		RES95261101	WNR-01-09-020-1-013-06-006
ARR1-372417100		Transfer#: W092-70A0001	5100 Box:511 CC:00
C/F: KLINE, EDGAR, PVT, 35010659, ARMY		Asset#: AAC1-23781729	Whole Container: N
		Created: 5/25/2011	
Standard	General Reference	On-Site Review	
	On-site Review	N/A	
To: REVIEW			
4915 4955 (5100)			

NON-
F. O. U. S. A.
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
A. G. 201 FILE
VET. ADMIN.
S. G. O.
F. B. I.
O. F. D.
2. O. G. M. G.
G. A. O.
MAY 1966

SS KLINE, EDGAR

36,010,659 PVT,

NORTH AFR, A, (OHIO)

44 to

70-A1
7/55:00-1-1
5100

NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS REEXAMINATION OF RECORDS			
AREA OF DEATH Italy		CASE NUMBER	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) KLINE, Edgar		RANK Pvt.	SERIAL NUMBER 35 010 659
IN THE COURSE OF THIS REEXAMINATION IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH WERE SUCH THAT: (Check appropriate box)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. HOWEVER, AFTER REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EVIDENCE DOES NOT EXIST TO CONTRADICT A FINDING OF NON-RECOVERABILITY:			
			INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF DECEDENT			
2. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNNS RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA, COMPARED WITH DECEDENT			
3. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES			
REMARKS			
RECOMMEND APPROVAL		APPROVED	DATE
NAME OF CASE ANALYST Mr. Bias	CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION	CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION Mary A. Edwards 1st Lt QMC	FEB 12 1951

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

KLINE EDGAR

RANK

PVT

SERIAL NUMBER

35010659

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

24 JAN 44

AREA OF DEATH

ITALY

NAME OF AUDITOR

HILL

DATE

29 JAN 57

NAME OF REVIEWER

BOWMAN

DATE

29 JAN 57

REMARKS

CONTROLLED CASE			
NAME		GRADE	SERIAL NO.
Kline, Edgar		Pvt.	35 010 659
DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THIS FILE WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:			
<input type="checkbox"/> LIAISON OFFICE, MEMORIAL DIVISION			FLAGGED BY (Initials)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFICATION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION			FLAGGED BY (Initials) Lt. Barry
UNKNOWN	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO.	A-Z CARD FLAGGED BY	333 CARD FLAGGED BY
X -	5476		
IMPORTANT			
THIS FORM MUST BE MAINTAINED ON TOP OF 293 FILE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL CANCELLED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION. ONLY THE "CONGRESSIONAL TOPPER", OQMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.			

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

In Reply Refer To
QMGMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

MAR 3 - 1949

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverability of Remains

TO : Commanding Officer
American Graves Registration Service
Mediterranean Theater Zone
APO 794, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

1. Reference is made to Proceedings of Boards of Officers that have convened at your headquarters and have determined that the remains of certain World War II dead are non-recoverable.

2. Findings of the Board have been reviewed and approved on all decedents whose names appear on the attached roster.

3. It is requested that all records of your office pertaining to these deceased be amended to read REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL LARKIN:

1 Incl
List of non-
recoverables

T. H. METZ
Lt. Colonel, QMC
Memorial Division

MAR 4 1949

RAN
File

L. Christy
Identification Branch

copy for 293 Kline, Edgar (35010659)

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - MEDITERRANEAN ZONE

Adams, John E.	Major	0 345 350
Halbakken, Gilman	Pfc.	37 091 385
Lovett, John R., Jr.	S/Sgt.	34 267 994
Bowers, Reuben M.	Cpl.	19 059 532
Elffors, Norbert C.	Pfc.	36 280 168
Bianche, Thomas	Pvt.	33 604 442
Kline, Edgar	Pvt.	35 010 659
Patton, Leo J.	Pvt.	33 783 921
Thompson, Bernard H.	Pvt.	37 207 081
Pederson, Theodore L.	Pvt.	36 222 407
Croce, Mario Jr.	Pvt.	36 587 784
Golder, George	Pfc.	35 059 757
Cohoon, John H.	Pvt.	13 093 911
Smith, John C.	Pvt.	34 771 775
Vieths, Willard D.	Pvt.	37 553 782
Bordash, Andrew A.	Pfc.	32 806 747
Defoor, Charles W., Jr.	1/Lt.	0 803 353
Williams, George W.	S/Sgt.	32 865 584

NAB
File

MAR 4 1949

L. Christy
Identification Branch

	NAME	RANK	SERIAL NO.
293	KLINE, Edgar	Pvt.	35 010 659

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:
FEB 1 8 1949

[Signature]
HORACE SPEED, JR.
Colonel. QMC

APPROVED:
FEB 1 1949

[Signature]
K. L. HASTINGS
for Brigadier General, QMC
Chief, Memorial Division

HAN
File

MAR 4 1949
[Signature]
Identification Branch

FEB 1 7 1949

FEB 2 1 1949

MAR 3 - 1949

MAR 3 - 1949

MAR 3 - 1949

FORWARDED TO BOARD APPROVED BY BOARD FIELD NOTIFIED RECORD CARD MADE TO 293 FILE

Adams, John E.
Halbakken, Gilman
Lovett, John R., Jr.
Bowers, Reuben M.
Elffors, Norbert C.
Bianche, Thomas
Kline, Edgar
Patton, Leo J.

Pederson, Theodore L.
Thompson, Bernard H.
Croce, Mario Jr.
Golder, George
Cohoon, John H.
Smith, John C.
Vieths, Willard D.
Bordash, Andrew A.

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

14 February 1949

1. This case involves the non-recoverability of the remains of sixteen (16) Army personnel who became missing in action as a result of the bombing and sinking of the British Hospital Ship "St. David" in the Tyrrhenian Sea, just off the coast of Anzio, Italy on the night of 24 January 1944. (Tab "A")

- a. Reference is made to par. 4 of 1st Ind. dated 31 May 1944 to the Adjutant General. (Tab "B") Of the 215 individuals manifested aboard the "St. David" all except 55 were rescued. The subject decedents comprising 16 of the 55, leaving a total of 39 individuals unaccounted for. AGO Casualty List #42 (Tab "A"), lists the subject decedents as the only Army personnel manifested aboard the "St. David" unaccounted for. Therefore, it appears that the determination of the non-recoverability of the remains of the remaining 39 individuals is not a matter for consideration by this office.

2. Status Review and Determination Report obtained from AGO, (Tab "C") reveals that less than two hours after departing from Anzio, Italy, the "St. David" received a direct hit, resulting in a heavy explosion and fire. The lights went out immediately and the ship sank within ten minutes. The fact that the incident occurred in an area controlled by Allied Forces rendered possible the prompt rescue of survivors by two British ships and a U.S. Naval vessel. It is believed that some of the missing personnel were killed by the explosion, and some so badly wounded that they were unable to escape and others trapped below decks because of the rapidity with which the ship sank. A detailed account of the sinking and an affidavit of one of the survivors, 2/Lt. Laura R. Hindman, N-724 590, ANC, is also contained in the Status Review and Determination Report.

Statement of Investigation Cont'd.

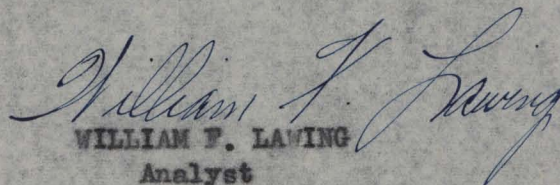
Page Two.

3. An extensive search was made of the entire west coast of Italy and adjacent islands by AGRS personnel in an effort to recover the remains of the subject decedents. The results were negative. (Tabs "D" and "E")

4. The following files have been checked by this office with negative results, in an endeavor to find any possible burial location of subject decedents either as knowns or unknowns:

- a. A-Z files of known interments in U.S. Military Cemeteries, isolated locations and sea burials.
- b. Alphabetical index file of "Believed to be" and potentially identified unknowns.
- c. Alphabetical file of former unknowns now identified.
- d. Geographical clue index file of unknowns interred in U.S. Military Cemeteries in the general area in which the subjects deceased were last reported.
- e. 293 files of subjects deceased.

5. All information secured confirms the Findings and substantiates the recommendations made by the Overseas Board.


WILLIAM F. LAWING
Analyst

FD/tp

QMGH 293

Adams, John B. O-345350
and fifteen (15) enlisted personnel

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF OFFICERS

Organization: Headquarters, 9107 TSU-QMC
American Graves Registration Service
Mediterranean Zone
APO 794, US Army

Place : Rome, Italy

Proceedings of Board of Officers which convened at Rome, Italy, pursuant to Par. 3, Special Orders No. 100, Headquarters, 9107 TSU-QMC, AGRS/MZ, APO 794, dated 3 June 1948, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A".

The Board met pursuant to the foregoing order at 1330 hours
on JUN 21, 1948.

MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT AS INDICATED

Major	TOWNSEND C. ANDERSON	O-30195	QMC	A
Major	BAILLY SKINNER	O-497876	QMC	P
Capt	THOMAS P. FULLIAM	O-1586051	QMC	P
Capt	SAMUEL F. FRITZ	O-410379	QMC	A
Capt	ROBERT C. OLSEN	O-444621	MC	A
1st Lt	HENRY B. ZUIDEMA	O-454611	QMC	P
1st Lt	LEON W. RENDWELIN	O-1547286	NSC	A

PURPOSE

(a) To review and act upon all cases pertaining to the identity of Unknown remains referred to the Board by Headquarters, AGRS/MZ.

(b) To review and determine in all cases, from evidence presented, the non-recoverability of remains referred to the Board by Headquarters, AGRS/MZ.

(c) If approved, these cases will be removed from the Agenda for further search and attempts to identify and no further search or investigation will be made unless additional information is forthcoming or orders, are received from the OQMG to the contrary.

The following case was brought before the Board:

The following U.S. Army personnel were killed in action, aboard the British Hospital ship, HMHS "St. David", at Anzio, Italy, on 24 January 1944, as the result of enemy aircraft dive bombing. Map reference: F 8617, sheet 17, Road Map of Italy, 1:200,000.

(Report of Proceedings of Board of Officers on Adams, John E. and fifteen (15) enlisted personnel, continued.)

Maj.	Adams, John E.	0-345350
S/Sgt.	Lovett, John R., Jr.	34267994
Cpl.	Bowers, Reuben M.	19059532
Pfc.	Elffors, Norbert C.	36280168
Pvt.	Blanche, Thomas	33604442
Pvt.	Kline, Edgar	35010659
Pvt.	Patton, Leo J.	33783921
Pvt.	Pederson, Theodore L.	36222407
Pvt.	Thompson, Bernard H.	37207081
Pvt.	Groce, Mario Jr.	36587784
Pfc.	Golder, George	35059757
Pvt.	Cokoon, John H.	13093911
Pvt.	Smith, John C.	34771775
Pvt.	Vioths, Willard D.	37553782
Pfc.	Bordash, Andrew A.	32806747
Pfc.	Halbakken, Gilman	37091385

The identifiable remains of the above mentioned decedents have not been recovered by this headquarters.

FINDINGS

The Board having carefully considered the evidence presented finds that:

(a) No member of the above named U.S. Army personnel has been seen or heard from, since 24 January 1944. (Exhibit "B", (16) OQMG Forms 371)

(b) Subject decedents were aboard the HMHS "St. David", (British Hospital Ship) which was bombed by enemy aircraft, in the Port of Anzio, on the night of 24 January 1944. (Exhibits "C", 1st Ind. Ltr. Hq. NATOUSA, dtd. 31 May 1944.)

(c) A search of the entire west coast of Italy and its adjacent islands made by AGRS/MZ searching team, failed to recover the identifiable remains of the sixteen (16) herein mentioned casualties. (Exhibit "D") Statement, Major Anderson.)

(d) Records this headquarters indicate that the identifiable remains of none of the above mentioned casualties have been recovered or interred in U.S. Military Cemeteries throughout Italy to date.

(e) Dental records and other identification data pertaining to subject decedents have been compared with all available dental records and identification data of all unidentified deceased recovered from the west coast of Italy and adjacent islands, without effecting an association.

(Report of Proceedings of Board of Officers on Adams, John E. and fifteen (15) enlisted personnel, continued.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings the Board recommends that no further attempts toward recovery of subject decedents be made and that the remains be declared Non-Recoverable, in accordance with provisions of Letter, The Adjutant General's Office, File AGAO-S 293.9 (27 March 1947) D-M Subject "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of "Unknown Dead Overseas", dated 9 April 1947.

The Board adjourned at 1730 hours on JUN 21, 1948.

/s/ Bailey Skinner
/t/ BAILEY SKINNER
Major QMC

TOWNSEND C. ANDERSON
Major QMC

/s/ Thomas P. Fulliam
/t/ THOMAS P. FULLIAM
Capt QMC

SAMUEL F. FRITZ
Capt QMC

ROBERT C. OLSEN
Capt MC

/s/ Henry B. Zuidema
/t/ HENRY B. ZUIDEMA
1st Lt QMC

LEON W. ENDERLIN
1st Lt MSC

ACTION BY COMMANDING AUTHORITY

24 June 48

Approved:

/s/ Whitfield W. Watson
Colonel QMC
Commanding

4 Exhibits

- "A" - Special Order, Appointing Board of Review
- "B" - sixteen (16) OQMG Forms 371
- "C" - 1st Ind. Ltr. Hq. NATOUSA, dtd. 31 May 1944.
- "D" - Statement, Major Anderson.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Robert E. Barry
ROBERT E. BARRY
1st Lt. QMC

Exhibit A

CASUALTY BRANCH
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

List No. 42

PERSONNEL LOST AT SEA AS RESULT OF SHIP SINKINGS DURING WORLD WAR II

HMHS ST DAVID	Tyrrhenian Sea near the coast of Italy	NAT	24 Jan 44
Name of Ship	Place Sunk	Reporting Theater	Date

SUNK AS RESULT OF DIVE BOMBER ATTACK

NAME	ASN	RANK	ORGANIZATION OR ARM OR SERVICE	INITIAL CASUALTY STATUS	PRESENT CASUALTY STATUS	BURIAL REPORT ON FILE	
						YES	NO
Levett, John R., Jr.	34267994	S/Sgt.	CE	MIA	KIA		X
Bowers, Reuben M.	19059532	Cpl	FA	MIA	KIA		X
Elffors, Norbert C.	36280168	Pfc	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Bianche, Thomas	33604442	Pvt	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Kline, Edgar	35010659	Pvt	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Patton, Leo J.	33783921	Pvt	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Pederson, Theodore L.	36222407	Pvt	CE	MIA	KIA		X
Thompson, Bernard H.	37207081	Pvt	CE	MIA	KIA		X
Groce, Mario Jr.	36587784	Pvt	TA	MIA	KIA		X
Golder, George	35059757	Pfc	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Cohoon, John H.	13093911	Pvt	MD	MIA	KIA		X
Smith, John C.	34771775	Pvt	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Vieths, Willard D.	37553782	Pvt	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Bordash, Andrew A.	32806747	Pfc	INF	MIA	KIA		X
Adams, John E.	0345350	Maj	MC	MIA	KIA		X
Halbakken, Gilman	37091385	Pfc	INF	MIA	KIA		X

AG 704/303 - C, (26 May 44) 1st Ind.
 HQ, NATOUSA, APO 534m US Army, 31 May 1944.

OE/mrl

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (Attn: Casualty Branch).

1. The following US Army personnel became MIA 24 January 1944 as a result of the sinking of HMHC "St. David":

Major John H. Adams, O-345350
 S/Sgt. John R. Lovett, Jr., 34267994.
 Cpl. Reuben M. Bowers, 19059532.
 Pfc. Norbert C. Elffors, 36280168.
 Pfc. George Golder, 35059757.
 Pfc. Gilman Halbakken, 37091385.
 Pvt. Thomas Bianche, 33604442.
 Pvt. Andrew A. Bardash, 33806747.
 Pvt. John H. Cohoon, 13093911.
 Pvt. Mario Croce, Jr. 36587784.
 Pvt. Edgar Kline 35010659.
 Pvt. Leo J. Patton, 33783921.
 Pvt. Theodore L. Pederson, 36222407.
 Pvt. John C. Spith, 34771775.
 Pvt. Bernard H. Thompson 37207081
 Pvt. Willard D. Vieths, 37553782

2. Shortly after dark on the night of 24 January 1944, the HMHC "St. David" was subjected to a low level attack by an unknown number of dive bombers. Flares had been dropped to outline the target. One bomb fell on the after well deck resulting in a heavy explosion and fire. The lights went out immediately and the ship sank in ten (10) minutes.

3. The abandon ship was carried out orderly and well. Some life boats and rafts were launched, some were overturned due to listing of the ship while being launched and some were rendered unseaworthy as a result of the explosion. Apparently everyone was equipped with a life belt and all were evacuated from the ship except those trapped or killed by the explosion and resulting fire.

4. There were 215 individuals including crew and patients aboard. Of these, all except 55 were rescued by two other British hospital carriers and a US Naval vessel which were in the immediate vicinity. The sinking took place in the Tyrrhenian Sea not far off shore. It is believed that everyone who was evacuated from the ship was shortly picked up and that no loss of life was incurred by those who took to rafts and life boats. The records contain no indication of enemy attack on survivors. The temperature of the air and water was cold, with a moderate sea. No further information is available.

5. Since over four (4) months has elapsed during which no trace of the above (16) casualties has been found, and due to the fact that the possibility of their falling into the hands of the enemy is extremely remote, it is believed that reasonably conclusive evidence of death exists and that their status should be changed to KIA 24 January 1944, providing their families have received no communication from them since that date.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

Exhibit "C"

OWEN ELLIOT
 Major, AGD
 Asst. Adjutant General

B

REVIEW
AND
DETERMINATION OF STATUS
OF
STAFF SERGEANT JOHN R. LOVETT, JR., 34267994
AND
THIRTEEN OTHERS
ABOARD USSC "ST. DAVID".

STATUS REVIEW AND DETERMINATION SECTION

CASUALTY BRANCH

AG 704 DEAD (23 Sep 44)

23 September 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Officer in Charge, Mail and Message Section,
Casualty Branch.

SUBJECT: Report of Death.

1. In accordance with the determination approved by the Chief, Casualty Branch, A.G.O., casualty reports will be initiated, stating that the following enlisted men were killed in action 24 January 1944, near the coast of Italy, as a result of an attack by enemy planes on a British ship on which they were being evacuated. None of them was in a flying pay status.

Staff Sergeant John R. Lovett, Jr.	34267994,	CE
Corporal, Reuben H. Bowers	19059532,	PA
Private First Class Herbert G. Elffors	36280168,	INF
Private Thomas Blanche	33604442,	INF
Private Edgar Kline	35010659,	INF
Private Leo J. Patton	33783921,	INF
Private Theodore L. Pederson	36222407,	INF
Private Bernard H. Thompson	37307018,	CE
Private Mario Groce, Jr.	36587784,	PA
Private First Class George Goldner	35059757,	INF
Private John H. Cohoon	13093911,	WD
Private John C. Smith	34771775,	INF
Private Willard D. Vieths	37553782,	INF
Private First Class Andrew A. Bardash	32806747,	INF

2. Evidence considered sufficient to establish conclusively the fact of death was received by the War Department on 22 September 1944.

3. The action herein directed is based upon the approved memorandum of Special Determination Sub-Section, Status Review and Determination Section, dated 23 September 1944, attached hereto.

DANIEL P. POTTER
Colonel, A. G. O.
Officer in Charge,
Status Review and
Determination Section

AG 704 HEAD (23 Sep 44)

23 September 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Casualty Branch, A.C.O.

SUBJECT: Review and Determination of Status of
 Staff Sergeant John R. Lovett, Jr., 34267994,
 and Thirteen Others Aboard HM IC "ST. DAVID."

1. Shipment number 044 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, reported the following named enlisted men missing in action since 24 January 1944:

Staff Sergeant John R. Lovett, Jr.	34267994, CE	
Corporal Reuben M. Bowers	19059532, FA	
Private First Class Norbert C. Elffors	36280168, INF	
Private Thomas Bianchi	33604442, INF	
Private Edgar Kline	35010659, INF	
Private Leo J. Patton	33783921, INF	
Private Theodore L. Pedersen	36222407, CE	
Private Bernard H. Thompson	37207081, CE	(1)*

2. Shipment number 0400 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, reported Private Mario Croce, Jr., 36587784, FA, missing in action since 24 January 1944. (2)

3. Shipment number 052 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, reported the following named enlisted men missing in action since 24 January 1944:

Private First Class George Golder	35059757, INF	
Private John H. Cohoon	13093911, ID	
Private John C. Smith	34771775, INF	(3)

4. Shipment number 061 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, reported Private Willard D. Vieths, 37553782, INF., missing in action since 24 January 1944. (4)

5. Shipment number 053 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, reported Private First Class Andrew A. Bordash, 32806747, INF., missing in action since 22 January 1944. Radio F 30605 received from the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, corrected the date from which subject enlisted man was missing in action to 24 January 1944. (5,6)

*Numbers in parentheses refer to attached list of Source Material.

AG 704, DEAD (23 Sep 44)

6. The Commanding General, North African Theater of Operations submitted the following report concerning the missing status of subject personnel:

"1. The following US Army personnel became MIA 24 January 1944, as a result of the sinking of HMHC 'ST. DAVID':

Major John E. Adams, O-345350
 S/Sgt. John R. Lovett, 34267994
 Cpl. Reuben M. Bowers, 19059532
 Pfc. Norbert C. Elffers, 36280168
 Pfc. George Golder, 35059757
 Pfc. Gilman Halbakken, 37091385
 Pvt. Thomas Bismache, 33704442
 Pvt. Andrew A. Bordash, 32806747
 Pvt. John H. Cohoon, 19093911
 Pvt. Mario Croce, Jr., 36587784
 Pvt. Edgar Kline, 35010659
 Pvt. Leo J. Patton, 33783921
 Pvt. Theodore L. Pederson, 36222497
 Pvt. John C. Smith, 34771775
 Pvt. Bernard H. Thompson, 37207081
 Pvt. Willard B. Vieths, 36553782

"2. Shortly after dark on the night of 24 January 1944, the HMHC 'ST. DAVID' was subjected to a low level attack by an unknown number of dive bombers. Flares had been dropped to outline the target. One bomb fell on the after well deck resulting in a heavy explosion and fire. The lights went out immediately and the ship sank in (10) minutes.

"3. The abandon ship was carried out orderly and well. Some life boats and rafts were launched, some were overturned due to listing of the ship while being launched and some were rendered unserviceable as a result of the explosion. Apparently everyone was equipped with a life belt and all were evacuated from the ship except those trapped or killed by the explosion and resulting fire.

"4. There were 215 individuals crew and patients aboard. Of these, all except 55 were rescued by two other British hospital carriers and a US Naval vessel which were in the immediate vicinity. The sinking took place in the Tyrrhenian Sea not far off shore. It is believed that everyone who was evacuated from the ship was shortly picked up and that no loss of life was incurred by those who took to rafts and life boats. The records contain no indication of enemy attack

AG 704 DEAD (23 Sep 44)

on survivors. The temperature of the air and water was cold, with a moderate sea. No further information is available.

"5. Since over four (4) months has elapsed during which no trace of the above (16) casualties has been found, and due to the fact that the possibility of their falling into the hands of the enemy is extremely remote, it is believed that reasonably conclusive evidence of death exists and that their status should be changed from MIA 24 January 1944, providing their families have received no communication from them since that date."

(7)

"7. The status of Major John E. Adams has been determined to be "killed in action" 24 January 1944."

(8)

8. Affidavit of Second Lieutenant Laura R. Hindman, W724590, ANC submitted as an inclosure to a report from 2nd Auxiliary Surgical Group, 14 February 1944, pertaining to the disappearance of Major John E. Adams, 0245350, MC., who was lost on HMHC "ST. DAVID" is as follows:

"This is to certify that I was aboard the British Hospital Carrier 'St. David' on the night of January 24, 1944, at the time the ship was sunk as the result of a direct hit by an aerial bomb. We had left the port of Anzio, Italy at approximately 1730 hours in company with the other British Hospital Carriers 'Leinster' and 'St. Andrew'. The ships were lighted in the manner prescribed by the Geneva Convention as soon as the 5 mile limit was reached. They stood out brilliantly in the night as the result of the lighting. I was the surgical nurse on the surgical team headed by Major John E. Adams aboard the 'St. David'. We had been given no special duties and no boat station assignment in the event of an emergency, or the necessity to abandon ship.

"The ship was hit at approximately 1920 hours. All lights on the ship immediately went out. At the time, I was in my stateroom on Deck "C" with and Lt. Anna Bess Berret, my roommate. With the aid of a flashlight, we grabbed our life preservers and started for the stairway. We had ascended to 'B' Deck and Major Adams was standing at the head of the stairs holding a flashlight and, presumably, waiting for us to come up from below. Major Adams helped me put on my life preserver and commented. 'Well, Ruth, you have gotten it again'. (Note: Miss Hindman was aboard the British Hospital Carrier 'Newfoundland' when it was bombed and sunk on September 12, 1943 about 20 miles off Salerno Beachhead). After I had gotten the life preserver on, I sat down on the steps and hastily put on

AG 704 DEAD (23 Sep 44)

my shoes. I then started up the steps from 'B' Deck to 'A' Deck when I realized that I had left Miss Berret behind in my haste. I turned and called to her to 'come on'. At this very moment I saw Major Adams for the last time. He had gone into the resuscitation ward on 'B' Deck where he had several seriously ill patients. I am sure that his motive was to see that these cases were evacuated from the ship. Miss Berret and I bounded out into 'A' Deck portside and were immediately ordered into the nearest life boat. Just as we were getting seated someone exclaimed that the ship was sinking. From the position of the mast it was evident that the ship was rolling over on its portside. Someone screamed for everyone to jump out of the lifeboat and clear the ship as much as possible. Due to the resultant panic and confusion at this instant, I was unable to get out and was carried beneath the surface of the water. In fact, at this time, the entire ship sank and I was dragged down with it. I am unable to say by what means I became extricated from the sinking wreckage. The next thing I knew I seemed to be coming up to the surface, but each of the two times that I came up, I seemed to be caught beneath some part of the ship. When I came up for the third time, I was free of the wreckage and the ship had completely disappeared. There were numerous screaming survivors in the water about me. We were eventually rescued and carried aboard the British Hospital Carrier 'Leinster'.

"I feel that Major Adams lost his life attempting to rescue the patients. Knowing the rapidity with which the ship sank after we left him, there was practically no chance for him to have escaped."

9. Examination of Casualty Branch Files, AG 201 files, and Enlisted records discloses that in only ten cases is there a statement of the disability or reasons for evacuation. One man, Cochran, being evacuated because of disease, nature unstated. One man, Kliffers, being evacuated because of an injury, a sprained ankle, incurred in action, and the other eight suffering from light wounds which, although incapacitating as far as combat is concerned, would not render the individual a stretcher case or immobile.

10. On 24 January 1944, USS "ST. DAVID", while evacuating wounded personnel from Anzio, Italy, was attacked and sunk by an undetermined number of enemy aircraft. The attack took place at approximately 1920 hours, while the ship was proceeding through the Tyrrhenian Sea, not far from shore, lighted in accordance with the Geneva Convention. A bomb from an enemy dive bomber made a direct hit on the after well deck, resulting in a heavy explosion. The ship's lights went out and abandonment of the ship commenced. Within a few minutes the ship began to list to port, rolled over and sank. The time

AG 704 DRAD (23 Sep 44)

elapsed between the bomb hit and the disappearance of the ship had been estimated as between five and ten minutes. Rescue operations were conducted by two other British hospital ships and a US Naval Vessel. All survivors who succeeded in escaping from the sinking ship were picked up by the rescue ships. In view of the fact that the ship received a direct hit from an enemy bomb which exploded with sufficient force to disable the ship, disrupt the lighting system and sink it within 10 minutes, it must be assumed that some of the missing persons were killed outright by the force of the explosion, and that others were trapped in portions of the ship from which egress was blocked by the force of the explosion or debris resulting therefrom. Within a very short time, the ship listed seriously and then rolled over, so that it is reasonable to assume that some of the missing were unable to reach the deck and when the ship rolled over, were trapped and drowned. The account of Lieutenant Hindman establishes that there were patients below deck when she left the stairway. Although, from the meagre records available, it is impossible to determine the seriousness of the disability of the missing persons, all but four of them had been previously reported slightly wounded in action and there are no previous casualty reports on the other four. From this, it is to be assumed that these men were able to care for themselves in an emergency and unless killed or trapped, would have been able to leave the ship prior to its sinking. It is to be noted that, in all likelihood, the rolling over of the ship accounted for some casualties either caught in the rigging and dragged down, or struck by articles such as life boats or hatch covers falling from the deck and either killed or rendered unconscious and drowned. This sinking took place during the period of establishment of the Anzio Beachhead and the waters were under control of the Allied Forces. Rescue operations were prompt and unobstructed. Since rescue ships were close by at the time of the sinking, it must be assumed that all survivors were promptly rescued. The Commanding General, United States Army Forces, North African Theater of Operations, has recommended that the status of the missing persons be changed from "Missing in action" 24 January 1944, to "killed in action" 24 January 1944. In view of the circumstances surrounding the sinking and the complete lack of evidence of survival, no reason is perceived why this office should not act upon that recommendation. It is, therefore, recommended that the status of the enlisted men mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, be changed from "missing in action" 24 January 1944, to "killed in action" 24 January 1944.

11. Evidence considered sufficient to establish conclusively the fact of death was received by the War Department on 22 September 1944.

CHARLES B. CLANCY, JR.,
Second Lieutenant, A.G.D.
Special Determination
Sub-Section

CONCURRED IN:

JOHN T. BURNS
Major, A.G.D.
Status Review and
Determination Section

DANIEL P. POTTEF
Colonel, A.G.D.
Officer in Charge,
Status Review and
Determination Section

APPROVED:

Pursuant to the Authority conferred upon the Secretary of War by Section 9 of the Act approved March 7, 1942 (56 Stat 143), as amended by Public Law 408-78th Congress, approved July 1, 1944, and delegated to the Chief, Casualty Branch, Adjutant General's Office, by a delegation of authority dated 22 August 1944, the information cited in the foregoing review and determination of status is accepted as an official report of death. Reports of death will be issued stating that subject personnel died on 24 January 1944, and that evidence of their death was received by the War Department on 22 September 1944.

By order of the Secretary of War:

GEORGE F. HERBERT
Colonel, A.G.D.
Chief, Casualty Branch, A.G.O.

Staff Sergeant John R. Lovett, Jr., 34267994,
and Thirteen Others Aboard HMC "ST. DAVID."

HEADQUARTERS
9107 TSU - QMC
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
MEDITERRANEAN ZONE
APO 794 US ARMY

14 June 1948

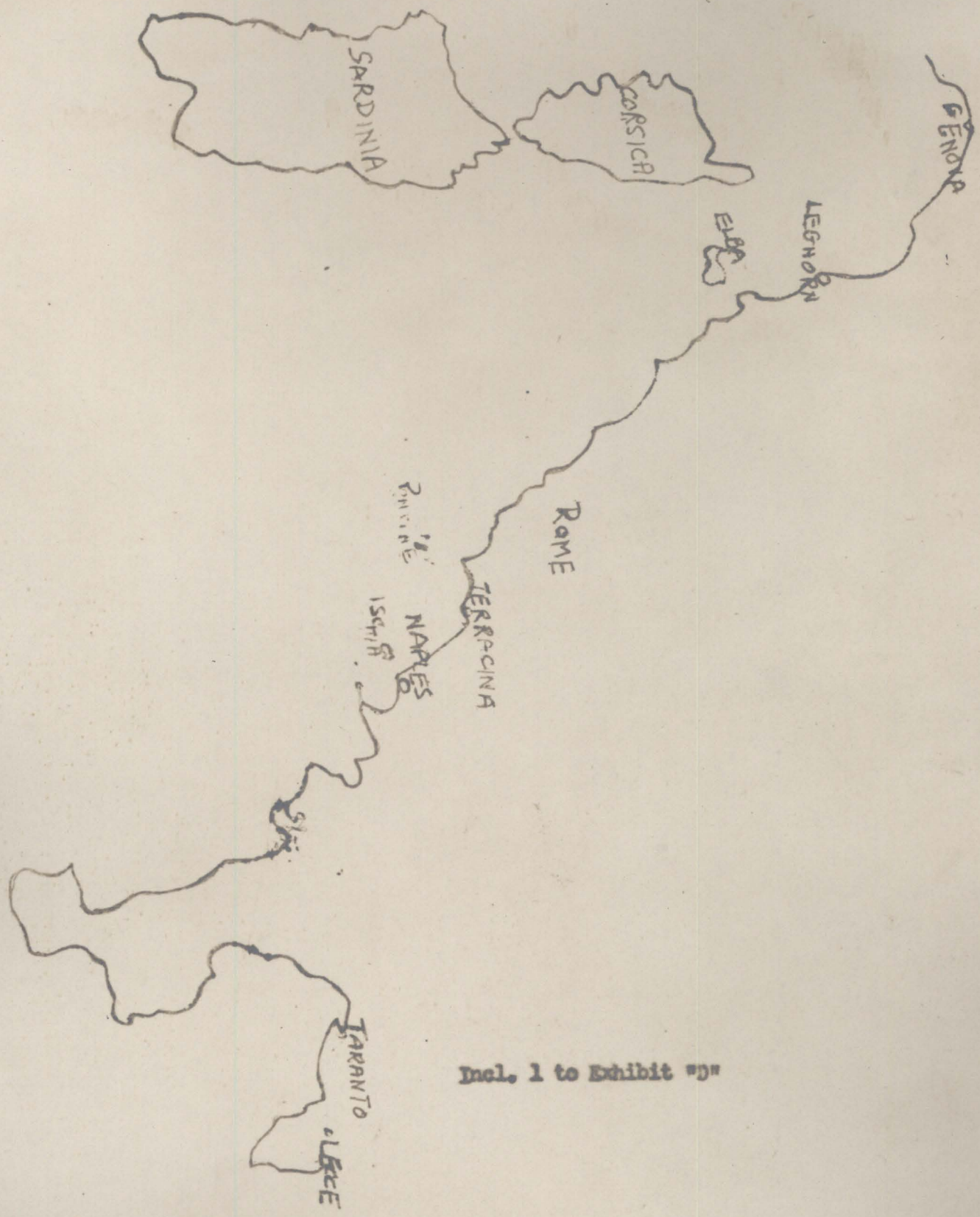
C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the coastlines of Italy from Lecce, Grid:
5.4 - 0.2 (South-East) to the French Border and adjacent islands was
searched for remains of American deceased and that statements from
town and church officials and local civilians of towns and villages
located on the seacoast and islands, certifying that to their knowledge
no remains of American deceased are interred or above ground in the
territory under their jurisdiction, are on file in Headquarters, AGRS/MZ:

/s/ T. C. Anderson
/t/ T. C. ANDERSON
Major QMC
S - 3

Exhibit "D"

D



Incl. 1 to Exhibit "D"

E

COPY

AGRS/MZ Form 293 - 20
FORM 371

293 FILE

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

CMCM 293

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

Grade

Present Serial Number

Kline, Edgar

Pvt

35010659

ORGANIZATION

Race

Creed

Former Serial Number

Co. G

30th Inf Regt.

W

Catholic

Date of Death/ MIA

Cause of Death

Place of Death or Place Last Seen if MIA

24 Jan 44

Date of FOD

Aboard Hospital Ship "St. David" sunk off
the coast of Italy

KIA

Height

Weight

Color Eyes

Color Hair

Shoe Size

5' 8 1/4"

154

Blue

Brown

9-D

DENTAL CHART

27 Feb. 41

Upper Right

Upper Left

x		x						
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Lower Right

Lower Left

16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	

X - Extracted

O - Carious

1 - Carious non-restorable

Fractures and/or breaks

Tattoos and /or birthmarks

Additional Information:

Exhibit "B" - 6

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
MEMORIAL DIVISION

10764

IDENTIFICATION DATA

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL			ARMY SERIAL NUMBER		GRADE
Kline Edgar			35010659		Pvt.
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR	SHOE SIZE	DATE OF DEATH
5ft. 8 1/4 in.	154	blue	brown	9-D	Jan. 24, 1944

LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give complete designation)

Co. D, 30th Inf.

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

Passenger on British ship attacked by enemy planes, resulted in death near the coast of Italy.

LIST ALL CAMPS IN WHICH STATIONED IN U.S. PRIOR TO SERVICE OVERSEAS, WITH INCLUSIVE DATES AT EACH.

STATION	DATES
Recpt. Center, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind.	Mar. 5, 1941.
1st Inf., Ft. Lewis, Wash.	Mar. 9, 1941
FROM: HQ, AGO CLINICAL RECORDS BRANCH NO RECORDS ON FILE	

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTH MARKS

DENTAL CHART Feb. 27, 1941

X 7 X 5 4 3 2 1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
UPPER RIGHT	UPPER LEFT
16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9	9 10 11 12 13 X 15 16
LOWER RIGHT	LOWER LEFT

X - EXTRACTED O - CARIOUS / - CARIOUS NON-RESTORABLE

10764

Kline
Last NameEdg.
First Name

To Clinical Records Branch

For disposition

The records show medical treatment as follows:

Hospital	From	To	Register Number
----------	------	----	-----------------

Pt Lewis, Wash.	Oct. 21, 1941	Jan. 12, 1942	72995
U.S. Naval Hosp., San Diego, Calif.	Feb. 20, 1942	Mar. 7, 1942	Not of Record.
Ft. Ord, Calif.	Mar. 29, 1942	April 9, 1942	18660
Camp Pickett, Va.	Oct. 10, 1942	Oct. 13, 1942	5767
59th Evac. Hosp., Palermo, Italy.	Sept. 21, 1943	Oct. 10, 1943	Not of Record.

Harry Jones

Clerk

Date

Branch

Mr. Barclay

293- Kline, Edgar

FOR MAJ SEKOWSKI ON EDGAR KLINE 35010659 RACE WHITE 5 FT 8 1/4 IN WT
154 LBS FRAME LIGHT HAIR BROWN EYES BLUE COMPLEXION DARK BORN 23 APR
14 SHOE SIZE 9 D CREED CATHOLIC DENTAL CHART AT IND 27 FEB 41 TEETH
MISSING R 6 8 L 14 NO FORMS 79 FD

IWX FR DEM PERS REG BR AGO SL MO 2 2 APR 48 09

NR 80-21

1. FILE UNDER NO. 293 - KLINE, Edgar (35 010 659)

SYNOPSIS


2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT: Letter 3. DATE: 20 Sept 48
4. FROM: OQMG
5. TO: CO, AGRS, MZ, APO 794, 7PM, New York, N. Y.
6. SUBJECT: Identification of Unknown Deceased
Cohoon, John H. 13093911
.....

7. DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 293 - COHOON, John H. (13 093 911)

msb

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
7. File classification under which the document is filed.

293 FILE		DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) <i>KLINE, EDGAR</i>			GRADE <i>Pvt.</i>	PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER <i>35010659</i>	
ORGANIZATION <i>CO. G 30th INF. REGT.</i>		RACE <i>W</i>	CREED <i>CATHOLIC</i>	FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (If applicable)	
DATE OF DEATH/MIA <i>24 JAN. 44</i>	CAUSE OF DEATH <i>K I A</i>		PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA <i>ABOARD HOSPITAL SHIP "ST. DAVID" SUNK OFF THE COAST OF ITALY.</i>		
DATE OF FOD					
HEIGHT <i>5'8 1/4"</i>	WEIGHT <i>154</i>	COLOR EYES <i>BLUE</i>	COLOR HAIR <i>BROWN</i>	SHOE SIZE <i>9-D</i>	
DENTAL CHART <i>27 FEB. 41</i>					
UPPER RIGHT <i>X 7 6 5 4 3 2 1</i>			UPPER LEFT <i>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8</i>		
LOWER RIGHT <i>16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9</i>			LOWER LEFT <i>9 10 11 12 13 X 15 16</i>		
X = Extracted O = Carious 1 = Carious Non-Restorable					
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS			TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION <div></div> <div><i>file 28 APR 1948</i> <i>L. A. Caffman</i> <i>Jden Br</i></div>					

2813.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 5 Oct 1944

Wells

FULL NAME Kline, Edgar		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 35010659	GRADE Pvt			
HOME ADDRESS Hiles, Ohio		ARM OR SERVICE Infantry	DATE OF BIRTH 23 Apr 1914			
PLACE OF DEATH North African Area	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action		DATE OF DEATH 24 Jan 1944			
STATION OF DECEASED North African Area		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 27 Feb 1941	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES YEARS MONTHS DAYS			
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mrs. Julia Jessie (Sister) General Delivery, Olive Hill, Ky.						
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mr. Ben Kline (Brother) 4345 Spruce St., Kansas City, Missouri Mrs. Julia Jessie (Sister) General Delivery, Olive Hill, Ky.						
INVESTIGATION MADE?	IN LINE OF DUTY	OWN MISCONDUCT	WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS	AUTHORIZED ABSENCE	IN FLYING PAY STATUS	OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW)
YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
					X	

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

The individual named in this report of death is held by the War Department to have been in a missing in action status from 24 January 1944, until such absence was terminated on 22 September 1944, when evidence considered sufficient to establish the fact of death was received by the Secretary of War from a commander in the North African Area. Action based on memorandum, Status Review and Determination Section 23 September 1944, approved by Chief of Casualty Branch.

COPIES FURNISHED:		
S. G. O.	F. B. I.	F. O., U. S. A.
2. O. Q. M. G.	O. F. D.	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
G. A. O.	VET. ADMIN.	CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
		A. G. 201 FILE

☒ BATTLE
☐ NON-BATTLE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

John T. Winn
John T. Winn
 ADJUTANT GENERAL

9 OCT 1944 FILE