

Baltus

(Surname.)

Walter

(Christian name in full.)

573,664

Pvt

Co D 38th 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.

3-6713

gr.

MAY 14 1926

60
6690

DATE 12-9-21

SIGNAL No. 573564

1. NAME **BALTUS, Walter**RANK **Pvt.**ORGANIZATION **Co. D, 39th Inf.**DIVISION **4th Inf.**GRAVE LOCATION **Meuse-Argonne Amer. City, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon (Meuse)** GRAVE LOCATION **1232. Sec. 34**GRAVE **140** Sec. **34** PLOT **3**
ROW **KW**2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION **61 Fromereville, Meuse**
GRAVE **61** COMMUNE **Fromereville** DEPT. **Meuse**COORDINATES **Verdun 35 SE 265.45 N 321. E**CONCENTRATED TO **6/9/19** GRAVE **140** Sec. **34** PLOT **3**
DATE GRAVE ROWCEMETERY **Meuse Argonne Cemetery** CTY. NUMBER **1232**

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

TAGON CROSS AND BODY.

DATE OF DEATH **Oct 11-1918**STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME **Washington**

DATA F-1.

SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS

ccg.

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED **None**

CEMETERY

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

DATE

SIGNATURE, AREA SUPERVISOR **M. B. BIRDSEYE****1st Lt., Q.M. Corps, U.S.**

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION

12-9-21

10

30

D

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

Block **Block 10**AUDITED BY **M. J. S. 3/29/78**

Received

Meuse Argonne Amer. City, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon 1232

M. & R. BRANCH

Q. M. C.

CEMETERY

A. G. Q.
MAY 15 1926
WORLD WAR DIV.

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Baltus 573664 Waller
(Surname.) (Number.) (First Name and Initials.)

Pt. Co. 8. 39 Inf.
(Rank.) (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL Oct. 12 - 1918

PLACE OF BURIAL Military Cemetery

(Give Cemetery, Town and Department.) Map reference must specify clearly what map is used.

3.5 Kilom North of Duncerville

GRAVE NUMBER 61

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? Cross? Yes

Headboard? Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? Yes

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? Yes

If name unknown and tags missing, description and marks should be given here:

REPORTED BY:

Henry D. Klemann A.R.C. Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

This portion to be forwarded to Adj. Gen'l., G. H. Q., A. E. F.

Co D. 39th Infantry
4th Division

BALTUB, Walter, - Pvt. 573664

No witness at present.

Wounded Oct. 6th 1918 by shrapnel. Hit in right leg during heavy barrage while Company was in support. Leg was torn off and he died in hospital.

No Informant given

Signed: TOWSON, I.G. Captain
39th Infantry

MD

Place Neufchateau, Mosges.Date June 20th 1919.REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Remains of :

NAME: BALTUS Walter.NUMBER: 573664RANK: Unkn.ORGANIZATION: Co D. 39th Inf.

DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL MADE BY GROUP:

UNIT:

DISINTERRED: (Date)

FROM: (Give complete location)

9th June 1919.Grave 61. Fr Military City.FROMEREVILLE MEUSE.35SE 321.E 265.45N

REBURIED (Date)

IN: (Give complete location)

9th June 1919.-Grave No 140 Sect 34 Plot 3.ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETREY #1232.ROMAGNE MEUSE.

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

Burial good: Buried in uniform and blanket :Badly decomposed.

Was one identification tag found upon the body ? Yes.

What other means of identification were found on the body ? None,

Note:

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

Supervised by: Lt Stirn.

DC.

R. H. ROSENTHAL

2nd Lieut. Q.M.C.U.S.A.
C.O. Group _____ Unit _____

11322

11322

573664 10-11-18 ✓

CODE SLIP

HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME	Baltus	3	212
Walter	CETTERY 1232	1	1
BURIED	GRAVE 10	2	10
	ROW 30	2	30
	FLOCK Q	1	4
STATE	Wash	2	56
RANK	Prt	1	2
DIVISION	4	2	04
ORGANIZATION	39	3	039
ARM	Inf	1	1
MARITAL	Mo	1	2
NAME	Baltus and wife BAL	3	212
Rage	STATE	2	
RESIDENCE	COUNTY	2	
all rel. foreign	CITY	3	
RELATION	Mother	1	1
OTHER	Father	1	1
ELIGIBILITY	Foreign	1	4
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH		1	AUDITED
ATTENDANT		1	20 1938
HEALTH		1	✓ Rm
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF	MO.	1	
TRIP	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE	Lithuania	1	
29/514		2	27

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

DATE 8-20-31

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	ORGANIZATION	DATE OF DEATH
Baltus, Walter	Pvt.	573664	Co. D, 39th Inf.	10-11-18

STATE	CTY. NO. 1232	GRAVE 10	ROW 30	BLOCK D
-------	---------------	----------	--------	---------

	<u>Check relationship</u>	<u>Living - Deceased</u>
NAME	<u>MOTHER</u>	all rel. friends 1-16-33
AND	<u>STERMOTHER (For the year prior to commencement of service)</u>	
ADDRESS	<u>MOTHER THRU ADOPTION (For the year prior to commencement of service)</u>	
	<u>MOTHER IN LOCO PARENTIS (For the year prior to commencement of service)</u>	
	<u>WIDOW (Who has not remarried)</u>	

Engelman

Veterans Bureau Claim Number
29/156

XC 90039

M
Rozė Baltusnikienė
Kaimas Vėžiskiai
vals ir pastas
Regnva, apsk.
Panvežys,
Lithuania
8/27/33

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

0-90039

7-27

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

(Baltus, Walter)

Father -

June 29, 1929.

Mr. Kazimeras Baltusnikas
Kauno Redibos Wilkmerges Ravieta
Raguos States
Sodzius Neyske Lithuania

DPM

Brother

Mr. Mat. Baltus,
Tustin St.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929, entitled an Act "To enable the mothers and widows of the deceased soldiers, sailors and marines of the American forces now interred in the cemeteries of Europe to make a pilgrimage to these cemeteries".

The records of this office show that you are the brother of the late Private Walter Baltus, Co. D, 39th Inf., whose remains are now interred in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

Will you please advise this office whether or not he is survived by a mother or widow who is entitled under the provisions of the above quoted Act, to make the pilgrimage, and if so, will you please furnish the full names and addresses of the mother and widow in order that action may be taken to extend invitations to them to make the pilgrimage. Both mothers and widows are entitled to make the pilgrimage.

Your attention is particularly invited to Section 4 of the enclosed Act, which defines the terms "mother" and "widow". If the relative is a stepmother, mother through adoption, or any woman who stood in loco parentis to the decedent, a statement as to her relationship is requested. If he was survived by a widow who has since remarried it is also requested that a statement to that effect be made.

For your reply, you may use the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

2 incs.

Act of Congress.
Envelope.

John T. Harris
JOHN T. HARRIS,
Major, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June , 1929.

(Baltus, Walter)

29

Mr. Mat. Baltus,
Tustin St.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

2 incs.

Act of Congress.
Envelope.

JOHN T. HARRIS,
Major, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to:
293 C-R

July 7, 1923.

Mr. Mat. Baltus,
Pittsburgh,
Pa.

Dear Sir:

The Quartermaster General desires that you be informed that the permanent grave of Private Walter Baltus, Company D, 39th Infantry, is Grave 10, Row 30, Block D, 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. The 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.

In effecting removal, the utmost care and reverence were exacted and more than willingly accorded by those performing 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. J. Conner,
Assistant.

RD
23/236/ARK

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND CHIEF
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY

JULY 1917
WASHINGTON, D. C.

2:30 PM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$6.00



562 hot laundry

669 "

525 laundry



RETURNED
TO WRITER
Uptown Station,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Mat. Baltus,

Tustin St.,

Pittsburgh,

Pa.

Not in Directory.

In reply refer to:
293 C-R

July 7, 1923.

Mr. Mat. Baltus,
Pittsburgh,
Pa.

Dear Sir:

The Quartermaster General desires that you be informed that the permanent grave of Private Walter Baltus, Company D, 39th Infantry, is Grave 10, Row 30, Block D, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon (Meuse), France.

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In effecting removal, the utmost care and reverence were exacted and more than willingly accorded by those performing 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,
M. H. W.

H. J. Conner,
Assistant.

23/236/ARK

VII. G. R. S. Form No. 114 made _____, 1920.

Typed by _____, Checked by _____, _____, 1920.

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by

cable on	1920
letter on	4-13-, 1920

Section - 34

Par. 2- Not to be returned (EX)

IX.

CORRECTIONS

CHANGE OF ADVICE.	ACTION TAKEN.
Desires body be _____ _____	_____
Body to be shipped to _____ _____	_____

X. SUSPENSION REMARKS:

W.R.E.Q. - M. Mat Baltus, (Brother) -
5-6-21.
W.
Justin St,
Pittsburgh, Pa. (Em. add.)

Concentration

G. R. S. Form. No. 16-A

Place ... Romagne 1232.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Date Dec 8, 1921.

6

1. REMAINS OF BALTUS, Walter.

SERIAL NUMBER

573564

RANK

Pvt.

ORGANIZATION

Co. D. 39th Inf.

2. Disinterred (date):

Dec 8, 1921

From (give complete location):

gr 140, sec 34, plot 3, Cty. 1232.

4

Unit

sec 1

3. Reburied (date):

In (give complete location):

Dec. 9, 1921, Meuse-Argonne Cty. #1232, Gr. 10, Blk. D., Row 30

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 :

body tag reads: Baltus Walter 573664

6. What does examination of body show as regards the following identifying items ?

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

do

(b) Weight (estimated) do

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

no

missing parts).

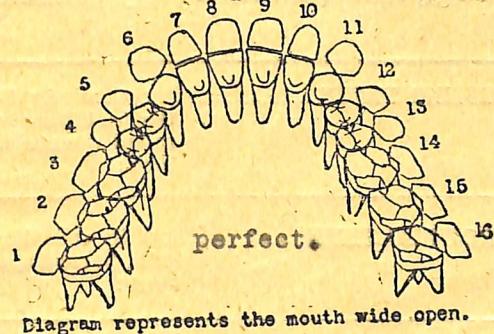
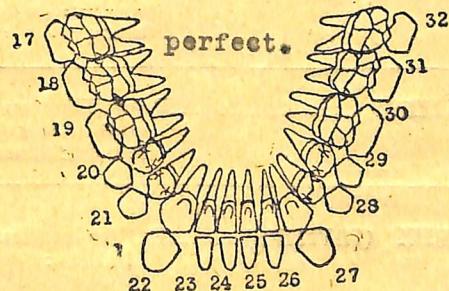


Diagram represents the mouth wide open.



(f) Wounds or missing parts (received at time of casualty)

none visible.

7. Disinterment

supervised by

Ed Lavelle

Approved:

A. E. Dewey lat Lt. Q.M.C.

(Title)

8. Reburial

supervised by

A. U. Dufault

Approved:

James W. Younger

(Title) Capt. Q.M.C.

gr.

G.R.S. FORM #114-A.

STATION Romagne, Cemetery #1232.

To be prepared in triplicate.

DATE Dec. 8, 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 BALTUS, Walter

10. Name _____

2. No. 573664

11. No. 573664 a 9 d

3. Rank Pvt.

12. Rank _____

4. Org. Co. D, 39th Inf.

13. Org. _____

5. D.D. Oct. 11th

14. (a) D.D. _____

6. C.D. DOW

(b) D.B. None.

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No. 140 Sec. 34

15. Grave No. _____ Sec. _____

8. Plot 3 Row _____

16. Plot _____ Row _____

9. _____

17. _____

18. Cemetery Mense-Argonne Amer.

19. Commune or town Romagne-sous-Montfaucon

20. Dept. or County Mense

21. Country France

22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 1232 Sec. 34

23. Disinterred (Date) Dec. 8, 1921. By Ed. Lavelle.

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Walter Baltus

Serial No. 573664

Rank Pvt.

Organization Co. D, 39th Inf.

25. Was identification disc found on grave marker?

Yes On body? Yes

J. L. White Signature Junior Technical Assistant

J. L. White

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).

None.

27. Condition of body Badly decomposed; features unrecognizable.

28. Nature of burial US uniform, burlap and pine box.

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 Dec. 8, 1921. By Ed. Lavelle.

31. Casket sealed by Ed. Lavelle.

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor)

Ed. Lavelle.

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.)

Box No. 922

C-18214

32. Designation of body:

Name **Walter BALTUS**

Serial No. **573564**

Rank **Pvt.**

Organization **Co D, 39th Inf.**

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery **Meuse-Argonne Amer. Cty. #1232,
Romagne-sous-Montfaucon (Meuse)**

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) **Dec. 8, 1921.** By **Ed. Lavelle.**

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

A. E. Dewey
Signature of G.R.S. Inspector **A. E. Dewey, 1st Lieut. QMC.**

36. Remarks

None.

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) **Dec. 8, 1921.**

To point of Concentration **Morgue, Romagne.**

(Name)

Convoyer **W. J. Royed.** Signature Shipping Officer

J. Gerald Cole

J. GERALD COLE

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

(Name)

Convoyer Signature Shipping Officer

40. Received: Date

G.R.S. Representative

41. Reinterred **Dec. 9, 1921, Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, # 1232**

(Date)

42. Grave No. **10**

Section

43. Plot **Block D**

Row **30**

G.R.S. Representative

James W. Younger
James W. Younger
Capt. Q.M.C.

rpc

OSP-SS

Form No. 1009

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

*Deceased
C 90039*

Harlow C.W.

NAME OF DECEASED SOLDIER

CEMETERY NO.

DATE

Baltus, Walter, Pvt.

SERIAL NUMBER

ORGANIZATION

1232-Sec.34 - 7 4/7/21.

DATE OF DEATH

573564

Co. D, 39th Inf.

10/11/18.

Copy forwarded to

Adjustment Department

WAR RISK INSURANCE INFORMATION

Date

DATE April 27, 1921.

Mr. Mat Baltus

Mr. Kazimieras Baltus
PERSON NAMED BY SOLDIER TO BE BENEFICIARY OF INSURANCE

Father

(Brother)

RELATIONSHIP

Tustin St. Pittsburgh. Pa.

Village Vieziske, Rabavos Val. Lithuania

(Em, Address)

ADDRESS

PERSON RECEIVING DEATH COMPENSATION

RELATIONSHIP

No record

35907
GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Baetis 573664 Walter

(Surname.) (Number.) (First Name and Initials.)

Pt. (Rank.)

Co 2 39 Infy 7 (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL Oct. 12 - 1918

PLACE OF BURIAL Military Cem.

(Give Cemetery, Town and Department.) Map reference must specify clearly what map is used.

3/5 Kilom. North of Bromerville

GRAVE NUMBER 61

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? Cross? Yes

Headboard? Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? Yes

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? Yes

If name unknown and tags missing, description and marks should be given here:

491

REPORTED BY:

Henry S. Klavan A.R.C. Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

26 OCT Rgu

This portion to be sent to Chief of Graves Registration Service.

Reg.Cards.

File No. 35907
March 7 1919

G.R.S. Form No. 8; Central Records Liaison.
Memo For: G.R.S. representative, C.R.O.
SUBJECT: Information required for G.R.S.

1. Items checked are to be completed:

Surname: **Baltus.**
 Number: **573564**
 First name: **Walter**
 Rank: **Pvt.**
 Company: **D.**
 Organization: **39th Inf. (39th).**
 Date of death: **10-11-18.**
 Cause:
 Place:

Location of hospital:

Number " "
Class " "
Relative: **Mat. Baltus.** } O.K.
Relationship: **Brother.** } Per.M.C.
Address: **Pittsburg. Pa.**
Pittsburg

Authority:
Cablegram No:
Telegram from: **11-2-18.**

dated:

Reported to Washington:
C.C. Nos: **290**
(Underscore the "official" C.C.)

Remarks:

Show present status on reverse side.
Advise complete and correct address of
nearest relative.

CHARLES C. PIERCE,
Lieut.-Colonel, Q.M.C., U.S.A.

Initials of Reporter: *Ed*

35907

2. Soldier's No. 57364

3. Baltus Walter
Surname (in block letters) First Name and Initials4. Pvt. D 39 S.W.
Rank Company Regt. or Corps5. Oct. 11, 1918 Wound
Date of Death Cause, if known6. French-American
Date of Burial Cemetery7. Fromerelle Mense
Town or Commune (in block letters) Department8. 61 Row 1 - Amer. Plot
Grave No. Plot No. or Letter9. Name Peg? Cross Headboard? Bottle
Check Method of Marking10. Buried with Body? ✓ Attached to Grave Marker? ✓
Identification Tags

11. If name unknown and tags missing, give marks and description.

12. Map No. 35 - S.E.
Map Reference, if interment is outside of cemetery... 26 S. 45 N. - 321.00 E.

13. Give name of Chaplain or Burial Officer

Signed Wm R. Lenox - Pvt. 1st cl.Group Unit 30! G. R. S.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army
Washington

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

Date 4/7/21.

NOTED FORM 15
DATE 4-7-21

ile No. Requisition

rom: The Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, (Commissary 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 Baltus *OK*

b. Christian name Walter *OK*

c. Serial Number 575564 573664

d. Organization Co. D, 39th Inf. *OK*

e. Rank Pvt. *OK*

f. Date of death 10/11/18. *OK*

g. Cause of death DWRIA. *OK*

h. Authority (C.O. #) mat Baltus

i. Emergency address Pittsburg, Pa

j. Relationship brother

BODY DESCRIPTION

(See page #2 of the Service Record)

a. Age of enlistment

b. Color of eyes

c. Color of hair *Adjustment Made*

d. Height *APR 18 1921*

e. Weight *3590*

f. Permanent marks and physical defects at enlistment (Old 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

Donnelly *OK*
One Per Sec
W 8 4/8/21 C.W.
H. L. ROGERS,
Quartermaster General, U.S.A.

CEMETERY NO: 1232-Sec.34.

SHEET NO: 7
TYPED BY:

S/713/LML

I.W. *Rec'd a World War Div.*
Date...APR 8...1921

BY: *H. J. Conner*
H. J. CONNER,
1st. Lieut. Q.M.C.

Rec'd S & S Div., A.G.O.

APR 8 1921 6

573, 664

Baltus, Walter

Prt Co D 38 Inf

E.a.

1. on litter ridg.

Mr. Mat Baltus

(T) Justini St. # not given

Pittsburg, Pa.

Not knowing

casualty file:

Same E.a.

Corres. file:

Feb. sent ~~now~~ not
returned

~~32-246~~
~~Sub P~~
~~b~~ ~~signed~~

WAR DEPARTMENT.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

534 Grand
562 Not known.
565 Not known

Returned to writer from
Uptown Sta., Pittsburgh, Pa.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.

Not in Directory

THRIVE by THRIFT

Buy War Savings Stamps

93 888

35907

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

MAR 20 1919

AGO CARD
RETIRED
UNCLAIMED.

Mr Mat Baltus,
Tustin St.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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,

8-6703

P. C. HARRIS,
The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

~~GRAVES REGISTRATION SER~~ 1
WASHINGTON, D. C.

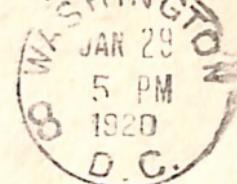
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

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Mr. Mat Baltus
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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10/12/2011