

Owens, William
 5. GRADE Pvt. 1st. 6. COMPANY Battery C-77th C A 30
 7. REGIMENT AND ARM OR SERVICE
 9. RACE C 10. NATIVITY Va. 11. SERVICE 9/12 12. DATE OF ADMISSION February 14, 1942.

13. SOURCE OF ADMISSION
 Carded for record only
 14. CAUSE OF ADMISSION

15. LINE OF DUTY
 16. INJURY CODE NOT REQUIRED
 17. ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSES. OPERATIONS

18. PLACE OF TREATMENT
 Carded for record only.
 19. DISPOSITION Died- Cause of death: Gunshot wound inflicted by military policeman *
 20. DATE OF DISPOSITION February 14, 1942.
 21. NAME OF HOSPITAL 77th Coast Artillery
 Manchester, Conn.,
 22. SENT WITH REPORT OF S. & W. FOR MONTH OF February 1942.
 23.

AGRS-DC-S 201 Owens, William
(2 May 50)

23 May 1950

Executive Director
Veterans' Military Pay Commission
Post Office Box 1871
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter addressed to The Adjutant General's Office, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., requesting information regarding the death of William Owens.

The records show that William Owens, service number 32 072 611, died 15 February 1942 at Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut, as the result of gunshot wounds. Death occurred not in line of duty and as the result of his own misconduct.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN J. DONOVAN
Colonel, AGD
Commanding

Jes



File
Kidd-Spec Corr

Refile

850
Mills, Delaware
January 5, 1950

Adjutant Gen's Office
Washington 25, D.C.

RS

Re: PH 8 BB

XC 3 033 875
William, OWERS

Sir:

530 East 12 St. Mills, Del

I am writing you for information concerning the above mentioned serviceman, now deceased, who is my son.

Having contacted home service Branch of Red Cross in this City I was advised to write the District office Veterans Administration as applied this code number and forward me to your office.

Veteran in question entered service in 1941 and deceased in 1942.

I desire proof of veteran's service for purpose of receiving benefits now being given in this state.

Sincerely yours

OFFICIAL STATEMENT of the MILITARY SERVICE and DEATH

of

WILLIAM OWENS
Service Number 32 072 611

The official records show that William Owens, service number 32 072 611 was inducted and entered on active duty in the military service 29 April 1941 at Trenton, New Jersey at which time he gave as his address, Wilmington, Delaware. He died 15 February 1942 at Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut at which time he held the grade of private and was serving as a member of Battery C, 77th Coast Artillery.

This official statement furnished 2 February 1950 to Mr. Walter Owens, Sr., father, 850 Wilson Street, Wilmington, Delaware. Re: PH8BB, XC 3 033 875.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General



FILE
Gaillard-e

CR

REQUEST FOR ARMY INFORMATION

FOR USE OF—

February 25, 1942

DIVISION Life Ins. Cls. SUBDIVISION Term Insurance SECTION Group 3 UNIT ECAD

It is requested that information be given on the subject checked and this sheet returned to the Veterans Administration.

Name OWENS, William
 (Last) (First) (Middle)
 Rank and organization Pvt. 1st c Btry C 77th CA
 Date April 29, 1941
 Date of enlistment February 14, 1942
 Date of discharge or death Wilmington, Delaware
 Home address _____
 Status of allotment through Z. F. O. _____
 Has final settlement been made? _____
 Certified copies of Form 1-B _____

Army Serial No.: S 32 072 611
 Allotment No.: A _____
 Compensation Claim No.: C 5 033 875
 Converted Insurance No.: K _____
 Term Insurance No.: T _____
 National Service Life Insurance No.: N _____
 Allotment deductions, Class A _____ Class B _____
 From _____, 19____, to _____, 19____
 Made subsequent to _____, 19____
 Premium deductions:
 From _____, 19____, to _____, 19____
 Additional information _____

Alleged disability _____
 Treated at _____ Hospital No. _____ at _____ incurred at _____
 Treated at _____ Hospital No. _____ at _____ from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____
 Treated at _____ Hospital No. _____ at _____ from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____

By H. L. McCoy, Director of Insurance

1. Name Owens, William (None) ftk EF
 (Last) (First) (Middle)
 2. Army Serial No. 32,072,611
 3. Rank and organization at discharge _____
 4. Date of enlistment or induction _____
 5. Was he medically examined and accepted at camp? _____
 Give date _____
 6. General or limited service _____
 7. Date of entrance into active service _____
 If retired or reservist, give beginning and ending dates of each period of active duty and authority therefor. _____
 8. Dates of indefinite furlough _____
 9. Date and cause of discharges _____
 10. Character of discharges _____
 11. Dates of prior service and dates of reenlistment _____
 12. Occupation at time of enlistment _____
 13. Emergency address _____
 14. _____
 15. Marital status, name and address of next of kin given at each enlistment _____
 16. Date of and rank at retirement _____
 17. Present rank, organization, and location _____
 18. Dates of service in Russia if enlistment between 11-11-18 and 4-2-20 _____
 19. Dates and history of desertion or absence with court martial findings _____
 20. Names of wars, occupations, or expeditions and dates of service therein _____
 21. Future address _____
 22. Date and cause of death _____
 23. Death in line of duty? _____
 Death due to own misconduct? _____
 24. Disability or death incurred during absence with or without leave _____
 25. Period of authorized absence during which _____

SG 3-13-42

XXX

all attached reports

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD OF OFFICERS

77TH COAST ARTILLERY (AA)

Manchester, Conn.

The board met pursuant to order appointing it at 10:30 A.M., February 21, 1942, in Regimental Headquarters, 77th Coast Artillery (AA), Manchester, Conn. The board met at Regimental Headquarters in place of Manchester Memorial Hospital, as stated by order appointing it, for the convenience of all members concerned. The order appointing the board was read and attached as Exhibit "A".

Members Present: 1st Lieut. HAROLD A. SCHALL, O-323185, 77th CA (AA)
2nd Lieut. NEIL J. PAIT, JR., O-451571, 77th CA (AA)
Capt. PAUL A. ZIMMERMAN, O-356551, 77th CA (AA)

Members Absent: None

Purpose: To investigate the circumstances and report upon the facts leading up to and connected with death of Private William Owens, 32072611, Battery "C", 77th Coast Artillery (AA), and determine as a result of such investigation whether or not death occurred in line of duty and whether it was or was not the result of the deceased's own misconduct.

The following witness appeared before the board, was sworn, and testified in substance as follows:

Lt. RICHARD E. DORMONT, O-422719, MC, Medical Detachment, 77th CA (AA)

Pvt. William Owens was brought to me shortly after the shooting. He smelled of beer, and acted in a drunk and unruly fashion in spite of the following severe injuries. There was a bullet wound through the deltoid muscle which seemed to extend through to the right scapula. Bleeding from this was slight. There was another jagged bullet wound just outside the nipple penetrating the right chest. During his struggle much blood spurted from this. At the lower border of the rib cage posteriorly, there was another bullet hole, which did not bleed. It seemed to be the exit of the former lesion. There was evidence of blood within the pleural cavity, but breath sounds were still audible, i.e. hemothorax with possible slight pneumothorax. The wounds were dressed and Pvt. Owens was transferred to Manchester Memorial Hospital for further care. Morphine was given.

In my opinion, restlessness and thrashing about at the time of injury due to alcoholic intoxication aggravated the hemorrhage into the chest and alcoholic intoxication can be considered a remote cause of death.

Following this testimony, sworn statements of all available witnesses were received and examined by members of the board. These statements are included as Exhibits "B", "C", "D", "E", and "F", and follow the listing given below.

Exhibit "B": Sworn Statement of Private Johnnie Curry

Exhibit "C": Sworn Statement of Cpl. Leslie Hadley, Jr.

Exhibit "D": Sworn Statement of Private Tom McCartney

Exhibit "E": Sworn Statement of Viola Wong

Exhibit "F": Sworn Statement of James Boluware

The certificate of Capt. Edwin M. Clark, Battery "C", 77th CA (AA), was examined by the board and is attached as Exhibit "G".

The certified certificate of death was examined by the board and is attached as Exhibit "H".

FINDINGS: The board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds:

a. That Private William Owens, 32072611, met death on February 15, 1942, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut, due to bullet wounds received February 14, 1942, at Hartford, Connecticut.

b. That death occurred while Private Owens was under treatment for above named wounds at the Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut.

c. That Private Owens, at the time of his injury which led to his death, was absent without leave from his organization, such time being at or about 4:00 A.M., February 14, 1942.

d. That Private Owens was under the influence of alcohol or narcotics at the time of incurrance of injury and that this condition was a remote cause of his death.

e. That death occurred not in line of duty and as result of deceased's own misconduct.

The board then, at 1:30 P.M., on February 21, 1942, adjourned.

Harold A. Schall
HAROLD A. SCHALL
1st. Lieut., 77th CA (AA)
President

Paul A. Zimmerman
PAUL A. ZIMMERMAN
Capt., Medical Corps
Member

Neil J. Pait
NEIL J. PAIT, JR.
Member

SWORN STATEMENT OF PVT. JOHNNIE CURRY

My name is Johnnie Curry, A.S.N. 54026622, Private, Battery "C", 77th Coast Artillery(AA), Hartford, Connecticut.

On February 14, 1942, sometime after midnight I was with Pvt. William Owens in North Hartford, Connecticut. I had a pass to be absent from my battery from 6:00 PM until midnight on February 13, 1942.

Private Owens and I had been around to several places before we went to a house where they serve meals. When we walked in the door there were two M.P.'s and several civilians in there. I went over and started talking to one of the girls and Pvt. Owens was talking to the house lady, he cursed and said she had mistreated him, then the M.P.'s went over and told him he had better leave. I got Pvt. Owens' coat and told him to come on and go, he said he wanted to discuss something with the house lady, I went back over and started talking to this girl again. Pvt. Owens had a butcher knife in his hand. The house lady asked me if she had mistreated Pvt. Owens, I told her no, she had not mistreated him. I went back over to talk to the girl and my back was turned to the M.P. and Pvt. Owens. One M.P. who was talking to Pvt. Owens was over by the door, the other M.P. was over close to where I was. I heard the shooting start and I looked around and went over to where Pvt. Owens was and he started out the door. I went out to the street and asked him if he was hurt, he did not answer me. Then he fell to the ground. I tried to pick him up and then one of the civilians helped me put him over beside a car. I went back inside the house to call a taxi and saw a man laying on the floor who was bleeding. I helped pick this man up and set him over on a box. I went back out to where Pvt. Owens was and then the M.P.'s came out and we put Pvt. Owens in the truck and went to the dispensary.

s/s Johnnie Curry
Johnnie Curry, 54026622
Private, Btry."C", 77th CA(AA)

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 14th day of
February, 1942.

s/s Henry R. Burkitt
Henry R. Burkitt
1st Lt., 77th CA(AA)
Investigating Officer

I certify this to be a true copy.

Harold A. Schall
Harold A. Schall
1st Lt., 77th CA(AA)
President.

SWORN STATEMENT OF CORP. LESLIE HADLEY, JR.

My name is Leslie Hadley Jr., A.S.N. 54030438, Corp., Btry. G, 77th Coast Artillery(AA), East Hartford, Connecticut.

On February 14, 1942 at about 4:20 AM, I was on M.P. duty in Hartford, Connecticut, and was at a ^{house} home in North Hartford where they serve meals. Pvt. Tom. McCartney, also of Battery G, 77th Coast Artillery(AA) was on M.P. duty with me. We had been in ^{this place} the place about 30 minutes and had eaten some sandwiches. Pvt. William Owens and Pvt. Johnnie Curry both of Battery G, 77th Coast Artillery(AA) came into this place and it was evident that both of them were under the influence of alcohol.

Pvt. Owens began cursing as soon as he entered the door and called the house lady out of her name, he then staggered over to where a man was cooking at the stove, and cursed him. Pvt. Owens then grabbed the house lady and started pushing her around. I asked him if he had a pass and I told him to come on out and go back to his battery. He had a butcher knife in his hand and started walking toward me, he was talking loud and cursing me. He told me that there was not a "God Damn" sould ^{or his} going to tell him anything and put him out of there, and that a chicken shit M.P. ain't jiving him, he said that I had stole the pistol from the supply room to fool civilian people. He went over to where a girl and her boy friend were sitting on a trunk and grabbed a hold of the girl and drew back the butcher knife, the boy with her pushed him away. Pvt. Owens then started toward me still cursing and saying what he would do. When he was about four ^{feet} feet from me I told him again to go on outside but instead he kept coming toward me. I backed away from him trying to talk to him but when he raised the butcher knife and was about three feet from me I pulled out my .45 caliber revolver and fired one time, that did not stop him and he was still coming on me and I fired twice more. I opened the door and Pvt. Owens walked out on the street and fell. He still had the butcher knife in his hand when he fell.

When he started toward me I was afraid he would kill me with the butcher knife because he was threatening me all the time.

We put Pvt. Owens in the pickup, the house lady told me that the man cooking in there had been hit by one of the bullets. I told her to call the civilian police who would take care of the civilian.

We carried Pvt. Owens to the Dispensary which is located at Battery G bivouac area. I reported to Lt. Short of Battery G as soon as I arrived there.

I did not want to shoot Pvt. Owens and would not have done it if I had not thought he was going to kill me. Pvt. Johnnie Curry who

was with Pvt. Owens did not bother either of us but just^{the} kept walking around cursing us and rubbing his hands like he was going to fight with us.

Pvt. McCartney the M.P. with me tried to talk to Pvt. Owens and get him to leave but he would not pay any attention to him either. The house lady asked Pvt. Owens and Pvt. Curry to leave several times but they would just curse her.

s/s Leslie Hadley, Jr.
Leslie Hadley, Jr., 34030438
Corp., Btry. G, 77th CA(AA)

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 14th day
of February, 1942.

s/s Henry R. Burkitt
Henry R. Burkitt
1st. Lt., 77th CA(AA)
Investigating Officer

I certify this to be a true copy.

Harold A. Schail
Harold A. Schail
1st Lt., 77th Coast Artillery(AA)
President.

Exhibit "C" B/O Per par 2, SO No. 35 Hqrs 77th CA (AA) 1942 series

SWORN STATEMENT OF PVT. TOM MCCARTNEY

My name is Tom McCartney, A.S.N. 34023200, Private, Battery "G", 77th Coast Artillery(AA), East Hartford, Connecticut.

On February 14, 1942 at about 3:00 AM I was on M.P. duty in Hartford, Connecticut, with Corp. Hadley. We went to a house in North Hartford where they serve meals and we eat some sandwiches and had been around about thirty minutes when two soldiers came in.

The two soldiers were Pvt. William Owens and Pvt. Johnnie Curry, both of Battery G, 77th Coast Artillery(AA). When they came in we asked them what they were doing out at that time and also to let us see their pass. They started cursing at us and said they were not going anywhere. Pvt. Owens went back by the stove and picked up a butcher knife from the table and he slapped a man who cooks in this place. We told them again that they had better leave and the house lady told them to leave. Two ladies and a man tried to get the butcher knife from Pvt. Owens but they could not. Pvt. Owens would shove them off and threatened them with the knife. After Pvt. Owens shoved them off he started toward Cpl. Hadley and Cpl. Hadley backed away toward the door, Pvt. Owens kept going toward Cpl. Hadley and I heard three shots fired. Pvt. Owens walked out the door and when I got out there he was laying in the street near the sidewalk. As I started to go out I saw the civilian man laying on the floor and he said he had been shot, he was bleeding in the left shoulder.

We put Pvt. Owens and Pvt. Curry in our truck and went to the Dispensary at Battery G bivouac area, where Lt. Dormont, the Medical Officer, took charge of Pvt. Owens. We had already reported to Lt. Short at Battery G.

Both Pvt. Owens and Pvt. Curry were drunk and it was between 30 and 45 minutes that the shooting took place after they came into this house.

Pvt. Owens and Pvt. Curry cursed and talked loud all the time they were in the house.

s/s Tom McCartney,
Tom McCartney, 34023200
Private, Btry. G, 77thCA(AA)

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 14th day
of February, 1942.

s/s Henry R. Burkitt
Henry R. Burkitt
1st Lt., 77th CA(AA)
Investigating Officer

I certify this to be a true copy.

Harold A. Schall
Harold A. Schall
1st Lt., 77th CA(AA)
President.

Hartford, Conn.,
February 14, 1942

SWORN STATEMENT OF VIOLA WONG

My name is Viola Wong, age 33, Colored. I live at 51 Kennedy St., Hartford, Conn., where I have six rooms on the first floor

On February 14, 1942, at about 2:00 A.M., two soldiers who were Military Police came to my house in the side door which leads into my kitchen. They were both armed with pistols and had bands on their arms marked M.P. I do not know their names but they called one of them Tom. These soldiers asked me if there had been any soldiers in my house and how they had acted. I told them that there had been some soldiers in my house but they had all gone and that they had behaved all right. They ordered some food and sat down at the table and ate it. We then played a game of cards. There were several other men and women in my house, all civilians.

About 4:00 A.M., two more soldiers came to my house and one of the M.P.'s asked them to show him their passes. One of these soldiers told the M.P. that they did not need a damn pass. These two soldiers stayed around in my house for about 45 minutes and one of the soldiers who came in last kept talking loud and cursing. This continued for ten or fifteen minutes and finally the M.P. who had been talking to the soldier told him if he did not stop talking so loud and cursing he would put him out. James Boluware, a man who lives at my house and who was back by my stove cooking, laughed at the soldier and the soldier went over and picked up a butcher knife by the side of the stove. James Boluware ran to another part of the kitchen but the soldier with the butcher knife grabbed him by the sleeve of his sweater. The other soldier that came in last and I tried to separate the soldier with the butcher knife and Boluware. Boluware finally got loose and ran to the other side of the kitchen. The soldier still had the butcher knife and was threatening anybody that said anything to him. The next thing I knew was that the M.P. had fired his pistol and the soldier with the butcher knife went out of the door. The soldier fell after he got out in the street.

James Boluware was laying on the floor and had a pistol wound in his shoulder. I told one of the men at my house to call the police which he did and in a short time several police arrived and started an investigation.

James Boluware was carried to the Hartford Hospital.

I am positive that neither of the M.P.'s were drinking, they did not drink anything in my house but coffee.

I tried to get the soldier who was shot to leave my house and the soldier who came in with him also tried to get him to leave. He would not leave but kept talking loud, cursing and threatening us with the butcher knife.

The boy that had the butcher knife acted like he was crazy. I do not know if he was drunk or not.

There has been a lot of soldiers to come to my house and eat and play the music box. I had never seen the soldier that was shot before. The soldier that came with him had been there before.

/s/ Viola Wong
VIOLA WONG.,
51 Kennedy Street.,
Hartford, Conn.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 16th day of
February, 1942.

/s/ Henry R. Burkitt
HENRY R. BURKITT
1st Lieut., 77th CA (AA),
Investigating Officer

I certify this to be a true copy.

Neil J. Paik, Jr.
NEIL J. PAIK, JR.
2nd Lieut., 77th CA (AA)
Recorder.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT,
February 17, 1942.

Sworn Statement of JAMES BOLUWARE

My name is James Boluware, age 33, I live at 51 Kennedy Street.

On February 14, 1942, at about 4:00 a.m. there were four soldiers and several civilians in the kitchen of 51 Kennedy Street. That two of the soldiers were M.P.'s and had been there for a couple of hours when the other two soldiers come in.

One of the soldiers who I later learned was Private William Owens was cursing and talking loud and I tried to get him to be quiet but he picked up a butcher knife and started toward me and caught hold of my sweater and drew back the knife as if he was going to cut me.

That some of the others seperated us and then some shots were fired. One bullet hit me in the left shoulder. I fell to the floor and Private Owens and the MP went out the door into the street.

I was carried to the Hartford Hospital where I was treated for the bullet wound.

Private Owens was either drunk or crazy. Several of us tried to get him to stop making so much noise.

I believe he would have cut me or someone else if he had not been stopped.

s/s JAMES BOLUWARE
JAMES BOLUWARE
51 Kennedy Street,
Hartford, Connecticut.

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 17th day
of Feb. 1942.

s/s HENRY R. BURKITT
HENRY R. BURKITT,
1st. Lt., 77th CA (AA)
Investigating Officer.

I certify this to be a true copy.

Neil J. Paik, Jr.
NEIL J. PAIK, JR.
2nd. Lt., 77th CA (AA)

CERTIFICATE

Manchester, Connecticut
February 21, 1942

I certify that I am the Commanding Officer, Battery "C",
77th Coast Artillery (AA), of which the late Private William Owens
was a member, that on February 14, 1942 Private Owens was not on
pass or furlough from this organization at the time of his injury.

I have no personal knowledge as to how the injury was in-
curred.

Edwin M. Clark
EDWIN M. CLARK
Capt., 77th CA (AA)

Exhibit "G" B/O Per par 2, SO No. 35 Hqrs 77th CA (AA) 1942 series

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH BLACK UNFADING INK — THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIAN should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions in back of certificate.

Bureau of
Vital Statistics

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Medical Certificate of Death

1. Place of Death
 a. County Hartford
 b. City or town Manchester
 Note: If outside city or town limits, write rural
 c. Name of Hospital or Institution Memorial Hospital
 Note: If not in hosp. or inst., give street No. or location
 d. Length of stay: In hosp. or inst. 19 hrs in this community

2. Usual residence of deceased
 a. State b. County
 c. City or town Note: If outside city or town limits, write rural
 d. Street No. Note: If rural, give location
 e. If foreign-born, how long in U.S.A.?

3a. FULL NAME William Owens

3b. Social Security Number

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

4. Sex male 5. Race negro 6. Single, ~~widowed~~, ~~divorced~~, ~~separated~~
 6a. If married, widowed, or divorced, give name of husband or wife
 6b. Age of husband or wife, if alive
 7. Date of death February, 15, 1942
 8. Date of birth of deceased January 22, 1912
 9. Age 30 years 0 months 23 days If less than one day hrs. mins.
 10. Birthplace Groton, Virginia
 City or town State or foreign country

11. Usual occupation Soldier
 12. Industry or business Soldier

FATHER
 13. Name Walter Owens
 14. Birthplace Wilmington, Delaware
 City or town State or foreign country
 MOTHER
 15. Maiden name Unknown
 16. Birthplace Unknown
 City or town State or foreign country

17a. Informant Soldier's Service Record

17b. Address

18. Burial, Cremation, or Removal Date Feb. 18 19 42
 Cemetery
 Place Remains shipped to Makemie Pk., Va.

Was Deceased a Veteran? No If so, give War
 Was Body Embalmed? Yes If so, Name of Embalmer J. Baynes (Jr)
 Signature of Licensed Embalmer or Licensed Undertaker
 License No. 927
 Address 4148 Main St Hartford, Conn

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

19. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended the deceased from 19 .. to .. 19 ..

I last saw him alive on .. 19 ..; death is said to have occurred on Feb. 15, 1942 at 12:40 AM

Immediate cause of death
Gunshot wounds of right Lung and Chest, with Pneumothorax with subcutaneous Emphyema
 due to:
 due to:

Other morbid conditions (including any pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings of operations
 Physician: Underline the one cause above, in which death should be charged statistically.

Of autopsy no
 20. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
 a. Accident, suicide, homicide (specify) accident b. Date of occurrence 2/14/42

c. Where did injury occur? Hartford Hartford Conn
 city or town county state

d. Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place?
Public place--Tavern e. While at work? no
 Specify type of place

f. Means of Injury
 21. Signature of physician Edmond R. Lopez

Address 12 Myrtle St, Manchester, Ct. Date signed 2/15/42

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD OF OFFICERS

77TH COAST ARTILLERY (AA)

Manchester, Conn.

The board met pursuant to order appointing it at 10:30 A.M., February 21, 1942, in Regimental Headquarters, 77th Coast Artillery (AA), Manchester, Conn. The board met at Regimental Headquarters in place of Manchester Memorial Hospital, as stated by order appointing it, for the convenience of all members concerned. The order appointing the board was read and attached as Exhibit "A".

Members Present: 1st Lieut. HAROLD A. SCHALL, O-323185, 77th CA (AA)
2nd Lieut. NEIL J. PAIT, JR., O-451371, 77th CA (AA)
Capt. PAUL A. ZIMMERMAN, O-356551, 77th CA (AA)

Members Absent: None

Purpose: To investigate the circumstances and report upon the facts leading up to and connected with death of Private William Owens, 32072611, Battery "C", 77th Coast Artillery (AA), and determine as a result of such investigation whether or not death occurred in line of duty and whether it was or was not the result of the deceased's own misconduct.

The following witness appeared before the board, was sworn, and testified in substance as follows:

Lt. RICHARD E. BORMONT, O-422719, MG, Medical Detachment, 77th CA (AA)

Pvt. William Owens was brought to me shortly after the shooting. He smelled of beer, and acted in a drunk and unruly fashion in spite of the following severe injuries. There was a bullet wound through the deltoid muscle which seemed to extend through to the right scapula. Bleeding from this was slight. There was another jagged bullet wound just outside the nipple penetrating the right chest. During his struggle much blood spurted from this. At the lower border of the rib cage posteriorly, there was another bullet hole, which did not bleed. It seemed to be the exit of the former lesion. There was evidence of blood within the pleural cavity, but breath sounds were still audible, i.e. hemothorax with possible slight pneumothorax. The wounds were dressed and Pvt. Owens was transferred to Manchester Memorial Hospital for further care. Morphine was given.

In my opinion, restlessness and thrashing about at the time of injury due to alcoholic intoxication aggravated the hemorrhage into the chest and alcoholic intoxication can be considered a remote cause of death.

Following this testimony, sworn statements of all available witnesses were received and examined by members of the board. These statements are included as Exhibits "B", "C", "D", "E", and "F", and follow the listing given below.

- Exhibit "B": Sworn Statement of Private Johnnie Curry
Exhibit "C": Sworn Statement of Cpl. Leslie Hadley, Jr.
Exhibit "D": Sworn Statement of Private Tom McCartney
Exhibit "E": Sworn Statement of Viola Wong
Exhibit "F": Sworn Statement of James Holuware

The certificate of Capt. Edwin M. Clark, Battery "C", 77th CA (AA), was examined by the board and is attached as Exhibit "G".

The certified certificate of death was examined by the board and is attached as Exhibit "H".

FINDINGS: The board having carefully considered the evidence before it, finds:

- a. That Private William Owens, 32072611, met death on February 15, 1942, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut, due to bullet wounds received February 14, 1942, at Hartford, Connecticut.
- b. That death occurred while Private Owens was under treatment for above named wounds at the Manchester Memorial Hospital, Manchester, Connecticut.
- c. That Private Owens, at the time of his injury which led to his death, was absent without leave from his organization, such time being at or about 4:00 A.M., February 14, 1942.
- d. That Private Owens was under the influence of alcohol or narcotics at the time of incurrance of injury and that this condition was a remote cause of his death.
- e. That death occurred not in line of duty and as result of deceased's own misconduct.

The board then, at 1:30 P.M., on February 21, 1942, adjourned.

Harold A. Schall
HAROLD A. SCHALL
1st. Lieut., 77th CA (AA)
President

Paul A. Zimmerman
PAUL A. ZIMMERMAN
Capt., Medical Corps
Member

Neil J. Pait, Jr.
NEIL J. PAIT, JR.

B/O Proceedings, in the case of Private William Owens, by Par 2, HQ
Hqs 77th CA (AA), Feb 15/42.

ACTION OF REVIEWING AUTHORITY

HEADQUARTERS
Seventy-seventh Coast Artillery (AA)
General Delivery, Manchester, Connecticut

March 1, 1942.

201 - Owens, William (Enl)
Approved.

A. D. Fisker
A. D. FISKER,
Colonel, 77th CA (AA),
Commanding.

2-21-42
171 K

A. G. O.
WAR DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED

UNITED STATES ARMY
War Department Message Center
Room 3441, Munitions Building
Washington, D. C.

Manchester

1942 FEB 15 PM 12:19

MADE 59/50 GOVT
WAS 51/50 GOVT

TDHD MANCHESTER CONN FEB 15 950A

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WAR DEPT

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM OWENS 32072611 BATTERY C 77TH
COAST ARTILLERY AA DIED MANCHESTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
MANCHESTER CONNECTICUT FROM GUN SHOT WOUND INFLICTED
BY MILITARY POLICEMEN IN HARTFORD CONNECTICUT FEBRUARY 14TH
1942 STOP EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF SOLDIERS
DEATH STOP PRIVATE OWENS NEAREST RELATIVE IS WALTER OWENS
FATHER 530 EAST 12TH STREET WILMINGTON DELAWARE

FISKEN

32072611 C 77TH 14 1942 530 12

1050A



VA: QMG; FBI; GAO; press relations
A RO. USA notified

Falk

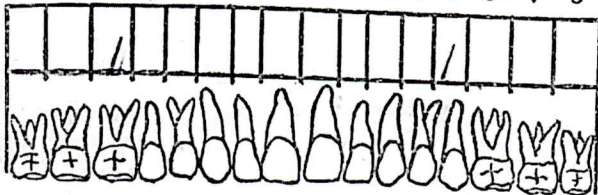
Date 6-10 1941

Report of Dental Survey

UPPER TEETH

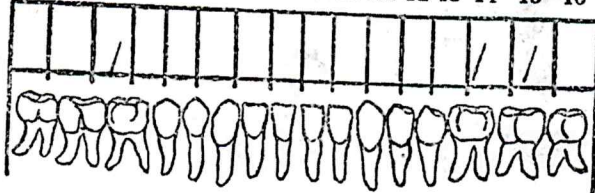
F.M.S.

Right 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Left



LOWER TEETH

Right 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Left



CLASS I

O Tooth crowned / Missing tooth
O/O Fixed bridge / Partial denture

Occlusion Fair Periodontoclasia Yes

*Caries L 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, R 1, 2, 15, 16

Calculus: Slight, Medium, Heavy.

Dental foci suspected: Yes No

Other conditions R 16 Ext. Indicated -

Abs. Periap.

Dental Officer.

*Indicate by tooth number.

3-10597

to be forwarded in duplicate

No. _____

REPORT OF DEATH

(See AR 600-550)

OWENS, WILLIAM. (NMI) 32072611

(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Army serial number)
PRIVATE. BATTERY "C", 77TH. C. A. (AA)
(Grade) (Organization or arm or service)

died 12:40 A.M. Feb. 15, 1942
Manchester, Conn
at Manchester Memorial Hospital,

Nature of disease or injury Gunshot wounds of rt. thorax and rt lung. Rt hemothorax and pneumothorax. Subcutaneous emphysema of neck and upper thorax.

Direct cause of death Gunshot wounds of rt. thorax and rt. lung.

Death *was to be determined was the result of the
*was not in line of duty and *was not deceased's own misconduct.

PAUL A. [Signature]
(Signature of medical officer)
Captain, Medical Corps.

Place MANCHESTER, CONN.

Date FEBRUARY 15, 1942.

Date February 15, 19 42

*The report of the surgeon is approved.

*A board of officers was convened in the case.

Date and place of burial. (If not interred at station, state disposition made or to be made of remains)

Remains shipped to Walter Owens Sr, Makemie Park, Virginia. Feb. 18, 1942.

Remarks.

A. D. Fiskin
A. D. FISKIN,
col., 77th CA (AA)

Commanding.

*Strike out if inapplicable.

W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 52
July 1, 1933

3-6116

The total monthly rate of pay of the deceased, exclusive of allowance for subsistence and quarters at date of death, was \$ 30.00

Date of current enlistment April 29, 1941
Completed 0 yrs. 9 mos. 17 days service for longevity pay at date of death.

Specialist rating None
Qualifications for which soldier received additional pay. (If for qualification in arms, cite order) None

Service record forwarded.

Chester C. Steers
CHESTER C. STEERS
2nd Lt. 77th CA (AA)
Pers. Mgr. (Grade and organization)

490 April 12, 1942

Death was not in lien of duty and was the result of the deceased's own misconduct.

Designation of Beneficiary:

Walter Owens - father
530 East 12th Street
Wilmington, Delaware

James E. Owens - brother
530 East 12th Street
Wilmington, Delaware

J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General

Original to file
Copy to Finance Officer

2. LAST NAME <u>Owens,</u>		3. FIRST NAME AND MIDDLE <u>William (none) 32072611</u>	
5. GRADE <u>Pvt</u>	6. COMPANY <u>C</u>	7. REGIMENT AND ARM OR SERVICE <u>77th CA (AA)</u>	8. AGE <u>28</u>
9. RACE <u>C</u>	10. NATIVITY <u>Va</u>	11. SERVICE <u>8/12</u>	12. DATE OF ADMISSION <u>December 1, 1941</u>
13. SOURCE OF ADMISSION <u>Informal transfer from Disp., 77th CA (AA), Fort Bragg, N. C.</u>			
14. CAUSE OF ADMISSION			

Pes planus, bilateral, 2nd degree, symptomatic,

15. LINE OF DUTY Yes
16. INJURY CODE NOT REQUIRED
17. ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSES, OPERATIONS

18. PLACE OF TREATMENT
Hosp.
19. DISPOSITION

Duty, improved.

20. DATE OF DISPOSITION December 23, 1941

21. NAME OF HOSPITAL

STATION HOSPITAL, FORT BRAGG, N. C.

22. SENT WITH REPORT OF S. & W. FOR MONTH OF December, 1941

23.

L. M. Bowen
L. M. BOWEN, CAPT.
Medical Corps, U. S. Army.

STANDARD FORM NO. 10381

24. DAYS OF TREATMENT IN CURRENT CASE

YEAR 19... 41	IN QUARTERS	IN HOSPITAL
January.....		
February.....		
March.....		
April.....		
May.....		
June.....		
July.....		
August.....		
September.....		
October.....		
November.....		
December.....		22
TOTAL.....		22

Aggregate patient days..... 22

16-10381

OWENS

(Last name)

32072611

(Army serial No.)

WILLIAM

(First name)

(NONE)

(Middle initial)

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES UNASGD.
(Arm or service for which enlisted or inducted)

Color or race..... COLORED

SERVICE RECORD

covering period

From April 29, 1941, to, 19.....

MAR 3 1942

For instructions see AR 345-125

STANDARD FORM NO. 21
March 1942

Handwritten:
Exam
12-42
10381

7th Ind.

To _____, 19____
 This soldier was transferred to _____
 per _____
 and left this organization _____, 19____
 He was last paid to include _____, 19____
 by _____
 (Name and grade of finance officer or agent officer, if any)
 Due United States; if nothing, so state _____

* Due soldier at date of _____

This soldier ^{has} ~~has not~~ a Class E allotment running which has been deducted from his pay to include _____, 19____

This soldier has authorized a Class D deduction for Government insurance which has been deducted from his pay to include _____, 19____

His character is _____
 Efficiency rating as soldier _____

I have personally verified all entries in this indorsement.

 (Name)

 (Grade and organization)

This soldier reported _____, 19____

* Here enter any amounts due soldier and not paid to date, such as monetary allowance in lieu of quarters and subsistence; if nothing, so state.
 † Strike out words not applicable.

FINAL INDORSEMENT

BATTERY "C", 77TH C. A. (AA)

(Company or detachment)

Manchester, Connecticut

(Place)

February 15, 1942

To The Adjutant General:

Owens William (MMI) 32072611

(Last name) (First name) (Middle initial) (Army serial No.)

Private 77th C. A. (AA)

(Grade) (Organization)

was separated from the service by reason of Death on Feb 15/42

at Manchester, Conn authority _____
 (Place)

Retained in service 0 days to make good time lost (A. W. 107).

Absent from duty 0 days subsequent to normal date of expiration of term of enlistment.

Retained in service 0 days for convenience of the Government on account of _____

His character is Good

Efficiency rating as soldier Excellent

* Final statement furnished. * Paid on final pay roll.

* Discharge certificate furnished, W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 55, 56, 57.
 Due United States; if nothing, so state Due US NOTHING



† Due soldier at date of death - current pay _____

Address furnished for future references 530 E 12th St
 (Number and street or rural route)

Wilmington Del.
 (City, town, or post office) (State or country)

Signature of soldier: _____

I have verified the foregoing entries.

Name signed Frank J. Amberg

Name typed or printed FRANK J. AMBERG
 Capt., 77th CA (AA),
 Pers. Adj. (Grade and organization)

* Strike out words and figures not applicable.
 † Here enter any amounts due soldier and not paid to date, such as monetary allowance in lieu of quarters and subsistence; if nothing, so state.

Initials

Name, grade, and organization
(Typewritten or printed)

JW
John W. Leary

JOHN W. LEARY 2nd Lt. Inf

JJA

CHARLES J. JENNINGS
1st Lt. 1st Reg. Cav.

EM

Edwin M. Wicks
Capt. 7th Cav.