

DATE 10/13/21

1. NAME BESS, Robert

SERIAL No 2038298

RANK Cpl

ORGANIZATION Co. H, 115th Inf

& DIVISION 29th

GRAVE LOCATION Meuse-Argonne Am. Romagne/s/Montfaucon 1232 sec 61

CTY. NAME

NUMBER

18 sec 61 xxx 1  
GRAVE ROW PLOT

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION 2 Isol. Consenvoye Meuse  
GRAVE COMMUNE DEPT.

COORDINATES 35-NE E-324.76 N. 280.81

CONCENTRATED TO M2y 19/19 18 61 1  
DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

Meuse-Argonne

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 corroded and illegible.

Record on G.R.S. Plaque.

DATE OF DEATH Oct. 28 '18

Data F.1  
SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS

STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME Mich

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED none

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

SIGNATURE, AREA SUPERVISOR

M. B. BIRDSEYE

1st Lt., Q.M. Corps, U.S. Army

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION 10/13/21 3 30 Brook-F.  
DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

AUDITED BY M.J.D. 4-18/22  
KNI 713

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

Rec'd World War Div  
3 APR 4 1928

A. G. O.  
AUG 11 1926  
WORLD WAR DIV.

CODE SLIP

✓

HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME <i>Bess</i>	<i>BES</i>	3	<i>259</i>
<i>Robert</i>	CEMETERY <i>1232</i>	1	<i>1</i>
BURIED	GRAVE <i>3</i>	2	<i>03</i>
	ROW <i>30</i>	2	<i>30</i>
	BLOCK <i>f</i>	1	<i>6</i>
STATE	<i>Michigan</i>	2	<i>26</i>
RANK	<i>Cpl</i>	1	<i>2</i>
DIVISION	<i>29</i>	2	<i>29</i>
ORGANIZATION	<i>115</i>	3	<i>115</i>
ARM	<i>Inf.</i>	1	<i>1</i>
MARTIAL	<i>No</i>	1	<i>✓</i>
NAME <i>Bess</i>	<i>BES</i>	3	<i>259</i>
<i>Mrs. John</i>	STATE <i>Mich.</i>	2	<i>26</i>
RESIDENCE	COUNTY <i>Saginaw</i>	2	<i>74</i>
	CITY <i>St. Charles</i>	3	<i>xxx</i>
RELATION	<i>Mother</i>	1	<i>1</i>
OTHER	<i>Father</i>	1	<i>1</i>
ELIGIBILITY	<i>yes</i>	1	<i>1</i>
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH	<i>yes</i>	1	<i>1</i>
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH		1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF TRIP	MO.	1	
	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE	<i>No</i>	1	<i>2</i>

**AUDITED**  
 DEC 14 1981  
*BTD*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Bess Robert (MA)

July 7 1932

Mrs John Bess  
St Charles Mich

Dear Madam:

The Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930, authorizes pilgrimages to the cemeteries Of Europe during the years 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933 for the mothers and widows of deceased members of the American forces who were lost or buried at sea or whose remains are interred in Europe.

Your attention is particularly invited to the fact that this is the last opportunity you will have to make the pilgrimage under the provisions of the above mentioned Act. Unless you take advantage of this LAST chance to make a trip in 1933 you will receive no benefit from the Act. There is no provision of law which will permit the Government to make a money allowance to any mother or widow who does not choose to make the pilgrimage.


IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU GIVE THE MATTER YOUR MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE REACHING A DECISION, BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE TRIP AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

In order to assure proper and satisfactory accommodations for the mothers and widows making the journey in 1933, reservations for steamship transportation must be made by this office several months in advance. It is requested that you answer the questions below by writing "Yes" or "No" or "Undecided" in the blank space following the question. When you have answered the question, sign your name and return this sheet in the enclosed addressed envelope which requires no postage. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY, as it is essential that the information be in this office promptly.

This letter is being sent to all eligible mothers and widows who did not make the pilgrimage during the years 1930, 1931 or 1932. There is enclosed a circular of information WHICH YOU SHOULD READ VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

  
CHAS. W. DIETZ,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

2 Encls.

DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1933? NO  
(Write answer here)

(Sign here)

Mrs. John Bess

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Bess, Robert Cpl. (M-A) M

June 11, 1931.

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Arrangements are now being made for conducting pilgrimages during the year 1932 to the cemeteries in Europe under the provisions of the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended.

To assure proper and satisfactory accommodations, reservations for steamship transportation required during the summer of 1932 must be made by this office not later than August 1st of this year. It is therefore desired that you answer the question below by writing either of the words "Yes", "No", or "Undecided" in the blank space following the question.

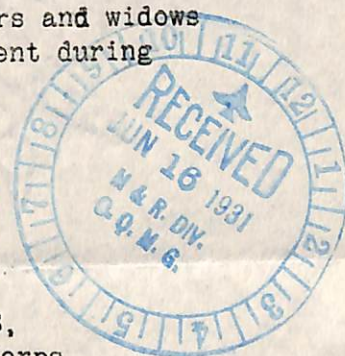
As soon as you have answered the question, please sign your name and return this sheet in the enclosed addressed envelope which requires no postage. Do not delay, as a prompt reply is essential.

This letter is being sent to all eligible mothers and widows who did not make a pilgrimage at the expense of the Government during 1930 and are not making the journey in 1931.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

*A. D. Hughes*  
A. D. HUGHES,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.



DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1932? NO

Write answer here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign here

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 7, 1930.

Bess, Robert 1232 M

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Arrangements are now being made for conducting pilgrimages during the year 1931, to the cemeteries in Europe under the provisions of the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929.

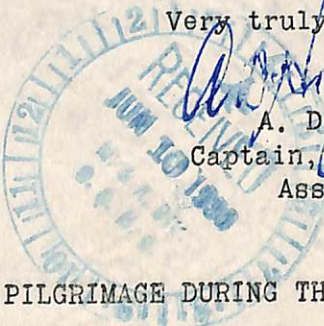
To assure proper and satisfactory accommodations, reservations for steamship transportation required during the summer of 1931 **must be made by this office not later than August 1st of this year.** It is therefore desired that you answer the question below by writing the word "Yes" or "No" in the blank space following the question.

As soon as you have answered the question, please sign your name and return this sheet in the enclosed addressed envelope, which requires no postage. Do not delay, as a prompt reply is essential.

This letter is being sent to all mothers and widows who are not making the pilgrimage in 1930, regardless of whether or not they have expressed a desire to make the pilgrimage.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

  
*A. D. Hughes*  
A. D. HUGHES,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1931? NO

(Write answer here)

*Mrs John Bess*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign here)

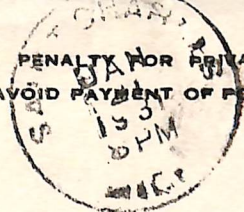
1232

R. E. Shannon  
Captain I. M. Corps.

Dear Sir: In reply to  
your letter about  
Corporal Robert Bess. He  
was never married  
and always stayed at  
the home of his parents  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bess.  
St. Charles.  
Mich.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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



THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORIAL BRANCH

QM 293 A-M  
Bess, Robert Cpl. 1232 M

January 18, 1931.

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles, Michigan.

Dear Madam:

In order that the records of this office may be complete and correct, it is requested that you advise whether or not the late Corporal Robert Bess was married and is survived by a widow. If so, please furnish her name and address.

For your convenience in replying, there is enclosed herewith a self-addressed envelope which requires no postage.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

R. E. SHANNON,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

Encl:  
Env.

MM

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

October 7, 1929.

Bess, Robert 1232 M

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles,  
Michigan.

Dear Madam:

The Act of Congress which provides for pilgrimages to cemeteries in Europe by mothers and widows of members of the military or naval forces of the United States who died in the military or naval service at any time between April 5, 1917 and July 1, 1921, and whose remains are now interred in such cemeteries, all necessary expenses of which pilgrimages are to be paid by the United States Government, requires that the Secretary of War make an investigation and submit the results of such investigation in a report to Congress not later than December 15, 1929. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the total number of mothers and widows entitled to make the pilgrimages, the number of such mothers and widows who desire to make the pilgrimages, the number who desire to make the pilgrimages during the calendar year 1930 and the probable cost of the pilgrimages to be made.

In order that the report referred to may be made and plans completed for conducting the pilgrimages, it is requested that you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office by return mail in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage if eligible?	(Yes)	(No) <i>No</i>
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1930?	(Yes)	(No) <i>No</i>
3. Have you at any time made a previous visit to the grave of the deceased member of the military or naval forces in whom you are interested?	(Yes)	(No) <i>No</i>
4. Please give your age and state of health.	Age (Years)	Health (Good) (Poor)
5. What language do you speak?	English - (Yes)	(No)
Other language (Specify language spoken)		



For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl.  
Act  
Envelope

**BESS BROS.**  
**GROCERIES AND MEATS**  
 ST. CHARLES, MICHIGAN

St Charles Mich

July 6-1921

in regard to Robert Bess  
 mother she is living in  
 St Charles Mrs John Bess

Yours Truly J. H. Bess

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C  
Bess, Robert

June 29, 1929.

Mr. John H. Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich.

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 father of the late Cpl. Robert Bess, Co. H, 115th 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 incls.  
Act of Congress.  
Envelope.

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

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Bess Robert (MA)

July 7 1932

Mrs John Bess  
St Charles Mich

Dear Madam:

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IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU GIVE THE MATTER YOUR MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE REACHING A DECISION, BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE TRIP AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

In order to assure proper and satisfactory accommodations for the mothers and widows making the journey in 1933, reservations for steamship transportation must be made by this office several months in advance. It is requested that you answer the questions below by writing "Yes" or "No" or "Undecided" in the blank space following the question. When you have answered the question, sign your name and return this sheet in the enclosed addressed envelope which requires no postage. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY, as it is essential that the information be in this office promptly.

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For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

CHAS. W. DIETZ,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

2 Encls.

DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1933? \_\_\_\_\_

(Write answer here)

(Sign here) \_\_\_\_\_

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Bess, Robert Cpl. (M-A) M

June 11, 1931.

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich.

Dear Madam:

Arrangements are now being made for conducting pilgrimages during the year 1932 to the cemeteries in Europe under the provisions of the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended.

To assure proper and satisfactory accommodations, reservations for steamship transportation required during the summer of 1932 must be made by this office not later than August 1st of this year. It is therefore desired that you answer the question below by writing either of the words "Yes", "No", or "Undecided" in the blank space following the question.

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This letter is being sent to all eligible mothers and widows who did not make a pilgrimage at the expense of the Government during 1930 and are not making the journey in 1931.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

A. D. HUGHES,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1932? \_\_\_\_\_

Write answer here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign here

RECEIVED  
Q. M. & R. BR  
JUN - 11 - PM 12:00

0678

QM 293 A-M  
Bess, Robert Cpl. 1232 M

January 18, 1951.

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles, Michigan.

Dear Madam:

In order that the records of this office may be complete and correct, it is requested that you advise whether or not the late Corporal Robert Bess was married and is survived by a widow. If so, please furnish her name and address.

For your convenience in replying, there is enclosed herewith a self-addressed envelope which requires no postage.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

R. E. SHANNON,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

Incl:

Envy.

MM

U.S. ARMY  
JAN 19 12 39 PM '51  
RECEIVED

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 7, 1930.

Bess, Robert 1232 M

Mrs. John Bess,  
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Dear Madam:

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For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

A. D. HUGHES,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

DO YOU DESIRE TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE DURING THE YEAR 1931? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write answer here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign here)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

October 7, 1929.

Bess, Robert 1232 M

Mrs. John Bess,  
St. Charles,  
Michigan.

Dear Madam:

The Act of Congress which provides for pilgrimages to cemeteries in Europe by mothers and widows of members of the military or naval forces of the United States who died in the military or naval service at any time between April 5, 1917 and July 1, 1921, and whose remains are now interred in such cemeteries, all necessary expenses of which pilgrimages are to be paid by the United States Government, requires that the Secretary of War make an investigation and submit the results of such investigation in a report to Congress not later than December 15, 1929. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the total number of mothers and widows entitled to make the pilgrimages, the number of such mothers and widows who desire to make the pilgrimages, the number who desire to make the pilgrimages during the calendar year 1930 and the probable cost of the pilgrimages to be made.

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2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1930?	(Yes)	(No)
3. Have you at any time made a previous visit to the grave of the deceased member of the military or naval forces in whom you are interested?	(Yes)	(No)
4. Please give your age and state of health.	Age (Years)	Health (Good) (Poor)
5. What language do you speak?	English - (Yes) (No)	Other language (Specify language spoken)

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

Encl.  
Act  
Envelope

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

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C  
**Bess, Robert**

June 29, 1929.

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St. Charles, Mich.

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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 incls.  
Act of Congress.  
Envelope.

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

**GRAVE LOCATION BLANK**

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

**Bess,** ..... **Robert** .....  
(Surname). (Number). (First Name and Initials).

**Pvt.** ..... **Co. H, 115th Inf.** .....  
(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH: .....

CAUSE OF DEATH: ..... **Killed in action** .....

DATE OF BURIAL: ..... **October 29, 1918.** .....

PLACE OF BURIAL: ..... **At point 25.2 - 80.3** .....

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

**Map Verdun B 1/20,000 Tirage du 19 Mai** .....  
**1918. 2 kilo north of Brabant sur Meuse.** .....

GRAVE NUMBER: ..... **3** .....

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? ..... **Yes** ..... Cross? .....

Headboard? ..... Bottle? .....

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? ..... **No** .....

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? ..... **No** .....

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

NEAREST RELATIVE: ..... **John H. Bess** .....

ADDRESS: ..... **St. Charles, Mich.** .....

RELATIONSHIP: ..... **Father** .....

REPORTED BY:

**F.C. Reynolds, 1st Lt. Chaplain, 115th Infantry** .....  
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer)

This portion to be forwarded to Central Records Office, A. G. O., A. E. F.

*Robert Bess  
2038298  
Cpl H 115*

*file  
2038298  
e/25/26*

293

FILE UNDER NO.

# INDEX SHEET

## SYNOPSIS

Re: Furnishing headstones

293

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Under "Synopsis" make brief entry showing date of communication and from whom received and synopsis sufficient to identify the papers. When these index sheets become numerous under a subject they will be entered on the consolidated index sheet and then destroyed.

23/304/EPB  
Q. M. C. Form 351 (Old Form 489)  
Revised July 26, 1918

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

3-6642

Bess, Robert 2,038,298  
(Surname) (Christian name in full.) (Army serial number.)  
Corp Co H 115 Inf.  
(Rank and organization.)

State your relationship to the deceased *Father*  
Do you desire the remains brought to the United States? *no*  
(Yes or no.)  
If remains are brought to the United States, do you wish them interred in a national cemetery? *yes*  
(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) *John Harrison Bess*  
*St. Charles, Mich.*  
(Number and street or rural route.) (City, town, or post office.) (State.)

Read carefully the letter accompanying this card. 3-6713

Noted G.C.

Date 5-6-21

1237 Sec. 61-13

Handed  
H-9-5-OK  
J. C. [unclear]

In reply refer to:  
QM 293 C-R

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

September 6, 1925.

Mr. John H. Bess,  
St. Charles,  
Mich.

Dear Sir:

The Quartermaster General desires you be informed that the  
Grave 3, Row 30, Block E, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-  
Montfaucou (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,

Assistant.

SEP 6 1925  
M. H. W.

23/584/ARK

RD

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL.

Remains of:

Number:

58178

Name: BESS, *Robert*

Rank: UNK.

Organization: CO. H. 115th., Inf.

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Disinterred (Date)

From: (Give complete location)

29th., May, 1919

Grave #2 Consenvoey, Meuse. Isol. Gr.

35 NE 324.76 E 280.81 N.

Reburied (Date)

in: (Give complete location)

1232

19th., May, 1919

Grave #18 Sec. #61 Plot #1

ARGONNE AMER. CETY. # 1232

ROMAGNE, MEUSE.

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

BURIAL POOR. BURIED IN UNIFORM. BODY IN FAIR CONDITION.

Was one identification tag found upon the body? NO.

What other means of identification were found on the body? NONE.

10828  
CONFIRMED No. D.....

Note:

If upon disinterment, effects are found upon bodies, they will be promptly sent to the Effects Depot direct as is required by G.O. 170, G.H. 2, 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. RUBSAMEN

R. H. ROSENTHAL

hs

C.O. Group

2nd Lieut. O.M.C.U.S.A.

Unit

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File # 58178

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BESS, Robert. Ser. No. 2038298
(b) Rank Cpl Organization Co. H. 115th Inf.
(c) Date of death 10-28-18 (d) Cause of death K/A
TYP. hmp
CKR. BB

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

(a) Grave No. 18 Row ----- Plot 1 Sec. 61 TYP. hmp
(b) Emerg. Address John H. Bess. (Father) St. Charles. Mich.

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases / / CKR. BB

IV. A. G. O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt None

(a) Name John Harrison Bess (b) Relationship Father
(c) Address St. Charles Mich.
(d) Remains to be brought to U. S.? No
(e) To be interred in National Cemetery in U. S. at Yes
(f) Shipping instructions upon arrival of body in U. S.

(g) Disposition instructions if not brought to U. S.

Examiner's Initials B. C. Date 5-6, 1921

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

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

Examiner's Initials Date, 192

VI. G. R. S. FILES, CORRESPONDENCE—shows as follows: Anna Bess (sister) writes Mr. Jno. Bess (father) St. Charles, Mich. requests body returned home for burial

(a) Cancellation memos referred to?

Examiner's Initials B. C. Date 5-6, 1921

COUNTRY FRANCE CEMETERY No. 1232 Sec. 61 SHEET No. 13

acc 5-28-21

Handwritten notes and signatures at bottom right, including '70-5-16-21' and a signature.

RECEIVED BY  
MAIL UNIT

JUN 21 1921

Cemeterial Division  
Ovenscas Project Sub-Section

VII. G. R. S. Form No. 114 made \_\_\_\_\_, 192

Typed by \_\_\_\_\_, Checked by \_\_\_\_\_, 192

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on \_\_\_\_\_, 192  
letter on **MAY 17 1921**, 192

*Sec. 61 -* **PARAGRAPH 2 - NOT TO BE RETURNED** *sq*

IX.

REMARKS

*G.L.B. gives E.A. as - John H. Bess, father,  
St. Charles, Mich. 5-6-21 N.C.  
b-10-21- Telegram from father, John H. Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich. - requests body left in France.  
Form 120 6/9/21 Father & n/c, John H. Bess;  
St. Charles, Mich requests body remain in Europe.  
Let 7/18/21 Inq. ack. 120 & telegram 4/10. Advised  
father his wishes - body to remain - will be complied  
with 8-1-21 Va.*

WRITE NOTHING BELOW THIS LINE.

To be prepared in triplicate.

DATE Oct. 11th 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 BESS, Robert
- 2. No. 2038298
- 3. Rank Cpl
- 4. Org. Co.H, 115th Inf
- 5. D.D. Oct. 28 / 18
- 6. C.D. KIA

- 10. Name \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. No. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Rank \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Org. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. (a) D.D. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) D.B. No discrepancy.

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

- 7. Grave No. 18 Sec. 61
- 8. Plot 1 Row \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_

- 15. Grave No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Plot \_\_\_\_\_ Row \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. No discrepancy.

- 18. Cemetery Meuse-Argonne Am
- 20. Dept. or County Meuse
- 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 1232 sec 61

- 19. Commune or town Romagne/s/Montfaucon
- 21. Country France

23. Disinterred (Date) Oct. 11th 1921 By H.E.STRONG.

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Robert Bess

Rank Cpl.

Serial No. None.

Organization Co. H. 115 Inf.

25. Was identification disc found on grave marker? No On body? No.

W.D.WILSON.

*W.D. Wilson*  
Signature Junior Technical Assistant

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). Plaque on grave marker and body read, "Bess. Co. H. 115 Inf. Killed 10-27-18. Buried 10-29-18."

27. Condition of body Badly decomposed, features unrecognizable.

28. Nature of burial Uniform burlap and wooden 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 Oct. 11th 1921 By H.E.STRONG.

31. Casket sealed by H.E.STRONG.

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor)

*H.E. Strong*  
H.E.STRONG.

AUDITED

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.)

Box No. C-11814

32. Designation of body:

Name BESS, Robert

Serial No. 2038298

Rank Cpl

Organization Co. H, 115th Inf

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery Meuse-Argonne Am. Romagne/s/Montfaucon 1232

Oct. 11th 1921

H.E. ST ONG.

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date)

By

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

Signature of G.R.S. Inspector

Geo. C. Bland, 1st Lieut. G.M.C.

36. Remarks

None.

Oct. 11th 1921

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date)

To point of Concentration

Convoyer

Signature Shipping Officer

Albert M. J. (Name) Capt. C.A.C. ewr

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

Signature Shipping Officer

(Name)

40. Received: Date

G.R.S. Representative

41. Reinterred Meuse Argonne Cem. 1232, Oct. 13, 1921.

(Date)

42. Grave No. Row 30 Bl. F. Gr. 3.

Section

43. Plot

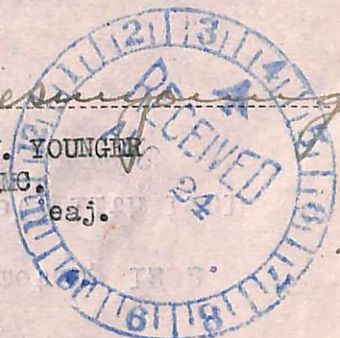
Row

G.R.S. Representative

JAMES W. YOUNGER  
CAPT. QIG.

ea.j.

hw



Place Argonne 1232.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Date Oct. 11, 1921.

1. REMAINS OF BESS, Robert SERIAL NUMBER 2038298

RANK Pvt. ORGANIZATION Co. H, 115th Inf.

2. Disinterred (date): From (give complete location):

Oct. 11, 1921 r 18, Sec 61, Plot 1

By: Group 4 Unit Sec 2.

3. Reburied (date): In (give complete location):

Oct, 13, 1921. Meuse Argonne Cem. 1232, Row 30 Bl. F. Gr. 3.

By: Group Reburial Sec. 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? no On grave marker? no

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

Plaque on grave marker and body reads "Bess, Co. H, 115th Inf. Killed 10-27-18.

Buried 10-29-18"

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

(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

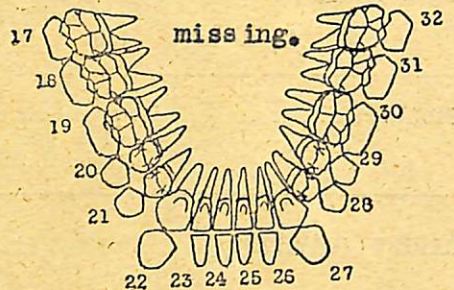
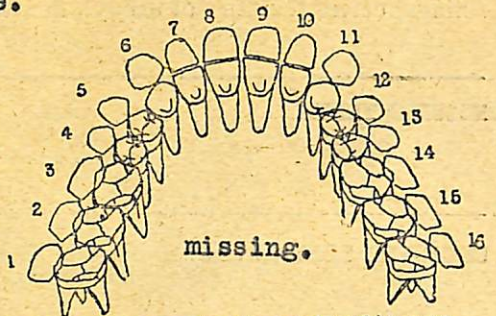
Quantity do

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

missing parts) do

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

Trunk shattered, both legs shattered, head and lower jaw missing.



7. Disinterment supervised by H.E. Strong Approved: Geo. C. Bland  
H.E. Strong. (Title) 1st Lt. Q.M.C.

8. Reburial supervised by W. B. SHELD Approved: JAMES W. YOUNGER  
W. B. SHELD (Title) CAPT. Q.M.C.

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File # 58178

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BESS, Robert. Ser. No. 2028293
(b) Rank Cpl Organization Co. H. 115th Inf.
(c) Date of death 10-28-18 (d) Cause of death K/A
TYP hmp

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

(a) Grave No. 18 Row Plot 1 Sec. 61 TYP. hmp
(b) Emerg. Address John H. Bess. (Father) St. Charles. Mich.

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases / CKR

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

[Dotted lines for handwritten information]

V. Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on ..., 192
letter of transmittal on MAY 17 1921, 192

Sec. 61 - PARAGRAPH 2 - NOT TO BE RETURNED

VI. Form 115 forwarded to G. R. S., Hoboken, N. J., MAY 31 1921, 192

VII. SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS.

Table with 4 columns: Date of and source, Relationship and name, Desires, Action taken.

VIII. Form 115 received from G. R. S., Hoboken, N. J., 6-21-21, 192

COUNTRY CEMETERY No. SHEET No.

5/28/21

1232-61-13

July 18th, 1921

293.8 - Cem. #58178 - (Bess, Robert, Cpl.)

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

Mr. John H. Bess, St. Charles, Mich.

Disposition of remains.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of shipping inquiry executed under date of June 9th and telegram under date of June 10th requesting that the remains of your son, the late Corporal Robert Bess, Company H, 115th Infantry be permanently interred in France and in reply thereto you are advised that instructions have been issued that your wishes be complied with. The body of the deceased is now interred in a permanent American Cemetery and the grave will be perpetually maintained by the Government in a most careful and reverent manner.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

dma

CHARLES J. WYNN, Captain, Q.M.C.

HW

JUL 18 1921

RECEIVED BY MAIL UNIT

JUL 18 1921

Cemeterial Division Overseas Project Division

Noted on Form No. 125  
Date 8-1-21 Wla

File No. 293.8 Cem.Div.Cor. Br.

July 8th, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Cemeterial Division,  
O.Q.M.G., Washington, D.C.

1. Forwarded herewith is Shipping Inquiry Form #120 dated June 9th, 1921, to be attached to the files of the following deceased soldier, Robert Bess, Corporal, Serial Number 2038298, Company H, 115th Infantry, records having been returned to your office on June 15th, 1921.

R. E. SHANNON,  
Capt ain, O.Q.M.G.,  
Officer in Charge.

BY:

F. C. PALLAS,  
Executive Assistant.

1 enc 1.  
ff/ol

DIA  
CEMETERIAL DIVISION

DIA O.Q.M.G.  
CEMETERIAL DIVISION  
JUL 17 1921  
RECEIVED

RECEIVED  
JUL 11 1921  
O.Q.M.G.

RECEIVED  
JUL 11 1921  
O.Q.M.G.

RECEIVED  
JUL 13 1921  
O.Q.M.G.

Aug in lskd  
8-1-21 sea.

NR

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY

CEMETERIAL DIVISION

WASHINGTON

*Case was ret. to march 6/14*

**This is not a notice that body has arrived in U.S.**

*4/11 - inc Ourlow*  
NOV 8 1921

*To Wash 6/15/21*  
*(K 5/1)*

FROM: Chief, Cemeterial Division, O. Q. M. G.

To: **Mr. John H. Bess, St. Charles, Michigan.**

SUBJECT: Remains of **Cpl. Robert Bess, Ser. No. 2038298, Co. H, 115th Inf.**

The records of this office show that you have requested that the body of the above-named soldier ~~be returned to the United States and shipped to you at St. Charles, Michigan.~~ soldier

If these are not the correct instructions, please correct them. Make corrections on reverse side of this sheet.

The nearest next of kin may choose between, (1) return of the body to any address in the United States; (2) interment in the National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., or any other National Cemetery; or (3) body to remain in Europe.

By authority of the Quartermaster General.

GEORGE H. PENROSE,  
Colonel, Q. M. G.

If all blank spaces below are not filled out, it will necessitate a return of this paper and a SERIOUS DELAY in the shipment of this body. State in each case WHETHER or not these relatives are STILL LIVING.

Was soldier married? *No*

JUN 13 1921

NAME OF—	NO. AND STREET.	TOWN.	STATE.
Soldier's widow			
Soldier's children. (Name oldest first.)			
Father		St Charles	Mich
Mother		St Charles	Mich.
Brothers. (Name oldest first.)			
Sisters. (Name oldest first.)			

*Noted on Form No. 11B*  
*Date 8-1-21*  
*aaa*

Date *June 9 - 1921*  
Address *St. Charles Mich*

Signature *John H Bess*  
Relationship *father*

I, the undersigned, am the Father and nearest living next of kin of the within-named soldier, and desire the following disposition of his remains, viz:  
(Strike out all except the one showing the disposition desired.)

1. As stated on first page of this sheet.

2. ~~To be returned to the U. S. and shipped to~~ \_\_\_\_\_

(Name.)

(R. R. station.)

(State.)

3. ~~To be returned to the U. S. and buried in~~ \_\_\_\_\_

National Cemetery.

4. To remain in Europe, for burial in a permanent American Cemetery.

Signature John H. Bers

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT.

1. If definite instructions for the disposition of a body are not received from the next of kin within two weeks of its arrival at New York, burial will be made without further notice in the World War Section of Arlington National Cemetery.

2. The transfer of bodies will be made ENTIRELY at Government expense.

3. This paper **MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PERSON WHO IS THE NEXT OF KIN IN THE ORDER** shown in the square on the other side of this sheet.

4. This paper must be returned showing the name and address of each of the nearest next of kin in the spaces provided therefor on the other side of this sheet.

5. If there are minor children of the deceased soldier and no widow, the **LEGALLY APPOINTED GUARDIAN** of the children should ascertain their wishes and act for them in this matter.

6. If **YOU** are not the nearest next of kin, please ask the nearest next of kin, if living near you, to fill out this paper.

7. If **YOU** are not the nearest living next of kin and do not know who or where the nearest relatives are, please fill out this paper **AT ONCE** and mail to this office.

8. You are requested to return this paper **AT ONCE** in order to avoid delay in the case of this body.

9. Use the inclosed envelope—pay no postage.

NOTE.—INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS will be issued by this office upon the properly executed authority of the legal next of kin in each case. The widow is the first person having disposition of the remains of her husband. Should there be no widow or children, the father and, in turn (upon his decease), the mother, is the proper authority. The brothers, in order of seniority, and then the sisters in order of seniority, if there are no brothers, rank next in authority to decide. Under an opinion rendered by the Judge Advocate General of the Army, if a widow has remarried she forfeits her right, and the next of kin as given above will make decision.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
QUARTERMASTER CORPS  
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE  
PIER 2, HOBOKEN, N. J.

1232-61-13

File No. 293.8 Cem.Div., Cor. Br.  
(BESS, Robert)

June 14th, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Cemeterial Division,  
O.Q.M.G., Washington, D.C.


SUBJECT:

Return of Records. Cemetery No. 1232-61  
Cable Reference No.13, Transmittal,  
Memorandum No.H-129.

1. Returned herewith are records  
pertaining to the case of the late Robert Bess, Corporal  
Serial Number 2038298, Company H, 115th Infantry, no  
request having been made for the return of the remains  
to the United States.

R. E. SHANNON,  
Captain, Q.M.G.,  
Officer in Charge.

BY:

  
F. C. PALLAS,  
Executive Assistsnt.

Incl(records)

R- 6-22-21 AM

1232-Serial-61-13 md

NR

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
CEMETERIAL DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

JUN 6 1921

FROM: Chief, Cemeterial Division, O. Q. M. G.

To: Mr. John H. Bess, St. Charles, Michigan.

SUBJECT: Remains of ~~Cpl. Robert Bess, Ser. No. 2039298, Co. H, 115th Inf.~~

The records of this office show that you have requested that the body of the above-named ~~soldier~~

~~be returned to the United States and shipped to you at St. Charles, Michigan.~~

If these are not the correct instructions, please correct them. Make corrections on reverse side of this sheet.

The nearest next of kin may choose between, (1) return of the body to any address in the United States; (2) interment in the National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., or any other National Cemetery; or (3) body to remain in Europe.

By authority of the Quartermaster General.

GEORGE H. PENROSE,  
Colonel, Q. M. C.

If all blank spaces below are not filled out, it will necessitate a return of this paper and a SERIOUS DELAY in the shipment of this body. State in each case WHETHER or not these relatives are STILL LIVING.

Was soldier married? .....

NAME OF—	NO. AND STREET.	TOWN.	STATE.
Soldier's widow .....			
Soldier's children. (Name oldest first.)	1 .....		
	2 .....		
	3 .....		
Father .....			
Mother .....			
Brothers. (Name oldest first.)	1 .....		
	2 .....		
	3 .....		
Sisters. (Name oldest first.)	1 .....		
	2 .....		
	3 .....		

Date .....

Signature .....

Address .....

Relationship .....

I, the undersigned, am the \_\_\_\_\_ and nearest living next of kin of the within-named  
 (Relationship.)  
 soldier, and desire the following disposition of his remains, viz:  
 (Strike out all except the one showing the disposition desired.)

1. As stated on first page of this sheet.

2. To be returned to the U. S. and shipped to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (R. R. station.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (State.)

3. To be returned to the U. S. and buried in \_\_\_\_\_ National Cemetery.

4. To remain in Europe, for burial in a permanent American Cemetery.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT.

1. If definite instructions for the disposition of a body are not received from the next of kin within two weeks of its arrival at New York, burial will be made without further notice in the World War Section of Arlington National Cemetery.

2. The transfer of bodies will be made ENTIRELY at Government expense.

3. This paper MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PERSON WHO IS THE NEXT OF KIN IN THE ORDER shown in the square on the other side of this sheet.

4. This paper must be returned showing the name and address of each of the nearest next of kin in the spaces provided therefor on the other side of this sheet.

5. If there are minor children of the deceased soldier and no widow, the LEGALLY APPOINTED GUARDIAN of the children should ascertain their wishes and act for them in this matter.

6. If YOU are not the nearest next of kin, please ask the nearest next of kin, if living near you, to fill out this paper.

7. If YOU are not the nearest living next of kin and do not know who or where the nearest relatives are, please fill out this paper AT ONCE and mail to this office.

8. You are requested to return this paper AT ONCE in order to avoid delay in the case of this body.

9. Use the inclosed envelope—pay no postage.

NOTE.—INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS will be issued by this office upon the properly executed authority of the legal next of kin in each case. The widow is the first person having disposition of the remains of her husband. Should there be no widow or children, the father and, in turn (upon his decease), the mother, is the proper authority. The brothers, in order of seniority, and then the sisters in order of seniority, if there are no brothers, rank next in authority to decide. Under an opinion rendered by the Judge Advocate General of the Army, if a widow has remarried she forfeits her right, and the next of kin as given above will make decision.

1232-61-13

File No. 293.0 Gen.Div., Cor. Branch.  
(BESS, Robert)

June 16th, 1921.

Mr. John H. Boss,  
St. Charles, Mich.

re: Cpl. Robert Boss,  
Ser. No. 2038298,  
Co. H. 115th Inf.

Dear Sir:

Your telegram dated June 10th, 1921, requesting that the remains of the deceased soldier named above be left in France have been forwarded to the Comptroller Division Officer in the Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C. for necessary action.

It is requested that any further communication concerning the disposition of remains be addressed to that office for reply.

The Department desires to renew its previous expression of sympathy in your bereavement.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

H. E. SHANNON,  
Captain, Q.M.G.,  
Officer in Charge.

BY:

F. C. FALLAN,  
Executive Assistant.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Mailed-O.F.D.  
JUN 15 1921

cc/ol

RECEIVED



JUN 15 1921

*[Handwritten initials]*

File O. S. P.

*wa*

July 18th, 1921

293.8 - Cem. #58178 - (Bess, Robert, Cpl.)

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

Mr. John H. Bess, St. Charles, Mich.

Disposition of remains.

FILE

1. Receipt is acknowledged of shipping inquiry executed under date of June 9th and telegram under date of June 10th requesting that the remains of your son, the late Corporal Robert Bess, Company H, 115th Infantry be permanently interred in France and in reply thereto you are advised that instructions have been issued that your wishes be complied with. The body of the deceased is now interred in a permanent American Cemetery and whalgrave will be perpetually maintained by the Government in a most careful and reverent manner.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

CHARLES J. WYNN, Captain, Q.M.C.

*mm*  
HW

one

FORWARD TO O S P

MAILED  
JUL 18 1921

RECEIVED BY  
MAIL UNIT

JUL 18 1921

Noted on Form No. 115  
Date 8-1-21 wa.

*Copy filed in O.S.P.*

Cemeterial Division  
Overseas Project Sub-Section

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION



# TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

1921 JUN 10 PM 8 39

A639DE 11 GOVT COLLECT

STCHARLES MICH 7P 10

GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE PIER 2

*L 5 Am*

HOBOKEN NJ

TO REMAIN IN EUROPE FOR BURIAL IN PERMANENT AMERICAN CEMETERY

JOHN H BESS.

*Paid 6/11/21 -  
11:15 am  
A.M.R.*

*Noted on 115 J  
H 6-11-21*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
QUARTERMASTER CORPS  
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE  
PIER 2, HOBOKEN, N. J.

1232-61-13

File No. 293.8 Cem.Div.Cor. Br.

July 8th, 1921.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, Cemeterial Division,  
O.Q.M.G., Washington, D.C.

1. Forwarded herewith is Shipping Inquiry Form #120 dated June 9th, 1921, to be attached to the files of the following deceased soldier, Robert Bess, Corporal, Serial Number 2038298, Company H. 115th Infantry, records having been returned to your office on June 15th, 1921.

R. E. SHANNON,  
Capt ain, Q.M.C.,  
Officer in Charge.

BY:

*F. C. Pallas*  
F. C. PALLAS,  
Executive Assistant.

1 encl.

*Copy filed in asp.  
wa 8-1-21*

*Form 120 attached to  
115.  
wa 8-1-21*

Co. H. 115th Regt.

58178  
Bess, Robert Pvt. 2038298.

30256  
B

On or about the 20th of October, midday, while the drive N. of Verdun near the Consenvoye woods, this man was in company with several other men standing near the rolling kitchen, when the enemy started shelling around the kitchen. We all ran toward a dugout for shelter. Pvt. Bess was killed. He was buried by American soldiers in the immediate vicinity.

1. Yes.
3. The ground was held.
4. His death was instantaneous.
5. Did not know Christian name.
6. No.
7. None.
8. Correct.

AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICE

FILE

Informant: Gottfried, Elias, Pvt.  
Co. H. 115th Regt. 369707  
Home Address: 135 Rivington St.,  
New York, N. Y.  
Searcher: Hugh McCoy, 1st. Lieut.  
115th Infantry.

Bess, Robert Pvt.  
Cemetery No. 2 - 21.2 - 80.3 Verdun B.  
Record of Chaplains F.C. Reynolds and McLaughlin, 115th. Inf.

Co. H. 115th. Inf. Buried Oct. 29th.

58178

# GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Bess, *20 38798* Robert  
(Surname). (Number). (First Name and Initials).

*Cpl.* Pvt. Co. H, 115th Inf.  
(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF BURIAL: .....

CAUSE OF DEATH: *Killed in action*

DATE OF BURIAL: *October 29, 1918.*

PLACE OF BURIAL: *At point 25.2 - 80.3*

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

*Map Verdun B 1/20,000 Tirage du 19 Mai  
1918. 2 kilo north of Brabant sur Meuse.*

GRAVE NUMBER: *3*

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? *Yes* Cross? .....

Headboard? .....

Bottle? .....

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? *No*

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? *No*

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

NEAREST RELATIVE: *John H. Bess*

ADDRESS: *St. Charles, Mich.*

RELATIONSHIP: *Father*

REPORTED BY:  
*F.C. Reynolds 1st Lt. Inf. 115th Inf.*  
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer).

115th Inf.

BESS Robert Pvt.

758178

Co. H — Searcher gives — 2038393

Bess was going from the dugout for water. He reached the kitchen and stopped to get something to eat. The Germans had commenced to shell and the Mess Sgt sent them into the Dugout. As he got down the first few steps, a shell struck the entrance, and killed him., this was above Death Valley to the right of Consenbois.

Informant : Sommerman <sup>D</sup> Daniel Sgt. 1285518  
Home : 1138 Hartford Ave., Baltimore  
May 27, 1919.

G/C.

Helen Deane Searcher

Enquir ers :

Mrs John Bess., St Charles Michigan U.S.A.

T.M. Gillespie Sgt. 1/c 266 Aero Sqd. Tours, France U.S. Army

Official Report

12-2-18 Ria

H 5

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

1147

PLEASE

EXPEDITE

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

Cty. #1232

File No.

58178

Registration.

Date 4-19-21

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

To: The Adjutant General of the Army, Sixth and B Streets NW., 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. Bess, <sup>OK</sup>

b. Christian name. Robert <sup>OK</sup>

c. Serial number. 2038,298 <sup>OK</sup>

d. Organization. Co. H 115th Inf. <sup>OK</sup>

e. Rank. Corp. <sup>OK</sup>

f. Date of death. Oct. 28/18.

g. Cause of death. K.S.A.

h. Authority (C. C. No.) CC 327.

i. Emergency address. John H. Bess,  
St. Charles, Mich.

j. Relationship. Father

**BODY DESCRIPTION.**

(See page 2 of the Service Record.)

a. Age at enlistment.

b. Color of eyes.

c. Color of hair.

d. Height.

e. Weight.

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

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

By

H. J. Conner

H. J. CONNER,  
Captain, Q. M. C.

1st Lt.

Donnelly - M.F.  
4-20-21.

APR 20 1921

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

APR 20 1921 6

1. G. S. Form No. 1. 58171 Hq. G. File

2. Soldier's No.

BESS

3. Surname (in block letters) First Name and Initials

4. Rank Company Regt. or Corps  
H 115 Inf

5. Date of Death Cause, if known  
Oct. 27-18

6. Date of Burial Cemetery  
Oct. 29-18 isolated grave

7. Town or Commune (in block letters) Department  
CONSENVOYE MEUSE

8. Grave No. Plot No. or Letter  
2

9. Name Peg? Cross?  Headboard? Bottle?   
Check Method of Marking

10. Buried with Body? Attached to Grave Marker? Identification Tags   no

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

Sk. #133

285

12. Verdun NE 35 E324.76-N280.81  
Map reference, if interment is outside of cemetery

OMIT. Consenvoye (unused)  
(0285) 35 NE COORD. E 324.91  
N 280.80

13. Give name of Chaplain or Burial Officer

Signed P. Taliaferro

Group 3 Unit 311 G. R. S.

*[Handwritten signature and scribbles]*

58178

June 13th, 1919.

FILE ✓

Mr. John H. Bess, St. Charles, Michigan.

Corp. Robert Bess.

1. With further reference to the case of your son Corp. Robert Bess, 2038298, Co. H, 115th Inf, we regret to have to inform you that investigation has been made in this matter, and the Field Forces of this Service confirm the grave location of your son in the Commune of CONSENVOYE, department of the MEUSE.

2. It is probable that by this time the body of your son has been removed to the American Concentration Cemetery at ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTEAUCON, although the official report of this transfer has not been received at this Office. It became necessary to remove the bodies of all the American dead who died on the battlefield to large Cemeteries in order that the graves might receive proper attention, until such time as it becomes practicable for their removal to the United States.

REH/LS.

CHARLES C. PIERCE.  
Colonel. Q.M.C., U.S.A.  
Chief. G.I.S.

OK S

Cpl. Robert Bess.  
Co.H. 115th Inf.  
Rpd. Killed in action  
Oct. 26, 18 on CG 327.

Verify rank Pvt.  
Nearest relative. John H. Bess  
Father St. Charles, Mich.

Couriergram No.24.

*Reply*  
This info. was taken from 5x8-Col. and deals the same as 5x8

4/519 RPB

58178

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
HEADQUARTERS SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, A.E.F.  
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE

May 24th, 1919.

FROM : Chief, Graves Registration Service, American E.F.  
TO : Mr. Thomas D. Gullifor, Mobile Laundry Unit No. 301, A.E.F. France.  
SUBJECT: A.P.O. 914.  
Corporal Robert Bess, Co. H., 115th Infantry, American E.F.  
Serial # 2038298.

With an assurance of very deep sympathy, and in reply to your letter of enquiry, you are advised that information has been filed in this office by the burial officer concerned, to the effect that the above named soldier is buried in the Commune of CONSENVOYE, department of the MEUSE. The Isolated Grave which is number 2 is marked with the regulation cross.

(Enclosures - G.R.S.:)  
( 10 - B, .004.5. )

CCP/GC.

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

50178

Verdon

France

Feb/29

Chief Grave Reg. Bureau.

Tours France.

I am very  
 anxious to locate the grave of  
 Robert Bess of St Charles Michigan  
 who was killed Oct. 28 near  
 Verdon an American soldier.  
 Will appreciate any information  
 given.

Thomas D Gullifor  
 mobile Laundry unit 301  
 R. E. F. France A. P. O. 914

FILE NO. 58178

Request for return of Body to States ✓

Request for Body to remain in France.

For file, see Sgt. Swindle.

St. Charles Mich.  
Feb. 8, 1918.

Chief, Grants Registration Service  
Headquarters, Services of Supply  
R. D. O. 717  
American E. F. France.

Dear Sir:

we received your letter this morning and although we were glad to hear from you. It came as an awful shock. Because, you see, although we have had the telegram and everything, we have heard that my father was wounded and have been receiving his allotment right along and no insurance. So we have been building up an that maybe he isn't dead

And don't never think we are not true Americans because, we are, we love our country. But we loved our brother and son too, and it means a whole lot to us. If you find out any thing definite please let us know at once. Because it means, mother's life, her mind perhaps, she can't get over it because he was her pride and joy. Everyone in town grieves for that boy because he is the only one from this town to never come back.

Respectfully  
Miss Anna Bess  
For Mrs Bess



if we are still getting his allot-  
ment and no insurance. And besides  
my brother was not corporal when  
we last heard from him on the  
job of Co. Now could they make  
him corporal ~~in~~ such a short  
time. Are you sure that you buried  
Pri. Robert Bess of St. Charles Mich.  
If you knew what it meant to  
us. I am sure you would  
investigate all you could. He  
was our eldest boy, and oh so good  
to all of us. And he was everything  
to my mother. Yes it was Our Supreme  
Sacrifice. And we know what we  
did for Our country for giving  
such a big brave boy. Of course  
we want him brought back, because  
it will make us feel so much  
better to have him here. You  
know I think that they did a  
thing, that we can never forget  
them for they never let him come  
home once after he left home.  
And that is the first time he was  
every away from home in his life.  
I suppose you get lots of letters  
like this. But you must know how  
the parents of these poor boys feel.

If this his Dear son & brother  
we want him brought home  
also all his belongings, such  
as his wrist watch, his P. ring,  
pictures, letters or anything like  
that. But most of all we  
want our boy back again.

Respectfully  
Anna Bess

For.  
Mr. Jas. Bess.  
St. Charles  
Michigan  
Sag. Co.

brother.



St. Charles Mich

Feb. 3, 1919.

Forms .004.5, 10-B,  
sent May 1st 1919.

Charles C. Pierce  
Lieut. Col. Q. M. C.

58178

Dear Sir: I  
received a letter this morning  
from you stating, that we  
could have my brother  
Corp. Robert Bess. CX. 115  
brought home. He want him  
brought home. As soon as  
convenient. I had a letter  
telegram, Dec. 2, 1918, of my  
brothers death. But we  
have been in some doubt  
since, as we have heard that  
a soldier, who has returned

seen, Corp. Ratt Bees in a Base  
Hospital, severely wounded. We have  
heard this same story two or three  
times. And we are at a loss to know  
which to believe. My brother was  
not a corporal when last we heard  
from him on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Could  
they make him a corporal so  
soon. We only want to be sure  
that it is our Robert Bees that  
was killed, because if he is wounded  
we will do all in our power to  
restore him to health once more  
like he was when sent away.

We never saw him in uniform  
as they wouldn't let him come  
home to see us again after they  
got him into the army. But we  
know what a brave soldier he  
would be, because he was always  
so brave and manly at home, and  
loved by every one in St. Charles.

Will you please investigate  
this matter carefully for us.

It means a good deal to us. For  
although we have had all these  
letters and telegrams, we are  
unable to believe it true.

(over)