

# **Activity: Some Gave All**



# **Guiding question:**

How did American families cope with the loss of loved ones in the Battle of the Bulge?

## **DEVELOPED BY JULIE K. HEINTZ**

Grade Level(s):	9-12
Subject(s):	Social Studies, English / Language Arts
Cemetery Connection:	Ardennes American Cemetery
Fallen Hero Connection:	<b>Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes</b>
	Private First Class James H. Vrtatko





# **Overview**

In this lesson, students will study the profiles of two men killed in the Battle of the Bulge, Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes and Private First Class James H. Vrtatko. The lesson will allow students to understand the aftermath and meaning of this pivotal military campaign.

# **Historical Context**

After D-Day, Allied forces recaptured most of France within a matter of months. The Battle of the Bulge was a major German counter-offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. The battle began December 16, 1944 and ended on January 25, 1945. German forces pushed back part of the Allied line—the "bulge" in the front line that gave the battle its name. More than 800,000 Allied soldiers fought in the battle, the great majority of them American, and there were 90,000 American casualties (including 23,000 taken prisoner). "Every individual who fought in World War II has a unique story. This lesson will allow students to study the profiles of two men killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Students will be able to see that behind the sheer numbers are real mensons, brothers, husbands, friends—who gave their lives for our freedoms." — Julie K. Heintz Heintz is a teacher at The Mississippi School for Math and Science in

Columbus, Mississippi.

Captain Charles Hewes and Private First Class James Vrtatko were both killed during or after the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, the U.S. military set up an identification lab near Ardennes, Belgium to identify remains and bring closure to as many families as possible. Both Hewes and Vrtatko are buried today at Ardennes American Cemetery, along with more than 5,000 of their comrades in arms.

# **Objectives**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Understand how the Battle of the Bulge impacted American families at home;
- Consider the choices individual families had in regards to their loved ones; and
- Predict and explain why they think families made the choices they did after the war.

# Documents Used \star indicates an ABMC source

# **Primary Sources**

*Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead*, 1946 United States Department of War

Individual Deceased Personnel File, Captain Charles Hewes United States Department of the Army

Individual Deceased Personnel File, Private First Class James Vrtatko United States Department of the Army

Newsreel, German Drive Rolled Back by Allies, January 1, 1945 Universal Theater Newsreel youtube.com/watch?v=wtNcB83H7X0

Request for Disposition of Remains, Captain Charles Hewes Individual Deceased Personnel File, United States Department of the Army

Request for Disposition of Remains, Private First Class James Vrtatko Individual Deceased Personnel File, United States Department of the Army

## **Secondary Sources**

Ardennes American Cemetery Website American Battle Monuments Commission <u>abmc.gov/Ardennes</u>

Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes, Fallen Hero profile ★ National History Day <u>nhdsilentheroes.org/profiles/charles-dunbar-lancaster-hewes/</u>

Map, From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond ★ American Battle Monuments Commission

Private First Class James H. Vrtatko, Fallen Hero profile National History Day nhdsilentheroes.org/profiles/james-h-vrtatko/

# **Materials**

### **Introducing the Fallen Heroes**

- Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes Fallen Hero profile
- Private First Class James H. Vrtatko Fallen Hero profile
- Map, From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond

## Some Gave All

- Correspondence Organizer
- Letters File, Captain Charles Hewes
- Letters File, Private First Class James Vrtatko
- Decision File, Captain Charles Hewes
- Decision File, Private First Class James Vrtatko

## Decision

- Request for Disposition of Remains, Captain Charles Hewes
- Request for Disposition of Remains, Private First Class James Vrtatko

# **Lesson Preparation**

### **Introducing the Fallen Heroes**

- Divide the class into two groups.
  - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Private First Class James H. Vrtatko Fallen Hero profile for one half of the class.
  - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes Fallen Hero profile for the other half of the class.
- Project (or print copies of) the map, From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond.

### Some Gave All

- Print one copy of the Correspondence Organizer for each student.
- Divide the two larger groups into subgroups of three to four students each.
  - <sup>o</sup> Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Letters File for Captain Charles Hewes for one half of the subgroups.
  - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Letters File for Private First Class James Vrtatko for the other half of the subgroups.
  - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Decision File for Captain Charles Hewes for one half of the subgroups.
  - Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the Decision File for Private First Class James Vrtatko for the other half of the subgroups.

### Decision

• Project (or print a copy) the Request for Disposition of Remains for Hewes and Vrtatko.

# Procedure

### Activity One: Introducing the Fallen Heroes (15 minutes)

- To help students understand the context of the Battle of the Bulge, show them the Universal Theater newsreel from January 1, 1945, *German Drive Rolled Back by Allies*.
- Distribute the Fallen Hero profile for Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes to half of the class and the profile for Private First Class James H. Vrtatko to the other half of the class.
- Project for the class a copy of the map, *From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond*. Point out "The Bulge" and the location of Ardennes American Cemetery.
- Ask students to read their Fallen Hero profile and underline or highlight five to ten details that stood out to them.

### Activity Two: Some Gave All (45 minutes)

- Break students into smaller groups (three or four students each) with those who read the same profile.
- Distribute the Letters Files for Captain Charles Hewes and Private First Class James Vrtatko
- Tell students, When a family member died in World War II, it often took weeks for their loved ones at home to receive the news. For those who were missing in action, the wait could have been even longer. You have in front of you the actual series of letters that were sent between the Hewes and Vrtatko families from the U.S. federal government. You also have investigative reports that military officials would have that would not have been released to the families. While you read these letters, consider the following questions:
  - ° What were the challenges faced by the family?
  - ° What did the family members want to know?
  - What answers were given to the family?
- Give student groups time to read and discuss these letters in their smaller groups. Ask them to complete the Correspondence Organizer as they read and discuss.
  - Teacher Tip: Observe and listen to student discussions. You may want to consider sharing answers with the whole class or asking one student to summarize their group's findings with the class and have the whole class discuss the similarities and differences between each family's experiences.
  - **Teacher Tip:** Because the Hewes documents do contain one letter written in cursive, assistance might be needed for some students.
- Distribute one copy (paper or electronic) of the Decisions File for Captain Charles Hewes or Private First Class James Vrtatko to each group.
- Explain, Now you will be presented with the same choices that the families had. In January 1948, Mrs. Mabel Elders and Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko received letters from the federal government asking them to decide what they would like happen to their sons' remains. Once your group has a chance to read the file, discuss what decision you think these families would have made.
  - **Teacher Tip:** This task could be assigned as homework if desired.
- Encourage each student group to discuss the options and predict what decision they think the Hewes and Vrtatko families would have made.

# Assessment

### **Decision (45 minutes)**

- Now it is time to make a decision. Each student or group (at teacher discretion) will now take on the role of Mrs. Mabel Elder or Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko. Using the address for The Office of The Quartermaster General (on page 17 of *Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead*), each individual student or group will write a letter explaining the choice that they would have made for their son.
- Letters may be submitted or presented to the class as time permits.
- After all students have made predictions, project for the class the Request for Disposition of Remains Forms signed by Mabel Elders and Barbara Vrtatko (both chose interment in an overseas cemetery).
- Show the eulogies given for Hewes and Vrtatko at Ardennes American Cemetery in 2015.
- Lead a class discussion. Prompts may include:
  - Were you surprised at the families' decisions? Why or why not?
  - Why do you think the families made this decision? Can you infer any of their intentions from the letters?
  - <sup>o</sup> Why did approximately one-third of American families make a similar decision? What factors do you think influenced this decision?
  - <sup>o</sup> What would you say to Mabel Elders or Barbara Vrtatko if she were standing here today.
  - Teacher tip: Approximately 60% of families chose to have their loved one's remains returned to the United States and only about 40% of those killed rest in U.S. military cemeteries abroad. Today Vrtatko and Hewes rest with 5,323 of our military dead at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

# **Methods for Extension**

- Students could write journal entries describing the different days' events from their soldier's viewpoint comparing the experience of a medic and the experience of a pilot.
- Students could use the Ardennes American Cemetery Website to learn more about their soldier's final resting place.
- Students could create and answer a Most Often Asked Question sheet for visitors at the Ardennes American Cemetery.
- Students could design a plaque for a visitor's center at the cemetery to honor the sacrifice of their fallen hero.
- The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains U.S. military cemeteries overseas. These cemeteries are permanent memorials to the fallen, but it is important that students know the stories of those who rest here. To learn more about the stories of Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice, visit <u>abmc.gov/education</u> and <u>NHDSilentHeroes.org</u>.
- Teachers can enhance students' interest in sacrifice and loss in World War II by exploring these related lesson plans:
  - <u>Cemeteries and Communities: Identifying Local Perspectives during Construction of an</u> <u>Overseas Military Cemetery</u>
  - Until they All Come Home: Locating and Identifying Missing Service Members

# **Adaptations**

- Students could work in mixed-ability groups to assist those who are English-language learners.
- Teachers could record audio versions of letters as needed to assist struggling readers.

# Fallen Hero Profile: Captain Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes

Name: Charles Dunbar Lancaster Hewes Born: March 10, 1921 Died: February 13, 1945 Hometown: Biloxi, Mississippi Entered the Military: October 1939 Branch of Service: U.S. Army Air Forces Org Unit: 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group Rank: Captain Award(s): Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart

#### **Before the War**

Charles Dunbar "Dunny" Lancaster Hewes was born to Charles and Mabel Hewes in Biloxi, Mississippi on March 10, 1921. Hewes graduated from Biloxi High School on May 31, 1939. After graduation, he worked at the local F.W. Woolworth store.

#### Military Experience Pilot Training

Hewes enlisted October 1939 in the Army Air Corps and studied meteorology. Even though he did not have the required two years minimum of college, he was allowed to sit for the flying cadet exam. Hewes' initial ten-week flying training program took place at Rankin Field in January 1942. In order to join flight training, Hewes had to start over and elected to be reduced to the rank of private, but soon rose through the ranks to become Aviation Cadet First Sergeant of Company B. He graduated on March 26, 1942.

Next, Hewes moved to the Merced Army Flying School in California and then completed advanced training in Phoenix, Arizona. He was commissioned at Luke Field, Arizona on July 26, 1942. Stationed in Sarasota, Florida, he flew a P-39 Airacobra.

Hewes' sister, Lela, was a First Lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps. According to a news clipping from the family scrapbook, it is believed that Dunny and Lela were the only brother-sister commissioned officers from Biloxi.

#### **Pacific Theater**

Hewes was transferred to New Guinea and served with the 13th Bomber Command, known as the Devil's Own Grim Reapers. Here he fought in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, where Allied Air Forces sent wave after wave of Allied planes to bomb the Japanese. After three days, the Japanese had lost eight transports, four destroyers, and 20 aircraft. Allied losses totaled four aircraft.

In April 1943, Hewes switched from flying a pursuit plane to piloting a "Jimmy Doolittle" B-25 Bomber.

On September 12, 1943, Hewes' bomber dropped a 500 pound bomb sinking a 350 ton freighter in Muschu Harbor, in Papua New Guinea. On December 21, 1943, Lieutenant General George Kenny presented Hewes with the Air Medal. The citation read, "The bombing run was particularly difficult and dangerous because the vessel was anchored close to a larger vessel which was being attacked at the same time by another aircraft."



#### **Battle of Rabaul**

In the fall of 1943, as part of Operation Cartwheel, the U.S. Fifth Air Force began a bombing campaign on New Britain, a key port that the Japanese held in New Guinea. Hewes took part in the bombing raid where he was credited with destroying a Japanese Zero.

#### **Back Home**

In April 1944, Hewes returned from 17 months in the Pacific Theater, having completed 65 combat missions as a B-25 and A-20 pilot and assistant operations officer. He was assigned to be an instructor pilot in Florence, South Carolina.

#### **On to Europe**

In August 1944, Hewes volunteered for foreign duty and was assigned to the European Theater operating out of England. He joined the 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group. Throughout November and December 1944, Hewes flew a series of missions and was promoted to Captain.

#### **Battle of the Bulge**

The Battle of the Bulge was a major German offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg on the Western Front. Adolf Hitler guaranteed his ground commanders strong air support. During the first three days of the offensive, the Allied air forces and the Luftwaffe met in the skies over the cloud-covered battlefield as the Luftwaffe attempted to get under the low ceilings to support its ground offensives.

In late December 1944, Mabel Hewes received a letter from her son, informing her that his squadron was going to be engaged "on a big push." Hewes would be part of that "big push" when he flew his last mission on December 18, 1944.

Captain McKennon led 17 pilots that day to the Kassel-Frankfurt area. Hewes and the other pilots ran into difficulties due to heavy cloud layers and enemy aircraft. When the squadron returned that evening, Hewes was not with them. According to the Army Air Forces' records, "He did not call in or report any trouble. He was last seen at 4000 feet at or near Giessen at approx. 1430 hours."

According to Missing Air Crew Report 11312, "His Mustang was seen to spiral out of formation while climbing through a cloud bank. Crashed in a moor in Tinholt, Germany suffering a fractured spine. Captured and sent to a hospital." His P-51D Mustang was forced down over Germany, and Hewes had to bail.

The principal doctor at the hospital in Lingen, Germany, reported that Hewes had a "compression-fracture of his vertebral column with following palsy of his bladder and cystis."

Hewes was reported missing in action on December 18, 1944. Short-wave radio listeners had relayed messages to his mother, Mabel Hewes Elder, that Hewes had been taken prisoner.

# Fallen Hero Profile: Private First Class James H. Vrtatko

Name: James H. Vrtatko Born: August 1, 1908 Died: January 22, 1945 Hometown: Chicago, Illinois Entered the Military: March 20, 1942 Branch of Service: U.S. Army Org Unit: 326th Medical Company, 101st Airborne Division Rank: Private First Class Award(s): Purple Heart

#### Life Before the War

James H. Vrtatko was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 1, 1908. His parents immigrated to the United States in 1904 and owned a home in a predominantly Czechoslovakian immigrant neighborhood known as Little Village.



His mother, Barbara Vrtatko, was widowed sometime before 1930

and had two other children, Olga and Charles. Vrtatko, the oldest child in the family, did not continue his education beyond grammar school, most likely so he could work and support his family. At the age of 21, he worked as a laborer at a soda fountain and by the time he enlisted in the Army in 1942 at age 33, he was working as a stock clerk.

#### **Military Experience**

After his enlistment, he was trained as a glider combat medic in the 326th Medical Company of the 101st Airborne Division. He was with the division from their activation in August 1942.

#### D-Day

Vrtatko was a part of the D-Day invasion and entered Normandy on a glider to support the regiment in their elimination of German beach defenses. They secured beach exits for infantry troops followed by the capture of Carentan. After Normandy, the company moved to Cherbourg to support the operations there. Due to heavy personnel and equipment losses that the division experienced in Normandy, the 326<sup>th</sup> was shipped back to England in July where they prepared for Operation Market Garden.

#### **Operation Market Garden**

Vrtatko entered Holland on September 17, 1944 by glider and supported the 101st Airborne Division's assault on two German Panzer Divisions in Belgium and the liberation of several Dutch towns from German control. The unit dealt with strong German counter attacks and brutal, close-quarter fighting.

The division was relieved and sent back to France on November 28, 1944 for rest. On December 17, the 326th Medical Company moved by motor convoy to Bastogne, Belgium in order to provide medical care to the 101st Airborne Division in their defense of the Ardennes Forest.

#### **Defense of Bastogne**

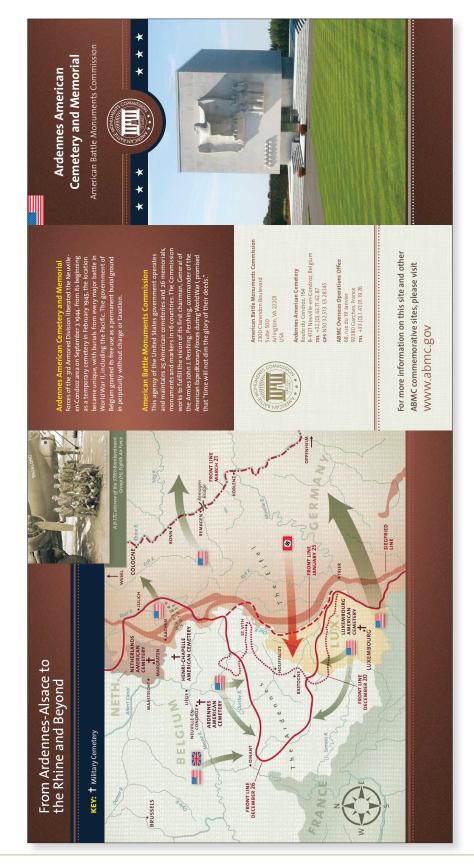
During the early part of the Allied defense of Bastogne, a German force mistakenly attacked the 326th Medical Division Clearing Station for a short period of 15 minutes. Once given the opportunity, the division commander surrendered the facility on December 19, 1944, and Vrtatko was initially classified missing in action until after the war when more detail was uncovered regarding his capture.

Vrtatko was taken prisoner and transferred to Gerolstein Prison Camp where conditions were abhorrent and disease was common. There he contracted bronchial pneumonia and was transferred to Nettersheim, Germany. On January 22, 1945 his heart failed, and he died.

As a medic, Vrtatko had a very unusual war experience that required an incredible amount of courage not only to be a part of major battles in the European Theater but also to face death and human suffering more intimately than many other soldiers. As a medic, rather than soldering on to advance mission objectives, he was always running to help others who were wounded. When Vrtatko heard the cry of "medic!" he knew he was heading into the depths of human carnage left in the wake of battle.

## Map, From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond

American Battle Monuments Commission



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## **Correspondence Organizer**

When a family member died in World War II, it often took weeks for their loved ones at home to receive the news. For those who were missing in action, the wait could have been even longer. You have in front of you the actual series of letters that were sent between the Hewes and Vrtatko families and the U.S. federal government. While you read these letters, consider the following questions:

What were the challenges faced by this family?	What did the family members want to know?	What answers were the family given?

Letter from First Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes to U.S. Army Graves Registration, August 4, 1945 United States Department of the Army

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Letter from Major James L. Prenn to First Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes, October 22, 1945 United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526	
SPQYG 293 Herres, Charles D. Or	
S. N. 0727460	
	22 October 1945
Lieutenant Lela M. Hewes, A.N.C. 421 Copp Street	
Biloxi, Mississippi	
Dear Lieutenant Hewes:	
Your letter has been referred t	o this office for reply regarding
the place of burial of the remains o Charles D. Hewes.	f your brother, the late Captain
The official report of intermen	t received in this office through
of your brother were interred at Lin	an Covernment shows that the remains
formation has not been verified by o notified when such verification is m	ur Armsd Forces, but you will be
established American Cemetery.	
Please accept my sincere sympat	hy in the loss of your brother.
FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:	
	Sincerely yours,
. /	
2/2	JAMES L. FRENN
BRAN	Major, GC Assistant
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Report of Investigation Area Search, May 22, 1946 United States Department of the Army Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

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	REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
•	AREA SEARCH
1 C	AGRC Form No. 10 (Revised) I January 1946. Date 22 May 1916
	NAME HEWES, CHARLES D. RANK Capt. ASN 0-727460
	ORGANIZATION 4th Fighter Group A.A.F.
	MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION Identification tag
	All statements above this line will be completed, upon final processing, by the clerical staff at the unit processing point.) SECTION A - GENERAL (To be completed by investigators in all cases) 1. Was positive identity acquired for the deceased through surface investigation? <u>No</u> If so, state the following information:
	a. NAME
	b. ORGANIZATION
	2. Was partial identification established? <u>Yes</u> If so, state the facts as to whom you believe the deceased to be:
	a. NAME HEWES, CHARLES D. RANK Capt. ASN 0-727460
	b. ORGANIZATION 4th Fighter Group, A.A.F.
	3. NAMES OF OTHER DECEASED BURIED IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY? Approximately
	106 other American airmen (Use reverse side for listing of crew members from MACR)
	a. Date of above burials <u>different dates</u> Common Graves? <u>No</u>

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4. Name and Type of cemetery New Civilian Cemetery	
(Military or Civilian) 5. Map Coordinates of the cemetery Sheet K 53, V 7237 GSGS 4346 Scale 1/250,000	
a. Town Lingen Country Germany	
6. Give exact location in cemetery of the remains.	
a. Section None Row 11 Grave 1	
b. Is Sketch attached? No.	
7. If remains are not located in a cementery, give exact location.	
a. Town	
b. Is Sketch attached?	
c. Is area mined?	
8. How is the grave marked? Plain white wooden cross	
9. If grave is marked with cross, give exact markings thereon Charles Howes,	
Amerik.Flieger Hauptmann * unbekannt + 12.2.45	
a. From what source was this information obtained? Cemetery Records (Identification tags, personal effects)	
b. By whom? <u>Cemetery Caretaker</u>	
10. Where are the cemetery records? Landratsamt, Landkreis Lingen (Town Hall, cemetery, burgermeister's office)	
a. What information was contained thereon? <u>Hewes, Charles, Amerik, Hauptmann</u>	
born 10.3.1921 in Biloxi, Miss. died in Lingen/Ems 13.2.1945	*
b. Where was the information obtained? Probably from Howes before he died	
c. By whom? Hospital attendants	
11. What is the date of death? <u>13 Feb 1945</u> a. Give basis? <u>Green Burial- Card</u>	
a. Give basis? reen burtar and	
a. Give basis? White Death Card and Cemetery Records	
13. What is the date of burial? <u>16 Feb 1945</u>	
a. Give basis? White Death Card	
-2-	

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Sheet K53, V 7237 GSGS           14. What was the place of death?         Lingen, Germany         Coords         L316 Scale 1/250,000
a. Give basis? Statements of attending physician
15. Where were the remains found? Lingen, Germany Coords same as above
a. By whom? 6889th QN GR Co.
b. Is sketch attached? <u>No</u>
16. Was a casket used? Yes Who furnished the casket? Reserve Lazarett Lingen
Type of casket <u>dark wood</u> How marked? <u>unknown</u>
17. Who made the burial <u>German Military</u> (Civilian, American Mil. or German Mil.)
a. What are the names and addresses?unknown
SECTION B – AIR CORPS DECEASED (To be Completed only if deceased is belived to be a member of the AAF)
18. Were remains found in the plane wreckage? This man died in the hospital
a. Give location in plane from which the bodies were removed
No information is available as to where this plane crashed (Tail gunner, pllot, radio, turret, etc., or front, side of plane) b. Near wreckage?
<ul> <li>19. Scene of crash must be investigated. Give complete results of investigation (if removed, state when and by whom)</li> <li>a. Type of plane <u>unknown</u></li> </ul>
b. Markings and / or name on plane <u>unknown</u>
c. Give numbers on motors, machine guns, instruments, radios or other equipment:
unknown
20. How did crash occur?unknown Anti-aircraft?unknown
Enemy planes?
21. Did plane explode in the air?unknownOn ground?unknown
22. Did plane burn in the air?
23. What was the direction of the flight?unknown
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	ed in accordance with D.O. 13526	
24.	What was the civilian opinion regarding destination of plane? <u>unknown</u>	
25.	Had bombs been released prior to the crash?unknown	
26.	Does specific time and date of crash correspond with date of death of above named deceased? $$\mathrm{No}$$	
27.	Number of planes in formation prior to crash? <u>unknown</u>	
28.	State precise time and date of plane crash unknown	
	Were parachutists seen? unknown How many? unknown Escaped? unknown	
	Prisoners?unknown	
	CTION C. — ARMORED CORPS DECEASED be completed only if deceased is believed to have been a member of the Armored Force)	
30.	Were remains found in wreckage of a tank?	
	a. Give specific position in tank from which deceased was removed	
,	Radio man, driver, assistant driver or front, side or back) b. Near wreckage?	
31.	Location of destroyed tank must be investigated. Give complete results of investigation. (If removed, state when and by whom) a. Type of tank	
	<ul> <li>b. Markings and / or name of tank</li> </ul>	
	c. Numbers on motors, machine guns, ammunition, instruments etc.	
32.	What was the type of enemy action that resulted in the tank's disablement?	
33.	Did tank explode?Burn?	
34.	Number of tanks in immediate vicinity at time of disablement	
35.	Does specific time and date of disablement correspond with date of death of above named deceased?	
36.	Precise time and date of destruction of tank (Night) (Day1)	
37.	Did any of the crew members escape? Prisoners?	
	- 4 -	

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SECTION D - OTHER BRANCH (To be filled out if B & C are not applicable)	
38. Did death occur from any other means? (I. E., truck, jeep, mines, drowning, or small arms fire)	
If so, give complete and thorough results of the interrogation.	
a. Are all certificates and statements of people who possessed knowledge of the case attached?	
39. State the specific clues and evidence that were obtained in securing the name and facts regarding the above listed deceased	
SECTION E - GENERAL (To be completed by investigation in all cases)	
40. Were personal effects recovered by the investigating team?No	
If not, state reason None in possession of civilians	
a. Were identification tags found at the time of death?unknown	
Where? unknown By whom? unknown	
Present dispositionunknown	
If deceased is not identified, personal effects will not be forwarded to PE Depot, but will remain with this form until final identification is made, or investigation is abandoned.	
b. Were personal effects iound at the time of death?unknown	
Where? unknown By whom? unknown	
Present disposition?unknown	
c. Was deceased identified by living members of the crew at the time of death? <u>unknown</u>	
d. Did Cemetery Register or cross indicate the immunization shot?	
41. Was deceased given first aid? Yes If so where? Reserve Lazarett	
Gefaengnis By whom? Dr. Krumbein Are statements from the medical people attached?	
42. Was deceased evacuated to a German civilian hospital? Yes	
Where? Lingen, Germany Names of people concerned? Dr. Krumbein	
- 5 -	

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43. ls	it possible on surface investigation to obtain from civilian sources a physical description of the	
	eceased? unknówn	
	it possible on surface investigation to obtain from civilian sources the condition of the remains?	
-7-7.12		
	urnt i Decapitated i etc)	
45. D	to facts surrounding death show any evidence that it might be an atrocity case?	
а	If so, give basis for positive assumption	
ь	If so, has higher headquarters been notified?	
	/as case previously investigated?	0
	When?	
	ive full names, addresses, and information obtained from each person interviewed?	
	see attached statements	
	re all positive statements regarding identification and partculars surrounding death attached?	
49. H	as any information been given concerning isolated burials in the area outside the immediate	
	alaita 2	
	cinity?No	
50. W	as investigation preceded by advanced publicity?	
50. W	as investigation preceded by advanced publicity?	
50. W	as investigation preceded by advanced publicity? Ies special investigation, give case number) ive Brief Narrative This man crashed his plane or parachuted out in an unknown	
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Statement of Dr. Krumbein, May 17, 1946 United States Department of the Army Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526 Nordhorn, 17.5.46. Dr. med. Krumbein Telen ne 261 Statement of Dr. med. Krumbein, Nordhorn In the years 1940 to 1945 I have been principal doctor of the p.o.w. part-hospital "Gefaengnis" in Lingen. About the u/n patients I can give the following informations: 1. Carles Hewes was suffering from a compression-fracture of his vertebral column with following palsy of his bladder and cystis. 2. Andrew Fila had a shank-fracture, and when he came into my treatment he was nearly bleeded. 3. Jack Beasley was injured by a shell-splinter in the middle of the lower part of his lungs with edema in his lungs. The medical papers of these patients were given to the office of the hospital in the "Kolpinghaus" on 31.3.45 to be sent to Berlin as it were done every year at that time. When I left Lingen in the night from from 3rd to 4th of April 1945 I handed over the care for the hospital to the English medical Major Longland from London, a prisoner of war. He had belonged to the parachutists'division "Pegasus", and had in a wounded condition been brought to the p.o.w. hsspital in Lingen after the operation Arnheim. He was operated by me because he was suffering from ear-pains. It is possible that the French staff-surgeon Dr. Nadaud from Bordeaux can give further informations. Original signed by: Dr. med. Krumbein A true copy. Carlos A. Hedstrom Jr., 2d Lt, FA, G.R.O.

Letter from Major General T. B. Larkin to Mrs. George N. (Mabel) Elder, August 20, 1946 United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526 with 20 August 1946 Mrs. George M. Elder 421 Copp Street Biloxi, Mississippi Dear Mrs. Elder: The War Department is most desirous that you be furnished information regarding the burial location of your son, the late Captain Charles D. Hewes, A.S.N. 0 727 460. The records of this office disclose that his remains are interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery Neuville-en-Condroz, plot T, row 6, grave 143. You may be assured that the identification and interment have been accomplished with fitting dignity and solemnity. This cemetery is located nine miles southwest of Liege, Belgium, and is under the constant care and supervision of United States military personnel. The War Department has now been authorized to comply, at Government expense, with the feasible wishes of the next of kin regarding final/interment, here or abroad, of the remains of your loved one. At a later date, this office will, without any action on your part, pro-vide the next of kin with full information and solicit his detailed desires. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your great loss. 2 5 Sincerely yours, T. B. LARKIN Major General The Quartermaster General EWZ bbw

Letter from Olga Vrtatko to the Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, January 8, 1946 United States Department of the Army

wiji) 🔁 29 E. 29th St. New York 16, New York Jan. 8, 1946 Adjutant General's Office War Department Washington, D. C. PFC JAMES H VRTATKO (36396086) 326 Airborne Medical Co. APO 472, c/o P.M. New York, N. Y. Sir: According to information received from the War Department, my brother, James, died in Nettersheim, Germany, Jan. 15, 1945, from bronchial pneumonia, while a prisoner of war. He was missing in action as of Dec. 19, 1944, and it was last september that we received word relative to his death. If there is any other information available it would be appreciated. As, for instance, if it is known where he was during the period from Dec. 19, 1944, to date of his death. Did he die in a German prison camp or elsewhere and apparently what was he supposed to be doing in this small village where he died? Was there a German prison camp in this town? Is it known if there was some other complication before pneumonia set in? If this information is not available, could not a further investigation be made? I would appreciate it very much if I could procure the names and home addresses of soldiers who were in the same company with James and who probably knew him. Some of the boys may even have been withhim and knew of his illness. These boys may have survived and are now discharged. James never gave our family addresses of his Service friends, and in this case it is unfortunate. My brother went into Service March 20, 1942, at Camp Grant, Illinois. At first he was in Camp Claibourne, La., and later at Fort Bragg, N. C., before going overseas in September 1943. His overseas address was always as given above. The last communication I received from him was during December 1944, which was written in November 1944 while he was still in Holland, it seems. e, Respectfully yours, Olga Vrtatko COPY Inclosure Number 2

Letter from Olga Vrtatko to the Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, January 8, 1946 United States Department of the Army

5 COPY -2-VRTATKO, James H. -\$36396086 P. S. Please state the place of burial. If James had any decorations or Army pins before his death that became lost and duplicates are obtainable, they would be appreicated. We died receive the Purple Heart decoration. If more of his personal effects are located, please have them forwarded to the same address as before, Mrs. Brahara Vrtatko, 2702S. Homan Ave., Chicago, 23, Illinos. wint is (AGO report shows: Barbara) ~

Letter from Major General Edward Witchell to Olga Vrtatko, February 27, 1946 United States Department of the Army

. Set Sat UCA10 20 -----AGPC-G 201 Vrtatko, Jemos H. 292(8 Jan 46) 36396086 27 Fobranry 1946 Hiss Olga Trtatko 29 East 29th Street Bew York 16, Dew York Dear Mics Wriatko: Further reference is made to your letter of 8 January 1946, concorning your brother, Private First Class Jens H. Wrtatko. The feelings which prompted your committeein are nost understandable and I regrot that as much server has cars to you and your family. The following information regarding your brother's death was submitted to the War Department by Captain Earry A. Tyllao, Hedical Corps, in compliance with a request from this office: "I first cow Pfo Jamos H. Wrtatko in a German prisoner of var collocting point at Ecttorchoin, Germany, on or about 15 January 1945. Fle Wriatho was brought to this collocting point as a littor patient from a box car that had moved up free Geralstein. secondeness He called to me by nome and I recognized the lolat Division shoulder patch that he ware. He was not wounded but he was periously ill. essesses. I cheeked his dog togs and looked at his American Red Gross identification card. "I encined his lungs which revealed a diffuse broachial proutonia with heart failure. He expired within a few momento after I first en hin. I boliovo he vas buried at Notterchoin." In the event you wich to communicate with Caytain Tylico, you may address him at 3038 Earth Kormoro Avenus, Chicago h0, Illinois. Since the Quartermotor General, Hickington 25, D. C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the burial and disposition of the perconal effects of our military percompil who die overcess, I am

American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day

Letter from Major General Edward Witchell to Olga Vrtatko, February 27, 1946 United States Department of the Army

. A mar 2 1 a strand ÷ • ACPC-O 201 Vrtatko Jamos H. (8 Jan 46) 36396036 forwarding a copy of your letter to that official for appropriate attention and further reply to you. Your inquiry concerning any descrations which Private Friatko may have been entitled is prosently receiving consideration in this office and will be the subject of a later communication. There is very little I can say to assuage your sorrow, but I trust that the knowledge of your brother's haroic devotion to duty may sustain and confort you in your bereavement. Sincerely yours, REMARD T. VILCELL Major General The Adjutant General of the Aray

Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946 United States Department of the Army Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

BUPORT OF INVESTIGATION AREA SEARCHING         To be completely filled ont and stached to each copy of GR Form I. 		TGRS / TSFET FORM, No. 10 27-8-45	نىتىم ھ
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Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946 United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

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12	. Is this atrocity case No Is there evidence that it may be:No
	If answer is yes, has responible War Crimes representative been notified
13	. Names and addresses of persons committing the atrocity or the military unit of which these
10	persons were members
	( Not applicable )
14	. If unidentified and a crew member of a plane or vehicle, indicate names of any other known
	crew members and state whether buried at this location or a survivor
	( Not applicable )
	<u>,,,,,,,, .</u>
15	. If unidentified, supply any of the following information determinable
÷	a. Crew position in plane or vehicle
	b. Plane or vehicle serial number
	e. Installed weapons Social Number - Calibre & Mfan - Social Number - Calibre & Mf
	Serial Number , Calibre & Mfgr. , Serial Number, Calibre & Mfgr.
•	d. Engine serial number
-	MARD AT
	Manula
	Signature of Investigating Officer WILLIAM H.BARNETT
	2nd Lt.0-2018275 6890 QM GR Co.
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	te of ***********************************
<b>P</b> ]:	acc of <b>Exercise</b> /reburial U. S Military Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium, VK 3901
	Plot. G. Row 10 Grave 248
NO	DTE: Additional particulars regarding investigation will be placed on additional sheet.
•	* Cross out word not applicable.

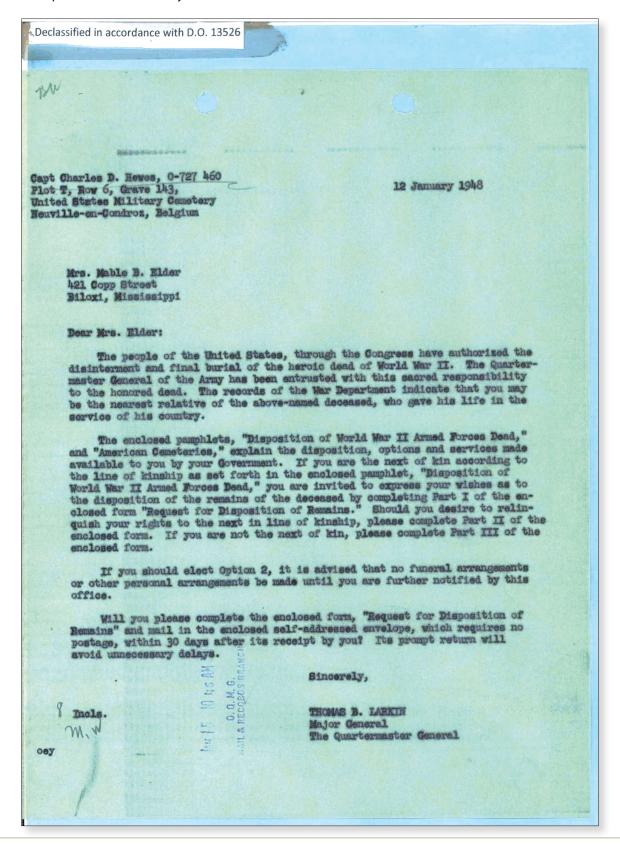
Letter from Major James L. Prenn to Miss Olga Vrtatko, August 7, 1946 United States Department of the Army

ted QEGIG 293 Vrtatko, James H. SN 36 396 086 7 August 1946 Address Reply To THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL Attention: Memorial Division Miss Olga Vrtatko 29 East 29th Street New York 16, New York Dear Miss Vrtatko: This office promised that upon receipt of burial information concerning your brother you would be advised. The official report of burial shows that the remains of your brother were originally interred in the Nettersheim Cemetery, Nettersheim, Germany, but were later disinterred and moved to a more suitable site where constant care of the grave can be assured by our Forces in the field. The report of burial further discloses that the remains of your brother are now interred in Plot G, Row 10, Grave 248, in the United States Military Cemetery Neuville-en-Condros, Belgium, located nine miles southwest of Liege, Belgium. FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL: Sincerely yours, JAMES L. PRENN 🗄 50% RECORUS BRANCH Major, QMC Assistant ife the rule

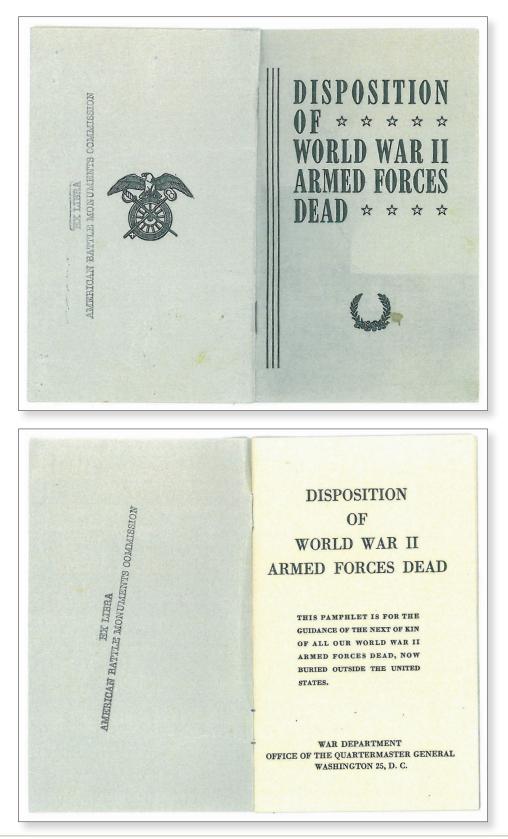
Letter from Major General T. B. Larkin to Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko, August 19, 1946 United States Department of the Army

19 August 1946 Mrs. Barara N. Vrtatko 2702 Bouth Komen Avenue Chicago, Illinois Dear Mrs. Vrtatico: The War Department is most desirous that you be furnished information regarding the burial location of your son, the late Private First Class James H. Vrtatko, A.S.H. 35 396 086. The records of this office disclose that his remains are interred. in the United States Military Comstery Neuville-on-Condros, plot 6, row 10, grave 248. You may be assured that the identification and interment have been accomplished with fitting dignity and solemity. This cometery is located nines milesssouthwest of Liege, Belgium, and is under the constant care and supervision of United States military personnel. The War Department has now been authorized to comply, at Governsent expense, with the feasible wishes of the next of kin regarding final interment, here or abroad, of the remains of your loved one. At a later date, this office will, without any action on your part, pro-vide the next of kin with full information and solicit his detailed As desires. Please accept my sincere sympathy in your great loss. Sincerely yours, B. LADETH Mallor General **Quarterneter** 

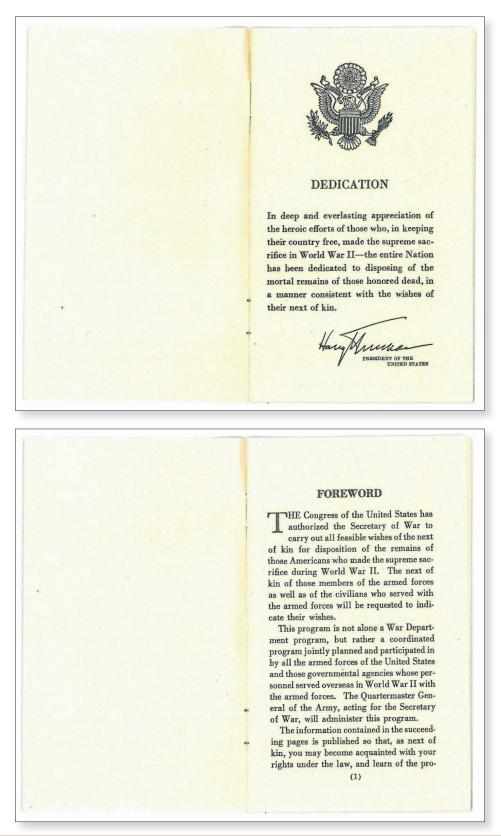
Letter from Major General Thomas B. Larkin to Mrs. Mabel B. Elder, January 12, 1948 United States Department of the Army



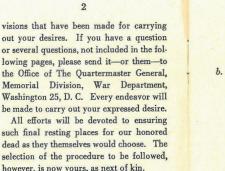
*Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead*, 1946 United States Department of War



*Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead*, 1946 United States Department of War



Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War



#### Question: Who is the next of kin?

Answer: In order best to insure a proper disposition of the remains, the War Department will, in the absence of special circumstances, recognize designations for disposition of decedent's remains from persons specified below in the order indicated:

a. If the deceased was unmarried.

- 1. Father.
- 2. Mother.
- 3. Brothers over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.

#### 3 4. Sisters over 21 years of age, in

- the order of their seniority. 5. Next of kin of legal age in order of their relation to decedent.
- b. If the deceased was married.
  - 1. Widow or widower (if not divorced, separated, or remarried).
  - 2. Sons of the deceased, who are over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.
  - 3. Daughters of the deceased, who are over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.
  - 4. Next of kin of legal age in the order specified for unmarried deceased personnel, as set forth in par. a 5 above.

Question: What should I do if I conclude that I am not the next of kin?

Answer: If, after reading the answers to the preceding question, you have decided that you are not the next of kin, not the one authorized to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in part III of the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form and return it in the postage-free, addressed envelope that has been provided.

Question: If I have concluded that I am the next of kin, may I relinquish my rights to someone else?

Answer: If you are the next of kin as outlined in answer to the first question, you may relinquish your rights to dispose of the decedent's remains. The rights which you had then pass to the next existing person in the order of eligibility outlined in answer to the first question. To accomplish this, please complete part II of the form entitled "Request for Disposition of Remains" and return it to the Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Question: What should I do if I conclude that I am the next of kin and wish to exercise my rights?

Answer: If you have now decided that you are the next of kin, please read the following pages and make your decision on the various options that are presented for your selection. Then please complete part I of the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form, have the form notarized in the space provided for this purpose, place the form

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in the addressed, postage-free envelope that has been furnished and promptly mail it.

The reinterment of these honored dead is a tremendous undertaking. It will be carried out, area by area, from all over the world. It is an undertaking that will require many months, probably years, to complete. It will be accomplished in reverent and orderly manner. Your action in promptly returning the completed "Request for Disposition of Remains" form will greatly assist in the performance of this sacred duty. Prompt action is stressed. You are urged, therefore, to return the inclosed request form within 30 days after its receipt by you.

Although emphasis has been laid upon the necessity for your prompt action, even answer by return mail will not effect immediate action in event that you decide upon option 2. If you should elect option 2, it is advised that no funeral or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

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Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War

### 6 OPTIONS TO BE GIVEN NEXT OF KIN

#### Option 1-

The remains be interred in a permanent American military cemetery overseas.

> The establishment of permanent American military cemeteries overseas in the various areas in which American forces served is contemplated.

#### Option 2-

The remains be returned to the United States, or any possession or territory thereof, for interment by next of kin in a private cemetery.

> Shipment will be made to the city or town designated by the next of kin.

#### Option 3-

The remains be shipped within, or returned to a foreign country, the homeland of the deceased or next of kin, for interment by next of kin in a private cemetery.

> Shipment to a foreign country is dependent upon the ability of the

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United States Government to obtain entry and reinterment authority therein. If authority can be obtained, shipment will be made to the city or town designated by the next of kin.

#### Option 4-

The remains be returned to the United States for final interment in a national cemetery.

> When this option is desired, the remains will be transported to the continental United States and interred in a national cemetery selected by the next of kin. Burial in the national cemetery desired is subject to availability of space therein.

#### Alternate Choice

If the options described above do not provide for your wish, it is suggested you submit your specific desire to the Office of The Quartermaster General for final decision by the War Department as to its legality and practicability.

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#### Cremation

If cremation of the remains is desired, specific request that the remains be cremated should be made on page 2 of the Form "Request for Disposition of Remains," in the block titled, "Remarks and Additional Instructions." The request should include a statement as to whether the next of kin desires to arrange for private cremation services or wishes the Government to make necessary cremation arrangements. Upon receipt of this request a letter pertaining to the Government procedure to carry out the wishes of the next of kin in this respect will be forwarded to the next of kin from the Office of The Quartermaster General.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OPTIONS GIVEN ABOVE

#### All Options

On all options, all costs of exhumation, preparation of remains, casketing, and shipment to the city or town designated by next of kin, or his duly authorized representative, will be borne by the Government 9

of the United States. In all cases the Government will provide a flag of the United States to be used for proper draping of the casket during interment services. If next of kin of the deceased, or authorized representative, is present at the time of final interment, this burial flag will be presented. Otherwise, this burial flag will be forwarded to next of kin.

#### Option 1—Permanent American Military Cemetery Overseas

The establishment of permanent American military cemeteries overseas, in the various areas in which American Forces served, is contemplated. These cemeteries will be beautified, maintained, and permanently cared for by the United States Government. To assist the next of kin in determining the place of final interment, a pamphlet describing permanent American military cemeteries abroad, and national cemeteries in the United States, is inclosed. All expenses incident to burial in permanent American military cemeteries will be paid by the Government. When the next of kin

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War

#### 10 requests that remains be interred in such cemeteries, they will be removed from their temporary burial location, prepared for reburial, casketed, transferred to the site of final interment and reburied there, all at Government expense. An Army chaplain will conduct appropriate religious services at the time of this reburial. The location of the permanent burial site will then be communicated to you. A temporary inscribed grave marker, (Cross, or Star of David,) will identify the grave until it can be replaced by the Government with an approved type inscribed headstone.

#### Option 2—Private Cemetery in United States

If option 2 is selected, in addition to the expenses outlined above, the Government will contribute a sum not to exceed \$50 toward the defrayment of actual burial expenses. Costs or expenses in excess of \$50 must be borne by the person who contracted for the services. Funeral services at the private cemetery will be as arranged by the next of kin. Local veterans' organizations and the State Guard may be contacted for assistance in arranging for such military rites as may be desired. These organizations will cooperate insofar as their facilities permit. Arrangements for the burial plot are the responsibility of the next of kin.

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An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the city or town designated by the next of kin and will be instructed to obtain the signature of the next of kin, funeral director, or other designated representative of next of kin, in receipt for the remains. If the next of kin requests the escort to remain for the funeral services, the escort will be permitted to remain for a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains. The escort will deliver appropriate printed instructions regarding the manner of submitting claim for the Government contribution of \$50 toward defrayment of actual burial expenses.

#### **Option 3—Private Cemetery Overseas**

If option 3 is selected, in addition to those services provided under all options, the

#### 12

Government will contribute a sum not to exceed \$50 toward the defrayment of actual burial expenses. Costs or expenses in excess of \$50 must be borne by the person who contracted for the services. Funeral services at the private cemetery will be as arranged by the next of kin.

An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the city or town designated by the next of kin and will be instructed to obtain the signature of the next of kin, funeral director, or other designated representative of next of kin, in receipt for the remains.

The Government will provide assistance in obtaining medical clearance and reinterment authority. Next of kin must arrange for burial plot and such funeral services as may be desired.

Upon application to the Office of The Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., after interment, the next of kin will be furnished appropriate instructions regarding the manner of submitting claim for reimbursement of a sum not to exceed \$50 to

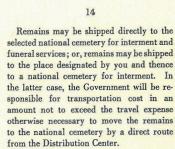
#### 13

cover expenses incurred during final interment.

#### **Option 4**—U. S. National Cemetery

National cemeteries were established in the United States in honor of and to provide final resting places for deceased members of the armed forces. To assist the next of kin in determining the place of final interment, a pamphlet describing permanent American military cemeteries abroad, and national cemeteries in the United States, is inclosed. If the deceased was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the option, "Return to the United States for final interment in a national cemetery," authorizes selection as the site for final interment, a national cemetery which is open for burials. A listing of these cemeteries which are open for additional burials is inclosed. If the cemetery chosen by the next of kin is no longer open for additional burials when the reply form "Request for Disposition of Remains" is received, the next of kin will be advised and requested to make another choice from a list of national cemeteries open at the time.

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War



An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the national cemetery selected, or the city or town designated by the next of kin if it is desired that the remains be shipped to a designated city or town for religious services prior to interment in the selected national cemetery. In the latter case, the escort, if so requested by the next of kin, will be permitted to remain for the services for a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains. The escort will be instructed to obtain signature of next of kin, funeral director or other designated representative of the next of kin, in receipt for the remains. Provision for

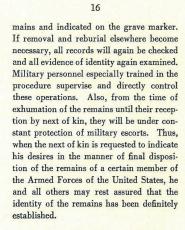
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services of an attendant to accompany the remains from the place where services were held to the selected national cemetery is an obligation of the next of kin.

When interment in a national cemetery is your choice, there will be no cost to you for the grave site, the opening of the grave or the actual interment and closing of the grave. Also as stated previously, the Government approved type of inscribed headstone will be provided automatically at no cost to you.

#### **Identity** of Deceased

Prior to the registering of a grave overseas as containing the remains of a designated (by name) member of the armed forces of the United States, every means possible was employed and every known method was pursued to established definitely and positively the identity of the deceased. In this respect, no effort was considered to be too great and meticulous attention was given to smallest details. Identity having been thus established, evidence of identity was buried with the re-



#### INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE DECEASED

When information on any of the following listed subjects, with respect to the personnel indicated is desired, the inquiry should be addressed to the office that is listed below:

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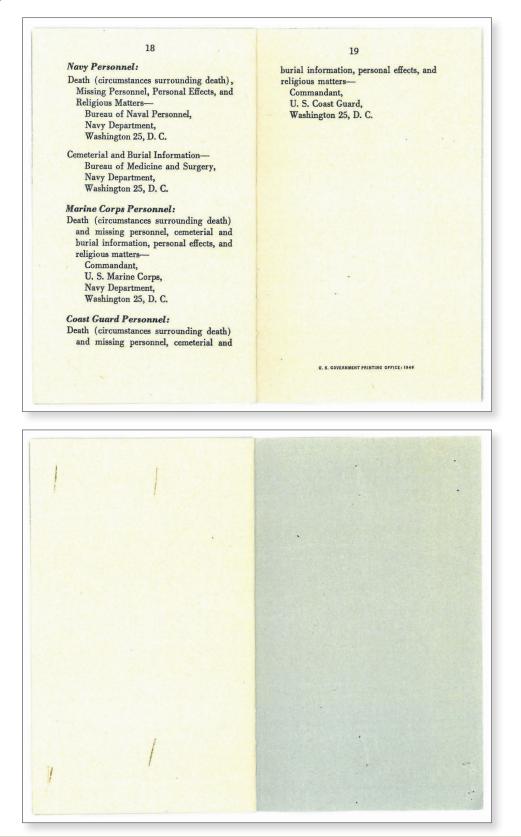
Army, State Department, Merchant Marine, U. S. Employment Service, Red Cross, and War Correspondent Personnel:

Death (circumstances surrounding death) and missing personnel— The Adjutant General, Casualty Branch, Munitions Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Cemeterial and Burial Information— Office of The Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

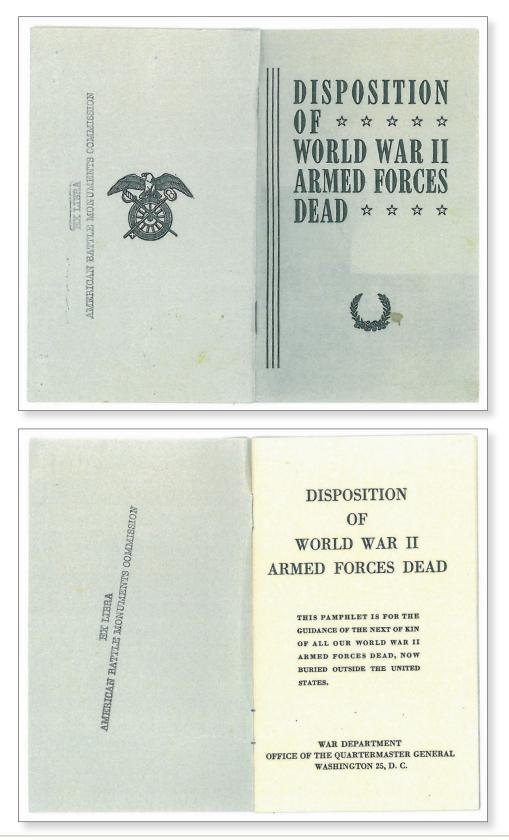
Personal Effects— Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, 601 Hardesty Avenue, Kansas City 1, Mo.

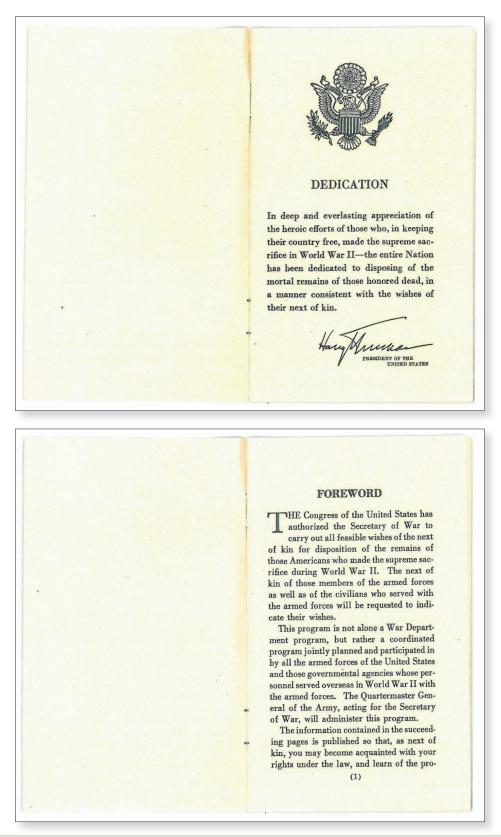
Religious Matters— War Department, Office, Chief of Chaplains, Washington 25, D. C.



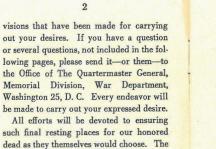
Letter from Major General Thomas B. Larkin to Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko, January 15, 1948 United States Department of the Army

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	176. Serbars N. Trtako 2702 South Homan Avenue		
	Chicago, Illinois		
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	to the honored dead. The	ty has been entrusted w	he Congress have authorized the d of World War II. The Quartor- ith this secred responsibility partment indicate that you may ased, who gave his life in the
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Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War



#### dead as they themselves would choose. The selection of the procedure to be followed, however, is now yours, as next of kin.

#### Question: Who is the next of kin?

Answer: In order best to insure a proper disposition of the remains, the War Department will, in the absence of special circumstances, recognize designations for disposition of decedent's remains from persons specified below in the order indicated:

- a. If the deceased was unmarried.
  - 1. Father.
  - 2. Mother.
  - 3. Brothers over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority
    - the order of their seniority.

#### 3

- Sisters over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.
   Next of kin of legal age in order
- of their relation to decedent.
- b. If the deceased was married.
  1. Widow or widower (if not divorced, separated, or remarried).
  - Sons of the deceased, who are over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.
  - 3. Daughters of the deceased, who are over 21 years of age, in the order of their seniority.
  - Next of kin of legal age in the order specified for unmarried deceased personnel, as set forth in par. a 5 above.

Question: What should I do if I conclude that I am not the next of kin?

Answer: If, after reading the answers to the preceding question, you have decided that you are not the next of kin, not the one authorized to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in part III of the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form and return it in the postage-free, addressed envelope that has been provided.

Question: If I have concluded that I am the next of kin, may I relinquish my rights to someone else?

Answer: If you are the next of kin as outlined in answer to the first question, you may relinquish your rights to dispose of the decedent's remains. The rights which you had then pass to the next existing person in the order of eligibility outlined in answer to the first question. To accomplish this, please complete part II of the form entitled "Request for Disposition of Remains" and return it to the Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Question: What should I do if I conclude that I am the next of kin and wish to exercise my rights?

Answer: If you have now decided that you are the next of kin, please read the following pages and make your decision on the various options that are presented for your selection. Then please complete part I of the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form, have the form notarized in the space provided for this purpose, place the form

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in the addressed, postage-free envelope that has been furnished and promptly mail it.

The reinterment of these honored dead is a tremendous undertaking. It will be carried out, area by area, from all over the world. It is an undertaking that will require many months, probably years, to complete. It will be accomplished in reverent and orderly manner. Your action in promptly returning the completed "Request for Disposition of Remains" form will greatly assist in the performance of this sacred duty. Prompt action is stressed. You are urged, therefore, to return the inclosed request form within 30 days after its receipt by you.

Although emphasis has been laid upon the necessity for your prompt action, even answer by return mail will not effect immediate action in event that you decide upon option 2. If you should elect option 2, it is advised that no funeral or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

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Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War

### 6 OPTIONS TO BE GIVEN NEXT OF KIN

#### Option 1-

The remains be interred in a permanent American military cemetery overseas.

> The establishment of permanent American military cemeteries overseas in the various areas in which American forces served is contemplated.

#### Option 2-

The remains be returned to the United States, or any possession or territory thereof, for interment by next of kin in a private cemetery.

> Shipment will be made to the city or town designated by the next of kin.

#### Option 3-

The remains be shipped within, or returned to a foreign country, the homeland of the deceased or next of kin, for interment by next of kin in a private cemetery.

> Shipment to a foreign country is dependent upon the ability of the

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United States Government to obtain entry and reinterment authority therein. If authority can be obtained, shipment will be made to the city or town designated by the next of kin.

#### Option 4-

The remains be returned to the United States for final interment in a national cemetery.

> When this option is desired, the remains will be transported to the continental United States and interred in a national cemetery selected by the next of kin. Burial in the national cemetery desired is subject to availability of space therein.

#### Alternate Choice

If the options described above do not provide for your wish, it is suggested you submit your specific desire to the Office of The Quartermaster General for final decision by the War Department as to its legality and practicability.

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#### Cremation

If cremation of the remains is desired, specific request that the remains be cremated should be made on page 2 of the Form "Request for Disposition of Remains," in the block titled, "Remarks and Additional Instructions." The request should include a statement as to whether the next of kin desires to arrange for private cremation services or wishes the Government to make necessary cremation arrangements. Upon receipt of this request a letter pertaining to the Government procedure to carry out the wishes of the next of kin in this respect will be forwarded to the next of kin from the Office of The Quartermaster General.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OPTIONS GIVEN ABOVE

#### All Options

On all options, all costs of exhumation, preparation of remains, casketing, and shipment to the city or town designated by next of kin, or his duly authorized representative, will be borne by the Government 9

of the United States. In all cases the Government will provide a flag of the United States to be used for proper draping of the casket during interment services. If next of kin of the deceased, or authorized representative, is present at the time of final interment, this burial flag will be presented. Otherwise, this burial flag will be forwarded to next of kin.

#### Option 1—Permanent American Military Cemetery Overseas

The establishment of permanent American military cemeteries overseas, in the various areas in which American Forces served, is contemplated. These cemeteries will be beautified, maintained, and permanently cared for by the United States Government. To assist the next of kin in determining the place of final interment, a pamphlet describing permanent American military cemeteries abroad, and national cemeteries in the United States, is inclosed. All expenses incident to burial in permanent American military cemeteries will be paid by the Government. When the next of kin

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War

#### 10 requests that remains be interred in such cemeteries, they will be removed from their temporary burial location, prepared for reburial, casketed, transferred to the site of final interment and reburied there, all at Government expense. An Army chaplain will conduct appropriate religious services at the time of this reburial. The location of the permanent burial site will then be communicated to you. A temporary inscribed grave marker, (Cross, or Star of David,) will identify the grave until it can be replaced by the Government with an approved type inscribed headstone.

#### Option 2—Private Cemetery in United States

If option 2 is selected, in addition to the expenses outlined above, the Government will contribute a sum not to exceed \$50 toward the defrayment of actual burial expenses. Costs or expenses in excess of \$50 must be borne by the person who contracted for the services. Funeral services at the private cemetery will be as arranged by the next of kin. Local veterans' organizations and the State Guard may be contacted for assistance in arranging for such military rites as may be desired. These organizations will cooperate insofar as their facilities permit. Arrangements for the burial plot are the responsibility of the next of kin.

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An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the city or town designated by the next of kin and will be instructed to obtain the signature of the next of kin, funeral director, or other designated representative of next of kin, in receipt for the remains. If the next of kin requests the escort to remain for the funeral services, the escort will be permitted to remain for a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains. The escort will deliver appropriate printed instructions regarding the manner of submitting claim for the Government contribution of \$50 toward defrayment of actual burial expenses.

#### **Option 3—Private Cemetery Overseas**

If option 3 is selected, in addition to those services provided under all options, the

#### 12

Government will contribute a sum not to exceed \$50 toward the defrayment of actual burial expenses. Costs or expenses in excess of \$50 must be borne by the person who contracted for the services. Funeral services at the private cemetery will be as arranged by the next of kin.

An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the city or town designated by the next of kin and will be instructed to obtain the signature of the next of kin, funeral director, or other designated representative of next of kin, in receipt for the remains.

The Government will provide assistance in obtaining medical clearance and reinterment authority. Next of kin must arrange for burial plot and such funeral services as may be desired.

Upon application to the Office of The Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C., after interment, the next of kin will be furnished appropriate instructions regarding the manner of submitting claim for reimbursement of a sum not to exceed \$50 to

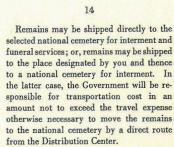
#### 13

cover expenses incurred during final interment.

#### **Option 4**—U. S. National Cemetery

National cemeteries were established in the United States in honor of and to provide final resting places for deceased members of the armed forces. To assist the next of kin in determining the place of final interment, a pamphlet describing permanent American military cemeteries abroad, and national cemeteries in the United States, is inclosed. If the deceased was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the option, "Return to the United States for final interment in a national cemetery," authorizes selection as the site for final interment, a national cemetery which is open for burials. A listing of these cemeteries which are open for additional burials is inclosed. If the cemetery chosen by the next of kin is no longer open for additional burials when the reply form "Request for Disposition of Remains" is received, the next of kin will be advised and requested to make another choice from a list of national cemeteries open at the time.

Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead, 1946 United States Department of War



An escort, provided at the expense of the Government, will accompany the remains to the national cemetery selected, or the city or town designated by the next of kin if it is desired that the remains be shipped to a designated city or town for religious services prior to interment in the selected national cemetery. In the latter case, the escort, if so requested by the next of kin, will be permitted to remain for the services for a period not to exceed 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains. The escort will be instructed to obtain signature of next of kin, funeral director or other designated representative of the next of kin, in receipt for the remains. Provision for

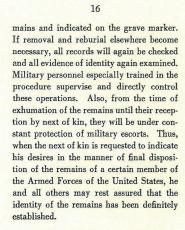
#### 15

services of an attendant to accompany the remains from the place where services were held to the selected national cemetery is an obligation of the next of kin.

When interment in a national cemetery is your choice, there will be no cost to you for the grave site, the opening of the grave or the actual interment and closing of the grave. Also as stated previously, the Government approved type of inscribed headstone will be provided automatically at no cost to you.

#### **Identity** of Deceased

Prior to the registering of a grave overseas as containing the remains of a designated (by name) member of the armed forces of the United States, every means possible was employed and every known method was pursued to established definitely and positively the identity of the deceased. In this respect, no effort was considered to be too great and meticulous attention was given to smallest details. Identity having been thus established, evidence of identity was buried with the re-



#### INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE DECEASED

When information on any of the following listed subjects, with respect to the personnel indicated is desired, the inquiry should be addressed to the office that is listed below:

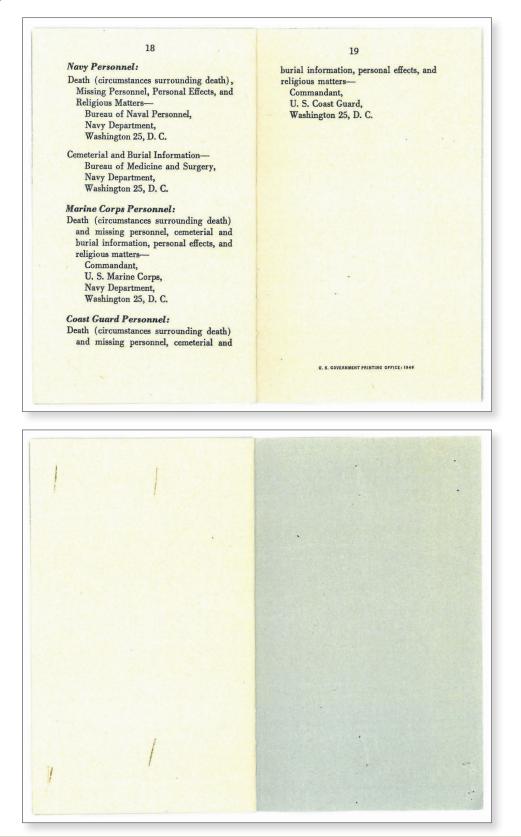
#### 17

Army, State Department, Merchant Marine, U. S. Employment Service, Red Cross, and War Correspondent Personnel:

Death (circumstances surrounding death) and missing personnel— The Adjutant General, Casualty Branch, Munitions Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Cemeterial and Burial Information— Office of The Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Personal Effects— Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, 601 Hardesty Avenue, Kansas City 1, Mo.



# **Request for Disposition of Remains, Charles Hewes**

United States Department of the Army

Declassified in accordance with D.O. 13526						
CREATEST FOR DISPOSITION OF R	EN	PL	2-12	BUDGET	Γ BUREAL	J No. 49-R277.
GRADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL			DATE:			
Capt Charles D. Heves, 0-727 460 Plot T, Row 6, Grave 143, United States Military Cemetery	3	2 Jan	194 194	18		
Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium	A	(1) (Mar (14))	1	C		
DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Dis filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly sig OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAI self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose. If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to dir of this form.	position med by R DEPA			ned For hould NGTO		
PART I		and and			- Ser	
I, Mrs. Mabel B. Elder.	Please in 'X" in th	ndicate rel ne proper l	ationship to box.)	the de	ceased b	y placing an
WIDOW WIDOWER SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD		E	] DAUGHTER	OVER 2	21 YEARS	OLD
E FATHER MOTHER DE BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OL	D		SISTER OVE	ER 21 YE	EARS OLE	,
HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WIT DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: (Please place 1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS. 2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR	e an "X"	in the bo	x opposite the	e optio	Rel	we selected.)
(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)				24.53		the second second
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(LOCATION OF CEM			Dia Maria			nishing and
4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY (Please indicate if your own religious services et a location other than the selected national cer			TION OF NAT			SELECTED)
YES NO			, proceeding and	1		
THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE SERIAL NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOL this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.)	LOWING	CHANGES:	(If no correct	tions ai	re necess	ary, indicate
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# **Request for Disposition of Remains, Charles Hewes**

United States Department of the Army

-	assified in accordance with D.O. 13526			
		PART I (Continued)	00	P
othe	n Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Numl r than the selected national cemetery, complete one THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE	of these sections.		
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OR	I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DE	SIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT 1	O THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL	DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED
	TO RECEIVE THEM: FULL NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR			
	and the second states which		denid Sandradov, Anna's Nalishiyoshi Asi 2 kituti	and Report Party
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American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day

# **Request for Disposition of Remains, James Vrtatko**

United States Department of the Army

	NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND	D REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL			DATE:		
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American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day

# **Request for Disposition of Remains, James Vrtatko**

United States Department of the Army

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