



IN MEMORY

SSgt John Hrywnak

Dedication

This documentary is dedicated to the memory of my Uncle, Staff Sergeant John Krywnak and the other crew members of the "Pride of The Cornhuskers". It is meant to honor him and to humanize what I have not been able to find in American War History, but is recorded in Australian War History as "the day D Company was lost" and referred to just simply as "The Tragedy". John was an American youth who proudly defended his country and, in so doing, laid down his life to protect the freedoms we all enjoy today.

It is my wish that each person who reads this will remember SSgt John Krywnak and his crew on each September 7.

Kenneth R. Keisling

Nephew of John Krywnak

Son of Nancie [Krywnak] Keisling

Forward

World War II had just begun when I was born in November of 1941. I do not have any recollection of the war or of my Uncle John as I was so very young; however, one snapshot I have in my mind as a child is that of being on the floor and looking straight ahead at military boots on someone. Who the boots belonged to I do not know; however, three of my Mother's four brothers served in this war. I can only assume that I was a toddler on the floor looking directly at the boots of one of them; there must have been something else remarkable about that day for me to have this memory. Whether it was a sad occasion or a happy occasion I will never know.

It wasn't until I was an adolescent that I recall being fully aware that my Uncle John had been killed in the war. There was never any open family discussion that I recall. The only thing I remember being told was that he flew in an airplane and the plane was shot down. I remember seeing a picture of him in the living room of my grandmother's humble farm house and always wanted to know more about him. I do recall that my Mother always cried on Memorial and

Veteran's Day as she recalled her brother John. It wasn't until after my own Mother's death that I discovered the letters between her and John that are contained in this document. My mother had kept all of the letters my uncle wrote to her while serving his tour of duty. They now provide insight into the bond between brother and sister; the loneliness of a soldier boy torn from his roots; the excitement of a boy raised on a farm striving to master his courses so he could fly in the sky; and the suddenness of death.

It was the finding of these letters that rekindled my interest in what really happened to my Uncle John. It was through the postmarks that I was able to trace his cross country journey from Pennsylvania to Mississippi to Texas to Utah to California and finally to New Guinea. All this helped me to embark on a search to try to learn more of what mission's my Uncle served on and how he died. And so this is how I have learned my Uncle's story, some 60 years after his death. The findings were not what I expected and are included in this documentary. My research outlines chronological facts into a defined composite of the period between his induction into the Army and the long journey to his final earthly resting place at Gettysburg National Cemetery some five years after his death.

To my knowledge, his recently widowed Mother and siblings were not informed of the findings presented here because at that time this information was either Top Secret or Confidential and could not be easily obtained. Perhaps it is good that they never knew exactly how he died; perhaps they should have known. Some may have wanted to know; some may have not wanted to know. We can't change the past; we can only learn from it for the future.

The information contained in this documentary was obtained through the Freedom Of Information (FOI) Act, through searching the web, and through correspondence with individuals in Australia. It was they who provided leads to the articles and detailed information presented in this document. I am extremely grateful to these wonderful gentlemen who so willingly helped me in my quest.

Because of the corroboration of independent sources of information, I believe the information contained in this documentary is both accurate and factual. While some of the information is disturbing, it is included not to bring hurt to anyone but rather to document the horrors, heartache and sadness associated with war and to raise the level of appreciation for what the American soldier stands for in America's continuous defense of the freedom we so often take for granted. I, for one,

am extremely grateful to my Uncle, for giving his life for the freedom I now have because of his sacrifice.

Background

John Hrywnak was born February 1, 1918 in Spring Brook, Pennsylvania to Katrin and Michael Hrywnak. John was their first son, having had five daughters before he was born. There were three more boys that came after John. And then lastly, another girl. There were ten children in all. My grandparents had immigrated from Austro-Hungary and were married in the United States. They settled in an area in Pennsylvania where there were other Russian speaking immigrants. They were poor but industrious, hardworking farmers and remarkably were able to raise all ten of their children to adulthood. My grandfather passed away in 1939 before John was inducted into the Army.

John was 24 years old when he was inducted into the Army on June 5, 1942. Fifteen months later, on September 7, 1943, SSgt John Hrywnak lost his life while defending his country at 7 Mile Drome, Port Moresby, New Guinea. He was only 25 years old that early September morning when he died, half a world away from the humble farm house in the rolling hills of Pennsylvania that was his home. Yet in the briefest of lifetimes he was blessed with a fun loving and close-knit family. I can only imagine the joy my grandmother had when her first son was born after five girls and then the deep, deep sorrow she must have felt at his death. It is said that there is no sorrow greater than that of a parent losing a child.

LETTERS HOME




 ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL SCHOOL
 KEESLER FIELD, MISSISSIPPI

Aug. 14, 1942.

Dear Nancy: I received your letter yesterday and I'm
 sorry I didn't write any sooner, but I guess I'm in
 the same boat as you, I can't find my spare time, I
 guess I'm going to give up letter writing until after
 I finish school. How's the children getting along
 Helen can talk pretty good by now.
 Is a bad idea if you had taken
 because they soon will miss
 the place of men. Well I
 the Hydrostatic system of a
 in camp. you have to learn
 every day. She made a couple of
 my lowest mark was 48 but I do
 there is so many things to remember
 pretty soon I'm home here and I'm

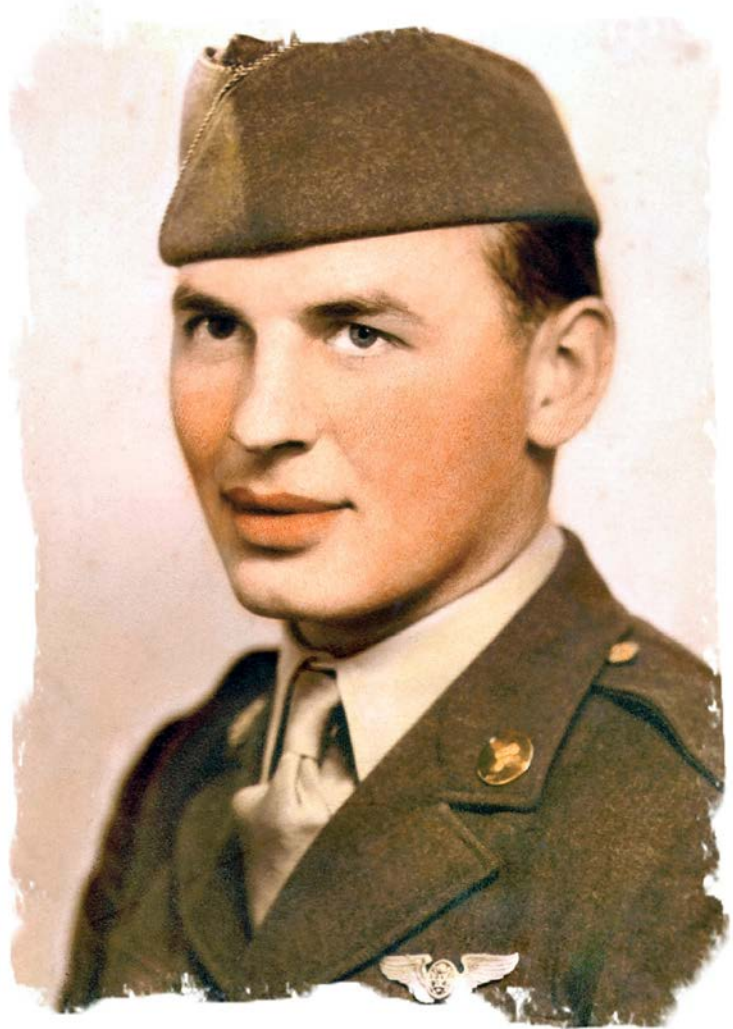
Post John Hrywonok.
 412. T.S.S. FL-D - BKS-14
 Keesler Field, Miss.

KEESLER FIELD, MISS.
 AUG 18
 12:30 PM
 1942



Mrs. W. Keisling
 739 Birch St.
 Scranton, Pa.

Dear Gencie:



Love — John

June 27, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BKS 14
Army Air Forces Technical School
Kessler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancy,

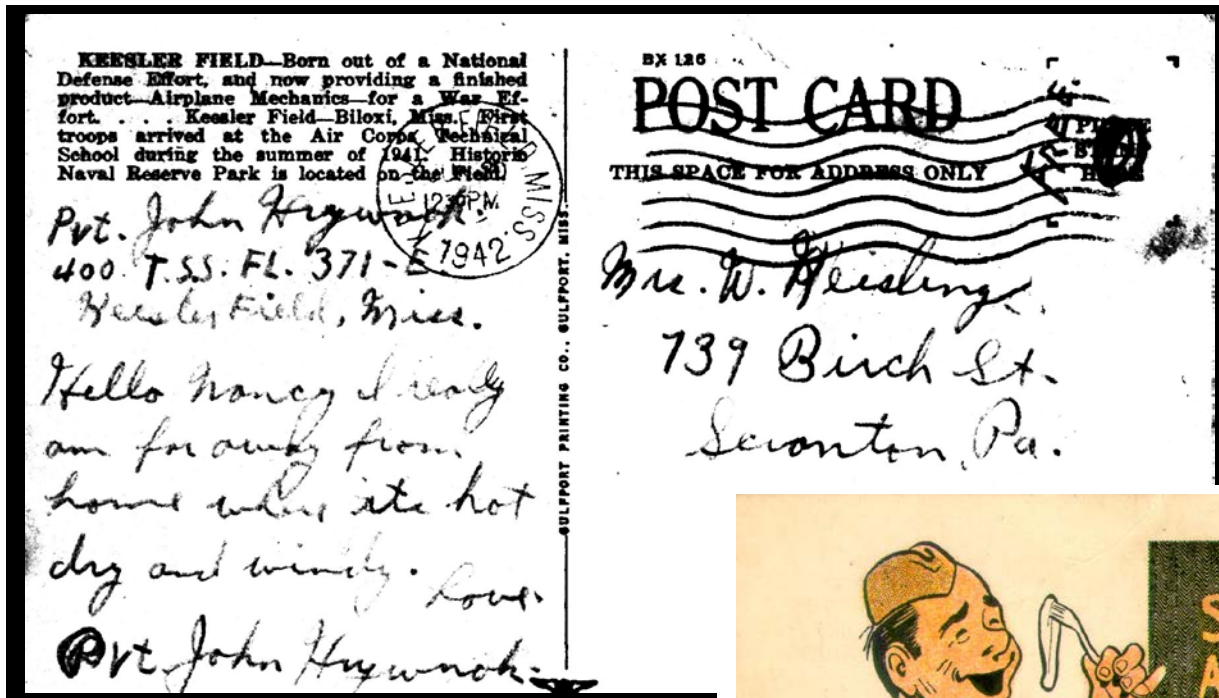
I bet you think I'm awful for not writing, but I really haven't had much time to myself as yet. They keep you pretty busy here and it's a days work to keep yourself clean. You have to shave once every day and polish your shoes a couple of times because it's so sandy and dry that they are always dusty. Well I guess you would like to know what I'm doing by now. Well I was out with a plane the other day all by myself and boy what a thrill it is. Come down some time and I'll give you a ride. Well you better sit down and relax because I'm just kidding you. I'm still taking my basic training which will take about another two weeks and after that I go to airplane mechanic school for nineteen weeks and when I graduate from there I'll get my wings then because when you know how to fix one you sure will be able to fly one. I'm going to work hard so that I can pass. I don't know for sure if I'm going to go to school here or some other place but it looks like it will be here. Well it sure is a hot day. It's so hot I bet you could fry eggs on the road. It's better than 100 degrees and the sweat is just running off of me just from writing this letter. I was fishing for a while and caught some crabs the kind that you eat and boy they sure are big. We fish in the Gulf of Mexico. It's only about a 10 minute walk from where we are stationed at. They have a hundred boats for us to go riding with. It doesn't cost anything to go out riding. Well it's time for me to go for supper and I guess I'll have to quit writing and mail this letter while I'm going because the post office is right on my way. I wrote a letter to Mary about 1 o'clock and will mail it also.

Love.

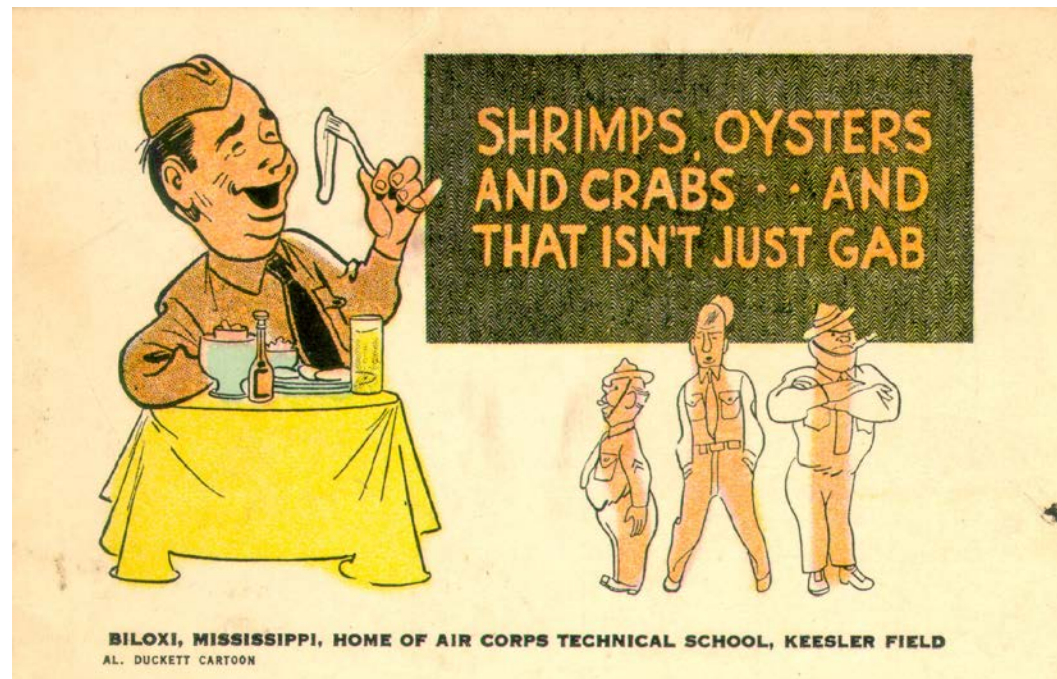
John Hrywnak.

June 28, 1942

Biloxi, Mississippi



Note that the postage area is scratched out and the word "Free" is printed.....no postage was required for the soldiers.



July 12, 1942

400 T.S.S. FL-371-E
Army Air Forces Technical School
Kessler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancy,

I received your letter and am sorry I couldn't answer sooner than this but, really, I have been busy on K.P. and my basic training that, really, I didn't have time to write. Well this Tuesday I'll graduate from my basic training and then I will start on something else. How is all the family? I hope all right because I feel good and hope you all feel the same way. Well most of my friends that came here with me that were in the 3rd class are gone from this field already and the rest are going soon. I found out that I don't have much chance of going to A.M. school in some other place so I took out an insurance for \$10,000 and volunteered for aerial gunner, so I'm going to go either to Panama City, Florida, Texas or California as they are the only 3 places where they have schools for that and you only go to school for 5 wks and you can get into action faster that way. I don't know if you know what an aerial gunner is so I guess I'll tell you. You are placed in a bomber in the tail of the plane with two machine guns and shoot down the enemy planes so I sure would like to get into action soon and that's why I enlisted and hope I can make the grade. You don't have much chance to come back but if I can get a few planes I be satisfied although I have a feeling that I'm coming back some day and really I don't worry.

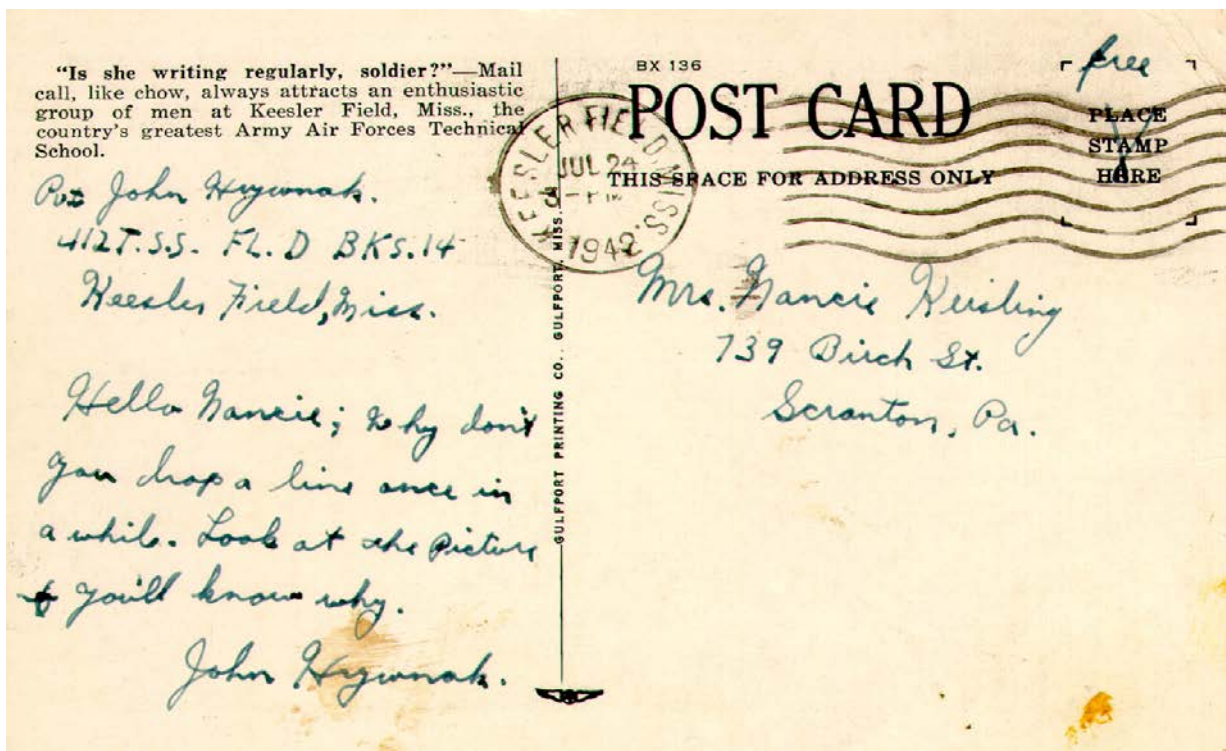
I don't know if I'll be here very much longer but you can still write to the same address and the mail will be forwarded if I'm shipped to some other place. I'm here in the park by the bay writing letters because it's a lot cooler here and it is beautiful. After I write six more letters I'll go for a boat ride as it's a little cooler today. It's only about 100 degrees out and it really is the first chance I've had in about a week now to my self. The nights are really nice here and when the moon is out at night you sure feel like having some one you could love and boy I often wish my girl was down here, but I guess I'll just have to forget about love for a while and just write letters. Of course letters are nice to get and you feel a lot better when you get one but they aren't the real stuff.

Well after I start to school and get into the air I'll have more news to write and tell you how it feels to be up in the air in big planes. Although I've been up in smaller planes before. Well, how's the children getting along. I sure would like to see them. I took some pictures on the 4th and took them down town to be developed and they ruined the whole roll on me, and boy was I disappointed because I had some of my friends that are shipped away on them. Well I'm sorry I don't have anymore news so will close this letter and say so long and lots of love to you all.

John Hrywnak.

July 24, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BKS 14
Army Air Forces Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi



August 2, 1942

Army Air Forces School
Kessler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancie,

Well here it is August already, the time is going pretty fast in the army and school is also coming along fine. I guess you have about the same trouble writing letters as I have, honest it took me 3 days to write a letter to my girl, and it was only a two sheet letter at that. Honest I don't have time to do anything except on Sunday. That's when you get the braveness in you, they treat you tough so you can be tough, but I can take it. Annie wrote that she might go home I hope she does, because I'm sure she needs a vacation, and I know she would like to be home for a while. Them fishing days of mine are over now, since I started to school I don't have time for that. I really like going to school, we are learning a lot about airplanes. We learned how to inspect and take off the landing gear on a P-40 and boy it really is nice. Some thought I am going to know how to fly and don't think that I won't. I can imagine how the children act around the dog, and I know they have a lot of fun. And about B. E.'s truck I saw that before and really got a big kick out of it. Well the weather is still the same down here. It is pretty hot here today. I'm going to town to get some pictures I took last Sunday, maybe they didn't even take good as it was pretty cloudy last Sunday. I might go to the movie tonight if there is a good picture in. Well Nancie I wish I could write more but really I haven't got anything to talk about, I mean write. So maybe the next time I'll have more to tell you. So I'll close this short letter and say so long.

John.

August 14, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BKS 14
Army Air Forces Technical School
Kessler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancy,

I received your letter yesterday and I'm sorry I didn't write any sooner, but I guess I'm in the same boat again. I can't find any spare time, I guess I'm going to give up letter writing until after I finish school. How's the children getting along, I bet Nelson can talk pretty good by now. I think it wouldn't be a bad idea if you did take up a course in the? of A because they soon will need a lot of women to take the place of men.

Well I'm still going to school, I'm studying the hydraulic system of different planes and boy it sure is tough. You have to learn the system of a different airplane every day. I've made a couple of hundreds in my tests on it and my lowest mark was 88 but I don't believe my self because there is so many things to remember. It's still pretty warm down here and I'm pretty dark already as we take exercises every day out in the hot sun for an hour in our trunks and that way you get tanned all the way through. I'm starting to have my teeth fixed on Monday, It will take quite awhile but I get lots of time as I'm not going anywhere.

Well Nancy I have a hard lesson today and this is Saturday morning so I have to study, because I'm afraid it is going to bring my mark down. Nancy, about the cookies if you want to send them O.K. if you don't it's O.K. also and don't send any cake as a few of the boys had cakes sent to them and you have to eat it with a spoon they get all smashed up. So do what you want to whatever you do don't send any soda down like Mrs. C. did to Frank. I guess H. will soon be in the service because they are taking them pretty young now.

Well this is all for now and love to you all, John.

Answer soon.

August 30, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BKS 14
Army Air Forces Technical School
Kessler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancie:

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. You sure had me worried for a while about sending soda down, because I think you're just the type that would do a thing like that for a joke. God bless you if you ever send any soda or ice cream down here. When I get back by the way I didn't hear about the cow until you wrote and told me. How are the children & Buddy, I'm O.K. so far & I guess I'll be the same until something happens to me.

I'm still going to school and this last phase sure was a tough one so I just left all my letter writing go and studied a lot, we had a semi final test yesterday and I made 93 in the test. We had 75 questions. I never thought there were that many parts to a propeller.

Some of the boys on that clipping are right in my barracks, I'll send it back to you and I'm underling the names of the ones with me.

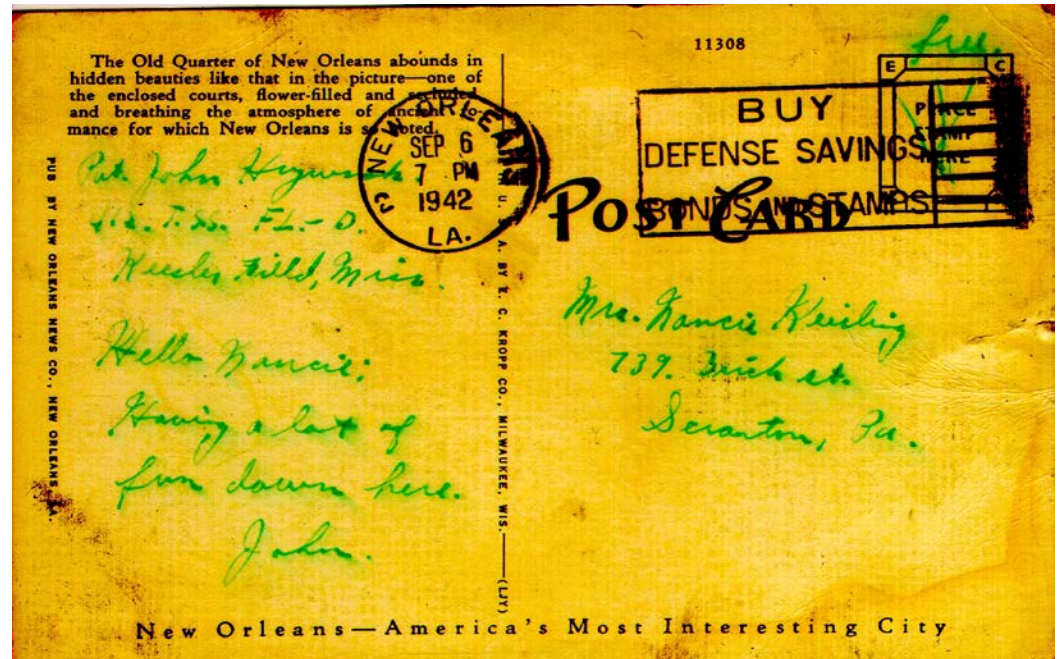
I was going to go swimming today but it started to rain a few minutes ago so I guess I'll have to stay in. Well it's getting close to dinner time and I still have a lot of letters to write. Well I just got back from chow and I'm just about drowned. It really is pouring out. I guess we're going to have a hurricane or something on the order of that, the way they have it predicted. Well I'm not going to go swimming as it's raining too hard so I'll catch up on my letters. I guess it's impossible for us to get a furlough after we finish school so I don't know when I'll be able to see you again, but if I do I'll probably be able to tell you some things about other countries.

So long and write when you get time.

Love, John.

September 6, 1942

New Orleans, LA



September 13, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BKS 14
Army Air Forces Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancie:

I received your letter in the middle of the week but I can't answer letters until Sunday so I'm doing it today and I had a lot of them to write today as I was away last weekend so I have to answer the letters all today and my arm is getting tired from writing already. I was to New Orleans on Sunday and Monday as I had it off, and had a wonderful time. I won't have any more days off for a long time now.

Well Monday I start my sixth phase so it won't be long before I be finished with this school and be out of here. I hope I can go to gunnery school in Florida as I think that is a nice place.

I heard about Al Z. joining the Coast Guard. He wrote and told me he was going to go in October, so I guess he'll write pretty soon and tell me as he writes pretty often. I wonder how H. made out. I hope he doesn't get shipped to this part of the country as it is a heck of a place to be. M. wrote and told me about B. F. I guess he'll always be that way. It seems he'll never learn. Well suppose it is pretty nice up there now the leaves will soon be turning colors and start to fall. Boy I sure will miss hunting this year, but when I finish gunnery school and hunting season opens up for me I'll get plenty of it.

I'm glad you like my girl, and I think she is nice myself so that's why I'm (sure) I'll have to do my best to keep her. I found out that the girl I used to go with, Marie R. is working at the Button Mill, where Buddy works, so tell him to say hello to her some time when he sees her at work. Well I'm going to quit now as I'm going to town for a few minutes, so answer when you get time.

Love, John.

October 24, 1942

Army Corps Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancie:

I might just as well thank you for the cookies now, they really were good and they only lasted a short while, as all the boys had a taste of them also. When ever you get time to make some more if I'm not asking too much you can send some more. How are the children, they must be getting bigger every day. Nelson must be able to talk pretty good by now. Is Buddy still working at the Button Mill or not. I got a letter from J. today and it was a pretty big letter; there were 11 sides to it. Annie doesn't write as much as she used to, I don't know what's wrong. Well we have had a lot of rain today and we really needed it, as it didn't rain for quite a while. I guess the leaves are all off by now and hunting season will soon open up. I sure will miss it. The weather down here is still pretty warm, we still go swimming when we get time. I won't be down here any too long now as I only have 18 more days of school and then I don't know where I will go too. They told us we may have to go to the factory for a month before we can go to gunnery school. I started my first plane Monday and have started one every day since then. There really is a lot to it but it's nearly as easy as starting a car now. I didn't realize I learned as much as I did in this school but when I stopped to figure things out 19 wks is quite a long time after all, and you'd have to be pretty dumb to not learn anything. Well Nancie I haven't anything else to write about so will have to say so long, and don't forget I have a new address now so forget about the other and use the new one.

Love - John.

Thanks for the cookies!

October 26, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-B BK-2
Air Corps Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi

(The first page of this letter is missing)

.....them have been shipped out already. He sent me a picture of himself and really he looks good and looks like he gained some weight. I sure am glad Buddy got a different job and I hope it is better than the one he had before. I know about how you feel now that he's so far away and I know you miss each other a great deal, I know how I felt when I first went away and left some one behind that I cared a lot for, and I'm not even married. Not that I don't miss her anymore but you don't feel quit as bad. Then too, it really isn't much of a home if both of you aren't together, at least that's the way I feel and if ever I get married I know I would want to have my wife with me all the time. Anyhow, I hope you find a way where the both of you will be together and he'll still have his job. Nancie I guess I didn't make it clear enough to you about the 7 day furlough. So I guess I better explain to you how a furlough works. If they give me a seven day furlough that means all the time I use of the seven days for traveling and my stay at home is included in that. So about 4 days to travel home and 4 days back and here I am, AWOL absent, with, out, leave already and didn't spend any time at home. And during war time if you go AWOL they put you in front of the firing squad. So I think that it ought to be clear now. Well I think I've wrote about enough for today as I answered H. letter already and don't know of anything else I might write, so will continue reading stories until the lights go out. I still say if I get a plane when I get home I'll take you for a ride and I mean it. I didn't spend 28 weeks in school for nothing, so just wait and you'll fly some day. The weather here isn't bad now. Today was a real spring day and it sure made me homesick for a while. It seemed just like the coming of spring back home. Don't forget to write when you get time and I'll try and do the same. Well if I soon don't quit I'll be writing on the magazine underneath this paper. "I quit."

Love to you all.

John.

November 12, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BK-2
Air Corps Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi

Dear Nancie,

Received your letter a few days ago but didn't answer as I didn't have too much time to do anything. So here I am with but two more days of school to go and then I guess I'll be leaving here about Sunday or Monday to a factory for five weeks to watch how an airplane is put together. Then I go to gunner school for five weeks and graduate from there as a gunner. Staff sergeants get \$144 a month flying pay. I passed my physical examination on Tuesday, boy they certainly give you a good one and you have to be in good shape.

I got a letter from A. the other day and the way she talks I guess she's making out pretty good with her new job. I sure am glad she's making out so good. I heard about Wes leaving home, but he was like that all the time so what are you going to do with him, some day he will learn to do better, so until then we'll just have to wait.

Oh I forgot to tell you that before I graduate from gunner school I have to make two parachute jumps, did you ever think I would be doing a thing like that. Well I'm glad we have to, because all the fighting I'm going to do will be in an airplane so I might as well learn how to jump.

The weather down here is pretty warm yet and I guess I'm going to California from here so it will be warm there also.

Well Nancie I'll have to close now as I have a little work to do. So answer when you find time, and I'll send you my new address soon.

Love. John.

November 22, 1942

Camp Consair
Barracks 4 Shift 1-C
Consolidated Aircraft Corp
San Diego, California

Dear Nancie,

I'm not going to write very much as I want to get a few hours sleep before I go to school. I go to school from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. in the morning, it isn't such a bad shift after all and the time just seems to pass by so fast you don't believe it. I have only 21 more days of school left here and then I'll go to my last school.

I left Kessler Field last Sunday at 6 p.m. to arrive here Wednesday night at 12 p.m. It was a nice trip out here and I enjoyed it a lot. It seems like they treat you a lot better after you're in the service a while. When it was time for dinner or supper we would stop at some town and march to a hotel and eat. The food here is a lot better then it ever was at Kessler Field, and I'm afraid I might put on some weight and I can't do that now as you can't weigh over 170 lbs to be a gunner.

The weather here isn't as nice as I thought it would be. The days are fair, but at night we have to wear our over coats to school and in the class rooms as they have no heating system. Well anyhow it won't be for long as its no use of kicking. I had a pass from seven yesterday morning until 9 o'clock tonight so I went to town and it's so crowded with sailors and marines that you can't move around, so I took in a movie with some of the boys and came back in to camp.

It sure is impossible for us to lose this war.

Well I guess this will be all for a while so until I hear from you again, loads of love to you all.

Answer soon.

Love, John.

December 3, 1942

Camp Consair
Barracks 4 Shift 1-C
Consolidated Aircraft Corp
San Diego, California

Dear Nancie,

Received your letter today and sure was glad to hear from you, I also got a letter from M. and she also had a lot of news in her letter. I was sort of mad when I read your letter because you didn't have H.'s address in as I didn't have it so when I read M's. letter she had his address in, so I took it all back. Well he'll have a warm place to be in during the winter as it doesn't get very cold out there. I wonder what kind of work he's going to do. I hope he gets in something he likes.

I had a few days off for Thanksgiving so I went to Los Angeles and Hollywood and had a good time for a change. It really is nice out there. I talked to some of the movie actors and saw quite a few of them. They have a place there for soldiers to dance and they also serve different things to eat and drink and that's how you get a chance to talk to them. Boy you talk about nice girls out there, they really are plenty of there. We hitch hiked out there and got there faster then some of the boys that went by train and bus, the people here treat the service men very good, we also hitch hiked back, all you have to do is stand along the road and pick out the car that's going where ever you are and it doesn't take long.

Nancie I'll send you one of them insignias as soon as I get to a place where they have some. They have some here in San Diego and they cost a lot more and aren't as good as the kind I sent M., I need some myself but I'm going to wait till I can get some good ones. M. said Wes got his deer the first day, I sure do miss hunting season but I'll have to wait for a while and what I'm going to hunt you don't need any license. I only have 10 more school days here so you better answer pretty soon if you want me to get your letter before I leave. That story about Al Z. going across is a lot of talk, all he is going to do is go out to sea for some training and then they come back and go again.

Well I'm on the bottom so will say so long.

Love, John.

December 23, 1942

Harlingen Army Gunnery School
Harlingen, Texas

Dear Nancie,

I received your letter today it was the first letter I got since I've been here. I guess I won't do much writing while I'm at this school. It really is tough and I'm not kidding. I have to do a lot of studying and I really want to go thru and pass so that I could get my wings. I got here Saturday afternoon and started school Monday morning. I go to school from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon and then go out on the range and learn how to operate the gun turrets for 1 hour every night. Tonight I go from 11 until 12 midnight. It's so easy to flunk out in this school that it isn't funny, and if I flunk this I will be very disappointed. We have to take the machine guns apart and know the names of all the parts and how it works, also be able to take them apart and put them together blind folded. The first three weeks we learn to do all that and do ground shooting, we also have to learn to identify about 75 different kinds of airplanes and know the wing span of them, I'm telling you it requires a lot of studying so don't blame me for not writing as I want to go thru and pass. The last two weeks we go in the air and shoot at targets from the airplane and take our jump. I'm not worried about that; it's the first three weeks that's got me, if I make them I think I'll be all set.

I got the cookies at San Diego just as we were ready to be shipped so we ate them on the train, also the cake, they were very good and thanks a lot. I'm going to send you the insignia that is if I don't forget to put it in the letter after I'm thru writing. If you see J. or any of the rest of the family give them my address and tell them why I didn't write, I'm gong to write home just as soon as I finish your letter and also to my girl. We have tomorrow night and Christmas Day off so I guess I'll go in to town, it really is a nice little town. The best I've been in yet.

Well I'll have to quit now and I know you'll get this letter after Christmas so I'll just hope you had a Merry Christmas, and have a happy New Year.

Love John X

January 27, 1943

Kansas

C Post Card of "The Famous Kiltie Band at Civic Center Oklahoma City
Postmarked from Kansas

Hello Nancie: I'm traveling some more. The only thing I don't like about it is it's getting colder. Love. John.

January 30, 1943

Camp Consair C.R.P. Prov. Sqd. L
Barracks 1617, Army Base
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Nancie,

I received your letter today and sure was glad to hear from you, also it was the first letter I got since I've been in Salt Lake City. I'm going to see a show on the post as I have a lot more time now. I got here Wednesday at noon and for a while I was glad to see snow but right now I wish I was back in the warmer climate. I think I got enough cold weather already. I guess I might as well tell you what I'm doing here, and you can laugh for a while.

Well I've been doing K.P. for two days, and today I was doing a little carpenter work, building side walks. I thought that was bad but they had Lieutenants and other officers doing K.P. so I don't mind it now. I don't expect to be here too long, as I'm going to get assigned to the squadron that I will go across with and fight with, so they told us we would be here anywhere from 3-10 days and I hope not any longer. We have to train with that squadron for several weeks and get to know just how they operate together and also fly the plane for a while in the air. I done quite a bit flying in Harlingen and there isn't anything like it, really I love it. I got my wings when I finished gunnery school and am a staff sergeant now, boy them silver wings certainly bother the girls anywhere you go and there are a lot of nice girls in Salt Lake City. I'm going to town tomorrow night and don't think I won't have a good time.

I got the dollar at Harlinger for that insignia, I don't know why you sent it, as they are only 15 cents. I'm making \$144.00 a month now so I'll have plenty of money.

Nancie I have a chance of getting a furlough but I'm not sure and neither are they, but we were told to apply for one when we get assigned to our squadron. I got a letter from H. when I left Texas and he's making out o'k. I write to him so don't worry. How is Mom. M. said she was sick in her last letter.

Love. John.

February 16, 1943

Suf. Air Base No. 1 A.A.B.
Barrack 10
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Nancie,

I received your letter today and was sure glad to hear from you, as it really is the second letter I got from anyone in the family since I came to Salt Lake. I can't figure out why I haven't heard from any one yet as its been quite a while now since I wrote. I've been moved again only not quite so far this time, only about two miles. We are staying in large buildings where they used to have fairs before and now the government took them over. I don't imagine we'll be here long now, because we were to ship out soon after we came to Salt Lake.

I've been sitting around for three days now without doing a thing and it sure gets tiresome. I sure do hope we go over soon, there isn't enough of excitement here. I guess I have to forget about a furlough as I'm in the second air corps, which is west of the Mississippi and all they give you is seven days, and hell that wouldn't be time enough to travel, so until they change the number of days or I get transferred to the 1st air corps which is something unusual I won't even think about it anymore. The fellow picture you sent me graduated the same time as I did and I knew him, there were a lot more fellows from around there that I knew. The food is good here and it's not such a bad place after all, but right now most of us want to see action and are hoping to go over. Well, I don't blame P. for wanting to go, but I can't figure out how Ma will make out. But W. will still be left so he will have to take care of things as there are two of them left yet and they will only defer one of them, and further more it won't be long before they take all of them as there are a lot of married men with me right now.

If I ever get back home after the war is over I'll get myself a small plane and give you all a little flying, really its nice to fly and I love it. I had to take a test for high altitude flying in a pressure chamber and they took us up to 40,000 feet and kept us there for three hours. It didn't bother me at all, but there a lot of men that get the "bends" at a high altitude and get so they don't know what's going on. It's just like getting a cheap drunk. I sure am glad to be as healthy as I am, so far I've took quite a few pretty rugged examinations and passed them all.

I quit drinking coffee and other drinks such as coca cola and whiskey because they really get my nerves and I proved it to myself a good many times. If I take a cup of coffee or coca cola in a half hour or so I can't hold my hands still and I heard the Doctor tell a few of the boys that coca cola wasn't any good to drink any how because it had drugs in it, and now I believe him. I drink a beer or two once in a while as it don't seem to effect me.

As far as I know we will be assigned to a heavy bomber crew, and being that we are B-24 specialists, I guess will be on the B-24's.

I got a letter from H. and he's making out good and expects to ship out of there after his basic training is over.

Well I guess I'll quit now as some of the fellows want me to play poker with them so I'll have to take some of their money away from them. I've been pretty lucky the last few days. How are the little fellows making out. If you get a chance to take a picture of them send me one as I sure would like to see them, and like I told you before a furlough will be hard to make.

Well until I hear from you again, Love to you all and answer soon, John.

March 11, 1943

402nd B. Sqd. 39th B. Group
Davis Monthan Field
Tucson, Arizona

Dear Nancie,

Received your letter today and was sure glad to hear from you, as I've been here better than a week and today was the first letter I got. It sure took them a long time to re-route my mail. I guess you were told by now where I'm stationed at and if you haven't, must look at my address. It really is nice out here, good and warm all the time. I can't tell you how it is in town as I haven't been in yet, but I have a 24 hour pass coming this week and so I guess I'll go down. They sure keep us busy here and after laying around for a month at Salt Lake City, I can't take it so good, but after two weeks here I'll be tough again. I go to school every other day and fly on the days and nights I'm not in school. I have to fly after mid-night tonight for 8 hours. Sunday was my first day to fly in a B-24 bomber and it really is nice. Tuesday night I flew 8 hrs and covered a distance of 1225 miles, we weren't flying very fast. I'm assistant engineer on the plane and we have a crew of 10 which takes in every man that is necessary on the plane and they are the men I will go over with. That includes the pilot, co-pilot, bombardier, navigator and the whole crew. I really don't have much to do while I'm flying, but in school I have to learn how to read maps, take pictures out of the plane and notice different land marks which would help in finding planes, and review things I had in school before. We don't get a chance to sleep a lot around here and you get up at all hrs of the night. I got a letter from Ike M. today and he's at home, he got a discharge.

Nancie about other boys coming home on furlough is true because men in the infantry and navy or marine corps get furloughs quite often, as so do the men in the air corps that aren't classified for combat duty. I guess I'm one of the unlucky fellows, with a lot more with me.

Nancie you wanted to know if I'm saved, well I can't truly say yes and I know I do things I shouldn't and may do worse if I don't get a furlough before I go across. I have a pocket size bible that I read quite often, but as you say, you aren't saved just because you read the Bible.

Well Nancie I guess I'll close now as I'm quite tired and am going to get a few hrs sleep before I fly.

John.

March 23rd, 1943

Camp Consair
402nd B. Squad 39th B. Group
Davis Monthan Field
Tucson, Arizona

Dear Nancie,

Received your letter Sunday night and was sure glad to hear from you. Your getting to be a pretty regular writer lately. That really is a cute picture of the two boys, and they sure are getting big. Well I hope they get to be good strong men, and won't have to go through what we are going through now. Buddy sure is lucky that he can come home every weekend, or should I say all of you are. How does he like his new job. I bet better than down at the button mill. I hope you can soon move down with him because I imagine it's hell to be apart. I guess Bobby T. will soon be a brother or have a play mate, from what M. and A. say. For all I know it already happened.

I'm not flying all this week and I sure am glad because I done so much flying the past two weeks that I really am quite tired and need a lot of sleep. When we fly we usually fly at night and I really can't sleep in the day time. I had a twenty four hour pass over the weekend so I went to town with some of my crew and had a good time. We got a hotel room and stayed in town over night. Saturday afternoon we went to a ranch and went horse back riding. It really was a lot of fun, but my can is still sore from riding. We're having a squadron party in town tonight but I'm going to catch up on some of my letter writing and sleep because I've been to a few of their parties and they aren't much to brag about, because you get about half plastered and suffer the next day. I was to a movie last night, saw "Air Force" and liked it very much, because it's all about what we are going to do when we get in combat. We were told today that we are going to leave this field and go to our second phase of training on the 5th of April. So I guess I'll soon be in another state.

Well Nancie I guess I'll close now and take a shower then go the P.X. and have a milk shake and hit the hay.

So until I hear from you good luck to you all and answer soon.

Love. John.

April 16th, 1943

Camp Consair
460th Bomb Squad
Biggs Field
El Paso, Texas

Dear Nancie,

Received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from you. I guess you forgot to tell me you were working in your last letter, but M. told me so I sort of figured you were pretty busy. I think you are making pretty good money, but still in all wages are a lot higher than that now. How is Buddy making out with his job. Does he still come home every week end or not. I got a letter from M. the other day and I guess things are O.K. there. I sure was glad to hear that Bobby is feeling better and back in school. She told me P. was leaving on the 13th. I hope he makes out O.K. and I know they'll make a better man out of him. She told me he cried when he found out he had to go, but that's only natural for anyone to do. Well I guess you know that I'm in El Paso, and it isn't a bad place to be, but the sand really blows here a lot. We had quite a sand storm last night, and boy when you're up in the air you have to go to other fields in order to land. I guess I'll be here until about May the fifth, and then it will either be Kansas or California. I hope it's Kansas as I haven't been there yet and they say it's pretty nice there. Nancie I knew R. A. but didn't think a lot of her, she used to work at the Barrel, and now I guess she's at the Nomads, at least that's where she was working when I left for the Army. We go swimming here for three hours before we get our pass and we get a twenty-four hour pass every five days, you really can have a lot of fun here and the town is full of a lot of nice Spanish girls. We stay in town over night and get a room in the hotel. I'm still flying a lot and the missions we go on are a lot more interesting now. I guess in about six or eight weeks all be finished with my training and then I don't know where we go to.

I guess I'll have to quit now so answer when you have time.

Love, John.

July 8, 1943

My Dear John:

I hope your feeling very well and in the best of spirit. Hope everything is working out for the best for you. I only wish I could exchange places with you. I don't think I'd be as brave as you tho. We think of you constantly and pray that you will be protected and kept safe.

We were home for the weekend so that's how I got your address John or else I still would be waiting to hear from you. So that's why I haven't written. I didn't have your address while you were in Calif. Here I was waiting to hear from you, while at the same time you were waiting to hear from me as I understand. I read your letters while I was home. Now don't ever feel we don't care to write John for I'm always think of you. I was so sorry you could not come home on your furlough. I think now I wish I could have gone out to see you I'm sorry now I didn't plan that way. I guess H. expects to come home the 1st week of Aug. A. and O. plan to come home then too.

Everything seems to be o.k. around here at present. W. expects to marry soon so he tells us of course one never knows for sure about Wes. I don't know if you ever met his girl her first name is "M.". she's Russian.

Mom will probably have to get someone then, for I don't know who will do her work.

Some of those scenery's you sent home on the picture sheets. Sure are beautiful John. Boy what thrills you must of had. Mom especially liked the one where the road is cut through the tree. Remember that? Please John remember to pray remember there is nothing we can do with out the help of God. That's the only way our country can be victorious by trusting the Living God. Remember He hears us no matter where we might be and at any time.

I hope you understand me. Take care of your self. I'll close now boy when I think how far this letter has to go it amazes me. Wish I could go.

Love and Kisses, Nancie
Buddy sends regards.

July 31, 1943

Camp Consair

This letter was written by Nancie to John on July 31, 1943 and returned in December 1943, never opened indicating John was deceased.

Dearest John:

It's been a very warm day today. I've been thinking of you, for by now you're very used to the warm weather staying in California for so long and now where ever you are, I hope you are very well and are having it very easy. Well, I've had a surprise tonight. O. and A. and all the children came in from Connecticut but tonight Andy B. brought P. and A.L. over. Of course I didn't know they were in. I guess O. & A. are coming to my house tomorrow. I suppose you heard that H. has been changed to Missouri and is not able to come home on furlough as he had planned. He certainly was very disappointed and so are we all. But that's the way things go sometimes. I was home last week to help Mom and I planned to go up next week you know busy time now. I saw your picture John. It's very nice, but I'd love to see you in reality. I'd love to see you in Army clothes. I also read your letter. I hope John you received my letter for I know how terrible it is not to get a letter for so long a time. Please answer to me too as I like to know how things are. W. is having a tough time with his teeth right now. He had to have one pulled. I'm sending you this clipping. I wonder if you know him John, for he went to Moscow High. I thought you might be interested. I hope all the German and Jap planes are down soon. John are you able to hear a radio. If so, can you hear the Fuller program? I hope so, for it certainly is a necessity in these days and oh, John, I'm so concerned about all and the music is so uplifting. Right now they came on and they're singing "Since Jesus came into my heart". I do love the gospel hymns. I'm sure they would mean so much to a soldier boy. Well John remember we all think of you and pray for you, and you too John, always remember to pray. Ans(wer) John when you can. Much Love Nancie. My address if you forgot it, 739 Birch St.

August 6th, 1943

403rd Bomb Sqd. (H) 43rd Bomb Group
A.P.O.Box 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, California
New Guinea

Dear Millie and Mom

It's been a long time since I had any mail from home or any of the family. I really didn't worry too much because I knew it would take a while for it to catch up with me. I received your letter and one from M. yesterday and it really makes you feel a whole lot better to hear from home. The letters were over a month old but I don't think it will take the rest as long to get here. Well how is everyone, I hope you are all as good as myself. It really isn't bad here but there is nothing as good as being in the good old U.S.A. I'm very glad to hear that Harold is getting a furlough and can spend some time at home. If I were as close to home as he was I could have spent a few days at home. Well maybe some day we can all be back home again. How is P. making out. Is he still in the same place or not. When ever you write to him again give him my address and tell him to write as I lost his address, also tell H. to write. It sure makes the brook rather thin with all those fellows leaving. How is the farming getting along. Does Wes help you very much or is he busy working. It won't be long and you'll have snow again, am I right? Did you get my picture yet or not. I hope it looks o.k. I didn't see it, but my girl friend in Salt Lake said it was a good picture of me and said she mailed you one, so you should have gotten it by now. Well tell Mom thanks for her letter and thank s for wishing me luck, I've had plenty of it already and hope I don't rain out.

Well don't worry about me as I'm doing o.k. and I'll be back some day when this job is finished. I'll write when I find time and hope you do the same.

Love to all of you, Johnnie.

Use my new address anymore. The one on this letter.

August 9th, 1943

403rd Bomb Sqd. (H) 43rd Bomb Group
A.P.O.Box 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, CaliforniaNew Guinea

Dear Nancie,

Well I finally received a letter from you, and really don't know who is the blame, but I am sure I had written to you last and may I shouldn't be that way, but I always wait for an answer before I write again. Anyhow, lets hope it doesn't happen again. I've had several letters since I came here and don't think the mail service is bad at all. I guess H. must be home now and I bet he will enjoy his furlough. I think he is rather lucky to be able to get as many days as he says he will. I understand he is going to spend a few days in New York. Well we can't really blame him, I know I would. I had a letter from M. the other day and she told me about W. getting ready to get married, but has to wait a few months yet, because his girl isn't quite 18 yet. Well the best of luck to him when ever he does, I don't think there is anything wrong in being married, as long as you get along, I mean all the time.

I guess you wonder what I'm doing here and how things are, but I'm sorry I can't tell you much because it's against the rules. Its rather hard to sit down to write and know you could write a lot and yet have to omit the things that would probably be of great interest to you. Anyhow I'm feeling as good as ever and getting along fine and hope that you don't worry about me.

I've had a lot of fun since I've been here and also the opposite, but it's all in the days work. I thought for a while I was going to have a lot of trouble getting on to the money they use here but it only took me a few days and now I know it as good as our own. I fell out of a coconut tree one night trying to get some coconuts. It's a good thing I wasn't up too high, or I might have been hurt. Well I really don't know of anything else to write about right now. How are the boys getting along. I bet they're getting big. How is Buddy making out, is he still working hard. I think I heard some one say that you were working once in a while, is that right. I guess that's it for the time being. Answer soon. Love to you all. Johnnie. P.S. Don't forget I have a new address

August 24, 1943

S/Sgt John Hrywnak A.S.N. 33345669
403rd Bomb Sqd. (H) 43rd Bomb Group
A.P.O.Box 929, % Postmaster
San Francisco, California
New Guinea

Dear Millie and Mom

Received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from you. I'm glad to hear you are all feeling well, and hope you remain that way. I was sorry to hear that H. furlough was cancelled, I used to think that maybe you didn't believe me when I told you I couldn't get any but now you know how it is. I hope you sent him and P. my address so that they could write sometime. So far I haven't heard from either of them and do not have their address so that the way we stand. Well how do you like my picture. I really don't know how it is as I never saw it. How are the children enjoying their vacation. I sure would like to see them. It's been a long time since I saw them. How are things coming along on the farm. It will soon be getting cold again up there. I'm getting along pretty good and get to see action at times. I sure am glad I'm doing this sort of job as I really like it. I hope you don't worry about me and don't forget to write often as a letter really means a lot here. There is no place to go when your off duty and it's not like being in the states. It will be along time before I ever get back to the states but if I ever do I'll make sure I get home for a while; while I'm there, and I sure will be able to tell you a lot of things I can't now.

Stay well and don't worry.

Love Johnnie.

Sunday, August 22, 1943

The following letter was returned, never opened indicating John had been killed in action on September 7, 1943.

Dearest John,

I trust that this letter may find you well and happy. You are always remembered in our prayers and also your fellow soldiers. I've been home for the last 4 weeks trying to help out a bit for since the boys have gone into service especially right now, for you know its a busy time at home. Its been hard for Mom so I take the children and go for a few days each week. I hope to go Tuesday again. Everything is quite the same John. I was home last week when Mom got your letter. M. was to answer it the next day so no doubt you have received her letter and all news from home. Mom was very glad to hear from you of course its quite a strain also when we realize where you are. Altho John no matter what danger you're in John, we pray that God's sustaining Grace may keep you and protect you always. John please remember to pray always where ever you may be, remember God can hear the faintest prayer. He can hear anywhere you may be. I suppose you know Buddy is working in Scranton now. Its good to have him back. Kenneth and Nelson are getting grown up; you wouldn't know them. John I love your picture. Its very much like you altho I'd love to see you in person now. You know Momevery soul, be it stranger or friend, she gathers the 3 pictures you, H. & P. and shows them off and of course I always put my say in in emphasizing that you're Staff Sergeant. W. was in this morning for a few minutes. He has been going to the dentist. He is still working for Moffat. Ike quit working there, he said it was too hard so he is working for Pete S., \$21.00 a week. Its a shame. I understand old Mr. M. is very sick I mean (Ike's father). John you should see little Tommy he is just a sweet as ever.....remember his little chubby hands...well they're still the same. In fact all the young ones are sweet. You should see O's children. Little Karl is so precious. When O. and A. came up to Mom's the first day they brought little J. & T. with them. O. had her four and I was there with my two. Well John you should have seen them run directly toward the chickens, ducks and pigs. Mom had the ducks in a yard all by themselves. Well they picked up the fence from the bottom and all the ducks ran out, and they were for ever feed(ing) the pigs. Well when K. came near the chicken coop he saw the chickens lined in a row sleeping so he remarked to A. "Oh! See all those things in the "Cookie" Choop.") for chicken coop. Boy John did we laugh. John, I have written two letters to you since you've left the States. I do hope you have received them, for I don't want you to think I don't care to write, really John we do remember all you boys constantly. I realize you're very busy but when you have a second please tell me if you've gotten my letters. I'll close John and will be praying for you until I write again. P.S. John, please let me know if it's at possible for you to hear the Fuller Program. I hope you can. I have him on right now. I'm thinking of you if you are listening to him too. (May God keep you) Much Love Nancie.

WAR DEPT., A.G.O.

CASUALTY STATUS VERIFIED:

Deceased

Group

Warime

25 Oct 43

Verified by

Date

Killed in action
September 7, 1943
Ofenbenderi Capt ac

Nanci Keisling
139 Birch St
Scranton,

Ilsema

DECEASED
20 SEP 1943
A.G. Casualty Div.
USAFPE

September 7, 1943

The following letter was also returned, never opened indicating John had been killed in action on September 7, 1943 the very day that Nancie wrote this letter ; her last letter to him. Her heart was with him on the day he died.

Dear John,

It was so nice to here from you. In my last letter I told you I didn't hear from you. Well the very day I mailed it I had a letter from you. So don't mind it. I was afraid maybe I didn't get your address correct. Well things are turning toward fall now. I've been home every week for a few days at a time. Altho this week I don't know if I'll go up. We have been canning, so have been sort of busy. They expected P. home for a few days. Mom said Saturday that he was to come in. You see last week I came back on Thursday and Saturday when Mom was down she said they heard from P. and he was to come in. Well today is Tuesday and I haven't heard anything if he came in or not. So that's the way things stand and poor H. said in his last letter no furloughs for him he is quite sick about it too. So are we. You see being home I just know what's going on about mail. I know how anxiously we wait for the mailman each day hoping to hear from one of you fellas and Mom, you know her. Every time a plane flies by she starts to cry. She said when ever she is in town and sees a soldier with the same insignia that you have she thinks of you and sometimes she tells them she has a boy that has the same on his sleeve. Of course that always starts a conversation. They want to know all about you. Poor soul she does take it so to heart. But she always remembers you boys in prayer. I hope John you're enjoying the best of health. We are all well at present. I don't have much to say because I know M. writes all the news near home of. I know you would not want to hear stale news. Yes John, I was working for a while but I quit for the summer. I don't think I'll go back to work; not unless Buddy is drafted. You know they're starting to take fathers right along now even tho he is doing defense work. It doesn't matter too much. Well one thing I hope soon this war will be over. Well I just found out that P. didn't come home yet. I don't know why. I guess W. is going to stop for me tonight. I'll write again John. With much love I close, Nancie

March 12, 1944

Carol M.
Salt Lake City, 2, Utah

This is an especially touching letter that I found that was sent to my Grandmother and which speaks for itself. It is from the girlfriend of one of the crew members that died in the same accident with my Uncle.

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak,

Perhaps I had first better introduce myself...I am Samuel Wilkinson's girl friend and it will soon be a year since I first met your son John when visiting Sam when he was at Bigg's Field, Texas.

I have wanted to write a note to you ever since we received the tragic news of Sam's death and since John's girl friend, Beverly, had her letters returned but as I had no idea where or who to write to have not done so.

In January I wrote a letter to the Squadron Commander for Mrs. Wilkinson to see if any more information was available concerning Sam's death. In this letter I asked how to contact John's mother and fortunately the information was available. Mrs. Wilkinson lost no time in contacting you. She sent the letter to me that your daughter wrote and I was very interested in knowing more about your family.

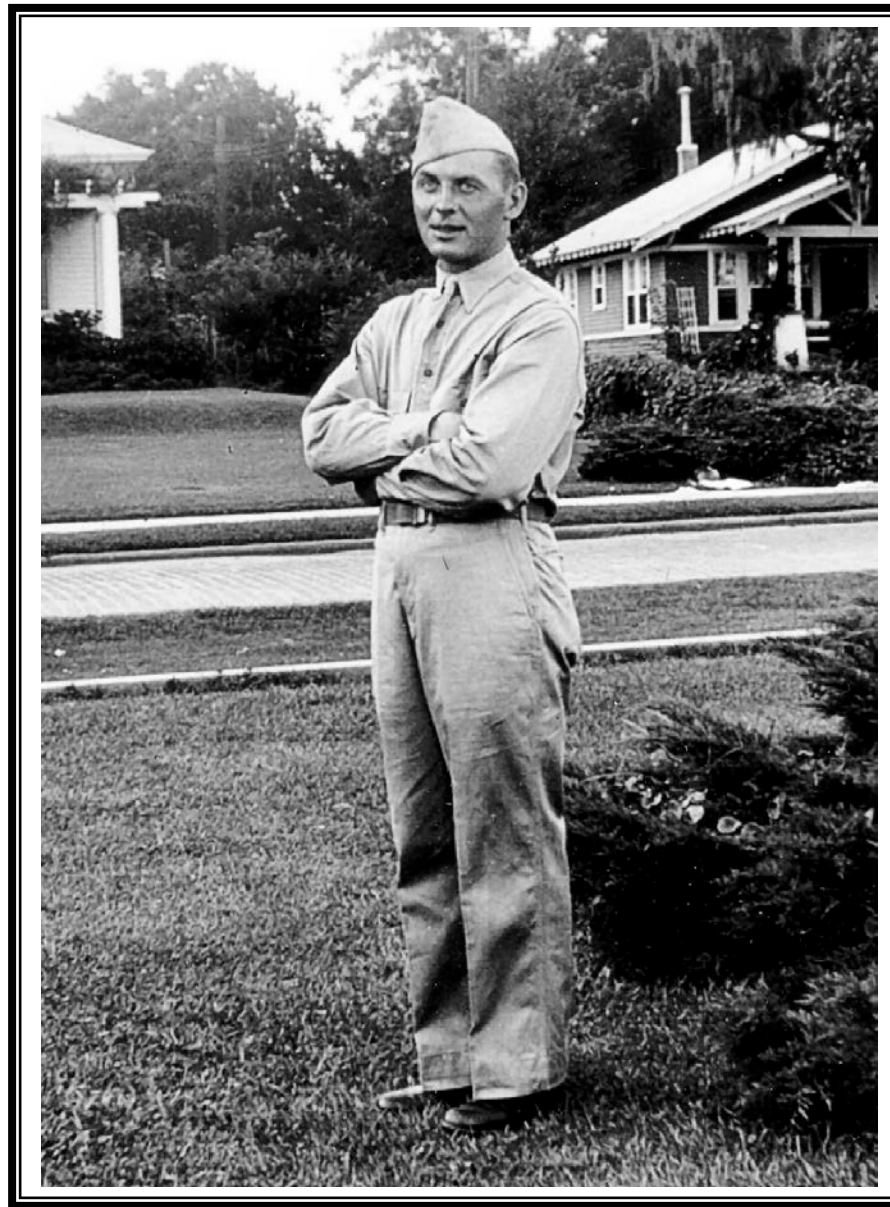
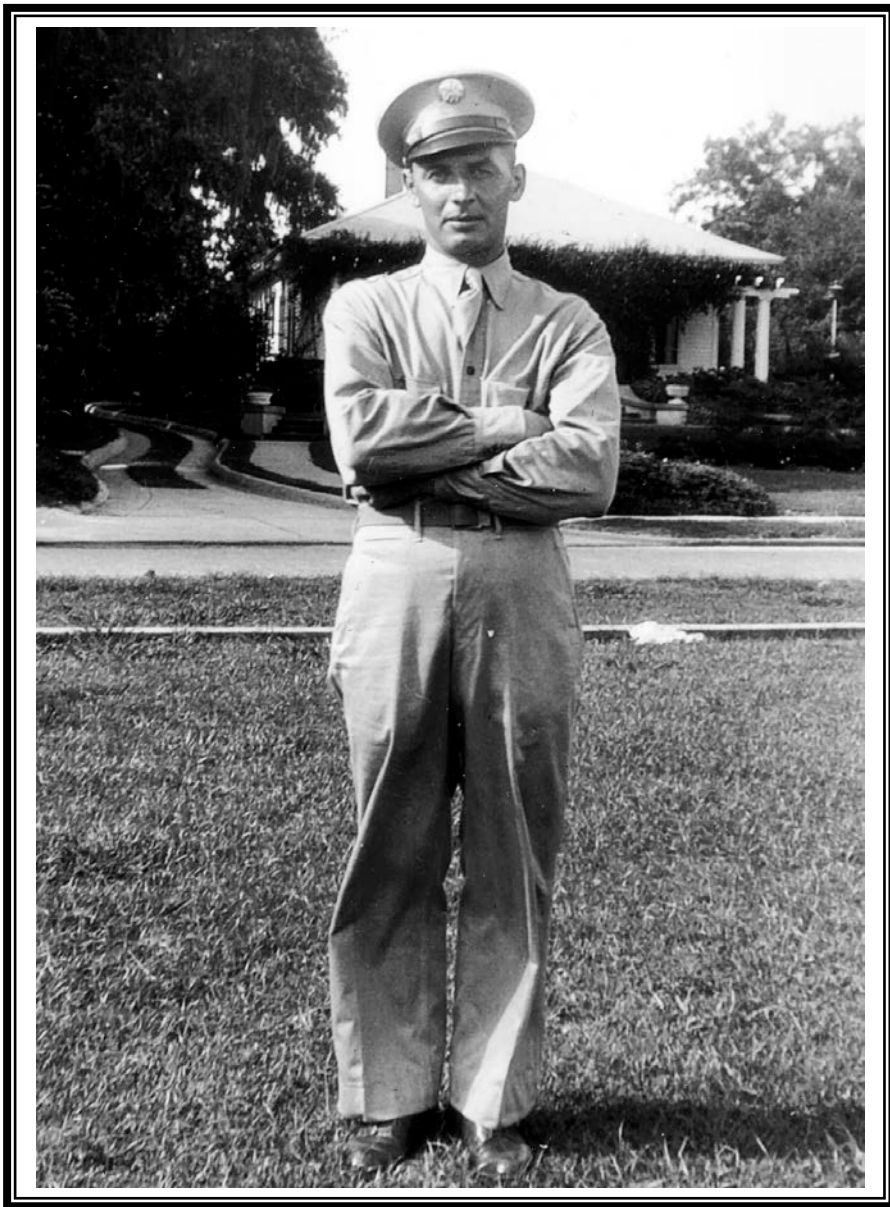
In as much as Johnnie spent the last few days in the states in our home I thought that perhaps you would be interested in knowing that Johnnie, Beverly, Sam and myself had a grand time together. We tried to make it like a real home for them and they seemed to enjoy it, in fact they said they almost forgot they were in the army. Mother attempted to give them good home cooked meals and keep them cheered in the mornings. Beverly and I managed to take the afternoons off so we could have a visiting good time together. Mother, Dad and myself became quite attached to the boys and it was quite touching to them to say "Good-by". We were thrilled to have them with us for a few days and do everything possible to make them happy but it has truly grieved my mother and myself that enough time wasn't given them to return to their homes for a visit. John and Sam both said that perhaps it was for the best as they said it would be easier to go over seas as they were going to do rather than go home and upset their Mothers more and make it so much harder for themselves to leave.

I learned to respect Johnnie as a good clean wholesome boy and know he must have had a fine home life and, Mrs. Hrywnak, you are to be congratulated for such a fine son. It is truly hard to see the boys taken from us but perhaps we must look at death as a promotion and advancement, a chance to work on in peace and happiness. We know our boys are not prisoners or suffering and are now out of this "mess" and in God's care and keeping. I feel as though it is up to me to live a life that will please those who have gone before me in order they will keep that love and respect of me they had in this life and to keep myself worthy of meeting them in the next world. It is this belief in a life to come that gives me courage to fight on and find joy in living.

I have a set of pictures that we took last June. I sent John a set when they were developed. If you did not receive them with his personal effects I will be glad to have some printed for you. The pictures of Johnnie were excellent.

May this letter find you and yours well and happy, I remain,

Sincerely yours, Carol M.



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• ACCOUNTS OF CRASH

This chapter contains various accounts of the Tragic Crash at Jackson Drome, Port Moresby New Guinea on September 7, 1943. Sadly, all of these accounts reflect on the Australian losses and not the Americans that also lost their lives. They were obtained after researching Australian War History and contacting Australians, some of whom witnessed the crash. To date, I have not been able to find any mention of the crash in American World War II History.

BRUCE D HOY
FIFTH AIR FORCE HISTORIAN - WORLD WAR TWO
PO BOX 249, ASPLEY, QUEENSLAND, 4034, AUSTRALIA
TEL/FAX: (07) 3264-4227 international: +61-7-3264-4227

14 April 1999

Mr Kenneth R Keisling
24 Benedek Road
PRINCETON NJ 08540

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 1999, requesting details on the death of your uncle, S/Sgt John Hrywnak.

Your uncle was indeed a member of the 403rd Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group, and he lost his life on 7 September 1943 in B-24D Serial Number 42-40682, that crashed on take-off at Jacksons Field, Port Moresby. The entire crew were killed, in addition to 60 Australian soldiers from the 2/33rd Infantry Battalion who were in trucks at the end of the runway, awaiting movement to another airfield to be flown to Tsili Tsili as part of the campaign that had resulted in the capture of Nadzab two days previously. 86 other Australians were injured in varying degrees.

Details of this accident are as follows:

Type of aircraft: B-24D Serial Number: 42-40682 Nickname: PRIDE OF THE CORNHUSKERS

Mission: Reconnaissance mission of Japanese shipping lanes north of the equator.

1st Lt Howard R Thomas	0-790734	Pilot
F/O Howard J Wood	T-252	Co- Pilot
2nd Lt Ralph M Hart	0-675188	Navigator
2nd Lt Robert G McDonald	0-738996	Bombardier
T/Sgt Charles P Seip	7033077	Engineer
S/Sgt John Hrywnak	33345669	Assistant Engineer
T/Sgt Hyman Silverstein		Radio Operator

S/Sgt Joel L Herndon	34082449	Assistant Radio Operator
S/Sgt Donald F Wiulcott	16075243	Gunner
S/Sgt Samuel M Wilkinson	33277954	Gunner
S/Sgt Samuel B White	14044815	Tail Gunner

The aircraft took off at 0425 hours, but had not reached sufficient altitude before hitting a small tree and slamming into the first three trucks parked past the end of the runway. The plane's bomb load of four 500-lb bombs exploded and the remains of the aircraft were completely destroyed by fire.

The exact cause of the accident was never found, although it is understood that the co-pilot was at the controls, and failed to execute a safe departure. It is also quite possible that the aircraft experienced engine trouble. One diarist from another squadron referred to the aircraft either "mushing in" or dove in after take-off, which could have been a mechanical problem, or it could have been as a result of raising the flaps too soon, the flaps being handled by the co-pilot. He also referred to the pilot as being Woods.

It was the largest single loss of life ever, involving an aircraft at Jackson's Field, Port Moresby. The last remains of the destroyed trucks and the B-24 were still visible as late as 1968. Unfortunately, I am unable to locate the slides that I took at the time and it is possible that these were lost when I finally returned to Australia in 1988. The airport was re-developed in the early 1970s, and all traces of the terrible accident were obliterated.

I would suggest that you contact the 43rd Bomb Group Association in the hope that some members may be able to add further details. The Secretary of the Association is Jim Cherkauer, and his address is 114 Thorncliff Road, Kenmore, NY 14223-1216. Jim's telephone number is 716-875-4346.

If you would like me to delve further into my records, such as General Orders notifying awards, etc., I would appreciate an International Reply Coupon with your reply, to help me with the postage, as I am no longer fully employed, and not quite old enough for a pension!

Kind Regards,

Bruce Hoy

William Bentson, an American who served in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines for four years, during WWII. Today, he lives in Brisbane since 1964 with his Australian wife.

I was in Port Moresby at the time of this crash. It happened at Jackson Air Strip. This was a pre-dawn crash on take-off of B-24's. The B-24 was fully loaded with fuel and bombs. There were 134 Australian troops, of the 2/33rd Australian Infantry Battalion AIF, in trucks, waiting to board the aircraft to fly to Nadzab and the B-24 crashed right into the trucks the men were setting in. 73 men were killed and 91 injured.

The accident and loss of life was so appalling, it was kept secret from the Australian public for morale purposes. Even after the war it was rarely mentioned, the 50th anniversary passing virtually without acknowledgement. I have a clipping from the local newspaper, dated 7 Sept. 1985 and I quote "ROLL OF HONOR, In memory of 72 members of Don Coy 2nd 33rd Aust Infantry B attallion A.I.F. who lost their lives in plane crash, New Guinea, September the 7th, 1943".

The crash virtually wiped out an infantry company -- 60 of the 73 men killed were from the 2/33rd Battalion's D Company. It was the worst loss of the war suffered by the battalion, which had fought in the Middle East, Before campaigning in New Guinea. The sad part of this crash, these men had survived battles in the Middle East and upon returning to Australia, were sent directly to New Guinea. The survivors were simply loaded on the next available plane and flown off to war, and less than two days later they were fighting the Japanese.

I went out to Jackson Air Strip, late that afternoon and even by then the crash site was really a mess. Recovery of the dead and aid to injured went on into the night. I can find no truth in rumors, that the B-24 had been sabotaged.

Michael Claringbould of Aerothentic

Publications comments:

The reconnaissance mission was flown by the 43rd BG, not the 90th BG although the 90th were on the same field at the time. The ship which crashed on take off from Jacksons Drome at 0425 hrs (still dark) was flown by 2/Lt Wood, being B-24D serial # 42-40682. It was assigned to the 403rd BS of the 43rd BG and was named "Pride of the Cornhuskers". The mexican saboteurs rumour is just that. Apart form the fact that firing squad was never used as an execution method by the US Army at the time (hanging was), the cause of the crash was put down to simple disorientation – easy enough in the dark. In 1967 myself and several school friends tried to remove one of the main u/c legs which was still there, but we couldn't budge it as it was too heavy. The crash site was built over by an extended runway circa 1980.

Source: www.pacificwrecks.com/people/veterans/bentson.html

In August {September?} 1943 at around 0300 (3 am), the troops were woken and told to gather their personal clothing etc. into haversacks, gather all equipment including rifles, sub machine guns which were to be packed onto trucks to reach the airfield by dawn. The 25 pounder guns had been dismantled previously, to be flown in other planes.

The 2/4th Field Regiment was to fly to Nadzab. Prior to boarding the DC3 (Biscuit Bombers – troop-carrying aircraft), the convoy was held up at the end of the airstrip. Whilst they were there an American Liberator Squadron (B24) was to fly out and bomb Nadzab in preparation to the 2/4th Field Regiments landing. Several of these B24 bombers flew out, but the last one could not gain altitude and crashed into the trees at the end of the airstrip and exploded. Bombs, fuel and all, just about 100 yards from the 2/4th Field Regiments trucks, and directly above D for "Don " Company 2/33rd Battalion – who were asleep in the bush. As a result of this crash over 100 men died. Not the best way to start their mission.

Source: www.geocities.com/shae2000_au/aboutpa.html

Meanwhile, the 2/33rd. A.G.T. Coy departed from Chermiside Camp on the 2nd. August 1943 bound for Port Moresby with the specific duty of transporting the Infantry Battalions of the 7th. Australian Division from their camps in Pom Pom Valley to Jackson's Airstrip, five (5) miles from Port Moresby, where the Infanteers would board DC 3s Douglas Aircraft to Nadzab from where the Japanese would be driven from the Markham and Ramu Valleys. On the 7th. September 1943, whilst taking off from Jackson's Airstrip an American Liberator Bomber, fully laden with bombs crashed into our convoy of the 2/33rd. A.G.T. Coy with Infanteers aboard, resulting in seventy two (72) killed and wounding Sixty Two (62) which included 4 drivers killed and many drivers wounded.

Source: www.iseekin.com.au/EDHS/Images/Album_1SuppCol/

Account of crash by Richard 'Dixie' Lee:

Dixie returned to the 2/33rd and in 1943 went back to Port Moresby to take part in the Markham and Ramu Valley campaigns. Gloria recalls Dixie telling of his narrow escape at Port Moresby. He was transferred out of D Company shortly before it was devastated when an American bomber, taking off for a mission laden with bombs and fuel, crashed on top of the men while they

were waiting to board transport aircraft to be flown to the forward area. Dixie was one of the team sent in to recover the bodies of the many killed, painfully aware that, but for a twist of fate, he could have been one of those killed or badly injured.

Source: www.dva.gov.au/commem/pngmb/bios/gloria.htm

7 September 1943 Liberator crash kills 59 Australians A liberator crashed on take-off at Port Moresby hitting 5 trucks carrying men of the 2/33rd Battalion. 15 were killed instantly, 44 died of their injuries and 92 were injured but survived.

Source: www.awm.gov.au/atwar/thismonth/sep.htm

Account of crash by Harold Herman:

Approximately 4 or 5 days before my transfer to the 2/5th, a company of the 2/33rd battalion were waiting to be transferred to the north of the island. They were loaded in trucks at night and parked in an holding area to await embarkation on planes early next morning. The army, in its wisdom, had the holding area in line with the airstrip runway. During the night or early morning, an American B25 bomber, fully loaded with gas and bombs, took off from the airstrip and blew up over the loaded trucks, killing a great number and wounding with fire and exploding ammunition virtually the rest. The strain this accident put on the two hospitals can only be imagined.

Source: www.fl.net.au/~hermie/hw/heh4_2.html

7 September 1943 Liberator crash kills 59 Australians A liberator crashed on take-off at Port Moresby hitting 5 trucks carrying men of the 2/33rd Battalion. 15 were killed instantly, 44 died of their injuries and 92 were injured but survived.

Jacksons Field, Port Moresby. I am researching a B-24 crash that my father was involved in 1943 and would like to contact anyone who was stationed at Jacksons Field, Port Moresby, during September 1943. The incident occurred on the 7th September 1943 when a B-24 crashed on take-off from Jacksons and hit a marshalling area where troops were waiting to be flown out to Nadzab. I would like to find out about the crew and aircraft.

Peter Anderson <100232.1345@compuserve.com>
<<mailto:100232.1345@compuserve.com>>>

Brisbane, Qld Australia - Monday, October 27, 1997 at 05:21:29 (CST)

Email From: Harold Herman

To: Kenneth Keisling

January 15, 2003

2:00 PM on Thursday and am relieved to receive your email, as I was a bit apprehensive about the volume of information I sent, and was worried that too much detail could upset you.

Sixty years is a long time to wait, but knowing the detail is better than letting ones own imagination run away.

Spoke to Phil Curry and the casualties were 60 killed, 86 evacuated to hospitals, some of course died of their wounds, but as they were no longer "on strength" with the 2/33 Phil had no records. (There were two hospitals in Port Moresby at that time both with about 1800 beds, the 2/5th in which I was, and the 2/9th which was about 15 miles towards the hills). The "hills" were the start of the Owen Stanley ranges (parts over 10,000 feet) where other units of the Australian forces (both AIF and

Militia) were the first Allied ground troops to beat the Japs.

That campaign was is known as "The Kokoda Trail" and much "Revered" by Australians but at that time the survivors were publicly called "cowards" by MacArthur.

Ken, I would like if you would to send a few words of thanks to Phil, and rather than mail him direct if you send him an email, via me, I will take it to him personally.

One thing I forgot. While reading "THE FOOTSOLDIERS" there are a lot of army abbreviations such as RSM which is "Regimental Sargent Major". Send me a list if you want, and I will fill in the blanks.

Regards, Harold.

Harold's War, my memoirs of WWII, can be found at www.fl.net.au/~hermie

They were issued on the basis of one to a platoon, one for the 3-inch mortar, one for the vickers-gun, and so on. Throughout this campaign they certainly were of great service, saving the carrying of heavy gear and enabling battalions to keep continually on the move. Without them we would have had to wait until stores had been leap-frogged forward. However, they were a headache on plane moves and a nightmare to the 2 i.c.s at all levels down to the platoon sergeants, all of whom had to arrange for the towing. All manner of loading variations were devised and used by the time the campaign ended. Some just carried the platoon stores. 2-inch mortar plus bombs, some .303 and 9 mm ammunition, two picks and shovels, etc. Others would take all bedrolls. Still others would take all Brens. and others again the haversacks. Some preferred to load the carts to the "gunwales" and drag it along even though half the platoon would be on drag-ropes. However, for this campaign, they were indeed a welcome asset. After we left the valley in 1944, we never saw them again.

Campaigning bivouacs were vastly different from what we had been used to in the past. In Australia, each man had been issued with a "tent half-shelter". Two of these put together press-buttoned into a small low silhouette tent about six-foot six-inches long by four-foot wide at the base



April 25, 2003

The day D Company was wiped out

Sixty years on, David MacDougal still finds it difficult to talk about a day in September 1943, when D Company of the 2/33rd Australian Infantry Battalion was virtually wiped out - behind their own lines. Members of a platoon under his command were also among those killed when a US bomber crashed into troops assembled at an airport before heading into battle.

The retired lieutenant-colonel, who lives in Frankston, still carries with him the memory of the US Liberator, fully laden with bombs, crashing into the Australian troops at Jackson's Field in Port Moresby.

On Tuesday, September 7, the battalion was assembling on the airstrip, preparing to fly out to join a campaign aimed at flushing out the Japanese army from the port of Lae and the Ramu Valley.

In the pre-dawn darkness, the young men, many of them teenagers, were in a convoy of trucks brought in to carry transport them to the end of the airstrip. The six vehicles of D Company were among the first group to move.

By this time US airborne operations were under way, the roar of four bombers' resonating as they struggled to take off with their payload of four 500-pound bombs.

The troops became acutely aware of how low the US planes were as they flew over the dispersal area. One of the bombers began spurting flames from its exhausts as it struggled to gain height. Someone yelled, "Christ, it's going to hit us!"

Seconds later the bomber crashed through the treetops into the convoy. A huge fireball erupted as three of the bombs exploded. Burning fuel from the aircraft's ruptured petrol tanks gushed out. The fuselage of the aircraft had cart wheeled into the leading trucks, igniting the ammunition they were carrying.

Colonel MacDougal says that when he arrived at the crash site the carnage shocked him. "The cries of the badly burned and the sight of the battalion's trucks reduced to a blazing mass of molten metal made the situation even more distressing," he says.

As well as their normal issue of ammunition, the troops carried extra hand grenades, mortar bombs and up to 300 rounds of bullets in bandoliers.

The colonel remembers the sickening sight of men whose clothes had caught fire and the exploding ammunition. "The sounds of small arms, grenades and mortar bombs detonating, and the stench of burning flesh will never be forgotten," he says.

Nine members of Colonel MacDougal's platoon were among the dead; the rest were injured.

Sergeant William Crooks had a grandstand view of the tragedy. He was sitting on the tailboard of the last truck in D Company's convoy - which probably saved his life.

In his history of the 2/33rd battalion, *The Footsoldiers' Crooks*, he recalls how a figure appeared out of the flames, covered in burns and naked except for his smouldering boots. In quiet American drawl (he was one of the plane's crew), he asked: "Sir, where shall I go?" He died as he was being placed on a stretcher not five minutes later.

None of the Liberator's crew of 11 survived. Despite the carnage, the airlift went ahead as planned. The troops were flown to Tsili Tsili, where a rollcall revealed: 59 Australians dead, 92 injured, some of whom were to die from their wounds.

Roger de Lisle lectures in journalism at RMIT University.

This story was found at:

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/04/24/1050777358783.html>



This is a map of all the airdromes in New Guinea during World War II; Jackson being the location of the crash that killed Uncle John.

The following is a copy of the daily war diary maintained by the 2/33rd Australian Infantry Battalion for September 7, 1943.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 138
(adapted.)

Unit..... 2/33 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From..... SEPTEMBER To..... 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
PT MORSEBY (PAFUA)	6	0930	Bn. embus for dromes (JACKSONS, WARDS & DURARDS) but owing to unsuitable weather conditions returned to camp.	
	7	0230	Reveille. 0330 hrs Bn commence to move to 'dromes in convoy of three flights. 0430 hrs First flight ready to move from Marshalling yard, a Liberator Bomber taking off from JACKSONS 'drome lost altitude and crashed into rear end of first flight of convoy which contained mostly "D" Coy personnel. FOUR trucks completely burnt, very heavy losses sustained in personnel and equipment. TOTAL CASUALTIES: 16 Killed, 45 Died of Injuries, 83 Evacuated to Hospitals, 2 Treated by Fld Ambulance. Remainder of convoy then proceeded to their various 'dromes and emplaned, landing at TSILI TSILI strip at intervals during forenoon. Total figures of personnel landed at TSILI TSILI were 22 Offrs and 518 ORs.	
NADZAB	8	1500	Bn commenced to be ferried by plane to NADZAB, on arrival pioneer pl. was detached to 2/5 Fd Coy for work on strip and LAE track.	

408 - N.G.F.P.S. - 7/33/10M.

The following pages contain a copy of the Proceedings and Report of Court of Inquiry on the accident which was conducted by Australian Army personnel.

440 K 2/33 B. Sept 43

PROCEEDINGS AND REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY

849
2/33

Assembled by direction of Brig. F. O. CHILTON DSO Comd 18 Aust Inf Bde
concerning accident involving death and injuries to personnel
of 18 Aust Bn on 2/33 and 158 Aust Gen Tpt Coy.

MEMBERS : Capt G. S. REICHENBACH AALG Att 7 Aust Div
Capt R. A. PRIOL HQ 35 Aust Inf Bde
Lieut D. REA HQ 18 Aust Inf Bde

WITNESSES : Capt R. J. S. SEDDON
Cpl F. R. WOOD
Cpl S. J. LOBIE
Cpl K. F. MURPHY
Cpl A. P. O'BRIEN
Lieut C. A. S. HART
Col H. J. HAWTHORNE
Maj K. F. GROZIER
WO 1 M. J. PALMISANO
WO 1 L. PICKERING
Capt G. N. B. PEACH
Pte H. L. DAVIES
Lieut R. F. SULZBACHER
Cpl E. E. VARNEY
Pte M. G. GELDARD
Lieut G. R. REID
Cpl A. F. HARTLEY

M H Photo

57402-06

21 12 43

REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY ON ACCIDENT INVOLVING DEATH AND INJURIES
TO PERSONNEL OF 2/33 AUST INF BN AND 2/33 AND 158 AUST GEN TPT COYS

Description of Accident

1. On the morning of 7 Sep 43 a number of trucks containing personnel of 2/33 Aust Inf Bn were marshalled at 7 Aust Div Marshalling Area for emplaning of tps. Among these were eighteen trucks marked with emplaning serial nos. M132 to M149 incl, containing personnel of 2/33 Aust Inf Bn. The drivers of the trucks were members of 2/33 and 158 Gen Tpt Coys. These trucks were in the area ear-marked for marshalling for DURANDS Aerodrome. Photographs annexed to first copy of these proceedings and marked '1' and '2' give a general idea of this marshalling area. The trucks had been marshalled in this area preparatory to moving to Assembly Area for emplaning on DURANDS arome. The emplaning was part of an operational move by 25 Aust Inf Bde to an operational area.

At approx 0420 hrs on 7 Sep 43 a Liberator Bomber with eleven personnel of US Army Air Force took off from JACKSONS Aerodrome. The Bomber was loaded with four 500 lb bombs and 2800 gallons of petrol. The plane was noticed by several personnel in the Marshalling Area to be flying very low when suddenly the port wing apparently tipped on one of the branches of a tree marked '2' on photo No '3' then hit tree Nos 4 & 5 squarely and crashed. These trees are on the downward slope of a small ridge which is shown on Field Sketch marked '0' and is shown as well in the above photos.

Immediately following the crash 2 loud explosions occurred and parts of the plane flew in all directions.

Several witnesses gave evidence that one of the engines on the Bomber was on fire prior to the crash, but the Court is of the opinion that what they saw was a flame from the super-charger.

Reference to photos which are attached to the first copy of the proceedings and marked '3' to '11' incl will show the parts of the plane scattered in various directions. In addition to this, petrol was sprayed over a large area and extensive fires occurred. Five trucks Nos M145 to M149 incl caught fire and were hit by the flying wreckage

of the aeroplane.

Four of these are also shown in the photos, the remainder, one having been towed away. Personnel in those five trucks were either killed outright or injured. The total number of Australian personnel killed outright was 15. In addition 24 have since died of injuries. 92 were injured and admitted to hospital and present indications are that most of these will recover. In addition all eleven members of the crew of the Liberator were killed. The crash immediately detonated three of the bombs, two distinct explosions taking place and the fourth bomb not exploding. Immediately after the crash and explosion attempts were made to get near the immediate vicinity of the crash to extricate injured and dead but it was impossible to do so owing to the fierce blaze. A number of injured with their clothes and equipment on fire got through the blaze themselves and were given what assistance and first aid that was possible in that area. Capt SEDDON took prompt steps to call medical assistance and ambulances, a large number of both of which was on the spot in a very short time.

All injured were immediately taken either to the 2/5 AGH or the 2/9 AGH with exception of 2 men who were taken to 2/5 Aust Fd Amb and 2 men who were taken to a USA hospital, the latter not being in a fit condition to be moved.

Prompt action was also taken by Capt SEDDON to obtain fire-fighting equipment which was on the scene in a short time.

Ammunition continued to explode and the fierce blaze continued for a period of about one hour, and at the earliest moment, having due regard to considerations of reasonable safety, the remaining bodies all of whom were dead, and the majority of whom were mutilated and charred so as to render recognition impossible, were extricated from the trucks and the area immediately surrounding them and placed in another truck.

All possible steps were taken to find any evidence to enable recognition of the bodies. The best count of bodies, possible under

the circumstances, was made on the spot. Eleven men were extricated early in the morning but it was not possible to extricate a further five owing to the continuance of fires, until later on in the morning. All these bodies were sent to 2/5 AGH and arrangements made by the hospital for an accurate count of the mutilated bodies. All possible attempts were made to gather further information which might lead to the identification of any of the bodies.

IDENTITY OF MEMBERS DEAD, INJURED AND MISSING

The following personnel died as a result of injuries received :-

<u>No</u>	<u>Rnk</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>				
NX 89776	Pte	GAMBRILL	A.W.	2/33	Aust	Inf	Sn
QX38350	"	NIXON	J.A.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 18491	"	WORKMAN	R.J.	2/33	"	"	"
QX 34862	"	SHIELDS	R.A.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 113110	"	McFADZEAN	R.E.	2/33	"	"	"
SX 18977	"	SWIFT	D.V.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 80414	"	HINWOOD	H	2/33	"	"	"
VX 77454	"	WILSON	E	2/33	"	"	"
NX 97042	"	SMITH	W	2/33	"	"	"
NX 141881	"	SMITH	O.H.B.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 32179	"	COOK	L.J.	2/33	"	"	"
DX 21	"	MAGRILL	J.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 36851	"	HICKEY	J.T.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 39846	"	SMALLEY	E.J.	2/33	"	"	"
N 199319	Dr	KEARLINES	V.W.	158	Aust	Gen	Tpt
NX 80187	Pte	DEVENPORT	R.L.	2/33	Aust	Inf	Sn
NX 50334	"	STANTON	B	2/33	"	"	"
NX 95056	"	MYERS	A.C.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 37168	A/Opl	KEYS	M.V.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 68750	Pte	ROBERTS	P	2/33	"	"	"
SX 17755	L/Opl	LEWIS	F.W.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 81888	Pte	RICE	H.J.	2/33	"	"	"
QX 7355	"	McGROW	J	2/33	"	"	"
VX 122632	"	McLEOD	O.K.	2/33	"	"	"
NX58770	"	HUGHES	E.L.S.	2/33	"	"	"
VX8615	Opl	SNOW	S.A.	2/33	"	"	"
NX15257	A/Opl	WESTON	W.F.	2/33	"	"	"
N 256189	Dr	TARANTO	J.V.	158	Aust	Gen	Tpt
SX 18057	Pte	MILDWATERS	C.J.	2/33	Aust	Inf	Sn
SX 17640	Pte	MILLER	K.A.G.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 8932	L/Opl	PEARSON	R.W.M.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 91436	Pte	McGARVEY	M	2/33	"	"	"
NX97747	L/Opl	HARD	R	2/33	"	"	"
NX 46658	Pte	O'REGAN	F.T.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 96055	"	PRESTON	H.R.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 90974	"	RICHARDSON	J.R.	2/33	"	"	"
SX 2149	"	BREKWEILL	A.L.	2/33	"	"	"
DX 116	"	STEW	A.W.	2/33	"	"	"
SX 28936	"	HARVEY	D.J.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 80121	"	BRESSINGTON	F.R.	2/33	"	"	"
VX 78975	"	BIRD	R.F.	2/33	"	"	"
QX 1585	WO 11	REINKE	J.R.	2/33	"	"	"
QX32523	Pte	McGREGOR	D	2/33	"	"	"
QX 3854	"	SMITH	F.R.	2/33	"	"	"
SX 18963	O"	LONG	A.C.	2/33	"	"	"
NX 37094	"	THOMPSON X	J.C.	2/33	"	"	"

X The Court has been informed since the taking of evidence that
 NX37094 Pte THOMPSON J.C. has died.

The following personnel, all of whom were on the scene of the accident at the time in question are missing :-

<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Unit</u>
V ⁴ 11997	Capt	FERGUSON	J. B.	2/53 Aust Inf Bn
WX13761	Pte	WARD	C. L.	2/53 " " "
SX17902	"	DONALD	R	2/53 " " "
MX95991	"	McDONALD	G	2/53 " " "
SX27897	"	REID	R. M.	2/53 " " "
MX50797	"	SPEAR	J. J.	2/53 " " "
MX2755	"	DARLING	A. W.	2/53 " " "
MX97110	"	WHITTLE	L. H.	2/53 " " "
MX88068	"	QUINN	J. D.	2/53 " " "
QX5124	"	SIMONS	G. C.	2/53 " " "
VX87009	"	FIELDER	G. W.	2/53 " " "
MX147055	"	WEBSTER	C. J.	2/53 " " "
MX37382	"	SLADE	B. H.	2/53 " " "

The following personnel, in addition to those who died, were injured as a result of the accident :-

MX5067	Cpl	ROSE	H. J.	2/53 Aust Inf Bn
QX8525	Pte	BARTS	G. S.	2/53 " " "
MX54083	Sgt	MACKAY	W. W.	2/53 " " "
MX137997	Pte	VILLA	C	2/53 " " "
VZ90997	Pte	ROBINSON	H. D.	2/53 " " "
MX33021	L/Cpl	STEELE	A. A.	2/53 " " "
MX52095	Cpl	PRICE	E. A.	2/53 " " "
MX2346042	Pte	MORAN	H. B.	2/53 " " "
MX51802	"	CAFE	E. W. K.	2/53 " " "
MX99208	"	DANIEL	M. B.	2/53 " " "
SX11227	Lieut	BUTTCHE	L. K.	2/53 " " "
QX54036	Pte	SMITH	G. W.	2/53 " " "
MX45423	"	WENHAM	S. G.	2/53 " " "
MX3281	"	FOGOK	A. F.	2/53 " " "
MX54090	Lieut	McTAGGART	F. M.	2/53 " " "
MX12925	Capt	MITCHELL	D. A.	2/53 " " "
MX28925	Lieut	SADGROVE	H. C.	2/53 " " "
QX3875	Pte 2	CONDON	J.	2/53 " " "
MX3255 z	Pte	WHITNEY	P. W.	2/53 " " "
VX90771	"	CLARKE	C. J.	2/53 " " "
MX79625	"	PRESTON	J.	2/53 " " "
QX4607	Sgt	CLEARY	G. H.	2/53 " " "
MX169474	Pte	McCROCK	A. G. E.	2/53 " " "
MX96806	Pte	HANCOCK	D. A.	2/53 " " "
MX99182	"	McGHEE	G	2/53 " " "
MX96396	Cpl	TURBUNL	D. A.	2/53 " " "
SX3002	Pte	BURSTAN	B	2/53 " " "
MX85178	"	STUBBS	W. J.	2/53 " " "
MX97234	"	BURNETT	G. R.	2/53 " " "
MX26758	"	WHITE	K. J.	2/53 " " "
QX33214	"	TIDBURY	A. L.	2/53 " " "
MX91676	"	WATSON	D. L.	2/53 " " "
MX97021	"	OBERS	P. T.	2/53 " " "
MX96759	"	WRIGHT	W. G.	2/53 " " "
MX98150	"	EVANS	P. T.	2/53 " " "
MX43723	"	JOHNSTON	H. T.	2/53 " " "
MX86167	"	BYRNES	C. J.	2/53 " " "
MX97625	"	SHADE	T	2/53 " " "
QX36625	"	MILLAS	E	2/53 " " "
SX17465	"	HILLS	R. H.	2/53 " " "
MX52152	"	BUCKELL	N. A.	2/53 " " "
MX86125	"	TUMETH	P. G.	2/53 " " "
MX19221	"	FERNDEY	H. L.	2/53 Aust Gen Tpt
VX80717	"	MARSHALL	D. J.	2/53 Aust Inf Bn

<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>
NX92691	Pte	FURNANCE	A 2/33 Aust Inf Bn
VX109882	"	DURIE	F.L. 2/33 " " "
NX3005	"	SHALLBROGS	J 2/33 " " "
NX37526	Opl	DRANE	A.E.A. 2/33 " " "
NX146015	Pte	HARLEY	W.S. 2/33 " " "
NX97206	"	TRIPP	J.C. 2/33 " " "
NX81163	"	COLLINS	M.W. 2/33 " " "
QX5154	"	HOETON	M.F. 2/33 " " "
SX18075	"	HALFORD	W 2/33 " " "
NX89628	"	BYRON	J.D. 2/33 " " "
NX33644	"	FEWINGS	E.R. 2/33 " " "
NX100776	"	GARNON	F 2/33 " " "
VX125069	"	LILLEY	W.J. 2/33 " " "
QX38693	"	GARRETT	A 2/33 " " "
NX37325	"	GRAFFORD	N.H. 2/33 " " "
SX17638	"	LITHGOW	W.L. 2/33 " " "
NX99084	"	RALSTON	R.F. 2/33 " " "
VX113123	"	GALLANDER	D.A. 2/33 " " "
NX40827	Opl	HAMILTON	H 2/33 " " "
SX1616	Pte	MUNRO	A.R. 2/33 " " "
VX91283	"	DONOHUE	H 2/33 " " "
NX92130	"	ALEXANDER	W.T. 2/33 " " "
QX24856	L/Opl	LEWIS	N.E. 2/33 " " "
SX18013	Pte	LING	J.N. 2/33 " " "
NX32267	"	TURNBULL	L.W. 2/33 " " "
QX38521	"	MORGAN	M 2/33 " " "
NX150539	Dr	DONOVAN	E.R. 158 Aust Gen Tpt
QX2252	Opl	TINNING	W 2/33 Aust Inf Bn
QX29674	Pte	JOSEPH	J.W.A. 2/33 " " "
NX44673	"	MacMURRAY	G.F. 2/33 " " "
VX124806	"	McDERMOTT	J 2/33 " " "
QX29660	"	STUTZ	E.J. 2/33 " " "
NX44040	"	WARING	A.H. 2/33 " " "
NX55437	"	MUSGRAVE	W.A. 2/33 " " "
NX55295	"	ELLIS	F.C. 2/33 " " "
QX38173	"	SWAYN	F.C. 2/33 " " "
NX41651	"	GORMAN	G.H. 2/33 " " "
VX2929	Sgt	BECK	J.T. 2/33 " " "
NX3104	"	CROOKS	W 2/33 " " "
NX45067	A/Opl	LAING	J.J. 2/33 " " "
SX2307	S/Sgt	HENSCHKE	K.A. 2/33 " " "
NX26936	Pte	GILWEY	A 2/33 " " "
NX122155	"	BULL	C.R. 2/33 " " "
N256180	Dr	SILKMAN	J.A. 158 Aust Gen Tpt
NX97019	Pte	BAILEY	W.E. 2/33 Aust Inf Bn
NX20932	"	TINSON	C.J. 2/33 " " "
NX29529	"	LAWSON	F.P. 2/33 " " "
NX56916	Dr	SMALL	S.J. 2/33 Aust Gen Tpt

Of these NX55916 Dr. SMALL S.J. of 2/33 Aust Gen Tpt Coy, was injured at 1015 hrs on 7 Sep 43 as the result of a further explosion of ammunition.

AAF D Lls are attached for all dead and injured.

The Court is of the opinion, after reviewing the evidence and considering the circumstances, that all these members shown as missing have been buried but not identified. The Court is also of the opinion that the above contains full particulars of all casualties.

As to the missing personnel the Court makes the following comments

In connection with three members shown in the list of deaths :-

(a) NX39846 Pte SMALLEY E.J. of 2/33 Aust Inf Bn, was identified at 2/5 AGH and his body was tagged with his number, name and unit, but apparently the tag disappeared during transit and his body was buried as unidentified. Pte SMALLEY died at 2/5 AGH on 7 Sep 43 as a result of injuries.

(b) SX17640 PTE MILLER K.A.G. of 2/33 Aust Inf Bn was one of the sixteen bodies taken to 2/5 AGH as unidentified but was subsequently identified at 2/5 AGH from his regimental number remaining on the remnants of a gaiter on one of his legs.

(c) M256189 Dr. TARANTO J.V. of 158 Aust Gen Tpt Coy was subsequently identified by Maj. GROZIER. He was one of the sixteen bodies taken to the hospital as unidentified.

(d) The Court is of the opinion that one of the sixteen bodies taken to 2/5 AGH as unidentified was that of a member of the American Air Crew. Only ten men were positively identified by the Americans, and after considering the evidence of Lieut SULZBACHER of US Army, the Court is of the opinion that only unidentifiable fragments of limbs were taken by the Americans to make up the eleventh member of the crew. While Lieut SULZBACHER did not positively give evidence to this effect, only small fragments of limbs were taken to represent the eleventh body, and the Court is of the opinion that this is a reasonable conclusion to arrive at, having regard to all the facts and particularly that the number tallies with that of personnel missing from their units. A careful check has been made of all units likely to have ^{had} any personnel in the Marshalling Area at the relevant time.

Cause of Death etc.

The principal causes of death were shock and burns. The principal injuries were shock and burns, and wounds caused by flying fragments. All deaths and injuries were caused, either directly or indirectly, as the result of the aeroplane crash.

All members, killed, injured and missing were on duty. Members of the Gen Tpt Coy were on duty driving trucks containing personnel

preparatory to emplaning. All other personnel, dead, injured or missing were on duty preparatory to their emplaning to proceed to an operational area.

The Court is of the opinion that there was no neglect, misconduct, carelessness or failure to observe any act, regulation, order or instruction on the part of any of the members dead, missing or injured, or on the part of any other person or persons.

N99319 Dr KEARINGS V.W. and N256180 Dr. SILKMAN J.A. were employed on active service in New Guinea and were called up for continuous full time service. All other members dead, missing or injured were enlisted for full time service outside Australia.

Trucks

AAF G 4s marked exhibits 'A' to 'E' incl give particulars of damage to the trucks referred to therein. The cause of the damage to the trucks was the aeroplane crash.

General

The Court gave careful consideration to the choice of the site of the Marshalling Area and made an extensive reconnaissance of other areas which might have been considered suitable as a site for the Marshalling Area. The Court inspected other sites which had been considered by Capt SEDDON and other officers before the area in question was chosen. In the Court's opinion the only areas inspected which might have been more suitable as a Marshalling Area were either already in occupation of troops, or were being used as dumps which had already been well established. Having regard to the numerous considerations which had to be borne in mind in the choice of such an area, the Court is of the opinion, looking at the matter in retrospect, and being wise after the event in the light of the accident, that the only drawback to the area chosen, is that it is in the direct line of flight of aircraft taking off from JACKSONS drome. The Court is, however, of the opinion that this fact could not reasonably be expected to be taken into consideration in the light of other factors.

Firstly very large numbers of aeroplanes take off daily from the above
drome without mishap. Secondly the marshalling area is approximately
half a mile from the extreme end of the runway. Thirdly, the area
is approximately 25 feet lower than the edge of the runway. Photo
No.12 shows the view from the end of the runway looking toward the
Marshalling Area.

The Court endeavoured to obtain some explanation as to the cause of the
crash but is of the opinion that it will ^{remain} always a mystery. There is,
however, evidence that it was unlikely to be the result of engine
failure. The pilot had considerable experience and there is no
evidence of any neglect on his part.

At the time of the crash there was not the slightest degree of panic
and everyone who was able to do so did what they could to assist the
injured. Considerable presence of mind and initiative on the part
of the members present no doubt contributed largely to minimising
injuries and saving lives.

.....PRESIDENT

.....) MEMBERS

.....)

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- CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
- SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This chapter provides a chronology of events and supporting documents beginning with John's enlistment.

JUNE, 1942

Clipping from the local Scranton, Pennsylvania newspaper with information about the whereabouts of the local enlisted men. I have been struck with the timeliness of the newspaper articles which appears to indicate that the military was efficient in its communication to the general public.

It is unclear why some of the names are underlined.

10 From Here Enroll At Army Air School

Ten youths from this region are enrolled in the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command School at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss.

They are: Edward M. Gal-
lagher, Clarks Summit; Anthony
S. Homitz, Dickson City; Charles
A. Zelonis, Honesdale; John
Hrywnak, Moscow; William
Hudik, Michael Prystash and
Joseph A. Cheplick, all of Oly-
phant; Harrison N. Thomas and
Gaeton A. Intoccia, both of
Scranton, and Robert G. Kirby,
West Pittston.

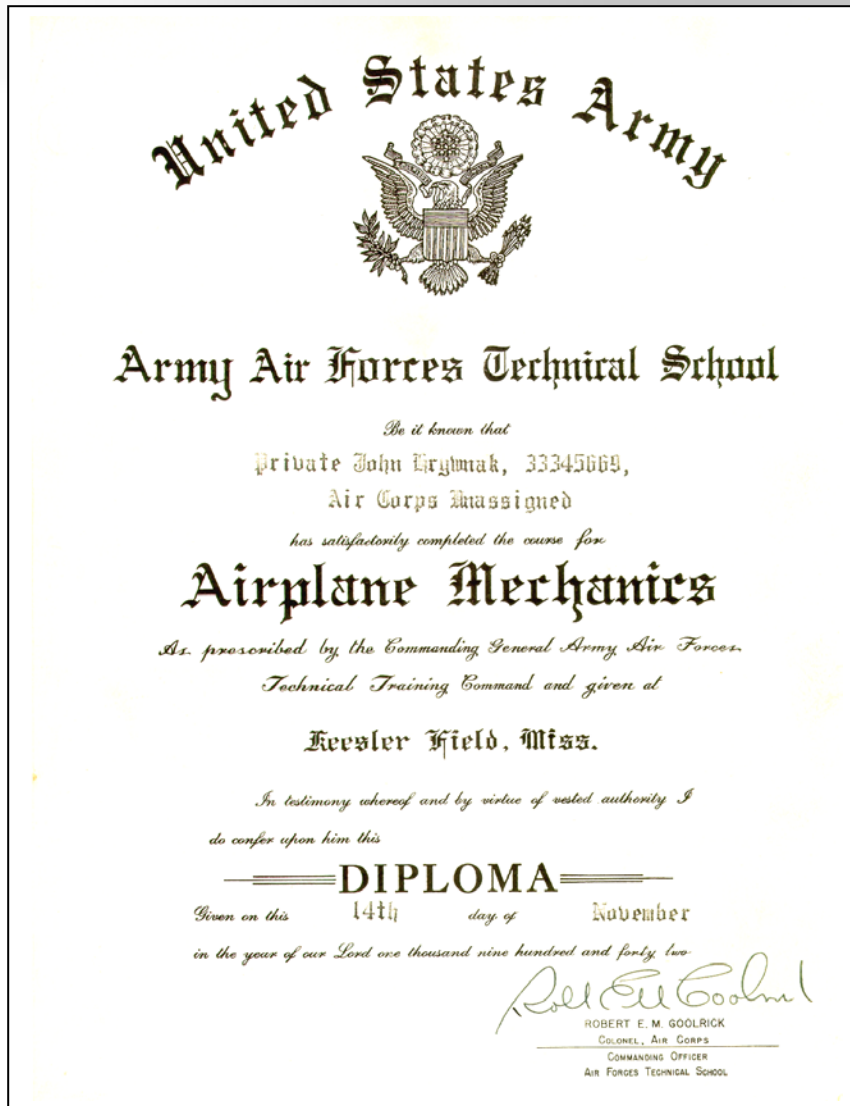
AUGUST 20, 1942

Three Grade cards for courses taken while at Army Air Forces Technical School at Kessler Field.
A.M. stands for Aviation Mechanics.

NAME <u>HRYWRAK John</u>	EXAMINATION GRADE <u>89</u>	DATE <u>8/20/42</u>
COURSE <u>A.M.</u>	PRACTICAL GRADE <u>90</u>	CLASS NO. <u>2-B-10</u>
SUBJECT <u>Hydraulics</u>	FINAL GRADE <u>90</u>	INSTRUCTOR <u>MR. V.L. DOUGHERTY</u>
NAME <u>HRywRAK John</u>	<u>A4C-5</u> EXAMINATION GRADE <u>91</u>	DATE <u>9-1-42</u> <u>321</u>
COURSE <u>A.M.</u>	PRACTICAL GRADE <u>85</u>	CLASS NO. <u>2-B-10</u>
SUBJECT <u>A-4</u>	FINAL GRADE <u>87</u>	INSTRUCTOR <u>MR. PORIEZKY</u>
NAME <u>HRywRAK John</u>	EXAMINATION GRADE <u>83</u>	DATE <u>9/12/42</u> <u>318</u>
COURSE <u>A.M.</u>	PRACTICAL GRADE <u>80</u>	CLASS NO. <u>2-B-10</u>
SUBJECT <u>INSTRUMENTS</u>	FINAL GRADE <u>81</u>	INSTRUCTOR <u>S/SGT. BROCIOS</u>

NOVEMBER 14, 1942

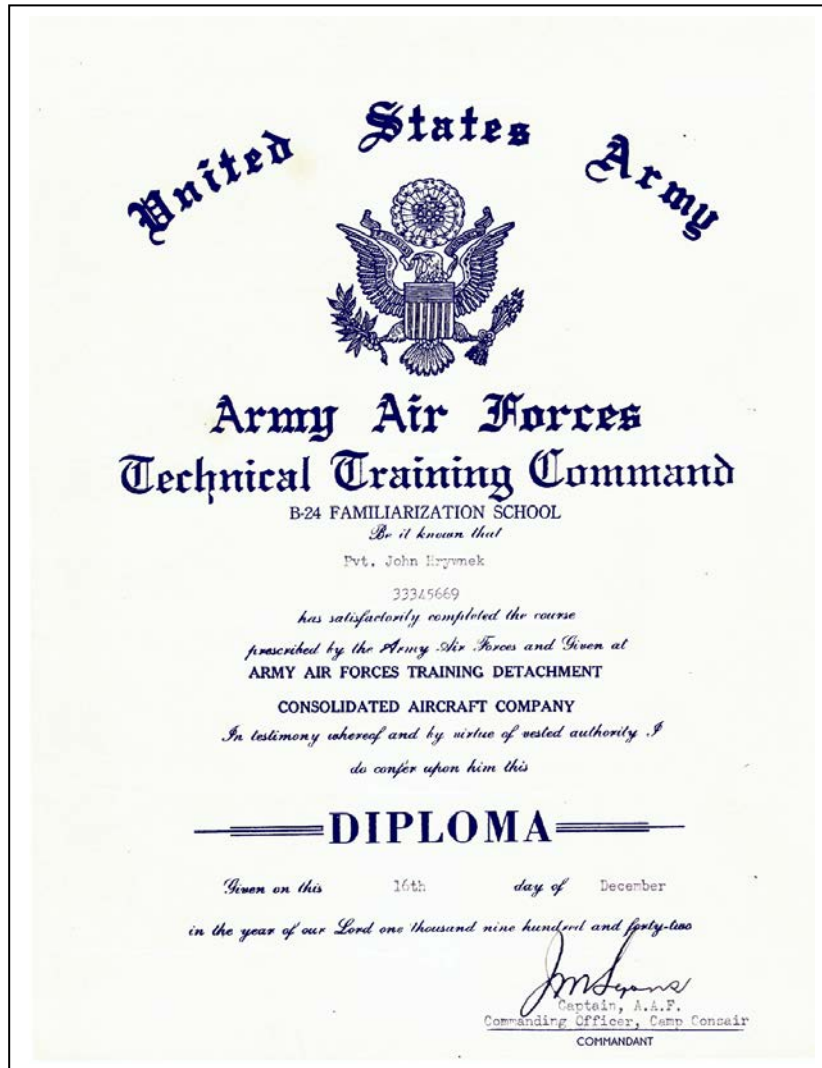
412 T.S.S. FL-D BK-2
Air Corps Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi



Diploma indicating
John completed a
course in Aviation
Mechanics

DECEMBER 6, 1942

412 T.S.S. FL-D BK-2
Air Corps Technical School
Keesler Field, Mississippi



Diploma indicating John
completed B-24
Familiarization School

JANUARY 23 1943

HEADQUARTERS
HARLINGEN ARMY GUNNERY SCHOOL
HARLINGEN, TEXAS

SPECIAL ORDERS)

January 23, 1943

NUMBER 20)

* * E X T R A C T * *

1. The fol-named EM, AAF, unasgd, atchd (Cl B) to 476th Flexible Gmry Tng Sq, having graduated this date fr Aerial Gmry Sch, are promoted to temp grades indicated: (Auth: AR 615-5, as amended; Ltr, Hq, AAF, Wash, D.C., Sub: "Ratings of Enlisted Graduates of the Army Air Forces Aerial Gunnery Schools", dd 7-20-42).

TO BE STAFF SERGEANTS

Pvt ADAMS, Johnnie U.	14124342	Pvt ANDREWS, Robert C.	33249400
Pvt ARKIN, Sam (nmi)	32450068	Pvt BAKER, Paschall W.	18154656
Pvt BALENTINE, William C.	34129005	Pvt BATES, George R.	33235992
Pvt BERG, Paul G.	32383410	Pvt BISHOP, Clyde D.	34128846
Pvt BOLT, Elbert R.	35354064	Pvt BUZARD, John S.	32378523
Pvt CAREY, George W.	39095525	Pvt CHAREST, Hervin R.	31110587
Pvt CHIAPARI, Frank (nmi)	32444759	Pvt CLAMARRA, Nicholas D.	32393571
Pvt CICERALE, Saverio A.	32445980	Pvt CONTO, Albert G.	32445893
Pvt COOK, Burnell A.	33201711	Pvt CRANCH, William E.	32442044
Pvt CRAWFORD, Henry J.	33344017	Pvt CUTLER, David L.	15102354
Pvt DACHOWSKI, Emil J.	31440025	Pvt DALTON, John J.	12126323
Pvt D'ARCY, Charles E.	11072523	Pvt DAVIS, Charles W., Jr.	34128898
Pvt DUMAL, Jack (nmi)	32446121	Pvt ERICKSON, Bertil B.	33248286
Pvt ESPOSITO, Gennarino M.	32076163	Pvt EVENSON, Jerome A.	36253337
Pvt FARNER, DelWayne N.	16108301	Pvt FONG, Thomas (nmi)	12124529
Pvt FORD, Edward H.	32078090	Pvt GAGNON, Louis H.	31150086
Pvt GALLAGHER, John R.	33284532	Pvt GEISLER, Delcie E.	37373410
Pvt GOTTSCHLING, John C.	15102115	Pvt GREENNELL, Robert L.	32380739
Pvt GRIME, Gene C.	19087003	Pvt GROVES, Charles W.	13089133
Pvt GRUBBS, Ralph R., Jr.	14074463	Pvt HANBERRY, Charles L.	34276728
Pvt HARMON, Virgil R.	38174105	Pvt HASSING, Hilbert H.	35309147
Pvt HATCHER, W. R., Jr.	38172903	Pvt HAYWOOD, Arthur W.	35432454
Pvt HENDERSON, Jack (nmi)	15116154	Pvt HESKETH, James G.	15104569
Pvt HESSLER, Herman H.	35455746	Pvt HOMITZ, Anthony S.	33345637
Pvt HEYENAK, John (nmi)	33345669	Pvt HUBBARD, John T.	34279839
Pvt HUDGINS, Joel R.	38140082	Pvt HULBERT, Dudley K.	32446895
Pvt HUMPHRIES, Bill H.	38173065	Pvt JENNINGS, Howard C.	15080081
Pvt JONES, James A.	18106592	Pvt JONES, Roger M.	15072980
Pvt KALIE, Thomas V.	13086120	Pvt KELLEY, Fred C.	34331551
Pvt KHOURY, Michael (nmi)	38185695	Pvt KIRBY, Robert G.	13081567
Pvt KROMER, Edward E.	13080992	Pfc KUHN, Harold E.	12016263
Pvt LASKER, Francis (nmi)	12092713	Pvt LEARY, Truman C.	33316648
Pvt LEWFIELD, Rex E.	16085142	Pvt LINDSAY, Borden H.	31157559
Pvt LOER, Charles R.	15102848	Pvt MAHOLICK, Peter S.	33345196
Pvt MARTIN, Russell E.	35481015	Pvt McMILLIN, Arthur G.	31138224

Par 1, SO #20, Hq, HAGS, Harlingen, Texas, 1-23-43 (Continued)

TO BE STAFF SERGEANTS (Cont'd)

Pvt McMINIS, Lester E.	34307188	Pvt MILLER, Edwin P.	39847844
Pvt MILLER, Palmer D.	33232928	Pvt MOREY, Thomas J.	32142484
Pvt MULCAHY, William T.	39391717	Pvt NELSON, Oscar A.	37294490
Pvt NORRELL, James T.	34350544	Pvt OAKES, John T.	34118768
Pvt OWENS, Barton W.	14121573	Pvt PARK, Gordon L.	31095576
Pvt PARKER, James M.	34331429	Pvt FERROTTA, Mike A.	33273603
Pvt PLANT, Albert (nmi)	11072445	Pvt PRYOR, Virgil F.	15102571
Sgt REGAN, James A.	6847799	Pvt RUBIN, Louis A.	34351390
Pvt RUFFINO, Louis J.	31143793	Pvt SCHOENBERGER, Nicholas D.	35406951
Pvt ST. JEOR, Raymond L.	39830713	Pvt STIBBENS, Carl T.	6284944
Pvt STONEY, Richard I.	11087846	Pvt TRUDELL, Harold C.	37449864
Pvt TERRY, George V.	18134444	Pvt BARTO, Louis F.	17054634
Pvt DEOKER, Robert G.	32284476		

TO BE SERGEANTS

Cpl FLEMING, Gilbert J.	39234915	Pvt FRANK, Charles E.	17042063
Pvt LOEHR, Frank B.	19013166	Pvt TAYLOR, Bradley J.	36221815
Pvt TRIMBLE, Richard G.	37429585	Pvt KINSEY, Charles F.	13152084
Pvt MOODY, Robert L.	39260622	Pvt BUDSBALOWSKI, Eugene S.	16127725
Pvt JESSEN, Robert (nmi)	36180934	Pvt PRESTON, Robert R.	17061007
Pvt De HOFF, LeeRoy V.	37224446		

By order of Colonel MORGAN:

M. E. RABEDEAU
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

M. E. Rabedeau
M. E. RABEDEAU
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

Note: Six months after enlisting,
John was promoted to Staff Sergeant

JANUARY 23 1943

TURRET OPERATOR'S QUALIFICATION CARD

Gunner's Name HRYWNAK, J. Rank S/Sgt ASN 33345669

Graduated from Harlingen Gunnery School Date 1/23/43

This Gunner is qualified to operate the following turrets: _____
B-24D Turrets

Best qualified to operate: _____ Martin

Remarks: _____ B. M. McClain
B. M. McClain W. O. (jg)
Ass't Armament Officer

Card issued by 39th Bombardment Group, Davis-Monthan Field
Date: 3/30/43

02 Bomb. Sq. Davis-Monthan Fd. Tucson, Arizona

Today, John graduated from Harlinger Gunnery School that was located in Texas.

FEBRUARY 22, 1943

The management of the *Coconut Grove*
cordially invites you to attend our
11th Annual Birthday Dance
to be held MON. FEBRUARY 22nd, 1943

This Ticket Will Admit You Free of Charge

APRIL 2, 1943

IMMUNIZATION REGISTER

Last Name	First Name	ASN
Hrywnak, John		33345669

SMALLPOX VACCINE

Date	Type of Reaction	Med O
7/9/42	Complete	

TETANUS TOXOID

Series	Dates of Administration			MO
	1st Dose	2nd Dose	3d Dose	
1st	7/26/42	Complete		
2nd				
3rd				

TETANUS TOXOID

	Initial Vacc		Stimulating Dose	
	Date	Med O	Date	Med O
1st dose			MAR 22 1943	
2nd dose				
3rd dose	8/14/42	Complete		

YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

Date	Lot No.	Amount	Med O
MAR 4 1943			

OTHER VACCINES

Type of Vac	Date	Mo 1943	No. 1943	Med O
Typhus	MAR 4 1943	MAR 8 1943	MAR 12 1943	
Cholera	MAR 30 1943	APR 2 1943		
BLOOD TYPE	O	DATE		

Date John received his last immunization shot for cholera, having previously been given shots for smallpox, typhoid, tetanus and yellow fever.

APRIL 19, 1943

Affidavit

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania }
County of Lackawanna } ss.



Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, B.J. Biesecker
a Justice of the Peace of the said County, Katrin Hrywnak
who being duly sworn according to law, doth depose and say,

That she is a widow, and owns a farm containing 109 acres, situate in the Township of Springbrook, Lackawanna Co, Pa, and that she lives on same, and has three Sons in the U S Army,, and that she hereby requests that one of them, Harold Hrywnak, be released from said Army Service, so he can return to and help her operate said farm, as it is impossible for her to do so with out help, and that she thinks that he would be of greater service to his Country, working on the farm and raising food to help feed the Army than where he is, because if the farms are not operated, there may be a shortage in food

Grandma was a widow with three of her four sons in the Army. This was an attempt by her to have Harold discharged from the Army to help her manage the farm. This request was not granted.

and further Deponent saith not.

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 19th day of April
A. D. 19 43

Katrin Hrywnak

B. J. Biesecker
My Commission Expires *at 11 am in Jan 1944*
Marion Pa

MAY 4, 1943

103 SPECIAL MESS *S/Sgt*
John Wujunak
Combat Crew *S-4*

NAME, RANK, ORG.


THIS entitles the above
named person to eat the ~~XIXIX~~
meal at Consolidated Mess.

Robertson 2nd Lt A C
MESS OFFICER

I believe John was at Biggs Field in El Paso, Texas at this time.

MAY 22, 1943

ARMY AIR FORCES
Pilot and Crew Member
Physical Record Card


 ARMY AIR FORCES
 Pilot and Crew Member
 Physical Record Card

NAME: HEYWNAK, JOHN
 ARMY SERIAL NO.: 5/975.33345669
 SIGNATURE: [Signature]

A.A.F. Form No. 209
Approved January 19, 1943

INSTRUCTIONS

- This card will be carried along with Identification Card AGO Form No. 65-1 by all crew officers on flying status and all combat crew members of tactical units.
- Record will be initiated by the Flight Surgeon, the pertinent data entered thereon, and each entry initialed.
- Card will be submitted to Flight Surgeon or Operation Officer for inspection upon request.
- New card will be prepared by Flight Surgeon when indicated or required.
- This form is for use in the Army Air Forces to supplement AGO Form No. 64 and MII Form No. 61.

A.A.F. Form No. 209
Approved January 19, 1943

This indicates that on this date John was physically qualified to fly above 30,000 feet.

Biggs Army Air Field was located in El Paso, Texas. When World War II began it was expanded by a \$10 million construction program. In the summer of 1942, it became headquarters of the Twentieth Bomber Command and the Sixteenth Bombardment Operation Training Wing: B-17, B-24 and B-29 crews trained there.

EXAMINATIONS FOR FLYING	Examinations	Class	Date	Signature of Flight Surgeon	Station	Remarks
	Qualified for flying			4/17/43	<u>[Signature]</u>	Biggs Fld.
Qualified for flying						
Qualified for flying						
Qualified for flying						
WAIVERS:						
INOCULATIONS AND VACCINATIONS	DATES			REACTIONS	INITIALS OF MEDICAL OFFICER	
	First	Second	Third			
Smallpox	7/9/42			Immune	J.R.	
Triple typhoid	Comp. 7/26/42				J.R.	
Cholera	Comp. 4/3/43				J.R.	
Antitetanus	3/22/43				J.R.	
Yellow fever	3/4/43				J.R.	
Typhus	Comp. 3/12/43				J.R.	
Plague	B.T. #0#				J.R.	

John Heywnak 33345669

16-32808-1

MAY 8, 1943

Today, John was given an eight hour pass to be absent from duty.

12th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON OPERATIONS
PASS PERMITS BEARER TO BE ABSENT FROM DUTY

Issued 1500, 5/8/43
(Time) (Date)

S/lt John Hrynak
(Rank) (Name) 33345669
(A. S. N.)

FROM (Time) 1500 (Date) 5/8/43
TO (Time) 2400 (Date) 5/8/43

Charles C. Haltom (Flight Commander)
William M. Bourden (Commanding Officer) celt

(Operations Officer)

JUNE 22, 1943

John authorized a \$50.00 per month allotment of his pay to be made to his mother beginning on July 1, 1943, two months before his death. Why now, Was it because he was going over seas? Was it because he was making more money as a SST and could afford to do it?

Send original direct to Allotment Division, Building X, 19th and B Streets, NE, Washington, D. C.

AUTHORIZATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF PAY

(See AR 35-5520)

Hrywnak John (NMI) 33345669 S/S-t Air Corps
 (Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Army serial number) (Grade) (Company, regiment, or arm or service)

The *~~officer~~ {enlisted man} named above hereby authorizes a Class E (Type of allotment)

allotment of his pay in the amount of \$ 50.00 per month for FTS months commencing July 1, 1943, and expiring Ind, 19

() premiums deducted from pay for month of , 19

to Mrs. Katherine (NMI) Hrywnak (Applicable to Class N insurance only (sec. IV, Cir. No. 100, W. D., 1942))
 (Name of allottee) (Number and street or rural route) (City, town, or post office) (State)

or to
 (Name of alternate allottee) (Number and street or rural route) (City, town, or post office) (State)

Date of enlistment June 6, 1943 When other than "Finance Service, Army" is affected, state allotment chargeable Relationship of allottee Mother
 (Applicable to individual allottees only)

If allotment is in favor of a bank, the following is required to be stated: Deposit should be made to the credit of—
 (Name) (Relationship)

(Statement below not applicable to Government insurance)

I hereby state that the purpose for which this allotment is granted is solely for the support of wife, child, or dependent relatives; or if made for the payment of life insurance premiums, the insurance (including endowments and/or twenty (or other) payment policies) is on the life of the allottee only; that the insurance constitutes the major and not a merely incidental or collateral element of the transaction; and that the allotment is made in favor of the insurance company issuing the policy and not in favor of a bank or other agent.

Place A B, Herington, Kansas (Signature of allotter)

Entered on service record June 12, 1943 (Date) June 22, 1943 (Date)

* Strike out words not applicable.

(Signature of commanding officer or personnel officer, with grade and organization)

WHERE APPLICABLE TO CLASS D OR CLASS N INSURANCE, THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THIS FORM WILL BE SENT TO THE ALLOTMENT DIVISION, BUILDING X, 19TH AND B STREETS, NE., WASHINGTON, D. C. NO COPIES WILL BE SENT TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON, D. C., WITH THE APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE.

JULY 1, 1943

OFFICE OF THE FLIGHT SURGEON
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

DATE 7-1-43

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

This is to certify that

~~HERMAN~~ JOHN MMI S/SGT

A.S.N. 33345669,

in accordance with AR 40-100, par. 11, AR 615-250, par. 5, and WD Cir. No. 85, was physically inspected this date at 1400 o'clock and found to be free from communicable or infectious diseases. This (~~ORXXXX~~) (Enlisted Man) is physically qualified for overseas duty and his immunization record is satisfactorily complete.

Additional Requirements:


C. M. E. GENS.

1st. Lieut. Med. Corps,
Avn. Med. Examiner.

NOTE: This Certificate is to accompany your Immunization Record, M.D. Form 81.

Certification that John was free of communicable or infectious diseases and thus qualified for overseas duty.

Hamilton Field California is North of San Francisco by San Rafael

AUGUST 23 1943

Form No. 82
WAR DEPARTMENT
AIR CORPS
(Revised May 9, 1941)

STORES CREDIT

VOUCHER NO. _____
PROPERTY CLASS 23
WORK ORDER NO. _____
ACCOUNT SYMBOL _____

STATION 290729
ORGANIZATION 403rd DATE 8-23-43

QUANTITY	UNIT	STOCK NO.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
1	ea			Low Voltage Flying Electric Type E-1 Light 150		
1	pc			Low Voltage Flying Electric Type D-9 - Size Large		
1	ea			Wash Charger Type A-10		
1	pc			Boots Winter Flying Type D-1		

COST DATA ABSTRACTED BY _____ RECEIVED BY Carl A. Eberle
ENTERED ON STOCK CARDS BY _____ TURNED IN BY Carl A. Eberle

POLE PRINT

SEPTEMBER 7, 1943

CITATION



OF HONOR

UNITED STATES

ARMY AIR FORCES

Staff Sergeant John Brywnak

WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY

September 7, 1943

HE LIVED TO BEAR HIS COUNTRY'S ARMS. HE DIED TO SAVE ITS HONOR. HE WAS A SOLDIER . . . AND HE KNEW A SOLDIER'S DUTY. HIS SACRIFICE WILL HELP TO KEEP AGLOW THE FLAMING TORCH THAT LIGHTS OUR LIVES . . . THAT MILLIONS YET UNBORN MAY KNOW THE PRICELESS JOY OF LIBERTY. AND WE WHO PAY HIM HOMAGE, AND REVERE HIS MEMORY, IN SOLEMN PRIDE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE TASK FOR WHICH HE SO GALLANTLY HAS PLACED HIS LIFE UPON THE ALTAR OF MAN'S FREEDOM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. H. Arnold".

H. H. ARNOLD
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General Army Air Forces

SEPTEMBER 15, 1943

The day his Mother received the Western Union notification of his death.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1943

AY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1943.

2 KILLED, 2 MISSING, IN ACTION FROM THIS AREA

Moscow Man Slain In South Pacific and Dunmore Corporal Dies In Camp Mishap In Texas—Olyphant, Pittston Airmen Unaccounted For In North African Area.

One regional soldier was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific area, another lost his life in a training camp accident, two are missing and one was wounded in action in the North African theater of operations, according to word received today by relatives from the War Department.

Staff Sgt. John Hrywnak, twenty-five, son of Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak, Moscow, was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific area on Sept. 7, according to a telegram received by his mother.

Cpl. Charles Shukal, twenty, a member of Troop E, Reconnaissance Squadron, United States 3d Army, was killed yesterday at Camp Maxey, Tex., when a tank he was driving overturned.

Missing are Staff Sgt. Albert A. Flynn of 59 Searle Street, Pittston, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Ewanus, 705 East Scott Street, Olyphant, both in the army air forces. The former was believed to have participated in the Battle of Salerno and the latter is listed as missing since Aug. 27 in the North African area.

Inducted into the army on June 5, 1942, Sergeant Hrywnak completed a course in aviation mechanics at Keesler Field, Miss., on Nov. 14, 1942. Later he completed a course on B-24 familiarization at the Army Air Forces Training Detachment, Consolidated Aircraft Company, San Diego, Cal. He received his wings as a gunner when he graduated from Harlingen Army Gunnery School, Texas, early this year.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, are: Six sisters, Amelia, at home; Mrs. Charles Balko and Miss Anna Hrywnak, Hartford, Conn.; Mrs. Joseph Tropiak, Throop; Mrs. Woodrow Keisling and Mrs. Thomas Millard, Scranton; also three brothers, Wesley, at home; Pvt. Paul Hrywnak, stationed in Tennessee, and Pvt. Paul Hrywnak, stationed in South Carolina.

RESTRICTED

FOUR HUNDRED THIRD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Squadron Commander

WLW/erc

A.P.O. 929,
24 September, 1943.

Mrs. Kathryn Hrywnak,
RFD #3,
Moscow, Penna.

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

One of the saddest duties that I have been called upon to perform is to have to notify you that your son was killed in action on the 7th of September, 1943. He was given a military funeral, with full honors, on September 8th., 1943.

John's skill, energy and conscientiousness made him a most valuable member of this organization. Both as a squadron and as individuals, we will miss him greatly. You can rest assured that the high example of bravery and manly conduct that he set will make it certain that his name will long be remembered by us, and also make us more determined to carry on with the task for which he gave all.

You will no doubt desire John's personal effects. These have been inventoried and sent to the Effects Quartermaster, U. S. Army, Kansas City, Missouri, for forwarding to you. Any queries regarding them should be taken up with this department.

Other departments handle other matters about which you may want to further inquire about. Should you want to ask about arrears of pay and gratuity pay, write to the General Accounting Officer, Washington, D. C.; or about Government Insurance, to the Veteran's Administration, Washington, D. C.

In closing, Mrs. Hrywnak, may I again offer the united sympathy of the entire squadron and if there is anything more that I can do for you please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely,

William L. Welch
WILLIAM L. WELCH,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.



RESTRICTED

SEPTEMBER 24, 1943

Letter from Major William L. Welch expressing condolences and providing instructions on whom to contact for various aspects of his death. This was sent 9 days after the telegram.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY
REFER TO AG 201 Hrywnak, John
(12 Sep 43) PC-N 255133

WASHINGTON

28 September 1943.

Mrs. Kathrine Hrywnak,
Rural Delivery #3,
Moscow, Pennsylvania.

Dear MRS. HRYWNAK:

I deeply regret that it is necessary to confirm the telegram of recent date announcing the death of your son, Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak, 33,345,669, Air Corps, who was killed in action on 7 September 1943 in the Southwest Pacific Area.

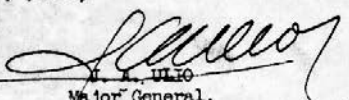
The official casualty report from the Commanding General of that area gave only the information stated. Due to war conditions, reports of this nature are brief and contain only the essential facts. I assure you if additional information regarding the circumstances surrounding his death should reach the War Department, it will be sent to you promptly.

Commanding generals in active theaters of operation make every effort to insure that our honored dead are reverently interred in graves properly marked for future identification. Upon termination of the war, consideration will be given to the return of their remains to the United States.

It is realized nothing can be said which will in any sense alleviate your loss or lessen your sorrow; but I hope in the days to come the memory that he gave his life heroically in the service of his country may be of sustaining comfort as well as pride to you.

I extend my deepest sympathy in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,


Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1 Incl.
Information Bulletin.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1943

Letter of confirmation of John's death that was sent from the Adjutant Generals office in Washington D.C., 13 days after the Western Union Telegram was received by John's mother.

OCTOBER 2, 1943

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON
REPORT OF DEATH

MO/eh4635

DATE 2 Oct 1943

FULL NAME Hryvnak, John		ARMY SERIAL NO. 33 345 669
GRADE S/Bgt	ARM OR SERVICE Air Corps	DATE OF BIRTH 1 Feb 1918
HOME ADDRESS Moscov, Pennsylvania		
DATE OF DEATH 7 Sept 43	PLACE OF DEATH Southwest Pacific Area	CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in Action
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP, & ADDRESS) Mrs Katherine Hryvnak (mother) RFD #3, Moscov, Pa.		
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP, & ADDRESS) Mrs Katherine Hryvnak (mother) RFD #3, Moscov, Pa Miss Anna Hryvnak (sister) RFD #3, Moscov, Pa		

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

J. W. Reinhart

ADJUTANT GENERAL

THIS COPY FOR THE Q. M. G. (CONFIDENTIAL)

(OVER)

ADDITIONAL DATA: (CONFIDENTIAL)

STATION OF DECEASED

Southwest Pacific Area (New Guinea)

RECEIVED
A 36
OCT 1943
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

COPY
KQQLD
AEB - ej
October 2, 1943

OCTOBER 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Report of Death

TO : Effects Quartermaster
Kansas City QM Depot
Kansas City, Missouri

Full Name: Hrywnak, John
Date and place of birth: February 1, 1918
Serial number: 33,346,669
Grade or Rank and Organization: S/Sgt.
Arm or Service: Air Corps
Date and place of death: September 7, 1943 - Southwest Pacific Area
Cause of death: Killed in Action
Home address: Moscow, Pennsylvania
Emergency address: Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak (Mother)
RFD #3, Moscow, Pa.
Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak (mother)
RFD #3, Moscow, Pa.
Miss Anna Hrywnak (sister)
RFD #3, Moscow, Pa.
Beneficiary address: _____
Date of enlistment or
acceptance of commission: _____

This memorandum
notifies the Effects
Quarter Master of John's
death, preparatory to
receiving his belongings.

AEB Form 19

OCTOBER 4, 1943

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN
HEADQUARTERS
43RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 929

TFS/abh

Re: S/Sgt. John Hrywnak
33345669
403rd. Sq. 43rd. Bomb. Gp. (H)

October 4, 1943

Mrs. Kathryn Hrywnak
RFD #3
Moscow, Penn.

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

I wish to make known to you the sorrow caused here by the death in action of your son, Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak. Your son and his crew were happy in this Squadron. All of the enlisted men of the crew helped greatly in building the fine club which the unit now has. Those to whom I have talked in the Squadron concerning John said "he was quiet, friendly, always smiling."

The 403rd. Squadron considered this crew one of the best combat crews possible, a real and ideal team, a happy-go-lucky spirit prevailed amongst your son's flying officers and their men. Obvious concern was shown over their loss.

There was no prolonged suffering. S/Sgt. Hrywnak died as all airmen wish, if to die is God's Will in a moment.

I officiated at the funeral which was held with full military honors in the American Cemetery #1 here. High ranking Air Corps officers, General Roger Ramey, Bomber Command, Colonel Harry Hawthorne, 43rd. Bomb. Group, Major William L. Welch 403rd. Sq., Captain Eugene Austin, Flight Surgeon, many Squadron officers and men attended. The grave is situated in a well-kept and fitting surrounding.

I spoke briefly at the funeral: "The worthwhile, willing service of these men is remembered. Natural impulse directed them to centre their affections on their homeland, to defend its hearths and altars, its honor. The teachings of religion assure us that such is an act of highest Christian virtue, meriting exceedingly with God. These men controlled their own destinies. By their loss of life in their country's service each verified the Christian paradox: "he gave away to keep, he lost his life to find it. This is not death, but immortality."

Your son had six missions to his credit which dealt effective blows against the enemy in recent important drives.

I have offered Mass for your son, and I will continue to remember him. With sincerest sympathy, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas F. Shea
Thomas F. Shea, Chaplain.

Copy for the Casualty Section
The Adjutant General's Office

Words of comfort from the Chaplain who presided over his burial in Australia. This letter describes John as being quiet, friendly, and always smiling. It also mentions he completed 6 missions. I am still trying to get information on these 6 missions.

FINANCE OFFICE, U. S. ARMY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OCTOBER 6, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO SPFEF-247 (Hrywnak, John, 33 345 669)

ADM.--vhp

6 October 1943

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
Moscow,
Pennsylvania

The records of the War Department show that you were designated by the above-named deceased as his beneficiary under the Act of December 17, 1919 which provides for payment of the six months' gratuity to a previously designated dependent relative, provided no widow or child survives. The Comptroller General held, on July 30, 1942, that in the case of father, mother, sister, or brother, no affirmative showing of dependency is necessary to claim the six months' death gratuity.

Provided the officer or soldier left neither widow nor child, it is requested that you execute the affidavit on the attached voucher. Sign your name where indicated by the index, as "KATHERINE HRYWNAK". In addition to your signature, two disinterested persons should sign in the places provided at the right hand side, swearing to the fact that they are personally well acquainted with you, that they have read the statements made by you, and that said statements are true to the best of their knowledge and belief.

If the officer or soldier left a wife or child, payment of the gratuity to you is not authorized and if such be the case, it is requested that you return the enclosed paper without execution, with a statement of the facts. If a widow or child survives, please furnish address if possible.

There is also enclosed herewith for your convenience, Standard Form No. 1055, for the purpose of claiming pay due the deceased at the time of his death. This form, when executed, should be forwarded to the General Accounting Office, Claims Division, Washington, D. C., that office being charged with the settlement of the final pay accounts of deceased officers and enlisted men. Please also address any communications regarding arrears of pay, etc., to that office, as correspondence with this office is a waste of time and useless.

The affidavits should be sworn to before a civil officer authorized to administer oaths, such as notary public or justice of the peace. Make certain the notary shows date of expiration of his commission. The enclosed self-addressed envelope, which may be used for your reply, requires no postage.

Very truly yours,
Owen D. Boorum
OWEN D. BOOROM,
Captain, Finance Department.

3 Enclosures

ADDRESS ALL REPLIES TO THE OFFICE-NOT TO INDIVIDUALS.

OCTOBER 7, 1943

Accident No. 44-9-8-503

Pilot's Name Good Howard J. #10

07 Nature Group Take off
51 Specific Nature Collision with trees
29 Underlying Nature Misuse of controls

90% 02 Cause Group Technique
27 Specific Cause Good Howard J.
04 Underlying Cause Momentary lack of proficiency
Physical reaction
is slow: overcontrolled & undercontrolled

00 53 Cause Group Weather
85 Specific Cause
3 Underlying Cause

Accident No. 44-9-8-5-43

Date

Checked by [Signature] 10-6-43

Analyzed by [Signature] 10-7-43

Copied for Wright
Field by _____

Notes _____

1225: 9-43
[Signature]

SECRET *RESTRICTED 44-9-8-203*
TECHNICAL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

RESTRICTED

176

- (1) The Accident Classification Committee of 43rd Bomb Group (H) met on 12 September 1943 and determined the following:
- (2) Place, date, and time of accident: Jackson, APO 929, 0421, 7 September, 1943
- (3) Aircraft station: Jackson, Org. 403rd Bomb Sq
- (4) Aircraft model: B24D, A. C. No. 240982
- (5) Date accepted from contractor: Unknown
- (6) Total hours: 295.3, Hours since overhaul: None
- (7) Engine model: R1030-23
- (8) Engine A. C. No.'s: 4141776, 142-85869, R42-65942, 142-85983
- (9) Extent of damage to engine: L. O. Salt, C. I. Salva, R. I. Salva, R. O. Salva
- (10) Total engine hours: L. O. 532.2, L. I. 295.3, R. I. 295.3, R. O. 295.3
- (11) Engine hours since overhaul: L. O. 44.2, L. I. ---, R. I. ---, R. O. ---
- (12) Purpose of flight: Recon. Mission
- (13) Took off from: Jackson, Time: 0400
- (14) Weather at time of accident: (If weather was a causal factor attach copies of weather report and forecast for the flight) 3 Stratus Cumulus, 3000 ft., Calm; Vis. 2 miles, Light Ground Fog
- (15) Pilot (name and rank): Howard J. Wood, P/O
- (16) Pilot's station: Jackson, APO 929
- (17) Reg. Army: Res, ext. duty: Res, inactive
- (18) Res, 14-day: Grad. cadet: Student
- (19) Other (specify): A. U. S.
- (20) Org. assigned: 403rd Bomb Sq (H)
- (21) Org. attached for flying: ---
- (22) Regular duties assigned: None
- (23) Original pilot rating and date: 1 January, 1943
- (24) Total pilot hours: 628.0, Hours on this model: 420.7
- (25) Hours per month last 3 months: 98.8
- (26) Models flown last 3 months: (1) B24D, (2) B24D, (3) B24D
- (27) See *Yes* from Flight Surgeon, if pilot error is a causal factor: Was there any physical or neuropsychic condition which would in any way account for this accident? Yes or No. No. If "Yes", attach complete statement of the condition and its bearing upon the accident.
- (28) Damage to private property: Yes or No. No. If "Yes", attach A. C. Form No. 14, "Damage to property certificate."

RESULTS TO PERSONNEL				PERCENTAGE		CAUSES	
DUTY	IN COLUMN "DUTY" ENTER SYMBOLS AS FOLLOWS: C-Commander P-Pilot CP-Copilot OB-Observer N-Navigator E-Engineer G-Gunner R-Radio operator O-Other crew X-Passenger PH-Photographer	A Fatal	B Major injury	C Minor injury	D No injury	PERCENTAGE	CAUSES
P	Howard J. Wood, P/O, AUS	X					PILOT ERROR
CP	Howard R. Thomas, 1st Lt, EAD	X					OTHER PERSONNEL
N	Ralph M. Hart, 2nd Lt, EAD	X					OTHER PERSONNEL
B	Robert G. McDonald, 2nd Lt, EAD	X					OTHER PERSONNEL
E	Charles P. Scip, T/Sgt., RA	X					POWER PLANT
AE	John Brynnak, S/Sgt., AUS	X					POWER PLANT
R	Hyman Silverstein, T/Sgt., AUS	X					POWER PLANT
AR	Joel L. Herndon, S/Sgt., AUS	X					POWER PLANT
G	Donald P. Wilcott, S/Sgt., AUS	X					POWER PLANT
G	Samuel M. Wilkinson, S/Sgt., AUS	X					POWER PLANT
V	Samuel B. White, Sgt., RA	X					POWER PLANT
	AUS THALIAZ LWF A VTKY MDM (WYSLACK UNK V W V V)	X					POWER PLANT
							MATERIAL
							AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE
							MIN. CELLS NEQUIN

5-A-Complete work, X

B-Major overhaul

C-Major replacement

D-Minor damage

E-No damage

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT (Less power plant)

NATURE (Check one only)

A-Collisions in full flight with other aircraft

B-Collisions in full flight with objects other than aircraft

C-Spins or stalls following engine failure

D-Spins or stalls without engine failure

E (1)-Emergency forced landings

F (2)-Deferred forced landings

F-Landing accidents

G-Take-off accidents

H-Taxiing accidents

I (1)-Flies in the air

I (2)-Flies on the ground

N-Structural failure

X-Miscellaneous

Y-Undetermined

10

SECRET

SEPTEMBER 12, 1943

RESTRICTED SECRET

(28) PILOT'S STATEMENT (state how the accident occurred, giving all details as to conditions, causes, and influencing factors):

RESTRICTED

Signature Pilot

(29) STATEMENT OF ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE (give complete causal statement, amplifying the pilot's statement where necessary to explain the causes):

SEE ATTACHED LETTER FOR STATEMENT OF ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE.

(30) RECOMMENDATIONS:

Each member of the Committee has read and understands A. C. Circular No. 15-14, A. R. 95-120, and N. A. C. A. Report No. 576.

The above statement and recommendations, and the classification and analysis shown on the reverse hereof, are the consensus of opinion of this Committee.

Signed Jay P. Kraus
 JAY P. KRAUS LAUCH PRESIDENT

Signed John A. Smith
 JOHN A. SMITH LAUCH MEMBER (non-voting)

Signed John A. Robertson
 JOHN A. ROBERTSON CAPTAIN MEMBER (non-voting)

(31) REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (accomplish only if this report is initiated at other than the home station):

Station Date Signature

(32) REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

ENCLOSURES (line cut those not applicable):

Airplane (Airship) Flight Report.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Certificate of principal witnesses.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Station A.F.O. 929

Date 19 September, 1943

Signature Harry J. Hawthorne
 HARRY J. HAWTHORNE, Lt. Colonel

RESTRICTED SECRET

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 3-15-43

SECRET

7 September, 1943 Jackson, APO 929 43rd Bomb Gp (H) B24D1

DATE STATION GROUP NO AND TYPE AIRPLANE MODEL

Charles P. Seip, T/Sgt "RESTRICTED" 403rd Bomb Sq (H) 240682

~~SECRET~~ OR AERIAL ENGINEER SQUADRON NO AND TYPE AIRPLANE SERIAL NO

PERS CLASS	- PRINT PLAINLY -		USE AS DIRECTED LOCALLY	ALWAYS ENTER DUTY SYMBOLS. WHEN APPLICABLE, ENTER N-NIGHT OR I-INSTRUMENT. ENTER TIME FLOWN THEREUNDER				FLIGHT DATA		
	NAME	RANK - ORGANIZATION		DUTY N OR I	DUTY N OR I	DUTY N OR I	DUTY N OR I	TERMINALS AND MISSION		
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
17	T-252	Wood, Howard J. F/O	CM	R				FROM JACKSON	04 20	
01	O-790734	Thomas, Howard R. 1st Lt		CP				TO Crash	04 21	
01	O-674188	Hart, Ralph M. 2nd Lt		N				MISSION R	0	
01	O-738996	McDonald, Robert G. 2nd Lt		R				FROM		
20	7033077	Seip, Charles P. T/Sgt		E				TO		
38	33345669	Hrywnak, John. S/Sgt		AE				MISSION		
38	31201941	Silverstein, Hyman T/Sgt		R				FROM		
38	34082449	Herndon, Joel L. S/Sgt		AR				TO		
38	16075243	Wilcott, Donald F. S/Sgt		G				MISSION		
38	33277954	Wilkinson, Samuel M. S/Sgt		G				FROM		
20	14044815	White, Samuel B. Sgt		V				TO		
ALL KILLED										
THIS IS A TRUE EXACT COPY										
<i>Dennis J. Lombardi</i> DENNIS J. LOMBARDI, Capt., Air Corps, Adjutant.										
WAR DEPARTMENT AAF FORM NO 1 TENTATIVE-12-18-41				FLIGHT REPORT - OPERATIONS				CHECKED: LEGIBLE AND CORRECT		TOTAL FLIGHT TIME
				SECRET				TRANSCRIBED: TOTAL FLIGHT TIME ENTERED ON FORM 1A		TOTAL FLIGHT TIME

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
FORTY THIRD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
OFFICE OF THE ORDNANCE OFFICER

VPB/joc

APO 929,
10 Sept., 1943.

"RESTRICTED"

SUBJECT: Cause of Detonation of Fuzed Bombs in Airplane Crash.

TO : Commanding Officer, 43rd Bombardment Group (H), APO 929.

1. A B-24 airplane of the 403rd Bombardment Squadron, 43rd Bombardment Group crashed just beyond the end of the runway at Jackson Drome, at approximately 0430 hours on the morning of 8 Sept., 1943.

2. The plane carried four (4) 500# Demolition bombs with AN M103 nose fuzes and AN M101A1 tail fuzes, .025 sec. delay. The bombs were fuzed and the safety pins were in the fuzes.

3. Witnesses stated that the bombs exploded within a few seconds of the crash.

4. An investigation by the writer showed that the bombs exploded with a high order detonation by impact with the ground and not by the fire that resulted. The plane struck the ground on the side of a slope and there was some burned wreckage at this point. At a point about ten (10) yards farther up the hill near the top, there were three craters from five (5) to eight (8) yards apart and about ten (10) yards from more burned wreckage. There was no burned wreckage at the point where the bombs exploded.

5. The fourth bomb laying on the top of the hill not far from the craters had an armed nose fuze in it, having had the cap retaining the safety blocks knocked off. The tail fuze had the stem broken off but the part holding the inertia slug was in place and this fuze was not in an armed condition. The shear wire had not been broken in the nose fuze and both fuzes were removed by the writer.

6. It is the opinion of the writer that on impact with the ground, the bombs broke through the wreckage knocking off the caps of the nose fuzes that retain the safety blocks. On tumbling and rolling for the next few seconds, the striker head of three of them hit the ground and detonated the bombs. The striking head in the fuze of the fourth bomb did not hit the ground.

Vincent P. Berger
VINCENT P. BERGER,
Capt., Ord. Dept.,
Ordnance Officer.

"RESTRICTED"

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

RESTRICTED

STATEMENT OF ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

After due investigation and interrogation of witnessing personnel the committee arrived at the following conclusion.

Pilot Wood undertook the fateful take-off under instrument conditions and failed to climb to a sufficient altitude before lowering the nose of the aircraft to increase the airspeed. Going directly from contact to instrument flying in D-24 aircraft, immediately after take-off is trying, on the best of pilots, for flight instruments can very easily give erratic readings at the moment the aircraft becomes airborne.

Witnessing personnel stated that the take-off was normal in all respects up to the time the ship began to descend.

At approximately 1000 yards from the S.E. end of the runway, the aircraft struck three (3) trees continuing on its destructive flight into a small hill at which point the bombs exploded. Parts of the wreckage ploughed through four (4) Australian Infantry trucks loaded with personnel and equipment, resulting in a very high fatality list. No members of the combat crew survived the crash.

With all causal factors having been considered the committee affixes the error as follows: Pilot 90%, and weather 10%.

"RESTRICTED"

SECRET

SECRET

Invoice

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Group Commander

March 22, 1943

19 September, 1943.

Subject: Forward Report of Aircraft Accident Classification Committee.
To : Commanding General, United States Army Air Forces, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. Transmits herewith Report of Aircraft Accident Classification Committee, April Embarked Group (AG), A.C. 929, of aircraft model B-24D1, S.S. No. 24062, assigned to 403rd Bombardment Group (AG), this Group, which crashed at Jacksonboro, A.C. 929, 8 September, 1943.

Harry J. Hawthorn
Lieut. Colonel, Air Corps,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Report.

OK
43

RESTRICTED

SECRET

Amount Paid \$0.00
Amount Due \$0.00

OCTOBER 8, 1943

THE EVENING BULLETIN—PHILA

Killed in Action



Private JOHN M. HODGE
Collingdale, Pa.



Sergeant JOHN YRYWNAK
Moscow, Pa.

Philadelphia Newspaper article. Note the spelling of Hrywnak...

OCTOBER 8, 1943



★ ★

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY VESTED IN HIM BY CONGRESS
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782

TO

Staff Sergeant John Brywnak, A.S.No. 33345669,

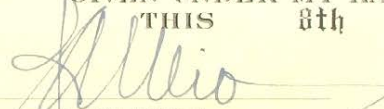
FOR MILITARY MERIT AND FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

resulting in his death September 7, 1943.

OFFICIAL:

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 8th DAY OF October 1943


MAJOR GENERAL,
THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE


SECRETARY OF WAR

OCTOBER 15, 1943

Shown on Tally in us _____
 DAILY IN NO. 2378 INVENTORY DATE 10/15/43 CASE NO. 28860
 EFFECTS OF JOHN HRYNIAK RANK S/SGT.
 ARMY SERIAL NO. 3345669 ORG. 403rd Bomb. Sq. (H) Air Corps
 Consignor 403rd Bomb. Sq. (H) Office of the Sgdn. Commander, APO 929
 Delivering Carrier Hall G. B/L No. _____ B/L Date _____

Package No.	Article Description	Remarks
#1	U. S. Treasurer's Check #3932, dated	Check payable to
ENVELOPE	September 21, 1943	Geo. F. Biles, Maj., F.D.
	Amt. #103.01	Indorsed to Effects OM
	<i>CP # 2970</i>	
	<i>7/1</i>	ATTACHED:
		Inventory which gives:
		Mrs. Kathryn Hrynak
		Route #1
		Moscow, Pa.
		Note: Mother's name
		spelled differently

Warehouse Space _____ Inventoried
 By A. Schwartz 10/15/43 J.Mias
 Locked Storage Space _____ Office Safe _____ Packed By _____

als

10.13.43
28960

INVENTORY OF EFFECTS
(See AR 600-550)

~~Myhak~~ ~~John~~ ~~(M)~~ ~~33345660~~
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial) (Army Serial No.)

Date ~~Staff Sergeant~~, ~~103rd Bombardment Sq. (H)~~, ~~AVR Corps.~~
(Grade) (Organization or arm or service)

Who died on the 7th day of September, 1943.

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

Number	Articles
1	Bundle letters and pictures
1	Fountain pen
1	Billfold with papers and pictures

CLASS II -- Other Effects

Number	Articles
1	Fibre board case
1	pr Trousers, wool, khaki
1	Shirt, wool, khaki
3	Neckties
1	Small leather toilet case

WDAGO Form No. 54 (Substitute.)

File at

OCTOBER 20, 1943

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
 Application Form 535
 Revised Aug. 1942

APPLICATION FOR PENSION OR COMPENSATION BY A DEPENDENT OF A VETERAN WHO DIED OF A DISEASE OR INJURY DUE TO SERVICE IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY OR NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

After executing this form it should be forwarded directly to the Veterans Administration

INSTRUCTIONS—READ WITH GREAT CARE

This form is to be used in making application for pension or compensation under any public law of the United States.

1. EVIDENCE ON FILE.—If any of the evidence referred to below has been previously filed in the former Bureau of Pensions, former Veterans Bureau, or the Veterans Administration, it need not be filed in connection with this claim.

2. PROOF OF DEATH.—Death of a veteran in active service or in a Government institution does not need to be proven by a claimant. Otherwise, the claimant must forward a certified copy of the public record of death or a duly certified copy of a coroner's report of death or of the verdict of a coroner's jury.

3. PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP OF NATURAL OR ADOPTIVE MOTHER OR FATHER.—A certified copy of the public record of birth or church record of baptism showing date of birth of the veteran and names of the parents must be furnished. If neither of the records mentioned is obtainable, it is not necessary to establish one for the purpose of this claim. Instead, you should state the reason why a certified copy of a PUBLIC RECORD cannot be furnished and submit the affidavit of the attending physician or midwife showing the date of birth and names of the parents. If the veteran was an adopted child, a copy of the court order of adoption, certified by the custodian of the court record, must be furnished.

4. FOSTER MOTHER OR FATHER.—(Persons, including stepparents, who stood in loco parentis to veteran.) If the claimant is not the natural or adoptive parent of the veteran but stood in loco parentis to the veteran for a period of not less than 1 year prior to his entrance into the active military or naval service, the claimant will be required to execute an affidavit Form 524 which will be furnished upon receipt of this application.

5. INCOMPETENCY.—If the claimant is incompetent, the claim should be executed by the legal guardian, or if no guardian has been appointed, it may be executed and filed by some person acting as next friend.

6. ATTORNEY.—The claimant has the right to be represented by an attorney or agent who has been admitted to practice before the Veterans Administration; but the employment of such attorney or agent is wholly unnecessary.

7. CAREFUL EXECUTION NECESSARY.—You must furnish all the information required in this application and every question must be answered fully and clearly. Answers must be written in a clear, legible hand or typewritten. If you do not know the answer to any question, say so. If any of the questions are not clear and you desire further information before attempting to answer the question involved, you should write to the Veterans Administration for instructions. If you need more space to answer any items, attach a piece of plain paper, numbering answers to correspond with the items, and sign and swear to these answers before the officer executing the application. The application should be executed before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, or before a Veterans Administration employee authorized to administer oaths.

8. STATEMENT OF WITNESSES.—This part of the application must be witnessed by two persons in every instance whether or not a claimant signs by mark.

PENALTIES FOR FRAUDULENT CLAIM

Severe penalties involving fines and imprisonment are prescribed by various statutes of the United States in any instance where a claimant for compensation or pension makes a statement of a material fact knowing it to be false; where a claimant fraudulently accepts any payment to which he is not entitled; or obtains or receives money with intent to defraud the United States.

16-17995-9

I, John Hrywnak (Print name of veteran's mother, stepmother, or foster mother) Born Nov 17th, 1881 (Month, day, year)
 I, Marie Hrywnak (Full name of veteran's father, stepfather, or foster father) Born _____ (Month, day, year)
 hereby make application for pension or compensation as the Mother (State relationship as "father," "stepfather," "mother," "stepmother," or "foster parent") of the veteran described below who died of disease or injury due to service.

1. Name of deceased veteran John Hrywnak
 2. (a) His place of birth Spring Brook, Twp. Lacka, Co. Pa (b) Date of birth Feb'y 1st, 1918
 (c) Did the deceased veteran ever apply for any benefits from the Veterans Administration during his lifetime? no
 If so, give claim No. _____
 3. (a) Give dates of enlistment and discharge for each period of service of deceased veteran in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States.

ENLISTMENT		DISCHARGE		RANK AND ORGANIZATION
Date	Place	Date	Place	
		<u>3-345-669</u>		<u>S/sgt. Air Corps</u>

- (b) Did the veteran serve under a name other than the one given in answer to question No. 1? no If so, state the other name and the service rendered under that name _____
 4. Did the deceased veteran leave surviving a widow or child or children under 18 years of age? no If so, give name and address _____
 5. (a) Date of veteran's death Sept. 7th, 1943 (b) Place of veteran's death Foreign Service
 (c) Cause of death _____
 6. (a) Is the mother, stepmother, or foster mother of the veteran incapable of self-support? (Yes or no) If so, state reason _____
 (b) Is the father, stepfather, or foster father of the veteran incapable of self-support? (Yes or no) If so, state reason DISEASE
 (c) Is your last spouse now living? _____ If not, give date of death _____
 (d) Are you now living with your spouse? _____ (e) If stepparent, state date of marriage to natural parent _____
 Was the veteran a member of your household? yes If so, over what period of time. (Give dates) Sept. 1st to 7th
 7. Value of all property, real and personal, including cash on hand and in bank owned by—

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY	VALUE	ENCUMBRANCE ON PROPERTY	MONTHLY INCOME FROM SUCH PROPERTY
(a) Mother, stepmother, or foster mother:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
(b) Father, stepfather, or foster father:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
(c) Claimant's present spouse:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

16-17995-9

8. In the spaces below state the amount of income for the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of execution of this form, and the sources of such income, as wages or salary, pension, compensation, rent, interest, dividends, sale of merchandise, stock, or other property:

	TOTAL FOR 12 MONTHS	AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME	SOURCES FROM WHICH DERIVED
Veteran's mother, stepmother, or foster mother:		\$	
Veteran's father, stepfather, or foster father:		\$	
Claimant's personal assets:		\$	

9. In the spaces below, state the average monthly expenses for the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of execution of this form, and the purposes for which paid out:

	TOTAL FOR 12 MONTHS	AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES	PURPOSES FOR WHICH PAID OUT
Veteran's mother, stepmother, or foster mother:		\$	
Veteran's father, stepfather, or foster father:		\$	
Claimant's personal assets:		\$	

9. (a) If expenses exceed income, state from what source such expenses were met

10. Are there any persons living in your household dependent solely upon you for support? Yes If so, state names, dates of birth, and relationship to you Amelia Hrywnak, Daughter, born Feb'y 12th 1927

11. (a) Have you ever before filed a claim for compensation or pension? NO (b) Retirement pay? NO
 (c) Compensation from the Federal U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission? NO (d) Old-age pension? NO (e) Social Security Act benefits? NO (f) Any other benefits from the United States? NO If so, give full particulars, including date, place, full name of claimant, claim number and full name of person on account of whose service each claim was filed and whether payments are now being received by reason of any such claim

12. Did you have any other son, daughter, former wife, or former husband who served in the active military or naval forces of the United States? yes If so, give full particulars including name, claim number, rank, organization, dates of service, and whether claim has ever been filed on account of such person

Harold Hrywnak,

Paul Hrywnak

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

13. Do you receive an allotment from any person in the military or naval service? Yes If so, give amount received each month and name, rank, and organization of person making the allotment \$20.00 per month from Harold Hrywnak

14. Was the veteran at all times during his minority a member of your household or under your parental control? Yes If not, state fully the reason why

15. Did any person or persons assist or advise you in the preparation of this application? If so, give the name and address of such person or persons, and state the nature and extent of the assistance or advice, the amount of fee paid or to be paid for such assistance

I/we make the foregoing statements as part of my/our claim, with full knowledge of the penalty provided for making a false statement.

WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT
 IF MADE BY (X) MARK

NOTE.—Signatures made by mark must be witnessed by two persons to whom the person making the affidavit is personally known, and the signatures and addresses of such witnesses must be shown below.

1. _____
 (Signature of witness)

 (Address)

2. _____
 (Signature of witness)

 (Address)

(Signature of mother, stepmother, foster mother, guardian, or next friend)

(Address)

(Signature of father, stepfather, foster father, guardian, or next friend)

(Address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19____, by the claimant(s) by whom (to whom) the questions and answers were read and the statements made herein were fully explained.
 (Strike out part not applicable.)

[SEAL]

Notary Public.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY TWO WITNESSES.—(See Instruction 8)

We, the undersigned, severally state that we are well acquainted with the claimant(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed above, and that we have read the statements made herein, and the facts stated are true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Signature of witness)

(Address of witness)

(Signature of witness)

(Address of witness)

Important—EVERY CLAIMANT MUST FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING

Claim is hereby made for death compensation or pension based on the service of _____ who died of disease or injury due to service. (Name of deceased veteran)

WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT
 IF MADE BY (X) MARK

NOTE.—Signatures made by mark must be witnessed by two persons to whom the person making the affidavit is personally known, and the signatures and addresses of such witnesses must be shown below.

1. _____
 (Signature of witness)

 (Address)

2. _____
 (Signature of witness)

 (Address)

(Signature of mother, stepmother, foster mother, guardian, or next friend)

(Signature of father, stepfather, foster father, guardian, or next friend)

Date _____

Claim No. _____

(Veterans Administration will enter)

16-37008-3 GPO

OCTOBER 26, 1943

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
501 HARDESTY AVENUE
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

(S-11-26-43)
JRM:ALS:jk
October 26, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO: No. 28960

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
RFD #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

The Army Effects Bureau has received by mail certain personal property which belonged to your son, Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak.

In order that we may turn over the property which we now have in our custody, in accordance with existing instructions, it is necessary that we secure detailed information regarding the family of Sergeant Hrywnak. To that end I am inclosing application and affidavit forms with the request that you carefully complete these and return them to me. If you desire, your local American Red Cross representative will be glad to assist you in filling out the papers.

We will make every effort to forward the property in our possession as soon as possible after we receive the information required to make a decision.

NOVEMBER 9, 1943

ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
601 HARDESTY AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

In the matter of the disposition of the effects of
S/Sgt. John Hrywnak
(Name of deceased soldier)
33345669
(Serial Number)

Case No. 29960
APPLICATION FOR EFFECTS OF DECEASED SOLDIER
(S-11-26-43)

I, Katherine Hrywnak (Aimant) of Smearville
(City, town or village)
in the County of Tascha and State of Pa

hereby make application for the effects of the above-named deceased soldier,
now in the possession of the United States, and in support thereof state:

1. That Sgt John Hrywnak
(Name of deceased soldier)
entered the military
service of the United States on or about 6 day of June, 1942,
and was a Sergeant in Air Corps
(Grade or rank of deceased) (Name of organization if known)

_____ ; that he was born
(If not known, so state giving all possible information)

at Smearville, in the State of Pa
(If born in foreign country, so
Pa on the 1st day of Feb, 1918 ;
state)

and that he died on or about the 7 day of Sept, 1943 ;
(If not known, so state)

at _____
(If not known, so state)

2. That I bear the following relationship to the above-named
deceased soldier:

(Mark around one of the following which describes your
relationship):

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| (1) Widow | (6) <u>Mother</u> |
| (2) Administrator or Executor
of Estate | (7) Brother |
| (3) Son | (8) Sister |
| (4) Daughter | (9) Grandchild |
| (5) Father | (10) Other next of kin |

3. That there is no living person who bears relationship to said

(Continued on Reverse Side)

deceased soldier of a lower numbered class than that marked above, except

* (Example: If you have marked (7) Brother, are there any living persons described by classes (1) to (6) inclusive? If so, give their names and relationships to the deceased soldier; if not, state "No Exception.")

4. That I have completed and executed the affidavit on the following pages hereof and make it a part of this application by reference.

Witnessed by:

Judge Calkins
(Signature of Witness)

Justice of the Peace

Kathleen Gorman
(Signature of Claimant)

Form Expires
12-31-1948

AFFIDAVIT OF CLAIMANT

COUNTY OF Lack }
STATE OF Pa } SS

Personally appeared before me, Judge Calkins
(Name and title of official)

in and for the County and State aforesaid, Kathleen Gorman
(Name of claimant)

aged 61 years, residing at Mason Street,
(City, town

RR # 3, County of Lack, State of Pa,
(or village)

who, being duly sworn, declares that the following answers and statements are made in support of her application (see page 1 of this form)
(his or her)

for the effects of 1st John Gorman now in the possession of
(Name of deceased soldier)

the United States:

Was the deceased soldier married at the time of his death? no

If so, what is the name and address of his widow? _____

What was her maiden name? _____

When and where did she marry deceased soldier? _____

Were they living together as husband and wife when the deceased soldier entered the military service? _____ If not, state the circumstances: _____

Were they divorced or separated by legal proceedings? _____

If so, when and by order of what court? _____

Is his widow now living? _____ If not, when and where did she die? _____

Was deceased soldier ever previously married? no If so, to whom and how was this marriage terminated? _____

Has deceased soldier any children now living? _____

(Continued on Reverse Side)

If so, give name, sex, age and address of each living child:

Name in Full (Christian, middle and surname)	Sex	Age	Post Office Address in Full

(If there are any additional names, give same information on separate sheet and attach)

Has a legal guardian been appointed for any of the above children? _____

If so, give names and addresses of such guardians in full: _____

Is the father of deceased soldier now living? yes

If so, state his name and address: _____

If not, when and where did he die? Died 5th Oct 1929

Has the above-named father abandoned the support of his family? _____

If so, state circumstances: _____

Is the mother of deceased soldier now living? yes

If so, state her name and address: Katherine Hrywnak

61 years Moscow Pa.

What was her maiden name? Rebecca

If deceased, when and where did she die? _____

Has deceased soldier any brothers or sisters now living? yes

If so, give name, sex, age and address of each living brother and sister:

Name in Full (Christian, middle and surname)	Sex	Age	Post Office Address in Full
<u>Amelia Hrywnak</u>	<u>girl</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Moscow Pa.</u>
<u>Paul Hrywnak</u>	<u>male</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Moscow Pa.</u>
<u>Harold Hrywnak</u>	<u>male</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>Moscow Pa.</u>
<u>Wesley Hrywnak</u>	<u>male</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>Moscow Pa.</u>

(If there are any additional names, give same information on separate sheet and attach)

Julia Willard Lennel
Nancy K. ...
Anna Hrywnak
Mary ...

Has deceased soldier any grandchildren now living? yes

If so, give name, age, address and name of one parent of each living grandchild:

Name of grandchild (Christian, middle and surname)	Age	Post Office address	Name of Parent

(If there are any additional names, give same information on separate sheet and attach)

Did the deceased soldier leave a will? yes

If so, has an Executor of his estate been appointed by probate court? Had

in estate
If so, give name and address of Executor and inclose certified copy of

letters of administration: _____

If the deceased soldier left a will and an Executor has not yet been appointed,

is it the intention of the Executor to probate the will? _____

Has an Administrator of the estate been appointed by probate court? _____

If so, give name and address of Administrator and inclose a certified copy of

letters of administration: _____

Claimant further declares that the above answers and statements

are true, except as to those facts which are stated to be uncertain; that

claimant has not purposely refrained from answering any question or furnish-

ing any requested information; that she makes the foregoing application
(he or she)

and this affidavit in her relationship (or capacity) of pa
(his or her) (State)

capacity, as Executor, administrator or Guardian; or relationship as Widow,

mother of Sgt John Hrywnak
Son, daughter, father, mother, etc. husband of deceased soldier,

child for the purpose of

minor child, or estate of deceased, as the case may be)

enabling the United States to dispose of the effects of said deceased

soldier under the provisions of Article of War 112 (10 U.S.C. 1584); and, that she (he or she) has read the application on Page 1 hereof and the statements therein contained are true and correct.

Witnessed by:

Jud. Caffery
(Signature of Witness)

Scottman E. Lynch
(Signature of Claimant)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Nov 1943.

(Impress seal here)

Jud. Caffery
(Official Signature)
Justice of The Peace
(Official Designation)

My commission expires January 1948

Note: If the application and affidavit are executed by the Executor or Administrator of the estate of the deceased soldier, or by the Guardian of a claimant, a certified copy of the letters of administration or guardianship, or other legal evidence of appointment, must be attached, in which event it will be unnecessary to secure the following affidavit of a disinterested witness. In all other cases the signature of claimant must be witnessed by one disinterested person of legal age who can write and who can execute the following affidavit. All signatures must be in ink and all other writing must be in typewriting or ink. In case the claimant's mark is substituted for the written signature, two disinterested attesting witnesses are required who can write their names.

AFFIDAVIT OF DISINTERESTED WITNESS

COUNTY OF _____ }
STATE OF _____ } SS

Personally appeared before me, _____, in and for the County and State aforesaid, _____, aged _____ years, a citizen of the United States, residing at _____

Street, Monroe St. County of _____
(City, town or village)

Lucha, State of Pa., who, being duly sworn,

declares that she (he or she) has been acquainted with the family of

Sgt John Hupwack for 25 years and knows (Name of deceased soldier)

Katharine Hupwack to be the mother (Name of Claimant) (Relationship, such as

widow, son, daughter, etc.) of said deceased soldier; that she (he or she)

has read the foregoing application and affidavit and that to the best of

she (his or her) knowledge and belief the answers and statements therein

contained are true and correct; that said application and affidavit were signed by the claimant in her (his or her) presence; and, that affiant has

no interest whatever in the pending application for the effects of said deceased soldier.

Jud. Caffery
(Signature of disinterested witness)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of Nov 1943.

(Impress seal here)

Jud. Caffery
(Official signature)
Justice of The Peace
(Official designation)

My Commission Expires January 1948

28960

NOVEMBER 17, 1943

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

(S-12-17-43)
JRM:ALS:jk
November 17, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO No. 28960

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
R.F.D. #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:


Thank you for sending this Bureau the form needed in connection with disposal of the property of your son, Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak.

There is inclosed check for \$103.01, which is the only property of Sergeant Hrywnak received at the Army Effects Bureau to date. These funds were received by mail from overseas. It is possible that additional belongings of your son will arrive at a later date, and the information you have furnished will enable us to make prompt shipment of such property.

My action in sending this check does not, of itself, vest title in you. These funds are transmitted only in order that some responsible person receive them so that distribution may be made in accordance with the laws of the state of your son's legal residence.

Please acknowledge receipt of the check in the space provided below. For your convenience, there is inclosed an addressed envelope which needs no postage.

Yours very truly,


W. S. BERMAN
Major Q.M.C.
Asst. Effects Quartermaster

2 Incls.
Check
Envelope

Receipt acknowledged.

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak.
Signature

Nov. 29, 1943
Date

NOVEMBER 18, 1943

CHECK REQUISITION

jk

TO: Accounting Branch

Account 3827

Please issue check payable to

Case No. 28960

Katherine Krymak
R.D. #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Amount \$ 103.01

als by ha
Aileen L. Smith
(Correspondent)

Check No. 2970

Initials P.M.

3827

28960

NOVEMBER 18 43

KATHERINE KRYMAK

103.01

ONE HUNDRED THREE AND NO/100

MAJOR Q.M.C.
Asst.

Eff Q' Form 49

ARMY HEADQUARTERS
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPT
801 Warden Ave.
Kansas City 1, Missouri

Case No. 25960
6 December 1943
(Date)

DECEMBER 6, 1943

Subject: Report of transactions in disposing of the effects of

John Ryznek 3334566, late a
(Name of deceased soldier) (Army Serial No.)

Staff Sergeant Air Corps, who died
(Grade) (Organization, Arm or Service)

on the 7 day of September, 1943, at Southwest Pacific Area.

To : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, 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, reports that:

a. No legal representative or widow of the decedent being present at his camp or quarters, ~~nothing~~ were forwarded to this Summary Court-Martial.

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

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 , Incl. .)

d. Disposition of decedent's ~~money~~ money (less the amount 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 16 November, 1943, pursuant to Special Orders 228, Headquarters, KCQM Depot, dated 25 September 1943, the application and/or affidavit of Katherine Ryznek
(Name of)
 for the effects of the above-named deceased soldier,
(Relationship)
now in the possession of the United States, together with other relevant evidence, were duly considered;

Whereupon, this Summary Court-Martial finds that, under the provisions of A.W. 112, Katherine Ryznek
(Name of person found entitled)
of R.D. #3 Moscow, State
(Number, Street or Avenue) (City, town or Village)
of Pennsylvania, is the Mother of the above-
(Relationship or Capacity)
named deceased soldier and appears to be entitled to receive his effects.

Signature of Summary Court Officer
W. F. [unclear] Major
[unclear]

ADVISE OF PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENT TO ACCOMPANY CHECK

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Claim No. 1235834WASHINGTON, January 7, 1944
(Date)In correspondence please
refer to above claim No.CARL WITCHER
COL. FD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
SYM. 210-846

CERTIFICATE No.

0779339

Katherine Hrywnak, as mother of John Hrywnak,
deceased,
R.F.D. #3,
Moscow, Pennsylvania.I have certified that there is due you from the United States, payable from the appropriation (s)
indicated, the sum of—

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE AND 52/100

Dollars (\$ 155.52)

on account of

pay due decedent at date of death, September 7, 1943 as staff sergeant, 403rd Bomb
Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group (H), Air Corps.

212/40425 Finance Service, Army, 1942-1944

Limitation 212/40425.

1-74 P 414-01 A 0425-24

3213898

The enclosed Treasury check is in settlement of said claim (s).

Lindsay C. Warren

Comptroller General of the United States,

HARRY L. STEBBIN

By _____

CLAIMANT'S NOTICE

JAN 18 1944

JANUARY 7, 1944

d

MAY 3 1944

Shown on Tally In as Hrynak
TALLY IN NO. 3639 INVENTORY DATE 5/3/44 CASE NO. 28960
EFFECTS OF JOHN HRYNAK RANK Sgt
ARMY SERIAL NO. 33345669 ORG. 422nd Bomb Sq. H Air Corps
CONSIGNOR _____
DELIVERING CARRIER _____ G B/L NO. _____ G B/L DATE _____

Package No.	Article Description	Remarks
#1	1 Pr. shoes	
PACKAGE	1 Fr. shoe trees	Mother:
	1 Toilet case	Kathryn Hrynak
	1 Wallet w/photos	R F D #2
	1 Razor	Moscow, Pa.
	2 Note books	
	2 Pr. shoe strings	Attached:
	1 Lot of letters	1 Form 54 ✓
	1 Shirt w/wings	1 Form 28 ✓
	1 Pr. trousers	
	1 Nail clippers	G.I. CHECKED
	1 Souvenir dollar bill	SHORTAGE ON REVERSE
	1 Silver dollar	
	2 Pennies, US.	
	1 Souvenir coin	
	1 Sewing kit	
	3 Ties	
	1 Suitcase	
	1 Collar pin	
	1 Box pencil leads	
	<u>gms 2</u>	<u>d</u>
	<u>gms 2</u>	<u>d</u>

Warehouse Space 712X Inventoried By Little
Locked Storage Space _____ Packed By LaFevers 5/10/44 GIN:gc

MAY 15, 1944

DeB

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

IN REPLY REFER TO 28960-D

(S-6-15-44)
JEM:HA:vim
May 15, 1944

Mrs. Katherine Brynak
R.F.D. #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Brynak:

The Army Effects Bureau is now in receipt of additional personal property of your son, Staff Sergeant John Brynak.

It is our desire to forward this property to you; however, in view of the lapse of time since our previous correspondence, I would like you to confirm the accuracy of the above address before shipment is made.

For your convenience in replying, I have inclosed an addressed envelope, which requires no postage.

Yours very truly,

G. H. GALWIN, JR.
1st Lt. Q.M.C.
Chief, Adm. Control Branch

1 Incl.
Envelope

MAY 19, 1944

A letter was sent requesting that John's personal belongings be returned to his Mother. Based upon the handwriting, the letter was probably penned by one of John's sisters for her Mother.

287160
MAY 19, 1944

A.H. Salvin, Jr. IMMEDIATE ACTION
1st Lt. 2nd M.C.

Dear Sir,

I rec'd your letter stating my son's belongings have been rec'd at your office.

The address that you now have is still correct. We would appreciate your sending them as soon as possible. It's been so long, I don't think

it'd get them.

For your convience I am referring to 28760-D.

I thank you sincerely,

Mrs. Katherine Kryunak

R.F.O. 3
MOSCOW, General.
MAY 22 1944

MAY 23 1944

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU

ORDER FOR SHIPMENT

man

Helen Alexander

Suspense 6 June 1944

Case No. 28960 D

Date 23 May 1944

MEMORANDUM TO Warehouse Branch:

Please see that the personal effects on the above mentioned case are packed, weighed and ready for shipment promptly so that they may be readily picked up. Bills of lading and all other papers will be marked with the case number and can be identified thereby. The original of this form should be returned to the Administrative Branch after completion.

Effects of: Staff Sergeant John Brywnak Serial No. 33345669

Ship to: Mrs. Katherine Brywnak

Street and Number R. F. D. #3

City and State Moscow, Pennsylvania

Ship Via: parcel post Gov't M L No. _____

E. Kozlowski
For the Effects Quartermaster

LIST OF PACKAGES SHIPPED

1 Package

Franked Mail--4# or less _____

Parcel Post Charges 3.75

Estimated Express Charges .85

Estimated Freight Charges _____

Total Number of Pieces: 1 Shipping Clerk [Signature]

Weight of Shipment: 12* Date MAY 25 1944

DS:jeb

Effects QM Form 14 (Rev. 10/15/43)

MAY 30, 1944

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

(S-30 Jun 44)
JRM:HA:mes
30 May 1944

IN REPLY REFER TO: #28960 D

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
R. F. D. #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

Thank you for confirming your address in connection with the disposal of the personal property of your son, Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak.

Shipment of this property has been made to you by parcel post on May 25, 1944. Upon arrival of the package, please sign and return one copy of the inclosed receipt. For your convenience, there is inclosed an addressed envelope which needs no postage.

My action in sending such effects does not, of itself, vest title in you. These effects are transmitted only in order that some responsible person receive them, so that distribution may be made in accordance with the laws of your son's legal residence.

Prompt return of the signed receipt will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,



O. M. DARNALL
Administrative Assistant
Army Effects Bureau

2 Incls.
Form 5
Envelope

KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
Kansas City, Missouri

Mes:EW

In the matter of the disposition
of the effects of:

Staff Sergeant John Hymonak
(Name of deceased soldier)

33345669
(Serial Number)

Case No. 28960 D

RECEIPT FOR EFFECTS
DELIVERED TO CLAIMANT
(S-30 Jun 44)
JHM:BA:mas
30 May 1944

I hereby acknowledge that I have received from the Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Kansas City, Missouri, the following effects of the above-named deceased soldier:

Number	Articles	Number	Articles
1 pr.	Shoes	1	Souvenir dollar bill
1 pr.	Shoe trees	1	Silver dollar
1	Toilet case	2	Pennies U. S.
1	Wallet w/photos	1	Souvenir coins
1	Razor	1	Sewing kit
2	Note books	3	Ties
2 pr.	Shoe strings	1	Suit case
1 lot	Letters	1	Collar pin
1	Shirt w/wings	1 box	Pencil leads
1 pr.	Trousers		
1	Nail clippers		

XX

XX

XX

Subscribed at Moscow, Pa. on this 10 day of June,
19 44.

Witnessed

Mr. J. Williams
(Signature of Witness)

Miss Katherine Hymonak
(Signature of claimant in ink)

2410 Williams Ave
(Address)

R.F.D. 3 #1322
Moscow Pa.
(Address)

Final

MAY 30, 1944

JUNE 10, 1944

This was the day that John's personal affects were received in Moscow by his Mother and his sister Julia.

JUNE 30, 1944

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT
801 HARDETT AVENUE
KANSAS CITY 1, MISSOURI

JHM:HA:mcs
30 June 1944

IN REPLY REFER TO: ~~EPD~~ 250.414 (#28960 D)

SUBJECT: Report of transactions by Summary Court-Martial, Army Effects Bureau

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

1. Reference is made to letter of the Army Effects Bureau to your office, dated 6 December 1943, file and subject as above stated, transmitting report of the Summary Court-Martial at this Bureau in connection with the disposition of the effects of John Brynak, 33345669, S/Sgt., A.C., deceased.

2. Additional personal property of the deceased recently was received here and forwarded to Mrs. Katherine Brynak, R. F. D. #3, Moscow, Pennsylvania, mother of the deceased, under date of 25 May 1944, in accordance with the previous finding of the Summary Court-Martial under the 112th Article of War.

For the Effects Quartermaster:

G. H. CALVIN, JR.
1st Lt. C.M.C.
Chief, Adm. Control Branch

JULY 27, 1944

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

JHM:HAM:mes
30 June 1944

IN REPLY REFER TO ~~SPDK~~ 250.414 (#28960 D)

SUBJECT: Report of transactions by Summary Court-Martial, Army Effects Bureau

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

1. Reference is made to letter of the Army Effects Bureau to your office, dated 6 December 1943, file and subject as above stated, transmitting report of the Summary Court-Martial at this Bureau in connection with the disposition of the effects of John Brymak, 33345669, S/Sgt., A.C., deceased.

2. Additional personal property of the deceased recently was received here and forwarded to Mrs. Katherine Brymak, R. F. D. #3, Moscow, Pennsylvania, mother of the deceased, under date of 25 May 1944, in accordance with the previous finding of the Summary Court-Martial under the 112th Article of War.

For the Effects Quartermaster:

G. H. GALVIN, JR.
1st Lt. C.M.C.
Chief, Adm. Control Branch



JULY 27, 1944

Graves Registration
Form No. 1
(Revised May 11, 1943)

17821

REPORT OF INTERMENT 2015

CONFIDENTIAL

(TM 10-630 AND AR 30-1815)

403rd Bomb. Sqdn.

HEYWNAK, John (NLI) 33245669 S/Sgt. 43rd Bomb. Grp.,
(Last name) (First) (Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization)

7 Mile Drome, Port Moresby, N.G. 7 September, 1943 (Combat Mission) Plane Crash, KIA.
(Place of death) (Date of death) (Cause of death)

10:30 hours, 8 September, 1943 USAF Cemetery, Port Moresby No. 1, New Guinea.
(Time and date of burial) (Name of cemetery) (Name or coordinates of location)

309 Cross (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

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

(If no identification tags, but identity definitely established, give particulars) Religion Catholic
403rd Bomb. Sqdn.

Body buried on RIGHT MC DONALD, Robert G. 0-738996 2nd Lieut 43rd Bomb. Grp. 310
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)

Body buried on LEFT WILKINSON, Samuel, M. 33277954 S/Sgt. 43rd Bomb. Grp. 308
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)

Mrs. Kathryn Heywnak, RFD # 3, Moscow, Penna., (Mother)
(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:

27 JUL 1944
de

FEBRUARY 1945

1782



1932

ARGONNE CHAPTER No. 129
MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART

802 Mulberry Street
SCRANTON 10, PENNSYLVANIA

RICHARD BEYNON
Commander
312 S. Hyde Park Avenue
Scranton 4, Pa.
Phone 2-1437

JOSEPH W. WETTER
Adjutant
307 12th Street
Scranton 4, Pa.
Phone 3-8140

OFFICERS

- MICHAEL MORAN
Sr. Vice Commander
- EVAN DAVIS
1st Jr. Vice Commander
- FRED KOLRA
2nd Jr. Vice Commander
- JOSEPH W. WETTER
Finance Officer
- DEWEY McHALE
Chaplain
- GEORGE BONNER
Historian
- COL. JAMES COOPER
Judge Advocate
- GEORGE REIDMILLER
Sergeant-at-Arms
- JACK GOODWIN
State Executive Committeeman
- COL. JAMES COOPER
Alternate
State Executive Committeeman
- FRED BONNERT
STANLEY KLOVNSKY
Color Guards
- JOSEPH QUINN
GEORGE HIGGINS
Color Bearers

TRUSTEES

- THEODORE H. STRAUB
One Year
- RICHARD BEYNON
Two Years
- GEORGE BONNER
Three Years



Dear *Mr. & Mrs. Hajimaki*,

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is presenting MEMORIALS to each family of our gallant men, who so nobly made the supreme sacrifice for God and Country.

We feel it fitting and proper that we should pay our special respects to those who died to preserve our right to worship God, as we choose.

In the presentation of these Memorials, we would like to include the names of the members of your church who have died while serving in the war, and in addition, we would greatly appreciate your sending in the names of the men who have died or have been killed in action each month.

The information we need, to fill in our Memorial is as follows: Full name, address, rank, and branch of service the deceased served in.

Your cooperation in this matter and an early reply will be appreciated.

Yours in Patriotism,

Richard Beynon
Commander.

Adjutant.

FEBRUARY 1945

Argonne Chapter No. 129
Military Order of the Purple Heart

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

1782

1932

Memorial

Whereas, The Patriots of Argonne Chapter No. 129, Military Order of the Purple Heart, feel a profound sorrow in the death of

Patriot *S. Sgt. John Heywach*

WHEREAS, We do hereby honor him for his integrity, sincerity and good fellowship, and above all, we esteemed him for his qualifications and qualities as a man; his patience, kindness and uniform consideration for all with whom he came in contact, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, deeply aware of the loss sustained, the Board of Directors, Trustees, Officers, and fellow Patriots of this Organization hereby express our deep and sincere sorrow upon the death of our beloved Patriot, and to his bereaved family we offer our heartfelt sympathy, and direct that this Resolution be spread upon the Organization's records; be suitably engrossed and conveyed to the family of our deceased Patriot.

THEREFORE, He has done his duty and done it well for God, for his Flag, for his Country and for the Constitution of the United States of America. And, furthermore the Honors of Military Merit and Valor in Battle, which the Military Order of the Purple Heart stands for, have been earned by him.

Date - *Feb. 1945*

Richard Beyman
Commander, 1945
Joseph Hutter
Adjutant, 1945

Attest:

MAY XX, 1945

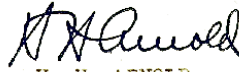
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORIAL DAY 1945

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

We are again mindful on this Memorial Day of our debt to those of the Army Air Forces who have given their lives for our Country. Their memory is always with us.

Very sincerely,



H. H. ARNOLD
Commanding General, Army Air Forces

MAY 24, 1945

The American Legion requests
your presence at Williams
on May 27 - 2 P. M. to
unveil the Honor Roll.

Mrs Williams

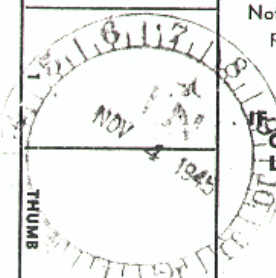


THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs Catherine Arpuch
P. O. 3
Moscow Pa

NOVEMBER 4, 1945

IF DECEASED UNIDENTIFIED			
LEFT HAND	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 :	RIGHT HAND	
	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.		
	<i>George T. Taft</i> George. T. Taft, T/Sgt. GRS. <small>(Signature of officer or other person reporting burial)</small>		
	<i>R. Hovde</i> R. Hovde, 1st. Lt. OMC. <small>(Verified by Army GRS Officer)</small>		



I'm not sure what this document is and how it relates to John, but it was included in the documentation received.

DECEMBER 12, 1945

997 *Wagner, John W. Sgt. 33345669* *Old*
NAME ISSN

U. S. A. F. *Spencer, A. C. Capt.*
COUNTRY COUNTRY

The Burial Report for above named individual is in the New Can Log File,
Room 1200, Bldg. C.

W. J. C.

File
12-12-45.
J. R. S.

MAY 29, 1946

293 Hrywnak, John 33,345,669

Graves Registration Form No. 1
Revised May 11, 1943

RE/ 2015 Corrected Copy 25 2015

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

~~HRYWNAK~~ Hrywnak
John (NMIC) 33345669 S/Sgt. 403rd. Bomb Sq.
(Last name) (First) (Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization)

7 Mile Drome, Port Moresby, N.G. 7 September, 1943 (Combat Mission) Plane crash.
(Place of death) (Date of death) (Cause of death) KIA.

4 August, 1945 U.S.A.F. Cemetery. Ipswich, Qld. Aust.
(Time and date of burial) (Name of cemetery) (Name or co-ordinates of location)

Remains disinterred from Grave No. 309, U.S.A.F. Cemetery, #1, Port Moresby, N.G.

889 Cross. (Reg)
(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

Religion Catholic

(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 GILLINGHAM Bernard O-431865 2nd. Lt. 35th. Pursuit Sqdn. 861
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)

Body buried on LEFT PELSTER Roy. A. O-767352 2nd. Lt. 1st. Far East Composites Fighter Grp. 917
(Name) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization) (Grave number)

Mrs. Kathryn Hrywnak, RFD #, Moscow, Penna. (Mother).
(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:

(21) Incl 561

MAY 29 1946

This graves registration form indicates that it is a corrected copy which appears to have dropped the "w" from the name Hrywnak but also has corrections in handwriting of the correct spelling. Another undated Graves Resistration form is on the next page with a hand correction of the spelling of the last name from Brywnak to Hrywnak.

* 293 Hrywnak, John 33,345,669

Graves Registration
Form No. 1
(Revised May 11, 1943)

RE/
REPORT OF INTERMENT
(TM 10-630 AND AR 30-15)

FILE

2015

RYWNAK John J 33345669 S/Sgt 403rd. Bomb Sq.
(Last name) (First) (Initial) (Serial number) (Rank) (Organization)
7 Mile Drome, Port Moresby, N.G. 7 September, 1943 43rd. Bomb Gp.
(Place of death) (Date of death) (Cause of death)
4 August, 1945 U.S.A.F. Cemetery, Ipswich, Qld. Aust.
(Time and date of burial) (Name of cemetery) (Name or co-ordinates of location)
Remains disinterred from Grave No. 309, U.S.A.F. Cemetery, Sl. Port Moresby, N.G.
889 Cross. (Reg)
(Grave number) (Row number) (Plot number) (Type of marker—Regulation Y-shaped or other)

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

Religion Catholic.

(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	<u>GILLINGHAM Bernard</u>	<u>0-431865</u>	<u>2nd. Lt.</u>	<u>Sqdn.</u>	<u>861.</u>
	(Name)	(Serial number)	(Rank)	(Organization)	(Grave number)
Body buried on LEFT	<u>FELSTER Roy A.</u>	<u>0-767352</u>	<u>2nd. Lt.</u>	<u>1st. Par East</u>	<u>Composites Fighter 917</u>
	(Name)	(Serial number)	(Rank)	(Organization)	(Grave number)
Mrs. Kathryn. <u>Rywnak</u> , RFD #3, Moscow, Penna. (Mother).				<u>Grp. (F)</u>	
(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:

(21)

RESTRICTED

*New
Card changed*

OCTOBER 8, 1946

REPATRIATION RECORDS BRANCH

8 Oct, 46
Date

NAME HRYWNAK, J.

SERIAL NO. 33345669

CAMP Ipswich Aust.

PLOT _____

RD. _____

GR. V. 889

LETTER to field

Correct Records to Read:

HRYWNAK, JOHN

M. E. Colman
Special Checker

Discrepancy Verified Map

*file
25 Oct 46
V. Daugherty
NAT*

This is a document identifies a discrepancy in the spelling of John's last name stating that it was to be corrected.

OCTOBER 28, 1946

U.S. Mail
OFFICE 314.6 - Branch Registration Pacific Area
~~7/8 Eastern Registration~~

28 October 1946

SUBJECT: Burial Records *Correction*

TO: Headquarters
American Graves Registration Service Area Command
Pacific Theater
APO 707, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

1. The discrepancy sheet submitted with the verified plot map sheet for the United States Armed Forces Cemetery Ipswich, Australia, was found to be in error. After reverification with official Adjutant General records available to this office, the portion underscored is found to be correct.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u> <u>GRADE</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>ROW</u>	<u>GRAVE</u>
<u>DeLeon, Louis E.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>R 4 017 831</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Reynolds, John</u>	<u>S/Sgt</u>	<u>33 345 669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>889</u>
<u>Lounski, Edward J.</u>	<u>Pvt</u>	<u>32 007 434</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

2. Request your records and grave markers be corrected in accordance with the above as underscored, if found to be as indicated on discrepancy sheet forwarded this office.

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

MARTIN G. RILEY
Major, JIC
Assistant

DECEMBER 4, 1946



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

4 December 1946

Mrs. Kathryn Hrynak
Route #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hrynak:

The War Department is most desirous that you be furnished information regarding the burial location of your son, the late Staff Sergeant John Hrynak, A.S.N. 33 345 669.

The records of this office disclose that his remains are interred in the United States Armed Forces Cemetery Ipswich, grave 889. You may be assured that the identification and interment have been accomplished with fitting dignity and solemnity.

This cemetery is located at Brisbane, Australia, and is under the constant care and supervision of United States military personnel.

The War Department has now been authorized to comply, at Government expense, with the feasible wishes of the next of kin regarding final interment, here or abroad, of the remains of your loved one. At a later date, this office will, without any action on your part, provide all legal next of kin with full information and solicit their detailed desires.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Sincerely yours,

T. B. LARKIN
Major General
The Quartermaster General

APR 18, 1947

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

IN REPLY REFER TO QMGM 293
Hrywnak, John
A.S.N. 33 345 669

18 April 1947

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
Rural Free Delivery #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

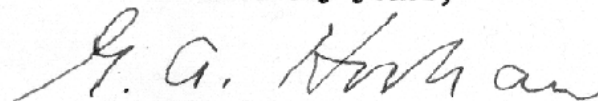
Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

Inclosed herewith is a picture of the United States Armed Forces Cemetery Ipswich, Australia, in which your son, the late Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak, 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 Incl
Photograph

APRIL 18, 1947

A picture of the gated cemetery entrance of IPSWICH where John was buried was sent to his mother



U. S. ARMED FORCES CEMETERY, IPSWICH, AUSTRALIA

JUNE 11, 1947

S/Bgt. John Brynak, 33 345 669
Grave 889,
U. S. Armed Forces Cemetery Ipswich
Brisbane, Australia

11 June 1947

Mrs. Katharine Brynak
Rural Free Delivery #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Brynak:

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

7
Incls.

gh

JUN 12 11 13 AM '47
MAIL & RECORDS SECTION

JUNE 11, 1947

BUDGET BUREAU No. 49-R277.

REQUEST FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

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

DATE

S/Sgt. John Hrywnak, 33 345 669
Grave 889,
U. S. Armed Forces Cemetery Ipawich
Brisbane, Australia

11 June 1947

A		C	
B		D	

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

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, KATHERINE HRYWNAK (Please indicate relationship to the deceased by placing an "X" in the proper box.)
(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF NEXT OF KIN)

- 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

(NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY)

3. BE RETURNED TO _____ THE HOMETLAND OF THE DECEASED OR NEXT OF KIN, FOR INTERMENT BY NEXT OF KIN IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY LOCATED AT _____ (LOCATION OF CEMETERY SELECTED)

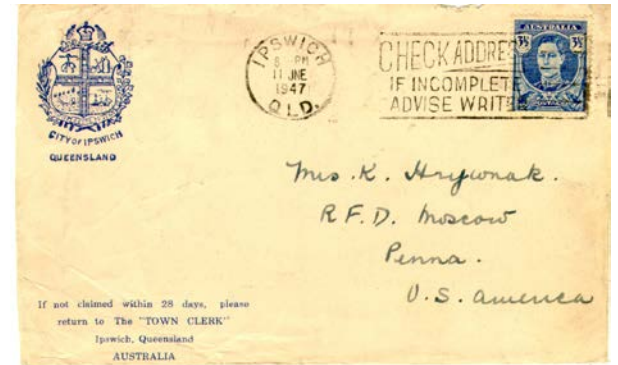
4. BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FINAL INTERMENT IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY LOCATED AT Gettysburg National Cemetery (LOCATION OF NATIONAL CEMETERY SELECTED)
- (Please indicate if your own religious services at a location other than the selected national cemetery are desired by placing an "X" in the 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

The form was completed and submitted by John's mother requesting disposition of his remains. The date this was completed is not known.

JUNE 11, 1947



Memorial Day Commemoration

U.S.A. Army Cemetery, Ipswich, Q. 1947

"They shall not grow old as
We that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."

Name

John Arjwank

AUGUST 4, 1947

Right after the crash SSGT John Hrywnak was buried in grave #309 US Air Force Cemetery , #1 Port Moresby, New Guinea

On this day John was reburied in IPSWICH US Army Forces Cemetery, Brisbane Australia. 2nd Lt Robert G. McDonald was buried to the right of him in grave #310 and SSGT Samuel M. Wilkinson was buried to the left of him in grave number 308.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1947

DISINTERMENT DIRECTIVE						
SECTION A — NAME AND BURIAL LOCATION OF DECEASED			DIRECTIVE NUMBER 825 00587		DATE 26 09 47 DAY MONTH YEAR	
NAME HRYWNAK JOHN		SERIAL NUMBER 33345669	RANK S. SG	ARM 1	DATE OF DEATH DAY MONTH YEAR 3221 03 CODE DIST. PT.	
CEMETERY IPSWICH USAF CEM BRISBANE				1	DISPOSITION OF REMAINS	
PLOT	ROW	GRAVE	COUNTRY 889 AUSTRALIA		CAUSE OF DEATH 2	
SECTION B — CONSIGNEE AND NEXT OF KIN						
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA			NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN MRS. KATHERINE HRYWNAK ROUTE 3 MOSCOW, PENNSYLVANIA			
SECTION C — DISINTERMENT AND IDENTIFICATION						
NAME HRYWNAK, John		SERIAL NUMBER 33345669	RANK S. SG.	DATE OF DEATH 7 September, 1943	DATE DISINTERRED 6 December, 1947	
IDENTIFICATION TAG ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMAINS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKER		ORGANIZATION 403RD BOMB SQ 43RD BOMB GP (H)	RELIGION C	IDENTIFICATION VERIFIED BY G.N. White, Embalmer NAME AND TITLE		
SECTION D — PREPARATION OF REMAINS FOR SHIPMENT						
NATURE OF BURIAL Casket			CONDITION OF REMAINS Skeleton, incomplete.			
OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION Name plate on marker						
MINOR DISCREPANCIES None						
REMAINS PREPARED AND PLACED IN CASKET DATE 9 December, 1947 BY B.G. MELTON						
CASKET SEALED BY E.H. MORSE			EMBALMER (Signature) B.G. MELTON <i>B.G. Melton</i>			
CASKET BOXED AND MARKED DATE 9 Dec. 47 BY PETER JOSE			SHIPPING ADDRESS VERIFIED BY A.C. BUNNELL, 1st Lt, Inf			
I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct. <i>A.C. Bunnell</i> A.C. BUNNELL, 1st Lt, Inf SIGNATURE OF GRS INSPECTOR						
1 Prepare Discrepancy Report QMC Form 1194a for major discrepancies.						

This was the day that a directive, number 825 00587 was given was given to disinter SSGT John Hrywnak's remains at the IPSWICH US Army Forces Cemetery in Brisbane, Australia. (QMC Form 1194)

OCTOBER 27, 1947

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Wilson-Conklin Post 579
Moscow, Pa.

October 27, 1947

In Re: ²¹³ S/Sgt. John Hrywnak
#33 345 669
Grave 889
U.S. Army Forces Cemetery
Ipswich, Brisbane
Australia

The local American Legion intervened for Mrs. Hrywnak in trying to get John's remains returned to the United States.

War Department
Office of The Quartermaster General
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Relative to the above subject, form "Request for Disposition of Remains" has been filled out and returned approximately four months ago.

Up to the present time the Mother of the deceased has heard nothing, and is exceedingly anxious, so would you kindly inform us at your earliest convenience the exact status in this case.

Thanking you in advance,

William A. Lawrence
Post Adjutant

NOVEMBER 7, 1947

RECEIVED THE AIR MAIL
// // // // // // // // // //

QNDHF 293
Hrywnak, John
SF 33 345 668

7 November 1947

Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
Route #3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

An inquiry has been received recently from Mr. William B. Lowell, Post Adjutant, The American Legion, Wilson-Conklin Post 579, Moscow, Pennsylvania, pertaining to the remains of your son, the late Staff Sergeant John Hrywnak.

I wish to inform you that the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form has been received in this office. Please rest assured that the Department of the Army will comply with your wishes as recorded on the form.

Please do not hesitate to call upon us at any time if you believe we can assist you further.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD B. COMBS
Major, OMC
Memorial Division

COPY FURNISHED:

Mr. William B. Lowell
Post Adjutant, The American Legion
Wilson-Conklin Post 579
Moscow, Pennsylvania

NOV 7 5 24 PM '47
U. S. ARMY
RECORDS BRANCH

NOV 7 4 04 PM '47
RECEIVED
REITERATION
RECORDS BRANCH

Mrs. Hrywnak received notification that the request for Disposition of remains had been received by the department of the Army.

NOVEMBER 7, 1947

CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET

Mr. _____
 Miss. _____
 Addressee: Mrs. Katherine Arzuwak Motte Relationship _____
 State Route 3
 City, State Moscow, Pennsylvania '47 Date letter _____
 Cemetery _____
 Temporary: _____
 Permanent: _____
 Plot Row Gr Cem. Name or No. City Country

PARAGRAPHS (sequence) cc.

-- ADDITIONAL -- DATA -- MODIFICATIONS --

1657

Mr. William B. Lowell
 Post Adjutant
 The American Legion
 Wilson-Cooklin Post 579
 Moscow, Pennsylvania

I wish to inform you that the "Request for Disposition of Remains" form has been received in this office. Please rest assured that the Department of the Army will comply with your wishes as recorded on the form.

166E

Decedent: Arzuwak, Motte
 Last Arzuwak
 First Motte
 Initial AM
 Rank _____
 ASN _____

Analyst Typist Reviewer

Modifications

OKed

DECEMBER 6, 1947

John's remains, recorded as being a partial skeleton ,were disinterred and placed in a casket.

DECEMBER 23 1947

RECORD OF CUSTODIAL TRANSFER			
1. SHIPPED			
FROM MAUSOLEUM # 4, REDBANK, QLD.		TO . . . USAT GOUCHER VICTORY.	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE TRUCK		NAME OF CONVOYER W. J. CRANDELL	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <i>William J. Cranwell</i> WILLIAM J. CRANWELL CAPT. QMC	DATE 23 Dec 47	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>G. B. Barrett</i> G. B. BARRETT CAPT. T.C.	DATE
2. SHIPPED			
FROM USAT GOUCHER VICTORY		TO USAT CARDINAL O'DONNELL	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE DIRECT TRANSFER		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER <i>G. B. Barrett</i> G. B. BARRETT, CAPT. T.C.	DATE 2 Jan 48	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Robert M. Jones</i> Robert M. Jones, STA	DATE 31 Jan 1948
3. SHIPPED			
FROM USAT CARDINAL O'CONNELL		TO USAT CARDINAL O'CONNELL	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE ZSC		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER Robert M. Jones, STA	DATE 31 Jan 1948	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Dewey Taylor</i> Dewey Taylor Capt, TC	DATE 31 Jan 1948
4. SHIPPED			
FROM USAT CARDINAL O'CONNELL		TO HQ SEPE, FT MASON, CALIF.	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER DEWEY TAYLOR CAPT	DATE 18 FEB 1948	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Milton A. Jenkins</i> Milton A. Jenkins Capt	DATE 19 FEB 1948
5. SHIPPED			
FROM HQ SEPE, FT MASON, CALIF.		TO DC-3 Philadelphia QM Depot	
KIND OF CONVEYANCE RAIL		NAME OF CONVOYER	
SIGNATURE OF SHIPPER MILTON JENKS CAPT	DATE 19 FEB 1948	SIGNATURE OF RECEIVER <i>Joseph B. Hagg</i> Joseph B. Hagg T-1 Lt Col	DATE 19 FEB 1948
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

This is the record of the transfer of John's remains, first from a mausoleum in Redbank, Queensland, Australia to the USATR Goucher Victory, then to the USAT Cardinal O'Donnell, then to Fort Mason, California and finally to the Philadelphia Quarter Master Depot.

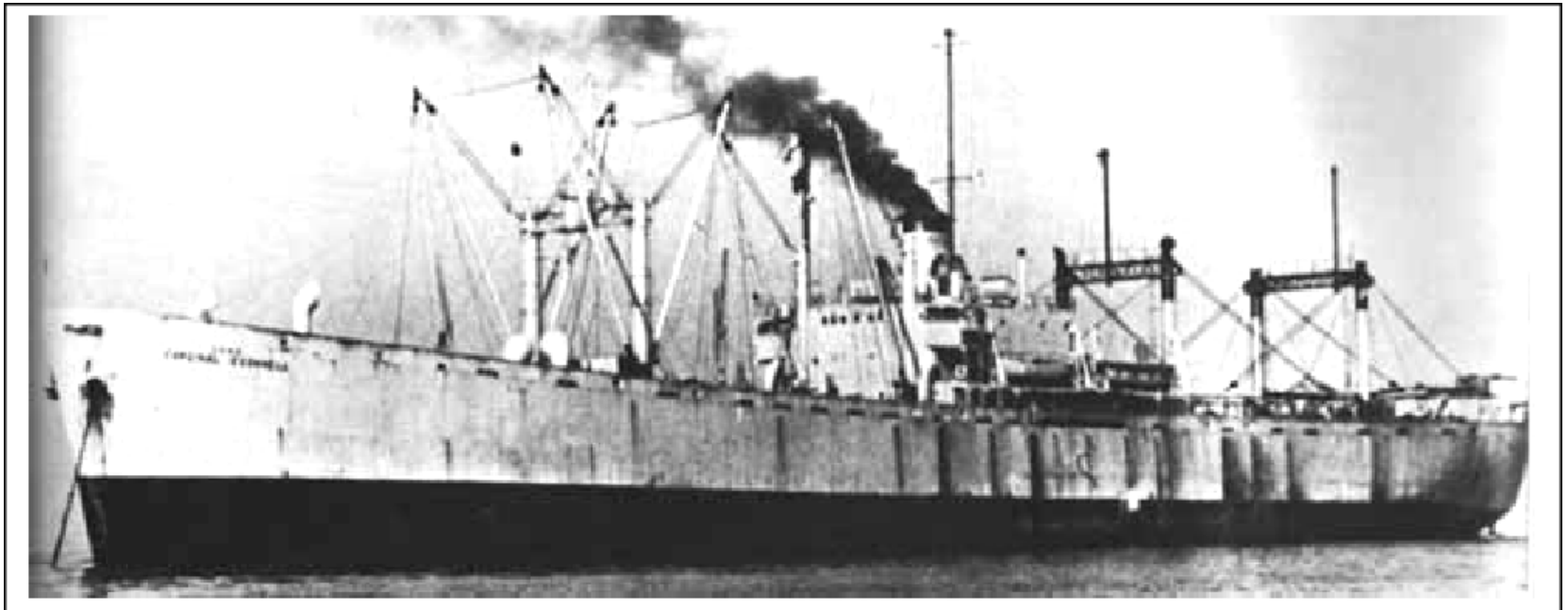
DECEMBER 23, 1947

John's body was transferred from Mausoleum #4, Redbank, Qld. to the USAT (US Army Transportation Service) Goucher Victory.



JANUARY 2, 1948

Today the casket containing John's remains was transferred to the USAT Cardinal O'(C?)Donnell.



FEBRUARY 6, 1948

AGH
ADM BR XXXXX

6 February 1948

QMDPK 293.8

SUBJECT: Remains on the USAT Cardinal O'Connell

TO: Superintendent
Gettysburg National Cemetery

The following names are on the Passenger List of USAT Cardinal O'Connell are due to arrive at this Distribution Center in the near future for burial at your Cemetery:

ARMY (AGF)

DEY, Victor J.	TSG 5	33275869	WHITE	PROT.
TARANTINI, John D.	SGT	6946790	WHITE	CATH.

ARMY (AAF)

HZURY, Stephen D.	T SG	13056189	WHITE	CATH.
HRZYMAN, John A.	S/SGT	33345669	WHITE	CATH.
HUGHES, Clifford	WOJG	W2107458	WHITE	PROT.
HULENCHICK, Stephen	S/SGT	6910982	WHITE	CATH.
KLINE, Joseph Jr.	PVT	33080406	WHITE	CATH.
MC FARLAND, Morris	CPL	7022396	WHITE	PROT.
ROSSCH, Richard J.	CPL	33070452	WHITE	CATH.
ROTH, James C.	CPL	31123090	WHITE	PROT.
WILCOX, Charles E.	M/SGT	6786294	WHITE	P&T.
YOUNG, Harry C.	SGT	20329562	WHITE	PROT.
YOUNG, Jack E.	CPL	33075710	WHITE	PROT.

NAVY

BLUE, Aaron J.	FTM2C	66532670	NEGRO	CATH.
CASE, John Riley	SEA 2	2439066	WHITE	PROT.
FRANKS, Jess L. Jr.	S 2C	7556634	WHITE	PROT.
NESCUDA, Joseph J., SR.	CM3	8197298	WHITE	CATH.
TILCHECK, John A.	SIC	6528436	WHITE	CATH.

A list of 24 deceased military personnel from the Armed Forces of the Army (AGF), Army (AAF), Navy and Marines that were to be buried at Gettysburg was sent to the Superintendent there. The list included name, rank, serial number, race and religion.

6 February 1948 (contd)

QMDPK 293.8
Ltr Supt., Gettysburg Natl Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pa.

MARINE

HUFF, Wilbur D.	PVT	803769	WHITE	PROT
MOLCANY, Joseph Michael	S/SGT	397054	WHITE	CATH
PASTREK, Frank	PTC	370276	WHITE	ALL OTHERS
PHILLIPS, Jesse Leroy	PTC	343647	WHITE	PROT
SHKLEIK, Michael J.	PTC	462955	WHITE	CATH
TOSKE, Edward A.	CPL	432832	WHITE	PROT

2. You will be notified at a later date as to date of arrival at this Center and when remains will be available for shipment.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANK E. GREEN, JR.
MAJOR, QMC
Assistant

FEBRUARY 19, 1948

The casket was then transferred to HQ Sepe, Ft Mason.

FEBRUARY 9, 1948

MESSAGEFORM		MESSAGE CENTER NO.	TRANSMITTING MEANS	CRYPTOGRAPH OR CLEAR TEXT	
CALLS V	SER. NO. NR	PRECEDENCE	TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	ORIGINATOR FEB	DATE-TIME GROUP 9 1948
ACTION	INFORMATION	EXEMPT	OPERATING SIGNALS	GROUP COUNT -AR	
SPACE ABOVE FOR SIGNAL CENTER ONLY					
FROM: (Originator) PHILADELPHIA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.			SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		
ACTION TO: MRS. KATHERINE HRYWNAK			PRECEDENCE FOR INFORMATION Routine O.I. 2058		
RAPID ROUTE 3, MOSCOW, PENNA. GOVT PAID			<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE REFERS TO ANOTHER MESSAGE IDENTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION		
INFORMATION TO: W.R. AND CHECK ANY CRGS WAR DEPARTMENT WILL DELIVER REMAINS OF LATE <u>Sgt JOHN HRYWNAK</u> IN NEAR FUTURE. RECORDS OF THIS OFFICE INDICATE YOU WISH REMAINS INTERRED AT <u>GETTYSBURG</u> NATIONAL CEMETERY <u>GETTYSBURG, PENNA.</u> REQUEST IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION BY TELEGRAM COLLECT TO PHILADELPHIA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT ATTENTION AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DIVISION PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA. NATIONAL CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT WILL NOTIFY YOU DATE AND HOUR FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT YOUR ATTENDANCE AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE. CUSTOMARY MILITARY HONORS AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT CEMETERY BY VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, OR MILITARY OR NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL PRIVATE SERVICES AND CEREMONIES OF YOUR CHOICE TO BE HELD AT CONCLUSION OF REGULAR SERVICES MAY BE MADE BY YOU. IF YOU WISH SUCH ADDI- TIONAL SERVICES OR CEREMONIES NOTIFY NATIONAL CEMETERY OF YOUR DESIRES. NECESSARY YOU INCLUDE NAME OF DECEASED IN REPLY TELEGRAM.					
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			AUTHORIZATION		
ORIGINATING AGENCY			SIGNATURE D. G. POLLARD LT. COL., GMC		
SYMBOL	DATE-TIME GROUP	OFFICIAL TITLE		PAGE	OF

WD AGO Form 11-168 was sent to Katherine Hrywnak requesting that she notify via telegram confirmation of her desire to have her son interred at Gettysburg National Cemetery. She was also informed that she would be notified of the date and hour of the funeral in sufficient time for her to be able to attend but at her own expense. Customary military and religious services were to be provided. Additional private services and ceremonies could follow.

FEBRUARY 11, 1948

WESTERN UNION

AGR

WESTERN UNION

AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DIVISION
PHILADELPHIA

1948 FEB 11 AM 11:05

M

WUR52 14 GOVT COLLECT

MOSCOW PENN FEB 11 1010A

PHILADELPHIA QUARTERMASTER DEPOT

ATTN AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION DIVISION

I WISH TO HAVE REMAINS OF JOHN HRYWNAK INTERRED

IN GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY

MRS KATHARINE HRYWNAK.

WESTERN UNION

HRYWNAK.



At 10:10 a.m. a Western Union telegram was sent to the Philadelphia Quarter Master by Katherine Hrywnak stating her wishes to have her son interred in Gettysburg National Cemetery.

FEBRUARY 18, 1948

Newspaper clipping indicating the five day journey by train from San Francisco to Philadelphia

FUNERAL TRAINS DUE FEB. 23

San Francisco, Feb. 18 (AP).—Funeral trains bearing Pacific war dead returned aboard the Transport Cardinal O'Connell are due on the East Coast Feb. 23, it was announced yesterday.

An eleven-car train for distribution centers at Philadelphia and Brooklyn will leave today.

FEBRUARY 24, 1948

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gettysburg National Cemetery
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

February 24, 1948

Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot
Attention: American Graves Registration Service
2800 South 20th Street
Philadelphia 45, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

Funerals services for T/5 Victor J. Dry 33275869, W.O.J.G.
Clifford Hughes W2107458, scheduled March 3 at 1:30 p.m.; T/Sgt. Stephen
Deary 13056189 and S. Sgt John Hrywnak 33345669 scheduled March 3 at
3 p.m. Request delivery March 2 and advice of expected time of arrival.

Funeral services for S. Sgt Stephen Rumschick 6910982 and
Cpl. Richard J. Roesch 33070452 scheduled 1:30 p.m. March 4; Cpl. Morris
McFarland 7022396 and Cpl. James C. Roth 31123090 scheduled March 4 at
3 p.m. Request delivery March 3 and advise of expected time of arrival.

Funeral services for M. Sgt Charles E. Willcox 6788294 and
Sgt. Harry C. Young 20329562 scheduled March 5 at 1:30 p.m. and Cpl. Jack
E. Young 33075710 scheduled March 5 at 3 p.m. Request delivery March 4
and advice of expected time of arrival.

Remains of above will be received at Gettysburg National Cemetery

Sincerely yours,

ALVAN C. BAKER
Superintendent

John's remains arrived at the DC-3 Philadelphia Quarter Master Depot.. This same day, the superintendent of Gettysburg National Cemetery notified the Philadelphia Quarter Master at 2800 South 20th Street, Philadelphia that SSgt Hrywnak's funeral service was scheduled for 3 p.m. on March 3.

MARCH 1, 1948

INSPECTION CHECK LIST (For Use at Distribution Point)					
2058		Name		Rank	Serial Number
		HRYWNAK, JOHN ✓		S SG ✓	33345669 ✓
Source		Consignee			
Mrs. Katherine Hrywnek ✓ Route 3, Moscow, Pa.		Gettysburg National Cemetery Gettysburg, Pa. ✓			
SHIPPING CASE - General Appearance (Check ONLY Discrepancies)			Condition of Shipping Case (Check One)		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsatisfactory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINISH (Exterior)		Remarks		
	FINISH (Interior)				
	HANDLES				
	HANDLE BOLTS				
	STENCILING - NAMEPLATE				
	HEALTH PERMIT MARKER				
	HEALTH PERMIT NUMBER				
CASKET - General Appearance (Check ONLY Discrepancies)			Condition of Casket (Check One)		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsatisfactory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINISH (Exterior)		Remarks		
	HANDLES AND FASTENINGS				
	STENCILING - NAMEPLATE				
	CAM LOCKS (Sealing)				
	ODOR OR MOISTURE				
ROUTED THROUGH					
<input type="checkbox"/> MORTUARY OPERATING ROOM			<input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR SHOP		
Condition of Remains			Casket Repaired		
<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory <input type="checkbox"/> Unsatisfactory			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Necessary Disinfection (Explain)			Casket Exchanged		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
			Shipping Case Repaired		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
			Shipping Case Exchanged		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
			Remarks		
Time	Date	Signature of Mortician	Time	Date	Signature of Inspector
					<i>Marion J. Fleming</i>
Remarks					
<i>Tuesday</i>					
<i>Sat. for ship.</i>					

It would appear from this inspection check list (QMC Form R-5054) of the casket and its shipping case that the finish of both were in unsatisfactory condition, but deemed satisfactory for shipment.

MARCH 3 1948

Date March 3, 1948

TO: Mrs. Katherine Hrywnak
Route 3
Moscow, Pennsylvania

The authorized inscription for a Government headstone of the general type (furnished for all decedents except those who served only during the Civil and Spanish-American Wars) includes: (1) The State from which the veteran came; (2) religious emblem in a small circle above the inscription on the face of the headstone; and (3) the dates of birth and death.

In order that the appropriate information, as desired by the next of kin, may be shown on the headstone for the decedent whose name is listed below, it is requested that you fill in the proper spaces indicated below the data called for, and RETURN THIS FORM PROMPTLY TO THE

Superintendent
Gettysburg National Cemetery
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Superintendent of Cemetery or Commanding Officer of Post

If this form is not returned to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) days from date of mailing, the headstone will be ordered with the data as to religious emblem, State and date of birth inscribed thereon as shown in the official records, and NO CHANGE WILL BE MADE AT A LATER DATE AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

To be filled in by Superintendent or Commanding Officer

Name of Veteran John Hrywnak
Rank, etc. S. Sgt
Grave or lot No. Grave No. 346, Section 2
Date of death _____
Date buried March 3, 1948

To be filled in by Next of Kin

State desired Pennsylvania
Religious emblem desired Latin Cross
(Latin Cross for Christian Faith, Star of David for Hebrew Faith)
Date of birth Feb 1, 1918
Address of kin R. F. D. #3 Moscow Pa
Signature Katherine Hrywnak Date March 3, 1948

DDMG FORM 315
20 March 1945

APR 13 1948 file
Specimen
Bme

MARCH 3 1948

RECEIPT OF REMAINS

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
AGR DISTRIBUTION CENTER, PHILADELPHIA QM DEPOT

SUPERINTENDENT
GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY
GETTYSBURG, PENNA.

REGISTRY
PRIORITY O.I. 2058

REMAINS CONSIGNED TO:

REMAINS OF LATE S/SGT JOHN HRYWNAK 33345669 WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU ON
SECOND MARCH BY GOVERNMENT HEARSE AT APPROXIMATELY ONE TEN PM BY THIS
DEPOT ACCOMPANIED BY MILITARY ESCORT. REQUEST YOU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO
ACCEPT REMAINS UPON DELIVERY. REQUEST YOU NOTIFY NEXT OF KIN.

FRANK M. GREEN JR.
MAJOR, QMC

QMC Form 1193 documenting that John's remains were received at Gettysburg National Cemetery. It indicates that they were delivered to the Superintendent of the cemetery on the second of March by government hearse at approximately 1:10 p.m. The hearse was accompanied by military escort.

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

THIS 3 DAY OF March, 19 48

John P. ...
WITNESS (Report)

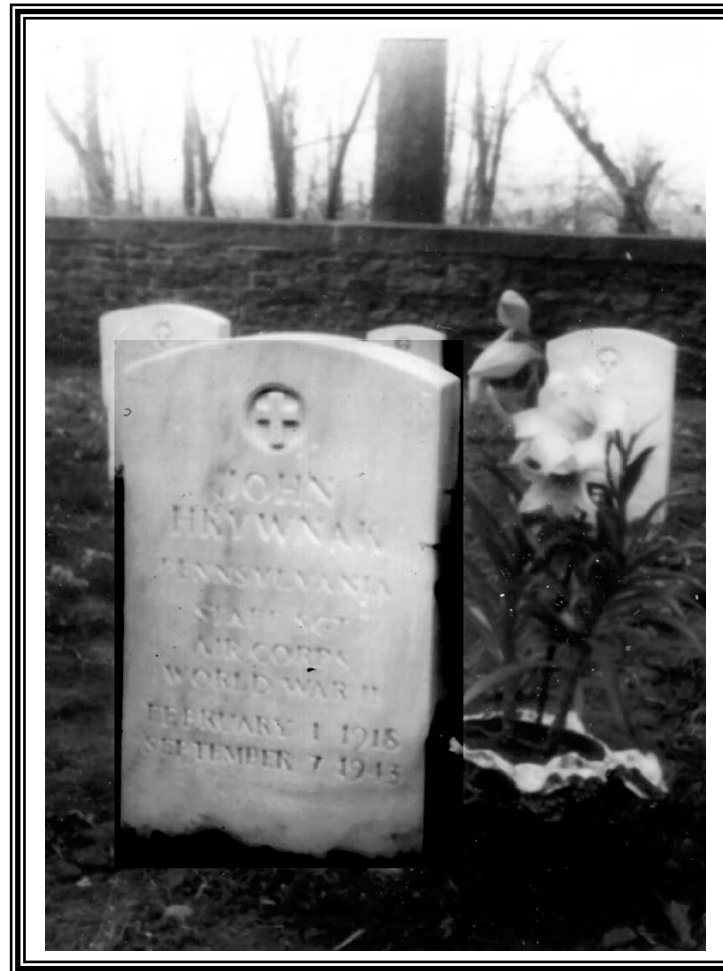
Alvan C. Baker
CONSIGNEE

Filly
Nat
Records Office
16 Mar 48
B. Melhorn
R. R. Brown

U. S. A.

MARCH 3 1948

SSGT John Hrywnak was buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in Grave # 346, Section 2. John's mother, along with John's three brothers and two of John's six sister's, Millie and Mary along with Mary's husband Joseph and their son Joseph (age 11). The local priest and his wife as well as family friends Frank and Louie Crystal also attended. They drove in a three car caravan from Scranton to Gettysburg to attend the burial. When leaving, two of the cars got lost returning home and had to stay overnight somewhere before returning home the next day.



MARCH ?, 1948

Newspaper article in the Scranton Pennsylvania newspaper concerning John's burial at Gettysburg National Cemetery

Sgt. Hrywnak Buried

The military funeral of Staff Sgt. John Hrywnak, son of Mrs. Kathryn Hrywnak, Moscow, was held last Wednesday at Gettysburg, with interment in the National Cemetery there.

Sergeant Hrywnak, 25, was killed in action in the Southwest Pacific Sept. 7, 1943, 15 months after he had entered service.

Besides his mother, he is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Charles Balko, Miss Anna Hrywnak, both of Hartford, Conn.; Mrs. Joseph Tropiak, Throop; Mrs. Woodrow Keisling, Mrs. Thomas Millard, both of this city; Miss Millie Hrywnak. Wesley, Harold and Paul Hrywnak, all of Moscow.

NOTE:

Mrs. Charles Balko - Olga
Mrs. Joseph Tropiak - Mary
Mrs. Woodrow Keisling - Nancie
Mrs. Thomas Millard - Julia

JUNE 16, 1948

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

In Memorium

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

J. L. Laughlin, Chairman
Bernard E. McDermott, Member
John F. Dunner, Member
Frank Haidel, Member
John V. Horan, Member
Nelson W. McCloskey, Member
James F. Colley, Ex-Officio Member

We, The Officers and Members of the Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, extend you our deepest sympathy in your bereavement of the loss of a Loved One, who by his service, patriotism and devotion to his country in time of national peril, gave his life that we might continue to enjoy and share the American Way of Life.

We fully realize words are inadequate to fill the void created by the loss of one who has made the Supreme Sacrifice. We do hope however, that you attain some consolation in the thought that you have joined the multitude of those who have given their most priceless possession, "A Loved One," to preserve for us and posterity, America with its freedoms and ideals. The Good Shepherd saith, "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This, Who Layeth Down His Life For His Friends."

We, his Comrades-in-arms, feel we were his friends and share with you your sorrows in this trying hour.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Hilton

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

October 3, 1951

OCTOBER 3 1951

JOHN S. FINE
GOVERNOR

Rev. Dimitry S. Kudrikoff,
S. S. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox
Greek Catholic Church,
1820 Division Street,
Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Dear Father Kudrikoff:

The Compensation Bureau advises me that a claim for the State bonus was filed on March 20, 1950, by Mrs. Kathrine Hrywnak as surviving mother of John Hrywnak, SN33345669, deceased, and accompanying it was a letter dated September 24, 1943, from Major William L. Welsh, Commanding Officer of the 403d Bombardment Squadron, advising her of the death of her son on September 7, 1943. This is the only document received by the Bureau from Mrs. Hrywnak.

On July 20, 1950, the application was returned to Mrs. Hrywnak for completion. She was also requested to furnish a birth certificate showing the date and place of birth of John Hrywnak and the parents' names, and a copy of the death certificate of the father. At no time has the Bureau received the papers.

In a routine follow-up on August 23, 1951, a letter was sent to Mrs. Hrywnak requesting her to return the application and supporting papers. Your letter states that the papers had been returned to the Bureau several months previously. On September 4th they advised Mrs. Hrywnak that after a thorough investigation no record could be found of the receipt of the application and documents, and another application was sent to her.

If you will have Mrs. Hrywnak sign the application which was sent to her on September 4th, have it notarized and return it in the enclosed envelope, her claim will be processed.

I am returning the papers enclosed with your letter.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

OCTOBER 27, 1959



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
REGIONAL OFFICE
19 NORTH MAIN STREET
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA
October 27, 1959

3056/213B

Mrs. Kathryn R. Hrywnak
RD #3, Box 301
Moscow, Pa.

IMPORTANT
Read the back of this letter

XC 3 358 625
HRYWNAK, John

Dear Mrs. Hrywnak:

An award of death compensation has been made to you as the dependent mother of the veteran, whose death was due to service. You will receive your initial payment under this award in the near future. Thereafter, checks will be issued at the end of each month.

<u>Monthly Payment</u>	<u>Commencing Date</u>	<u>Ending Date</u>
\$75.00	10-12-59	

Very truly yours,

EDMUND J. RAUS
Adjudication Officer

FL 21-30
Jun 1958(R)

VA-DC 248398

An inquiry by or concerning an ex service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, V, H, RH, RS or loan number. If such number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

CONDITIONS AFFECTING RIGHT TO PAYMENTS

A. WIDOW

Payments of compensation to or for a widow will be discontinued upon remarriage or death. If you are the widow of the veteran and you remarry, do not thereafter endorse any check made payable to you as unmarried widow. All such checks should be returned with a statement showing the date of your remarriage so that your pension may be adjusted up to the date of your remarriage.

B. CHILD

The term "child" means a person unmarried and under 18 years of age, or under 21 years of age if pursuing an approved course of instruction, or any age if the child became permanently incapable of self-support by reason of physical or mental defect prior to reaching 18 years. Payments of compensation to or for a child will be discontinued upon the marriage or death of such child. You should notify this office at once the date of marriage or death of any child for whom benefits are being paid. If a child is attending or will attend a school or other educational institution approved by the Veterans Administration, pension is payable until the completion or discontinuance of schooling or until marriage, but in no event beyond the day preceding the child's

twenty-first birthday. In order to obtain such benefits, the necessary forms should be requested from the Veterans Administration shortly before the child's eighteenth birthday.

C. PARENTS

Payment of compensation to or for a dependent parent will be terminated upon death or when actual dependency ceases to exist. If at any time the income of a dependent parent who is in receipt of death compensation is increased or if such parent remarried, notice thereof must be furnished the Veterans Administration

D. PENALTIES

Severe penalties involving fines and imprisonments are prescribed by various statutes of the United States in any instance where a person fraudulently accepts any payment to which such person is not entitled, or obtains or receives money with intent to defraud the United States.

E. CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Notify this office immediately of your change of address.

KEEP THIS LETTER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

JUNE 30, 1963



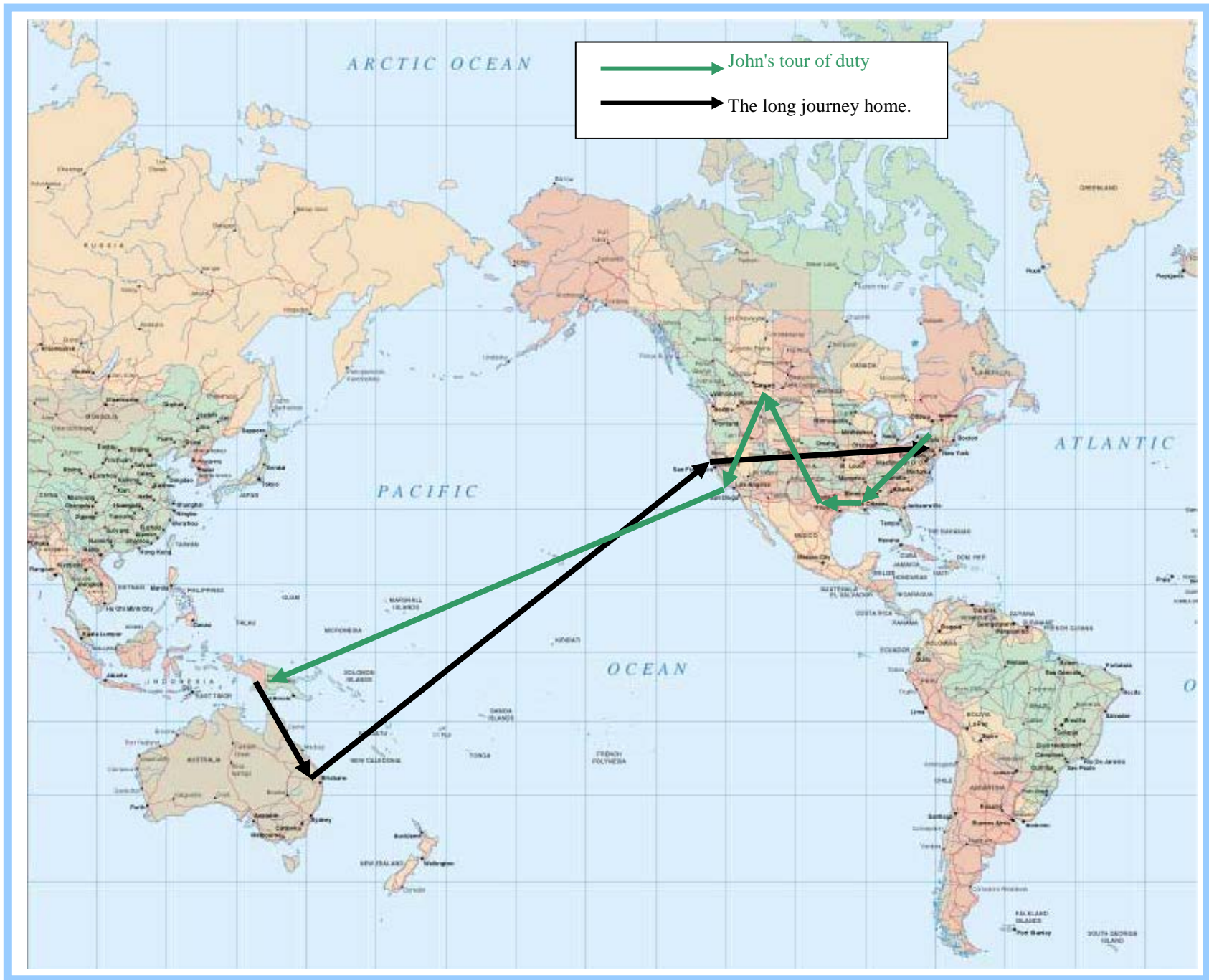
*The United States of America
honors the memory of*

JOHN HRYWNAK

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

John F. Kennedy
President of the United States

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy sent a certificate recognizing John's "devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country". The certificate was mailed by third class mail with a 4 cent stamp.



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