

To The A. G. O.

12743

OCT 5 - 1926 DATE 10/6/21

207

1. NAME BALLAS, Eli SERIAL No. 49457
 RANK Cpl. ORGANIZATION Co. A, 23rd Inf. 2 Div
 & DIVISION
 GRAVE LOCATION Argonne Amer. Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, #1232 Sect.84
 CTY. NAME NUMBER
67 Sect.84 2

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION St. Etienne a Amiens, Ardennes
Gr. 55 Row 1 Somme PY, Marne #825
 GRAVE COMMUNE DEPT.
 COORDINATES Rheims 34 NE 283.50 N 265.75 E

CONCENTRATED TO 6/16/19 67 Sec 84 2
 DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT
Meuse Argonne Cemetery 1232
 CEMETERY CTY. NUMBER

Data concerning any identification found on remains when concentrated, such as collar insignias, letters, broken bones, missing parts, etc.

Tag on body and cross.

DATE OF DEATH Oct 3 1918
 STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME New York
 MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED None

data F-1.

SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS
 DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY
 DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

wk SIGNATURE, AREA SUPERVISOR M. B. BIRDSEYE
Int Lt., G.M. Corps, U. S. Army

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION 10/6/21 35 9 Block H.
 DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery #1232. Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. Meuse. CEMETERY

AUDITED BY
LDR 4-11-23
2974-8-3

A. G. O.
OCT 5 1926
WORLD WAR DIV.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL:

Remains of:

Name BALLAS, Eli

Number: 49457

Rank Unkn

organization: Co. A. 23rd Inf.

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group:

Unit:

Disinterred (Date)

From: (Give complete location)

16, June 1919

Grave# 53 B/A CTY. ST ETIENNE A ARNES, ARDENNES.

Map 34 NE E 265.75 N 283.50

Reburied (Date)

in: (Give complete location)

16, June 1919

Grave# 67 Sec 84 Plot 2

ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY #1232

ROMAGNE, MEUSE.

1232

Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment:

Burial good. Body buried in uniform and in normal condition.

Was one identification tag found upon the body? Yes

What other means of identification were found upon the body? None

CONFIRMED No. D..... 12308

Note:

If upon disinterment, effects are found upon the bodies, they will be promptly sent to the Effects Depot direct, as is required by G. O. 170, G. H. O., 1918. after being carefully examined for clues to identity in doubtful cases, notation whereof will be made and reported to Chief, Graves Registration Service.

Supervised by Lt. Tucker.

R. H. ROSENTHAL
2nd Lieut. O.M.C.U.S.A

aw

C.O.Group

Unit

✓

CODE SLIP

HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME <i>BALLAS, Eli</i>	<i>BAL</i>	3	<i>212⁰</i>
BURIED	CEMETERY <i>1232</i>	1	<i>1</i>
	GRAVE <i>35</i>	2	<i>35</i>
	ROW <i>9</i>	2	<i>09</i>
	FLOCK <i>H</i>	1	<i>8</i>
STATE	<i>Ny.</i>	2	<i>37</i>
RANK	<i>cpl</i>	1	<i>2</i>
DIVISION	<i>2</i>	2	<i>02</i>
ORGANIZATION	<i>23</i>	3	<i>023</i>
ARM	<i>Inf</i>	1	<i>1</i>
MARITAL	<i>No</i>	1	<i>2</i>
NAME <i>Ballas</i>	<i>BAL</i>	3	<i>212</i>
<i>Anne</i>	STATE	2	
RESIDENCE	COUNTY	2	
<i>All rel. foreign</i>	CITY	3	
RELATION	<i>Mother</i>	1	<i>1</i>
OTHER		1	
ELIGIBILITY	<i>Foreign</i>	1	<i>7</i>
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH		1	
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH		1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF TRIP	MO.	1	
	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE 29/514		1	
	<i>Jugoslavia</i>	2	<i>14 la</i>

AUDITED
MAR 16 1938
RSD

*no claim for
comp. Parents living
in 1930*

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

DATE 8-20-31

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	ORGANIZATION	DATE OF DEATH
Ballas, Eli	Cpl.	49457	Co. A, 23rd Inf.	10-3-18

STATE _____ CTY. NO. 1232 GRAVE 35 ROW 9 BLOCK H

	<u>Check relationship</u>	<u>Living - Deceased</u>	
<u>MOTHER</u>	:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Anna Ballas</i>
STEPMOTHER (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	<i>Petrunja Bosnia, Jugoslavia - old 1922 add.</i>
MOTHER THRU ADOPTION (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	<i>Bosnia - ins <u>Cojo Bjelac</u></i>
MOTHER IN LOCO PARENTIS (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	<i>Sela Petrunja, <u>Bosnari</u></i>
<u>WIDOW</u> (Who has not remarried)	:	:	<i><u>Bos Kastajnica</u> <u>Bosnia</u> <u>Jugoslavia</u></i>

Single man

Veterans Bureau Claim Number C 146828
29/156

del. rel. foreign 3-6-33

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 C-R

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1923.

Mr. Steve Ballas,
531 61st Ave., West Allis,
Milwaukee, Wisc.

1232
Foreign

293 Ballas, Eli

Dear Sir:

The Quartermaster General desires you to be informed that the permanent grave of Corporal Eli Ballas, Company A, 23rd Infantry, is Grave 35, Row 9, Block H, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon (Meuse), France.

This is one of the permanent American military cemeteries to be maintained by this Government in Europe. Each grave will be marked by a headstone of white marble, of suitable design, with name, rank, division, organization, date of soldier's death and State from which he came. Headstones will be placed at all graves in connection with the improvement work now in progress, as soon as possible and without waiting for special action or request on the part of relatives.

You are assured in effecting removal of the remains, the utmost care and reverence were exercised and more than willingly accorded by those who performed this sacred duty. The grave of the deceased will be perpetually maintained by this Government in a manner befitting the last resting place of our heroes.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Cheal
H. H. CHEAL
Assistant.

23/592/ARK
RD

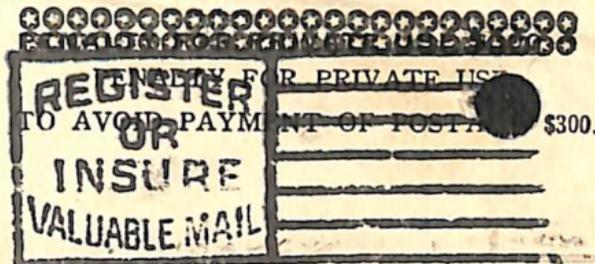
FILE

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

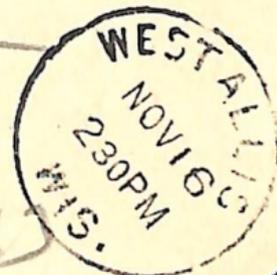


Mr. Steve Ballas,

551 61st Ave., West Allis,

Milwaukee,

Wisc.



Left there no order

1923

Ballas,

(Surname)

Eli

(Christian name in full.)

494,537

(Army serial number.)

Pvt.

Co. A, 23d Inf.

(Rank and organization.)

State your relationship to the deceased

Do you desire the remains brought to the United States?

(Yes or no.)

If remains are brought to the United States, do you wish them interred in a national cemetery?

(Yes or no.)

If you desire the remains interred at the home of the deceased, give full information below as to where they should be sent:

(Name of person to receive remains.)

(Express office.)

(Telegraph office.)

(Number and street.)

(City or town.)

(State.)

(Sign here)

(Number and street or rural route.)

(City, town, or post office.)

(State.)

Read carefully the letter accompanying this card.

September 26, 1925.

Mr. Steve Ballas,
531 61st Ave., West Allis,
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Dear Sir:

~~The Quartermaster General desires you to be informed that the~~
Corporal Eli Ballas, Company A, 23rd Infantry is
Grave 30, Row 9, Block B, Louis-Armand American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-
permanent grave of), France.

This is one of the permanent American military cemeteries to be maintained by this Government in Europe. Each grave will be marked by a headstone of white marble, of suitable design, with name, rank, division, organization, date of soldier's death and State from which he came. Headstones will be placed at all graves in connection with the improvement work now in progress, as soon as possible and without waiting for special action or request on the part of relatives.

You are assured in effecting removal of the remains, the utmost care and reverence were exercised and more than willingly accorded by those who performed this sacred duty. The grave of the deceased will be perpetually maintained by this Government in a manner befitting the last resting place of our heroes.

Very truly yours,

HALL, CHEAL

Assistant.

O.Q.M.G.
Central Mail & File Bldg
SEP 28 1925
H.R.
W.P.R.

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File #83814

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BALLAS, Eli Ser. No. 49457
(b) Rank Pvt. cp1 (4-18-21) E. M. Organization Co. A, 23rd Infantry TYP. DMA
(c) Date of death 10/3/18 (d) Cause of death K/A CKR. B. J.

II. REGISTRATION CARD.—(Check Reg., Card Inf. against Loc., Ind., Inf.):

(a) Grave No. 67 Row - Plot 2 Sec. 84 TYP. DMA
(b) Emerg. Address Steve Ballas (brother) 531 61st Ave., West Alice, Russia

III. Files of/soldiers dying from contagious/diseases / CKR. B. J.

IV. A. G. O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt no card in file RR 4-12-21

(a) Name (b) Relationship
(c) Address
(d) Remains to be brought to U. S.?
(e) To be interred in National Cemetery in U. S. at
(f) Shipping instructions upon arrival of body in U. S.
(g) Disposition instructions if not brought to U. S.

Examiner's Initials Date, 1920.

V. A. G. O. CORRESPONDENCE shows communication from

dated confirming request in Par. IV., item, above, or requesting that

no correspondence

Examiner's Initials RR Date 4-12, 1920.

VI. G. R. S. FILES, CORRESPONDENCE—shows as follows:

no request for disposition

(a) Cancellation memos referred to? yes

Examiner's Initials RR Date 4-12, 1920.

COUNTRY FRANCE CEMETERY No. 1232-Sec. 84 SHEET No. 9

Handwritten notes: 7/12/24, about 3-30-21

To be prepared in triplicate.

DATE Oct. 5, 1921.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT, PREPARATION, SHIPMENT AND REBURIAL OF BODY

DISINTERMENT

COMPARATIVE REPORT

Records of G.R.S. Headquarters.

Discrepancy found upon exhumation of body

1. Name BALLAS, Eli
 2. No. 49457
 3. Rank Cpl.
 4. Org. Co. A, 23rd Inf.
 5. D.D. Oct. 3rd
 6. C.D. KIA

10. Name _____
 11. No. _____
 12. Rank _____
 13. Org. _____
 14. (a) D.D. _____
 (b) D.B. No discrepancies.

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No. 57 Sec. 84
 8. Plot 2 Row _____
 9. _____

15. Grave No. _____ Sec. _____
 16. Plot _____ Row _____
 17. No discrepancies.

18. Cemetery Argonne Amer.
 20. Dept. or County Meuse
 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 1282

19. Commune or town Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
 21. Country France
 Sect. 84

23. Disinterred (Date) Oct. 5, 1921

By J. L. Haky

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Eli Ballas
 Rank Cpl.

Serial No. 49457
 Organization Co A 23 Inf

25. Was identification disc found on grave marker? Yes On body? Yes

L. B. Ayers
 Signature Junior Technical Assistant
L. B. Ayers

PREPARATION

26. What other means of identification were on body? (If no disc or other means of identification on body, give description of body in detail).

Tags agree with GRS records. One gold ring with red setting found, and forwarded

27. Condition of body Badly decomposed; features not recognizable.

28. Nature of burial Pine box and uniform.

29. Any discrepancy noted upon examination of body, as compared with G.R.S. records quoted above? None

30. Body prepared and placed in casket: Date Oct. 5, 1921 By J. L. Haky

31. Casket sealed by J. L. Haky

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor)

J. L. Haky

AUDITED BY

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. C-8295

32. Designation of body:

Name BAJLAS, Eli Serial No. 49457

Rank Cpl. Organization Co. A, 23rd Inf.

33. Consigned to:
Name of Permanent Cemetery Argonne Amer. Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, #1232

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) October 5, 1921 By J. L. Haky

35. I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

F. B. Daniels
Signature of G.R.S. Inspector F. B. Daniels, Capt. QMC.

36. Remarks None

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) October 5, 1921

To point of Concentration Morgue, Romagne.

Convoyer W. J. Royed Signature Shipping Officer *Albert M. Jackson*
(Name) Albert M. Jackson
Captain, C.A.C.

38. Received at Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

By G.R.S. Representative

39. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

To Permanent Cemetery

Convoyer (Name) Signature Shipping Officer

40. Received: Date

G.R.S. Representative

41. Reinterred Meuse-Argonne Cty. 1232 Oct. 6, 1921

42. Grave No. Row 9 Block H Gr. 35 (Date) Section

43. Plot Row

G.R.S. Representative *James Younger*
James Younger
Capt. QMC



Place Romagne 1232.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Date Oct. 5, 1921.

1. REMAINS OF BALLAS, Eli SERIAL NUMBER 49457

RANK Cpl. ORGANIZATION Co. A. 23rd Inf.

2. Disinterred (date): Oct. 5, 1921 From (give complete location): Gr 67. Sec 84. Plot 2.

By: Group 5 Unit Sec 2.

3. Reburied (date): Oct. 6, 1921 In (give complete location): Cty. 1232, Row 9 Block H Gr. 35

By: Group Reburial S Unit Nature of reburial unlined casket

4. Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment: wooden box and burlap and uniform. badly decomposed, features not recognizable.

5. (a) Identification tags: Buried with body? yes On grave marker? yes.

(b) Other means of identification found upon disinterment, and general remarks:

Tags agree with G.R.S. records. One gold ring with red setting found. 7 forwarded.

6. What does examination of body show as regards the following identifying items? teeth even and regular.

(a) Height (actual measurement) impossible to determine.

(b) Weight (estimated) do

(c) Hair—Color do

Quantity do

Characteristics do

(d) Hair on face—Color do

Location do

Quantity do

(e) Permanent marks on body (old scars, peculiarities, or missing parts) do

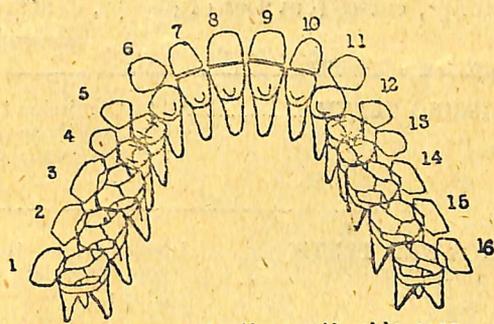
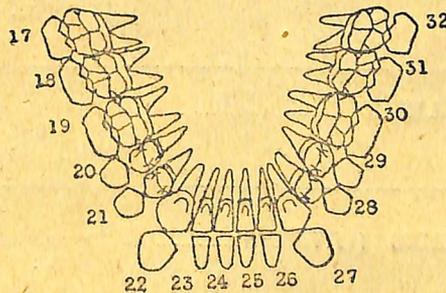


Diagram represents the mouth wide open.



(f) Wounds or missing parts (received at time of casualty) left shoulder blade and skull fractured.

7. Disinterment supervised by J. L. Haky
J. L. Haky

Approved: F. B. Daniel
F. B. Daniel, Capt. Q.M.C.
(Title)

8. Reburial supervised by W. B. Sheffield
W. B. Sheffield

Approved: James W. Younger
James W. Younger
Capt. Q.M.C.
(Title)

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File #83814

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BALLAS, ELI Ser. No. 49457
 (b) Rank Pvt. cpl (4-18-21) E.M. Organization Co. A, 23rd Infantry } TYP. DMA
 (c) Date of death 10/3/18 (d) Cause of death K/A } B. J.

II. REGISTRATION CARD.—(Check Reg., Card Inf. against Loc., Ind., Inf.):

(a) Grave No. 67 Row - Plot 2 Sec. 84 TYP. DMA *Misc. Alice, Milwaukee (4-18-21) E.M.*
 (b) Emerg. Address Steve Ballas (brother) 531 61st Ave., West Alice, Russia

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases/..... CKR. B. J.

IV. Information on which advice to Europe in letter of transmittal was based:

.....

V. Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on 192
 { letter of transmittal on 4-21- 1921
Section - 84
Par. 2. Not to be returned (J.E.H.)

VI. Form 115 forwarded to G. R. S., Hoboken, N. J., 192

VII. SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS.

Date of and source.	Relationship and name.	Desires.	Action taken.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

VIII. Form 115 received from G. R. S., Hoboken, N. J. 192

COUNTRY CEMETERY No. SHEET No.

FRANCE

1232-See.84

9 ✓

sq 7/12/21

Ballas, Eli,

4945.

43814

Co A 23rd Inf.

Buried 1 kilo SE St Etienne,
across street from gravel pit,
coordinance, 283 $\frac{1}{2}$.5 - 265, Map
pf Rethel, 1-50000

Buried by Chap C H Barnes
142nd Inf.

875

B. 209

Soldier's No 49457

Name : Bailas, Eli

Rank : Co A

83814
Reg 23

Inf.

Died :

Buried :

Cemetery: Battlefield trench burials .

Commune of St.Etienne-a-Arnes

Grave No 53 Avery sketch No 16

Grave found unnumbered, should be No 53
as per sketch

How marked? Cross, tag attached .

If name unnumbered and tags missing , give
marks and description .

Map reference : Map 34 N.E.

287.7 N. 265.7 E.

Name of chaplain or burial officer .

Signed-

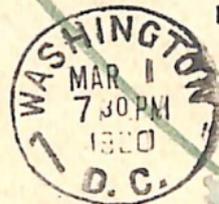
Chl. J.E. White

Group One, Unit "B" G.R.S.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

~~MAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE,~~
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$200



OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

FILE

8381
/

POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
Returned to sender for the reason that
service is suspended. There are no means
available for transmission of the article to
destination.

Ballas,

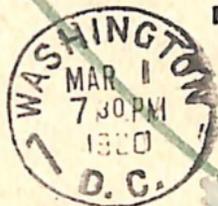
531 - 61st Ave.,

West Alice, Russia.

~~c/o San Francisco Postmaster.~~

2/10/20
2/15/20

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



Mr. Steve Ballas,
531 - 61st Ave.,
West Alice, Russia.

2/10/20
00/5/20

Postmaster.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
American Expeditionary Forces

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

U.S. ARMY
MAY 23
6 PM
1919

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$ 300.

RETURN TO
Mr. Steve Ballas
531 61st Ave.,
West Alice
Russia

CLASSIFIED BY
BASE CENSOR
83874

FILE

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army
Washington

FROM: O.Q.M.G.
CEMETERIAL DIVISION
Munitions Building
Room

PLEASE
EXPEDITE

JUN 7 1921

Date 4/14/21.

G.R.S. Form 8-W-A-H
Information requested of A.G.O.

File No. Requisition FILE 83814

From: The Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, (Cemeterial Division) (SPECIAL)

To: The Adjutant General of the Army, 6th & B Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Subject: Information required for G.R.S.

1. It is requested that the items checked below be completed, Request confirmation of all information shown.

- a. Surname Ballas *OK*
- b. Christian name Eli *OK*
- c. Serial Number 49457 *OK*
- d. Organization Co. A, 23rd Inf. *OK*
- e. Rank Corp. *OK*
- f. Date of death 10/3/18. *OK*
- g. Cause of death K/A. *OK*
- h. Authority (C.O.#) CC # 309 *OK*
- i. Emergency address Steve Ballas
5-31-61st Ave *OK*
- j. Relationship Wife's allie, Milwaukee
Brother *OK*

BODY DESCRIPTION
(See page #2 of the Service Record)

- a. Age of enlistment
- b. Color of eyes
- c. Color of hair
- d. Height
- e. Weight
- f. Permanent marks and physical defects at enlistment (O.L. fractures or breaks)

DENTAL CHARTS
(See Physical report of examination prior to enlistment)

a. Strike out teeth missing

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
upper right upper left

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
lower right lower left

WEL 2-201 Core Sec
W.V. Div.

4/16/21

H. L. ROGERS,
Quartermaster General, U.S.A.

C.W. 1232-Sec .84.

BY:

H. J. CONNER,
1st. Lieut. Q.M.C.

CEMETERY NO:

SHEET NO: 9
TYPED BY: I.W.

S/713/LML

APR 10 1921

APR 16 1921

NOTED FORM 113
DATE 4-19-21 E.M.

FILE

AGO

494-537

RETURNED

Ballas, Cli

UNCLAIMED
Pnt, Co A 23 Inf.

E. C.

1. C. Y. letter ret'd.

Mrs. Steve Ballas

531 - 61 Ave.

West Allis,

Milwaukee, Wis.

"Unclaimed"

2. Cas. files.

c c 434 verifies rank org.
and gives home address
as 524 ~~E. 4th~~ 8th Ave

N. Y. City, and P. O. as
Steve Ballas (Bro)

531 - 61 Ave

Received Alice,
Russia

MAY 13 1919
Division

2715

Cornes file

Mr Steve Ballas

531-61 ave

West Allis,
Milwaukee
Wis.

Rel. undelivered

OSP-SS
Form No. 1009

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
CEMETERIAL DIVISION
OVERSEAS PROJECT SUB-SECTION

Harlow G.W.

NAME OF DECEASED SOLDIER	CEMETERY NO.	DATE
Ballas, Eli, Pvt. <i>cpl.</i>	1232- Sec. 84 - 9	4/14/21.
SERIAL NUMBER	ORGANIZATION	DATE OF DEATH
49457	Co. A, 23rd Inf.	10/3/18.

Original Attached to
Form 115

WAR RISK INSURANCE INFORMATION

Date _____

DATE _____

PERSON NAMED BY SOLDIER TO BE BENEFICIARY OF INSURANCE RELATIONSHIP

ADDRESS _____

PERSON RECEIVING DEATH COMPENSATION RELATIONSHIP

CEMETERIAL DIVISION
REGISTRATION SECTION

FILE

June 3, 192

MEMO FOR:

Cards Department.

1.

CASE OF:

Co. A, 23rd Inf.

ORGANIZATION (Old)

BALLAS, 49457, Eli, Pvt.

(Name)

FILE

Correction or additional data changes as shown below have been made on the Registration Card of the above-mentioned soldier and a corresponding change will be necessary on the Organization Card:

ORGANIZATION (New)

FILE NO.

SURNAME

SERIAL NUMBER

FIRST NAME AND INITIALS

RANK

Cpl.

DATE OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH

	Date	Place	F-1A No.
Orig.			D-
1st Reb.			D-
2nd Reb.			D-
3rd Reb.			D-

(Note: In the above spaces below double line fill in ONLY the new data and data correcting previous information)

BY: S. Nelson,

Investigation & Adjustment
(Department)

5 x 8 card was sent to file.

Corrections made
on Organization
File Card:

By 2796

S/1105/LML

0

Ballas, Eli - Deceased

WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

MAR 29 1919

83814
AGO
RETIRED
UNCLAIMED

Mr. Steve Ballas,
531-61st Ave.,
West Allis, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Dear Sir:

The War Department desires to ascertain the wishes of the families of officers, enlisted men, and civilian employees regarding the permanent disposition of the bodies of those who have died overseas.

The original plan of the Department was to deliver the body in every case at the home address of the deceased to the person legally entitled to dispose of the remains. A desire has been expressed, however, in numerous instances to have the body remain abroad, and General Pershing is likely soon to enter into negotiations with the French and Allied Governments with the view of establishing permanent cemeteries for members of the American Expeditionary Forces. Marshal Petain in a most courteous letter has informed General Pershing that "France would be happy and proud to retain the bodies of the American victims who have fallen upon her soil."

A bill is now before Congress for the establishment of "Fields of Honor" abroad, which will insure future care by the United States Government as national cemeteries are now cared for. Burials have been made heretofore in cemeteries of the Allied nations or at or near the battle field in land set apart for this purpose as a cemetery, and religious services in accordance with the rites of the Protestant, Catholic, or Hebrew faith have been held at the grave.

In case the remains of a deceased soldier are returned to the United States they will be interred either at the former home of the deceased or at a national cemetery, according to the wishes of the one authorized to direct the disposition of the remains, and all expenses, including transportation, casket, shipping case, flag, and the preparation of the remains for shipment, will be paid by the United States. Hire of a hearse and other burial expenses incurred at the home of the deceased may be paid, on application by the relatives, by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Treasury Department.

In order that the proper disposition of the remains may be made, and that such disposition be directed by the person entitled to do so, the War Department will recognize the right to direct the disposition of remains in the following order:

In the case of an unmarried man—

- (1) Father; (2) mother, if father is dead; (3) brother, if both parents are dead; (4) sister, if both parents are dead and there are no brothers.

In the case of a married man—

- (1) Wife; (2) parents or children and other relatives in order set forth above.

It is desired that the information indicated on the inclosed card be furnished concerning the person named thereon at the earliest practicable date. If the card is received by some one not authorized to direct the disposition to be made of the remains, please deliver this circular and the card to the person who is entitled to do so.

The Department is unable to state when it will be possible to begin the removal of the remains of the soldiers, but the information requested is being collected at this time in order that there may be no delay when the time comes for such removal.

In returning the card please use the inclosed addressed penalty envelope, which requires no postage.

Very respectfully,

P. C. HARRIS,
The Adjutant General.