

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

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-23761 .

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

" Sandy's remains were carefully brought to the church in the town of Abucay, Province 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 marks 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. Clarke 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. Clarke 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 ring received in Dept. 7.



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

HEADQUARTERS
PHILCOM ZONE
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE

PHN/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

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

HQ Philcom AG File 293

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).

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DPAA0002215

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