

AIRMAIL

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

QCMT 293  
GMS Pacific

*Ident* *fc*

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 Internment 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 Crovack, 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 nonger.

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*Handwritten notes:*  
X 293 - Unknown  
Philip - Auslander  
X 255 - Mausoleum #2  
Manila

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5. OMG 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-345, be reprocessed for any additional information and to verify results of previous processing inasmuch as dental charts dated 24 May 46 and 8 Jun 48, 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. OMG Form 371 (Auslander)
2. " " " (Maholick)
3. " " " (Posner)
4. " " " (Owens)
5. " " " (Kros)
6. " " " (Koesner)
7. " " " (Holley)
8. " " " (Carney)
9. " " " (Berman)

THOMAS E. COX  
Capt OMC  
Memorial Division

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