of three (3) individuals. For examination and identification purposes, the remains were designated:

Unknown X-9423

Unknown X-9424

Unknown X-9425

4. The remains were processed simultaneously and segregation was based on the comparison of race, age group, bone morphology, body structure, articulation and osteometric comparisons. Partial dental charts were accomplished for each remains (See processing papers for each Unknown - Tabbed). The physical characteristics are as follows:

	AGE	HEIGHT	BUILD	HAIR	RACE
X-9423	26-30	T - 67.0" F&T - 67.7"	Average	Brown	Caucasoid
X-9424	18-21	T - 67.3" F&T - 67.0"	Average	Brown	Caucasoid
X-9425	24-27	T - 68.3" F&T - 67.7"	Average	None found	Caucasoid

5. In an effort to associate Unknowns X-9423, X-9424 and X-9425 with unresolved U. S. casualties of World War II, extensive research of historical records was conducted. Combat Chronicle, an Outline History of US Army Divisions, indicates that elements of the 78th Infantry Division were committed to combat in the Simmerath area during December 1944. Further, review of previously resolved cases indicated that Simmerath is located in the vicinity of the Hurtgen Forest where heavy fighting had taken place. The files of approximately 300 unresolved casualties who were listed on Nonrecoverable Findings in this area were screened. Comparison of dental and physical data from these files with information furnished in case papers met with negative results. Available records were searched for other unresolved casualties not listed on Nonrecoverable Findings but no association could be made with referenced Unknowns.