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Letter from War Department

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
QMGMF 293
Rau, John J.
SN [REDACTED]

1 April 1949

Mrs. Marjorie C. Rau
[REDACTED]
Cranford, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Rau:

We are desirous that you be furnished information concerning the resting place of the remains of your husband, the late Second Lieutenant John J. Rau.

The official report of burial has been received and discloses that the remains of your husband were originally buried in an isolated grave near Brod, Yugoslavia, but were later disinterred by our American Graves Registration Personnel and reinterred in Plot A, Row 12, Grave 133, in the United States Military Cemetery Belgrade, located at Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The report further indicates that these remains have now been casketed and are being held at the United States Military Cemetery Naples, Italy, pending disposition instructions from the next of kin, either for return to the United States or for permanent burial in an overseas cemetery.

Our records reveal that the identification of the remains of your husband was established by the favorable comparison of tooth charts made for the deceased with those maintained in Army dental records for your husband. I should like to call your attention to the fact that a favorable dental chart comparison is considered one of the strongest bases of a sound individual identification. The estimated height and age for the deceased also compared favorably with your husband's recorded height and age. Furthermore, the remains identified as those of your husband were disinterred from the same common grave with the identified remains of other crew members. In addition, the date and place of death, as given on the official report of burial, are in agreement with the records of the Office of The Adjutant General for your husband.

There are inclosed informational pamphlets regarding the Return of World War II Dead Program, including a Disposition Form on which you may indicate your desires in this matter. Upon receipt of the properly completed form, you may be assured that the Department of the Army will attempt to comply with your instructions as indicated thereon.