

Memo FOR OIC 2 EXTRA  
Memo FOR RECORD 3 COPIES

BOX 184, ENTRY 1072, PHILIPPINE ARCHIVE COLLECTION, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, COLLEGE PARK, MD

4th copy

AGPO-CR 201 Carroll, Edward J.  
(23 December 48) 32823394

23 December 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Status and date of death of S Sgt Edward J. Carroll,  
32823394, Co L, 331st Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Reports: Missing in action 19 Jan 1945  
Killed in action 19 Jan 1945 "Estimated date of death as shown on Burial Report, 22 Dec 44. Rptd MIA 19 Jan 45. Unit instructed determine correct date\*.
- b. Burial Report: Died 22 Dec 1944 (Originally read "UNK- Estimated to be 22 Dec 44"); reburied 13 March 1945 when disinterred from isolated grave of original burial at Bleialf, Germany.
- c. Service Records: Missing in action on 19 Jan 1945; killed in action (AGO Notation) on 19 Jan 1945
- d. Personnel Officers Letter: Killed in action on 19 Jan 1945
- e. Morning Report: Entry of 24 Jan 1945 "\*\* above EM MIA as of 19 Jan 45."
- f. DSC Citation: " \* On 19 January 1945, near Langlir Belgium, when deadly hostile machine gun fire threatened to isolate and annihilate Sergeant Carroll's platoon, this intrepid soldier voluntarily set out to eliminate the enemy position. Although a burst from the concealed gun wounded him fatally, he continued his gallant advance and crawling to within twenty yards of the hostile emplacement, he tossed a well-aimed hand grenade into the midst of the crew, wiping it out and silencing the gun.
- g. Captured German Record: German Hospital Card completed at German Field Hospital (Mort) 132, states that subject was received in the hospital on 14 Jan 1945 with a lung wound and fractured arm, and that he died on 15 Jan 1945 and was buried in Grave No. 4 at Bleialf, Germany.
- h. Historical Records: Numerous casualties of all kinds from 13 - 19 Jan 1945; subject listed by name as missing in action as of 19 Jan 1945.

ACPO-CR 201 Carroll, Edward J.  
(23 Dec 48) 32823394

(Contd)

2. This case was initiated because the Casualty Report stated subject was killed in action on 19 January 1945, while a German Hospital Card (See Pgh.lg) stated that the subject died on 15 Jan 1945.

3. Every available record, except the Burial Report and German Hospital Card, indicates that subject was missing in action and/or was killed in action on 19 Jan 1945. The Burial Report date of death of 22 Dec 1944 is considered to have been merely an estimated date of death and is therefore largely disregarded in this investigation. Although it is difficult to understand how so many records of The Adjutant General's Office could be in erroneous agreement in indicating that subject was killed in action on 19 Jan 1945, it is similarly difficult to understand how the German Hospital Card could be in error.

4. At the outset, the German Hospital Card definitely established that the subject was not killed in action, but that he died of wounds. Experience with German Records has shown them to possess a sufficient degree of accuracy, regarding dates and circumstances, to be acceptable in virtually every instance. In this connection, German hospital records have been found to be particularly accurate. Despite the preponderance of records indicating that the subject became missing in action and was killed in action on 19 Jan 1945, more logical explanations are available for explaining why the records of The Adjutant General's Office may be incorrect in this case than can be advanced to explain why the German Hospital card may be in error. The German Hospital Card contains considerable general information regarding the subject, all of which is in agreement with similar information found in his records. The 331st Infantry Regiment was involved in January 1945 in combat which was particularly vicious and resulted in many casualties. It is concluded that the subject was not missing in action on 19 Jan 1945 and was not killed in action on 19 Jan 1945, but that he actually became missing in action on 13 or 14 Jan 1945; was captured by the Germans after having been seriously wounded in action; was placed in the German Field Hospital (Mort) 132 on 14 Jan 1945; and died in the German Hospital on 15 Jan 1945 of wounds received in action. In order to arrive at the above conclusion, it is necessary to assume that the records of The Adjutant General's Office are in error regarding the kind and date of subject's death. Experience with casualty accounting during heavy combat campaigns has shown that occasionally casualties were not accounted for during heavy combat, but were accounted for several days later. In some such cases, men have been reported as missing in action or killed in action as of the date casualties were accounted for, when, in reality, they actually became missing in action or were killed in action several days earlier during the combat. In many such cases the exact date is not known and the only date which can logically be used is the date the man was found to be missing or to be killed. The erroneous date, as can be seen, likely will result in that date being shown on subsequent reports and recommendations, since each subsequent report or recommendation will likely accept the original date of the casualty as being correct. It is concluded that such

AGPO-CR 201 Carroll, Edward J.  
(23 Dec 48) 32823394.

occured in this case, even to the recommendation and citation for the Distinguished Service Cross. The Citation was undoubtedly correct in every respect except for the date on which the incident occurred, and, being completed sometime subsequent to the actual incident, the date of 19 Jan 1945, as shown on records of the organization, was accepted as the correct date of the incident.

5. It is recommended that, pursuant to authority contained in Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as indicative of the correct status of subject and that a corrected casualty report be initiated stating that S Sgt Edward J. Carroll, 32823394, Infantry, died on 15 Jan 1945, while in a German Hospital near Bleialf, Germany, of wounds received in action. Subject was a combat Infantryman at the time of his death.

Route to Notification Sub-Unit for letter notification.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge .

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

COPY FOR  
OCMG, Memorial Div.

Officer in Charge

AGPO-CR 201 Bailey, Jasper C.  
(31 Aug 48) 01014277

31 August 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Status and date of death of 1st Lt. Jasper C. Bailey,  
01014277, Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:
  - a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 12 June 1944.
  - b. Burial Report: Killed in action 13 June 1944; buried 14 June 1944.
  - c. Bronze Star Citation: Posthumously awarded "For meritorious achievement in military operations against the enemy on 12 June 1944. \*\*\*".
  - d. Medical Tag: Tagged on 13 June 1944; killed in action 13 June 1944.
  - e. Interrogation Statements: Seriously wounded 12 June 1944 in engagement in which subject and others were surrounded and captured by the enemy.

2. This investigation was initiated because the date of death as shown on the Burial Report is not in agreement with the date of death as shown on records of The Adjutant General's Office.

3. It appears that the basis of the Burial Report date of death was the entry on the Medical Tag that subject was tagged on 13 June 1944 and that he was killed in action on 13 June 1944. Since the date of death notation on the Medical Tag was entered later in ink, while other information was entered in pencil at the time of recovery of the body, it is questionable whether any reasonable basis existed for the date of death notation. Only information placed on the Medical Tag at the time it is first made can be considered as substantially indicative of the details obtaining at that time.

4. The subject, and other men, were engaging the enemy in France and were surrounded and captured. In Interrogation Reports completed by some of the men upon their later liberation from German Prison camps, they stated that they last saw the subject on 12 June 1944 when all were surrounded by the enemy, and that 1st Lt Bailey had been seriously wounded, with head wounds and hand shot off, and that they were "quite sure he died".

5. Subject's body was recovered on 13 June 1944 when American Forces occupied the area, for the Medical Tag shows him tagged at 1300 hours on 13 June 1944 and the Burial Report shows him buried on 14 June 1944. It is

AGPO-CR 201 Bailey, Jasper C.  
(31 Aug 48) 01014277

most reasonable to conclude that subject was fatally wounded on 12 June 1944 and that he died on that date, and that his body was left behind by the enemy because he had died. Although no correction is therefore necessary in the date of death of subject, it is evident that he was not killed in action as shown on records of The Adjutant General's Office, but that he died of wounds received in action.

6. It is recommended that, pursuant to authority contained in Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as indicative of the correct status of subject and that a corrected casualty report be initiated stating that 1st Lt Jasper C. Bailey, 01014277, Infantry, died in France on 12 June 1944 of wounds received in action. Route to notification Sub-Unit for letter notification.

BERNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

SYLVIO L. BOUSQUIN  
Lt Colonel, AGD  
OIG, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

COPY FOR:  
OCMG, Memorial Div.

AGPO-CR 201 Wiblitzhouser, Kenneth F., Sr.  
(11 Jun 48) 33751456

11 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Change in Status of Pvt Kenneth F. Wiblitzhouser, Sr.,  
33751456, Infantry

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 8 Oct 1944.
- b. Commanding Officer's Letter: Killed in action 8 Oct 1944.
- c. Service Record: Died 8 Oct 1944.
- d. Burial Report: Killed in action 8 Oct 1944, buried 9 Oct 44.
- e. Medical Tags: #1. Tagged at 1930 hours on 7 Oct 1944  
#2. Tagged at cemetery at 1650 hours on  
9 Oct 1944, buried at 1700 hours on 9 Oct 1944.

2. This investigation was initiated because subject is currently carried as killed in action on 8 Oct 1944, while Medical Tags show that he died of wounds. As indicated by Medical Tag #1, He was tagged in the field at 1930 hours on 7 Oct 1944 for shrapnel wounds, was given emergency treatment, and was immediately evacuated. The reverse side of four medical tags give, in progressive detail, information regarding an operation which was performed on subject and which began at 1120 hours on 8 Oct 1944 and ended at 1430 hours on 8 Oct 1944. Medical Tags #1 and #2 and those detailing operative procedure do not show the hour and date of his death, although it is apparent that death occurred after the operation was completed at 1430 hours on 8 Oct 1944. Since the Medical Tags show that subject was wounded 7 Oct 1944, and was operated upon 8 Oct 1944, and was buried 9 Oct 1944, and do not show the hour or date of death, it can only be concluded that 8 Oct 1944, as currently shown on all records which indicate a date of death, is the correct date of death.

3. The fact remains, however, that subject was not killed in action on 8 Oct 1944, as currently shown on the records of The Adjutant General's Office, but that on 8 Oct 1944 he died of wounds received in action on 7 Oct 1944. It is therefore recommended that the foregoing information be accepted as a corrected report of death and that a casualty report be issued, stating that Pvt Kenneth F. Wiblitzhouser, Sr., 33751456, Infantry, died on 8 Oct 1944 of wounds received in action in Holland on 7 Oct 1944. Route to Correspondence Unit for letter notification.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:  
Officer in Charge

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

/s/ Officer In Charge.

COPY FOR: OQMG, Memorial Div.

AG 201 Jankowski, Stanley F.  
 (8 Dec 48) 35011548

8 December 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section,  
 Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Place of death of T Sgt Stanley F. Jankowski, 35011548  
 577th Bomb Sq., 392nd Bomb Gp., (H).

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Missing in action in France on 12 Aug 1944  
 Killed in action in France on 12 Aug 1944
- b. Combat Record: "KIA Enroute to target at Chestnut, Herts,  
 England, on 12 Aug 1944."
- c. Morning Report: "\*\*\* amended to read fr dy to KIA in air-  
 plane crash Chestnut, Herts, England en-  
 route to target 12 Aug 44."
- d. Medical Tag: "KIA, multiple compound fractures, incurred  
 in crash landing 12 Aug/44, near Chestnut,  
 Hertfordshire, Eng., while returning from  
 operational mission over enemy territory\*."
- e. Service Record: "Sol killed in action in crash near Chestnut  
 Hertfordshire County England enroute to tar-  
 get on mission to Juvincoart A/F France on  
 12 Aug 1944 \*."

2. This investigation was initiated in order to clarify conflicting reports as to the place of subject's death. Every available record, except the Casualty Report, indicates that subject was killed in action in England on 12 Aug 1944 in the crash of his aircraft. The various records, listed above in paragraph 1, sub-paragraph b through e, furnish conclusive evidence that subject was, in fact, killed in action in England.

3. It is recommended that, pursuant to authority contained in Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as indicative of the correct place of death and that a corrected casualty report be initiated stating that T Sgt Stanley F. Jankowski, 35011548, Air Corps, was killed in action in England on 12 Aug 1944 in the crash of his aircraft. He was in flying pay status at the time of his death. Route to correspondence Unit for letter notification and for reply to correspondence.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
 Investigator

CONCUR:

OIC

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken  
 BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

COPY FOR:  
 OCMG, Memorial Div.  
 AG 201 file

/s/ OIC



AGPO-CR 201 Deeds, Thomas C.  
(25 Jun 48) 18080033

26 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pfc Thomas C. Deeds, 180800033,  
Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:
  - a. Casualty Record: Killed in action 20 May 1943
  - b. Service Record: Died 22 May 1943
  - c. Field Report of Death: Died of Wounds 22 May 1943.
  - d. Clinical Records: Died of wounds 22 May 1943.
  - e. Medical Tags: Tagged at 1930 hours on 20 May 1943;  
received at 20th FH on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1943;  
died of wounds 22 May 1943; buried 25 May 1943.

2. The date of death investigation was initiated in this case because the father of subject stated that his son's commanding officer wrote that Pfc Deeds died on 22 May 1943. The Department of the Army had reported him as having been killed in action on 20 May 1943.

3. The detailed Clinical Records and Medical Tags indicate conclusively that subject was received in the 20th Field Hospital on 20 May 1943 and underwent an operation on that same date, and that he died of wounds on 22 May 1943. It is considered that there is no question that subject did, in fact, die of wounds on 22 May 1943.

4. The reason for the report that subject was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1943 is not clear. Medical information shows 20<sup>th</sup> May 1943 only as the date on which subject was wounded, transferred to the hospital, and operated upon. It appears that somehow that date was erroneously reported as date of death.

5. It is recommended that, pursuant to authority contained in Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as indicative of the correct date and kind of death and that a corrected casualty report be initiated stating that Pfc Thomas C. Deeds, 18080033, Infantry, died on 22 May 1943 of wounds received in action. Route to Correspondence Unit for reply to correspondence.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCURRED:  
Officer in Charge.

APPROVED:

AGPO-CR 201 Twigger, Clarence H.  
(13 Apr 48) 35236249

13 April 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: Officer in Charge, Casualty Section,  
Personnel Actions Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pvt Clarence H. Twigger, 35236249, Infantry

1. Subject is currently carried on records of The Adjutant General's Office as having died of wounds on 19 Aug 1944, based upon ETO Casualty Shipment 184. Regarding Pvt Twigger, various records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Slightly wounded in action 13 July 1944  
Died of wounds 19 Aug 1944
- b. Burial Report: Killed in action 19 July 1944,  
buried 19 July 1944, Report completed  
19 July 1944.
- c. Service Record: Died of wounds 19 Aug 1944.
- d. Moring Report: Slightly wounded in action 13 July 1944
- e. Medical Tags: #1. Wounded in action-Tagged 1600 hrs.,  
13 July 1944.  
#2. Died of wounds 1245 hrs. 19 July 1944  
in 34th Evac. Hospital, France.

2. The Burial Report and Medical Tags furnish conclusive evidence that subject died of wounds on 19 July 1944. The Burial Report was completed on 19 July 1944 and shows subject buried on 19 July 1944, thereby indicating that death could not have occurred later than 19 July 1944. The Medical Tags were both signed by Medical Corps officers and record information regarding subject from date he was tagged in the field to the date he died of wounds, and show, in detail, the medical treatment administered him up to 1245 hours on 19 July 1944, the time and date Medical Tag #2 shows him as having died.

3. It is evident that the report by ETO Casualty Shipment 184 that subject died of wounds on 19 Aug 1944, rather than 19 July 1944, was an error in the field report of the casualty.

4. It is recommended that, pursuant to authority contained in Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as indicative of the correct date of death and that a corrected casualty report be initiated stating that Private Clarence H. Twigger, 35 236 249, Infantry died 19 July 1944 of wounds received in action. Telegram not required. Route to Correspondence Unit for letter notification.

B. E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

\*\*\* Officer in Charge.

APPROVED: Recommended action will be taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy for: OOMG, Memorial Division.

THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM WAS MIMEOGRAPHED

AG 704 (10 Feb 48)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

10 February 1948

SUBJECT: Review of Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance of Personnel Presumed Dead.

1. The following-named Air Corps personnel were reported missing in action, in the Asiatic Theater, on 18 June 1944, while in flying pay status, by Casualty Branch Message Number 181133-C-4, they were continued missing as of 19 June 1945, and subsequently presumed dead as of 27 February 1946, under the provisions of Section 5, Missing Persons Act by SR&D No 3250:

- Lt Col Armen Pohan, O-377714, AC
- 2nd Lt Gordon R. Barr, O-756150, AC
- 2nd Lt John G. Mersereau, O-747294, AC
- 2nd Lt Israel Solomon, O-691824, AC
- 2nd Lt Ernest C. Wong, O-754784, AC
- S Sgt James A. Ohlund, 18115741, AC
- S Sgt William F. Shanahan, 12192155, AC
- S Sgt Robert H. Wataka, 16133789, AC
- S Sgt Leon F. Zombeck, 33419080, AC

2. Missing Air Crew Report No. 6085, submitted by the 373rd Bombardment Squadron, 308th Bombardment Group, 14th Air Force on 20 June 1944, identifies the above-named persons as the crew of B-24J aircraft No. 42-109966, which departed Kweilin, China on a night bombing mission into the Yangtze River Valley and failed to return. The aircraft was not seen or contacted after it departed Kweilin. The Missing Air Crew Report gives no further particulars of the aircraft.

3. The China Zone of the American Graves Registration Service conducted an investigation of the disappearance of the aircraft, and, in a letter, dated 4 December 1947, to The Quartermaster General (cc: TAG), recommended that the status of the persons named in paragraph 1 be amended to read: "Killed in Action, Bodies Unrecoverable". Inclosure 1, dated 9 June 1947, is a part of the CZ, AGRS report and reads as follows:

"1. An investigation has been made of AGRS-CZ Case No. 529 in the Kueilin, China area and in conjunction with all other cases in Kwangsi, Province. No trace can be found of this crash.

"2. History of this case discloses that it may have gone down in the Kankow S & R Team area which was once assigned this team. Since we are positively certain that it did not crash in the takeoff from the airbase in Kueilin, it is believed that it must have gone down in the target area.

"3. On the basis of investigation conducted in Kueilin area in conjunction with all other cases without any disclosures, it is recommended ~~that~~ AGRS-CZ Case No. 529 be considered closed in the Kueilin that

AG 704 (10 Feb 48)

area, and be referred to the Hankow Team for further investigation."

Inclosure 2, dated 30 September 1947, is a part of the CZ, AGRS report and reads as follows:

"1. An investigation has been made of AGRS-CZ Case No. 529 in the Kankow S & R Team area in conjunction with all other cases under our jurisdiction and no trace has been found of Case No. 529.

"2. Due to the large expanse of inland waters in this area, it is possible that the plane could have crashed and sunk without anyone witnessing or having any knowledge of the crash as the plane was on a night mission."

The Casualty Clearance and Case Review portion of the AGRS-CZ report reads, in part, as follows:

"PART III -- DISCUSSION

"Records show that the plane took off from Kweilin, China, on a night bombing mission into the Yangtze River Valley and was never contacted after take-off. It is believed that the plane was shot down by enemy gunboats between the following towns: Chang-Sha and Wu Hu. It is believed that the plane crashed in one of the isolated spots of inland waterways which occupy a large section of this area. It is possible that the plane could have crashed and sunk without anyone witnessing or having any knowledge of the crash. If the Chinese found the remains of the crew members, or the missing aircraft, they have not reported the matter.

"PART IV -- CONCLUSION

"Based on the evidence contained in Parts II and III, it is concluded that the personnel whose names appear in Part I, died as a result of the crash and are unrecoverable as no knowledge of the plane's whereabouts or the remains of the crew members are obtainable.

"PART V -- RECOMMENDATION

"On the basis of the information contained in Parts II and III of this review, it is recommended that the status of the personnel whose names appear in Part I, be amended to read 'Killed in Action, Bodies Unrecoverable'."

4. The aircraft with subject persons aboard as crew successfully departed Kweilin, China on a night bombing mission into the Yangtze River Valley and failed to return. The aircraft was not seen or contacted by American Forces after it departed Kweilin and an examination of all

AG 704 (10 Feb 48)

available records indicate that nothing whatever is known of the fate of the aircraft and crew. During the latter part of 1947 (June through December) the China Zone of the American Graves Registration Service conducted an investigation of the disappearance of the aircraft and could find no indication of the fate of the aircraft and crew and, concluding that during the night mission the aircraft must have been shot down and that it crashed in one of the spots of inland waterways which occupy a large section of the area, recommended that the status of all members of the crew be amended to read "Killed in Action, Bodies Unrecoverable". The recommendation of the China Zone of the American Graves Registration Service is not considered to be sufficient evidence of death on which Reports of Death could be based. In the absence of any evidence whatever of the fate of the aircraft and its crew, it is concluded that the information of record in the Department of the Army at this time does not warrant the issuance of official reports of death pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the Missing Persons Act.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

\*\*\*

Officer in Charge.

COPY FOR:  
CQMG Memorial Division.

THE FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM WAS MADE ON STEPHEN L &amp; MIN

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of Death.

1. The following named officers and enlisted men were reported missing in flight in India on 25 May 1944, and were subsequently reported killed on the same date:

Lt Col. Raymond W. Worsham, Jr., 0343470 AC  
 Capt Herman G. Klamka, 01821468, MC  
 1st Lt James N. Bradley, 0670081, AG  
 1st Lt Arthur T. Schermesser, 0745754, AG  
 S Sgt John F. Kuntz, 12039907, AG  
 S Sgt Glenn T. Stevens, 13003256, AG  
 Sgt Harry Kaufman, 33321051, AC  
 Cpl Clayton T. Asp, 36263193, AC  
 Cpl John H. LaJoie, 11071096, AC  
 Cpl George A. Sandacz, 13087654, AC

2. Records of The Adjutant General show the following:

- a. Casualty Reports: Missing in flight 25 May 1944.  
Killed 25 May 1944.
- b. Burial Reports: Killed 23 May 1944, buried 23 April 1945.
- c. Missing Air Crew Report: Mission on 25 May 1944.
- d. Air Corps Historical Records: Mission on 25 May 1944.

3. The men listed in paragraph 1 were reported missing in flight on 25 May 1944 when the cargo plane, of which they were crew members and passengers, failed to return from a cargo mission from Calcutta to Dinjan, India. Every available pertinent record, except the Burial Report filed in the Casualty Branch 201 file of each man, indicates that the mission occurred on 25 May 1944 and that the men listed were killed on that date. In addition to the documents and reports listed in paragraph 2 above, the records contain a number of communications and statements, all of which show the date of death of subject personnel as 25 May 1944. It is not clear why the Burial Reports were completed to show the date of death as 23 May 1944, however, since the date as shown on the Burial Reports conflicts with all other available evidence and no record in any way supports the Burial Reports date of death, it is recommended that no action be taken to change the date of subject personnel from 25 May 1944.

75/  
/t/ B. E. Pethal  
 B. E. PETHAL  
 Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

## COPY FOR:

OQMG, Memorial Division.  
 AG 201 file of each person named in  
 paragraph 1.

AG 201 Assmussen, Harold H.  
(12 Mar 48) 32 765 699

12 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of S Sgt Harold H. Assmussen, 32765699, Air Corps.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Missing in action 23 March 1944.
- b. Killed in action 23 Mar 1944 (Per IRC Berlin Cables).
- b. Burial Report: Killed 24 March 1944.
- c. Medical Tag: Killed in action 23 March 1944 (prepared in Office, Chief Surgeon, ETOUSA, From AG Casualty Report).
- d. Captured German Records: Killed 23 March 1944 in air crash.

2. Subject was a member of a ten-man air crew on a bombing mission over Germany. Missing Air Crew Report No. 3541 states that the mission from which the aircraft failed to return on 23 March 1944. Five of the crew were captured and five died in the crash of the aircraft. Of the five men who died in the crash, the records of two men contain no Burial Reports; the Burial Reports of two indicate 23 March 1944 as the date of death; and the fifth man is herein considered and his Burial Report shows 24 March 1944 as the date of death. Conclusive evidence of the correct date of death of subject is furnished by the detailed German Records of the crash. These records all state that the subject, together with four other members of his crew, died on 23 March 1944 in the crash of his aircraft and that he was buried on 24 March 1944. It is therefore recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of S SGT Assmussen from 23 March 1944.

B. E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in charge.

COPY FOR:

OQMG, Memorial Division.

AG 201 Asman, William E.  
39894891 (24 Nov 48)

24 November 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pvt William E. Asman, 36894891,  
Co B, 28th Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:
  - a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 18 Sept 1944.
  - b. Burial Report: Killed in action 17 Sept 1944;  
buried 19 Sep 1944.
  - c. Chaplin's letter: Died 18 Sept 1944.
  - d. Service Record: Killed in action 18 Sept 1944.
  - e. Morning Report: Entry of 20 Sep 1944: "\*\*\* KIA as of  
18th (Dropped from assignment)."

2. Every available record except the Burial Report indicated<sup>S</sup> that subject was killed in action on 18 September 1944. It is not clear why the Burial Report was completed to show the date of death as 17 September 1944; however, since the date as shown on the Burial Report conflicts with all other available records and no record in any way supports the Burial Report date, it is concluded that the date as shown on the Burial Report is in error and that 18 September 1944 is the correct date of death. It is therefore recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Pvt Asman from 18 September 1944. Pvt Asman was killed in action in France.

/s/  
BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

/s/ Officer in Charge.

COPY FOR:  
OCMG, Memorial Division



AG 201 Aspinwall, John E.  
(18 Nov 48) 01301920

18 November 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of 2nd Lt John E. Aspinwall, 01301920, Co C,  
401st Glider Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 15 June 1944
- b. Burial Report: Killed in action 14 June 1944; buried 18 June 1944.
- c. Medical Tag: Tagged 14 June 1944 at Cemetery; Disposition: VII Corp Cemetery on 18 June 1944.
- d. Morning Report: Entry of 26 June 1944 "Dy to KIA 15 June 44."  
Record of Events: "15 Jun 44 -- Moved from 502nd Front Inf Reserve at 1210 to defensive position on the front line near Mautis, Pinned down by MG and small arm fire for four hours. Set up position at 2200. \*\*\*".
- e. Historical Records: Landed behind enemy lines 6 June 1944; attacking French towns 8-13 June 1944; continued attack 0700 14 June 1944 to find enemy had withdrawn: into assembly area 1445 on 14 June 1944, no casualties shown for 14 June 1944; occupied front line defensive positions on 15 June 1944, engaged enemy at 1300 in fire fight.

2. It appears that the basis for the Burial Report date of death was the entry on the Medical Tag that subject was tagged 14 June 1944 at the cemetery. The basis of the Medical Tag date is not clear, and does suggest the possibility that death may have occurred earlier than 15 June 1944. However, it is considered that the Casualty Report, Morning Report, and Historical Record, all of which show that subject was killed in action on 15 June 1944, are sufficiently conclusive as to negate any doubt that the Medical Tag date introduces as to the date of death. It is recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of 2nd Lt Aspinwall from 15 June 1944. Subject was killed in action near Mautis, France.

/s/

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

Copy for:  
OQMG, Memorial Div.

AG 201 Astuto, Angelo S.  
(12 Mar 48) 32988078

12 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pvt Angelo S. Astuto, 32988078, Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Missing in action 14 April 1945  
Killed in action 14 April 1945.
- b. Burial Report: Killed in action 15 April 1945.
- c. Service Record: Killed in action 14 April 1945.
- d. Medical Tag: Tagged 1000 hours on 19 April 1945 at the  
85th Graves Registration Office. Killed  
in action 14 April 1945.

2. The Medical Tag entry that subject was killed in action on 14 April 1945 is an AGO notation based on the Casualty Report. It was written over the original date which appears to have been 15 April 1945. It is assumed that the Medical Tag did show the date of death as 15 April 1945 and that the date of death as shown on the Burial Report was based on that entry. Since the Medical Tag was not completed at that time subject was killed, but was completed several days later at the 85th Graves Registration Office, it is concluded that the original entry that subject was killed on 15 April 1945 was, in fact, an estimated date of death and is not conclusively indicative enough of the correct date of death of subject to warrant a change in the date as recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Private Astuto from 14 April 1945.

/s/  
B. E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge

COPY FOR:

OOMG, Memorial Division.

AG 201 Baber, Lealon  
(13 Jul 48) 18027561

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pfc Lealon Baber, 18027561, Infantry

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 11 July 1944.
- b. Burial Report: Killed in action 12 July 1944; buried 13 July 1944
- c. Service Record: Killed in action 11 July 1944.
- d. Medical Tag: Tagged 13 July 1944; killed in action 12 July 1944.

2. It appears that the basis for the killed in action date of 12 July 1944 on the Burial Report was the Medical Tag notation that subject was killed in action on 12 July 1944. Historical Records show that subject's organization had many casualties on 11 July 1944 and had a much smaller number of casualties on 12 July 1944. Although the possibility exists that death may have occurred on 12 July 1944 rather than on 11 July, it is considered that evidence supporting such a possibility is not sufficiently strong to warrant a change in the date of death. It is therefore recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Pfc Baber from 11 July 1944.

/s/ Burnell E. Pethal

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

Copy for  
OQMG, Memorial Division.

AGPO-CR 201 Bacher, Paul T.  
(1 Jul 48) 33017737

1 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of Sgt Paul T. Bacher, 33017737, Infantry.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 6 June 1944.
- b. Burial Report: Killed in action 8 June 1944. Buried 10 June 44.
- c. Service Record: Killed in action 6 June 1944.
- d. Chaplain's Letter: Killed in action 6 June 1944.
- e. Medical Tag: Tagged at 1300 hours on 8 June 1944, transferred to cemetery at 1700 hours on 8 June 1944.

2. It appears that the basis for the date of death as shown on the Burial Report was the entry on the Medical Tag that subject was tagged on 8 June 1944. The Medical Tag was completed when subject's body was picked up on the battlefield and does not show a date of death and was not meant to indicate that the date subject's body was tagged was the date of his death. There is no reason to doubt that subject was, in fact, killed in action 6 June 1944 and that his body was not tagged until 8 June 1944. Since the date as shown on the Burial Report conflicts with all other available evidence and no record in any way supports the date of death shown on the Burial Report, it is recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Sgt Bacher from 6 June 1944.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

Copy for  
OCMD, Memorial Division.

AGPO-CR 201 Baird, Willis W.  
 O445647 (18 Aug 48)

18 August 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of 1st Lt Willis W. Baird, O445647, Infantry

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:
  - a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 9 June 1944.
  - b. Burial Report: Killed in action 15 June 1944.  
Buried 17 June 1944.
  - c. First Ind. dated 21 Sept 1944 from Hq., 4th Inf Division to CG., 4th US Army reads "2. 1st Lt Willis W. Baird \* was reported KIA 9 June 44 \*. Above officer was killed when jeep in which he was riding had taken a wrong road and ran into German machine gun fire."
  - d. Bronze Star Citation: Posthumously awarded "For meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States, 6 June 1944."
  - e. Medical Tags: #1. Tagged at cemetery on "6/X/44";  
Disposition: Cemetery on 17 June 1944.  
#2. Tagged 10 June 1944 as killed in action.

2. An examination of the above records show that they are at considerable variance as to the date of death of subject, which fact is likely due to the confusion of the intense combat of early June 1944. Since it is considered to be impossible to reconcile the dates of death with any degree of certainty, it can only be recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of 1st Lt Baird from 9 June 1944.

BURGESS E. PETHAL  
 Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge

copy for  
 OCMG Memorial Division.

AGPO-CR 201 Baker, Clifford E.  
 35811544 (31 Aug 48)

31 August 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of death of Pvt Clifford E. Baker, 35 811 544, QMC.

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Killed in action 13 June 1944.
- b. Burial Report: Dated 13 June 1944—Died on 13 June 1944;  
 Buried 13 June 1944.  
 Dated 27 June 1944—Killed in action 6 June 1944; reburied 27 June 1944.
- c. Service Record: Killed in action 13 June 1944.
- d. Medical Tag: Tagged at 261st Med. Bn. on 13 June 1944.  
 Disposition: Killed in action on 13 June 1944.

2. When subject was originally buried, his Burial Report was completed to show the date of death as 13 June 1944; however, when he was disinterred and reburied two weeks later, the Burial Report for his reburial was completed to show the date of death as 6 June 1944. Every available record, except the Burial Report for the reburial, indicates that subject was killed in action on 13 June 1944. It is not clear why the Burial Report for the reburial was completed to show the date of death as 6 June 1944; however, since the date of death as shown on the Burial Report conflicts with all other available evidence and no record in any way supports the Burial Report date of death, it is recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Pvt Baker from 13 June 1944.

BURNELL E. PETHAL  
 Investigator

CONCUR:

Officer in Charge.

COPY FOR:

OCM G, Memorial Division.

AG 201 Asuncion, Cornelio S.  
(12 Mar 48) 39837699

12 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Date of Death of Pfc Cornelio S. Asuncion, 39837699, Infantry

1. Records of The Adjutant General's Office show the following:

- a. Casualty Report: Died 14 May 1945.
- b. Burial Reports: #1. Accidental Death on 15 May 1945.  
#2. Accidental Death on 14 May 1945.
- c. Service Record: Died non-battle 14 May 1945.
- d. 73rd Field Hospital Report: Died at 2020 hours on 14 May 1945.
- e. Report of Investigation: Died at 2020 hours on 14 May 1945.
- f. Medical Tag: Expired 2020 hours on 14 May 1945.

2. Subject was accidentally shot on 14 May 1945 at approximately 0730 hours. He was immediately taken to the Battalion Aid Station and given emergency treatment. At 1200 hours he was evacuated by aircraft to the 73rd Field Hospital at Tacloban, Leyte. He died in the 73rd Field Hospital at 2020 hours on 14 May 1945. The Casualty Branch 201 file of subject contains two Burial Reports. One shows 15 May as the date of death, while the other indicated 14 May. It is not possible to determine which report was completed last and is therefore the most recent. Since the date of death as shown on Burial Report #1 conflicts with all other available evidence and no record in any way supports that Burial Report date of death, it is recommended that no action be taken to change the date of death of Pfc Asuncion from 14 May 1945.

B. E. PETHALL  
Investigator

CONCUR:

OIC, \*\*\*

COPY FOR:  
OQMG, Memorial Division