

fei

G.R.S. Form #114-B

DATE 11/21/21

1. NAME BIRNEY, Knox B. SERIAL No.

RANK 1st. Lieut. ORGANIZATION Co. A, 6th Engrs. 3rd Div.

GRAVE LOCATION Meuse-Argonne Amer. Cty., Romagne/s/Montfaucon, Meuse, #1232, Sec. 46

169 GRAVE SEC. 46 4 PLOT

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION 2 (Isola.) Cuneil (Meuse)

COORDINATES 35NE 286.0N 311.0E

CONCENTRATED TO 6.10.19. 169 46 4. 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.

In metal casket not opened. Metal plate on top of casket agreed with records.

DATE OF DEATH Oct 20, 1918

F 1 STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME Pa

hb MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

D & C. Silver Star Citation G.R. # 22 3rd 7/8/19

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

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION 11/21/21 13 40 Block B DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

AUDITED BY [Signature] 4-9-23

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery #1232, Romagne-s-Montfaucon, Meuse

MAR 11 1926 WORLD WAR DIV.

CEMETERY Major General, The Adjutant General. By EMP MAR 18 1926

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Burney *1630* *Knox B.*
(Surname.) (Number.) (First Name and Initials.)

First Lieutenant Co. A. 6th Engrs.
(Rank.) (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL *Oct. 25th 1918*

PLACE OF BURIAL

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

Seen sur Mause map 1-20,000

GRAVE NUMBER

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? Cross? *yes*
Inscribed - name and organization
Headboard? Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS: *none*

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 marks should be given here:

REPORTED BY: *chaplain*

William P. Sherman 6th Engrs.
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

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

BURNEY, Knox B. - Lieut.
Home: Philadelphia, Pa.

laire Chenes, on Oct. 20th,
ling near by. He was later
t outside the edge of the
while advancing on a machine

Flaherty, Edward G. - Sgt.
157927
Co. A., 6th. Engrs.
4400 Wingohocking St., Phila.
Pa., FRD.

By Informant.

Co. A., 6th. Eng.
3rd. Div.

BIRNEY, Knox B. - Lieut.
Home: Philadelphia, Pa.

Lieut. Birney was killed in Bois de Claire Chenes, on Oct. 20th, 1918, by a high explosive shell exploding near by. He was later buried by members of this Company just outside the edge of the woods North edge. His death occurred while advancing on a machine gun nest.

Informant: Flaherty, Edward G. - Sgt.
157927
Go. A., 6th. Engrs.
Home: 4400 Wingohocking St., Phila.
Pa., FRD.
Signed: By Informant.

Emergency address:
Dr. H.H. Birney (Father)
4016 Chesnut St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Birney, Knox B.
1st Lt.

-42-

Pennsylvania

GOLD STAR MOTHERS PILGRIMAGE

S.S. ROOSEVELT, JULY 22, 1931

Philadelphia County

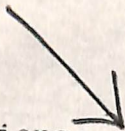
Name: Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney (M-6)

Address: 4016 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Route: Pennsylvania R.R. to New York, N.Y.

Desires stopover at New York City.

✓ Lv. Philadelphia (Broad St. Station) Train #206 9.00 A.M., July 20
✓ Ar. New York (Pennsylvania Station) 11.00 A.M., July 20

Accommodations:  Parlor Car Seat from Philadelphia, Pa. to New York, N.Y.

Elapsed Time: 2 Hours

1/4

ABH.
An

CODE SLIP



HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME	Birney	3	298
BURIED	CEMETERY	1	1
	GRAVE	2	13
	ROW	2	40
	BLOCK	1	2
STATE	Pa	2	44
PANK	1st St	1	1
DIVISION	3	2	03
ORGANIZATION	6	3	006
ARM	Engns.	1	4
MARTIAL	(Other) No	1	2
NAME	Birney	5	298
RESIDENCE	Hoffman	2	42
4016 Chestnut St, Phila, Pa.	STATE	2	51
	COUNTY	2	200
	CITY	3	1
RELATION	Mother	1	1
OTHER	(Father dead)	1	
ELIGIBILITY	Dead (8-1931)	1	6
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH		1	
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH		1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF TRIP	MO.	1	
	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE		1	

APR 9 1932
MB JPM

1914

29/514/PJ

Ref: QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B., 1st Lt (MA) M

4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
September 5, 1931.

The Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Capt. R. E. Shannon

Sir:-

This will serve to advise your office of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, mother of 1st Lt. Knox B. Birney, dec'd.

Death occurred in the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, on August 31.

Yours,

Hoffman Birney

Hoffman Birney



Q. Q. M. C.

293
Birney
Knox B

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM-293-AM

July 25, 1931.

Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. (M-A) US

Mrs. Elizabeth G. Birney,
4015 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 13, 1931

Mrs. Herman H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date relative to your desire that flowers and a flag be placed at the grave of your son, the late Lieutenant Knox B. Birney, in the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery.

Please be advised that the plans for the pilgrimages provide that a wreath shall be presented to each mother and widow making the journey, to be placed on the grave of her loved one, however, there is no provision of law which would permit the placing of flowers and a flag at Government expense on any individual grave, in case the mother or widow is not making the pilgrimage. Flags are presented to the women making the pilgrimage by the City of New York and are not distributed by the War Department.

You are assured the grave of your son is well cared for in a manner befitting one of the Nation's fallen heroes. A veteran of the World War is caretaker of the cemetery and performs his duties with love and pride. The unfurled Stars and Stripes floats in silent majesty over this beautiful cemetery.

It is hoped your health will improve and you will be able to make a pilgrimage next year and place a wreath on the grave of your son.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

bb

EDK

Quark notes General's Office
Washington D.C.

Data keeps coming
about the pilgrimage, &
I had a friend write
you a week ago that
I was too ill to travel
I doubt if I am alive
on the 22nd —

When the party reached
the Argonne Cemetery
at Amagne I asked
them to please lay
flowers & a flag on
the grave of my son
Grave 40 - Row 13

1st Lt. Knox Bond
Burien, D. S. C.

293
Birmingham
Knox

I should be grateful
if that could be
done - I am terribly
ill & will never

go there again now.

Sincerely

Mrs. Herment Elizabeth C. Birney
4016 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt(MA) M

July 7, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dec'd

Dear Madam:

With further reference to office letter of July 6th,
receipt is acknowledged of return of check in the amount of
\$2.50 and identification badge.

It is sincerely hoped that you will be able to make
the pilgrimage during the summer of 1932.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

R. E. Shannon

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



QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 6, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

This office is in receipt of a letter from the Reverend Robert O. Kevin, advising that illness prevents you from sailing July 22nd, on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, to visit the grave of your son, the late 1st Lieutenant Knox B. Birney.

It is deeply regretted that your health will not permit you to make the journey at this time, and it is sincerely hoped that you will have a speedy recovery from your illness.

Your name has been placed upon the list of mothers and widows who are eligible to visit the cemeteries of Europe in 1932, and you will be communicated with when the pilgrimages are being arranged for that year.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

KL
[Handwritten signature]

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 6, 1931

Rev. Robert O. Kevin,
St. Stephen's Church,
10th Street, above Chestnut,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 29th, advising that Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney is ill and unable to sail July 22nd on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT to visit the grave of her son, the late 1st Lieutenant Knox B. Birney.

This office greatly appreciates your interest and cooperation in this matter.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

HL
27K

St. Stephen's Church
TENTH STREET, ABOVE CHESTNUT
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

June 29, 1931.

Captain R. E. Shannon,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. D.

My dear Captain Shannon:

I am writing in behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, 4016 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., for whom you have arranged a trip to France, in company with other War-Mothers - to sail July 23rd.

Mrs. Birney has been stricken very ill and is confined to a hospital bed for an undesignated length of time. According to her physician, who talked with me this morning, it will be impossible for her to make the trip this year - distressed as she is to cancel the engagement after the trouble to which you have gone to make this trip possible.

I am writing immediately in the hope that it will be possible to include some other in her place before the date of sailing.

The circumstances surrounding Mrs. Birney's illness have made the care of such matters as the securing of the pass-port, and (for instance the enclosed letter from you) impossible to arrange.

Cordially yours,

Robert Oliver Kevin.



*7/1/31
Deleted
Pres Roosevelt
July 22 - 1931
Listed To go in 1932*

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including a vertical list of names and dates.

President Roosevelt

7-22-31

1232

Birney, Knox B., 1st Lt.

Declined by letter 6/29/31

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. Elizabeth C. Birney

(Name)

4016 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co.,

(Town or City)

(State)

Penna.

1932

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 925987

INSURED PARCEL

No. _____

Return to _____

Q. M. GENERAL

Street and Number,
or Post Office Box, _____

(NAME OF SENDER)
MUNITIONS BUILDING

WASHINGTON,

D. C.

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

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING
OFFICE



1931

5154-c

232

RETURN RECEIPT

S.S. Rosner 7-22-31

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

~~X~~ *[Faint signature]*

(Signature or name of addressee)

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE ONLY

7/2/31

(Signature of addressee's agent)

Cancelled
OK it

Date of delivery 6/29, 1931

Form 3811

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

c 5-6116

Brinney K B

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 935820

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

WASHINGTON,

D. C.

5154

1232

RETURN RECEIPT

S. S. Prosser ~~7-22-31~~

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

Chas. W. Biny

(Signature or name of addressee)

Prosser 7/23/31

(Signature of addressee's agent)

Date of delivery 6/29, 1931

Form 3811

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

c 5-6116

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Birney, Knox B. M-A

June 30, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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. Philadelphia (Broad St. Sta)	PRR	Train No. 206	9.00 A.M. July 20
Ar. New York (Penn Sta)	"	" " "	11.00 A.M. July 20

Accommodations: Parlor car seat from Philadelphia, Pa. to New York, N.Y.

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
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt.(MA) M

June 25, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

ck 648, 349- #250
Decline Roosevelt Rec'd 7/1/31
July 22
EAS
MVP

Dear Madam:

There is enclosed herewith Check No. **648349** in the amount of \$ **2.50**, 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.

H67 7/2/31

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,

check + take it 7/2/31

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

1 Incl.
Check No.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M
Birney Knox B. M-A M

June 24, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Your passport for the pilgrimage to the American Cemeteries in Europe has not been received in this office.

You must have a passport to enter Europe. Please go at once to the Clerk of the United States District Court nearest your home or to the Clerk of the Court at your County seat. The following action must be taken by you now:

- (a) Have four (4) photographs of yourself made on thin paper (unmounted) not more than 3 x 3 inches or less than 2½ x 2½ inches in size.
- (b) Take these photographs, your invitation and any evidence of citizenship you may have to the Clerk of the Court as shown above.
- (c) Have someone who has known you for at least two years go with you to the Clerk to identify you.

The Clerk will help you fill out the application and HE will forward it to the proper office. Passports will be delivered to you aboard the boat. No charge will be made for the application or passport.


Persons living in or near the following cities will take the steps shown in (a), (b) and (c) above, and go to the U. S. Passport Agent at the address nearest their home shown below and not to Clerks of Courts:

Boston, Mass.	Custom House, State & Washington Streets
Chicago, Ill.	608 South Dearborn Street
New Orleans, La.	216 Post Office Bldg.
New York, N. Y.	Sub Treasury Bldg., Broad & Wall Streets
San Francisco, Cal.	Custom House, Washington & Battery Streets
Seattle, Wash.	1008 White Bldg., 4th Avenue & Union Street
Washington, D. C.	State Department, 17th & Pennsylvania Avenue

Advise this office at once if you have made application, giving the name given by you on the application.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,


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

OH 295 A-11

Binney, Box B, 1222.

March 28, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Binney,
4015 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your request for a stopover
at New York City on your return from the pilgrimage to the House-
Argonne American Cemetery in Europe, sailing on the U. S. PRESIDENT
ROOSEVELT, July 22, 1931.

Arrangements will be made for this stopover without addi-
tional cost for either rail or pullman transportation, however, all
expenses incurred by you, due to the additional time in New York City,
must, of course, be paid from personal funds.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

H. E. SHANNON,
Captain, U.S. Corps,
Assistant.

117

0

IF YOU DESIRE A STOPOVER ON YOUR RETURN FROM EUROPE PLEASE READ CAREFULLY THE PARAGRAPH, "STOPOVERS IN THE UNITED STATES", ON PAGE 3 OF THE ENCLOSED LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS, FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO THIS OFFICE.

*acc.
Roosevelt
July 22nd*

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney

Birney, Knox B. 1232 Penna. Philadelphia County

Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On my return from the pilgrimage to American Cemeteries in Europe, I desire to stop over at the point, or points, listed below, for the number of days shown after the name of the town. If these stopovers will cause me any expense I am to be advised of the amount and may then withdraw this request if I so desire.

Cities where I desire to stopover:	No. of days
<i>None, probably to remain few days in New York.</i>	

Noted on card & list

Very truly yours,



(Mrs. H. H.) Elizabeth C. Birney.
(Your name)

4016 Chestnut St. Philadelphia Pa.
(Your address)

July 22

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

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

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney

Birney, Knox B. 1232 Fema. Philadelphia County

Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

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

Hoffman Birney.
Name

Box 379 Route 2 Tucson Arizona.
Address

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth C. Birney
(Your name) *Mrs. Herman H. Birney.*

(Your address) *4016 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia.*



QM 293 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

March 12, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of recent date. In accordance with your request, a duplicate letter of instructions has been forwarded you.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

MET

*blank forms sent
as well as info. ls.*

0

1233

Birney, Knapp B.
1st St. Co. C, 6th Engns

Philadelphia Co. (39)

4016 CHESTNUT STREET

acc. OK PHILADELPHIA

Roosevelt

card received OK

July 22, 1931 I fear I have mislaid the form giving information as to passport, name of relatives etc. I thought

I had mailed it but find both reply envelopes here, so fear I did not. I do not remember size of passport photographs.

Would you kindly mail me another such form? It came before the invitation. I am sorry to trouble you further in the matter.

(Mrs. Hermann) Elizabeth C. Birney.

4016 Chestnut St.
Mar. 6, 1931.

Dupl instr letters mailed 3-11-31

293

QM 295 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

February 27, 1931.

SUBJECT: Letter from Mrs. Birney.

TO: Colonel Richard T. Ellis,
46 Avenue des Champs Elysees,
Paris, France.

1. There is inclosed herewith for your information a copy of letter from Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, who has accepted an invitation to sail on the President Roosevelt, July 22, 1931.

For The Quartermaster General.

1 Incl.
Cy let.
MDT

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

0

QM 293 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

February 27, 1931.

SUBJECT: Letter from Mrs. Birney.

TO: OFFICER IN CHARGE, Pilgrimage Port of Embarkation,
Room 1211 Pennsylvania Building,
225 West 34th Street, New York City.

1. There is inclosed herewith for your information a copy of a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, 4016 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

2. Mrs. Birney has accepted an invitation to sail on the President Roosevelt, July 22, 1931.

For The Quartermaster General.

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

1 Incl.
Cy Let.
MET

Birney, Knox B. - 1232

4016 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

In reply to suggestion as to
traveling companions on the
pilgrimage I should like to
travel with Mrs. M. W. Van Horn
931 First Ave. Williamsport,
Van Home, Frederick
Pa. 608

Mrs. H. H. Elizabeth C. Birney.
quartered together

quarters
together noted
accept
Roosevelt
July 22-

file

QM 293 A-M

Birney, Knox B. 1232

Van Horne, Fred'k. W. 608 H

February 12, 1931

052
Mrs. M. W. Van Horne,
631 First Avenue,
Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated January 30, 1931, in connection with your pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, to visit the grave of your son, the late Frederick W. Van Horne, Chief Yeoman, under the provisions of the Act of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930.

Invitation will be mailed you to sail on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, July 22, 1931, and every effort will be made to comply with your wishes to be quartered with Mrs. Birney at the hotel in New York City and aboard ship. In view of the fact that you will not visit the same cemeteries in Europe, it will not be possible for you to occupy the same hotel room in Paris.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

LM

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

October 21, 1930.

Mrs. Elisabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date together with form letter from this office dated October 15, 1930 which you have completed and returned.

A number of mothers and widows in poor health have made the journey during the past summer and appear to have benefited therefrom. Although a few mothers have been taken sick during the pilgrimage, it is believed that the sick rate and death rate so far experienced would have been equally as great among this number of women of their age had they stayed at home.

The law provides that the mothers and widows shall remain in Europe no longer than two weeks, and the War Department has no other alternative than to administer the law as passed by Congress.

The Act of March 2, 1929 specifies that vessels owned or operated by the United States shall be used for transportation at sea and cabin-class accommodations shall be furnished. When plans were made by the War Department for the transportation of pilgrims from the United States to Europe, the idea of the comfort and welfare of the pilgrims was foremost and after careful consideration the United States Lines were given this task.

In accordance with your request, your name has been placed on the list of mothers and widows who will make the pilgrimage in 1931. Notation has been made of your desire to make the trip in the month of July and it is believed that your wishes will be complied with.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

MM *EM*

1st Vice President
 Mrs. THOMAS MEANY
 4932 Walton Avenue, Philadelphia

2d Vice President
 Miss ELIZABETH SPYKER
 44 Market Street, Lewisburg

3d Vice President
 Mrs. WALTER LOTZ
 811 Washington Street, Tyrone

Recording Secretary
 Mrs. ARTHUR L. KRESGE
 2 Terrace Street, Forty Fort

Historian
 Mrs. MATTHEW C. WATSON
 145 No. 7th Street, Indiana

Chaplain
 Mrs. HOWELL F. RICHARDS
 824 Hill Avenue, Wilkesburg

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Miss HELEN ULRICH
 120 West Broad Street, Tamaqua

Mrs. J. G. BRODBECK
 6161 Edgehill Road, Willow Grove

Mrs. JOHN H. MAY, JR.
 Paradise

Mrs. CARL SCHEIBER
 1026 Race Street, Slatington

Mrs. E. R. BEADLE
 1011 West Chestnut Street, Shamokin

Mrs. C. MARLYN STEESE
 9 Fifth Street, Millinburg

Mrs. JOHN HAYS SMITH
 2609 Market Street, Camp Hill

Mrs. O. E. HIPFENSTEEL
 Honesdale

Mrs. W. J. LLOYD
 72 Oakland Avenue, Uniontown

Mrs. C. V. HOMER
 103 Main Street, Greenville

Mrs. T. M. STAHLMAN
 3315 West Liberty Ave., S.H.B., Pittsburgh

Mrs. RUBY AUSTIN
 Edinboro

National Executive Committee Woman
 Mrs. FRANK BEECHER EMERY
 48 West 4th Street, Williamsport

Parliamentarian
 Mrs. HERMAN BIRNEY
 4016 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

Editor Annual
 Mrs. WILLIAM H. BIESTER, JR.
 734 Morgan Avenue, Drexel Hill

DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES

Rehabilitation
 Mrs. SAMUEL L. HILL
 63 Ann Street, Bradford

Child Welfare
 Mrs. SUB E. WARDEN
 109 West Fifth Avenue, Warren

Americanism
 Mrs. LEWIS CONRAD
 454 Carlisle Street, Hanover

Membership
 Miss EDNA MUSSER
 Smoketown, Lancaster Co.

Finance
 Mrs. FREDERIC W. ROBINSON
 332 Rural Avenue, Williamsport

Poppy
 Mrs. C. F. WALTMAN
 705 North 5th Street, Reading

Legislative
 Mrs. THOMAS MEANY
 4932 Walton Avenue, Philadelphia

Publicity
 Mrs. ELLIS E. STERN
 1143 Sterling Street, Coatesville

Community Service
 Mrs. CHESTER MOSER
 416 Church Street, Huntingdon

F. I. D. A. C.
 Mrs. MABEL D. STARK
 103 Exeter Avenue, West Pittston

Unit Activities
 Mrs. J. J. PAUL
 406 Roosevelt Avenue, York

Trophies and Awards
 Mrs. FRANCIS HAGERMAN
 Towanda

Educational—Vocational Training—
 World War Orphans
 Mrs. RENSCHAW C. DEWITT
 332 Mulberry Street, Williamsport

National Defense
 Mrs. MARGARET STEWART GRAY
 6611 Darlington Road, Squirrel Hill
 Pittsburgh



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

President

Mrs. FRANK BEECHER EMERY
 48 West 4th Street, Williamsport, Pa.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs. C. W. DRESSLER
 1117 Milton Avenue, Swissvale, Pa.

*acc.
 Roosevelt
 July RR ml*

*The Quartermaster General,
 Washington, D.C.*

*I am sorry to have delayed
 this matter, but it has been
 very hard for me to make
 my plans so far ahead.*

*My physician says my
 health is good for my age,
 except that I have very serious
 financial worries which give
 me insomnia and nervousness.*

*I could not go early in the
 season, but would like to go
 in July.*

*I think you would find that
 we older women stood the trip better
 if it were taken under better
 conditions. The U. S. lines are noto-
 riously poor boats and nearly every
 one gets sea-sick - and food is inferior.
 Some of the accommodations (I under-
 stand) were very poor and crowded
 for older women. The trip was hurried*

Women were not given time to recover
from seasickness, and heat.

I have made several trips to Europe
before my husband's death & his long ill-
ness impoverished me, and I know that
even when I was younger it would have
tired me to tear over, stay twelve or
thirteen days and come back, both ways
on rolling boats.

A number of women I know went this
year, including a first cousin, so I have
heard a good deal about it. I do not
say this in a spirit of fault-finding, but
because I know the govt. was distressed at
illness and death among the war-mothers,
and does not want them repeated another year.

If a rest period of a few days could
be planned outside of Paris I think it would
be a help. No one rests in Paris, and
I understand all the time was spent in either
battle ground trips or in Paris.
I would be glad to be of any service possi-
ble, as I know the country well and can get along with
the language.

Sincerely
(Mrs. H. H. Elizabeth C. Birney.

H

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

QM 293 A-M

IN REPLY REFER TO
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232-M

October 15, 1930

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dec'd
acc.
Roosevelt
July 22

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.

Letter to...

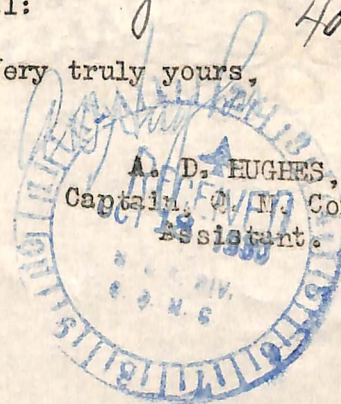
1. Do you desire to make this pilgrimage?	<i>Yes.</i>
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1931?	<i>As far as I can plan so far ahead - Yes.</i>
3. Please give your age and state your health.	<i>Age 63</i> <i>Condition of health Good - except for worry over finances.</i>
4. Do you speak English?	<i>Yes.</i>
5. What other language do you speak?	<i>French (fairly well).</i>

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

(Mrs) Elizabeth C. Birney
4016 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia

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



Encls:
Act
Amendment
Envelope

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-M

July 9, 1930

Birney, Knox B. 1232-M

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney
4016 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

The Act of March 2, 1929 excluded from its benefits those mothers and widows who had made former visits to the graves of their loved ones in Europe. On May 15, 1930 that Act was amended to remove this restriction. Therefore, you are now eligible to make the pilgrimage at the expense of the Government.

arrangements are being made for conducting pilgrimages during the year 1931, and to assure proper and satisfactory accommodations, reservations for steamship transportation 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 have previously visited their sons' or husbands' graves, 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)

Birney, Knox B.

(Surname.)

(Christian name in full.)

(Army serial number.)

First Lieutenant Co. A 6th Engineers

(Rank and organization.)

State your relationship to the deceased

Mother - 2

Do you desire the remains brought to the United States?

No.

(Yes or no.)

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

(Yes 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)

*Eugene C. Birney -
4016 Chestnut St. Phila. Pa.*

(Number and street or rural route.)

(City, town, or post office.)

(State.)

Read carefully the letter accompanying this card.

3-6713

Duplicate

617 1219

(over)

The Adjutant General,
Dear Sir,

I am informed
that the body of
my son has been
removed to Renne
Cemetery & properly
interred. I am therefore
willing to have his
body remain in France,
if that cemetery is
kept up as a national
cemetery here. My
husband concurs in
this feeling.

(Mrs H. G. Elizabeth Quincy
467E-5th St

Major Harris,
Quarters Master General's Office,

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter
regarding the "pilgrimages"
to American cemeteries
abroad, I will say that

my son 1st Lt. Knox B. Barney
Co. 4. 6th Engineers
was not married. His mother

and one brother, alone survive.
His father is now dead.

I am not sure if I am
eligible as under Sec. 2(b)
the act states "no mother
or maiden who has previously

I should like to ask one
question also. If I am eligible
~~should I be allowed to go over~~
~~on one trip and come back~~
~~on a later one, keeping myself~~
abroad at my own expense except
for the two weeks allowed by
the act. I have to live somewhere
and as I am entirely alone I
should like to use my ordinary
living expenses over there and do
something, since the expense of
the ocean voyage is a very great
item to me. I should very much

visited the cemeteries described
in Sec. 1 place be entitled to
make any such pilgrimage.

I want to Remagne Cemetery
where my son is buried in
1922 with one of Miss Anne
Morgan's God Will Delegations.

It was purely a forsaken
and terrible spot then -
no grass, no trees - and
the ornamental part in
front was overgrown with
weeds!

I should like to see it
with the marble crosses
up, looking less like a
vacant lot somewhere.

like to remain abroad (two or
three months, all but two weeks
and the transportation over & back
to be at my own expense. I see
no reason why that should not be
allowed.

Sincerely yours

(Mrs. H. H.) Elizabeth C. Birney.

4016 Chestnut St.

Mother of 1st Lt. Knex B. Birney -
Co A 7 6th Engineers -

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 27, 1929.

Birney, Knox B.

Mrs. H.H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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 1st Lieut., Knox B. Birney, Co. A, 6th Engrs., whose remains are now interred in the Meuse-Argonne Amer. Cty., 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.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM-293-AM

July 23, 1931.

Birney, Knox B. 1st. Lt. (M-A) 1st

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4018 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 13, 1931

Mrs. Herman H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date relative to your desire that flowers and a flag be placed at the grave of your son, the late Lieutenant Knox B. Birney, in the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery.

Please be advised that the plans for the pilgrimages provide that a wreath shall be presented to each mother and widow making the journey, to be placed on the grave of her loved one, however, there is no provision of law which would permit the placing of flowers and a flag at Government expense on any individual grave, in case the mother or widow is not making the pilgrimage. Flags are presented to the women making the pilgrimage by the City of New York and are not distributed by the War Department.

You are assured the grave of your son is well cared for in a manner befitting one of the Nation's fallen heroes. A veteran of the World War is caretaker of the cemetery and performs his duties with love and pride. The unfurled Stars and Stripes float in silent majesty over this beautiful cemetery.

It is hoped your health will improve and you will be able to make a pilgrimage next year and place a wreath on the grave of your son.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

bb

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt(MA) M

July 7, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

With further reference to office letter of July 6th,
receipt is acknowledged of return of check in the amount of
\$2.50 and identification badge.

It is sincerely hoped that you will be able to make
the pilgrimage during the summer of 1932.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

0327

MB
JUL 9 11 24 30

QQMG M&R BR

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 6, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

This office is in receipt of a letter from the Reverend Robert O. Kevin, advising that illness prevents you from sailing July 22nd, on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, to visit the grave of your son, the late 1st Lieutenant Knox B. Birney.

It is deeply regretted that your health will not permit you to make the journey at this time, and it is sincerely hoped that you will have a speedy recovery from your illness.

Your name has been placed upon the list of mothers and widows who are eligible to visit the cemeteries of Europe in 1932, and you will be communicated with when the pilgrimages are being arranged for that year.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

KL

0525

1931 JUL - 6 - PM 4:24

OQMG M & R ER

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. (MA)

July 6, 1931

Rev. Robert O. Kevin,
St. Stephen's Church,
10th Street, above Chestnut,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 29th, advising that Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney is ill and unable to sail July 22nd on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT to visit the grave of her son, the late 1st Lieutenant Knox B. Birney.

This office greatly appreciates your interest and cooperation in this matter.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

0526
1931 JUL - 6 - PM 4:28

KL
OQMG M & R BR

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Birney, Knox B. H-A

June 30, 1931

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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. Philadelphia	PHR	Train No. 206	9.00 A.M.	July 20
(Broad St. Sta)				
Ar. New York	"	" " "	11.00 A.M.	July 20
(Penn. Sta)				

Accommodations: Parlor car seat from Philadelphia, Pa. to New York, N.Y.

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-M

June 24, 1931

Birney Knox B. M-A M

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Your passport for the pilgrimage to the American Cemeteries in Europe has not been received in this office.

0914
4.30
B
You must have a passport to enter Europe. Please go at once to the Clerk of the United States District Court nearest your home or to the Clerk of the Court at your County seat. The following action must be taken by you now:

- (a) Have four (4) photographs of yourself made on thin paper (unmounted) not more than 3 x 3 inches or less than 2½ x 2½ inches in size.
- (b) Take these photographs, your invitation and any evidence of citizenship you may have to the Clerk of the Court as shown above.
- (c) Have someone who has known you for at least two years go with you to the Clerk to identify you.

The Clerk will help you fill out the application and HE will forward it to the proper office. Passports will be delivered to you aboard the boat. No charge will be made for the application or passport.

Persons living in or near the following cities will take the steps shown in (a), (b) and (c) above, and go to the U. S. Passport Agent at the address nearest their home shown below and not to Clerks of Courts:

Boston, Mass.	Custom House, State & Washington Streets
Chicago, Ill.	608 South Dearborn Street
New Orleans, La.	216 Post Office Bldg.
New York, N. Y.	Sub Treasury Bldg., Broad & Wall Streets
San Francisco, Cal.	Custom House, Washington & Battery Streets
Seattle, Wash.	1008 White Bldg., 4th Avenue & Union Street
Washington, D. C.	State Department, 17th & Pennsylvania Avenue

Advise this office at once if you have made application, giving the name given by you on the application.

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 25, 1931

Birney, Knox D. 1st Lt. (MA) M

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

There is enclosed herewith Check No. 8433 in the amount of \$ 2.30 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.

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,

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

1 Incl.
Check No.

OM 295 2-1
Birney, Knox B. 1832.

March 23, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your request for a stopover at New York City on your return from the pilgrimage to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Europe, sailing on the S. S. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, July 22, 1931.

Arrangements will be made for this stopover without additional cost for either rail or pullman transportation, however, all expenses incurred by you, due to the additional time in New York City, must, of course, be paid from personal funds.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

EST

7

DISPATCHED

1931 MAR 24 PM 12 27

Q.M. CORPS DIV

QM 293 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

March 12, 1931.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of recent date. In accordance with your request, a duplicate letter of instructions has been forwarded you.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

MDT

7

DISPATCHED

1931 MAR 12 PM 4 25

O. L. M. G. H. & C. DIV.

QM 293 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

February 27, 1931.

SUBJECT: Letter from Mrs. Birney.

TO: Colonel Richard T. Ellis,
46 Avenue des Champs Elysees,
Paris, France.

1. There is inclosed herewith for your information a copy of letter from Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, who has accepted an invitation to sail on the President Roosevelt, July 22, 1931.

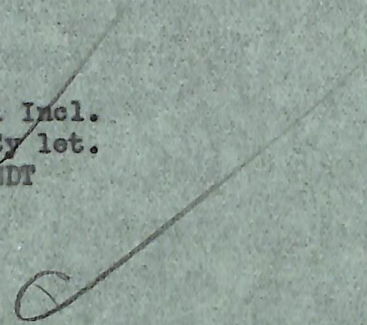
For The Quartermaster General.

1 Incl.
Cy let.
MDT

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

931 FEB 28, PM

DISPATCHED



QM 293 AM
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232 M

February 27, 1931.

SUBJECT: Letter from Mrs. Birney.

TO: OFFICER IN CHARGE, Pilgrimage Port of Embarkation,
Room 1211 Pennsylvania Building,
225 West 34th Street, New York City.

1. There is inclosed herewith for your information a copy of a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, 4016 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

2. Mrs. Birney has accepted an invitation to sail on the President Roosevelt, July 22, 1931.

For The Quartermaster General.

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

1 Incl.
Cy Let.
MDT

DISPATCHED
921 FEB 28 PM 2 32
M. C. SHANNON
UN

QM 293 A-M

February 12, 1931

Birney, Knox B. 1232

Van Horne, Fred'k. W. 608 M

Mrs. M. W. Van Horne,
831 First Avenue,
Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated January 30, 1931, in connection with your pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, to visit the grave of your son, the late Frederick W. Van Horne, Chief Yeoman, under the provisions of the Act of March 2, 1929, as amended May 15, 1930.

Invitation will be mailed you to sail on the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, July 22, 1931, and every effort will be made to comply with your wishes to be quartered with Mrs. Birney at the hotel in New York City and aboard ship. In view of the fact that you will not visit the same cemeteries in Europe, it will not be possible for you to occupy the same hotel room in Paris.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

DISPATCHED
1931 FEB 12 2 44
O.D.M.G. R.D.M.

QM 293 A-M
Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1282 M

October 21, 1930.

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date together with form letter from this office dated October 15, 1930 which you have completed and returned.

A number of mothers and widows in poor health have made the journey during the past summer and appear to have benefited therefrom. Although a few mothers have been taken sick during the pilgrimage, it is believed that the sick rate and death rate so far experienced would have been equally as great among this number of women of their age had they stayed at home.

The law provides that the mothers and widows shall remain in Europe no longer than two weeks, and the War Department has no other alternative than to administer the law as passed by Congress.

The Act of March 2, 1929 specifies that vessels owned or operated by the United States shall be used for transportation at sea and cabin-class accommodations shall be furnished. When plans were made by the War Department for the transportation of pilgrims from the United States to Europe, the idea of the comfort and welfare of the pilgrims was foremost and after careful consideration the United States Lines were given this task.

In accordance with your request, your name has been placed on the list of mothers and widows who will make the pilgrimage in 1931. Notation has been made of your desire to make the trip in the month of July and it is believed that your wishes will be complied with.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

QM 293 A-M

Birney, Knox B. 1st Lt. 1232-M

October 15, 1930

Mrs. Elisabeth C. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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,

A. D. FUGHERS,
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-M

July 9, 1930

Birney, Knox B. 1252-M

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney
4016 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

The Act of March 2, 1929 excluded from its benefits those mothers and widows who had made former visits to the graves of their loved ones in Europe. On May 15, 1930 that Act was amended to remove this restriction. Therefore, you are now eligible to make the pilgrimage at the expense of the Government.

arrangements are being made for conducting pilgrimages during the year 1931, and to assure proper and satisfactory accommodations, reservations for steamship transportation 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 have previously visited their sons' or husbands' graves, 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)

QM 293 4-0

Birney, Knox B.

July 16, 1929.

Mrs. H. H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:

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

It is regretted to advise that the restrictions contained in Section 2 (b) of the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929, will not permit you to make the pilgrimage with other Gold Star Mothers at the expense of the United States, for the reason that you have previously visited the House-Argonne American Cemetery, in which your son's remains are interred.

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

Letter signed & date returned in Birney file

443

7-17-29

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

RECEIVED
D. R. M. G. M. E. R. DIV.
JUL 17 10 49 AM '29

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

June 27 , 1929.

Birney, Knox B.

Mrs. H.H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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 1st Lieut., Knox B. Birney, Co. A. 6th Engrs., whose remains are now interred in the Meuse-Argonne Amer. Cty., 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.

ORIGINAL PAPER FILED

CROSS INDEX

OM 298 A-C
(Birney, Herman H.)

May 27, 1927.

Mrs. Herman H. Birney,
4016 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your letter, submitting a blue print of design and inscription for a monument to be erected to your husband, the late Captain Herman H. Birney, Lot #3318, Section 4, Arlington National Cemetery, The Quartermaster General desires that you be informed that the design is approved.

The inscription, to be cut on the front face of the monument, overlooking the grave, is also approved, with the exception that it should be amended so that the title "M. D." in the first line will be omitted, as the regulations require that military service only be shown on front faces of monuments in national cemeteries. If desired, titles held in civil life may appear on the rear face of the stone, or on either of the side faces. The inscription will, therefore, read as follows:

HERMAN HOWELAN BIRNEY
CAPTAIN MEDICAL CORPS U.S.A.
MAY 24, 1866 - AUG. 25, 1926
ELIZABETH BOUDE BIRNEY
HIS WIFE
SEPT. 20, 1857 -
TO THE MEMORY OF
KNOX BOUDE BIRNEY
D. S. O.
1ST LT. 6TH ENGINEERS A. S. F.
BORN MAY 21, 1892
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY
OCT. 20, 1918
AND WHOSE BODY RESTS IN FRANCE

The family name "BIRNEY" will be shown on the rear face of the die.

It is requested that you carefully examine the inscription, as written above, and call the attention of this office to any errors which may

O. Q. M. G.

X
298
Birney, Knox
B.

ORIGINAL PAPER FILED

CROSS INDEX

be found therein. If it is satisfactory, you should turn this letter over to the firm having charge of the work with directions to communicate with the Quartermaster Supply Officer, Washington General Intermediate Depot, 20th and C Streets, Northwest, Washington, D. C., for detailed instructions. That officer has immediate supervision over Arlington, and the papers in the case have been referred to him.

Very truly yours,

K. J. HAMPTON,
Lt. Col., Q.M.G.,
Assistant.

RK

Copy for: GISO, WGID, for his information & guidance.

1 Encl. - blue print

In reply refer to:
QM - 293 C-R

July 27, 1923.

Dr. H. L. Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

The Quartermaster General desires that you be informed that the permanent grave of 1st Lieutenant Knox B. Birney, Company A, 6th Engineers, is Grave 13, Row 40, Block B, 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 headstone of white marble, of suitable design, with name, rank, division, organization, date of soldier's death and State from which he came. The headstones will be placed at all graves in connection with the improvement work now in progress, as soon as possible and without waiting for special action or request on the part of relatives.

In effecting removal, the utmost care and reverence were exacted and more than willingly accorded by those performing this sacred duty. The grave of the deceased will be perpetually maintained by this Government in a manner befitting the last resting place of our heroes.

Very truly yours,



H. J. Conner,
Assistant.

RD

L

23/48/VTV

File
ek
5/6/27

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL.

Remains of:

Name Barney ~~BARNEY~~ Knox B.

Number: 1630

Rank 1st Lt. Organization: 6 Eng. Co A

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group _____ Unit _____

Disinterred (Date) _____ From: (Give complete location) _____

10th June, 1919

CLERY LE GRAND MEUSE

35 NE E 310.7 N 286.5

Reburied (Date) _____ in: (Give complete location) _____

10th June, 1919

Grave # 169 Sec 46 Plot 4

ARGONNE AMER CTY # 1232

ROMAGNE MEUSE

1232

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

Body buried in uniform; badly decomposed. Burial good.

Was one identification tag found upon body? Yes

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

12298

CONFIRMED No. 12298

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.C., 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. Ganet

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

JO

G.O. Group _____ Unit _____

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File #52190

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BIRNEY, Knox B. Ser. No. -----
(b) Rank 1st Lt. Organization Co. A, 6th Engrs.
(c) Date of death 10-20-18 (d) Cause of death k/a.
TYP. HWL.
CKR. 679

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

(a) Grave No. 169 Row - Plot 4 Sec. 46 TYP. HWL.
(b) Emerg. Address Dr. H. H. Birney (Father) 4016 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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

IV. A. G. O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt -----

(a) Name Elizabeth C. Birney (b) Relationship Mother & other
(c) Address 4016 Chestnut St., Phila., Pa.
(d) Remains to be brought to U. S.? no
(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 Bm Date 4-30-21, 192

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

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

Examiner's Initials ----- Date -----, 192

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

no request for disposition

(a) Cancellation memos referred to? Yes

Examiner's Initials Bm Date 4-30-21, 192

COUNTRY France CEMETERY No 1232, Sec. 46 SHEET No. 18.

JUN 1 1921

4-5

VII. G. R. S. Form No. 114 made _____, 192

Typed by _____, Checked by _____, 192

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by { cable on _____, 192
letter on 5/14, 192

Sec 46
Par 2 Not to be returned LPW

IX.

REMARKS

WRITE NOTHING BELOW THIS LINE.

fei

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

STATION

Roll no 1232.

To be prepared in triplicate.

DATE Nov 19, 1921.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT, PREPARATION, SHIPMENT AND REBURIAL OF BODY

DISINTERMENT

COMPARATIVE REPORT

Records of G.R.S. Headquarters.

Discrepancy found upon exhumation of body

1. Name BIRNEY, Knox B.
 2. No. _____
 3. Rank 1st. Lieut.
 4. Org. Co. A, 6th Engrs.
 5. D.D. Oct. 20th
 6. C.D. KIA

10. Name _____
 11. No. _____
 12. Rank _____
 13. Org. _____
 14. (a) D.D. _____
 (b) D.B. none.

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No. 169 Sec. 46
 8. Plot 14 Row _____
 9. _____

15. Grave No. _____ Sec. _____
 16. Plot _____ Row _____
 17. none.

18. Cemetery Meuse-Argonne Amer.
 20. Dept. or County Meuse
 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. Cty. #1232, Sec. 46

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

23. Disinterred (Date) Nov 19, 1921

By H.H. Foster.

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Knox B. Birney.
 Rank 1st Lt.

Serial No. _____
 Organization Co. A. 6th Engrs.

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

Signature of G.R.S. Inspector

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).

Identified by metal plate on top of casket, which checks with G.R.S. records.

27. Condition of body body decomposed, unrecognizable.

28. Nature of burial wooden box and burlap and U.S. 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 Nov 19, 1921 By H.H. Foster.

31. Casket sealed by H.H. Foster.

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor)

H.H. Foster
H.H. Foster.

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. C-15590

32. Designation of body:

Name Knox B. BIRNEY Serial No. _____

Rank 1st. Lieut. Organization Co. A, 6th Engrs.

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery Meuse-Argonne Amer. #1232, Romagne/s/Montfaucon, Meuse

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) Nov 19, 1921 By H.H. Poster.

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 R.C. Worthington, 1st Lt. QMC.

36. Remarks _____
_____ none.

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) Nov 19, 1921.

To point of Concentration Romagne Morgue.

Convoyer W.J. Royed. (Name) _____ Signature Shipping Officer Gerald Cole
J. GERALD COLE
Captain, C.A.C.

38. Received at Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date _____

By G.R.S. Representative _____

39. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date _____

To Permanent Cemetery _____

Convoyer _____ (Name) _____ Signature Shipping Officer _____

40. Received: Date _____

G.R.S. Representative _____

41. Reinterred Meuse-Argonne Cemetery #1232 Nov. 21st, 1921
(Date)

42. Grave No. 13 Section _____

43. ~~Block~~ Block B Row 40

G.R.S. Representative James H. Younger
Captain, QMC
mr

Place Romagne 1232.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

Date Nov 19, 1921.

1. REMAINS OF BIRNEY, Knox. E. SERIAL NUMBER.....
RANK 1st Lt. ORGANIZATION C. A. 6th Engrs.

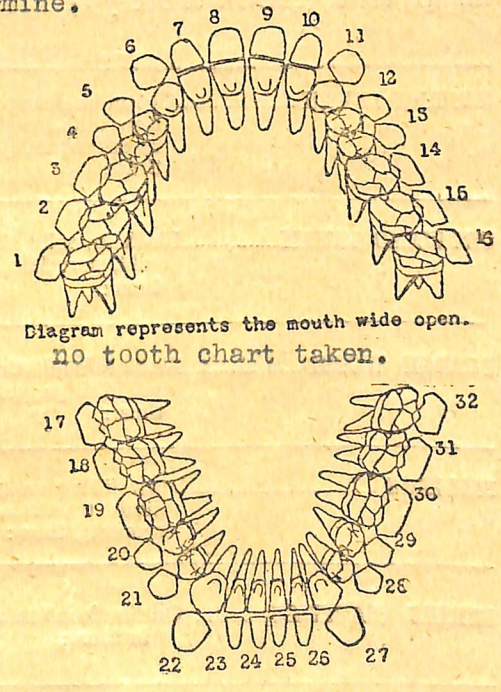
2. Disinterred (date): Nov. 19, 1921 From (give complete location): gr 169, sec 46, plot 4.
By: Group 1 Unit sec 1

3. Reburied (date): Nov. 21, 1921 In (give complete location): Meuse-Argonne Cem. 1232, Gr 13, Row 40, Block B
By: Group Re-burial S Unit..... Nature of reburial unlined casket

4. Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment :
wooden casket, metallic case, metallic case not opened.

5. (a) Identification tags : Buried with body ?..... On grave marker ? no
(b) Other means of identification found upon disinterment, and general remarks :
metallic case not opened by order of inspector. Identified by metal plate on top of casket, which checks with G.R.S. records.

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) unknown.



7. Disinterment supervised by N. N. Foster Approved: H. C. Worthington, 1st Lt. QMC.
H. H. Foster. (Title)

8. Reburial supervised by A. U. Dufault Approved: James W. Younger
A. U. Dufault (Title) James W. Younger Captain, QMC
nr

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File #52190

I. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BIRNEY, Knox B. Ser. No. (b) Rank 1st Lt. Organization Co. A, 6th Engrs. (c) Date of death 10-20-18 (d) Cause of death k/a. TYP. HWL. AS

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

(a) Grave No. 169 Row Plot 4 Sec. 46 TYP. HWL. (b) Emerg. Address Dr. H.H. Birney (Father) 4016 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

III. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases CKR. AS

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

[Dotted lines for handwritten information]

V. Following advice forwarded to Europe by cable on Dec 46, 192 letter of transmittal on 5/14, 1921. Par 2 not to be returned L.P.W.

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

VII. SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS.

Table with 4 columns: Date of and source, Relationship and name, Desires, Action taken. [Dotted lines for entries]

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

COUNTRY CEMETERY No. SHEET No.

52190

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

2. Soldier's No.

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

4. 1st. Lt. 6th. Engrs
Rank Company Regt. or Corps

5. 10/20/18
Date of Death Cause, if known

6. Isolated
Date of Burial Cemetery

7. Cunel Meuse
Town or Commune (in block letters) Department

8. 1608
Grave No. Plot No. or Letter

9. Name Peg? 1 Cross? Headboard? Bottle?
Check Method of Marking

10. Buried with Body? Attached to Grave Marker?
Identification Tags

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

CMME. Cunel (Meuse)

249 35 NE COORD E 31017

12. "A" sketch 74 728613
Map reference, if interment is outside of cemetery

13. R. B. Spetch
Give name of Chaplain or Burial Officer

Signed Lt. Caswell
GROUP No. 4

PROV. UNIT "A" G.R.S. Group..... Unit..... G. R. S.

52140

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Burney 1630 Knox B.
(Surname.) (Number.) (First Name and Initials.)

First Lieutenant Co. A. 6th Engrs.
(Rank.) (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL Oct. 25th 1918

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

Dun. Sur Meuse Map 1-20000

~~ONME~~ ~~Dun. Sur Meuse (Meuse)~~
~~(C 274) 35 NE COORD 6-574.8~~
~~11-290.7~~

GRAVE NUMBER

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? Cross? *yes*
Inscribed - name and organization
Headboard? Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS: *none*

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 marks should be given here:

~~ONME~~ ~~Cumel (Meuse)~~
~~(C 249) 35 NE COORD E 310.65~~
~~N 286.2~~

REPORTED BY: *chaplain*
William P. Sherman 6th Engrs.
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

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

W.P.S.
531

249-762



Communal List No. _____
Daily Report No. _____

Refer to this

(Office)

No. 52190

INQUIRY

Request by MR. CLINTON GAGE

European address REGINA HOTEL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

Relationship to dec'd RELATIVE

For location grave of:-

BIRNEY KNOX B.

Last name Serial No. First name

1st. LT. CO. A. 6th ENGRS. 10/20/18

Rank Org. Date of death

Date of request FEB. 13, 1922

Recd. by H.K.

(Initials) Other information:

BURIED AT ROMAGNE

INFORMATION FURNISHED

PERMANENTLY CONCENTRATED

Location of grave Country

#1232 ARGONNE AMERICAN CEMETERY

Cemetery Commune (town) Dept.

ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTFAUCON, MEUSE

Grave No. 13 Section

Block

Plot B Row 40

Furnished by Date 2/13/22

(Initials)

RECEIVED
MRS. IRMAN H. BIRNEY
4016 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA



Graves Registration Service,
Washington, D. C.

I do not want if the

letter should be addressed to you.
I want to write to that government
ment department which has in
its charge the American
Cemeteries in France. If that
is not for you, please forward
the letter to the proper office.

I am the mother of an
American soldier lying in France,
my son Lt. Heroy B. Birney, 6th Regt.
lies in Romagne cemetery -
and I want abroad this summer,
and in August visited his grave.

Rece...
153199
M. G.

I was received with great courtesy
and every attention was paid to me,
but I was very greatly disappointed
and shocked at the appearance of
the cemetery, and some of the rules
seem so arbitrary, I wish I
could have them changed for
the benefit of other mothers who
go over.

1st They do not allow plants
to be set out, nor flowers planted.
In April I had sent over money by
a friend and she had planted
blooming things there - things they
told her would do well - and there
was no trace of them on the bare

3/
MRS. HERMAN H. BIRNEY
4016 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

brown earth, a which not even a
blade of grass was showing.

At great trouble I took over
burlap from our own yard at
home, and earth - his native
soil. The Captain in command
told me when I set them out
that they would be pulled up
as soon as they sprouted, that
no one was allowed to set
them out. ^{2nd} My boy's body has
been moved within the last
few months, and I not notified -
which seems dreadful to me -
and makes me bitterly regret
that I did not bring it home.

to have it belong to me, instead
of to a government which
neglects it and will not even
allow mothers to set out flowers
on their own boy's graves.

I gave my boy to his country
but I think I have some rights
in his grave.

At the English cemetery at
Vimy Ridge, a strip is left
at the foot of each line of
graves, between that and the
next cross, and here flowers are
planted, so the cemetery is gay
with flowers and has none of the
bleakness of ours.

One poor mother had a son
at St. Mihiel - my heart ached

The temporary officers in charge or
are they promulgated from the
Department?

3rd Why do you make no attempts to
make these cemeteries really beautiful
as Arlington is beautiful. -
I saw the plan for Romagne - it
involved setting out some little pines
at regular intervals - no deciduous
trees have been planted and there is
a beautiful wooded country around -
and in nearly four years great pro-
gress would have been made.

I was bitterly disappointed. I
had decided after much thought
to let my boy lie where he fell,
(he died about a mile from Romagne
in the Argonne battle) and I had
been told the cemeteries were beauti-
ful. I am terribly sorry he does
not lie at Arlington where

5/
MRS. HERMAN H. BIRNEY
4016 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

for her - her boy lay in a stone
heap, and she was not allowed
even to take a picture, for
conditions were so terrible, they
could not be reported back home.
I also visited Belleau Wood and
Durresne. Belleau Wood is shadeless
like Romagne - but green, and
looks well - cared for, but we were
told all bodies would shortly be
moved and changes made. Durresne
alone was beautifully situated,
had trees near, surrounded a lovely
view, and there were no restrictions
about planting. Rose bushes and
other flowering plants broke the
sacred green space in many places.
Are such martinet rules necessary?
Are they only local, the creation of

MRS. HERMAN H. BIRNEY
4016 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA

as an officer of the U. S. Army, he
has a right to lie, but that
being settled now, as I suppose
it is too late for me to
have that changed, I wish
for the sake of other mothers,
we might have some rights over
our dear ones graves.

4th Most of all, I hear the crosses—
the only thing marking typically
a soldier's grave in France—
are to be taken up and
the ugly little headstones put
there. Because the government
is too poor to give marble crosses
to boys who die for their

Country. Let our parents put
up such Memorials. They shall
or have we signed away that
right too?

My boy is buried in West another office
anywhere near him - he was given the
D. P. C. and died in saving his whole
detachment, but not even the date
of his death in action was there -
I had that put on. Are markings
to be changed in any way when
the crosses come down? If they lie
democratically side by side why have
~~most~~ the officers been moved up near the
flag staff where the Chapel is to be -
but my son ~~still~~ lies in the remotest
part of the cemetery.
Yours very truly
(Mrs. Herman H) Elizabeth C. Birney.

687 C-A Ornamentation
of centres in Europe.

September 30, 1922.

Mrs. Herman Birney,
4016 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:-

Your letter of September 25, 1922, is received. The condition in which you found the cemetery, at the time of your visit, undoubtedly resulted from the operations incident to the disinterment and return, to the United States, of the remains which relatives had so requested. Return was made of about sixty per cent of the remains and exhumations inevitably disarranged the cemeteries. This fault is being corrected as expeditiously as possible and it is the intention of the Department to place these cemeteries in a state of favorable comparison with the national cemeteries of the United States.

Landscape architects are now perfecting plans for completion of the cemeteries and working parties are employed in carrying them out. As burial areas are completed, they are seeded down and it will not be long until a new turf covers each cemetery which will not need to be disturbed hereafter. Roads and walks will be made, buildings erected, trees and shrubs planted and the permanent tombstones placed as expeditiously as possible.

In comparing Romagne with Arlington National Cemetery, it must be borne in mind that Arlington was established some fifty years ago and has been progressively developed ever since. A little time is necessary to permit nature to assist our work in these cemeteries abroad, after which they will compare favorably with the national cemeteries here at home.

Nearly all of our correspondents who have visited the cemeteries in France, especially those who saw them prior to the work of exhumation, have been very much pleased with what has been done and as soon as possible, they will be returned to the condition which has been so generally commended.

The regulations with reference to planting flowers on graves abroad, are the same as those in the national cemeteries in the United States and are the result of long years of experience

and an endeavor to harmonize individual and differing sentiments so as to be fair to all interested.

The design of the headstone for the permanent marking of these graves, is the same as will be used in the cemeteries in the United States and furnished for unmarked graves of World War soldiers in other cemeteries. It was adopted after careful consideration and approval of the Fine Arts Commission.

Please be assured that it is the intention of the Department, and of all immediately connected with the work, that these cemeteries abroad shall be made fitting resting places for our hero dead. These men were our comrades and the Quartermaster Corps has been gratified that so many relatives have intrusted to it this precious duty, - a trust that will be redeemed in a spirit of loyalty to our comrades and service to their bereaved relatives.

Very truly yours,



E. E. DAVIS
Executive Assistant G.R.S.

MN

MAILED

SEP 30 1922

G.R.S.

5190

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

Reference-52190.

March 26, 1919.

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, American E.F.
TO : Helen Colley, 12 Rue d'Aguesseau, C/O Y.M.C.A., Paris.
SUBJECT: Lieut. Knox B. Birney, Co. A, 6th Engineers, American E.F.

In reply to your letter of inquiry, with reference to the regretted death of this soldier, according to the records at these headquarters he is buried in Commune of GUNEL, Department of the MEUSE. The grave location has not as yet been confirmed by the field force of this Service, but the notification of burial has been made to us, as herein stated, and is officially entered.

By direction

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

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

Per MAURICE B. DIX
Captain, American Red Cross
Representative assigned to
Graves Registration Service.

MBD-dn





2/17/19
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

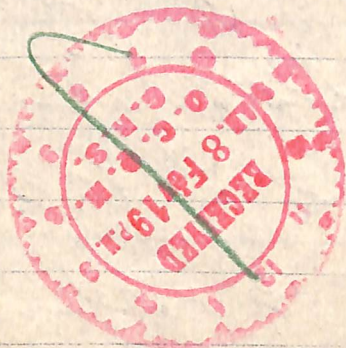
Jan. 27 1919

Graves Registration Bureau
A. E. F.

Dear Sir -

Can you give me any information regarding the burial place of Lieutenant Knox B. Birney - Co. A. 6th Engineers? I have official notice of his having been killed in action Oct. 20 1918.

He was a very great friend of mine & for



the sake of his Mother
who is my Mother's
friend, I have promised
to do my best to find
his grave.

Receipt of this in-
formation would
greatly oblige

Yours very sincerely

Helen Colley

12 Rue D'Aguesseau

Gymca.

"Entertainer"

Paris

