

6 Sept
A. R. NININGER
222 S. E. 10th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

PC
EXHIBIT
15

Sept. 3, 1946.

The Adjutant General
War Department
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir :-

Due to communications I have received, and to the disturbing nature of the information they contained, regarding the grave and remains of my son -

Lieut. Alexander R. Nininger Jr. O-2376I
57th. Inf. Philippine Scouts, U.S. Army

Killed in action Jan. 12, 1942 near Abucay, Bataan.

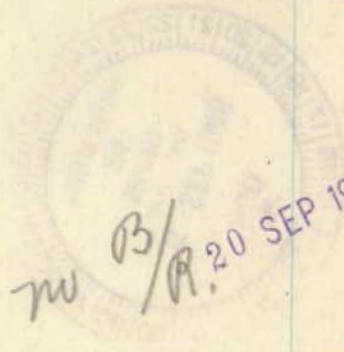
(Awarded, posthumously, the first Congressional Medal Of Honor of World War II.),

I am quoting, attached hereto, this information, knowing that you will see that the matter is investigated, and will request that as quickly as my son's remains are officially identified, that you will notify me, giving the location and the number of the grave.

It is the desire of Mrs. Nininger and myself, that his remains be brought back to this country, and if it can be so arranged, to be buried at West Point.

We will anxiously await your reply.

Very Truly,



rw 03/A. 20 SEP 1946 *mit*



To the Adjutant General, Washington D.C. (2)

Lieut.Alexander R.Nininger Jr. O-2376I .

Quoting from letter received from Col.George S.Clark, dated Feb.20,1944 :

" Sandy's remains were carefully brought to the church in the town of Abucay, Prvince of Bataan, the Philippines. Captain Cecina, Chaplain 57th.Inf. held a reverent and beautiful service for him. He is buried in grave No.9 behind the south wall of the Abucay church, beside many of my fine brave young officers who also died in that same action. Men of his company carefully placed the exotic flowers of the Philippines upon the wooden cross that markes his last resting place. I was present personally for your son's funeral services. It was beautiful and reverent, honoring a man that I loved, and one of my fine young officers, and a brave man. I may say that his men loved him too, and his memory will live with them as long as they live."

Col.Clark advises that a copy of this letter was sent to you at the time it was written.

Dated June 2,1946.

Quoting from letter received from Mrs.C.W.Cole,(widow of the late Col.Casper W.Cole U.S.A. retired) whose grandson is Maj. Ralph M.Calkin O-341614, 507 QM Bn, then stationed in the Philippines. I had asked her to have him secure a photo of Sandy's grave.) :

"... Last time I heard from him(Calkin] he said Lt.Moore (Lt.E.M.Moore, officer in charge U.S.Cemetery No.2,Manila) was trying to verify No.9 as Sandy's grave and that he had the new number which is grave No.2836 in Manila No.2 cemetery."

Quoting from letter from Mrs.Cole, dated Aug.2,1946 :

"...My grandson was here to see me last Tuesday. When he left Manila about a month ago, the verification in regard to Sandy's grave had not been received from Washington. He said the records at Manila now read 'Probably Lieut.Nininger'. The part of skull with teeth have been sent to Washington, as that is the only positive identification they will accept. In that space where Sandy was originally buried, only one class ring had been found, but I told him I am under impression that Col.Clark wrote that Sandy's ring had been removed for safe keeping, therefore I wonder if the one found belonged to Ira(Cheaney, class mate at West Point) Maj.Calkin says it usually takes about a year to verify any of those skulls and teeth, but he thinks as he told them it was assumed to be Lt.Nininger, it may hasten matters."

no record of my received in Dept 7.



Sept.3,1946
A.R.Nininger
Ft.Lauderdale,Fla.

EXHIBIT

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CRESTVIEW 6-1935

HAROLD M. IMERMAN, M. D.
416 NORTH BEDFORD DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

October 10, 1949

T. H. Metz
Lt. Colonel, QMC
Memorial Division

re: QMGMT 293
Nininger, Alexander R. Jr.
1st Lt, O-23761

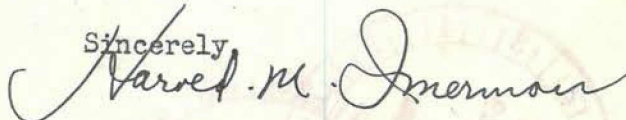
Dear Sir:

In regard to your request of September 28, 1949, regarding First Lieutenant Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., I can furnish you with the following information:

1. Lieutenant Nininger was shot by Japanese snipers and brought into the hospital at Abucay, Luzon, P.I. and was found to be dead on admission.
2. There were other casualties but I do not remember their names.
3. I was not present at the burial of Lieutenant Nininger.
4. If I can recall correctly, Lieutenant Nininger was buried in the immediate vicinity of the church of Abucay, probably in the church yard.
5. Father Secina officiated. Unfortunately Father Secina is deceased.
6. Lt. Colonel John Raulston, Medical Corps, was also present at the time that Lieutenant Nininger met his death. Lt. Colonel Raulston is in the regular army and is in active duty some where here in the United States.

This is about all the information that I am able to give you regarding the circumstances of Lieutenant Nininger's death and burial. I do not think that Lieutenant Nininger was buried in the Abucay cemetery and I am quite certain that he was buried in the vicinity of the church yard. As to the exact point where he was buried, I am afraid I am not able to furnish this information. I am

Sincerely,



Harold M. Imerman, M.D.
Major, Medical Corps
A.S.N. O-3-3361

HMI:rb
enc

NAS
File

18 OCT 1949



Identification Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO QMGMGT 293
Nininger, Alexander R. Jr.
1st Lt. O-23761

26 October 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

THRU : Commanding Officer
Medical Center
477 1st Avenue
New York City, New York

TO : John W. Raulston
Lt. Col. O-20401
Medical Center
477 1st Avenue
New York City, New York

1. It has come to the attention of this Office that you may have personal knowledge concerning the circumstances relative to the death of 1st Lt. Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., O-23761.

2. Since this Office is currently attempting to recover and identify the remains of Lieutenant Nininger, the information which you possess may serve as a valuable aid in our investigation. Therefore, it will be greatly appreciated if you can furnish this Office a statement of the facts in this case with particular emphasis on the following information:

a. What were the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Nininger?

b. Were other casualties also involved? If so, can you recall their names?

c. Were you present at the burial of Lieutenant Nininger? If so, can you furnish a detailed description of the burial site with relationships to any prominent landmarks?

d. Can you furnish any information concerning the number of other graves in the immediate area?

e. If other individuals witnessed the burial, can you furnish their names?

QMGMT 293

Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.

1st Lt. O-23761

26 October 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

f. Inclosed are two copies of drawings purportedly showing the area of Lieutenant Nininger's burial. Can you mark the location and return the drawings to this Office?

3. In the event that you are unable to answer the inquires outlined above, any information which you deem pertinent is requested.

4. In order to expedite action in this case, a reply at the earliest practicable date is also requested.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

T. H. Metz

T. H. METZ
Lt. Colonel, QMC
Memorial Division

MAE
File
15 Nov. 1949
E. A. Kayser
Identification Branch

2 Incls

- 1. Photo copy of drawing
- 2. " " " "

1st Ind

Headquarters, Station Hospital, 1301st ASU, Fort Monmouth, NJ

5 Nov 1949

TO: Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D.C.

1. I have personal knowledge concerning the death of several officers at Abucay. I was in command of a medical collecting station located in the Catholic church in the early part of the Bataan campaign. At this time I can recall the name of only one, McCurdy, a dental officer killed by a bomb near the church. There was another officer killed by the same bomb. He was sitting on a motorcycle at the time. There was another officer who had been shot in the head by a Jap sniper, brought in to the collecting station at another time, and another who had stepped on a land mine and was killed by the explosion, but this one was a Major. I vaguely recall his name being Freidman, but am not sure. There were one or two others killed in their foxholes by snipers whose bodies could not be retrieved for awhile. I am not sure now that we ever recovered them; if so, they were probably buried on the spot.

2. In regard to the burials, when it became necessary for the front line units to take care of that function, a Chaplain by the name of Secina supervised it. He kept records, but he lost his life in 1944 on a Jap transport which was tor-

QMGMT 293

Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.

Lst Lt. O-23761

5 November 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of World War II Deceased

pedoed. I do not know whether his records were left in the Philippines or not. He established a little graveyard in the plot of ground within the five foot walk around the church. I cannot recall definitely the exact spot where the graves were located, but I have indicated on the map the general area to the best of my recollection, and have also added some building structures to the drawing of the church. I estimate that about six burials were made there. The burials were done under cover of darkness. I was not present at the burials.

3. I do not recall the name of Lt. Nininger. I submit the above information thinking that he may have been one of the group whose names I do not recall. Is there any information about it that might be supplied to me as a clue in identifying him in my memory other than the report that he was buried in Abucay?

John W. Raulston
JOHN W. RAULSTON
Lt. Colonel, Medical Corps
United States Army

2 Incls

EXHIBIT

18

5200 Brittany Dr., So., Apt. 509
St. Petersburg, Florida, 33715

September 27, 1985

(Rec'd 10/10)

Mr. John Alexander Patterson
Director
Lusaka-Dept. of State
Washington, D.C., 20520

Dear Mr. Patterson:

It was a pleasure to receive your letter in regards to your Uncle. I hope that I may be able to furnish you with some information that may prove beneficial in locating the grave site you are seeking. I assure you I shall be most happy in assisting you in any way possible and would consider it a privilage, never a bother. Now to try to answer most of your questions.

Col. Clarke, as you noted, would be a very poor source of information. In the first place he was not present in the area when these incidents occurred. Shortly after our regiment helped establish the M.L.R. at Abucay, he was relieved from duty as our C.O. and sent back to the states. Anything that he might say would be unreliable due to his mental state at that time. It is too bad that you could not have contacted Gen. Harold Johnson, Col. Ed. Wernitznig or Chaplain Secina when they were alive for all three would have had first hand information that would have been beneficial to you. Chaplain Secina was the Catholic Chaplain to whom I referred in my first letter. Gen. Johnson actually commanded the 57th Inf. Reg. during Col. Clarke's presences and Col. Wernitznig was the Regimental Surgeon.

I have indicated some measurements on the enclosed map which I hope will be of some help to you. Please bear in mind that they are dependent upon three possible variables. First, my memory after 43 years; second, that the road and bridge are in the same location as in 1942; third, the stream bed is in the same location as it was in 1942. The location of the grave sites was 150 feet west of the road and 50 feet south of the bank of the stream. As to the other four officers you asked about, Wilson, Green, Compton and Maynard, I believe that Compton and Maynard were buried in the same location, but I am very sorry that I do not recall knowing the

2/

location of Wilson and Green. In event these sites are discovered, identity of the remains would be simple for I know that one of their dogtags was buried with each. Please remember that during combat I was with Hq. and Hq. Company and your Uncle was with the 3rd Bn., which is why I am not more knowledgeable about his activities.

I naturally feel the same way about the Scouts as you. They were a dedicated, loyal and dependable group. In my opinion they should be recognized as being among the best soldiers the U.S. Army has ever had at any time. I have felt they never received the credit they so richly deserved for their outstanding service during the war and what they accomplished against overwhelming odds. They denied the Japs occupation of Manila Bay, which the Japs had to have as a resupply depot for their intended invasion of Australia, long enough for Australia to organize their defenses. As a result the Japs were stopped on their invasion route in the Philippines. Without the fight the Scouts put up, Australia would have been invaded. The Japs never defeated the Scouts.

The contributing factors to our defeat were hunger, we went on half rations in December; disease, we had very little in the way of drugs; lack of ammunition, there was no resupply of any expendables; air-coverage was nonexistent; our complete and total physical exhaustion.

I fear I have rambled on to some extent for which I hope you will forgive me. You are free to use anything I send you in any manner that may assist you in the successful pursuit of your mission. I can only hope that some of the above will be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

I will be interested in learning of any success you might have in this matter.

Sincerely,

Garnet P. Francis

Garnet P. Francis
Col., USA (Ret.)

Encl.

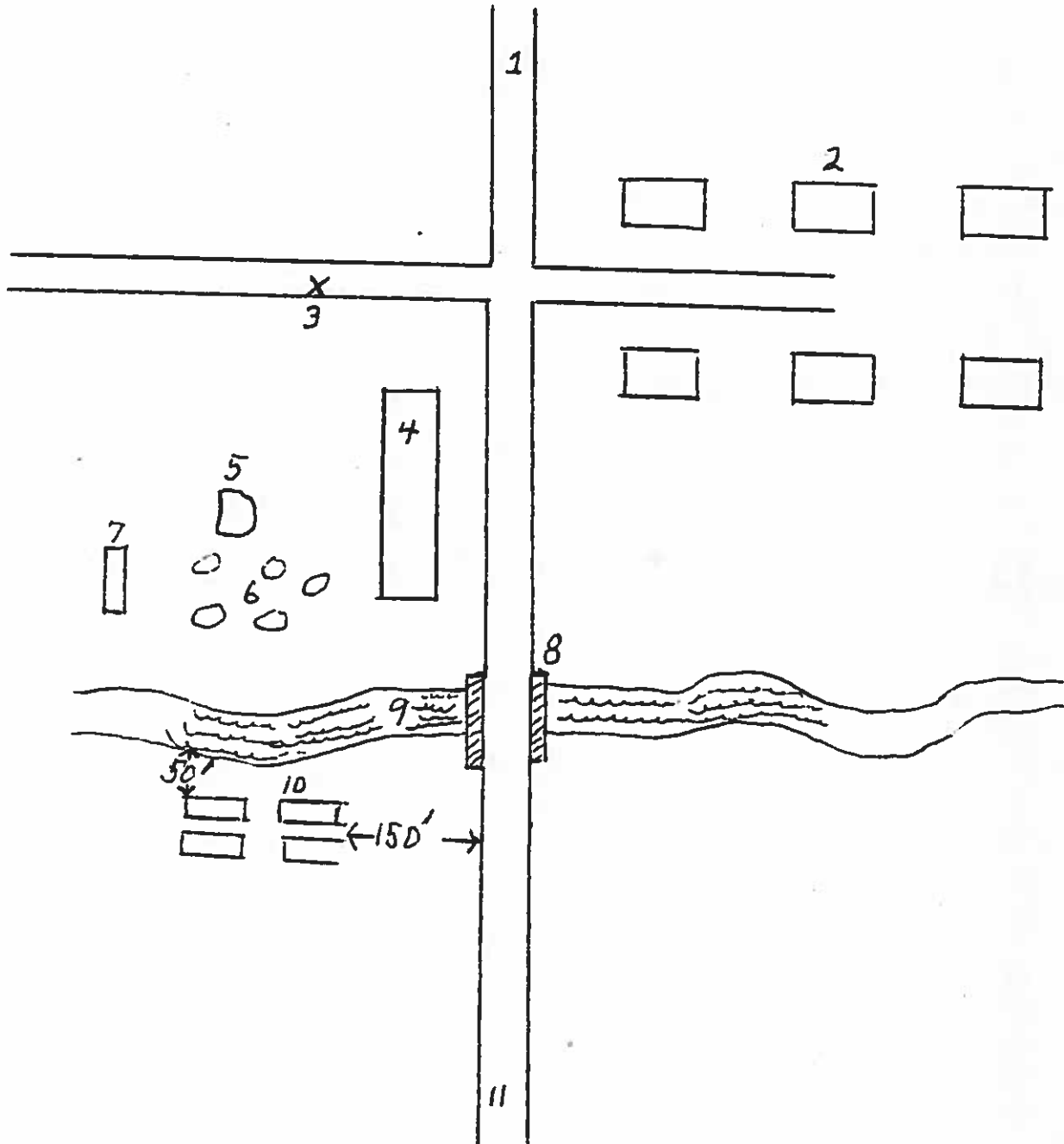
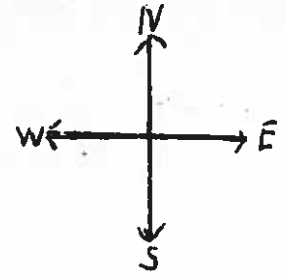
Numbered notes for FOIA plan of central Abucay.

~~Abucay~~
~~Notes~~

1. Segments of 5 foot stone wall bounding the south-east corner of the stone-paved Front Church Yard which was removed between 1945 and 1950 to permit access to a large plot of ground rented by the church authorities to a boat building project. Proceeds of rental used for repairs to the church due to war time damage. See picture 9-13 showing mahogany and red nara logs, saw logs for construction of boats. (lower left corner) See also pictures 11-20 and 11-21 showing boats under construction.
2. Abucay Church Cemetery. (as of 1941-42)
3. Abucay Church Cemetery (Potters Field). (as of 1941-42)
4. Graves of Officers and Enlisted Men of the 57th Infantry KIA 11 thru 13 January 1942.
5. Grave of Capt. H.A. McCurdy DC, one unidentified American and twelve enlisted men of the 57th Infantry PS.
6. Enclosed garden court, foundation of central pool, and low walls bordering walk ways, gate in wall separating formal garden from vegetable garden to west.
8. The roofed but open air landing of stair way between the first and second floor corridors of the east-west segment of the convento.
7. Vegetable garden.
9. Heavily pruned ancient mango tree identifiable in picture 9-16 center and in 11-2 upper right corner, is the sole survivor of some twenty huge trees which shaded and camouflaged the south church yard and cemetery south to the north bank of the Abucay River in 1942.

copy with F. Anders
mzp 6/9/4/85

- 1- Road to Manila
- 2- Village of Abucay
- 3- The spot where Capt. McCurdy was killed.
- 4- Church
- 5- Underground CP
- 6- Fox holes
- 7- Latrine
- 8- Bridge
- 9- Stream leading to Manila Bay
- 10- Site of at least four grave sites.
- 11- Road to Marivalles.



7/20/05

EXHIBIT

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HEADQUARTERS
PHILCOM ZONE
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE

PIN/TIA/cvs*

APO 900
8 December 1948

CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED IDENTIFIABLE

NININGER, Alexander J., Jr., 2nd Lt., O-23 761
UNKNOWN X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum, Manila, P.I.
(BTB NININGER, Alexander R., Jr.)
(Formerly X-1130, USAF Cem. Manila #2, P.I.)

BASIS FOR DECLARING REMAINS IDENTIFIABLE

1. Time, place and cause of death of UNKNOWN X-4685 indicated on the ROI are in agreement with those of 2nd Lt. Alexander J. NININGER, Jr. indicated on OQMG Form 371. (See Incls. 1 and 2).
2. Information contained in a letter from A. R. Nininger, next of kin, states that 2nd Lt. Alexander J. NININGER, Jr. was buried in the churchyard of Abucay, Bataan, P.I., in a grave marked No. 9, which is in agreement with the place of recovery of UNKNOWN X-4685 (formerly interred at USAF Cem. Manila #2 as Unknown X-1130, BTB NININGER, Alexander R., Jr. (See Incls. 2, 4 and 6).
3. Branch of service, grade and organization listed on ROI and ROS for UNKNOWN X-4685 are in agreement with data indicated on OQMG Form 371 for 2nd Lt. Alexander NININGER, Jr. (See Incls. 1, 2 and 4).
4. Circumstances of death, recovery and burial of UNKNOWN X-4685 are in agreement with data on OQMG Form 371 for 2nd Lt. NININGER, Jr. (See Incls. 1, 2, 3, and 5).
5. Dental chart of UNKNOWN X-4685 shown on OQMG Form 1044a compares favorably with that of 2nd Lt. Alexander NININGER, Jr. indicated on OQMG Form 371. (See Incls. 1 and 4).
6. It is recommended that the remains of UNKNOWN X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum, Manila, P.I. (Hanger 810, Bay B, Cypert 451), be identified as those of 2nd Lt. Alexander J. NININGER, Jr., O-23 761.

IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED: 17 Dec. 1948

s/ Teodoro M. Ronquillo	s/ Elee L. Tyler	s/ Edward J. Brucher
t/ TEODORO M. RONQUILLO	t/ ELEE L. TYLER	t/ EDWARD J. BRUCHER
1st Lt., CMP	Major, Inf	Major,
O-1 896 440	O-324 330	O-199 445
Member	Member	President, Board of Review

C O P Y

Declassified Per E.O. 13526 dtd 5 Jan 2010

EXHIBIT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO QMGM 293

17 February 1949

Unknown X-4685
GRS Mausoleum Manila, P.I.
(X-1130, USAF Manila #2, P.I.)

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN DECEASED

TO : Commanding General
Philippine Command
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

ATTENTION: AGRS, PHILCOM ZONE

1. Reference is made to Board Proceedings for Unknown X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum Manila P.I., formerly X-1130, USAF, Cemetery Manila #2, P.I., dated 8 December 1948, recommending the identification of these remains as 1st Lt. Alexander R. Nininger, Jr. O-23 761.
2. A review of the case reveals that the estimated height for these remains is not in agreement with Army Records for Lt. Nininger. Although dental comparison is not unfavorable, other remains recovered with X-1130 from this vicinity also reveal favorable dental characteristics which could be associated with Lt. Nininger.
3. Information furnished this Office by father indicates that Lt. Nininger was interred in grave nine behind the south wall of the Abucay Church. Remains of X-1130 were recovered from grave nine, Soldiers Row, Abucay Cemetery. It is requested that this Office be advised whether these locations are the same.
4. In the event that these grave locations are not similar, it is requested that the area behind the south wall of the Abucay Church be investigated in an effort to recover the remains of 1st Lt. Nininger, O-23 761.
5. Revised OQMG Form 371 for subject deceased is inclosed as an aid to identification. Board Proceedings are suspended.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

1 Incl:OQMG
Form 371 (in dup)(Nininger)

T. H. Metz
T. H. METZ
Lt. Colonel, OMC
Memorial Division

MAN
File

2 Aug 50
W. H. Laurin
Identification Branch

HEADQUARTERS
 AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
 PHILCOM ZONE

PRN/IM/nmar

APO
 26 April 1949

SUPPLEMENTAL CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED IDENTIFIABLE

NININGER, Alexander R., Jr., 2nd Lt., O-23761
 UNKNOWN X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum, Manila, P.I.
 (Formerly X-1130, USAE Cem. Manila #2, P.I.)

BASIS FOR DECLARING REMAINS IDENTIFIABLE

1. The following are additional findings and results of further investigation to support and supplement previous recommendation that the remains of UNKNOWN X-4685 be identified as those of 2nd Lt. Alexander R. NININGER, Jr., O-23761:

- a. Letter from Herbert B. Maynard, dated 10 Sept. 1946, indicates that Lt. NININGER, Lt. Maynard, Lt. Kenneth Wilson, Lt. Compton, Lt. Green, and Capt. Meyer, casualties of the 57th Inf., were buried behind the south wall in Abucay Churchyard. (See Incl. 4).
- b. OQMG Form 371 for Lt. NININGER was compared with available records of all the other Unknowns recovered behind the south wall in Abucay Churchyard with negative results. (See Incls. 5A, B & C).
- c. UNKNOWN X-1359, a recovery from Cuitol 33rd Inf., P.S. Cemetery, Bataan, has been recommended for identification as that of Lt. David W. Maynard. (See Incls. 6A and B).
- d. UNKNOWN X-1572, a recovery from an isolated grave at San Pedro St., Hermosa, Bataan, has been recommended for identification as that of Lt. Kenneth Wilson. (See Incls. 7A and B).
- e. Capt. Meyer was a Known recovery from Mariveles Cemetery #3, Bataan, P.I. (See Incls. 8A and B).

2. With reference to paragraph 3, OQMG letter, file QMGMT 293, UNKNOWN X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum, Manila, P.I., 17 February 1949, subject: Identification of Unknown Deceased, the following are the findings which resulted in the reinvestigation to clarify the grave number in question. (See Incl. 2).

- a. Original ROI for UNKNOWN X-4685 indicates the remains were disinterred from Grave 9, Soldiers Row, Abucay Cemetery. The Report of Disinterment indicates remains were disinterred 18 Jan 1946. (See Incl. 3A and B).

C O P Y

SUPPLEMENTAL CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED IDENTIFIABLE. (Cont'd)

NININGER, Alexander R., Jr., 2nd Lt., O-23761

b. Further search of records discloses a remains were recovered from Grave 9, Army Personnel Row, Abucay, Bataan, Luzon, P.I. The remains were identified as Pfc. Tranquilino Beles, 6738585, by means of a round tag found during disinterment. (See Incl. 9).

c. Dental record on OQMG Form 371 for Lt. NININGER does not compare favorably with dental chart for the remains recovered from Grave 9, Abucay Churchyard and identified as Pfc. Beles. (See Incls. 1 and 9B).

d. In view of the above, it is believed that remains of UNKNOWN X-4685 recovered from Grave 9, Abucay Cemetery, are those of Lt. NININGER. (See Incls. 10A and B).

3. In view of the facts mentioned above and favorably comparison of dental data stated in previous case history, it is recommended that the remains of UNKNOWN X-4685, AGRS Mausoleum, Manila, P.I. (Hanger 810, Bay B, Crypt 451), be identified as those of 2nd Lt. Alexander R. NININGER, Jr., O-23761.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED: 29 April 1949

/s/ John W. Weaver
/t/ JOHN W. WEAVER
1st Lt., QMC
O-1 597 189
Member

/s/ Paul E. Heineman
/t/ PAUL E. HEINEMAN
1st Lt., Inf
O-1 312 677
Member

/s/ Wilbur G. Hobbs
/t/ WILBUR G. HOBBS
1st Lt., Inf
O-887 555
Member

C O P Y