

**GHQ/SCAP Records (RG 331, National Archives and Records Service)**

**Description of contents**

- (1) Box no. 212
- (2) Folder title/number: (25)  
293: Funerals, Burials, and Reports
- (3) Date: Oct. 1950 - Nov. 1950

(4) Subject:

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293

25

SCAP

SECRET

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293

Capt Heller/dc  
26-6074

7098

*Just Inert*

Payment of all Expenses Involved in the Return of Remains of Japanese ex-military Personnel to Japan from the Ryukyu Islands

RMGS

Thru:

Chief of Staff  
Comptroller  
G-1 (in turn)

17 October 1950

- 1. The attached Staff Study, subject: Payment of all Expenses Involved in the Return of Remains of Japanese ex-military Personnel to Japan from the Ryukyu Islands is presented to the Chief of Staff for approval.

8 Incls

- 1. JA opinion (TAB A)
- 2. CINCPAC ltr AG 293 (22 Dec 49)RMG to Mil Gov Ryukyu Islands forwarding ltr fr Director, 2nd Demobilization Bureau (TAB B)
- 3. 1st, 2nd & 3d Incls to basic ltr and c/n's RMGS to G-4 and CAS (TAB C)
- 4. RMGS c/n 5 to Comptroller (TAB D)
- 5. Comptroller c/n 6 to RMGS (TAB E)
- 6. ESS comments c/n 8 (TAB F)
- 7. Proposed 4th Ind to Mil Gov to basic ltr AG 293 (22 Dec 49)RMG (TAB G)
- 8. Proposed SCAPIN to Japanese Govt (TAB H)

G-1 File

-R.F.G.-

From: G-1

To: C/S

Lt Col Erlendbusch/mfm 26-6600  
Date: 27 Nov 50

- 2. 1. G-1 concurs in the actions proposed by RMGS (Tabs G and H).
- 2. Proposed SCAPIN (Tab H) has been edited for format.

*AB*

8 Incls  
n/c

-W. A. B.-



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Subject: Payment of all Expenses Involved in the Return of Remains of Japanese ex-military Personnel to Japan from the Ryukyu Islands

M/R: 1. Basic is Staff Study by RMGS proposes that the Japanese Govt be charged with responsibility and all expenses in connection with return of ashes of dead Japanese ex-military personnel now interned in the Ryukyus.

2. Past policy in this matter was to defray the cost from the Ryukyus Counterpart Fund which to all intents and purposes are US funds. The use of these funds for this purpose is considered questionable.

3. ESS C/N 8 feels costs should be paid by the Ryukyuan Govt without reimbursement.

4. G-1 considers the Japanese Govt would be willing to pay for the return of their own dead since the expense is not great and such procedure would facilitate the return of the ashes. Further, it would appear to be a moral responsibility of the Japanese Govt and certainly not a responsibility of the Ryukyuan.

5. JA concurs. US has no responsibility except for burial, keeping of records and exchange of info.

6. Comptroller has concurred in RMG proposal.

G-1 CPAD

G-1 File

**CONFIDENTIAL**

25 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Beiderlinden

SUBJECT: Payment of all Expenses Involved in the Return of Remains of Japanese ex-military Personnel to Japan from the Ryukyu Islands

1. The Ryukyus Military Government has prepared the attached action which proposes that the Japanese Government be charged with responsibility and all expenses in connection with return of ashes of dead Japanese ex-military personnel now interned in the Ryukyus.
2. Past policy in this matter was to defray the cost from the Ryukyus Counterpart Fund which to all intents and purposes are US funds. The use of these funds for this purpose is considered questionable.
3. ESS, by c/n 8, feels that the costs should be paid by the Ryukyuan Government without reimbursement.
4. a. CFAD considers that the Japanese Government would be willing to pay for the return of their own dead since the expense is not great and such procedure would facilitate the return of the ashes. Further, it would appear to be a moral responsibility of the Japanese Government and certainly not a responsibility of the Ryukyans.  
b. JA concurs. US has no responsibility except for burial, keeping of records and exchange of information.
5. Comptroller has concurred in RMG proposal.
6. Recommend c/n 2 to C/S substantially as follows:
  - a. Proposed SCAPIN (Tab H) has been edited for format.
  - b. Concur in proposed actions (Tabs G and H).

R.C.E.

G-1 File

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**  
**FAR EAST COMMAND**

**CHECK SHEET**

Lt Col Benson/nkp 26-8979

7088

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

Payment of all Expenses Involved in the Return

Subject: of Remains of Japanese ex-military Personnel to  
Japan from the Ryukyus Islands

File No:

Note  
No.

From: G-1

To: AG

Date: 23 Oct 50

1

Request proposed SCAPIN (Tab H) be edited for format.

1 Incl  
a/s

*for Rom*  
W. A. B.

2

From: AG-OS

To: G-1

Lt Col A. J. Rehe/26-5672  
Date: 24 Oct 50

Returned herewith is proposed SCAPIN (Tab H) edited as requested in  
Check Note 1 above.

1 Incl  
n/c

*AK*

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**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
FAR EAST COMMAND**

**CHECK SHEET**

Lt Col Benson/hme  
26-8979

610-4  
17088

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

Responsibility for Payment of Return of Remains  
Subject: of Japanese Ex-Military Personnel in Ryukyu I.

File No:

Note No.

From: G-1

To: JA

Date: 19 Nov 50

1.

1. Request your comments on the attached staff study proposing to place full responsibility on the Japanese Government for payment for return of remains of ex-military personnel in the Ryukyu Islands.

2. CG, RYCOM, has been queried whether or not any remains of PW's are still in the Ryukyu Islands. Since records are no longer in the Islands, CG, RYCOM, could not give a definite answer. In the meantime G-2 is attempting to resolve the question. Therefore, specific comment is requested as to U.S. responsibility for the remains of PW's.

1 Incl  
a/s

*for* W. A. B.  
(Lt. Hutcheson, 26-6795)

2.

From: JA

To: G-1

Date: 23 November 1950

1. In the opinion of this office the return of the remains to Japan is of interest primarily to Japan and the Japanese government, if the remains are to be returned, should pay the expenses connected therewith. JA concurs with the conclusions set forth in Section V and the recommendations set forth in Section VI of the attached Staff Study.

2. With reference to paragraph 2, C/N 1, under international law, the United States has no responsibility for exhuming, cremating, or returning to the country which they served, remains of deceased prisoners of war. The detaining powers responsibility for deceased prisoners of war is limited to the burial, the keeping of records, and upon the termination of hostilities, the exchanging of lists of graves and of dead buried in their cemeteries. (Paragraph 177, FM 27-10, Rules of Land Warfare)

1 Incl  
n/c

*G.W.H.*  
G.W.H.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
APO 500

AG 293 ( 7 Dec 49 )GA  
SCAPIN 2132

30 NOV 50

G-1

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: Payment of All Expenses Involved in the Return of  
Remains of Japanese Ex-military Personnel to Japan  
from the Ryukyu Islands

1. Effective at once and including payment for services rendered to date, the Japanese Government will be responsible for any and all expenses involved in the exhumation, cremation, transportation and delivery to proper agencies in Japan of the remains of Japanese ex-military personnel now interred in the Ryukyu Islands.

2. Reimbursement for services rendered in the Ryukyu Islands will be by deposit of Japanese yen with the Bank of Tokyo or its branches to the account of the Ryukyus Counterpart Fund. Deposit will be based on properly presented statements of the Military Government of the Ryukyu Islands and will be on the basis of three (3) Japanese yen for one (1) Ryukyuan "B" yen.

3. The Japanese Government will assume primary responsibility for the program. Requests for return of remains will be presented to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and will contain sufficient information upon which the Military Governor of the Ryukyu Islands may be able to carry out that part of the program which must be performed within the Ryukyu Islands.

FOR THE SUPREME COMMANDER:



K. B. BUSH  
Brigadier General, USA  
Adjutant General

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Lt Col Benson/hme  
26-8979

Responsibility for Payment of Return of Remains  
of Japanese Ex-Military Personnel in Ryukyu I.

G-1

JA

19 Nov 50

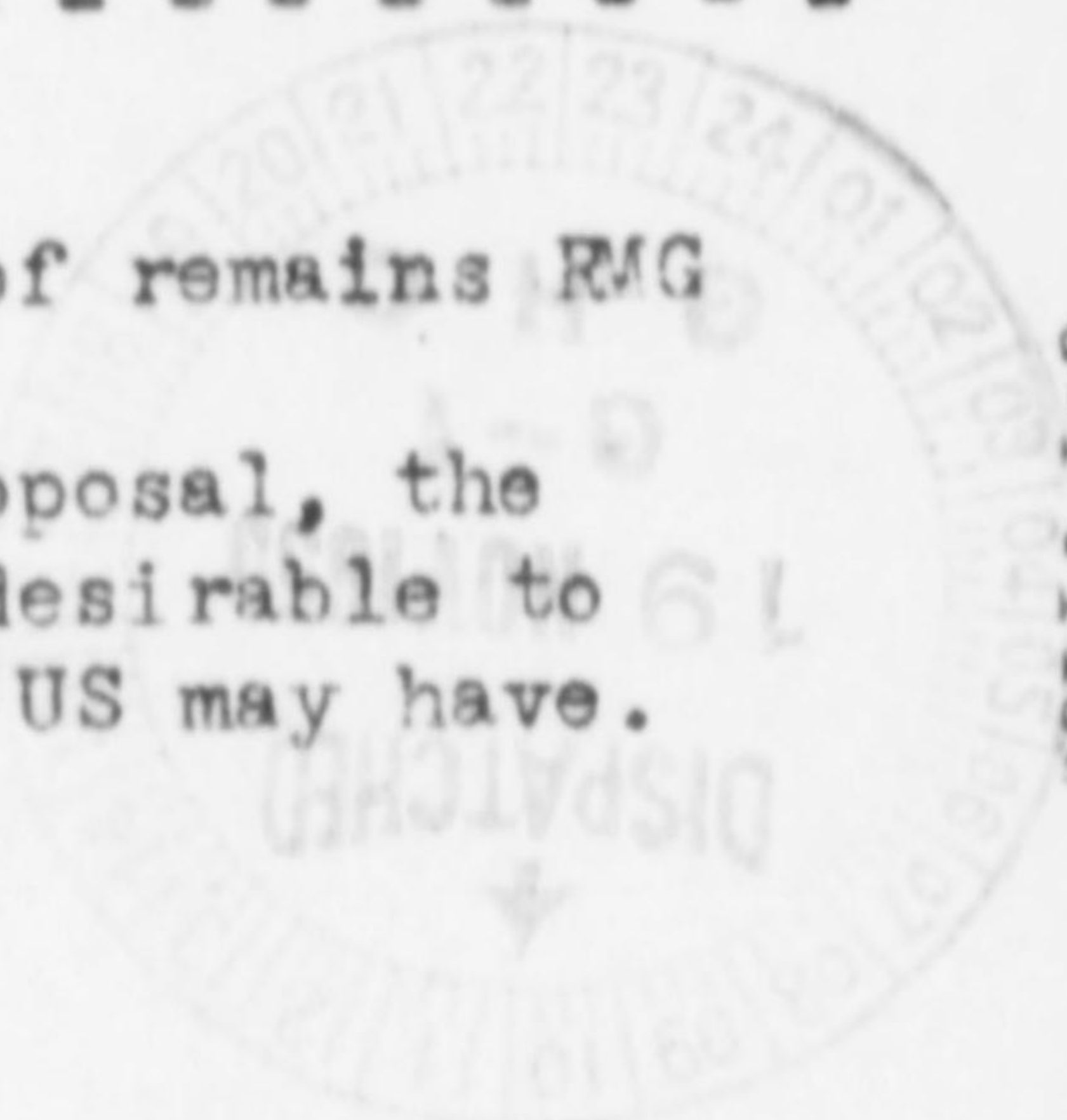
1. 1. Request your comments on the attached staff study proposing to place full responsibility on the Japanese Government for payment for return of remains of ex-military personnel in the Ryukyu Islands.

2. CG, RYCOM, has been queried whether or not any remains of PW's are still in the Ryukyu Islands. Since records are no longer in the Islands, CG, RYCOM, could not give a definite answer. In the meantime G-2 is attempting to resolve the question. Therefore, specific comment is requested as to U.S. responsibility for the remains of PW's.

1 Incl

- a/s ----- W. A. B. -----

- M/R: 1. Basic is RMC staff study outlined above.
- 2. Because of different aspects of financing return of remains RMC proposes to have JG pay for all expenses.
- 3. While JG would probably readily accede to this proposal, the fact that remains of PW's may be involved it is considered desirable to obtain JA comments as to moral or other responsibility that US may have.



G-1 Files

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