

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



July 24, 1992

PVT Lawrence Freeze
117th Infantry, 30th Division
Plot A, Row 6, Grave 11
Somme American Cemetery
Bony (Aisne), France
Date of Death: September 25, 1918

Mr. Basil R. Fletcher, Sr.
Route 6, Box 6728
Manchester, TN 37355

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Thank you for your telephone inquiry of July 23, 1992.

Your uncle is interred in the Somme American Cemetery as indicated in the above caption. Information concerning the cemetery, directions for travel there, as well as other information of interest may be found on the tabbed pages of the enclosed pamphlet. On arrival at the cemetery, we suggest you go directly to the Visitors' Building where a staff member on duty will be happy to escort you to the grave site. Also enclosed is a machine copy of a map showing a portion of Europe. The area surrounding the cemetery is boxed in red.

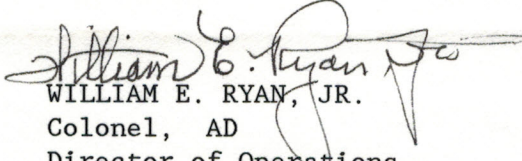
While you are in Europe, you may wish to telephone or visit the Commission's European office located in a suburb of Paris. Our staff there will be happy to answer questions you may have concerning your visit. The address and telephone number are on the back of the pamphlet.

We have asked our European office to arrange for PVT Freeze's grave to be photographed. It may take as long as eight weeks for us to receive the photograph. When we do, it will be mounted on a large color lithograph of the cemetery and forwarded to you.

Arrangements for placement of floral decorations at the grave site can be made through this Commission by use of the enclosed forms. Checks or money orders for floral decorations should be made payable to the ABMC Flower Fund. As a guide, the cost of a suitable bouquet and spray in the area is \$30.00 and \$40.00 respectively. Weather permitting, a color polaroid photograph of the decoration in place will be taken and forwarded to you.

Best wishes for a safe and rewarding trip. If we may be of any other service, please let us know.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR.
Colonel, AD
Director of Operations
and Finance

Encls.

cc: EO

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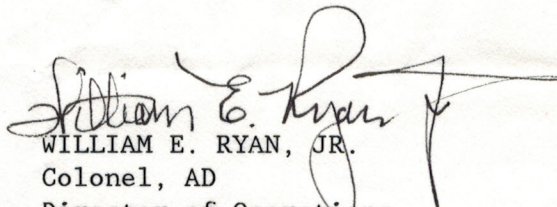
Mr. Basil R. Fletcher, Sr.
Route 6, Box 6728
Manchester, TN 37355

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Enclosed are the color lithograph of the American military cemetery memorial and the color polaroid photograph of the individual grave site, which you requested. These items are furnished you by authority of the Congress of the United States as an expression of the sympathy and gratitude of the American people.

Should you desire to make any further inquiry concerning this grave site, please write to us at the address shown above. Your letter should include the name, rank, serial number, name of the cemetery and plot-row-grave designation of the serviceman.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM E. RYAN, JR.
Colonel, AD
Director of Operations
and Finance

Encls.



National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

DAVID FLETCHER
310 CARTER ST.
MANCHESTER, TN 37355

RE: Veteran's Name: FREEZE, LAWRENCE EDWARD
SSN/SN: UNKNOWN
Request Number: 1-10334972194

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for contacting the National Personnel Records Center. The complete Official Military Personnel File for the veteran named above is not in our files. If the record were here on July 12, 1973, it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on that date and may have been destroyed. The fire destroyed the major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 through 1959, and records of Air Force personnel with surnames Hubbard through Z for the period 1947 through 1963. Unfortunately, the veteran's service record was destroyed in the fire.

In our effort to determine the veteran's period of service, we have attempted to obtain additional information from alternate sources. However, we were unable to procure any documents and complete records were not reconstructed for this veteran. From the information gathered, we were able to determine that the veteran's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) would have been archival had it not been destroyed in the fire.

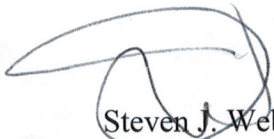
Documents that reflect a veteran's entitlement to medals normally are part of the OMPF and, if available, would have been contained in the photocopy set that we would've provided. However, the Department of the Army (which has jurisdiction over the award and issuance of the Army decorations) does not authorize the issuance of replacement awards to anyone other than the authorized next of kin (Awards earned by former service members may be issued to them upon their request, or upon the request of their next of kin in the event they are deceased. When the former service member is deceased, only the un-remarried widow or widower may obtain the medals. If the widow or widower is remarried or deceased, then the medals may be issued only to the primary next of kin in the following order: eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, or eldest grandchild). Unfortunately, a nephew is not considered as the next of kin as listed above. The medals and insignia for many awards may be purchased from civilian dealers, which you may locate in your local yellow pages under "military surplus" or by searching the Internet under "military medals".

However, we can provide a listing of the basic awards/decorations that the veteran would have been entitled to during this period of active service. The veteran is entitled to the following awards and/or decorations:

World War I Victory Medal;

Prior to the 1973 fire, the veteran's medical records may have been sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We suggest you contact the nearest VA Regional Office to obtain copies of those records. Please refer to VA claim# 00-067-727 when requesting assistance from the VA. You may call: **1-800-827-1000**. If the VA doesn't have the requested medical records, then we can presume that the records were in the veteran's service jacket and destroyed in the fire of 1973.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Weber
Archives Technician, Core 2C



**We Value Our
Veterans' Privacy**

*Let us know if we have
failed to protect it.*