

293 LAFON, HARRY R. JR.

2nd.lt. (041-5563) SO. WEST PAC. AREA

45dmt

NON-RECOVERABLE REMAINS REEXAMINATION OF RECORDS			
AREA OF DEATH Sulu Sea		CASE NUMBER 0 415 563	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Lafon, Harry R. Jr.		RANK 2/Lt	SERIAL NUMBER 0 415 563
IN THE COURSE OF THIS REEXAMINATION IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH WERE SUCH THAT: (Check appropriate box)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECOVERED <input type="checkbox"/> THE REMAINS OF THE DECEDENT COULD HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. HOWEVER, AFTER REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT EVIDENCE DOES NOT EXIST TO CONTRADICT A FINDING OF NON-RECOVERABILITY:			
			INITIALS OF ANALYST
1. 293 FILE OF DECEDENT			
2. GEOGRAPHICAL CLUE INDEX FILE OF UNKNOWN RECOVERED FROM APPROPRIATE AREA, COMPARED WITH DECEDENT			
3. OTHER DOCUMENTS OR SOURCES			
REMARKS <i>Shenyo Maru</i>			
RECOMMEND APPROVAL		APPROVED	DATE
NAME OF CASE ANALYST <i>Wm Dege</i>	CASE REVIEWER, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION	CHIEF, FINAL DETERMINATION SECTION <i>Mary A. Edwards</i> MARY A. EDWARDS 1st Lt., QMC	FEB 14 1951

OQMG FORM 1957
22 SEP 50

MEMORIALIZATION OF NON-RECOVERABLE
REMAINS OF WORLD WAR II

THIS FILE HAS BEEN AUDITED FOR NON-RECOVERABILITY

NAME (Last, First, Middle)

Iafon,

Harry

R.

Jr.

RANK

2 LT

SERIAL NUMBER

O 415 563

ARM OF SERVICE

ARMY

DATE OF DEATH

7 September 1944*

AREA OF DEATH

Sulu Sea, Philippine Islands*

NAME OF AUDITOR

C-IRUS

DATE

JAN 29 1951

NAME OF REVIEWER

KATZ

DATE

30 JAN. 51

REMARKS

Above decedent was aboard the Japanese freighter "Shinyo Maru", which was torpedoed and sunk in the Sulu Sea off the west coast of Mindanao, Philippine Islands on 7 September 1944. For purposes of Memorialization, the Area of Death is Philippine Islands, Code 45.

CONTROLLED CASE

NAME Lafon, Harry R., Jr.	GRADE 2/Lt.	SERIAL NO. O 415 563
DO NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS CASE OR RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THIS FILE WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIAISON OFFICE, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDENTIFICATION BRANCH, MEMORIAL DIVISION	FLAGGED BY (Initials) Lt. Barry	
UNKNOWN X -	NON-RECOVERABLE CASE NO. 1219	A-Z CARD FLAGGED BY 333 CARD FLAGGED BY

IMPORTANT

THIS FORM MUST BE MAINTAINED ON TOP OF 299 FILE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL CANCELLED BY MEMORIAL DIVISION.
ONLY THE "CONGRESSIONAL TOPPER", OQMG FORM 391, MAY BE PLACED OVER THIS FORM.



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

In Reply Refer To
QMCMU 293
World War II
Unrecoverables

APR 13 1949

SUBJECT: Non-Recoverability of Remains

TO : Commanding General
Philippine Command
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California
ATTENTION: AGCS Philcom Zone

1. Reference is made to Proceedings of Boards of Officers that have convened at your Headquarters and have determined that the remains of certain World War II dead are non-recoverable.
2. Findings of the Board have been reviewed and approved on decedents whose names appear on the attached roster.
3. It is requested that all records of your office pertaining to these deceased be amended to read REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

1 Incl
List of non-
recoverables

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

NAH
File

APR 13 1949

R. Metz

Identification Branch

copy for 293 Japan, Harry R. (O-415563)



REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

293

Lafon, Harry R., Jr.	2/Lt.	0 415 563
Lamb, Lawrence L.	Pfc.	19 034 045
Lancaster, Joseph M.	Pfc.	17 012 362
Landon, Ronald M.	Pfc.	19 010 688
Knackstedt, Arthur B., Jr.	2/Lt.	0 412 506
Maciejewski, Frank J.	Pfc.	6 147 014
Mackey, James E.	2/Lt.	0 413 532
Maghan, Roy E.	Pfc.	20 700 246
Joseph, Stanley A.	Pvt.	6 565 487
Katz, Harry	Capt.	0 393 228
Karl, Lincoln F.	Pvt.	17 026 192
Kerr, Abness B.	Pfc.	6 580 313
Kindred, Robert J.	Cpl.	17 018 076
King, Raymond A.	Pfc.	19 028 240
Lanier, Robert D.	2/Lt.	0 427 144
Larson, Donald L.	2/Lt.	0 427 146
LaTurner, Denton Jr.	Pvt.	6 934 775
McKenney, Ezra	2/Lt.	0 404 121
MacIntosh, William W.	Pvt.	11 020 655
McHugh, William F.	Pfc.	6 150 521
McCown, John L.	1/Lt.	0 421 120
McCarthy, John J.	Pfc.	6 781 854
Martins, John	2/Lt.	0 890 326
Mathis, Charles L.	2/Lt.	0 427 151
Matson, William F.	1/Lt.	0 382 161
Mattei, Clement B.	Pvt.	19 052 907
Milich, Charles E.	T/5	6 289 841
Meyers, Jack E.	Pfc.	13 009 104

REMAIN NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Nieto, Joe G.	Cpl.	20 843 337
Messinger, Charles H.	Cpl.	6 551 346
Messmer, John J.	1/Lt.	0 384 087
Knighton, Belton E.	Pvt.	14 043 727
Korajwo, Edward G. A.	Pvt.	12 025 544
Kraus, James J.	1/Lt.	0 363 101
Krempecki, Albert	Pfc.	32 074 350
Krewson, Edward P.	Pfc.	6 912 105
Melucci, Albert	Cpl.	19 034 141
McKown, Elden E.	Capt.	0 402 938
Moore, George F.	Pfc.	6 936 376
Miller, Harold E.	1/Lt.	0 399 102
Miller, Robert E.	M/Sgt.	6 829 998
Miller, Ross I.	Capt.	0 380 529
Monico, Paul	2/Lt.	0 890 210
Nieland, Arthur B.	Pvt.	37 039 730
Navarette, Albert	T/4	18 045 964
Milks, Robert J.	Pvt.	6 982 074
Monk, Glendell L.	Cpl.	20 843 596
Myrick, James H.	Sgt.	7 009 312
Morgan, George B.	Pvt.	19 002 907
Moser, Ernest C.	Pvt.	19 050 541
Motich, Michael L.	Pfc.	6 664 237
LaVine, Philip E.	1/Sgt.	6 565 411
Mann, Richard R.	2/Lt.	0 427 828
Mahan, Louis C.	Pvt.	16 028 375
Lavelle, Francis L.	Pfc.	11 007 363
Lewis, Basil H.	2/Lt.	0 417 972

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Register, John R.	Pvt.	14 012 000
Reeves, Cox H.	Pvt.	18 015 554
Reber, Irvin R.	Pvt.	7 022 021
Ransberger, Edward H.	S/Sgt.	6 572 915
Radziak, Peter L.	Pvt.	32 120 622
Reyes, James B.	Pfc.	20 843 360
Remondini, Robert J.	1/Lt.	0 413 002
Reilly, Edward F.	Pvt.	19 048 447
Reyes, Roy	Pfc.	18 048 818
Redmond, James B.	Pvt.	18 056 463
Ricci, Robert A.	Pfc.	33 022 257
Rizzo, Philip D.	Pvt.	32 092 638
Roach, Lawrence C.	S/Sgt.	6 936 987
Roberts, Charles M.	Pvt.	19 054 798
Robertson, Keith W.	Cpl.	6 563 480
Robles, Pedro Q.	Cpl.	18 017 489
Romero, Juan V.	Pfc.	38 011 722
Quevas, Augustine J.	Sgt.	6 296 402
Potter, Frank M.	Sgt.	19 017 155
Porter, Grenville N.	1/Lt.	0 423 848
Polve, Lamar V.	Pfc.	6 591 445
Pinks, Glenn	Pfc.	15 058 399
Parry, Ernest R.	S/Sgt.	19 010 317
Palmer, James A.	S/Sgt.	6 128 744
Painter, Laverne E.	Pvt.	19 054 462
O'Connor, William F.	Capt.	0 229 034
Noland, Francis E.	Pfc.	6 914 449
Norris, Jack	Pvt.	39 081 864
O'Brien, Walter E., Jr.	1/Lt.	0 385 782

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Noffke, William G.	Pfc.	20 842 753
Nixon, George W.	T/4	19 017 644
Thompson, Henry J.	Pvt.	19 054 751
Tefft, Reford	Cpl.	6 392 280
Taylor, Dean E.	Sgt.	6 862 465
Taylor, Charles R.	Pvt.	19 049 602
Tafoya, Jose H.	Pvt.	38 012 212
Stacks, James	Pvt.	37 056 171
Stewart, Harrie B.	1/Lt.	0 360 091
Suazo, Onesimo J.	Pvt.	18 046 022
Stillman, Gerald C.	1/Lt.	0 416 436
Stone, Joseph	Pvt.	18 036 789
Swanson, Norman D.	Pfc.	19 019 920
Schuchmann, Harry C., Jr.	Pfc.	32 036 155
Searll, Elmer E.	Pfc.	11 018 745
Semmens, Larry G.	1/Lt.	0 353 683
Sliwka, Michael	S/Sgt.	6 709 009
Seitz, Charles R., Jr.	1/Lt.	0 387 504
Smith, Walter	2/Lt.	0 953 164
Shock, Thomas D.	Pvt.	18 051 706
Richardson, John R.	Capt.	0 363 871
Rogers, Rufus H.	Lt. Col.	0 231 742
Safford, Charles V.	2/Lt.	0 890 138
Rhodes, Woodrow W.	Pvt.	38 011 909
Sanks, Paul A.	2/Lt.	0 890 196
Renick, Thomas Jr.	Pfc.	6 984 020
Sauls, Joseph W.	Pvt.	14 053 914
Howard, Robert F.	Pfc.	19 012 562
Miller, Edwin L.	1/Lt.	0 405 340

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Sizemore, Curtis L.	2/Lt.	0 890 418
Slimak, Julian J.	Pfc.	6 829 121
Smalko, Charles Jr.	Pvt.	33 037 621
Smith, Frank R.	Pvt.	6 066 024
Smith, Hallie E.	Pvt.	17 016 554
Smith, Jimmie T.	Pfc.	17 016 512
Smith, Percy	Pvt.	19 050 425
Smith, Ray M.	Pvt.	14 037 734
Smurthwaite, Jesse G.	Pvt.	19 020 924
Sullivan, Robert W.	Pvt.	14 054 210
Sweepston, Oscar M.	Pfc.	18 050 158
Shands, James	1/Lt.	0 386 479
Shermer, Ray W.	Pvt.	19 050 312
Sherman, Arnold A.	S/Sgt.	17 006 742
Shevlin, Eugene B.	2/Lt.	0 407 128
Shiple, Carl W.	Sgt.	6 571 846
Shiple, Guy F., Jr.	S/Sgt.	6 562 715
Simicich, Peter P.	Pvt.	19 017 729
Siranian, Albert	Cpl.	6 561 675
Sbrusch, Eddie V.	Pvt.	18 056 395
Solosth, Harold A.	Pvt.	19 050 846
Soule, Bailey C.	Pvt.	19 012 581
Speight, Frank R.	Sgt.	6 274 601
Spettigue, Orville L.	T/4	6 980 551
Spillman, Earl	Civilian	
Spruyt, Leonhard P.	Pvt.	6 981 215
Squire, Kenneth C.	Cpl.	20 645 278
Stahl, Robert J.	Cpl.	6 578 364
Starks, Orval C.	Pfc.	6 971 040

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Stephens, John W.	1/Lt.	0 419 181
Stewart, George	2/Lt.	0 890 325
Stieg, Loyal L.	Pfc.	36 308 148
Strong, Carl E.	Cpl.	6 852 907
Sullivan, Charles	Pvt.	37 069 765
Scronce, Louis R.	Pfc.	14 037 574
Scott, Jack H.	Pvt.	14 043 910
Schwartz, Jim E.	Cpl.	20 842 464
Schulz, Awald H.	Pfc.	18 056 491
Schultz, James H.	Sgt.	20 645 302
Schliske, Elmer E.	2/Lt.	0 934 500
Schmidt, Henry P.	Cpl.	13 006 907
Schauer, Raymond R.	Pfc.	6 912 753
Sayler, Alvin F.	Pfc.	19 018 352
Sandeen, Harold R.	Pvt.	6 939 399
Sandoval, Bertram O.	Pfc.	38 012 213
Rosendale, David R.	Pfc.	39 157 471
Rosenvall, Clay	Pfc.	19 010 475
Rozelle, Willard E.	Pvt.	12 006 256
Ruacho, Andrew	Pvt.	19 056 994
Rubi, Epimenio G.	Pvt.	18 017 137
Ruiz, Eloy	Cpl.	20 843 129
Sanchez, Lawrence M.	Cpl.	38 012 419
Miller, Henry M.	Major	0 232 770
Miller, Paul W.	Sgt.	6 282 020
Mize, Ernest B., Jr.	Pvt.	14 053 916
Monax, Andrew B.	Pfc.	19 056 386
Montag, David W.	Capt.	0 351 273
Lazer, John C.	Pfc.	32 028 091

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

McPeck, Edwin A.	Cpl.	19 038 515
McPeters, Roy H.	Sgt.	6 966 967
McQuain, Clarence E.	S/Sgt.	6 954 413
Miller, Harry	Pvt.	19 054 550
Madden, William W.	S/Sgt.	6 904 895
Maldonado, Polo V.	Pvt.	38 011 816
Marlowe, Richard	Pvt.	6 716 865
Martin, Paul J.	Pfc.	12 007 311
Martinez, William B.	Pvt.	18 035 115
Mascarenas, Jose L.	Pvt.	38 011 210
Massee, Edmon E.	1/Lt.	0 890 273
McCombs, James R.	Cpl.	19 017 734
Lynch, Charles R.	Pfc.	19 000 133
Lennon, William J.	Pvt.	19 019 300
Leonard, Hugh J.	Pvt.	20 523 458
Lepper, Louie F.	T/Sgt.	6 818 069
Levine, Morris A.	Pvt.	32 024 249
Lewis, William G.	Sgt.	19 052 139
Liberato, Alfred	Pvt.	33 071 741
Lilly, Joseph D.	Pvt.	13 026 998
Longknife, Joseph	Pfc.	19 019 965
Lunsford, Buford L.	Pfc.	38 012 584
Murph, William C.	Pvt.	18 056 358
Murphy, John J., Jr.	Capt.	0 229 88
Musfelt, Roy W.	Pfc.	19 020 265
Nespoli, Dante A.	Pvt.	7 071 069
Newman, Gordon M.	Pvt.	38 054 401
Leedy, Alvin R.	Cpl.	19 056 526
Leek, Raymond E.	Pvt.	6 954 575

REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE - FAR EASTERN ZONE

Nicol, James C.	2/Lt.	0 418 305
Leicester, Lloyd T.	T/Sgt.	6 849 749
Munson, Lloyd W.	Sgt.	38 012 595
Mullinaux, Charles H.	Pfc.	14 052 035
Mulkey, Leroy H.	Cpl.	6 552 770
Mouillet, Joseph B.	Pvt.	19 004 258
Most, William R.	1/Lt.	0 360 722
Moss, Robert H.	Pvt.	15 044 420
Morgan, Milton R.	Capt.	0 351 379
Moore, Ray L.	2/Lt.	0 417 111
Moody, August J.	Pvt.	35 121 626
Montoya, Antonio A.	1/Lt.	0 419 983
Seifert, Lloyd R.	Pfc.	6 291 030
McDearis, Dallas N.	Pfc.	6 923 965
McFarland, Walter H., Jr.	Pfc.	6 148 154
McGee, George J.	Pfc.	6 298 056
McGrath, Martin	Cpl.	6 886 376
McKenzie, Jack L.	Pfc.	19 045 325
McLaughlin, Robert L.	Cpl.	19 010 411
McNaughton, Robert F.	Sgt.	6 713 519

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
MEMORIAL DIVISION

1219 (650)
Philrycom

RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL
NON-RECOVERABLE CASE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>
<i>242</i> Lafon, Harry R., Jr.	2nd Lt.	0- 415 563

The proceedings of the Field Board of Review concerning the determination of non-recoverability in the above case have been reviewed and the following sources have been examined in this Office for additional clues:

INITIALS OF ANALYST

a. A-Z file of known interments in U.S. Military Cemeteries, isolated locations, and sea burials.	<i>ABK</i>
b. Alphabetical index file of "Believed to Be" and tentatively identified unknowns.	<i>ABK</i>
c. Alphabetical file of former unknowns now identified.	<i>ABK</i>
d. Geographical clue index file of unknowns from pertinent area.	<i>ABK</i>
e. 293 file of subject deceased, including Report of Death.	<i>ABK</i>
f. Status Review and Determination from The Adjutant General.	<i>ABK</i>
g. Missing Air Crew Report (when applicable and available).	<i>not applicable</i>

The facts and circumstances have been found to be substantially as presented in the attached proceedings of the Field Board of Review and substantiate the findings of non-recoverability. Exceptions are noted below:

See attached Statement of Investigation.

"Form 371 has not been obtained for this case because condition of the four unknown remains, the only "unknowns" which might be associated with this case, is such that positive identification is not believed possible."

APR 13 1949

R. Mena

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

APPROVED:

Identification Branch

W. A. Wolf
WALTER A. WOLF
Case Reviewer, Final
Determination Section

William R. Dewese
WILLIAM R. DEWEESE
1st Lt., QMC
Chief, Fin. Det. Sec.

T. H. Metz
T. H. METZ
Lt. Col., QMC
Chief, Ident Br.

6 Apr 1949
Date

STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

1. This case concerns the non-recoverability of the remains of approximately 650 U. S. Army Casualties who were reported lost when the Japanese freighter "SHINYO MARU", on which they were being transported to Manila, as Prisoners of War, was torpedoed and sunk in the Sulu Sea, off the west coast of Mindanao, Philippine Island on 7 September 1944. There was an approximate total of 746 POW's aboard the vessel.

2. Only eighty three (83) of the 746 American prisoners of war aboard the ship are known to have survived the sinking. These 83 men reached shore and found refuge among friendly Filipino Guerillas, who rendered them all possible aid. The Island, which was located approximately two miles from the site of the sinking was patrolled for a distance of 200 kilometers by the Filipino Forces for nearly two weeks in an unsuccessful attempt to find more men or casualties. One of the survivors, Pvt. James H. Pratchard, ASN-14 043 828 died of pneumonia on the 17 September 1944. Three bodies were found on the beach near Liloy on 8 September 1944. They all showed severe gunshot wounds and two men had their hands tied behind them. Some of the survivors told the native civilians that they were American soldiers and it is believed that they had been on the "SHINYO MARU". A letter dated 1 August 1945 and signed by 1st Lt. Irving Heller, member of the American Graves Registration Service, states that a Filipino civilian buried these bodies in Loloy, Sindangan area. Also that one body had the name "Colonel John Smith" and a serial number tattooed upon his chest and arm but the natives did not make note of this. All "Smiths" on the POW list and assigned to this area have been thoroughly investigated in order to correlate the identity of this unknown, but with negative results.

3. The 746 prisoners of war had been taken from the Davao Penal Colony and loaded aboard an old Japanese freighter at Tabunco, Gulf of Davao, Mindanao, P.I. for transportation to Manila. With the POW's crowded into two holds, this ship departed from Tabunco on 20 August 1944, and after sailing around the southern coast of Mindanao, arrived at the port of Zamboanga on 24 August 1944. After remaining at this point for a period of ten days, the 746 POW's were transferred to another freighter, the "SHINYO MARU" where they were again crowded into holds in preparation for the second leg of the proposed journey to Manila. On 4 September 1944, the "SHINYO MARU", departed from Zamboanga, sailing north along the western coast of Mindanao.

4. After having joined and become one of a convoy of nine ships, the "SHINYO MARU" was proceeding on her course at a point approximately 2 miles off Liloy Point, Sindangan, Mindanao, P.I., when the convoy was sighted and attacked by an American submarine. Six torpedoes were fired into the convoy, sinking three ships and a tanker was damaged and beached. The "SHINYO MARU" was struck in quick succession by two torpedoes, causing terrific explosions. The force of the explosions killed many POW's outright, and many mangled bodies were pinned under the tangled steel and

Statement of Investigation Cont'd.

Page Two.

fallen debris in such a manner that they could not be extricated. Some of the men were blown completely out of the holds or were knocked unconscious. Immediately following the explosion Japanese survivors were firing and throwing hand grenades among the prisoners who were trapped below in the holds, and were machine gunning the prisoners who managed to reach the deck, as well as those floating in the water. The ship remained afloat for approximately 15 minutes before sinking. In their efforts to swim toward shore, many survivors were further handicapped, due to the fact that the surrounding waters were infested with sharks, and they had to fight the tide which carried them toward the beached tanker where they were fired upon by the Japanese aboard it. A small boat was also launched from the beached tanker by the Japanese, which picked up a group of thirty prisoners, whereupon they were taken aboard another ship in the convoy, and with their hands tied behind their backs, were shot individually. One of this group, Sgt. Denver R. Rose, 17 O10 471, had escaped and hid until he was able to slip over the side of the ship and swim ashore. The consensus of opinion among the 83 POW survivors was that none of the remaining prisoners survived, and that any who may have been picked up out of the water by the Japanese, were immediately shot as was the case of the group of thirty who were picked up with Sgt. Rose, and that their remains were thrown back into the water.

5. An extract of AGO Memorandum of the Circumstances Surrounding the Sinking of the Ship, AGO Casualty List No. 86-consisting of personnel lost as a result of the sinking of the "SHINYO MARU", statements of survivors and correspondence pertaining to recovered bodies have been placed in the 293 file of Abornathy, Wilby A., Pfc., 14 O50 615.

A. Kennedy
ANNA KENNEDY
Analyst

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
PHILRYCOM ZONE

APO 707
25 June 1948

CASE HISTORY FOR REMAINS CONSIDERED NON-RECOVERABLE

LAFON, Harry R. Jr.
2d Lt., O-415 563

BASIS FOR DECLARING REMAINS NON-RECOVERABLE

"SHINYO MARU"

1. According to information available from List No. 86, Casualty Branch, TAG, "Personnel Lost at Sea as Result of Ship Sinkings During World War II", and the attached copies of translated extracts from records of Japanese Government Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Tokyo, the date of death of the subject deceased was 7 Sept. 1944; cause of death, killed in action; place of death, at sea, off western shore of Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands.

2. Subject deceased was a passenger on the Japanese POW Ship No. 1, the Japanese Naval Transport "SHINYO MARU", which was torpedoed by an American submarine and sunk off the western shore of Mindanao Island, 7 Sept. 1944 while transporting 750 allied prisoners of war from Philippine POW Camp No. 2 Branch Camp (Davao) to Manila, P.I. TAG Casualty List No. 86 contains only 626 names, whereas the extracts from Japanese records indicate a total of 750 POWs were lost or missing. All POWs on board were reported drowned, missing or lost. There is no information that any of the prisoners of war were rescued or that any remains were recovered. No burial report is on file for subject deceased. Findings and recommendation are based upon all presently available information.

3. It is recommended that the remains of the subject deceased be considered non-recoverable, and that all records pertaining to search and recovery of the remains be closed.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL:

25 June 1948

William R. DeWeese
WILLIAM R. DeWEESE
1st Lt., QMC
O-1 587 926
Member

Edward J. Brucher
EDWARD J. BRUCHER
Major, QMC
O-199 445
President, Board of Review

Elee L. Tyler
ELEE L. TYLER
Major, INF
O-324 330
Member

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
PHILRYCOM SECTOR

GSCP

AFO 707
9 April 1948

SPECIAL ORDERS)

NO.....28)

EXTRACT

1. In accordance with paragraph one (1) TAG letter, dtd 9 Apr 1947, file AGAO-S 293.9 (27 Mar 47) D-II, Subject: "Establishment of Boards of Review for Identification of Unknown Dead Overseas"; CINCPAC radio CX 59328 dtd 18 Mar 1948; and Par 32 h and Par 115 a, TM 10-281, the following are appointed as Board of Officers for the purpose of reviewing and acting upon all cases referred to them pertaining to identity of unknown remains, finalizing disinterment discrepancy reports, and to review and determine in all cases, from evidence presented, the non-recoverability of remains referred to them within the PHILRYCOM Sector, IGRS.

MEMBERS OF BOARD

Major	Edward J Brucher	O-199 445	CMC
Major	Elee Tyler	O-324 330	INF
Captain	Andrew S Robson	O-1 823 062	INF (TD)
1st Lt	Theodore C Tharin, Jr.	O-887 173	CMC
1st Lt	Edward P Binder, Jr.	O-1 327 322	INF
1st Lt	John T Bittner, Jr.	O-1 594 725	CMC
1st Lt	William R Deceese	O-1 587 926	CMC
1st Lt	Teodoro A Ronquillo	O-1 896 440	CMF

BY ORDER OF COLONEL SMITH:

HAROLD F. REVERSKI
Lt Colonel, USAF
Executive

OFFICIAL:

Harold F. Reverski
HAROLD F. REVERSKI
Lt Colonel, USAF
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

TRANSLATED EXTRACTS FROM JAPANESE RECORDS

- A. Telegram No. 116, POW Information Bureau.
 From : POW Information Bureau,
 To : Geneva Red Cross, via telegram ST/2,
 dated 17 Sept. 1944.

Received report that 750 POWs from Philippine POW Camp, No. 2 Branch Camp, while being transferred by ship was sunk off Mindanao island by enemy submarine. All POWs drowned or missing. Will report names and other details later.

(Volume BA-45)

- B. Philippine Monthly Report, September 1944 Volume.
 Special Administration Details.

(1) At the termination of DAVAO #2 POW Camp, 750 POWs were sent to Manila on the second echelon movement. But on 7 Sept. off the shore of (TN Phonetic) SHINDANGAN, Mindanao Island, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action. All on board lost or missing. Escort personnel losses: 1 officer, 3 NCOs, 9 Pvs, and 44 civilian guard employees, total 57, with all unit equipment.

(Volume VA-46)

- C. Philippine Monthly Report, September 1944 Volume.

(1) As previously reported, the DAVAO No. 2 Branch Camp's 2nd echelon movement of 750 POWs and 157 escort guards of officers and men left for Manila on the naval transport SHINYO Maru. While on route, on 7 Sept at 1653, the said ship was attacked by submarine and torpedoed. The casualties were 3 NCOs, 9 Pvs, 41 civilian guards, and 750 POWs were missing. After the disaster, the escort guards split into two parties and boarded motor sail-boats and headed for Manila. The rear party, consisting of officers and men dropped anchor in (TN Phonetic) LONBORN on 14 Sept. at 1530 for water. They were suddenly attacked by guerrillas, who killed 1 officer, 3 civilian guards, and inflicted injuries to 5 other civilian guards. On 29 Sept, the No. 2 Branch Camp personnel arrived in Manila.

(Volume VA-46)

 Certified True Translation of Extracts from Official
 Records of the Japanese Government Prisoner of War
 Information Bureau, Tokyo.

25 March 1947.

/s/ Henry T. Omachi
 HENRY T. OMACHI
 1st Lt., Inf. AUS
 Translation Officer.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Edward J. Brucher
 EDWARD J. BRUCHER
 Major, QMC

11212

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
MEMORIAL DIVISION

IDENTIFICATION DATA

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL			ARMY SERIAL NUMBER		GRADE
LAFON, HARRY R			0 415 563		2nd LT
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLOR EYES	COLOR HAIR	SHOE SIZE	DATE OF DEATH
5' 10 1/2"	138	NOT OF RECORD	NOT OF RECORD	NOT OF RECORD	7 SEPT 44

LAST ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ATTACHED OR ASSIGNED (Give complete designation)

CO. C, 195th TANK BN

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

DIED AS THE RESULTS OF THE SINKING OF A JAPANESE SHIP WHILE POW
OF JAPANESE IN SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

LIST ALL CAMPS IN WHICH STATIONED IN U.S. PRIOR TO SERVICE OVERSEAS, WITH INCLUSIVE DATES AT EACH.

STATION	DATES
FT. KNOX, KY	6 MARCH 44 - NOT OF RECORD
<p>FROM: WD, AGO CLINICAL RECORDS BRANCH</p> <p>NO RECORDS IN FILE</p>	
FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS	TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTH MARKS

DENTAL CHART - 6 MAR 41

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

UPPER RIGHT

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 X

UPPER LEFT

X 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

LOWER RIGHT

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 X

LOWER LEFT

X - EXTRACTED

O - CARIOUS

I - CARIOUS NON-RESTORABLE

IDENTIFICATION DATA
MEMORIAL DIVISION
IDENTIFICATION SECTION

NAME	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH

PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	DATE OF EXHUMATION	DATE OF REINTERMENT

DATE OF INTERVIEW	DATE OF INTERVIEW	DATE OF INTERVIEW	DATE OF INTERVIEW	DATE OF INTERVIEW



LAFON
Last Name

HARRIS
First Name

To Clinical Records Branch

For disposition

The records show medical treatment as follows:

Hospital

From

To

Register Number

Gen Hosp #2, P.I.

9 Feb 42

28 Feb 42

W.C. 16 SEPT 46 J.P.B.
Clerk Date Branch

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

REPORT OF DEATH

DATE 19 March 1945 tjjf

FULL NAME 293 Lafon, Harry R., Jr. Japanese (P. O. W.)		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 0415563	GRADE 2nd Lt.						
HOME ADDRESS Harrodsburg, Kentucky		ARM OR SERVICE Infantry	DATE OF BIRTH 29 Aug 1918						
PLACE OF DEATH Southwest Pacific Area	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action		DATE OF DEATH 7 Sept 1944						
STATION OF DECEASED Southwest Pacific Area	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE 9 May 1941		LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>YEARS</th> <th>MONTHS</th> <th>DAYS</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS			
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS							
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mr. Harry R. Lafon, Sr., (father) 359 College St., Harrodsburg, Kentucky.									
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) Mr. Harry R. Lafon, Sr., (father) 359 College St., Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Mrs. Hattie Atkins Lafon, (mother) 309 Morgan St., Harriman, Tennessee. Later records show wife, Mrs. Helen M. Lafon, Box, #73, Calhoun, Tenn. (not designated)									
INVESTIGATION MADE? YES NO	IN LINE OF DUTY YES NO	OWN MISCONDUCT YES NO	WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS YES NO						
AUTHORIZED ABSENCE YES NO		IN FLYING PAY STATUS YES NO X	OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW) YES NO						

ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT
☒ BATTLE ☐ NON-BATTLE

Beneficiaries were designated while an enlisted man, no break in service.

"The individual named in this report is shown by the records of the War Department to have been in a beleaguered status from 8 December 1941 to and including 6 May 1942 (Section 14, Public Law 490) and absent in a missing in action status on and subsequent to 7 May 1942 and until absence was terminated by a report from the Japanese Government, through the International Red Cross of a prisoner of war status on 15 March 1943. The prisoner of war status was terminated on 14 February 1945, on which date evidence considered sufficient to establish the fact of death was received by the Secretary of War from the Japanese Government through the International Red Cross. Death was result of sinking of Japanese ship on which officer was being transported while POW.

COPIES FURNISHED:

S. G. O.	F. S. I.	S. O. U. S. A.
2. O. G. M. G.	G. F. D.	ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
G. A. C.	VET. ADMIN.	CASUALTY BRANCH FILE
		A. G. 201 FILE

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

ADJUTANT GENERAL

WD AGO FORM 52-1
1 DECEMBER 1944THIS FORM SUPERSEDES WD AGO FORM 52-1, 28 MAY 1944, WHICH
STOCKS ARE EXHAUSTED.

File
 26 MAR 1945
 V.C.