

DDMG FORM 638
REV 1 APR 48

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	16 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>1. Phoned Colonel Clark who was Nininger's commanding officer, concerning Nininger's burial place in the Philippines. Colonel Clark has written that he had personally attended the burial services.</p> <p>2. In Colonel Clark's conversation with me, he said that the remains of Nininger were buried a few feet from the church. This, of course, implied that the remains were buried in the church yard. When I told Colonel Clark that a thorough search, both in and outside of the church yard failed to recover Nininger's remains, he said that it was very possible that the remains had been removed by the Japanese. While Colonel Clark could not give me positive assurance that this occurred, he cited two possible reasons for such a removal. Nininger battled the Japanese heroically, killing quite a number of them before he himself was killed. The Japanese may have decided to dispose of his remains rather than have the Americans use Nininger as an example for heroic action. The other possible reason cited by Colonel Clark, is that when the Japanese captured the area, finding a new grave, they may have decided to search the grave not only to ascertain the casualty but to search for any secret papers or documents which may have been hidden. Colonel Clark emphasized that these were only possibilities since we have been unable to locate the remains. He suggested that we notify Mr. Nininger of their non-recoverability after we have checked all other unknowns recovered from Abucay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>23 Oct 50</p> <p>1. Phoned Mr. Franklin O. Anders (Lt. Col.) and located him at his residence in Leamington, Ontario, Canada, Phone: 608RL4. I told Colonel Anders that I was phoning him as a result of a quotation in the file of the late Lt. Maynard. I referred to his letter to the father of Lt. Maynard in which he wrote: "In the first four (4) days, we lost your son, Lt. D. Maynard, Lt. Kenneth Wilson, Lt. Compton, Lt. Green, Lt. Nininger and Capt. Meyer (Meier). Father Scecina conducted services at the graves of American officers, killed at Mabatang in the Abucay Church Yard".</p> <p>2. I also advised Colonel Anders that I had phoned Colonel Clark who was commanding officer of the 57th Infantry Regiment at the time Nininger and his fellow officers were killed. Before going into detail concerning the death of Nininger and his fellow officers, Colonel Anders asked me if I knew the story on Colonel Clark. I told him that the only information I knew of Colonel Clark was what appeared in the files of the decedents and that this implied that Colonel Clark departed before the Japanese captured the entire Philippines. He suggested that I look into his 201 File. I asked Colonel Anders why he thought this was necessary. Colonel Anders said Colonel Clark was relieved of his command shortly after the engagement at Mabatang in which Lt. Nininger and his fellow officers lost their lives. He further stated that Colonel Clark did not attend the burial services conducted by Father Scecina in the Abucay Church Yard.</p>

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OQMG FORM 638
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1 Contd	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	23 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>3. The following is in substance, the information furnished by Colonel Anders of incidents and events which transpired during the engagement at Mabatang. Colonel Anders said that Japanese artillery had shelled the entire area and a considerable number of their infantry had infiltrated close to positions held by the 57th Infantry Regiment. The shelling severely damaged some of the buildings in the Abucay Church Yard. The Abucay Church and its adjoining buildings were used as headquarters of the 57th Infantry Regiment. It was during this infiltration and shelling that Lieutenants Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson and Maynard, lost their lives. The remains of these officers were brought into the church yard cemetery as soon as the action quieted. Father Scecina had graves dug and conducted a brief burial service. Colonel Anders as well as several other officers, were present at the services.</p> <p>4. Colonel Anders believes that one or more of the officers were buried in boxes furnished by the Quartermaster and that the rest were laid in the ground with only a blanket around them. He also remembers that where identification tags were found on a decedent, one had been removed and turned over to the medics; the other was inserted into the mouth of the decedent. Colonel Anders does not know whether burial reports were prepared. All matters pertaining to the burial were left in the hands of Father Scecina who died while a prisoner of the Japanese.</p> <p>5. Colonel Anders brought up the fact that the church yard was shelled by both Japanese and American forces. Particularly heavy shelling was given the church and its surrounding area by the Americans after the location was abandoned to the Japanese. Information was received that the Japanese were using it as their headquarters and Anders believes that as a result of shelling by American forces, some of the graves may have been destroyed and the remains scattered.</p> <p>6. Colonel Anders also brought up the matter of a searching of the graves after the Japanese had captured Abucay. He said that our own forces many times searched mounds in graveyards since the Japanese in a number of instances stored arms and ammunition in grave sites. He said that perhaps the Japanese believed that we may have used graves as a storage place for ammunition and decided to dig grave sites and through such an operation, the remains became lost.</p> <p>7. I told Colonel Anders of the fourteen (14) graves we found on the outside of the church wall and that an examination of these remains indicated two (2) were Americans and twelve (12) Filipinos. I told him one grave was that of Lt. McCurdy, the other American having no identifying characteristics, was still designated as an unknown. Colonel Anders asked me to read him the names of the Filipinos we identified we found outside the wall. I read the names to him and he said he knew them all. He told me that the individual listed as Castro should be Castro Mania.</p>

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1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1	Capt Vogl Contd Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	23 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>8. I asked whether it was possible that these five (5) officer whose remains have not been recovered could have been buried on the outside of the church yard wall. He said to the best of his memory, the men were buried in the church yard proper; however, if a re-burial during Japanese occupation occurred, the remains may have been re-interred outside of the church yard. Colonel Anders said this was merely a supposition and should not be accepted as a fact.</p> <p>9. In my long conversation with Colonel Anders, it was very apparent that he knew and recalled more about the events subsequent to the death of these officers than did Colonel Clark. Colonel Clark appeared hesitant in giving information, always referring me to letters he sent the AG or next of kin. On the other hand, Colonel Anders tried to assist in every way possible by voluntary information so that we could have a complete understanding of what transpired immediately after these officers were killed. He said he will make himself available to furnish any additional information which we may not have discussed at this time. In addition, he suggested that I communicate with Lt. Colonel Johnson and Lt. Colonel Olson for their version of the events which took place after Lt. Nininger and his fellow officers were killed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>24 Oct</p> <p>1. Major John E. Olson, 022125, 5025 Student Detachment, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas (Phone 23234), confirmed to a general extent the information furnished by Lt. Colonel Anders. However, he was more specific on the battle action which took the lives of Lt. Nininger and his fellow officers.</p> <p>2. Major Olson said he did not attend the interment service for Nininger or any other officers killed in the Mabatang engagement. He said he remembers Nininger's death and that he was informed that Nininger's as well as several other officer's remains were recovered and buried in or near the Abucay Church Yard. He never had time to visit any graves but he heard that Anders and Captain Garnet P. Francis, dental officer, were with Chaplain Scecina when the remains were buried.</p> <p>3. Major Olson asked me what remains we recovered nearby or in the church yard at Abucay. He said he desired this information to refresh his memory on the various officers who were killed in the Matabang engagement. I started off by giving him the name of Lt. McCurdy and then mentioned Lt. Cheney. Here Major Olson interrupted. He said that Cheney could not have been interred in or nearby the Abucay Church Yard since he was killed long after the town of Abucay was abandoned to the Japanese.</p>

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1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1 Contd	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	24 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>4. I told Major Olson that I was referring to the names of all officers reported as buried and was not limiting myself to those interred in or near the church yard.</p> <p>5. Major Olson said that Cheaney was not killed in the Matabang engagement but was KIA off the west coast near the town of Agloloma. This occurred 30 January 1942, at least ten (10) days after Abucay had been evacuated. He said Lt. Cheaney's platoon had been withdrawn on or about 20 January 1942, to be attached to the 3rd Battalion. This battalion was endeavoring to confine the Japanese who had landed on the west coast.</p> <p>6. He said it was during an assault on Japanese positions at Quinauan Pt. when Lt. Cheaney was killed and his remains were taken to Mariveles Cemetery for interment. Major Olson continued that the arrangements for burial in Mariveles was made or supervised by Capt. Anthony who was Cheaney's Commanding Officer.</p> <p>7. The rest of the discussion related to positions of the 57th Regiment after the fall of Abucay. Olson said that they fell back to a line about one mile, south of Balanga. This was on or about 22 January 1942. On or about 30 January 1942, the 57th Regiment was somewhat broken up and many of its units were sent to west coastal areas to support troops endeavoring to prevent Japanese landings.</p> <p>8. He suggested, I communicate with Major Sanders, Regimental Personnel Officer as well as Capt. Anthony.</p> <p>NOTE: The comment of Major Olson concerning Lt. Cheaney, first brought out the possibility that the remains now interred in the cemetery at West Point, may not be those of this decedent. The 293 file of Lt. Cheaney, indicates his remains were recovered from the Abucay Church Yard twelve paces to the right of the south center door of this church. The location of the alleged grave was obtained from a copy of a letter Mr. Cheaney, the father, wrote to Congressman Nixon on 4 January 1948. In this letter, Mr. Cheaney said he met Colonel Clark, and after much talking Colonel Clark said Cheaney was buried "twelve steps right from the south center door".</p> <p>On the basis of this information, a cable was sent the overseas Command, requesting them to investigate. The overseas Command located remains twelve steps from the door and the remains were designated as those of Lt. Cheaney. The report indicates: No identifying clue recovered with remains.</p> <p>Since Lt. Cheaney was killed on 30 January 1942, approximately 30 miles away from Abucay, it is evident that the remains of Lt. Cheaney could not have been buried in the Abucay Church Yard, which had been lost to the Japanese on or about 21 January 1942.</p>

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1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
Continued				
1	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	25 Oct 50	SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt O-23761 1. Phoned Major Cecil M. Sanders and located him in Fort Benning, Georgia, where he is assigned as an instructor at the Infantry School (he can be reached at Fort Benning 3462). 2. Major Sanders' report on events which transpired during and subsequent to the engagement in Matabang varies to a certain degree with the information furnished by Colonel Anders. Sanders was regimental S-1 and as such had direct charge of the personnel records. In the course of the Matabang engagement he performed actual combat duty since the casualties among officers were unusually heavy and he was called to direct the activities of detached companies and platoons. 3. The following, in substance, is the information I obtained from Major Sanders. The Abucay Church and its adjoining building had not been selected nor had been in use as regimental headquarters before the start of the Matabang battle. It was after the Japanese had infiltrated near American positions on the outskirts of Abucay that headquarters was set up at Abucay Church. Lts. Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson and Maynard were holding positions on the outskirts of Abucay when the Japanese penetrated to a point where they either had to be driven out or the town of Abucay evacuated. Lt. Nininger was killed after he routed the Japanese who had infiltrated close to the Abucay Church ^{Abucay Church} battle area. His heroic effort won for him the first Congressional Medal of Honor in World War II. The remains of Lt. Nininger were brought back to the Church Yard and turned over to Father Scecina who had assumed charge of burying all remains. Lt. Nininger had been killed on 12 January 1942 about nine o'clock in the morning. 4. Lt. Green was killed while in a fox hole as a result of Japanese mortar shells. Lt. Compton, who was in the fox hole with Lt. Green, managed to get out and assume command of the platoon. Fifteen minutes later Lt. Compton was killed as he was leading the platoon in an attack on Japanese positions in an endeavor to silence the Japanese mortar batteries. 5. Major Sanders said that he was quite certain "that the remains of Compton were never recovered." With respect to Lt. Green he made the following remark, "Although I know that the body was badly cut up, I believe someone told me that they took the body out of the fox hole and delivered it to the Church Yard. However, my memory is not clear on this and I don't want you to look upon this as official." Compton and Green had been killed in the afternoon of 12 January 1942. 6. Lt. Wilson was killed late in the afternoon of 12 Jan 42 while endeavoring to bring some wounded back to the temporary hospital set up in Abucay. He evidently had taken a jeep and managed to load a couple of wounded boys when he himself was hit. The Japanese machine gun almost severed his body at his waist. This statement by Maj. Sanders confirms the previous information which was obtained on Wilson from a sergeant in Wilson's platoon.

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1	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	25 Oct 50	SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt O-23761
				<p>7. With respect to Lt. Maynard, Maj. Sanders did not recall exactly how he was killed but he remembers that Maynard's body was brought to a place near the Abucay Church and turned over to Father Scecina. Maynard was also killed on 12 Jan 42. In connection</p>
				<p>with the above information Maj. Sanders said that it is possible that after so many years he may have incidents pertaining to one or more of these officers confused with what happened to another; however, he feels reasonable sure that in general the information he gave me reflects the events which happened on 12 Jan 42.</p>
				<p>8. Maj. Sanders then asked me if we had recovered the remains of Lts. McCurdy and Cheaney. I told him that Lt. McCurdy's remains had been found on the outskirts of the south wall of the Church Yard. Realizing that there was a question on the recovery of Cheaney's remains, I told him that I did not have the file at hand but believed that the remains had been recovered. Maj. Sanders then asked me whether I knew where Cheaney had been killed. I told him that I believed it was at Agloloma Point. He said this was correct and it was either the 30th or 31st of Jan 42. He then suggested that, in the event we did not recovery Cheaney's remains, we communicate with Capt. Eugene H. Anthony who was Cheaney's commander. He told me that Capt. Anthony had developed tuberculosis while a prisoner of war and has been retired for physical disability. I told Maj. Sanders that I would communicate with Capt. Anthony not only to discuss Cheaney, but also for any other information he may have concerning the burial of Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson and Maynard. Maj. Sanders asked me about Capt. Meier. I told him we had recovered the remains which were buried in Mariveles Cemetery approximately 25 miles from Abucay.</p>
				<p>9. Maj. Sanders said that we should communicate with ^{both} either Lt. Col. Ernest Wermitz ^{NIG} regimental surgeon, and Maj. Garnet P. Francis, a dental officer. He said that actually Maj. Francis knew more about burials than Col. Wermitz ^{and} since the surgeon seemed to develop "battle fatigue" after the first Japanese shell hit in Abucay. It was Maj. Francis who more or less performed the emergency surgical work in the field. Maj. Francis also assisted in recovering remains and helping Father Scecina. Maj. Sanders feels quite certain that Maj. Francis attended the interments in Abucay Church Yard.</p>
				<p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p>
				<p>1. In order to clarify certain discrepancies ^{among} the information furnished by Col. Anders, Maj. Sanders and Maj. Olsen, I again phoned Col. Anders to ascertain whether he was certain that the remains of all five officers (Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson and Maynard) were buried side by side in the Church Yard at Abucay. Col. Anders said that after a review of what he had previously told me he expressed concern lest I believe that they were all buried side by side. He said that, if he had given me that impression, it was not correct. He definitely remembers that Nininger and Maynard were buried close together. He is not sure whether Compton's remains were recovered but remembers hearing a report that there wasn't much of him left. He feels reasonably sure that Wilson was buried in or near the Church Yard and that Green's body was recovered.</p>

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1	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	25 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt O-23761</p> <p>2. Col. Anders made this final statement: "I was present at the interment of Lt. Nininger's remains. With me at the time was Maj. Francis, the dental officer. The Blessing of the grave was conducted by Father Scecina. I also believe I saw or attended the interment of Lt. Maynard. I did not attend any interments of Lt. Wilson, Lt. Green or Lt. Compton although I believe that Lt. Wilson and Lt. Green were buried in or near the Church Yard since we had definite information of the recovery of those remains. Information on Lt. Compton was only hearsay and I wish to correct any erroneous impression given by me previously which may have indicated that Lt. Compton was buried at Abucay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>1. Phoned Capt. Eugene H. Anthony and located him at 1374 St. Paul Street, Apartment 5, Denver, Colorado (telephone Florida 0466). Capt. Anthony was Lt. Cheaney's immediate commanding officer and was in the engagements at Matabang and Agloloma Point.</p> <p>2. I asked Capt. Anthony numerous questions concerning the engagement at Matabang. The Captain confirmed, in substance, what has been previously furnished by Col. Anders, Maj. Olson and Maj. Sanders. He remembers hearing of the deaths of Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson and Maynard but did not know where their remains were interred. He had only hearsay information on burials at Abucay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">was</p> <p>3. Capt. Anthony said that withdrawal from Abucay/on or about 20 Jan 42 and that the regiment moved to its second line of defense about a mile south of the town of Balanga. His company was withdrawn on or about 25 Jan from the positions south of Balanga and transferred by truck to the area near Agloloma Point to reinforce the third Platoon ^{Platoon} which was trying to confine the Japanese landings at Quinauan Point. On or about the 30th of Jan, Lt. Cheaney, one of Capt. Anthony's officers, led an attack on Japanese positions and was killed after he had gone forward approximately 100 yards. The Japanese counterattacked and drove the Americans back several hundred yards. It was approximately 7 or 8 days later when the Americans again recovered the lost ground and also the remains of Lt. Cheaney.</p> <p>4. Capt. Anthony saw Lt. Cheaney's body which ^{now bloated,} was blown up, Standing ^{NEAR THE BODY} with him was a 2d Lt. who was a GRO. He asked the Lt. where the remains of his men would be taken and the Lt. replied that Lt. Cheaney and all the rest would be interred in Mariveles Cemetery.</p> <p>5. Capt. Anthony said that he never visited Mariveles Cemetery since his unit was continually in action until the surrender. I brought to his attention a statement by Col. Clark to the effect that he had written the parents of Lt. Cheaney that his remains were buried in Abucay Church Yard. Capt. Anthony said that this could not be possible since the recovery of Cheaney's remains was made in the early part of February and that Abucay had long since been occupied by the Japanese forces.</p> <p>6. Capt. Anthony said he would be very happy to provide additional information should we need his services. He told me that he did not write the family of Lt. Cheaney</p>

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1	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	25 Oct 50	SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt O-23761
				since he felt any letter of his would only cause additional grief to the next of kin.

			27 Oct 50	1. Phoned Colonel Edmund J. Lilly, Jr. who was Executive Officer of the 57th Infantry Regiment at the time Nininger and his fellow officers were killed. Colonel Lilly is presently stationed at Headquarters, 4th Army, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
Compton, Green,	Wilson and Maynard			2. Colonel Lilly recalled the death of Nininger, but had no recollection of attending any burial services for these men. He also recalled circumstances in connection with the death of Lt. Cheaney and suggested, I get in touch with Graves Registration Officer, Lt. Fred W. Koenig. It was Koenig, accompanied by Captain Anthony who recovered the remains of Lt. Cheaney about seven (7) days after Cheaney was killed near Agloloma.
and suggested,	I get in touch with			3. Colonel Lilly said he would send me a letter, giving me whatever information he can gather from the few records he was able to maintain.
was Koenig,	accompanied by			NOTE: Letter from Colonel Lilly was received, 30 October 1950 and is attached hereto.
seven (7) days	after Cheaney was			***
			30 Oct 50	1. Phoned Mr. Fred W. Koenig who was a Graves Registration Officer, assigned to the 45th Infantry Regiment during the battle at Quinuan Point, Providence of Bataan, Philippine Islands in 1942. Lt. Koenig recovered the remains of Lt. Ira B. Cheaney on or about 7 February 1942.
information.	Lt. Cheaney was			2. Mr. Koenig gave me in substance the following information. Lt. Cheaney was killed on or about 30 January 1942, while leading his platoon in an assault on Japanese positions near Quinuan Point. Japanese fire prevented the recovery of his body until about 7 February 1942. When Koenig found the remains of Lt. Cheaney, he called Cheaney's immediate superior, Capt. Eugene H. Anthony and they both viewed his bloated body. Capt. Anthony wanted to know where the remains were to be interred. Lt. Koenig told him that Cheaney as well as others killed in this engagement, would be taken to Mariveles Cemetery.
Cemetery where	he supervised the			3. Lt. Koenig took the remains to Mariveles Cemetery where he supervised the interment of Lt. Cheaney on or about 8 February 1942. Mr. Koenig told me there were several hundred buried in Mariveles Cemetery from the

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1 contd	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div (Info cy furnished Liaison)	30 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>beginning of the war up until the surrender of Bataan. Mr. Koenig also informed me that he supervised the burials in the cemetery near hospital #2 and after his capture by the Japanese, was in charge of burials at O'Donnell Cemetery.</p> <p>4. Mr. Koenig said he would be available for whatever further need we may have of his services. He can be reached in Ashgrove, Missouri, Phone: 76.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>log</i> VOGL 54276</p>
2	Capt Vogl Repat Br Mem Div	Chief Mem Div Thru: Ident Br Ident Sec Mem Div	31 Oct 50	<p>SUBJECT: Nininger, Alexander R. 2/Lt 0-23761</p> <p>1. The above reports of telephone conversations with Colonel Clark, Lt. Colonel Anders, Major Olson, Major Sanders, Captain Anthony, Major Yeager, Colonel Lilly and Lt. Koenig, are submitted as information in connection with original interments in Abucay and Mariveles Cemeteries, Providence of Bataan, Philippine Islands.</p> <p>2. It is concluded from information obtained in these phone conversations, that the remains of Lt. Cheaney were interred in the cemetery at Mariveles and not at Abucay. It is also, the opinion of the undersigned that the remains of Nininger, Compton, Green, and Wilson may have been lost as a result of the shelling of Abucay.</p> <p>3. In view of the information furnished next of kin of Nininger, Compton, Green, Wilson, Maynard and Cheaney, by Colonel Clark, it is believed advisable that a personal visit be made to those next of kin in cases where the remains are determined non-recoverable. It is also deemed advisable to personally contact Colonel Lilly, Captain Anthony, Colonel Clark and Major Olson, to explain our findings of "non-recoverability" so that they can guide themselves in future correspondence they may have with next of kin.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>log</i> VOGL 54276</p>

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OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY

INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

C-MEM-523

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
3	Ident Br Mem Div	Chief Memorial Division	20 Nov 50	SUBJECT: 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., SN O-23965 (Major Discrepancy) 1. Reference attached telephone conversations between Capt Vogl and the following officers of the 57th Inf Regt (PS) pertaining to the death and burial of 2/Lt Alexander R. Ninninger, SN O-23761: Lt Col Franklin O. Anders Major John E. Olson Major Cecil M. Sanders Captain Eugene H. Anthony Colonel Edmund J. Lilly 2d Lt Fred W. Koenig

These conversations revealed information which indicates that the remains presently interred in U. S. Military Academy Post Cemetery, West Point, New York, as 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., O-23965, are not those of Lt Cheaney.

2. Lt Cheaney reported for duty 20 November 1941 to the Philippine Department, 57th Inf Regt (PS), commanded by Lt Col George S. Clarke. Col Arnold J. Funk relieved Col Clarke of his command 13 January 1942, shortly after the engagement at Mabatang, Bataan, P.I., approximately three miles north of Abucay, where the 57th Inf Regt CP was located, in the Abucay Church.

3. On 20 January 1942, approximately six (6) days before the Abucay-Hacienda line was evacuated back to the Pilar-Bagac line 26 January, Lt Cheaney's company was withdrawn from the area and sent to the western coast of Bataan to repel Japanese landings at Quinsuan Point in the vicinity of Agloloma. On 30 January 1942, Lt Cheaney was killed after advancing approximately one hundred (100) yards, while leading an attack on Japanese positions. A counterattack by the Japanese forced the American forces to withdraw several hundred yards. It was several days later, 7-8 February, that the Americans regained this lost ground. The remains of Lt Cheaney were recovered and identified by Capt Eugene H. Anthony who had been his immediate commanding officer in the engagements at Mabatang and Agloloma. When Capt Anthony first saw the body of Lt Cheaney, 2/Lt Fred W. Koenig, a Graves Registration Officer assigned to the 45th Infantry, was standing near the remains. After Capt Anthony had established the identification, Lt Koenig informed him that the remains of Lt Cheaney, as well as all others killed in the area, would be taken to Mariveles Cemetery. There Lt Koenig supervised the burial of Lt Cheaney.

4. In the vicinity of Mariveles there are two (2) cemeteries, Mariveles #1 and #3. Although Lt Koenig did not specify in which cemetery the burial was made, a reinvestigation was made of all unresolved Unknowns in these cemeteries. There are only two (2) Unknowns from USA Cemetery #1 Mariveles, and they have been disassociated with Lt Cheaney by circumstances of death. The Unknowns from USA Cemetery #3 Mariveles, have been disassociated with Lt Cheaney by height, weight and dental characteristics, with the exception of X-21, currently designated X-151, Manila #2. Lt Cheaney's WDAGO Form 0164, Statement of Candidate dated 4 March 1947, indicates a broken arm. An association may be established by the circumstances of recovery and dental information. Unknown X-151 Manila #2 was found to have

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OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY

INTRAOFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
3	Ident Br Mem Div	(Cont'd) Chief Memorial Division	20 Nov 50	SUBJECT: 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., SN 0-23965 (Major Discrepancy)
twenty-two (22) perfect teeth; seventeen of which were loose and five still intact in the mandible. Seven teeth were posthumously missing and three were lost as a result of a missing maxilla. Age, weight and height of this Unknown was not estimated.				
5. In June or July 1942, Lt Cheaney's parents talked with Col Clarke in San Francisco in an attempt to obtain information concerning the death of their son and to learn his burial location. Col Clarke, who did not know the facts, stated that Lt Cheaney was buried in the Churchyard at Abucay twelve steps right from the south center door. Mr Cheaney gave this information to the Honorable Richard Nixon who forwarded it to this office 26 January 1948. Upon receipt of this letter the information was submitted to the field and a search team was dispatched to the area where fragmented remains were recovered. These remains were identified as Lt Cheaney solely on the statement by Col Clarke.				
6. There are five other decedents on whom erroneous burial information has been released to the NOK by Col Clarke, i.e., buried in Abucay Churchyard. They are:				
Nininger, Alexander R., Jr. 1/Lt 0-23761 Remains approved nonrecoverable. Field notified. Notification to NOK not released pending clearance of this discrepancy.				
Maynard, David W. 1/Lt 0-38476 Remains approved nonrecoverable. Field notified. Notification sent to NOK 11 October 1949.				
Compton, John C. 1/Lt 0-413755				
Green, Arthur W. 1/Lt 0-395411				
Wilson, Kenneth L. 1/Lt 0-398233				
Nonrecoverable Board Proceedings in suspense.				
7. When a final resolution has been reached in the Cheaney case action will be taken simultaneously to resolve the cases of the five decedents listed above, taking into consideration the facts learned during the investigation of this case.				
8. The files furnished in connection with this investigation contain several references to the effect that the records of Chaplain Scecina were lost when he himself was lost on a POW ship. A photostat copy of a roster prepared by Chaplain Scecina has been obtained from the AG. This list fails to show the burial services performed by the Chaplain but does indicate some of the officers who became casualties.				

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3	Ident Br Mem Div	Chief Memorial Division	20 Nov 50	SUBJECT: 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., SN O-23965 (Major Discrepancy)															
				<p>9. CONCLUSIONS:</p> <p>a. The remains presently interred in the West Point Academy Cemetery as 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., O-23965, are not those of Lt Cheaney.</p> <p>b. Lt Col George S. Clarke gave incorrect information which lead to the recovery and identification of the remains at West Point as those of Lt Cheaney.</p> <p>c. Lt Cheaney was killed in action on 30 January 1942 at Quinauan Point in the vicinity of Agloloma approximately eighteen (18) air miles SW of Abucay, four (4) days after the Abucay Church had been captured by the Japanese.</p> <p>d. The remains of Lt Cheaney were identified by his Commanding Officer, Captain Anthony, and burial at Mariveles was supervised by Lt Koenig, Graves Registration Officer, on or about 8 February 1942.</p> <p>e. This branch will flag the cases of the following decedents pending reinvestigation since Col Clarke is believed to have given incorrect information relative to the burial of the remains of:</p> <table data-bbox="462 1208 1293 1378"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.</td> <td>1/Lt</td> <td>O-23761</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green, Arthur W.</td> <td>1/Lt</td> <td>O-395411</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wilson, Kenneth L.</td> <td>1/Lt</td> <td>O-398233</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maynard, David W.</td> <td>1/Lt</td> <td>O-384762</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compton, John C.</td> <td>1/Lt</td> <td>O-413755</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>f. The cases of the five (5) decedents listed in para e. above, will be reinvestigated simultaneously because of the similarity of death and burial information pertaining to each.</p>	Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.	1/Lt	O-23761	Green, Arthur W.	1/Lt	O-395411	Wilson, Kenneth L.	1/Lt	O-398233	Maynard, David W.	1/Lt	O-384762	Compton, John C.	1/Lt	O-413755
Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.	1/Lt	O-23761																	
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1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
3.	Ident Br Mem Div	(Cont'd) Chief Memorial Division	20 Nov 50	SUBJECT: 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., SN O-23965 (Major Discrepancy)
	10. RECOMMENDATIONS:			<p>a. That Unknown X-151, Manila #2 (Unknown X-638 Mausoleum), interred 30 June 1949, Plot F, Row 11, Grave 32, Fort McKinley Cemetery, be transferred to San Francisco for reprocessing by an Anthropologist in an attempt to identify these remains as those of 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr., O-23965.</p> <p>b. That if the identification of these remains as those of Lt Cheaney can be established that the NOK of Lt Cheaney be visited by a representative from this office to acquaint him with the facts in the case and to secure his permission to exchange the remains for those now interred at West Point as Lt Cheaney.</p> <p>c. That if the identification cannot be established that Unknown X-151, Manila #2, be reinterred as an Unknown.</p> <p>d. That if the remains are identified and the transfer is accomplished that the remains now in West Point be reprocessed by an Anthropologist in an attempt to identify them as either Lt Maynard or Lt Nininger.</p>
5 Attach	1. Ltr fr Col Lilly dtd 27 Oct 50 (and cy) 2. DF fr Demob Rec dtd 7 Nov 50 w/incl 3. 293 file (X-151, Manila #2) 4. 293 file (Cheaney) 5. 201 file (Cheaney)			<p style="text-align: center;"><i>COX</i> 74059</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>LAY</i> 73472</p>

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DUE, HOUR AND DATE _____

1 NO.	2 FROM—	3 TO—	4 DATE	5 MESSAGE
1	Nonrec Sec Ident Br Mem Div	Corres Sec Regist Br Mem Div Attn: Maj Lay	28 Jun 51	<p>SUBJECT: 293 files: Compton, John C. O-413755 Green, Arthur W. O-395411 Maynard, David W. O-384762 Nininger, Alexander R. Jr. O-23761 Wilson, Kenneth L. O-398233</p> <p>1. Forwarded are 293 files for subject deceased who were killed in action on the 11th and 12th of January 1942 in the Philippine Islands and who were supposedly interred in the Abucay Churchyard Cemetery. Nonrecoverable findings for the deceased have been approved.</p> <p>2. For detailed information on these cases see classified file on 1/Lt Ira B. Cheaney Jr. SN O-23965 (S-MEM-523)</p> <p>5 Incls 1. 293 Compton 2. " Green 3. " Maynard 4. " Nininger 5. " Wilson</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>King</i> KING 74059</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Edwards</i> EDWARDS 73472</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>