

QMGMP 293

Kilian, Joseph S.
SN 33 130 298

17 September 1947

Mrs. Anna Kilian
McCoy Road
Swedeland, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Kilian:

Your letter pertaining to the remains of your son, the late Private Joseph S. Kilian, has been brought to my attention.

As your letter implies that it is desired that the remains of your son be returned to the United States for final interment, but, because of the expenses incurred therein, the remains must rest in a permanent American military cemetery overseas, I wish to advise you that whenever the remains are to be transported directly to a national cemetery for final burial, the Government will complete all necessary arrangements, and be responsible for the cost of transportation, the grave site, opening of the grave, actual interment, closing of the grave, and perpetual maintenance. The Government will also provide a properly inscribed headstone. A military escort will accompany the remains to the national cemetery selected and assist, as necessary and desired, in completing arrangements for military honors at the time of burial.

In the event that you desire the remains of your son to rest in a private cemetery in the United States, the Government will assume all cost of transportation to the place designated for delivery of the remains, and will contribute a sum not to exceed \$50 toward the defrayment of actual burial expenses. Your government will, upon request by the next of kin, also provide and deliver to the railroad station nearest the cemetery an approved, properly inscribed headstone. If requested by the next of kin, the military escort will remain for the services for a period not exceeding 72 hours from the time he arrives with the remains, and will assist, as necessary and requested, in completing arrangements for desired military burial honors.

All arrangements for the burial lot, opening and closing the grave, interment, perpetual care of grave, funeral services, and military honors, if desired, are the responsibility of the next of kin. The military escort will deliver appropriate printed instructions regarding the manner of

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submitting claim for the government contribution of \$50 toward actual burial expense. Burial expense in excess of \$50 will be borne by the person contracting for such services.

I must inform you that the American Cemetery Tebessa, Algeria, where the remains of your son now rest, has not been designated as a permanent American military cemetery for our heroic dead of World War II. Therefore, all remains presently interred in this cemetery will be carefully disinterred, and either transferred to the nearest American military cemetery at Tunis, Tunisia, or returned to their homeland. Please rest assured, however, that the entire journey will be accomplished under the care of trained personnel, with the dignified and solemn respect due our honored dead.

It is requested that Mr. Andy Kilian, father and next of kin of your son, complete and return the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form at his earliest convenience, in order that official action may be taken to comply with his desires.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. COOMBS
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

pld

