

C.I.E.R.

## DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE

COMPLETE

NOV 8 1947

NOV 8 1947

1		SECTION A — NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED		DIRECTIVE NUMBER 4566 00515		DATE 05 08 47 DAY MONTH YEAR	
NAME DEWITT RICHARD W		SERIAL NUMBER 0-756197		RANK 2 LT		ARM 1	
CEMETERY US MIL CEM		SCHOFIELD BARRACKS		1		DISPOSITION OF REMAINS 6100 09 CODE DIST. PT.	
PLOT 4	ROW C	GRAVE 53	COUNTRY TERRITORY HAWAII		CAUSE OF DEATH 1		

## SECTION B — CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE THOMPSON-HARMS AND HURLEY 122 WEST DOUGLAS PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS	NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN MR. GEORGE P. DE WITT 314 WEST DECATUR STREET DECATUR, ILLINOIS
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## SECTION C — DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

NAME DEWITT, Richard W.	SERIAL NUMBER 0-756197	RANK 2nd Lt	DATE OF DEATH 12 Apr 44	DATE DISINTERRED 22 Sept 47
IDENTIFICATION TAG ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMAINS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKER	ORGANIZATION HQ. & HQ. SQ. 7TH BC.	RELIGION unk.	IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY D.O. Thurman 1st Lt. QMC NAME AND TITLE	

## SECTION D — PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT

NATURE OF BURIAL casket	CONDITION OF REMAINS about 5 lbs. of badly crushed and charred skeleton fragments
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION identification on grave marker	
MINOR DISCREPANCIES none	
REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET	
DATE 23 Sept 47	BY E.L. GEISER
CASKET SEALED BY A.P. SANTIAGO	EMBALMER (Signature) E.L. GEISER
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED	SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY J.S. ZANE

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

J.E. MURPHY, CAPT QMC

SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR

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

FILE  
M. J. GILL  
19 NOV 1947



# RECORD OF CUSTODIAL TRANSFER

## 1. SHIPPED

FROM <b>U. S. MAUS. #3, T. H.</b>		TO <b>USAT Honda Knot</b>	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE <b>Truck</b>		NAME OF CONVOYER <b>MAJOR R. L. DUNCAN, QMC</b>	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <i>C. E. Nichols (R) R. QMC</i>	DATE <b>25 Sep 47</b>	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Fred Lansing Jr. Capt TC</i>	DATE <b>27/9/47</b>

## 2. SHIPPED

FROM <b>USAT HONDA KNOT</b>		TO <b>SFPE, FT MASON, CAL</b>	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE <b>SHIP</b>		NAME OF CONVOYER <b>FRED LANSING, JR CAPT TC</b>	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <b>FRED LANSING, JR CAPT TC</b>	DATE <b>SEP 30 '47</b>	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Amelia C. Quetta West TC</i>	DATE <b>14 Oct 47</b>

## 3. SHIPPED

FROM <b>SFPE, FT MASON, CAL</b>		TO <b>#09 KANSAS CITY QM DEPOT</b>	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE <b>RAIL</b>		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <b>AMERCOSE C ARTHUR MAJ TC</b>	DATE <b>14 Oct 47</b>	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Stephen L. ...</i>	DATE <b>14 Oct 47</b>

## 4. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <i>11H BC</i>	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER	DATE

## 5. SHIPPED

FROM		TO	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE <b>DETERMINED BY ILLINOIS</b>		NAME OF CONVOYER <b>DETERMINED BY ILLINOIS</b>	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <b>THOMPSON-HARRIS AND HUBLEY</b>	DATE	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <b>MR. GEORGE B. DE MILL</b>	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



# RECEIPT OF REMAINS

DISTRIBUTION CENTER **KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT**  
**KANSAS CITY MISSOURI 254**

~~ROUTED~~ PRIORITY fl a  
4 NOVEMBER 1947

REMAINS CONSIGNED TO: **THOMPSON-HARMS AND HURLEY**  
**122 WEST DOUGLAS**  
**PETERSBURG ILLINOIS**

REMAINS OF LATE SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD W DEWITT O 756 197 BEING SHIPPED TO YOU  
ACCOMPANIED BY ESCORT LIEUTENANT FREDERICK SHECTER ON TRAIN NUMBER TWENTY TWO GULF  
MOBILE OHIO RAILROAD LEAVING KANSAS CITY ELEVEN P M RAILROAD TIME FIVE NOVEMBER AND  
DUE TO ARRIVE PETERSBURG RAILROAD STATION ON TRAIN NUMBER EIGHT CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS  
MIDLAND RAILWAY AT ONE THIRTY NINE P M RAILROAD TIME SIX NOVEMBER. REQUEST YOU MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCEPT REMAINS AT STATION UPON ARRIVAL.

H O YOUNG  
CAPT

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE REMAINS OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DECEASED

THIS 6 DAY OF Nov., 19 47  
DAY MONTH

Frederick Sheckter  
WITNESS (Escort) 1st Lt A.C.

Edward J. Hurley  
Thompson-Harms & Hurley  
General Manager  
CONSIGNEE





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_

CRY/ar  
October 31, 1947

Colonel Roy L. Dalferes  
Officer in Charge  
Illinois Military District  
328, 400-410 East Monroe Street  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Colonel Dalferes:

I appreciate your assistance in arranging with the next of kin of Lt. Richard W. DeWitt a suitable date on which we may make delivery of the remains.

I have not yet checked railroad time schedules, but you may assure Mrs. DeWitt that pending the availability of proper accommodations delivery in Petersburg on the afternoon of 6 November 1947 will be accomplished.

Please inform Mrs. DeWitt that she will learn the exact time of arrival from her funeral director, the Thompson-Harms and Hurley Funeral Home, whom we will contact by wire after rail reservations have been made.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. YOST  
Lt. Colonel, QMC  
Chief, American Graves Registration Div.



HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

ILLINOIS MILITARY DISTRICT

ROOM 328, 100-110 E. Monroe St.  
~~ROOM 328, 100-110 E. ADAMS ST.~~

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

RLD/gjp  
29 October 1947

IN REPLY REFER TO:

293.8

Lt. Colonel C. R. Yost  
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City 1, Missouri

Dear Colonel Yost:


After our conversation today I contacted Mrs. DeWitt reference the return of the body of her son, 2d Lt. Richard W. DeWitt, 0756197.

She does desire a Sunday funeral and since Sunday, 2 November 1947 is impossible, she would like the funeral to be held on Sunday, 9 November 1947. However, to be on the safe side she would like the body to arrive in Petersburg, Thursday afternoon, 6 November 1947, or Friday A.M., 7 November 1947, so that they can with certainty proceed with funeral arrangements.

When plans were changed one of the Service Officers in Decatur, where she resides, lost his head and did more harm than good, because she visualized a thousand reasons why the plans were changed.

Anything you can do to comply with above wishes of Mrs. DeWitt will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
ROY L. DALFERES  
Colonel, FA  
Officer in Charge

DeWitt, Richard W. 0756197  
2d Lt, AAF  
Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
314 West Decatur Street  
Decatur, Illinois  
Thompson-Harms & Hurley  
122 W. Douglas  
Petersburg, Illinois



# REPORT OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL

DATE OF CALL <u>29 October 1947</u>	TIME OF CALL	SERIAL NO.
ORIGINATING OFFICE <u>Ill Military District, Springfield, Ill.</u>		
STATION OR PLACE CALLED <u>AGRD XCOMB</u>		
PERSON PLACING CALL <u>Colonel Dalferes</u>		
PERSON RECEIVING CALL <u>Lt Col Yost</u>		
RESUME OF CONVERSATION		

Col Dalferes called this office on behalf of the mother of 2/Lt Richard W. DeWitt to inquire as to the possibility of the remains being delivered in time for a Sunday funeral.

Col Yost informed Col Dalferes that due to the fact that the casket was not yet ready for shipment delivery in time for a funeral this Sunday would be impossible. He asked Col Dalferes to contact the mother to determine if a Sunday delivery was preferred by her in which event we would attempt to make delivery a week later. Col Dalferes agreed to contact the NOK and report by letter his findings.

(Recorded on Disc 10B - AGRD)

DISTRIBUTION		Signature (Authorizing Officer)  C. R. YOST Lt Colonel, QMC Chief, AGR Division
ORIG.	AGD, EG, CG	
DUP.	Adm Br AGRD	
COPY	Case File	
COPY		



# REPORT OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL

DATE OF CALL 16 October 1947	TIME OF CALL 1500	SERIAL NO.
ORIGINATING OFFICE Ill. Military District, Springfield, Ill.		
STATION OR PLACE CALLED KCQMD		
PERSON PLACING CALL Col. Dalferes		
PERSON RECEIVING CALL Mr. Jones		
RESUME OF CONVERSATION		
<p>Col. Dalferes of the Illinois Military District called this office requesting that, if at all possible, their district be furnished a copy of the advance telegrams dispatched by this Distribution Center to all next of kin of those residing in the Illinois area.</p> <p>Mr. Jones advised that this office did not provide such information to military districts. Col. Dalferes stated that Chicago was furnishing them a copy of their advance telegrams to enable the district to provide military honors if desired by the next of kin, and that, if at all possible, he would desire a listing of the names of the deceased and the name and address of the next of kin and consignee on the Illinois war dead being returned on the Honda Knot. He said that his office was receiving numerous inquiries from families in Ill. who had received their advance telegrams from this Distribution Center and that they were at an entire loss as to the assistance they could render since they had no information that such remains were being forwarded from this Center to that state.</p> <p>Mr. Jones advised that we would attempt to furnish him with the desired listing for information and planning purposes.</p> <p>Col. Dalferes stated that a Mr. George P. DeWitt, 314 W. Decatur St., Decatur, Ill., father of</p>		
DISTRIBUTION		(OVER) Signature (Authorizing Officer)
ORIG.	ADJ, EO, CG	J. W. JONES Adm. Ass't. AGR Div.
DUP.	Case File	
COPY		
COPY		
COPY		

*and Lt. Richard H. DeWitt*



2nd Lt. Richard W. DeWitt, 0756197, had called his office and requested that he be given 48 hours notice before the remains of his son are delivered to Petersburg, Ill., the place of final burial, to enable him and his family to arrange to be in that location for the funeral services.

Col. Dalferes was assured that we would comply with the next of kin's desires in this respect. Mr. Jones requested that if inquiries arise again, they be directed to this Center providing the remains are to be forwarded from this Center for the proper handling.



CLASS OF SERVICE  
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN  
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

AA156

947 OCT 9 PM 7 18

A.DT414 25 COLLECT=DECATUR ILL 9 659P

KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPT=ATTENTION AMERICAN GRAVES

371 REGISTRATION DIV KSC=

RETEL DATE REFERENCE LATE SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD W DEWITT  
SHIP REMAINS PER YOUR WIRE. IF MORE CONVENIENT MORTUARY CAN  
PICK UP REMAINS SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS=

GEORGE IP DEWITT.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE





AIR MAIL



~~ARMY SERVICE FORCES~~  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

JWJ/bq  
10 October 1947

IN REPLY REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
314 West Decatur Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

This will acknowledge receipt of your wire requesting information relative to the return of your son.

Your son's remains together with others aboard the USAT Honda Knot arrived at the San Francisco Port of Debarkation at twelve o'clock noon, this date. After memorial services which were held at San Francisco this afternoon, unloading operations have begun and the forwarding of your son's remains to this distribution center will be made with the least practicable delay.

It is regretted that at this time the undersigned can give no approximate date of arrival at Petersburg, Illinois, since necessary travel time between the San Francisco Port and this distribution center, processing, inspection, and travel time between this distribution center and Petersburg, Illinois, is not known.

The Thompson-Harms and Hurley Funeral Home will be notified as to the exact date and time of arrival, train and train number, when the remains are forwarded from this distribution center. The escort which will accompany the remains of your son will be of equal rank or higher.

If further questions arise, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to assist you, if possible.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. YOST  
Lt Colonel, QMC  
Chief, American Graves Registration Div.

AIR MAIL



OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

(02)...

JOSEPH L. EGAN  
PRESIDENT

## SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

AD245

A•DT263 PD=DECATUR ILL 10 142P

1947 OCT 10 PM 2 05

AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DIV:

QUARTERMASTER DEPOT KANSAS CITY KANS:

RETEL SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD W DEWITT PLEASE GIVE  
APPROXIMATE DATE ARRIVAL BODY. PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS  
EXPECT ESCORT WITH BODY. ADVISE WHERE REMAINS ARE NOW.

WIRE REPLY:

GEORGE P DEWITT 314 WEST DECATUR ST.

314.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



MESSAGEFORM		MESSAGE CENTER NO.	TRANSMITTING MEANS	CRYPTOGRAPH OR CLEAR TEXT	
CALLS V	STA. SER. No. NR	PRECEDENCE	TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	ORIGINATOR	DATE-TIME GROUP
ACTION	INFORMATION	EXEMPT	OPERATING SIGNALS	GROUP COUNT GR	
SPACE ABOVE FOR SIGNAL CENTER ONLY					
FROM: (Originator) KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT KANSAS CITY MISSOURI			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		
ACTION TO: • MR GEORGE P DE WITT, DLR AND REPORT ANY CHARGES • 314 WEST DECATUR STREET • DECATUR ILLINOIS INFORMATION TO: WAR DEPARTMENT WILL DELIVER REMAINS OF LATE SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD W DEWITT IN NEAR FUTURE. RECORDS OF THIS OFFICE INDICATE YOU WISH REMAINS DELIVERED TO THOMPSON-HARMS AND HURLEY PETERSBURG ILLINOIS. PLEASE INSTRUCT FUNERAL DIRECTOR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCEPT REMAINS AT RAILROAD STATION UPON ARRIVAL. REQUEST YOU CONFIRM ABOVE SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS IMMEDIATELY BY TELEGRAM COLLECT TO KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT ATTENTION AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DIVISION KANSAS CITY MISSOURI. PRIOR TO SHIPMENT FUNERAL DIRECTOR WILL BE NOTIFIED OF RAIL ROUTING AND SCHEDULED TIME REMAINS WILL ARRIVE AT RAILROAD STATION. IF YOU DESIRE MILITARY HONORS AT FUNERAL YOU SHOULD ASK LOCAL PATRIOTIC OR VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. INCLUDE NAME OF DECEASED IN REPLY TELEGRAM.			PRECEDENCE FOR ACTION      INFORMATION		
			<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE		
			REFERS TO ANOTHER MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION      CLASSIFICATION		
			ee		
C R YOST LT COL QMC					
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			AUTHORIZATION		
ORIGINATING AGENCY			SIGNATURE		
SYMBOL	DATE-TIME GROUP	OFFICIAL TITLE		PAGE	OF



Paid on Voucher 55650

RETURN OF REMAINS - WORLD WAR II DEAD  
CERTIFICATE OF INTERMENT EXPENSES

243  
DEWITT, RICHARD W

O 756 197

2 LT

ARMY AIR CORPS

(NAME OF DECEASED)

St. Louis, MO.

Symbol 210 68

Date November 6, 1947

I George P. De Witt, 314 W. Decatur St., Decatur, Illinois  
(Name and address of person responsible for payment of interment expenses)

hereby certify that the total sum of \$ 75.00 was incurred by me in connection

with the interment of the remains of the above named deceased in the

Rose Hill Cemetery  
(Name of Cemetery)

Petersburg,  
(County or City)

Illinois  
(State)

PAID

George P. De Witt  
(Signature)

NOTE:

1. THIS CERTIFICATE WILL BE COMPLETED IN QUINTUPPLICATE AND SIGNED BY THE PERSON WHO ENGAGED THE RECEIVING FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF HIS BILL, IT IS NOT TO BE ACCOMPLISHED OR SIGNED BY THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR.

2. RETURN TO:

Commanding Officer  
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City 1, Missouri  
ATT: Officer in Charge Distribution Center

Check #

708453

Dated DEC 1 1947 Amount

\$ 75.00



INSPECTION CHECK		IDENTIFICATION CONTROL	
REMARKS <div style="position: absolute; top: 50px; left: 300px; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>29</i> </div>		DEWITT, RICHARD W O 756 197 2 LT AIR CORPS <div style="position: absolute; top: 150px; left: 650px; font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>Adm #1 copy</i> </div>	
SHIPPING CASE-- General Appearance (Check ONLY Discrepancies)		CONDITION OF SHIPPING CASE (Check one). <input type="checkbox"/> SATISFACTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNSATISFACTORY	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">✓</div> <div> FINISH (Exterior)  FINISH (Interior)  HANDLES  HANDLE BOLTS  STENCILING - NAMEPLATE  HEALTH PERMIT MARKER  HEALTH PERMIT NUMBER </div> </div>		REMARKS <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>attached work sheet has been complied with</i> </div>	
CASKET - General Appearance (Check ONLY Discrepancies)		CONDITION OF CASKET (Check one). <input type="checkbox"/> SATISFACTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNSATISFACTORY	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">✓</div> <div> FINISH (Exterior)  HANDLES AND FASTENINGS  STENCILING - NAMEPLATE  CAM LOCKS (Sealing)  ODOR OR MOISTURE </div> </div>		REMARKS <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>attached work sheet has been complied with</i> </div>	
ROUTED THROUGH			
<input type="checkbox"/> MORTUARY OPERATING ROOM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPAIR SHOP	
CONDITION OF REMAINS <input type="checkbox"/> SATISFACTORY <input type="checkbox"/> UNSATISFACTORY		CASKET REPAIRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
NECESSARY DISINFECTION (Explain)		CASKET EXCHANGED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
<div style="border: 2px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; color: purple;"> RECEIVED  NOV 6 1947  K.C.Q.M. DEPOT  AGRD </div>		SHIPPING CASE REPAIRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
		SHIPPING CASE EXCHANGED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
		REMARKS <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>See RPT</i> </div>	
TIME	DATE	SIGNATURE OF MORTICIAN	SIGNATURE OF INSPECTOR
			<div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>W. D. Hill</i> </div>
REMARKS <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>OK out going 11-5-47 Jim Overton</i> </div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 0; right: 0; font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;"> <i>Stanley Zabolny</i> </div>			



## REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

GRADE OF DECEASED, NAME, ARMY SERIAL NUMBER AND REPORTED PLACE OF BURIAL

DATE:

2nd Lt. Richard W. De Witt, O-756 197  
 Plot 4, Row C, Grave 53,  
 Schofield Barracks Cemetery  
 Territory of Hawaii

22 Apr 11 1947

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

A		C	
B		D	

NOTE.—The next of kin should familiarize himself with the contents of the pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," before filling out this form. When the proper part of this form is filled out and properly signed by the next of kin, it should be returned to the OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., in the self-addressed postage-free envelope provided for this purpose.

If you are the next of kin or authorized representative of next of kin and desire to direct the disposition of the remains, please fill in PART I of this form.

## PART I

I, George P. De Witt

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

(Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)

- ☐ WIDOW ☐ WIDOWER ☐ SON OVER 21 YEARS OLD ☐ DAUGHTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- ☒ FATHER ☐ MOTHER ☐ BROTHER OVER 21 YEARS OLD ☐ SISTER OVER 21 YEARS OLD
- ☐ RELATIONSHIP OTHER THAN ABOVE (*Specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

HAVING FAMILIARIZED MYSELF WITH THE OPTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE DECEASED DESIGNATED ABOVE, NOW DO DECLARE THAT IT IS MY DESIRE THAT THE REMAINS: (*Please place an "X" in the box opposite the option you have selected.*)

- ☐ 1. BE INTERRED IN A PERMANENT AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS.
- ☒ 2. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY POSSESSION OR TERRITORY THEREOF FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Illinois

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

- ☐ 3. BE RETURNED TO \_\_\_\_\_, THE HOMELAND OF THE DECEASED OR NEXT OF KIN, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY LOCATED AT \_\_\_\_\_
- (FOREIGN COUNTRY) (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

- ☐ 4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY LOCATED AT \_\_\_\_\_
- (LOCATION OF NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED)

(Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the selected national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the proper box)

☒ YES ☐ NO

THE NAME OF THE DECEASED, THE SERIAL NUMBER AND GRADE ARE CORRECT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: (*If no corrections are necessary, indicate this fact by inserting the word "NONE" in the space below.*)

none

JUL 29



# PART I (Continued)

If on Page 1 of this form you have selected Option Number 2 or 3, or Option Number 4 with your own funeral ceremonies desired at a location other than the selected national cemetery, complete one of these sections.

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSON WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
		TELEPHONE No.

OR

I, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, DO FURTHER DECLARE THAT I DESIRE THE REMAINS TO BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING FUNERAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THEM:

FULL NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR			
Thompson-Harms and Hurley			
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
122 W. Douglas	Petersburg	Menard	Illinois
EXPRESS OFFICE (Nearest railroad passenger station)	TELEGRAPH ADDRESS	TELEPHONE No.	
Petersburg, Illinois	as above	50-2	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NEXT IN LINE OF KINSHIP AFTER ME, AS SET FORTH IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," IS:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED
De Witt	Glenna	P.	mother
NUMBER AND STREET	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY OR PROVINCE	STATE OR TERRITORY OF U. S. A., OR COUNTRY
314 W. Decatur	Decatur	Macon	Illinois

REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS (For additional space use page 4.')

this has been delayed for the following reason--there was some question in my

mind as to whether or not the description of the grave location was correct. I

wrote the Office of the Quartermaster General and asked for a recheck and to date

AS EXPLAINED IN THE PAMPHLET, "DISPOSITION OF WORLD WAR II ARMED FORCES DEAD," I AM THE NEXT OF KIN AND THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SAID REMAINS.

I, the undersigned, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) that the statements made by me in the foregoing document are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*George P. De Witt*  
(SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN)  
George P. De Witt  
(NAME PRINTED OR TYPED)

314 W. Decatur St.,  
(STREET AND NUMBER)  
Decatur, Illinois  
(CITY AND STATE)

Subscribed and duly sworn to before me according to law by the above-named applicant this 20th day of May

1947, at city (or town) of Decatur, county of Macon, and State (or Territory or District) of Illinois

*Floyd R. Van Hook*  
(SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS)  
notary public  
(OFFICIAL TITLE)

\*NOTE.—Page 4 is part of the notarial attestation.



ADDITIONAL REMARKS AND INSTRUCTIONS

All remarks and information entered here will be considered as part of the Notarial Attestation.

have had no reply. I had hoped to have an answer before completing this.





QMCMF 293  
DeWitt, Richard W.  
SN O-756 197

*Schofield*

17 July 1947

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
314 West Decatur Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

We have received the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form in regard to the final interment of the remains of your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, and official action is being taken on the decision rendered by you.

I have noted your statement on the form indicating you have experienced some doubt as to the correct location of the present place of burial of the remains of your son. Upon checking the record pertaining to your son, I find that a reply has been made to your inquiry, and I trust the situation has been clarified. I am indeed sorry that our reply did not reach you at an earlier date. If you believe we can offer you further assistance, please feel free to communicate with us, at any time.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation, and wish to assure you and your family of our continued sympathy in your loss.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl:  
OQMG Form 381 - Notice  
of Change in Address

RICHARD B. COOMBS  
Major, QMC  
Memorial Division

SCV

rlc



QMGMP 293  
DeWitt, Richard W.  
SN 0-756 197

17 July 1947

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
314 West Decatur Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

We have received the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form in regard to the final interment of the remains of your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, and official action is being taken on the decision rendered by you.

I have noted your statement on the form indicating you have experienced some doubt as to the correct location of the present place of burial of the remains of your son. Upon checking the record pertaining to your son, I find that a reply has been made to your inquiry, and I trust the situation has been clarified. I am indeed sorry that our reply did not reach you at an earlier date. If you believe we can offer you further assistance, please feel free to communicate with us, at any time.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation, and wish to assure you and your family of our continued sympathy in your loss.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl:  
QMGMP Form 301 - Notice  
of Change in Address

RICHARD B. COOMES  
Major, QMC  
Memorial Division

SGV

rlc

JUL 17 4 30 PM '47

O.D.H.C.  
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

JUL 17 8 45 PM '47  
RECORDS BRANCH



QMGMF 293  
DeWitt, Richard W.  
SN O 756 197

Address Reply To  
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
Attention: Memorial Division

23 May 1947

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
314 West Decatur Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

Your letter concerning your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, has been received.

A recheck of our records has been made and it is found that the information furnished your wife is correct and that the remains of your son were interred in the Schofield Barracks Cemetery, located at Schofield Barracks on the Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, Plot 4, Row C, Grave 53.

A change in your address has been noted. If this is to be your permanent mailing address, please advise our office.

If we can assist you further, please feel free to contact us, at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. COOMBS  
Major, QMC  
Memorial Division





## CORRESPONDENCE ACTION WORK SHEET

Send Letter to Mr. George P. DeWitt Father  
314 West Decatur Street Relationship  
 ADDRESS Decatur, Illinois

Army Serial Number 0-756 197 Rank 2nd Lt.

OPENING PARAGRAPH: 62-1 62-2 62-3 62-4

BURIAL INFORMATION: 6 6A 7 8 9 10 10A 11 12 12A 13 13A  
 14 14A 14B 15 16 17 20 21 22 22B

Temp. Cem. 4 C 53 Schofield Barracks, T. H.  
 Perm. Cem. Plot Row Grave Name of Cem. City and Country

RETURN OF REMAINS: 78 79 81 82

OTHER PARAGRAPHS 23 24 26 27 28 29 30 35 36 40 41 42  
 43 51 53 54 55 56 57 58 58A 60 61 63A  
 63B 65 65A 65B 65C 65D 66 67 68 68A 69 70  
 73 74 76 84 85

INDORSEMENTS: To AG (47 71) To Ch of Chap (48 71)  
 To Other Agencies: (71)

PERSONAL EFFECTS: 50 64

SUSPEND — days

Copy of letter to AGO and Identification Section\*

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS \*

\* PERMANENT CHANGE OF ADDRESS  
 BUCK SLIP TO RECORDS SECTION  
 COPY TO ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dates of Letters for which Copies are Necessary to AAF:

OTHER: If we can assist you further, please feel  
 free to contact us at your convenience.

CLOSING PARAGRAPH: 62-5 Regret Delay \*

Letter to be Dated Jan 1947 Analyst Typist Reviewer

\* Note: Circle paragraph numbers and/or starred phrases that are applicable.

NAME OF DECEASED

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE  
INITIAL



May 1st 1947

314 West Dearborn St  
Dearborn, Illinois

Thomas B. Larkin

Office of the Quartermaster General  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: - In reference to  
the Burial of <sup>193</sup> 2nd Lt Richard  
W. DeWitt - 0756.187.

At the time burial services  
were held on June 6th 1944  
a man in service from Dearborn  
attended the services, and  
on that day called at the  
office to obtain the grave lo-  
cation. The information he  
sent does not correspond  
with the location of the grave  
you have given me.

I would like a request  
to be made. Please, as  
soon as possible.

Sincerely,

George P. DeWitt.

0004774



EC  
2nd Lt. Richard W. De Witt, O-756 197  
Plot 4, Row C, Grave 53,  
Schofield Barracks Cemetery  
Territory of Hawaii

22 April 1947

Mr. George P. De Witt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. De Witt:

The people of the United States, through the Congress have authorized the disinterment and final burial of the heroic dead of World War II. The Quartermaster General of the Army has been entrusted with this sacred responsibility to the honored dead. The records of the War Department indicate that you may be the nearest relative of the above-named deceased, who gave his life in the service of his country.

The enclosed pamphlets, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," and "American Cemeteries," explain the disposition, options and services made available to you by your Government. If you are the next of kin according to the line of kinship as set forth in the enclosed pamphlet, "Disposition of World War II Armed Forces Dead," you are invited to express your wishes as to the disposition of the remains of the deceased by completing Part I of the enclosed form "Request for Disposition of Remains." Should you desire to relinquish your rights to the next in line of kinship, please complete Part II of the enclosed form. If you are not the next of kin, please complete Part III of the enclosed form.

If you should elect Option 2, it is advised that no funeral arrangements or other personal arrangements be made until you are further notified by this office.

Will you please complete the enclosed form, "Request for Disposition of Remains" and mail in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, which requires no postage, within 30 days after its receipt by you? Its prompt return will avoid unnecessary delays.

Sincerely,

THOMAS B. LARKIN  
Major General  
The Quartermaster General

5- Incls.



QMMR 293  
De Witt, Richard W.  
A.S.N. 0 736 197

28 February 1947

Mr. George P. De Witt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. De Witt:

Inclosed herewith is a picture of the Schofield Barracks Cemetery, Territory of Hawaii, in which your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. De Witt, is buried.

It is my sincere hope that you may gain some solace from this view of the surroundings in which your loved one rests. As you can see, this is a place of simple dignity, neat and well cared for. Here, assured of continuous care, now rest the remains of a few of those heroic dead who fell together in the service of our country.

This cemetery will be maintained as a temporary resting place until, in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin, all remains are either placed in permanent American cemeteries overseas or returned to the Homeland for final burial.

Sincerely yours,

G. A. HORKAN  
Brigadier General, QMC  
Chief, Memorial Division

1 Inc.  
Photograph

2 110 PM '47  
O. O. M. C.  
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

mm 97



EC  
QMGYG 293  
DeWitt, Richard W.  
SN O-756 197

Address Reply To  
THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
Attention: Memorial Division

9 July 1946

Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt:

Your letter concerning your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, has been received in this office.

The War Department has now been authorized to remove the remains of our honored dead, at Government expense, to the final resting place which next of kin may designate.

When the necessary verification of records has been completed, a letter with an information pamphlet and a "Request for Disposition" form attached will be mailed to you. The "Request for Disposition" form, when properly filled out, will constitute the formal expression of your detailed desires as next of kin. Until you receive these forms, therefore, it will not be necessary for you to communicate with this office regarding this subject, unless you desire to report any change of address.

As you probably know, the supply of steel for the manufacture of caskets, is at present uncertain. Without this essential item, the projected movement of remains cannot properly be initiated. This fact and the necessity for complete coordination of movement in many parts of the world make it impossible, at this time, to estimate when the mentioned forms will be mailed. Every effort, however, will be made to shorten the time between now and the date of mailing and your desires will be acted upon with a minimum of delay.

This office regrets, sincerely, the delay in answering your letter.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM E. REID  
1st Lieut., QMC  
Assistant

CC: -CAF

JUL 10 11 14 AM '46  
O.Q.M.G.  
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH  
mh

WER



to comply. How long will it be  
before his remains are returned.

Yours Truly.

Mr. and Mrs George P. Dewitt





June 5<sup>th</sup> 1946

684 W. Division St.,  
Deerater, Illinois

28

War Department  
Quartermaster General  
Washington, D.C.

293  
Dear Sir:- When our son Lieutenant  
Richard W. DeWitt was killed in April  
of 1944 we requested that his remains  
be returned to the States. At the time  
due to the war, our request was not  
granted. We make the request again  
to have our son's remains returned  
to this country for interment, probab-  
ly in a private cemetery. We shall  
let you know at a later date.

He was killed in a plane crash  
on the island of Oahu. His last  
mailing address was Lieutenant Richard  
W. DeWitt, 0736.197, 819 Bomb Sq. 30<sup>th</sup> Bomb  
Group.

Our there other information that  
you need. We shall be glad



SPQYG 293

De Witt, Richard W.

S.N. O-756,197

29 May 1945

Mrs. George P. De Witt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mrs. De Witt:

Your letter to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, has been referred to this office for reply to that portion pertaining to the burial of your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. De Witt.

The official report of interment received in this office reveals that the remains of your son were interred in the Schofield Cemetery, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Plot 4, Grave 33, Row C.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your son.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sincerely yours,

MAYO A. DARLING  
Lt Colonel, QMC  
Assistant

ccp  
CCP

mlh

cy sent AAF ✓

MAY 29 1 22 PM '45  
RECEIVED DIVISION

file  
6/1/45  
E.D. [signature]



## HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES

## ROUTING SLIP

TO: The Quartermaster GeneralDATE 2 May '45

OFFICE OR SYMBOL <u>Memorial Branch</u>	BUILDING
ATTENTION: <u>Mrs. Mann</u>	ROOM

FOR:

	COORDINATION		INVESTIGATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REC. ACTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION		RECOMMENDATION		SIGNATURE
	FILE		CONFERENCE		

REMARKS:

Attached information received concerning the burial of 2d Richard W. DeWitt, 0756197, and his crew.

It is requested that the grave location and burial information be sent to the family of subject officer as soon as possible.

Attention invited to attached copy of letter received from Mrs. DeWitt and reply from this headquarters.

FROM:

NAME <u>Miss Humes</u>	OFFICE OR SYMBOL <u>AFPPA-8</u>
PHONE <u>77226</u>	BUILDING <u>4311</u>
	ROOM <u>4311</u>

3-218, AF



AFPPA-8

AAF 201 - (R-382) DeWitt, Richard W.  
0756197

2 May 1945

Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
684 W. Division  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mrs. DeWitt:

Reference is made to our letter of March 16, 1945, concerning your son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

Information concerning the death of your son has been received in this headquarters which states that Lieutenant DeWitt was killed in an airplane crash on a night formation flight over the island of Oahu near Kipapa Gulch on April 12, 1944. All the crew members were killed instantly as the airplane crashed and apparently exploded upon impact. The cause of the crash is undetermined.

The bomber in which this crew was flying had never been in combat and could in no way be considered a war weary plane. No unusual maintenance had been encountered on this airplane. It had flown on two sea search missions since the last previous one hundred hour inspection which was conducted a few days before this mission of April 12th. No trouble which was of a nature to ground the airplane was reported by other pilots flying the bomber. It had been continuously in good condition since the day of inspection.

A competent radio operator was on the airplane at the time of the crash. The plane was given a radio check five minutes before the accident and the check was all right.

Burial services were held on June 6, 1944. Chapel services were delayed to that date for the purpose of establishing positive identification prior to burial. Information concerning the burial and grave location of your son has been received, and we are requesting The Quartermaster General, who has jurisdiction over such matters, to forward this information to you.

Inclosed is a list of the crewmen who were in the plane with your son, and the names and addresses of their emergency addressees.



AAF 201 - (R-382) DeWitt, Richard W.  
0756197

2 May 1945

Again, we extend our deepest sympathy to you in your sorrow.

Very sincerely,

N. W. REED  
Major, Air Corps  
Assistant Chief, Notification Branch  
Personal Affairs Division  
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

1 Incl.



CONFIDENTIAL

704

4th Ind.

KTS/pmf

819TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), APO 959, 7 April 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 30th Bombardment Group (H), APO 959.

1. Lt Richard W DeWitt was killed in an airplane crash on a night formation flight over the island of Oahu on 12 April 1944. All crew members were killed instantly as the airplane crashed and apparently exploded upon impact. The cause of the crash is undetermined.

2. The crew was as follows:

X293  
Each  
Name {  
2d Lt Homer D Slawson 0742903  
~~2d Lt Richard W DeWitt 0756197~~  
2d Lt Clayton J Toffey 0692353  
2d Lt Homer P Reimer 0682721  
Sgt Lester H Jackson 12029865  
Sgt John F Gula 31157529  
Sgt Warren J Newton 32830250  
S Sgt James E Thompson 32445023  
Sgt Robert L Breswick 13098803

3. Burial services were held 6 June 1944. Chapel services were delayed to that date for the purpose of establishing positive identification prior to burial.

4. A competent radio operator was on the airplane at the time of the crash. The plane made a routine radio check five (5) minutes prior to the crash.

CLARE H. ROYCE  
Major, Air Corps,  
Commanding.

4 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Ltr fr Mrs DeWitt
- Incl #2 - Ltr US Army Mortuary
- Incl #3 - Statement of Capt Henderson
- Incl #4 - Statement of Radio tower Operator

704

5th Ind

BEXEX-dfs

HEADQUARTERS 30TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), APO 959, 10 April 1945

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C.,

Attention is invited to preceding indorsement

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

JAMES O. PREVATTE  
Major, Air Corps  
Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL



C O P Y

March 2, 1945  
2d Lt. Richard W. DeWitt--0756197  
819 Bomb. Squadron 30th Bomb Group

Commanding General Army Air Forces  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:--On April 12th 1944 my son 2nd Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt  
O-756197 was killed in a plane crash on the Island of Oahu.. he belonged  
to the 819th Bombardment Squadron (H) 30th Bomb Group.

Here to fore there hasn't been but little news reached us, only two  
things which have worried us no end.

One a letter from Oahu telling us our son's funeral with the other  
eight men killed, was on June 6th almost two months after they were  
killed. The crew was flying without a radioman. He wrote on May 26th  
that he attended services held at the chapel, before May 26th.

I believe the crash happened near Kiyopa Gulch, according to a  
clipping sent to us from a Honolulu newspaper.

Too, we understand the crash was near the field. He was stationed  
at Wheeler Field, never learned whether the crash was at Wheeler or a  
auxillary field.

For ten months we have waited for some news. I realize many  
things have to wait until after the duration but why these nine men  
burial was not made until two months after they were killed is a  
mystery to me.

Also, I might add that on the night the plane crashed my son wrote  
that we have engine trouble and probably won't have to go out to-night.  
Since then and this only recently learned the crew was sent out in a  
old plane that was used in combat.

We would be so very grateful if you could give us some explanation.  
Some times I think these men were not killed outright, but lived these  
two months, and we weren't told.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Mrs. George P. DeWitt



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
R E S T R I C T E D

U. S. ARMY MORTUARY  
1071 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, T. H.

6 June 1944.

SUBJECT : Remains.

TO : Cemetery Officer, Schofield Barracks, T. H.

1. The following is a list of remains forwarded to you for disposal:

Case # HS-867.

DE WITT, Richard W., 2d Lt., ASN-O-756197. 819th Bomb Sq., 30th Bomb Gp., Wheeler Field, T. H. Cause of death: Airplane crash. Date of death: 12 April 1944. Religion: Protestant, as of Officer's 201 File. Army Identification Tags not available at time of death. Army Identification Tags obtained from Machine Records and disposed of according to TM/10-630. Remains received 13 April 1944. Remains sent to Schofield Cemetery, Schofield Barracks, T. H. on 6 June 1944 for burial.

Plot 4  
Row C  
Grave 53

/t & s/ JESSE O. COTHRON  
1st Lt., Q.M.C.,  
Mortuary Officer.

1st Ind.

POST CEMETERY, Schofield Barracks, T. H. - 6 June 1944. - TO: The Mortuary Officer, (GRS) Honolulu, T. H.

Remains listed in basic communication above received this date at Post Cemetery, Schofield Barracks, T. H. at 9:30 AM

/s/ WM B CALDWELL, Maj QMC  
CEMETERY OFFICER,  
Schofield Barracks, T. H.

A TRUE COPY:

*Karl T. Spellum*  
KARL T. SPELLUM  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

MEMORANDUM DIVISION  
JUN 3 4 40 PM '44

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



REPORT OF INTERMENT  
(TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815)

28 JUN 1944

819th Bomb Sq.  
30th Bomb Gp.  
HQA HQ SQ  
VII B.C.

293 DE WITT Richard W. 0-756197 2d Lt.  
(Last name) (First) (Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization)

Kipapa Gulch, Oahu, T. H. 12 April 1944. Airplane Crash.  
(Place of death) (Date of death) (Cause of death)  
1000, 6 June 1944. Schofield Cemetery Schofield Barracks, T. H.  
(Time and date of burial) (Name of cemetery) (Name or coordinates of location)

53 C 4 Regulation.  
(Grave number) (Row number) (Plot number) (Type of marker—Regulation V-shaped or other)

Disposition of identification tags: Buried with body Yes ☒ No ☐ Attached to marker Yes ☒ No ☐

RESTRICTED

(If no identification tags, what means of identification are buried with the body?)

(If no identification tags, but identity definitely established, give particulars)

Body buried on RIGHT UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS(X-8) Unknown. 2d Lt. 819th Bomb Sq. 30th Bomb Gp. 54  
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)  
Body buried on LEFT TOFFEY, Clayton J. 0-692353 2d Lt. Same as above 52  
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)

Mr. George P. De Witt (Father) 684 W. Division St., Decatur, Illinois. Same as E.A.  
(Name and address of EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE) (Name and address of LEGAL NEXT OF KIN)

List only personal effects FOUND ON BODY and disposition of same: None received.

-5 SEP 1944 FILE



IF DECEASED UNIDENTIFIED

TAKE FINGERPRINTS OF BOTH HANDS (W. D. Cir. No. 79; 3/19/43). If unable to obtain a complete set of fingerprints, TAKE THOSE YOU CAN, and fill in as many of the following as you are able:

Height:	Apparent nationality:
Weight:	Laundry marks:
Color of eyes:	Number of rifle:
Color of hair:	Wear glasses?
Race:	Is tooth chart attached?

(If possible, have medical personnel take a tooth chart)

In space below, locate and describe any scars, birthmarks, moles, deformities, etc.:

Note below any identifying clues found, such as letters, photographs, probable organization of deceased, etc.:

IF THIS IS AN ISOLATED BURIAL, ATTACH A SKETCH OF THE LOCATION, ORIENTED WITH PERMANENT LAND-MARKS.

(Signature of officer or other person reporting burial)

(Verified by Army GRS Officer)

JESSE O. COTTRON, 1st. Lt., QMC.

LEFT HAND

4

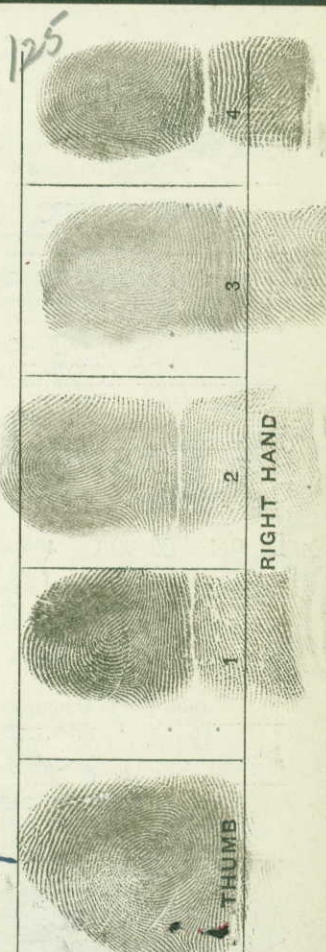
3

2

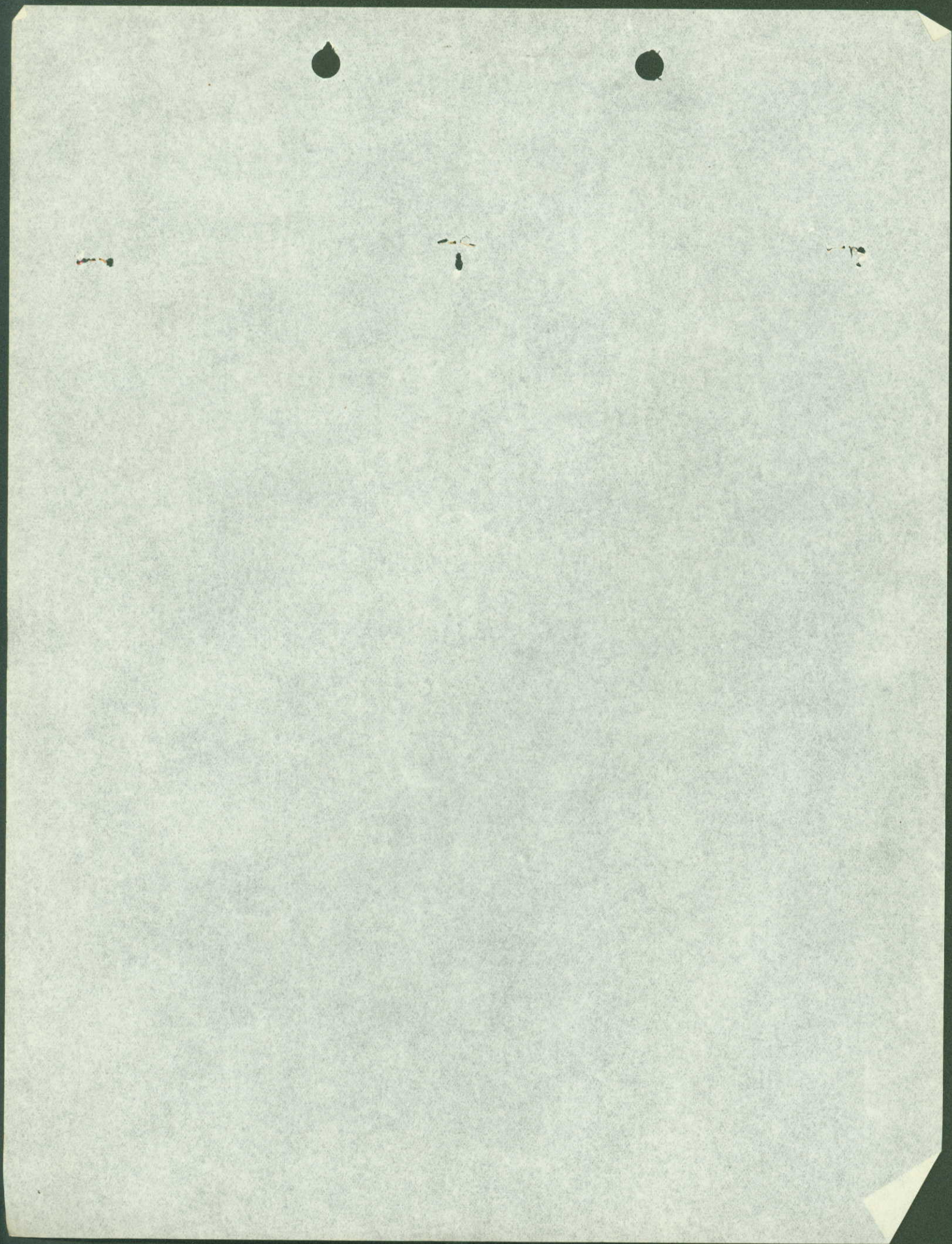
1

THUMB

6012









REPORT OF INTERMENT  
(TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815)

28 JUN 1944

819th Bomb Sq.,  
30th Bomb Gp.

719-119-58 (25)  
VII B.C.

293 DE WITT Richard W. 0-756197 2d Lt. 819th Bomb Sq.,  
(Last name) (First) (Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization)  
Kipapa Gulch, Oahu, T. H. 12 April 1944. Airplane Crash.  
(Place of death) (Date of death) (Cause of death)  
1000, 6 June 1944. Schofield Cemetery Schofield Barracks, T. H.  
(Time and date of burial) (Name of cemetery) (Name or coordinates of location)

53 C 4 Regulation.  
(Grave number) (Row number) (Plot number) (Type of marker—Regulation V-shaped or other)

Disposition of identification tags: Buried with body Yes ☒ No ☐ Attached to marker Yes ☒ No ☐

RESTRICTED

(If no identification tags, what means of identification are buried with the body?)

(If no identification tags, but identity definitely established, give particulars)

Body buried on RIGHT UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS (X-8) Unknown. 2d Lt. 819th Bomb Sq.  
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)  
Body buried on LEFT TOFFEY, Clayton J. 0-692353 2d Lt. 30th Bomb Gp. 54  
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)  
Mr. George P. De Witt (Father) 684 W. Division St., Decatur, Illinois. Same as E.A.  
(Name and address of EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE) (Name and address of LEGAL NEXT OF KIN)

List only personal effects FOUND ON BODY and disposition of same: None received.

2 AUG 1944 FMH  
DK 2

Ind 12



IF DECEASED UNIDENTIFIED

TAKE FINGERPRINTS OF BOTH HANDS (W. D. Cir. No. 79; 3/19/43). If unable to obtain a complete set of fingerprints, TAKE THOSE YOU CAN, and fill in as many of the following as you are able:

Height:	Apparent nationality:
Weight:	Laundry marks:
Color of eyes:	Number of rifle:
Color of hair:	Wear glasses?
Race:	Is tooth chart attached?

(If possible, have medical personnel take a tooth chart)

In space below, locate and describe any scars, birthmarks, moles, deformities, etc.:

Note below any identifying clues found, such as letters, photographs, probable organization of deceased, etc.:

IF THIS IS AN ISOLATED BURIAL, ATTACH A SKETCH OF THE LOCATION, ORIENTED WITH PERMANENT LANDMARKS.

(Signature of officer or other person reporting burial)

(Verified by Army GRS Officer)

JESSE O. COTHRON, 1st. LT., OMC.

LEFT HAND

4

3

2

1

THUMB

RIGHT HAND

4

3

2

1

THUMB



RESTRICTED

U. S. ARMY MORTUARY  
1071 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, T. H.

28 JUN 1944

293 De Witt, Richard W.

6 June 1944.

SUBJECT: Transmittal of GRS Forms No. 1.

TO : Quartermaster, CPA, APO 958.

1. ✓ Transmitted herewith are GRS Forms No. 1, Case # HS-867 on Richard W. De Witt, 2d Lt. ASN-O-756197.

1 Incl-  
GRS Forms No. 1 (in trip)

*Jesse O. Cothron*  
JESSE O. COTHRON,  
1st. Lt., Q.M.C.,  
Mortuary Officer.

QM-210.86-A ("D") 1st Ind.  
HEADQUARTERS USAFICPA, OQM, APO 958, 10 June 1944.

TO: The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

For the Quartermaster:

*Russell E. Dorr*  
RUSSELL E. DORR,  
Captain, QMC,  
Assistant.

1 Incl-  
Cy. w/d.

RESTRICTED

28 JUN 1944  
JUN 27 5 13 AM '44  
SERIAL DIVISION  
File  
SP2



SPQGC 293  
(DeWitt, Richard W., 2nd Lt.)

11 May 1944.

✓ 200/ Honorable C. Wayland Brooks,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Reference is made to your inquiry addressed to Major General James A. Ulio, The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C., and forwarded here for reply to such part of the communication as pertains to this office, in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, 684 West Division Street, Decatur, Illinois, who desire to have the remains of their son, Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197, who was killed on 12 April 1944, in Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt may be informed that, at the outbreak of the war, it became necessary to adopt the policy that the remains of military personnel who die at stations outside the continental limits of the United States shall be interred locally until after cessation of hostilities when consideration will be given the question of their return for final interment. They may be assured, however, that the remains of all Service men are reverently and properly interred at the place of death and that the graves are marked and recorded in order to preserve their identity until such time as the remains may, if possible, be returned to the United States for final interment.

A notation has been made on the official records of this office that it is Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt's desire to have the remains of their son returned, if possible, to the United States for final interment after the cessation of hostilities. At the proper time, the legal next of kin will be requested to inform this office of the desired place of final shipment of the remains of the deceased. Steps will be taken at that time to prepare and ship the remains at Government expense to the place thus designated.

For the Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

SIGNED  
Lt. Colonel, Q.M.G.,  
Assistant.  
SNL/bh  
Ex. 4402.

MAY 11 5 20 PM '44

MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH



Cy sent AAF ✓

BH



O. Q. M. G. ROUTING SLIP

From \_\_\_\_\_

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

INSPECTION

ORGANIZATION - PLANNING & CONTROL  
Statistical

LEGAL DIVISION  
Patents

FISCAL

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
Office Service  
Provost Marshal  
Library  
Mail and Records

MILITARY PLANNING DIVISION  
Requirements  
Research and Development  
Operations

TRAINING DIVISION

PERSONNEL DIVISION  
Military  
Field  
Departmental

PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
Service Branch  
Clothing and Textile  
Equipment & General Supplies  
Production Service  
Inspection Branch

FUEL AND LUBRICANTS DIVISION

STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION DIVISION  
Clothing and Equipage  
General Supplies  
Storage  
Stock Accounting  
Subsistence  
Buildings, Grounds & Maint.  
Unit Equipment  
Stock Control

SERVICE INSTALLATIONS DIVISION

Remount  
Memorial  
Laundries  
Salvage  
Printing  
C C C  
Maintenance  
Mobile Equipment

Security Officer

Rec'd. Att:  
Rec'd. Chgd:  
Remarks:



CONGRESSIONAL  
RUSH

(DO NOT REMOVE THIS MEMORANDUM FROM PAPERS)

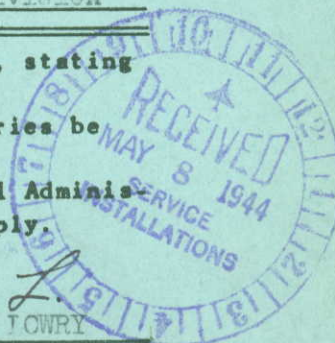
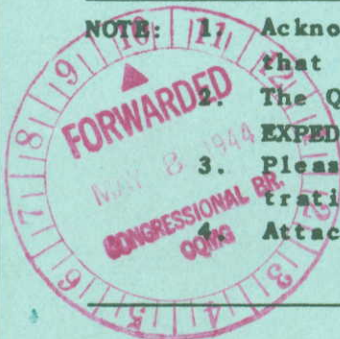
WAR DEPARTMENT, O.Q.M.G.

DATE: 2 May 1944. FILE NO: 293 DeWitt, Richard RED NO: 3637  
W., 2nd Lt.

SUBJECT: Informal Action Sheet, A.G.O.

FROM: Congressional Section, G.A.S. TO: Service Installations Division

- NOTE: 1. Acknowledgment has been sent to the Member of Congress, stating that a full reply will be sent him as soon as practicable.
2. The QM General desires that replies to Congressional inquiries be EXPEDITED.
3. Please furnish to Congressional Section, GS Branch, General Administrative Services Division, information on which to base reply.
4. Attach all records necessary for intelligent action.



POPEX TOWRY

TO: CONGRESSIONAL SECTION, G.A.S.

FROM: MEMORIAL BRANCH  
9 May 1944

Senator C. Wayland Brooks should be advised that during the period that the United States is at war, the shipment home of remains from foreign possessions and other stations outside the continental limits of the United States is suspended. At the cessation of hostilities the legal next of kin of each casualty whose remains are interred overseas will be communicated with to ascertain their final wishes as to the disposition of the remains.

A notation has been made on the official records of this office that it is the parent's desire to have the remains of their son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. Dewitt returned, if possible, to the United States for final interment after the cessation of hostilities. The expenses incident thereto will be borne by the War Department.

MEMORIAL DIVISION

MAY 8 2 00 PM '44

*Harbold*  
HARBOLD.

74  
MAD

24-39187ABCD

*IS*



To be filed ☐

Not to be filed ☐

WAR DEPARTMENT  
SERVICES OF SUPPLY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

rdw

3637

File No. AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.  
(3 May 44) PC-G

4 May, 1944.

URGENT

INFORMAL ACTION SHEET

Subject Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197.

From Casualty Branch, A.G.O., 3716, Munitions, 77825.  
(Branch or division) (Room number) (Building) (Telephone number)

To: The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.  
(Branch or division) (Room number) (Building) (Attention)

Remarks or indorsements:

The foregoing copies of correspondence from the Honorable C. Wayland Brooks, United States Senate, and the Honorable Scott W. Lucas, United States Senate, who have been informed of this reference, are referred for further direct reply regarding the return of the remains of Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197, who was killed on 12 April 1944, in an airplane accident in Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

5 Incls.

- ✓ Cpy ltr 27 Apr 44 fr Hon Brooks,
- ✓ Cpy reply, this office, to Hon Brooks.
- ✓ Cpy ltr 24 Apr 44 fr Mr & Mrs DeWitt.
- ✓ Cpy ltr 28 Apr 44 fr Hon Lucas.
- ✓ Cpy reply, this office, to Hon Lucas.

Philip M. Newmark  
Captain, A.G.D.

293 De Witt, Richard W (and ft)  
#201 Surface, C. Wayland (New)



URGENT

PROMPT ATTENTION REQUESTED



C  
O  
P  
Y

UNITED STATES SENATE  
Committee on Appropriations

April 27, 1944.

Major General James A. Ulio  
The Adjutant General  
War Department  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear General Ulio:

Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, 684 W. Division St.,  
Decatur, Illinois, have written to me as to whether or not there  
is any possibility for the return for the body of their son,  
Lt. Richard W. DeWitt of the 7th Air Force of the United States.

They stated that Lt. DeWitt was a Co-Pilot on a  
Liberator Bomber which crashed in Oahu territory.

If his body is not returned at present, are any plans  
under consideration to bring back the remains of soldiers killed  
in Hawaii at some future time?

If you have received a report of the death of Lt. DeWitt,  
and have some details which I can transmit to his parents, it will  
be appreciated if you will send them to me.

Yours very truly,

/s/  
C. Wayland Brooks.

CWB:MM



AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.  
(27 Apr 44) PG-G 0-756197

4 May 1944.

Honorable C. Wayland Brooks,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Brooks:

I have your letter of 27 April 1944, requesting information in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, 684 West Division Street, Decatur, Illinois, relative to their son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

I am indeed sympathetic with Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt in their desire to obtain further details concerning the death of their son and find that the official message pertaining to Lieutenant DeWitt, received on 18 April 1944, from the Commanding General of the Central Pacific Area, disclosed that he was killed in an airplane accident on 12 April 1944, on the Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. However, no additional information concerning the circumstances surrounding his death were furnished. I feel sure that you will realize that in the majority of such reports, which include only the fact, cause and date of death, the furnishing of the complete details cannot be accomplished by the commanding generals in the theaters of operations due to the many problems arising from the conditions of war and the limited means of facilities for the transmission of these messages to the War Department, for subsequent delivery to the families concerned. You may be certain, however, that in the event any further information pertaining to the death of Lieutenant DeWitt is received, his family will be notified without delay.

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt's desire for the return of the remains of their son to the United States is appreciated and as The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C., is responsible for all matters of this nature, your letter has been forwarded to that official for further direct reply to you.



AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.  
(27 Apr 44) PC-G

4 May 1944.

Your interest in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt is most considerate and they have my heartfelt sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Dunlop

ROBERT H. DUNLOP  
Brigadier General,  
Acting The Adjutant General.

CC: AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.



C  
O  
P  
Y

UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 28, 1944.

Respectfully referred to

Major General J. A. Ulio  
The Adjutant General  
War Department  
Washington, D. C.

I shall appreciate it if you will please give me an answer to send on to Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt, returning the attached letter with your reply in duplicate for my files.

Respectfully,

/s/  
Scott W. Lucas..



C  
O  
P  
Y

April 24, 1944.

Senator Scott Lucas,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On April 12, 1944 our only son, Lt. Richard W. DeWitt of the 7th Air force was killed in a plane crash in Oahu territory. He was a co-pilot on a Liberator bomber. Details of the crash have never reached us.

We would like very much for you to assist us in having his body brought back to Decatur, Illinois now instead of after the duration of war. Any word of information you may have for us will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
684 W. Division St.  
Decatur, Illinois.



AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.  
(28 Apr 44) PC-G 0-756197

4 May 1944.

Honorable Scott W. Lucas,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Lucas:

I have your communication of 28 April 1944, with which you inclosed a letter from Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, 684 West Division Street, Decatur, Illinois, relative to their son, the late Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

I can fully appreciate the desire of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt to obtain further details concerning the death of their son and find that the official message pertaining to Lieutenant DeWitt received on 18 April 1944, from the Commanding General of the Central Pacific Area, disclosed that he was killed in an airplane accident on 12 April 1944, on the Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii; however, no additional information concerning the circumstances surrounding his death were furnished. It is my hope that you will realize that in the majority of such reports, which include only the fact, cause and date of death, the furnishing of the complete details cannot be accomplished by the commanding generals in the theaters of operations due to the many problems arising from the conditions of war and the limited means of facilities for the transmission of these messages to the War Department, for subsequent delivery to the families concerned. You may be certain, however, that in the event further information pertaining to the death of Lieutenant DeWitt is received, his family will be notified without delay.

The desire of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt to have the remains of their son returned to the United States is fully understood and as The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C., is responsible for all matters of this nature, copies of your correspondence have been forwarded to that official for further direct reply to you.



AG 201 DeWitt, Richard W.  
(28 Apr 44) PC-G

4 May 1944.

Your interest in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt is most considerate and they have my heartfelt sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Dunlop

ROBERT H. DUNLOP  
Brigadier General  
Acting The Adjutant General.

1 Incl.



SPOGC 293  
(DeWitt, Richard W., 2nd Lt.)

10 May 1944.

4201 Honorable Scott W. Lucas,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Reference is made to your inquiry addressed to Major General J. A. Ulio, The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C., and forwarded here for reply to such part of the communication as pertains to this office, in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, 684 West Division Street, Decatur, Illinois, who desire to have the remains of their son, Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197, who was killed on 12 April 1944, in Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt may be informed that, for military reasons, no remains of military personnel may be returned to the United States from foreign possessions and overseas stations until after cessation of hostilities, at which time consideration will be given the question of their return home for final interment. They may be assured, however, that the remains of all Service men are reverently and properly interred at the place of death and that the graves are marked and recorded in order to preserve their identity until such time as the remains may, if possible, be returned to the United States for final interment.

Immediately prior to the return of deceased personnel, the legal next of kin will be asked to indicate their desire as to the location of the place of final interment. Steps will be taken at that time to prepare the remains and ship them to the place thus designated; all expenses incident thereto will be borne by the War Department.

For The Quartermaster General:

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL N. LORRY,  
Lt. Colonel, U.S.A.,  
Assistant.

SNL/bh  
Ex. 4402.



gy sent AAF

MAY 11 1944  
MAIL ROOM BRANCH



ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU  
Summary Court-Martial  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City 1, Missouri

PUM/AP/bh  
Case No. 58501  
Date 17 October 1946

SUBJECT: Report of transactions in disposing of the effects of

Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197 late a  
(Name of deceased) (Army Serial Number)  
2/Lt., Air Corps who died  
(Grade) (Organization, Army or Service)  
on the 12th day of April, 1944, at Central Pacific Area.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington 25, D.C.

1. Complying with A.W. 112, a Summary Court-Martial, convened at Kansas City, Mo., pursuant to S.O. 228, Hq., KCQM Depot, dated 25 September 1943, for the purpose of disposing of the effects of the above-named soldier, or person subject to military law, reports that:

a. No legal representative or widow of decedent being present at decedents camp or quarters, effects of decedent were forwarded to this Summary Court-Martial.

b. Local debtors owed decedent's estate \$ none of which the sum of \$ none was collected. (If nothing was found due or collected, state "None"; otherwise attach itemized statement of sums owing and collected.) (Incl. none.)

c. Decedent owed undisputed local creditors the sum of \$ none, which has been paid by the Summary Court-Martial from funds of decedent. (See inclosed receipt none, Incl none).

d. Disposition of decedent's effects (less money paid creditors, if any) has been made by the Summary Court-Martial by transmittal through the Quartermaster Corps, at Government expense to person found entitled (See Summary Court-Martial FINDING below).

FINDING

Before a Summary Court-Martial which convened at Kansas City, Missouri on 8 November 1946, pursuant to Special Orders 228, Headquarters, KCQM Depot, dated 25 September 1943, the application or affidavit of George P. DeWitt for the effects of the above named deceased soldier, or person subject to military law, now in the possession of the United States, with other relevant evidence, was duly considered;

Whereupon, this Summary Court-Martial finds that, under the provisions of A.W. 112, Mr. George P. DeWitt of  
(Name of person found entitled)

684 W. Division Street, Decatur State of  
(Number, Street or Avenue) (City, Town or Village)

Illinois, is the Father of the  
(Relationship or Capacity)

above-named decedent and appears to be entitled to receive his or her effects.

(Signature of Summary Court Officer)

P. U. MAXEY, Lt Col, QMC  
(Name, Rank, Organization)  
SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO 58501

JRM:MD:rt  
April 24, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt:

Reference is made to previous correspondence regarding personal property of your son, Second Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

As previously indicated, tracer was instituted overseas in an effort to determine disposition made of your son's ring, watch, and billfold. I am very sorry to report that we were unable to locate them. Apparently they were not recovered.

Extending every sympathy, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARRY NIEMIEC  
2nd Lt., Q.M.C.  
Chief, Correspondence Branch



BASIC: Ltr subj: Disposal of Personal Property, Kansas City QM Depot, dtd  
8 Mar 45.

SPQDK 220.87

1st Ind.

KTS/pmf

819TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H), APO 959, 8 April 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Kansas City QM Depot, Army Effects Bureau, 601 Hard-  
esty Avenue, Kansas City 1, Missouri.

1. Reference Par 1 (58501A)

Lt DeWitt was no doubt wearing the ring and watch at the time of the crash.

2. Reference Par 2 (58501A)

All items listed on WDAGO Form 54, were in the box and were sent to Kansas City QM Depot.

3. Reference Par 3 (58501A)

All personal items found among his effects were sent to Kansas City QM Depot. No doubt he was carrying his bill fold with identification cards, pay data card at time of crash.

4. Reference P.S. (58501A)

All photographs were sent to Kansas City QM Depot that could be identified as the property of each officer. The four officers killed in this crash occupied the same quarters and much of the personal property on tables and in chests of drawers was inter mingled. Every effort was made to sort it out correctly.

5. This office has made every attempt to spare the feeling of the next of kin of personnel involved in this crash. This airplane crashed and exploded upon impact. The wreckage was strewn over an area of 300 yards diameter. The airplane and the bodies of the crew members were almost totally disintegrated. Burial was delayed for almost two months while positive identification was established. Only one portion of a bill fold was found and that was badly mangled.

6. As much of the aforementioned information as you deem appropriate may be sent to Mrs DeWitt.

For the Squadron Commander:

*Karl T. Spellum*  
KARL T. SPELLUM  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
Adjutant.

2 Incls: n/c

*File*





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

(S-8 Sep 45)

JRM:HA:hlh

8 March 1945

IN REPLY REFER TO SPQDK 220.87 (58501)

SUBJECT: Disposal of Personal Property

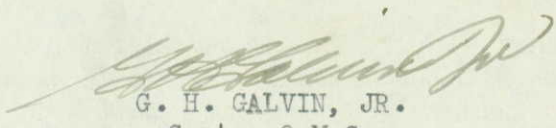
TO : Commanding Officer, 819th Bomb. Sq., 30th Bomb. Gp., APO  
#959, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California

1. Attention is invited to inclosed copy letter, 22 November 1944, from Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt, regarding personal effects of their son, Richard W. DeWitt, O-756197, 2nd Lt., A.C., deceased, formerly a member of your organization.

2. Property listed on inclosed copy W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 54, dated 16 April 1944, signed by James S. Simpson, 1st Lt., A.C., S.C., has been received here and forwarded to Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt.

3. Request investigation and report concerning missing items.

For the Effects Quartermaster:

  
G. H. GALVIN, JR.  
Capt., Q.M.C.  
Chief, Administrative Division

2 Incls--  
Incl. 1--Cy. ltr. 22 Nov 44  
Incl. 2--Cy. W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 54

*file*



684 W. Division St.  
Decatur, Illinois  
November 22, 1944

58501 A

Army Effects Bureau  
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Sir:--The personal effects of our son reached us. Could you give us any information about his watch and ring? There are the two things I care most about. The ring was given to him as a birthday present. The watch just before he entered service.

On the outside of his brief case a few items were listed, that no doubt was returned from his base at Wheeler Field. Most of the things listed were not in the brief case as heretofore listed, but scattered among everything. There were no identification tags, crew member badge which were itemized as being returned.

And were there any billfold or any currency what ever. I wonder if our son died without any money.. I mean was he over there on some island without any funds. It doesn't seem likely that he was. Fliers are well paid and since he was killed April 12th should have received his pay for March. Also there was no Pay data card or officer's identification card (three-fold card with photograph, fingerprints, signature) in the things that were returned.

I don't know whose duty it is to return personal items to you, but want a list of all things returned to the Bureau. Too, we would appreciate it very much if you can tell us what happened to his ring and watch.

Sincerely  
/s/ Mr. and Mrs. George DeWitt

P.S. When my son was home he had several lieutenant bars, only two was returned. This may not be important to you, but friends and relatives have asked us for them for keepsakes.

Please give me the address of the Army Air Corps or Forces I understand they have a special department that help in these problems. I mean as the Personal Affairs Division, but the Army Air Forces have their own agency.

Two cigarette lighter were missing, a Ronson and Zippo. Portrait of his father and mother and financee. Two portraits were returned but these are not the ones referred too. Also a knife not of significant value but of great value to us. The boy who gave it to him, is now a Prisoner of War in Germany. These little things mean much to us.

/s/ Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt

Incl #1



January 2<sup>d</sup> 1947

68400, Division

Deerater, Illinois

58501A.

Army Effects Bureau

Kansas City Quartermaster Depot

Kansas City 1, Missouri

Dear Sir: - I thank you for your  
reply to our letter concerning our  
sons personal effects.

Our son's last mailing address  
was

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard W. DeWitt 0-756197

819 Bomb Sqd 30<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group

A. P. O # 959

% Post master San Francisco, Cal.

Previous to this we addressed his mail  
in the States to 607 Sqd. 388<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group  
March Field California. That was the last  
address here in the States although he did not  
receive any mail from us or we from him  
for a period of six weeks or until he  
arrives over seas.

I write this, that when the crew  
left March Field in January some of their  
personal effects was left in the care  
of orderlies to return to us. Our son's  
things did not arrived here until



April 20<sup>th</sup>. That was just one day before  
we received our telegram that he was  
killed. We and our son had to write  
several times before the things were  
returned. The crew had an emergency leave  
and hence could not attend to these things.  
The reason I explain all this I wonder  
if his watch and ring and some other  
things could have been entrusted in their  
orderly's care. <sup>to Mr. ~~and~~ ~~field~~</sup> Some one told ~~me~~ pilots were  
not allowed to take ring or any thing with  
them. Could not his commanding officer send  
us a list of the inventory prepared over  
seas, or tell us if Richard had his ring  
and watch, if he wore it when he was killed  
that is the way we would want it, perhaps  
we are making too much of this. There are  
so many things concerning their death. the  
nine men with Richard, ~~we~~ are still so  
confused.

any help you can give us will be  
gratefully appreciated

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. George DeWitt



ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City 1, Missouri

In Reply Refer to \_\_\_\_\_

The Army Effects Bureau has received some personal property belonging to

Since he has been reported to be \_\_\_\_\_ it is our desire that some close relative keep this property pending return of the owner or change in his status. If you have any letter or other written instrument from him indicating with whom he wants his belongings stored, please forward such paper to me. After examination, it will be returned promptly.

It will be appreciated if you also will kindly furnish the following information, and any other which you may consider important:

1. Is he married? If so, what is his wife's name and address?
2. What are the names and addresses of his closest relatives, i.e. oldest child, father, mother, oldest brother, oldest sister, etc?
3. What is the name, address and relationship of the person with whom you believe he would want his property stored?
4. Would you personally be willing to receive, receipt for, and safely keep his property as gratuitous bailee?
5. If the property is delivered to you, will you agree to return it to him, his personal representative, or the Army Effects Bureau upon request?

Please be assured that this letter is in no way intended as a casualty message. Its sole purpose is to acquire information that will enable us to make proper disposal of the property now in our custody.

If you so desire, you may use the reverse side of this letter for your reply. For your convenience, there is enclosed an addressed envelope which needs no postage.

Yours very truly,

1 Incl--  
Envelope

Eff. QM Form 204 (26 Aug 44)





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

(S-1-21-45)

JRM:HA:vf

December 21, 1944

IN REPLY REFER TO: 58501 A

Mr. and Mrs. George P. DeWitt  
684 West Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt:

This acknowledges your letter of November 22 inquiring about the personal effects of your son, Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

With reference to the identification tags about which you inquire, Army regulations provide that one of the two identification tags worn by personnel of the U. S. Army be interred with the body and the duplicate tag removed at the time of interment and securely attached to the grave marker.

All War Department agencies are under instruction to forward the personal effects of deceased military personnel to this Bureau for disposition. I regret that there is no information available here regarding any funds belonging to your son. The identification card and pay data card were not received at this Bureau.

All property which has arrived at this Bureau marked as belonging to Lieutenant DeWitt has been forwarded to you. The ring, watch, and billfold about which you inquire were not received at this Bureau, nor were they listed on the inventory prepared overseas. However, it is my intention to institute tracer action in an endeavor to locate them. Before this action can be taken, it will be necessary for you to furnish us Lieutenant DeWitt's last complete mailing address.

For your convenience in replying, there is inclosed an addressed envelope which needs no postage.

Yours very truly,

*under*  
A. F. TIMMS  
Administrative Assistant  
Army Effects Bureau

1 Incl--Envelope



November 22, 1944

684 W Division St.

Des Moines, Iowa

88501A

Army Effects Bureau

Kansas City Postmaster Dept

Kansas City Missouri.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Dear Sir:- The personal effects of our son reached us.

Could you give us any information about his watch and ring? These are the two things I care most about. The ring was given to him as a birthday present, on his twenty-first birthday. The watch just before he entered service. On the outside of his brief case a few items were listed, that no doubt was returned from his base at Wheeler Field. Most of the things listed were not in the brief case as here before listed but scattered among every thing. There were no identification tags or even member badge which were itemized as being returned.

And were there any bill fold or any currency what ever. I wonder if



of the Army Air Corps or Forces. I understand they have a special department that help in these problems. I mean as the Personal Affairs Division, but the Army Air Forces have their own agency.

Two cigarette lighters were missing, a Pineon and Zippo. Portrait of his father and mother and finances. Two Portraits were returned. but these are not the ones referred to. Also a knife note of significant value but of great value to us. The boy who gave it to him, is now a prisoner of war in Germany. These little things mean much to us.

Mr & Mrs George P. DeWitt.



our son died without any money. I mean  
was he over there on some island  
without any funds. It does not seem  
likely that he was. Their are well  
paid and since he was killed April 12<sup>th</sup>  
should have received his pay for March.

Also there was no Pay data card or  
officer's identification Card (three-fold card  
with photograph, finger prints, signature) in the  
things that were returned.

I don't know whose duty it is to return  
personal items to you, but want a list  
of all things returned to the Bureau.

Too, we would appreciate it very  
much if you can tell us what happened  
to his ring and watch.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. George Dellitto

P.S.

When my son was home he had several  
lieutenant bars, only two was returned. This  
may not be important to you, but friends and  
relatives have asked us for them for  
keepsakes.

Please give me the address





ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
601 HARDESTY AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO 58501 A

(S-12-10-44)  
JRM:HA:elb  
November 10, 1944

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
684 W. Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

The Army Effects Bureau has received from overseas some personal effects of your son, Lieutenant Richard W. DeWitt.

These effects, contained in one carton, are being forwarded and should reach you in the near future.

When delivery has been made, I shall appreciate your acknowledging receipt by signing one copy of this letter in the space provided, and returning it to this Bureau. For your convenience, there is inclosed an addressed envelope which needs no postage.

The action of this Bureau in transmitting personal effects does not, of itself, vest title in the recipient. Such property is forwarded for distribution according to the laws of the state of the officer's legal residence.

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

Yours very truly,

A. P. TIMMS  
Administrative Assistant  
Army Effects Bureau

1 Incl—  
Envelope

Receipt acknowledged:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Claimant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

ORDER FOR SHIPMENT

Ship To:

Mr. George P. DeWitt  
684 W. Division Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Effects of

Name

2nd Lt. Richard W. DeWitt

ASN

O-756197

Case No.

58501-D

Wt.

**FRANKED**

Ship Via

G B/L No.

Date November 9, 1944  
JPM:HA:mlm

B. Hurst  
For Effects Quartermaster

PACKAGES SHIPPED

1 Carton

Franked ☒

Est. Exp. Chgs.

Est. Frt. Chgs.

TOTAL 1 WT.

Date Shipped NOV 13 1944

REMARKS:

**NOV 13 1944**

**NOV 17 1944**

HML  
Shipping Clerk



Sheet 1 of 1 Sheets  
Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU  
INVENTORY

*Pal 13*

Deceased x  
Missing \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O.W. \_\_\_\_\_  
Abandoned \_\_\_\_\_

SHOWN ON TALLY-IN AS *DeWitt, Richard W.* ORIGINAL NO. OF PKGS. 1  
TALLY-IN NO. 5280 INVENTORY DATE 11-2-44 CASE NO. 5850  
EFFECTS OF RICHARD W. DeWITT RANK 2nd Lt.  
A.S.N. 0-756197 ORG. Air Corps

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION:	
ARTICLE DESCRIPTION	
1 Jacket	1 Address book
1 Pr. shoes	1 Check book
2 Caps 1 w/visor	1 Pilot logs book
1 Lot underwear	1 Cigarette case w/lighter
1 Lot socks	1 Pr. wings
5 Pr. trousers	Misc. insignias
5 Shirts	1 Identification bracelet minus band
3 Towels	1 Briefcase w/personal papers & letters
1 Wash cloth	
1 Lot handkerchiefs	
2 Belts	
2 Ties	2 Identification tags REMOVED
1 Toilet kit w/articles	
2 Pipes	
1 Fountain pen	
1 New Testament	
1 Sew kit	
2 Folders w/photos	

REMARKS: GEORGE DeWITT (FATHER)  
684 W. DIVISION ST.  
DECATUR, ILL.

ATTACHMENTS:

Form 54

CORRESPONDENCE ☒

C.A.T. AVAILABLE:  
MR. GEORGE P. DE WITT  
684 DIVISION ST.  
DECATUR, ILL.

~~NO CORRESPONDENCE~~

~~SHORTAGE ON REVERSE~~

~~G. I. ON REVERSE~~

STORAGE )  
SPACE )

*1703*

SAFE STORAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
VAULT STORAGE \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_  
SHIPPED \_\_\_\_\_

Inventoried by *M. L. Little*

Packed by *Luff*



CONFIDENTIAL

819th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
A.P.O. #959  
c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.

25 April 1944

SUBJECT: Disposition of Effects

TO : Effects Quartermaster, Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Kansas City, Missouri

1. Transmitted herewith duplicate copies of WD AGO Form No. 54 on the following named officers and enlisted men:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>	<u>NEAREST RELATIVE</u>
-------------	-------------	---------------	-------------------------

\*\*\*\*\*

2nd Lt.	RICHARD W. DE WITT	0756197	George P. DeWitt (Father) 684 Division Street Decatur, Illinois
---------	--------------------	---------	---

2. Also transmitted herewith United States Treasury Checks made payable to the Effects Quartermaster covering monies for the estates of the following:

<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
13,340	Lt. Clayton J. Toffey	\$ 3.00
13,356	Lt. Homer D. Slawson	12.00
13,339	Sgt. Robert L. Breswick	3.00
13,341	Sgt. Lester H. Jackson	1.10

3. Enclosed is a copy of the Summary Court Appointment Order.

4. Acknowledgement of receipt is requested.

JAMES S. SIMPSON  
1st Lt., Air Corps  
Summary Court Officer

Inclasures:

- 1-WD AGO Form No. 54 (2)
- 2-Treasury Checks (4)
- 3-Par. 8 AO#41 VII EC R/E (1)

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

REAR ECHOLON  
HEADQUARTERS VII BOMBING COMMAND  
APO # 953

11 April 1944

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 41 )

EXTRACT

8. 1ST LT JAMES S. SIMPSON 01894592 AG 819th Bomb. Sq (H) is apptd SG to inventory and dispose of the effects left at this station of the following named Os AG and EM killed in an airplane crash 12 April 44. The court will be governed by instructions contained in AF 112, Manual for Courts-Martial, 1928, and WD Cir 195, 1943. Auth: AW 112, MCM 1928.

2nd Lt HOMER D. CLAYTON JR 0742903 P  
2nd Lt RICHARD W. DE WITT 0756197 CP  
2nd Lt CLAYTON J. TOFFRY 0692332 N  
2nd Lt HOMER F. H. LIMA 0682721 B  
S Sgt James E. Thompson 38445023 (74B)  
Sgt Robert L. Breswick 12028603 (612)  
Sgt Lester E. Jackson 12029865 (612)  
Sgt Warren J. Newton 32830230 (612)  
Sgt John F. Gula 31157522 (866)

By command of Brigadier General LAMON:

OFFICIAL

ROSS D. THOMPSON  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Adjutant

ROSS D. THOMPSON  
Captain, Air Corps  
Adjutant.

A CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY

/s/George B. Dobbins  
GEORGE B. DOBBINS,  
Major AG

DISTRIBUTION:

"B" Plus:

2 cys SSG Seventh AF

CONFIDENTIAL



INVENTORY OF EFFECTS  
(See AR 600-550)

DeWITT                      RICHARD                      W.                      0756197  
(Last name) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (ASN)

late a 2ND LT                      AIR CORPS  
(Grade) (Organization or arm or service)

who died on the 16 day of April, 1944

CLASS I-Saber, insignia, decorations, medals, campaign  
badges, watches, manuscripts, and other articles  
valuable chiefly as keepsakes.

Number	Articles	*Package Number
✓ 1	Brief Case See table of contents	

CLASS II

✓ 1	Field Jacket	
✓ 5	Pair Trousers	
✓ 2	Belts	
✓ 7	Handkerchiefs	
✓ 1	Washcloth	
✓ 2	Towels	
✓ 2	ties	
✓	Assorted socks	
✓ 5	Shirts	
✓ 1	Cap, Garrison	
✓ 1	Kit-toilet Articles	
✓ 14	Shorts	
✓ 10	Undershirts	
✓ 1	Cap, Service	

\*To be filled out only in case of shipment to TAG.

CLASS III--Other Effects

Number	Articles
✓ 1	Shoes (pair)
✓ 1	AAF Form # 5



CLASS II--Continued

Number

Articles

Specie---\$

Money--

Notes--- \$

I certify that the foregoing inventory comprises all the effects of the deceased whose name appears on the first page hereof, and that \*the effects were delivered

to EFFECTS QUARTERMASTER, KANSAS CITY, MO.

(Give name and degree of relationship; if legal rep-

~~representative or beneficiary named by the deceased, so stated~~  
~~\*the effects of Class I have been forwarded to the Adjutant~~  
~~and General and those of Class II have been sold.~~

JAMES S. SIMPSON, 1st Lt., AC Summary Court

APD 959

(Station)

16 April, 1944

(Date)

\*Strike out words not applicable.



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

58501

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 27 April 1944  
DMR/pmr/4627

FULL NAME <b>De Witt, Richard W.</b>				ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <b>0-756 197</b>		GRADE <b>2nd Lt.</b>							
HOME ADDRESS <b>Decatur, Illinois</b>				ARM OR SERVICE <b>Air Corps</b>		DATE OF BIRTH <b>10 Apr 1921</b>							
PLACE OF DEATH <b>Central Pacific Area</b>			CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Airplane Crash</b>			DATE OF DEATH <b>12 Apr 44</b>							
STATION OF DECEASED <b>Central Pacific Area</b>				DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE <b>1 Oct 1943</b>		LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">YEARS</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">MONTHS</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: center;">DAYS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: none; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: none; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>		YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS			
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EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>Mr. George P. De Witt, father, 684 W. Division St., Decatur, Ill.</b>													
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>Mr. George P. De Witt, father, address shown above. Mrs. Glenna S. De Witt, mother, same address.</b>													
INVESTIGATION MADE YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		IN LINE OF DUTY YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		OWN MISCONDUCT YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>							
AUTHORIZED ABSENCE YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		IN FLYING PAY STATUS YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>									



ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

*Filed*



WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

249

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 27 April 1944  
DMR/pmr/4627

<p>2193</p> <p>FULL NAME <b>De Witt, Richard W.</b></p>		<p>ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <b>0-756 197</b></p>	<p>GRADE <b>2nd Lt.</b></p>								
<p>HOME ADDRESS <b>Decatur, Illinois</b></p>		<p>ARM OR SERVICE <b>Air Corps</b></p>	<p>DATE OF BIRTH <b>10 Apr 1921</b></p>								
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YES	NO										

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT

COPIES FURNISHED:		
S. G. O.	F. B. I.	F. O., U. S. A., WASH., D. C.
G. A. O.	VET. ADMIN.	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
Q. M. G.	OFF. FIS. DIR.	

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

**Non-Battle**

**J. W. Reinhart.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL

20 MAY 1944 FILE

APR 28 4 47 PM '44  
GENERAL DIVISION