

gc

DATE _____

1. NAME BRANCH, Ralph A. SERIAL No. --

RANK 2nd Lieut. ORGANIZATION Co.M., 109th Inf. & DIVISION 28

GRAVE LOCATION American Mil.Cty.Nevers. Nievre. 395

CTY. NAME NUMBER

224

GRAVE ROW PLOT

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION 481 *new numbering* Nevers (Nièvre)

GRAVE COMMUNE DEPT.

583 *Old numbering*

COORDINATES _____

CONCENTRATED TO Gr. 224, Oct.23,1920.

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

Nevers (Nièvre) 395

CEMETERY CTY. NUMBER

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

Tag Buried with body. Also on gr.marker. Paper in bottle on body reads: "Ralph A. BRANCH, 2nd.Lt. Co."M" 109th.Inf. Died Sept.8,1918". (from data on form 16-A. No other data)

DATE OF DEATH *Sept 8-18*

STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME *Kan*

SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS _____

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED _____

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT CEMETERY

SIGNATURE, AREA SUPERVISOR *W.H. Quarterman*

W;H. QUARTERMAN, CAPT. F. A., Supervisor Area N°4

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION June 28th,1922 18 13 Block A-

DATE GRAVE ROW PLOT

St-Mihiel Amer. #1233, Thiancourt (M-et-M). CEMETERY

REC'D MAY 13 1925

REC'D MAY 19 1925

REC'D MAY 14 1925

REC'D MAY 10 1925

Received A.G.O.

Robert C. Davis, Major General, The Adjutant General.

By *meu*

meu AUDITED

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF FORM 114 B

1. Forms 114-B are to be prepared by Registration Branch in quadruplicate, three copies to be forwarded to Area Supervisor who will accomplish paragraph 2 and return all three copies to Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service.

2. Paragraphs 1 and 3 will be accomplished by Registration Branch, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, Q.M.C., in Europe.

3. Paragraph 2 will be accomplished by Area Supervisor from data on file in his office.

4. If data is entered on Form 114-B from Form 1, Form 16, Form 1-A or Form 16-A, statement to this effect will be made on Form 114-B STATING WHICH G.R.S. form data is taken from. If data concerning co-ordinates is approximate and NOT accurate, statement to this effect will be made on these forms.

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

R. 22201212
Branch *Ralph A.*
(Surname.) (Number.) (First Name and Initials.)

2nd Lieut. Co. *W.* *109th Inf.*
(Rank.) (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL *Sept. 9th 1918.*

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

Hospital Centre

Mars-sur-Allier
France

GRAVE NUMBER *Lot B*

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? *Yes* Cross?

Headboard? Bottle?

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Two

Was one buried with body?

Yes

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

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

REPORTED BY *Clinton J. Greene-Chaplain.*

Clinton J. Greene - Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

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

Place NEVERS, (NIEVRE), FRANCE

Date October 23, 1920.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

1. REMAINS OF Branch, Ralph A. SERIAL NUMBER _____

RANK 2nd Lt. ORGANIZATION Co. M, 109th Inf.

2. Disinterred (date): Oct. 23, 1920. From (give complete location): Grave #481.

American Cemetery No. 395. Nevers, (Nievre), France.

By: Group 6 Strong. ~~xxxx~~ Field Sectin #5.

3. Reburied (date): October 23, 1920. In (give complete location): Grave No. 224.

American Cemetery #395, Nevers, (Nievre), France.

By: Group 6 Strong ~~xxxx~~ Fld. Sect. #5. Nature of reburial Wooden box burlap

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

Wooden box in uniform. Hadly decomposed.

5. (a) Identification tags: Buried with body? Yes On grave marker? Yes

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

Paper in bottle on body reads: "Ralph A. Branch, Second Lieutenant, Co. M, 109th Inf. Died-Sept. 8, 1918."

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

(a) Height (actual measurement) _____

(b) Weight (estimated) _____

(c) Hair—Color _____

Quantity _____

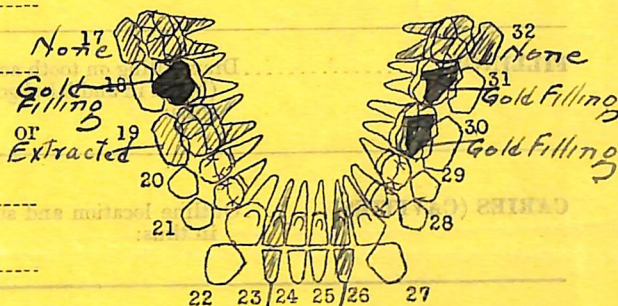
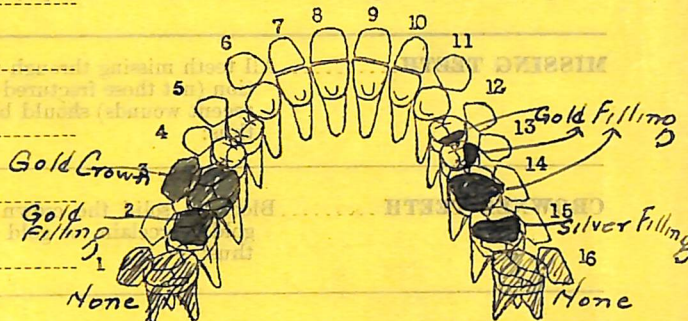
Characteristics _____

(d) Hair on face—Color _____

Location _____

Quantity _____

(e) Permanent marks on body (old scars, peculiarities, missing parts) _____



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

Impossible to fill in from A to F a/c of decomposition of body.

(CHECKER E. A. BIRD).

7. Disinterment supervised by W. E. SHIPP, Capt. Cav.
Inspector

Approved: E. D. DOWNS, Jr.
(Title) Captain, Q.M.C.

8. Reburial supervised by W. E. SHIPP, Capt. Cav.
INSPECTOR

Approved: E. D. DOWNS,
(Title) CAPT. QMC.
MASTER OF SECTION.






INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROPER COMPLETION OF G. R. S. FORM NO. 16-A

Enter information, as noted below, on reverse side of sheet in the corresponding numbered space. This form is supplemental to and is to be forwarded with G. R. S. Form 1-a, reporting reburial locations. To be used in answer to Question 26, Form 114, in case no means of identification on body.

1. Show soldier's name, serial number, rank and organization, and by whom disinterred and reburied.
2. Give date and accurate information as to location from which the body was disinterred and the group and unit which made disinterment.
3. Give date and accurate information as to location of reburial and the group and unit which made reburial, and how reburial was made—in casket, wooden box, etc.
4. State to what degree decomposition has progressed, whether recognition is possible, and how the body was originally buried—in a casket, box, burlap, etc. This statement should be as complete as possible.
5. (a) State whether identification tags were found buried with body and on grave marker by reporting "Yes" or "No."

(b) State whether or not body appears to have been a hospital case. Were any identifying articles found in or on body or grave? List any personal effects, letters, money-order receipts, and the like found on body or in grave. Give any and all information which it is thought might be of use in identifying the body, other than that tabulated under Item No. 6.

6. Give all information as to body description and dental chart as nearly correctly as the condition of the body will allow. Items (e) and (f) under the body description are very important and should be very complete. The dental chart is also very important and should be filled in with great care. There are 32 teeth to be accounted for, as shown by the numbers on the chart. Beginning at the middle line in both upper and lower jaws, the teeth are arranged symmetrically on either side and classed as incisors (cutting teeth), cuspids or canines (tearing teeth), bicuspids (chewing teeth), and molars (principal chewing teeth). An examination should be made and findings charted to cover the following basic conditions: Lost teeth, crowned teeth, bridge work, fillings, caries (cavities of decay), dentures (plates), and any deformity of jaws found.

MISSING TEETH	All teeth missing through previous extraction (not those fractured or displaced by recent wounds) should be scratched out, thus:	 <p>TOOTH MISSING TOOTH MISSING</p>
CROWNED TEETH	Block in solid the crown of tooth (label gold, porcelain, or gold and porcelain), thus:	 <p>GOLD CROWN PORCELAIN CROWN</p>
BRIDGE WORK	Block in solid the crown of tooth (label gold bridge, gold and porcelain bridge), thus:	 <p>GOLD AND PORCELAIN BRIDGE GOLD BRIDGE</p>
FILLINGS	Draw filling on tooth accurately as possible (block in and label gold, silver, cement), thus:	 <p>SILVER FILLING GOLD FILLING GOLD FILLING GOLD FILLING</p>
CARIES (CAVITIES)	Outline location and size of cavity, shade in thus:	 <p>CAVITY DECAYED DECAYED</p>

DENTURES (PLATES)..... Draw diagram of relative size and shape of plate, block in teeth attached and indicate retaining clasps on natural teeth with the word "clasp."

7. Show name of person supervising the disinterment and the name and title of the person approving same.
8. Show name of person supervising the reburial and the name and title of the person approving same.

3-7832



Branch, Ralph A.

WESTERN MILITARY BUREAU

2nd Lt.

ROUTE AND SCHEDULE

EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE SAILING FROM NEW YORK CITY August 19, 1930

Summer County, State of Kansas

Name Branch, Mrs Flora (R-12)

Address 1015 West Harvey, Wellington, Kans

Route going: CRI&P Chicago, MC Buffalo, NYC ~~New York~~

Return: Same route

		ROAD	TRAIN	TIME	DATE	
Itinerary going	Lv	Wellington	CRI&P	18	8:20 AM	Aug 15
	Ar	Chicago	"	12	7:59 AM	" 16
	Lv	"	MC	10	10:30 AM	" "
	Ar	New York	NYC	142	3:50 PM	" 17
	Lv	(Gr Cent Sta)				
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					
	Lv					
	Ar					

Accommodations: Standard sleeper Wellington, Kans to Chicago, Ill and Chicago, Ill to New York, NY

Elapsed Time: 54 hrs:30 min. *2 1/2*

Extra Fare:

Hob.
mm

Party "R" - Itinerary - St. Mihiel Group

Sailed August 19th; 1930 on GEORGE WASHINGTON. Capt. Arnold J. Funk in Charge. Arrived Cherbourg August 27th. Special tender arrived 11:57 am, bearing Maj. Dailey and Kinderman; Capts. Cohn, Haley, Earnest, Lambert and Stark; Lts. Yarborough, Freeman and Binns; five nurses and three civilian employees. Train left 1:37 pm; arrived Gare des Invalides, Paris, 8:00 pm. Met by Col. Ellis and members of his staff, interpreters and nurses. Taken in bus to hotel.

August 28th: Morning devoted to transaction of personal business. Exchange of money, preparation of laundry, etc. Afternoon - Arc de Triomphe, Wreaths laid by Mrs. Seymour and Mrs. Cassels. Tea and reception at Restaurant Laurent. Dinner at hotel.

August 29th: Morning free. Lunch at hotels. Sightseeing trip Paris - Sacre Coeur. Dinner at hotels.

August 30th: Visited Notre Dame in morning. Lunch at hotels. Sightseeing trip Paris - Napoleon's Tomb. Dinner at hotels.

August 31st: Left for Reuilly-en-Brie via Porte de Vincennes (rest stop Hotel du Sauvage. Left for Sezanne. Lunch Hotel de France. Left 2:30 pm for Vitry-le-Francois (rest stop Cafe Modern) and on to Bar-le-Duc. Quarters Hotel de Paris.

September 1st: Left in morning for Thiaucourt. Lunch Hotel de Metz. Left 1:30 for St. Mihiel Cemetery and on to Nancy via St. Pierre Auberge, Pont-a-Mousson. Quarters Grand Hotel.

September 2nd & 3rd: Trips to St. Mihiel Cemetery.

September 4th: Left Nancy for Troyes via Toul to Neufchateau (rest stop Hotel Modern) and Bar-sur-Aube where they lunched Hotel du Commerce. Quarters in Troyes at Grand Hotel.

September 5th: Left Troyes in morning for Paris via Sens (rest stop Hotel de Paris). Lunch at Hotel Legris in Fontainebleau. Dinner at hotel in Paris.

September 6th: Morning free. Lunch at hotel. Sightseeing trip Paris - Louvre. Dinner at hotel.

September 7th: Free or Church. Lunch at hotel. Afternoon free. Dinner at hotel. Sightseeing trip at night.

September 8th: Morning free. Lunch at hotel. Afternoon free. Dinner at hotel.

September 9th: Versailles in morning. Visited Chateau. Lunch at hotel in Paris. Afternoon free. Dinner at hotel.

September 10th: Boat train left for Cherbourg 9:44 am, arrived 3:56 pm. AMERICA sailed 5:40 pm. Arrived New York September 19th.

Mrs Flora Branch

WAR DEPARTMENT
 "PILGRIMAGE, WAR MOTHERS AND WIDOWS"
 ROOM 901
 225 WEST 34TH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.

Branch, RALPH A. — ST. M.

Party ... "R"
 Number ... 3249

REQUEST FOR PULLMAN RESERVATION

..... Branch, Mrs. Flora Actual cost of through Pullman.
 Name of Traveler
 Wellington, Sumner County New York, to .. Wellington, Kansas.
 Home Address
 Kansas \$ 17.25

New York, to ... Wellington, Kansas.
 Destination

Via .. NYC. TO BUFFALO. - MC. TO CHICAGO. - ORI. & P. TO DEST.

Ticket Expires: Sept. 20, 1930.
 Oct. 14, 1930. Date of Departure

	Road	Tr. No.	Date	Time	Lower or Seat	Car	U. S. G. Order No.	Actual Cost
LV	<u>GR-CENTRAL</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>9/20</u>	<u>610P.</u>	<u>Lo 6</u>	<u>73</u>		<u>9.00</u>
AR	<u>Chicago</u>		<u>9/21</u>	<u>905P.</u>				
LV	<u>R.R.</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>600P.</u>	<u>Lo. 8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>WJ-1024235</u>	<u>8.25</u>
AR	<u>Wellington</u>			<u>700P.</u>				
LV								
AR								
LV								
AR								
LV								
AR								
LV								
AR								

TOTAL 17.25.....

Remarks:
 VALIDATE
 STOP-OVER - CHICAGO
 Escorted to train by Lt. Geo. E. Young

Name..... BRANCH , Mrs Flora
Paris Hôtel..... HOTEL DE PARIS
..... BOULEVARD DE LA SINE
Home address..... 1015 West Harvey, Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas
Party..... R..... Group..... 3..... Unit ~~SS~~ WASHINGTON
Date of arrival..... AUG. 27, 1930..... Date of departure S/S AMERICA, Sept. 10, 1930
Relationship..... Mother
Name of deceased..... BRANCH , Ralph A.
Rank..... 2nd Lt..... Organization..... Co. M. 109th Inf.
Cemetery..... SAINT MIHIEL

REMARKS



BRANCH, RALPH A

Arrived August 17, 1930, 3:40 pm, N.Y. Central R.R. Met by
Lt. Geo. E. Young and escorted to Hotel A.W.A. Occupied room
alone for two days.

Two pieces of baggage.

Cabin 162-A. Quarters on GEO. WASHINGTON with Mrs. Sarah C. Brosius.

On return from pilgrimage quartered at Hotel McAlpin with Mrs.
Sarah C. Brosius.

Validate

NAME BRANCH, MRS. FLORA 3249

S.S. AMERICA SEP 19 1930

HOME WELLINGTON, SUMNER COUNTY
KANSAS

R.R. N.Y.C. to Buffalo

STATION Mc to Chicago

TRAIN # CR 14 to dest

CAR #

BERTH OR SEAT

TIME

DATE Oct 14 - 30

Stop over in
Chicago

August 1st, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch
1015 West Harvey
Wellington, Kansas

Dear Madam:

Please attach the enclosed tags to each piece of baggage, thus to protect the safe arrival of same in New York.

Upon your arrival in this City, you will be met at the Railroad Station by a United States Army Officer, in uniform, who will wear on the left sleeve of his coat a blue cloth band, showing a Gold Star and the word "Pilgrimage". This officer will escort you and your baggage to your Hotel in New York City.

For The Officer in Charge:

George F. R. Taylor,
1st. Lieut., Q.M. Corps,
Assistant.

Enclosures:
2 tags.

CODE SLIP

HEADING	SUB HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME	Branch, Ralph	3	281
	A.		
	CEMETERY	1	3
BURIED	GRAVE	2	18
	ROW	2	13
	BLOCK	1	1
STATE	Kan.	2	18
RANK	2nd Lt.	1	1
DIVISION	28th	2	28
ORGANIZATION	109th	3	109
ARM	Inf	1	1
MARITAL	Married	1	3
NAME	Mrs Flora Branch	3	281
	STATE	2	18
RESIDENCE	COUNTY	2	96
	CITY	3	060
RELATION	Mother	1	1
OTHER		1	
ELIGIBILITY	yes	1	1
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH	yes	1	
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH	Good	1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF TRIP	NO.	1	
ACCEPTANCE	YR.	1	
	1930	1	
	yes	1	
29/514/EAB	Age 68		68

AUDITED
 OCT 5 1931
 RS

C O D E S L I P

HEADING	SUB-HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE
NAME <i>Branch,</i>	<i>Bra</i>	3	<i>2 08 1</i>
<i>Ralph A.</i>	CEMETERY <i>1233</i>	1	<i>3</i>
BURIED	GRAVE <i>18</i>	2	<i>18</i>
	ROW <i>13</i>	2	<i>13</i>
	BLOCK <i>A</i>	1	<i>1</i>
STATE	<i>Kansas</i>	2	<i>18</i>
RANK	<i>2nd Lt.</i>	1	<i>1</i>
DIVISION	<i>28</i>	2	<i>28</i>
ORGANIZATION	<i>109</i>	3	<i>109</i>
ARM	<i>Inf.</i>	1	<i>1</i>
MARITAL	<i>Remarried</i>	1	<i>3</i>
NAME <i>Edmonds,</i>		3	
<i>Mrs. L. E.</i>	STATE	2	
<i>303 Woodlawn</i>	COUNTY	2	
RESIDENCE	CITY	3	
<i>Topeka, Kans.</i>	RELATION <i>widow</i>	1	<i>5</i>
OTHER		1	
ELIGIBILITY	<i>no</i>	1	<i>2</i>
NATIVITY		1	
RACE		1	
ENGLISH		1	
ATTENDANT		1	
HEALTH		1	
NO. OF SONS		1	
DATE OF	MO.	1	
TRIP	YR.	1	
ACCEPTANCE		1	
<i>29/514</i>			

AUDITED
 OCT 5 1951
RS

QM 293 A-M
Branch, Ralph A. 2nd Lt. 1233 M

December 17, 1930.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 S. Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 9, 1930, expressing your appreciation for the pilgrimage you made to the grave of your son, the late Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

It is gratifying to know that your trip was entirely satisfactory and that the officers of the Army, the nurses and other personnel in connection with the pilgrimage rendered such courteous and efficient service. The Quartermaster Corps is proud of the honor bestowed upon it by being charged with the conduct of these pilgrimages and has expended every effort that those making the journey might have a comfortable and pleasant trip. I feel, however, that the task has been materially lightened by the wonderful spirit of cooperation and consideration shown by the women themselves.

I am particularly glad to know that you were pleased with the appearance of your son's resting place and that you derived great consolation from the visit you made to his grave. You are assured that the St. Mihiel American Cemetery will be perpetually maintained in the same fine condition in which you found it, for it will continue to be the constant effort of the Quartermaster Corps to make the American cemeteries in Europe fitting resting places for the heroes who are buried in them.

With sincere appreciation of the sentiments you expressed regarding the conduct of the pilgrimage, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. L. DeWITT,
Major General,
The Quartermaster General.

meif
ETK



Branch. Ralph A.

Quartermaster General
Washington D. C.

Aug. 19, 1930

Wellington, Kans.
Summer Co.

293
33013

Dear Sir,

I hope the other Gold Star Mothers have not been so slow to write their thank yous for the blessed pilgrimage arranged for and given us by the best government in the world.

I received 30 - Steamers letters, each one saying no Gov't had done such a beautiful thing - "Believe it or not" I have not had one day all mine - since I came home for [it seems so] the world and his wife - not to mention close friends and relatives have used up my days and for into the night wanting to know all about it - Prohibition and the tariff just havin' been in it all -

This last Thanksgiving Day - as I counted my mercies - I headed the list with gratitude for the Gold Star Pilgrimage and my share in it - when I received the little card

saying - Ralph A. Bruce, 2nd Lieut.
interred row 13, grave 18 St. Michel
Cemetery - Meur-et-Marelle Thiaucourt
France - all it could tell me was
that somewhere, in a strange land
separated from all that once was dear
to him by a wide ocean - my son
had died and was buried -

But now - since I have received
this trip planned so perfectly and
carried out so lovingly I see a
green hillside with the snow
white crosses in long straight rows,
shrubbery and flowers of blue and gold
bordering drive, ^{and} walks. I was
privileged to see the beautiful Marelle
village of Thiaucourt and now I
know what the card means

I can never forget the friendly
welcome we received - the beautiful
wreaths given us - the one cross
bearing my son's name, rank - divis-
ion and the name of his state the chain
so thoughtfully placed there - the two
flags - Our own Old Glory and the
tri color of France on either side -
the cross where between these flags
I placed the wreath honoring my
beloved dead -

Neither can I forget our thoughtful
hostess [Mrs. Laren Abbott] who with a
loving embrace gave the gold star
medals each a dozen soft paper
kerchiefs for our tears - nor the
consideration shown by the man
in charge and his helpers -

I wish to make especial mention
of many courtesies and much kindness
shown us by Capt. Wm V Ochs [and
his charming wife was so lovely to
us in Paris] also the nurses who
gave a daughter's loving care to us -

Captain Ochs unwittingly served
marked our maps for us - talked to us -
took a real interest in us - was like
a son to every mother yes and we
of Contingent R would love to raise
his rank to Col. at least and
increase his pay -

So much was given us at
Nancy, in Paris and the trips to Mt Sec
Fontainebleau, Versailles - along the country
side - words are poor things and can
not express the fullness of joy and
gratitude that are mine today and
for the rest of my life Sincerely Yours
Wellington Kauis - Flora Branch

Dec - 9 - 1930 -

STATE

BRANCH, Ralph A.

KANSAS

1015 West Harvey
Wellington

M

Sumner County

NAME BRANCH, MRS. FLORA

HOME ADDRESS

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST KIN

R. F. Branch 6218 No. Sacramento,
Chicago, Ill.

ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK

DATE Aug 17

HOTEL Awa

ROOM NO. 2001

DEPARTURE NEW YORK

DATE AUGUST 19, 1930

VESSEL WASHINGTON

CABIN NO. 162a

DESTINATION CHERBOURG, FRANCE

CEMETERY ST. M

RETURN NEW YORK

SEP 19 1930

DATE

M

NAME ... Branch, Mrs. Floa HOME ADDRESS .. 1915 West Harvey, Wellington, Summer County, Kansas

RETURN ON S. S. S/S AMERICA HOTEL McALPIN ROOM NO. 835

DEPARTURE NEW YORK

DATE 9/20

ROAD nyl TRAIN 23 CAR 73 BERTH or SEAT L6

REMARKS
Chicago, Ill.
.....
.....

*K. Mason
(Nurse) Paris*

MEDICAL RECORD

*Eastbound
Westbound

Party: "R"

S. S. WASHINGTON

Name BRANCH, Mrs. Flora

Home Address 1015 W. Wellington, Kansas

Hawey St.

Name and address of nearest relative or friend

Robt. F. Branch (son)

6218 N. Sacramento Ave. Chicago, Ill.

Religion

Christian Scientist

Age

68

History of present complaint:

Painful feet come.

(OVER)

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.

Diagnosis and complications: (include dates)

Treatment and Progress: (include dates) 8/26/30. sent to chiropodist.

Disposition: (include dates)

Remarks:

R

NAME Branch, Mrs. Flora

ADDRESS 1015 West Harvey, Wellington, Kansas

BRANCH, RALPH A. DATE Oct. 7 - 1930

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

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

Found the house all cleaned up and aired - Friends and a good dinner waiting - Wasn't that something??

Sincerely,
Yours
(Signed) Flora Branch

1233

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.

3376

RETURN RECEIPT

1233

Washington 8-19-30

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

Mrs. Flora Branch

(Signature or name of addressee)

(Signature of addressee's agent)

Aug 2 1930

Date of delivery _____, 19____

Form 3811

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1929

c 5-6116

Post Office Department

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. KANSAS 239

INSURED PARCEL

No. _____

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING
OFFICE

AND DATE OF DELIVERY

Return to Q. M. GENERAL

(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box, }

MUNITIONS BUILDING,

Post Office at _____

R. 3-24

05-6116

State Washington, D. C.

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No. 925174

INSURED PARCEL

No. _____

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$20

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING OFFICE



AND DATE OF DELIVERY

130

Return to _____

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box, }

Q. M. GENERAL

(NAME OF SENDER)

MUNITIONS BUILDING

Post Office at _____

State Washington, D. C.

Q 22 / QM 295 A-C
Brosius, Lloyd 1764 SM
Branch, Ralph A. 1235 M

for letter

June 10, 1930

Mrs. Sarah C. Brosius,
1035 Clinton Street,
Carthage, Missouri.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 5 relative to your desire to be quartered with Mrs. Flora Branch when you make the pilgrimage to the grave of your stepson, under the provisions of the Act of March 2, 1929, sailing on the SS "Washington" August 19, 1930.

Notation has been made of your desire and it is believed that your wishes can be complied with and that you can be placed in the same cabin aboard ship and in the same hotel room in New York.

In view of the fact that you are not to visit the same cemetery, however, it will not be possible for you and Mrs. Branch to occupy the same hotel room in Paris.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

EL

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Branch, Ralph A.-1233 M
Washington 8-19-30

May 15, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

The records of this office show that you have not furnished the name of your Emergency Addressee as requested in letter of instructions from this office.

It is requested that in the blank space below you write the name and address of the person in the United States whom you desire to be notified in case you become seriously ill or other emergency arises while you are making the pilgrimage to Europe authorized by the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929.

R. F. Branch
Name

Name

Address

Please fill in the above and mail it TODAY in the self-addressed envelope which requires no postage.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl.
Env.

Passport applied for
Application mailed

1015 W. Harvey

Wellington
Kansas -

noted

If not there 6218 N. Sacramento Chicago Ill.
Elgin Nat'l Watch Co - can be reached through Office of

33¹ East Wacker Drive
Chicago



WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C **May 9, 1936.**
evidence of her American citizenship as she may have in her possession. In the absence of evidence of citizenship, her application, attested by a credible person residing in the same community who is an American citizen, known her for a Branch, Ralph A. 1233 N. He and is able to swear to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that she is a citizen of the United States.

Mrs. Flora Branch,

1015 West Harvey, near or widow who does not owe allegiance to the United States. Apply to the Department of State for a Pilgrimage Travel Document through a clerk of a Federal court or a State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens or through a Passport Agent upon the form of application prescribed for that purpose.

Dear Madam:

entitled APPLICATION FOR A PILGRIMAGE TRAVEL DOCUMENT, issued under the Act of March 2, 1929, submitting therewith four photographs. The following instructions prepared by the Secretary of State contain the necessary instructions to be followed by you in obtaining the passport or travel document to be utilized in connection with your pilgrimage to the cemeteries in Europe. Please read the directions carefully and call in person upon the nearest Passport Agent or clerk of a Federal or State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens. Passport Agencies are located in Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle. In large cities there are usually two or more courts and at each county-seat a state court authorized to accept these passport applications.

When you make this call be sure to take with you the four photographs called for in the instructions together with your invitation as a means of identification. You should take with you to the passport office at this time a friend who is an American citizen and who has known you for several years. The passport Agent or clerk of the court will mail your application to the Secretary of State in Washington, D. C., who will issue the passports and travel documents and will deliver them to The Quartermaster General to be held by him until your arrival in New York.

The instructions prepared by the Secretary of State are as follows:

"A mother or widow who owes allegiance to the United States must apply to the Department of State for a Special Pilgrimage Passport through a Passport Agent or through a clerk of a Federal court or State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens and on the form prescribed by that Department. When making application, she should be accompanied by a credible witness who is an American citizen and who has known her for a period of two years or more. With her application she should submit four photographs on a light background and on thin paper not more than 3x3 inches in size not less than 2½x2½ inches in size and such documentary

evidence of her American citizenship as she may have in her possession. In the absence of evidence of citizenship, her application should be witnessed by a credible person residing in the same community who is an American citizen, has known her for a long period of time and is able to swear to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that she is a citizen of the United States.

"A mother or widow who does not owe allegiance to the United States must apply to the Department of State for a Pilgrimage Travel Document through a clerk of a Federal court or a State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens or through a Passport Agent upon the form of application prescribed for that purpose, entitled APPLICATION FOR A PILGRIMAGE TRAVEL DOCUMENT, issued under the Act of March 2, 1929, submitting therewith four photographs on a light background and on thin paper not more than 3 x 3 inches in size and not less than 2½ x 2½ inches in size. When making application she should be accompanied by a credible witness who has known her for a period of two years or more.

"The Act of March 2, 1929, provides that no fee shall be charged for the execution of an application for a passport or travel document or for the issue of a passport or travel document to a mother or widow making a pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe in which deceased soldiers, sailors, and marines of the American forces are now interred.

"Special Pilgrimage Passports and Pilgrimage Travel Documents when issued by the Department of State will be forwarded to the War Department.

"Applicants resident in Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle should execute applications at the Passport Agencies in those cities."

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Washington

8-19-30

1233

✓

Branch, Ralph A.

I accept
(Accept or decline)

the invitation extended

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

Mrs. Flora Branch,

(Name)

Mrs. Flora Branch

1015 W. Harvey, Wellington, Sumner County, Kans.

(Town or City)

(State)

1015 W. Harvey Wellington Kansas



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

October 8, 1929.

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C
Branch, Ralph A. 1233 M.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kans.

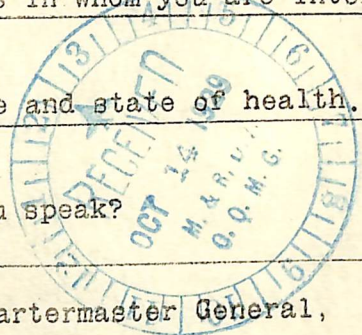
Sailed
AUG 19 1930

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) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(No) <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you desire to make the pilgrimage in the calendar year 1930?	<i>yes</i> (Yes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(No) <input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>no</i> (No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Please give your age and state of health.	Age <i>68</i> (Years)	Health (Good) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. What language do you speak?	English - (Yes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other language (Specify language spoken) <i>a few words of French</i>



For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

Encl.
Act
Envelope

To the Quartermaster General
Washington D. C. ;

Dear Sir;

Mrs. Mary Myers Branch

- who is now Mrs. L. E. Edmonds
7 303 Woodlawn Topoka Kan.
sent your letter to me that I may
speak for myself.

I am the mother of the
late Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch
Co. M- 109th Inf. I receive a com-
pensation check from the Gov't
which, I take it refers to the records
it is always marked C-65661

I would like to visit my son's
resting place in the St. Mihiel Amer-
ican Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-
et-Moselle, France and because of
age (67) would like to go in 1930

Very Truly Yours
Flora Branch
Branch, Ralph A. - 1015 West Harvey
Wellington
Kansas.



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C
~~Branch, Ralph A.~~

May 28, 1929.

Mrs. Mary Myers Branch,
701 North Olive St.,
Wellington, Kansas.

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 widow of the late Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, Co. H, 109th Inf., whose remains are now interred in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

Will you please advise this office whether or not he is survived by a mother 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.

Your attention is particularly invited to Section 4 of the enclosed Act, which defines the terms "mother" and "widow". If the relationship is that of a stepmother, mother through adoption or a woman who stood in loco parentis to the decedent, a statement as to her relationship is requested. In case you have remarried it is also requested that a statement to that effect be made.

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

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

2 incls.
Act of Congress.
Envelope.

B

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Branch, Ralph A.

May 23, 1929.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1810 Wellsely Ave.,
Wichita, Kansas.

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 Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, Co. M, 109th Inf., whose remains are now interred in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, 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.

B

QM 293 A-M
Branch, Ralph A. 2nd Lt. 1233 M

December 17, 1950.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 W. Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 9, 1950, expressing your appreciation for the pilgrimage you made to the grave of your son, the late Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

It is gratifying to know that your trip was entirely satisfactory and that the officers of the Army, the nurses and other personnel in connection with the pilgrimage rendered such courteous and efficient service. The Quartermaster Corps is proud of the honor bestowed upon it by being charged with the conduct of these pilgrimages and has expended every effort that those making the journey might have a comfortable and pleasant trip. I feel, however, that the task has been materially lightened by the wonderful spirit of cooperation and consideration shown by the women themselves.

I am particularly glad to know that you were pleased with the appearance of your son's resting place and that you derived great consolation from the visit you made to his grave. You are assured that the St. Mihiel American Cemetery will be perpetually maintained in the same fine condition in which you found it, for it will continue to be the constant effort of the Quartermaster Corps to make the American cemeteries in Europe fitting resting places for the heroes who are buried in them.

With sincere appreciation of the sentiments you expressed regarding the conduct of the pilgrimage, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. L. DeWITT,
Major General,
The Quartermaster General.

mef

ADH
JWH
WRG

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

XXX A-M
Branch, Ralph A. - 1233

July 17, 1930.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

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:

Leave Wellington	CRI&P	Train #18	8:20 AM	August 15
Arrive Chicago	"	#12	7:59 AM	" 16
Leave Chicago	MC	#10	10:30 AM	" 16
Arrive New York	NYC	#142	3:50 PM	" 17

(Gr. Cent. Sta.)

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
Branch, Ralph A. 1233-M

June 12, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas

Dear Madam:

Somewhat heavier clothing is required to be worn in Europe than is necessary in the United States, in order to be comfortable. During the summer in Europe it is cool during the day and the nights are frequently chilly. Considerable rain is usually encountered during this time.

In order that you may be comfortable at all times, regardless of the condition of the weather, and may avoid missing any of the sights or any part of the itinerary which has been planned for you, the following suggestions are made.

The clothing which you will take with you should be slightly heavier and warmer than you would normally wear in the United States during the summer and should be strong and durable. It is essential that you take with you the necessary equipment to afford protection from the cold and dampness. Be sure to take at least two pairs of comfortable shoes to provide a change in the event your feet become wet, a pair of rubbers, an umbrella, and a sweater or some warm wrap to be used should the weather become uncomfortably cool. It is very desirable that, in addition to the sweater, you have with you a full length coat of medium weight for general wear.

The shortages of suitable facilities for laundry and the frequency of the moves you will make while in Europe will make it impracticable to secure as frequent service of this nature as may be desired. You should therefore provide yourself with sufficient underwear, nightgowns, stockings and handkerchiefs to meet your requirements should it be impossible to have your washing done more frequently than once in two weeks.

If you will read carefully the suggestions made above, and comply with them, it will add greatly to your comfort throughout the trip and will assist the Government in carrying out successfully its plans for conducting the pilgrimage. This letter is being sent to every mother and widow who has accepted the invitation sent to her by the Government to visit the grave of her son or husband.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

QM 295 A-C
Brosius, Lloyd 1764 SM
Branch, Ralph A. 1255 M

June 10, 1930

Mrs. Sarah C. Brosius,
1035 Clinton Street,
Carthage, Missouri.

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 5 relative to your desire to be quartered with Mrs. Flora Branch when you make the pilgrimage to the grave of your stepson, under the provisions of the Act of March 2, 1929, sailing on the SS "Washington" August 19, 1930.

Notation has been made of your desire and it is believed that your wishes can be complied with and that you can be placed in the same cabin aboard ship and in the same hotel room in New York.

In view of the fact that you are not to visit the same cemetery, however, it will not be possible for you and Mrs. Branch to occupy the same hotel room in Paris.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

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

EL

X *Ref*

X
295
Branch.
Ralph A.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C
Branch, Ralph A. 1233 M
Washington 8-19-30

May 15, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

The records of this office show that you have not furnished the name of your Emergency Addressee as requested in letter of instructions from this office.

It is requested that in the blank space below you write the name and address of the person in the United States whom you desire to be notified in case you become seriously ill or other emergency arises while you are making the pilgrimage to Europe authorized by the Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929.

Name

Address

Please fill in the above and mail it TODAY in the self-addressed envelope which requires no postage.

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 A-C
Branch, Ralph A. 1233-M
Washington 8-19

May 10, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas

Dear Madam:

Requests for stop-overs on return from the pilgrimage to the American cemeteries in Europe are being received by this office, in some cases, too late to take action.

Transportation arrangements for the round-trip are made a month before departure and requests for stop-overs on return must be in this office at that time.

Stop-overs can not be allowed on the trip to New York or in Europe, but may be allowed at any point on return from New York provided there is no additional cost or, if there is, that it is paid in advance by the pilgrim.

If you desire stop-overs at any point on return, please advise this office AT ONCE as to the cities where you desire to stop and we will be glad to arrange accordingly, or advise you if there is any additional cost to be paid by you. Send your request direct to this office and do NOT include it with your passport 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

May 9, 1930.

Branch, Ralph A. 1233 M

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

The following instructions prepared by the Secretary of State contain the necessary instructions to be followed by you in obtaining the passport or travel document to be utilized in connection with your pilgrimage to the cemeteries in Europe. Please read the directions carefully and call in person upon the nearest Passport Agent or clerk of a Federal or State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens. Passport Agencies are located in Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle. In large cities there are usually two or more courts and at each county-seat a state court authorized to accept these passport applications.

When you make this call be sure to take with you the four photographs called for in the instructions together with your invitation as a means of identification. You should take with you to the passport office at this time a friend who is an American citizen and who has known you for several years. The passport Agent or clerk of the court will mail your application to the Secretary of State in Washington, D. C., who will issue the passports and travel documents and will deliver them to The Quartermaster General to be held by him until your arrival in New York.

The instructions prepared by the Secretary of State are as follows:

"A mother or widow who owes allegiance to the United States must apply to the Department of State for a Special Pilgrimage Passport through a Passport Agent or through a clerk of a Federal court or State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens and on the form prescribed by that Department. When making application, she should be accompanied by a credible witness who is an American citizen and who has known her for a period of two years or more. With her application she should submit four photographs on a light background and on thin paper not more than 3x3 inches in size not less than 2½x2½ inches in size and such documentary

IN REPLY REFER TO ON 302 V

evidence of her American citizenship as she may have in her possession. In the absence of evidence of citizenship, her application should be witnessed by a credible person residing in the same community who is an American citizen, has known her for a long period of time and is able to swear to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that she is a citizen of the United States.

"A mother or widow who does not owe allegiance to the United States must apply to the Department of State for a Pilgrimage Travel Document through a clerk of a Federal court or a State court having jurisdiction to naturalize aliens or through a Passport Agent upon the form of application prescribed for that purpose, entitled APPLICATION FOR A PILGRIMAGE TRAVEL DOCUMENT, issued under the Act of March 2, 1929, submitting therewith four photographs on a light background and on thin paper not more than 3 x 3 inches in size and not less than 2½ x 2½ inches in size. When making application she should be accompanied by a credible witness who has known her for a period of two years or more.

"The Act of March 2, 1929, provides that no fee shall be charged for the execution of an application for a passport or travel document or for the issue of a passport or travel document to a mother or widow making a pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe in which deceased soldiers, sailors, and marines of the American forces are now interred.

"Special Pilgrimage Passports and Pilgrimage Travel Documents when issued by the Department of State will be forwarded to the War Department.

"Applicants resident in Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco and Seattle should execute applications at the Passport Agencies in those cities."

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Branch, Ralph A. 1255-M

April 30, 1930

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 W. Harvey,
Wellington, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

This letter, which contains general information regarding the pilgrimage to the cemeteries of Europe, is being sent to each mother and widow who has expressed a desire to make the pilgrimage during the calendar year 1930. The general plan for the conduct of the pilgrimage is shown in the Pilgrimage Regulations, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. In addition to the information shown in the regulations, the following explains in detail some of the most important things connected with the pilgrimage.

Formal invitations are being extended to each mother and widow who has expressed a desire to make the pilgrimage during 1930. In so far as practicable, these invitations are being extended with a view to keeping the women from each state together and the order in which the invitations to the women from the several states are issued is based on a drawing by lot which was held about one month ago. Inclosed with each invitation is a card for acknowledgment and it is quite important that you accept or decline this invitation promptly in order that the necessary railroad, steamship and hotel reservations may be arranged. The government will defray all the necessary expenses of the pilgrimage, including railroad fare, hotel accommodations, steamship fare and all other incidental expenses. It will not provide anything other than the necessary expenses so that you should bring with you such funds as you may desire to use for making small purchases and for other uses distinctly of a personal nature.

Arrangements have been made with the American Railroad Association which assures us the united support and cooperation of all of the railroads in the United States in handling the movement to and from New York City. The local ticket agent will secure your railroad and sleeper ticket and will make the necessary pullman reservations. Before your departure from your home we will mail you a check, sufficient to pay for your meals and other travelling expenses while enroute to New York. Your railroad ticket will provide for a round trip from your home to New York and upon arrival in New York the army officer in charge of the New York office will collect the return trip stub and hold it until your return to New York from Europe.

Upon arrival in New York, you will be met by an army officer

and escorted to a first class hotel where reservations have been made. The duration of your stay in New York will be from 24 to 48 hours. At the proper time, you will be escorted to the steamship upon which passage has been engaged for Europe. All of the women making this trip will be provided with cabin class accommodations aboard steamers which means that from two to four will be quartered in the same stateroom. If you have any friend that you would like to be quartered with we will endeavor to arrange it if you will communicate with this office.

The ocean voyage will last about 8 days and when the ship docks at Cherbourg, France, each party will be met by officers especially detailed for the purpose and taken in a special train to Paris where first class hotel accommodations have been reserved. The first day in Paris will be a day of rest. On the 2d day, the women of each party will place a wreath on the tomb of the French unknown soldier. In the afternoon there will be a reception in which the French war mothers, government officials, and prominent civilians will participate. The following morning the groups going to the different cemeteries will leave Paris, travelling in motor busses, and proceed to the cemeteries where they will remain for about 7 days. Twenty-five women will be assigned to each bus and an army officer will have charge of the bus. The itineraries to and from the cemeteries and the daily itineraries while at the cemeteries have been varied so as to take in points of historical interest as well as some parts of the battlefields where American troops were engaged. Upon return to Paris, each party will remain for about 5 days and during this time an opportunity will be given to see the points of historical interest in Paris and vicinity. The entire duration of your stay in Europe will be 14 days, and the itineraries have been so arranged that each day will be provided for. Except in case of illness or other unavoidable cause it will not be possible for any woman making the pilgrimage to remain in Europe for a longer period than 14 days nor to leave the party with which she is travelling unless she is prepared to pay all of her expenses after leaving the party since the Act of Congress authorizing the pilgrimage specifically states that the government shall not pay the expenses of any woman who willfully leaves her party.

Upon return to the United States each ship will be met in New York City by army officers who will escort the mothers and widows to the trains which will take them home. Before leaving New York each woman will be provided with her return railroad ticket, a sleeping car ticket and funds to cover the cost of meals and other travelling expenses.

Army officers are being used as guides and escorts throughout this entire movement and care has been taken to select officers who will see that proper care is taken of the women who are entrusted to their charge. Arrangements have been made for taking care of women who may be taken sick during the pilgrimage and also to care for the remains of any who may die and provision has been made for returning the remains of any who may die to their homes. It is essential that each woman making the pilgrimage furnish The Quartermaster General with an emergency address of some relative or friend to be notified in the event of an emergency. Medical care will be provided by civilian agencies. If such care is needed in New York City it will be furnished by the hotel physicians or

by local hospitals. Aboard ship, medical care will be provided by the ship's doctors and in Paris arrangements have been made with the American Hospital for the hospitalization and treatment of any women who may need it. In addition to this, six doctors of the regular army will be on duty throughout the pilgrimage.

Baggage will be limited to not to exceed two pieces of hand baggage and the articles taken should be such as will be required for a trip of about one month. Laundry service can be obtained in New York and Paris. Since the climate of Europe is much colder than that of the United States, each woman should provide herself with sufficient warm clothing to stand the motor bus trip and the visit to the cemeteries.

Since it is necessary for this office to make all reservations for your accommodations throughout this pilgrimage, it will be greatly appreciated if you will make prompt reply to any communications received from this office.

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

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

1 Enclosure.
Regulation.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

October 8, 1929.

Branch, Ralph A. 1233 N.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1015 West Harvey,
Wellington, Kans.

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
Branch, Ralph A.

May 28, 1929.

Mrs. Mary Myers Branch,
701 North Olive St.,
Wellington, Kansas.

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 widow of the late Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, Co. M, 109th Inf., whose remains are now interred in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

Will you please advise this office whether or not he is survived by a mother 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.

Your attention is particularly invited to Section 4 of the enclosed Act, which defines the terms "mother" and "widow". If the relationship is that of a stepmother, mother through adoption or a woman who stood in loco parentis to the decedent, a statement as to her relationship is requested. In case you have remarried it is also requested that a statement to that effect be made.

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

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

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

2 incls.
Act of Congress.
Envelope.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Branch, Ralph A.

May 28, 1929.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
1810 Wellsely Ave.,
Wichita, Kansas.

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 Second Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, Co. H, 109th Inf., whose remains are now interred in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Mourthe-et-Moselle, 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 Encls.
Act of Congress.
Envelope.

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

B ✓

Branch

Ralph Ashburn

(Surname.)

(Christian name in full.)

(Army serial number.)

2nd Lt.

Co M 109th Inf.

(Rank and organization.)

State your relationship to the deceased

Mother

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.)

322 N. C.

(City or town.)

Wellington Kan

(State.)

(Sign here)

Flora Branch

APR 12 1919
322 N. C.

Wellington

Kan

(Number and street or rural route.)

(City, town, or post office.)

(State.)

Read carefully the letter accompanying this card.

3-6713

Over

Over Curt # 395

It seems to me that
he deserves to rest
in peace upon the
field of honor where
he fell - Florin Branch.



12-21
395-45
Brown by pm

QM 293 A-C

Branch, Ralph, A.

Jan. 30, 1926.

Mrs. Flora Branch,
Wellington,
Kansas.

Dear Madam:

The Quartermaster General desires that receipt be acknowledged of your letter of January 22nd, 1925.

You are informed that the American Red Cross, Photographic Section, was engaged in photographing the original graves of our soldier dead in Europe. However, their funds became exhausted before they completed the work of photographing all the graves. The records show that the case of your son was not reached, prior to the discontinuance of their work.

The remains of your son, the late 2nd Lieutenant Ralph A. Branch, Company M, 109th Infantry, have been permanently buried in Grave 18, Row 13, Block A, St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France.

It was necessary to abandon the American Military Cemetery at Nevers, Nièvre, where your son was formerly buried. His body, together with his comrades, were removed to the permanent American Cemetery referred to above, where the graves will be perpetually maintained by the Government in a manner befitting the supreme sacrifice made by these heroes.

This office regrets that it is unable to furnish you with a photograph of the permanent resting place of your son, as there is no appropriation by the Government for this purpose. In the event, however, you desire one at private expense, this office will instruct the European Office to have a commercial photographer make one.

There is inclosed herewith a card giving the permanent grave location of Lieutenant Branch, which you no doubt will be pleased to possess.

Very truly yours,

R. P. HAROLD
Major, Q. M. C.
Assistant.

LN
WPR WCR

1 incl.

Record card.



Place Nevers

Date June 16 1919

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL.

14735

Remains of:

Name: Ralph A Branch

Number: -

Rank: 2nd Lieut

Organization: Co M 109 Inf

Disinterment and Reburial made by Group

Unit Detachment

Disinterred (Date)

From: (Give Complete location)

June 13 1919

Grave B American E.F.

Cemetery 85

Mars-sur- Allier Nievre

Reburied (Date)

in: (Give complete location)

June 13 1919

Grave 583 American E.F.

Cemetery 395

Nevers Nievre

395

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

Buried in strong coffin body clothed badly decomposed.

Water covered coffin.

Was one identification tag found upon the body? No question as to identity.

What other means of identification were found on the body?

10192

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: Harry S. Sands

Edw. H. Mc

Chas. S. Dennis

CHAS. S. DENNIS
1st Lieut. C. A.

G.O. Group _____ Unit _____

Wellington, Kansas

January 22. 1925

Re: Ralph Branch
Killed in action,
September 8. 1918
Mother: Mrs. Flora Branch

Ceneterial Division,
Quartermasters General's Office,
Munitions Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I have never received a photograph of my sons
grave in France. I understand that most of the parents or
near relatives on the men who died in France have received
these photographs . I would like very much to have one of
my sons grave. He is buried ~~sixth~~ in the American Cenetry
at Nevere. France.

Please let me hear from you and if possible send
me the photograph.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Flora Branch
Mrs. Flora Branch.
Wellington, Kansas



JAN 27 1925



293
Branch, Ralph

To be prepared in triplicate, . . .

DATE Dec. 16, 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 BRANCH, Ralph A
 2. No. -
 3. Rank 2nd Lieut.
 4. Org. Co.M., 109th Inf.
 5. D.D. 9/8/18
 6. C.D. DWRDA

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

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No. 224 Sec. _____
 8. Plot _____ Row _____
 9. _____

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

18. Cemetery American Mil.
 20. Dept. or County Nievre
 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 395

19. Commune or town Nevers
 21. Country France.

23. Disinterred (Date) Dec. 16, 1921.

By W. R. Tomlinson.

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name Branch, Ralph A
 Rank 2nd Lt.

Serial No. ---
 Organization Co. M., 109th Inf.
Gr. 224.

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

Thos. A. Pace
 Signature Junior Technical Assistant
Thos A. Pace.

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).

No effects found. Form 16-A accomplished

27. Condition of body badly decomposed. Recognition impossible

28. Nature of burial officers uniform and wooden box, and 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 Dec. 16, 1921. By W. R. Tomlinson.

31. Casket sealed by W. R. Tomlinson

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor W. R. Tomlinson
W. R. Tomlinson,

AUDITED BY
898
9/25/23

SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. C-23684

32. Designation of body:

Name Ralph A. BRANCH Serial No. _____

Rank 2nd Lieut. Organization Co.M., 109th Inf.

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery St. Mihiel American Cty. #1233 Thiaucourt, M-et-M.

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) Dec. 16, 1921. By W. R. Tomlinson.

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 *D. E. Lewry*

D. E. Lewry, 1st Lt. OMC.

36. Remarks

GRS
Original French burial plaque and reburial record found on body establishes identity. 2nd Lt. insignia found on officers uniform further established the identity.

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) Dec. 16, 1921.

To point of Concentration Nevers, Nievre, France.

(Name)

Convoyer _____ Signature Shipping Officer _____

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

By G.R.S. Representative _____

39. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date 22 Dec 1921

To Permanent Cemetery St. Mihiel (1233) Thiaucourt, M et M.

(Name)

Convoyer R. L. Hall. Signature Shipping Officer *R. L. Hall*

40. Received: Date 26 DEC. 1921 26 DEC. 1921

G.R.S. Representative *F. B. Daniel, Capt. 2MC.*

41. Reinterred, June 28th, 1922.

(Date)

42. Grave No. 18 Section _____

43. ~~Next~~ Block A. Row 13.

G.R.S. Representative *A. E. Dewey*

A. E. Dewey, 1st Lt. OMC.

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

1. REMAINS OF Branch, Ralph, A. SERIAL NUMBER
 RANK 2nd Lt. ORGANIZATION Co. M. 109th 1921.

2. Disinterred (date): Dec. 16th, 1921 From (give complete location): Gr. 224,
Amer. Mil. Cem. # 395. Nevers, Nievre, France.

By: Group 1 Unit Sec. 4.

3. Reburied (date): June 28th, 1922. In (give complete location): Gr 18. Row 15. Block A.
Reburka. Casket and shipping case.

By: Group _____ Unit _____ Nature of reburial _____

4. Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment:
Officers uniform and burlap. Wooden box. Badly decomposed. Recognition
impossible.

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

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

no effects found.

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

(a) Height (actual measurement) unable to determine

(b) Weight (estimated) " " "

(c) Hair—Color " " "

Quantity " " "

Characteristics " " "

(d) Hair on face—Color none

Location " "

Quantity " "

(e) Permanent marks on body (old scars, peculiarities, or missing parts) none visable

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

none visable.

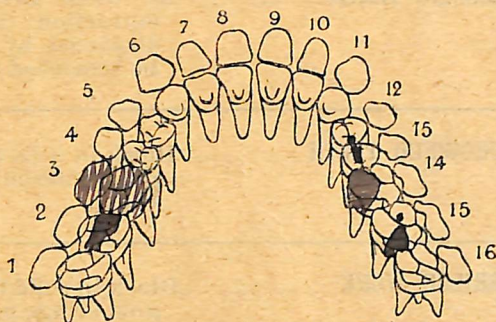
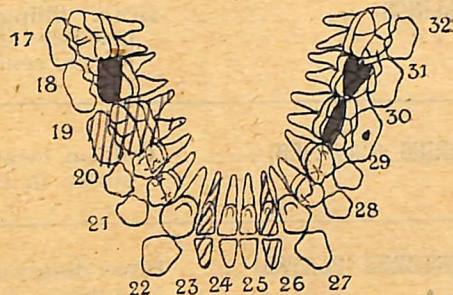


Diagram represents the mouth wide open



GF. 2, 12, 13, 14, 18, 30, 31.
GC. 3, Not Cut. 1, 16, 17, 32.
MBD. 19. MAD. 23, 26.

7. Disinterment supervised by W. R. Tomlinson
W. R. Tomlinson, TAP

Approved: D. E. Lowry
D. E. Lowry,
1st Lt. QMC.
 (Title) JMC.






8. Reburial supervised by H. L. Kramer
H. L. Kramer

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROPER COMPLETION OF G. R. S. FORM NO. 16-A

Enter information, as noted below, on reverse side of sheet in the *corresponding numbered space*. This form is supplemental to and is to be forwarded with G. R. S. Form 1-a, reporting reburial locations. To be used in answer to Question 26, Form 114, in case no means of identification on body.

1. Show soldier's name, serial number, rank and organization, and by whom disinterred and reburied.
2. Give date and accurate information as to location from which the body was disinterred and the group and unit which made disinterment.
3. Give date and accurate information as to location of reburial and the group and unit which made reburial, and how reburial was made—in casket, wooden box, etc.
4. State to what degree decomposition has progressed, whether recognition is possible, and how the body was originally buried—in a casket, box, burlap, etc. This statement should be as complete as possible.
5. (a) State whether identification tags were found buried with body and on grave marker by reporting "Yes" or "No".
 (b) State whether or not body appears to have been a hospital case. Were any identifying articles found in or on body or grave? List any personal effects, letters, money-order receipts, and the like found on body or in grave. Give any and all information which it is thought might be of use in identifying the body, other than that tabulated under Item No 6.
6. Give all information as to body description and dental chart as nearly correctly as the condition of the body will allow. Items (e) and (f) under the body description are very important and should be very complete. The dental chart is also very important and should be filled in with great care. There are 32 teeth to be accounted for, as shown by the numbers on the chart. Beginning at the middle line in both upper and lower jaws, the teeth are arranged symmetrically on either side and classed as incisors (cutting teeth), cuspids or canines (tearing teeth), bicuspids (chewing teeth), and molars (principal chewing teeth). An examination should be made and findings charted to cover the following basic conditions: Lost teeth, crowned teeth, bridge work, fillings, caries (cavities of decay), dentures (plates), and any deformity of jaws found.

MISSING TEETH	All teeth missing through previous extraction (not those fractured or displaced by recent wounds) should be scratched out, thus :	 <p style="text-align: center;">TOOTH MISSING TOOTH MISSING</p>
CROWNED TEETH	Block in solid the crown of tooth (label gold, porcelain, or gold and porcelain), thus :	 <p style="text-align: center;">GOLD CROWN PORCELAIN CROWN</p>
BRIDGE WORK	Block in solid the crown of tooth (label gold bridge, gold and porcelain bridge) thus :	 <p style="text-align: center;">GOLD AND PORCELAIN BRIDGE GOLD BRIDGE</p>
FILLINGS	Draw filling on tooth accurately as possible (block in and label gold, silver, cement), thus :	 <p style="text-align: center;">SILVER FILLING GOLD FILLING GOLD FILLING GOLD FILLING</p>
CARIES (CAVITIES)	Outline location and size of cavity, shade in thus :	 <p style="text-align: center;">CAVITY DECAYED DECAYED DECAYED</p>
DENTURES (PLATES)	Draw diagram of relative size and shape of plate block in teeth attached and indicate retaining clasps on natural teeth with the word "clasp"	

7. Show name of person supervising the disinterment and the name and title of the person approving same.
8. Show name of person supervising the reburial and the name and title of the person approving same.

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

File No. 14735

*Examined 7/27/22
Concentration
St Michael #1233
at 3/15/22*

1. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

(a) Name BRANCH, Ralph A. Ser. No. -----
(b) Rank 2nd Lieut. Organization Co. M. 109th Inf.
(d) Cause DWRIA
(c) Date of death 9-8-18 of death DWRIA

TYP. EML
CKR. AA

11. Registration Card:- (Check Reg. Card Inf. against Loc. Ind. Inf.)

(a) Grave No. 583 Row -- Plot --- Sect. ---- TYP. EML
*or 481 New Numbering (same grave)
old numbering*

(b) Emerg. Address Mrs. Flora Branch (mother), 1810 Wellseley Ave., Wichita, Kans.

111. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases; NO CARD) CKR. AA

IV. A.G.O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt None

(a) Name Flora Branch (b) Relationship Mother

(c) Address 322 N.C. Wellington, Kans.

(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 MM Date 5-26- 1920

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

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

no correspondence

Examiner's Initials gob Date 5/24 1920

VI. G.R.S. Files - Correspondence - shows as follows:

(a) Cancellation memos referred to? Yes - mms

Examiner's Initials MMS Date 5/28/ 1920

COUNTRY FRANCE

CEMETERY NO. 395

SHEET NO. 45

G.R.S. Form #115

Amended April 6, 1920.

CARDED

Make Form #114

rechecked mms 12/21

*Do not write
SEE SUSPENSION MARKS*

VII. G. R. S. FORM No. 114
 TYPED BY _____
 CHECKED BY _____
 1920



VIII. FINAL ACTION: DEC 27 1920

Following advice forwarded to Europe by-
 () cable on _____ 1920
 () letter on 8/2 1920

Car. No. 2. Not to be returned (Wash)
 AP 12/22/20

IX. CORRECTIONS

CHANGE OF ADVICE	ACTION TAKEN
Desires body be	RECEIVED.
Body to be shipped to	DEC 31 1920
	GENERAL DIVISION
	OVERSEAS PROJECT SUB-SEC.

X. SUSPENSION REMARKS:

Form 120 - 8/1/20 - more money required for Kansas branch, 901 N. Olive St.
 Wellington, Kansas, requires body member or funds
 #5. 8/30/20

6/28/20 - Form 120 - Motion, Kansas Branch,
 1810 Melrose, Kansas, Kansas, Kansas, Kansas
 Kansas and Kansas. 1-14-21-P

FORM 115 RETURNED BY HOBOKEN - BODY
 TO REMAIN IN EUROPE.

Dec 31/20

JUL 21 1920

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON

395--45

2nd/20X

Push Answer

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, Q.M.C.

TO: Mrs. Mary Myers Branch, 701 N. Olive St., Wellington, Kansas.

SUBJECT: Remains of 2nd Lieut. Ralph A. Branch.

*no change
check*

The records of this office show that you have requested that his body not expressed your wish as to disposition of the remains.

Remain in Europe

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

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

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

CHARLES C. PIERCE,
Major, U.S.A.

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

Noted on Form No. 1
Date: 7/25

NAME OF	NO. & STREET	TOWN	STATE
Living Soldier's Widow	Mary Myers Branch, 701 north Olive	Wellington	Kan sas
Soldier's Children	1. None 2. None 3. None		
Father	Not Living		
living Mother	Flora Branch, 1810 Wellesley	Wichita	Kansas
living. Brothers	Robert Branch, 2. 3.	Dallas	Texas
(Name oldest first)			
Sisters	1. None 2. None 3. None		
(Name oldest first)			

Date August 1, 1920

Signature

Mrs Mary Myers Branch

Address 701 north Olive Wellington, Kansas Relationship widow

IMPORTANT: CAREFULLY read instructions before filling out this paper.

over
(COVER)

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON

395-45

P. 8

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, Q.M.G.

TO: Mrs. Flora Branch, 322 N. C. Wellington, Kansas.

SUBJECT: Remains of 2nd Lieut. Ralph A. Branch

Push Answer

JUN 9 - 1920 Cole

The records of this office show that you have requested that his body be not returned to U. S.

*Correct -
Leave him in France -*

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

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

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

Noted on Form No. 115
Date 1-14-21-P
CHARLES C. PIERCE,
Colonel, U.S. Army.

NAME OF	NO. & STREET	TOWN	STATE
Soldier's Widow	201 N. Olive	Wellington	Kans
Soldier's Children	1. none		
(Name oldest first)	2. none		
	3. none		
Father	Dead		
Mother	Mr. Flora Branch		
Brothers	1. Robert F. Branch		
(Name oldest first)	2. Hamburg 300 So. Erway Dallas Tex.		
Sisters	none		
Date	June 28 '20	Signature	Flora Branch
Address	1810 Wellesley	Relationship	Mother

The transfer of bodies will be made entirely at government expense.

Note:- Instructions on the reverse side of this sheet should be carefully read before filling out this paper. (OVER) rg

7. Use the enclosed envelope - pay no postage.

the case of this body.

6. You are requested to return this paper AT ONCE in order to avoid delay in

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

4. If YOU are not the nearest relative, please ask the nearest relative, if living near you, to fill out this paper.

body be returned to U. S.

this matter.

3. If there are minor children of the deceased soldier and no widow, the legally appointed guardian of the children should ascertain their wishes and act for them in

2. This paper must be returned showing the name and address of each of the nearest living relatives in the spaces provided therefor on the other side of this sheet.

1. This paper MUST be signed by the person who is the NEXT of kin in the order shown in the square on other side of this sheet.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT

NAME OF _____

NO. & STREET _____

STATE _____

Soldier's Name _____

Soldier's Children _____

(Name eldest first) _____

Father _____

Mother _____

Brothers _____

(Name eldest first) _____

Sister _____

Date _____

Address _____

RECEIVED



JUL 6 1920
RECEIVED
G. H. S.



DEC 31 1920
G. H. S.

Miss Michaelson-

If you send
Michaelson on this
put date & initials
on reverse side of
card, so case
can go to file

J.C.

1-30-05

Hdqrs. Graves Registration Service
Quartermaster Corps
American Expeditionary Forces

Reference #14735

January 14, 1919.

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, American E. F.
TO: Mrs. R. A. Branch, 425 N. Emporia Street, Wichita, Kansas.
SUBJECT: Lieut. R. A. Branch, Co. M., 109th Inf.

1. In reply to your letter, received here December 16th, 1918, in respect of place of burial of above named officer, the information that has been received here states that Lieut. Branch's body was interred in the American Cemetery at Mars, in the Department of Nièvre.

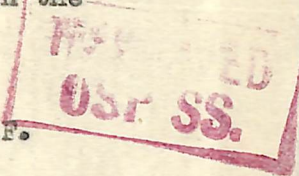
2. This information has not as yet been confirmed by my officers in the field, but there is very little doubt that burial took place in the cemetery above named.

By direction CHARLES G. PIERCE,
Lieut.-Colonel, Q.M.C., A.E.F.

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

MBD/im.

File



Headquarters 137th Infantry
Headquarters 137th Infantry
Personnel Office
January 2, 1919

14735

From: Personnel Adjutant, 137th Infantry, American E.F.
To: Chief, Graves Registration Service, A.F.O. 717, A.E.F.
Subject: Branch, Ralph A.

1. Sergeant Ralph A. Branch, 1446767, formerly a member of Headquarters Company, 137th Infantry, was discharged to accept a commission in the U.S. Army and assigned to the 28th Division for duty.

2. Sergeant Branch died from wounds received in action while with that division. No official notice was ever received of his death by this organization.

3. Sergeant Branch was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and upon his discharge his service record was sent to the Central records Office, A.P.O. 902.

RECEIVED
7 - JAN 1919
O.G.Q.M.
G.R.S.

J. M. Nixon
J. M. NIXON
Captain, Inf., U.S.A.
Personnel Adjutant

FILE

REVIEWED
OSP SS.

14735

File # - 14735
CSM-109
Cum 85
SR-267
not full Inf
A.P.O.

#8 to C.R.O.
S - 7/26/19
2/6/19

Headquarters 137th Infantry
Personnel Office
January 2, 1919

From: Personnel Adjutant, 137th Infantry, American E.F.
To: Chief, Graves Registration Service, A.P.O. 717, A.S.F.
Subject: Branch, Ralph A.

1. Sergeant Ralph A. Branch, 1446767, formerly a member of Headquarters Company, 137th Infantry, was discharged to accept a commission in the U.S. Army and assigned to the 28th Division for duty.
2. Sergeant Branch died from wounds received in action while with that division. No official notice was ever received of his death by this organization.
3. Sergeant Branch was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and upon his discharge his service record was sent to the Central Records Office, A.P.O. 902.



J. M. BLAUE
Captain, Inf., U.S.A.
Personnel Adjutant

EXPEDITIOUS SERVICE
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, A.E.F.
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE

December 3rd, 1918.

:Chief, Graves Registration Service
A.P.O. 717, American E. F.

TO : C.O Co . Hq 137 Inf.

SUBJECT: Query as to Identification Tag.

1. This office has received from

EFFECTS DEPOT.

identification tag as follows:

Name: BRANCH 1446767 RALPH A.

Rank: Sgt Organization: 137 Inf.

2. It is possible that the wearer of this tag was killed in action. If so, will you please fill out, as far as possible, the enclosed Grave Location Blank, and furnish any other information available which will tend to establish the place of his death and burial, and mail same promptly to office, C.R.S., Hdqrs. S.C.S., with return of this paper.

3. If he was not killed in action please advise as to present status, by notation hereon.

CHARLES C. PIERCE

Lieut. Colonel, Q.M.C., U.S.A.



Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

1st. Ind.

C.O. Company "M" 109th Infty., AEF. Nov 23/18. To: American Base
Hospital #780. Amer. E. F?

1. Forwarded. Can you give any information in regard to this
2. Have on information at this station in regard to his death;

HJN/geh



Horace J. Noble
Horace J. Noble.
Capt. 109th Infantry.
Commanding.

1st. Ind.

C.O. Company "M" 109th Infty., AEF. Nov 23/18. To: American Base
Hospital #780. Amer. E. F?

1. Forwarded. Can you give any information in regard to this.
2. Have on information at this station in regard to his death;

HJN/geh



Morace J. Noble.
Capt. 109th Infantry.
Commanding.

From: Mrs. R. A. Branch, 425 N. Emporia
Wichita, Kansas.

To: Commanding Officer, Co. M. 109 Inf.
280 Division, Amer. Exp. Force.

Subject: Request for information
concerning 1st Lt. R. A. Branch.

According to information by
letter from Amer. E. F. in France,
1st Lt. R. A. Branch Co. M. 109 Inf. 280
was wounded July 29, transferred
to Amer. Base Hospital 780 where
he died Sept. 8, 1918. Can you
authenticate report and give
any information concerning
Lt. R. A. Branch.

Any news would be
deeply appreciated.

Most Sincerely
Mrs R. A. Branch

425 N. Emporia
Wichita, Kas



4735
GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Branch **Ralph A.**

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

2nd Lieut. Co. M. 109th Inf.

(Rank.) (Organization.)

DATE OF BURIAL... **Sept. 9th 1918.**

PLACE OF BURIAL **Military Cemetery**

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

Hospital Centre

**Mars-sur-Allier
France**

Lot B

GRAVE NUMBER.....

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

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

IDENTIFICATION TAGS: **Two**

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:

REVIEWED

REPORTED BY **Clinton J. Greene-Chaplain.**

Clinton J. Greene - Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer.)

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

14 St. Reg

CORRESPONDENCE

G.R.S. Form No. 8; Central Records Liaison.

January 1th, 1919. 28

MEMO FOR: G.R.S. representative, C.R.O.

SUBJECT: Information required for G.R.S.

I. Items checked are to be completed:

- () Surname: Branch D
 () Number: #1446767 7429-177B
 () First name: Ralph A.
 () Rank: 2nd Lieutenant
 () Company: "M"
 () Organization 109th Infantry
 (✓) Date of death: 9/8/18
 () Cause: Died of Wounds
 (✓) Place:

Location of hospital:

- Number » »
 Class » »
 (✓) Relative: Mrs. Flora Branch
 (✓) Relationship: mother
 (✓) Address: 1810 Wellseley Ave -
 Wichita, Kans.
 (✓) Authority:
 Cablegram No:
 Telegram from:

dated:

- (✓) Reported to Washington: 262
 C.C. Nos:

(Underscore the "official" C.C.)

(.) Remarks:

✓ Present Status

CHARLES G. PIERCE,
 Lieut.-Colonel, Q.M.C., U.S.A. 9/13

Initials of reporter: *CH*



3-11-22 14735
2-card

Dec. 18, 1919
#3952, #583
Card Dept.

Research Section.

G.R.S Form No. 8-W; Central Records
Division,

14735

Memo For: G.R.S. representative, C.R.O.

Subject: Information required for G.R.S.

1. Items checked are to be completed:

- Surname: Branch ✓
- Number:
- First name: Ralph A. ✓
- Rank: 2nd Lieut. ✓
- Company: Co. M, ✓
- Organization: 109th Inf. ✓
- Date of death: Sept. 8, 1918
- Cause: Wounded in action
- Place:

Location of hospital:

Number " "
Class " "

Emergency address { Mrs Flora Branch
18,0 Welleley St
Wichita, Kans

Relationship: Mother

Authority:

Cablegram No: CC 252

Telegram from:

REVIEWED
OSP SS.

dated:

Reported to Washington:

C.C.Nos.

(Underscore the "official" C.C.)

Remarks:
[Signature]

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

NS-3404/MB

Form 1-A shows:

Cemetery # 395

Grave #583

1. Items checked are to be completed:

- Name
- Number
- First name
- Last name
- Sex
- Category
- Organization
- Date of death
- Cause of death
- Place

Location of hospital:

Number " "
Class " "
Emergency address

Relationship:

Authority:
California No:
Telephone No:

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1953

Date:
Reported to Washington
C. C. Bell

(Indicate the "official" C.C.B.)
Remarks:

CHARLES E. FISKE
Colonel, U.S.A.

MS-2004A

149th Regt. P. Inf. 28th Div.
File #14735 -21-19.

G.R.S. Form No. 3, Central Records Liaison.
Memo For: G.R.S. representative, C.R.O.
SUBJECT: Information required for G.R.S.

1. Items checked are to be completed:

- () Surname: BRANCH,
() Number:
() First name: Ralph A.
() Rank: 2nd. Lt.
() Company: ~~Co. M.~~ Co. M.
() Organization: 1 09th Inf.
() Date of death:
() Cause: Buried 9/9/18 OVER
() Place: To be determined

Location of hospital:

Number " "

Class " "

- () Relative: Mrs. Flora Branch
() Relationship: Mother
() Address: 1810 Kellsely Ave.,
() Authority: Wichita, Kans.
Cablegram No:
Telegram from: CC 343 SP. 42

dated:

- () Reported to Washington: over
C.C. Nos:
(UnderSCORE the "official" C.C.)
() Remarks:
() Show present status on reverse side.

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

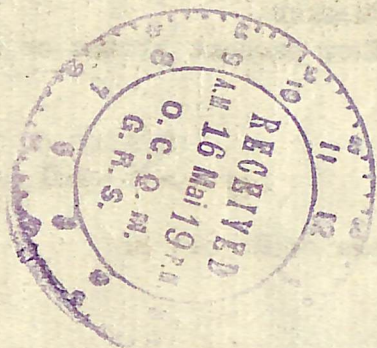
Initials of Reporter:

WBR

American Cty. No. 85

Reported by G. R. S.

→ Was commissioned
to 2nd Lt.
Branch 1446767 Ralph A.
Sgt. Hdqrs Co. 137th Infantry
W/R
Mrs. Elvora Branch
(mother)
7810 Kellschly Ave.,
Wichita, Kansas.



CEMETERY DIVISION
REGISTRATION SECTION

FILE

December 21, 1921

395-45

MEMO FOR:
Cards Department.

1.
CASE OF:

Co. M. 109th Inf.
ORGANIZATION (Old)

BRANCH, Ralph. A., 2nd. Lt..
(Name)

Correction or additional data changes as shown below have been made on the Registration Card of the above-mentioned soldier and a corresponding change will be necessary on the Organization Card:

ORGANIZATION (New)

FILE NO.	Date	Place	F-1A No.
SURNAME	Orig.		D-
SERIAL NUMBER	1st. Reb.	10/23/20 395	D- 30058
FIRST NAME AND INITIALS	2nd Reb.		D-
RANK	3rd Reb.		D-

DATE OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH

(Note: In the above spaces below double line fill in ONLY the new date and data correcting previous information)

BY: Miss Lannon

Card.,
(Department)

5 x 8 card was sent to file.

Corrections made
on Organization
File Card:

By A.B.
S/3324/LML

FILE

ADDRESS REPLY TO

-----Division
DIRECTOR OF STORAGE
MUNITIONS BUILDING

WAR DEPARTMENT
PURCHASE, STORAGE, AND TRAFFIC DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PURCHASE AND STORAGE
WASHINGTON

No:

From:

To:

Subject:

- Ind. Lieut. -

Ralph A. Branch.

Co. "M" - 109th Infantry

- Capt. -

Sgt. Ralph A. Branch

- 1446767 -

Hqts. Co. - 137th Infantry.

WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

File Number.

14735

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

~~Lt La Freniere~~

~~Lt. Noctell~~

Capt Dix

REGISTRATION BRANCH DISTRIBUTION TICKET

TO: Licut. Noetzel
Licut. Hutchison
Licut. LaPerriere ✓
Licut. Walters
Licut. Friis
Chief Clerk - Reg. Branch
Chief Clerk - A. & O. Divs.
File Clerk
Stenographer

Record
Recorded
Make
O

14735

REGISTRATION BRANCH DIRECTION TICKET

TO: Lieut. Noetzel
Lieut. Hutchison
Lieut. LaPerriere
Lieut. Walters
Lieut. Friis
Chief Clerk - Reg. Branch
Chief Clerk - A. & O. Divs.
File Clerk
Stenographer

Record
Recorded ✓
Make Copy
Cross Reference *ML*
Forward Papers on Case
Note and Return
For Information
For Action
For Necessary Reply
For Personal Conference
Return to _____

FEV 8 1913

201. (Branch, R.A.)

3rd Ind.

k
JMT/grh

Central Records Office, A.G.D., A.P.O. #902, A.E.F., December 12, 1918. - To Commanding Officer, Graves Registration Service, A.P.O. #717.

It is requested that writer of original letter hereon be furnished with location of grave of Lieut. R. A. Branch.

EARLE BOOTHE,
Adjutant General.

By: *CB*
Capt., A.G.D., U.S.A.



File in B's



201. (Branch, R.A.)

3rd Ind.

K
JMT/erh

Central Records Office, A.G.D., A.P.O. #902, A.H.F., December 12,
1918. - To Commanding Officer, Graves Registration Service, A.P.O.
#717.

It is requested that writer of original letter herein
be furnished with location of grave of Lieut. R. A. Branch.

EARLE BOOTHE,
Adjutant General.

By: Capt., A.G.D., U.S.A.



2nd Ind.

C.O. Hq. Hosp. Center APO 780, Am. E.F., Dec. 4, 1918. To: Central
Records Office, Bourges.

1. Forwarded. Lieutenant R. A. Branch, Company M, 109th Infantry,
28th Division, died at Base Hospital No. 48, this Center, September
8th, 1918. The diagnosis was Gun Shot Wound perforating sacrum, in-
testinal fistulae with hemorrhage.



Geo. A. Skinner.

Geo. A. Skinner;
Colonel, M. C.



MAH



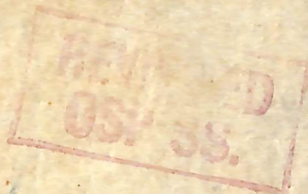
10301 Branch, Co. M, 109th

2nd Ind.

C. O. Hq. Hosp. Center APO 750, Am. E. F., Dec. 4, 1918. To: Central
Records Office, Bourges.

1. Forwarded. Lieutenant R. A. Branch, Company M, 109th Infantry,
28th Division, died at Base Hospital No. 48, this Center, September
8th, 1918. The diagnosis was Gun Shot Wound perforating sacrum, in-
testinal fistulae with hemorrhage.

gsk
Sec. A. Skinner:
Colonel, E. O.



Blue Card

TO:- REGISTRATION BRANCH, G.R.S.

File Number 14735

From:- ARC

Date: 12-16-18

Please furnish information as indicated below regarding the following soldier:-

NAME BRANCH, R. H.

NUMBER

RANK 2nd LT. ORGANIZATION Co M 109th INF.

No.	Question	Reply
1	Do particulars of soldier given above agree with Records?	N.B. All Proper names to be printed in PLAIN BLOCK LETTERS
✓ 2	Date of Death	(2) 0
✓ 3	Cause and place of death	(3) 0
4	Number of Casualty Cablegram	
✓ 5	Date buried	(5) 9/9/18
✓ 6	Grave location (a) Complete record required (b) Name of cemetery or commune only required	(6) GRAVE - LOT - B. AMER. CTY - #85 - MARS, (NIEVRE)
✓ 7	Who reported burial?	(7) CLINTON J. GREENE, CHAPLAIN.
✓ 8	Has report been confirmed by G.R.S.	(8) No
9	Report as to grave marker	
10	Report as to identification tags	(9) Name Req.
11	Who is nearest relative?	(12) No.
✓ 12	Has N/R been notified? (Give date)	
13	Report the exact position of your inquiry on this case. (Reply in all cases if no information on record)	
14	What is the photograph No.?	

REVIEWED
OSP SS.

H.W. 12/20/18