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CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

EUROPEAN THEATER AREA

AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND

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MARCH 1947

METHOD OF ARRIVAL

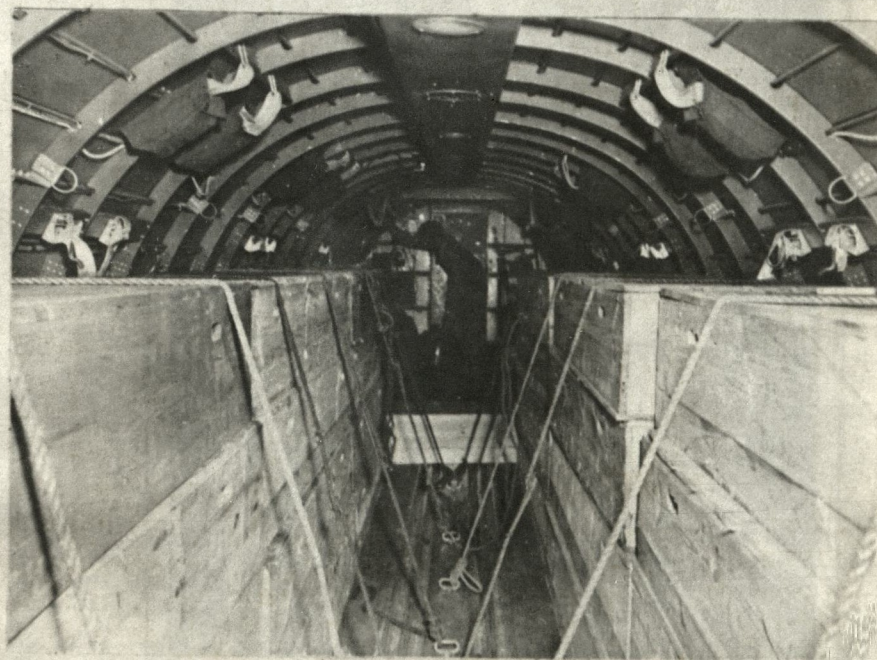
A. PLANE

C-47, type Aircraft, loaded with remains, "Buzzes" the caserne at the Central Identification Point, Strasbourg, France, before landing at the nearby airfield.



Interior view of C-47 type Aircraft, showing maximum load. Airlift boxes are stacked four high and three tiers lengthwise on each side of the plane and one single box is placed on the floor at the rear. This gives the maximum load of twenty-five (25) airlift boxes containing remains.

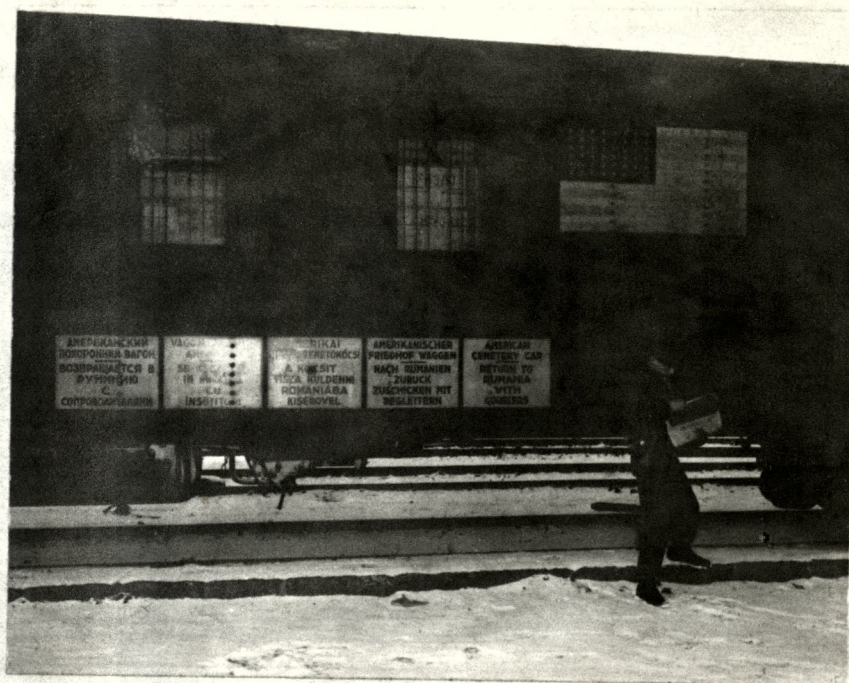
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METHOD OF ARRIVAL

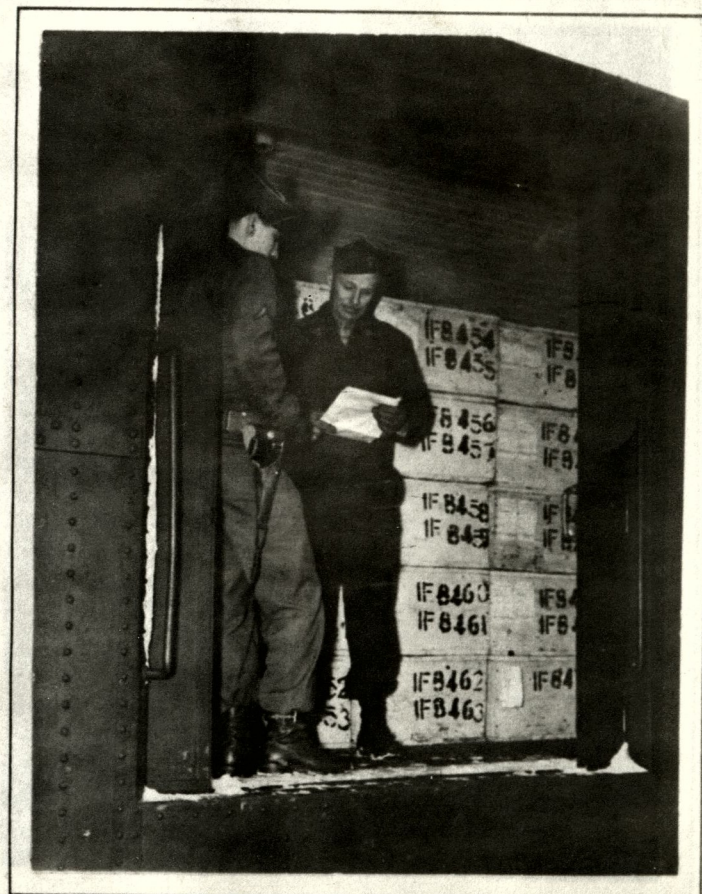
B. TRAIN

A railway car arrives at Strasbourg, France, loaded with boxes containing remains. The records for each case are delivered by the Honor Guard.



Airlift boxes containing remains of single or mass burials are thoroughly checked before unloading.

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U.S. Army 2 1/2 ton 6x6 trucks are adapted readily to the transportation of remains as shown here. Two tiers of five (5) each sideways composes a maximum load of ten boxes per truck.

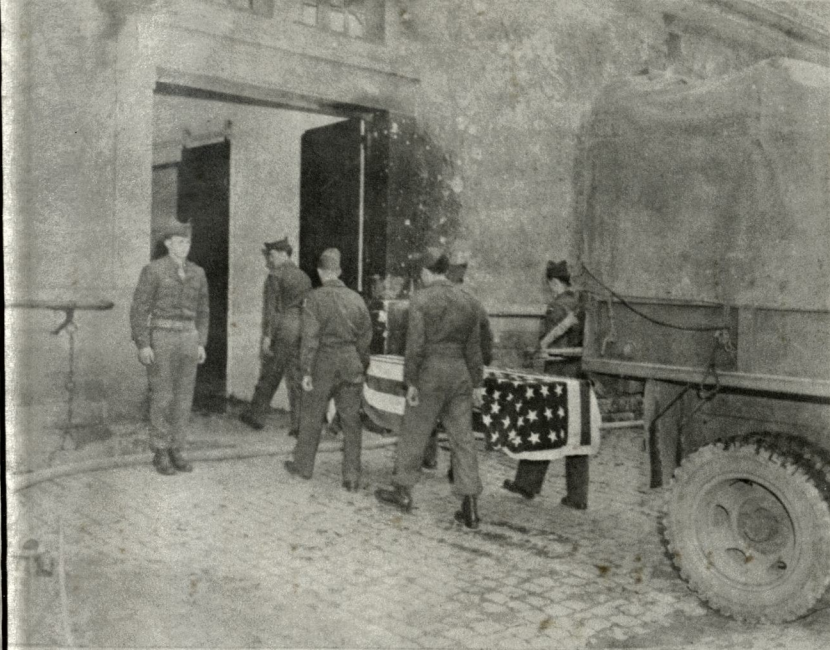
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C. TRUCK

A truck convoy loaded with remains arrives at the Central Identification Point, Strasbourg, France.



PROCESSING OPERATIONS



A flag-draped casket is carried from the truck into the morgue receiving section where it rests until the papers and records are checked.

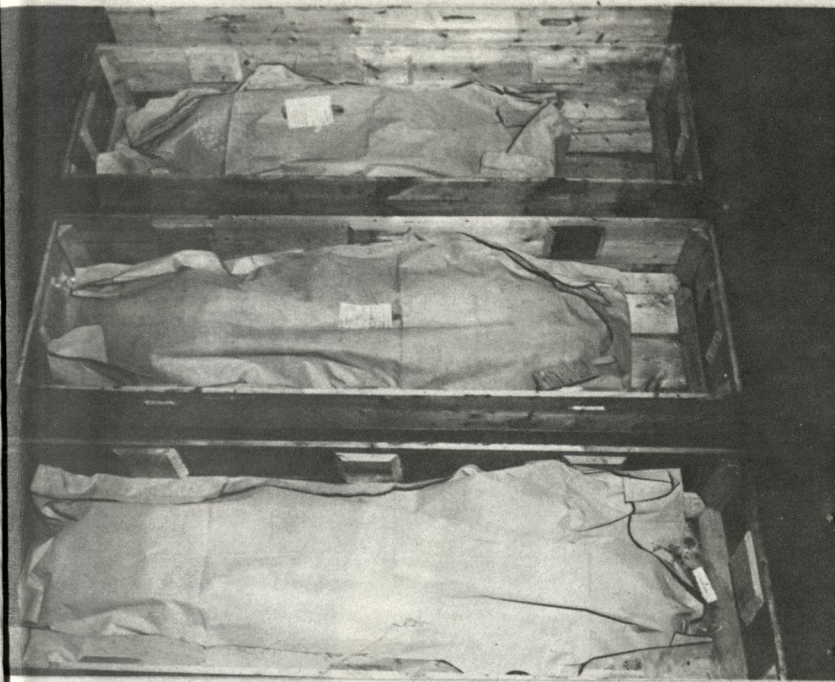
All records and case histories are thoroughly checked before being processed at the Central Identification Point, Strasbourg, France.

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PROCESSING OPERATIONS

5



Covers have been removed from airlift boxes for the inspection prior to processing and/or storage. Note copy of emergency medical tag (MD Form 52b) attached to each metallic liner.

An inspecting officer breaks the metallic liner seal in preparation for the inspection of remains at Central Identification Point, Strasbourg, France.

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PROCESSING OPERATIONS

Metallic liner has been opened and remains are being sprayed with disinfectant.



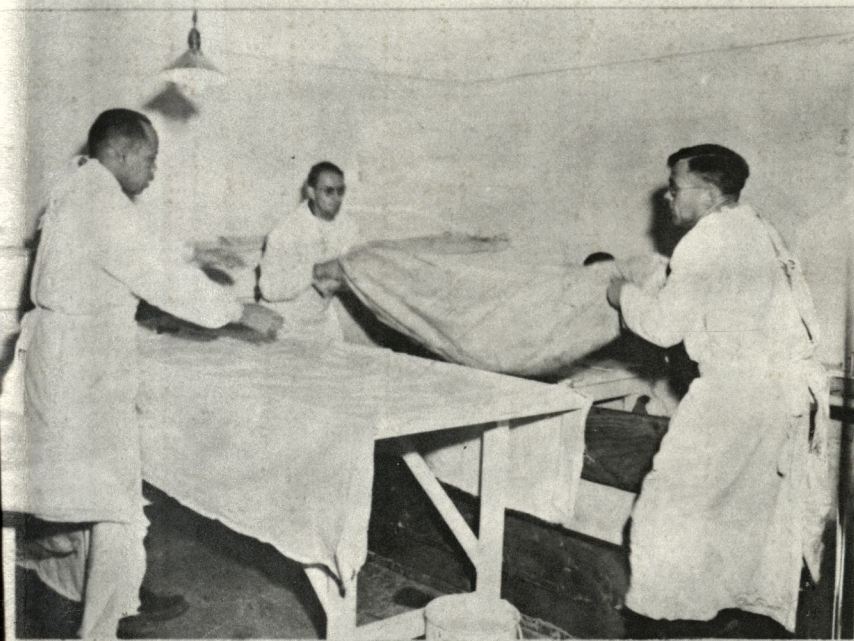
Remains are placed in the storage room and lie in state while awaiting disposition.

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PROCESSING OPERATIONS

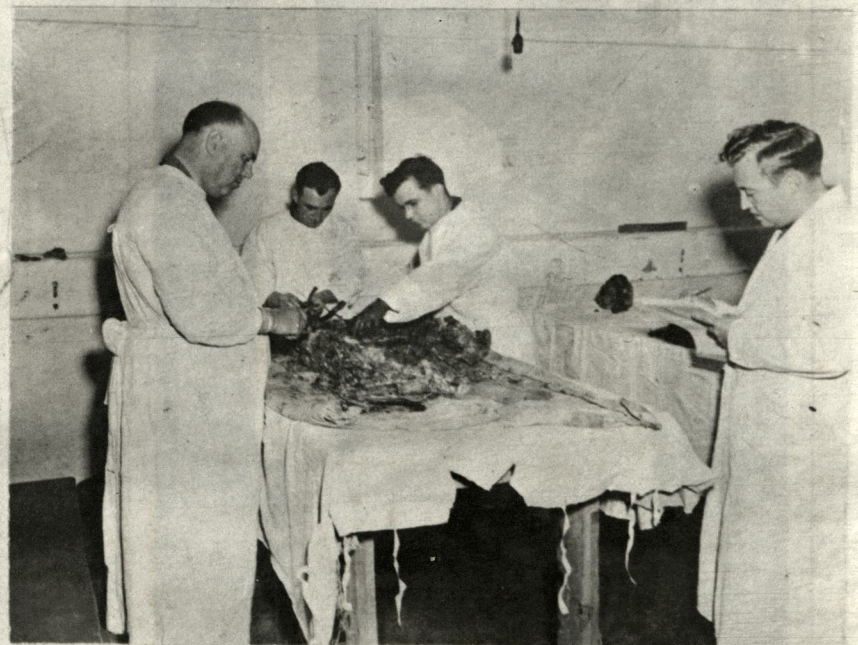
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Technicians place mattress cover containing remains on table for processing at the Central Identification Point, Strasbourg, France.

Hand processing of decomposed remains, searching for clues that may lead to positive identification, is performed by experienced technicians. The man on the right is recording the number and type of bones present. Such information may eventually lead to positive identification.

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Technicians are shown removing clothing from decomposed remains. Valuable clues to identification are often found in laundry markings, size and type of clothing.

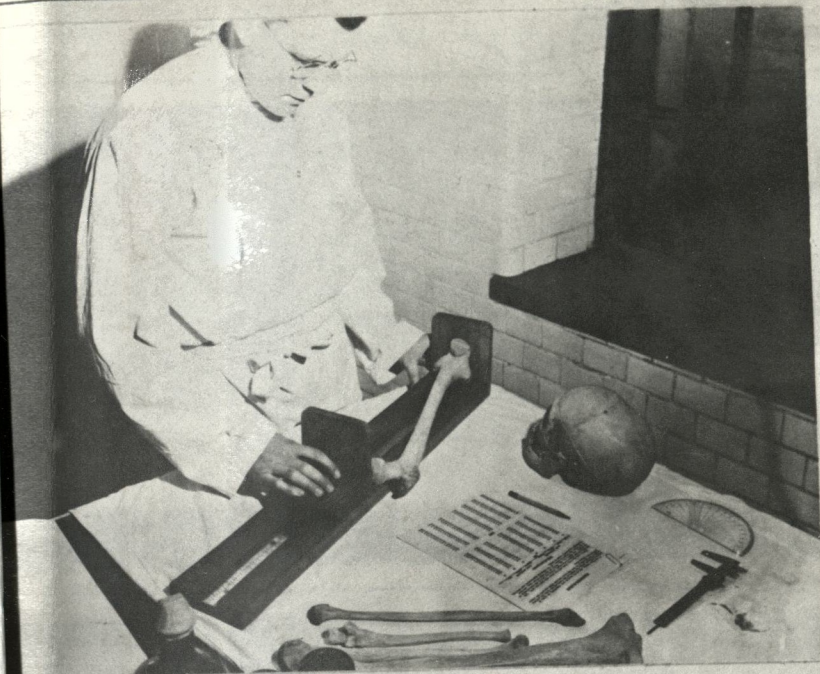
Technician carefully launders remnants of clothing by hand, searching for identification clues.

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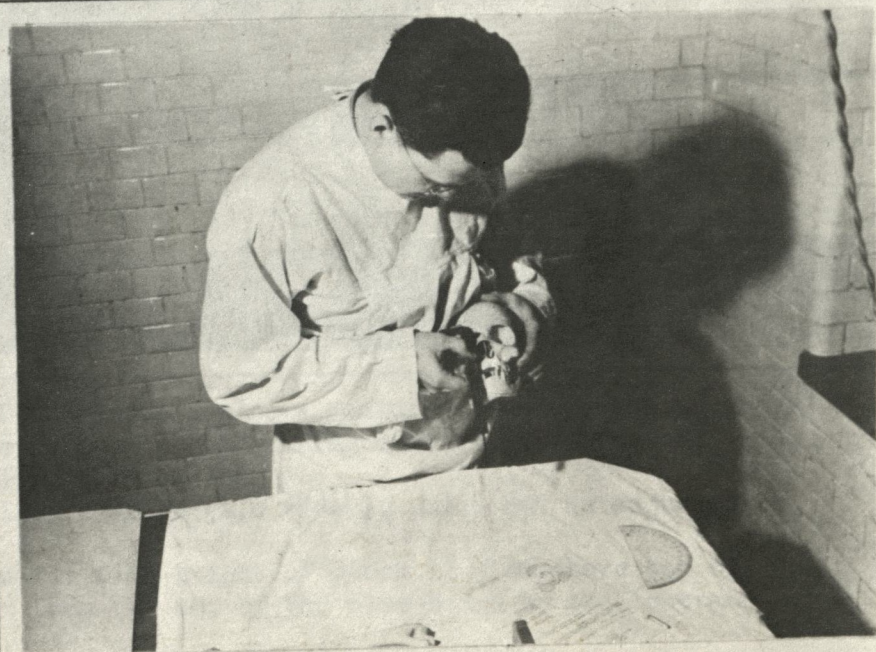
PROCESSING OPERATIONS

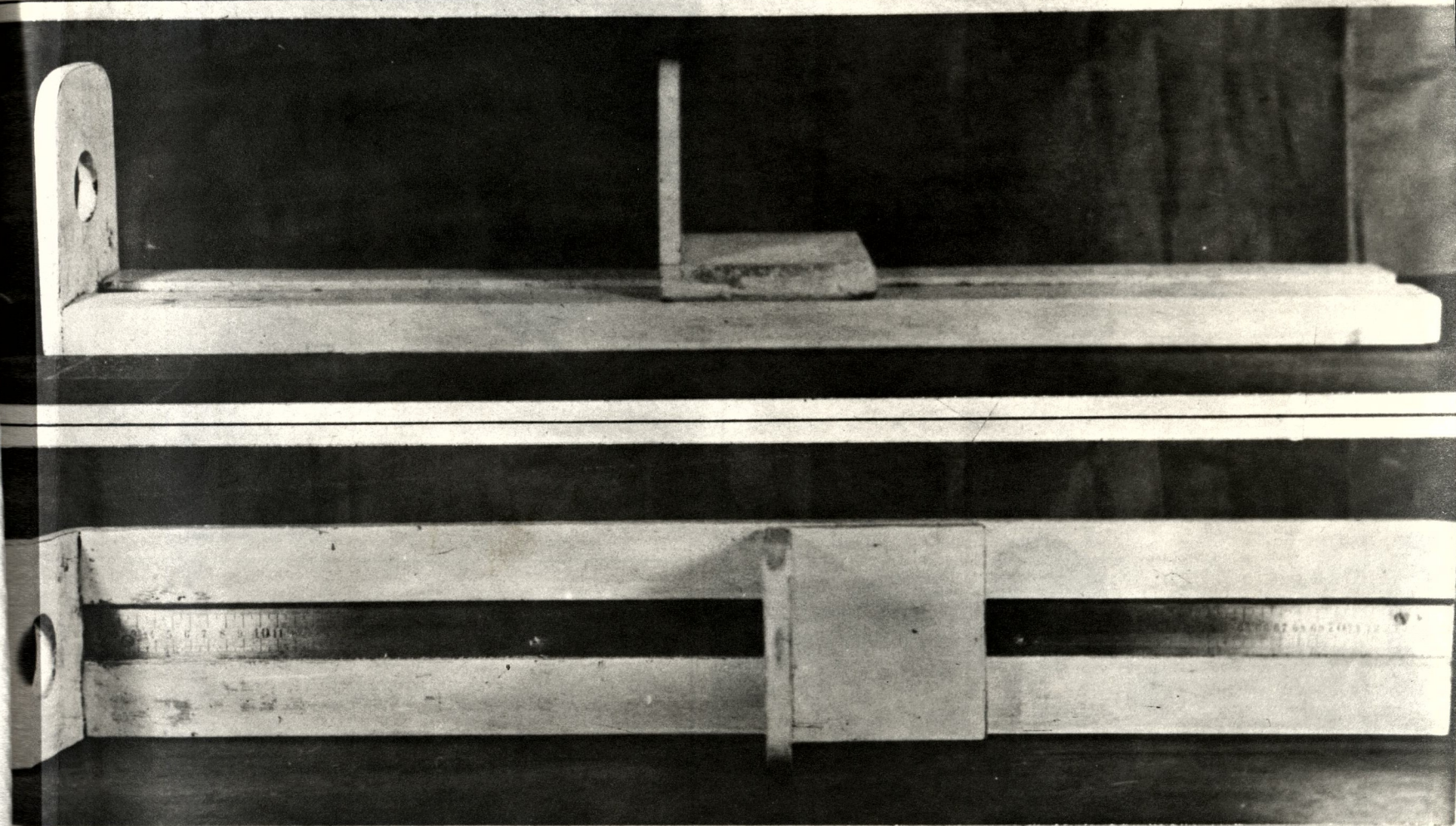
A technician measures a femur. Height, weight and age can be determined by careful analysis of the bone.



Trained technician takes skull measurements. These measurements are an aid in determining sex and racial origin in cases of doubt.

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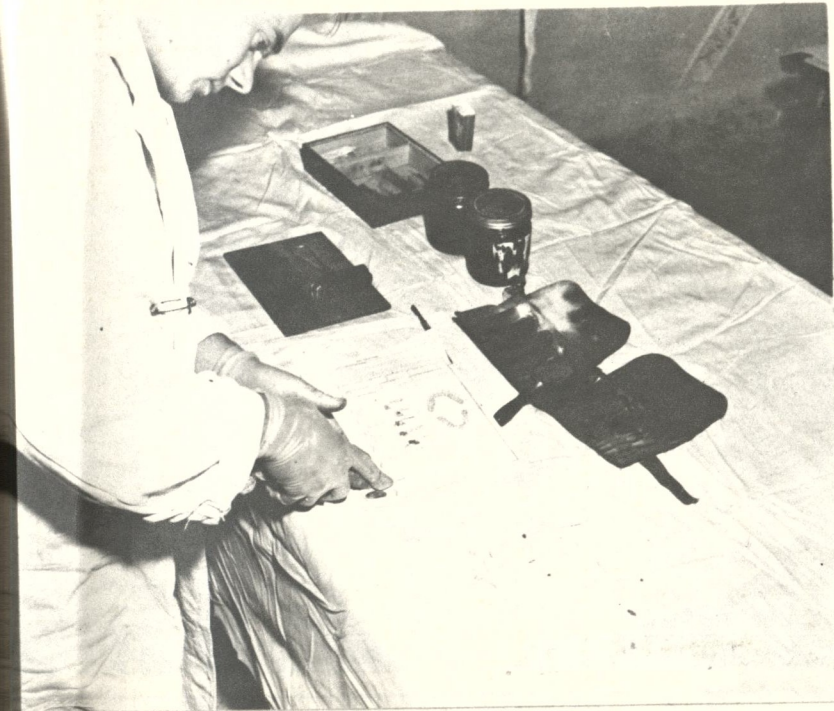
Height of the individual is determined by the use of the Broca Scale, a measuring device, (shown above) and Rollet's table of measurements. The Broca Scale is a simple measuring device consisting of:

- a. Rectangular base-board with an inlaid steel rule 76 cm long.
- b. Running slide - 12 cm long, 11.4 cm wide, 12.3 cm high (w/o rider), which can be adjusted to the length of the bone.
- c. Back-board similar in size to the running slide with height of block 12.3 cm above top of base-board with a hole 4.3 cm in diameter and 4.3 cm from the top of the base-board to the lowermost point of the hole.

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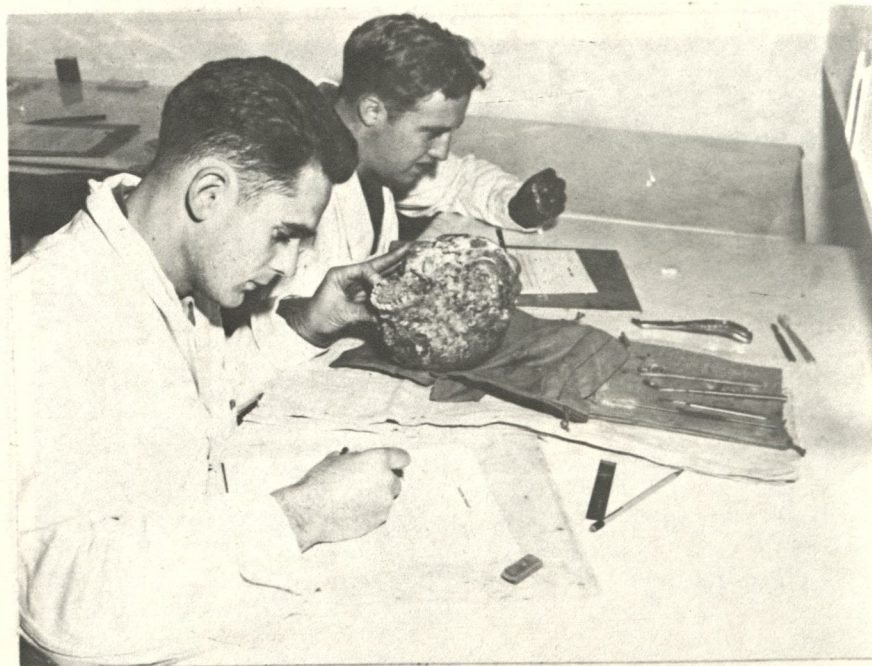
PROCESSING OPERATIONS

Fingerprints are a positive means of identification. Prints thus recorded from an unidentified soldier will be photographed and compared with fingerprints on file in Washington.



Tooth charts made by trained technicians are very important in proving the identity of the deceased. All characteristics are carefully noted. Tooth charts, when skull and teeth are present, are made for all remains processed at the Central Identification Point.

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PROCESSING OPERATIONS



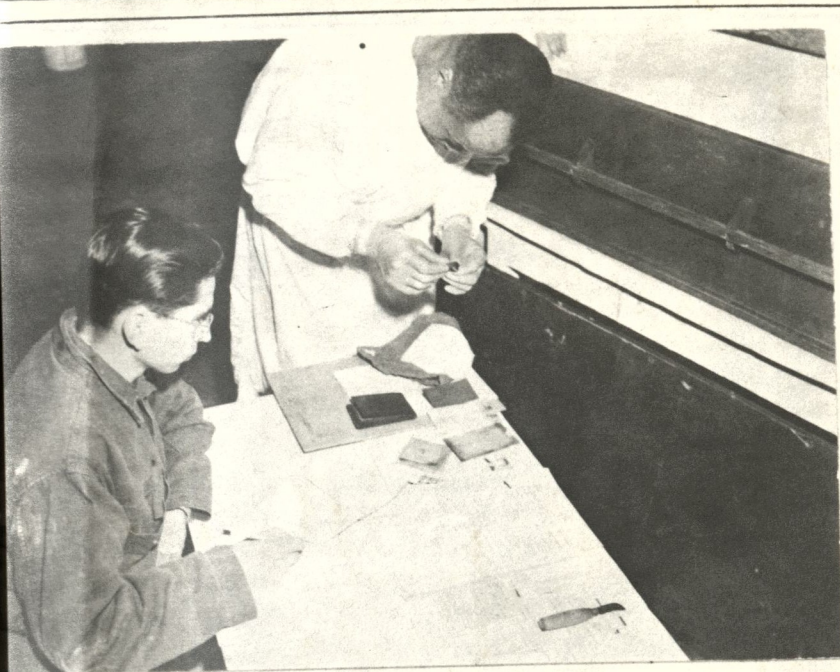
The fluoroscope shows on the screen all metal objects in the human body, clothing and debris. Each of the three are examined separately. Identification tags and bracelets, name plates, rings, metal insignias, loose teeth, unusual bone structures and old breaks in bones can be seen on the screen.

The fluoroscope in operation showing the silhouette of an identification tag located in a badly crushed chest cavity.



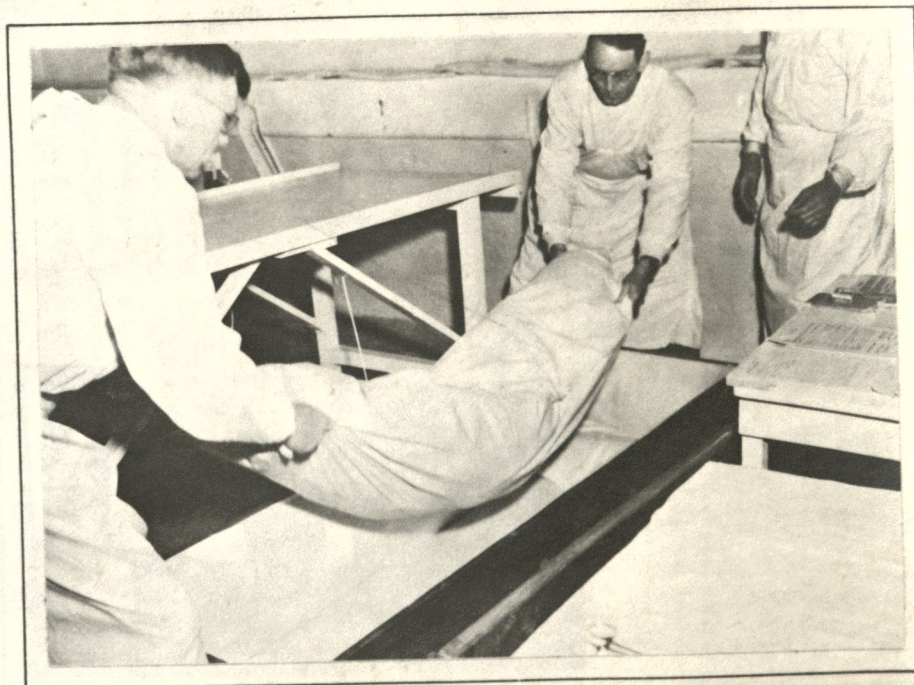
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PROCESSING OPERATIONS



Identification technicians carefully inspect the personal effects and complete listings are made by the clerk.

Upon completion of processing, remains are wrapped in a mattress cover and placed in a casket for burial at a temporary U.S. Military Cemetery. All items of clothing are placed at the foot of the casket.



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PROCESSING OPERATIONS



When original identification tags are found one is pinned to the mattress cover and the other is tacked to the end of the casket. When only one tag is found that one is pinned to the mattress cover and an embossed strip with the name and serial number placed on the casket. For "Unknowns", two embossed tags are used showing the "X" number.

The cover is screwed into place and the casketed remains are sent to the shipping storage room to lie in state awaiting shipment to a temporary U.S. Military Cemetery.

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REPRODUCTIONS

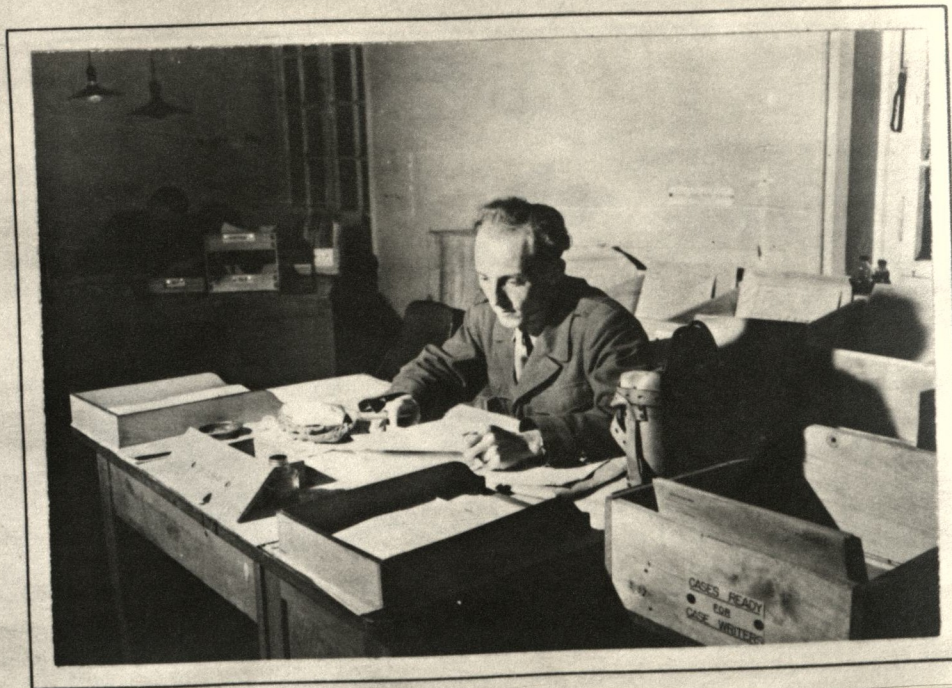


Reproductions of anatomical and tooth charts are made to the required number in the reproductions room. An under-lighted copy desk is used to insure accuracy.

DISTRIBUTION

Reports, charts, histories and personal effects are then checked and broken down for proper disposition.

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PERSONAL EFFECTS



The personal effects room receives, carefully checks and separates the personal effects from the means of identification that have been added during processing. Effects of "Knowns" are shipped to the nearest QM Depot, which, in turn, forwards them to the Effects Depot, Kansas City, Mo.

Effects of an "Unknown" or one whose identity is doubtful are assigned to the chemical and/or photographic laboratories for analysis. Upon their return from the laboratories these effects are retained until the case is forwarded to Washington, D.C., and then are sent on through QM channels to Kansas City, Mo.

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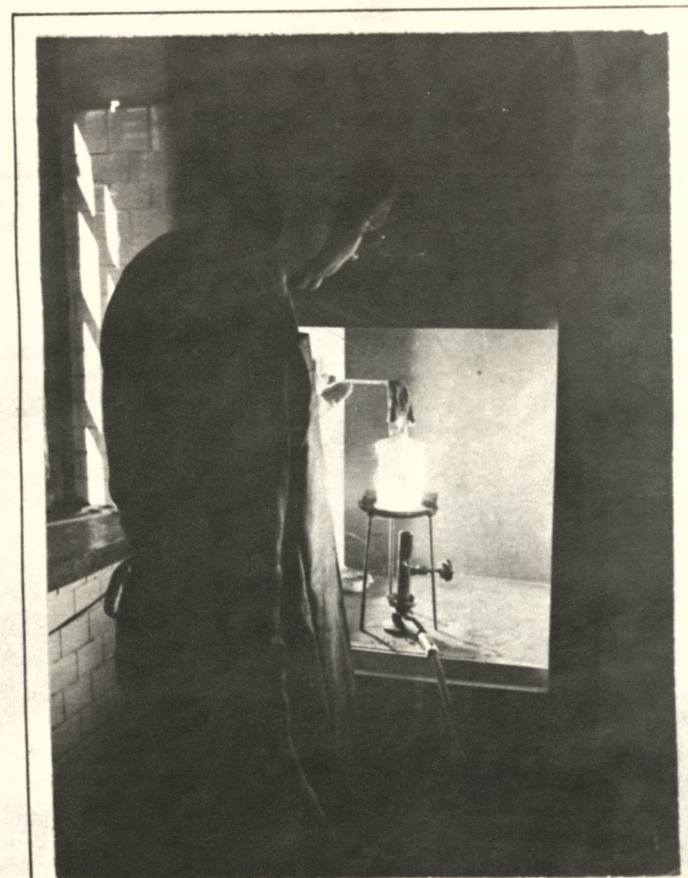
CHEMICAL LABORATORY

In the chemical laboratory effects of "Unknowns" or cases of doubtful identity are examined and treated by chemical means. Reports are prepared containing findings and suggestions as to possibilities of identity leading from these clues. The information and suggestions are then forwarded with other records to higher Headquarters for further action.



One of the first steps in chemical processing of clothing and cloth materials is the removing of fatty acids and salts which may hinder chemical reaction.

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CHEMICAL LABORATORY (CONT.)



Engravings, initials and valuable clues to identify hidden by rust and deterioration are many times revealed on metallic objects by cleaning with acids or bases and by using an etching solution.

Ink type and age is first determined in cases of faded, obliterated or illegible writing on letters, identification cards and records. Then a method of restoration is attempted such as iodine fuming shown in this view.

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CHEMICAL LABORATORY (CONT.)

Ammonium sulphide is best used to bring out faded writing on a scrap of paper found on an unidentified soldier.

Close up of piece of paper reveals effect of chemical treatment. Note letters made visible by this method.

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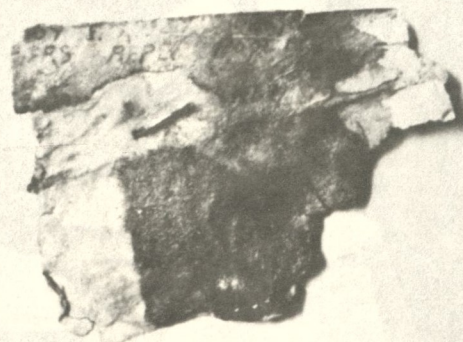
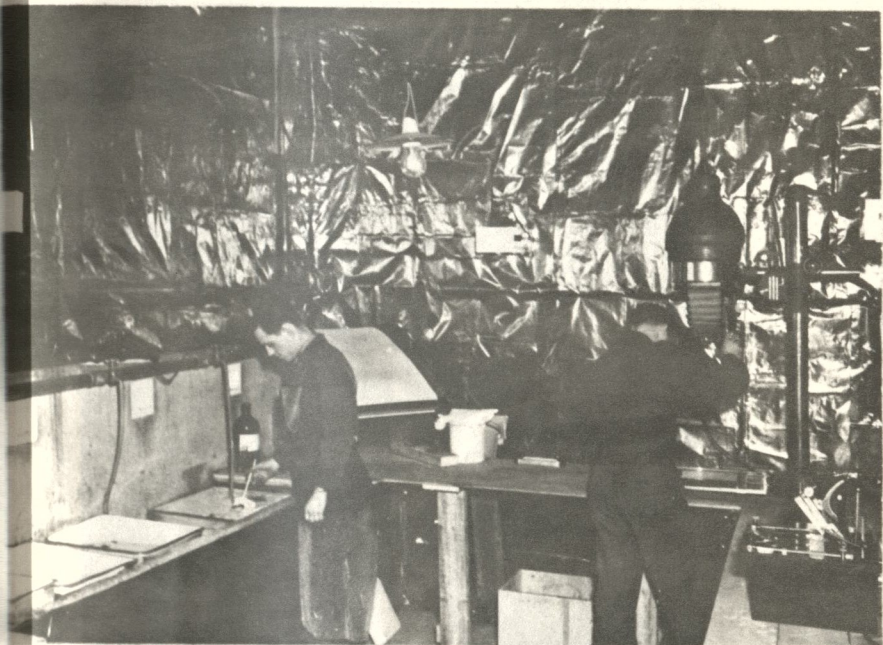


PHOTO LABORATORY

All personal effects presenting photographic possibilities are sent to the photo laboratory for processing. Photography plays a very important part in identification of unknowns or cases of doubtful identity.



Findings and clues to identity are properly entered upon a photo laboratory report which accompanies the records to higher headquarters.

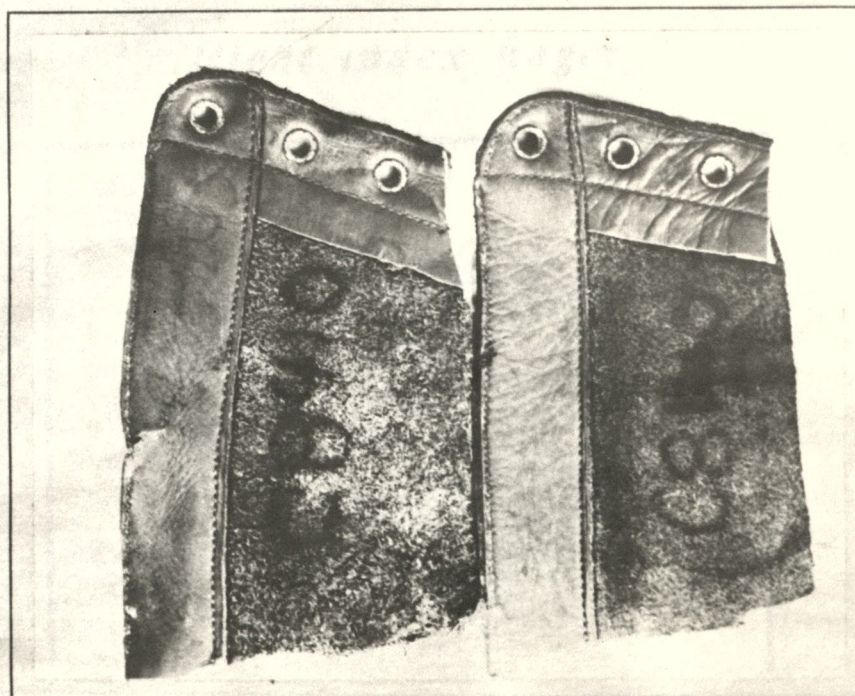
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PHOTO LABORATORY (CONT.)

BOOT - TOPS

Photography with the use of filters sometimes reveals markings leading to identification of unknowns. This process depends upon amount of color present in the material or markings.



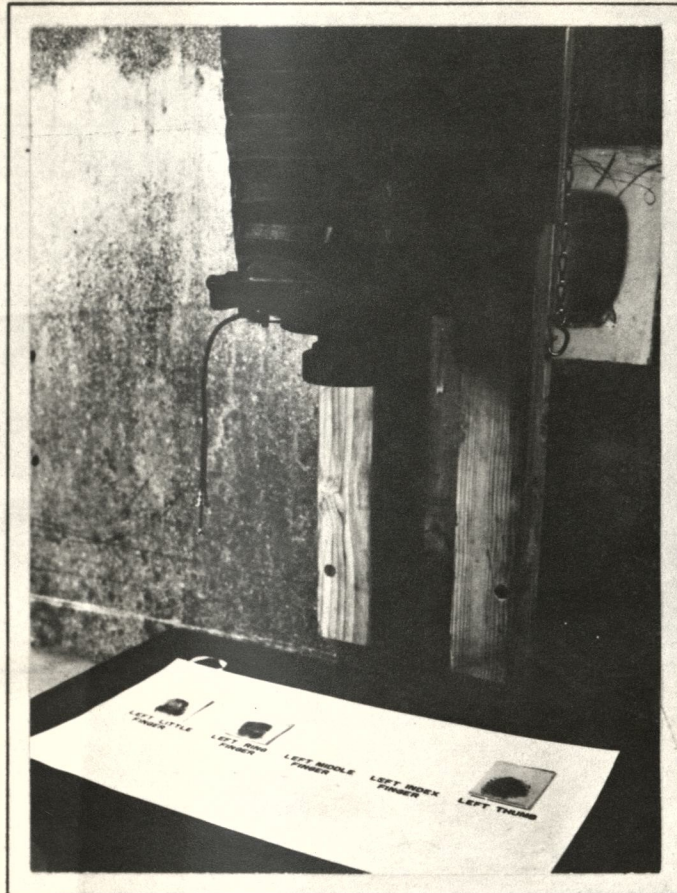
Enlarged view of the two sections of boot tops shown above demonstrates clearly the use of filters in locating markings and clues to identity.

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PHOTO LABORATORY (CONT.)

FINGERPRINTS

Fingerprints which have been gained during processing or from burial reports are photographed as aids in check against original files in Washington, D.C.



Close up of fingerprint shows value of fingerprint photographing as a means of identification.

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Right index finger



PHOTO LABORATORY (CONT.)

TONING

Toning of faded photos presents remarkable possibilities in identification by rephotographing of partially restored originals for recognition purposes.



Close-up of V-mail form shows outstanding example of partial restoration by means of toning. This method depends entirely upon degree of sensitivity of remaining emulsion to replacement by or attachment of a visible metallic compound to the original silver image.

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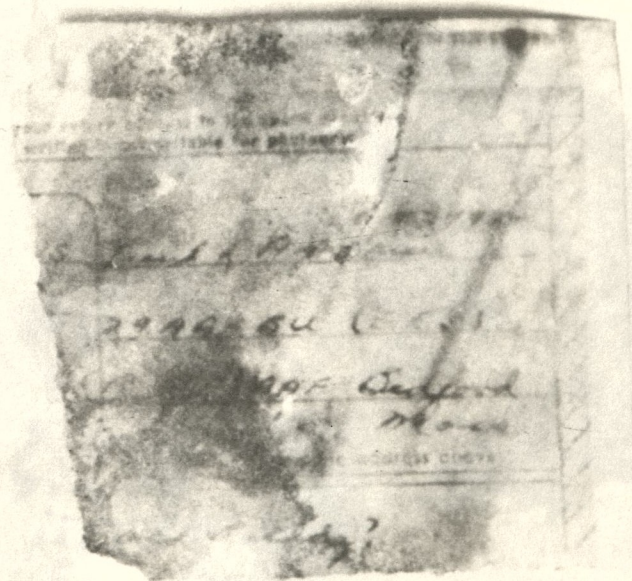
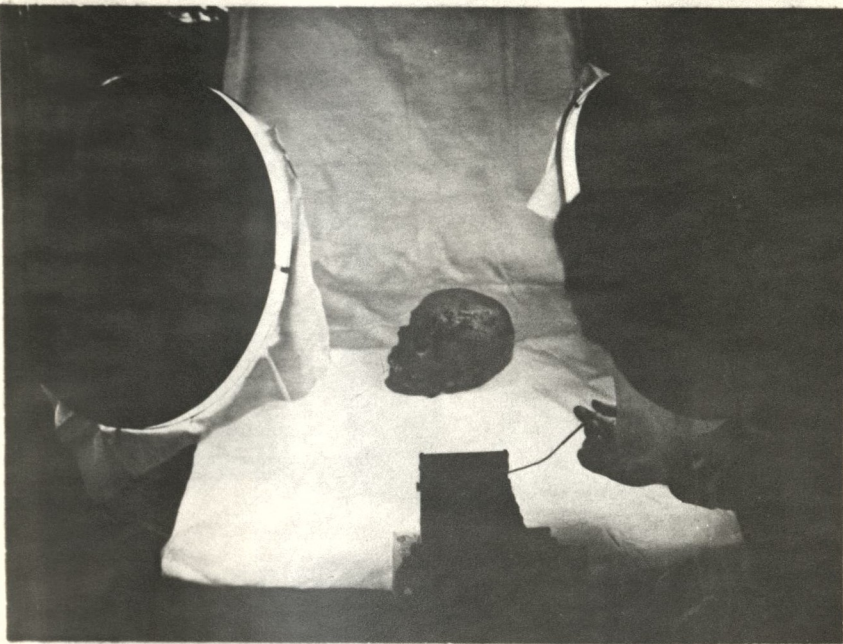


PHOTO LABORATORY (CONT.)

WAR CRIMES



Photography plays an important part in solving atrocity cases. Photographic evidence is used by the War Crimes Commission in trials.

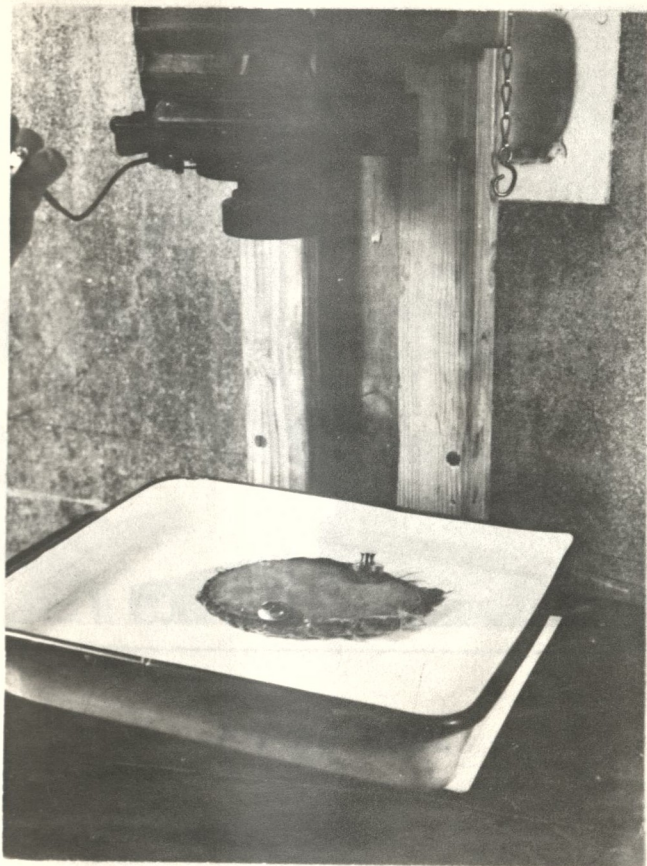
Photo shows exit of a bullet fired at close range. Photographs must demonstrate clearly evidence of crime and must bear an affidavit containing all pertinent information on the reverse side of the picture.

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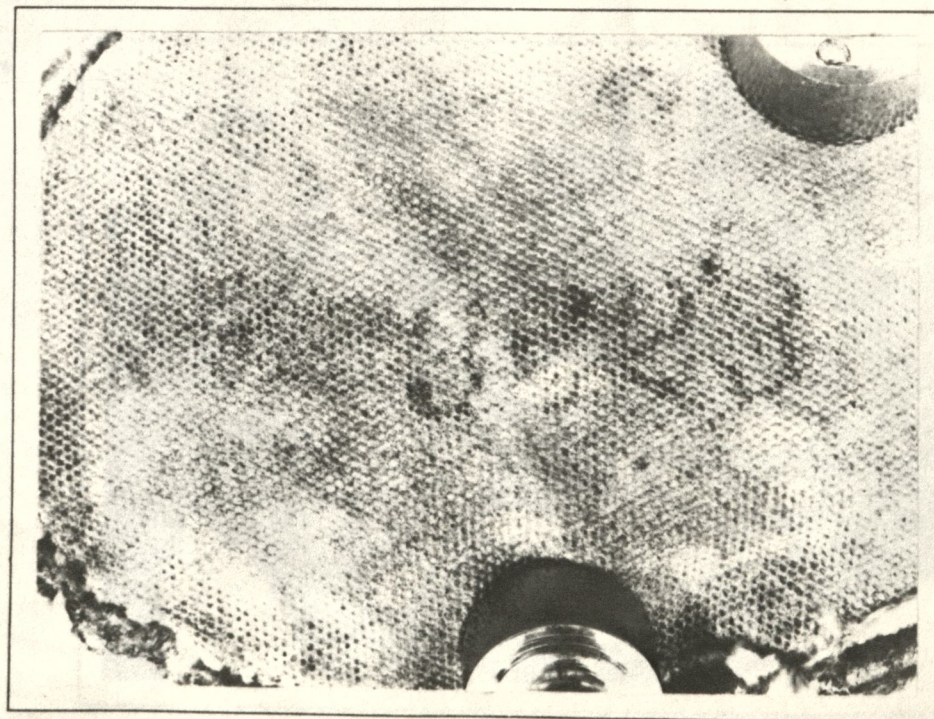


PHOTO LABORATORY (CONT.)

Immersion in water of chemicals often increases contrast of laundry marks or writings on cloth. Photographs clarify and preserve evidence.



View at close range shows visibility and legibility of indistinct laundry markings on bottom of canteen cover immersed in solution.



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RECORDS**CASE WRITERS**

All information and evidence gained from the Field operations, histories, and findings of the Processing Point and its laboratories are now compiled into a coherent, concise narrative to be entered on the QMC Form 1042 Report of Interment.

TYPING POOL

Fencilled copies of all reports are sent to the typing pool where proper forms are filled out and forwarded to case checkers for checking and final edit.

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RECORDS (CONT.)**CASE CHECKERS**

All reports, cases and records are carefully checked for accuracy. Upon completion the case records are sent to the Records Officer for signature.

Prior to signing the reports, the Records Officer carefully reviews each case to see that all information has been accurately recorded and that the classification (Known, Believed-To-Be or Unknown) is in strict accordance with all evidence submitted.

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A. TRUCK

Casketed remains are carried to truck from shipping room in preparation for shipment to temporary U.S. military cemeteries for interment.

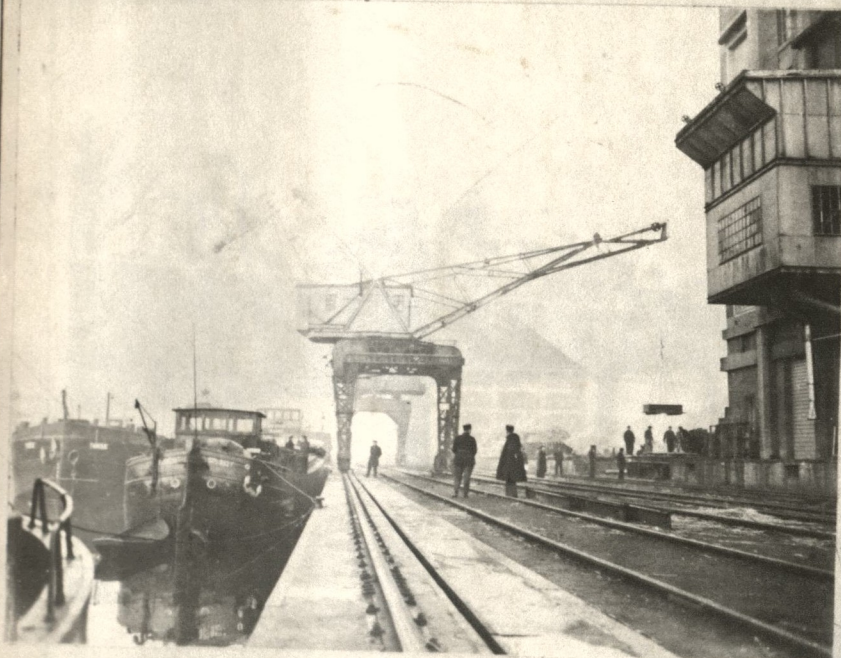
Remains to be interred in a temporary U.S. military cemetery are shipped by truck or transported to loading points of barge or train shipments.

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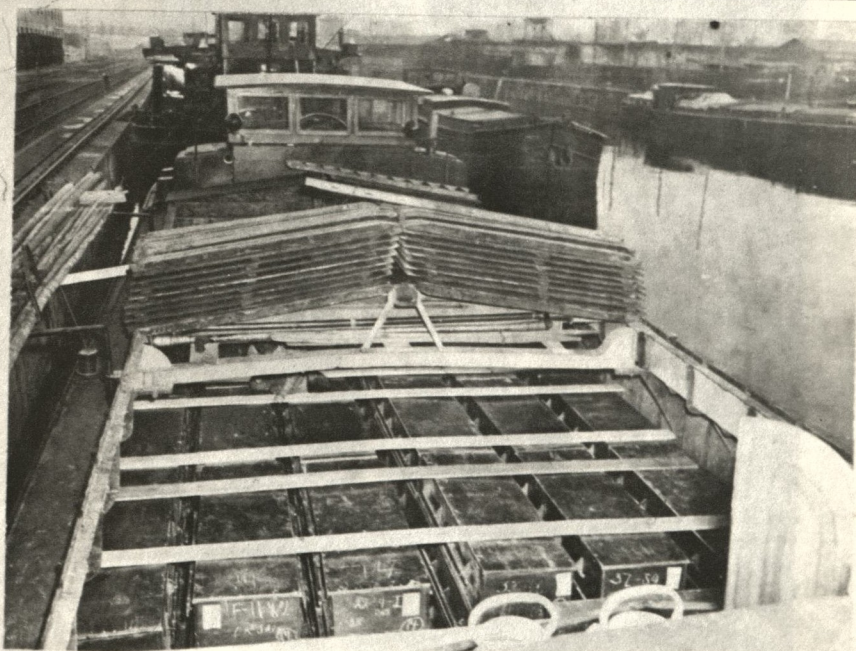


B. BARGE

Barge shipping, where practical, carries an important significance in the transportation of casketed remains to temporary U.S. military cemeteries.



View shows method of stacking of casketed remains on barge in preparation for shipment.



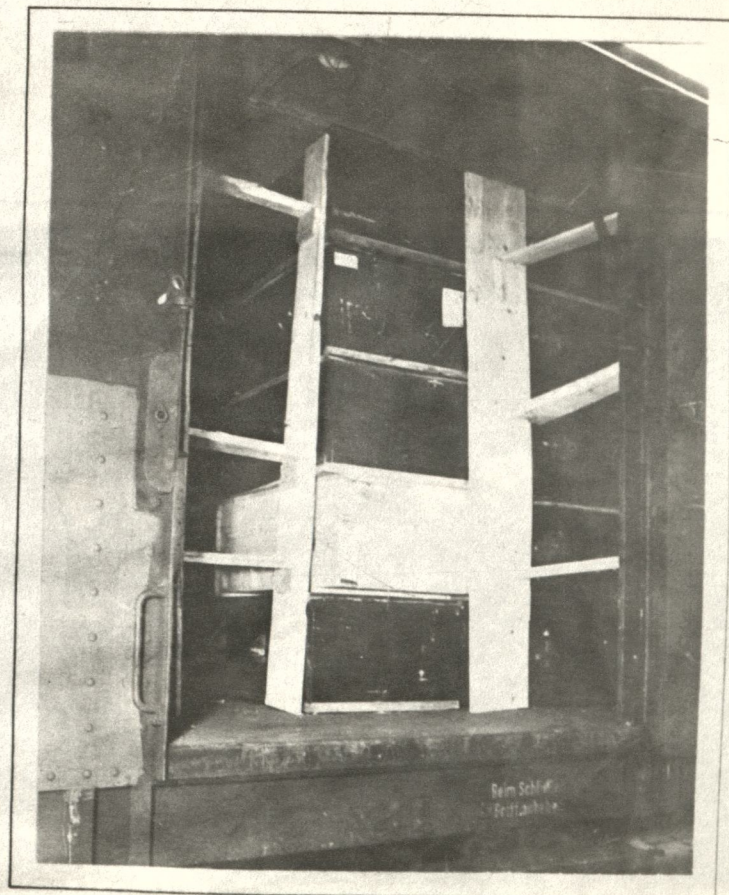
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C. RAIL

Continental Type Railroad Baggage Car are employed in transporting remains from the Central Identification Point to temporary U S military cemeteries, this type of car will transport approximately 100 remains.



Interior view of Continental Type Railroad Baggage Car. Note how caskets are braced to avoid damage while in transit.



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INTERMENT
IN MILITARY CEMETERIES

Casketed remains arrive at a temporary
U.S. military cemetery for interment.



A U.S. Army Chaplain reads service over
flag-draped, casketed remains lying in
state in a temporary chapel at a temporary
U.S. military cemetery prior to burial.

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The last rites are said for a fallen American soldier of World War II.

A military salute is rendered over the remains of a fallen American soldier as he is laid to rest at a temporary U.S. military cemetery.

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FIELD OPERATIONS**MOBILE LABORATORY**

Identification technicians board the mobile field laboratory in preparation for disinterring and processing operations in the Field.

Field laboratory kit is checked for serviceability and completeness before each trip to outlying points.

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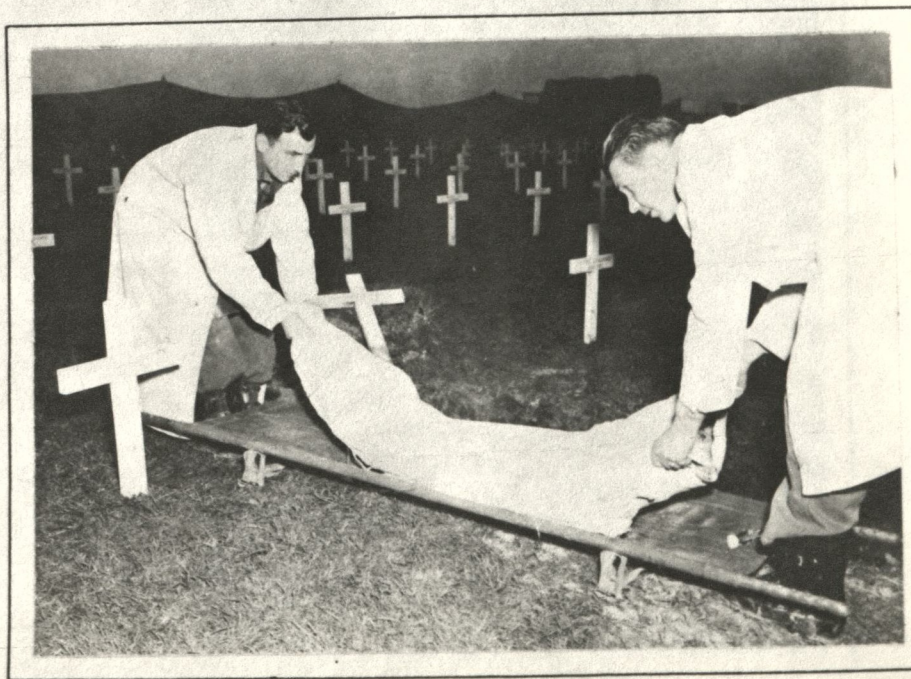


FIELD OPERATIONS (CONT.)

Field operations include the disinterring of the body and careful inspection made of the grave to insure that no evidence is lost or destroyed.

For processing in the Field or at the Central Identification Point all loose dirt and debris from the bottom of the grave (when remains have been buried in mattress covers) is placed in a new mattress cover for inspection by hand processing and fluoroscopic examination.

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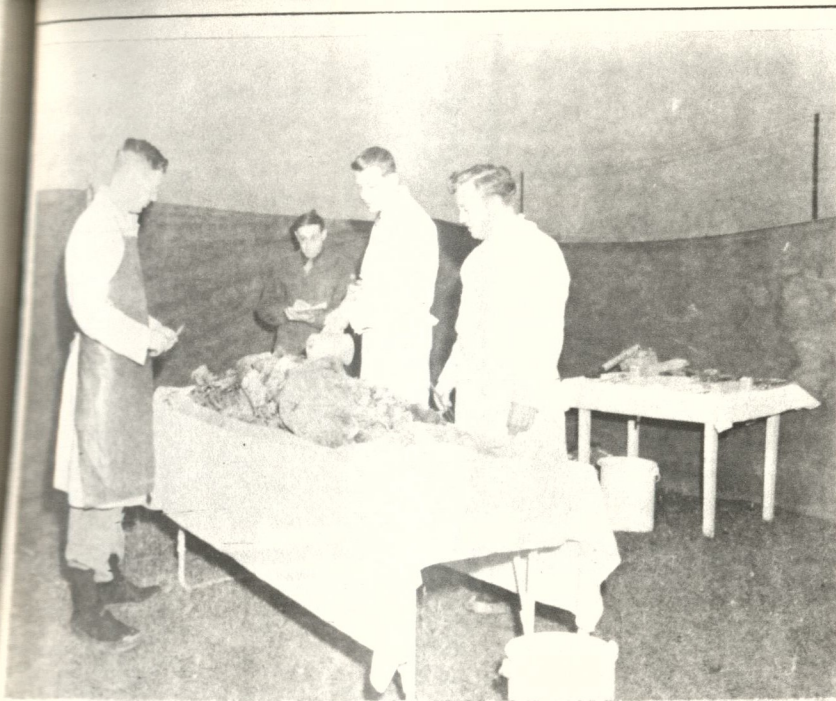
The graves are opened by common laborers but only military or WD Civilian personnel are used in the final stages of disinterring.



The grave markers accompany the remains. This procedure is followed in all cases whether the remains are to be processed in the Field by the Mobil Unit or evacuated to the Central Identification Point.

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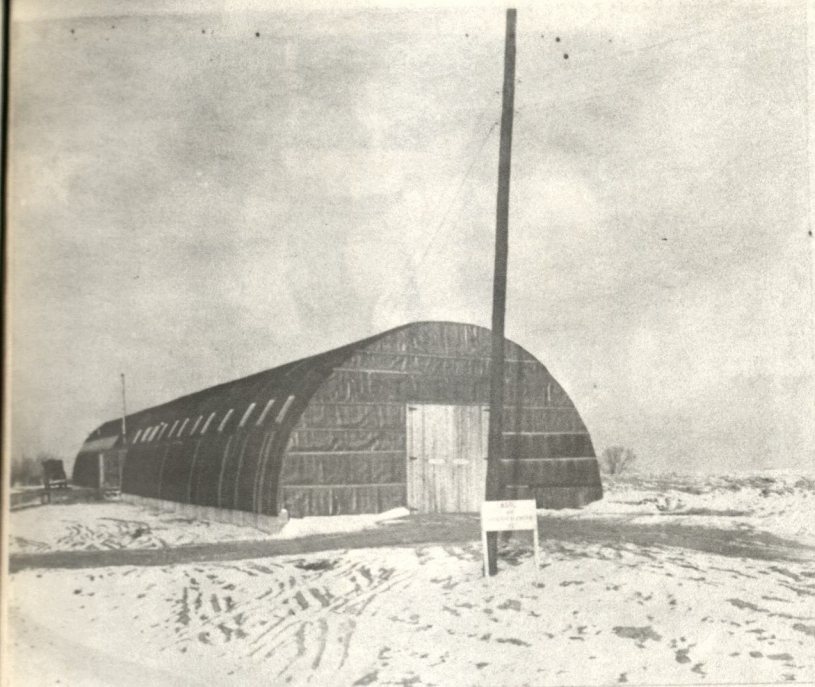
A disinfectant is sprayed on the remains and careful hand processing begins.



Clothing is removed and size marking, laundry marks and information contained in manufactures labels are carefully recorded. Tooth and skeletal charts are made. Items that might need further study in the chemical or photo laboratories are recorded, labeled and sent along with the case papers to the Central Identification Point for necessary processing.

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SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT



Sub-Central Identification Point located at temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. This Sub-Identification Point processes the unknowns currently buried therein and the unknowns currently buried in the adjacent temporary US Military Cemeteries. Notice that the building housing this Sub-Identification Point consists of two Romney huts connected end to end.

Exhumations during the winter months present a difficult problem. Note that power-driven pavement breakers are required to break through the frozen ground. Graves are opened to within one foot of remains by using local labor or German Prisoners of War. The last foot is exhumated and removal of remains from the grave is accomplished only by US Military or War Department civilian personnel.

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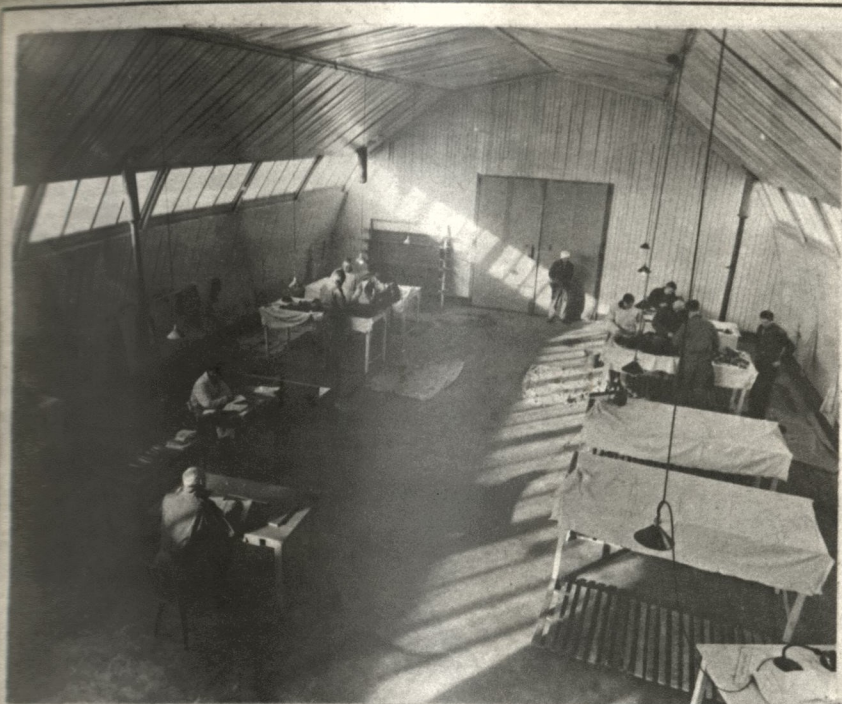


The remains being removed from the grave. Personnel employed for removal of remains are highly trained technicians and are always US Military or War Department civilians. After remains have been removed, the grave is thoroughly searched to insure complete recovery of all items. This procedure prevents the loss of valuable identification clues.

Interior view of processing room, Sub-Central Identification Point, temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. Note that windows are so spaced as to provide the maximum amount of light.

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SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

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Technicians processing remains at the Sub-Central Identification Point located at the temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.

Technicians removing clothing as the first step in processing an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. After clothing has been completely removed, the clothing is thoroughly searched by hand and later fluoroscoped in order that all clues to identity will be recovered. For example: AGO cards, wallets, pictures and letters. After the clothing has been hand-processed and fluoroscoped, it is carefully laundered and chemically treated in order that all clothin and laundry marks will be recovered.

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SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

Another view of technicians removing clothing from an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.

Another view of technicians removing clothing from an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.

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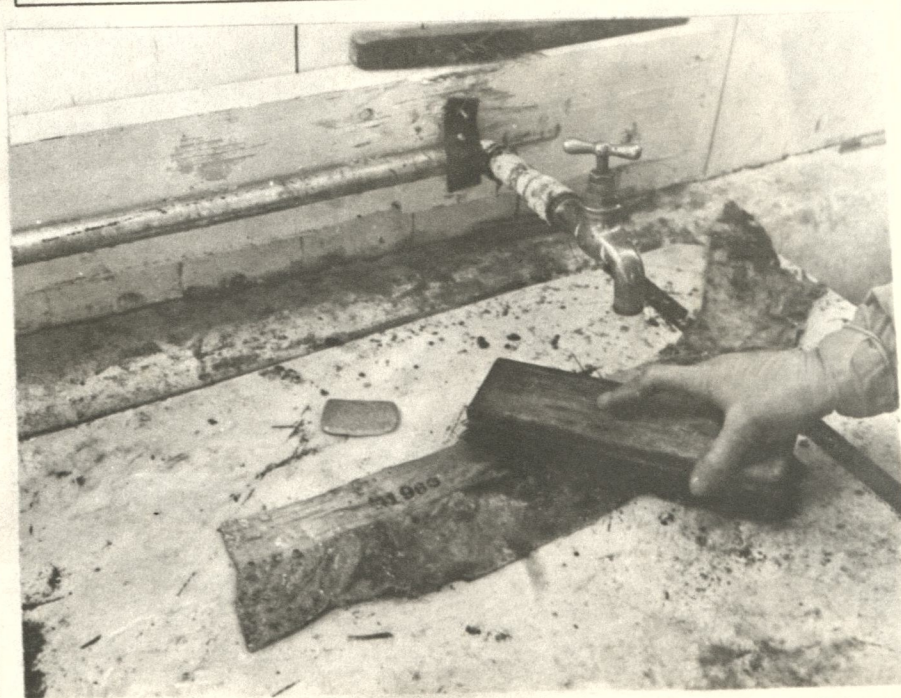
SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT



Technicians laundering the clothing that was removed from an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. All clothing is carefully laundered in this manner in order that all clothing and laundry marks will be recovered.

A serial number that was recovered on the clothing of an unknown that was currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. This slightly faded number was recovered in laundering the clothing. In this case, the number was recovered by the simple means of allowing cold water to run over the material being examined.

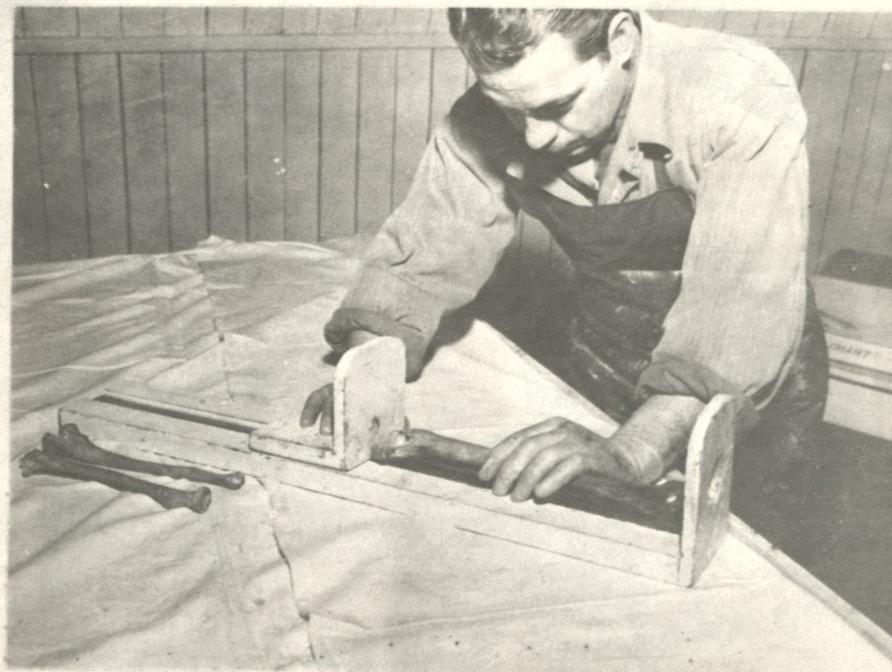
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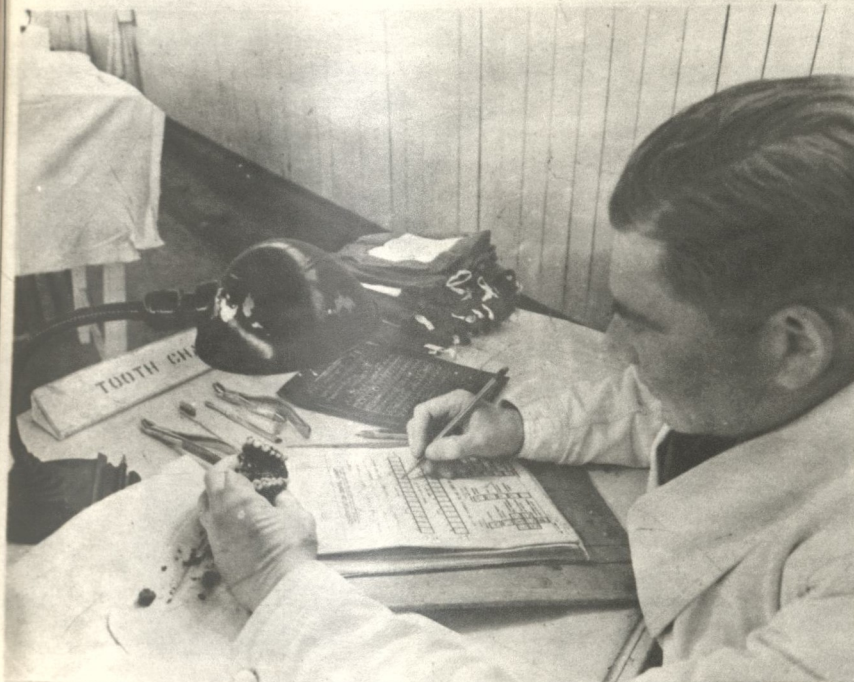


Estimation of weight and height at the time of processing and the estimation of height during life is recorded.

Technicians measuring a femur by using a Broca scale (a measuring device). Measurements recorded on the Broca scale will be compared with the Rolla Table of Measurements to determine the height. Sub-Central Identification Point, temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.



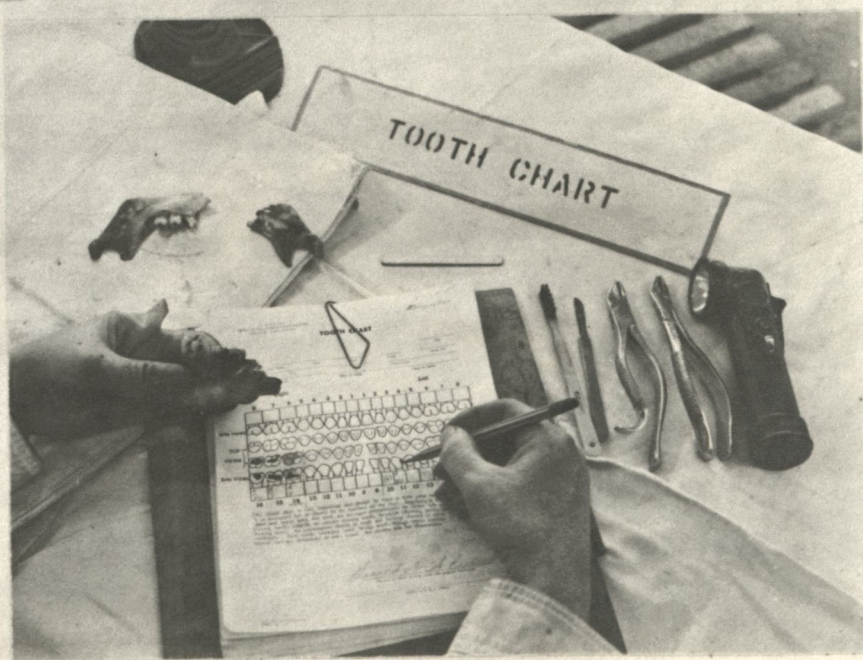
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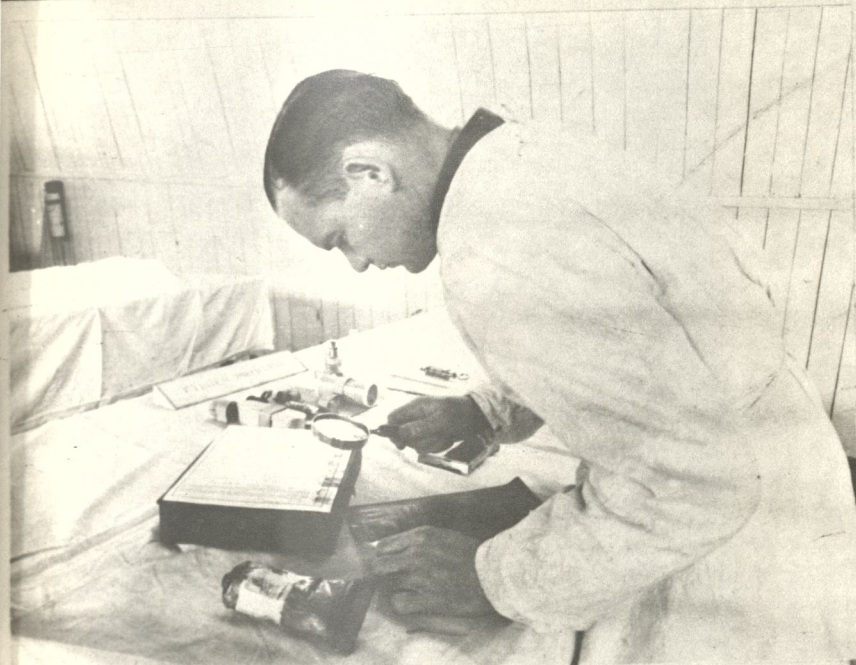


Technicians making tooth charts which are very important in providing the identity of deceased. All characteristics are carefully recorded. This tooth chart may positively identify an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten Holland.

Another view of the technician making a tooth chart at the Sub-Central Identification Point, US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.

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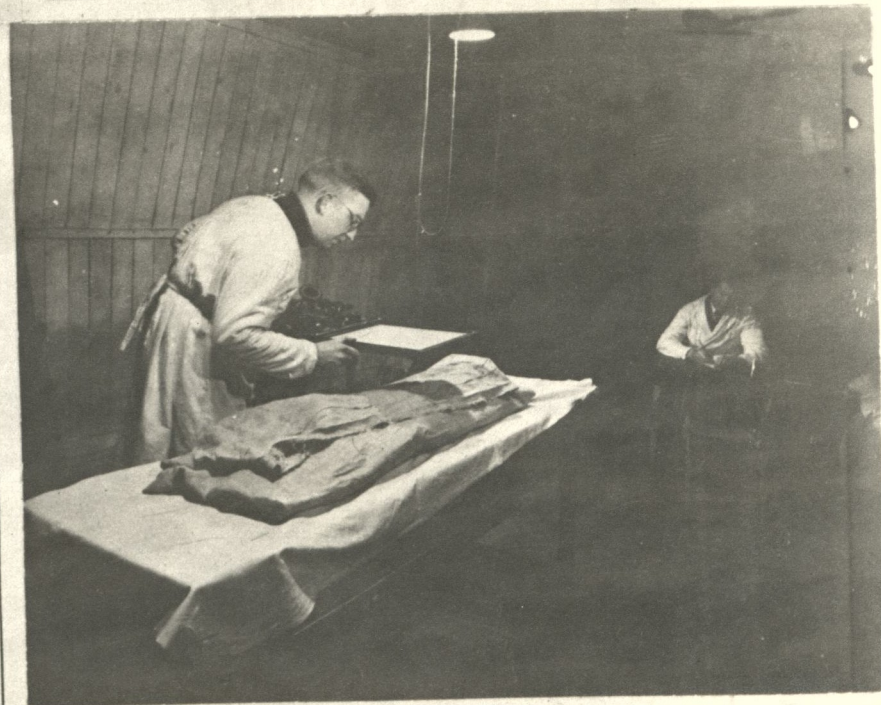




View of finger prints that were recovered from an unknown currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. These finger prints are being examined by a Representative from the China Theater.

Remains being fluoroscoped at the Sub-Central Identification Point, temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland. The fluoroscope makes it possible to recover all metallic objects, teeth, determine old fractures, etc.

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SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

Remains of an unknown that was currently buried in temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland, has been completely processed at the Sub-Central Identification Point and prepared for reburial, using the U.K. type casket. Note that the grave marker accompanies remains throughout the processing.



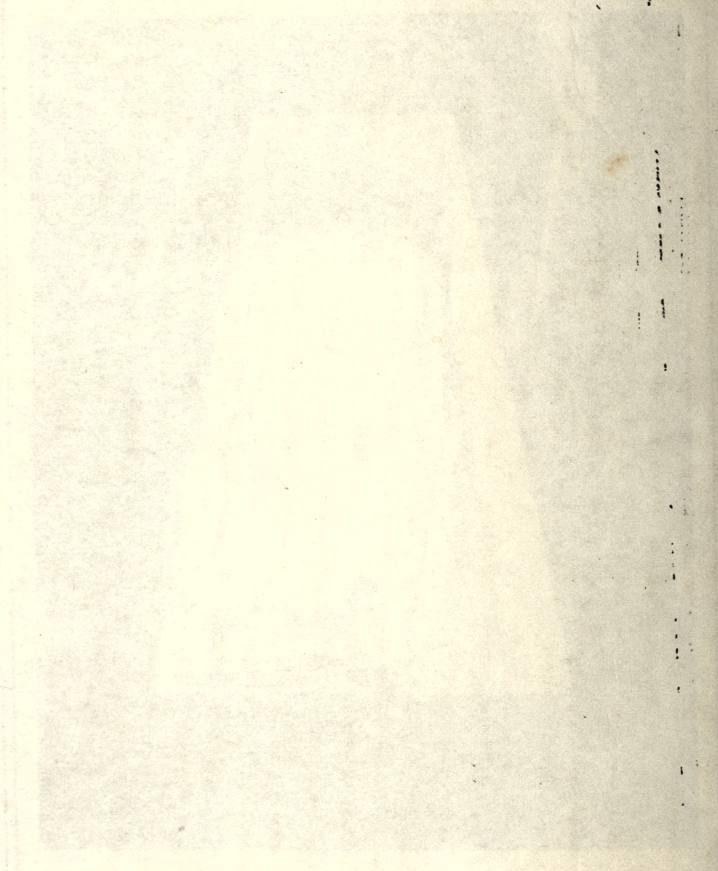
All case papers are carefully checked for accuracy prior to reburial of remains. Sub-Central Identification Point, temporary US Military Cemetery, Margraten, Holland.

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SUB-CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION POINT

On the 21st of May 1941, the following
was observed at the above-mentioned
point. The only object seen was a
small, dark, rectangular object, which
was seen to be moving in a southerly
direction. It was not possible to
ascertain whether it was a ship or
an aircraft.



The above-mentioned object was
seen at the above-mentioned
point on the 21st of May 1941.
It was not possible to ascertain
whether it was a ship or an aircraft.