

A member of the Kuantai group is seen at an excavation site in Tanapag last year.

Photo by
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Remains of US soldier from Saipan returned to Kentucky

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ALMOST a year after a set of bones and some belongings of an American soldier were unearthed in Tanapag, family members finally received his remains in Kentucky, 69 years after he died here during the war.

According to an article written by Laurel Black of The Paducah Sun published online on March 1, 2014, family members of Private First Class William T. Carneal got emotional at the sight of his remains along with his dog tags, belt buckle and a 1939 class ring from Heath High School.

Carneal's relatives "had very

little reason to believe they'd ever recover his possessions or remains after nearly seven decades without news," the article stated.

It added that Carneal's remains and possessions were presented in to his relatives during a brief ceremony by U.S. Army Sgt. Tyler Holt.

Carneal will be given full military honors including a 21-gun salute and flag ceremony on April 25, his birthday. (Read the full article at http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20140301/NEWS01/303010024/1001/rsslink?nclink_check=1)

Carneal's bones were found at a burial site in Tanapag along with the remains of a Japanese soldier and

another set of bones of an American soldier by the Kuantai Group, a Japanese non-profit organization that was here to recover the remains of Japanese soldiers.

Physical anthropologist Shuichiro Narasaki from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare told the Variety that DNA testing on the remains of the Americans were conducted at the central identification laboratory of the U.S. Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command or JPAC in Hawaii.

JPAC's mission is to search and account for the thousands of Americans who saw action during the war in the Pacific and are still listed as missing.