

ARMY SERVICE FORCES  
KANSAS CITY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT  
ARMY EFFECTS BUREAU  
601 Hardesty Avenue  
Kansas City 1, Missouri

INFORMATION CIRCULAR CONCERNING  
THE RECOVERY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

1. This circular is intended to provide a more complete reply to a relative who may write to the Army Effects Bureau concerning property believed to have been in the possession of a soldier but not received from overseas.
2. The Army Effects Bureau functions as an agency to receive and properly dispose of personal effects only, and is responsible solely for that property which is received at the Bureau.
3. In the past we have sent many tracer letters overseas, in an effort to obtain information relative to items about which the family has made inquiry, and which were not among the articles received at this Bureau. In no case has our tracer resulted in retrieving any property, as everything obtainable is returned as standard procedure. In numerous instances we received information as to why the particular items were not recovered.
4. Following are some of the reasons assigned by overseas commanders as to why effects were not returned from the theater of operations:
  - a. Frequently military personnel, before going on a mission, will leave certain of their possessions with a comrade, who is to keep them in case the owner does not return. This is particularly true of articles which are difficult to purchase in the theater of operations.
  - b. Many articles which the family expects to receive, such as wrist watches, rings, wallets, etc., are carried on the person of the owner, and, if he is reported missing or captured, it is impossible to recover them for the family. This also is often true in the case of personnel lost in action, particularly so as to our Air Force flying personnel.
  - c. Oftentimes the owner exchanges, sells, loses, or otherwise disposes of belongings, such as a ring or lighter, without the knowledge of his family. Some things wear out or become locally irreparable, and are abandoned by him.
  - d. The War Department requires that great care be taken to safeguard the belonging of our military personnel. In spite of precautions, it sometimes is impossible to recover all personal effects in battle areas, due to severity of combat operations, danger, theft, or enemy souvenir hunters, prior to the time that United States military personnel can reach the scene and take appropriate action to collect and safeguard the effects.

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