QMGMF 293 Bohrer, Earl L. SN 37 305 432

25 May 1949

Mrs. Bernice B. Bohrer Eagle Bend, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Bohrer:

Almost four years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities of World War II which cost the life of your husband, the late Private First Class Earl L. Bohrer, and it is with reluctance that I am writing you, for I must furnish information which may bring you added sorrow.

The records of the Department of the Army disclose that the Hotel Nicolet, located at Malmedy, Belgium, was housing approximately one hundred American soldiers during the fighting for the Ardennes. Unforturately on 25 December 1944, Hotel Nicolet as well as the town of Malmedy was bombed and set afire by American airplanes. While several soldiers escaped uninjured and others with only minor wounds, I regret to inform you that sixty-nine men, including your husband, lost their lives as a result of the casualty. Information in our files indicates that in addition to many of the men being killed, wounded and missing, first aid and rescue work were greatly hampered as a result of fires starting and the damage done to buildings. Many civilian residents were also killed and wounded.

Of the sixty-nine men who lost their lives, the remains of forty-three were recovered and buried in a United States Military Gemetery overseas. Although thorough investigations have been conducted in an effort to recover the remains of your husband and those of the other missing men, I deeply regret to inform you that no trace of their remains was found.

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 disaster, the Department of the Army has 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,

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

QMGML 293 Bohrer, Earl L. SN 37 305 432

1st Ind

Dept of the Army, OQMG, Washington 25, D.C. 19 May 1954

THRU: G-2 GSUSA, Washington 25, D.C.

TO: Army Attache, American Embassy, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 1. Basic communication was forwarded to this office for reply by Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, Quartermaster Division on 10 May 1954.
- 2. The remains of Private First Class Earl L. Bohrer were never found and have been declared nonrecoverable.
- 3. Inclosed is a copy of letter dated 25 May 1949 addressed to Mrs. Bernice B. Bohrer, Eagle Bend, Minnesota, giving her the pertinent information about the case of her husband, Private Bohrer

FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:

Sgd: JOHN D. MARTZ JR
Colonel, QMC
Chief, Memorial Division



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUITE 115, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING



WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

21 July 1945.

Honorable Harold Knutson,

House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. Knutson:

Reference is made to your inquiry relative letter received by you from Mr. Wm. A. Bohrer, Eagle Bend, Minnesota, regarding his son, Pfc. Earl Bohrer, 37305432, who was reported as missing in action 24 December 1944.

The records of the War Department show that Pfc. Earl Bohrer, 37305432, was reported as missing in action 25 December 1944 in Belgium and that his wife, Mrs. Bernice B. Bohrer, Eagle Bend, Minnesota, was notified 16 January 1945.

Subsequently, this soldier was reported to the War Department as killed in action 25 December 1944, the date on which he had previously been reported as missing, and that his wife was notified 9 July 1945. No further information has been received in the Department regarding the death and burial of this soldier.

In view of your personal interest, I regret that there is no other information available at this time.

Sincerely yours,

WM. F. PEARSON, Colonel, General Staff Corps, Liaison.

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY APO #30 United States Army

BPP/her

28 June 1945

Dear Mrs. Bohrer:

The news has already been brought to you by The Secretary of War that your son, Private First Class Earl L. Bohrer, ASN 37305432, formerly a member of Company M, this regiment, was killed in action in Belgium on 25 December 1944.

The purpose of this letter is to express my own deep sympathy for the loss you have suffered and to acquaint you with all the known facts. The initial telegram which you received from the War Department states that Earl was missing in action; however, upon a thorough investigation, together with official reports received at this headquarters, his identity has been established beyond a shadow of doubt. Prior to his death Earl was performing his duties as a cook's helper for his company at Malmedy, Belgium, when airplanes appeared over the area in which he was located. The ensuing bombardment was directed upon the vicinity in which Earl was working, causing his death. It may be of comfort to you to know that the blast of the bomb was such that it is evident that he died quickly and painlessly. The fact that he was killed in action on that day was not reported because such reports are not rendered until there is definite evidence.

Appropriate religious services were conducted in Earl's memory by the United States Army Protestant chaplain in the American Military Cemetery in Belgium. The white cross above his grave is marked permanently with his name and army serial number. Both officers and enlisted men of this regiment sorely missed his fortitude and faith and courage during our drive to victory.

We know that the loss of your fine son has brought you immensurable grief, but we pray that knowledge of Earl's bravery, together with the pride you must have for bearing and raising such an outstanding man, will tend to lessen the blow you have received.

The significance of Earl's heroic service to his country will be preserved and commemorated by a grateful nation, and it is hoped that this thought may give you strength and courage in your sorrow.

Sincerely.

ERANNER P. PURDUE Colonel - 120th Infantry

Commanding

Mrs. Anna Bohrer Route #1 Eagle Bend, Minnesota