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DPR/SD/mio/4602

AG 201 Brewer, Robert R.
(15 Jan 46) 14163552

15 January 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Casualty Branch, AGO

SUBJECT: Report of Death

1. Staff Sergeant Robert R. Brewer, 14163552, Infantry, was reported missing in action as of 11 June 1944, in France, while entitled to additional pay as a Parachutist, by ETO Shipment No. 131. Subsequently, he was reported a prisoner of war of the German Government (See Casualty Branch Message No. 225071). His status was changed to missing in action as of 4 February 1945 (See Casualty Branch Message No. 002052).

2. In letters to this office and to the parents of Sgt Brewer (the latter is quoted in a newspaper clipping forwarded to this office), Mr. John Koval, a former prisoner of war, Route 1, #1900, Miami, Florida, reports that he was personally acquainted with S Sgt Brewer; that he last saw him on 7 Feb 1945, in Stalag III C hospital; that he had been badly wounded with shrapnel fragments which covered his entire body; that gangrene had set in; that there was no chance of Brewer's survival; that when the Germans counter-attacked, the Russian Medical Staff withdrew on 6 Feb 45 leaving Sgt Brewer and two other seriously wounded Americans behind in the camp hospital; that in Naples he met one of the three injured men he had left behind in Stalag IIIC; that he knew this soldier by the name of Joe and that Joe told him, "Brewer died during the night after you left. A Russian soldier picked Red and I up in a wagon on the 10th (Feb) and then set fire to the hospital. Brewer's body was in there". Mr. Koval states that he left Stalag III C on 7 Feb 1945, and as S Sgt Brewer is reported to have died during the night after he left, the latest date on which S Sgt Brewer could have been alive, 8 February 1945, is established as the date of death for the purposes of this report.

3. It is recommended, therefore, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 9, Missing Persons Act, the foregoing information be accepted as an official report of death and that a casualty report be initiated stating that Staff Sergeant Robert R. Brewer, 14163552, Infantry, died on 8 February 1945, of wounds received in action while a prisoner of war of the German Government, at Kustrin, Germany, while entitled to additional pay as a Parachutist, that evidence of his death was received by the War Department on 14 January 1946, and that a special draft of a confirming letter will be submitted to the appropriate Letter Sub-Section.

DANIEL P. POTEET
Colonel, AGD
Officer in Charge
Status Review and
Determination Section

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COPY

12 Avon Place
Newton, Mass.
27 Nov 1945

Dear Sir,

In regards to the letter of Nov. 21, 1945 Subject: Status of Prisoners of War (German) I have the following information to render:

SGT. BENNIE SUMMEY: - 34013087
1114 W. 5th Ave
Knoxville, Tenn.

(alt - Braunsberg) Konigsberg

On 31 January 1945 when fired upon by the Russians who mistook us for Hungarian troops, Sgt. Summey was badly wounded by shrapnel in both legs. Was cared for by medics:

T/5 ARTHUR H. HUARD 11038185
54 School St.
Randolph, Ver.

T/5 JESSE W. MOORE 38400057
DUNCAN, OKLA.
Rt. #1

S/Sgt. ROBERT R. BREWER 14163552

Hit by a German "butterfly bomb" on the 1st Feb. 1945. Hit in numerous places especially in lungs. Too badly hit to be moved and left behind with a Russian major (Doctor) Doubtful if ever recovered.

CARL G. OPFER

Wounded in back at the same time as SUMMEY. Was left behind with the Russian, at a place called Konneleg (name spelled as pronounced) not from from Stalag 3C.

The following men were left behind with Opfer.

Cpl. L. V. JOHANNSON 37324473
-- BLACKMAN 38002791

NOTE: -

When last in Wash. D.C. a paratrooper named Gallagher was reported unaccounted for. He was also from III C and the last time I saw him was in Poland. No information had been received on him up to that time. However, I notice he is not on the list of "Consolidated List of P.O.W.'s held by Germans Unaccounted for."

Sincerely yours

Leroy Coleman

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(Non-Recoverable)

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
EUROPEAN AREA
APO 58 U S ARMY

RRE 293. 9 (IB)

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverable Remains

TO: Non-Recoverable Board AGRC

1. It is recommended that the board take action on the following case:

NAME: BREWER, Robert R. S/Sgt 14163552

ORGANIZATION: Co "A" 508th Prcht Inf

PLACE OF DEATH: Stalag III C, Kustrin, Poland

DATE OF DEATH: 11 June 1944 ?

SYNOPSIS OF CASE: The above a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, jumped over Normandy on "D-Day". He was reported missing in action as of 11 June 1944 and subsequently was reported a prisoner of war. He eventually was sent to Stalag III C, six miles east of Kustrin on the Oder River. After hearing reports of Russian artillery fire on the morning of 31 January 1945, the Germans started the prisoners on a march away from this camp. They had only marched two miles when the road was found blocked by Russian tanks. The Americans were wearing new uniforms and overcoats recently supplied by the Red Cross and the Russians mistaking them for the German Army fired into their lines, killing twenty-two Americans and wounding about fifty. These wounded were taken into homes in the town of Altdrewitz and were cared for by German women. On the following day, a German plane flying over the camp dropped bombs and S/Sgt Brewer was seriously wounded by bomb fragments. He, with thirteen other American wounded by gun fire between the Russians and Germans, were left in the camp brick administration building. On 3 or 4 February the Russians evacuated all the prisoners who were able to travel. Captain Louis Nash, O-440671, MC saw S/Sgt Brewer and stated that subject soldier was not evacuated from the camp. Two field investigations were conducted but failed to locate the grave of this deceased. Extensive exhumation of unmarked graves in this town and vicinity was also unsuccessful. Most of the bodies were found to be without clothing or identification. None could be identified from tooth charts on OQMG forms 371. All graves suspected were opened. The village is practically deserted due to almost total destruction and there are no residents who were there during the war. In view of the fact that field investigation conducted within the restrictions placed upon search and recovery in Poland, proved negative, it is believed that further action on this case be futile.