

FILE IDENTIFICATION TOPPER

FILE NUMBER

293 UNK. CASTELFIORENTINO, X-288

SUBJECT

Interred 21 April 1949

GWA

USMC REFERENCE

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

WALTER E. THOMAS
Capt. CMP, Cemetery Superintendent

SECTION A -
NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED

DIRECTIVE NUMBER

5217 00124

DATE

15 DAY 06 MONTH 48 YEAR

NAME

UNKNOWN X - 000288

SERIAL NUMBER

RANK

ARM

DATE OF DEATH

DAY MONTH YEAR

CEMETERY

CASTELFIORENTINO

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

0 5201 80
CODE DIST. PT

PLOT ROW GRAVE COUNTRY

2J 94 4866 ITALY

CAUSE OF DEATH

6

SECTION B - CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE

FLORENCE, ITALY

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN

(BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION)

SECTION C - DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME

UNKNOWN

SERIAL NUMBER

X-288

RANK

UNK

DATE OF DEATH

DATE DISTINTERRED

16 SEPT 48

IDENTIFICATION TAG ON

REMAINS
 MARKER

ORGANIZATION

UNKNOWN

RELIGION

UNK

IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY

M G BORRES 2 LT O/C
NAME AND TITLE

SECTION D - PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL

SHROUD

CONDITION OF REMAINS

SKELETAL

OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

NONE

MINOR DISCREPANCIES

NONE

REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET

DATE 26 OCTOBER 1948

BY

HOMER J LESLIE (EMBALMER)

CASKET SEALED BY

HOMER J LESLIE (EMBALMER)

EMBALMER (Signature)

SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY

CASKET BOXED AND MARKED

CLERK RECORDER
ROBERT L. ROONEY

MACK C HOLT , 1ST LT OMC

DATE 26 OCT 48

BY

I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

MACK C HOLT
MACK C HOLT, 1ST LT OMC

SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR

1 Prepare Discrepancy Report OMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.

FILE
RECORDS ANNOTATED
DATE 11 MAY 1949
NAME
R & R 10.0

RECORD OF CUSTODIAL TRANSFER

1. SHIPPED

FROM USMC CASTELFIORENTINO ITALY		TO LEGHORN PORT MORGUE	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE TRUCK		NAME OF CONVOYER R L CROCKER 2 LT QMC	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER N R HALL FA	DATE 22 Sept 48	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER THOMAS P PULLIAM, CAPT QMC	DATE 22 SEPT 1948

2. SHIPPED

FROM LEGHORN PORT MORGUE		TO USMC FLORENCE, ITALY	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE TRUCK		NAME OF CONVOYER PATRICK J. KENNEY CAPT QMC	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER THOMAS P. PULLIAM CAPT QMC	DATE 22 Mar 49	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER WALTER E. THOMAS CAPT QMC	DATE 22 Mar 49

3. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER	DATE

4. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER	DATE

5. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER FLORENCE LIVA	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER LIVIAE DECIORE	DATE

6. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER	DATE

7. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER	DATE

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER SEPARATE ZONE COMMAND-MTOUSA
APO 794 US ARMY

PO 200.2

23 April 1947

SUBJECT: Deceased Airmen.

TO : The Quartermaster General
Washington 25, D. C.
Attention: Memorial Division

1. Reference is made to attached message form dated 7 February 1947 from The Adjutant General requesting information pertaining to 1st Lt. Oransdale R. Welch, O-804438, and S/Sgt. Paul E. Myers, 17031680.

2. An investigation team made a complete and thorough search of Savona and vicinity, making appropriate search of the civil, church and cemetery records. Statements were secured indicating that no Allied military personnel were buried there and that there is no record of American aircraft crashing near Savona on 27 July 1944.

3. Check of cemetery records on file at this Headquarters for possible association of Unknown deceased with unrecovered casualties referred to above reveals the following:

a. Unknown Americans X-287 and X-288, interred in Plot 2-J, Row 94, Grave 4865 and 4866, respectively, USMC, Castelfiorentino, Italy, were recovered from the sea at Loano, Italy. The city of Loano is approximately 12 miles west of Savona. Reports of Reinterment for subject deceased have been previously furnished the Office of The Quartermaster General.

b. Unknown Americans X-120 through X-124, interred in Plot L, Row 5, Graves 1492 through 1496, USMC, Mirandola, Italy, were recovered from a civilian cemetery in the vicinity of Algisola Superiore, Italy. This city is approximately three (3) three miles northeast of Savona, Italy. Reports of Reinterment for subject deceased were previously forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General.

4. It is requested that tooth charts accomplished on remains interred in Plot 2-J, Row 94, Grave 4865, USMC, Castelfiorentino, and Plot L, Row 5, Graves 1492 and 1496, USMC, Mirandola, be compared against those on file the War Department for 1st Lt. Welch and S/Sgt. Myers.

293 under Italy Castelfiorentino X 288

5. It is also desired that this Headquarters be advised of results.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
Cy., Message Form, WD
dated 7/2/47.

ENNIS N. HAYES
Major INF
S-1

1. Reference is made to letter dated 30 July 1946 from Air Force Casualty Clearance Detachment, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, copy of which is attached, and statements of Robert Chambers and Robert Lang.

2. Information received indicates that the following men were the complete crew of an A-20 type aircraft number 41-3166 which was lost on a night armed reconnaissance mission from Poretta Airdrome, Corsica to Pavia, Italy, 27 July 1944:

Pilot	1st Lt. Oransdale R. Welch	O-804438
Navigator	2nd Lt. Robert A. Lang	O-1181666 - Enl / ASY 36 31297
Gunner	S Sgt Robert L. Chambers	1702408
Gunner	S Sgt Paul E. Myers	17031680

3. Captured German Documents ME 1740 (Vol. 880-2199) reports Lt. Lang and S/Sgt. Chambers as prisoners of war and gives the last names only of Lt. Welch and S/Sgt. Myers with no notation as to their status.

4. Request that appropriate investigation be made of the civil, church, and cemetery records and other available sources of information in the vicinity of Savona, Italy with a view to determining whether any trace was ever found of Lt. Welch or S/Sgt. Myers, and whether any attempt was made to find them at the time the two survivors were rescued..

WITSELL

The Adjutant General

For AFCCD for action with reply being forwarded this hq. (MTOUSA)

8

U. S. Military Cemetery at Castelfiorentino
Field Sector Unit #2, AGRS-MTZ
APO 790 (Florence) U. S. Army

9 October 1946

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation

TO : Commanding Officer
Headquarters, F.S.U. #2, AGRS-MTZ
APO 790 (Florence) U. S. Army

1. Submitted herewith is report of investigation concerning the recovery of the remains of Unknown American Airman X-288, interred in Plot 2-J, Row 94, Grave 4866, U. S. Military Cemetery, Castelfiorentino.
2. Remains were recovered from a separate grave, Civilian Cemetery, Loano, Italy, coordinates (20.8-41.3) Sh. 92-93, Map Reference 1/100,000, by investigation team led by Pfc. Keeling, 3 October 1946.
3. Excerpt of report submitted by Pfc. Keeling is as follows:
"Arriving about 9 AM, 3 October 1946, Loano, went directly to Civilian Cemetery where after a discussion with the caretaker, Mario Zunino, told us that there were two American Airmen in that cemetery. According to the caretaker, Unknown American Airman X-288 had fallen from an airplane at sea, where plane crashed. (See attached statement). No other statements secured."
4. Examination of remains before reinterment disclosed the following:

Right	Left
Metatarsal bone	Metatarsal bone
Tibia 41.8cm.	Tibia 37.7cm.
Fibula 40.7cm.	Fibula 22.5cm.
Femur, broken 50.7cm.	Femur 50.7cm.
Ilium	Ilium
Radius, broken 25.7cm.	Radius 27cm.
Ulna, broken 28.9cm.	Ulna 29.1cm.
Humerus 35.6cm.	Humerus 35.9cm.
Clavicle, broken 14.8cm.	Clavicle 15.6cm.
Scapula	Scapula
3 Ribs, 9 broken pieces	9 Ribs, 7 broken pieces
Sacrum	
12 Dorsal vertebrae	
5 Lumbar vertebrae	
Sternum	
6 Cervical	

Tooth chart impossible, head missing.

Remnants of Air Corps flying jacket and suit found
revealing no markings.

5. The remains have been reinterred as those of Unknown American
Airman X-288, Plot 2-J, Row 94, Grave 4866, U. S. Military Cemetery at
Castelfiorentino and reports of interment will be forwarded with weekly
report of 6-12 October 1946.

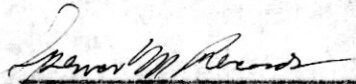
Spencer H. Records
Capt. Inf.

Date of death24 July 1944.
Place of deathSea near Loano, Savona.
Cause of deathAirplane crash (fell from airplane).

The undersigned, guard of the cemetery of Loano, Savona declares to have buried the unknown pilot dressed with HBT coveralls, green sweater. head was missing. I presume the unknown pilot was an American. No documents were found.

/s/ Mario Zunino
Loano, Savona

True translation


Spencer M. Records
Capt., Inf.

CIVILIAN AFFAIRS OFFICER

TRUE COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Year 1944 - Part II - Series C - Number 3 of the Register.

In the year nineteen hundred and forty-four, on the twenty-fifth of July at 1000 hrs in the Commune's Office.

I, Cardone Flaminio, Official of the Registrar's Office of the Loano Commune was informed by the German Navy Hq. in Loano that a body had been recovered from the sea. I was later charged with the task of registering the case in this register and have therefore transcribed literally the above-cited notification, which reads as follows:

Porto Loano Guard, Loano July 25, 1944. To the Loano Prefect's Commissary.

The body of the drowned soldier recovered on July 24, 1944 at Loano is released with the present act. From the information so far available he is believed to be an American Aviator. No statement concerning his personal belonging can be made as this must be regarded as an information of military character.

The Commune of Loano is hereby charged with the task of burying the body, s/ Munzuer.

After the document had been translated from German into Italian and then transcribed, I signed the above announcement. Finally I inserted the same in the volume containing the enclosures pertaining to this register.

(True copy of certificate of birth - Cont'd)

The Civilian Affairs Official

s/ F. Cardone

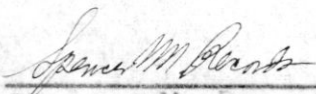
True copy of the original for any military use

Loano, July 8, 1946

The Civilian Affairs Official

s/ Manetti

True copy


 Spencer M. Records
 Capt. Inf.

60146

Translation

LEGIONE TERRITORIALE DEI CARABINIERI DI GENOVA

Tenenza di Albenga

n. 53/5 Prot.

Albenga 9/7/1948

Subject : Finding of two bodies of Allied military at Loano (Savona)

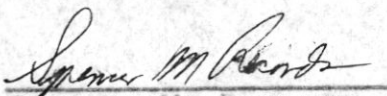
On 24th July 44, at the sea of Loano (Savona) fishermen of there, found the body of a soldier of American Aviation. The body has been handed over to the German Military Authorities of Loano, who kept secret his name and the object which he carried with him.

On 25th July the German Military Authorities ordered the body to be buried in the Loano's Cemetery, Military Department. Another body of an Allied airman, whose nationality it has not been possible to certify, was recuperated, too, by fishermen, into the sea fronting the town on 6th April 1945. The body was in condition of advanced putrefaction. Apparently aged 40, middle height, strong built. It was not possible to ascertain his identity. Also him was buried in the cemetery of Loano-Military Department. Herewith enclosed are the verbals concerned. No objects were recuperated with these bodies.

Sgd.

The St. Commanding
Vincenzo Moraca.

True copy


Spencer M. Records
Capt. Inf.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

1. NUMBER OF REMAINS	: 2. DATE OF REPORT		
X-288	15 October 1948		
3. NAME OF CEMETERY	4. PLOT	5. ROW	6. GRAVE
US Military Cemetery Castelfiorentino, Italy	2J	94	4866
			7. DATE OF DISIN- TERMENT
			REIN- TERMENT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

8. ESTIMATED WEIGHT	9. ESTIMATED HEIGHT	10. COLOR OF HAIR	11. RACE
Unknown	6' 1/2"	Unknown	Unknown

12. GIVE DESCRIPTION OF ANY OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION FOUND WITH REMAINS
Non-Identifiable by reason of lack of sufficient identifying data.

T.C. Anderson
T.C. ANDERSON, Major OMC

13. GIVE DESCRIPTION OF TATTOOS OR SCARS ON BODY AND/OR SUCH INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

None

14. WAS BODY BURNED? : TO WHAT EXTENT?

YES NO

15. WAS BODY FROZEN? : TO WHAT EXTENT?

YES NO

16. DESCRIBE EVIDENCE OF HEALED FRACTURE AND BONE REFORMATIONS

The R clavicle has a healed fracture on the acromial extremity.

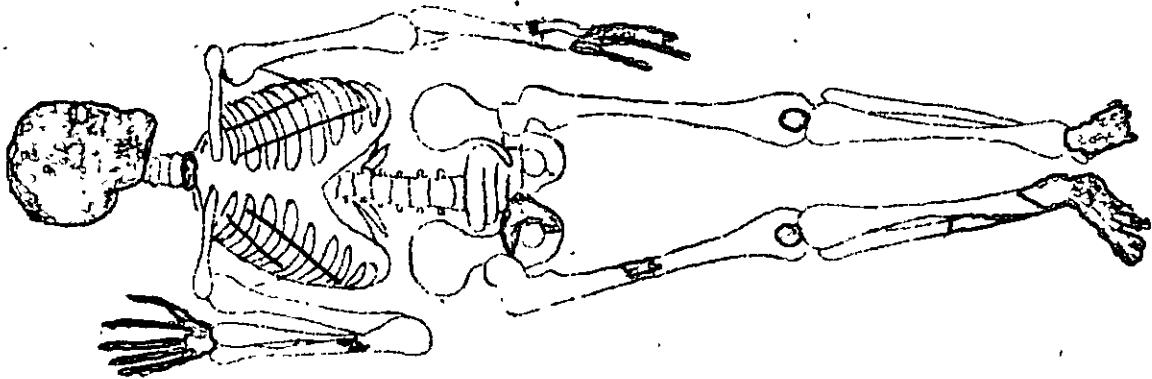
17. LIST EVERY ITEM OF CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL EFFECTS FOUND, SPECIFYING THE TYPE, COLOR, SIZE, MARKINGS, SERIALS, ETC. (If laundry marks are indistinct, such notation should be made and specimen forwarded through channels for examination when such facilities are not available in the area).

None

Received *T/LTV - 87th 49*
Sub - US Army Hospital
DDMG
E. Flora

Not identifiable from information presently available

19. BLACK OUT PARTS OF BODY NOT RECOVERED



20. MASS BURIAL CERTIFICATE (If applicable)
(Wherein segregation in whole or parts is impossible)

I certify that the Group remains consist of parts of _____ (Number)
decedents based on the presence of one or more of the following anatomical
parts,

(Signature of Medical Officer)

21. REMARKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the opinion of the undersigned,
the representative parts of a human remains
graphically represented in par 19 are those of one
and the same individual.

Dr. Alexander Tardy
M.D., D.A. (Anthropology) G.S.D., O.S.D.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE PERSONALLY VIEWED THE REMAINS OF THE DECEASED AND THAT
ALL RESULTING INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECORDED TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Typed name, Grade, Arm or Service and Organization

SIGNATURE

MACK C. HOLT, 1st Lt. QMC, 9107 TSU-QM, AGRS/MZ

s/ Mack C. Holt

HEADQUARTERS
9107 TSU - QMC
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
MEDITERRANEAN ZONE
APO 794 US ARMY

CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Paragraphs 1-17 and 19-21, Identification Data QMC Form 1044 & 1044b
Paragraph 18 - Identification Dental Chart

C.I.P. Case No. L-470

Date of Investigation

Unknown American X- 288

Am. Mil. Com. Castelfiorentino Italy: Plot 2J Row No. 94 Grave 4866

Place of Death Loano, Italy Date of Death 24 July 1944

Map Reference 2.1-4.2 Sheet 10 Map of Italy 1/200,000

Other American Lead Found in Same Area Unknown

Cause of Death Unknown

22. Description of Remains

Skeletal state.

(If the remains have not decomposed, attach to this form QMC
Form 1042 completely filled out to physical characteristics.)

23. Skeletal Data

HEAD Skull missing

TOOTH CLAW Impossible

TRUNK Complete except for: 4 cervical, 1 dorsal vertebrae; small portion of R pelvis missing.

UPPER EXTREMITIES (Give measurements of long bones).

R Humerus	<u>36.0 cm</u>	L Humerus	<u>35.8 cm</u>
	Portion of shaft		
R Ulna	<u>missing</u>	L Ulna	<u>Broken 28.8 cm</u>
R Radius	<u>Head missing</u>	L Radius	<u>27.0 cm</u>
Carpals, Metacarpals, Phalanges <u>Missing</u>			

LOWER EXTREMITIES (Give measurements of long bones).

R Femur	Portion of shaft <u>missing</u>	L Femur	<u>50.4 cm</u>
R Tibia	<u>Lower portion missing.</u>	L Tibia	<u>41.5 cm</u>
R Fibula	<u>Lower $\frac{1}{2}$ missing</u>	L Fibula	<u>40.7 cm</u>
Calcanea, Tarsals, Patellae, Metatarsals, Phalanges <u>Partly present.</u>			

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
REPATRIATION RECORDS BRANCH
MEMORIAL DIVISION

CATEGORY III CASE
NO CLUES
IDENTIFICATION IMPOSSIBLE
AT PRESENT TIME

24. AGE ESTIMATED AT Over 20 years

BASED ON The epiphyseal lines of the long bones are closed.

25. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Tooth chart - Impossible
Height Estimation - 6' $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Age estimation - Over 20 years

26. RECOMMENDATIONS:

PROCESSED BY:

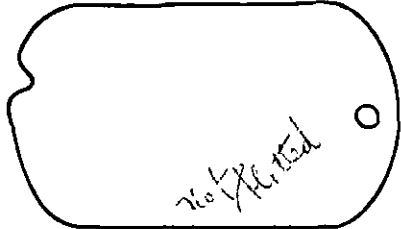

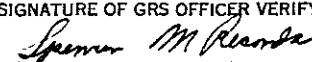
ROBERT S. HUFF /s/
Pfc 16216004
CIP Technician

Dr. Alexander Tardy /s/
M.D., D.A. (Anthropology), G.S.D., O.S.D.

s/ Mack C. HOLT

(Signature of Officer)
MACK C. HOLT
1st Lt QMC
CIP Officer

RESTRICTED

WD QMC FORM 1042 (Rev. 1 Apr. 1945) (Supersedes GRS Form 1)		REPORT OF INTERMENT (AR 30-1810 and AR 30-1815)				DATE OF REPORT 8 Oct. 1946			
Imprint Identification Tag If Possible. DO NOT TYPE 		Section 1.—IDENTIFICATION. REBURIAL NAME (Last, first, middle initial) UNK. AMERICAN AIRMAN X-288				SERIAL NO. Unk.			
		GRADE Unk.		ORGANIZATION Unk.		BRANCH OF SERVICE Air Force			
		RACE Unk.		RELIGION Unk.		IF OTHER THAN U S DEAD, GIVE NAME OF COUNTRY U.S.A.			
Body recovered at sea PLACE OF DEATH near Loano, Italy. Coord: 2.1-4.2 Sh. 10 Map 1/200.000		CAUSE OF DEATH Unknown				DATE OF DEATH 24 July 1944			
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (Name, relationship, and address) Unknown									
IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOUND ON BODY (1, 2, or none) None		IF NO TAGS FOUND ON BODY, DESCRIBE MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION (If unidentified, fill in section 3 on reverse)							
WERE SUBSTITUTE TAGS PROVIDED? (Yes or no) No		See attached correspondence.							
LIST PERSONAL EFFECTS FOUND ON BODY AND DISPOSITION OF SAME None.									
Section 2.—BURIAL. If other than in established cemetery, furnish sketch and map coordinates on reverse.									
NAME, NUMBER, COORDINATES, AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY U.S. Military Cemetery at Castelfiorentino Q(549-507)									
DATE OF BURIAL 8 Oct. 1946		HOUR 1500		BURIED IN (Shroud, blanket, or name of other) Coffin		TYPE OF GRAVE MARKER Wooden Cross	PLOT No. 2-J	ROW No. 94	GRAVE No. 4866
WAS THIS A REBURIAL? (Yes or no) Yes		IF A REBURIAL INDICATE NAME NUMBER, COORDINATES OF PREVIOUS CEMETERY AND LOCATION OF GRAVE Seperate Grave Civ. Cem. at Loano, Italy Coord: 20.8-41.3 Sh. 92-93 Map Ref. 1/100.000				PLOT No. -	ROW No. -	GRAVE No. -	
TYPE OF RELIGIOUS CEREMONY General		PERSON CONDUCTING BURIAL RITES Local Chaplain		IF IDENTIFICATION TAGS NOT USED, DESCRIBE IDENTIFICATION DATA AND CONTAINERS BURIED WITH BODY QMC form #1042 sealed in glass container and buried with body. QMC form #1042 sealed in glass container and buried one foot below grave marker.					
IDENTIFICATION TAG BURIED WITH BODY (Yes or no) No		IDENTIFICATION TAG ATTACHED TO MARKER (Yes or no) No							
BODY BURIED ON DECEASED LEFT, NAME (Last, first, middle initial) UNK. AMERICAN AIRMAN X-287				RANK Unk.	SERIAL NO. Unk.	ORGANIZATION Unk.	GRAVE No. 4865		
BODY BURIED ON DECEASED RIGHT, NAME (Last, first, middle initial) UNK. AMERICAN AIRMAN X-289				RANK Unk.	SERIAL NO. Unk.	ORGANIZATION Unk.	GRAVE No. 4867		
SIGNATURE OF PERSON PREPARING REPORT  Frank L. Malocu S/Sgt.				SIGNATURE OF GRS OFFICER VERIFYING REPORT  Spencer M. Records Capt., Inf.					
DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT: Signed original for U S and allied dead, signed original and one copy for enemy dead, to the Quartermaster General through Headquarters GRS Officer Copies for retention in theater as prescribed by theater commander.									

80146

INCL #3

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Section 3. UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS.

INSTRUCTIONS:

(a) Great care will be taken to record the most minute clues for the future identity of unidentified remains. Fill in anatomical characteristics below, and any other clues under "Other," such as shoe size, social security number; position of body found in airplanes, vehicles, and tanks; and serial numbers of airplanes, vehicles, and tanks.


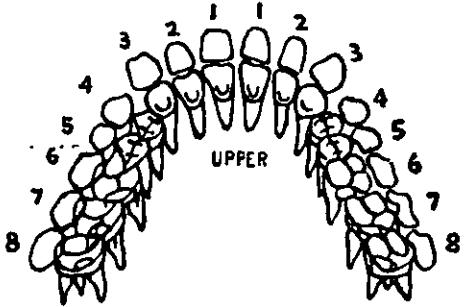




(b) A fingerprint, or prints, are the most valuable of all clues. Imprint all fingers and thumbs in the chart at left, or as many as possible. If no fingerprint or prints can be secured, the condition of each and every tooth will be indicated on the tooth chart in accordance with diagram below. Tooth chart will not be accomplished if one or more fingerprints are secured.

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR	BIRTHMARKS, SCARS, OR TATTOOS
WEAPON AND SERIAL No.		LAUNDRY MARKS		WHERE BODY WAS BURIED OR FOUND

OTHER IDENTIFICATION CLUES

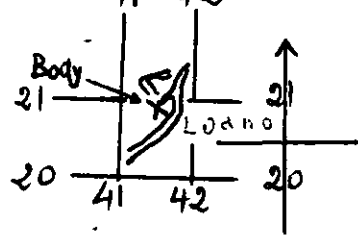
Fingerprints impossible.

Body in skeleton form.

FILLINGS	 SILVER FILLING GOLD FILLING	 <p>DIAGRAM REPRESENTS THE MOUTH WIDE OPEN HEAD MISSING</p>
CAVITIES	 CAVITY DECAYED	
MISSING TEETH	 TOOTH MISSING	
CROWNED TEETH	 PORCELAIN CROWN GOLD CROWN	
BRIDGE WORK	 GOLD BRIDGE	

FURNISH SKETCH AND MAP REFERENCE AND COORDINATES FOR BURIAL IN OTHER THAN ESTABLISHED CEMETERY

Seperate grave Civ.
Cem. at Loano, Italy
Coord: 20.8-41.5 Sh
92-93 Map Ref. 1/100.000.



REMARKS: