

# LIST OF PAPERS

#1439

File under No. 293.

BEST, ISAAC

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 3-6788

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
	ARCHIVES AND CLAIMS BRANCH WASHINGTON Q. M. DEPOT  FT. MYER, VA.	12/20/33	Mrs. Hunt (Mem. Bu.)	

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Best, Isaac S.N. 4153551  
Pvt., Co. H, 807th Pion Inf.  
Son

December 27, 1933

Mrs. Emma Best,  
618 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

Dear Madam:

In compliance with your recent request,  
instructions have been issued to forward you a  
flag in honor of the above named decedent, pro-  
vided a flag has not previously been furnished  
for him.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

JAS. H. LAURACH,  
Lt. Colonel, Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

Copy to Commanding Officer, Washington Q. M. Depot.  
With instructions to furnish a flag.

EM/vd

0098

1933 DEC-28- AM 10:28

QMG M&D  
BR

# American Gold Star Mothers

OF THE WORLD WAR, INC.  
NEW YORK STATE



Headquarters: Pennsylvania Hotel, Seventh Avenue and 33rd Street, New York City

Quarter Master General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that I am entitled to an American flag from the Government in memory of

my beloved SON Name of Deceased ISAAC BEST  
SON OR DAUGHTER

Address of Deceased 618 Church TAYBORO, N.C.  
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE

Army, Navy, Marine PVT 807 P-SM C. H.  
RANK REGIMENT COMPANY

Stationed at IN FRANCE

Lost at Sea Among the Missing Or Unknown

Place and Date of Death IN FRANCE Dec 7 1918

Where Buried IN FRANCE.

Name of Mother EMMA BEST

Address 618 Church TAYBORO- N.C.  
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE

I will be very grateful if same will be forwarded to me.

Respectfully yours,

*Emma Best*  
mark

Best Isaac.  
Pot.

34.50  
5.63 ✓

PARTY C  
S.S. American Banker - June 23, 1933

9

1439

NORTH CAROLINA  
Edgocomb County

Best, Mrs. Emma, (C-4)  
511 Church Street,  
Tarboro, N. C.

✓ Lv. Tarboro	ACL	#41	11:05 PM (ET)	June 21
✓ Arr. Rocky Mount	ACL	41	11:40 PM (ET)	June 21
✓ Lv. Rocky Mount	ACL	82	12:15 AM (ET)	June 22
✓ Arr. New York	PaRR	120	12:05 PM (ET)	June 22

Route Going: ACL Richmond, RF&P Washington, PaRR New York.

Return: ~~PaRR Washington, RF&P Richmond, ACL Tarboro.~~ *same*

Coach Tarboro to Rocky Mount, and  
~~Sleeper~~ Rocky Mount to New York.

Elapsed time - 13 hours.

3/4

RW

115

To The A. G. O.

G.R.S. Form #114-B

3957

Apr 27 1926

FULL NAME ..... BEST, Isaac. ✓

RANK ..... Pvt. ✓ ..... SERIAL 4153551 ✓

DIVISION & ORGANIZATION ..... Co. H, 807th Pion. Inf. ✓

DATE OF DEATH ..... Dec. 7, 1918

STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME ..... N.Y.

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED.

none of record

FINAL GRAVE LOCATION ..... 37 ..... 7 ..... C .....  
Date Grave Row Block

Meuse-Argonne, #1232

Cemetery

2 A. G. O.  
APR 30 1926  
WORLD WAR DIV.

518  
813

23/306/ARK

# GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF Colored

Best 4153557 Isaac  
(Surname). (Number). (First Name and Initials).

Regt. Co H 807 Pion Inf.  
(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH: Field Hos #41

CAUSE OF DEATH: Pneumonia

DATE OF BURIAL: Dec. 9 - 1918

PLACE OF BURIAL: American Mil. Cem.

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

Map Verdun 35.5 E. 273.9 N.

304.5 E. Cheppy, Meuse

GRAVE NUMBER: 66

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? yes Cross? .....

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

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? yes .....

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

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

NEAREST RELATIVE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

RELATIONSHIP: .....

REPORTED BY:

Henry J. Kloman, at. S. C. plain  
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer).



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

Date 7th, June 1919.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL.

72232

Remains of:

Name: BEST, Isaac

Number: 4153551

Rank: Unkn

Organization:

Unkn

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group

Unit

Disinterred (Date)

From: (Give complete location)

5th, May 1919.

Grave #143 B/A Cemetery

CHEPPY, MEUSE.

35 SE 304.5 E 273.9 N

Reburied (Date)

in: (Give complete location)

5th, May 1919.

Grave #109 Sec. #16 Plot #3

ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY No. 1232.

ROMAGNE, MEUSE

1232

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

Burial good. Buried in blanket; body slightly decomposed.

Was one identification tag found upon the body? Yes

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

CONFIRMED No. D-  
10643  
10643

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, G.R.S.

Supervised by: Lt. Caswell.

R. H. ROSENTHAL

C.O. Group 2nd Lieut. Unit C.U.S.A.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
PILGRIMAGE WAR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS  
225 West 34th. St. New York, N. Y.

*Best, Isaac  
Private*

Party G.....

Number 293.....

REQUEST FOR PULLMAN RESERVATIONS.

BEST MRS EMMA

Name of Pilgrim

Actual cost of  
Through Pullman at the  
Lower Berth Rate.

618 CHURCH STREET  
City Home Address County

TARBORO N.C.

State

New York, to TARBORO

Destination of Ticket TARBORO N.C.

\$ 563 to Rocky Mt. N.C.

via

Penn to Wash- R.F. & P. to Richmond- A.C.L. to Tarboro

July 25th, 1933

Date of Departure

Aug 31, 1933

Expiration Date of Ticket

#NOTE

	Road	Tr. No.	Date	Time	Lower Seat or Coach	Car	U.S.G. Order No.	Actual Cost
Lv.	NEW YORK	PRR 141	JUL 25	10.00 PM				
Ar.	So Rocky Mountain	A.C.L 75	JUL 26	9.10 AM	L. 8	188	8937	563
Lv.	So Rocky Mountain	" 48	JUL 26	2.40 PM			by - 102 9070	
Ar.	TARBORO N.C.	" "	" "	2.00 PM	coach			
Lv.								
Ar.								
Lv.								
Ar.								
Lv.								
Ar.								
Lv.								
Ar.								
Lv.								
Ar.								
Lv.								
Ar.								

Excess Fare New York, to. Cost \$ Total 563

Stop Over TURO CAR N.Y To So Rocky Mountain N.C. Through Rate Excess

Best, Isaac 4,153,551  
(Surname.) (Christian name in full.) (Army serial number.)

Pvt Co H 807 Pioneer 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.

RETURNED  
UNCLAIMED

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1922.

FILE: 293.8 C-R #72232

SUBJECT: Permanent Grave Location of Isaac Best, Private,  
Company H, 807th Pioneer Infantry.

TO: Mrs. Emma Best, 511 Church St., Tarboro, N.C.

*File*

1. The permanent grave of this soldier is No. 37, Row 7, Block C, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Department of Meuse, France.

2. 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, organization and date of soldier's death. 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.

3. 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.

For the Quartermaster General:

MAILED  
SEP 11 1922  
G.R.S.

GEORGE H. PENROSE,  
Assistant.

DS  
*PK*

DATE 2/18/22

ml

1. NAME BEST Isaac SERIAL No. 4153551

RANK Pvt ORGANIZATION Co H 807th Pioner Inf

GRAVE LOCATION Meuse-Argonne, Amer Cty, ROMAGNE-s-MONTEAUCON #1232 sec16  
 CTY. NAME Meuse NUMBER

109 sec16 3

GRAVE ROW PLOT

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION 143 Cheppy (Meuse)  
 GRAVE COMMUNE DEPT.

COORDINATES 35SE, 273.9N, 304.5E

CONCENTRATED TO 5.5.19 109 16 3  
 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 cross and body

Data Form 1

SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS

rf

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

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

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION 2/18/22 37 7 C.  
 DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

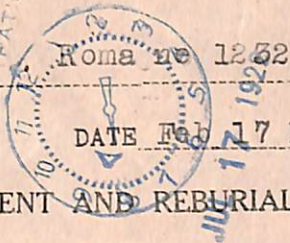
BLOCK.

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

CEMETERY

AUDITED BY  
 S. B. 8/1/22

RECEIVED  
GIVES REGISTRATIONS



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	BEST Isaac	10. Name	
2. No.	4153551	11. No.	
3. Rank	Pvt	12. Rank	
4. Org.	Co H 807th Pioneer Inf	13. Org.	
5. D.D.	Dec 7th	14. (a) D.D.	
6. C.D.	Pneumonia	(b) D.B.	None

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No.	109	Sec.	16	15. Grave No.		Sec.	
8. Plot	<del>109X</del> 3	Row		16. Plot		Row	
9.				17.			none

18. Cemetery Meuse-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 sec16

23. Disinterred (Date) Feb 17 1922 By H H Foster.

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name	Isaac Best	Serial No.	4153551
Rank	Pvt	Organization	Co H 807th Pioneer Inf.

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

*Rex M Moody*  
Signature Junior Technical Assistant

Rex M Moody

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).

Body identified by tag.

27. Condition of body Badly decomposed, features unrecognizable

28. Nature of burial Wooden box US Uniform, burlap

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 Feb 17 1922 By H H Foster.

31. Casket sealed by H H Foster.

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor *H. H. Foster*  
H Foster.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

1. REMAINS OF BEST, Isaac. SERIAL NUMBER 4153551
RANK Pvt. ORGANIZATION Co. H. 807th Pion Inf.

2. Disinterred (date): Feb 17, 1-22 From (give complete location): gr 109, sec 16, plot 3. Cty. 1232.

By: Group Foster. Unit sec 1

3. Reburied (date): Feb. 18, 1922, Meuse Argonne Cty 1232, gr 37, bl C, row 7 In (give complete location):

By: Group Reburial S Unit Nature of reburial unlined casket

4. Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment: wooden box and burlap and U.S. uniform. body decomposed, unrecognizable.

5. (a) Identification tags: Buried with body? yes. On grave marker? no

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

tag on body reads: Isaac Best. 4153551.

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)

none visible.

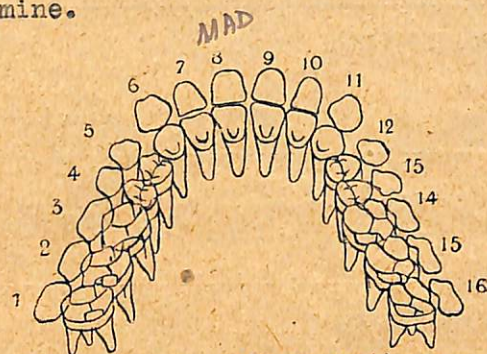
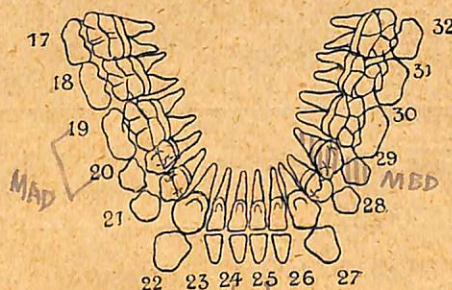


Diagram represents the mouth wide open



D-30727

7. Disinterment supervised by H.H. Foster. H.H. Foster.

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

8. Reburial supervised by W.B. Sheild. W.B. Sheild

Approved: A.E. Dewey, 1st Lt, QMC. (Title)

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

File #72232

(a) Name BEST, Isaac Ser. No. 4153551  
(b) Rank Pvt. Organization Co.H., 807th Pion. Inf.  
(c) Date of death 12/7/18 (d) Cause of death Pneumonia

4/5 Examined  
22 Concentration  
for Muesel Argonne  
4/20/22  
1232

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

(a) Grave No. 109 Row - Plot 3 Sec. 16 TYP. DMA  
(b) Emerg. Address Mrs. Emma Best (mother) 511 Church St., Towerboro, N.C.

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases / CKR 30

no card in file HR 3-29-21

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

no correspondence

Examiner's Initials HR Date 3-29, 1920.

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

no request for disposition

(a) Cancellation memos referred to? yes

Examiner's Initials HR Date 3-29, 1920.

no

COUNTRY FRANCE CEMETERY No. 1232-Sec.16 SHEET No. 20

SL 6/30/21 checked by 6-24-21

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. **C-22488**

32. Designation of body:

Name **Isaac BEST** Serial No. **4153551**

Rank **Pvt** Organization **Co H 807th Pioner Inf**

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery **Meuse-Argonne, Amer #1232, ROMAGNE-s-MONTFAUCON**

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) **Feb 17 1922** Bv **H H Foster.**

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 *[Signature]*  
**F Overheiser, Capt. QMC**

36. Remarks

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) **Feb 17 1922** cc

To point of Concentration **Morgue Romagne**

Convoyer **W J Royed** Signature Shipping Officer *[Signature]*  
**G F Spann, Capt. QMC**

38. Received at Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

By G.R.S. Representative

39. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date

To Permanent Cemetery

Convoyer (Name) Signature Shipping Officer

40. Received: Date

G.R.S. Representative

41. Reinterred **Meuse Argonne Cty 1232, Feb 18, 1922**  
(Date)

42. Grave No. **37** Section

43. ~~xxxx~~ Block **A C** Row **7**

G.R.S. Representative *[Signature]*  
**A.E. Dowey, 1st Lt, QMC.**

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

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

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on \_\_\_\_\_, 1920  
letter on 4-6-, 1920

Section # 16

Par. 2 - Not to be returned (JEN)

IX.

CORRECTIONS

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

X. SUSPENSION REMARKS:

B/A W.R.  
Mrs Emma Best. Mother  
511 East Church St.  
Tarboro, N. Car.

6-24-21-H

Name .....

Rank .....

Name .....  
Rank .....  
Serial No. ....  
Org. ....  
Remarks

.....  
A.G.O. Card & Corr. ....

..... Discrepancies .....

Name .....  
Rank .....  
Serial No. ....  
Org. ....  
Remarks

.....  
G. R. S. Corr. ....

..... Discrepancies .....

Name .....  
Rank .....  
Serial No. ....  
Org. ....  
Remarks

.....  
Checkers .....

..... Discrepancies .....

Name .....  
Rank .....  
Serial No. ....  
Org. ....  
Remarks

*7 SW sent*  
*3-20-21*  
*MAO*  
*Checked*  
*3/29/21*  
*SH*

# COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

See Form 115  
att 4/20/22

**I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:**

File #72232

(a) Name BEST, Isaac Ser. No. 4153551  
 (b) Rank Pvt. Organization Co.H, 807th Pion. Inf. } TYP. DMA  
 (c) Date of death 12/7/18 (d) Cause of death Pneumonia } 30

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

(a) Grave No. 109 Row - Plot 3 Sec. 16 TYP. DMA  
 (b) Emerg. Address <sup>(4-5-22)</sup> Mrs. Emma Best (mother) 511 Church St., Towerboro, N.C.

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases / CKR. 30

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

.....  
 .....  
 .....

V. Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on \_\_\_\_\_, 192  
 letter of transmittal on 4-6-, 192 /  
Section - 16  
Par. 2. Not to be returned (JER)

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

**VII. SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS.**

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

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

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

44 6/30/21

OSP-SS  
Form No. 1009

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

*Release  
must!*

145205

Harlow C.W.  
NAME OF DECEASED SOLDIER  
Cemetery No. DATE

Best, Isaac, Pvt.  
SERIAL NUMBER ORGANIZATION 1232-Sec.16 - 20 3/30/21.  
DATE OF DEATH

4153551 Co. H, 807th Pion. Inf. 12/7/18.

Copy forwarded to  
Adjustment Department  
Date 6-24-21-H

WAR RISK INSURANCE INFORMATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON NAMED BY SOLDIER TO BE BENEFICIARY OF INSURANCE RELATIONSHIP

Mrs. Emma Best

Mother

ADDRESS

511 East Church St., Tarboro, N. Car.

PERSON RECEIVING DEATH COMPENSATION

RELATIONSHIP

ADDRESS

no record  
# 4/26/21

March 7 1919

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

1. Items checked are to be completed:

- ( ) Surname: **Best**  
 ( ) Number: **4153551**  
 ( ) First name: **Isaac**  
 ( ) Rank: **Pvt**  
 ( ) Company: **Co H**  
 ( ) Organization: **807th Pioneer Inf**  
 ( ) Date of death: **Dec 7th 1918**  
 ( ) Cause:  
 ( ) Place:

## Location of hospital:

- ( ) Number " "  
 ( ) Class " "  
 ( ) Relative: **Emma Best**  
 ( ) Relationship: **Mother**  
 ( ) Address: **511 Church St.,  
 Towerboro, Nor. Car.**  
 ( ) Authority:  
 ( ) Cablegram No:  
 ( ) Telegram from:

dated: 1-16-19

- ( ) Reported to Washington:  
 C.C. Nos: **409**  
 (UnderSCORE the "official" C.C.)  
 ( ) Remarks:  
 ( ) Show present status on reverse side.  
**Burial notification was sent to this  
 address and returned; verify address,**

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

Initials of Reporter:

J.M.D.

72232

FILE  
O.K.

12232

**GRAVE LOCATION BLANK**

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF *Colonel*

*Best 4153557 Isaac*

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

*Prof. Co. H. 807 Prov. Inf.*

(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH:

*Field Hos. # 41*

CAUSE OF DEATH:

*Pneumonia*

DATE OF BURIAL:

*Dec 9 - 1918*

PLACE OF BURIAL:

*American Mil. Cem.*

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

*Map. Verdun 35.5 E. 273.9 N.*

*304.5 E. Chaffy, Meuse*

GRAVE NUMBER:

*66*

HOW MARKED:

Name Peg? *yes* Cross?

Headboard?  Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? *yes*

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

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

NEAREST RELATIVE:

ADDRESS:

RELATIONSHIP:

REPORTED BY:

*Henry J. Klouian, A.C. Chaplain*

(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer).

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

WAR DEPARTMENT

GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE  
American Expeditionary Forces

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

GREENSBORO  
FEB 16  
8:30 PM  
1919  
N. C.



U.S. ARMY POST OFFICE MPES  
797  
25-1  
19

DEFICIENCY  
IN  
ADDRESS  
SUPPLIED BY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RETURNED  
TO  
WRITER  
UNCLAIMED.

Mrs. James Best  
511 Church St.  
Greensboro N. C.

Greensboro

72232

FILL  
FILL

WASHINGTON  
FEB 15 0  
1 05 PM '19  
D.C.

JL



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

PLEASE  
EXPEDITE

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army  
Washington

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

Date 3/30/21.

File No. Requisition

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

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

Subject: Information required for G.R.S.

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

- a. Surname Best *OK*
- b. Christian name Isaac *OK*
- c. Serial Number 4153551 *OK*
- d. Organization Co. H, 807th Pion. Inf. *OK*
- e. Rank Pvt. *OK*
- f. Date of death 12/7/18. *OK*
- g. Cause of death Pneumonia. *OK*
- h. Authority (C.O.#)
- i. Emergency address *Emma Best, 511 Church St., Lowerboro, N.C.*
- j. Relationship *Mother*

NOTED FORM 115  
DATE 4-5-21 - P.M.

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

- a. Age of enlistment
- b. Color of eyes
- c. Color of hair *Adjustment Made*
- d. Height
- 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

APR 15 1921  
File No. 72232

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

C.W.  
CEMETERY NO: 1232-Sec 16.

BY: *[Signature]*  
H. J. CONNER,  
1st. Lieut. Q.M.C.

*Donnelly-M.F.*  
*of Sec*  
*3-31-21*

SHEET NO: 20  
TYPED BY: I.W.

Rec'd MAR 31 1921  
Date .....

MAR 31 1921

S/713/LML

Best Isas  
No. 4, 153501  
Pub. Co. H. 807  
Goneer Inf

---

Mr. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Town Creek, Ala.

---

Towerbow, N. Car.

---

Also  
Town Creek  
N. S.

AGU claimed.

RETIRED

UNCLAIMED

WAR DEPARTMENT.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300.

WASHINGTON  
JUL 21  
5 PM  
1919  
D. C.



RECEIVED  
UNRECORDED  
MAIL ROOM

91



REASON  
NON-Delivered Division  
Received in Division  
JUL 30 1919  
NO SUCH POST OFFICE IN STATE NAMED  
RETURNED TO WRITER

THRIVE by THRIFT  
Buy War Savings Stamps

Best, Isaac Deceased

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON. APR 26 1919

72732

AGG  
RETURN CARD  
UNCLASSIFIED

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tower Creek, N. Carolina.

Dear Madam:

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

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

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

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

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

In the case of an unmarried man—

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

In the case of a married man—

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

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

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

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

Very respectfully,

P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON D C MAY 15 1933

MRS EMMA BEST  
511 CHURCH STREET  
TARBORO NORTH CAROLINA

RETEL APRIL THIRTEENTH TELEGRAPH COLLECT IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE STOP  
IF SO MAKE APPLICATION FOR PASSPORT IMMEDIATELY TO CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT AT  
TARBORO GSM FOUR FIVE TWO NAUGHT

DEWITT  
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

JHL

QM 293 A-M  
Best, Issac (MA) x



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

July 18, 1932.

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Best, Isaac (MA) x

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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 293 A-M  
Best, Isaac (MA) Mx

September 30, 1931.

gb

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to previous correspondence relative to the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, authorized by the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930. To date information has not been received as to whether or not you desire to make a pilgrimage during the summer months of 1932, in honor of the deceased veteran named above.

In order that the records may be complete, and arrangements made accordingly, it is requested you complete the form below by writing in the space provided, your answers to the questions listed, sign your name, and return this letter in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make a pilgrimage in 1932?	
2. Please state your age and condition of health:	Age: Health:
3. Do you speak English?	
4. What other language do you speak?	

Sign here

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl:  
Env.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM-293-AM

Best, Isaac Pvt. (M-A) Mx

June 19, 1931.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C  
Best, Isaac 1232 M

June 7, 1930.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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.

Best, Isaac 1232 M

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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,

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

Best, Isaac  
1232

September 4, 1929.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St..  
Barbora, N.C.

Dear Madam:

The records of this office do not indicate that a reply has been received to our communication dated ~~June 29, 1929~~ making inquiry concerning the name and address of the mother and widow of the deceased service man above named. These addresses are desired with a view to ascertaining the number of mothers and widows who desire to make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe in which the remains of their sons and husbands are interred.

Will you please fill in the answers to the following questions in the space provided on this letter, and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage?

Write answers in space below

1. Is the deceased survived by a widow who has not since remarried? If so, give her complete address:

2. If he is survived by a mother, stepmother, mother thru adoption, or any other woman who stood in loco parentis to him, according to the terms of Section 4 of the enclosed Act, give her name, address, and relationship in the space opposite.

3. If survived by a widow or mother does she desire to make the pilgrimage?

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-C  
Best, Isaac

June 29 , 1929.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tabor, N.C.

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 mother of the late Private Isaac Best, Co. H, 807th Pioneer 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 widow who is entitled under the provisions of the above quoted Act, to make the pilgrimage, and if so, will you please furnish her full name and address in order that action may be taken to extend an invitation to her to make the pilgrimage. Both mothers and widows are entitled to make the pilgrimage.

In the event your son was survived by a widow who has since re-married it is requested that a statement to that effect be made.

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

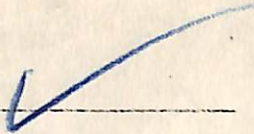
For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

2 incls.  
Act of Congress.  
Envelope.

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

CODE SLIP



HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME	Best	3	259
BURIED	Isaac	1	1
	CEMETERY 1232	2	37
	GRAVE 37	2	07
	ROW 9	1	3
	BLOCK C	2	37
STATE	NY	1	2
RANK	Pvt	2	5-1
DIVISION	Inf	3	807
ORGANIZATION	807	1	1
ARM	Pioneer	1	2
MARTIAL	no	3	259
NAME	Best	2	38
Mrs Emma	STATE no car	2	33
RESIDENCE	COUNTY Edgemont	3	049
618 Church St.	CITY Tarrytown	1	1
RELATION	mother	1	1
OTHER		1	1
ELIGIBILITY	yes	1	2
NATIVITY		1	1
RACE	BLACK	1	1
ENGLISH	yes	1	2
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH	poor	1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF TRIP	MO. 1933	1	
ACCEPTANCE	YR. 1933	1	
29/514/PJ.	yes age	1	

audited  
 MAR 1 1932  
 3-10-32

4  
 60  
 47

NEGROE

Name..... BEST, Mrs. Emma

Paris Hôtel..... Hotel La Tremoille, rue la Tremoille

Home address..... ~~2515 N. High St., Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky.~~  
618 - 511 Church St., Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., North Carolina

Party..... C..... Group..... Unit.....

Date of arrival 7/2/33. AMERICAN BANKER Date of departure 7/15/33 AMERICAN FARMER

Relationship..... Mother, age 60

Name of deceased BEST, Isaac E.

Rank..... Pvt.: Organization Co. H. SOUTH BEND INF.

Cemetery..... MEUSE ARGONNE 37 C 7

REMARKS



PARTY "Q"  
MEUSE ARGONNE GROUP.

1. Arrived at Le Havre, France, at 10:00 AM July 2, on the SS American Banker. Reboarded and entrained by 10:50 AM and the train arrived at the Gare des Invalides at 2:32 PM. The party went to the Hotel Tremaille where they stayed for the night.
2. Monday, July 3, the morning was taken up with conferences with the Conducting Officers. That afternoon the pilgrim attended the ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe and later had tea at the Restaurant Laurent.
3. Tuesday, July 4, she left Paris for Meaux, lunched at Chalons, and spent the night at Verdun.
4. Wednesday, July 5, she lunched at the cemetery, visited Montfaucon, and returned to Verdun for the night.
5. Thursday, July 6, she visited the Trench of Bayonets, lunched at the cemetery, visited Varennes, and returned to Verdun for the night.
6. Friday, July 7, the pilgrim visited the St. Mihiel cemetery, lunched and rested at Nancy, visited Toul and Mont Sec and returned to Verdun for the night.
7. Saturday, July 8, she went to the cemetery, lunched at Reims and spent the night at Soissons.
8. Sunday, July 9, she visited the O.A. cemetery, lunched at Chateau Thierry, visited the A.M. cemetery, and returned to Paris.
9. Monday, July 10, the morning was free, lunched at the hotel and visited Sacre Coeur in the afternoon.
10. Tuesday, July 11, the pilgrim went shopping in the morning, lunched at the hotel and went to Versailles in the afternoon.
11. Wednesday, July 12, went to the Louvre in the morning, lunched at the hotel, and went to Napoleon's Tomb in the afternoon.
12. Thursday, July 13, visited Cluny in the morning, lunched in the Bois, and went on a night sightseeing trip.
13. Friday, July 14, the morning was free, lunched at the hotel, and visit to the Lafayette Escadrille in the afternoon.
14. Saturday, July 15, she visited Notre Dame in the morning, lunched at the hotel, and entrained for Le Havre in the afternoon. She embarked on the SS American Farmer from Le Havre and sailed at 8:00 PM.

BEST EMMA (MRS)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1933

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM

To All Concerned:

Please make the following changes in passenger list  
for: **AMERICAN BANKER - June 23, 1933**  
S.S.

4

Party C

CHANGE #

CHANGE ADDRESS      HEDGECOMBE COUNTY      NORTH CAROLINA      Page C - 4

Mrs. Emma Best  
616 Church St., Tarboro

CORRECT ADDRESS      LEXINGTON COUNTY      SOUTH CAROLINA      Page C - 4

Mrs. Lula A. Nichols  
139 Hartley St.,  
Spartanburg

Orig. to:- M.&R.  
CC: to:- C. O.  
Adjutant  
Water  
Fiscal  
Medical  
(Each Mother  
for file)

For the Quartermaster General

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

PARTY "C"  
June 9th, 1933

Mrs. Emma Best  
618 Church Street  
Tarboro, N.C.

Dear Madam:

Upon your arrival in New York City you will be met at the railroad station by an Army Officer who will engage porter service to take care of your baggage and escort you to the hotel. During your sojourn here before sailing for Europe and upon your return from Europe, you will stop at the Y.W.C.A., 175 West 137th Street, New York City.

The two tags and four identification pasters accompanying this communication are intended to protect your baggage while in transit. One tag should be attached to the handle of each piece of your baggage and a paster placed on each end of each piece of your baggage before leaving your home. Your baggage will be safer and also more readily available to you after your arrival in New York if it is placed with you on the train.

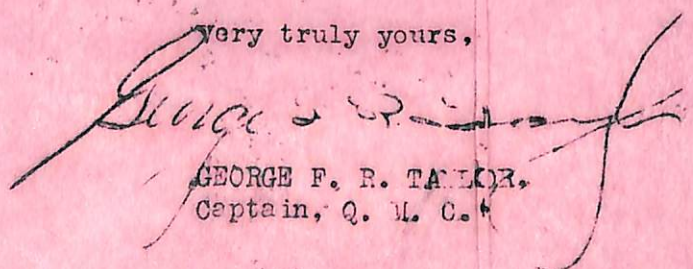
All mail intended to reach you between June 23rd, 1933, the day you sail from the United States, and July 15th, 1933, the day you leave Europe, should be addressed to you in care of American Pilgrimage, 20 Rue Molitor, Paris (16), France; for example:

Mrs. Mary Smith,  
c/o American Pilgrimage,  
20 Rue Molitor,  
Paris (16), France.

The party you are to travel with will be disbanded in New York City on the day following your return from Europe and all arrangements for your Pullman accommodations will be made with the railroads in advance by this office. This will require you to remain in New York at the hotel over night as a guest of the United States Government.

Information relative to the cemeteries in Europe is enclosed herewith.

Very truly yours,

  
GEORGE F. R. TAYLOR,  
Captain, Q. M. C.

- 7 Incls.:  
2 Baggage Tags  
4 Baggage Pastors  
1 Copy Cometerial Information

36  
JUL 25 1933  
MR. HENRY BEST  
61 EAST CHURCH STREET  
TARBORO N. C.

*B. O. Davis*  
B. O. DAVIS  
COLONEL CAVALRY

JULY 25th 1933

MRS. EMMA BEST WILL ARRIVE TARBORO THREE O'CLOCK WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON JULY  
TWENTY SIXTH VIA AGL RAILROAD TRAIN NUMBER FORTY EIGHT PLEASE MEET HER

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

COLONEL POPE

DOLLARS

CENTS

1 2 3 4 6 7

1 2 4 5 10 15 20 30 35 40

9 10 20 30 40 50

45 50 55 65 70 75 85 90 95

# THE PULLMAN COMPANY

## PASSENGER'S CASH FARE CHECK

CAR	LINE	Amount Collected		Changed Accom.	★
FROM	<i>Key West</i>	Pullman Rate	\$ 3.00	Lower Berth No.	●
		Railroad Surcharge	1.50		Upper Berth No.
TO	<i>Key West</i>	TOTAL		Compartment	★
		Conductor	19	Drawing Room	★
No. Passengers	Date			Seat No.	★

The amount charged is The Pullman Company's rate and a surcharge of 50% of that amount collected for the Railroad Company.

CX 45108

PROPERTY TAKEN INTO CAR WILL BE  
AT OWNER'S RISK

Mrs. Emma Best

C-

6

3

PARTY ..... C ..... FILE NO. ....

NAME Best, Mrs. Emma .....  
618 ~~518~~ Church Street  
Tarboro, N.C.

ROUTE OF TICKET

..... Penn to Wash  
 ..... R. F. P. to Richmond  
 ..... A. C. L. to Tarboro N.C.  
 ..... to .....  
 ..... to .....  
 ..... to .....  
 ..... to .....  
 ..... to .....  
 ..... to .....

Expiration date Aug - 31 - 33

The following stop overs are requested.

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

(Signature of Pilgrim)

IN CABIN WITH

Mrs. Alice J . Elliott -14-2 -GROUP MA

Mrs. Julia Crews 14-3 " "

PARTY

EASTBOUND

GROUP

C-4

STATE

MA

60-M

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. Best, Emma

Address

618

~~600~~ Church St.

Tarboro

(Name of Pilgrim)

(Street &amp; No.)

(City or Town)

North Carolina

Edgecomb

(State)

(County)

Henry Best (Son)

Address

618 Church St

Tarboro

(Name of Nearest Kin)

(Street &amp; No.)

(City or Town)

North Carolina

Edgecomb

(State)

(County)

## ARRIVAL NEW YORK

VIA. R.R. Pennsylvania

Train No.

120

Date

12:05 P.M. EST June 22, 1933

Hotel

Y.W.C.A. 179 West 157th St

Room No.

212

Roomed with

Alone

## DEPARTURE NEW YORK

Date

June 23, 1933

Vessel

American Banker

Cabin No.

14-1

In Cabin with

Mrs. Alice J. Elliott 14-2 &amp; Mrs. Julia Crews 14-3

(Over Westbound)

WESTBOUND

ARRIVAL NEW YORK

Date **July 24, 1933** Vessel **American Farmer** Cabin No. **14-1**  
In Cabin with **Mrs. Alice J. Elliott 14-2 & Mrs. Julia Crews 14-3**  
Hotel **Y.W.C.A. 179 West 137th St** Room No. **515**  
Roomed with **Alone**

DEPARTURE NEW YORK

VIA. R.R. **Penn** Train No. **141** Space **L 8** Car No. **K 88** Date **7/25/33**

REMARKS

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(Over Eastbound)

WAR DEPARTMENT

Penalty for private use to avoid  
payment of postage \$300.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**PILGRIMAGE, WAR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS**  
**225 WEST 34TH STREET,**  
**NEW YORK, N. Y.**

NAME MRS. EMMA BEST

ADDRESS 618 Church St., Tarboro, N.C.

DATE 7-27-33

TO: Officer-In-Charge,  
PILGRIMAGE, WAR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS

I beg to inform you that I have returned to my  
home safely and in good health.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Mrs. Emma Best

# M E D I C A L R E C O R D

Party: ..... C-4 ..... Hotel ..... American Banker ..... Eastbound  
S. S. American Farmer ..... Westbound

Name ..... Best, Mrs. Emma  
618

Home Address ..... ~~501X~~ Church Street, Tarboro, N.C.

Name and address of nearest relative or friend ..... Henry Best, (Son)

..... 618 Church Street, Tarboro, North Carolina

Religion ..... Age ..... 60-M

History of present complaint:

INSTRUCTIONS: This card will be prepared for each Pilgrim treated on ship, east or west bound. Cards to be included in report of Liaison Officer upon return to New York.

Party C

# MEDICAL RECORD

M. A. Cmty

Nurse B. Murat

Station: Hotel Tremoille

Date: July 8<sup>th</sup> 1933

Name Best, Mrs. Emma

Home address ~~511~~ Church St., Tarboro, Edgecombe County, NORTH CAROLINA  
618

Address of Nearest friend or relative Henry Best (son)

618 Church St Tarboro North Carolina

Religion Protestant

Age 60

History of Present complaint:

(over)

INSTRUCTIONS. — This card will be started in all cases of Pilgrims requiring medical attention by the Medical Officer or Nurse first rendering such attention. Subsequently it will be carried by the nurse in attendance upon the group to which the Pilgrim is assigned. All Medical Officers rendering any assistance in the case will make an appropriate entry which will include date, time and signature. Upon final disposition of the case the Nurse in charge will deliver the card to the Office of the Chief Surgeon. Pilgrims sent to the American Hospital will be accompanied by this card properly completed, which will be authority for admission, in which case a duplicate card will be made and sent without delay to the office of the Chief Surgeon.

Diagnosis and complications : (include dates)

Treatment and Progress : (include dates) no medical treatment

Disposition : (include dates) July 15. To let her. Fits

Remarks : active. no complaints  
D.K.S.

Am. Banker

Pvt. Isaac Best

6-23-33

MA

I accept the invitation extended

Accept or decline

me to make a pilgrimage to Europe at the expense of  
the Government of the United States under the pro-  
visions of the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929.

Mrs. Emma Best

Name

511 Church St., Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., N. C.

Town or City

State

6632

Best, Isaac

1232

RETURN RECEIPT

S.S. American Banker 6-23-33

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

Emma Best

(Signature or name of addressee)

Ruth Christy Best

(Signature of addressee's agent)

Date of delivery \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

Form 3811

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1929

c 5-6116

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

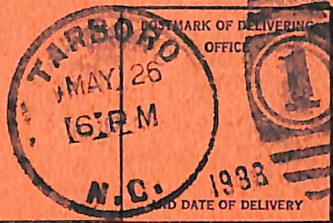
REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 426971

INSURED PARCEL

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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



Return to

Q. M. GENERAL

(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number, }  
or Post Office Box, }

MUNITIONS BUILDING

Post Office at

Washington

State

D

6632-C

1232

# RETURN RECEIPT

*Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.*

*Emma Best*  
-----  
(Signature or name of addressee.)

*Henry Louis Brown*  
-----  
(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Date of delivery, *9/2/53*, 19

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 927031

INSURED PARCEL

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING  
OFFICE



Return to Q. M. GENERAL  
(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number, }  
or Post Office Box, }

MUNITIONS BUILDING

WASHINGTON,

D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Best, Isaac (MA)

June 8, 1933

Mrs. Emma Best,  
618 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

Dear Madam:

Arrangements have been completed for your transportation to New York City on your pilgrimage to the American Cemeteries in Europe. One week before your departure the railroad ticket agent, of the first road shown below, will deliver your railroad and pullman ticket to you. Your route to New York will be as follows:

Lv. Tarboro	ACL	#41	11:05 PM (ET)	June 21
Arr. Rocky Mount	ACL	41	11:40 PM (ET)	June 21
Lv. Rocky Mount	ACL	82	12:15 AM (ET)	June 22
Arr. New York	PaRR	120	12:05 PM (ET)	June 22)

Accommodations: Coach to Rocky Mount, and Standard sleeper Rocky Mount to New York.

All railroad employees have been instructed by their officials to see that you are shown every courtesy and given assistance, particularly at points where it is necessary to change cars.

Should you not receive your ticket six days before the date shown for your departure please take up at once with the ticket agent and if he does not have your ticket, telegraph this office, collect, to that effect.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 6, 1933

Best, Isaac (MA)

· Mrs. Emma Best,  
618 Church St.,  
Tarboro, North Carolina

Dear Madam:

With reference to previous correspondence on this subject, you are informed that your passport has been received and will be delivered to you aboard ship.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

QM 293 A-M

Best, Isaac (MA)

May 31, 1933

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511-Church St.,  
Tarboro, North Carolina.

Dear Madam:

There is enclosed Check No. 182,561 in the amount of \$ 5.62 , to pay for your meals and incidental expenses from your home to New York on the pilgrimage authorized by the Act of March 2, 1929, as amended.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST THIS CHECK BE CASHED AND USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED.

If for any reason, you are not able to sail on the date mentioned in your invitation, the check must be returned to this office immediately.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

Encl:  
Check No.

JAS. H. LAUBACH,  
Lt. Col., Q. M. Corps,  
Assistant.

PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION CALLED FOR BELOW,  
AND MAIL THIS LETTER PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED  
ENVELOPE WHICH REQUIRES NO POSTAGE.

Quartermaster General,  
Washington, D. C.

Best, Isaac (MA) X  
Best, Mrs. Emma  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, Edgecombe Co. N.C.  
AMERICAN BANKER June 23rd

Sir:

In the blank space below you will find the name,  
address, and relationship to me, of the person in the United  
States whom I desire to be notified in case I become  
seriously ill or other emergency arises while I am making  
the pilgrimage to Europe authorized by the Act of Congress  
approved March 2, 1929.

Henry Best  
Name

618 Church Street, Tarboro, N. C.  
Address

Son  
Relationship

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Emma Best  
Your name

*noted*  
618 Church Street,  
Your address  
Tarboro, N. C.



WASHINGTON D C MAY 15 1933

MRS EMMA BEST  
511 CHURCH STREET  
TARBORO NORTH CAROLINA

RETEL APRIL THIRTEENTH TELEGRAPH COLLECT IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE STOP  
IF SO MAKE APPLICATION FOR PASSPORT IMMEDIATELY TO CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT AT  
TARBORO GSM FOUR FIVE TWO NAUGHT

DEWITT  
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

QM 293 A-M  
Best, Issac (MA) x

JHL

April 13, 1933, Washington, D. C.

MRS EMMA BEST  
511 CHURCH STREET  
TARBORO NORTH CAROLINA

WIRE COLLECT AT ONCE WHETHER YOU ARE OBTAINING PASSPORT STOP IF NOT  
DO YOU WISH TO CANCEL YOUR ACCEPTANCE PILGRIMAGE GSM FOUR FOUR FOUR  
EIGHT.

DEWITT  
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

QM 293 A-M  
Best, Isaac (MA) X

CWD

KK



# Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at War Department Message Center,  
Room 3441, Munitions Building,  
Washington, D. C.

## WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

8-0311

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1930

WAD97 9 GOVT COLLECT XC=TARBORO NCAR APR 13 445P

1933 APR 13 PM 5 05

*BR*

DEWITT QUARTERMASTER GENERAL=

AM GOING IF POSSIBLE DONT CANCEL AS YET=

MRS EMMA BEST.

*acc. Am. Banker  
June 23-*

*293 Best Lane*

*GM*

RECORD ATTACHED

DISPATCHED  
APR 13 1933  
TEL. & CABLE  
O. Q. M. G.

April 15, 1933, Washington, D. C.

MRS EMMA BEST  
511 CHURCH STREET  
TARBORO NORTH CAROLINA

WIRE COLLECT AT ONCE WHETHER YOU ARE OBTAINING PASSPORT STOP IF NOT  
DO YOU WISH TO CANCEL YOUR ACCEPTANCE PILGRIMAGE GSM FOUR FOUR FOUR  
EIGHT.

DEWITT  
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

QM 293 A-M  
Best, Isaac (MA) \*

KK

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1932.

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

Best, Isaac (MA) x

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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?

yes  
(Write answer here)

(Sign here)

Emma Best. His Mark x

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M  
Best, Isaac (MA) Itx

September 30, 1931.

gb

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to previous correspondence relative to the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, authorized by the Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930. To date information has not been received as to whether or not you desire to make a pilgrimage during the summer months of 1932, in honor of the deceased veteran named above.

In order that the records may be complete, and arrangements made accordingly, it is requested you complete the form below by writing in the space provided, your answers to the questions listed, sign your name, and return this letter in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Do you desire to make a pilgrimage  
in 1932?

2. Please state your age and condition  
of health:

Age:  
Health:

3. Do you speak English?

4. What other language do you speak?

Sign here

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl:  
Env.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM-293-AM  
Best, Isaac Pvt. (M-A) Mx

June 19, 1931.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 7, 1930.

Best, Isaac 1232 M

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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.

Best, Isaac 1232 M

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N. C.

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) <u>no</u> (No)
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1930?	(Yes) <u>no</u> (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) <u>no</u> (No)
4. Please give your age and state of health.	Age Health <u>60</u> (Years) (Good) <u>Poor</u> (Poor)
5. What language do you speak?	English - (Yes) (No) <u>English</u> Other language (Specify language spoken)

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl.  
Act  
Envelope

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Best, Isaac  
1232

September 4, 1929.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St..  
Tarboro, N.C.

Dear Madam:

The records of this office do not indicate that a reply has been received to our communication dated June 29, 1929 making inquiry concerning the name and address of the mother and widow of the deceased service man above named. These addresses are desired with a view to ascertaining the number of mothers and widows who desire to make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe in which the remains of their sons and husbands are interred.

Will you please fill in the answers to the following questions in the space provided on this letter, and return the letter to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage?

Write answers in space below

1. Is the deceased survived by a widow who has not since remarried? If so, give her complete address:

*The deceased was  
not married  
again Best*

2. If he is survived by a mother, stepmother, mother thru adoption, or any other woman who stood in loco parentis to him, according to the terms of Section 4 of the enclosed Act, give her name, address, and relationship in the space opposite.

*he is survived  
By mother  
Emma Best*

3. If survived by a widow or mother does she desire to make the pilgrimage?

*Tarboro N.C.  
church 511*

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

*John T. Harris et*

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



WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C  
Best, Isaac

June 29, 1929.

Mrs. Emma Best,  
511 Church St.,  
Tarboro, N.C.

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 mother of the late Private Isaac Best, Co. H, 807th Pioneer 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 widow who is entitled under the provisions of the above quoted Act, to make the pilgrimage, and if so, will you please furnish her full name and address in order that action may be taken to extend an invitation to her to make the pilgrimage. Both mothers and widows are entitled to make the pilgrimage.

In the event your son was survived by a widow who has since remarried it is 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.