



Of all the casualties suffered by the United States Armed Forces in World War II, 72,599 are listed as missing (although the precise number varies according to the categories included and criteria used). At the same time, the US Army during and after the war buried 10,015 unknown dead in 8,299 graves around the world. These unknowns are actually personnel missing in action. Any number of them that could be identified would lower the number of missing accordingly. Ted Darcy of Fall River, Massachusetts, and Ray Emory of Honolulu, Hawaii, have worked on the subject of American missing for 14 years. Both are retired servicemen, veterans from two different wars. Ray served in the US Navy and was at Pearl Harbor on December 7,

1941, manning a .50-calibre machine gun on the decks of the USS *Honolulu* against the Japanese attackers, and has spent most of life cataloguing the Pearl Harbor victims. Ted served in the Marine Corps, saw action in Vietnam and went on to retire from the Corps in 1989. He is now a research analyst with the WFI Research Group based in Fall River. In 1989 they decided to join forces in an effort to identify as many as possible of the unknown dead from World War II. Much of their work concentrates on the over 1,600 servicemen listed as missing after the Pearl Harbor attack. *Above:* Casualties from the Japanese attack being buried in a temporary group grave in the dunes near Kaneohe Naval Air Station on Oahu Island, Hawaii.

# FINDING AMERICA'S MISSING

This report has taken 14 years to prepare. Not that we are slow, there was just a lot to learn and piece together. All of the experts on World War II casualties have long since retired and for the most part the government considers the matter closed. Even after all that time it only represents the beginnings in what is sure to be a long and arduous road. Any long journey begins with a single step so let this report be that first step.

Thousands of American families have waited far too long to have the remains of their loved ones returned to them. Even now, some 60 years after the fact, family members want to know what happened to their loved ones. For some this report will answer those long unanswered questions. For the others it may help them understand what remains to be done. We will continue our research in the years to come and with a lot of luck, funding and co-operation on the part of the US Army, solve all of the remaining cases.

Sixty years ago when the problem began there were no computers as we know them today. Thus, there is no database listing all of those missing from the Second World War. We had to build one from scratch. For that task we used two primary source documents that had been created by the government at

the time: 'Rosters WW-II DEAD (All Services) World War II' compiled by the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) and the 'Register of the American Battle Monument Commission' (ABMC).

The ABMC was created by Congress in 1923 as the federal agency responsible for honouring American Armed Forces. Although the Commission deals with several American conflicts, we are only concerned with the World War II era. To keep track of the individuals that are under their care, the Commission published a Register of names for all those who are interred on foreign soil, lost or buried at sea and those determined to be missing and declared dead in accordance with Public Law 368, 80th Congress. Since that time the register has been computerised and is the accepted standard for the World War II database used to this day.

The register is very good as far as what it was designed for but does have several problems. For members of the Army and Army Air Force the individual units are noted. For the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard only the branch of service is given. The register is only for members of the Armed Forces

By Ted Darcy and Ray Emory

and as such does not include civilians lost due to association with the military or members of the Merchant Marine, which suffered terrible losses during World War II. The dates of death provided for the missing can be either the actual date of the loss or the date the member was declared dead. In most cases it is a year and a day after the loss but some cases are two or three years latter. The register does not denote the difference between missing and those that were buried at sea and thus makes their missing totals very inaccurate on the high side. The register only lists the final burial information and makes no record of previous burials. Hundreds of names have been omitted from the register for a variety of reasons though most are administrative oversights, which are corrected when found. Finally, the register was never designed for total accounting of all war dead and missing.

The above mentioned problems severely limit the use of the Battle Monuments Commission register as a tool for tracking the missing. It does have value when used in conjunction with other source data as we shall see later.

## US SERVICEMEN KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION, WORLD WAR II (extract).

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	BRANCH	HS	CODE	DOD	BURIALS	SHIP/STATION	UNIT/SQD	ENGAGEMENT/LOCATION	GROUP
AAB,HOWARD ELBERT	SEA1	8500414	2	OK	1	440718	6360/8400			SAIPAN	
AABERG,BERNIE O	PVT	37576340	1	MN	6	441025	6	PHILIPPINES	170th ENGR COMBAT BN	PHILIPPINES MANILA	
AABERG,CLARENCE A	2LT	0802686	11	ND	1	440225	1605/1601 D-1-49	RATTLESDEN	711th BS	GERMANY KAISERLAUTEN	447th BG
AACHTE,HENRY GERHARD	LTJG	155317	2	OK	1	441223	8730/8400			SOLOMONS GUADALCANAL	
AADLAND,PETER	CPL	31157172	1	MA	1	440826	3572/3505 A-15-22				99th INF BN
AAGEBERG,JAMES B	CAPT	0813104	11	IN	1	450121	1240/1201 C-1-39	RAYDON	390th FS		366th FG
AAKER,ARNOLD O	CPL	36250263	1	WI	1	440528	5260/5202 I-10-11			191st TANK BN	
AAKER,LAWRENCE K	PFC	37172798	1		1		6020/????				
AAKERHUS,KENNETH H	1LT	01297470	1	MN	1	450420	8076/0492 E-775			381st INF REGT	96th INF DIV
AAL,OLGER I	1LT	0762186	11	CA	1	440829	1260/1202 D-5-39			350th FS	BELGIUM HEELENBESCH 353rd FG
AALBU,ARNE G	TSGT	39171347	1		1		3547/????				
AALDERKS,JOHN A	SGT	37268089	1	MN	1	440524	5260/5202 D-13-18			7th INF	3rd DIV
AALTONEN,KULLERVO T	TSGT	13001692	11	MA	6	430807	6	CHABUA	6th TS	INDIA CHINDWIN VALLEY N END	1st TG
AAMODT,SIDNEY C	PFC	37322464	1	ND	1	450316	6020/6001 B-6-13			355th INF	89th DIV
AAMOLD,STANLEY C	SGT	39604734	1	MT	1	450218	7746/7701 F-14-85				640th TD BN
AANONSEN,ROBERT HERMAN JR	MOMM2	3768254	2	CA	1	440607	1605/9100	USS TIDE		FRANCE NORMANDY	
AARANT,LOYD LONG	HA1	8732009	2	MO	1	450311	5532/7500			IWO JIMA	5th MARDIV
AARDEMA,CHARLES	SGT	37479001	1	IA	1	450512	7749/7221				
AARHAUS,DAVID LOUIS	SF2	3858016	2	WA	1	420506	7748/9700	USS CANOPUS		PHILIPPINES	
AARON,CARL J	PVT	34779685	1	SC	1		3586/4700				
AARON,CELESTINO	PVT	10303170	1	PI	6	420713	6	PHILIPPINES	45th INF REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI SCOUTS
AARON,FLOYD R	TSGT	38507332	11	AR	1	450413	1260/8700	NUTHAMPSTEAD	601st BS	GERMANY GARBECK	398th BG
AARON,GEORGE E	PFC	33776030	1	PA	1	441217	3547/3503 K-35-37			347th INF	87th DIV
AARON,HENRY	SSGT	32016099	1		1		6365/7300				
AARON,HUBERT	F2	3468621	2	AR	6	411207	6	USS ARIZONA		HI PEARL HARBOR	
AARON,JAMES L	PVT	14047056	1	TN	6	420716	6	PHILIPPINES	31st INF REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI DIV

Ted Darcy and Ray Emory use five different computer databases in their research. Each has separate functions and covers a variety of topics. Every field in all of the databases is searchable. The first is the WW II Dead/Missing database. Scheduled for completion in 2004, it will contain the name of every American serviceman lost during World War II. The extract reproduced here shows the first 25 names from the database. Most of the columns are self-explanatory, but a few need explanation. The Branch column is coded as follows: 1 - Army; 11 - Army Air Corps/Force; 2 - Navy; 3 - Marine Corps; 4 - Coast Guard; 5 - Merchant Marine; 6 - Civilian. The HS column indicates the individual's home state in the US. The Code column is actually the disposition code for each individual and ties directly to the Burials column. The codes are: 1

- In accordance with the wishes of the next of kin; 2 - Administrative decision; 3 - Buried at sea in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin; 4 - Buried at sea; 5 - Not to be disturbed in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin; 6 - Non-recoverable (missing); 7 - Case closed. The DOD column gives the date of death (year, month, day). The Burials column shows the individual's final two burials so that one knows where his remains are now and where they came from. The codes in this column are for the many military cemeteries around the world. For example: 2nd Lieutenant Clarence A. Aaberg was initially buried in the temporary US cemetery at Cambridge (1605) in England. After the war he was moved to the new permanent Cambridge Cemetery (1601) where he now lies in Plot D, Row 1, Grave 49.

The American Graves Registration Service carried out the final disposition of remains under the command of the US Army Quartermaster General. This included theater searches for the missing, identifying the unknowns throughout the world, recovering bodies from small widely scattered cemeteries and placing them in temporary ones until

the next of kin made their wishes known. They handled the return of the dead to the United States and the internment of those that remained overseas in permanent cemeteries there. Anyone that has read in detail the accomplishments of this group has to be impressed. In my estimation they did an outstanding job in accomplishing their mission.

They had to overcome a variety of obstacles to accomplish their task. The political pressure from the Truman Administration to return the war dead to US soil, shortages of trained personnel due to the rapid demobilization of the Armed Forces after the war, and gathering the materials required to build the casket shipping containers to name but a few.

## US SERVICEMEN MISSING FROM WORLD WAR II (extract).

NAME	RANK	SERIAL	BRANCH	HS	CODE	DOD	BURIALS	SHIP/STATION	UNIT/SQD	ENGAGEMENT/LOCATION	GROUP
AABERG,BERNIE O	PVT	37576340	1	MN	6	441025	6	PHILIPPINES	170 ENGR COMBAT BN	PHILIPPINES MANILA	
AALTONEN,KULLERVO T	TSGT	13001692	11	MA	6	430807	6	CHABUA	6th TS	INDIA CHINDWIN VALLEY N END	1st TG
AARON,CELESTINO	PVT	10303170	1	PI	6	420713	6	PHILIPPINES	45th INF REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI SCOUTS
AARON,HUBERT	F2	3468621	2	AR	6	411207	6	USS ARIZONA		HI PEARL HARBOR	
AARON,JAMES L	PVT	14047056	1	TN	6	420716	6	PHILIPPINES	31st INF REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI DIV
AARON,JOHN D	STM1	8475408	2	LA	6	441203	6	USS COOPER		PHILIPPINES ORMAC BAY	
AARON,REID S	2LT	0389278	11	VA	6	450121	6	PHILIPPINES	48th MAT SQ	PHILIPPINES MANILA	5th ABG
AASVIK,INGVARD T	PVT	304819	3	NJ	6	421208	6	SOLOMONS		SOLOMONS GUADALCANAL	1st MAR DIV
ABABAT,ALFREDO R	CPL	6866315	1	PI	6	460315	6	PHILIPPINES	12th QM REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI SCOUTS
ABACAN,EUSTAQUID	TEC5	10301025	1	PI	6	420601	6	PHILIPPINES	252nd SIG CONS CO	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI SCOUTS
ABACAN,MAMERTO	CPL	6866191	1	PI	6	450222	6	PHILIPPINES	12th MED REGT	PHILIPPINES MANILA	PI SCOUTS

The next database is an extrapolation from the main one and shows just those individuals that are missing. This sub-data-

base is very easily produced by filtering out the Code 6 (non-recoverable/missing) cases from the main database.

## US ARMY AIR CORPS AIRCRAFT LOST AT PEARL HARBOR ON DECEMBER 7, 1941

SERIAL #	TYPE	DATE	LOCATION	SQD	BRANCH	GROUP	STATION	PILOT	REMARKS
41-5209	P-40B	411207	HI,OA OFF BELLOWS FLD .75MI N	44th PS	USA	18th PG	BELLOWS FLD	BISHOP,SAMUEL W LT/SER	SHOT DOWN ON T/O;SWAM TO SHORE;
41-5208	P-40B	411207	HI,OA BELLOWS FLD	44th PS	USA	18th PG	BELLOWS FLD	WHITEMAN,GEORGE A LT/KIA	SHOT DOWN ON T/O;C+B
40-2049	B-17C	411207	HI,OA BELLOWS AAF AT	38th RS	USA	11th BG	FERRY	RICHARDS, LT/NONE	F/L DURING AIR RAID;SALVAGED;
	P-36A	411207	HI,OA KIPAPA GULCH	47th PS	USA	15th PG	WHEELER AAF	DAINS,JOHN O-424923 2LT/KIA	SHOT DOWN BY FRIENDLY FIRE;
	P-36A	411207	HI MISSING	46th PS	USA	15th PG	WHEELER AAF	STERLING,GORDON H JR 411852 2LT/MIA	SHOT DOWN BY ENEMY A/C;VNTY KANEQHE;
40-2074	B-17C	411207	HI,OA HICKAM AAF AT	38th RS	USA	19th BG	FERRY	SWENSON, LT/NONE	DURING AIR RAID;
	P-40	411207	NY MONTEFIORE CEMETERY	58th PS	USA	33rd PG		RYBAK,JOSEPH S CAD/INJ	F/L;HIT CROWD;1EA KIA;SEA INJ ON GRD;

Two of the leading causes for personnel to be listed as missing are ships and aircraft. Whereas it was easy to include a ship's name right into the main database, it was more difficult to do so for aircraft, so Ted developed two separate databases, one for the Army/Air Forces and one for the Navy/Marine

Corps/Coast Guard. Included in the Army aircraft database are all the 16,608 Missing Air Crew Reports (MACR) compiled by the Army during and after the war. Our example for Army aircraft is for the Pearl Harbor attack and lists all seven Army aircraft lost on December 7, 1941 that have one or more aircrew missing.

Shortly after the war the unit was redesignated as Mortuary Affairs, a title that it maintains to this day. As they dealt with a much broader spectrum than the American Battle Monuments Commission, their records are different. The Mortuary Affairs listing covers several areas but there are no dates of loss. There are also no unit designations, only branch of service. However it does include merchant marine and associated civilian personnel. It contains the name of all the dead and missing, and one of the following disposition codes for each member lost:

1. According to the next of kin.
2. Administrative decision.
3. Buried at sea at the request of the next of kin.
4. Buried at sea by administrative decision.
5. Not to be disturbed.
6. Non-Recoverable. (Missing)
7. Closed.

Additionally, information as to sex, race, religion and previous burials is also included in the listing. This listing is not in a computerised format but is available on microfiche from the Army.

The Army further kept a 293 File (Individual Deceased Personnel File) on every body they handled. They also maintain a file for each of the unknowns that could not be identified at that time. These files contain detailed information about the individual concerned and are for the most part very complete. The files are still under the control of the Army but are stored in the National Record Center in Suitland, Maryland.

Compiling a database for the missing from those two sources was costly and time-consuming. Now that it has been completed it is the best database available and our best tool for finding the missing.

Besides the two primary documents listed above we also incorporated other important documents prepared by the government at that time. The first in this set are the Missing Aircrew Reports (MACR). During October 1942, Headquarters, Army Air Forces (AAF) undertook a seven-month study of the methods used in World War I to account for airmen reported missing in action. It was determined that those methods were not adequate to World War II air war activities, and in May 1943 AAF recommended the adoption of a special form, the Missing Air Crew Report, to record the facts of the last known circumstances regarding missing air crews. Following the end of the war, the Missing Air Crew Reports were to be used to determine the final disposition for the missing air crewmen. The War Department approved the AAF recommendation on May 23, 1943.

Upon approval, the Adjutant General directed that within 48 hours of an official finding that an aircraft or any member of its crew was missing and had last been seen in combat or over enemy-held territory, a Missing Air Crew Report be prepared by the station from which the aircraft had departed. These forms were then sent to Headquarters, AAF, in small batches and numbered consecutively upon receipt there.

The Casualty Branch, Headquarters, AAF, served as a central collection point for Missing Air Crew Reports throughout the war but in late 1946 all MACR at AAF Headquarters were transferred to the Identification Branch of the Memorial Division, Office of the Quartermaster General. These forms were a valuable part of the Quartermaster Department's post-war program to identify missing American military personnel. Army Air Force units continued to prepare and submit MACR though 1947 and in January 1949 all of those post-war reports were turned over to the Memorial Division. Most of the reports of missing aircrew were prepared soon after aircraft were reported missing, but some were prepared after the war by both the Army Air Forces and the Office of the Quartermaster General for crashes that had occurred before the MACR form was placed in effect in May 1943.

The next source came from the War Department, Navy and Army Casualty Listings by State. All three agencies put out listings of the war dead in 1946. The formats for all three are different. The War Department and the Army list the individual by state and then by county. The Navy lists the individual by state and then gives the name and address of the next of kin. The Navy attempted to take it one step further by dividing the names into dead and missing categories. Here they failed miserably as it would be years before accurate information was obtained. Remember search and recovery operations were still being conducted worldwide at that time.

## US NAVY AIRCRAFT LOST AT PEARL HARBOR ON DECEMBER 7, 1941

BUREAU No.	TYPE	DATE	LOCATION	SQD	BRANCH	SIDE No. /NAME	SHIP/STATION	PILOT/RANK/INJ	REMARKS	CREW1
2160	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA EWA BELT ROAD NR	VS-6	USN	6-S-3	USS ENTERPRISE	VOGT,JOHN HL JR 81778 ENS/KIA	98.3 + 73.8 MIL COORD;	PIERCE,SIDNEY 3601858 RM3C/KIA
2159	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA OFF	VS-6	USN		USS ENTERPRISE	WILLIS,WALTER M 84140 ENS/MIA	SHOT DOWN BY E/A;	DUCOLON,FRED J 3927455 COX/MIA
2181	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA OFF KAENA POINT 15MI NW	VS-6	USN	6-B-3	USS ENTERPRISE	GONZALEZ,MANUEL 81553 ENS/MIA	SHOT DOWN BY E/A;	KOZELEK,LEONARD J 3000834 RM3C/MIA
2158	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA EWA MCAS NR	VS-6	USN	6-S-9	USS ENTERPRISE	MCCARTHY,JOHN R 83216 ENS/BO/MINOR	SHOT DOWN BY E/A;	COHN,MITCHELL 4036798 ARM3C/MIA
4570	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA EWA MCAS W	VS-6	USN	6-S-4	USS ENTERPRISE	DICKINSON,CLARENCE E LT/BOOK		MILLER,WILLIAM C 2622413 RM1C/MIA
3935	F4F-3A	411207	HI,OA PEARL CITY PALM TREE LODGE	VF-6	USN	6-F-15	USS ENTERPRISE	MENGES,HERBERT H 83295 ENS/KIA	BY FRIENDLY FIRE;	
3906	F4F-3A	411207	HI,OA WHEELER FLD NR	VF-6	USN	6-F-1	USS ENTERPRISE	HEBEL,FRANCIS F 76099 LT/KIA	BY FRIENDLY FIRE;	
3938	F4F-3A	411207	HI,OA IN PEARL HARBOR	VF-6	USN	6-F-12	USS ENTERPRISE	ALLEN,ERIC JR 81275 LT/BO/KIA	BY FRIENDLY FIRE;	
4572	SBD-2	411207	HI,OA OFF HICKAM FLD RNWY	VS-6	USN	6-S-14	USS ENTERPRISE	DEACON,ET ENS/MINOR	AA HIT FRIENDLY FIRE FR FT WEAVER;	COSELETT,AUDREY G 3373082 ARM3C/MINOR
3909	F4F-3A	411207	HI,OA BARBERS POINT NR	VF-6	USN	6-F-4	USS ENTERPRISE	FLYNN,DAVID R ENS/BOOK	BY FRIENDLY FIRE;	
5285	OS2U-3	411207	HI,OA OFF BARBERS POINT 10MI W	VO-4	USN		USS MARYLAND	GINN,JAMES B 81333 LT/KIA	FLEW INTO WATER AT NIGHT;	ROBERTS,WILLIAM R RM2C/SER (F-457 NL);

A similar database was built up for all Navy aircraft. Again, our example is for December 7, 1941, and lists all 11 aircraft lost on that date that had any crew members missing. Of note is Armourer 3rd Class Mitchell Cohn, backseater on an SBD-2

scout bomber of naval squadron VS-6 from the USS *Enterprise*, missing but presumed to be buried with a group of 15 unknowns from Hickam Field that were transferred from Schofield Barracks Cemetery to Punchbowl.

## IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING BODIES

BODY LOCATION	RX FROM	D OF D	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EST AGE	SHOE SIZE	DENTAL RECORDS	PROBABLE ID
0492 C-258	4564 X-24	411207	68-71"	152	16-19		FFFXXXX	HEMBREE, THOMAS
0492 A-68	4560 X-4	411207	69.25-73.5	UDT	24-26		XFFXFXXXX	VANDERPOOL, PAYTON L JR

The fifth and last database is for the unknowns. For each individual that was lost during the war (dead, missing, etc) the US Army generated a so-called Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) which contained all the details involving the loss, including the person's dental chart. For the remains that could not be identified the Army also created an IDPF but assigned an X-# instead of a name, based on where the body came from. In the table reproduced here, 4564 X-24 is the 24th unknown reviewed by the Army from the Navy plot at Nuuanu Cemetery (4564) on Oahu Island, Hawaii. That body is now located in the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery (0492), Section C, Grave 258. The rest of the information is from the records and

autopsy done by the Army. The dental records in the database actually consist of 32 separate fields, one for each tooth, but in this example we have bunched them all in one field to save space (X - tooth extracted; F - tooth with filling). Just as it is possible to track known burials, Ted and Ray can track the unknown ones as well. Then by matching the dental records and other details of those that are missing against the vitals on the unknowns that are buried they can get a probable ID. In the two examples listed here, they were right: Unknown 4564 X-24 proved to be Thomas Hembree, a missing casualty from the USS *Curtiss*, and 4560 X-4 turned out to be Clayton L. Vanderpool, missing from the USS *Pennsylvania*.

These therefore are the main sources for information dealing with the war dead. No one source is complete and each has its shortcomings. So to accomplish our task, we first had to build our own database with the names of all missing from all services. This had to be done simply because there wasn't one in existence. As you can imagine it took awhile to complete. Actually we have had to build several supporting databases to accomplish our mission. Now that this stage has been completed we can provide the following numbers for the missing: US Army 16,669; US Army Air Force 20,746; US Navy 31,553; US Marine Corps 3,007; US Coast Guard 623; Civilian 875; Total 73,473.

The government's resident authority on the subject is the American Battle Monuments Commission. They show a total of 78,976 Missing for the World War II period. As mentioned previously that number includes those buried at sea. From our databases we found 6,225 service members were actually buried at sea. That would bring the total missing down to 72,751. Why is our figure over 700 names higher? Mostly administrative oversights during the preparation of the initial reports. Regardless of which figure you choose to believe, keep in mind that the actual number of missing is going to be lower.

Since the end of the war, MIAs have been recovered on a regular basis. Mostly from isolated aircraft crash sites but others such as the Marine Raiders lost on Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands (see *After the Battle* No. 108 and No. 119, page 39). How much lower is the actual count? We asked the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CILHI) and they wouldn't or couldn't tell us so we are stuck with that figure for the time being.

So who is actually missing? As with everything else we do, we kept this simple. If you didn't bury them, they are missing. The government has developed a variety of buzz phrases over the years such as 'killed in action, body not recovered'; 'declared dead under public law', 'determined dead' and 'undetermined' to name a few. Then there are requirements to be listed as a casualty. Battle or non-battle, are the two main categories but the actual location is the biggest key. On the WW II rosters of dead, no state-side casualties are listed.

Who are the unknowns? To put it simply they are MIAs that the Army failed to identify at the time. Following World War II the US Army actually buried 10,015 unknowns in various cemeteries around the world. The greatest numbers are located in Manila, Philippine Islands and Honolulu, Hawaii. Strange that both are in the Pacific but remember Europe was first for everything.

The 1,606 Pearl Harbor missing are commemorated on the Honolulu Memorial in the US National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Punchbowl at Honolulu, Hawaii.

I hope that I have provided a good background description of the players involved and the problems that we have had to overcome. Let's move on to the case files as they make it much more interesting reading. Although World War II had been going on in Europe and Asia for several years, America did not enter the action until after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, so the WW II period for American record keeping purposes is December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 when the war officially ended by Presidential Proclamation 2714.

In the surprise and devastating attack unleashed by the Japanese on Hawaii (see *After the Battle* No. 38), 2,398 American lives were lost in the following categories: Civilian 48; US Army 16; US Army Air Corps 227; US Navy 1,998; US Marine Corps 109. These figures are for both the dead and missing during the attack. When the final accounting was finished, the totals for the missing were 1,606 in the following breakdown: Army 3; Army Air Corps 15; Marine Corps 66; Navy 1,522. Once you have these figures you can concentrate on individuals, which makes finding the missing considerably easier.

The three Army personnel missing were the following:

Sgt Warren D. Rasmussen	20920790
Cpl Clyde C. Brown	20920839
Sgt Henry C. Blackwell	20920836

They were lost while flying in two civilian aircraft off Ewa Beach, Oahu. They had the misfortune of running into the first Japanese attack wave as it approached Pearl Harbor and were shot down by enemy aircraft. Both crashed in the offshore waters and the bodies were never recovered. Thus they remain missing and probably always will.

The next group we reviewed was the Army Air Corps. They were:

Pvt Donald E. Bays	6948505
Pvt Frank C. Boswell	6334448
PFC Lee I. Clendenning	16021445
PFC John E. Cruthirds	6298043
PFC James J. Gleason	6947032
PFC William E. Hasenfuss Jr	6977347
PFC Olaf A. Johnson	16007617
Cpl Lester H. Libolt	6936136
SSgt John H. Mann	6906443
Pvt Herbert E. McLaughlin	16021346
Cpl Donald F. Meagher	6587289
PFC Willard C. Orr	6149312
2Lt Gordon H. Sterling Jr	0411852
Pvt Herman K. Tibbetts Jr	11029005
SSgt Walter J. Zuschlag	6975453

We started with Lieutenant Sterling. He was the only one not stationed at Hickam Field. He was lost at sea off Kaneohe during a dogfight with Japanese aircraft. He was seen to dive into the waters just off Kaneohe Bay. Neither his body nor his P-36 aircraft were ever recovered. Thus, he remains missing.

The other 14 individuals on the list were all stationed at Hickam Field that morning. All were listed as missing after the attack. At the time Hickam Field did not have a cemetery. Army dead on Oahu were buried in the Post Cemetery at Schofield Barracks. Records from that cemetery show that 14 unknown bodies were received from Hickam Field following the attack. We have tracked these 14 bodies to their temporary graves at Schofield Barracks and then to their permanent ones in the Punchbowl. They are presently buried in these 14 graves as unknowns: A-1, A-780, M-610, N-1349, N-1102, N-1485, N-822, N-1474, P-640, N-1360, N-1234, N-962, M-470 and M-1200.





Thomas Hembree (left), from Kennewick, Washington, was only 17 years old at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and had been in the Navy for only four months. Hembree was the first Pearl Harbor missing to be formally identified. Right: Presented with the results of Ray Emory's research, a team of the US Army Central Identification Laboratory on January



30, 2001 exhumed Grave C-258 in the National Memorial Cemetery that was believed to contain the remains of Hembree and Seaman 1st Class Wilson A. Rice, the only two victims from the USS *Curtiss* never accounted for. Here cemetery workers carefully and reverently remove the metal casket from the grave.

(Note: There was one additional unknown buried in this group. Our theory is that this 15th man is Radioman 3rd Class Mitchell Cohn, who was the gunner in an SBD-2 scout bomber of naval squadron VS-6 from the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* that was shot down by Japanese aircraft on December 7 and crashed near Hickam Field. One of the Schofield Barracks unknowns is listed as 'possibly a pilot'. All of the Army Air Corps pilots are accounted for, so he must be a Navy airman. Cohn is the only unknown from the *Enterprise* group.)

Navy burials at that time were in the Navy plot at Nuuanu Cemetery in Honolulu. In the aftermath of the attack the available grave space at Nuuanu rapidly filled to capacity. The Navy then constructed a temporary cemetery at Halawa, which remained in operation until after the war. The Navy and Marine missing that day were largely on the ships in the Harbor (1,585 out of 1,588). On the morning of the attack there was a total of 150 vessels in the harbor. This figure includes all of the ships and associated yard craft. Not all of the vessels sustained casualties that day. Even fewer had casualties involving missing personnel. To study those cases we had to break it down by individual vessels.

#### USS ARIZONA

Without a doubt this ship presents the largest problem for unraveling the unknown mystery. The sheer numbers involved make this group the hardest to isolate and track. In the final accounting 1,072 personnel from the vessel were listed as missing (1,019 Navy and 53 Marines). Most people are under the misconception that all are still aboard the ship. That is not the case. Fifty-nine of her crew were identified and are buried. The Punchbowl contains the remains of at least 124 of her crewmen listed as unknowns.

#### USS CALIFORNIA

There are 22 unknowns in Punchbowl from the ship while the vessel has 20 listed as missing.

#### USS CURTISS

Apprentice Seaman Thomas Hembree was a sailor aboard this seaplane tender and killed during the Pearl Harbor attack. He was the first serviceman to be identified as a result of our work. Ray Emory found Hembree's grave by using burial records and per-

sonnel files and matching the dental records from both. At that time we were still building up the databases, and Ray accomplished his match manually. Presenting his conclusions to the authorities, he succeeded in convincing them to re-open the case. The CILHI forensic experts dug up the remains on January 30, 2001, and they endorsed Ray's findings the following November, making Hembree the first buried unknown to be officially identified since 1951 when the WWII identification process stopped, and the very first Pearl Harbor unknown to be identified in 60 years. Hembree was re-interred with a new headstone on March 5, 2002. What makes Hembree's case so important is that Ray proved it could be done.



For 60 years an unknown grave . . . The new headstone for grave C-258.



Ten months later, on November 28, 2001, the CILHI forensic lab announced that the remains did not belong to Rice but had been positively identified as those of Hembree. DNA testing had been inconclusive but a certain ID had been made through a dental match. On March 5, 2002, Hembree was re-interred in Punchbowl with full military honours, including a rifle-firing detail and the playing of Taps. Seventeen family members — mostly nephews and nieces — from California, Washington and Florida were present at the ceremony.

**USS NEVADA**

There are two unknowns in Punchbowl from the ship.

**USS OKLAHOMA**

Repeatedly struck by aerial torpedoes, the ship had the misfortune to capsizе, trapping over 400 sailors inside the hull. Immediate salvage operations succeeded to rescue 32 sailors but 429 perished. During 1943, massive salvage operations managed to upright the ship and refloat her, enabling the remains of the sailors that had been trapped to be removed. Thirty-five of them were identified and buried as individuals in the Halawa Naval Cemetery, the remaining 394 were buried there together as unknowns. However, when these 394 were retrieved after the war to be re-interred in the Punchbowl, and the Army tried to re-assemble the bones back into individuals, they came up with 410 sets of remains instead of 394 — 16 too many. These 410 were buried together as unknowns in 52 graves. Although group burials of this nature were not uncommon, the case of the *Oklahoma* sailors is bizarre because the Army separated all of the skulls, femurs, hips, etc into different caskets — a decision that of course removed all possibilities of a later identification. For a long time, the Army tried to keep all this under wraps but in September 2003, after 14 years of work, we succeeded in changing their minds. They are now going to formally admit that they bungled the case, and that the number of *Oklahoma* unknowns in the Punchbowl is in fact 394.

**USS PENNSYLVANIA**

Fireman 2nd Class Clayton L. Vanderpool was a sailor aboard the battleship USS *Pennsylvania* who was killed in the December 7 attack. He is important because he was the first match from our computer database. But it was more a comedy of errors than of skill. I had requested the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) from the Army for the unknowns that had been buried at Schofield Barracks. The Army wrote back and said they had no idea of what I was talking about but sent me four other unknown files from Halawa Cemetery. I made copies of them and sent them to Ray. He happened to have the IDPF of Vanderpool and matched the dental with an unknown buried in Grave Q-179 at the Punchbowl. Three days later our missing/unknown database came online and did the same thing. Presented with our findings, the Army disinterred the remains on June 18, 2003. The CILHI forensic experts have now confirmed that the remains are those of Vanderpool. The formal announcement is to be made on December 7, 2003 — the 42nd anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

**USS UTAH**

The remains of the ship rest to this day on the north-west side of Ford Island and serves as a memorial to the crewman lost. At the time of the attack the ship was mistaken for an aircraft carrier and received a great deal of attention from the attackers. During salvage operations 14 bodies were removed and are presently buried in the Punchbowl as unknowns.

**USS WEST VIRGINIA**

The ship was badly damaged during the attack but settled on an even keel. There are 25 listed as missing from the *West Virginia*. The somewhat amazing thing is that there are 35 unknowns in the Punchbowl from the ship! We are presently focusing our efforts on this group as it has the best chance of producing results. It may be possible to ID all of her missing crewmen which would then bring into consideration the ten additional unknowns, which are no doubt from other ships in the vicinity.



On June 18, 2003, again on the basis of research carried out by Ted Darcy and Ray Emory, the CILHI disinterred the caskets of two other Pearl Harbor unknowns at Punchbowl, those in Graves P-1002 and Q-179. The remains in Q-179 have now been confirmed to be those of Clayton Vanderpool (*below*), a victim from the USS *Pennsylvania*, although the formal announcement will not be made until December 7, 2003. Those in P-1002 are believed to be those of Ensign Eldon P. Wyman, who was on the battleship USS *Oklahoma*, but the outcome of his case is still pending.

Are other battles similar in the way the dead were handled? Yes. To date Tarawa (see *After the Battle* No. 15) seems to be the worst for two reasons. First, not all of the dead were recovered by the Army from the island after the war. Second, the Army buried 123 unknowns in the Punchbowl from Tarawa. Our present figures show that the Marine Corps buried 149 personnel by name that later came up missing when the Army finished. If you deduct the 123 unknowns in Punchbowl from that figure, the Army left at least 26 bodies on Tarawa.

Are there many isolated cases? Yes. Most of them involve aircraft. The saddest no doubt is that of Ensign Harry M. Warnke. His F6F aircraft crashed on June 15, 1944 within four miles of the present day headquarters of the CILHI. They have had the case since 1993, found the wreck in 1999, but still have not recovered his remains from the site. They are awaiting an environmental impact statement, which the state of Hawaii has already told them they do not need.

Is the Army totally responsible for the errors? No. They have made their fair share of mistakes and have shown apathy on more than one occasion but not all of the problems are their fault. They were tasked with the recovery and burial of all servicemen outside of the continental United States. It seems the Navy did not bother to tell them about numerous burials along the US coastline. Cases in point are the USS *Gheradi* incident, when a motor whaleboat of that ship capsized in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, on the night of December 1/2, 1942, and 15 sailors were drowned. In due course, 12 bodies were recovered and identified. Eight months later, on August 10, 1943, a body was recovered from the waters of the bay and determined to be that of an unidentified Navy enlisted man. Initial research carried out by us in 1995-97 showed that it is most probably one of the three *Gheradi* missing, Seaman 1st Class Cecil C. Joyner, but for lack of dental match one would need a DNA sample of a next of kin to prove it. His hometown was Jacksonville, Florida, but we have not been able to locate the next of kin. Another case is a PB4Y aircraft off Block Island with the crew still aboard. None of these cases were ever turned over to the Army for reconciliation.

What problems did the Army face? Political pressure. Soviet occupation of areas where US aircraft crashed. Casket shipping containers. Demobilisation and lack of trained personnel. No prior experience.

In fairness to the Army, personal computers were not available at the time. Our databases take a wide variety of identification points into consideration. Once we get a match, we forward the information to the scientific staff at CILHI. The final ID has to be done by dental records at CILHI. (DNA can not be used because of the embalming compound used during the war.)

Can these shortcomings be corrected, some 60 years later? For the most part yes. The biggest problem is the Army. We are now only allowed to order five records at a time and it is taking 8-12 months to get them. Two years ago we could order an unlimited number of records and it only took eight weeks. Funding and more co-operation would result in identifying most of these unknowns.

If any readers have copies of IDPFs for missing servicemen, or questions in general, please contact Ted Darcy at WFI Research Group, PO Box 231, Fall River, MA 02724-0231, USA ([wreck1@localnet.com](mailto:wreck1@localnet.com)).



Fireman 2nd Class Clayton Vanderpool.