

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Olga Vrtatko to the Adjutant General's Office, U.S. Army, January 8, 1946
United States Department of the Army

29 E. 29th St.
New York 16, New York

Jan. 8, 1946

Adjutant General's Office
War Department
Washington, D. C.

PFC JAMES H VRTATKO (36396086)
326 Airborne Medical Co.
APO 472, c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

According to information received from the War Department, my brother, James, died in Nettersheim, Germany, Jan. 15, 1945, from bronchial pneumonia, while a prisoner of war. He was missing in action as of Dec. 19, 1944, and it was last september that we received word relative to his death.

If there is any other information availble it would be appreciated. As, for instance, if it is known where he was during the period from Dec. 19, 1944, to date of his death. Did he die in a German prison camp or elsewhere and apparently what was he supposed to be doing in this small village where he died? Was there a German prison camp in this town? Is it known if there was some other complication before pneumonia set in? If this information is not available, could not a further investigation be made?

I would appreciate it very much if I could procure the names and home addresses of soldiers who were in the same company with James and who probably knew him. Some of the boys may even have been withhim and knew of his illness. These boys may have survived and are now discharged. James never gave our family addresses of his Service friends, and in this case it is unfortunate.

My brother went into Service March 20, 1942, at Camp Grant, Illinois. At first he was in Camp Claibourne, La., and later at Fort Bragg, N. C., before going overseas in September 1943. His overseas address was always as given above.

The last communication I received from him was during December 1944, which was written in November 1944 while he was still in Holland, it seems.

Respectfully yours,

Olga Vrtatko

C O P Y

Inclosure Number 2

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COPY

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VRTATKO, James H.
S36396086

P. S. Please state the place of burial.

If James had any decorations or Army pins before his death that became lost and duplicates are obtainable, they would be appreciated. We did receive the Purple Heart decoration. If more of his personal effects are located, please have them forwarded to the same address as before, Mrs. Barbara Vrtatko, 2702S. Homan Ave., Chicago, 23, Illinois.

(AGO report shows: Barbara)

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General Edward Witchell to Olga Vrtatko, February 27, 1946
United States Department of the Army

L-1710 20

AGFC-G 201 Vrtatko, James H.
2938 Jan 46) 36396086

27 February 1946

Miss Olga Vrtatko
29 East 29th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Miss Vrtatko:

Further reference is made to your letter of 8 January 1946, concerning your brother, Private First Class James H. Vrtatko.

The feelings which prompted your communication are most understandable and I regret that so much sorrow has come to you and your family. The following information regarding your brother's death was submitted to the War Department by Captain Harry A. Tyllao, Medical Corps, in compliance with a request from this office:

"I first saw Pfc James H. Vrtatko in a German prisoner of war collecting point at Netterchain, Germany, on or about 15 January 1945. Pfc Vrtatko was brought to this collecting point as a litter patient from a box car that had moved up from Gerolstein. He called to me by name and I recognized the 101st Division shoulder patch that he wore. He was not wounded but he was seriously ill. I checked his dog tags and looked at his American Red Cross identification card.

"I examined his lungs which revealed a diffuse bronchial pneumonia with heart failure. He expired within a few moments after I first saw him. I believe he was buried at Netterchain."

In the event you wish to communicate with Captain Tyllao, you may address him at 3038 North Elmwood Avenue, Chicago 40, Illinois.

Since the Quartermaster General, Washington 25, D. C., has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the burial and disposition of the personal effects of our military personnel who die overseas, I am

file
1/28/46
3/12/46
5/12/46

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United States Department of the Army

AGPC-O 201 Vrtatko, James H.
(8 Jan 46) 36396056

forwarding a copy of your letter to that official for appropriate attention and further reply to you.

Your inquiry concerning any decorations which Private Vrtatko may have been entitled is presently receiving consideration in this office and will be the subject of a later communication.

There is very little I can say to assuage your sorrow, but I trust that the knowledge of your brother's heroic devotion to duty may sustain and comfort you in your bereavement.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General of the Army

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

TGRS / TSFET
Form. No. 10
27-8-45

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION AREA SEARCHING

To be completely filled out and attached to each copy of GR Form I,
„Report of Burial“ when disinterment is accomplished.

- Was investigation preceded by Advance Publicity Yes
(if Special Investigation, so indicate)
- VRTATKO, JAMES H. P.F.C. 36396086 326 ABNE MED. CO.
(Full name of deceased) (Rank) (ASN) (Organization)
- State: Means of identification, i. e. identification, tags attached to marker, inscription on grave marker, cemetery records, townhall records, etc. and Source of Information, i. e. identification tags, identification cards, identification bracelet, leather name plate on flying jacket, clothing marks etc. One I.D. tag found on deceased

Rank and unit taken from W.D. Casualty List
- Give exact location of isolated grave, furnishing coordinates and letter prefix, map sheet, scale and series used; also name of nearest town: Nettersheim, Ger. (WF-2111)
Map Ref. Ger. 1/250,000 Koln K-51
NOTE: ATTACH OVERLAY SHOWING EXACT LOCATION OF ISOLATED GRAVE TYING LOCATION IN WITH PERMANENT LANDMARKS.
- Full name of cemetery (include plot, row and grave if organized cemetery) Nettersheim Cemetery Plot 1, Row 2, Grave 5, (See sketch)
- Approximate or established date of death (state which and give basis for date selected)
22 Jan 1945 established date given by Burgermeister
Peter Schmal
- Approximate or established date of burial (give basis for date established)
26 Jan 1945 established date given by Burgermeister
- Manner in which grave was marked, show information contained on the marker
Wooden Cross, Private Vrtatko, James H. U.S.A.
Geb. 1/8/08 Gest. 22/1/45
- List personal effects found in possession of civilian and custodial personnel now retaining, furnishing name and address of individuals concerned

(None)
- Furnish information obtained concerning place, and particulars surrounding death and burial; give the names and addresses of all persons furnishing such information (contact local Mayor, priest, police, hospitals, cemetery sextons or caretakers, those responsible for burial and others possessing important information) The deceased died enroute from Gerolstein to an unknown destination. He died in Nettersheim Ger. and was buried in the Nettersheim Cemetery.

Informant : Peter Schmal House 38
Nettersheim, Germany.
- Give name and address of person who can guide disintering team to burial location
Peter Schmal, House 38 Burgermeister of Nettersheim, Ger.

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Report of Investigation Area Searching, April 6, 1946

United States Department of the Army

Note: the family would not have received a copy of this document.

12. Is this atrocity case: No Is there evidence that it may be: No
 If answer is yes, has responsible War Crimes representative been notified _____

13. Names and addresses of persons committing the atrocity or the military unit of which these persons were members
 (Not applicable)

14. If unidentified and a crew member of a plane or vehicle, indicate names of any other known crew members and state whether buried at this location or a survivor
 (Not applicable)

15. If unidentified, supply any of the following information determinable

a. Crew position in plane or vehicle _____

b. Plane or vehicle serial number _____ Type _____

c. Installed weapons

Serial Number	Calibre & Mfr.	Serial Number	Calibre & Mfr.

d. Engine serial number _____ Type _____


 Signature of Investigating Officer
 WILLIAM H. BARNETT
 2nd Lt. O-2018275
 6890 QM GR Co.
 Rank _____ ASN _____

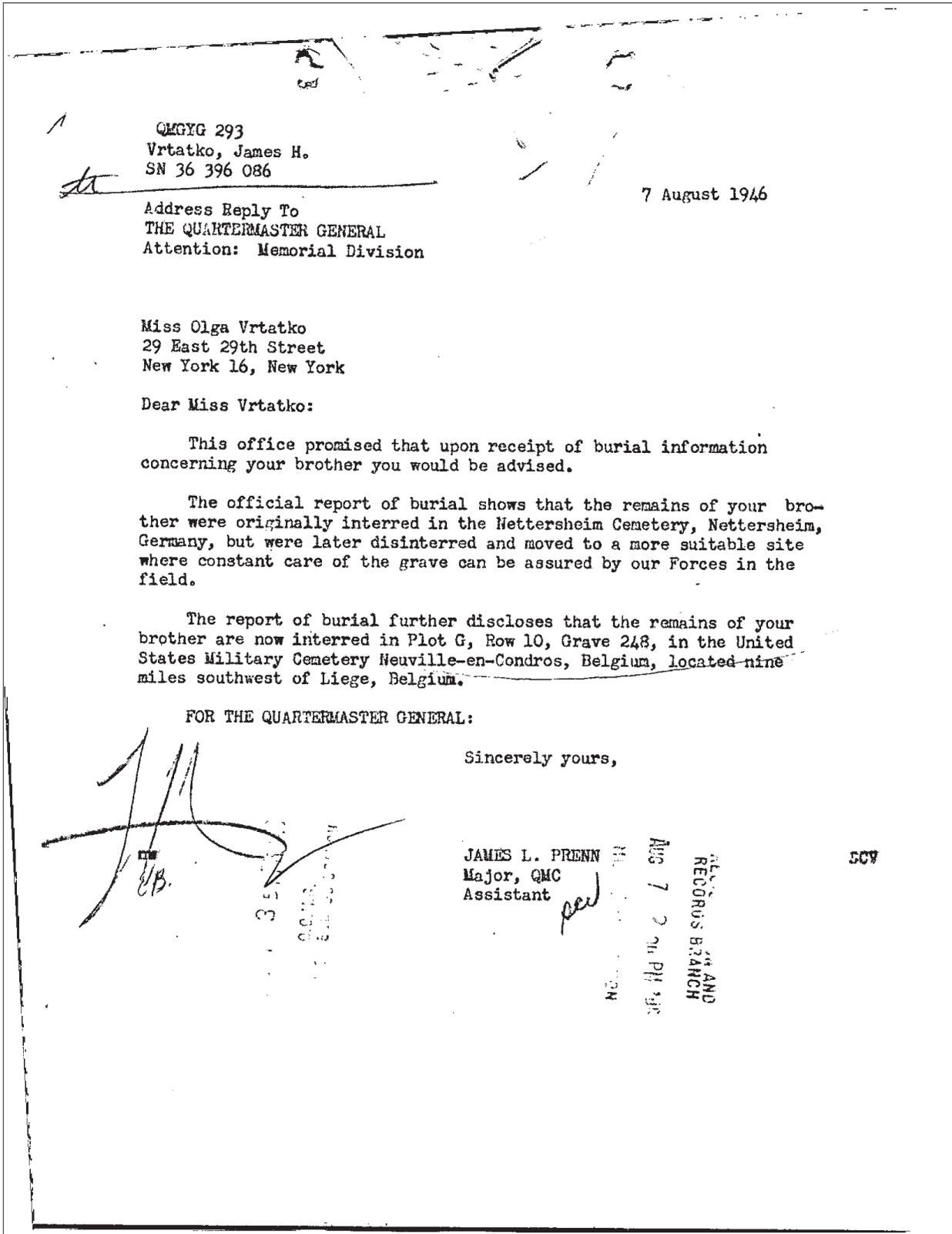
Disinterment approved by (HQ Authorizing-Exhumation) 6890 QM GR Co.
~~Disinterment~~ reburial/~~excavation~~ made by 6894th QM GR Det (GA)
 Date of ~~excavation~~/reburial 6 Apr/46
 Place of ~~excavation~~/reburial U. S Military Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium, VK 390187
 Plot G Row 10 Grave 248

NOTE: Additional particulars regarding investigation will be placed on additional sheet.

* Cross out word not applicable.

Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major James L. Prenn to Miss Olga Vrtatko, August 7, 1946
United States Department of the Army



Letters File, James Vrtatko

Letter from Major General T. B. Larkin to Mrs. Barbara N. Vrtatko, August 19, 1946
United States Department of the Army

