

INDIVIDUAL DECEASED PERSONNEL FILE

PONCE, ALFONSO 39577559 FRANCE HORSESHOE WOODS

DO NOT REMOVE THIS IDPF FROM THE CASE FILES

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	CONTRO	LLED CASE	
NAME	The state of the s	GRADE	SERIAL NO.
Ponce, Alfo	onso	Pvt	39 577 559
LIAISON OFFICE,	MEMORIAL DIVISION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION		FLAGGED BY (Initials) FLAGGED BY (Initials) Lt. Edwards
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IMPORTANT

THIS FORM MUST BE MAINTAINED ON TOP OF 293 FILE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL CANCELLED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION. ONLY THE "CONGRESSIONAL TOPPER", ORMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.

00MG FORM 1900

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	REMAINS OF	WORLD WAR II	
	THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUD	ITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY	
NAME (Last, First, Middle)	*		
	PONCE, 4	LFONSO	
RANK		SERIAL NUMBER	
	PYT.	395775	. (9
ARM OF SERVICE			5 /
DATE OF DEATH	ARM	AREA OF DEATH	
		FRAN	c =
NAME OF AUDITOR			
		KATZ	13 DEC. 51
NAME OF REVIEWER	0		DATE
REMARKS	KA	76-80A VE	14 DEC 51

QMMES 293 Ponce, Alfonso, Pvt. 89 577 559

10 December 1951

Mrs. Maria M. Ponce 810 North Hazard Avenue Los Angeles, California

Doar Mrs. Ponce:

Several years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your husband, the late Private Alfonso Ponce.

It is with deep regret that your Government finds it necessary to inform you that further search and investigation have failed to reveal the whereabouts of your husband's remains. Since all efforts to recover and/or identify his remains have failed, it has been necessary to declare that his remains are not recoverable.

Realizing the extent of your great loss, it is with reluctance that you are sent the information that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your husband's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

cc: DPRB Mailed Direct

DIGUS 52468

JAMES B. CLEARWATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division



LAY

QMGMF 293 PONCE, Alfonso SN 39 577 559

Mrs. Maria M. Ponce 810 North Hazard Avenue Los Angeles, California

Dear Mrs. Ponce:

Several years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your mon, the late Private Alfonso Ponce.

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Sincerely yours,

JAMES B. CLEARWATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division

QUOTE 293 Ponce, Alfonso, Pvt. 59 577 559

10 December 1951

Mr. Pedro Ponce 810 North Hagard Avenue Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Ponces

Several years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II, which cost the life of your son, the late Private Alfonso, Ponce.

It is with deep regret that your Government finds it necessary to inform you that further search and investigation have failed to reveal the whereabouts of your son's remains. Since all efforts to recover and/or identify his remains have failed, it has been necessary to declare that his remains are not recoverable.

Realizing the extent of your great loss, it is with reluctance that you are sent the information that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your son's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

cc: DPRB Mailed Direct

DIGGS 52408

JAMES B. CLEARWATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division

QMGMF 293 PONCE, Alfonso SN 39 577 559

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Dear Mr. Ponce:

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JAMES B. CLEARWATER Colonel, QMC Chief, Memorial Division

ISE NUMBER 17131 (2) NON-RECOVERABLE CASE AREA OR ZONE(S) RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL European SERIAL NUMBER NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) RANK Ponce, Alfonso Pvt 39 577 559 THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND THE FINDINGS OF NON-RECOVERABILITY OF THE REMAINS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) ARE APPROVED. (Corrections in name, rank, and/or serial number have been effected when appropriate.) The above decedent and one (1) other IN THE COURSE OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN EXAMINED FOR ADDITIONAL CLUES. COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS BELIEVED MATERIAL TO THE CASE ARE ATTACHED FOLLOWING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW. INITIALS OF ANALYST (CROSS OUT THOSE NOT APPLICABLE) INITIALS OF ANALYST a. REPORT OF DEATH 1. 293 FILE OF SUBJECT(S) GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWNS RECOVERED A - Z FILE OF KNOWN INTERMENTS IN 3. U.S. MILITARY CEMETERIES, ISOLATED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA LOCATIONS, AND SEA BURIALS ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF "BELIEVED ALPHABETICAL FILE OF FORMER UN-5. TO BE" AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED UNKNOWNS 6. KNOWNS NOW IDENTIFIED 7. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES None THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY AS PRESENTED IN THE ATTACHED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIELD BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: MAN FILE None IDENTIFICATION BRANCH NAME OF CASE ANALYSI CASE TO BE FORWARDED TO FOR CONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES. Craten/cwt APPROVED RECOMMEND APPROVAL CHIEF, IDENTIFICATION BRANCH CASE REVIEWER. FINAL DETERMINA-CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SEC-TION SECTION TION 2 9 OCT 1951 6-6.1 C. E. NEWBAKER MARY A. EDWARDS, Capt QMC BEN JAMEN

OOMG FORM 1916

MEADQUARTERS 7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

Proceedings of Board of Review appointed in accordance with letter AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47) D-M, War Dept., TAGO, 9 April 1947.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

- 1. The Board convened pursuant to par. 4, SO 32, Headquarters, 7887 Graves Registration Detachment, APO 757, US Army, 10 April 1951, at Liege, Belgium, on 18 June 1951.
 - 2. Members present:

GEORGE GUNDERMAN, JR. Major, QMC ALLAN L. LANSON Captain CMC

- 3. PURPOSE: To review and determine, from evidence presented, the non-recoverability of the remains of World War II dead lost in the geographical area described below:
 - a. Area & mile Southeast of Longueville, Moselle, France, Case # 763.
 - b. FACTS:

The casualties listed below, members of the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion, were reported as Killed in Action in the location as set forth above, on 25 September 1944.

PERRI, Ferdinand F. Pvt 33 774 742 PONCE, Alfonso Pvt 39 577 559

4. FINDINGS:

- a. The only information available on the two casualties is that given by Mr. John L. Margreiter Jr., who in two letters has outlined the area where the two casualties were last seen.
- b. Field Investigations were conducted in the appropriate area in April, December 1950 and 4 May 1951 in conjunction with information given by John L. Margreiter Jr., however, these complete investigations have ended negatively, thus the remains of the two casualties must be considered Non-Recoverable.

Non-Recoverable Board Proceedings: (Cont'd)

18 June 1951

- c. Reference is made to: OQMG Forms 371; Letters received from John L. Margreiter Jr., dated 21 May and 28 September 1948: On file in the Office of The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.
- d. Reference is also made to: Marratives of Investigations, dated 25 April, 11 December 1950 and 4 May 1951: Attached.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: That the remains of the deceased herein considered, be determined Non-Recoverable.

JAMES C. MACFARLAND

Lt Colonel, QMC

Member

GEORGE CUNDERMAN, JR Major, QMC

Member

Captain, QMC

Member

HEADQUARTERS 7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT APO 757 (LIEGE) US ARMY

SPECIAL ORDERS)

10 April 1951

NUMBER 32)

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

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4. PAC, Ltr., WD-AGO-S 293.9, dtd 9 Apr 47, Subj: "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas", and par 118 b, SR 830-110-5, DA, dtd 3 Mar 49, a Board of Ofs as follows, is hereby apt to meet at the call of the President thereof, for the purpose of reviewing case records pertaining to the Identification of Deceased Determination of non-recoverability of Remains and for the purpose of reviewing Major Discrepancy cases.

LT COL JAMES C. MacFARLAND, O 1 576 321, QMC., President MAJOR GEORGE GUNDERMAN, Jr., O 1 289 071, INF/QMC., CAPT CLYDE W. STEINSIEK, O 1 040 311, QMC., CAPT ALLAN L. LAWSON, O 1 288 075, QMC., 1ST LT ROBERT W. GANSEL, O 1 599 085, QMC., 2D LT JOHN A. BOUTIN, O 947, 298, QMC.,

BY ORDER OF COLONEL AMLONG:

EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., Capt., QAC, Adjutant.

OFFICIAL:

s/ EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., t/ EDWARD F. PRICE, Jr., CAPT., QMC, Adjutant.

A TRUE COPY:

MARY A. EDWARDS 1st Lt QMC

7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT REGISTRATION DIVISION APO 757 (Liego) US ARMY

25 April 1950

HARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

I, AUTHORITY

In compliance with the instructions contained in Investigation Directive # 193 dated 7 April 1950, an investigation was conducted in the vicinity of LONGUEVILLE-Les-CHEMINOTS and BOUXDERE-sous-FROMONT in an effort to locate the fexhole described by John L. Margreiter Jr. in his letter dated 28 September 1968.

II. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

The information contained in the above mentioned letter and accompaning sketch, indicates that Pvt. Ferdinand PERRI and Alfonso PUNCE were part of a group of replacements which were moved into position in the rear of "G" Company, 23 Armored Infantry Battalion, on the night of the 22 September 19th. The men were instructed to "dig in" along the edge of a road between BOUXIERE and LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS. This road had been "zeroed in" by the enemy, who were in possession of the town of LONGUEVILLE and a mortar shell landed in the foxhole which the two men were occupying.

III. FONDIGS

Upon arriving at the town of LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS, 25 kilometers South West of METZ, it was found through questioning of local
residents, that the Gendarmerie having jurisdiction over this area is
located in the town of SOLOME, approximately ten (10) kilometers away.
Upon arriving at this town, contact was made with the Commandant of the
Brigade, Mr. Touvenot. He stated that he was familiar with the territory in question and that he had been stationed in the area in November
of 19kk. During part of the time subsequent to this date, he had been
attached to a unit of the military Police and had been instrumental in
the recovery of the remains of several American deceased. He also
stated that his office had never been previously contacted regarding the
recovery of the two deceased involved in this case. After regarding the
map which was inclosed as part of the letter from Mr. Margreiter, he
suggested that the owner of a farm located near the scene of this incident

7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT REGISTRATION DIVISION AFO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

25 April 1950

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II. FACTS AND CIRCURSTANCES

The information contained in the above mentioned letter and accompaning sketch, indicates that Pvt. Ferdinand FERRI and Alfonso FONCE were part of a group of replacements which were moved into position in the rear of "C" Company, 23 Armored Infantry Battalion, on the night of the 22 September 1944. The men were instructed to "dig in" along the edge of a road between BOUXIERE and LONGUEVILLE-les-CHEMINOTS. This road had been "zeroed in" by the enemy, who were in possession of the town of LONGUEVILLE and a mortar shell landed in the foxhole which the two men were occupying.

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25 April 1950

Narrative of Investigation

might be able to furnish additional information. In the company of Mr. Touvenot, this investigator proceeded to the farm of Mr. Louis Horsenberger, Located at MARIEY-AUX-BOIS. Here it was discovered that the brother of Mr. Borsenberger had found a wallet and prayer book sometime in 1945 and had turned them over to the Gendarmerie where they were forwarded to the ACRC headquarters either at Nancy or Paris. In addition it was discovered that this particular farm had been used by the American troops as a hospital and dispensary and Mr. Borsenberger was still in possession of a book or register in which were entered the names of patients treated between the 21 June 1944 and the 15 October 1944. This record is marked simply as "SICK CALL RECORD 3rd Bn" with no unit designation given and is being forwarded with this report only as a matter of record, as it is believed that it has no direct bearing on this case. Further questioning of Mr. Morsenberger disclosed the fact that the area indicated in the sketch inclosed as part of the latter from Mr. John L. Margreiter Jr. is situated slightly below this farm and that it has previously been investigated with negative results. A visit was then made to the area in question and it was discovered that many femboles are still in this vicinity. Nost of these holes show evidence of having been investigated. Erush and shrubs have been cut down and the dirt disturbed. These fexholes also show, by the presence of empty "C Ration" cans and traces of cardboard cartons, as well as the reinforcing of the sides by boards and burlap sacking, that they were occupied for a longer period of time than is indicated by Mr. Margreiter's letter.

In attempting to orient the sketch which was inclosed as part of this latter, it was found that the road, as indicated on this plan, is not shown in the correct geographical location. It is actually located further North East, as the road makes a sharp bend some three hundred yards below the spot indicated. In an effort to determine the exact location and the owner of the property concerned, I next visited the Mairie of the village of Cheminot where contact was made with the secretary. Examination of a large scale map of this section of the terrain disclosed the section, which appears to be that indicated by Mr. Margreiter, as being under cultivation at the present time. (see sketch of area attached). Mr. Hurstel, the secretary, stated that he had been told that a few foxholes had been found in this area but that they had been filled in by the owner of the land several years ago. He also stated that no report of the findings of any remains had ever been made to the Mayor's office. (Statement attached).

25 April 1950

Marrative of Investigation

The area in question was then visited and it was found to be under cultivation as previously stated. Three shallow depressions found along the edge of the road were investigated with negative results.

Wir. Touvenot, Commandant of the Gendarmerie stated that he would have a notice circulated in the area stating the fact that the remains of two American soldiers might still be buried there and that all foxholes and shell craters were to be investigated before being filled in by the land owners concerned. The correct address of this headquarters was left at the Gendarmerie and any information obtained by the Commandant will be forwarded.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Previous investigation in this area was made in a section which could not have been occupied by the subject casualties.

The area where the foxholes indicated by Mr. Margreiter were located, is now under cultivation and has been for several years.

Forholes that may have existed have been filled in and no trace of remains has been found by persons working this land.

V. RECONSENDATION:

That the Gendarmerie at SOIDNE be given time to inform the land owners in question of the facts as stated and that another investigation be conducted later when conditions will permit the excavation of parts of the area now under cultivation.

h Inols

1. Statement

2. Statement Mr. Victor Hurstel

3. "SICK CALL RECORD 3rd Bn"

h. Sketch of Area

H. E. WARNER DA CIV Investigator

GENDAMIERIE NATIONALE

Selgme 25 April 1950

Today 25 April 1950, we accompanied a searching party with the purpose of discovering the remains of an American soldier killed in 1944, near Cheminet.

We found the place indicated by the witness, but no remains could be found,

From the information obtained at Bonly-aux-Bois, Longeville, and Cheminot, we located 50 fexholes, mostly filled in by the land-owners.

Certified a true translation:

JEAN LAURATH Investigator Ins The Chief Policeman Thouvenot

/s/ Illegible

Seal

Moselle 765 STATEMENT Cheminot, 25 April 1950 I the undersigned HURSTEL Victor, school teacher, secretary to the Mayor declare the American GRC, made an investigation concerning the soldiers killed in September 1944 in the territory of the Commune. This work was done in the presence of Mr. Thouvenet, Chief Policeman at Solgne. Furthermore, searches were conducted in the course of the year 1949 by an employee of the searching services. /s/ BURSTEL certified a true translation Seal JEAN LAURAIN Investigator IBS

11 December 1950

This investigation could not be completed due to the fact that the area in which excavation and probing operations are to be conducted, is flooded. It is recommended that the case be held in suspense until Spring.

H.S. EPHRAIM

7887 GRAVES REGISTRATION DETACHMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION APO 757 (Liege) US ARMY

4 May 1951

NARRATIVE OF INVESTIGATION

I. In compliance with the instructions contained in Investigation Directive # 55h, dated 13 November 1950, an investigation was conducted in the vicinity of LONGUEVILLE-Les-CHEMINOTS and BOUXIERE-SOUS-FROIDMONT in an effort to recover the remains of Pvt FERDINAND F. PERRI, 33774742 and Pvt ALFONSO, PONCE, 39577559 reported to have been killed in action in this area.

II. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

Information contained in letters received from Mr John L. Margreiter Jr, indicates that Pvts Ferdinand PERRI and Alfonso PONCE were part of a group of replacements which were moved into position in the rear of "C" Company, 23 Armored Infantry Battalion, on the night of the 22 September 19hh. The men were instructed to "dig in" along the edge of a road between BOUXIERE and LONGUEVILLE-LES-CHEMINOTS. This road had been "zeroed in" by the enmy, who were in possession of the town of LONGUEVILLE and a mortar shell landed in the foxhole which the two men were occupying, killing them instantly and almost completely covering the remains with earth, Due to the tactical situation, the remains were not evacuated and it is believed that the men were not reported missing until some time after their organization had left the area.

A previous investigation was made in this area in April 1950 with negative results. Area indicated in sketch furnished by Mr Margreiter was under cultivation and many of the foxholes had been filled in by the owners of the land.

III. FINDINGS:

As this case had been previously investigated with the assistance of Mr TOUVENOT, Commandant of the Brigade of Gendarmes for this region, located in the town of SOLGNE, he was visited in an attempt to find out if additional research carried out by the police had revealed any further information. Mr TOUVENOT stated that he had caused the story of the circumstances surrounding the death of the subject casualties to be circulated in the area concerned but that to date, no additional information had been received from land ewners or local residents.

A visit was next made to the area concerned and a thorough search was made. Woods and fields were subjected to a foot by foot examination, the sides of the roads leading to BOUXIERE-SOUS-FROIDMONT and MARLY-AUX-BOIS were also checked as far as the outskirts of these two villages. All foxholes and shell craters were excavated to a depth sufficient to eliminate

4 May 1951

Narrative of Investigation: (Cont'd)

the presence of human remains. The area indicated in the sketch provided by Mr. Margreiter was also carefully checked and any depression resembling either a fexhole or a shell crater was excavated. The results of this search were completely negative.

Woodcutters at work cutting the trees along a portion of the road to BOUXIERE and local residents of LONGUEVILLE-LES-CHEMINOTS and CHEMINOTS at work in nearby fields were also questioned with negative results. All persons interrogated stated that they had never heard of any remains being discovered in this area.

Due to the fact that information furnished by Mr. Margreiter indicates the area where the subject casualties were killed as "a mile South East of Longueville#les-Cheminots along the road to Bouxiere-sous-Froidmont", when this road actually runs South West of Longueville it had previously been supposed that this was a natural error on his part due to the lapse of time and circumstances involved. In order to verify this however, the region East and South East of Longueville was also investigated. The results of this further research were also negative. Nothing could be found in this direction which corresponds in any respect with the description of the area furnished by Mr. Margreiter.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The entire area between Longueville-les-Cheminots and Bouxiere-sous-Froidmont has been thoroughly investigated with negative results.

All foxholes and shell craters have been excavated and fields have been carefully inspected.

The condition of the area where the subject casualties occured; ie: under cultivation or open fields which are used for grazing, would seem to preclude the possibility of any remains being undiscovered after normal operations were resumed by local farmers. Local residents and persons cultivating the land in the area in question have been interrogated by the French police with negative results since the previous investigation in April 1950.

It therefore seems logical to conclude that the remains of the subject casualties were discovered and removed by American units that occupied the area shortly after this incident occurred.

V. RECOMMENDATION:

That a final attempt be made to associate the subject casualties with unknown deceased recovered from this area.

That if the results of this further research are negative, consideration be given for Non-Recoverable action in the case of the subject Marrative of Investigation: (Cont'd)

4 May 1951

casualties, predicated upon the results of this investigation.

HAROLD E. WARNER DA- Civ. D-046899 Investigator Refer to: OMGMS 293 FERDINAND PERRI. PONCE, ALFONSO

712 West Pierce Street Kirksville, mo. 2 May 1949

Lt. Col. Metz, QMC Memorial Division Office of the Quartermaster General Washington 25. D. C.

Dear Colonel Metz: DENINGULON

18 1949 I received your letter of 26 April, 1949, concerning the remains of the late Pyts. Perri and Ponce and was very glad to learn that my story had been substantiated and that the search would be continued. I want to thank you personally for including the addresses of the next-of-kin, since I know that most relatives of men killed in action would like to know the details. I have written to both widows and Explained that I was present and that death came instantaneously and painlessly. I also explained how I got their addresses and that I would give them all details if they so desired, at the same time making it clear that I was only hoping to ease their minds -- too many war widows have been victimized by people who offered spurius information for a sum of money. I have been interested in this matter and its solution primarily through a sense of duty and also because of the fact that if the mortar round that killed these men had fallen 25 feet shorter it would be me buried by that road in FFrance.

If I may be of any further assistance in this matter please let me know. And, if it is not too much trouble I would like to ask if you would notify me when and if the remains are found, since I would like to see the end of this matter. Thanking you for your co-operation, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN L. MARGREITER, JR. Identificatio

QMGMS 293
Perri, Ferdinand F.
Pence, Wilsonso

26 April 1949

Mr. John L. Margreiter, Jr. . 712 West Pierce Street Kirksville, Missouri

Dear Mr. Margreiter:

Further reference is made to your letters to this Office concerning the two persons killed in a fox hole in the vicinity of Longville or Bouxieres, France.

The two individuals mentioned by you have been identified as Pvt. Ferdinand F. Perri, whose wife, Mrs. Anna Perri, resides at 7839 Nixon Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Pvt. Alfonso Ponce, whose wife, Mrs. Maria M. Ponce, resides at 810 North Hazard Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Both men were members of Company C, 23rd Armd Inf Bh, and were killed in action on 25 September 1944 near Bouxieres, France.

To date, no information has been received in this Office indicating that the remains of Pvts. Ponce and Perri have been recovered. However, copies of your letters have been submitted to the Graves Registration Command in Europe and it is hoped that the information contained therein will assist the Search Teams in the recovery of the bodies.

May we again thank you for your very commendable interest in this case and assure you that every effort will be made to recover the bodies of Pvts. Ponce and Perri.

Sincerely yours,

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

NJS

KH

SMY

1. 293 Ponce

e alfonse

Ponce, Alfonso, 39577559

Porrd, Fordinand F., 3074442

26 April 1949

SUBJECT: Identification of Unknown Deceased

TO:

Commanding General American Graves Registration Command European Area APO 58, c/o Postmaster New York, New York

- 1. Attached, for your information, are photostatic copies of two letters received from Mr. John T. Margreiter, Jr., a former member of Company C, 23rd Arad Inf Br, concerning his eye-witness account of the deaths of two soldiers killed near Bouxieres, France on 25 September 1944.
- 2. The two individuals mentioned by Mr. Margreiter have been identified as Pvt. Alfenso Ponce, 39577559 and Pvt. Ferdinand F. Perri, 33774742. OMMS Forms 371 for both men were forwarded your Headquarters on 25 May 1948.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

293 Perry Ferdinand 7. - 3377472

710 West Main Street Flat River, Mo. 21 May. 1948

The Quartermaster General Memorial Division Washington 25, u.C. 293- Pance

Dear sir:

A few weeks ago I read an article, "The Search for Soldier A" in Foreign Service, the V.F.W. monthly. The article was a report on the search for the bodies of those still missing and caused me to think of a matter which I had almost forgotten -- a matter pertaining to two men whom I believe to be buried in the foxhole in which they died.

I wrote to the editor of Foreign Service and asked which government agency I should contact, and they forwarded my letter to the American Graves Registration Division at the Kansas City Quartermaster pepot. This morning I received a letter from the latter telling me to send my informat on to you, hence this letter.

In September, 1944, the 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 7th Armored Division was held up in its advance before the town of Longville, France, which is in the vicinity of Metz. I was in a large replacement package which joined that unit on 21 September, a large of us going to "C" Company which lay in battalion support behind "B" and "A" Companies. Our group was taken up to the line on the night of 22 September and we were not assigned to any particular platoons, but instead were shown where to dig in as a separate group behind the company. that the idea of this scheme was to give us some experience with artillery and mortar fire, but the noncom who placed us picked a very bad position, an area that was close to a road and hence "zeroed in" by the enemy.

On 24 September (I know these exact dates because I kept a small diary while overseas) a mortar round fell into a foxhole about 25 feet from mine and willed both occupants instantly. crawled over to their hole and saw that one had been completely blown to bits and that the other was completely buried. it had been a direct hit I didn't bother to uncover the latter. Later that afternoon an aid man named Wright came by and looked at the remains, but we were the only men in the company who saw them. That night the 7th Armored pulled out to so to holland, leaving the two dead men in the hole. I might mention that the weather and the terrain in the sector were very bed, so that the chances of the bodies being found even if the line had moved on were very slim. I happen to know that the town of Longville was not taken for at least five weeks, although the 5th end 95th Infantry Divisions both fought in this sector, and I feel that the mud and rain completely obliterated these bodies which were already almost totally covered. I don't believe that any of the men of the 5th and 95th used our holes because (as I said before) they were in a dangerous position and were of no tectical use whatsoever.

on 28 October, 1944, I was wounded and the other man who had seen the bodies was captured. In June, 1945, I returned to my company (after being evacuated a second time) and was called to the 293 39577559 On 28 October, 1944, I was wounded and the other man who had

the orderly room a few days later. There I was asked if I knew what had happened to the two men in question and I swore under oath that they were dead. The first sergeant told me that they had been carried as "missing in action" since September, so I believe that the bodies were never picked up.

I think that both men were from California; and I know that their names were Pancey (I'm not sure about the spelling of this but I do know that the man was of Mexican extraction) and Perry, The former had at least one child and the latter had three, one of which he had never seen. If their bodies have been picked up I would like to have the names and addresses of their next of kin (if this is permissible) in order to write and out their minds at ease. If they were not recovered by Graves Registration them they are still in that foxhole between Bucsières (I'm not sure about the spelling of that name) and Longville. I doubt that I could find the spot on a man now, since it has been three years and eight months since I saw the area, but I do feel that I could find the place if I were and if the edge of the forest wasn't mangled too badly by the artillery fire. It might be of help to you to know that these two men were in the replacement package which I believe (I have no record of this however) was designated "X-82-F" and had a temporary APO of 15422.

I would like to near from you in regard to this matter, as I have been wondering about it for a long time and probably should have written sooner. Hoping that I may be of some help,

I remain,

Yours in comradeship.

og 5 John L. Margreiter, Jr.

Price

712 West Pierce Street Kirksville, Mo. 28 September, 1048

OMGMR 095

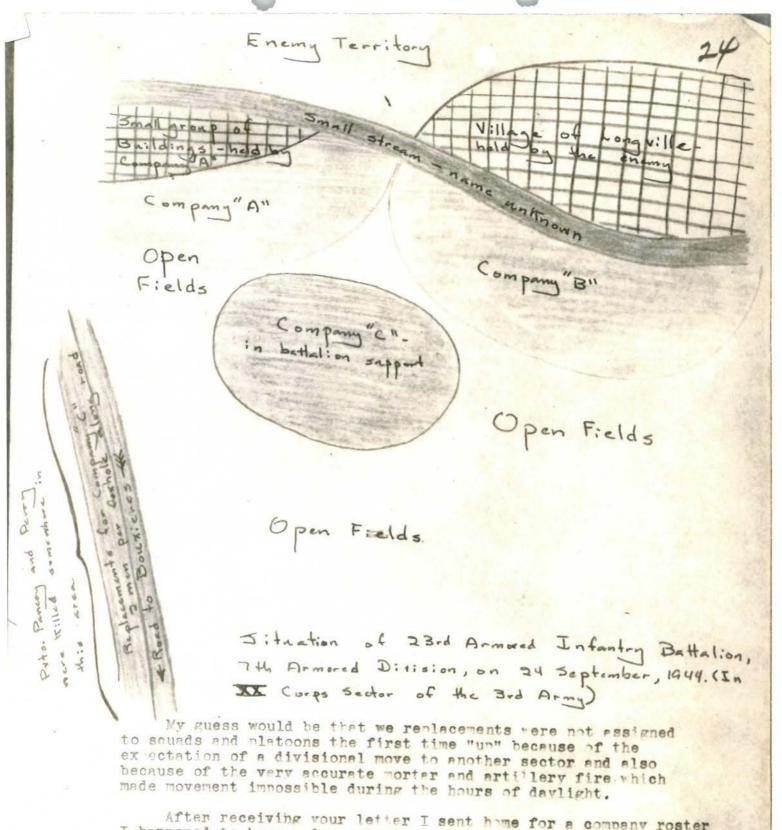
23

The Quartermaster General Washington 25, D.C.

Dear sir:

I received your letter of 14 Sentember a few days ago and would have answered sooner but for the fact that I am at college and needed some papers which were at my home. My first letter seems to have been somewhat confusing to you, but I'm sure that I can clear up some of the issues with this one.

In the first place, you stated that the historical records and Morning Reports of Company "C". 23rd Armored Infantry Battalion. 7th Armored Division; had been checked and no parallels for the two casualties could be found. This is easily understandable if the situation is considered, since only two of us saw the men in question after they had been killed and the C. P. helf-treck (where the Morning Reports were always made out) was six miles to the rear at the time. Also, let me explain the circumstances which preceded the arrival of our group of replacements: on about 10 September, 1944, elements of the 5th Infantry and 7th Armored Divisions crossed the Moselle River at a town collect Dornot and were contained by the enemy within a very small bridge-head. After three days of heavy fighting a withdrawal was effected, but most of the remaining members of the 23rd Armored Inf. Bn. were forced to swim back. Casualties were excessive, and a large number of den were being cerried on the records as M.I.A. on 21 September, 1044, when the replacement package to which the late Pvts. Pancey and Perry and myself belonged was assigned to Company "C". Hence, the company records were full of missing men, and evidently the absence of the two men in question wasn't noticed until much later. And, on 20 October the C.T. helf-treck was hit by a shell and burned. The two men were killed before they could be assigned to a sound: the first time we went "un" we went as a group of re lacements and dug in behind Company "C", which at that time cans sted of one officer (It .- leter Captain-William D. Tonney) and forty someodd men. (Commenies "A" and "B" had nothing to do with the caspelties in question) It might belo if I would sketch a men of the tactical situation as I remember it:



After receiving your letter I sent home for a company roster I happened to have and received same vesterday. It did not include the ranks and only listed the men in the company in July of 1945, but I believe the name of the tonkick was George Lande, and his address at the time was I Tennis Court. Brooklyn, N.Y. At the time of my sworn statement he was a staff sergeant acting as First Sergeant. As I said in my previous letter, I do not remember which officier witnessed my statement, but a list of names and addresses of the company's officers in July, 1945, (of course, some of the addresses may have been changed by now) follows:

Tommey, William D. (C.O.)

Murphreesboro, Ark.

25

Amos, Charles L., Jr.
Bray, Jack J.
Finnell, Ishmeel E.
Harding, Richard D.
Payne, Gordon H.
Tennent, Henry D.

1034 Rockford Road, High Point, N.C.
401 Forest St. Marion, Ohio
925 Idlewild Ct. Lexington, Ky.
2402 Chase St. Falls City, Nebr.
2640 E. 5th Ave. Knoxville, Tenn.
513 Lawton St., S.W. Atlanta, Ga.

The only other man besides myself who saw the two casualties after they were dead was a T/5 medic named Wright. He was awarded the Siver Star for gallantry in action at Dornot and was captured at Meijel, Holland, on 29 October, 10/4, the day after I was evacuated the first time. Hence, by the time the company headquarters section got around to straightening out the roster we were both gone, and so Pyts. Pancey and Perry were listed as M.I.A. I don't know Wright's first name or his address, but I think that a buddy of mine may know his present whereabouts, and I will write and try to get this information. All the other men present in close to the men in cuestion at the time of their deaths were subsequently killed or evacuated with wounds, and I can't remember their names.

I am wondering if you have substantiated the fact that these men are really dead, since there must be a record concerning them somewhere in Washington. They both had families (Perry told me the day before he was killed that he had one child which he had never seen) and I very much want to get in touch with their wives in order to set their minds at ease as to what happened to them.

You will note that I am writing this from my college address, and I would appreciate it if you would send any future communications to me here. I hope that you will be able to throw more light on this matter with the information enclosed herewith, and I shall be eagerly awaiting the outcome of this affair.

Very sincerely yours,

John L. Marguiter, gr.

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OQMG FORM 371

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WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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REPORT	Or.	DEA	

19 December 1944 mcs/4632 mber grade

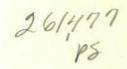
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WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



19 December 1944 mcs/4632

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WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

261477

-BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

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ARMY SERVICE FORCES KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT

601 HARDESTY AVENUE KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO 261477

RTB:RW:amt July 30, 1945

Mrs. Maria M. Ponce 810 North Hazard Avenue Los Angeles, California

Dear Mrs. Ponces

The Army Effects Bursau has received from overseas some property of your husband, Private Alfonso Ponce.

This property, consisting of a few small items, is being sent you.

If, for some reason, it has not been received at the expiration of thirty days from this date, please notify me so that tracer may be instituted.

I regret the circumstances prompting this letter, and wish to express my sympathy in the loss of your husband.

Yours very truly,

P. L. KOOB lst Lt., QMC Officer-in-Charge SJ Unit

bV

ARMY SERVICE FORCES ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

ORDER FOR SHIPMENT

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Surmary Court-Martial
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
601 Hardesty Avenue
Kansas City 1, Missouri

Case No. 261477

JR'1: JFH: cc

601 Hardest Kansas City 1	
SUBJECT: Report of transaction in disposi	ng of the effects of
Alfonso Ponce	(Army Serial Number)
(Name of doceased)	
Private /	Infantry who died
(Grade)	(Organization, Army or Service)
on the 25 day of Sop , 19	44, at European Area
TO : The Adjutant General, War Depart	
1. Complying with A.W. 112, a Summar Mo. Pursuant to S.O., 228 Hq., KCQM Depot, pose of disposing of the effects of the abmilitary law, reports that:	ry Court-Martial, convened at Kansas City, dated 25 September 1943, for the purpove-named soldier, or person subject to
a. No legal representative or wid decedents camp or quarters, effects of dec Court-Martial.	cedent were to France to this Summary
<pre>% none was collected. (If nothing was fo otherwise attach itemized statement of sur</pre>	as owing and collected. / (liter)
c. Decedent owed undisputed local which has been paid by the Surnary Court-inclosed receipt_	Martial from lunds of decedent.
d. Disposition of decedent's eff has been made by the Summary Court-Martia Corps, at Government expense to person fo FINDING below)	ects (less money paid creditors, if any) l by transmittal through the Quartermaster und entitled (See Summary Court-Martial
FIND	ING
Before a Summary Court-Martial which c	convened at Kansas City, Missouri, on
26 July 1945 , pursua	ent to Special Orders 228, Headquarters
KCQM Depot, dated 25 September 1943, the	application or affidavit of
	for the effects of the above-named de-
ceased soldier, or person subject to mili	tary law, now in the possession of the
United States, with other relevant evider	nce, was duly considered;
Whereupon, this Summary Court-Martial	
	Maria M. Ponce of
(Name of per	rson found entitled)
810 North Hazard Avenue	Ios Angeles State of
(Number, Street or Avenue)	(City, Town or Village)
California , is t	he widow of the (Relationship or Capacity)
above-named decedent and appears to be e	
	(Signature of Summary Court Officer)
	JOHN R. MURPHY, Colonel, CMC
	(Name, Rank SUMMARY CC

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RESTRICTED

October 25 1944

SUBJECT: Inventory of Personal Effects of: Alfonso (NMI) Ponce 39577559 23rd Armd Inf Bn 7th Armored Di MIA about September 25 1944. Designated Beneficiary not readily accessible. Effects Quartermester, Communication Zone. 7th Armored Division

Toyentory of Effects Toilet Article Eit Sewing Kit

No money

Hames and addresses of any banks not known

I certify that the above items constitute all of the effects, secured by me, of the above named individual and that they were forwarded to the Effects Depot by truck on October 25 1944.

H. A. PICKFORD 1st Lt. QNC 0-1016270 Headugarters 7th A.D.

H. a. Prekford



JPAC-J2 MEMO

Date: 7 May 2004

Subject: Pvt Ponce and Pvt Perri, FRANCE

To: File

From: Christopher McDermott, ORISE

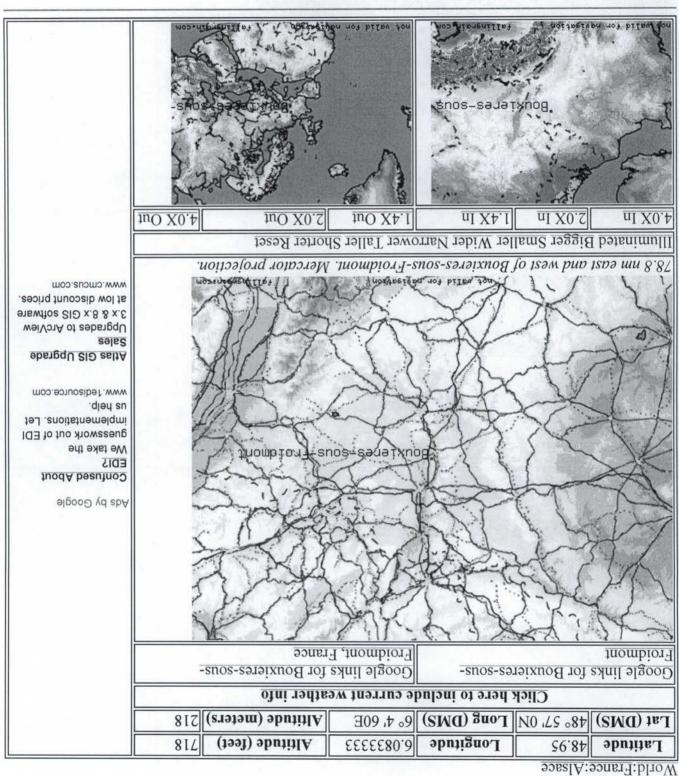
Pvt Alfonso Ponce and Pvt Ferdinand Perri MIA from 25 September 1944, believed to have been together in a foxhole struck by a mortar round in the vicinity of Bouxiere, a sketch map was provided by a survivor by AGRC searches were negative.

Updated EuroTOM and began separate case file.

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Bouxieres-sous-Froidmont, France Page



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