

Operations in the Pacific, December 1941 – September 1945

KEY: † Military Cemetery ★ Sea Battle

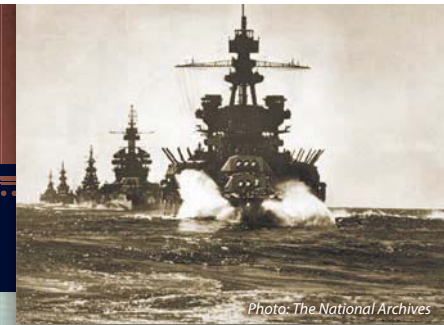


Photo: The National Archives



Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp Memorial

A marble altar marks the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp. Approximately 20,000 American servicemen and civilians were imprisoned there from 1942 to 1945.



Guadalcanal American Memorial

It honors those American and Allied servicemen who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II (Aug. 7, 1942 to Feb. 9, 1943). Four radiating directional walls point toward major battle sites.



Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

This cemetery site is the largest administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission in the number of graves and of those Missing whose names are recorded on the walls of the memorial. The government of the Philippines granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."



American Battle Monuments Commission
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Arlington, VA 22201
USA

Manila American Cemetery & Memorial
McKinley Road
Global City, Taguig
Republic of Philippines

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For more information on this site and other
ABMC commemorative sites, please visit
www.abmc.gov

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



EXHIBIT

I

★ ★ ★
**OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC,
 DECEMBER 1941 – SEPTEMBER 1945**

Simultaneous Japanese surprise attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines led to war. Japanese forces conquered parts of Asia but were set back in the Philippine Islands. Fierce defenses by U.S. Army Forces Far East (U.S. Army, Philippine Army and Philippine Scouts) held off Japanese assaults for six months, delayed the Japanese timetable, and enabled the start of U.S. offensive operations in the Pacific.

1941

DECEMBER 7: Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor and invaded the Philippines. (Dec. 8 in the Philippines, west of the International Date Line.)

1942

APRIL 9: U.S. Forces on Bataan surrendered. The Bataan Death March began the next day. 76,000 Prisoners of War, including 12,000 Americans, made a brutal 65-mile walk to the prison camp and thousands died on the march. The death rate of POWs was extremely high. Of the nearly 30,000 Americans captured in the Philippines, more than 11,000 died in captivity.
MAY 6: Japanese took Corregidor Island. Lt.Gen. Wainwright surrendered U.S. and Philippine forces. Some eluded capture and formed guerrilla units.
MAY 6-8: Battle of the Coral Sea blocked the Japanese invasion of Port Moresby, New Guinea.
JUNE 3-6: Battle of Midway reversed the Pacific strategic situation.
AUGUST 7: U.S. Marines landing on Guadalcanal began the U.S. drive in the Solomons.
NOVEMBER 16: The Buna-Gona campaign continued the Allied drive in New Guinea.

1943

Throughout the year, many hard-fought campaigns along the north coast of New Guinea and up the Northern Solomons flank resulted in major advances towards Japan.
NOVEMBER 20: Landing by U.S. Marines on Tarawa began the U.S. Central Pacific thrust.

1944

Southwest Pacific forces under General MacArthur reached the west end of New Guinea by the end of August. Central Pacific forces under Admiral Nimitz fought through the fortified atolls of the Marshalls, Marianas, and Palau Islands. The campaigns positioned U.S. forces to invade the Philippines.
OCTOBER 20: U.S. forces returned to the Philippines, landing on Leyte.
OCTOBER 23-26: The Battles of Leyte Gulf marked the end of Japanese naval power in the Pacific.
DECEMBER 13: U.S. landings on Mindoro facilitated preparations to invade Luzon.

1945

JANUARY 9: U.S. Sixth Army landings at Lingayen Gulf began the Luzon campaign.
JANUARY 30: U.S. Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts, and guerrillas liberated Cabanatuan POW camp.
FEBRUARY 3: Battle of Manila began. The city was declared liberated on Mar. 4. More than 1,000 U.S. military and 100,000 Filipino civilians were killed during the battle. Airborne and amphibious troops recaptured Corregidor Island on Feb. 16.
FEBRUARY 19 AND APRIL 1: Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa began.
FEBRUARY 28 – JULY 4: Starting at Palawan, through the Visayan Islands to Mindanao, Eighth Army liberated the remaining islands of the Philippines.
JULY 5: Liberation of Philippines declared. More than 14,000 Americans were killed in ground combat leading to liberation.
AUGUST 6 AND 9: U.S. bombers dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
SEPTEMBER 2: Japanese representatives surrendered aboard USS *Missouri* (BB-63) in Tokyo Bay.

Wall of Missing

Engraved tablets honor 36,286 Missing in action who gave their lives in the service of their country, including 21 Medal of Honor recipients.



The Memorial

The memorial consists of the tower containing the small devotional chapel, and two hemicycles in front which embrace the Memorial Court. The structures are faced with travertine limestone.



The Chapel

One sculpture represents St. George, as an American warrior, fighting his enemy the dragon. Above them are the ideals for which he fought: Liberty, Justice, and Country. The second sculpture of "Columbia With Child" symbolizes the future.



The Altar

The altar is decorated with mosaic on a predominantly blue background. A tall, graceful female figure scatters flowers. Natural light shines through stone grilleworks flanking the altar.



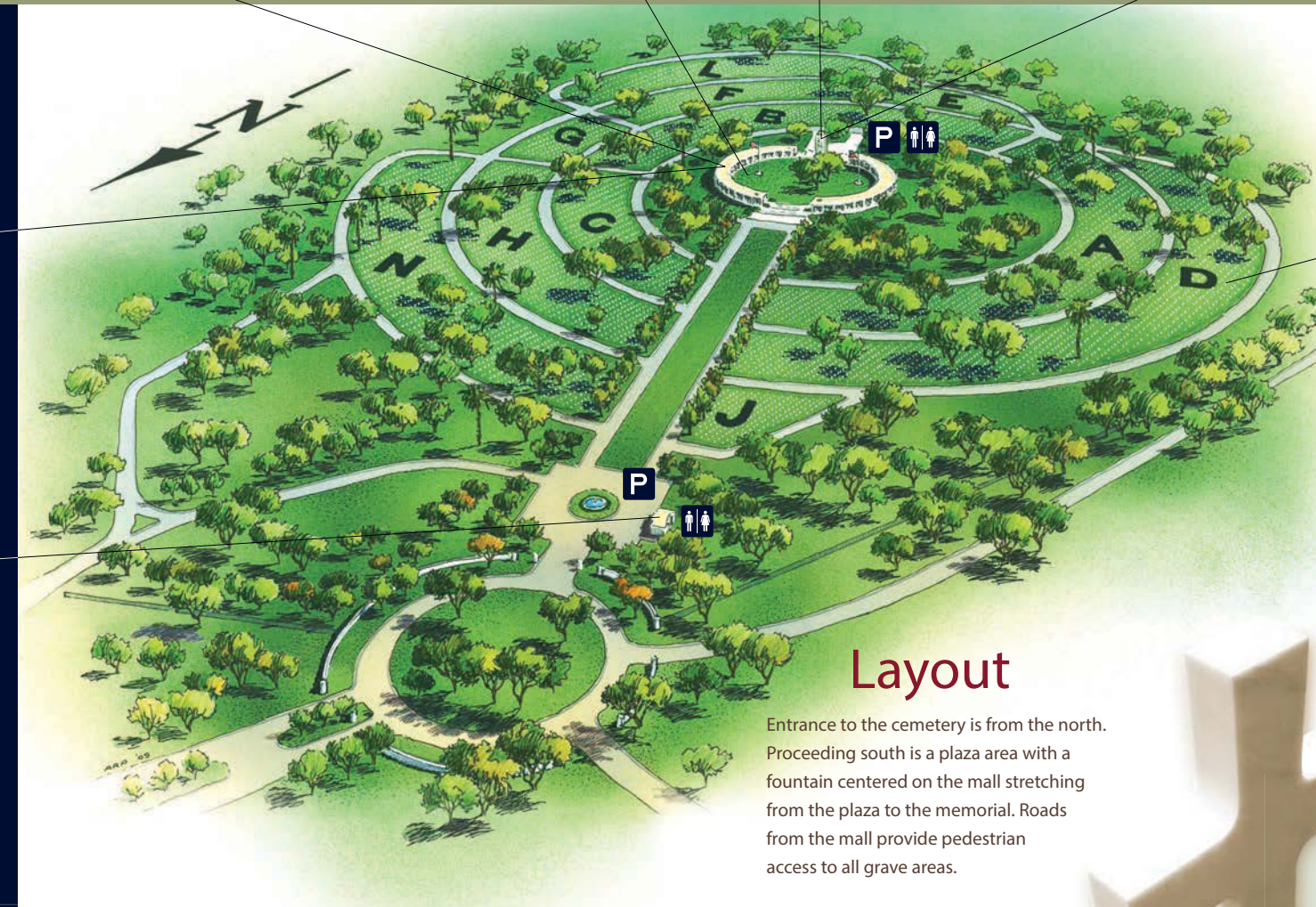
The 25 Maps

Ten-foot-high mosaic maps of varying widths are displayed inside four rooms bordering the hemicycle walls. The maps portray important campaigns during World War II in the Pacific.



Visitors Building

Is located inside the main gate at the right of the plaza; you can meet our staff and get your questions answered, sign the guest register, and rest and refresh yourself.



Layout

Entrance to the cemetery is from the north. Proceeding south is a plaza area with a fountain centered on the mall stretching from the plaza to the memorial. Roads from the mall provide pedestrian access to all grave areas.



The Graves

Eleven burial plots are arranged in concentric rings around the memorial and mall. The majority of the white marble headstones were quarried and fabricated in Italy and a small quantity from Romblon, Philippines.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur returns to the Philippines - Leyte, October 1944

Headstone Location


PLOT:.....
ROW:.....
GRAVE:.....

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 152 acres
HEADSTONES: 17,097

LATIN CROSSES: 16,931
STARS OF DAVID: 166
WALLS OF THE MISSING: 36,286

SETS OF BROTHERS: 20
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS: 29
DEDICATED: December 8, 1960

	American Battle Monuments Commission Policy	
	Cemetery Operations & Facilities Management Manual	
	Disinterment from WWII Cemeteries	
	Effective Date: 05-10-2017	Sunset Date: 05-10-2020

1. Purpose

This document sets forth American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) policy for the planning and execution of disinterments and the transportation of human remains for the purpose of identifying Unknown service members from World War II (WWII).

2. Background

- A. Interment of remains in overseas commemorative cemeteries administered by ABMC is considered permanent. However, ABMC is committed to assisting the Department of Defense (DoD) in fulfilling its obligation to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. service members lost in past conflicts dating back to WWII.
- B. Advances in forensic science technology, along with increased capacity for genealogical, anthropological, and military history research, has made it possible to identify service members buried as “Unknowns” in ABMC cemeteries. As the steward of more than 6,400 Unknown American war dead from WWII, ABMC plays a significant role in the national accountability effort. In 2015, U.S. Congress mandated DoD to develop the capacity to account for two hundred Unknowns annually, and DoD subsequently reorganized its POW/MIA accounting organizations into the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which is tasked to achieve the congressional mandate. DPAA is actively researching Unknown case files (X-Files) to establish a probability of identification, to receive approval to disinter from the DoD authority (the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs – ASD (M&RA)), and to execute disinterments in both the European/Mediterranean and Asian/Pacific Regions for the purpose of accomplishing identification.

3. Policy

- A. ABMC fully supports the national effort to account for all U.S. service members lost in past conflicts dating back to WWII.



B. Authorization:

- (1) Disinterment is permitted only when authorized by the ASD (M&RA), in accordance with the authorities referenced in Paragraph 5.b below.
- (2) Disinterment is permitted only when the appropriate host nation authority has granted permission to disinter and transport remains outside of the ABMC cemetery.

C. Disinterment Preparation:

- (1) ABMC will assist DoD in planning methodical and respectful disinterments of America's war dead from ABMC administered cemeteries.
- (2) Disinterment will be accomplished at no cost to ABMC, with the exception of overtime or compensatory time off for cemetery staff due to after-hours work requirements.
- (3) Disinterment will not be conducted on, or two weeks prior to, major ceremonial occasions including, but not limited to: Memorial Day, D-Day (where commemorated), Independence Day, and Veterans Day. Cemeteries should take into consideration holy days or observances in planning disinterments.
- (4) In ABMC cemeteries in the European/Mediterranean Region north of the Alps, disinterment will not be conducted from 28 October (two weeks prior to Veterans Day) through Memorial Day as a normal practice. Authority for exceptions to this policy will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Cemetery Operations (DCO).
- (5) In ABMC cemeteries in the European/Mediterranean Region south of the Alps, disinterment will not be conducted in the months of November through February as a normal practice. Authority for exceptions to this policy will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the DCO.
- (6) In ABMC cemeteries in the Asian/Pacific Region, disinterment will not be conducted in the months of July through September as a normal practice. Authority for exceptions to this policy will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the DCO.
- (7) Personnel not essential for the disinterment operation will not be permitted to observe the disinterment.

D. Disinterment Operations:

- (1) Cemetery staff will facilitate DoD execution of disinterment operations.
- (2) Disinterment will be accomplished under the joint supervision of the ABMC Cemetery Superintendent, or a designated GS-employee representative, and the DoD Field Activities: DPAA, the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC), and the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (OAFME).
- (3) Disinterment operations will take place during hours that the cemetery is not open to the public.
- (4) Disinterment operations will not interfere with daily maintenance or horticultural operations. Arbitrary removal of plants or memorial objects is prohibited.
- (5) Disinterred remains will be removed from the ABMC cemetery upon completion of the disinterment operation. Disinterred remains may temporarily remain on-site without necessitating an exception to policy if the delay is to accommodate a subsequent disinterment operation or crew rest.

E. Headstones:

- (1) If a headstone is removed to facilitate the disinterment, the "Unknown" headstone will be returned to the empty gravesite after the disinterment in accordance with the approved design plan. The "Unknown" headstone will remain in place pending identification and Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) decision on final disposition of remains.
- (2) If remains are identified and returned to the ABMC cemetery of origin, the "Unknown" headstone will be replaced with a headstone containing an identification inscription consistent with ABMC standards.
- (3) If remains are identified but not returned to an ABMC cemetery, then an ABMC rosette will be carved onto the front of the "Unknown" headstone, which will remain in place marking the empty gravesite.
- (4) If remains are not identified, DoD should return the remains to the ABMC cemetery of origin for re-interment, and the "Unknown" headstone will continue to mark the gravesite.

4. **Applicability**

This policy applies to all ABMC personnel and contractors.

5. **Policy Authorities**

- A. Army Regulation 638-2, “Army Mortuary Affairs Program.”
- B. Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM)-16-003 “Policy Guidance for the Disinterment of Unidentified Human Remains,” 5 May 2016.
- C. DoD Directive 1300.22 “Mortuary Affairs Policy,” 30 Oct 2015.
- D. Memorandum of Understanding between ABMC and DPAA, 3 April 2017.

6. **Definitions**

Cemetery Staff – ABMC personnel permanently assigned to the cemetery that are tasked to facilitate DoD execution of the disinterment.

Cemetery Superintendent – The ABMC employee with overall responsibility for on-site cemetery operations.

Department of Defense (DoD) – The executive branch department of the U.S. federal government charged with national security. The three DoD Field Agencies listed below have overlapping missions that involve recovering and identifying America’s war dead.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) – DPAA is the Defense agency whose mission is to recover and identify missing personnel who are listed as Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA) from all past wars and conflicts, regardless of where remains might be located.

Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC) – Formerly the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service. CMAOC is the U.S. Army organization whose mission is to retrieve, identify, transport, and bury America’s service members.

U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity-Europe (USAMAA-E) – USAMAA-E is CMAOC’s field agency for the Euro/Med Region. USAMAA-E employs licensed morticians and, thus, has the organic capacity to act as the funeral home.

Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (OAFME) – OAFME is a branch of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), whose mission is to conduct forensic investigations of deceased service members, both to determine cause of death and to achieve identification. A medical examiner issues a “Believed-to-Be” Death Certificate upon disinterment.

Defense Attaché Office (DAO) – The DoD office within U.S. Embassies responsible for coordination between DoD agencies and host nation officials in order to ensure full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower & Reserve Affairs (ASD(M&RA)) – ASD(M&RA) is a principal staff member of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and is the DoD authority for conducting disinterment operations.

Department of State (DoS) – The executive branch department of the U.S. federal government charged with international diplomacy. DoS administers and manages U.S. embassies.

American Citizen Services (ACS) – The branch of a U.S. embassy's Consular Section which provides practical assistance to U.S. citizens for a variety of needs. ACS maintains a list of host nation funeral homes.

Deputy Secretary for Overseas Operations (DSOO) – The ABMC executive leader responsible for all matters pertaining to the operation and maintenance of overseas commemorative cemeteries.

Director of Cemetery Operations (DCO) – The ABMC employee responsible for direct support to the needs of the overseas commemorative cemeteries.

Director of External Affairs (DEA) – The ABMC employee responsible for public and internal communications.

Headstone – A standard upright stone, in the form of either a Latin Cross or a Star of David, that marks the gravesites in overseas commemorative cemeteries administered by ABMC.

Host Nation – The country in which a particular ABMC cemetery is located.

Licensed Mortician – The only person qualified to disinter, handle, and transport human remains. In the European/Mediterranean Region, USAMAA-E employs licensed morticians and, thus, has the organic capacity to act as the funeral home.

7. Mandatory Review

ABMC will review this policy and perform a gap analysis every three years to ensure that the policy is current and complete. This review may occur earlier if warranted by changes in federal legislation; OMB guidance; or DoS, DoD, or ABMC policy.

Appendix A: Disinterment Responsibilities

Appendix B: Disinterment Checklists

Appendix C: Disinterment Closure Report Format

Appendix A – Disinterment Responsibilities

1. DoD is responsible for making all arrangements and incurring all financial obligations related to a disinterment. These arrangements and obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Providing to the DAO, DSOO, and/or DCO an authorization letter signed by ASD(M&RA)
 - b. Complying with host nation laws and regulations
 - c. Providing a diplomatic note (DIPNOTE) to the respective DAO for delivery to the host nation Ministry of Foreign Affairs where required, and proceeding only with their consent.
 - d. Engaging a licensed mortician
 - e. Re-casketing the remains
 - f. Draping the casket with a U.S. flag
 - g. Acquiring excavating equipment
 - h. Acquiring additional equipment as required, including shielding and/or tenting, lighting, and safety equipment
 - i. Taking official photos of the flag-draped casket
 - j. Rehabilitating the gravesite to conditions defined by the cemetery superintendent
 - k. Identifying the port of embarkation to which the remains will be transported
 - l. Providing chain of custody transfer forms
 - m. Coordinating with OAFME to provide a medical examiner to produce a believed-to-be (BTB) death certificate in accordance with host nation requirements (e.g. the International Arrangement Concerning the Conveyance of Corpses (Berlin Agreement of 1937), the Agreement on the Transfer of Corpses (Strasbourg Agreement of 1973))
 - n. Acquiring host nation consent for the transportation of remains:

France:	“Laissez-Passer”
Belgium:	“Permis de Transport”
Italy:	“Autorizzazione all’Esumazione ed al Trasporto Resti Ossei”
United Kingdom:	“License for the Removal of Buried Human Remains”
Luxembourg:	Memorandum (Commune of Luxembourg)
Tunisia:	Memorandum (Government of Tunisia)
Philippines:	“Exhumation/Transfer Permit”
 - o. Providing to the DSOO and/or DCO the X-file for the human remains to be disinterred
 - p. Coordinating in advance with the cemetery superintendent, DCO, and/or DSOO if disinterred remains are to be held on site overnight for crew rest or in the case of multiple disinterment operations over successive days

- q. Funding the replacement of any headstone damaged during a disinterment (scratches, chips, stains, or breakage)
 - r. Providing to the DSOO and/or DCO feedback detailing the final disposition of the remains (if remains could not be identified, DoD should reinter the remains at the ABMC cemetery of origin)
 - s. Taking custody and responsibility for the original casket
2. DSOO/DCO are responsible for coordinating all arrangements related to a disinterment from an ABMC cemetery. These arrangements and obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Providing to ASD(M&RA), DEA, and the cemetery superintendent a letter of concurrence to proceed with a disinterment
 - b. Providing to the cemetery superintendent and DEA the X-File for the human remains to be disinterred
 - c. Providing to the cemetery superintendent the burial coordinates, in accordance with the ABMC database, in the format: plot, row, grave
 - d. Coordinating logistical support requirements with the cemetery superintendent, including the need for a security area to store remains overnight, if needed
 - e. Coordinating with other ABMC directorates regarding public affairs and ABMC database records, as required
3. Cemetery superintendents are responsible for their designated cemeteries. The cemetery superintendent, or designated representative, will supervise the site on the day of the disinterment. These arrangements and obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Verifying the burial coordinates to be disinterred by referencing the local ABMC Form 1 or other available documentation independent of the ABMC database (the burial coordinates will be in the format: plot, row, grave, and the physical location of the grave will be inspected for accuracy)
 - b. Providing to CMAOC an assessment of required equipment based on peculiarities of the gravesite (headstones, trees, irrigation piping, or other physical obstacles)
 - c. In coordination with CMAOC, and if requested, identifying and visiting a local funeral home (licensed mortician) to conduct a suitability assessment based on availability, equipment, and experience
 - d. Verifying that all visitors and non-essential personnel have departed the cemetery prior to beginning disinterment operations
 - e. Preparing the gravesite by placing protective ground covers, removing sod, removing/protecting headstones, as required
 - f. Preparing the Service Area, or other designated area, for cleaning and opening of the casket
 - g. Providing appropriate logistical support to CMAOC in support of cleaning and opening the casket, which may include hand-tools, pressure washers, and cleaning supplies

- h. Updating the local ABMC Form 1, and other documentation, to indicate that the designated human remains were disinterred, to include the date of disinterment
- 4. Funeral homes (licensed morticians), if used, will provide services to disinter, handle, and transport human remains. Financial obligations incurred by contracting a funeral home will be funded by DoD. These arrangements and obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Providing DoD with an itemized bid for services to be rendered, including labor, equipment, new casket (if required), transportation, and other costs
 - b. Contacting the cemetery superintendent to coordinate a site visit
 - c. Providing a suitable shipping container in accordance with host nation requirements
- 5. All organizations involved in disinterment operations are responsible for:
 - a. Accomplishing the disinterment only when authorized in writing by ASD(M&RA) and the appropriate host nation authority
 - b. Retaining letters of authorization and other pertinent documents on file as a permanent record of the disinterment
 - c. Tracking the progression of disinterment planning using ABMC Disinterment Checklists in Appendix B of this policy letter

Appendix B – Disinterment Checklists

The checklists on the following pages are provided to participating organizations and commercial entities to help ensure that all critical tasks related to disinterment operations at an ABMC cemetery are completed and that all activities are handled with proper respect and dignity.

1. General Requirements:

- a. The date of disinterment will not be scheduled until all necessary approval documents are authorized and certified
- b. Once all of the documentation and burial coordinates are verified, all organizations will receive a complete package containing: the authorization letter from ASD(M&RA), authorization documents from the host nation, the concurrence letter from DSOO, ABMC database information, and cemetery supporting documentation
- c. The cemetery superintendent has overall responsibility and authority at the ABMC cemetery
- d. Photographs are permitted until the casket is raised from the grave—once the casket is above ground, only DoD is authorized to take official photographs, which will be controlled items for official use only
- e. This is a solemn occasion, which must be conducted with proper respect and dignity—noise will be kept to a minimum
- f. The transportation of the casket will be with the feet of the deceased leading
- g. The U.S. flag will be draped on the casket at all times, except when required to clean or open the casket. Stars will be placed on the left side of the casket from the top, “draped over the heart”
- h. DoD is the only organization authorized to open the casket

2. Cemetery Superintendent:

Item	Task	Y/N
Preparation and Planning		
1	Verify the correct location of the gravesite using available documentation (ABMC Form 1, or other documentation) independent of the ABMC database.	
2	Photograph the headstone IAW DEA guidance. Sanding the headstone and placing flags is optional.	
3	As needed, consult ABMC staff or other superintendents with disinterment operations experience.	
4	As needed, coordinate a site-visit by the contracted funeral home (licensed mortician) to properly assess equipment requirements.	
5	Assist DoD by providing information on local accommodations.	

6	Coordinate with DoD in advance concerning logistical requirements, including: tenting, screening, external lighting, ground cover, pressure washer, flat-bed trailer, or other requirements.	
7	Coordinate with DoD in advance concerning the need for remains to stay overnight.	
8	Identify cemetery staff needed for disinterment operations – inform the DCO.	
9	Conduct a risk assessment. Include an evaluation of weather and soil conditions to assess the possibility of a collapsed grave. Report assessment to DoD and funeral home (licensed mortician) to determine the appropriate use of shoring equipment.	
Prepare the Cemetery		
10	Verify that all visitors and non-essential personnel have departed the cemetery prior to starting disinterment operations.	
11	Close and lock the gates prior to starting disinterment operations. If the cemetery does not have sufficient barriers to prevent unauthorized access, post cemetery staff to block access.	
12	Greet the DoD Disinterment Team and review the plan.	
Prepare the Work Site		
13	Remove the sod over the grave.	
14	Remove headstones, as needed.	
15	Place protective barriers on headstones near the work zone.	
16	Prepare a location for extracted soil.	
17	Place protective ground cover on Fine Lawn for excavator movement.	
18	Place tenting and/or screening.	
19	Disable automatic irrigation system.	
20	Prepare Service Area for casket cleaning and opening.	
21	Acquire additional soil to refill the grave.	
Disinterment Operation		
22	Supervise all aspects of the disinterment operation.	
23	Play Taps once the U.S. Flag is draped over the casket. This is an optional step.	
After Completing the Disinterment Operation		
24	Ensure DoD refills the grave, including tamping down soil in layers. ABMC cemetery staff should take over grave recovery in the final stages, specifically sod recovery. Provide additional soil to the DoD Team, as required.	
25	Replace sod over the grave prior to opening the cemetery to the public.	
26	Replace any removed headstones as soon as possible.	
27	Update ABMC Form 1 with disinterment date. Remains disinterred by DPAA on (date)	
28	Submit a Disinterment Closure Report to DCO, using the format found in Appendix C to this policy letter.	

3. DoD:

Item	Task	Y/N
1	Maintain an evolving X-File Disinterment Plan. Distribute monthly to the DSOO, DCO, and DEA.	
2	Provide the Letter of Authorization from ASD(M&RA) to the DCO.	
3	Provide the X-File to the DCO.	
4	Coordinate with the DCO to schedule disinterment date.	
5	Coordinate DipNote to host nation authority, as required.	
6	Coordinate appropriate host nation transportation authorization through U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate, as required. Provide copies of authorization documents to the DCO.	
7	If needed, identify and contract a funeral home to conduct the disinterment operation. Coordinate with the cemetery superintendent.	
8	Coordinate with the cemetery superintendent and provide all necessary equipment to conduct the disinterment operation, including, but not limited to, the following: safety equipment, excavator, shoring, lifting straps, screening, tenting, portable lighting, zinc liner, welding equipment, U.S. Flag (5' x 9.5'), and the new coffin.	
9	Take possession of and remove the original coffin from the ABMC cemetery.	
10	Provide report of identification (or determination of non-identification) to the DSOO, DCO, and DEA.	
11	Reinter non-identified remains at the ABMC cemetery of origin.	

4. DSOO and/or DCO:

Item	Task	Y/N
1	Act as overall coordinator for ABMC.	
2	Receive and archive the Letter of Authorization from ASD(M&RA).	
3	Provide to ASD(M&RA), DCO, DEA, and appropriate cemetery superintendent a Letter of Concurrence to conduct disinterment operations.	
4	Within 10 business days of receipt of a Letter of Authorization from ASD(M&RA), provide to DPAA a written notice of the authorized disinterment date.	
5	Receive and archive Disinterment Closure Reports.	
6	Contact other internal ABMC directorates as needed; e.g., to coordinate external affairs or ABMC database requirements.	

Appendix C – Disinterment Closure Report Format

The memorandum format below the cut-line is provided to standardize the collection of information concerning disinterment operations and to ensure that all necessary reporting elements for disinterment operations are included in the archive.

//////////////////////////////////////**---Cut-Line---**//////////////////////////////////////

Date

Memorandum for Director of Cemetery Operations (DCO)

Subject: Disinterment Closure Report for X-1234 at //Name//American Cemetery (XXAC).

- 1. Executive Summary:** On [Day of the Week], [Date], a Department of Defense (DoD) Casualty and Mortuary Affairs team disinterred X-1234 from XXAC (Plot X, Row XX, Grave XX).
- 2. Planning/Preparation:** [Provide details of the planning and preparation phase. State the date ASD(M&RA) authorized the disinterment and the date DSOO concurred with the disinterment. Highlight any special coordination between the cemetery and OOO and/or DoD.]
- 3. Execution:** [Provide details of the disinterment operation on the day of execution. Highlight any unexpected events or problems. Pictures are optional.]
- 4. Lessons Learned:** [Provide commentary on how execution deviated from the plan, and provide recommendations on how to improve the disinterment process.]
- 5. Points of Contact:** [Provide points of contact for principal participants, including name, title, organization, and email address.]

Name
Title
Cemetery



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JUN 29 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY, HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS,
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Disinterment Request for Common Grave 704, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery

Request your approval for disinterring Common Grave 704, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery, interred in the eight graves listed in the attached list. These graves are located at the Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines.

After reviewing the attached information provided with this request, I believe the Department of Defense threshold standard for disinterment is met and provide my consent to this request.

My point of contact for this request is Ms. Lisiane Valentine at (571) 372-5319 or lisiane.m.valentine.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie

Attachment:

As stated

cc:

Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Director, Joint Staff

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Military Personnel and Quality of Life

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
for Military Manpower and Personnel



DPAA0004318

COMMON GRAVE 704, CABANATUAN CAMP #1 CEMETERY

Unknown Graves Proposed for Disinterment

Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines

Current Unknown Number	Unknown Number at Manila Mausoleum	Burial Location
X-605 Manila #2	X-4551	Plot H, Row 12, Grave 110
X-672 Manila #2	X-4552	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 147
X-673 Manila #2	X-4553	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 146
X-675 Manila #2	X-4554	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 144
X-676 Manila #2	X-4555	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 134
X-677 Manila #2	X-4556	Plot H, Row 10, Grave 129
X-678 Manila #2	X-4557	Plot H, Row 10, Grave 130
X-3156 Manila #2	X-2454-A	Plot H, Row 8, Grave 146

Encl

DPAA0004319



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

MAR - 2 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR CABANATUAN COMMON
GRAVE 704

This memorandum is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5110.10, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), dated January 13, 2017, Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated April 14, 2015, and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness DTM-16-003, dated May 5, 2016.

This is a DPAA-initiated disinterment request for eight World War II Unknowns separately interred in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) and associated with Common Grave (CG) 704, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery. As outlined in the enclosed Exhumation Memo (TAB A), my staff reviewed the relevant historical and biological evidence and found sufficient grounds to make an association. Historical and anthropological analyses reduced the number of unresolved casualties associated with CG 704 to eight. Six of these candidates have a Family Reference Sample (FRS) on file for DNA analysis. Based on the totality of the historical and scientific evidence, it is more likely than not that an identification will be made as the result of disinterment.

From our comprehensive assessment of existing historical, anthropological, and dental records, and the current state of identification technology, DPAA assesses this case meets the threshold established for requesting disinterment of group unknown remains. It is more likely than not CG 704 can be identified using existing technology, and the DoD can identify the remains within 24 months of disinterment. The DPAA has received positive feedback from both the Department of the Navy (TAB B) and the Department of the Army (TAB C), supporting the DPAA recommendation to disinter. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has provided a memorandum listing all applicable FRS (TAB D).

Based on my review of the relevant information, to include input from AFDIL and the respective services, I have concluded the standards in the stated references have been met. Accordingly, I recommend the Unknowns associated with CG 704 be exhumed from the MACM. Upon approval, DPAA will coordinate the disinterment with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

My point of contact in this matter is Ms. Wendy Coble, at telephone (571) 882-4630, or email address: wendy.m.coble.civ@mail.mil.


Kelly McKeague
Director

Attachments:
As stated

DPAA0004320



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

28 November 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

From: Camillia Rodgers, Historian, Asia-Pacific Operations; Paul Emanovsky, Anthropologist; Laboratory, DPAA

To: Science Director and Asia-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: DISINTERMENT OF EIGHT UNKNOWNNS ASSOCIATED WITH COMMON GRAVE 704 CABANATUAN CAMP #1 CEMETERY

1. Executive Summary

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is recommending the disinterment of eight unknowns, United States Armed Forces (USAF) Cemetery Manila #2 Unknowns X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156, associated with individuals purportedly buried in Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery, Common Grave (CG) 704, for comparison with the eight unresolved individuals associated with this grave (Table 1). According to the reports of death, each of the unresolved casualties died in the Philippine Islands as a Prisoner of War (POW) on 1 November 1942. The “Cabanatuan Death Report” indicated that based on the casualties’ recorded dates and times of death, they were buried in CG 704.¹ At this time, it is recommended that the initial casualty associations be limited to those unresolved casualties correlated with CG 704 (Table 1). The FRS has been requested for the remaining two unresolved casualties associated with this common grave. This case exceeds the 60% threshold for group remains, supporting the conclusion that it is more likely than not that the DOD can identify the unknown remains associated with CG 704, if exhumed.² Therefore, it is recommended that the unknowns associated with CG 704 be exhumed from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) for transport to the DPAA Laboratory for forensic analysis.

Name	Historical Analysis	Anthropological Analysis	Dental Analysis	Chest Radiograph*
Bruntmyer, Lloyd R.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Calkins, William E.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Clark, Walter L.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Doyash, Harold W.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Erwin, Kenneth G.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Hennessey, Harland J.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Smith, Henry J.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Winters, Charles B.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

Green shade = line of testing has evidence present to support possible association, yellow shade = line of testing may become possible and/or may be probative. *Although copies of chest radiographs are sometimes included in personnel records, these findings have been rare in World War II casualties.



Figure 1. Map of Cabanatuan Camp No. 1 Cemetery created by the 111th Quartermaster Graves Registration Platoon in August 1945, with CG 704 circled in red.

2. Cabanatuan Camp #1

Cabanatuan Prison Camp—which was actually three separate camps—was located sixty miles north of Manila and several miles east of the city of Cabanatuan. Camp #1 was the largest camp for American POWs during the war.³ Initially, Cabanatuan burial details interred all POWs who died within a given twenty-four-hour period in one mass grave. Between 3 June 1942 and 25 September 1942, one burial day was defined as occurring from noon on one day until the following noon. Between 26 September and 19 October 1942, a burial day occurred

from 5:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and from 19 October 1942 until the camp closed, a burial day occurred from midnight to midnight. Japanese guards at Cabanatuan did not initially allow POW burial details to erect markers on the shallow graves, nor did the captive Americans inter remains in any organized plot structure or particular order. Burial details were unable to record numerous deaths, burials, and graves during the camp's early months.⁴

Captain Robert E. Conn, a POW who served as Graves Registration Officer at Cabanatuan from November 1942 until 16 October 1944, created what is now known as the "Cabanatuan Death Report." After August 1942, Japanese guards allowed the Americans to bury their dead in a systematic order; they also permitted them to erect grave markers. Record-keeping seemed to improve thereafter. Captain Conn interviewed POWs who had served on earlier burial details in an effort to obtain information about previous grave locations and burials. Successive investigations, both by POWs during the war and the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) after the Japanese surrender, had a difficult time locating and delineating the boundaries and burial dates of specific plots. Attempts to associate individuals who died within a twenty-four-hour burial period with a specific grave revealed numerous inconsistencies and errors with this interment practice. Captain Conn believed that he could somewhat confidently confirm burial reports only from August 1942 onwards.⁵ The numerous discrepancies in the documentary record have encouraged DPAA to pursue disinterment of all Cabanatuan unknowns, as was done in the USS *Oklahoma* case.

When the 111th Quartermaster Graves Registration Platoon disinterred Cabanatuan between December 1945 and March 1946, it discovered that the camp cemetery was situated in an area with a high water table. The condition of the remains, consequently, were extremely poor. Platoon members examined remains upon disinterment and created tooth charts. All remains then moved to Manila #2, which was located twelve miles north of Manila.⁶ From Manila #2, remains went to the Manila Mausoleum and Central Identification Point (CIP) at Nichols Field, where AGRS personnel processed them. There was evidence of some commingling among the remains, and investigators noted discrepancies between the graves from which resolved individuals had been identified and the graves in which they expected them to be interred based on the reported temporal burial periods.⁷ When the Memorial Division rejected proposed identifications, the AGRS permanently interred the unidentified Cabanatuan remains as unknowns in the MACM.⁸

3. Common Grave 704

The "Cabanatuan Death Report" noted that ten casualties were buried in CG 704 at the Cabanatuan POW Camp Cemetery.⁹ American Graves Registration Service officials identified two casualties from this common grave, and eight were unidentified and classified as Unknowns X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156. Unknown X-3156 was initially reported as X-694 Manila #2 due to a reporting or clerical error which was later corrected.¹⁰ According to both the "Roster of Burials U.S. Military Cemeteries Overseas" and the "Cabanatuan Death Report," ten individuals died in Camp #1 on 1 November 1942, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 10:00 PM, and were reportedly buried in CG 704.¹¹ On that date, a burial day should have lasted from 12:00 AM one day until 12:00 AM the next day. All of the ten casualties' dates and times of death would associate them with CG 704.

The two individuals identified from CG 704 were Corporal (Cpl) Paul Blaho and Private (Pvt) Thomas O'Hara. They were identified by their identification tags.¹² The eight unidentified casualties from CG 704 are as follows: Private First Class (Pfc) Lloyd R. Bruntmyer, Pfc Harold W. Doyash, Pfc Charles B. Winters, Private (Pvt) Harland Hennessey, Pvt William E. Calkins, Pvt Henry J. Smith, Cpl Kenneth G. Erwin, and Cpl Walter Clark.¹³ Attempts were made to associate these individuals with unknowns recovered from CG 704, in addition to comparing them with unidentified remains recovered from other common graves. Nevertheless, the AGRS was not able to associate these casualties with any other remains recovered from the Cabanatuan POW Camp Cemetery.

In their 1946 review of the remains, graves registration personnel believed the eight unknowns recovered from CG 704 to be associated with the following eight individuals also associated with the same common grave: X-605 was believed to be Pfc Charles B. Winters, X-672 was believed to be Pvt William E. Calkins, X-673 was believed to be Pfc Lloyd R. Bruntmyer, X-675 was believed to be Cpl Walter L. Clark, X-676 was believed to be Pfc Harold W. Doyash, X-677 was believed to be Pvt Henry J. Smith, X-678 was believed to be Pvt Harland J. Hennessey, and X-3156 was believed to be Pvt Kenneth G. Erwin.¹⁴ However, the remains were not individually identifiable.¹⁵ In processing X-3156, AGRS personnel found extra skeletal elements that were separated into a series of Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) portion designations.¹⁶ Initially, the remains were segregated into two unknown designations with Manila Mausoleum numbers.¹⁷ The extra elements were initially assigned Manila Mausoleum number X-2454-B, before later being designated CIL #320, while the rest of the remains were assigned Manila Mausoleum number X-2454-A. However, the remains re-designated as X-2454-A were buried under the Manila #2 designation X-3156 (see Table 3).¹⁸ The unknown file for X-3156 also indicates that while processing X-2454, additional skeletal elements that could not be properly associated were removed and assigned CIL #542.¹⁹ Another form stated the eight unidentified remains from CG 704 were examined, and the improperly associated remains were assigned CIL #522.²⁰ It is unclear what happened to CIL #522, CIL #542, and CIL #320, as the records do not indicate their whereabouts.²¹ However, "All CIL remains from different USAF cemeteries, including from the AGRS Mausoleum, were reprocessed simultaneously during the final resolution of the CIL project," and reportedly buried together.²²

On 9 January 1946, the AGRS interred the eight unknowns associated with CG 704 in the United States Armed Forces (USAF) Cemetery Manila #2, and assigned them Manila #2 unknown numbers X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156 (Table 3 below indicates the original Manila #2 X-numbers and subsequent Manila Mausoleum X-numbers).²³ The remains were disinterred in 1947 from the USAF Cemetery Manila #2, and processed and examined at the Manila Mausoleum CIP. On 4 December 1947, the AGRS stored X-3156 at the Mausoleum.²⁴ On 3 June 1948, the AGRS stored the remains associated with X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, and X-678, at the Manila Mausoleum.²⁵ The AGRS personnel completed dental and skeletal charts at the Manila Mausoleum CIP for the eight unknowns.²⁶ The AGRS examined the remains again in the subsequent years, but individual identifications could not be made. Between 4 and 5 December 1951, cemetery personnel interred X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156 for permanent burial at the MACM.²⁷

Correspondence dated 10 January 1952 from the chief of Memorial Division recommended that the deceased listed in "Exhibit A," which included the names of the eight unresolved

casualties in Table 2, be declared nonrecoverable.²⁸ This decision was made because they concluded that the possibility of sustaining positive identifications of individuals and/or groups could not be defended due to the “paucity of skeletal remains available” and the badly eroded state of the remains.²⁹

4. Present Investigation

Current research has reviewed the unknown files believed to be associated with CG 704, which include personnel records of the unidentified casualties believed to be associated with CG 704, archival documents providing a historical background for the burial and processing of remains from Cabanatuan. This research indicates that the ten individuals in Table 2 should be considered as casualties potentially associated with CG 704. At this time, it is recommended that the initial casualty associations be limited to those correlated with CG 704, as the research does not directly suggest other casualty or grave associations other than CG 704. If commingling exists within the remains recovered from CG 704, requests have been submitted for FRS for both resolved and unresolved casualties associated with CG 704. However, it is recommended that the initial casualty associations be limited to those unresolved casualties correlated with CG 704 (Table 1).

Table 2. Casualties Associated with Common Grave 704.³⁰

Name	Service Number	Rank	Service	Common Grave	Status
Blaho, Paul	7022718	Cpl	USA	704	Resolved
Bruntmyer, Lloyd R.	19048974	T/4	USAAF	704	Unresolved
Calkins, William E.	19020998	Pvt	USA	704	Unresolved
Clark, Walter L.	19053642	Cpl	USAAF	704	Unresolved
Doyash, Harold W.	281424	Pfc	USMC	704	Unresolved
Erwin, Kenneth G.	18049796	Cpl	USA	704	Unresolved
Hennessey, Harland J.	32092573	Pvt	USA	704	Unresolved
O’Hara, Thomas W.	32115031	Pvt	USA	704	Resolved
Smith, Henry J.	6671009	Pvt	USA	704	Unresolved
Winters, Charles B.	6664117	Pfc	USA	704	Unresolved

Current research supports that there are eight unknowns associated with Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery, CG 704, which are interred under their Manila #2 unknown number in the MACM (Table 3). Review of the biological and dental evidence purported to be associated with these unknowns show that there is a significant amount of potentially probative material available for anthropological and dental analyses.

Table 3. Present Burial Location of CG 704 Unknowns in the MACM.³¹

Current Unknown Number	Unknown Number at Manila Mausoleum	Current Burial Location at MACM
X-605 Manila #2	X-4551	Plot H, Row 12, Grave 110
X-672 Manila #2	X-4552	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 147

Current Unknown Number	Unknown Number at Manila Mausoleum	Current Burial Location at MACM
X-673 Manila #2	X-4553	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 146
X-675 Manila #2	X-4554	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 144
X-676 Manila #2	X-4555	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 134
X-677 Manila #2	X-4556	Plot H, Row 10, Grave 129
X-678 Manila #2	X-4557	Plot H, Row 10, Grave 130
X-3156 Manila #2	X-2454-A	Plot H, Row 8, Grave 146

5. Summary and Conclusions

The DPAA has copies of all the IDPFs for the unresolved individuals. Based on the aforementioned historical and scientific information, to include FRS collection, this case exceeds the 60% threshold for group remains, supporting the conclusion that it is more likely than not that the DOD can identify the unknown remains associated with CG 704, if exhumed.³² The DPAA recommends that CG 704 be disinterred from the MACM for transport to the DPAA laboratory for forensic analysis and comparison with the associated unresolved casualties.

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LIA.Z.1410576895 RODGERS.CAMILLIA.Z.1410576895
 Date: 2017.11.28 14:24:05 -10'00'
 Camillia Rodgers, PhD
 Historian

EMANOVSKY.PAUL Digitally signed by
.D.1270233542 EMANOVSKY.PAUL.D.1270233542
 Date: 2017.11.28 14:43:50 -10'00'
 Paul D. Emanovsky, PhD D-ABFA
 Anthropologist

Regional Director Recommendation:

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 (Explanation Attached)

Science Director Recommendation:

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 (Explanation Attached)

Endnotes

¹ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 66-67. Folder Title: 293 GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan), Chronological Listing of Graves; “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 37. Folder Title: 293 GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan) Death Reports, Prison Camps (B). Record Group (RG 92): Entry 1894A, Box 619, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA II) College Park, Maryland.

³ Heather Harris and Lisa Beckenbaugh, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), “Casualties of Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp #1 and the history of their burials,” 13 October 2005 (Revised 20 February 2014), 4-5.

⁴ Ibid., 7-8.

⁵ Ibid. 8-9.

⁶ Ibid., 10.

⁷ Ibid., 13-14.

⁸ Ibid., 20.

⁹ “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 37.

¹⁰ William Sitnek, SPQYG 293, Army Service Forces, Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C., “Subject: Identification of Unknown Deceased,” 30 April 1946. Paul Dobson, GSQMM 293, Headquarters Base X, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, APO 358, “2nd Ind.,” 21 May 1946, in Unknown X-694 Manila #2 File. RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC) Suitland, MD.

¹¹ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 66-67, and “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 37.

¹² R.C. Barrett, WD QMC Form 1042, “Report of Interment,” 1 February 1946, in X-678 file.

¹³ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 66-67, and “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 37. H. B. McNemar, “(Extract Copy), Photostat Copy of Cabanatuan POW Camp Death Report, (Extract),” in Unknown X-673 Manila #2 File. RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC) Suitland, MD. R.C. Barrett, WD QMC Form 1042, “Report of Interment,” 1 February 1946, in Unknown Manila #2 X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156 files.

¹⁴ R.C. Barrett, WD QMC Form 1042, “Report of Interment,” 1 February 1946, in X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156 files.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ The creation of CIL portions was a common AGRS practice for smaller collections or samples of skeletal elements that were determined to be inconsistent with a given set of remains.

¹⁷ L.S. Panopio, “Identification Data,” 2 June 1948, in X-3156 file and CIL #320 file.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Robert Fox, Central Identification Point, AGRS APO 900, Nichols Field, Manila, P.I., “Statement, Reference: UNK X-2454 AGRS Mausoleum,” 12 January 1950, in X-3156 file.

²⁰ Robert B. Fox, Central Identification Point, AGRS APO 900, Nichols Field, Manila, P.I., “Statement, Reference: UNK X-2354 Mausoleum, UNK’s X-4551 thru X-4557,” 12 December 1949.

²¹ Many such CIL portions from Cabanatuan ended up interred in large collections buried in large commingled assemblages under Manila Mausoleum X-5312, but direct references to the CIL portions discussed here were not found in the files associated with X-5312.

²² GRPZ 293, 1st Ind, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, PHILCOM Zone, APO 920, "Subject: Identification of World War II Deceased," 20 November 1950. It is unclear where these CIL portions were buried, and given the complexity of how the CIL portions were processed and buried, the CIL cases cannot currently be pursued.

²³ R.C. Barrett, WD QMC Form 1042, "Report of Interment," 1 February 1946, in X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, and X-3156 files.

²⁴ V.C. Aquino, WD QMC Form 1042, "Report of Interment," 13 July 1948, in X-3156 file.

²⁵ V.C. Aquino, WD QMC Form 1042, "Report of Interment," 15 July 1948, in X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678 files.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Edward L. Berg, QMC Form 1042, "Report of Interment," 6 and 7 December 1951, in Unknown X-605, X-672, X-673, X-675, X-676, X-677, X-678, X-3156 files.

²⁸ Office of the Quarter Master General of the Army, "Intraoffice Reference Sheet," 10 January 1952; "Case History for Remains Considered Nonrecoverable: Basis for Declaring Remains Nonrecoverable," "Roster to Accompany Board Findings of Nonrecoverability," in Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Lloyd R. Bruntmyer. RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, WNRC.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "Chronological Listing of Cabanatuan Graves," 66-67. The FRS status was checked using the DPAA Family Reference Sample Tracker on 17 July 2017.

³¹ Burial information derived from Manila #2 X-Files and "Department of the Army Office of the Quartermaster General: Electronic Accounting Machine Report," 15 August 1952.

³² Following the criterion that "research indicates that it is more likely than not that DoD can identify the remains." Peter Levine, Directive-type Memorandum (DTM)-16-003 – "Policy Guidance for the Disinterment of Unidentified Human Remains," 5 May 2016. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.



DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS

ARMED FORCES MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM
115 PURPLE HEART DRIVE
DOVER AFB, DE 19902-5051

3 January 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: Family Reference Samples (FRS) for Disinterment Request of Eight Unknowns
Associated with Common Grave 704 Cabanatuan WWII.

This memorandum is submitted at the request of, and subsequent to analysis conducted by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in accordance with DTM-16-003 for the disinterment of eight unknowns associated with common grave 704 Cabanatuan WWII.

The DPAA through historical research and scientific analysis has associated the missing service member(s) listed in **Table 1** with eight unknowns associated with common grave 704 Cabanatuan WWII. The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System's (AFMES) - Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has searched these individuals against AFDIL's Family Reference Sample (FRS) Database. At the time of this memorandum, the following service member(s) with FRS samples and the type of FRS(s) at AFDIL are noted in **Table 1**. When possible the missing service members Defense Casualty Information Processing System Number was included.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum should be directed to Dr. Timothy P. McMahon (302-346-8912) or Ms. Julie A. Demarest (302-346-8889).

Questions pertaining to the availability of FRS donor(s) for missing service member(s) who do not have an FRS on file at AFDIL should be directed to the DPAA Laboratory.

Encl.

MCMAHON.TIMOTHY.P Digitally signed by
MCMAHON.TIMOTHY.PATRICK.1272357044
ATRICK.1272357044 Date: 2018.01.03 11:49:06 -05'00'

Timothy P McMahon, PhD
Director, DoD DNA Registry
Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

DPAA0004346

Family References Associated With CG -704 Cabanatuan WWII								
Name	Service Number	Defense Casualty Information Processing System Number	Rank	Service	References on file	Reference Type		
						Mito	Auto	Y-STR
Bruntmyer, Lloyd R.	19048974	452815	T/4	USAAF	Yes	Yes (C)	Yes (IP)	Yes (IP)
Calkins, William E.	19020998	486141	Pvt	USA	Yes	Yes (C)	No	Yes (C)
Clark, Walter L.	19053642	495572	Cpl	USAAF	Yes	Yes (IP)	No	No
Doyash, Harold W.	281424	507128	Pfc	USMC	No (R)	No	No	No
Erwin, Kenneth G.	18049796	236033	Cpl	USA	No (R)	No	No	No
Hennessey, Harland J.	32092573	527581	Pvt	USA	Yes	Yes (C)	No	Yes (IP)
Smith, Henry J.	6671009	550222	Pvt	USA	Yes	Yes (C)	No	Yes (IP)
Winters, Charles B.	6664117	511601	Pfc	USA	Yes	Yes (C)	No	Yes (IP)

Red text or numbers indicate that a discrepancy exists between the original request and what AFDIL has verified in LISA and the Defense Causality Information Processing System
 Green Cells indicate FRS on file for missing Service Members
 Tan cells indicate no reference type on file
 (*) - Reference is not a suitable maternal, paternal or autosomal reference for use with current testing methodologies
 (**) - Direct Reference on file limited success with nuclear testing; request additional donor
 (R) - DPAA Laboratory has requested an FRS for the missing service member
 (C)- Complete
 (IP)- In Processing



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

AUG - 6 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY, HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS,
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Disinterment Request for Common Grave 822, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery

Request your approval for disinterring Common Grave 822, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery interred in the four graves listed below. These graves are located at the Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City, Philippines.

Current Unknown Number	Unknown Number at Manila Mausoleum	Burial Location
X-470 Manila #2	X-4094	Plot C, Row 12, Grave 83
X-471 Manila #2	X-4095	Plot N, Row 6, Grave 187
X-472 Manila #2	X-4096	Plot N, Row 11, Grave 65
X-473 Manila #2	X-4097	Plot N, Row 13, Grave 187

After reviewing the attached information provided with this request, I believe the Department of Defense threshold standard for disinterment is met and provide my consent to this request.

My point of contact for this request is Ms. Lisiane Valentine at (571) 372-5319 or lisiane.m.valentine.civ@mail.mil.

Stephanie Barna
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
Director, Joint Staff
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Military Personnel and Quality of Life



DPAA0004351



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

JAN 18 2018

**MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS**

**SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR CABANATUAN COMMON
GRAVE 822**

This memorandum is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5110.10, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), dated January 13, 2017, Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated April 14, 2015, and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness DTM-16-003, dated May 5, 2016.

This is a DPAA-initiated disinterment request for four World War II Unknowns separately interred in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) and associated with Common Grave (CG) 822, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery. As outlined in the enclosed Exhumation Memo (TAB A), my staff reviewed the relevant historical and biological evidence and found sufficient grounds to make an association. Historical and anthropological analyses reduced the number of unresolved casualties associated with CG 822 to four. Three of these candidates have a Family Reference Sample (FRS) on file for DNA analysis. Based on the totality of the historical and scientific evidence, it is more likely than not that an identification will be made as the result of disinterment.

From our comprehensive assessment of the existing anthropological and historical records and the current state of identification technology, DPAA assesses that this case meets the 60% threshold established for group unknown remains. It is highly likely the Unknowns associated with CG 822 can be identified using existing technology and the DoD can identify the remains within 24 months of disinterment. DPAA has received positive feedback from the Department of the Army (TAB C), supporting the DPAA recommendation to disinter. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has provided a memorandum listing the applicable FRS (TAB D).

Based on my review of the relevant information, to include input from AFDIL and the respective service, I have concluded the standards in the stated references have been met. Accordingly, I recommend the Unknowns associated with CG 822 be exhumed from MACM. Upon approval, DPAA will coordinate the disinterment with the MACM.

My point of contact in this matter is Ms. Wendy Coble, at telephone (571) 882-4630, or email address: wendy.m.coble.civ@mail.mil.


Kelly McKeague
Director

Attachments:
As stated

DPAA0004352



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

JAN 18 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR CABANATUAN COMMON
GRAVE 822

This memorandum is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5110.10, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), dated January 13, 2017, Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated April 14, 2015, and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness DTM-16-003, dated May 5, 2016.

This is a DPAA-initiated disinterment request for four World War II Unknowns separately interred in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) and associated with Common Grave (CG) 822, Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery. As outlined in the enclosed Exhumation Memo (TAB A), my staff reviewed the relevant historical and biological evidence and found sufficient grounds to make an association. Historical and anthropological analyses reduced the number of unresolved casualties associated with CG 822 to four. Three of these candidates have a Family Reference Sample (FRS) on file for DNA analysis. Based on the totality of the historical and scientific evidence, it is more likely than not that an identification will be made as the result of disinterment.

From our comprehensive assessment of the existing anthropological and historical records and the current state of identification technology, DPAA assesses that this case meets the 60% threshold established for group unknown remains. It is highly likely the Unknowns associated with CG 822 can be identified using existing technology and the DoD can identify the remains within 24 months of disinterment. DPAA has received positive feedback from the Department of the Army (TAB C), supporting the DPAA recommendation to disinter. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has provided a memorandum listing the applicable FRS (TAB D).

Based on my review of the relevant information, to include input from AFDIL and the respective service, I have concluded the standards in the stated references have been met. Accordingly, I recommend the Unknowns associated with CG 822 be exhumed from MACM. Upon approval, DPAA will coordinate the disinterment with the MACM.

My point of contact in this matter is Ms. Wendy Coble, at telephone (571) 882-4630, or email address: wendy.m.coble.civ@mail.mil.


Kelly McKeague
Director

Attachments:
As stated

DPAA0004353



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

28 November 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

From: Camillia Rodgers, Historian, Asia-Pacific Operations; Paul Emanovsky, Anthropologist; Laboratory, DPAA

To: Science Director and Asia-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: DISINTERMENT OF FOUR UNKNOWNNS ASSOCIATED WITH COMMON GRAVE
822 CABANATUAN CAMP #1 CEMETERY

1. Executive Summary

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is recommending the disinterment of four unknowns associated with individuals purportedly buried in Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery, Common Grave (CG) 822, for comparison with the four unresolved U.S. casualties associated with this grave (Table 1). The four unknowns proposed in this memorandum include United States Armed Forces (USAF) Cemetery Manila #2 Unknowns X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473. According to the reports of death, each of the unresolved casualties, potentially associated with these unknowns, died in the Philippine Islands as a Prisoner of War (POW) on 1 January 1942. The “Cabanatuan Death Report” indicated that based on the casualties’ recorded dates and times of death, they were buried in CG 822.¹ At this time, it is recommended that the initial casualty associations be limited to those unresolved casualties correlated with CG 822 (Table 1). There are no resolved casualties associated with this common grave (Table 2). This case exceeds the 60% threshold for group remains, supporting the conclusion that it is more likely than not that the DOD can identify the unknown remains associated with CG 822, if exhumed.² Therefore, it is recommended that the unknowns associated with CG 822 be exhumed from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) for transport to the DPAA Laboratory for forensic analysis.

Table 1. Casualties Associated with Common Grave 822. Summary of Analytical Options for the Individuals.				
Name	Historical Analysis	Anthropological Analysis	Dental Analysis	Chest Radiograph
Morgan, Robert R.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Pruitt, Blanchard E.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Schopp, Erwin H.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Walker, James M.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A

Green shade = line of testing has evidence present to support possible association, yellow shade = line of testing may become possible and/or may be probative.



Figure 1. Map of Cabanatuan Camp No. 1 Cemetery created by the 111th Quartermaster Graves Registration Platoon in August 1945, with CG 822 circled in red.

2. Cabanatuan Camp #1

Cabanatuan Prison Camp—which was actually three separate camps—was located sixty miles north of Manila and several miles east of the city of Cabanatuan. Camp #1 was the largest camp for American POWs during the war.³ Initially, Cabanatuan burial details interred all POWs who died within a given twenty-four-hour period in one mass grave. Between 3 June 1942 and 25 September 1942, one burial day was defined as occurring from noon on one day until the following noon. Between 26 September and 19 October 1942, a burial day occurred from 5:00 PM on one day to 5:00 PM the following day. Eventually, from 19 October 1942 until

the camp closed, a burial day occurred from midnight to midnight. Japanese guards at Cabanatuan did not initially allow POW burial details to erect markers on the shallow graves, nor did the captive Americans inter remains in any organized plot structure or particular order. Burial details were unable to record numerous deaths, burials, and graves during the camp's early months.⁴

Captain Robert E. Conn, a POW who served as Graves Registration Officer at Cabanatuan from November 1942 until 16 October 1944, created what is now known as the "Death Report, Cabanatuan." After August 1942, Japanese guards allowed the Americans to bury their dead in a systematic order; they also permitted them to erect grave markers. Record-keeping seemed to improve thereafter. Captain Conn interviewed POWs who had served on earlier burial details in an effort to obtain information about previous grave locations and burials. Successive investigations, both by POWs during the war and the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) after the Japanese surrender, had a difficult time locating and delineating the boundaries and burial dates of specific plots. Attempts to associate individuals reported to have died within a twenty-four-hour burial period with a specific grave revealed numerous inconsistencies and errors. Captain Conn believed that he could somewhat confidently confirm burial reports only from August 1942 onwards.⁵ The numerous discrepancies in the documentary record have encouraged the DPAA to pursue disinterment of all Cabanatuan unknowns, as was done in the USS *Oklahoma* case.

When the 111th Quartermaster Graves Registration Platoon disinterred Cabanatuan between December 1945 and March 1946, it discovered that the camp cemetery was situated in an area with a high water table. The condition of the remains, consequently, was extremely poor. Platoon members examined remains upon disinterment and created tooth charts. All remains were then moved to Manila #2, which was located twelve miles north of Manila.⁶ From Manila #2, remains were transferred to the Manila Mausoleum and Central Identification Point (CIP) at Nichols Field, where AGRS personnel conducted further analyses and processed remains for a more permanent burial. There was evidence of some commingling among the remains, and investigators noted discrepancies between the graves from which resolved individuals had been identified and the graves in which they expected them to be interred based on the reported time of death.⁷ When the Memorial Division rejected proposed identifications, or the AGRS concluded that the remains were unidentifiable, the AGRS permanently interred the unidentified Cabanatuan remains as unknowns in the MACM.⁸

3. Common Grave 822

The "Cabanatuan Roster of Burials" noted that four remains were buried in CG 822 at the Cabanatuan POW Camp Cemetery, however, the "Cabanatuan Death Report" recorded that five remains were buried in CG 822.⁹ According to both the "Roster of Burials U.S. Military Cemeteries Overseas" and the "Cabanatuan Death Report," five individuals died in Camp #1 on 1 January 1943, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM.¹⁰ On that date, a burial day should have lasted from 12:00 AM one day, until 12:00 AM the next day. Accordingly, the five casualties' dates and times of death would associate them with CG 822. However, American Graves Registration Service officials recovered only four unknown remains from CG 822, Unknowns X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473.¹¹ The fifth set of remains buried on 1 January 1943, was reportedly buried in, and recovered from, CG 836 and identified as Private First Class (Pfc) Allen W. Wood.¹² The four unidentified casualties associated with CG 822 are as follows:

Private (Pvt) Robert R. Morgan, Pvt Blanchard E. Pruitt, Pvt Erwin H. Schopp, and Corporal (Cpl) James M. Walker.¹³

The four unknowns recovered from CG 822 were originally recommended for group identification as the remains of the unidentified casualties, however the recommendation was disapproved because of discrepancies between the Army dental records of the deceased and the dental charts for the unknowns.¹⁴ The AGRS personnel concluded from the dental record comparisons that the remains of Cpl James M. Walker, Pfc Blanchard E. Pruitt, and Pvt Erwin H. Schopp were not in the group. Private Robert Morgan’s name was not specifically mentioned like the other three. The AGRS was not able to associate these casualties with any other remains recovered from the Cabanatuan POW Camp Cemetery.¹⁵

On 31 December 1945, the AGRS interred the four associated unknowns from CG 822 in the USAF Cemetery Manila #2, and assigned them Manila #2 unknown numbers X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 (Table 3 below indicates the original Manila #2 X-numbers and subsequent Manila Mausoleum X-numbers).¹⁶ American Graves Registration Service personnel disinterred the remains from the USAF Cemetery Manila #2 on 17 December 1947. The AGRS personnel processed, examined, stored, and completed dental and skeletal charts at the Manila Mausoleum CIP for the four unknowns.¹⁷ In the “Report of Interment,” AGRS personnel noted that the unknowns could possibly be any one of the four casualties listed above.¹⁸ The AGRS examined the remains again in 1949, but individual or group identifications could not be made. Correspondence dated 18 October 1949, from the headquarters of AGRS, noted that X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 were being processed as unidentifiable. The AGRS personnel recommended that the associated casualties be considered non-recoverable.¹⁹ Between 20 and 21 Feb 1950, cemetery personnel interred X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 at the MACM.²⁰

4. Present Investigation

Current research has reviewed the unknown files believed to be associated with CG 822, which include personnel records of the four unidentified casualties believed to be associated with CG 822, and archival documents providing a historical background for the burial and processing of remains from Cabanatuan. This research indicates that the four individuals in Table 2 should be considered as casualties potentially associated with CG 822. At this time, it is recommended that the initial casualty associations be limited to those correlated with CG 822, as the research does not directly suggest other casualty or grave associations for the four unresolved casualties other than CG 822.

Name	Service Number	Rank	Service	Common Grave	Status
Morgan, Robert R.	18025313	Pvt	USAAF	822	Unresolved
Pruitt, Blanchard E.	18060257	Pvt	USA	822	Unresolved
Schopp, Erwin H.	17012216	Pvt	USA	822	Unresolved
Walker, James M.	R-2368077	Cpl	USA	822	Unresolved

Current research supports that there are four unknowns associated with Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery, CG 822, which are interred under their Manila #2 unknown number in the MACM (Table 3). Review of the biological and dental evidence purported to be associated with

these unknowns show that there is a significant amount of potentially probative material available for anthropological and dental analyses.

Table 3. Present Burial Location of CG 822 Unknowns in the MACM.²²		
Current Unknown Number	Unknown Number at Manila Mausoleum	Current Burial Location at MACM
X-470 Manila #2	X-4094	Plot C, Row 12, Grave 83
X-471 Manila #2	X-4095	Plot N, Row 6, Grave 187
X-472 Manila #2	X-4096	Plot N, Row 11, Grave 65
X-473 Manila #2	X-4097	Plot N, Row 13, Grave 187

5. Summary and Conclusions

The DPAA has copies of all the IDPFs for the unresolved individuals. Based on the aforementioned historical and scientific information, to include FRS collection, this case exceeds the 60% threshold for group remains, supporting the conclusion that it is more likely than not that the DOD can identify the unknown remains associated with CG 822, if exhumed. It is recommended that the unknowns associated with CG 822 be exhumed from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) for transport to the DPAA Laboratory for forensic analysis.

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 Camillia Rodgers, PhD
 Historian

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 Date: 2017.11.28 14:09:23 -10'00'
 Paul D. Emanovsky, PhD D-ABFA
 Anthropologist

Regional Director Recommendation:

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Science Director Recommendation:

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Endnotes

¹ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 84. Folder Title: 293 GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan), Chronological Listing of Graves; “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 45. Folder Title: 293 GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan) Death Reports, Prison Camps (B). Record Group (RG 92): Entry 1894A, Box 619, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA II) College Park, Maryland.

³ Heather Harris and Lisa Beckenbaugh, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), “Casualties of Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp #1 and the history of their burials,” 13 October 2005 (Revised 20 February 2014), 4-5.

⁴ Ibid., 7-8.

⁵ Ibid. 8-9.

⁶ Ibid., 10.

⁷ Ibid., 13-14.

⁸ Ibid., 20.

⁹ “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 45.

¹⁰ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 83-84.

¹¹ R.C. Barrett, WD QMC 1042, “Report of Interment,” 29 January 1946, in Unknown X-471 Manila #2 File. RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC) Suitland, MD. Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, PHILCOM Zone, APO 900, “Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable,” 19 October 1949, in Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Blanchard Pruitt.

¹² T.H. Metz, QMGMT 293 “Subject: Identification of World War II Deceased,” 26 May 1949; L.S. Panopio, “Identification Data,” 30 March 1948, in IDPF for Allen Wood. RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC) Suitland, MD.

¹³ “Roster of Burials U.S. Cemeteries Overseas,” 84, and “Cabanatuan Death Reports, Prison Camps,” 45. T.H. Metz, QMGMT 293 “Subject: Identification of World War II Deceased,” 26 May 1949. R.C. Barrett, WD QMC 1042, “Report of Interment,” 29 January 1946, in Manila #2 X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 files.

¹⁴ Wilbur Hobbs, Harold B. McNemar, and John Shypula, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, PHILCOM Zone, APO 900, “Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable,” 19 October 1949, in Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Blanchard Pruitt. T.H. Metz, Department of the Army, Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C., “Subject: Identification of World War II Deceased,” 26 May 1949.

¹⁵ Ibid., T.H. Metz, QMGMT 293, “Subject: Identification of World War II Deceased,” 26 May 1949, IDPF for James M. Walker.

¹⁶ R.C. Barrett, WD QMC Form 1042, “Report of Interment,” 29 January 1946, in Manila #2 X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 files.

¹⁷ L.S. Panopio, OQMC Form 1044, “Identification Data,” 30 March 1948, in Manila #2 X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 files. Paul R. Nichols, OQMC Form 1044, “Identification Data,” 20 October 1949, in Manila #2 X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473.

¹⁸ V.C. Aquino, WD QMC Form 1042, “Report of Interment,” 7 April 1948, in Manila #2 X-473 file.

¹⁹ Harold B. McNemar Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, PHILCOM Zone, "Subject: Unidentifiable Remains," 18 October 1949; in Manila #2 X-473 file.

²⁰ L.W. Richardson, "Disinterment Directive," 9 February 1950, in Unknown files X-470, X-471, X-472, and X-473 files.

²¹ "Chronological Listing of Cabanatuan Graves," 84. The FRS status was checked using the DPAA Family Reference Sample Tracker on 12 August 2017.

²² Burial information derived from Manila #2 X-Files and "Department of the Army Office of the Quartermaster General: Electronic Accounting Machine Report," 15 August 1952.



DEFENSE
HEALTH AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS

ARMED FORCES MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM
115 PURPLE HEART DRIVE
DOVER AFB, DE 19902-5051

8 January 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: Family Reference Samples (FRS) for Four Unknowns Associated with the
Disinterment Request of Common Grave 822 Cabanatuan World War II.

This memorandum is submitted at the request of, and subsequent to analysis conducted by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in accordance with DTM-16-003 for the disinterment of four unknowns associated with common grave 822 Cabanatuan World War II.

The DPAA through historical research and scientific analysis has associated the missing service member(s) listed in **Table 1** with four unknowns associated with common grave 822 Cabanatuan World War II. The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System's (AFMES) - Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) has searched these individuals against AFDIL's Family Reference Sample (FRS) Database. At the time of this memorandum, the following service member(s) with FRS samples and the type of FRS(s) at AFDIL are noted in **Table 1**. When possible the missing service members Defense Casualty Information Processing System Number was included.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum should be directed to Dr. Timothy P. McMahon (302-346-8912) or Ms. Julie A. Demarest (302-346-8889).

Questions pertaining to the availability of FRS donor(s) for missing service member(s) who do not have an FRS on file at AFDIL should be directed to the DPAA Laboratory.

Encl.

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Timothy P McMahon, PhD
Director, DoD DNA Registry
Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

DPAA0004378

Family References Associated With Common Grave 822								
Name	Service Number	Defense Casualty Information Processing System Number	Rank	Service	References on file	Reference Type		
						Mito	Auto	Y-STR
Morgan, Robert R.	18025313	513141	Pvt	USAAF	Yes	Yes (C)	Yes (C)	Yes (C)
Pruitt, Blanchard E.	18060257	531966	Pvt	USA	Yes	Yes (IP)	No	No
Schopp, Erwin H.	17012216	549032	Pvt	USA	Yes	Yes (C)	No	No
Walker, James M.	2368077	236929	Cpl	USA	No (R)	No	No	No

Red text or numbers indicate that a discrepancy exists between the original request and what AFDIL has verified in LISA and the Defense Causality Information Processing System
 Green Cells indicate FRS on file for missing Service Members
 Tan cells indicate no reference type on file
 (*) - Reference is not a suitable maternal, paternal or autosomal reference for use with current testing methodologies
 (**) - Direct Reference on file limited success with nuclear testing; request additional donor
 (R) - DPAA Laboratory has requested an FRS for the missing service member
 (C)- Complete
 (IP)- In Processing



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111

20160304

SAMR-MPQ

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING
AGENCY (DPAA), 2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

SUBJECT: Exhumation of Unknown Remains

1. References:

a. Memorandum, Deputy Secretary of Defense, 14 April 2015, subject: Disinterment of Unknowns from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

b. Memorandum, Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, 1 December 2015, subject: Disinterment Request for Unknown X-1130 Manila #2.

c. Memorandum, Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, 25 September 2015, subject: Family Disinterment Request of Unknown X-1130 Manila #2 For Comparison With First Lieutenant Alexander R. Nininger.

d. Executive Order 10057 (Transferring to the American Battle Monuments Commission functions pertaining to certain United States Military Cemeteries), 14 May 1949.

2. In accordance with reference 1a., disinterment requests must meet standard thresholds in order to be considered favorably. For individual Unknowns, there must be at least a 50 percent likelihood that an identification will be made.

3. After reviewing the information provided with reference 1b., I am not convinced that this standard has been met. Accordingly, the Army does not concur with the request to exhume unknown remains X-1130 Manila #2 from Plot J, Row 7, Grave 20 in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

4. Point of contact for this action is COL Kelly E. Kyburz, Assistant Deputy for Casualty and Mortuary Affairs, POW and MIA, Arlington National Cemetery Policy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), telephone (703) 614-8208 or email Kelly.e.kyburz.mil@mail.mil.


ANTHONY J. STAMILIO
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Military Personnel & Quality of Life)





DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

DEC 01 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MP)


SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT REQUEST FOR UNKNOWN X-1130 Manila #2

This memorandum is submitted in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5110.10, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum dated April 14, 2015 (TAB C).

On 3 February 2015, a family member requested that DPAA disinter X-1130 Manila #2 for potential identification as 1st Lt Alexander R. Nininger, a casualty from World War II. Research and analysis of existing dental, anthropological, and historical records (TAB B) led to the conclusion that X-1130 Manila #2 interred in Plot J, Row 7, Grave 20, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM), Manila, Luzon, the Philippines, does not meet the 50 percent threshold for likelihood of individual identification established for disinterment of unknown remains. Historical research cannot associate the remains with 1st Lt Nininger. Based on comprehensive assessment of the available information, DPAA assesses a low likelihood that disinterment would lead to identification of the interred remains as this individual.

Based on my review of the information at TABs B, C, and D, I have concluded that the standards prescribed in the referenced Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum have not been met, and that there is less than fifty percent likelihood that an identification would result. Accordingly, I recommend X-1130 Manila #2 remain honorably interred at the MACM. Should future research and analysis change our recommendation for this case, we will submit a new request for approval and, if approved, notify the requestor.

My point of contact in this matter is Ms Wenona Lavin, at telephone (808) 448-4500 ext. 3255 or email address: wenona.s.lavin.civ@mail.mil.


Michael S. Linnington
Director

Attachments:
As stated

cc: Director, Joint Staff
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy)

TAB A

**DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY**2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

25 September 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

From: CW2 Justin K. Crick, Analyst, Asia-Pacific Directorate, DPAA
To: Science Director; Asia-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: FAMILY DISINTERMENT REQUEST OF UNKNOWN X-1130 MANILA #2 FOR
COMPARISON WITH FIRST LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER R. NININGER

1. Initial Recovery and Assessment

On 8 January 1946, authorities disinterred a set of remains from Abucay Churchyard, Soldier's Row, Grave #9 in Abucay, Bataan Province, Luzon Island, in the Philippines.¹ This initial recovery was apparently based on information that five Americans had been killed in the town of Abucay, Philippines, in January 1942 and buried in the Abucay Cemetery.² Historic documentation in the unknown file, however, suggests that the Abucay Churchyard and Abucay Cemetery were two separate sites of burial (See Figure 1.) On 18 January 1946, these remains were reinterred in Plot 2, Row 22, Grave 2836 in the U.S. Armed Forces Cemetery No. 2 in Manila, Philippines (Manila #2) and designated Unknown X-1130 Manila #2 (X-1130).³ Two copies of a 13 February 1946 Report of Interment each contain a different dental chart for X-1130.⁴ There is no record of any processing of non-dental remains.

2. Disinterment and Reprocessing

Manila #2 became the last of the PHILYRCOM cemeteries to be disinterred as a part of AGRS concentration efforts in 1947 and 1948, with the last of remains buried there transferred to the mausoleum at Nichols Field on 20 July 1948.⁵ Unknown X-1130 was disinterred on an undisclosed date, but was reportedly sent to the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) Mausoleum, Manila, Philippines (Manila Mausoleum) for storage on 24 July 1948.⁶ There is no report of anthropological processing or dental charting at this time.⁷ A 29 January 1949 assessment states that the processor was unable to determine the weight or race of the remains, but did estimate the stature to be 62 1/8 inches. The remains were reportedly not burned but were mangled. A dental chart was completed and the examiner noted, "Maxilla missing, loose teeth found with remains[.] L16 Horizontally impacted."⁸ When analysts were unable to make a positive identification of remains at the Manila Mausoleum, they processed the remains for storage, sometimes returning to re-examine a set of remains several different times.⁹ Unknown X-1130 underwent a second examination reported from the Manila Mausoleum in September 1950, estimating the height at 61 inches and age at 20-30 years. The examiner was unable to determine the weight or race, but assessed the remains as "probably mongoloid."¹⁰ A dental

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Subj: X-1130 MANILA #2 **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

chart was completed.¹¹ The remains were returned to storage at the Manila Mausoleum on 11 September 1950.¹²



Figure 1. Map of Abucay Churchyard and Cemetery.¹³

3. 1940s Investigations and Name Associations

Unknown X-1130 was initially associated with First Lieutenant (1st Lt) Alexander R. Nininger based on the testimony of Colonel (Col) George S. Clarke of the 57th Infantry, who stated that 1st Lt Nininger was buried at Abucay Churchyard in Grave #9 outside the churchyard wall in a ceremony presided over by a Chaplain Scecina.¹⁴ However, both X-1130 and a set of remains later identified as Philippine Scout Tranquilino Beles were both reported in association with Grave #9 – despite current research having found no documentation stating that two sets of remains were ever interred in Grave #9.¹⁵ Colonel Clarke also apparently wrote to Mr. Herbert B. Maynard, father of Lt. Maynard, informing him that his son was buried in Grave #6, but remains recovered from Grave #6 were identified as Philippine Scout Pedro Obsioma.¹⁶

According to Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) John W. Raulston, the Medical Corps officer in charge of the medical collecting station at the Catholic Church in Abucay, Chaplain Thomas Scecina, “established a little graveyard in a plot of ground within the five foot wall around the church.”¹⁷ The approximate recovery location for X-1130, however, was listed as Soldier’s Row, which was located outside of this wall.¹⁸ Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Raulston did not recall the name Nininger from the burial. The only officer buried at Abucay Churchyard named by Lt Col Raulston was Captain H.A. McCurdy, who was recovered from the Abucay Churchyard and identified because of the presence of an identification tag recovered with the remains.¹⁹

In a 10 September 1946 letter, Major (Maj) Franklin O. Anders of the 57th Infantry stated that 1st Lt Nininger, 1st Lt Kenneth L. Wilson, 1st Lt David W. Maynard, 1st Lt John C. Compton, 1st Lt Arthur W. Green, and “Capt. Meyer” were buried in the Abucay Churchyard.²⁰ A close friend of 1st Lt Wilson, Lee Culver Brooks, concurred by stating in an undated phone

Subj: X-1130 MANILA #2 **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

call between Mr. Brooks and Captain (Capt) Vogl of the Repatriation branch that he “feels that the burial was made in the church...cemetery at Abucay.”²¹ Neither Lt Col Raulston nor Mr. Brooks were present at the burial. Of those reported buried at the Abucay Churchyard by Maj Anders, none were recovered and identified from the Abucay Churchyard.²² Captain Adolph Meier, likely the Captain Meyer listed above as no Meyer was reported as killed in Bataan, was recovered from Mariveles Cemetery #3, some 30 km away.

In 1945, while attempting to locate graves for U.S. servicepersons, Master Sergeant (M Sgt) Abie Abraham located one of the original grave diggers, Gregorio Cunanan. Mr. Cunanan claimed that he was hired by American officials to inter five Americans in the Abucay Cemetery prior to the surrender of Bataan (9 April 1942).²³ The Abucay Cemetery is separate from the Abucay Churchyard and its attached cemetery. The Abucay Cemetery lies across a river and 650 m to the southwest of the church (Figure 1) and is not the location from which X-1130 was recovered. This distinction between the churchyard cemetery and Abucay Cemetery was one that investigators in the 1940s and early 1950s struggled to reconcile.²⁴

On 28 November 1949, a memo from HQ AGRS PHILCOM explained the basis for associating X-1130 with 1st Lt Nininger.²⁵ The memo appears to contradict itself throughout. The memo references the burial records of Chaplain Scecina as having buried 1st Lts Nininger, Maynard, Compton, Green, and Captain Adolph Meier within Abucay Churchyard. However, as previously discussed, Captain Meier was identified after his remains were disinterred from a cemetery some 30 km away. The records cited in this memo state that of the fourteen sets of remains recovered from the churchyard, only two were believed to be American (Figure 2). Of the two potentially American sets of recovered remains, one was identified as Capt H.A. McCurdy, O-28378, and one was designated X-1671 Manila Mausoleum.²⁶ Unknown X-1671 was never identified but some records indicate that the remains may be associated with a Philippine Scout.²⁷ The other twelve sets of recovered remains were determined to be Philippine Scouts. The presence of so many Philippine Scouts in this burial location weakens the argument that the unidentified remains belong to an American. The memo then discredits the information provided by Lt Col Raulston and Mr. Brooks, pointing out that neither was present at the burial conducted by Chaplain Scecina. It then calls into question the validity of the disinterment location as Abucay Churchyard, but goes on to reason that since the grave numbers match, they must be the same.²⁸ Despite appearing to present evidence that X-1130 is not associated with 1st Lt Nininger, the summary of the memo concludes that X-1130 is likely the serviceman.²⁹

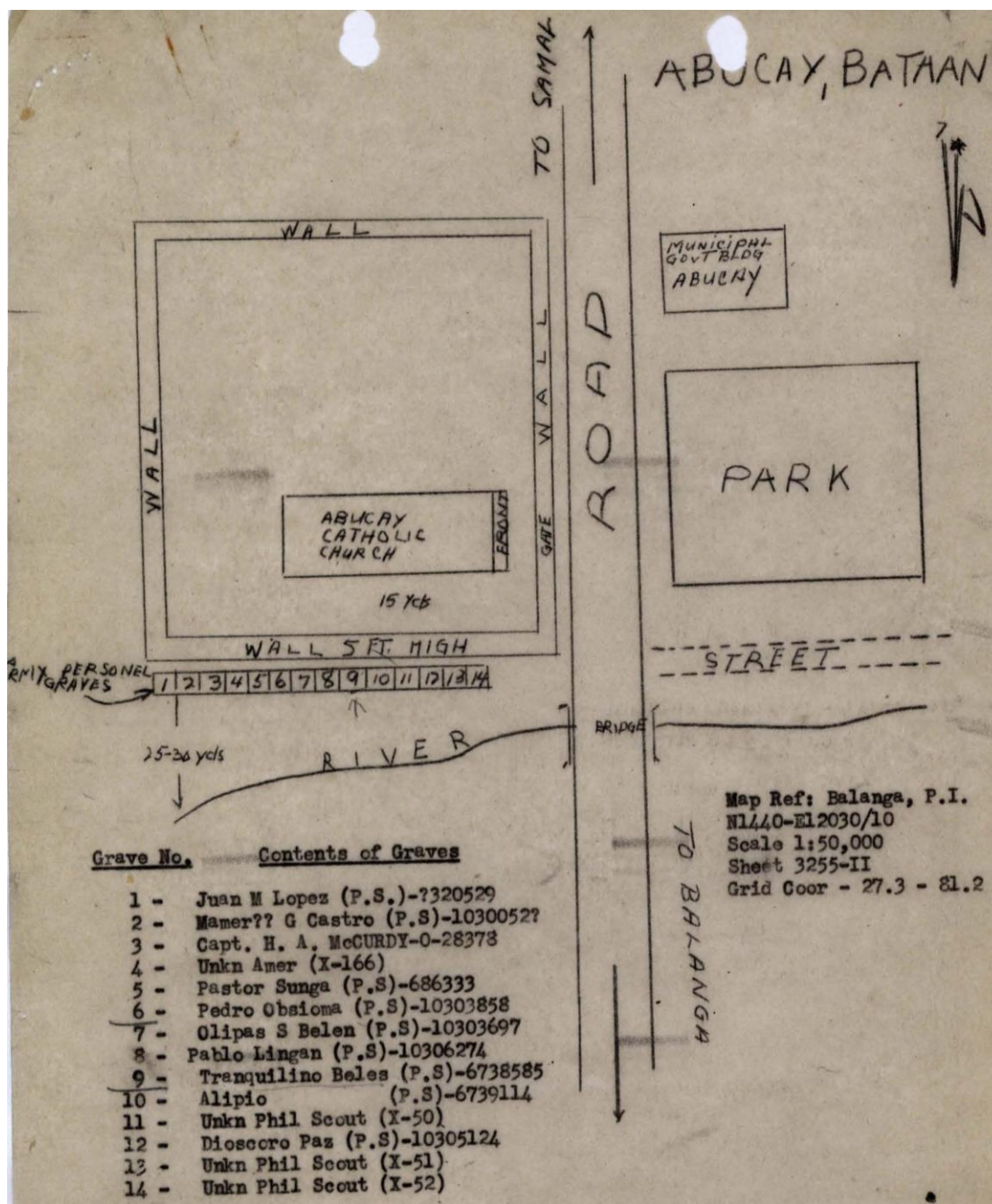


Figure 2. Map of Abucay Churchyard burials. Map not to scale.³⁰

On 28 November 1949, the same day as the previous memo from the same office, HQ AGRS PHILCOM forwarded the casualty case to a Zone Board of Review, citing that all the remains recovered from an “extensive investigation” of the churchyard were “mongoloid” and could therefore not be 1st Lt Nininger.³¹

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On 24 March 1950, Lt Col T.H. Metz requested that a search and recovery team be sent to the Abucay Churchyard to ensure the interior of the churchyard walls were searched in addition to the already searched exterior.³² The order for this excavation was sent on 5 May 1950 and the excavation occurred on 9 May 1950. The excavation covered the four plots within the walls of the Abucay churchyard. The search and recovery officer encountered remains that were “distinctly Mongoloid” and some of small children.³³ Eighteen sets of remains were examined by an anthropologist and all were determined to be of Filipino descent.³⁴

This excavation brought the total remains recovered from the Abucay Churchyard and the area just outside its walls to 30 remains of Filipino descent, X-1671, the remains later identified as Capt McCurdy, and X-1130 (33 total sets of remains).

4. Unidentifiable

On 30 August 1950, a Board of Review rejected the recommendation that X-1130 be identified as 1st Lt Nininger on the basis of an inconclusive dental comparison and the difference in the estimated height of the remains (61 3/8- 62 1/8 inches) when compared to 1st Lt Nininger’s recorded stature of 71 inches.³⁵ The remains were reinterred at Fort William McKinley Cemetery—now the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial—on 1 March 1950 in Plot J, Row 7, Grave 20.³⁶

On 8 September 1950, X-1130 was re-examined and determined to be unidentifiable due to a lack of sufficient identifying data.³⁷ Interestingly, the memo stating this finding was dated 6 September 1950, 2 days prior to the examination date.

5. Present Investigation

On 3 February 2015, DPAA received a family disinterment request for X-1130 based on the family’s belief that there is a tentative association with 1st Lt Alexander R. Nininger.

To gain a complete understanding of this association for this investigation, the situation on the ground at the time of Lt Nininger’s loss must be understood. According to War Plan Orange, the United States’ plan to defend the Philippines was to consolidate forces on the Bataan Peninsula and defend until reinforcements arrived from the United States. In the days leading up to 12 January 1942, the eastern side of the Mabuan-Abucay main line of resistance, near the Abucay Hacienda, had repulsed eleven attacks. The attacks consisted of waves of frontal assaults at night that left snipers on the battlefield to pin the United States Forces Far East (USAFFE) soldiers to their foxholes in the day. Lieutenant Nininger’s actions leading up to his death allowed the USAFFE forces to push back and retake ground lost during the eleven assaults. Unfortunately, the line was penetrated further west in the following days, threatening to cut off troops from the rear, and the Mabuan-Abucay line had to be abandoned on 22 January 1942. The United States Armed Forces Far East defense fell back to the Bagac-Orion main line of resistance, 8 km to the south. After continuing to defend for months without reinforcement, the exhausted, underfed, and undersupplied forces on Bataan were compelled to surrender on 9 April 1942. The Abucay area fell under Japanese possession until the return of U.S. forces to Luzon in 1945.³⁸ The personnel remaining on Bataan then became Prisoners Of War (POWs). It is unclear

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if there was any attempt to bring temporary graves with them during their retrograde to the Bagac-Orion line. This may explain why Meier, who was reportedly buried at Abucay, was recovered at Mariveles Cemetery #3.³⁹

In an effort to clear Bataan for an assault on Corregidor Island, the Japanese moved the U.S. and Filipino POWs on foot to San Fernando and then by rail to Camp O'Donnell in what later became known as the Bataan Death March. There were far more POWs than the Japanese were able to handle, and stragglers were routinely bayoneted or beheaded along the route. These bodies were left for locals to bury, and they did so typically near where the deceased fell. This route includes the road that passes the Abucay Churchyard. Maintaining and keeping records of those lost along the route or prior to the surrender was impossible as those participating were struggling just to survive and any records discovered by the Japanese were likely to have been destroyed.⁴⁰

Prior to the surrender of Bataan, the AGRS unit on Bataan retrograded to Corregidor Island, which surrendered on 6 May 1942. On the day of the surrender of Corregidor, the AGRS sealed the burial records for Corregidor and Bataan in a gun powder can and hid them behind lateral 20 in Malina Tunnel. Personal effects from of the deceased from both Bataan and Corregidor were stored in a safe in Malinta Tunnel. This safe was quickly looted by the Japanese after the surrender. The lateral walls were destroyed either during the Japanese occupation or when the U.S. recaptured Corregidor in 1945, destroying the records along with it.⁴¹

In September 1992, Mr. Patterson, nephew of 1st Lt Nininger, traveled to the Abucay church cemetery with a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) archaeologist and another colleague, along with three archaeologists from the National Museum of the Philippines. They attempted to conduct test digs in an area believed to hold the remains, but cement flooring hindered their work. The former caretaker of the church, Felicismo Tria, informed them that, while "enlarging a subsurface canal" near the site, workers had found remains, which they encased in a wall of the church. In a June 1993 letter, Patterson concluded that his efforts in the cemetery had "proved fruitless."⁴²

Mr. Patterson resolved to look into the connection to X-1130 instead. On 7 October 1993, CILHI informed Mr. Patterson that it had examined the records and confirmed the conclusion of the AGRS that the dental records were not diagnostic and that there was a significant height discrepancy between the remains and 1st Lt Nininger.⁴³ Using modern estimates, the DPAA Laboratory estimates the stature at 60.9-66.5 inches.⁴⁴

Mr. Patterson was also aware of a letter from Col Garnet Francis, who was reportedly at Lt Nininger's burial. Colonel Francis stated that the burial was 50 ft south of the stream and 150 ft west of the national highway, which raises further discrepancies about the recovery location of the remains. The JPAC 13-1RP (Republic of the Philippines) IT (Investigation Team) visited the Abucay church and confirmed that the grounds are almost entirely paved. The area south of the river is densely developed with residences. There has been no new evidence in recent and current investigations that changes any previous findings that resulted in a negative correlation of X-1130 to Lt Nininger.

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6. Summary and Conclusions

Based on the historical analysis set forth above, the case of X-1130 fails to meet the established threshold of a 50 percent likelihood of being able to make an individual identification and is, therefore, not recommended for disinterment at this time.⁴⁵ It seems possible or maybe even likely that these remains are not American. Even assuming the remains are American, with Col Clarke’s testimony that Lt Nininger and Lt Maynard were buried in Graves #9 and #6 in doubt, these remains could also be Lt Green, Lt Wilson, Lt Compton, Lt Nininger, or Lt Maynard, or someone else entirely. The route of the Bataan Death March passed through Abucay, directly in front of the church. Many died along the route and were buried near their place of death by locals. The initial possible association of X-1130 with Lt Nininger appears to be inconsistent due to Captain Meier, a reported concurrent burial, being recovered from Mariveles Cemetery #3, the incorrect identity of the Grave #6 burial, and the recovery location of X-1130 outside the wall of the church when the statement suggested inside. There exists too much doubt as to the location of the burial and subsequent recovery area for these remains, be it inside the churchyard walls, outside the walls, across the river to the south of the church, or in another area entirely, as in the case of Captain Meier. The historic evidence is not strong enough to overcome the 4.5-inch discrepancy with the highest estimated stature of X-1130. This set of remains does not appear to be a likely candidate for identification as 1st Lt Alexander R. Nininger, Jr. There is no evidence that can establish even a tentative association between X-1130 and 1st Lt Nininger, other than the tentative and problematic reference to the Abucay Churchyard, Soldier’s Row, Grave #9 recovery location.

CW2 JUSTIN K. CRICK
Analyst

Science Director Decision:

_____ Approved
_____ Disapproved
_____ Other

Regional Director Decision:

_____ Approved
_____ Disapproved
_____ Other



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¹ Golden J. Frame, "Report of Disinterment," undated, X-1130 file, Record Group (RG) 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC), Suitland, Maryland. This was before the American Graves Registration Service began systematic search and recovery operations in the PHILRYCOM Zone, which included the Philippine Islands. "History of AGRS-PATA and AGRS-FEZ (Feb 46 to 1 Oct 47)," Inclosure [*sic*] 21, Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, PHILRYCOM Sector, To: Commanding Officer, AGRS, PHILRYCOM Sector, APO 707, "Subject: Status of Search and Recovery Operations – 25 July 47," 4–5; "History of American Graves Registration Service Pacific Theater Area Command and Far Eastern Zone (Feb 1946 – Oct 1947)," 15.

² Gregorio Cunanan, "Subject: Interrogation," 11 December 1945, Unknown X-1130 file.

³ Golden J. Frame, "Report of Disinterment," undated, X-1130 file.

⁴ R.C. Barrett, "Report of Interment," 13 February 1946, X-1130 file.

⁵ Edward Steere and Thayer M. Boardman, *Final Disposition of World War II Dead 1945-51*, U.S. Army, Quartermaster Corps, QMC Historical Studies, Series II, No. 4 (Washington, D.C.: Historical Branch Office of the Quartermaster General, 1957), 410, 416, 547.

⁶ V. C. Aquino, "Report of Interment," 12 August 1948, X-1130 file. The remains were re-designated as X-4685 Manila Mausoleum during this time. For continuity and readability the remains will continue to be referred to as X-1130 throughout this report.

⁷ V. C. Aquino, "Report of Interment," 12 August 1948, X-1130 file.

⁸ J. J. McDermott, "Identification Data," 24 January 1949, X-1130 file.

⁹ Eric W. Klinek, "Manila American Cemetery and Memorial" (Memorandum for the Record, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, 10 March 2014), 29, Microsoft Word Document.

¹⁰ Robert B. Fox, "Identification Data," 8 September 1950, X-1130 file.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Patrick H. O'Neil, "Report of Interment," 11 September 1950, X-1130 file.

¹³ Abucay, Bataan Map, undated, X-1130 file.

¹⁴ Col. George S. Clarke, Letter to Alexander R. Nininger, Sr., 20 February 1944; Herbert B. Maynard, Letter to Major General T. B. Larkin, Quartermaster General, 10 September 1946, Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Nininger, Alexander R., Jr., 1st Lt, O-23761, Record Group (RG) 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC), Suitland, Maryland. Original document states "67th" but later states that a Maj. Anders was "also of the 57th Infantry." Chaplain Scecina is spelled Secina in most documents and Cecina in Col. Clarke's letter within the X-1130 file and 1st Lt Nininger's IDPF. Captain (CH) Thomas Scecina, O-384964, died 24 October 1944 as a POW aboard the *Arisan Maru*. Mr. Maynard's letter refers to him as Chaplain Scecina; George S. Clarke, Letter to Alexander R. Nininger, Sr., 20 February 1944, IDPF for Nininger.

¹⁵ K.W. Bohyer, "Memo, Subj: Report of Internment," 10 June 1946, IDPF for Beles, Tranquilino, PFC, 6738585, Record Group (RG) 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC), Suitland, Maryland.

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¹⁶ Herbert B. Maynard, Letter to Major General T. B. Larkin, Quartermaster General, 10 September 1946, IDPF for Nininger; Abucay, Bataan Map, undated, X-1130 file.

¹⁷ Underscore in original; As quoted in T.H. Metz, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 24 March 1950, X-1130 file.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ John W. Raulston, "Letter to the Office of the Quartermaster General," 5 November 1949, IDPF for Nininger; Lorenzo Hernandez, "Memo, Subj: Interrogation," 21 May 1946, IDPF for McCurdy, Howard A., Capt, O-283789, Record Group (RG) 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center (WNRC), Suitland, Maryland.

²⁰ Herbert B. Maynard, Letter to Major General T. B. Larkin, Quartermaster General, 10 September 1946, IDPF for Nininger. According to current records, there is no Captain Meyer that died in Bataan in this timeframe. There is a Capt Adolph Meier who died at Abucay Hacienda on 12 January 1942 and was assigned to the 57th Infantry along with 1st Lt Nininger. Captain Meier was recovered from Mariveles Cemetery #3.

²¹ J. Windsor, Jr., "Extract Copy of Information Obtained in a Telephone Conversation Between Captain Vogl, Repatriation Branch, Memorial Division and Mr. Lee Culver Brooks," undated, IDPF for Nininger.

²² John Shypula, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 28 November 1949, X-1130 file. As previously noted, Capt Adolph Meier, who died at Abucay Hacienda on 12 January 1942 and was also assigned to the 57th Infantry, was recovered from Mariveles Cemetery #3. It is likely this is the "Capt. Meyer" from the list.

²³ Gregorio Cunanan, "Subject: Interrogation," 11 December 1945, X-1130 file.

²⁴ T.H. Metz, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 24 March 1950; John Shypula, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 28 November 1949, X-1130 file.

²⁵ John Shypula, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 28 November 1949, X-1130 file.

²⁶ Ibid. Unknown X-1671 was previously designated as X-3421 Manila #2.

²⁷ John Shypula, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 28 November 1949, X-1130 file.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Abucay, Bataan Map, undated, X-1130 file.

³¹ Charles R. Whaylen, "Memo, Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 28 November 1949, X-1130 file.

³² T.H. Metz, Memo, "Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 24 March 1950, X-1130 file.

³³ Otto H. Kaufmann, "Memo, Subj: Report of Investigation – Abucay Churchyard, Bataan," 19 May 1950, X-1130 file.

³⁴ Robert B. Fox, "Memo, Subj: Statement," 23 May 1950, X-1130 file.

³⁵ Thomas E. Cox, "Subj: Identification of World War II Deceased," 30 August 1950, X-1130 file.

³⁶ Celestino E. Abellar, "Disinterment Directive," 22 September 1950 [amended 29 September 1950], X-1130 file.

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³⁷ Fox, "Identification Data," 8 September 1950, X-1130 file.

³⁸ George S. Clarke, Letter to Mr. Alexander R. Nininger, Sr., 20 February 1944, IDPF for Nininger.

³⁹ These events largely conform with the historical account provided in the official history. See, Louis Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines* (Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1953).

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Joseph Goodman, "Graves Registration Service, Ft. Mills, Corregidor, P.I.," 1947, Box 1160, Entry 427, RG 407: Records of the Adjutant General, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

⁴² George S. Clarke, Letter to Mr. Alexander R. Nininger, Sr., 20 February 1944, IDPF for Nininger.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Emily Wilson, E-mail correspondence to Dr. Michael Dolski, 30 September 2015.

⁴⁵ Robert Work, "Disinterment of Unknowns from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific," 14 April 2015. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.



David C. Hansen
Private, United States Army Air Forces

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Private (Pvt) David C. Hansen, service number 16006593, entered the service from Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 21 September 1940. A member of Headquarters Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, he was stationed in the Philippines at the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific. He was captured by the Japanese in the spring of 1942 and died at Cabanatuan POW Camp on 28 June 1942. Although recorded as having been buried in Common Grave 407 in the Cabanatuan camp cemetery, his remains were never recovered. Private Hansen is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. Details of Pvt Hansen's loss are recorded in his Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF), and in the memorandum titled "Casualties of Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp #1 and the History of Their Burials," included with this case summary.¹

Individuals Associated with Grave 407, Cabanatuan POW Cemetery				
Name	Rank	Service Number	Unit	Status
Agren, Harold	2d Lt	O-381592	Quartermaster Corps	Resolved
Bartlett, Arnold	Pvt	11015710	Headquarters Sq, 27 Bomb Gp	Resolved
Bolton, Lewis	Pvt	14029519	21 Pursuit Sq, 24 Pursuit Gp	Remains Unidentified
Bright, Jack	Pvt	18029826	Air Corps	Resolved
Cavender, Robert	Pvt	17030324	31 Infantry Regiment	Resolved
Chmielewski, Raymond	Pvt	39677368	33 Quartermaster Truck Regiment	Resolved
Craig, Clement	Tec 5	18010396	34 Pursuit Sq, 24 Pursuit Gp	Resolved
Curd, Charles	Tec 5	11009103	17 Pursuit Sq, 24 Pursuit Gp	Remains Unidentified
Curry, John	CWO	W-2101050	Headquarters, Philippine Dept	Resolved
Duncan, William	Pvt	17030911	Headquarters Sq, 20 Air Base Gp	Resolved
Eby, William	Tec 5	19021222	409 Signal Company	Remains Unidentified
Edwards, Wade	Pvt	39602557	228 Signal Operations Company	Resolved
Garrison, Russell	Pvt	39006535	194 Tank Battalion	Resolved
Hansen, David	Pvt	16006593	Headquarters Sq, 27 Bomb Gp	Remains Unidentified
Heggemeier, Paul	S Sgt	06856582	Headquarters, Far East Air Forces	Resolved
Hudson, Isaac	S Sgt	06397156	16 Bomb Sq, 27 Bomb Gp	Resolved
Kintz, Frank	S Sgt	06583375	27 Materiel Sq, 20 Air Base Gp	Resolved
Kramer, Kenneth	Pvt	19016258	19 Air Base Sq, 20 Air Base Gp	Remains Unidentified
Lynch, Condia	Pvt	14047096	31 Infantry Regiment	Remains Unidentified
Marx, Clyde	Pfc	16003014	31 Infantry Regiment	Resolved
Mumford, William	Pfc	11020601	19 Air Base Sq, 20 Air Base Gp	Resolved
Nelson, Norman	Sgt	19028268	33 Quartermaster Truck Regiment	Resolved (Grave 1009)
Webb, Malcolm	Cpl	15047087	17 Ordnance Company	Remains Unidentified
Williams, James	S Sgt	20843487	200 Coast Artillery Regiment	Resolved
Worley, Heber	Pvt	19057074	31 Infantry Regiment	Remains Unidentified
Wrigley, Harry	Pvt	R-365177	Quartermaster Corps	Remains Unidentified

¹ Entry for Pvt David Hansen in American Battle Monuments Commission database, <https://www.abmc.gov/database-search/>; Entry for Pvt Hansen in World War II Enlistment Records, National Archives Access to Archival Databases, <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/>; Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Hansen, David C., Pvt, 16006593, RG 92: Office of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD.



Remains Currently Buried as “Unknowns” with Associations to Grave 407, Cabanatuan POW Cemetery			
Current Name	Former Name #1	Former Name #2	Current Burial Location (Manila)
X-1960 Manila #2	X-4538 Manila Mausoleum	C-751 Cabanatuan	Plot H, Row 11, Grave 107
X-1961 Manila #2	X-4539 Manila Mausoleum	C-752 Cabanatuan	Plot B, Row 15, Grave 168
X-2028 Manila #2	X-4540 Manila Mausoleum	C-753 Cabanatuan	Plot A, Row 8, Grave 60
X-2029 Manila #2	X-4541 Manila Mausoleum	C-754 Cabanatuan	Plot A, Row 14, Grave 15
X-2030 Manila #2	X-4542 Manila Mausoleum	C-756 Cabanatuan	Plot B, Row 5, Grave 138
X-2031 Manila #2	X-4543 Manila Mausoleum	C-755 Cabanatuan	Plot N, Row 2, Grave 185
X-2032 Manila #2	X-4544 Manila Mausoleum	C-757 Cabanatuan	Plot D, Row 14, Grave 159
X-2033 Manila #2	X-4545 Manila Mausoleum	C-758 Cabanatuan	Plot D, Row 1, Grave 26
X-3079 Manila #2	X-2450 Manila Mausoleum	C-759 Cabanatuan	Plot N, Row 8, Grave 151

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: The personnel of the 27th Bombardment Group arrived in Manila, Luzon Island, Territory of the Philippines, on 20 November 1941 as part of a buildup of U.S. Army Forces Far East (USAFFE). Commanded by General Douglas MacArthur, USAFFE was preparing for the possibility of war, as relations between the United States and Japan continued to worsen. The 27th Bomb Group was temporarily stationed at Fort McKinley, on the outskirts of Manila, while its ground element awaited the arrival of its bombers from the United States (see Figure 1). The unit was still without aircraft when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, at 0200 on 8 December (Manila time). Throughout December, as Japanese raids pounded Luzon, both the ground element and the pilots served with other units or fulfilled other duties, while a small detachment flew to Australia to retrieve aircraft assigned the 27th Bomb Group.²

After some initial landings, a full-scale Japanese invasion of Luzon commenced on 22 December. Though U.S. commanders had anticipated a Japanese attack of the Philippines, and had begun to increase American forces in the islands, they had thought the attack would come later than December 1941. Surprised by the timing, and cut off from reinforcement and supply, Filipino-American forces fought intensely despite being unequipped to handle a full-scale war. On 23 December 1941, General MacArthur put War Plan Orange 3 into effect. This plan called for U.S. and Filipino troops to fall back to the Bataan Peninsula in order to defend a smaller area of the island. The headquarters for the Fil-American forces moved to Fort Mills on Corregidor Island, at the mouth of Manila Bay (see Figure 2). By Christmas Day 1941, the entire 27th Bomb Group, including Private David Hansen, had relocated to the Bataan peninsula.³

The Fil-American defenders of Bataan held out for over three months despite a lack of food, medicine, and ammunition. Due to the dire situation, and because their aircraft never arrived, the personnel of the 27th Bomb Group participated in ground combat on the peninsula. Finally, on 9 April 1942, the sick, starving USAFFE troops surrendered to the Japanese, and the majority of them were subjected to the sixty-five-mile “Bataan Death March” into captivity (see Figure 3). Corregidor and the other islands in Manila Bay held out nearly another month, but finally

² Because of the deteriorating military situation, the pilots never returned to the Philippines, instead flying missions from Australia. The 27th Bomb Group History, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.

³ Louis Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines*, United States Army in World War II: The War in the Pacific (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 1953), 471-479; The 27th Bomb Group History.

surrendered on 6 May 1942. By late summer 1942, most of the prisoners from Bataan joined those from Corregidor at Camp Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija Province (Figures 4, 5).⁴

Poor conditions and a lack of food, water, and medical supplies caused rampant disease among the Cabanatuan prisoners. Private Hansen was admitted to the Cabanatuan camp hospital while suffering from dysentery and inanition, or exhaustion resulting from malnutrition. Private Hansen succumbed to illness at 1730 hours on 28 June 1942.⁵ Camp burial practices at the time would have dictated that Pvt Hansen be placed in a common grave with all other individuals who died between noon on 27 June and noon on 28 June.⁶

SEARCH AND RECOVERY: The American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, was the organization charged with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater after the Second World War. The 111th Quartermaster Graves Registration Platoon began exhuming the Cabanatuan Camp #1 Cemetery from December 1945 through March 1946. Teams returned in 1947 and 1948 to recover additional remains. A further search for remains was conducted again in 1951, at which time it was determined that the area formerly occupied by the Camp Cabanatuan Cemetery had been turned into a rice paddy and flooded with water.⁷

In its survey and exhumation of burials, the AGRS team designated the common grave used on 28-29 June 1942 as Common Grave 407 (Figure 6). While twenty-six individuals were recorded as having been buried in the grave, the AGRS recovered twenty-five sets of remains from the grave. Investigators were able to identify sixteen individuals in the field. Further investigation suggested that, while Sergeant (Sgt) Norman Nelson was recorded as having been buried in Grave 407, his remains were actually in Grave 1009, buried the following day. He was identified as part of a group burial with others from that grave. This left nine unresolved service members associated with Common Grave 407, including Pvt Hansen, and nine unidentified sets of remains.⁸

Thousands of unidentified remains were collected in the effort to recover the American dead of the Second World War. For individuals not recovered, investigators compared physical identification features and circumstantial information regarding the approximate time and location of each loss with unidentified remains collected. These unidentified remains, often consisting of only partial

⁴ The 27th Bomb Group History; E. Bartlett Kerr, *Surrender and Survival: The Experience of American POWs in the Pacific, 1941-1945* (New York, 1985).

⁵ The hospital roster does not record Pvt Hansen's date of admittance. "Roster of Patients Alphabetically Arranged, Compiled and Maintained at Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp," Box 161, Entry 1071, Philippine Archive Collection, RG 407: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD.

⁶ More details on conditions at Camp Cabanatuan, including burial practices, are available in the attached memorandum, "Casualties of Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp #1 and the History of Their Burials."

⁷ Additional information on the camp cemetery and recovery operations is available in the memorandum "Casualties of Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp #1 and the History of Their Burials."

⁸ Sergeant Nelson is recorded as having died at 1145 on 29 January, fifteen minutes before burials in the subsequent grave (1009) were supposed to begin. "Chronological Listing of Deceased by Accountable Burial Period and Grave," GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan), Entry 1894A: General Correspondence, Misc. File, 1939-54, RG 92, National Archives, College Park, MD; Group Burial No. 7747 GB-290, IDPF for Nelson, Norman.

bodies or skeletons, were labeled with a cemetery name, an “X,” and a number. These are commonly referred to as “X-files.” Many of the remains were positively identified, usually through dental records. Others remained unknown despite efforts to make identifications. In the case of Grave 407, these remains were designated Manila #2 X-1960, 1961, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, and 3079.⁹

In September 1949, after further analysis, the AGRS proposed that X-2032 and X-2028 be identified as Pvt Harry Wrigley and Pvt Heber Worley, respectively, based on those individuals’ dental records. The Office of the Quartermaster General rejected both recommendations on the grounds that incomplete dental records did not support a positive identification, and because of a height discrepancy in the case of Pvt Wrigley.¹⁰

With insufficient evidence to identify the nine unresolved individuals from Common Grave 407, the AGRS concluded its examination of the associated remains. An AGRS board of review recommended on 12 December 1949 that the remains of Pvt David C. Hansen be declared non-recoverable. The Office of the Quartermaster General approved this recommendation on 24 January 1950.¹¹

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: In August 2014, after the Department of Defense determined there was sufficient scientific and historical evidence to support disinterment for identification purposes, ten Unknowns associated with one of the Cabanatuan common graves were disinterred for forensic analysis. These disinterred remains were not from the same common grave as Pvt Hansen. Following disinterment, these remains were taken to the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) in Hawaii, and DNA samples were taken for analysis by the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), in Delaware.¹² As a result of DNA and other scientific testing, multiple sets of remains have been identified. Additional identifications are expected.

Osteological and DNA analysis revealed that the remains disinterred in 2014 were commingled and required extensive segregation into discrete individual sets. As such, this disinterment of Unknowns associated with a single Cabanatuan common grave showed that the unidentified remains from this grave – and likely other Cabanatuan graves as well – are intermixed with multiple other remains.

NEXT STEPS: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has an ongoing project to assess historical evidence concerning Cabanatuan POW cases. This long-term project aims to account for the missing through a comprehensive review of all files, including X-files, as well as the

⁹ “Chronological Listing of Deceased by Accountable Burial Period and Grave,” GRS Pacific (Cabanatuan), Entry 1894A: General Correspondence, Misc. File, 1939-54, RG 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

¹⁰ Headquarters Philippines Command, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of Remains, dated 13 September 1949; and Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of World War II Deceased, dated 14 November 1949, Manila #2 X-2032 File.

¹¹ Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable, dated 12 December 1949; and Non-Recoverable Case Record of Review and Approval, dated 24 January 1950, IDPF for Hansen.

¹² **NOTE:** At the time of this exhumation, the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) was a branch of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), based in Hawaii. In January 2015, three elements of the Accounting Community – JPAC, Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), and Life Science Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) – combined to become one agency, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

collection of genealogical data and DNA reference samples from prisoners' relatives. The project disinters remains associated with one Cabanatuan grave at a time, allowing for inconsistencies that sometimes require multiple graves or additional individuals to be included.

Currently, DPAA must have 60 percent of the DNA Family Reference Samples (FRS) on file for unresolved individuals associated with a common grave before the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will consider a disinterment request. As of 18 January 2018, DPAA has FRS for 0 of 9 individuals associated with Common Grave 407. Once 60 percent of FRS (6 of 9) have been received, DPAA researchers will submit the proposal to disinter unknowns associated with Common Grave 407.

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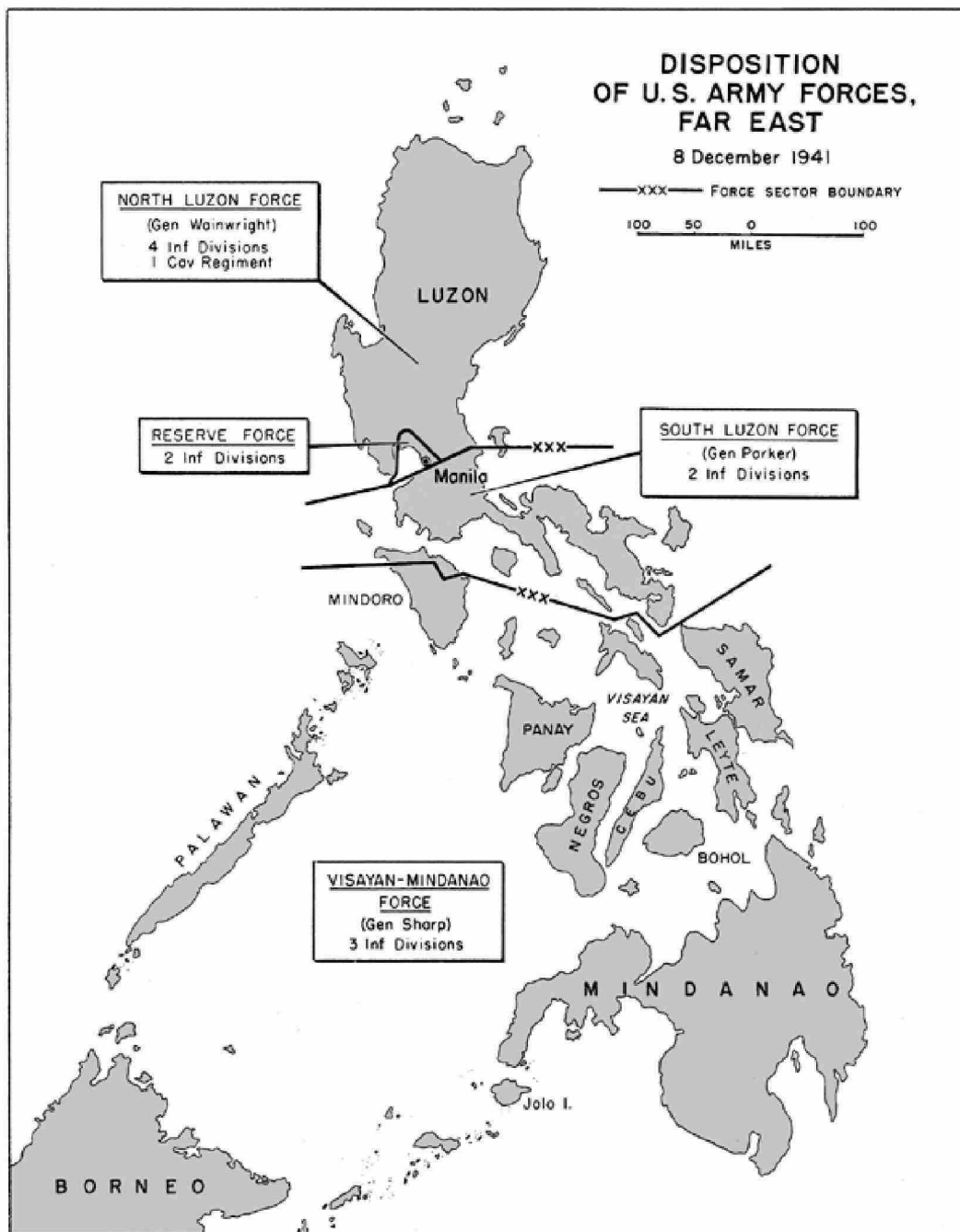


Figure 1. Map of the Philippines showing the disposition of U.S. forces at the time of U.S. entry into World War II. Manila is visible on Luzon, the northernmost island. Source: Louis Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines*, United States Army in World War II Series (Washington: Center of Military History, 1953), 68.



Figure 2. Japanese invasion of Luzon, December 1941. Source: *U.S. Army Campaigns in World War II: Philippine Islands*, <http://www.history.army.mil/brochures/pi/PI.htm>.

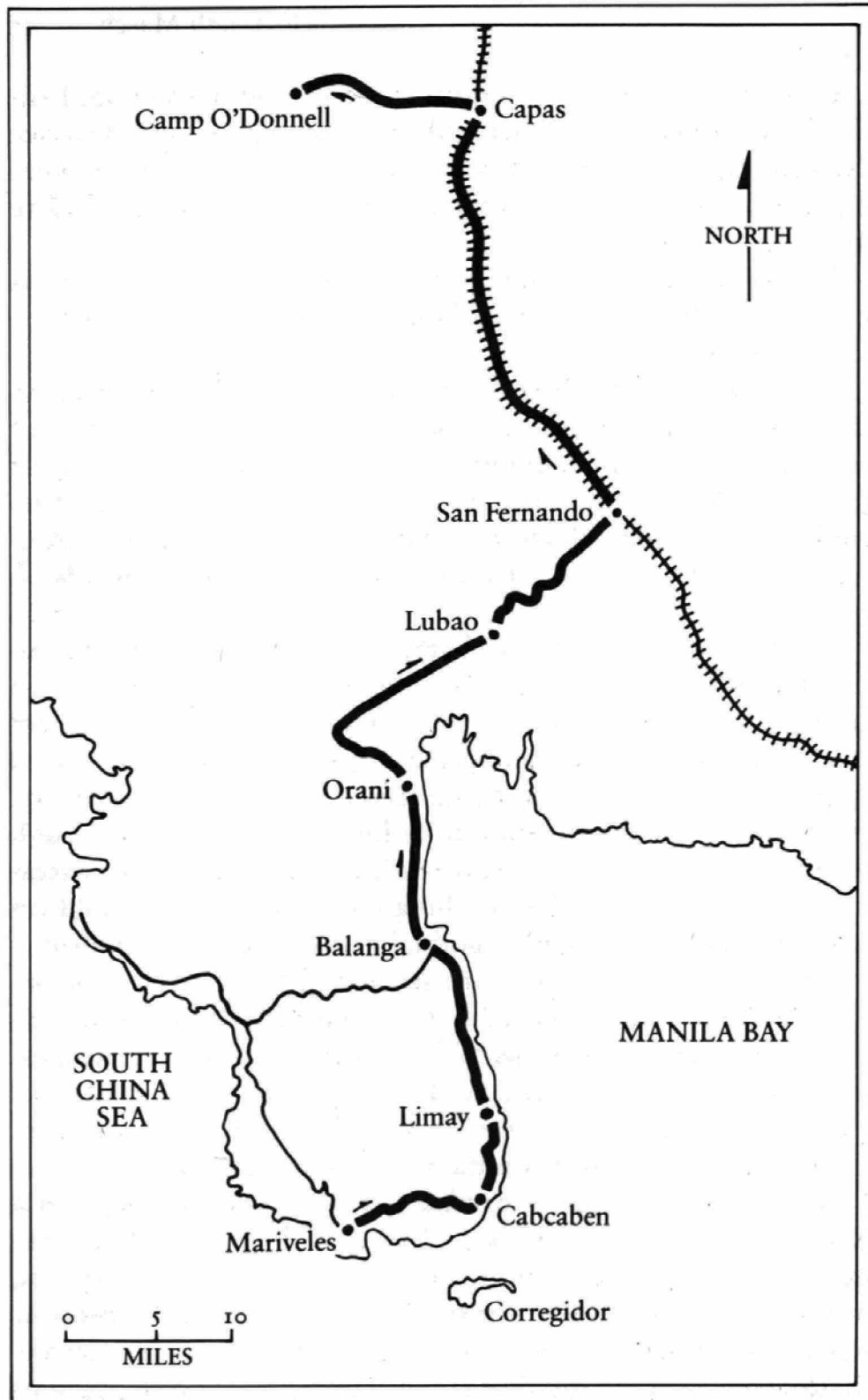


Figure 3. The route of the Bataan Death March. (Source: Lawton, *Some Survived*, 184.)



Figure 4. Wartime photograph of Cabanatuan Prison. Caption reads: “Barracks and garden and Jim Neary, West Pointer, since sent to Japan [1945]. In garden are growing okra, eggplant, and pigweed, all grown and devoured by prisoners. Neary is beside a surface water well. Pix taken in 1942.” (Photo 265430, Record Group SC-111, National Archives, College Park, MD.)



Figure 5. Wartime photograph of Cabanatuan prison. Caption reads: “Unidentified GI chops wood for the kitchen run by Sgt Grossman. That’s it in the background. Taken in 1943. It was called Major Fitch’s kitchen. A Jap guard was 20 feet behind the camera.” (Photo 265431, Record Group SC-111, National Archives, College Park, MD.)



Figure 6. Map of Cabanatuan Cemetery, with grave 407 circled in green. (Source: "Report on POW Interments and Restoration of Graves," 30 August 1945, File "GRS Pacific [Cabanatuan] Chronological Listing of Graves, file B," Box 619, Entry 1894A, Record Group 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives, College Park, MD).



LOREN P. STEWART
Colonel (Col), U.S. Army

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Colonel Loren P. Stewart, U.S. Army, service number O-5581, entered service in 1917 from Maine, and commanded the 51st Infantry Regiment of the 51st Infantry Division (Philippine Army), U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, in the Pacific Theater during the Second World War. Colonel Stewart was killed during the night of 12-13 January 1942 while directing an attack against Japanese forces. His remains were not recovered. For his service during the war, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. Today he is commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines. The parade ground at Camp Blanding, Clay County, Florida, has been named in his honor. The details of Col Stewart's loss are recorded in the Philippine Archive Collection at the National Archives and the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) under his name.¹

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: The 51st Infantry Regiment was created on 2 November 1941 at Lucena, Tayabas province, Philippines. Its mission was to oppose the Japanese troops, which by late 1941 were widely predicted to arrive soon on the Philippines (Figure 1). The 51st Infantry Regiment was to fight off Japanese landings on Luzon Island's southern and eastern coasts. The regiment was part of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE), Philippine Division.² It was a primarily Filipino organization, but was commanded by Col Stewart, a U.S. Army veteran with nearly twenty-five years of military experience. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on the morning of 7 December, and then attacked Clark Field in the Philippines nine hours later.³ The Japanese landed their first troops on a remote area of Luzon Island, Philippines, on 9 December 1941.

As the Japanese approached Manila, the 51st Infantry was pulled back from the coastal areas on 7 January 1942 to support operations on the Bataan peninsula.⁴ American forces planned to delay the Japanese as much as possible, fighting down Luzon's twenty-mile wide Bataan peninsula, giving the U.S. military time to send reinforcements (Figure 2). Over the next three months, the beleaguered Americans executed a series of retrograde delaying tactics, fighting along a series of phase, obstacle, and holding lines.⁵ To some extent, the Americans were able to

¹ Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Loren P. Stewart, Col, O-5880, Record Group 92: Records of the Office of Quartermaster General, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD; World War II Honor Roll listing for Loren P. Stewart, Col, O-5880, American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), <http://www.abmc.gov>.

² "51st Division (Reserve)," File "Historical Data, 51st Div (PA)," Box 1479, Entry 1113, Philippine Archive Collection, Record Group 407: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, National Archives, College Park, MD.

³ **NOTE:** The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at 8:00 AM, 7 December 1941, local Hawaii time, corresponding to 2:30 AM on 8 December 1941 in the Philippines. The Japanese attacked Clark Field at 12:35 PM, 8 December 1941, which although on the other side of the international dateline, was the same day.

⁴ "51st Division (Reserve)," File "Historical Data, 51st Div (PA)," Box 1479, Entry 1113, Philippine Archive Collection, Record Group 407, National Archives, College Park, MD.

⁵ William J. VandenBergh, "Employing an Armor QRF in the Area Defense," *Armor*, March-April 2004: 26.



use the terrain to their advantage. The Bataan peninsula has two large mountain areas – Mt. Mariveles in the south and Mt. Natib in the north – and the Japanese would have to take Bataan by going around these, and down the coast. To slow the Japanese down as they awaited reinforcements, the Americans established a defensive lines between the mountains and the sea. On the west side of the peninsula, the “Mauban Line” ran between Mauban on the coast and Mt Silanganan. On the east, the “Abucay Line” went from Mabatang, ran along the Balantay River, and anchored on the slopes of Mt. Natib (Figure 3).

The 51st Infantry Division held a section of the front five thousand yards long – almost three miles – on the Abucay Line, on Bataan’s eastern side. The 51st Division defended a position along the southern shore of the Balantay River. Most of the Abucay Line was defended with double-apron fences of barbed-wire entanglements, with trench and foxhole gunning positions covering clear fields of fire. The 51st Division’s sector was the weakest part of an otherwise strong line, largely because Mt. Natib’s rough jungle terrain, filled with underbrush and numerous small streams, inhibited constructing clear lines of fire and made patrols difficult.⁶ On 12 January 1942, the Japanese attacked this weak spot in the line. The enemy struck the 51st Division’s position on the eastern side, where Col Stewart’s 51st Infantry Regiment suffered the heaviest blow. Colonel Stewart and the 52d Infantry Regiment’s commander, Col Virgil N. Cordero, organized an improvised counterattack to stabilize the line. As night fell, in the face of heavy Japanese firepower, the 51st and 52d Regiments had begun to make slow progress in regaining the lost ground.⁷

At some point during the night, Col Stewart and the American instructor to the 1st Battalion, Captain (Capt) Wilbur M. Kreuse, were killed by machine-gun fire while on a reconnaissance patrol.⁸ Colonel Stewart was awarded the Silver Star for this action. According to the citation, “with heroic disregard for his own safety, [Col Stewart] exposed himself in the front lines directing and encouraging his troops during a bitter counter-attack to sweep back encroaching enemy forces which had penetrated the main line of resistance. Personally reconnoitering a position, he was ambushed by an enemy patrol and instantly killed by small arms fire.”⁹

The loss of Col Stewart and Capt Kreuse threw the 51st Infantry Regiment into confusion, and their loss was a disastrous blow from which the 51st Division never really recovered. The Japanese onslaught continued for the next four days, the chain of command was only reestablished slowly, and Col Stewart’s military experience was sorely missed.¹⁰ Under the command of Col Adlai Young, the 51st Regiment withdrew to the north bank of the Lavantan River on 13 January; the next day, the 51st Regiment was forced back to the south bank of the

⁶ Louis Morton, *The U.S. Army in World War II: The Fall of the Philippines*, (Washington, DC: Center for Military History, 1953), 251-252; John W. Whitman, *Our Last Ditch: The Bataan Campaign, 1942*, (New York: Hippocene Books, 1990), 162.

⁷ Whitman, *Our Last Ditch*, 163.

⁸ Whitman, *Our Last Ditch*, 163.

⁹ “Citation for Silver Star,” IDPF for Loren P. Stewart.

¹⁰ Whitman, *Our Last Ditch*, 163.

Lavantan. By 16 January 1942, following a final disastrous counterattack against the Japanese, the 51st Regiment was completely routed and had begun to disintegrate.¹¹ The American and Filipino defenders were never able to restore the Abucay Line, which was finally abandoned on 22 January 1942.

SEARCH AND RECOVERY: The American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, was the organization charged with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater of Operations after the Second World War. The AGRS sent a Recovery and Investigative Unit to Abucay Hacienda in late 1946. The team interrogated a Filipino civilian who asserted that an American colonel had been buried in the area. According to Mr. Ruben Caragay, “During the battle of Abucay, I went to the hacienda to check on the things near my place. I saw Philippine Scouts carrying the deceased American. The Scouts did not talk much. They said the deceased is an American Colonel. I saw the Scouts bury the deceased. The Scouts were from the 57th Inf[antry].”¹² Only one Colonel is known to have been killed during the battle. If the Filipino burying party’s statement was correct, the AGRS surmised, then this was likely the body of Col Stewart. On 28 December 1946, the AGRS exhumed two graves behind Mr. Caragay’s house (Figures 4 and 5). There were no identification tags with the remains, but Mr. Caragay believed that one of the two individuals was the American colonel. The two sets of remains were dispatched to Fort McKinley – now the location of Manila-American Cemetery – as Unknowns to be identified later.¹³

The AGRS processed the remains as Unknown X-1298 (Manila Mausoleum) and later renamed them X-3629 (Manila #2). The Philippine Command of the U.S. Army requested that the AGRS consider associating these unidentified remains from Mr. Caragay’s property with Col Stewart.¹⁴ The problem was that the remains of X-3629 bore virtually no identifying characteristics. No dogtags, no clothing, no personal effects, and a set of teeth too fragmentary for any reliable dental analysis. Based on the length of the arm and leg bones, investigators determined that X-3629 would have been 5’7” tall.¹⁵ While that was close to Col Stewart’s size of 5’8”, it also matched the height of untold other missing Americans as well.¹⁶ In the end, all that connected these remains to Col Stewart was that Mr. Caragay’s belief that the deceased had been an American colonel. This was not enough forensic evidence to warrant a positive identification, and the association between X-3629 and Col Stewart was rejected. The AGRS recommended

¹¹ File “Rpt of Operations - USAFFE & USFIP in Philippine Islands, Annex V, Vol. IV” page 31, Box 1157, Record Group 407, National archives, College Park, MD.

¹² “Interrogation,” 28 December 1946, X-3629 (Manila #2).

¹³ Letters from Abie Abraham to John T. Boyd, and from John T. Boyd to Master Sergeant Yatzek, 5 February 1982, IDPF for Loren P. Stewart. (See also: Abie Abraham, *Oh, God, Where Are You?* [Great Barrington, MA: Vantage Press, 1997], 522, 532. It is possible that the recovery of remains this secondary source refers to may be a separate incident at Mr. Caragay’s property.)

¹⁴ “Request for Identification,” 9 December 1948, IDPF for Loren P. Stewart.

¹⁵ **NOTE:** A 1949 re-examination of X-3629 determined that the Unknown had been 4’11” tall, a discrepancy possibly caused by mishandling of remains at Manila Mausoleum. (“Identification Data,” 1 August 1949, X-3629)

¹⁶ “Identification Check List,” 29 October 1947, X-3629 (Manila #2)

that the remains of Col Stewart be declared “non-recoverable.”¹⁷ The recommendation of non-recoverability was approved on 24 April 1950.¹⁸

NEXT STEPS: On 29 November 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) received a formal request for disinterment of X-3629 for comparison against Col Stewart. As of 9 January 2018, a disinterment memorandum has been drafted and is in Agency review. In addition, a comprehensive disinterment project is assessing all unknowns from the Abucay area for comparison against missing from that area. Any new information will be compared to the details of Col Stewart’s loss for possible correlation.

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¹⁷ “Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable,” 4 April 1950, IDPF for Loren P. Stewart.

¹⁸ “Memorialization of Non-Recoverable Remains of World War II,” 24 April 1950, IDPF for Loren P. Stewart.



Figure 1. Map showing location of Philippine Islands in relation to Southeast Asia.

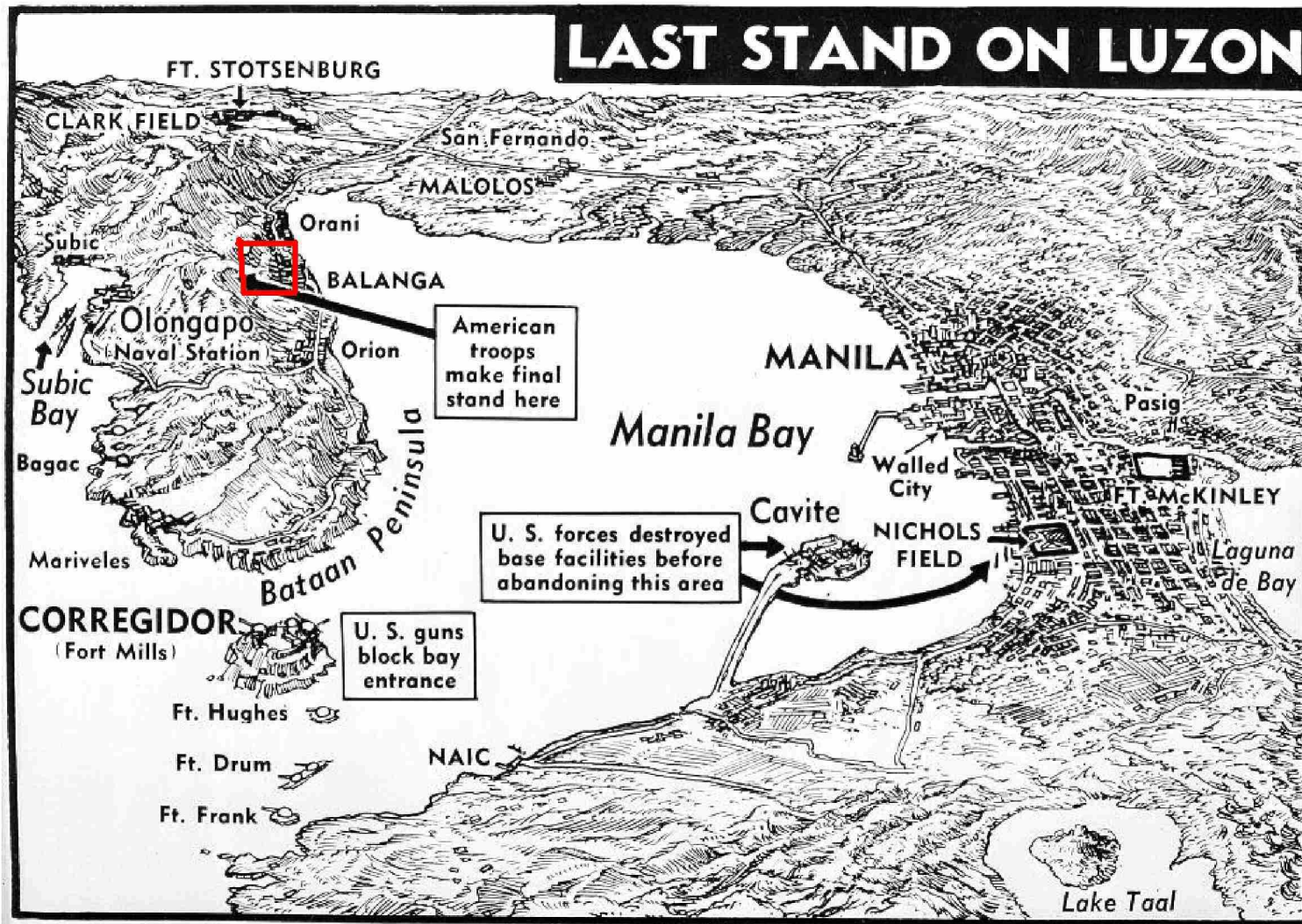


Figure 2. March 1943 map of Manila Bay, with the Bataan Peninsula on left and Manila to the right. The area around Abucay Hacienda is highlighted in red box. (Photograph reproduction number LC-DIG-fsa-8b08336, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.)

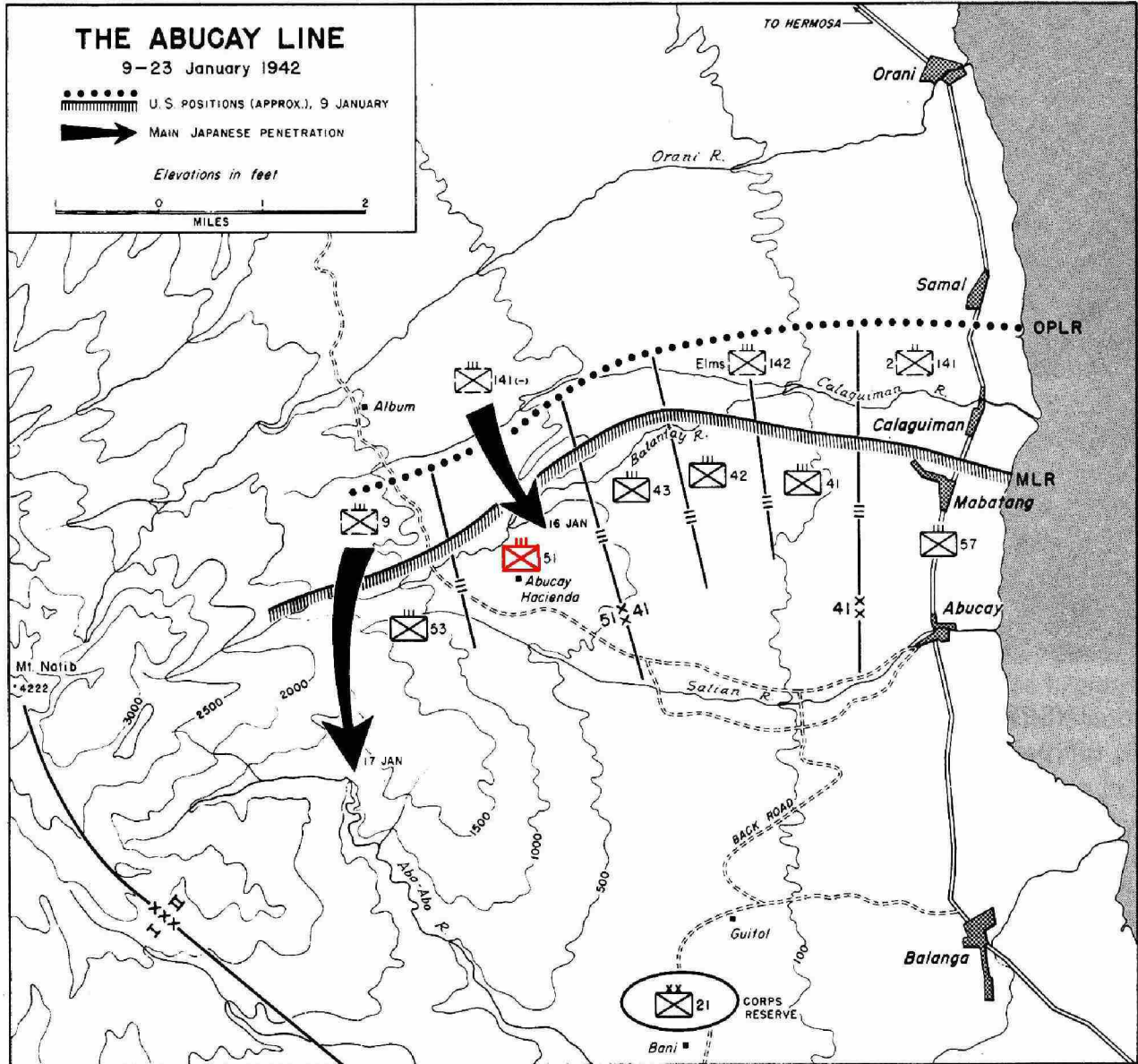


Figure 3. The Abucay Line, 9 – 23 January 1942. The Philippine II Corps held the line from Mabatang to Mt. Natib, with the 51st Infantry occupying the lower slopes of Mt. Natib. The position of the 51st Infantry has been enhanced in red for emphasis. (Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines*, 167.)

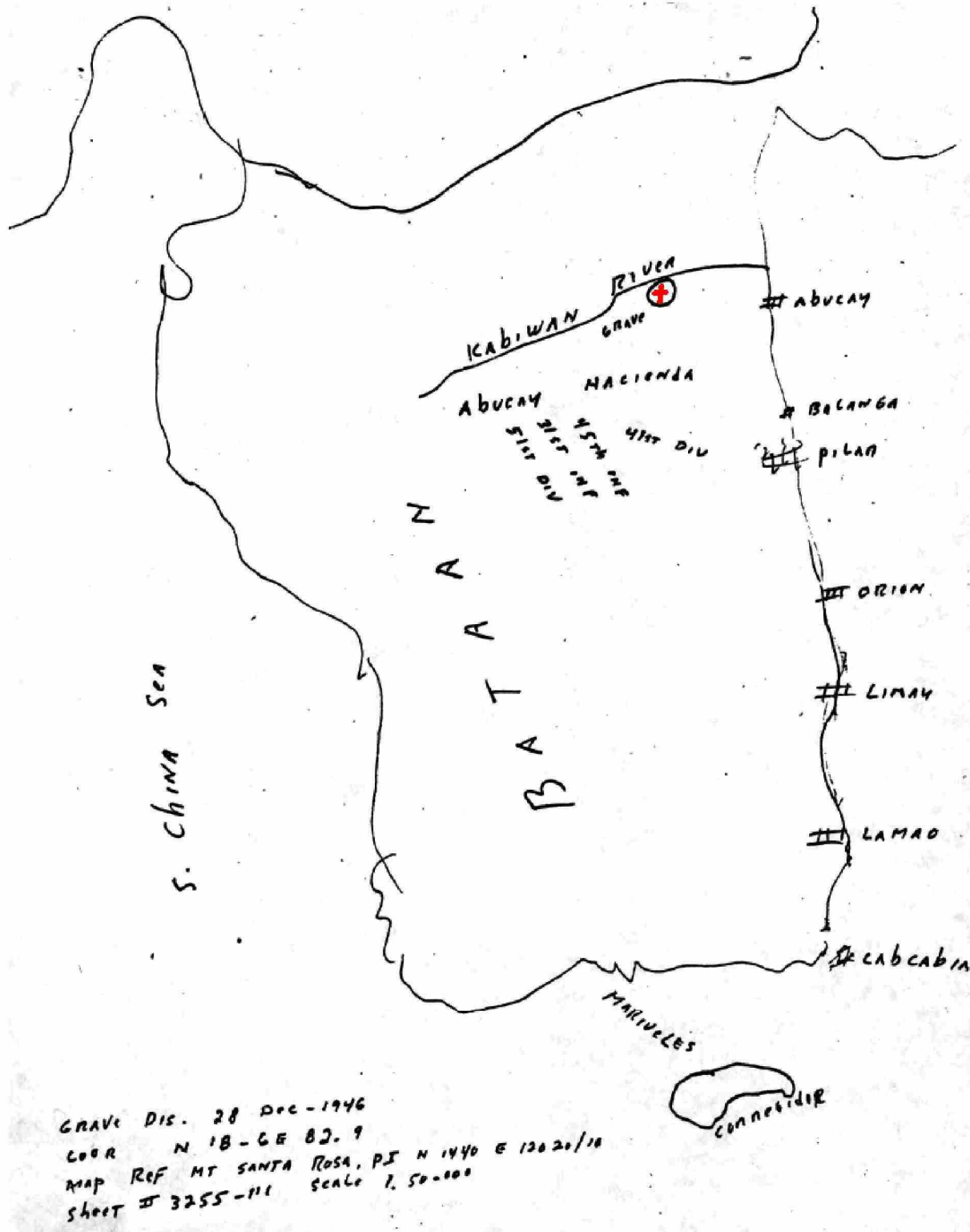


Figure 4. Master Sergeant Abie Abraham's sketch of where the U.S. Army disinterred two graves, one believed to be that of Col Stewart. (IDPF for Loren P. Stewart.)

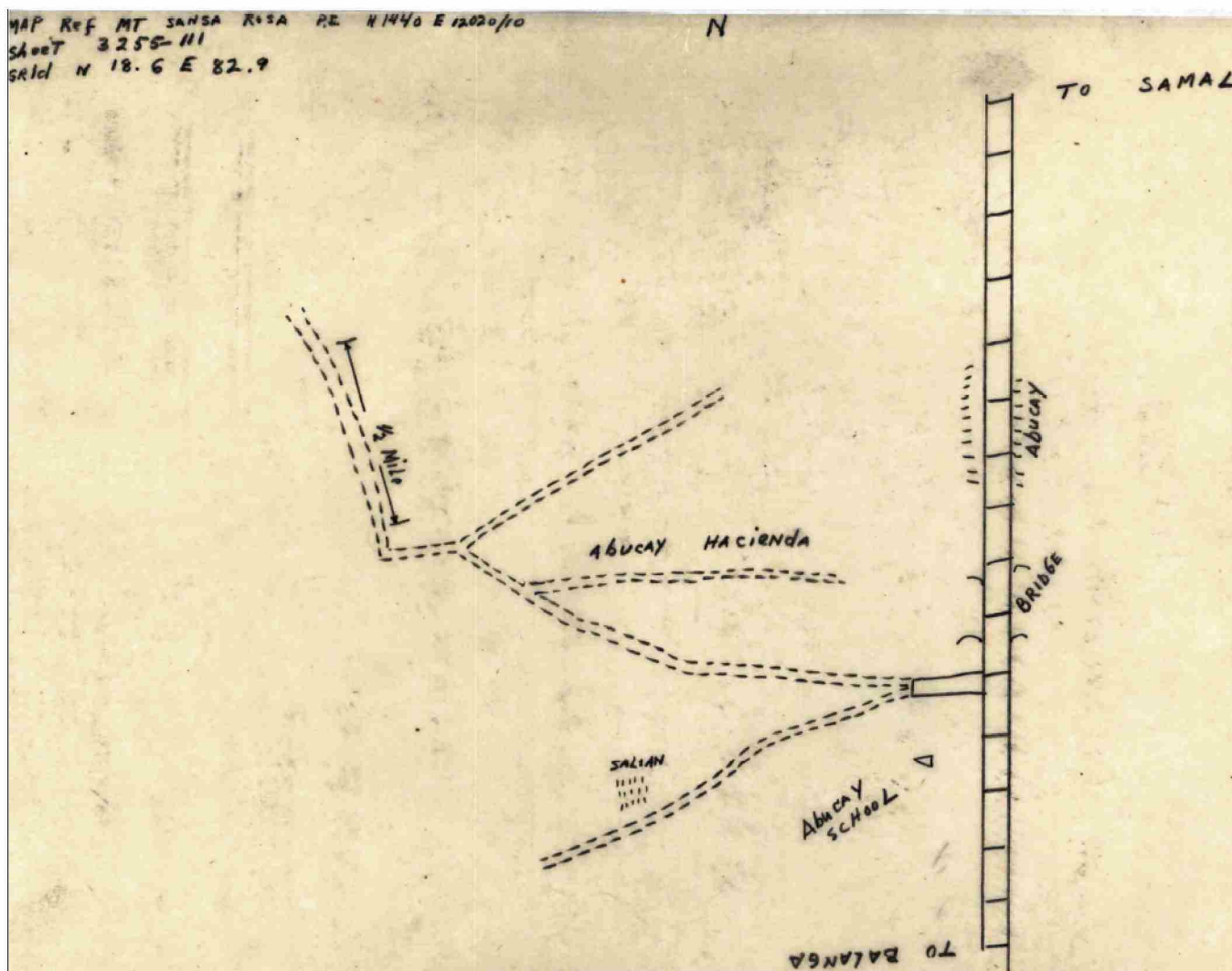


Figure 5. Map of the AGRS's expedition to Abucay Hacienda in December 1946. The location of the two graves it exhumed from Mr. Ruben Caragay's property is, unusually, not marked. The map implies that the location was half a mile up the road on left, a road that is now the Bataan Provincial Highway. (X-3629 Manila #2)



Figure 7. Prewar photograph of Col Loren P. Stewart, then Captain, in the University of Maine officer's training society Scabbard and Blade. (Page 252, *The Prism: 1931*, Special Collections, Fogler Library, University of Maine, Orono, ME.)