

## U.S. ARMY CASUALTY NOTIFICATION & REPORTING

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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### GENERAL SOURCES

Chavez, Juan I. "Casualty Reporting and Assistance Programs in the Military Services: Is There a Need for Joint Casualty Operations?" AWC student paper, 1987. 23 p. Arch.

Hobson, Alan D. "Casualty Reporting on the Modern Battlefield: Can It Be Accurate and Timely?" AWC student paper, 1984. 23 p. Arch.

### PRE-WORLD WAR II

It appears that the earliest systematic notification of next-of-kin occurred during World War I. Prior to then, official casualty reporting procedures entailed only an entry into unit reports or notification within military chains of command. See:

U.S. War Dept. Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1861. pp. 69-70. UB501.1861.

\_\_\_\_\_. Regulations of..., 1881, pp. 19-20 & 29.; Regulations, 1895, pp. 11-12 & 23. Regulations, 1913, pp. 22-24 & 39-41. UB501.date.

There was an attempt at notification during the Spanish-American War, 1898. Inundated with requests from relatives, the War Dept responded by requesting casualty lists from the field commanders and then giving commanders responsibility for notifying the deceased's family. See:

## Casualty Notification

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U.S. War Dept. AGO. Correspondence Relating to the War With Spain and Conditions Growing Out of the Same... Wash, DC: GPO, 1902. pp. 760-61 & 800-01. E725.U53v2.

\_\_\_\_\_. General Order No 20, dated 1901. 1 p. MilPub-GO.

With the advent of the first US large-scale combat operation in World War I, casualty reporting functions were transferred from Washington, DC to France and the American Expeditionary Forces. See:

U.S. Army, AEF. GHQ. General Order No 89, dated 7 Jun 1918. Sec 1. UB502.5.

U.S. War Dept. General Order No 19, dated 1917. 1 p. MilPub-GO.

Furthermore, in apparent response to large number of deaths requiring overseas burials, regulations extended casualty reporting duties to the Quartermaster Corps' Graves Registration Service, viz:

U.S. War Dept. Quartermaster Corps, Reports of Burials: Army Regulations 30-1815, dated Feb 1924 (2 p.) & 15 Apr 1943 (2 p.). MilPub-AR.

\_\_\_\_\_. Quartermaster Corps Reports of Burials and Internments Outside Continental United States: AR 30-1815, dated May 1945. 4 p. MilPub-AR.

Meanwhile, Army Regulations in 1925 first specified that a "letter of sympathy" would be sent "to the nearest relative or other person designated..." Later, by 1942 telegraphic notification was specified. See:

U.S. War Dept. Personnel: Deceased: AR 600-550, Nov 1925, w/Change 2 (25 Jun 1928), & May 1943. MilPub-AR.

**WORLD WAR II**

Balzer, Timothy. “‘Canada’s Roll of Honour’: Controversy over Casualty Notification and Publication during the Second World War.” Canadian Military History (Winter 2011): pp. 31-44. Per.

DeWhitt, Benjamin L. Records Relating to Personal Participation in WWII: American Military Casualties and Burials. Wash, DC: Natl Arch, 1993. 61 p. CD3023.A35.

Mueller, Paul J. Papers. Arch.

Includes his letters of condolence as CG, 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.

U.S. Army. ETO. ComZ. Communications-Zone Activities in Support of the European Campaign, 30 July 1943-25 February 1945. Paris: 1945. ca 200 p. D769.75.U54.

See Sec IV, pp. 4-5.

U.S. Army. Forces in the European Theater. General Board. “Casualty Reporting in the European Theater of Operations.” Study Number 44, Bad Nauheim, Germany: 1945-46. pp. 10-11. D769.A5no44.

U.S. Army, Pacific. HQ. AG Personal Affairs Sect. SOP For Briefing Emergency Addressee or Next of Kin of Personnel Reported as Casualties. Guidebook, 28 Apr 1953. ca 75 p. UB403.S66.

Includes information on dependent’s entitlements.

U.S. War Dept. Administrative Procedures: Technical Manual 12-255, dated Nov 1942. pp. 56-59. MilPub-TM.

\_\_\_\_\_. Circular No. 2, dated 1 Jan 1945. pp. 1-12. MilPub-Circ.

\_\_\_\_\_. Circular No. 150, dated 23 May 1945. pp. 1-5. MilPub-Circ.

Weatherford, Doris. American Women and World War II. NY: Facts on File, 1990. pp. 292-93. D810.W7.W42.

Poignant anecdote.

**See also:**

-AR 345-124; & War Dept Circular No. 21 (1942); No. 195 (1943); No. 373 (1944); & USFET Gen Board Study No. 44

**KOREAN WAR**

Brubaker, Paul. "A Soldier Remembered." Army (Aug 1992): pp. 47-50. Per.  
Research into reported death of Korean War officer.

Cleaver, Charles G. "Personnel Problems." Pt. 2, Vol. III of History of the Korean War. Tokyo:  
US Far East Command. Military History Section, Tokyo, 15 Aug 1952. 188 p.  
DS918.H572v3pt2.  
Covers Jun 1950-Jul 1951. See pp. 43-56.

U.S. Army. History detachments in Korea, 1950-54. Reports & Studies on microfiche: Korean War  
Studies and After-Action Reports. Wash, DC: UPA, 1990. 350 cards. DS918.A5Microfiche.  
See Study S-AV (241 p.)

U.S. Dept of Army. Troop Topics, Casualty Reporting: Dept of Army Pamphlet 20-156, Feb 1953.  
15 p. MilPub-Pam.

**See also:**

-AR 600-10

**VIETNAM WAR**

Allen, Michael J. "'The War's Not Over Until the Last Man Comes Home': Body Recovery and the  
Vietnam War." 2 vols. PhD dss, Northwestern, 2003. DS559.8.M5.A45.

Owens, Walter A. Papers. 1 Box. Arch.  
Letters cover his training & Vietnam service 1967, including telegram of KIA.

Spiller, Harry. Death Angel: A Vietnam Memoir of a Bearer of Death Messages to Families.  
Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1992. 244 p. DS556.4.S65.  
USMC recruiter, 1967-70, whose additional duties included notifying the nearby next of  
kin in Midwest, Chaps 12-17; rest covers his earliest VN service 1965-66.

**SINCE 1975**

Hasenauer, Heike. "Reaching Out to the Bereaved." Soldiers (Jun 2002): pp. 18-22. Per.  
In light of Afghanistan operations.

Miles, Donna. "A Helping Hand." Soldiers (Jul 1990): pp. 21-23. Per.  
Casualty assistance officer (NCO) duties

Sheeler, Jim. Final Salute: A Story of Unfinished Lives. NY: Penguin Pr, 2008. 280 p. U353.S52.

U.S. Army. Adjutant-General's Board. Personnel Management and Manpower Control in the Field Army: Casualty Reporting System. Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN: By the Board, 1960. 98 p. UB323.A5.