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OAGBY 293
Montgomery, Orlo A.
SN 17 069 122

14 April 1950

Mrs. Bernandine H. Montgomery
2326 South Galapago Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Montgomery:

The Department of the Army desires that you be informed of the final determination of the investigation in the case of your husband, the late Staff Sergeant Orlo A. Montgomery.

The records in this office disclose that your husband was one of nine crew members manifested aboard the C-47 Aircraft Number 42-23638 which was on an assigned troop carrying mission over the coast of France, on 6 June 1944. Information in our files indicates that your husband's aircraft was hit by enemy machine gun and antiaircraft fire shortly before entering the "Drop Zone"; the aircraft burst into flames and crashed in the vicinity of Rouville, France. Your husband and at least four paratroopers were wounded prior to the crash. According to the statements of survivors, all of the men except your husband and Private J. G. Stout, who was a paratrooper, were later killed in combat on the ground. Their remains have been recovered and identified. The remains of Private Stout were recovered from an isolated grave near the scene of the crash and reburied in the United States Military Cemetery, Le Mere Eglise #2, France. There is no factual evidence, however, that the remains of your husband were ever recovered; therefore, it is logical to conclude that he was killed when the plane crashed and that the ensuing fire reduced his remains to a state which precludes their recovery.

Subsequent to the time of the casualty, units of the American Graves Registration Service have conducted thorough investigations in an attempt to locate the remains of your husband; however, no information pertaining to the location of his remains was found. Furthermore, every effort has been made to correlate the records of unknown deceased interred in cemeteries in the general area of the disaster with the records of your husband, but all attempts to do so have resulted in failure. Therefore, in view of the fact that no records can be located indicating that his remains have been recovered in the years that have elapsed since the time of the casualty, the Department of the Army has

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been forced to conclude that his remains are not recoverable. I wish to assure you that, should any additional evidence come to our attention indicating that his remains are in our possession, you will be informed immediately.

Realizing the extent of your grief and anxiety, it is not easy to express condolence to you who gave your loved one under circumstances so difficult that there is no grave at which to pay homage. May the knowledge of your husband's honorable service to his country be a source of sustaining comfort to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. VOGL
Captain, QMC
Memorial Division

cc: AGO

Handwritten: mailed direct

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D.O.H.G.
MAIL & RECORDS BRANCH

