

World War II foxholes

Remains of 2 GIs found

By KATHIE THOMAS

WITTLICH, Germany — Along a hillside among the rolling green mountains of the Eifel, the remains of two World War II American soldiers have been discovered after more than 30 years of silence in unmarked graves.

The remains were discovered little more than half a mile apart in filled-in foxholes near the town of Wall, about overlooking the Sauer river.

Robert Lesiak, a German whose hobby is searching for antique gold coins in the areas of the early Roman settlements along the Germany-Luxembourg border, was on a routine outing when his metal de-

ector led him to the sites of the remains.

Along with the remains, approximately 100 rounds of M-1 ammunition, several U.S. Lincoln-head pennies, a medicine bottle, buttons, a canteen cup, mess kit fork, boots, gasmask, helmet and pieces of what may have been a tent or poncho were recovered by a Bitburg AB search and recovery team.

The chief mortuary officer from the U.S. Army Mortuary Hq-Europe, John G. Rodgers, visited the site with an Army Search and Recovery Team. The Air Force and Army teams conducted joint excavations.

Rodgers, an identification specialist,

said, "Everything possible will be done to identify the remains." But he added that no positive evidence has been recovered.

Identification is not wide. The remains will be buried with full military honors at Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

The bodies were found in the area where American forces first crossed the Luxembourg border into Germany during World War II. The 5th, 7th and 8th Divisions of the Third Army crossed the Sauer on Feb. 7, 1945.

(Kathie Thomas is the public information officer for the 36th Tac Fighter Wing at Bitburg AB.)