

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY THIRD ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION  
APO 254, 3PM, New York, N.Y.

7 January 1946.

Mrs. Helen Clifford,  
110 Macerole Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York.

My Dear Mrs. Clifford:

The War Department has no doubt notified you of the death of your husband, Private William J. Clifford, 40125511, who was killed in action in the battle of Belgium on 24 December 1944. In losing him we feel that we have not only lost an excellent soldier and man, but also a friend who can never be replaced.

William was buried in an Army cemetery in Eastern France. A U.S. Army Chaplain of Catholic faith officiated at the burial ceremony.

No words that I can use would ease your sorrow. However, as William's battalion commander, I want you to know that his comrades in this battalion feel his loss most keenly. We are the final victory that shall be ours.

*George L. Jaques*  
GEORGE L. JACQUES,  
Lt Col. 53rd Armd Inf Bn,  
Commanding.

RESTRICTED  
REPORT OF BURIAL

259 <sup>65945</sup>  
26 Dec 1944  
Date

CLIFFORD William J Pvt 42125511  
Unit: 53 Inf Armd Div Organization: Unk

Bigonville Luxembourg 24 Dec 1944 Estimate GSW left side of head  
Place of Death Date of Death Cause of Death

25 Dec 1944 1330 US Mil Cem #1 Grand Pailly France  
Time and Date of Burial Name of Cemetery Name or Coordinates of Location

108 5 A Cross  
Grave Number Row Number Plot Number Type of Marker

Disposition of Identification Tags: Buried with body Yes  No  Attached to Marker Yes  No

If No Identification Tags  
How were remains identified?

What means of identification were buried with the body?

To determine Right or Left use Deceased's Right and Left.

Who is buried on: Herbert L Ingersoll 32041895 T/Sgt Co B 53 Inf 107  
Deceased's Right: Name Serial No. Rank Organization Grave No.

Bernard Trail 33090507 Pfc Co B 53 Inf & Armd 109  
Deceased's Left: Name Serial No. Rank Organization Grave No.

Signature or Name, Rank and if possible Organization of person furnishing above Data when other than officer reporting burial.

CLIFFORD  
WILLIAM J  
42125511 744

If point of identification tag is not affixed fill in below:  
Emergency Addressee Mrs Helen Clifford  
Name

124 Meserole Ave Brooklyn NY  
Address

Religion C

List only Personal Effects Found on Body and disposition of same:

*file  
2/24/45  
H. Carter*

WILLIAM E SAMSON Signature of Officer or other person reporting burial  
1st Lt QMC  
3043 QMGR GO  
Verified by G.R.S. Officer

2-1-43



RESTRICTED  
INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

US Mil. Cem. #1 Grand Faily, France  
26 Dec. 1944 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

SUBJECT: Inventory of Personal Effects of:

CLIFFORD William J Pvt 42125511  
(Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Rank) (ASN)

TO: Effects Quartermaster, Communications Zone, APO 887 US Army

The above named individual of 53 Inf \_\_\_\_\_  
(Unit) (Organization)  
was reported KIA about 24 Dec 1944  
(Status-killed, MIA, Hospitalized, etc.) (Date)

Designated Beneficiary if information readily accessible \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs Helen Clifford 124 Meserole Ave Brooklyn NY

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INVENTORY OF EFFECTS

- Faber pen and pencil ✓
- Postal MO rec. \$5.00 ✓
- WD rec. \$40.00 ✓
- Knife (USA) ✓
- Photo ✓
- 4 Greeting cards ✓
- Inf award ✓
- Morocco billfold ✓
- 8 Souv. coins (?)

Currency listed below

1250 Fr. francs  
Money in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ has been turned into C. S. McCormick Jr., Lt. Col.  
F. D. 211-226 . Form WDFD 38 enclosed. (Name of Finance Officer  
and symbol number)

Names and addresses of any banks in which accounts may be carried \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above items constitute all of the effects, secured by  
me, of the above named individual and that they were forwarded to the Effects  
Depot by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rail, Truck, etc.) (Date)

Name W E Samson  
Rank & ASI WILLIAM E SAMSON  
1st Lt CMC  
Organization 3043 CMGR CO

Any additional pertinent information:

RESTRICTED

**WAR DEPARTMENT**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

366939

**REPORT OF DEATH**

DATE 17 Jan 45 tjc/4627

FULL NAME <b>Clifford, William J.</b>		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER <b>42 125 511</b>	GRADE <b>Pvt</b>	
HOME ADDRESS <b>Brooklyn, New York</b>		ARM OR SERVICE <b>Infantry</b>	DATE OF BIRTH <b>13 May 13</b>	
PLACE OF DEATH <b>European Area</b>	CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Killed in action</b>		DATE OF DEATH <b>24 Dec 44</b>	
STATION OF DECEASED <b>European Area</b>		DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE <b>21 Mar 44</b>	LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES	
			YEARS	MONTHS
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>✓ Mrs. Helen Clifford, wife, 124 Meserole Ave., Brooklyn, New York</b> <b>Clifford</b>				
BENEFICIARY (NAME, RELATIONSHIP & ADDRESS) <b>Helen Clifford, wife, same as above</b> <b>Margaret S. Clifford, daughter, same as wife</b> <b>Margaret Clifford, mother, 110 Meserole Ave., Brooklyn, New York *</b>				
INVESTIGATION MADE?		IN LINE OF DUTY		OWN MISCONDUCT
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
WAS DECEASED ON DUTY STATUS		AUTHORIZED ABSENCE		IN FLYING PAY STATUS
YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
				NO
				X
				OTHER PAY STATUS (SPECIFY BELOW)
				YES
				*X
				NO

**ADDITIONAL DATA AND/OR STATEMENT**

- \* Soldier declined to designate an alternate beneficiary.  BATTLE  NON-BATTLE
- \* Combat Infantryman, source and date of order will be furnished when received.
- \* Evidence of death received in WD 10 Jan 45.

COPIES FURNISHED:

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

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

*James Runkert*

ADJUTANT GENERAL