

AIRMAIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

QMCGT 293
GCS Pacific

Ident for

10 May 1951

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

TO: Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Service
Pacific Zone
APO 958, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. Reference is made to the Reports of Interment for the remains of Unknown X-254 and X-255, U.S. Army Mausoleum #2, Row V, Grave 85, and Row ZZ, Grave 87, respectively, formerly American Military Section, Hungjao Road, Cemetery, Hungjao Road, Shanghai, China, Plot O, Row 5, Graves 66 and 67, respectively.

2. Investigation by this Office has revealed that the remains of Unknown X-254 and X-255, may be identifiable as T/Sgt Peter S. Maholick, 33345196 and 1/Lt Samuel Auslander, O-801541. Both deceased were crew members aboard a B-25 type aircraft, serial number 42-40622, which was reported missing off the China Coast near Hong Kong, on 18 April 1944.

3. The remains of Unknown X-254 and X-255 were recovered from a grave in the Hong Kong University Grounds in April 1946. A post had been erected over the grave stating that the grave contained two American deceased interred by the Japanese Navy, 18 April 1944. In July 1946, the China Search Team recovered two remains from a common grave in the vicinity of Chakowling, Hong Kong. The bodies had been found floating off the shore of Chakowling about four days after an American bomber had been shot down near Hong Kong, sometime in April 1944. The remains had been interred by natives and the Japanese not informed of their recovery. These remains were designated as Unknown X-344 and X-345, U.S. Military Cemetery Shanghai, China. Unknown X-344 has since been identified as S/Sgt John Grovecz, 12132278, also a member of aircraft #42-40622.

4. The dental and physical data recorded for Unknowns X-254 and X-255, compares very favorably with the Army records for T/Sgt Maholick and Lt Auslander. The remains of Unknown X-345 may be associated with a member of the same crew, however, the identifying data is meager.

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X 293 - Unknown Phil. Islands X 254 - Mausoleum #2 Maholick

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5. OCMG Form 371 and photostat copies of Form 79 for the nine unaccounted-for crew members are inclosed.

6. It is requested that the remains of Unknown X-254, X-255 and X-245, be reprocessed for any additional information and to verify results of previous processing inasmuch as dental charts dated 24 May 46 and 8 Jun 46, for Unknowns X-254 and X-255, indicate they may be transposed, and that findings of the Board of Review be forwarded this Office in accordance with paragraph 59h, SR 830-110-5.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

9 Incls

1. OCMG Form 371 (Auslander)
2. " " " (Maholick)
3. " " " (Posner)
4. " " " (Owens)
5. " " " (Hroz)
6. " " " (Moessner)
7. " " " (Holley)
8. " " " (Carney)
9. " " " (Berman)

THOMAS E. COX
Capt OMC
Memorial Division

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