

GORDON LAW OFFICE

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March 23, 2012

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Lawrence S. Gordon

I am writing to seek your assistance with respect to the location of the remains of my uncle after whom I was named, Lawrence S. Gordon PFC, United States Army. I am also seeking your assistance in obtaining documents from the United States Army, which will assist in the location of the remains of my uncle. My uncle Lawrence was a Canadian citizen who enrolled in the United States Army during the Second World War and was killed in action on August 13, 1944, during the battle of the Falaise Gap in France. His death took place in the vicinity of Carrouges, France. At the time, he was a crewmember of an M8 armored car.

My uncle was a member of the Reconnaissance Company, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division of General Hodge's First Army. There were 199 members of the Reconnaissance Company. Forty-four lost their lives during the Second World War. The only body not recovered was the body of my uncle.

I have recently been contacted by a team of researchers, led by Jed Henry in Middleton, Wisconsin (whose grandfather was in my uncle's unit), and including Alexis Boban from France. These individuals, along with several other members, have committed a great deal of time and effort to finding the body of Lawrence S. Gordon.

It is significant that the Memorialization of Non-Recoverable Remains of World War II, which I understand to be an internal U.S. Army document, indicates the following: "The remains of the decedent could have been recovered. However, after review of the following it has been determined that evidence does not exist to contradict a finding of non-recoverability."

Cont'd

To Whom It May Concern
March 23, 2012
Page 2

I am willing to provide DNA evidence and any other assistance required to aid in the identification of my uncle's body.


I have been advised that the Secretary of the Army is the only individual with the authority to direct a disinterment at an American National Cemetery for the purposes of identification. I am asking for your assistance in seeking all available documentation regarding his death with a view to having the remains, which we believe to be his, disinterred so that he can finally be identified.

I do want to add that this matter is extremely important to me personally. I was named after my uncle to ensure that he was not forgotten. I had promised my father, who passed away in 1990, that I would locate his grave and visit it in France. I had been advised that his grave was at St. James, France. When I attended at the Brittany American Cemetery in 2001, I was shocked to learn that there was no grave as they had never recovered and identified his body. The reason for my shock is that I consider the wallet that is in my possession to be in reasonable condition. Although there are burn marks on it, all of the contents (three family pictures) are essentially unharmed. Because the wallet was returned to the family, it seemed obvious that the body had been identified and my uncle's identification in the wallet had been removed

It would mean a great deal to me, even after all these years, if his body could be identified so that my family and I can have a place to honor his memory.

I appreciate any assistance you can give me in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. R. Gordon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LAWRENCE R. GORDON, Q.C.
LRG/nm