
Search Results for: Morning reports

Stories in WWII Army Morning Reports

January 7, 2026 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

—

I have said for years that you never know what you will find in military records until you obtain them. Army Morning Reports are no different. For each report the military created, there was a standard of the basic information that should be recorded on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Some report creators did the bare minimum, while others wrote novels.

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
RECORD OF EVENTS CONT'D			
<p>they were on the ground moaning & squirming. The group was estimated as 6 soldiers. Sgt Gallicksrud promptly moved his tank to a safer area. 2d Lt Halford was having trouble with a German bazookaman. The bazookaman was throwing shells at Lt Halford's tank, but was missing. The bow gunner couldn't hit the bazookaman because of his concealed position. T/4 Kasid Lt Halford's driver promptly came up through the drivers hatch with his sub-machine gun firing & charged the bazookaman. He disposed of him nicely. The unfortunate part of this incident was that T/4 Kasid was mistaken for a German by an Inf man. The Inf man shot Kasid through the jaw.</p>			

“ On 20th and 21st September 44 this company supported the 1st Bn 10th Infantry Regiment in an attack on Pournoy-la-Chétive, France. On both days the enemy counter attacked frequently at great cost to themselves and no success.

The fight around the town is still in progress according to reports received here.

On the 21st Sept 44 Sgt. Gullicksrud, tank commander of the 2nd platoon parked his tank along the edge of a highway (location unknown) and cut the motor.

This was between the hours of 2400 and 0100. Before a few minutes had passed, along came 3 companies of German infantry and 5 tanks. It was dark enough that the Germans never saw our tank. The Germans were very noisy and were talking and singing lustily. They were also smoking, striking matches without bothering to conceal the glare. When the last tank had passed, the column was called to a halt where upon an officer mounted a tank and gave the troops a supposedly inspiring speech in a most fanatical manner. After he concluded his speech he was lustily applauded by hand claps and shouts of "Heil Hitler." They then marked off singing crazily and still heiling Hitler.

They were described by Sgt. Gullicksrud's crew as acting as though they were either drunk or just plain nazi fanatics. Sgt. Gullicksrud could not fire on them because of darkness and lack of ammunition. After the column had passed, along came a small group of Germans presumably the columns rear guard, stopping about 3 yards to one side of the same tank. They lit cigarettes and

were talking never once seeing the tank. Sgt. Gullicksrud was taking no chances and promptly tossed a fragmentation grenade in their midst. He knows he wounded or killed them because they were on the ground moaning and squirming. The group was estimated as 6 soldiers. Sgt. Gullicksrud promptly moved his tank to a safer area. 2nd Lt. Halford was having trouble with a German Bazzoka man. The Bazzoka man was throwing shells at Lt. Halford's tank but was missing. The bow gunner couldn't hit the bazzoka man because of his concealed position. T/4 Kasid, Lt. Halford's driver promptly came up through the drivers hatch with his sub machine gun firing and charged the bazzoka man. He disposed of him nicely. The unfortunate part of this incident was that T/4 Kasid was mistaken for a German by an infantry man. The infantry man shot Kasid through the jaw.

While not all Morning Reports are this detailed, you will often find details which aren't recorded elsewhere.

Current Status of Obtaining Army or Army Air Force Morning Reports

For World War I Morning Reports, you can go to [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) and search for them.

The World War I Rosters are available on [FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org).

World War II Morning Reports are in part, available on NARA Catalog. At the date of this writing (31 Dec 2025) they are available through December 1944 for most units. The 1945 reports have not yet been uploaded.

The World War II reports are also available at the NPRC in St. Louis. To obtain the files you either have to go there and do the research yourself – archivists will not do this for you. You can also hire a professional researcher [like me](#) to obtain these and all other records to help you tell the story of your veteran.

Regardless of whether you have the OMPF or not, Morning Reports are a vital record to help you reconstruct the footsteps of your veteran. They provide details the OMPF will not.

Explore more articles on Morning Reports

[Company Morning Reports](#)

- [Company Morning Reports Tell a Story](#)
- [More on Company Morning Reports](#)
- [5 Reasons Why You Must Have Army and Air Force Company Morning](#)

Reports

- [Help! VT, WX, VN as Locations on Company Morning Reports](#)

Would you like to research your veteran? I can help!

If you'd like help researching your WWI, WWII, Korea, or Vietnam veteran or writing their story, let's chat. I offer free phone consults for potential new clients. Email info@wwiirwc.com to get started today!

You can also learn my 2-part military research strategy in my *Research a Veteran* program available at my online course site. Explore this and other research and writing webinars at the [Ancestral Souls Wisdom School](#) store.

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Filed Under: [Journal](#)

Tagged With: [735th Tank Bn](#), [america250](#), [Army morning reports](#), [morning reports](#)

5 Reasons Why You Must Have Army and Army Air Force Company Morning Reports

September 24, 2024 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

I speak to many people on a daily basis about Army and Air Force research in the U.S. and Europe. Everyone is asking the same question. *How can I find out where my soldier or Airman was every day? His OMPF (service file) burned in 1973.*

The answer is simple. You start with Company Morning Reports. Here are 5 reasons you need these records.



1. Company Morning Reports will help you reconstruct a soldier's service, allowing you to document where he was every day he was in a company in a particular unit. You will also know when he changed units so you can continue tracing his service.
2. Morning Reports document illness and wounds and if the clerk documented things, what field hospital or other hospital he was sent to.

3. You'll see changes in rank, MOS (job), transfers to temporary duty assignments so you know where he was at all times. Often, men were sent to DS (detached service) to help another unit. In those moments you also want to consult the other unit's records to learn what was happening. This changes the soldier's war experience.
4. Changes in status to MIA, POW, KIA are also listed.
5. Awards may be listed in Morning Reports if the clerk added that information. Many people want to know when or why a soldier received a specific award or decoration. This is one resource to help you discover that information and the often elusive General Order (GO) number.

Important! In a recent conversation on Facebook, someone posted they couldn't trace their soldier every day, I suggested Morning Reports. Their response was they were working with DPAA because their soldier was still MIA and DPAA had provided unit level records and told them the OMPF burned. I responded that DPAA didn't provide all the information possible and Morning Reports are the answer.

DPAA hardly uses Morning Reports or OMPFs in their research, from conversations I've had with them. It is **not** their job to reconstruct your soldier's entire service history. Their job is to find details that document his MIA status in the hopes of locating the individual. They will not then provide you with the

Morning Reports and details on service. If you want this information, you have to find it yourself or work with a researcher to locate this information. If they tell you it is impossible because the OMPF burned, they are wrong. You can retrace service without the OMPF.

Want to learn more about Morning Reports, how they can help your research, and how to obtain them? Read my articles:

[Company Morning Reports](#)

[More on Company Morning Reports](#)

What clues and information have you discovered in Morning Reports? Please share with us in the comments.

Can I help you with your research?

Are you ready to learn the bigger picture of your family member's military service? Email us at info@wwiirwc.com to set up your free phone consultation today to discuss project options, fees, and time. You can also [sign-up for our free newsletter](#) at the Ancestral Souls Wisdom School and [take a class](#) on my 2-part military research strategy to research any veteran even if the service file burned.



Filed Under: [Journal](#)

Tagged With: [genealogy](#), [IDPF](#), [Jennifer Holik](#), [military photos](#), [military records](#), [military records research service](#), [morning reports](#), [NPRC](#), [St. Louis](#), [WWII](#), [wwii genealogy](#), [WWII historian](#), [wwii military research](#), [wwii military service records](#), [WWII Researcher](#)

Company Morning Reports Tell A Story

April 14, 2022 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

Did you know Army and Army Air Force Company Morning Reports may tell you a very detailed story about your soldier or airman's service? This is one of the **most important** records you need to **reconstruct military service**, even if the OMPF (service file) survived the 1973 fire.

Morning Reports listed many details about the company which include:

- The location of the company for the date of the report.
- Strength of the unit in numbers of men
- Details of those entering and leaving the company
- Names of those declared AWOL, Missing In Action, Killed In Action, or wounded.
- Details about promotions or demotions.
- The reports also provided information on the day's events. Some clerks reported weather conditions, in addition to the usual information on where the unit was fighting, and other enemy encounters.
- The companies were required to report numbers of men at each meal, which provided information to the Army, who then was able to provide food and appropriate supplies for the soldiers. These numbers also alerted headquarters when the ranks were depleted and replacements were needed.

Telling A Story

It's important to know that not all Morning Reports (or any military records) are created equally. Yes there were guidelines but some report writers documented a lot more than the basics.

It has been my experience that Armored Infantry Battalions and Tank Battalions give the most description in their reports. This isn't to say other units do not provide such rich detail, but this has been my experience after 12 years of research, teaching, and writing.

COMPANY RESTRICTED
MORNING REPORT
0610 Nord de Guerre Zone
STATION 1 mi S of Serres
ORGANIZATION Hq Co 51st Arm Inf Bn Inf

11 Oct 44

SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	NOTE
35046819	Barrick	745	ptc dy to sk (slightly not in action 9 Oct 44) dropped fr asgt

RECORD OF EVENTS

7 Oct 44 Company starting moving from old area at 1845. Closed in present location at 2200.

8 Oct 44 Pan cakes and bacon for breakfast enjoyed by everyone. Plenty of seconds too. First meal cooked by mess personnel for quite some time. Plenty of men in the process of cleaning up. Movies tonight in M3 Platoon area. Received two replacements today. Issue of sugar and M&M's - all men digging slit trenches. Requisitions taken for all shortages. This is definitely not a fast period. Two companies of the Bn ready for movement at a very short notice. 2/3 of Hq Co ready to move also. Catholic Church services attended by many men of the Bn. Services conducted in church in Serres also. Both services held in the bivouac area this afternoon. Many men attended. First time entire company has been

W

OFFICERS	1	
ENLISTED	126	
ASSIGNED		
UNASSIGNED		
TOTAL		
UNASSIGNED		
ATTACHED TO OTHER BNS		

COMPANY RESTRICTED
MORNING REPORT
0610 Nord de Guerre Zone
STATION 1 mi S of Serres
ORGANIZATION Hq Co 51st Arm Inf Bn Inf

11 Oct 44

Together for quite some time.
9 Oct 44 Location 0610 Nord de Guerre Zone 1 mi S of Serres. Movies today. Four shows. Shows at 1000, 1400, 1900, 2100. Very good relaxation for all men. Name of show, "Cover Girl" all platoons commence training. Cleaning up of all vehicles also. Showers at 1030 and 1230. Twenty-five men allowed at each period. Swimming pool also available to men going for showers. Red Cross Club table in area this afternoon serving coffee and doughnuts. Many men expressed the opinion that talking with American girls was worth much more than the coffee and doughnuts. The doughnuts were succulent. Officers commissary open in school house in Serres. Most of the Officers in company ~~waited~~ out the line to get some necessary clothing. Very good spaghetti sauce and puddles for supper tonight. Meals enjoyed by all.

OFFICERS	1	
ENLISTED	126	
ASSIGNED	4	2
UNASSIGNED		
TOTAL	4	2
UNASSIGNED		
ATTACHED TO OTHER BNS		
TOTAL	126	126
UNASSIGNED		
ATTACHED TO OTHER BNS		
TOTAL	126	126

This Morning Report is from HQ Co 51st AIB (Armored Infantry Battalion). Here are a few days in October 1944 that tell us a story about the men in this unit.

7 October 1944 has moved to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile South of **Serres, France**. Company starting moving from old area at 1845. Closed in present location at 2230. 8 October 1944, unit enjoys pancakes and bacon for breakfast. Plenty of seconds too! First meal cooked by mess personnel for quite some time. Plenty of men in the process of cleaning up. Movies tonight in MG platoon area. Received two replacement today. Issue of cognac and Vermouth. All men digging slit trenches. Requisitions take for all shortages. This is definitely not a rest period. Two companies of the Battalion ready for movement at a very short notice. Two thirds of Company ready to move, also Catholic church services attended by many men of the Battalion. Services conducted in church in Serres also both services held in bivouac area this afternoon. Many men attended. First time the entire company has been together for quite some time. [i]

9 October 1944 unit remains $\frac{1}{4}$ mile South of **Serres, France**. Movies are shown today. Four shows, at 1000, 1400, 1900 and 2100. Very good relaxation for all men. Name of show, "Cover Girl". All platoons commence training. Cleaning up of all vehicles also. Showers at 1030 and 1230. Twenty-five men allowed at earn period, the swimming pool was also available to men going for showers. Red Cross Club mobile in area this afternoon serving coffee and doughnuts. Many men expressed the worth much more than the coffee and doughnuts. The donuts were succulent. Officers commissary open in schoolhouse in Serres. Most of the Officers in company waited

in line to buy some necessary clothing. Very good spaghetti sauce and noodles for supper tonight. Meals were enjoyed by all. [ii]

10 October 1944 unit remains $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of **Serres, France**. Enemy planes are overhead at 2300. On 11 October 1944 unit remained in same location, sunshine at last. Pancakes and bacon for breakfast. Steak and potatoes for lunch. Movies and showers continue. Catholic church services in Med Detention area. Red Cross Club mobile in battalion area. Delicious doughnuts and coffee. Battalion addressed by General Wood and he commented on the excellent job being done. Division Awards presented. Issue of clothing and equipment. Inspection of men in ranks under arms. Two enemy planes were heard overhead about 1800, probably out on a reconnaissance.[iii]

12 October 1944, location remains the same. The company awakened at 0700 and breakfast served at 0730. New drill schedule starts at 0830 including inspection in ranks, close order drill and crew training. We received four replacements today, and men were immediately assigned to platoons. Showers and shows continue. Break down of clothing and equipment and issue of PX rations. Care and cleaning of weapons. Protestant and Jewish services in Med Detention area. Post exchange sales store in company area. [iv]

13 October 1944 unit continues to be $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of **Serres, France**. Enemy planes

are heard at 0200. Morning training continues and inspection in ranks with weapons occurs. Toast with breakfast and pork chops for lunch. Showers and movies are still in effect. Jewish services are at 1600, men permitted to attend. PTA money taken in to be sent home. Requisitions made on all sorts of clothing and equipment. Maintenance on vehicles continues. Care and cleaning of weapons. Enemy planes are overhead again at 1230. Music in battalion area furnished by Division Band. Sounded very good to hear some real American music. PI sales in company area.[v] The movie projector went out of operation after the first reel had been shown at the first show. Disappointment to many means it was a good show. Enemy planes are heard overhead at 2200. [vi]

That's quite a lot of great contextual information about the soldiers in this Company! Add this to your family history stories and people will definitely be more interested in reading the stories!

If you are ready to start a research or writing project, email me at info@wwiirwc.com and let's set up a free phone consultation. I'm excited to help you bring your family's military history to life and preserve it for generations.

[i] Company Morning Report HQ Co 51st AIB dated 11 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

[ii] Company Morning Report HQ Co 51st AIB dated 11 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

[iii] Company Morning Reports HQ Co 51st AIB dated 13 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

[iv] Company Morning Reports HQ Co 51st AIB dated 13 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

[v] Company Morning Reports HQ Co 51st AIB dated 15 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

[vi] Company Morning Reports HQ Co 51st AIB dated 16 October 1944. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO.

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Filed Under: [Journal](#)

Tagged With: [genealogy](#), [military records research service](#), [NPRC](#), [research a veteran](#), [WWII](#)

Help! VT, WX, VN As Locations on Morning Reports

September 9, 2019 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

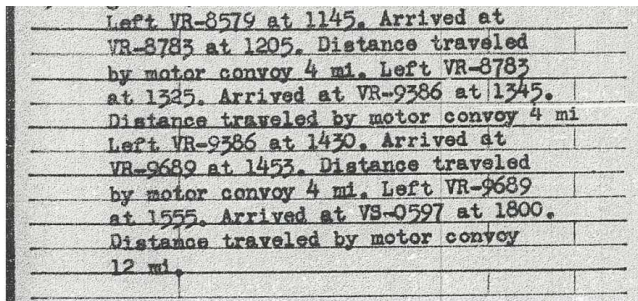
One of the fun things about the work I do is I never know what is going to show up in a military record. Am I going to discover a family secret the family did not mention to me in our initial call or emails? Am I going to see codes I've never seen before? Will the report writer give so much detail I know every pair of new clean socks an infantry regiment gets or every whiskey ration?

Sometimes the military records throw things at me that are difficult to sort out. [British Modified System](#) location codes are one such thing.

What are these codes? They are letters plus numbers that correspond to a map grid to show where a unit was located at various times.

COMPANY			
MORNING REPORT	ENDING 2400	31	Aug 1944
St Felix, 1/8 mi E.			
STATION VS-0597 Nord de Guerre Zone.			
ORGANIZATION A		304th Med Bn MD	
<small>(CO, DET, ETC.)</small> <small>(ARM OR SERVICE)</small>			
SERIAL NUMBER	NAME	GRADE	CODE
No Change			
RECORD OF EVENTS			
31 Aug 44. (Bivouac Area) VS-0597.			

Usually the Morning Reports have actual locations named rather than all these codes. But some writers used codes. You will often see code words in some variation in unit records. This article only focuses on Morning Reports and the British Modified System codes shown here.



Left VR-8579 at 1145. Arrived at	
VR-8783 at 1205. Distance traveled	
by motor convoy 4 mi. Left VR-8783	
at 1325. Arrived at VR-9386 at 1345.	
Distance traveled by motor convoy 4 mi	
Left VR-9386 at 1430. Arrived at	
VR-9689 at 1453. Distance traveled	
by motor convoy 4 mi. Left VR-9689	
at 1555. Arrived at VR-0597 at 1800.	
Distance traveled by motor convoy	
12 mi.	

Company Morning Report with codes. Click the image to enlarge.

What do I do with this information?

Use the [British Modified System](#) website to “translate” these codes. Pay attention to which map is being used on the Morning Report because you need to select this from the dropdown on the website. Enter the code on your report like **VR9689** and convert it.

Once you convert the code, a map shows up to give you a location. You might copy the coordinates into Google Maps to get a more accurate location. Often the locations are somewhere in between towns like a field or wooded area. This can make it difficult to know exactly which town they were focused on. I often find the answers to those questions in the unit histories, maps, journals, and other records.

Don't be afraid of these codes. Might take a little more work on your part to find the answers you need if you are working with these kinds of Morning Reports, but the time will be well spent.

Can I help you with your research?

Are you ready to learn the bigger picture of your family member's military service? Email us at info@wwiirwc.com to set up your free phone consultation today to discuss project options, fees, and time. You can also **sign-up for our free newsletter** and receive the **Start Writing Your Military Story Today** free!

Are you following Jennifer and all her work on all her social media sites? Click the link to learn more and find different content.

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Filed Under: [Journal](#)

Tagged With: [79th Infantry Division](#), [british modified system](#), [echodelta](#), [genealogy](#), [infantry](#), [medical battalion](#), [research a veteran](#), [WWII](#)

Exploring Army & Army Air Forces Morning Reports

August 28, 2018 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)





Company Morning Reports will help you reconstruct military service whether or not the OMPF (service file) burned.

In August 2018, I participated in a webinar with [DearMyrtle, U.S. Military: Morning Reports](#), discussing Company Morning Reports for the Army and Army Air Forces for WWII. While our focus was WWII, the information we discussed also applies to WWI, Korea, and Vietnam.

After you watch the video, we encourage you to read why these reports are so valuable, here are a few articles.

- [Company Morning Reports](#)
 - [More on Company Morning Reports](#)
 - [5 Reasons Why You Must Have Army and Air Force Company Morning Reports](#)

Important! There are many military research firms around today offering ‘Click this item/price and add to cart services. Be aware that these firms will not reconstruct service for you and will only give you what you think you require. When you do not know exactly what you require, you often end up wasting a lot of money on records that have nothing to do with your service member’s service. There is a process to

reconstructing military service properly.

We are the only firm that offers full service research customized to your particular project. Read our article [When NOT to Hire a Genealogical or Military Record Retriever](#) to learn more.

To learn more about Jennifer and how we can help you research and tell your WWI, WWII, Korea, or Vietnam family member's story, check out our updated [ABOUT US](#) page.

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Filed Under: [Journal](#)

Tagged With: [ABMC](#), [ancestry](#), [burial file](#), [genealogy](#), [healer](#), [healing](#), [hire a military researcher](#), [IDPF](#), [Jennifer Holik](#), [military cemetery](#), [military genealogy](#), [military records research service](#), [morning reports](#), [NARA](#), [NPRC](#), [travel](#), [WWI](#), [WWI researcher](#), [WWI writer](#), [WWII](#), [WWII Researcher](#)

5 Reasons Why You Must Have Army and Air Force Company Morning Reports

October 28, 2016 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [5 Comments](#)

I speak to many people on a daily basis about Army and Air Force research in the U.S. and Europe. Everyone is asking the same question. *How can I find out where my soldier or Airman was every day? His OMPF (service file) burned in 1973.*

The answer is simple. You start with Company Morning Reports. Here are 5 reasons you need these records.

1. Company Morning Reports will help you reconstruct a soldier's service, allowing you to document where he was every day he was in a company in a particular unit. You will also know when he changed units so you can continue tracing his service.
2. Morning Reports document illness and wounds and if the clerk documented things, what field hospital or other hospital he was sent to.



3. You'll see changes in rank, MOS (job), transfers to temporary duty assignments so you know where he was at all times. Often, men were sent to DS (detached service) to help another unit. In those moments you also want to consult the other unit's records to learn what was happening. This changes the soldier's war experience.
4. Changes in status to MIA, POW, KIA are also listed.
5. Awards may be listed in Morning Reports if the clerk added that information. Many people want to know when or why a soldier received a specific award or decoration. This is one resource to help you discover that information and the often elusive General Order (GO) number.

Important! In a recent conversation on Facebook, someone posted they couldn't trace their soldier every day, I suggested Morning Reports. Their response was they were working with DPAA because their soldier was still MIA and DPAA had provided unit level records and told them the OMPF burned. I responded that DPAA didn't provide all the information possible and Morning Reports are the answer.

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provide you with the Morning Reports and details on service. If you want this information, you have to find it yourself or work with a researcher to locate this information. If they tell you it is impossible because the OMPF burned, they are wrong. You can retrace service without the OMPF.

Want to learn more about Morning Reports, how they can help your research, and how to obtain them? Read my articles:

[Company Morning Reports](#)

[More on Company Morning Reports](#)

You can also [watch](#) the NARA Genealogy Fair session on Morning Reports from October 2016. [Download the slides/handouts](#).

What clues and information have you discovered in Morning Reports? Please share with us in the comments.

Can I help you with your research?

Are you ready to learn the bigger picture of your family member's military service? Email us at info@wwiirwc.com to set up your free phone consultation today to discuss project options, fees, and time. You can also **sign-up for our free newsletter**.

Want More Resources?

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Also explore my [military research books](#).

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WWII Education – More on

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Company Morning Reports

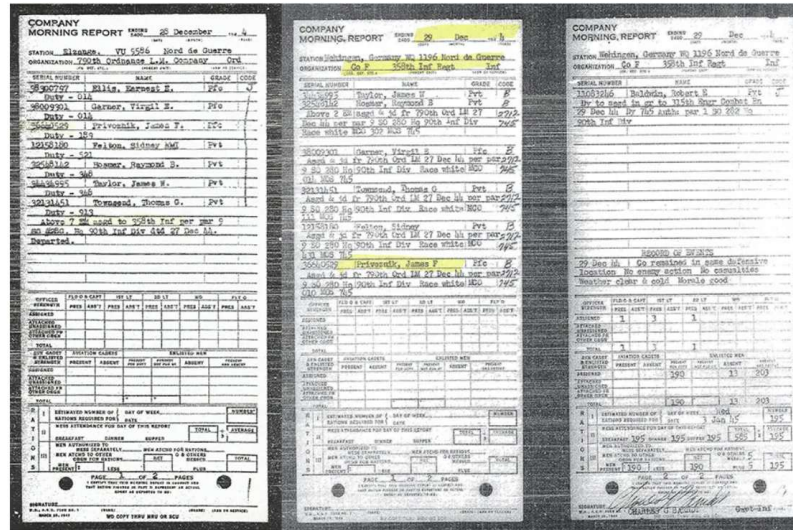
July 25, 2016 by Jennifer Holik — 7 Comments

I recently wrote an article on [Company Morning Reports](#). People asked me several questions about them, so here is a little more information on these valuable reports.

What do all those codes and abbreviations mean?

There are many codes and abbreviations on Morning Reports. Here are a few resources to help you decipher what you are looking at.

- [Morning Report Abbreviations](#) (from 103rd website)
- [MOS \(job\) codes](#)



Why doesn't information show up on the day it

happened?

It is rare for the information of a soldier's wound, Prisoner of War (POW) status, Missing In Action (MIA) status, Killed In Action (KIA) status, illness, or transfer (among other things) to appear on a report the day it happened. Word had to move up the line from the source (hospital, Red Cross, soldier's buddies, Graves Registration Service, etc.) to the clerk creating the records. Always look past the day an event happened. In the case of one soldier I researched in the 2nd Infantry Division, he and three other men were KIA on 15 June 1944 in France. They did not appear on a Morning Report as KIA until 11 July 1944.

We need to remember during certain times, think major campaigns or battles, that many men were changing status due to wounds, POW, MIA, or KIA. Men were also coming into the companies to replace those who were no longer part of the company. The clerk had a lot of work to do each day to record all these changes. Throughout the chaos of battle, information also may have been lost or taken longer to reach the man in charge of the records.

Why do some Morning Reports not exist?

There are many reasons WWII records do not exist. They may include but are not limited to the following.

- Fire
- Flood/water damage
- Weather
- Chemicals or other spilled on the records
- Records were in a vehicle, plane, ship, building which was destroyed during the war
- Left behind when a unit moved and never recovered
- Purposely destroyed by a unit during the war
- Purposely destroyed by the archives after the war

Why is the quality bad or almost impossible to read the Morning Report?

Records were typed on a typewriter or handwritten. There were no computers then to keep track of everything. Records may have not been in the best condition after creation, let alone years later when they were microfilmed to be used by researchers. Some are terribly faded and almost unreadable. Others are in ok condition, and some are fantastic. You never know what you will get until you start looking. When the record is too damaged or illegible to move your research forward, look at unit records for the journals which document things that happened each day. They will not replace Company Morning Reports, especially if you need to trace service of your soldier, but will provide a more detailed record of events than may be on the

report. They should also trace where a unit was each day.

How do we access these records?

You can hire a researcher to pull the records or you can visit the National Personnel Records Center yourself and go through the microfilm.

To learn more about Morning Reports, see my books *Stories from the World War II Battlefield*, which provide a more in-depth look at these records. You can also see several examples at the [80th Infantry Division](#) website.

Can I help you with your research?

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WWII Education – Company Morning Reports

February 15, 2016 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [18 Comments](#)

*All the records burned and I cannot tell my
soldier's story!*

How many times have you heard that phrase uttered by Army, Air Forces, and

the
prior
day
for
the

MESS ATTENDANCE FOR DAY OF THIS REPORT				TOTAL	AVERAGE		
BREAKFAST	144	DINNER	144	SUPPER	144	432	144
MEN AUTHORIZED TO MESS SEPARATELY		MEN ATCHD FOR RATIONS		NET	O & OTHERS MESSED	TOTAL	
MEN ATCHD TO OTHER ORGN FOR RATIONS		NET		O & OTHERS MESSED	7	143	
PRESENT	136	LESS	136	PLUS	7		

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
I CERTIFY THAT THIS MORNING REPORT IS CORRECT AND THAT FIGURES IN PART II REPRESENT AN ACTUAL COUNT AS PROVIDED TO ME:

SIGNATURE *H M PELTMAN* H M PELTMAN WO(1g) USA NMB
U.S. A.S.D. FORM NO. 1 (REV. 1-1948) (GRADE) (LAW OR SERVICE)
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1946 & 100
GENERAL

events of a Company. To locate information in Morning Reports you must know the Company in which your soldier served. It is not enough to know in which division or regiment. The Company can be found on a discharge paper or IDPF or any other letter or document that has a unit listed on it. Morning Reports can be traced in any direction based on the information you have.

Morning Reports listed many details about the company which include:

- The location of the company for the date of the report.
- Strength of the unit in numbers of men
- Details of those entering and leaving the company
- Names of those declared AWOL, Missing In Action, Killed In Action, or wounded.
- The reports also provided information on the day's events. Some clerks reported weather conditions, in addition to the usual information on where the unit was fighting, and other enemy encounters.

The companies were required to report numbers of men at each meal, which provided information to the Army, who then was able to provide food and appropriate supplies for the soldiers. These numbers also alerted headquarters when the ranks were depleted and replacements were needed.

Morning Reports are useful because they can help you track a soldier's service from start to finish, as long as the company clerk included all the details of the entrance and exit of a soldier, showing where he came from, and where he was going. Not all company clerks did this or had the time to do this. If you cannot find detailed information within a Morning Report, consider the battle conditions under which the clerks were trying to compile reports.

Analyzing a Morning Report

The Morning Report shown in this post is for I Company 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) of the 82nd Infantry Division. What can we learn from this report?

- Date of the report
- Location (but be careful with Airborne reports because their station is reported as being in England, but if you keep looking at the reports, you will end up at month's end learning the company is really in Holland and has been there several days.) Always check other records to ensure your soldier's company was where you think it was.

- We see Robert Wagner listed as going from duty to slightly injured in action. We have his serial number and rank. Knowing he was injured adds to his timeline of service we can create. Had he been removed from the company, that would have been noted.
- We know how many men are in the company this date.
- We have a record of events which helps us locate additional histories and records.

How do we access these records?

You can hire a researcher to pull the records or you can visit the National Personnel Records Center yourself and go through the microfilm.

To learn more about Morning Reports, see my books *Stories from the World War II Battlefield*, which provide a more in-depth look at these records. You can also see several examples at the [134th Infantry Regiment](#) 35th Infantry Division website.

Can I help you with your research?

Are you ready to learn the bigger picture of your family member's military service? Email us at info@wwiirwc.com to set up your free phone consultation today to discuss project options, fees, and time. You can also [sign-up for our free newsletter](#).

Want More Resources?

Visit the WWII Education Website and explore my **military research webinars**. This pack comes with 14 pages of questions, checklists, and resources to help you start your military research (WWI – Vietnam).

Also explore my **military research books**.

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Air Force Accident Reports

May 1, 2024 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

There are so many possible records one can obtain to tell a veteran's World War II story and build the timeline of service. Alternatively, this is called reconstructing military history. There is a misconception that if a service file survived the NPRC 1973 Fire, that you don't have to reconstruct service history, but this is incorrect. Everyone does because the service file (OMPF) doesn't provide information in a way that's initially easy to understand or provides context of the experiences. You can read more about this in my article, [Reconstructing WWII Veteran History](#).

Did your family's veteran serve in the Air Corps/Army Air Force during WWII? Or perhaps the Air Force post-WWII? There is a record that's worth searching for if it exists for your veteran and that is the **Air Force Accident Report**. The Navy also has accident reports. This article though focuses on the Army Air Force reports.

An **Air Force Accident Report** (AAR) was created for any accident that occurred for a pilot or air crew, even if death did not occur. This information can provide more details about your veteran's service and add to your timeline of service.

How do you know if your veteran was involved in an accident? Search the newspapers. Check the AAR database at [Aviation Archaeology](#). Conduct research and locate this in the Morning Reports.

My Family's Air Force Accident Reports



My family has not had good luck with marriage in WWII if someone was in the Army Air Corps/Army Air Forces. My cousin the AVG Flying Tiger, Robert Brouk survived being shot by the Japanese, only to die in a plane crash training pilots in Orlando, FL, just three weeks after he married. His story is in my book *Stories of the Lost* along with his AVG War Diary.

My cousin Emil Ratay was killed in a plane crash in Missouri less than 24 hours after getting married.

Death Parts Army Flier and Bride of 20 Hours

North Royalton Officer
Killed in Air Crash

BY JOHN G. BLAIR

"... till death do you part."
When Miss Mildred Schreiner, 21, of 2844 W. 12th Street, gave her responses to the marriage vows Tuesday morning in a little church at Malden, Mo., she did not realize that within 24 hours the words said by the priest would assume tragic reality.

Be-side her, in neatly-pressed knaki, as she knelt before the altar was Flight Officer Emil P. Ratay—the youth for whom she had waited,



two years while he was winning his wings as an army pilot.

Yesterday the honeymoon — and everything else that was to be — was but a dream of the past.

Transport Plane Crashes

All of the girl's happiness and plans went plunging down with the army transport plane that carried her husband to his death a scant 20 hours after they were married.

Word of the tragedy arrived here just a few hours after the families of the couple received the glad tidings of the marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ratay of Ridge Road, North Royalton, parents of the flier, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schreiner, the bride's parents, were stunned by the news.

"It seems impossible," was all that Mrs. Ratay could say. "We just received the telegram about the wedding, and then a few min-

FLIGHT OFFICER EMIL P. RATAY

utes later we got the wire about Emil's death. Life moves so fast these days."

According to the army, Flight Officer Ratay was one of four men killed in the crash of a C-47 transport plane near Zalma, Mo., while on a routine flight from the Malden Army Air Field. Details of the crash were not released.

Miss Schreiner left Cleveland last Saturday to meet Flight Officer Ratay at Malden. They had wanted to be together when Ratay realized his ambition — award of his second lieutenant's commission this Saturday.

Flight Officer Ratay attended North Royalton High School and was employed by the Brost Pattern & Casting Co. before entering the army 21 months ago.

Besides his bride, who works for



MRS. MILDRED SCHREINER RATAY

the R-B Biscuit Co., and his parents, he is survived by three brothers, Warrant Officer Aldrich in

England, Joseph and Woodrow. Funeral services for the flier will be held here early next week.



Fred Davis lower bottom 2nd from right. Bomb Crew.

in my book *The Tiger's Widow*.

Now Fred's accident report is from Michigan when his bomber was preparing to depart for the east coast. There was an issue with the break line and the propeller smashed into a hangar door. No deaths, no injuries, but the plane was damaged so

Then there is Fred Davis, the copilot on a bomber that was shot down over Austria 2 November 1943. He would have been Virginia Brouk's brother in-law, had he not died during WWII. Virginia was Robert's widow and met her second husband Harvey, Fred's brother, while working as a WAC in Egypt in 1944. Virginia's story is

an accident report was created.

Air Force Accident Report Contents

These files range anywhere from 10 pages up to 40 or more, depending on the circumstance of the accident. They are on microfilm so any photos that exist may not be high quality. The ones I've received are very grainy. These files exist even if no one died. Contents may include the following. These are just some of the documents you may discover in your file.

- Details of the crash or accident.
- Names of all those involved in the accident.
- Photos of the crash site and planes or property involved.
- Basic details of military service including flight time or training.
- Testimony from the individual or crew (if they survived).
- Testimony from those in the vicinity (air or ground) on what took place.
- Accident or crash investigation.
- Maps.
- Details on the outcome of the investigation and any impact to the living pilot or crew member as needed.

Accessing these files is easy. Contact the [AFHRA](#) to request a copy of the AAR

(Air Force Accident Report) for the veteran you are researching. This file will be sent digitally.

Learn More

[Read Robert Brouk's Air Force Accident Report.](#)

[Read Emil's Air Force Accident Report.](#)

[Read Fred Davis' Air Force Accident Report.](#)

Research Your Veteran's Story

If you'd like to learn your veteran's history, I take research and book clients. Email me at jennifer@ancestralsouls.com and let's set up a time to chat. I offer free consults to discuss the research strategy, fees, time, and possibilities.

You can also pick up a copy of my book [Research a Veteran](#) which will guide you through the initial information gathering.

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Military Monday – 3rd Army After Action Reports Operations Volume

November 23, 2015 by [Jennifer Holik](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)



This morning I returned to my usual research room at [Pritzker Military Museum and Library](#) in Chicago. I try to be here one day a week to do research and write, because it is a fantastic research library and the staff is

amazing. Today I was shown a new acquisition, the After action report: Third US Army, 1 August 1944 – 9 May 1945. Vol I, the operations.

The book is old and gigantic and over 3 inches thick and beautiful. I had to use gloves to see it. You can download a PDF of this book at the link above. It contains

all the operations reports for the Third Army with photographs on almost every page and more maps than I can count! It is an incredible resource for examining the high level part of the war through the eyes of the Third Army.

So what if you are like me and research more of the individual soldier story rather than a high level story? Is this book useful?

Absolutely.

- There are photographs and maps which add context to the story of your soldier who was part of the Third Army.
- Official reports are in the book in full text so you can see the historical context of what the Third Army and specific divisions were doing and where they were in battle.
- There are statistics on casualties, replacements, material, battles, and other facets of war which again, add context.

This book is available upon request at the library and is held in the Rare Book Room. While I enjoy the fact it is available as a PDF online, I can't wait to use the book again soon for client work.

What cool books have you discovered at your favorite research locations?

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