

Besse,

Ross C.

2,403,151 Dup.

(Surname.)

(Christian name in full.)

(Army serial number.)

Pvt.

Hdq. Co., 147th 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.

Besse, Ross C.

OCT 6 - 1926

12728

Date 10/6/21

10/6/21

Serial No. 2403151

1. Name ROSS C. BESSE

Rank Pvt.

Organization Hq. Company, 147th Infy.

&amp; DIVISION

Grave Location Meuse-Argonne Romagne-sous-Montfaucon

1232

CTY. NAME

NUMBER

71

83

2

GRAVE

ROW SECT.

PLOT

2. Original Battle Area Grave Location 1 2 1/2 Kil. N.E. of Very, Meuse

GRAVE

COMMUNE

DEPT.

Coordinates Verdun 35 S. E. 276.2 North, 308.5 East

Concentrated to June 13/19

DATE

71

83

2

GRAVE

Row Sect.

PLOT

MEUSE-ARGONNE, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse

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 Cross

DATE OF DEATH Sept 28 1918

STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME New York

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED None

Subsequent Reburials

NONE

2

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

CEMETERY

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

CEMETERY

Signature, Area Supervisor

R. P. HARBOLD,  
Major, Q. M. C.

3. Final Grave Location 10/6/21

DATE

20

GRAVE

9

ROW

Block H

PLOT

Meuse Argonne American Cty. # 1232 Romagne sous Montfaucon

CEMETERY

A.G.O.

1926

1 WAR DIV.

gln  
83AUDITED BY  
B.W. 4-24-73

Hdars. Company.

BESSE, Ross C. Pvt. #2403151.

Home Address: Not given.

No information available.

Searcher: Harry B. Lewis, Capt. 147th Inf't.  
Feb. 20, 1919.

Date 25th June 1919REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL.

Remains of:

Name BESSE, Ross (Ross, Besse) Number: 2403151Rank Pvt Organization: Hq. Co 147th Inf.

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group Unit

Disinterred (Date) From: (Give complete location)

13th June 1919 Isolated Grave VERY MEUSE35 SE E 308.5 N 276.2

Reburied (Date) in: (Give complete location)

13th June 1919 Grave No 71 Sec 83 Plot 2ARGONNE AMER CEMER NO 1232ROMAGE MEUSE

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

Burial poor; buried in uniform; body badly decomposed.Was one identification tag found upon the body? noWhat other means of identification were found upon the body? noneCONFIRMED No. D

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.Q. 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 WeissR. H. ROSENTHALJMB

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

G.O. Group

Unit

✓

HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME Besse, Ross C.	B E 8	3	259
BURIED	CEMETERY 1232	1	1
	GRAVE 20	2	20
	ROW 9	2	09
	BLOCK 24	1	8
STATE	New York	2	37
RANK	Post	1	2
DIVISION	37	2	37
ORGANIZATION	147	3	147
ARM	Inf.	1	1
MARTIAL	W	1	2
NAME Bentley, Mrs. H. J.	B E N	5	254
RESIDENCE	STATE NY	2	237
RELATION	COUNTY Erie	2	816-
OTHER	CITY Buffalo	3	016
ELIGIBILITY	Mother	1	1
OTHER	sister	1	2
NATIVITY	yes	1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH	yes	1	
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH	Bad	1	2
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF	MO.	1	
TRIP	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE	no	1	2
29/514/PJ	(can't leave work) Age		60-

AUDITED  
DEC 14 1931  
B.M.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Besse Ross C (MA)

July 7 1932

Mrs H T Bentley  
c/o Mrs L A Thompson  
Hens & Kelly Co  
Buffalo N Y

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 H. T. Bentley*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Besse, Ross C. Pvt. (M-A) M

June 11, 1931

Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
c/o Mrs. L. A. Thompson,  
c/o Hens & Kelly Co.  
Buffalo, N. Y.

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*

*Mrs H T Bentley.*

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Besse, Ross C. 1232-M - Pvt

December 16, 1930

Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
c/o Mrs. L. A. Thompson,  
c/o Hens & Kelly Co.,  
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Madam:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, together with an amendment thereto, approved May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the mother of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage? no

2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931? no

3. Please give your age and state your health. 60  
Condition of Health not good.

4. Do you speak English? yes

5. What other language do you speak? no

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Enclosures:

Envelope

Act

Amendment



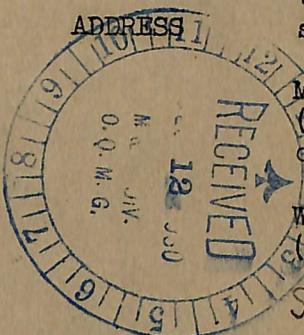
WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

DATE November 20, 1930

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	ORGANIZATION	DATE OF DEATH
<u>Besse, Ross C.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>2403151</u>	<u>Hdq. Co, 147th Inf.</u>	<u>9-28-18</u>

STATE	CTY. NO.	GRAVE	ROW	BLOCK
<u>Mich.</u>	<u>1232</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>H</u>

Check relationship	Living	Deceased	
MOTHER	:	:	(m)
STEPMOTHER (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	Mrs. H. Bentley
MOTHER THRU ADOPTION (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	no permanent add - given -
MOTHER IN LOCO PARENTIS (For the year prior to commencement of service)	:	:	communicable add - To her care of
WIDOW (Who has not remarried)	:	:	(S) ✓ Mrs. J. A. Thompson
Single man	:	:	1/2 Hens & Kelly Co - Buffalo N.Y.



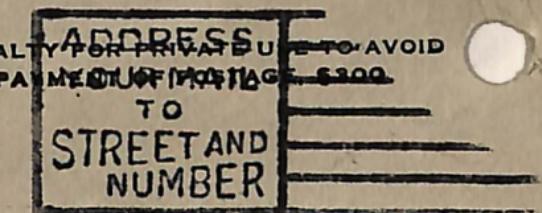
Veterans Bureau Claim Number  
29/156/

C-73762

4/25-87

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

7107 on Hesgawnee



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Besse, Ross C. 1232-M

8vt.

November 8, 1930.

~~Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
Marine Post Office,  
Str Negaunee,  
Detroit, Mich.~~

*Hdq. A 147th Inf.  
C/o Mrs L A Thompson  
2703 151  
C/o Hen + Kelly Co 9-28-18  
Buffalo 91.20, Row 9, 2nd fl.  
Suffolk*

Dear Madam:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, together with an amendment thereto, approved May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the mother of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?

2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931?

3. Please give your age and state your health.

Age  
Condition of Health

4. Do you speak English?

5. What other language do you speak?

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

*A. D. Hughes*

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

Enclosures:

Envelope

Act

Amendment

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

DATE October 16, 1930

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	ORGANIZATION	DATE OF DEATH
<u>Besse, Ross C.</u>	<u>Pvt.</u>	<u>2403151</u>	<u>Hdq. Co., 147th Inf.</u>	<u>9-28-18</u>

STATE	CTY. NO.	GRAVE	ROW	BLOCK
<u>Pa.</u>	<u>1232</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>H</u>

	<u>Check relationship</u>	<u>Living - Deceased</u>	
NAME	MOTHER	✓	673-762
AND	STEPMOTHER (For the year prior to commencement of service)	✓	11/24
ADDRESS	MOTHER THRU ADOPTION (For the year prior to commencement of service)	✓	(W) Mrs. H. J. Bentley, Marine Post Office Str. Negamonee Detroit, Mich.
	MOTHER IN LOCO PARENTIS (For the year prior to commencement of service)	✓	
	WIDOW (Who has not remarried)	✓	(Sister) Mrs. L. A. Thompson 90 Hens & Kelly Co - Buffalo, N.Y.
	Single man	✓	

Veterans Bureau Claim Number 29/156/

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

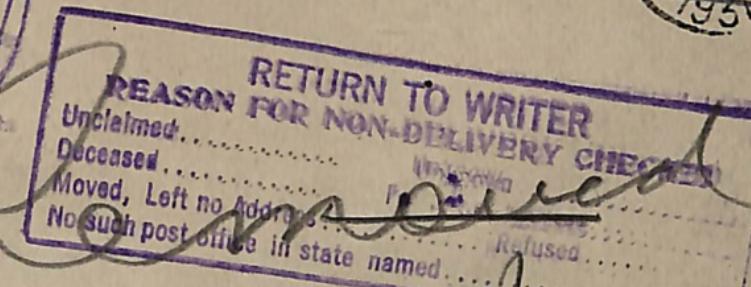


REURNED  
TO  
SENDER



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

TO  
STREET AND  
NUMBER



no address

ret. 5

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Besse, Ross C. Pvt 1232 M

October 10, 1930

Mrs. Meda Bentley  
191 W Washington Street  
Bradford, Pennsylvania

Adj. Co. 147th Inf.

240315-1

9-28-18

Gr. 20, Row 9, 236.7

Dear Madam:

A reply has not been received to office letter of recent date relative to the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, authorized by the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the mother of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages in 1931, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?	
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931?	
3. Please give your age and state your health.	Age Condition of health
4. Do you speak English?	
5. What other language do you speak?	

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

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

Encls:  
Act  
Amendment  
Envelope



Mr John T. Harris.

Major. Q. M. Corps. assistant

War Dept.

Washington.

1232-11

Mr John T. Harris.

Dear Sir

You asked me if  
Ross C. Besse was married. No  
he was not. he was singal.

Yours truly

Mrs Meda Bentley.

191 W. Washington St.

gm 293 a-c

Besse Ross Co.

Bradford.

Pa,

QM 293 A-C  
Besse, Ross C.

1232  
September 13, 1929.

Mrs. Nedra Bentley,  
191 W. Washington St.,  
Bradford, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date relative to the pilgrimage of the Gold Star Mothers and Widows to Europe.

In reply it is regretted to have to advise that the Act of March 2, 1929, which provides for the above mentioned pilgrimage does not contain any provision which permits of a mother or widow receiving a money allowance in lieu of the trip.

This office will appreciate your advising if your son, the late Private Ross C. Besse, is survived by a widow. If so, please give her name and address, as she is eligible to make this pilgrimage if she has not remarried and has not made a previous visit to his grave.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

sc/vp

10891  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C  
Besse, Ross C.

June 29, 1929.

Mrs. L.A.Thompson,  
% Hens & Kelly Co.,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

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 sister of the late Private Ross C. Besse, Hdq.Co., 147th 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,

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

2 incls.

Act of Congress.

Envelope.

1232

John T. Harris,

Dear Sir.

My daughter Mrs L A Thompson  
sent me your letter to her. I thought

I would send my answer direct to you.

I would very much like to go acrossed  
but I am a widow woman and have  
to work for a living, and I cant leave  
my work for any length of time

The money it would cost to go a  
crossed would help me more, all though  
I should love to go, but cant  
I was married the second time now my  
husband is dead. I thank you just the same.  
my address is. Mrs Mada Bentley.

191 W. Washington St

Bradford Pa.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Besse Ross C (MA)

July 7 1932

Mrs H T Bentley  
c/o Mrs L A Thompson  
Hens & Kelly Co  
Buffalo N Y

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?

(Write answer here)

(Sign here)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 295 A-M  
Besse, Ross C. Pvt. (M-A) M

June 11, 1931.

Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
c/o Mrs. L. A. Thompson,  
c/o Hens & Kelly Co.  
Buffalo, N. Y.

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,  
Captain, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

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

Write answer here

Sign here

0679

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Besse, Ross C. 1232-M - Pvt

December 16, 1930

Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
c/o Mrs. L. A. Thompson,  
c/o Hens & Kelly Co.,  
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Madam:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, together with an amendment thereto, approved May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the mother of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?

2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage  
in the calendar year 1931?

3. Please give your age and state your  
health.

Age  
Condition of Health

4. Do you speak English?

5. What other language do you speak?

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Enclosures:

Envelope

Act

Amendment

QM 293 A-M

Besse, Ross C. 1232-M

November 8, 1930.

Mrs. H. T. Bentley,  
Marine Post Office,  
Str Negaunee,  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Madam:

A reply has not been received to office letter of recent date relative to the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, authorized by the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the <sup>mother</sup> of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages in 1931, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?	
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931?	
3. Please give your age and state your health.	Age Condition of health
4. Do you speak English?	
5. What other language do you speak?	

U. S. Q. M. & R. DIV.  
1930 NOV 8 M 322  
Encls  
Act  
Amendment  
Envelope

DISPATCHED

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

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

QM 293 A-M

October 10, 1930

Besse, Ross C. Pvt 1232 M

Mrs. Nedra Bentley  
191 W Washington Street  
Bradford, Pennsylvania

Dear Madam:

A reply has not been received to office letter of recent date relative to the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, authorized by the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930.

The records of this office show that you are the <sup>mother</sup> of the deceased veteran named above and in order that plans may be completed for conducting the pilgrimages in 1931, it is requested you answer the following questions by filling out the blanks left therefor and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?	
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931?	
3. Please give your age and state your health.	Age Condition of health
4. Do you speak English?	
5. What other language do you speak?	

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

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

Encls:  
Act  
Amendment  
Envelope

30/150

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 7, 1930.

Besse, Ross C. 1232 M.

Mrs. Meda Bentley,  
191 W. Washington St.,  
Bradford, Pa.

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,  
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.

Besse, Ross C. 1232 M

Mrs. Meda Bentley,  
191 West Washington St.,  
Bradford, Pa.

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)	
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,

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

Encl.  
Act  
Envelope

QM 293 A-C  
Besse, Ross C.

September 15, 1929.

Mrs. Medn. Bentley,  
191 W. Washington St.,  
Bradford, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date relative to the pilgrimage of the Gold Star Mothers and Widows to Europe.

In reply it is regretted to have to advise that the Act of March 2, 1929, which provides for the above mentioned pilgrimage does not contain any provision which permits of a mother or widow receiving a money allowance in lieu of the trip.

This office will appreciate your advising if your son, the late Private Ross C. Besse, is survived by a widow. If so, please give her name and address, as she is eligible to make this pilgrimage if she has not remarried and has not made a previous visit to his grave.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

Q.M.C.M. S.R.DIV.  
sc/vp  
92 SEP 16 M 11 01

DISPATCH. B

September 20, 1923.

Mrs. L.A. Thompson,  
c/o Hens & Kelly Company,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

The Quartermaster General has informed me that, the 7th permanent grave, grave 20, 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

Assistant.



WPR

RD

23/592/ARK

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Besse, Ross C.

June 29, 1929.

Mrs. L.A. Thompson,  
2 Hens & Kelly Co.,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

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 ~~sister of~~ ~~the late Private Ross C. Besse, Hdq.Co., 147th 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,

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

2 incs.  
Act of Congress.  
Envelope.

# COMPILED OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File #30433

## I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name <u>BESSE, Ross C.</u>	Ser. No. <u>2403151</u>	TYP. <u>jeK</u> CKR. <u>OB</u>
(b) Rank <u>Private.</u>	Organization <u>Hdq. Co. 147th Inf.</u>	
(c) Date of death <u>9/28/18</u>	(d) Cause of death <u>k/a</u>	

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

(a) Grave No. <u>71</u>	Row <u>---</u>	Plot <u>2</u>	Sec. <u>83</u>	TYP. <u>jeK</u>
(b) Emerg. Address <u>Mrs. Lineous Thompson. (Sister.) Carlton Court, 12 D. Buffalo, N.Y. 201. Mar. 10, 1920 omits rank. (Ed. 4-22-21)</u>				CKR. <u>OB</u>

## III. ~~For recording from contagious disease~~

no east in July 20th 4/1921

## IV. A. G. O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt

(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 \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 1920.

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

Thompson (sister) Rockford Ill. 9/1 Gen. Del.  
Do request you disinter - not change of address to  
Rockford Ill. Gen. Del.  
 (a) Cancellation memos referred to?

Examiner's Initials MM Date 4/19, 1920

COUNTRY

France.

CEMETERY No. 1232-Sec. 83

SHEET No.

15

VII. G. R. S. Form No. 114 made \_\_\_\_\_, 1920.

Typed by \_\_\_\_\_, Checked by \_\_\_\_\_, 1920.

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by Sec. #83 cable on \_\_\_\_\_, 1920  
Par. 2 - Not to be returned letter on 4/28/21, 1920

L.A.S

IX.

**CORRECTIONS**

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

X. SUSPENSION REMARKS

Det. 7/16/21 - Mrs. J. A. Thompson (sister)  
9/6 Fens & Tilley Co. Buffalo, N.Y. Note  
change of address. 7/28/21 - ~~PAK~~  
Det. 7/22/21 - sister - noted the above. 7/28/21 MH

RECORDED IN THE RECORDS OF THE CEMETERY

31. Date of death: 10/5/1918

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. C-8212

32. Designation of Body:

33. Name BESSE, Ross C. Serial No. 2403151

34. Rank Pvt. Organization Co. Hq. 147th Inf.

35. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery Argonne Amer. 1232 Romagne/s/Montfaucon

36. Casket boxed and marked (Date) Oct. 5, 1921 By G.S. Wright

37. 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

F. B. Daniel

F. B. Daniel, Captain, Q.M.C.

38. Remarks None

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

40. To point of Concentration Morgue, Romagne.

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

42. Received at Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

43. By G.R.S. Representative

44. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

45. To Permanent Cemetery

Convoyer

(Name) Signature Shipping Officer

46. Received: Date

47. G.R.S. Representative

48. Reinterred Meuse Argonne Cemetery #1232, Oct. 6, 1921.

(Date)

49. Grave No. Row 9 Block H Gr. 20 Section

50. Plot

Row

G.R.S. Representative

JAMES W. YOUNGER,  
CAPT., Q.M.C.



AUDITED BY

To be prepared in triplicate.

## 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 BESSE, Ross C.  
 2. No. 2403151  
 3. Rank Pvt.  
 4. Org. Co. Hq., 147th Inf.  
 5. D.D. 28  
Sept. 30th - 18  
 6. C.D. KIA

10. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 11. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 13. Org. \_\_\_\_\_

14. (a) D.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) D.B. No discrepancies.

7. Grave No. 71 Sec. 83 15. Grave No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_  
 8. Plot 2 Row \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Plot \_\_\_\_\_ Row \_\_\_\_\_  
 9. \_\_\_\_\_ 17. No discrepancies.  
 18. Cemetery Argonne Amer. 19. Commune or town Romagne/s/Montfaucon  
 20. Dept. or County Meuse 21. Country France  
 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 1232 sec 83  
 23. Disinterred (Date) Oct. 5, 1921. By C. S. Wright.  
 24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Ross C. Besse Serial No. 2403151  
 Rank Pvt. Organization Co. Hq. 147 Inf.

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

C. T. Brown. 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).

Tag from cross gives serial No. only, which checks with GRS records.  
Grave #0 Identified by tag on body.

27. Condition of body badly decomposed, features not recognizable.

28. Nature of burial Wooden box, burlap 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 C. S. Wright

31. Casket sealed by C. S. Wright

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor) C. S. Wright

## REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Place Romagne, Cemetery #1232.

Date October 5th, 1921.

1. REMAINS OF BESSE, Ross C.

SERIAL NUMBER 2403151

RANK Pvt.

ORGANIZATION

Co. Hq. 147th Inf.

2. Disinterred (date) :

From (give complete location) :

Oct. 5th, 1921.

Gr. 71, Sec. 83, Plot 2.

By: Group

1

Unit

Sec. 2.

3. Reburied (date) :

In (give complete location) :

Oct. 6, 1921. Meuse Argonne Cem. #1232. Row 9 Block H Gr. 20  
Unlined Casket.

By: Group

Reburial Sec.

Unit

Nature of reburial

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

Wooden box, burlap and uniform.

Body badly decomposed; features not recognizable.

5. (a) Identification tags : Buried with body ? No On grave marker ? Yes

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

Tag on cross gives serial number only, which checks with GRS records.

Grave 70 identified by tag on body.

6. What does examination of body show as regards the following identifying items ? 17-32 not cut.

1-2-3-4-5-12-14-15-19-20-30-31SF

(a) Height (actual measurement) Impossible to determine. 13 decayed.

(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) None visible.

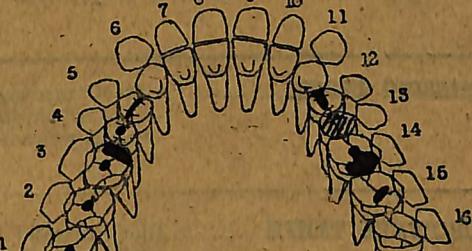
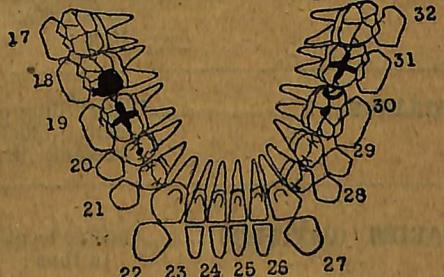


Diagram represents the mouth wide open.  
18 temp. fil. 30 cavity



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

None visible.

7. Disinterment

supervised by

G. S. Wright

Approved: F. B. Daniel

F. B. Daniel,  
(Title) Captain, QMC.

8. Reburial

supervised by

W. B. SHELD

Approved: JAMES W. YOUNGER,  
(Title) CAPT., QMC.

Concentration.

irz

## **COMPILE OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA**

File #30433

## I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name	BESSE, Ross C.	Ser. No.	2403151	TYP. <i>jk</i>
(b) Rank	Private.	Organization	Hdq. Co. 147th Inf.	
(c) Date of death	9/28/18	(d) Cause of death	KIA	

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

(a) Grave No. 71 Row 2 Plot 2 Sec. 63 TYP. jek  
(b) Emerg. Address Mrs. Lineous Thompson. (Sister.) Carlton Court, 12 D. Buffalo,  
240-201- May 10, 1920 omits rank 181, 111 New York.

### III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases

CKR. 

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

V. Following advice forwarded to Europe by *Sec. #88* { cable on \_\_\_\_\_, 192  
letter of transmittal on *4/28/31* \_\_\_\_\_, 192  
*Par. 2 - not to be returned*

VI. Form 115 forwarded to G. R. S., Hoboken, N. J., *✓AS*, 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. , 152

COUNTRY CEMETERY No. SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

**G. R. S. Form 115-A**  
August, 1920

2 - 8020

THEATRE

1232-Sub. 83

35

MAY 3 1921 - *DP*

# GRAVE LOCATION PLAQUE

## LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF  
Besse 2403157 Ross C

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

Price, 147 Inf Hq Co  
(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH: 08:576:2

CAUSE OF DEATH: . . . . . *Wounds*

DATE OF BURIAL: ~~Sept~~ 30-1918

PLACE OF BURIAL:.....

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

VERY (PAUSE)

GRAVE NUMBER: ..... N 276.2

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? . . .  OSS? . . . 

#### IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body?.....

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

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

NEAREST RELATIVE: *.....*

ADDRESS: .....

REPORTED BY: *Cheaphair Edmund J. Baxter*  
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer).

(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer).

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON,  
Aug. 13, 1919

Dear Madam:

This is the second request for information concerning this matter that has been sent to you. Inasmuch as no reply has been received to the first request it is presumed you did not receive it, and as the information indicated on the inclosed card is necessary to complete the records it will be appreciated if you will fill in and return the card at the earliest practicable date.

P. C. HARRIS,  
*The Adjutant General.*

AGO PAR  
RECEIVED  
UNCLAS

File O.S.P.

July 22, 1921.

293.8 Cem. File #30433 (Besse, Ross C., Pvt.)

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

Mrs. L. A. Thompson, c/o Hens and Kelly Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Pvt. Ross C. Besse.

FILE

FILE

1. In reply to your letter of July 16, 1921, you are advised that the records of this office indicate that the remains of the late private Ross C. Besse, Headquarters Company, 147th Infantry, are now interred in Grave #71, Plot 2, Section 83, Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Department of Meuse. This is a permanent American cemetery and unless the legal next of kin directs otherwise, the grave of your brother will remain undisturbed and will be perpetually maintained by the Government in the most careful and reverent manner.
2. This office addressed you a letter to Rockford, Illinois, General Delivery, under date of August 27, 1920, which communication was in reply to your letter of June 28th of the same year, referred to this office by the Chief, American Graves Registration Service, Q.M.C. in Europe. Your present letter affords the information that your address is not in Rockford, Illinois, but Buffalo, New York. In this connection it is desired to call your attention to paragraph #3 of the enclosed Cemeterial Division Bulletin No.10-G-W.

3. There is being forwarded to you under separate cover, photographs of the grave of the deceased, which were forwarded you March 14, 1921 and returned to this office because of non-delivery.

RECEIVED BY  
MAIL UNIT

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

JUL 25 1921

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

Cemeterial Division  
Overseas Project Sub-Section A.P.S.

MAILED  
JUL 25 1921

Noted on Form No. 115  
Date 7/28/21 - 7711

FORWARD TO O.S.P.

O.S.P.

STATUS OF C T Y. # 1232-83

as of (Date) 7-20

Total Burials in Cty. 208

Letter of Trans. No. of Bodies to be returned. 113

Bodies in Storage

{ Con. Center	<u>1 at Romangone</u>	Cable	<u>7/14/21</u>
{ Port	<u>73 at - Antwerp</u>	Cable	<u>7/14/21</u>

Operations to Commence week ending June 11-18-21

Bodies returned

" enroute

OSP:SS  
FORM 1007.  
S/2346/LML

B&B

**FILE**

July 16-1921

Recorded, Cemetery Div., O. M. W. M. 30 two  
File # 2988

G. M. G. of the Army.  
Washington D. C.

I have taken this matter  
up with different departments  
quite a few times. The  
last time I was told by <sup>these</sup>  
the Graves Registration Service  
in Paris, that they had <sup>also</sup> ~~had~~  
forwarded my letter to you.

That was July 25th of last  
year. As I have not  
heard from you, I am  
writing again.  
I want to find out  
if my brother has ever

DEPARTMENT OF VETS  
LIBRARY

FILE

been moved to the main  
burial ground. He is said  
to be in Very. Marse. France.  
I would also like a  
photograph.

I have heard that  
they were all moved to  
the larger cemeteries, but  
have not been able to  
get definite information.

Would appreciate an  
early reply.

Mr. L. A. Thompson.  
10 News & Kelly Co.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Private Poss. C. Besse - # 2403151.

147th Infantry.  
Headquarters Co.  
Signal Corps.

37th Div.

G.R.S. #106  
DISPOSITION OF BODYWar Department  
Office of the Quartermaster General.  
Graves Registration Service  
Washington, D.C.

August 27th, 1920

For information of:

- (a) The Adjutant General of the Army
- (b) G.R.S., Paris, France.
- (c) Office Files.
- (d) Photographic Section.

Case of: Private Ross C. Besse  
Hdqrs. Company, 47th Inf.,  
Serial #2403151Grave Location: Grave #71, section #83,  
plot #2, Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-Sous-Mont-  
faucon, Department of Meuse.

Request for action checked below:

- (a) Return of Body to the U.S.
- (b) Permanent Burial in France.
- (c) Cancellation of former requests.
- (d) Change of address.
- (e) Photograph of grave.

has been made by:

Mrs. L. A. Thompson, (Sister  
Rockford, Illinois.  
General Delivery.

By authority of the Quartermaster General

CHARLES C. PIERCE,  
Colonel, Q.M.C., U.S.A.  
Chief, Graves Registration Service.  
NS-2992/L

/aan

G.R.S. #106  
DISPOSITION OF BODY

War Department  
Office of the Quartermaster General.  
Graves Registration Service  
Washington, D.C.

August 27th, 1920

For information of:

- (a) The Adjutant General of the Army
- (b) G.R.S., Paris, France.
- ~~(c) Office Files.~~
- (d) Photographic Section.

Case of: Private Ross C. Besse

Hdqrs. Company, 47th Inf.,  
Serial #2403151

Grave Location:

Grave #71, section #83,  
plot #2, Argonne American  
Cemetery, Romagne-Sous-Mont-  
facon, Department of Meuse.

Request for action checked below:

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- (b) Permanent Burial in France.
- (c) Cancellation of former requests.
- ~~(d) Change of address.~~
- (e) Photograph of grave.

has been made by:

Mrs. Le A. Thompson, (Sister)  
Rockford, Illinois.  
General Delivery.

By authority of the Quartermaster General

CHARLES C. PIERCE,  
Colonel, Q.M.C., U.S.A.  
Chief, Graves Registration Service.  
NS-2992/L

/an

30433

*Mr. Wright*  
TO  
LIEUTENANT NOETZEL

LIEUTENANT ANNIS

MR. C. M. PECK

CARD DEPT. (RFSS)  
CTY. AUDIT DEPT. (ISS)  
CLASS. DEPT. (RFSS)  
INV. & ADJ. DEPT. (ISS)  
PREP. OF DATA DEPT. (ISS)  
COMP. DEPT. (OSPSS)  
RECORD DEPT (OSPSS)  
FILES DEPT. (ADMIN. BR.)

RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_

FROM *Grant* \_\_\_\_\_

NS-8537/JC

REGISTRATION SECTION  
CEMETERIAL DIVISION

NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT  
INVESTIGATION

SUSPENSION  
NOTE AND RETURN  
INFORMATION - 101 - A  
ACTION AS NOTED

MEMO -

DATE

9-17-20

PREPARATION OF LETTER

SIGNATURE

FILE

RECORDING

CODING

FILE PAPERS

REPORT TO

**FILE.**

*This letter has been  
sent out several  
times - all available  
addresses exhausted.  
JH*

30433

FILE

4-20-21

(Date)

FORM 115 has been compiled on the following case:-

CEMETERY NO. 1232 SECTION 83

FORM 115 Sheet No. 15

TA  
(Initials)

FILE

OSP-SS  
Form No. 1011.

S/2053/LML

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

August 27th, 1920

Recorded, Cemeterial Div., Q. M. G.  
File # 3  
R.S.P.

No: 293.8 Cem. File #30433 (Besse, Ross C., Private)  
From: The Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, (Cemeterial Division)  
To: Mrs. L. A. Thompson, Rockford, Illinois, General Delivery.  
Subject: Photograph of grave.

1. In reply to your letter of June 28th, addressed to the Graves Registration Service, A.E.F., France, and referred to this office, requesting photograph of the grave of your brother, Private Ross C. Besse, you are advised that the Photographic Section American Red Cross attached to this office, will be requested to furnish you with same.

2. Your change of address from Buffalo, New York, to Rockford, Illinois, has been noted on the records of this office and future communications will be addressed to you at the latter place.

3. The records of this office fail to show what disposition the legal next of kin wishes made of the remains of this soldier. The legal next of kin is determined according to the provision of paragraph 7 of the attached G.R.S. bulletin, 10-F-W.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

CHARLES C. PIERCE,  
Major, U. S. Army,  
Chief, Cemeterial Division.

By:

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

FILE  
✓

GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE BULLETIN (NO. 10-F-W)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
CEMETERIAL DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. The GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE is now a branch of the CEMETERIAL DIVISION of the Quartermaster General's Office and is the official organization of the War Department charged with the acquisition, maintenance, construction, registration and control of all American cemeteries and plots in foreign cemeteries in Europe in which the remains of our soldier dead are interred. The headquarters of the Graves Registration Service Branch, Cemeterial Division, is now in Washington, D.C., where all data necessary for the final disposition of the remains of soldiers of the American Expeditionary Force is prepared. Burial reports of all descriptions are here completed and recorded, and inquiries of nearest relatives and friends of deceased members of the American Expeditionary Force are answered. This Division is not prepared to give information on other subjects than the above.

2. The exact LOCATION OF A GRAVE is communicated whenever possible to the person whom the soldier had previously registered as the proper one to be addressed in case of emergency. Many changes in grave location have been made since first notifications were sent to relatives, in order that bodies may be better located and the care of graves more fittingly maintained. These transfers were made at the instance of the French Government and all the allied armies have been engaged in this policy of concentration. This work has reduced the number of burial places for American dead from approximately 2,400 to 600. Entire cemeteries, which in the stress of battle and other emergency had been poorly located, were removed; all isolated graves opened, and the bodies reinterred in Concentration Cemeteries.

3. CHANGE OF ADDRESS on the part of relatives has caused the return of thousand of letters of notification to this office by the postal authorities, which accounts in many cases for failure of relatives to receive notification as to the change of grave location. Notification as to change of address, so that communication may be maintained with relatives, must be forwarded to this office if the records are to be kept up to date. If notification has not been received, we shall be glad to be advised.

4. THE RETURN OF BODIES from all countries in Europe is now being arranged for and will be completed as promptly as conditions and the reverent handling of our dead will permit. France has been divided into two (2) general zones, the "Zone of the Interior" (including rear areas) and the "Zone of the Armies" (including battle areas). The field forces of the Graves Registration Service are actively engaged, in the midst of many practical difficulties, in removing bodies from the "Zone of the Interior". This work has been greatly retarded by reason of the impossibility to secure rail transportation and the difficulty in procurement of supplies from contractors. It is difficult to forecast a date when removals from the "Zone of the Interior" may be completed, inasmuch as this work is dependent upon circumstances which cannot always be controlled, but it is being prosecuted as vigorously as possible. The French Government has consented to the removal of all soldier dead buried within the "Zone of the Armies" after September 15th 1920. Arrangements to proceed in accordance with this agreement are now being made.

About four weeks prior to operations in the particular cemetery in which the remains of their kin are interred, this office will mail to relatives "Shipping inquiries" which give instructions for shipment or other disposition

as recorded here, and request verification or notification concerning the legal next of kin, with whom, alone, this office must deal.

Relatives will be notified by telegram upon the shipment of the remains of their kin from a European port. Upon receipt of the body at Hoboken, N.J. an additional telegram will be forwarded stating the probable date of arrival of the remains at the place designated by the next of kin.

5. The "ZONE OF THE INTERIOR" includes the Departments of:

Ain (not Aisne)	Ariege	Basses Alpes
Allier	Aube	Basses Pyrenees
Alpes Maritimes	Aude	Bouches du Rhone
Ardeche	Aveyron	Calvados
Cantal	Haute-Loire	Morbihan
Charente	Haute-Marne	Mayenne
Charente-Inferieure	Haute-Pyrenees	Nievre
Cher	Haute-Saone	Orne
Correze	Haute-Savoie	Puy-de-Dome
Cote d' Or	Haute-Vienne	Pyrenees-Orientales
Cotes-du-Nord	Ille-et-Vilaine	Rhone
Creuse	Indre	Saone-et-Loire
Deux Sevres	Indre-et-Loire	Sarthe
Dordogne	Isere	Seine
Doubs	Jura	Seine-Inferieure
Drome	Landes	Seine-et-Marne *
Eure	Loire	Seine-et-Oise
Eure-et-Loir	Loire-et-Cher	Tarn
Finistere	Loir-Inferieure	Tarn-et-Garonne
Gard	Loiret	Var
Gers	Lot	Vaucluse
Gironde	Lot-et-Garonne	Vendee
Herault	Lozere	Vienne
Hautes-Alpes	Maine-et-Loire	Yonne
Haute-Garonne	Manche	

\* Note- \* Seine et Marne, including only the following cemeteries containing American dead which are located within the arrondizements of this department, within the "Zone of the Interior".

Cannes-Ecluse  
Fontainbleau  
"  
Lieusaint  
Melun  
Samois-sur-Seine  
St. Mammes

All Departments in France not included in the above are in the "Zone of the Armies".

The bodies which still remain in Russia cannot be removed until weather conditions and the attitude of the Russian people will permit. Public announcement will be made at the appropriate time.

Removals must be made with due regard to orderly, procedure, accuracy and

fairness; therefore no request for priority should be made. Regardless of whether or not their return has been requested, no bodies will be permanently left in Germany, Luxembourg or North Russia. They will be interred in National Cemeteries in the United States unless relatives direct otherwise.

6. ALL EXPENSES OF THE SHIPMENT of remains to the Railroad Station or home town designated by the legal next of kin will be borne by the War Department. Expenses incident to and of the actual burial of the body will be reimbursed up to the amount of \$100.00 by The Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Washington, D.C., upon presentation of an itemized statement of expenses or receipted bills. This will include any proper expense ordinarily incident to the handling of the body from the railroad station as well as the funeral charges and actual burial; not to exceed the \$100.00 mentioned above. The legal next of kin should communicate with The Bureau of War Risk Insurance on this matter.

7. 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. Upon 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.

Requests of individuals to return to the United States the remains of their soldier dead under their personal direction cannot be granted. Our agreement with other nations contemplates that the entire responsibility of such transfer shall rest with this Government. Permits of this nature would be a manifest injustice to those relatives, who, though equally bereaved, are unable to bear the considerable expense involved.

Requests from the legal next of kin that bodies remain in established French Cemeteries will be granted when possible to do so, providing that the next of kin relieves the Government from further care of the grave. Formal release of a body will not be made to next of kin until the final disposition has been made of all bodies in that particular cemetery and the Zone in which it is located. When, however, a body cannot be left undisturbed, and the general policy requires evacuation of the cemetery in which it lies, it will be transferred at Government expense to a permanent American Cemetery in that country, and its future maintenance will be a care of the Government. Bodies will be concentrated into larger general cemeteries, and not into religious groups.

8. RELATIVES MAY CONVOY BODIES FROM HOBOKEN or an authorized agent may, upon presentation of proper credentials to the Office of the Graves Registration Service at Hoboken, N.J., assume the custody of the remains of deceased members of the American Expeditionary Forces upon the arrival of the said remains at that Port. When the remains are turned over to the nearest of kin the latter must take absolute possession and entire charge of the body and the responsibility of the United States government thereupon ceases. The War Department representatives at Hoboken will issue government transportation for the nearest relative or the accredited representative who accompanies the body to the home. It must be clearly understood, however, that the expenses of the journey of relatives from their homes to Hoboken for the purpose of meeting the remains of their soldier dead must necessarily be borne by themselves, as there are no appropriations available for this purpose.

If the nearest relative does not take charge of the remains at Hoboken and accompany them to their homes, specially selected soldiers will be detailed to act as military escorts and these soldiers will proceed with the remains from Hoboken to the places designated by the next of kin for delivery.

9. PERMANENT CEMETERIES or Fields of Honor will be maintained by our Government in France, in which all bodies will be concentrated which are to remain overseas, unless relatives may choose other places of burial and agree to maintain them independently of the Government after they have been transferred to such local cemeteries by the Graves Registration Service.

The Secretary of War has designated Suresnes Cemetery, Department of the Seine, on the outskirts, of Paris for permanent retention, as well as the Argonne American Cemetery at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon and Belleau Wood, Department of the Aisne (near Chateau-Thierry). Perhaps one or two other designations may ultimately be made; if so, due notice of their location will be given. It will be the policy to concentrate upon these few permanent places the best care of our Government.

10. MONUMENTS. Thus far no private monuments of any sort have been authorized all graves being temporarily marked with a cross or Jewish marker, pending the substitution of stone monuments of uniform and artistic design in place of crosses and other markers now employed. These permanent headstones will be put in place by the Government when cemeteries are completed.

11. The present INSCRIPTIONS ON GRAVE MARKERS were necessarily taken from burial reports, identification tags and other available means which sometimes proved to be not correct in every detail. A careful comparison of these inscriptions with the records of this office and of The Adjutant General's office is being made, and the permanent stone markers will conform to the exact spelling and other data. Where possible, this Service has taken the utmost care to indicate the graves of Jewish soldiers by the use of the approved Jewish marker. Because there was little or no means by which this office could determine the faith of soldiers, the Jewish Welfare Board has assisted in compiling a list of Jewish dead in Europe. Crosses which may have been inadvertently placed over such graves are being replaced by Jewish markers as rapidly as possible.

12. PHOTOGRAPHS OF GRAVES have been taken by a Section of the American Red Cross, assigned to the Graves Registration Service, and are being distributed without charge to the next of kin. These are being released automatically, without application, as each case is reached. Considering the large number of cases involved and the great amount of detailed work in the furnishing of these photographs it must be understood that they cannot be sent to any persons other than the relative of the deceased. Photographs have been received by the next of kin which clearly show mistakes in inscription. As stated in the above paragraph, all errors will be corrected. Photographs were taken by the Photographic Section in some cases before the corrected data had been inscribed upon the grave marker, and while the establishment, of cemeteries was still in progress. This will explain the appearance of any photographs which may show an untidy foreground or background. All of our cemeteries in Europe are now in excellent condition and innumerable letters of commendation have been received on this subject.

This office is unable to furnish sectional photographs of cemeteries.

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This office is unable to furnish sectional photographs of cemeteries.

13. INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED AS INDICATED.

(a) PERSONAL EFFECTS:

Chief, Effects Bureau, 539 Greenwich St.,  
New York City.

(b) PAY:

Auditor for the War Department, Treasury  
Department, Washington, D. C.

(c) LIBERTY BONDS:

Director of Finance, Washington, D. C.

(d) WAR RISK INSURANCE:

Chief, War Risk Insurance Bureau, Washington, D. C.

14. If in the dispatch of a great volume of daily correspondence, there may be letters which seem to the readers to be too brief and businesslike, it is hoped that no one will believe us lacking in sympathy with those in sorrow. It is the aim of the office to show the utmost courtesy to all inquirers and to satisfy their desires within the limit of our power.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

CHARLES C. PIERCE,  
MAJOR, U. S. ARMY,  
CHIEF, CEMETERIAL DIVISION.

August 27th, 1920

FILED

No: 293.8 Com. File #30433 (Besse, Ross C., Private)  
From: The Quartermaster General, U. S. Army, (Cemeterial Division)  
To: Mrs. L. A. Thompson, Rockford, Illinois, General Delivery.  
Subject: Photograph of grave.

1. In reply to your letter of June 28th, addressed to the Graves Registration Service, A.E.F., France, and referred to this office, requesting photograph of the grave of your brother, Private Ross C. Besse, you are advised that the Photographic Section American Red Cross attached to this office, will be requested to furnish you with same.

2. Your change of address from Buffalo, New York, to Rockford, Illinois, has been noted on the records of this office and future communications will be addressed to you at the latter place.

3. The records of this office fail to show what disposition the legal next of kin wishes made of the remains of this soldier. The legal next of kin is determined according to the provision of paragraph 7 of the attached G.R.S. bulletin, 10-F-W.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

CHARLES C. PIERCE,  
Major, U. S. Army,  
Chief, Cemeterial Division.

By:

AMM

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

Mail  
AUG 28 1920

JUN 28 1922  
RECEIVED  
JUN 28 1922  
RECORDED, A.G.R.S., Q.M.C., IN EUROPE

June 28 1922  
Rockford, Ill.  
RECORDED, A.G.R.S., Q.M.C., IN EUROPE



Graves Registration  
American Graves Registration Service.

France.

I have received notice that  
my brother Pte. Ross C. Besse,  
147th Inf. Headquarters Co.  
Signal Corps. has been buried  
in Vire, Manche - France.  
having been killed in action  
Sept 28th 1918.

I have waited for a  
photograph, thinking that



RECEIVED  
11 AUG 1920  
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE

a photograph was forwarded  
in due time to relative named.

Would I hear from you  
in regard to this matter  
as soon as possible please?

His sister

(addressee) Mrs L.A. Thompson.  
(given) Hens & Kelly Co.  
(to insurance papers) Buffalo N.Y.

Please send to

Rockford Ill.  
of Gen. Del.

File #293

1st Ind.

BESSE, Ross C.

Hqrs., A.G.R.S., Q.M.C., in Europe, 8 Avenue d'Iena, Paris, France. July 25, 1920. To: The Quartermaster General of the Army, Washington, D.C.

bb  
(incls.)

Argonne Cemetery Div. O. Q. M. G.  
File # 293, 8  
30432

1. Forwarded, inviting attention to the attached letter from the sister of Private Ross C. Besse, and to reply made by this office.

2. This soldier is buried in Grave #71, Section 83, Plot 2, Argonne American Cemetery #1232, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse. The Red Cross Photographic Section number of his grave is 33239-D.

*H. F. Rethers*  
H. F. Rethers,  
Colonel, Q.M.C.,  
Chief.

*Besse, Ross C.*

Hqrs., A.G.R.S., Q.M.C., in Europe, 8 Avenue d'Iena, Paris,  
France. July 25, 1920. To: The Quartermaster General of  
the Army, Washington, D.C.

1. Forwarded, inviting attention to the attached  
letter from the sister of Private Ross C. Besse, and to  
reply made by this office.

2. This soldier is buried in Grave #71, Section 83,  
Plot 2, Argonne American Cemetery #1233, Romagne-sous-Mont-  
faucon, Meuse. The Red Cross Photographic Section number  
of his grave is 33239-D.

H. H. FULLER

H. F. Rethers,  
Colonel, Q.M.C.,  
Chief.

E N 2  
VNC 10 1850



RECEIVED



RECEIVED  
RECORDED  
VNC 11 1850  
100 DIVISION  
KEDDIE A.M.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON March 10, 1920

IN REPLY  
REFER TO 201 ( Besse, Ross C. ) WWD

30433

From: The Adjutant General of the Army.

To: The Quartermaster General of the Army,  
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Date of death of Ross C. Besse #2403151 Hdqrs. Co. 147 Inf.

1. Upon investigation, it has been ascertained that the date of death of the above man heretofore communicated to you, is erroneous, and that the above named man was killed in action Sept. 28, 1918.

2. For purposes of identification, you are advised that the records show that the deceased was enlisted Nov. 22, 1917 and the name of the person to be notified in case of emergency was given as: Mrs. Lineous Thompson - Sister - Carlton Court 12 D, Buffalo, N.Y.

By order of the Secretary of War:

P. C. Harris  
The Adjutant General.  
per. D

V

m

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



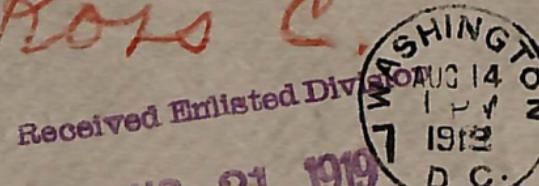
RECD  
ENLISTED DIVISION

THRIVE by THIRTY  
Buy War Savings Stamps.



Besse, Ross C.

3132748



AUG 21 1919

30433

Mrs. Ross Johnson,  
120 Carlton Street  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Received AGO, AUG 19  
1919

Penalty for private use, \$300.