



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22211-5003

SAAC-ZA

MAR 08 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutant General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command,
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 400, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5400

SUBJECT: Request for Exception to Policy for Disinterment at West Point Cemetery in
Section VII, Row B, Grave 107

1. The request to disinter the remains currently identified as First Lieutenant Ira B. Cheaney, Jr., interred at West Point Cemetery in Section VII, Row B, Grave 107 is approved.
2. Interment in Army cemeteries is considered final, however, disinterment is permitted for compelling reasons. The Army's investigative materials and the analysis furnished by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency conclude that the remains interred at West Point Cemetery are not the remains of First Lieutenant Ira B. Cheaney, Jr.
3. Point of contact for this matter is Ms. Cynthia Riddle, Army National Military Cemeteries, 703-614-6219 or by email at cynthia.a.riddle6.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Durham-Aguilera".

KAREN DURHAM-AGUILERA
Executive Director



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE, DEPARTMENT 400
FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5400

AHRC-PDZ-A

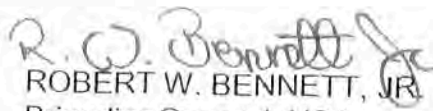
MEMORANDUM FOR Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries (SAAC),
1 Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA 22211-0001

SUBJECT: Concurrence to Disinter Grave Number 107, Row B, Section VII at West
Point Post Cemetery

1. Request your approval to disinter the remains currently identified as First Lieutenant (1LT) Ira B. Cheaney, Jr., in Grave Number 107, Row B, Section VII at West Point Post Cemetery.
2. The enclosed correspondence provides the declassified investigation conducted by the Army in 1950 (Enclosure 1) along with Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) draft analysis (Enclosure 2). Both investigations concluded that the remains buried at West Point are not 1LT Cheaney. In addition, the Family of 1LT Cheaney concurs with the disinterment (Enclosure 3) and Past Conflict Repatriations Branch (PCRB) has validated the PNOK (Enclosure 4).
3. Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) will coordinate the disinterment with the cemetery, provide funding for disinterment, and coordinate the transportation of remains to DPAA.
4. Once DPAA confirms identity and CMAOD has been notified, they will verify the Primary Next-of-Kin and the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition and conduct notification to the Family at the appropriate time. If the remains cannot be identified, CMAOD will coordinate with your office for interment of the remains as unknown in an appropriate U.S. National Cemetery.
5. The point of contact for this action is Mr. Greg Gardner, Chief, Past Conflict Repatriations Branch, 502-613-8259 or by email at gregory.l.gardner10.civ@mail.mil.

4 Encls

1. Army Investigation 1950
2. DPAA Draft Memorandum 2018
3. Cheaney Family Statement
4. PCRB PNOK Validation


ROBERT W. BENNETT, JR.
Brigadier General, USA
The Adjutant General

CF.
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency


DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

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

DRAFT

6 August 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Gregory Kupsky, Historian, Asia-Pacific Operations, DPAA; Andrea Palmiotto, Anthropologist; Calvin Y. Shiroma, Odontologist, DPAA Laboratory.
 To: Science Director; Asia-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: ASSOCIATION OF REMAINS BURIED AS FIRST LIEUTENANT IRA CHEANEY TO 28 WAR II CASUALTIES

I. Executive Summary

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has analyzed historical documents related to the recovery and identification of First Lieutenant (1st Lt) Ira B. Cheaney and is considering the possibility that a misidentification occurred in 1948. The recovery location of the remains (hereafter, "West Point remains") does not match 1st Lt Cheaney's time and circumstances of loss. Furthermore, in a classified IDPF for 1st Lt Cheaney, the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG) acknowledges a misidentification but declines to overturn the identification in the absence of other remains being identified as 1st Lt Cheaney.

The West Point remains were recovered from Abucay churchyard, an area associated with 43 losses including 1st Lt Alexander Nininger, the Army's first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient in World War II. First Lieutenant Cheaney is added to this list due to his historical association with the remains, although the circumstances surrounding his loss are inconsistent with the recovery of the remains. Therefore, 44 candidates are included for analysis. No candidates can be excluded based on anthropological factors, while 16 candidates can be excluded based on dental factors. These analyses result in 28 candidates remaining for association with the unknown remains, including 1st Lt Cheaney, and ranked based on historic factors (Table 1). In addition to a standard re-analysis of the remains, DNA analysis is a potential line of evidence for identification. Therefore, it is recommended that the West Point remains be exhumed from Section VII, Site 107, of the U.S. Military Academy Post Cemetery (the headstone of which continues to bear the name of 1st Lt Cheaney), for transport to the DPAA Laboratory for forensic analysis and comparison with the associated casualties.

Table 1. Final list of U.S. casualties associated with the West Point remains and summary of available records, and potential analytical options.

Rank	Name	Historical	Anthropological	Dental	Chest X-Ray ^a	FRS on File
1	Maynard, David	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
1	Nininger, Alexander R., Jr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
1	Poblador, Sergio M.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested

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Subj: Association of Remains Buried as First Lieutenant Ira Cheaney

Table 1. Final list of U.S. casualties associated with the West Point remains and summary of available records, and potential analytical options.

Rank	Name	Historical	Anthropological	Dental	Chest X-Ray ^a	FRS on File
2	Boco, Gerardo	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Borromeo, Petronilo B.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Cabugos, Urbano	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Catalan, Vicente C.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Cheaney, Ira B.	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Dayrit, Jose	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	De La Cruz, Marcelo	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Englis, Escolastico	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Not requested
2	Evite, Benedicto	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Lucas, Mariano	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Miana, Hilario M.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Miguel, Marcelino	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Mina, Doroteo	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Morada, Francisco	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Nabor, Cipriano	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Ormelon, Eduardo	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Paez, Josef	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Poblete, Isidro	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Not requested
2	Quijano, Arsenio C.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Raton, Francisco	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Rojas, Leandro A.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Romano, Juan	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Tan, Fernando	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Tejero, Francisco	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested
2	Zambrano, Felix	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Not requested

Green shade = line of testing has evidence 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 and none are available for the individuals listed above.

2. Initial Recovery and Assessment

On 4 January 1948, Ira Cheaney, Sr., wrote to then-Congressman Richard Nixon regarding his son, Ira, Jr., 57th Infantry Regiment (Philippine Scouts), missing in the Philippines. Mr. Cheaney reported meeting his son's former commander, Colonel George Clarke. According to Mr. Cheaney, "he did a lot of talking but I have never been able to decide how much of what he said could be depended on." Colonel Clarke had told Mr. Cheaney that his son "was buried in the Church Yard at Abucai [sic] 'twelve steps right from the south center door.'" Mr. Cheaney

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asked Congressman Nixon to find "any information as to his life and movements" and "the place and circumstances of his death."

Receiving a subsequent inquiry from Congressman Nixon's office, the Office of the Quartermaster General forwarded the reported burial location to the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) in Manila on 28 January 1948 (Figure 1) and directed an investigation.

Declassified in accordance with E.O. 13526

SECRET
PRIORITY CLASS

3-152

2004 2005/4

2006 22 JAN 43 0800/4

FROM: MEM DAN FOR CONREP IN WASH DC (CONREP)

TO: CG INTERCOM

INFO: GINCP

2007 WOL -25228

REURAD WOL 37007 CONGRESSMAN INQUIRY FIRST IS IRA B CHEANEY JR. (1919-44) WHO KILLED IN ACTION 30 JANUARY 1944 VALIENT ANANIA (NARR ARCADE) BORNEO PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NAME OF KIN DISCLOSED THAT SON-OF-IN-LAW COMMANDING OFFICER COL GEORGE G. BLANK STATED THAT INCIDENT WAS KILLED BY REBELLION DAN PARK AND NAME'S IN BURIALS AT ADDRESS 22 STOPS TO RIGHT OF BOUT CENTER DOWN PR SURVIVAL BOOK OF ST. BUNGE. SEARCH AND ON ANY OTHER INFORMATION.

PRIORITY CLASS
9
REURAD
FIG 1 OF 1 PAGE

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Figure 1. Telegram received by the AGRS reporting the Congressional inquiry and purported burial location of 1st Lt Cheaney, from IDPF for Cheaney.

On 3 February 1948, an AGRS team visited the Abucay churchyard. The team proceeded twelve steps out from the south center door and began digging test pits (Figure 2). The third pit contained remains at a depth of four feet, and as the team expanded the excavation eastward, "all skeletal remains were recovered." While the team found no identifying media, their recovery report named the remains as 1st Lt Ira Cheaney.²

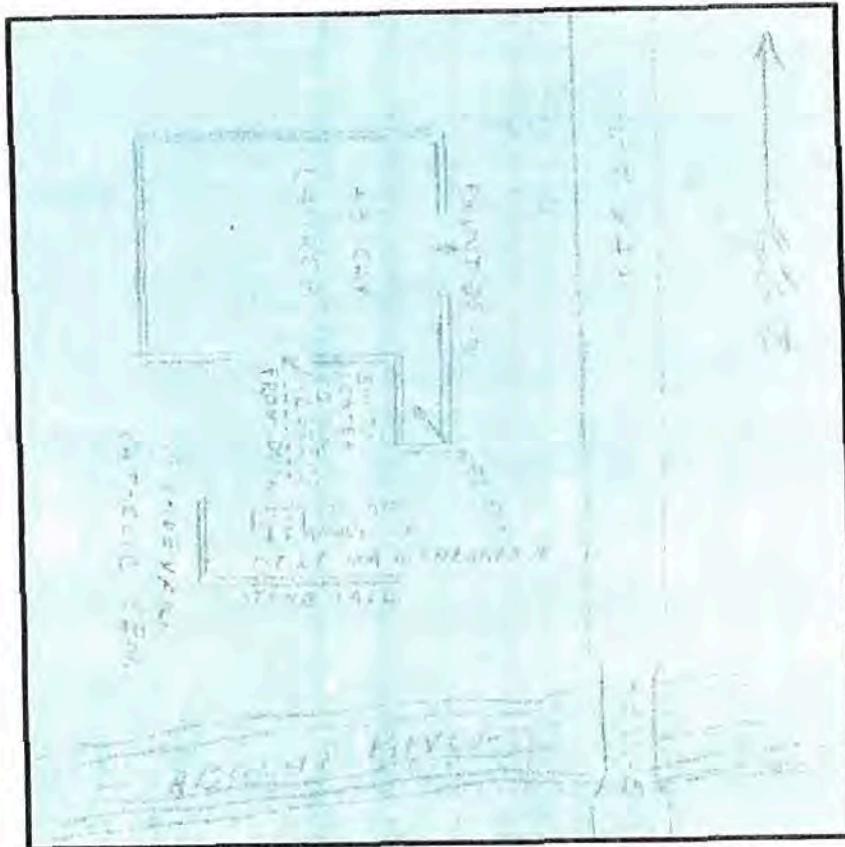


Figure 2. Sketch map of Abucay churchyard from IDPF for Cheaney, indicating the West Point remains' recovery location south of the church door and within the stone wall.

3. Disinterment and Reprocessing

The remains arrived at Manila Mausoleum on 10 February 1948. The Report of Interment again labeled the remains as 1st Lt Cheaney. The report states that no identifying media was recovered, but that the identification was based on the 28 January 1948 radiogram from OQMG. An Identification Data sheet generated at the time states that the AGRS was unable to determine estimated weight, height, or race of the recovered remains.³

An identification checklist generated on 22 April 1948 lists as "favorable" the date and place of loss, noting that "Lt. Cheaney was in the [Abucay] vicinity prior to his date of death." The

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checklist states that the dental comparison was positive, and that "no other casualties listed in records this office as having been killed or recovered from the vicinity where the remains were found [sic]."⁴ This last point was erroneous, as will be shown below.

On 3 May 1948, the Memorial Division, Quartermaster Corps, notified 1st Lt Cheaney's father that 1st Lt Cheaney had been identified. Per the request of the father, the remains were delivered to the U.S. Military Academy Post Cemetery, West Point, New York.⁵

4. Historical Investigations and Name Associations

In October 1950, the Memorial Division conducted an investigation of the recovery efforts in Abucay due to an ongoing inability to identify others killed in the area.

On 20 November 1950, the Identification Branch (IB), Memorial Division, provided the Chief of the Memorial Division with its findings. Citing interviews with six witnesses, the IB concluded 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."

The investigation provided the following time line. Colonel Clarke, who provided the family with purported burial information, was relieved from command on 13 January 1942, over two weeks before 1st Lt Cheaney's death. On 20 January, 1st Lt Cheaney's company withdrew from Abucay to engage a Japanese landing at Quinauan Point, approximately 18 miles southwest of Abucay. American forces lost control of Abucay on 25-26 January, and on 30 January 1st Lt Cheaney died on western Bataan. His immediate superior, Capt Eugene Anthony, reported finding his body on 7-8 February. A 2d Lt Fred Koenig stated that he oversaw the burial of 1st Lt Cheaney in one of the Mariveles temporary cemeteries.

The investigation concluded that Col Clarke's erroneous statement caused the misidentification of the West Point remains as 1st Lt Cheaney. Because Col Clark also provided erroneous burial location data for 1st Lt Alexander Nininger, 1st Lt David Maynard, 1st Lt John Compton, 1st Lt Arthur Green, and 1st Lt Kenneth Wilson—all from the 57th Infantry Regiment—the IB recommended a reassessment of those cases (see section 6, below).

The IB stated that the only unknown from Mariveles that might be compared to 1st Lt Cheaney would be X-151 Manila #2. The IB recommended that, if X-151 could be identified as 1st Lt Cheaney, an official should visit his father "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." The West Point remains would then be compared against 1st Lt Maynard and 1st Lt Nininger. If, however, X-151 could not be identified as 1st Lt Cheaney, no further action would be taken.⁶

Theodore McCown, Associate Professor of Anthropology, conducted a comparison of X-151 to 1st Lt Cheaney. In his 12 February 1951 examination, Professor McCown was unable to estimate age or height because of the deterioration of the remains, and damage to the mandible prevented analysis of dentition. Based on the condition of X-151, he stated it was "not possible to associate X-151 certainly with the data available for Cheaney."⁷

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5. Final Decision

With the failure to identify X-151 as 1st Lt Cheaney, the IB asked that X-151 be returned to Manila for burial as an unknown, and that findings of non-recoverability be approved for the other officers potentially buried in the Abucay churchyard.⁸ The remains buried at Section VII, Site 107, U.S. Military Academy Post Cemetery, continued to bear the name of 1st Lt Cheaney, despite the findings of the IB in November 1950 (Figure 3).

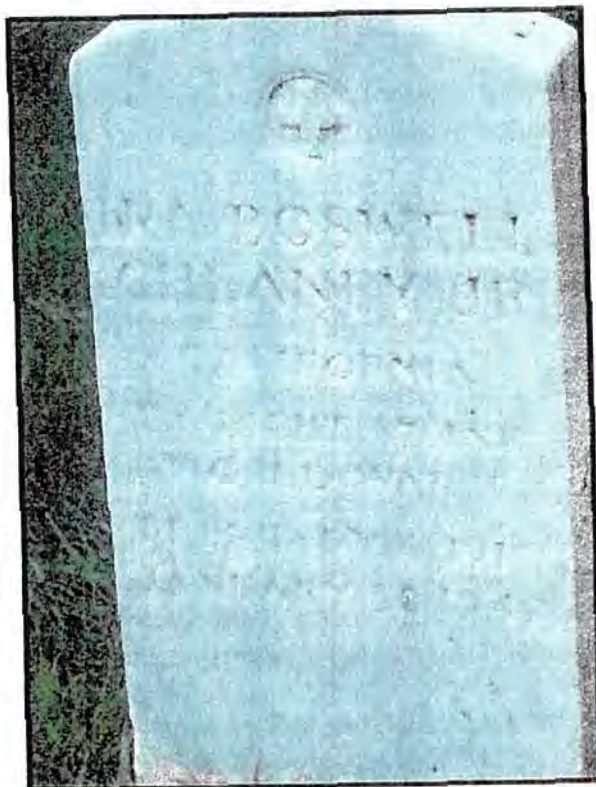


Figure 3. The headstone over the West Point remains.⁹

6. Present Investigation

Research reveals several falsehoods in the 1948 identification checklist that supported the identification of the West Point remains as 1st Lt Cheaney.¹⁰ While it is true that “Lt. Cheaney was in the [Abucay] vicinity prior to his date of death,” he is known to have been alive for several days after U.S. forces lost control of Abucay, and thus could not have been buried there. The checklist also states that there were “no other casualties ... killed or recovered from the vicinity where the remains were found.” As investigators at the time would have known, this statement is demonstrably untrue.

During the Japanese advance into the Bataan Peninsula, the U.S. Army Forces Far East (USAFFE) main line of resistance stretched from Mauban on the west coast to Abucay in the

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east. Within the eastern sector, the 57th Infantry Regiment was responsible for the easternmost sector, including the towns of Abucay and Mabatang (Figure 4).

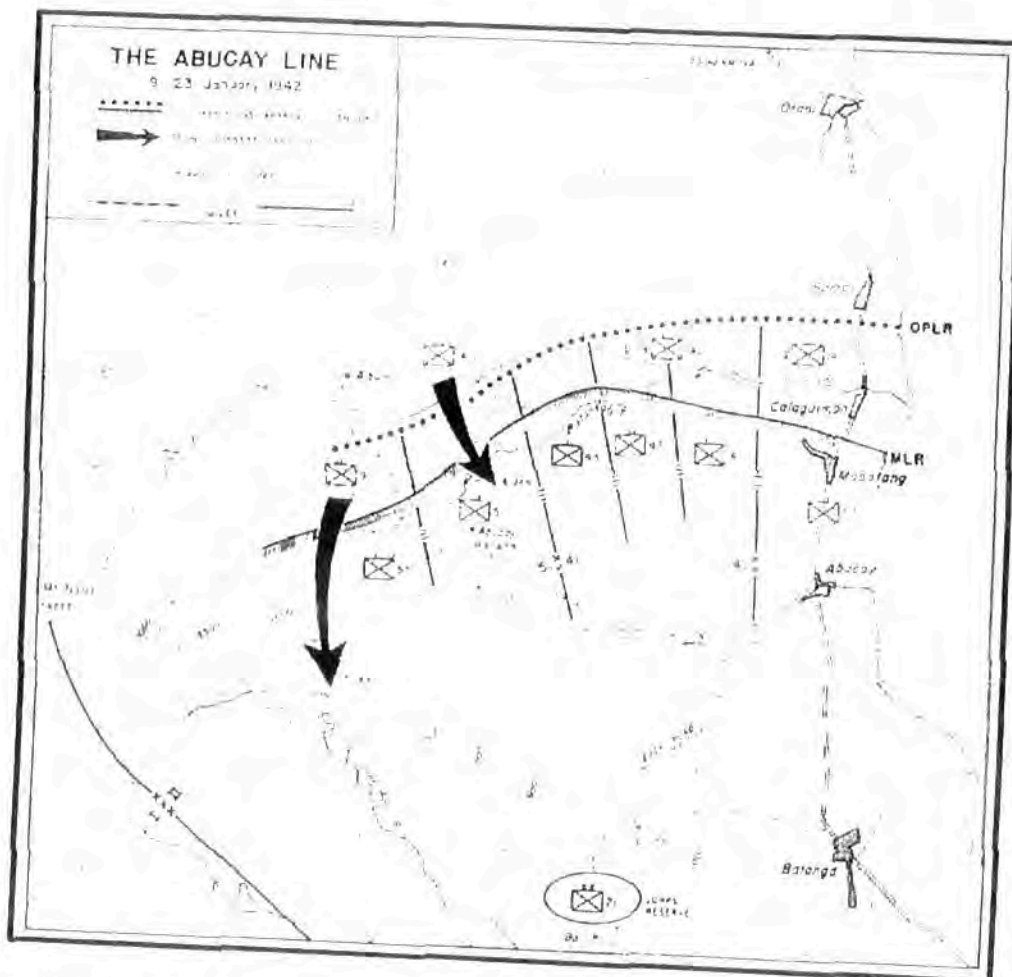


Figure 4. The Abucay Line, Map 11, Morton, *The Fall of the Philippines*.

After an intense artillery battle and engagements north of the Main Line of Resistance, the Japanese attackers made their first major advance against the line on the night of 11-12 January 1942. Launching their assault against the 3rd Battalion in the night, the Japanese faced point-blank artillery fire but were unremitting. As the 57th Regiment began to give way, its commander, Colonel George S. Clarke, committed his reserve, 2nd Battalion, finally stalling the Japanese advance. A dawn counterattack restored the 57th position. Throughout the day of 12 January, it became apparent that Japanese snipers had infiltrated the 3rd Battalion's lines, necessitating the creation of sniper hunting parties comprising riflemen and demolition engineers.¹¹

The Japanese infiltration around Abucay on 11-12 January cost the lives of six lieutenants of the 57th Infantry: 1st Lt Alexander Nininger—who posthumously received the Medal of Honor—1st Lt Kenneth Wilson, 1st Lt David Maynard, 1st Lt Adolph Meier, 1st Lt Arthur Green, and 1st Lt John Compton. The following day, 1st Lt Ira Cheaney's leading of a sniper

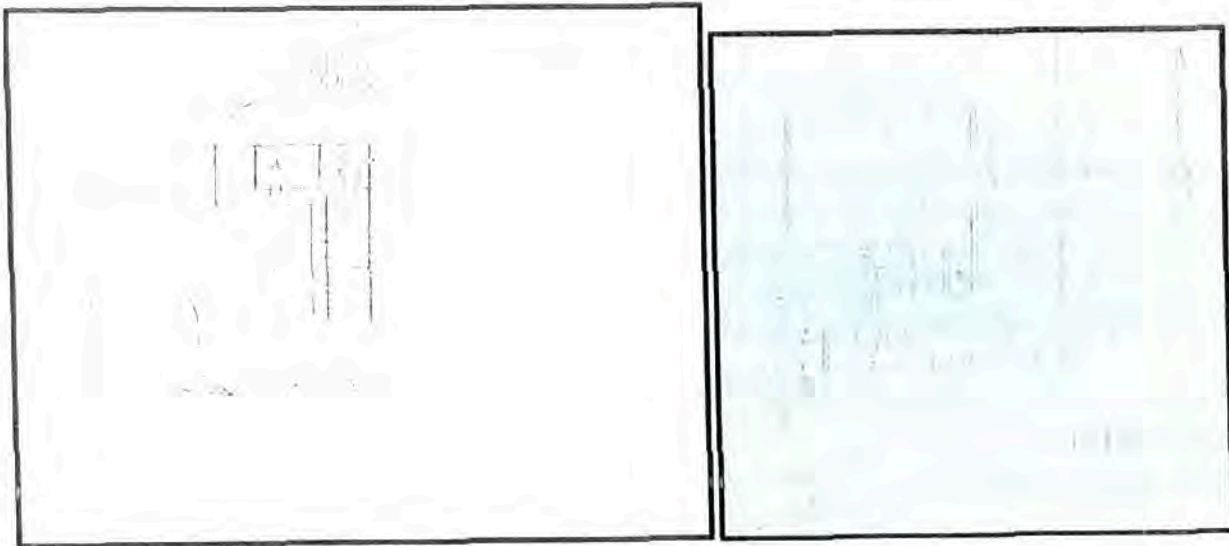
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hunting party earned him the Distinguished Service Cross.¹² Combat continued in the Abucay area until the USAFFE withdrawal on 24–25 January. First Lieutenant Cheaney died on 30 January in western Bataan.¹³

Colonel Clarke, commander of the 57th Infantry Regiment, was relieved of command at approximately 1200 on 13 January 1942. After the war his executive officer, Col Franklin Anders, stated that Col Clarke did not attend any burials in the Abucay churchyard. However, Col Clarke wrote to several relatives of the lieutenants killed in January 1942. He told 1st Lt Nininger's family that he personally attended a "reverent and beautiful service," and that 1st Lt Nininger was buried in "grave No. 9 behind the South wall of the Abucay church," alongside the other 57th Infantry officers killed that day. Similarly, Colonel Clarke told the family of 1st Lt Maynard that his remains were in "Grave #6 behind the South Wall of the Abucay Church." Recoveries at corresponding graves south of the churchyard wall were later determined to be Philippine Scouts. Furthermore, as noted above, Col Clarke told the family of 1st Lt Cheaney that he was 12 steps to the right of the church door, despite 1st Lt Cheaney's death occurring over two weeks after Col Clark was relieved, and five days after USAFFE lost control of Abucay.¹⁴

Even after discounting Col Clarke's statements about 1st Lt Cheaney and specific grave numbers, there is considerable evidence that at least some of the 57th Infantry lieutenants killed on 11–12 January 1942 were buried in the Abucay churchyard. Lieutenant Colonel Anders, for example, discounted Col Clarke's specifics but was confident that these remains were in the churchyard interior.¹⁵ Lieutenant Colonel John Raulston of the Medical Corps recalled that a chaplain, Captain Thomas Seccina, oversaw burials in "a little graveyard in the plot of ground within the five foot wall around the church," one that may have contained approximately six burials. The area described by LTC Raulston would correspond to the discovery location of the West Point remains (Figure 5).¹⁶



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Figure 5. Sketch map of burial area described by Lt Col Raulston, from Nininger IDPF, and sketch map of recovery of West Point remains, from Cheaney IDPF.

One of the lieutenants, 1st Lt Adolph Meier, killed on 12 January 1942, was later identified from remains recovered at Mariveles #3 Cemetery, leaving five officers potentially buried in the Abucay churchyard: 1st Alexander Nininger, 1st Lt David Maynard, 1st Lt Kenneth Wilson, 1st Lt John Compton, and 1st Lt Arthur Green (Table 2).¹⁷

Lieutenant Colonel Anders told the 1950s investigators that all five lieutenants were not buried together, despite Col Clarke's statements. He was confident only that 1st Lt Nininger and 1st Lt Maynard were buried together, and he believed that 1st Lt Wilson was "in or near the Church Yard." He was not sure whether 1st Lt Compton was buried, due to a paucity of remains, and he had no details on the burial of 1st Lt Green.¹⁸

Major Cecil Sanders of the regimental S-1 stated that 1st Lt Nininger died around 0900 and was brought to the church. He did not give a time of death for 1st Lt Maynard but agreed that he was buried in the church, as well. He recalled that 1st Lts Compton and Green died in the afternoon, with the former never recovered, and the latter "badly cut up." Major Sanders added that 1st Lt Wilson died in the afternoon while driving a jeep.¹⁹ Lieutenant Colonel Garnett Francis of the regimental headquarters believed that 1st Lts Compton and Green died together in a foxhole and were never recovered.²⁰

The sum total of this testimony leaves open the possibility that any of the five 57th Infantry lieutenants could have been buried in the Abucay churchyard, with 1st Lts Nininger and Maynard the most likely, followed by 1st Lt Wilson. This may be the reason that, in its 1950 reinvestigation, the IB recommended only that the West Point remains (if exhumed) be compared to Nininger and Maynard.

Research has revealed three other unresolved individuals specifically recorded as buried in the Abucay churchyard. Private First Class Rafael Creer died during an appendectomy on 15 December 1941, and was buried in the churchyard; Pfc Lucio Benigay is recorded as being buried in a bomb crater behind the church, and Pvt Sergio Poblador's IDPF states that he was buried in the churchyard. He is the only reported burial in the churchyard after 12 January 1942. These individuals should also be considered alongside the 57th Infantry officers (Table 2).

There are an additional 35 individuals whose units and dates of death place them in Abucay during the engagement that cost the lives of the 57th Infantry lieutenants, when burials in the churchyard are known to have taken place (Table 2). While not specifically recorded as buried in the churchyard, they cannot be excluded historically. Table 2 also includes 1st Lt Cheaney due to the historical association. Beyond this list, there is also the possibility that the remains, taken from a church cemetery, are not those of a U.S. servicemember.

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Table 2. Unresolved Casualties KIA 11-12 Jan, Potentially Buried in the Abucay Churchyard.²¹

Name	Service Number	Rank ²²	Unit	Incident Date
Cheaney, Ira B.	O-23965	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	30 Jan 42
Compton, John C.	O-413755	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	11 Jan 42
Green, Arthur	O-395411	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Maynard, David	O-384762	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	11 Jan 42
Nininger, Alexander R.	O-23761	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Wilson, Kenneth	O-398233	1st Lt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Benigay, Lucio	6610041	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Creer, Rafael	R-328742	Pfc	HQ Philippine Div	15 Dec 1941
Poblador, Sergio	10305307	Pvt	88 Field Artillery Bn	23 Jan 42
Alimboyao, Juan	10303407	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Almayda, Rafael	6866388	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Bade, Baldomero	R-322052	Cpl	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Balderama, Tomas	10300050	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Boco, Gerardo	10302845	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Borromeo, Petronilo	6736636	Cpl	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Cabugos, Urbano	10302546	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Casenas, Manuel	10302850	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Catalan, Vicente	6737263	Pfc	45 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Dayrit, Jose	10305407	Pvt	23 Field Artillery Regt	10 Jan 42
Dela Cruz, Marcelo	10303408	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	11 Jan 42
Englis, Escolastico	R-3292333	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	9 Jan 42
Evite, Benedicto	10303270	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Kittelson, Arnold	6858175	Pfc	31 Infantry Regt	9 Jan 42
Lucas, Mariano	10303970	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Mabilangan, Inigo	10302944	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Matunog, Felipe	10303583	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Miana, Hilario	10300819	Pvt	45 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Miguel, Marcelino	10302958	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Mina, Doroteo	10301714	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Morada, Francisco	10302718	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Nabor, Cipriano	R-320541	Cpl	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Ornelon, Eduardo	10303091	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Pacz, Josef	6738505	Cpl	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Poblete, Isidro	10302848	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Quijano, Arsenio	10300057	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Raton, Francisco	6866395	Cpl	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Rios, Cirilo	6738582	1 Sgt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Rojas, Leandro	6739206	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Romano, Juan	6611760	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Salin, Lorenzo	10302861	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	11 Jan 42
Tan, Fernando	10301202	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Tejero, Francisco	6865762	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42

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Table 2. Unresolved Casualties KIA 11-12 Jan, Potentially Buried in the Abucay Churchyard.²¹

Name	Service Number	Rank ²²	Unit	Incident Date
Valerio, Miguel	6866337	Pvt	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42
Zambrano, Felix	6738504	Pfc	57 Infantry Regt	12 Jan 42

7. Anthropology Summary

The files for the West Point remains are located in the IDPF for 1st Lt Cheaney and include two copies of an anthropological assessment with an associated skeletal chart, dated 10 February 1948,²³ as well as one undated skeletal chart.²⁴ The assessments of the West Point remains are largely consistent between assessments. The skeletal charts document an incomplete skeleton, with the following elements or portions of elements present: cranium and mandible; left and right scapulae, clavicularae, humeri, radii, ulnae, os coxae, femora, tibiae, and fibulae; most vertebrae and ribs; and several bones of both hands and the left foot (Figure 6). Extensive damage and fractures are depicted throughout the remains. The midfacial region of the cranium is missing, and no complete long bones are depicted. No antemortem fractures or pathological conditions are noted. Age, ancestry, and stature were not determined for the remains.

BLACK WITH PARTS OF BODY NOT RECOVERED



Figure 6. West Point remains, skeletal inventory diagram.²⁵ Elements in black are absent. Potential exists for anthropological and dental analysis.

The files for the West Point remains do not contain sufficient evidence to reevaluate age, stature, or ancestry; visual analysis of the remains is required. The available information for the West Point remains are compared to the associated candidates in Table 3. Records for 1st Lt Cheaney are included with the other candidates because, although 1st Lt Cheaney is excluded from association based on historical circumstances, the remains were previously identified as him (see above).

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Although antemortem and perimortem trauma are documented for several individuals, the corresponding elements are not present in the remains, and/or the extent of skeletal damage cannot be inferred from the available information. Based on the paucity of information associated with the West Point remains, no candidates can be excluded or ranked for association (see Table 3). In addition to standard anthropological analyses, dental comparison and DNA analysis present potential lines of evidence to assist in the identification of the remains.

Table 3. The physical characteristics of the West Point remains compared to the top historical candidates.

Name	Age ^a	Stature (inches)	Ancestry	Comments
West Point Remains	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Extensive fractures and damage throughout remains.
Alimboyao, Juan	22 yrs 0 mos	61	Filipino	None.
Almayda, Rafael	23 yrs 2 mos	65	Filipino	None.
Bade, Baldomero	44 yrs 5 mos	64	Filipino	None.
Balderama, Tomas A.	23 yrs 0 mos	60.75	Filipino	None.
Bengay, Lucio	38 yrs 10 mos	64.5	Filipino	None.
Boeo, Gerardo	25 yrs 3 mos	64.5	Filipino	None.
Borromeo, Petronilo B.	34 yrs 2 mos	62	Filipino	None.
Cabugos, Urbano	22 yrs 1 mo	63	Filipino	None.
Casenas, Manuel A.	24 yrs 1 mo	62.25	Filipino	None.
Catalan, Vicente C.	35 yrs 2 mos	71	Filipino	None.
Cheaney, Ira B.	24 yrs 11 mos	72, 73.5	European	Broken arm, n.d. ²⁶
Compton, John C.	30 yrs 3 mos	70, 70.5 ^b	European	None.
Creer, Rafael	45 yrs 6 mos	62.5	Filipino	None.
Dayrit, Jose	24 yrs 3 mos	62	Filipino	None.
De La Cruz, Marcelo	22 yrs 11 mos	66	Filipino	None.
Englis, Escolastico	Unknown ^c	Unknown ^c	Unknown ^c	None.
Evite, Benedicto	23 yrs 7 mos/ 23 yrs 10 mos ^d	61.75	Filipino	None.
Green, Arthur W.	26 yrs 11 mos	67.5, 68.5 ^b	European	Reportedly killed in foxhole by mortar shells. ²⁷
Kittelson, Arnold	32 yrs 2 mos	67	European	None.
Lucas, Mariano	25 yrs 1 mo	66	Filipino	None.
Mabilangan, Inigo B.	22 yrs 7 mos	69.3, 69.5 ^b	Filipino	None.
Matunog, Felipe	24 yrs 3 mos	62.5	Filipino	None.
Maynard, David	25 yrs 0 mos	69	European	Reportedly shot in the head; "anchor break"

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Table 3. The physical characteristics of the West Point remains compared to the top historical candidates.

Name	Age ^a	Stature (inches)	Ancestry	Comments
				fracture to the left ankle (tibia and fibula), n.d. ²⁸
Miana, Hilario M.	24 yrs 2 mos	63	Filipino	None.
Miguel, Marcelino	23 yrs 0 mos	64	Filipino	None.
Mina, Doroteo	22 yrs 4 mos	62.5	Filipino	None.
Morada, Francisco	24 yrs 0 mos	64.25	Filipino	None.
Nabor, Cipriano	50 yrs 10 mos	61	Filipino	None.
Niminger, Alexander R., Jr.	23 yrs 2 mos	71	European	Reportedly shot by snipers. ²⁹
Ormelon, Eduardo	22 yrs 9 mos	64.75	Filipino	None.
Pacz, Josef	34 yrs 1 mo	63.75	Filipino	None.
Poblador, Sergio M.	23 yrs 11 mos	62.5	Filipino	None.
Poblete, Isidro	Unknown ^c	Unknown ^c	Unknown ^c	None.
Quijano, Arsenio C.	22 yrs 9 mos	65.75	Filipino	None.
Raton, Francisco	23 yrs 11 mos	67.75	Filipino	None.
Rios, Cirilo	41 yrs 6 mos	66.75	Filipino	None.
Rojas, Leandro A.	31 yrs 10 mos	66	Filipino	None.
Romano, Juan	39 yrs 9 mos	61.5	Filipino	None.
Salin, Lorenzo	23 yrs 5 mos	64	Filipino	None.
Tan, Fernando	23 yrs 7 mos	62	Filipino	None.
Tejero, Francisco	23 yrs 3 mos	65	Filipino	None.
Valerio, Miguel M.	25 yrs 4 mos	61	Filipino	None.
Wilson, Kenneth	24 yrs 10 mos	60.5, 72.5, 73, 73.5 ^{b,c}	European	Fracture to left foot, 1938; reported gunshot wounds to waist. ³⁰
Zambrano, Felix	33 yrs 0 mos	61.75	Filipino	None.

^a Age based on incident date.^b Multiple statures listed in the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF).^c Information or IDPF not available.^d Two different birthdates listed in IDPF.^e One document reports a stature of 5'1/2". This value is likely a typo as all other documents in the IDPF report significantly taller statures.8. Odontology Summary

Undated QMC FORM 1044a (TOOTH CHART) labeled *CHEANEY, Ira B.* was used to develop the postmortem profile.³¹ The remains were compared to the available dental records for all but two service members on the casualty list (Table 4). Dental records were not present in the personnel files of Pvt Englis and Pvt Poblete. Unexplainable restorative and/or extraction

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pattern discrepancies are present in the comparisons for Pvt Alimboyao (extraction), Pfc Almayda (extraction), Cpl Bade (extraction), Pfc Balderama (both), Pfc Benigay (extraction), Pvt Casenas (extraction), 1st Lt Compton (restorative), Pfc Creer (extraction), 1st Lt Green (extraction), Pfc Kittelson (extraction), Pvt Mabilangan (extraction), Pvt Matunog (both), 1 Sgt Rios (extraction), Pvt Salin (extraction), Pvt Valerio (both), and 1st Lt Wilson (restorative). The charted dental remains correspond to the dental evidence of the remaining casualties with no unexplainable discrepancies.

There are two types of explainable discrepancies present in the antemortem/postmortem dental record comparisons. The first type of explainable discrepancy involves the presence or absence of teeth #1, #16, #17, and #32 (upper right and left, and lower left and right third molars or wisdom teeth, respectively). All are present in the remains but in contrast one or more are documented as missing in the dental evidence for Pvt Boco (tooth #1), Cpl Borromeo (teeth #1, #17, and #32), 1st Lt Cheaney (all), Pvt De La Cruz (teeth #1 and #16), Pvt Evite (tooth #32), Pvt Lucas (tooth #32), 1st Lt Maynard (teeth #1 and #32), Pvt Miguel (tooth #32), Pvt Mina (all), Cpl Nabor (teeth #1, #17, and #32), 1st Lt Nininger (all), Pfc Quijano (teeth #1, #16, and #32), Pfc Romano (tooth #1), and Pvt Tan (teeth #17 and #32). These differences may be explained since dental officers during the WWII era routinely performed their examinations without radiographs (x-rays). Radiographs allow the examining dentist the ability to observe unerupted (i.e., covered in soft tissue) third molars. During a visual examination, the dental officer would not detect the unerupted teeth and would incorrectly chart them as missing.

The second type of explainable discrepancy involves the molar pattern noted in the lower left and right posterior quadrants. The dental remains are charted with the presence of teeth #17-#19 and #30-#32 (lower left third, second, and first molars, and lower right first, second, and third molars, respectively). In contrast, the dental profiles for Pvt Boco (lower right), Pfc Catalan (lower right), Pvt Miana (lower left), and Pvt Ormelon (lower left) chart the presence of two molars and absence of one molar in either the left or right quadrants. These differences are explainable since all three types of molars (first, second, and third molars) have a similar coronal morphology and are easily mistaken for the other. In each case, the eruption of a mis-identified third molar would result in the presence of three unrestored molars (a pattern similar to what is charted in the remains) and would assist in explaining this discrepancy.

In summary, the dental profiles for all but two potential candidates were compared to the postmortem charting of the West Point dental remains. Of these service members, Pvt Boco, Cpl Borromeo, Pvt Cabugos, Pfc Catalan, 1st Lt Cheaney, Pvt Dayrit, Pvt De La Cruz, Pvt Evite, Pvt Lucas, 1st Lt Maynard, Pvt Miana, Pvt Miguel, Pvt Mina, Pvt Morada, Cpl Nabor, 1st Lt Nininger, Pvt Ormelon, Cpl Pacz, Pvt Poblador, Pfc Quijano, Cpl Raton, Pfc Rojas, Pfc Romano, Pvt Tan, Pvt Tejero, and Pfc Zambrano are possible candidates for association with the dental remains. Dental profiles for Pvt Englis and Pvt Poblete were not compared to the remains due to the lack of antemortem dental evidence for both service members.

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Table 4. Comparison of the West Point dental remains to the casualty list.

Tooth #	Dental remains	Alimbovao	Almayda	Bade	Balderama	Benigay	Boco	Borromeo	Cabugos	Casenas
1	V	X	V	V	V	X	X	X	V	X
2	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
3	V	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
4	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
5	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
6	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
7	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
8	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
9	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
10	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
11	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
13	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
14	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
15	V	V	X	V	V	X	V	V	V	V
16	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
17	V	X	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	V
18	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
19	V	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
20	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
21	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
22	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
23	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
24	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
25	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
26	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
27	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
28	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
29	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
30	V	V	V	Restored	Restored	V	V	V	V	V
31	V	V	V	X, points	Restored	V	V	V	V	V
32	V	X	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	V

Key: green shade = concordance; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored; X = antemortem missing.

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Table 4. Comparison of the West Point dental remains to the casualty list.

Tooth #	Dental remains	Catalan	Cheaney	Compton	Creer	Dayrit	De La Cruz	Englis	Exite	Green
1	V	V	X	O-S	V	V	X		V	X
2	V	V	V	DO-S	X	V	V		V	V
3	V	V	V	MO-S, O-S	V	V	V		V	V
4	V	V	V	DO-S	V	V	V		V	X
5	V	V	V	O-S	V	V	V		V	V
6	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
7	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
8	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
9	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
10	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
11	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
13	V	V	V	O-S	V	V	V		V	V
14	V	V	V	MO-S, O-S	V	V	V		V	V
15	V	V	V	O-S, O-S	V	V	V		V	V
16	V	V	X	O-S	X	V	X		V	X
17	V	V	X	O-S	V	V	V		V	X
18	V	V	V	O-S	V	V	V		V	V
19	V	V	V	V	X	V	V		V	V
20	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
21	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
22	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
23	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
24	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
25	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
26	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
27	V	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V
28	V	V	V	O-S	V	V	V		V	V
29	V	V	V	O-S	V	V	V		V	V
30	V	X	V	DO-S, I-S	V	V	V		V	V
31	V	V	V	O-S, I-S	X	V	V		V	V
32	V	V	X	O-S	X	V	V		X	X

Key: green shade = concordance; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored; X = antemortem missing; M = mesial; O = occlusal; D = distal; F = facial; S = silver amalgam restoration; / = no information.

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Table 4. Comparison of the West Point dental remains to the casualty list.

Tooth #	Dental remains	Kittelson	Lucas	Mahliangzen	Matunog	Maynard	Miana	Miguel	Mina	Morada
1	V	V	V	V	V	X	V	V	X	V
2	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
3	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
4	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V
5	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
6	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
7	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
8	V	V	V	Restored	Restored	V	V	V	V	V
9	V	V	V	X, possible	Restored	V	V	V	V	V
10	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
11	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
13	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
14	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
15	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
16	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	X	V
17	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	X	V
18	V	X	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
19	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
20	V	V	V	V	V	V	X	V	V	V
21	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
22	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
23	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
24	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
25	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
26	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
27	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
28	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
29	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
30	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
31	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
32	V	V	X	V	V	X	V	X	X	V

Key: green shade = concordance; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored; X = antemortem missing.

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Table 4. Comparison of the West Point dental remains to the casualty list.

Tooth #	Dental remains	Nabor	Nininger	Ormelon	Paez	Poblador	Poblete	Quijano	Raton	Rios
1	V	X	X	V	V	V		X	V	X
2	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
3	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
4	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
5	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
6	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
7	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
8	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
9	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
10	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
11	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
12	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
13	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
14	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
15	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
16	V	V	X	V	V	V		X	V	X
17	V	X	X	V	V	V		V	V	X
18	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
19	V	V	V	X	V	V		V	V	V
20	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
21	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
22	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
23	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
24	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
25	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
26	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
27	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
28	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
29	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
30	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
31	V	V	V	V	V	V		V	V	V
32	V	X	X	V	V	V		X	V	X

Key: green shade = concordance; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored; X = antemortem missing; / = no information.

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Table 4. Comparison of the West Point dental remains to the casualty list.

Tooth #	Dental remains	Rojas	Romano	Salin	Tan	Tejero	Valerio	Wilson	Zambrano
1	V	V	X	V	V	V	X	V	V
2	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	O-S	V
3	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	DO-S	V
4	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
5	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	DO-S	V
6	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
7	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
8	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
9	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
10	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
11	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
13	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
14	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	V	V
15	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	O-S	V
16	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	O-S	V
17	V	V	V	X	X	V	V	V	V
18	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
19	V	V	V	V	V	V	Restored	O-S	V
20	V	V	V	V	V	V	Restored	DO-S	V
21	V	V	V	V	V	V	Restored	V	V
22	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
23	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
24	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
25	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
26	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
27	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
28	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
29	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	DO-S	V
30	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	DO-S	V
31	V	V	V	V	V	V	X	MOD-S	V
32	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	O-S	V
					X		X	X	V

Key: green shade = concordance; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored; X = antemortem missing; M = mesial; O = occlusal; D = distal; S = silver amalgam restoration.

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9. Summary

The DPAA has analyzed historical documents related to the recovery and identification of 1st Lt Ira B. Cheaney and is considering the possibility that a misidentification occurred in 1948. The recovery location of the remains (hereafter, "West Point remains") does not match 1st Lt Cheaney's time and circumstances of loss. Furthermore, in a classified IDPF for 1st Lt Cheaney, the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG) acknowledges a misidentification but declines to overturn the identification in the absence of other remains being identified as 1st Lt Cheaney.

The West Point remains were recovered from Abucay churchyard, an area associated with 43 losses. First Lieutenant Cheaney is added to this list because of his historical association with the remains, but the circumstances of his loss are inconsistent with the recovery of the remains. Therefore, 44 candidates are included for analysis. No candidates can be excluded based on anthropological factors, while 16 candidates can be excluded based on dental factors. These analyses result in 28 candidates remaining for association with the unknown remains, including 1st Lt Cheaney, and ranked based on historic factors (see Table 1). In addition to a standard re-analysis of the remains, DNA analysis is a potential line of evidence for identification. Therefore, it is recommended that the West Point remains be exhumed from Section VII, Site 107, of the U.S. Military Academy Post Cemetery (the headstone of which continues to bear the name of 1st Lt Cheaney), for transport to the DPAA Laboratory for forensic analysis and comparison with the associated casualties.

GREGORY J. KUPSKY, PhD
Historian, DPAA

ANDREA PALMIOTTO, PhD
Anthropologist

CALVIN Y. SHIROMA, DMD
Odontologist

Science Director Decision:

Approved

Regional Director Decision:

Approved

Frank H. Cheaney, Jr.

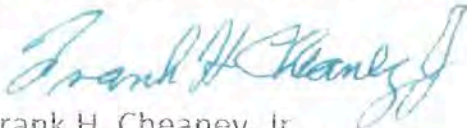
February 4, 2019

STATEMENT

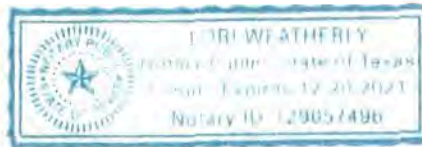
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division
US Army Human Resources Command
(Regarding the Erroneous Burial of 1LT Ira B. Cheaney, Jr. at the USMA)

I am the son of Frank H. Cheaney, who was the half brother of Ira B. Cheaney and uncle of 1LT Ira B. Cheaney, Jr. I am a first cousin of 1LT Cheaney and am not personally aware of any other living close relatives.

Based on my understanding that there is conclusive proof in the hands of the Army and others that the remains of my cousin, 1LT Cheaney, cannot possibly be buried in grave number 107, Row B, Section VII at the Post Cemetery at West Point, New York, due to the location of his death and battlefield burial, I concur in the disinterment of the remains in that grave in order for the DPAA to attempt positive identification. My interest in this matter is to be cooperative with the Army in providing surviving family members of the person whose remains were erroneously identified as those of 1LT Cheaney with knowledge of the ultimate burial site of their loved one, if that is possible. I also hope that this action may eventually result in information concerning the actual burial site of 1LT Cheaney.



Frank H. Cheaney, Jr.
Colonel, US Army, Retired



State of Texas

County of Bexar

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 4 day of February 2019,
by Frank H. Cheaney, Jr.

Lori Weatherly - notary public Lori Weatherly - notary public state of Texas

HEADQUARTERS
INVESTIGATION & RECOVERY UNIT
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
BATAAN PROVINCE

28 Dec 1946

SUBJECT: INTERROGATION

1. Name of Deceased STUART, Colonel 57th Inf (PS) ✓
2. Location of burial Abucay, BATAAN
 - a. Name of locality Abucay Hacienda, Abucay, BATAAN
 - b. Coordinates N. 18.6 E 82.9
 - c. Map reference Mt. SANTA ROSA, P.I. N 1440 E 12020/10
Sheet 3255-III Scale 1.50,000
3. Method of determining identity:
4. Statement of Informant

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.

5. Date of Death JAN. 1942
 - a. Cause of death K. I. A.
 - b. Person who buried remains UNKNOWN SCOUTS
6. Grave marked with regulation cross ~~(Yes)~~ (No)

I certify that the foregoing information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Ruben Caragay
/p/ RUBEN CARAGAY
Signature of Informant

ABUCAY, BATAAN
Address

/s/ Abie Abraham
/p/ ABIE ABRAHAM
Signature of Interrogator M/Sgt

AGRS (PATA)
APO Address 707

A TRUE COPY:

Charles H. Ripley
CHARLES H RIPLEY
Captain, CMP

22 June 81

Dear John:

Good hearing from you. it's always good hearing from the families of my friends. I knew your grandfather very well.

I spent a week trying to locate the grave of your grandfather. finally an informant came to my office in Balanga, were I had my office and he gave me this information.

During the battle of Abucay's hacienda, I went to my plantation at the Hacienda to check how things were. I saw Filipinos carrying a deceased American. they didn't talk much, but did tell me that it was an American Colonel. I watched the Filipinos bury the Colonel.

Ruben Caragay
Abucay, Bataan

John, I believe it was Colonel Stewart, as he was the only Colonel to be killed at the Hacienda. my outfit, the 31st Infantry was on the right flank of the 51st Division.

I sent to body to the American cemetery as an unknown(probably that of Colonel Stewart) due to no tags were found with the remains, but did send the statement that Mr. Caragay gave me and was hoping that the remains would be properly identified later.

I was the chief of all operations and the only American in Bataan. didn't want anyone to fool around with the operations, as they might disinter Japanese and say they were Americans.

Give my love to your Grandmother.

Abie

phone 1-412-789-7570

MSG Abie Abraham Retd.
Box 934 D Evans City Road
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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

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

6 August 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Maureen Justiniano, Historian, SNA International, Indo-Pacific Operations, DPAA;
Katherine Skorpinski, Anthropologist; Calvin Y. Shiroma, Odontologist, DPAA
Laboratory

To: Science Director; Indo-Pacific Director, DPAA

Subj: FAMILY DISINTERMENT REQUEST FOR UNKNOWN X-618 LEYTE #1 AND
UNKNOWN X-619 LEYTE #1, THE PHILIPPINES

1. Executive Summary

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) received an external family request for the disinterment of Unknown X-618 Leyte #1 (hereafter, X-618), also known as X-2322 Manila Mausoleum, and Unknown X-619 Leyte #1 (hereafter, X-619), also known as X-2323 Manila Mausoleum, for potential association with Brigadier General (Brig Gen) Guy Osborne Fort. Brigadier General Fort is believed to have been executed and buried in the vicinity of Camp Keithley near the town of Dansalan, Lanao del Sur Province, in the southern Philippines on 11 November 1942.

Historical analysis of Unknowns X-618 and X-619 indicates that these sets of remains are improbable matches to Brig Gen Fort due to several factors. The recovery location of X-618 and X-619 is approximately 65 miles away from the likely site where Brig Gen Fort was executed and buried in Dansalan (present-day Marawi) as described by Japanese officers. Furthermore, the association of these two unknowns to Brig Gen Fort in historical documents was based on the assumptions of an informant operating on secondhand information. In addition, there is currently insufficient historical documentation to propose a list of likely candidates for comparison either to X-618 or X-619. Anthropological and dental analyses suggest that Brig Gen Fort is an unlikely candidate for both sets of remains.

Based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. ¹ Therefore, it is recommended that X-618 and X-619 not be exhumed.

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2. Initial Recovery and Assessment

On 11 July 1947 the American Grave Registration Services (AGRS) sent personnel to Cagayan Misamis to interview Father James Edward Haggerty, S.J., rector of Jesuit-run boys' school Ateneo de Cagayan, pertaining to the remains found on school grounds shared with the Religious of the Virgin Mary Sisters-run girls' school Lourdes Academy.² According to Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt) Charles G. Waple of the AGRS, "[Father Haggerty] told us that the remains believed to be that of Gen. Fort were taken up by Governor [Ignacio S.] Cruz but there was a grave next to his that was believed to be an American. That afternoon we came back and dug up that grave and recovered the remains. The skeleton was complete with all the teeth. A belt buckle was also found with a spread eagle and the year 1940."³ The remains were recovered from the following coordinates, 8° 29' N - 124° 38' 30" E (Figure 1).



Figure 1: AGRS map identifying the location of the remains circled in red. Source: Leyte #1 X-619 File.

In addition, the AGRS officers also talked to Mr. Felipe Mabalos, a janitor at Ateneo de Cagayan who had witnessed Japanese soldiers burying someone on school grounds in 1942. According to his 14 July 1947 sworn statement, Mr. Mabalos described what happened on school grounds:

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. . . in the later part of 1942, I noticed that there were two (2) trucks and two (2) cars loaded with Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets entering the College campus. Later I saw some of the Japanese soldiers digging a hole. They were surrounded by another group. Scattered in different places from where the Japanese were digging were also Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets. A few hours later these men left the place. When I found that they had left I came down from my hut which was but seventy (70) meters more or less from the spot where the men had dug a hole. I was curious in approaching the spot because I thought the Japanese had buried some money but to my dismay I saw that they had dug a grave. I found there were two (2) graves near each other. One was newly dug – the other an old grave. When I noticed that the hole they dug was a grave I left the place... That I suspected these two spots were the graves of high-ranking American officers because the Japanese usually kill and bury people they had killed in a place about one (1) kilometer away from my place; besides, only about two or three Japanese soldiers would witness the killing of an ordinary prisoner... That the old grave was dug by some Americans who came to the Ateneo on July 11, 1947; the new grave was dug some months ago by the order of the Provincial Governor of Oriental Misamis [sic].⁴

On 14 July 1947 the AGRS acknowledged receipt of “a box containing the skeleton of General Guy Fort” from Hon. Ignacio S. Cruz, Provincial Governor of Misamis Oriental.⁵ In his 15 July 1947 affidavit, however, Governor Cruz explained how he acquired what he described as “the supposed remains of Gen. Guy O. Fort.” In September 1942 he was contacted by Japanese authorities to serve as an interpreter for an American officer who was being held at the school building of Ateneo de Cagayan in Cagayan Misamis. Later that evening, Governor Cruz received another message that his services were no longer required because the American would soon be executed.

Governor Cruz was neither a witness to the execution nor did he actually meet the American officer. However, he had spoken to those who had information about the circumstances of the unidentified American’s death and burial. Based on an investigation he conducted – interviewing several witnesses and collecting information surrounding the execution – he surmised that the individual who died and was buried on the school grounds could be Brig Gen Fort. Governor Cruz then ordered that the remains be exhumed from the following coordinates, 8° 29’ N - 124° 38’ 30” E, (Figure 2), and turned over the set of remains to 2nd Lt. Charles G. Waple of the AGRS in July 1947. These remains became X-618 Leyte #1, and a second set of remains disinterred from the same burial site became X-619 Leyte #1.⁶

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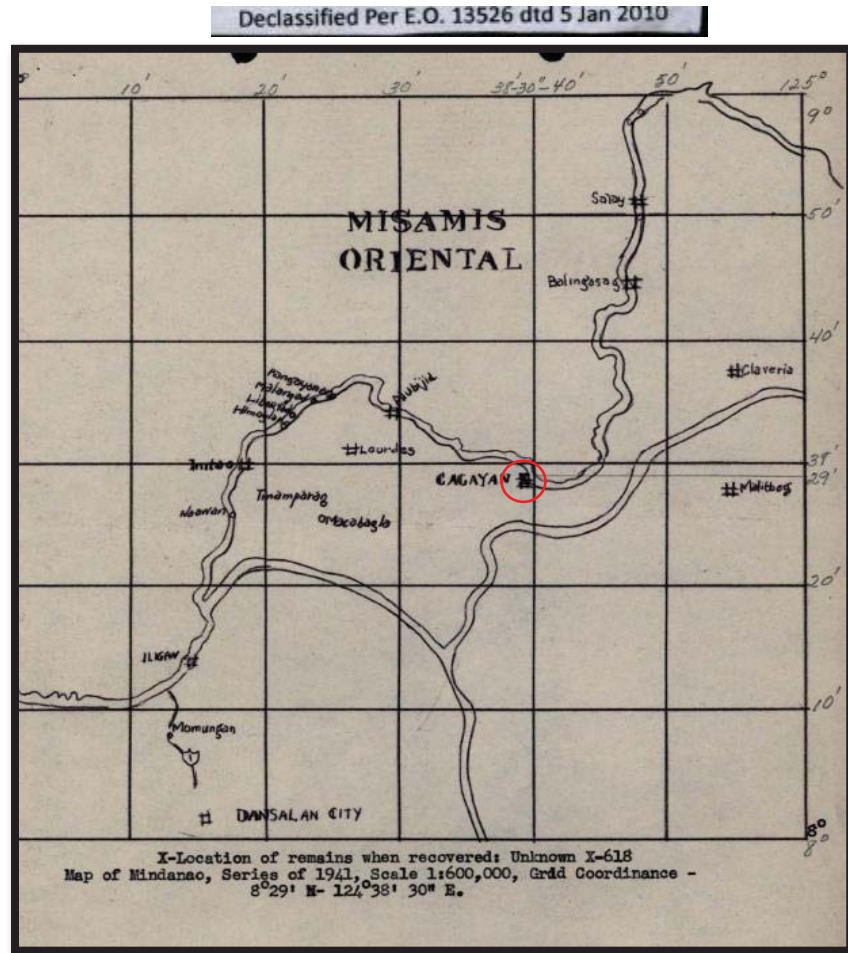


Figure 2: AGRS map identifying the location of the remains circled in red. Source: Leyte #1 X-618 File.

3. Disinterment and Reprocessing

The July 1947 recovery report for X-618 describes skeletal remains with an estimated height of 5' 1 3/8". There is no potential name association in that report. The assessment conducted on arrival at Manila Mausoleum on 1 December 1947 states that the remains "could possibly be of General Guy O. Fort," based on the testimony of Governor Cruz. All subsequent documentation, including the 3 December 1947 interment report at Manila Mausoleum, states that X-618 or X-619 "could be Gen Guy O. Fort."⁷

On 26 September 1949, the Final Determination Section, Office of the Quartermaster General, delayed a finding of non-recoverability for Brig Gen Fort while requesting one final comparison of his records to X-618 and X-619. On 29 September 1949, the Identification Section provided the results of a dental comparison of both X-618 and X-619 to Brig Gen Fort. According to the report, "Dental records of General Fort reveal extractions of teeth, Right and Left 5, whereas neither of the Unknowns in question indicate such extractions."⁸

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A 4 March 1950 assessment of the remains gave an estimated height of 5' 3 1/8", compared Brig Gen Fort's recorded height of 5' 8 1/2", and stated that the race of X-618 was "Very probably Filipino."⁹

4. Historical Investigations and Name Associations

During and after the war, the AGRS, the legal section of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP), and other entities attempted to determine the fate of Brig Gen Fort. As late as April 1946, the case of Brig Gen Fort was still being investigated as a mysterious disappearance due to lack of evidence or witnesses who could vouch for a fact that he died in November 1942.¹⁰

Recovery and initial assessment of X-618 and X-619 occurred before the 1948 war crime trial of Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Yoshinari Tanaka, commander of the 31st Independent Infantry Battalion and commanding officer of the POW camp at Camp Keithley in Dansalan (present-day Marawi) on the island of Mindanao. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka was ultimately charged with the execution of Brig Gen Fort, and summarily executed for his war crimes.¹¹

Investigators interviewed Lt Col Tanaka on 28-30 June 1948. He stated that his commander, Maj Gen Ikuta, ordered him to execute General Fort in retaliation for the escape of three POWs. The general suggested that it might be made to appear that General Fort "died in battle while being taken on operations to subdue the Moro tribes." Because he was "afraid to let too many days lapse," Lt Col Tanaka ordered the execution. He stated that Brig Gen Fort was blindfolded, and that two soldiers served on the firing squad. He was buried at the scene, "flowers were placed on his grave and prayers were offered as a final farewell."¹²

On 13 and 15 July 1948, investigators spoke with Lt Col Nobuhiko Jimbo, former adjutant of the 10th Independent Garrison at Davao, on Mindanao. He stated that the original POW camp at Dansalan was closed in July; but after a Japanese defeat at the hands of the Moro guerrillas in September, the Mindanao military governor suggested that General Fort be brought in to tell the Moros to lay down their arms. The next he heard of General Fort was the report to General Ikuda that Lt Col Tanaka had him executed, sometime after September. According to Lt Col Jimbo, once General Ikuta learned of the execution, he flew to Dansalan and reprimanded Lt Col Tanaka for the execution. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka then told General Ikuta that someone in his intelligence section was responsible. Lieutenant Colonel Tanaka said that the execution took place close to his headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Jimbo received Brig Gen Fort's belongings, which he shipped to 14th Army Headquarters in Manila with the message that General Fort was shot while trying to escape.¹³

Around the same time, Captain Hifumi Hiramatsu, formerly an intelligence officer under Lt Col Tanaka, testified. Captain Hiramatsu stated that he arrived at Dansalan in September 1942. He was suffering from malaria and not on duty until after General Fort's execution. Captain Hiramatsu recalled that, in September or October while he was ill, an American brigadier general was brought to the Intelligence Office in Dansalan. Another officer, named

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Nakamura, notified him that the general was to be shot for trying to escape. Still sick, Hiramatsu watched the execution from a distance of 50 meters. He stated that Nakamura shot General Fort with a rifle. He also provided a sketch of the location (Figure 3).¹⁴

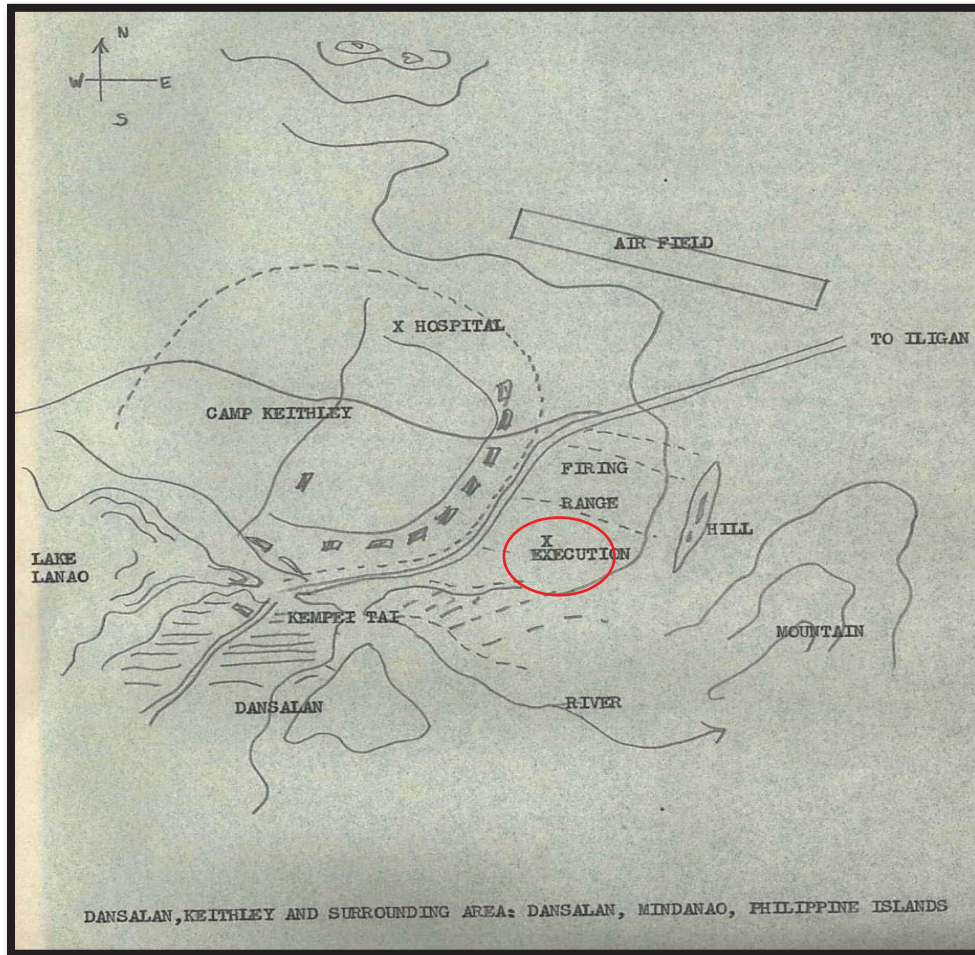


Figure 3: Map of the location of Brig Gen Fort's execution provided by Capt Hifumi Miramatsu during his interrogation on 8-9 July 1948 circled in red. Source: IDPF for Fort.

While none of this information appears in the files for X-618 and X-619, the testimony of the Japanese officers convinced the AGRS that Brig Gen Fort was executed in Dansalan on or around 11 November 1942. Because a 3 July 1948 search in Dansalan failed to provide any remains identifiable as Brig Gen Fort, the AGRS recommended on 4 June 1949 that his remains be declared non-recoverable. After requesting a final comparison to X-618 and X-619 on 26 September 1949 (see above), the Office of the Quartermaster General approved this recommendation on 12 October 1949.¹⁵

Aside from Brig Gen Fort, another individual was potentially associated with X-619 (also known as X-2323). Private First Class (Pfc) Russell W. Davis (16021488) of 14th Bombardment

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Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group, who was erroneously reported a prisoner of war of the Japanese in January 1943,¹⁶ was later confirmed to have been “killed in action” by natives on 30 June 1942 in Mindanao, southern Philippines¹⁷.

In response to the 19 December 1945 inquiry of Pfc Davis’s mother pertaining to the burial location of her son, the AGRS launched an investigation into possible association identification with potential unknowns from Mindanao.¹⁸ The remains of unknown X-619 (X-2323) were considered, so further review was conducted on Pfc Davis’s case evidence to determine whether or not Pfc Davis was a match. Furthermore, the AGRS tried to find Davis’s burial site but was unsuccessful.

On 6 September 1949 further examination yielded negative results “because documentary evidence concerning the place of death and original burial of Pfc. Davis is not sufficient to warrant an identification.”¹⁹

5. Unidentifiable

On 12 October 1949 the AGRS finally considered X-619 “‘Unidentifiable’ by reason of lack of sufficient identifying data.”²⁰ Unknown X-619 was interred in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM), Plot D, Row 12, Grave 216.

As for X-618, on 4 March 1950, the AGRS stated that “insufficient evidence is available to establish the identity” of X-618, and recommended that the remains be declared unidentifiable. The Office of the Quartermaster General approved a finding of unidentifiability on 27 March 1950.²¹ Subsequent to approval, X-618 was also interred as an unknown in MACM Plot L, Row 8, Grave 113.

6. Present Investigation

In determining whether X-618 or X-619 is associated with Brig Gen Fort, DPAA assessed the likely execution and burial site of Brig Gen Fort, as well as available physical evidence.

The establishment of Cagayan (Figure 4), the recovery location of X-618, as the execution and burial site of Brig Gen Fort, is based entirely on the testimony of Governor Ignacio Cruz. The date given by Governor Cruz (September 1942) is inconsistent with the death of Brig Gen Fort because he and other high-ranking officers departed the Malaybalay camp for Manila on 6 September 1942.²² Multiple witness statements place Brig Gen Fort held captive in Fort Santiago in Manila between September and October.²³ Brigadier General Fort passed through Cagayan from 7-18 July 1942, en route to Malaybalay, and again on 6 September en route to Manila, but evidence strongly suggests that he arrived in Manila later in September.

There are numerous accounts that place Brig Gen Fort in Dansalan just before his execution (Figure 3), beginning with Lt Col Tanaka, the Japanese officer who ordered Brig Gen Fort’s execution, as well as Japanese subordinates who either witnessed the execution or heard about it.²⁴ It is important to note that the apparent motivation for bringing Brig Gen Fort to Dansalan was intense guerrilla activity that culminated in an October 1942 ambush outside that city. The

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attack killed over 100 Japanese soldiers and, as a result, “the Japanese never came back, and never again patrolled in the interior of Lanao, although they maintained their garrison at Dansalan by virtue of the highway to Iligan.”²⁵ Under these circumstances, it is unlikely that the Japanese would have taken a prisoner more than 60 miles through territory they did not control to execute him. It is also unlikely that the officers stationed in Dansalan would falsely claim responsibility for his death while being interrogated by war crimes investigators.



Figure 4. Map showing the two reported execution/burial locations for Brig Gen Fort.

Additional corroboration of the Dansalan location exists in an affidavit from 1st Lt Leonard LeCouvre, who served on the staff of Colonel Wendell Fertig, the American guerrilla commander on Mindanao. In the May 1945 affidavit, 1st Lt LeCouvre summarizes intelligence gathered from local Moro guerrillas on Mindanao. According to 1st Lt LeCouvre, Moros “had witnessed the execution. General Forte [sic] was captured in Dansalan, taken to Manila, and then returned to Dansalan. The Japanese ordered him to assist them in controlling the Moros. General Forte [sic] refused to do this, although they worked on him for some time. Finally, he was taken out and forced to dig a grave and was given one last chance to assist the Japanese in controlling the Moros. When he again refused, he was shot and fell into the grave where he was buried.”²⁶ Second Lieutenant Jack Hoffman of the 14th Bombardment Squadron, who resided with Moro guerrillas throughout the war, further stated—albeit secondhand—that the Moros saw Brig Gen Fort bayoneted and shot in Dansalan, after which the Moros stole his remains to bury them.²⁷

Despite this pool of evidence pointing to Dansalan as the execution and burial location, the testimony of Governor Cruz caught the attention of the AGRS and made X-618 the early focus of the search for Brig Gen Fort. After 1948, however, the AGRS shifted its focus to the Dansalan area, while anthropological analysis of X-618 and X-619 continued to examine the possibility of one of those sets of remains being Brig Gen Fort. As noted above, in 1950 the Office of the Quartermaster General found both the height estimate and dental comparisons of X-618 and X-619 with Brig Gen Fort to be negative.

7. Anthropology Summary

Description of X-618 and X-619 Remains

The X-618 file contains multiple skeletal assessments with associated skeletal charts dated 14 July 1947,²⁸ 1 December 1947,²⁹ and 4 March 1950.³⁰ These assessments are generally consistent with minor discrepancies. According to the most recent skeletal chart, the remains are complete aside from the lower ribs, the manubrium, and possibly portions of the hands (Figure 5). No healed fractures were noted. The ribs are noted to be fragmentary in the 1947 skeletal assessments. Stature estimates vary between analyses and include 61.375 inches and 66 inches in the 1947 analyses and 63.125 inches in the 1950 analysis, which lists associated measurements. In the most recent assessment, age was estimated to be between 23 and 28 years, and ancestry was assessed to be “Mongoloid (Very probably Filipino).”³¹

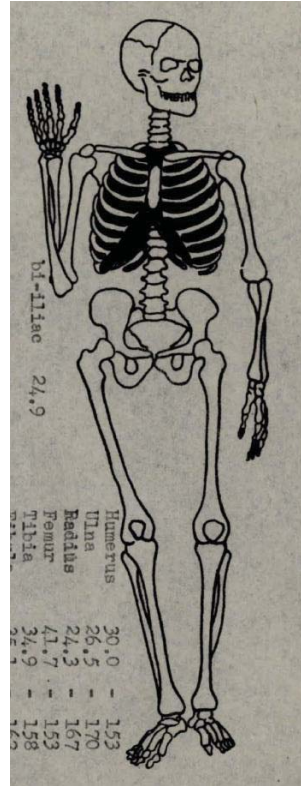


Figure 5. X-618, diagram from historical skeletal assessment, black out parts absent.³²

The X-619 file contains multiple skeletal assessments with associated skeletal charts dated 11 July 1947,³³ 1 December 1947,³⁴ and 27 September 1949.³⁵ These assessments are generally consistent with minor discrepancies. According to the most recent skeletal chart, the remains are complete aside from the lower ribs, both patellae, and portions of the sternum, hands, and feet (Figure 6). The ribs are depicted as fragmentary, and no healed fractures were noted. A perimortem fracture to the cranium is also noted in an earlier skeletal analysis.³⁶ Similar to X-618, stature estimates vary between analyses, with the July 1947 analysis providing a shorter estimate (59 inches) compared to the December 1947 and September 1949 analyses (65 inches). No associated long bone measurements are present in the file, and neither age nor ancestry were assessed for the X-619 remains.

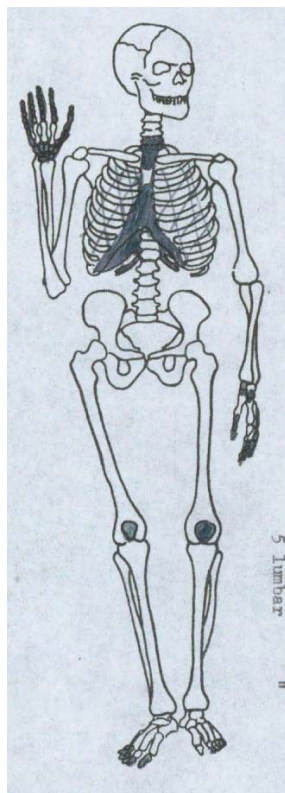


Figure 6. X-619, diagram from historical skeletal assessment, black out parts absent.³⁷

Comparison with Brig Gen Fort

The information in the X-618 file is insufficient to re-evaluate age or ancestry at this time. For X-618, the original age estimate of 23 to 28 years and ancestry assessment of “Mongoloid” (i.e., Asian) will be used for comparison. Stature was reanalyzed for X-618 with *FORDISC 3*³⁸ using the measurements available in the file. Using the Trotter MStats database for “Any” males, the maximum lengths of the femur (417 mm), fibula (351 mm), and humerus (300 mm) provide a point estimate of 63.9 inches with a 95% prediction interval of 61.2 to 66.6 inches. It should be noted that the lengths of the radius and ulna from X-618 provide much taller stature estimates (67.4 inches [63.9–70.9 inches] for the radius; 67.9 inches [64.3–71.5 inches] for the ulna), which may indicate commingling with X-619.

The information in the X-619 file is insufficient to evaluate age or ancestry at this time, and no original assessments of these characteristics were made that can be compared to Brig Gen Fort. However, the most recent estimate provided in the X-619 file (65 inches) was expanded three inches in either direction to provide a more realistic stature range for comparison (62 to 68 inches).³⁹

A comparison of the physical characteristics of the X-618 and X-619 remains with Brig Gen Guy Fort is presented in Table 1. The X-618 remains are inconsistent with Brig Gen Fort in age, stature, and ancestry. Additionally, Brig Gen Fort is just outside the expanded stature range for

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X-619, though the accuracy of this range is not known due to the lack of measurements in the file. There is antemortem trauma noted in the IDPF for Brig Gen Fort that was not noted for either Unknown. However, it is uncertain if healed rib fractures would be apparent in the remains given the age of the reported fractures and the fragmentation of the ribs for both Unknowns, and the arrow wound may not have affected the skeleton. Based on the biological profile information for the remains, Brig Gen Fort is excluded from consideration for X-618 and appears to be an unlikely candidate for X-619.

Name	Age	Stature (inches)	Ancestry	Comments
Fort, Guy O.	63 years, 10 mos*	68.5	European	Three left ribs fractured, 1911; arrow wound in left calf, no date. ⁴⁰
X-618 Leyte	23–28 years	61.2–66.6**	Asian	None.
X-619 Leyte	Unknown	62.0–68.0†	Unknown	None.

Red shade = inconsistent with Brig Gen Fort.

Yellow shade = unlikely but cannot be excluded from Brig Gen Fort.

*Age based on KIA date.

**Stature recalculated in *FORDISC 3*.

†Stature expanded from original estimate in X-619 file.

8. Odontology Summary

X-618

The dental remains were examined on multiple occasions. QMC FORM 1044 (IDENTIFICATION DATA) and QMC FORM 1044a (TOOTH CHART) labeled *UNKNOWN X-2322 (Formerly X-618 Leyte #1)* and dated *4 March 1950* was the most current and was used to develop the postmortem profile.⁴¹ The charted postmortem dental characteristics of the remains were compared to the available antemortem dental evidence for Brig Gen Fort (Table 2). Brigadier General Fort is an unlikely candidate for association with the remains due to an unexplainable extraction pattern discrepancy.

Tooth #	X-618	Brig Gen Fort
1	E	V
2	V	V
3	O-S	V
4	V	V
5	V	X
6	V	V
7	V	V

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8	E	V
9	V	V
10	M-N	V
11	V	V
12	V	V
13	V	X
14	X	V
15	V	V
16	E	V
17	V	V
18	MO-S, O-S, F-S	V
19	X	V
20	V	V
21	V	V
22	V	V
23	V	V
24	V	V
25	V	V
26	V	V
27	V	V
28	V	V
29	V	V
30	X	X
31	O-S	V
32	V	V
KEY: Green shade = similar finding; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red shade = unexplainable discrepancy; M = mesial; O = occlusal; F = facial; S = silver dental amalgam restoration; N = non-metal restoration; V = unrestored tooth; X = missing tooth antemortem; E = missing postmortem or perimortem.		

X-619

The dental remains were examined on multiple occasions. QMC FORM 1044 (IDENTIFICATION DATA) and QMC FORM 1044a (TOOTH CHART) labeled *UNKNOWN X-2323 (Formerly X-619 Leyte #1)* and dated 27 Sept. 49 was the most current and was used to develop the postmortem profile.⁴² The charted postmortem dental characteristics of the remains were compared to the available antemortem dental evidence for Brig Gen Fort (Table 3). Brigadier General Fort is an unlikely candidate for association with the remains due to an unexplainable extraction pattern discrepancy.

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Table 3. Dental comparison of X-619 to Brig Gen Fort.		
Tooth #	X-619	Brig Gen Fort
1	V	V
2	V	V
3	V	V
4	V	V
5	V	X
6	V	V
7	V	V
8	V	V
9	V	V
10	V	V
11	V	V
12	V	V
13	V	X
14	V	V
15	V	V
16	E	V
17	V	V
18	V	V
19	E	V
20	V	V
21	V	V
22	V	V
23	V	V
24	V	V
25	V	V
26	V	V
27	V	V
28	V	V
29	V	V
30	E	X
31	V	V
32	V	V

KEY: Green shade = similar finding; yellow shade = explainable discrepancy; red shade = unexplainable discrepancy; V = unrestored tooth; X = missing tooth antemortem; E = missing postmortem or perimortem.

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Summary

Anthropological and dental analyses suggest that Brig Gen Fort is an unlikely candidate for either sets of remains. Therefore, based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. Furthermore, based on the fact that all prisoners captured around Dansalan, including civilians, moved through Cagayan on the way to Malaybalay POW camp, further research is required to compile a list of potential associations to X-618 and X-619.

JUSTINIANO.MAUREEN.CRISTIN
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ou=CONTRACTOR, cn=JUSTINIANO.MAUREEN.CRISTIN
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MAUREEN JUSTINIANO, PhD
Historian, SNA International

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KATHERINE SKORPINSKI, PhD
Anthropologist

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Date: 2018.08.07 11:32:25 -10'00'

CALVIN Y. SHIROMA, DMD
Odontologist

Science Director Decision:

Regional Director Decision:

Approved

BERRAN.PHILIP.JOSEPH.1022745197
SEPH.1022745197
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Disapproved

Other
(Explanation Attached)

Other
(Explanation Attached)

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¹ Following the criterion to "have the scientific and technical ability and capacity to identify personnel in a timely manner" and the threshold, set by the Deputy Secretary for Defense on 14 April 2015, for the likelihood of an individual identification. Robert Work, "Disinterment of Unknowns from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific," 14 April 2015. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

² When founder Fr. James T. G. Hayes SJ became Bishop of Cagayan in 1933, his academic institution St. Augustine School was dissolved and re-established into two separate secondary schools – Ateneo de Cagayan for boys under the Jesuit order and Lourdes Academy for girls under the *Religiosa de la Virgen Maria* (Religious of the Virgin Mary / RVM) Sisters.

³ Search and Recovery Report, n. d., Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁴ Affidavit of Mr. Felipe Mabalos, 14 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁵ Statement of Second Lieutenant Charles G. Waple, Jr., 14 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

⁶ Affidavit of Hon. Ignacio Cruz regarding the death and burial of Brigadier General Guy O. Fort, dated 15 July 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File; Search and Recovery Report, Trip # 69, Search #2, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

⁷ Identification Check List, 14 July 1947; Identification Check List, 1 December 1947; Report of Interment, 3 December 1947, Leyte #1 X-618 File; Report of Interment, 3 December 1947, Leyte #1 X-619 File. On arrival at Manila Mausoleum in December, the remains were designated X-2322, but for the sake of simplicity will be described hereafter as X-618.

⁸ Intraoffice Reference Sheet, 26 September 1949, IDPF for Fort; Message from Identification Section, 29 September 1949, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

⁹ Identification Data, 4 March 1950; Captain H. B. McNemar, Memorandum, SUBJ: Unidentifiable Remains, 4 March 1950; Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Metz, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of World War II Deceased, 27 March 1950, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

¹⁰ Report No. 286, "Disappearance of Brig Gen. Guy O. Fort" (also known as Case C-88-c), UD 1214 "War Crime Files, 1946-50," Box 1131, SCAP Legal Section, Record Group (RG) 331: Records of Allied Operational and Occupation Headquarters, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park, MD.

¹¹ See Tanaka, Y. Trial Record, Case 46-17, Vol. 1, Box 1329, Entry 143, "Case Files, 1944-49," RG 153: Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, NARA, College Park, MD.

¹² Statement of Yoshinari Tanaka, Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) for Fort, Guy O., Brig Gen, O-952305, RG 92: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹³ Statement of Nobuhiko Jimbo, 13-15 July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁴ Statements of Hifumi Hiramatsu, July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁵ Case History for Remains Considered Non-Recoverable, 4 June 1949, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁶ The official military report containing list of individuals taken as prisoners of war after the surrender of 1942 included the name "R. W. Davis," who later turned out to be Private First Class (Pfc) Ray W. Davis (19051350). Refer to 24 November 1945 letter sent to Mrs. Lucy A. Davis (mother of Pfc Russell W. Davis) explaining the error

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pertaining the status of her son after the surrender of 1942. IDPF for Pfc Russell W. Davis , National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁷ Report of Death (Special P.I. case), 2 January 1946; Battle Casualty Report, 15 November 1945, IDPF for Davis, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁸ Letter of Mrs. Lucy Davis to Quartermaster General, 19 December 1945, IDPF for Davis, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

¹⁹ Memo re: Identification of World War II Deceased, 6 September 1949, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

²⁰ Memo re: Unidentifiable Remains, 12 October 1949, Leyte #1 X-619 File.

²¹ Identification Data, 4 March 1950; Captain H. B. McNemar, Memorandum, SUBJ: Unidentifiable Remains, 4 March 1950; Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Metz, Memorandum, SUBJ: Identification of World War II Deceased, 27 March 1950, Leyte #1 X-618 File.

²² Victor L. Mapes (with Scott Mills), *The Butchers, The Baker: The World War II Memoir of a United States Army Air Corps Soldier Captured by the Japanese in the Philippines*, p. 171; Statement of Colonel Eugene Mitchell, 1 September 1945, Case File B-21 "Camp Keithley," Entry UD 1211, "Closed Case Files, 1945-46," Box 1061, SCAP Legal Section, RG 331, NARA, College Park, MD.

²³ Statement of Colonel Eugene Mitchell, 1 September 1945, Case File B-21 "Camp Keithley," Entry UD 1211, "Closed Case Files, 1945-46," Box 1061, SCAP Legal Section, RG 331, NARA, College Park, MD.

²⁴ Statement of Nobuhiko Jimbo, 13-15 July 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁵ Memo for Lt. Col. Shaftoe, Chief, Guerrilla Affairs Division, AFWESPAC, on Lanao Guerrillas, 9 June 1946, p. 2, Philippine Archives Collection, RG 407: Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, NARA, College Park, MD; Tanaka. Y. Trial Record, Case 46-17, Vol. 1.

²⁶ Statement of Leonard LeCouvre, 24 May 1945, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁷ Statement of Jack Hoffman, 1 March 1945, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

²⁸ A. P. Singson, "Identification Check List," 14 July 1947, X-618 File.

²⁹ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-618 File.

³⁰ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³¹ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³² Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

³³ A. P. Singson, "Identification Check List," 11 July 1947, X-619 File.

³⁴ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-619 File.

³⁵ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

³⁶ Charles H. Vanderbilt, "Identification Check List," 1 December 1947, X-619 File.

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³⁷ Paul R. Nichols, "Identification Data," 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

³⁸ Richard Jantz and Stephen Ousley, *FORDISC 3: Computerized Forensic Discriminant Functions*, Version 3.1.312 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 2005).

³⁹ Debra Prince Zinni, "Resolution of Cold Cases: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Identifying Remains Previously Interred as Unknown." *Proceedings of the Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences* 19:405.

⁴⁰ "Data on Remains Not Yet Recovered or Identified," 29 June 1948, IDPF for Fort, National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

⁴¹ P. R. Nichols, QMC FORM 1044 and QMC FORM 1044a, 4 March 1950, X-618 File.

⁴² P. R. Nichols, QMC FORM 1044 and QMC FORM 1044a, 27 September 1949, X-619 File.

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

AUG 14 2018

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

**SUBJECT: DISINTERMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR UNKNOWN X-618 LEYTE #1
AND UNKNOWN X-619 LEYTE #2**

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 July 10, 2018.

The family of Army Brigadier General Guy O. Fort has requested the disinterment of World War II Unknown X-618 Leyte #1 (X-618). Historical research confirmed that a second set of remains, X-619 Leyte #1 (X-619), was believed to have been disinterred from the same burial site as X-618. Therefore, both unknowns are included in this request. Both unknowns are currently interred at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM). As detailed in the enclosed Exhumation Memo (TAB A), my staff reviewed the relevant historical, anthropological, and dental evidence, and found insufficient grounds to make an association with Brigadier General Fort. Based on the totality of the evidence, it is unlikely that an identification will be made as a result of disinterment.

Based on our comprehensive assessment of the existing historical, anthropological and dental records, and the current state of identification technology including the existence of DNA family reference samples or other medical means of identification of at least 50 percent of the associated service members, DPAA assesses this case does not meet the threshold established for individual remains. It is not likely that X-618 and X-619 Leyte could be identified. The family disinterment request is included as TAB B. The Department of the Army (TAB C) supports the DPAA recommendation to not disinter.

Based on my review of the relevant information, to include input from the respective service, I have concluded the standards in the stated references have not been met. Accordingly, I recommend that X-618 and X-619 not be exhumed from 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



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

NOV 28 2018

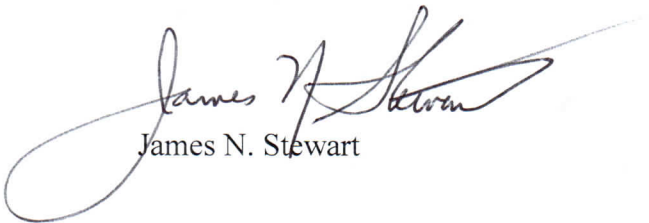
MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: Disinterment Request for Unknowns X-618 and X-619 Leyte

The request to disinter the unknown remains of X-618 and X-619 Leyte, interred in Plot L, Row 8, Grave 113 and Plot D, Row 12, Grave 216, respectively, of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City, Philippines, is disapproved at this time.

After reviewing the attached information provided with this request, I do not believe the Department of Defense threshold standard for disinterment has been met, and therefore, do not 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.



James N. Stewart

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Director, Joint Staff
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Military Personnel and Quality of Life

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL) S.S.
MUNICIPALITY OF CAGAYAN)

A F F I D A V I T

I, Ignacio S. Cruz, of legal age, married, a resident of Cagayan, Misamis Oriental and presently governor of said province, after having been duly sworn in accordance with law, depose and say;

That I was a prisoner of war from the surrender of the United States armed forces in the Philippines up to November 24, 1942, when I escaped from enemy control;

That as a prisoner of war my commanding officer was Capt. Yamada, garrison commander of the Japanese garrison in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental:

That Capt. Yamada related to me that Gen Guy O. Fort arrived in Cagayan sometime in September, 1942;

That Father Isaias X. Edralin, at present parish priest of Cagayan, who was also a war prisoner at that time, saw Gen Guy O. Fort coming down from a boat that arrived from Manila, and that upon arrival Gen. Fort was taken to the provincial jail in Cagayan and then brought to Dansalan by the Japanese.

That in Dansalan, Lanao, according to Capt. Yamada, Gen. Fort was taken around the town under guard and then brought to the landing field in Camp Keithley, Lanao:

That three or four days afterward Gen. Fort arrived in Cagayan by plane from Dansalan at about 5:30 P.M.;

That sometime in the later part of September, 1942, at about 11:30 A.M., I was called up by Lt., Kito of the Japanese Army to the Ateneo de Cagayan and he wanted me to act as interpreter in the investigation of an American officer:

That at midnight of the same day I was again called by Lt., Kito and told me to go home as my services were no longer needed, further telling me that an American would be killed due to reports from Lanao that several Japanese patrols were ambushed by Moros and that only one Japanese officer survived:

That on the following day I went to contact Dr. Vicente Velez of Cagayan whose house was very near the Lourdes Academy of Cagayan and I was told by him that he actually heard the Japanese singing that evening and that such a ritual was usually performed whenever an important officer was being killed, he be of the enemy or of their own army:

That I was further told by Dr. Vicente Velez that he actually heard the noise produced by the use of shovels at about 4:00 at dawn of the following day:

That I was further told personally by a Filipino soldier whose name I cannot now remember and who was utilized as guard in the premises of the Lourdes Academy that he saw personally Gen. Guy O. Fort bayoneted and killed at the back of the Lourdes Academy:

That this guard also informed me that while the Japanese were torturing the General he heard the General shout: "You may get me but you will never get the United States of America".:

-2-

That I was further informed by a Filipino cook named "Bartolome Aka", of the Kempei-tai is at the Lourdes Academy that he saw the body of a big American loaded in a truck and brought out from the Lourdes Academy:

That I also investigated one "Felipe Dabalos", a caretaker of the Ateneo de Cagayan ground whose house was located close to the supposed grave of Gen. Guy O. Fort, and I was told by him that he saw a big American being buried by Japanese soldiers under the mango tree in the Ateneo de Cagayan grounds near his house;

That as a result of communication received from Philippine Army Headquarters I had the grave dug up by prisoners which grave was indicated by Felipe Dabalos, and found the supposed remains of Gen Guy O. Fort which were turned over to 2d Lieutenant Charles G. Waple, Jr. of the American Grave Registration Service, on this 14th day of July 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature below this 14th day of July, 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

/s/ Ignacio S. Cruz
/t/ IGNACIO S. CRUZ

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE me this 15th day of July 1947, in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

G. T. Gamboa
G. T. GAMBOA
2d Lt., MSC

8940

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
PHILCOM ZONE

APO 900
4 June 1949

CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED NON-RECOVERABLE

FORT, Guy O.
Brig. Gen., O-952 305
81st Division, (P.A.)

BASIS FOR DECLARING REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE

1. According to available information, Brig. Gen. Guy O. Fort, SN O-952 205, was executed by the Japanese on 11 November 1942, in or around the vicinity of the City of Danzalan, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands.
2. All available information pertaining to the case is attached to substantiate the circumstances, date and place of death of the subject officer.
3. The final area search of the City of Danzalan was completed 3 July 1948 with negative results relative to the recovery of the remains of the subject decedent.
4. Identification data of all practicable unknowns recovered from this area has been checked against those of the subject decedent with negative results.
5. No record of burial is on file for subject decedent.
6. Findings and recommendations are based on all presently available information.
7. It is recommended that the remains of Brig. Gen. Guy O. Fort be considered non-recoverable, and that all records pertaining to search and recovery of his remains be closed.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED: 4 June 1949

Dominick A. Gray
DOMINICK A. GRAY
1st Lt., AF
AO-812 979
Member

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



Harold B. McNemar
HAROLD B. McNEMAR
Captain, QMC
O-507 074
Member

Incl 4

OQMG FORM 638
REV 1 APR 48

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
2	Ident Sec Ident Br	Final Det Section Ident Br Mem Div	29 Sep 1949	<p>1. A thorough review of the two Unknowns referred to in preceding comment has been made with the following results:</p> <p>"Dental records of General Fort reveal extractions of teeth, Right and Left 5, whereas neither of the Unknowns in question indicate such extractions."</p> <p>2. In view of the above, subject case is returned, no action having been taken by this Section with reference to the suggestions as set forth in paragraph 3a, b, c and d, preceding comment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  BERRY 2462 </p> <p style="text-align: center;">  SALSER 75969 </p> <p>2 Incls n/c</p>
ccs				

THIS FORM WILL REMAIN PART OF THE OFFICIAL FILE
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-49050-5