



Pieces of History

≡ MENU

Fall In! Morning Reports with the National Archives

June 16, 2022 By Jessie Kratz, Posted In - World War I, - World War II, Armed Forces, Korean War, Military Records

Today's post comes from Thomas Richardson, an expert archives technician at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri.

Information is vital in warfare, whether it's the latest intelligence on enemy movements or orders transferring materials and weapons. Reports relay the necessary information for soldiers, NCOs, officers, and generals, helping them to make

important decisions. One critical feature is assessing the operating status of every unit, recording who's alive, wounded, deceased, transferred, reassigned, demoted, promoted, and any other pertinent information that bears on a unit's effectiveness.

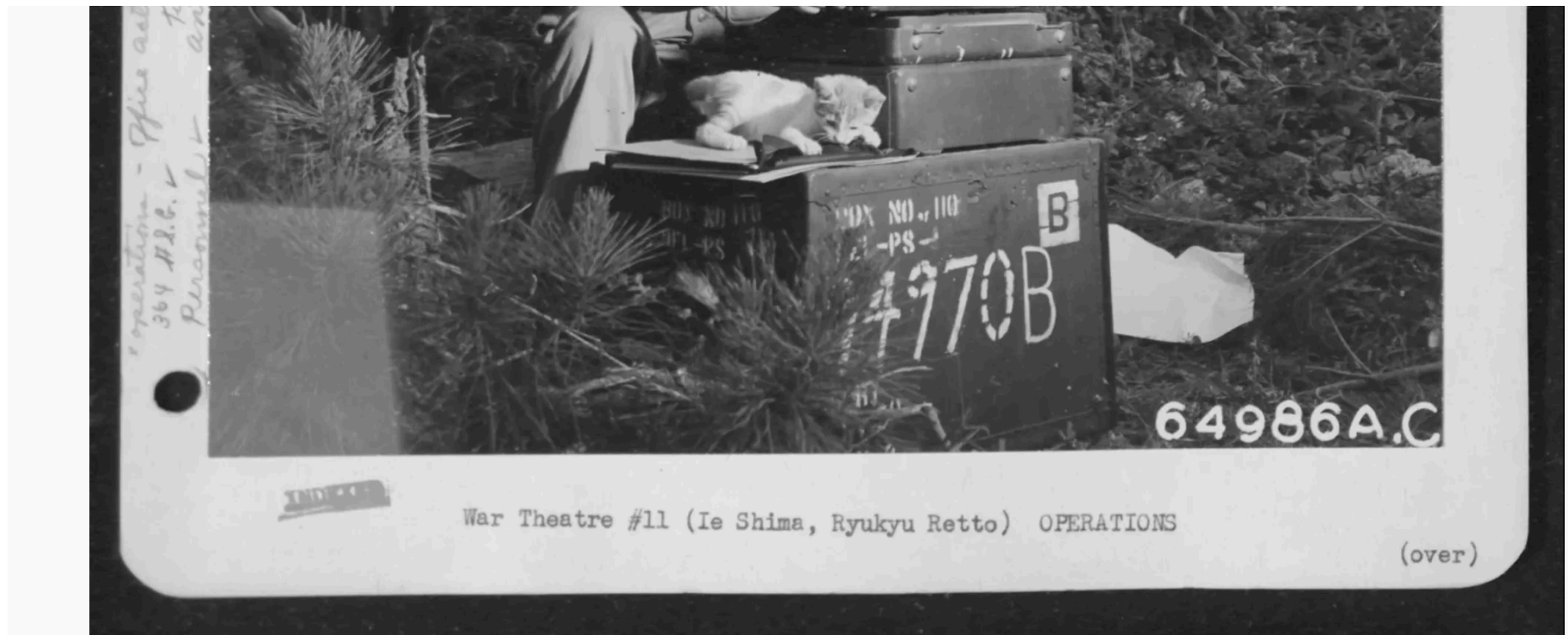
For years, these “morning reports” were produced every morning (hence their name) by an Army or Air Force clerk. These reports may seem tedious, but they provided valuable information to the unit's commanding officer and the headquarters it communicated with regularly.

Orig 4x5 neg (2672-1) rec'd October 1945 from Hdq.,
U.S. Army Strategic Air Force, Public Relations
Photo Lab (Liaison), APO #953.

3A4549



*Unit
specimen*



Today, morning reports provide researchers with information about individual soldiers by looking at the strength and casualties of specific units. Morning reports are also vital in determining World War II and Korean War veterans whose records were damaged in the [1973 NPRC fire](#). A morning report can confirm if a veteran was wounded, killed, promoted or demoted, transferred, or had other changes in their active status. By finding their name on a morning report, NPRC technicians can build a basic summary of service for that veteran.

The Army first created morning reports in 1912 as a tracking system for soldiers' pay and benefits. In World War I, new sections were added that detailed movements and locations of where each soldier in the company was stationed. This included when they traveled overseas and when and where headquarters moved. They were handwritten with small annotations referencing status changes.

By World War II, the morning reports were typed and included unit designation, dates, maps, geographic locations, and coordinates. Reports with detailed coordinates and locations are less common, though, as it was quicker to give an approximation on a unit's location, especially in places such as the Pacific Theater. Morning reports were considered

classified material and had to be secured in the event of enemy attack; if the enemy obtained morning reports, they could determine where a unit was and what kind of resistance to expect.

1944		ENDING 30 October		1944			
4526 BC		2600		(COUNT)			
STATION <u>Shipham, Norfolk, 1 mi SE FG 4526 BC</u>							
ORGANIZATION <u>Group Hq, 44th Bomb Gp (H) AC</u>							
GRADE CODE							
Capt.							
1st Lt							
HEADQUARTERS MORNING REPORT							
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE				
36232435	Kaltenberg, Lawrence A. Pfc.						
Fr duty to abs sk, 65th General Hosp, Non-Battle as of 29 October 1944							
RECORD OF EVENTS							
Group mission to Germany. Bombs Dropped. One aircraft failed to return.							
OFFICERS PRESENT AND ABSENT							
GEN O	COL	LT COL	MAJOR	CAPT	1ST LT	2D LT	SUBTOTAL
	1	2	5	15	4	2	29
ASSD							
ATCND UNASGD							
ATCND FR OTHER ORGN						2	1
TOTAL						1	2
OFFICERS PRESENT AND ABSENT—CONTINUED							
WO	FLT O	C SURG	ANC	WAAC	H D	PTA	SUBTOTAL
	1						1
PERSONNEL							
STRENGTH	ENLISTED PERSONNEL	AVN CADETS	OFFICER PERSONNEL				
PRESENT & ABSENT	PRESENT & ABSENT	PRESENT & ABSENT	PRESENT & ABSENT	PRESENT & ABSENT			
82	6	88	29	1			30
ASSD							
ATCND UNASGD							
ATCND FR OTHER ORGN						1	1
TOTAL						83	19
PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES							
I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT:							
SIGNATURE <u>RAYMOND F. WERKMEISTER, Capt., AC</u>							

MOR
 STATIC
 ORGAN
 SERIAL
 2064
 3105
 3527
 0223
 0463
 3112
 Re
 Box

Clerks used a shorthand system of writing in order to fit as much information as possible into the report, which can sometimes be a barrier to researchers or veterans. The most commonly used abbreviations are:

- ASGD – Assigned
- SK – Sick
- WIA – Wounded in Action
- KIA – Killed in Action
- DOI – Died of Injuries
- DOW – Died of Wounds
- RTD – Returned to Duty
- MIA – Missing in Action
- PMT – Promoted
- DMT – Demoted
- CTQTR – Confined to Quarters
- TRFD – Transferred
- BC – Battalion Casualty
- APTD – Appointed
- DISCH – Discharged
- VIC – Vicinity

During the Korean War, morning reports were expanded to include more information about events that resulted in any status changes. Sometimes this can be a vivid account of combat actions, providing a glimpse into an infantryman's wartime experience. During the Vietnam War, morning reports were revised again to only include information on personnel changes and the location of the unit's headquarters. The record of events section describing movements or combat were removed entirely. After-action reports can fill this gap.

RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

MORNING REPORT ISR 335-50.11	1. ENGINE (DAY, MONTH, YEAR) 20 Aug 52 1400	2. REPORTING UNIT Svc Co	3. PARENT UNIT 27th Inf Regt	4. PERSONNEL STATUS	REPORTS CO. 1-200 SYMBOL AC-113
3. COMMAND FECOM		4. SUB-COMMAND 25th Inf Div		7. PERMANENT STATION OR LOCATION Tokkol-Id Korea APO 25	
STRENGTH SECTION					
5. ASSIGNMENT		6. WARRANT		8. ENLISTED	
STATUS	ASSIGNED	WARRANT	ENLISTED	ASSIGNED GAINS AND LOSSES	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	207 3 5 205	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	207 3 5 205	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	220 3 6 217	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	207 3 5 205	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	220 3 6 217	
REMARKS SECTION					
BASIC PERSONNEL DATA			SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL DATA		
NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	GRADE	DATE	COMP	EDD
ASSIGNED GAINS					
Bistany Khalil J	US51123929	PFC	3666	Cau US 2	6/53
Asg & id fr 25th Repl Co (Repl) par 2 Asgmt Memo 206 Hq 25th Inf Div dtd 11 Aug 52					
CMS FEC 5 EDCSA 14 Aug 52					
Giese Vernon A	RA17251398	Cpl	3060	Cau PA 3	7/53
Asg & id fr 25th Repl Co (Repl) (SD w/25th Inf Div) par 3 Asgmt memo 206 Hq 25th Inf Div dtd 11 Aug 52 CMS FEC 5 EDCSA 14 Aug 52					
Brand Howard G	US51137684	Pvt-2	4740	Cau US 2	7/53
Asg & id fr 25th Repl Co (Repl) par 4 Asgmt memo 212 Hq 25th Inf Div dtd 17 Aug 52					
CMS FEC 5					
ASSIGNED LOSSES					
Hickman Edward S	W-21149806	WOJG-1	Fr dy to rel fr asg & reasg 110th Repl Bn APO 971 (pipeline) & further asg Sasebo Repl Depot 8068th AU APO 27 par 1 SO 222 as amended by par 2 SC 229 Hq 25th Inf Div Deptd		
Brand Howard G	RA13331302	Cpl	Fr in transit pending EDCSA 20 Aug 52 to rel fr		

asg & trfd in grade 110th Repl En APO 971 (pipeline) for further asg to Sasebo Repl Depot 8068th AU APO 27 par 2 SO 228 as amended by par 7 SO 229 Hq 25th Inf Div (Ref M/R 15 Aug 52)			
Davis Bobby J US54019417 Cpl Fr in transit pending EDCSA 20 Aug 52 to rel fr asg & trfd in grade 110th Repl En APO 971 (pipeline) for further asg to Sasebo Repl Depot 8068th AU APO 27 par 3 SO 228 as amended by par 7 SO 229 Hq 25th Inf Div (Ref M/R 15 Aug 52)			
Young Jaes A US52109505 Cpl Fr in transit pending EDCSA 20 Aug 52 to rel fr asg & trfd in grade 110th Repl En APO 971 (pipeline) for further asg to Sasebo Repl Depot 8068th AU APO 27 par 8 SO 228 as amended by par 7 SO 229 Hq 25th Inf Div (Ref M/R 15 Aug 52)			
Harne Leroy R NG27762232 Cpl Fr in transit pending EDCSA 20 Aug 52 to rel fr asg & trfd in grade 110th Repl En APO 971 (pipeline) for further asg to Sasebo Repl Depot 8068th AU APO 27 par 10 SO 228 as amended by par 8 SO 229 Hq 25th Inf Div (Ref M/R 15 Aug 52)			
11. CERTIFICATION SECTION			
1 I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT.	NAME AND TITLE - TYPED OR PRINTED: DONALD W. WEEKLEY Pers Off	GRADE AND BRANCH CWO USA	SIGNATURE <i>Donald W. Weekley</i>
			12 PAGE of 1 PAGES
DA APO FORM 1 1 AUG 51	REPLACES WD AGO FORM 1, 1 AUG 44 WHICH IS OBSOLETE	U. S. Gov't Printing Office - J 242125-1951	DA COPY THRU MRU
RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION			

On June 30, 1966, the Air Force discontinued the use of morning reports, and the Army followed suit on September 30, 1974. Handwritten and typed reports then gave way to an electronic system similar to morning reports, the Standard Installation and Division Personnel Reporting System (SIDPERS). This system was used for the next two decades until its replacement by the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS).

In the years before the 1973 NPRC fire, morning reports were primarily used to determine eligibility for benefits or other information that might be missing from a veteran's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF). A soldier's change in status was reported on the day it occurred, and morning reports reflected that. From the soldier's perspective, their change is marked as "Effective Date of Change of Strength Accountability." This reflects their operating status and was vital for commanding officers to know when ordering troop movements or participating in a campaign.

listed. The entries show the name of service member, service number/Social Security number, and rank. Also shown are unit strength, the location of the unit, and sometimes a record of events.

To conduct a search for a morning report, the requester needs to have the full name of the unit, down the smallest echelon that they know. Companies, battalions, and regiments are the most common search criteria for morning reports. The more specific the information, the narrower the search an NPRC technician can conduct to locate the correct report.



A majority of reports are stored on microfilm, and some hard copies are still available, all of which are undergoing digitization. Upon receiving a request, a technician locates the correct microfilm reel, searches for the unit, locates any matching information, and prints out the report. If the request is for determining benefits for a veteran whose records were damaged by the 1973 fire, the morning report is combined with a reconstructed burn record to show the requester that veteran's status.

Statistic-based documents may not be the most glamorous narrative to paint the picture of a soldier's wartime experience, and some researchers may not find them as exciting as reading after-action reports or Navy diaries. However, morning reports are an essential component of preserving our nation's military records. These are real-time snapshots of a conflict that document everything happening to a unit and the individual soldier. Volunteers and draftees alike are memorialized in a way that chronicles the nation's military achievements. These morning reports provide the long and the short, and nothing gets distorted in them.

Tagged Morning Reports, National Personnel Records Center, Nprc

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5 THOUGHTS ON “FALL IN! MORNING REPORTS WITH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES”



Curtis A. Loop

march 29, 2023 at 6:36 pm

This is a shot in the dark. My father (who served in WW II) enlisted in 14 Oct 41. He was discharged on 12 Nov 43. During this two year time period he was an enlisted man. The day after his discharge, 13 Nov 43, he entered US

Army Flight training and was later commissioned a 2LT. He was a B-29 Bombardier/Navigator in the Pacific Theater. He died on the return of a bombing mission over Japan on 8 Mar 45.

I know about his officer time and assignments. What I have no clue to is anything for the two years he was an enlisted man (Oct 41 - Nov 43).

I know you say you need the units he was assigned to, but that's what I'm trying to determine.

His name: 2LT Alvis LaVerne Sparks

Enlisted Serial Number: 39304098

Officer Serial Number: 0698378

His records were lost the 1973 fire in St Louis.

I appreciate anything you can provide from the Morning Reports. I also appreciate any guidance or direction to a department of office that might help me.

Thank you very much,

Curtis A. Loop

Son of Alvis L. Sparks

Reply



D Y

march 25, 2024 at 3:41 pm

I know this is an old post, but if you haven't made progress, keep up hope.

I hadn't tried in the past to Google my grandfather, but once I did, I came up with a couple of "morning reports" with his name on them. I was able to deduce what unit he was with, and at least for those two reports, where he

was exactly. With the unit known, it's a bit easier to understand where all he would have gone, and what the unit had done. I did a cursory search for your dad but didn't see any results.

My results came from a historical society for the division he was in, that put those reports on their web page. From what I understand, if someone hasn't gone into the archives and turned the microfiches into a PDF that has your dad's name on them, you won't find them online. I'm hopeful that every day we are seeing more and more digitized so we will have an easier time.

[Reply](#)



Michael Lanctot

december 30, 2023 at 4:17 pm

I am looking for morning reports for myself for the month of November 1968.

[Reply](#)



Maureen Lang

october 3, 2024 at 12:26 pm

Hello Michael. Have you reached out to the National Archives for this information? It might take a while but you should be able to get your Morning Reports for your company/regiment/battalion etc for that time period. Good luck and thank you for your service.

Welcome home.

Maureen

[Reply](#)

**Anne-Marie Hawkes**

february 19, 2025 at 1:59 pm

I recently obtained a WWII Army file. It contains several morning reports, but unlike the examples shown, they are computer punch cards. Is there any way to decipher these and discover the details on this soldier's location and activity?

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time I

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