



World War II



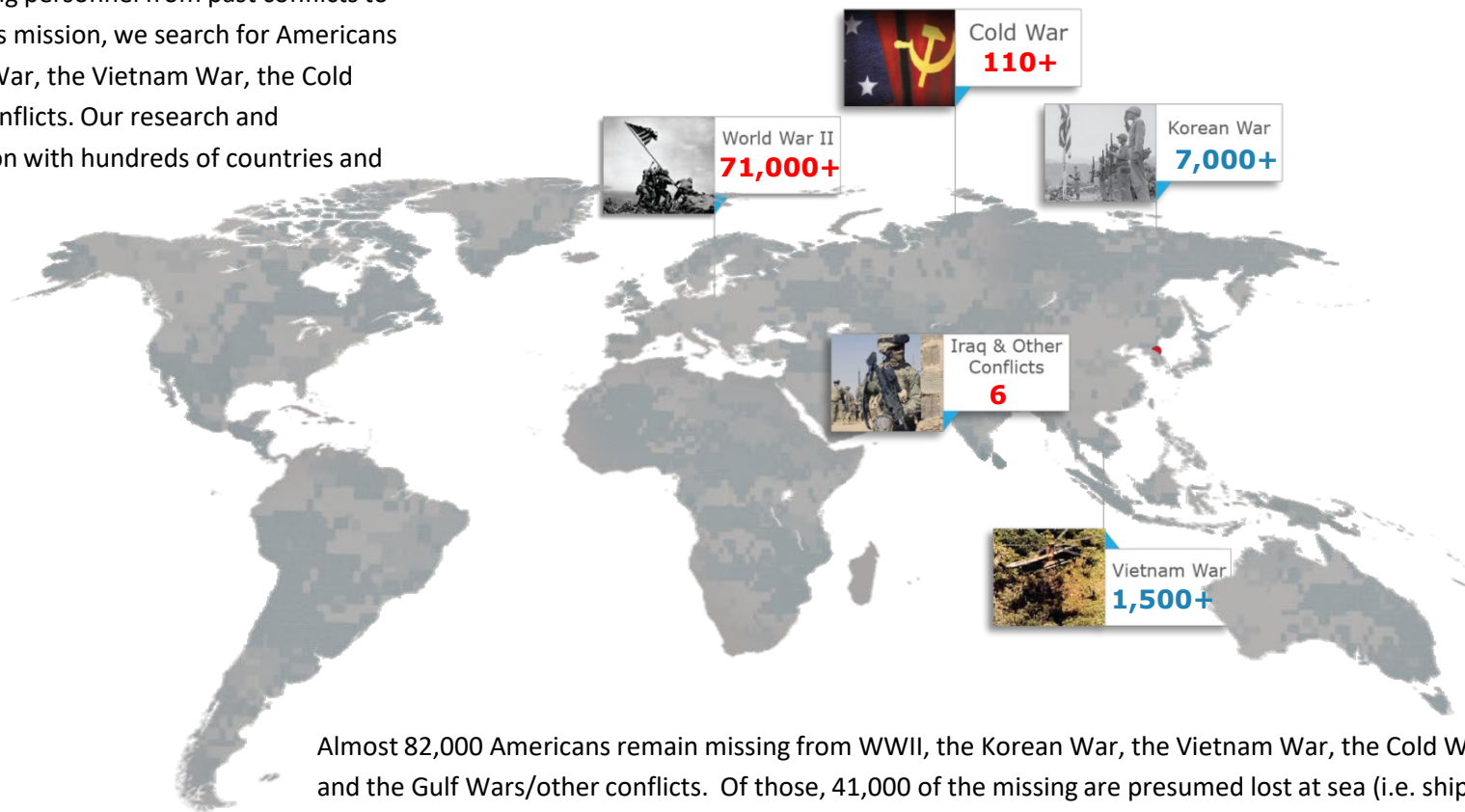
Europe-Mediterranean Directorate



DPAA's Worldwide Mission



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for Americans missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.









Almost 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Of those, 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

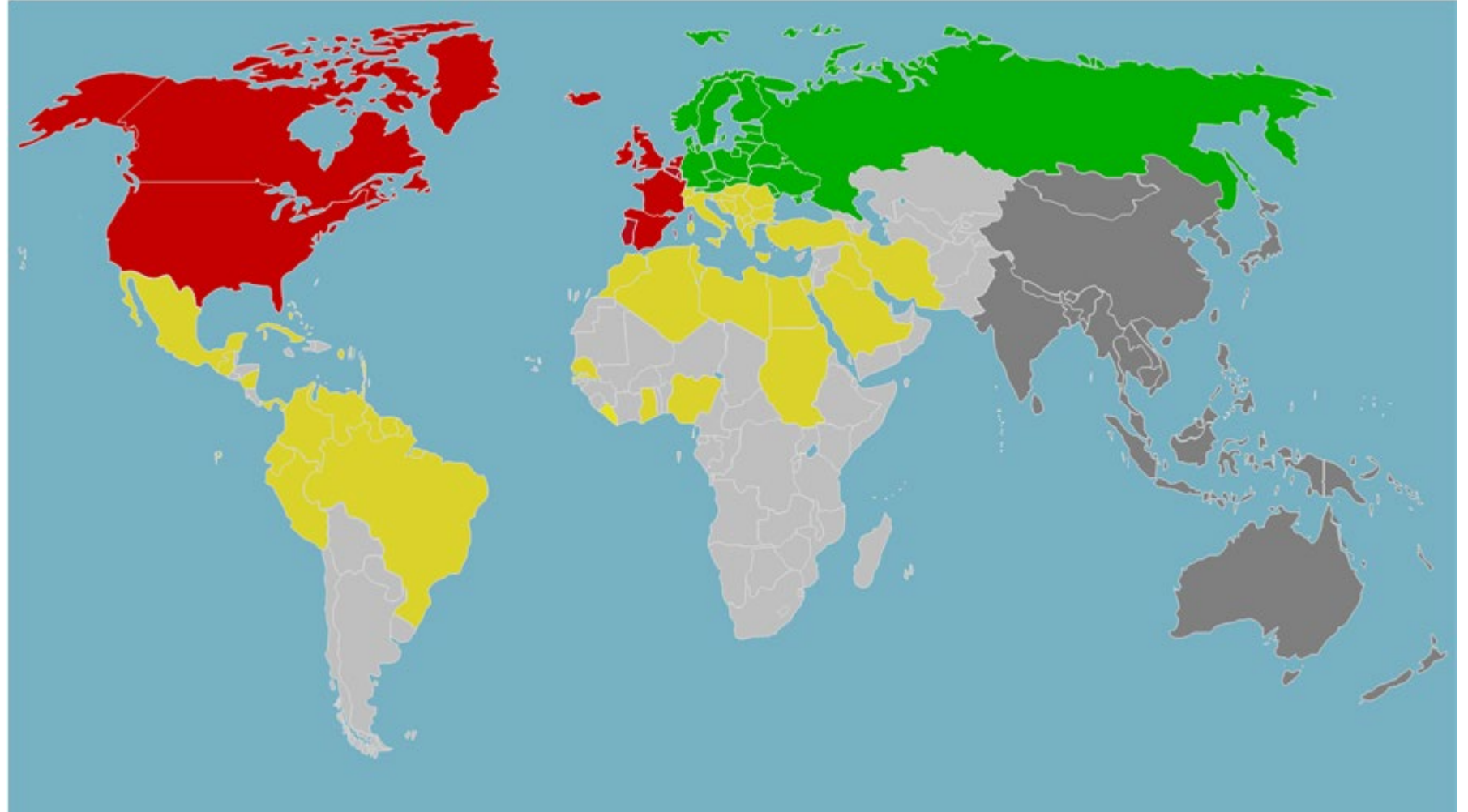


Europe-Mediterranean Directorate



Europe-Mediterranean Directorate MDT Team Assignments & Number of Missing Personnel

-  Western Europe
>2,000
-  Central and Eastern Europe
>2,000
-  Mediterranean
>1,900
-  Underwater
>10,000
-  No Losses
-  Indo-Pacific Directorate
Area of Responsibility





Objectives



- Review historical recovery efforts
- Provide overview of current research and analysis, investigations, and recovery methods
- Provide status of WWII investigations and recoveries
- Demonstrate how we are advancing cases





Military Burials in World War II

Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands



Normandy, France

1941

1945

1951

Burial of battle casualties largely handled by organic graves registration teams (often attached to combat units), or on an ad-hoc basis by available personnel.

*The recovery, processing, and identification of WWII remains is run by the **American Graves Registration Service** (Pacific) or **American Graves Registration Command** (Europe), organized under the Office of the Quartermaster General.*



American cemeteries in Europe



Across all theaters of World War II, U.S. fatalities were buried, disinterred, and re-buried across a series of cemeteries as remains from around the world were concentrated to be returned to the U.S. or buried in one of its permanent cemeteries abroad.

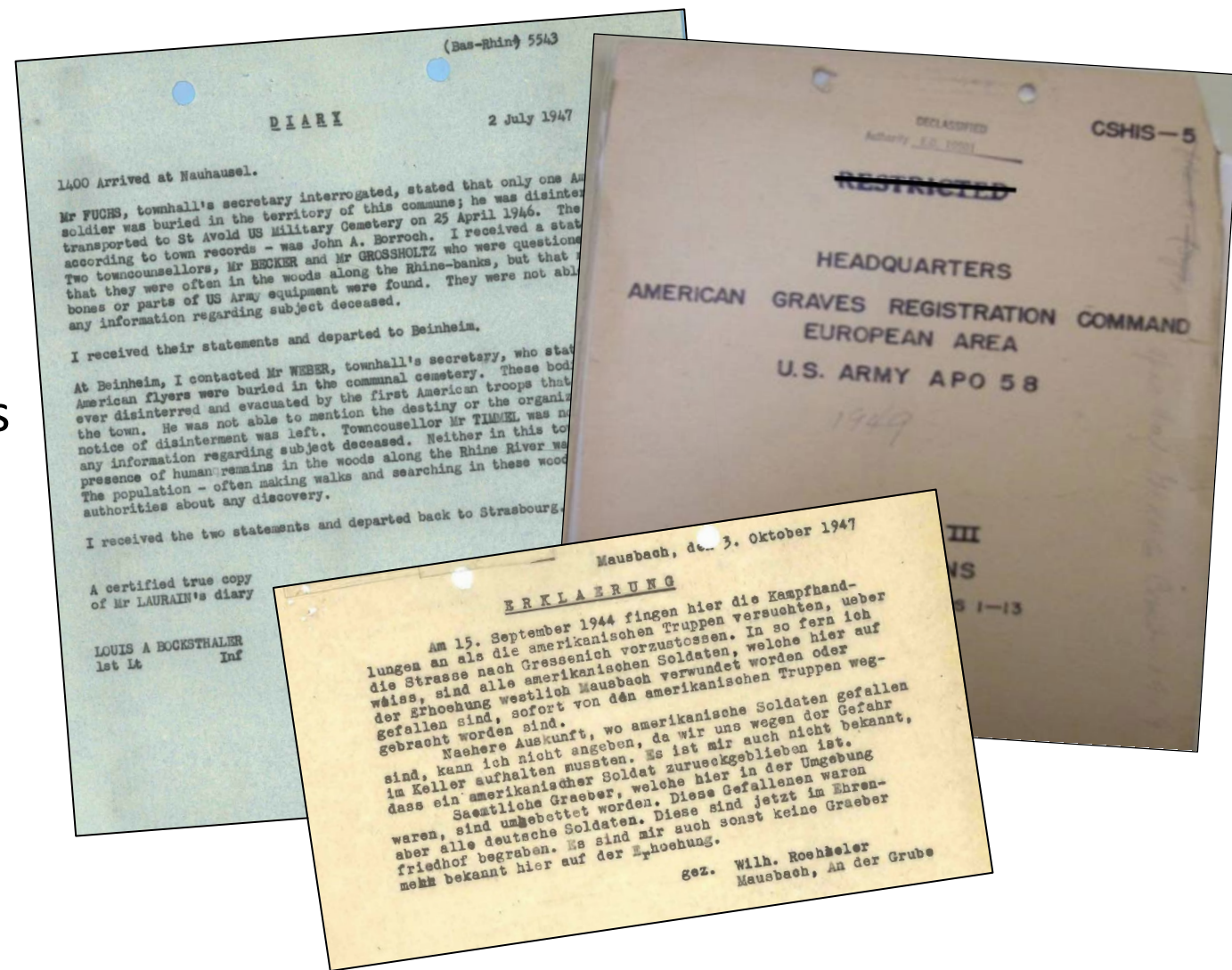




American Graves Registration Service/Command Records



- Search and Recovery reports
- Reports of Investigation
- Mortuary and cemetery records
- Identification analysis
- Unknown "X-Files"





Individual Deceased Personnel File



Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs)

- Foundational resource for casualty research
- Basic information about each casualty and their circumstances of loss.
- Medical records
- Dental records
- Correspondence with families
- Personal effects
- Value can vary by individual and service branch
- Project underway to scan all IDPFs and make them available to DPAA in Case Management System (CMS)

QMRP 293
Sconiers, Earl T.
O 724 270

17 November 1955

Mr. Earl T. Sconiers
Smith Hall, A.P.I.
Burr, Alabama

Mrs. Sconiers:

This Office desires to furnish you information concerning the investigations conducted in an effort to recover your husband, the late First Lieutenant Earl T. Sconiers.

I wish to advise you that the political situation in the area of the investigation could not gain entry into the area to conduct the investigation. However, extensive investigations were conducted in that area by competent local authorities.

NAME: SCONIERS, Earl T.
RANK: 1st Lt.
ASN: O-724270

MAP SHEET: POLAND
23 Nov 51

DEFERRED SEARCH CASE

1. Decedent's name is currently on Deferred Search Agenda.
2. Request all action be suspended until otherwise notified by Liaison Office.

Mary A. REMARKS
1st Lt. Q-0
Chief Nonrecoverability Section
Identification Branch

Case reviewed
4 Sept 53.
no change in status.

FILE WAS
CARTER

REPORT OF DENTAL SURVEY

UPPER TEETH

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

LOWER TEETH

Right 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Left 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CLASS #

Occlusion: Calculus: Slight, Med
Periodontoclasia: Yes
Dental foci suspected: Yes
Other conditions: Bridge

Date: 1-30-54

*Restorable carious teeth by O
Nonrestorable carious teeth by I
Missing natural teeth by X

Teeth replaced by denture (horizontal line)

Teeth replaced by fixed bridge (oval to include abutments)

DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): Sconiers, Earl T.
ORGANIZATION: 1st Lt. Sconiers
GRADE: 1st Lt.
RACE: W
CREED: W
DATE OF DEATH/MIA: 11 Nov 51
CAUSE OF DEATH: 7007341
DATE OF FOD: 7007341
HEIGHT: 7007341
PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA: 7007341
COLOR EYES: 7007341
COLOR HAIR: 7007341
SHOE SIZE: 7007341

DENTAL CHART

UPPER LEFT: X X 3 4 5 6 7
LOWER LEFT: 0 10 11 12 13 X 15 16

0 - Caries
1 - Caries Non-Restorable

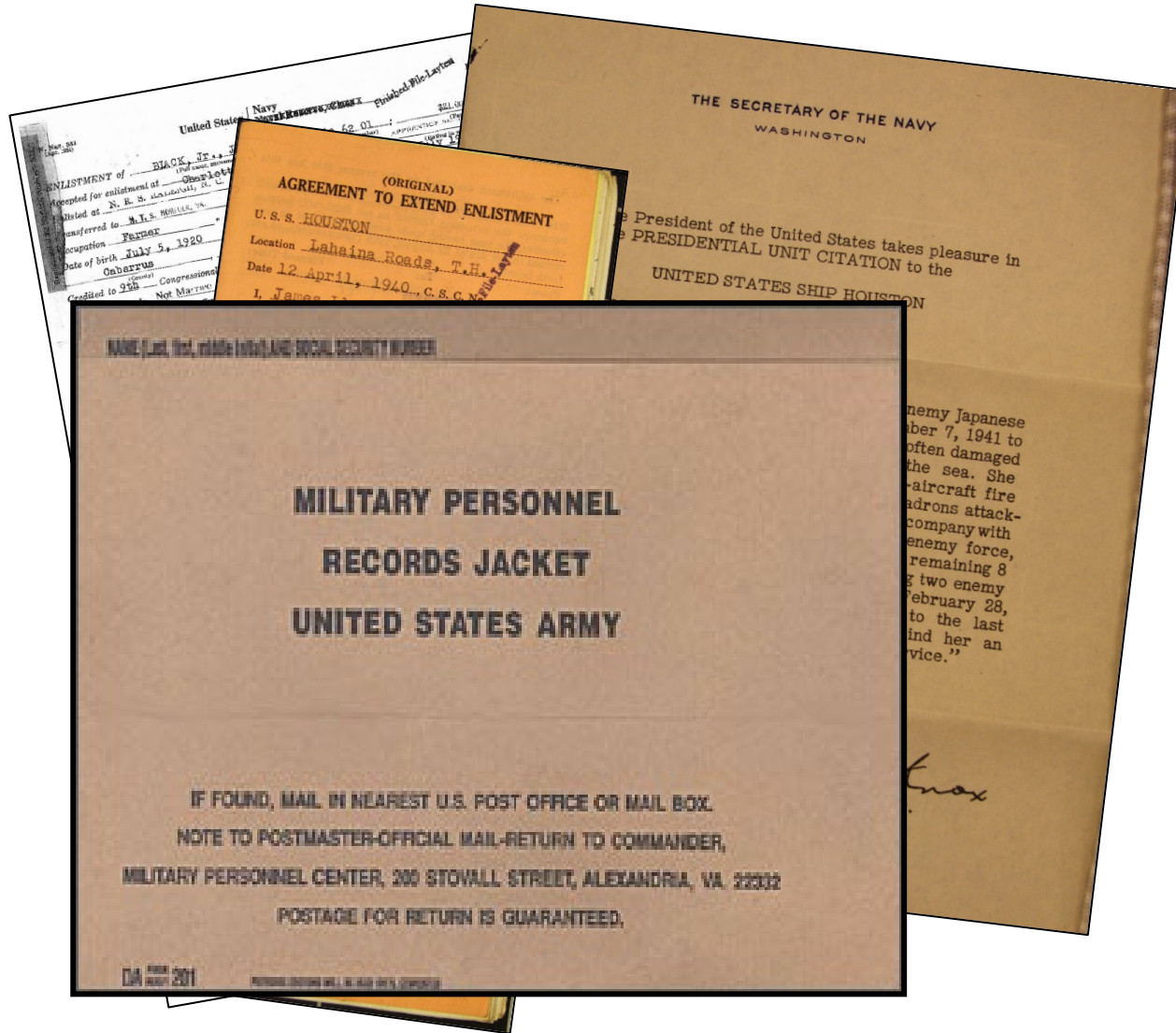
TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

79 loaned OMB
46
79 loaned OMB
48

FILE
SEP 24 1948
U.S. ARMY, 101st Air Div
CAMP BELL



Official Military Personnel File

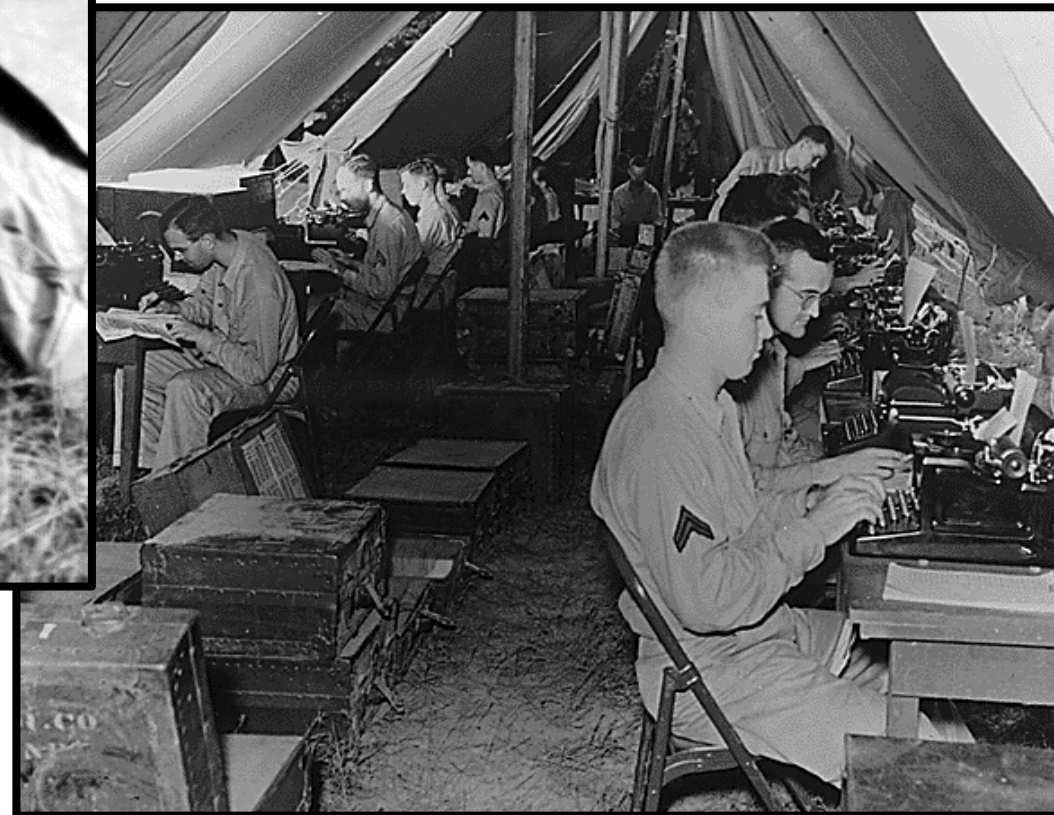
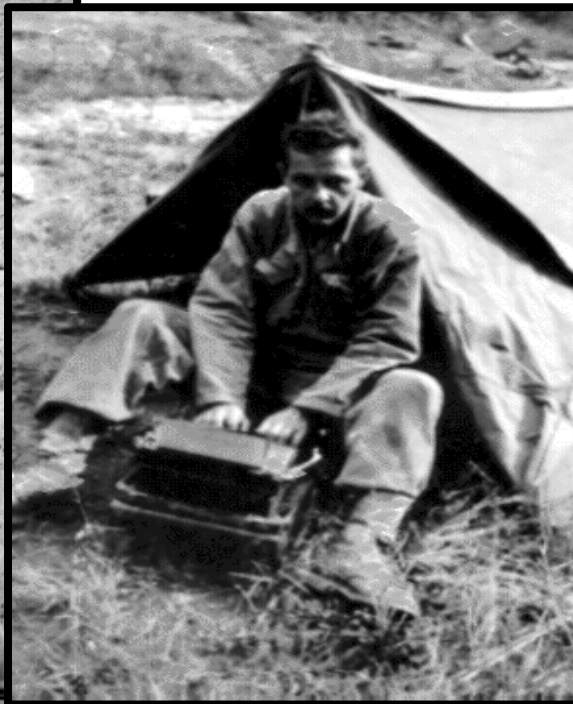
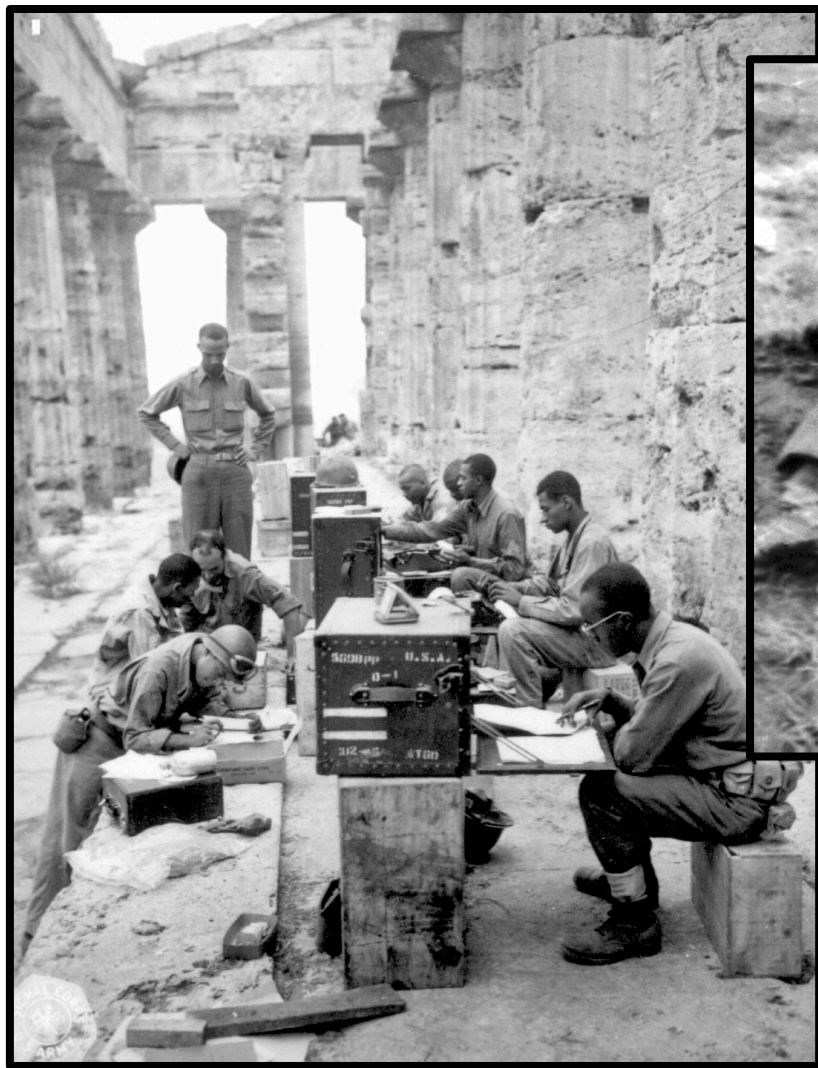


Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs)

- Standard service file for all American military personnel
- Enlistment/commission information
- Duty stations and assignments
- Awards and promotions
- Military Health Records



Military Records





Missing Air Crew Reports



Missing Air Crew Reports (MACRs)

- War Department mandated their use for all AAF losses in mid-1943.
- Basic information on aircraft loss:
 - date, time, location of loss, weather
 - names of crewmen, service numbers
 - model, serial number of aircraft, unit
 - serial numbers of engines, armaments
 - survivors and witness statements
 - maps/photos
 - enemy records (KU reports)
- Available to anyone through the National Archives or Fold3





Challenges of Archival Research

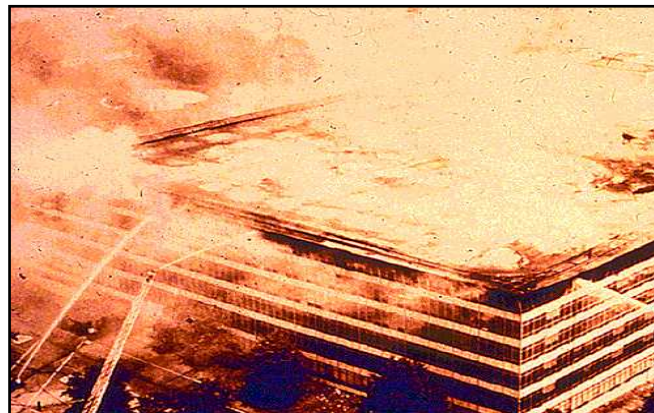


Before we can digitize records, we have to find them!

- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
- National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
- Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA)
- Presidential Libraries, University Collections...
- Foreign Archives

NPRC Fire in 1973

- Army lost 80% of personnel records from 1912-1960 (and no duplicate copies)
- Navy and Marine Corps records largely unaffected
- Efforts underway to restore damaged records



Missouri Fire Ruins Data on Veterans

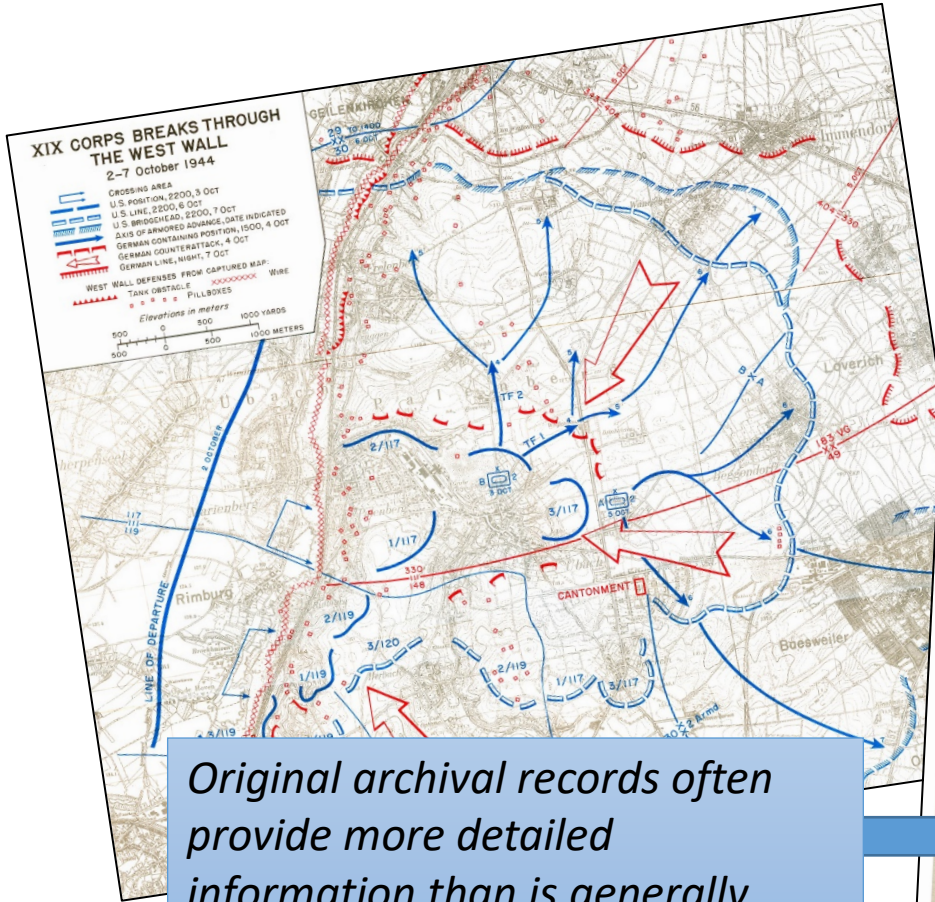
ST. LOUIS, July 12 (UPI)—A fire in the United States Military Personnel Records Center destroyed today the files of hundreds of thousands of servicemen and veterans.



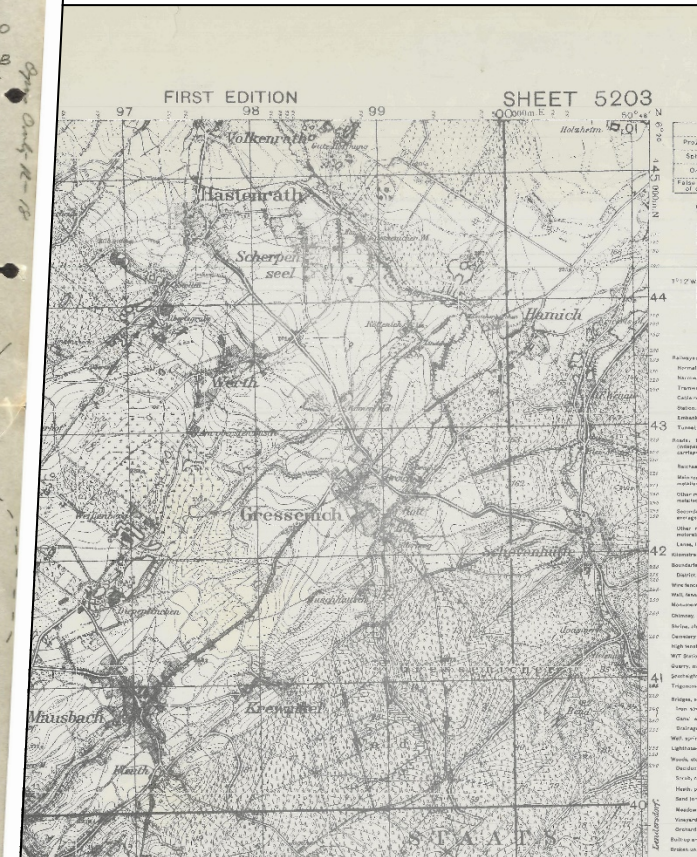
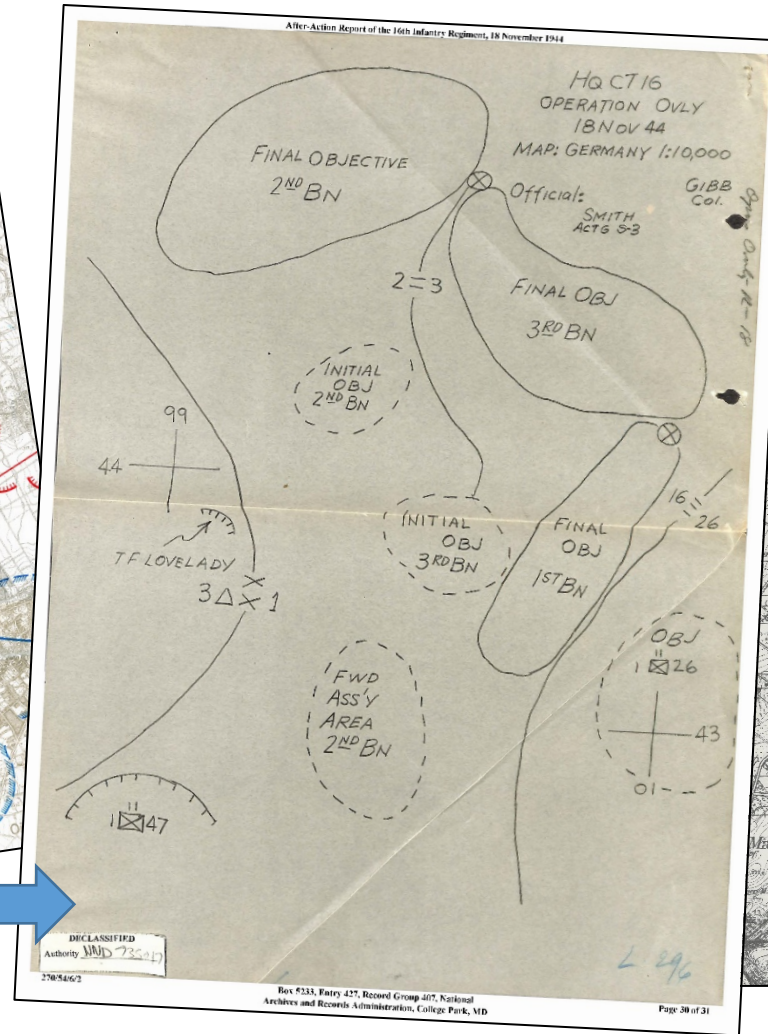


Maps

Operational Records



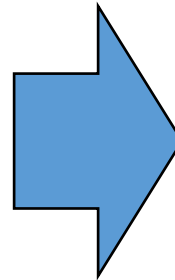
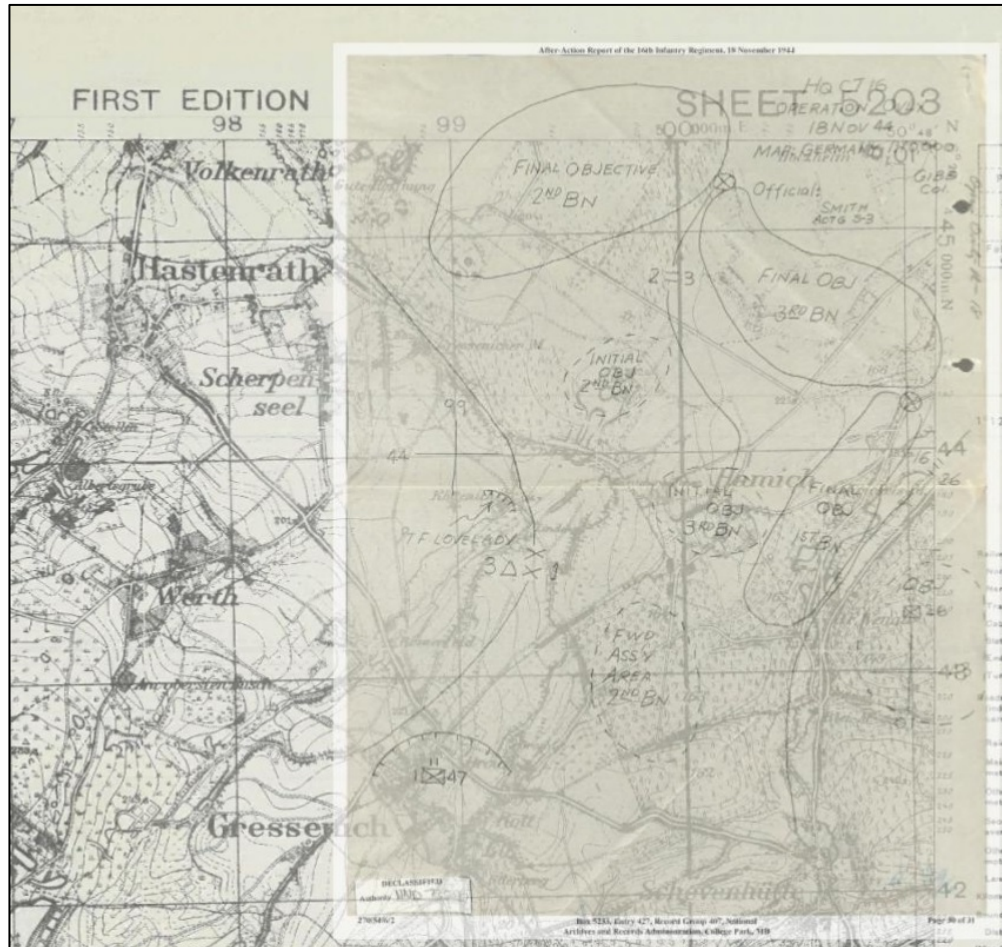
Original archival records often provide more detailed information than is generally available in published sources.





Maps

An Investigative Clue





Photographs

Historical Imagery



Monterotondo, Italy

August 1943



Photographs

An Investigative Clue



Current

May 1944



Modern Imagery

Investigation Planning



Current Imagery



Photographs

Investigation Planning





Modern Imagery

Investigation Planning



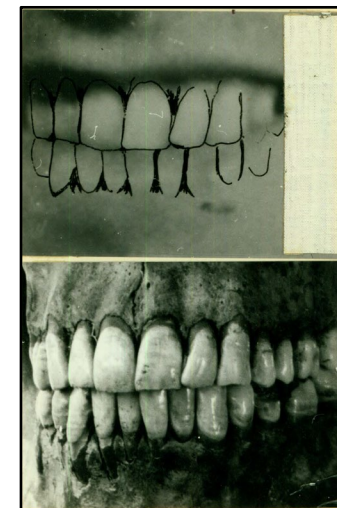
Current Imagery



People as Sources

Families of the Missing

- Letters & other documents
- Photos
- Health information
- DNA (Family Reference Samples)



Local Witnesses

- Material evidence
- Wreckage
- Evidence of human remains



DNA Family Reference Sample

DNA family reference samples for DPAA's identification efforts are collected by U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and State Department service casualty offices.

Contact information for your service casualty office can be found at:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information/>



Field Investigations

How does DPAA use field investigations to help find remains?

- Locate and review local records
- Locate sites – land and/or underwater
- Interview witnesses
- Survey sites – crash and/or burial
- Collect material evidence
- Establish merit for excavation





Field Excavations



- Eur-Med MDT personnel recommend sites for excavation
- DPAA logistical planners arrange excavation teams
- Europe Detachment personnel coordinate excavation with local authorities
- Excavations conducted by organic DPAA teams, often led by MDT archaeologist, or partner teams with oversight by DPAA archaeologists

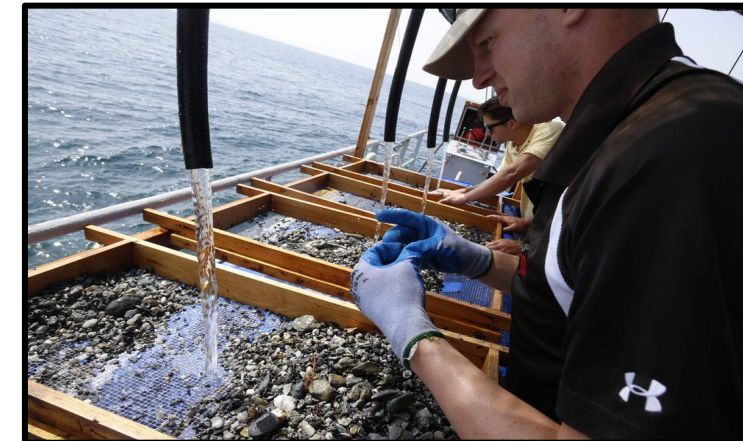




Underwater Sites



- Underwater investigations and excavations typically limited to sites less than 150 feet deep
- DPAA assisted by U.S. Army and Navy dive teams
- Additionally, DPAA is partnering with experts at universities, research institutions, and foreign naval units to find and excavate submerged sites






World War II Briefing Videos

DPAA World War II Briefing videos describe the overall historic perspective of various battles/operations, address the number of unresolved losses, and provide a progress update.

They can be found at:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Briefing-Videos/>




DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

HOME FAMILIES OUR MISSING NEWS & STORIES ABOUT RESOURCES US/LOC CONTACT VOLUNTEER

Search DPAA

As the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continues to fulfill our nation's promise and to better facilitate WWII families of the missing conversations, we present below a set of DPAA Briefing videos describing the overall historic perspective of various battles/operations, addressing the number of unresolved losses and providing a high level mission progress update designed to educate and create two way conversations with WWII families of the missing.



Hürtgen Forest Project
from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency


PRESENTED BY:
DR. IAN SPURGEON

From September 1944 to February 1945, soldiers from at least nine U.S. divisions battled German forces in the Hürtgen Forest, a roughly 70 square mile area of wooded, hilly terrain in Germany near the Belgian border. It was one of the U.S. Army's longest battles during World War II, and led to more than 24,000 American casualties. This video briefly explains how the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's Hürtgen Forest Project has helped lead to the recovery and identification of more than 30 American soldiers previously missing from combat there, and what methods DPAA continues to use to find the more than 160 service members still unaccounted-for from that campaign.

Dr. Ian Spurgeon is a military historian with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Since 2010, he has conducted investigations for the agency at World War II aircraft crash sites and battlefields in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Okinawa, and Poland. Currently, he specializes in resolving cases of American soldiers lost during ground combat in Germany, and in particular those missing from the Hürtgen Forest campaign.

[Transcript](#)

[Briefing Slides](#)



Enoura Maru Project
from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

PRESENTED BY:
DR. GREG KUPSKY

This briefing covers available information on the American prisoners of war who died in transit from the Philippines to Japan aboard the prison ships Oryoku Maru, Enoura Maru, and Brazil Maru. It summarizes the narrative of the voyages and the historical attempts to recover and identify those lost in transit. It explains DPAA's current project, which aims to disinter and identify unidentified remains associated with these ships.

Dr. Kupskey joined the agency as a World War II historian in April 2010. He conducted field investigations in Germany, the Netherlands, Indonesia, and the Philippines. He currently serves as WWII lead for the Research Support Division and also serves as DPAA's lead researcher for the Philippines.

[Briefing Slides](#)

GET CONNECTED

FAMILY MEMBER UPDATES & ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS

REGISTER HERE

Date	Location
November 7	Little Rock, AR **Virtual**
January 22	Miami, FL **CANCELLED**
February 20	Los Angeles, CA & Honolulu, HI **Virtual**
April 17	Albuquerque, NM **Virtual**
April 27	Boston, MA **CANCELLED**
May 22	Oklahoma City, OK **Virtual**
June 23-27	Washington, D.C. **
August 5-9	Washington, D.C. **
September 25	Chicago, IL

* Family Member Updates are tentative and subject to change.
** The Vietnam War Annual Government Briefings held in conjunction with the National League of POW/MIA Families Annual Meeting
*** The Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings

REGISTER NOW

The Family Updates are tailored to meet the needs of attendees representing losses from all conflicts.

Please register early so that analysts may prepare to discuss your specific cases.

- Casualty Office Contacts
- Sample Agenda

DPAA Agency Video
from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

View on YouTube

DPAA Virtual Family Member Update
- Los Angeles, CA & Honolulu, HI
See Release Updates Accounting Agency
- 10/20/2021