

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 12

Recovered but Unknown for Seventy-Seven Years -

The problems and activities in repatriating the dead from the vast Pacific area were extraordinary, beginning with the central Pacific and ending on the mainland of Asia. The plan to return the war dead to the United States for permanent burial met with general approval. A sizable majority of the next of kin expressed their preference for repatriation rather than for overseas interment. Of approximately 86,000 remains recovered through June 1951 from the Pacific area commands and the Asiatic Mainland, a total of 54,692 would receive final interment in their native soil.

By May 1947, the collection and survey of Pacific records had uncovered sufficient data to warrant the formation of extensive search and recovery expeditions, the plans for which had been built up rather gradually. The decision to carry out such an undertaking resulted from careful thought on the matter. The formulation of an Army Graves Registration/Pacific (AGFPAC) plan, entitled "The Operations Plan for Search and Recovery of Isolated Burials, AGFPAC Area," dated 8 March 1947, marked an important step in the preparations preceding the expeditions.

Later in 1945, the War Department indicated its intention to repatriate World War II deceased according to wishes of the next of kin. immediate efforts were begun to hasten recovery work in the India-Burma and other Theaters. In consequence of the shortage of graves registration personnel, the 24th Ordnance Maintenance Company was activated and filled by volunteers for search and recovery operations. It undertook a complete investigation of plane crashes and other isolated mishaps in Assam and Burma, while the 970th and 971st Quarter Master Supply Detachments moved war dead from temporary cemeteries into the two major concentration points at Barrackpore and Kalaikunda in West Bengal, India.

Estimates of Unrecovered Dead in India-Burma Theater		
Area	Cases ¹²	Remains
Assam	44	161
Bengal	55	197
North Burma	213	753
South Burma	41	277
Siam	1	1
Malay	6	27
French Indo-China	9	40
Sumatra	3	20
Java	9	111
Borneo	17	115
Celebs	9	59
Lesser Sundar Islands	2	2
	409	1,763

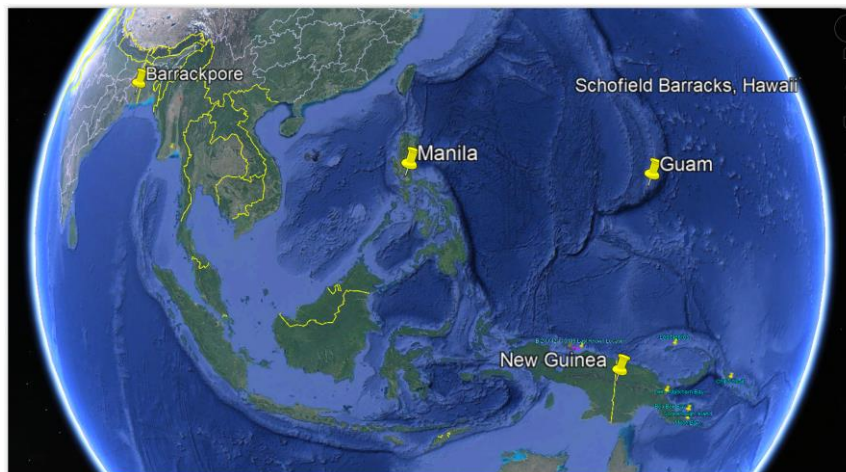
¹² A "Case" represented one bounded problem for a search and recovery team, such as the removal of all bodies from one plane crash or one cemetery.

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Overseas Cemeteries - At the close of World War II, the War Department made apparent its intention to repeat its World War I policy of establishing permanent overseas cemeteries, where the Nation's honored, but unrepatriated dead might rest eternally. The plan, issued on 8 September 1945, contained a list of proposed overseas cemeteries which included only two for the Pacific war theaters - Honolulu, in the Hawaiian Islands, and Bataan, or another suitable site near Manila, in the Philippines. The War Department did not believe that the comparatively small number of dead in China, India, Burma, the Malayan Peninsula, or the Dutch East Indies warranted the creation of cemeteries in those areas. Most interested officials favored the disinterment and repatriation of the war dead from these regions or their final interment in better-located, permanent overseas burial grounds, according to the wishes of their relatives.

Concentration of all Pacific war area deceased into five centralized points and accompanying search and recovery efforts were a massive multi-year undertaking. They were the first step closely linked with the creation of permanent overseas burial grounds to accommodate those remains recovered from isolated resting places.

These five locations served as recovery and identification hubs where remains were initially interred or stored temporarily before being moved to permanent overseas cemeteries or returned to the United States. The five main centralized locations were:



1. **Schofield Barracks, Hawaii**
— One of the most significant hubs, located on Oahu, it was used for storing remains temporarily and served as a processing center before final burials at Punchbowl (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) or repatriation to the U.S.

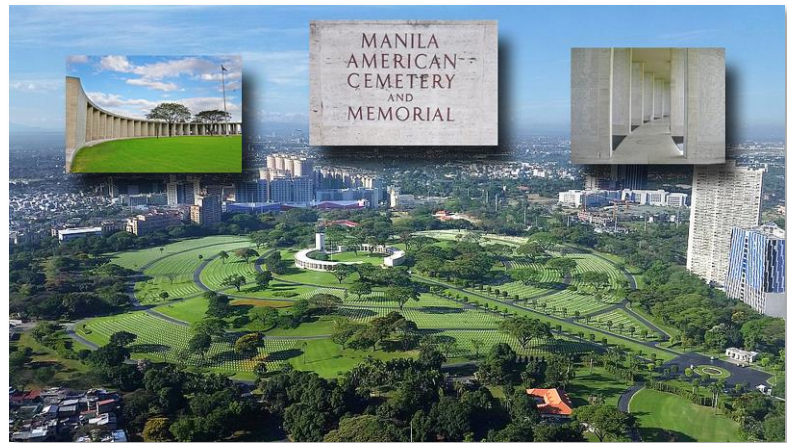


CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

2. **Barrackpore, India** – Barrackpore served as a recovery point for remains from Burma and surrounding areas in Southeast Asia. After initial processing here, remains were often sent to Schofield Barracks or other locations.



3. **Manila, Philippines** – The Manila American Cemetery became a major point for the recovery and processing of remains from the Philippines and nearby islands. It is now one of the largest American cemeteries overseas.



4. **Guam** – Camp Asan – Asan Beach. A critical location for remains recovered from the Northern Pacific area, including the Mariana Islands. Remains from operations such as the Battle of Saipan were processed here.



CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

5. **New Guinea** – Finschhafen Cemetery - This location handled the remains of servicemen who were killed in action in the South Pacific region, especially from the campaigns in Papua New Guinea and nearby island chains.



These hubs were essential in managing the large-scale efforts to identify and repatriate remains from the Pacific Theater. Remains were often stored temporarily before being permanently interred, either in overseas cemeteries or returned to their families in the United States for burial.

Searching Begins on Two Fronts

Progress in graves registration matters in Burma at the end of April 1947, including search and recovery efforts during the period since 15 August 1946, showed approximately 230 remains had been recovered, of which 162 were awaiting medical processing. It was estimated that identities would be established for 50 percent either as individuals or as groups.

Two parallel approaches were undertaken in an attempt to locate all military personnel missing in action. In one approach, teams were organized to find aircraft crash sites and look for remains in the immediate area. The second focused on areas of hostile actions where casualties were buried where they fell or in mass graves. Both approaches were productive. However, given the sheer volume and breadth of the effort, better coordination might have resolved some cases that remained open for many years.

There were six B-24 crash sites in the Rangoon area of Burma, five alone occurred on 1 December 1943. All had eyewitness reports including last known locations for the aircraft except McLauchlen's plane, the Apocalypse. By 1946, two of the crash sites had been found, Stringfellow and Carpenter, and sixteen of nineteen crew members remains had been recovered. Of the remaining three crashes that had fatalities (Elliott, Winter and McLauchlen, Gibby's pilot and crew) no crash sites were located.

PILOT	S/N	LOSS	# CREW	BAILED OUT	CAPTURED	SURVIVED CAPTURE	KILLED IN CRASH	RECOVERED	NOT RECOVERED
Elliott	42-73183	1 DEC '43	10	1			10	0	10
Wright	42-73055	1 DEC '43	10	10	10	5	0	0	NA
Stringfellow	42-73159	1 DEC '43	11	2			11	11	0
Carpenter	42-73222	1 DEC '43	10	2	2	1	8	5	3
McLauchlen	42-73196	1 DEC '43	10	0			10	0	10
Winter	41-25747	2 JUL '43	9	0			9	0	9
TOTAL			60	15	12	6	48	16	32

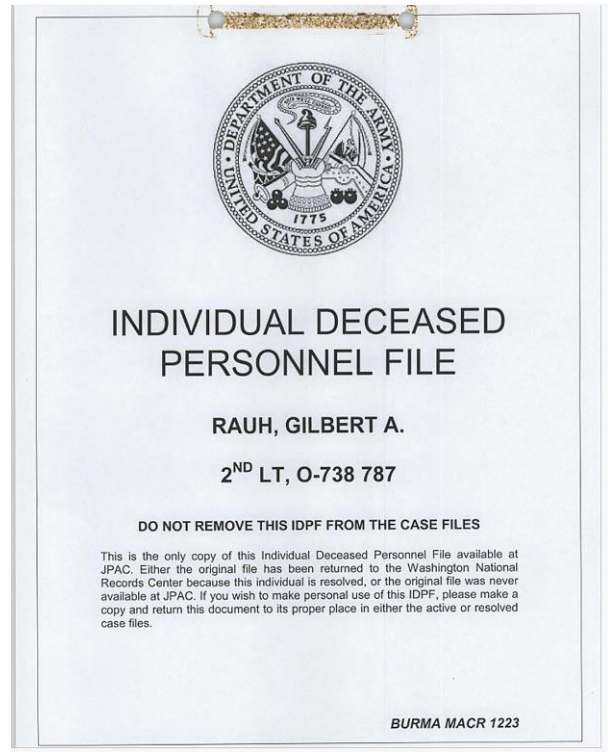
CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Individual Deceased Personnel Files

Meticulous record keeping for all personnel missing in action was maintained by the Department of the Army and kept active by JPAC. Once recovered and identified these files were returned to the Washington National Records Center, known today as the National Archives.¹³

The IDPF's are the principal files used by the DPAA for their search, recovery and identification efforts. They are also a critical central repository for information accumulated as more effort was expended and more potentially useful data collected. As of 2025, the contents of the WWII files in particular were predominantly from records and efforts of the Allied Forces. That may change in the future as other avenues are pursued.¹⁴

These file contain the following:



Content Category	Typical Contents
Identification & Service	Name, birth details, service number, unit, rank/rating, death/disappearance data
Casualty & Burial Info	Death circumstances, burial/disinterment records, OQMG Form 345
Physical Identification	Photos, dental/physical charts, fingerprints, race, skeletal documentation, medical records, hair and eye color
Correspondence	Letters to/from family and officials
Effects & Service Records	Personal items inventory, training, promotions, insurance, courts-martial
Search/Testimony Records	Eyewitness statements, maps, ongoing search efforts documentation

¹³ 2nd LT Gilbert A. Rauh's IDPF is shown in Appendix E.

¹⁴ DPAA Director Kelly McKeague has put the author in contact with Jeffrey K. Johnson, Indo-Pacific, Chief of the Research Division, DPAA, to look at the possibility of reviewing Japanese fighter pilot records as another source of information as was done in researching this book.

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

The fruitless search for the Apocalypse crash site continued until April of 1948 when the Governing Board of Officers overseeing the crash site search activities closed the case.

Review of Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance of personnel Presumed Dead. 28 April 1948

1. The following-named Air Corps personnel were reported missing inaction in the Asiatic Area on 1 December 1943, while in flying pay status, by Casualty Branch Message Number 340006-S, and were presumed dead as of 4 February 1946, under the provisions of Section 5; Missing Persons Act (SR&D No. 1701A):

Bowes, Pershing E. 2nd Lt 0674124

McLauchlen, John E., Jr. 2rid Lt 0797160293

Rauh, Gilbert A. 2nd Lt 0738787 dt

Watts, Elden W. 2nd Lt 0680554

Ropinski, Roman J. T Sgt 16034281

Seifreid, Harold L. T Sgt 13080602

Pyle, Edward K. S Sgt 35300957

Tedone; Frank J. S Sgt 11094405

Morley, Charles M. S Sgt 19017399

Nixon, Claude E. S Sgt 38114201

Missing Air Crew Report No. 1223, dated 2 December 1943, shows that the above persons were members of the crew, and sole occupants, of a B-24J(Liberator) bomber, serial number 42-73196 of the 436th Bombardment Squadron(H), 7th Bombardment Group (H), which took off from its base at Panagarh, India, on a type "1" bombing mission to Rangoon, Burma on 1 December 1943. The plane was last sighted at 1225 hours between Insein and Rangoon, the weather at this time was "visibility poor due to intervening clouds". The plane "was believed to have been hit by anti-aircraft fire and was then attacked by enemy fighters".

Board of Officers was convened on 27 July 1947 at Headquarters, American Graves Registration Service, India-Burma Zone, APO 465, Calcutta, India, to investigate the status of the personnel mentioned in paragraph 1. The Board proceedings, approved by the Chief, Memorial Division, Office of the Quartermaster General on 15 December 1947, are quoted as follows:

"Findings - The Board having carefully considered the evidence presented finds that the individuals listed above met death as crew members aboard a B 24J type aircraft, AAF Serial Number 42-73196, that crashed while on a bombing mission to Rangoon, Burma. It is the opinion of the Board that any further attempts for the recovery of their remains would prove unsuccessful for the following reasons:

a. Data contained in the files of this headquarters supplemented with the information contained on OQMIG Form 371 is insufficient to establish a definite location to which Search and Recovery Teams can be dispatched for possible recovery of their remains.

b. Statement made by 1st Lt Emil A. Kremer, flying in the same formation, (Attached as Exhibit 'B'), furnished no definite location last seen.

c. Thorough and systematic search in the area in which this aircraft was reported missing has failed to reveal any information that would lead to the location of the wreckage or any information that would lead to the recovery of the crew of this ill-fated aircraft.

*Recommendations - In view of the findings the Board recommends that no further attempts towards recovery of subject decedents be made and that their remains be **'Declared Non-Recoverable'**."*

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Two years earlier in 1946, based on hearsay of a November 1943 B-24J aircraft crash and a possible related mass grave, expedition #505 went to the Burmese village of Yodayadet, seventy-five miles west of Rangoon and forty miles short of the coastline. While interviewing villagers, they were told about Japanese occupiers ordering them to recover bodies from an aircraft crash. Two mass grave sites were dug for those bodies. With only four years transpiring since the burial, the villagers were clear on the location of the graves and they were easily found. Apparently, locating the crash site was either not pursued or not successful.



The villagers recalled eleven sets of remains although it was only a ten-man crew. Nonetheless, only eight sets of remains were exhumed and taken by air for temporary storage at the mausoleum at Barrackpore, India, one of five main concentration point for war dead recoveries.



In post–World War II remains recovery, especially by organizations like the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and later the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, each set of unidentified or buried remains was assigned a unique case or file designation. These were commonly known as "X-files." Each X-file documented everything about that particular set of remains—location details, disinterment directives, examinations, descriptions, identifiers, and any efforts toward identification. X-files served as a primary reference for forensic, administrative, and archival management of each recovered set of remains—even before the term "X-file" became common parlance among recovery teams and researchers.

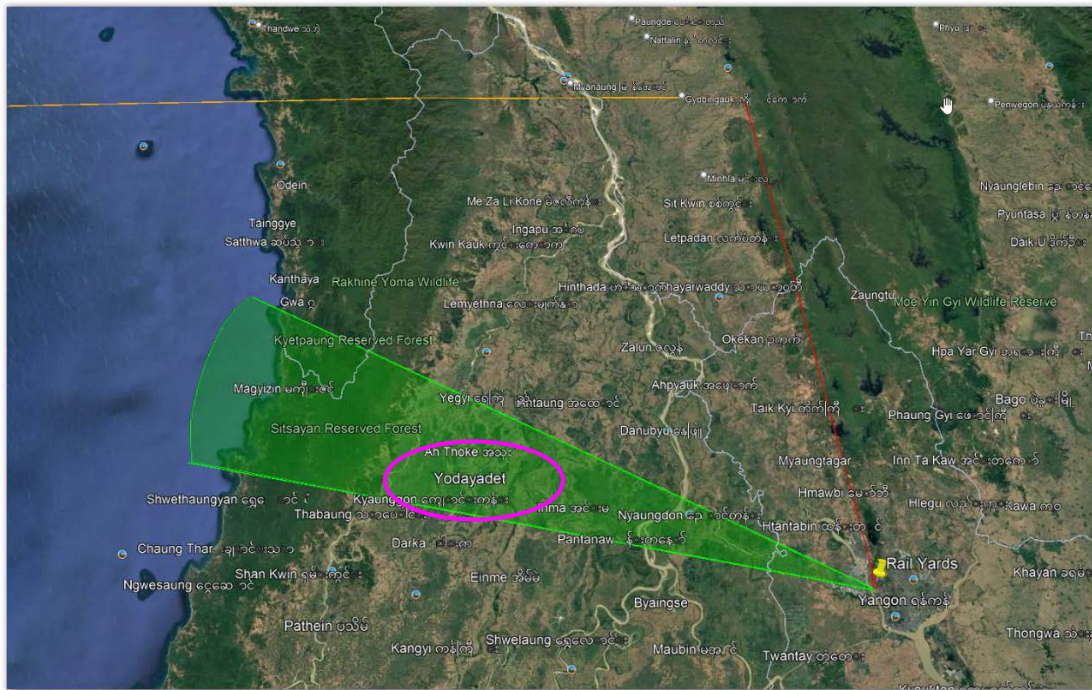
While X-files document the remains recovered and their forensic characteristics, IDPFs contain detailed personal and service-related data—physical descriptions (height, weight, eye/hair color), dental charts, training, unit assignments, etc. Researchers would compare the forensic findings in an X-file against the corresponding IDPF to establish a potential match. Thus, an X-file served as the missing piece connecting physical remains to a personal profile.

Thus, the eight individuals from Case # 505 were assigned "X" files – specifically X-505A, X-505B, X-505C, X-505D, X-505E, X-505E, X-505F and X-505G. These numbers are unique and were permanently assigned to individual remains.

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES



At the time 2nd LT George Hofmann's book was being compiled in 2014, a projection of possible wreck site locations for Gibby's B-24J as derived from eyewitness accounts and other assumptions was offered. It is of interest to see that the village of Yodayadet falls within those projections. [Repeated here from page 116.]



In November 1947, after several months' interruption because of the monsoon season, search and recovery operations based on cases for which specific information was available, were resumed. Six teams departed to recheck specific cases and to work on others that offered hope for recovery of remains. Five teams recovered 29 sets of remains during December. Except for parts of the Netherlands East Indies, the search and recovery mission in the Pacific Zone had been completed, and it formally ceased on schedule at the close of 1947.

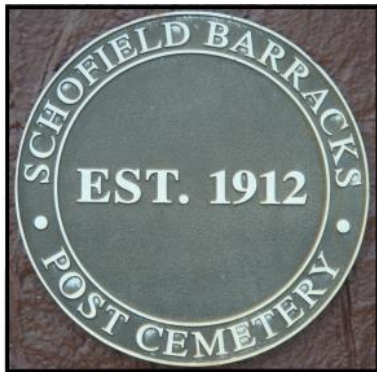
By the end of the following January, 1,352 cases had been closed as unrecoverable. Some involved those who had drowned at sea enroute to India or in rivers while stationed in the Zone. Others had perished in

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

air crashes in remote and inaccessible regions. A few deceased lay in known locations, but attempts to recover them were abandoned because of natural or political dangers to the safety of searchers.

On 31 March 1948, the overall graves registration program, too, terminated, bringing to a close in two years and one month an operation which generally had been estimated to consume three or more years. During its existence, search teams had re-covered 1,182 remains. A total of 1,449 deceased were declared unrecoverable by a Board of Officers appointed by AGRS Headquarters.

While the eight sets of unidentified remains from the Village of Yodayadet rested at Barrackpore, raging debates were underway regarding the ultimate locations of the few overseas locations to be the final resting places for the dead. These remains would stay at Barrackpore until November/December 1947 when the dead would be removed from the mausoleum and taken by ship to Schofield Barracks Cemetery on Oahu in the Hawaiian Territories. They would be kept in above-ground facilities pending their ultimate resting places in either the US Mainland or at what would eventually become Punchbowl Cemetery. Still not identified, these possible crewmates would be laid to rest in “Unknown Soldier” graves.



The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific - The first proposals for a national cemetery in the Territory of Hawaii date back to the years between the two world wars. Hawaiian veterans of World War I, spearheaded by the American Legion, waged an active campaign for such a site. The first concrete results of their efforts came late in 1941 with the approval of legislation appropriating \$50,000 for the establishment of a national cemetery in Hawaii, provided land was made available at no cost to the Federal Government.

Within a month after passage of this legislation, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, signaling American entrance into World War II. In the months that followed, bickering arose over the question of the actual location of the proposed cemetery. In August 1943, the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG) took the matter out of the hands of the Hawaiian Department by its statement that the War Department had no intention of establishing a national cemetery in Hawaii during hostilities.

When World War II ended, the Quartermaster, Army Forces Middle Pacific (AFMIDPAC), suggested continued inaction in the matter, even though the \$50,000 was still available. His attitude evidently reflected the disfavor with which local Army Headquarters then regarded the so-called Punchbowl (the crater of an extinct volcano which lay on the out-skirts of Honolulu), as a possible cemeterial site and the

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

prevailing official sentiment which seemingly supported a policy of waiting until after the repatriation program had begun. Several factors guided AFMIDPAC thinking. In the first place, firm requirements for permanent overseas burial grounds could not be accurately determined until after the next of kin had been polled on their preference as to final disposition of remains. Secondly, the formal establishment of a national cemetery required Congressional action, which had not as yet been forthcoming. Finally, the War Department favored a careful study of cemeterial sites and the selection of only a limited number.

Later in 1945 and during the early part of 1946, officials in Memorial Division, OQMG, and in HQ, AFMIDPAC, gave further thought to the establishment of a permanent burial ground near Honolulu, but took no positive steps in that direction. On 2 April 1946, however, The Quartermaster General apprised the Commanding General, ASF, that "in a study being conducted by the War Department for a selection of permanent cemeteries, the site being considered for Hawaii is on the Island of Oahu, T. H., within proximity of crater of Punch Bowl, Honolulu."

By August 1946, Col. H. R. McKenzie, Quartermaster, AFMIDPAC, concluded that Honolulu would definitely become the site of an overseas national cemetery. Based upon the number of temporary burials in the MIDPAC area, he estimated that about 5,000 remains would rest there - a figure far short of the number finally interred. Since he and other MIDPAC officials then contemplated beginning repatriation operations in the Hawaiian Islands during March 1947, Colonel McKenzie urged The Quartermaster General to take immediate action toward establishing the cemetery. But exchanges of correspondence between Washington and Honolulu resulted in no immediate choice of a site. By the end of 1946, the full magnitude of the oncoming repatriation program thrust itself upon AFMIDPAC officials, and Headquarters, AFMIDPAC, dispatched an urgent radiogram to OQMG requesting funds for an Engineer Survey of the Punchbowl area and an early appropriation from Congress for its development.

Early in February 1947, as a result of this pressure for action, OQMG contacted the Office of the Chief of Engineers, which quickly authorized the Western Engineer Division to formulate plans for the proposed cemetery. During this same period, the Department of the Army began efforts to secure Congressional approval of the project. In Honolulu, meanwhile, the Punchbowl site received growing support from such local organizations as the City Planning Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, veterans' organizations, and other groups. Nevertheless, there was last minute pushback on the total expenditure of \$1.5M, uncertainty in the number of dead to be interred, the environmental impact and opposition groups painting a picture of an elevated city of the dead overlooking a city of the living, Honolulu.

Planning for the return of deceased servicemen from Pacific Ocean areas and the Asiatic mainland began long before 1947. While the controversy raged, Army authorities, somewhat disconcerted by the unfavorable action of the Congressional appropriations committee, feared that a permanent overseas burial ground would not materialize soon enough to play any important role in the swiftly approaching repatriation operations. The War Department devoted considerable attention to this part of the program, placing particular emphasis upon repatriation, outlining the general policies to be followed, and stressing as the guiding principle the wishes of the next of kin as to final disposition of remains.

This attitude grew despite the Hawaiian delegate's prompt introduction of another bill for the establishment of a national cemetery in Hawaii. In any case, on 1 August 1947, OQMG queried AGFPAC on the cost of adapting or expanding Schofield Barracks Post Cemetery for use as a temporary burial

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

ground. AGFPAC officials were only lukewarm to this suggestion, preferring above-ground storage of remains until a national cemetery site became available. They did not believe that such storage would cause any unfavorable public reaction. The War Department, taking cognizance of their attitude, soon dropped all plans for temporary burials in Schofield Barracks Cemetery and approved above-ground storage pending final disposition. Thus, that became the pathway to Punchbowl for the remains of Gibby and his crewmates.

In the early autumn of 1947, a group of Congressmen from the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committee visited the Hawaiian Islands. After surveying possible burial grounds, they approved the Punchbowl rather than Schofield Barracks as the site for a national cemetery. This highly favorable development, coupled with an obvious preference for the Punchbowl on the part of Memorial Division officials, practically settled the issue.

During the ensuing weeks, the final skirmishes of the campaign for the Punchbowl site took place on Capitol Hill. In February 1948, the Appropriations Committee approved necessary funds for the establishment of a national cemetery in the Punchbowl but disapproved a similar project on Guam. Instead, the Committee recommended the merger of the proposed Guam and Hawaiian burial grounds into the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu (Punchbowl) and allowed a total of \$1,172,000 for the task. This recommendation was enacted into law.

Since earlier estimates as to the numbers of war dead who would lie permanently in Pacific cemeteries had been based on the supposition that three burial grounds would be available, the action of Congress rendered these figures meaningless. The Chief, Operations Branch, Memorial Division, OQMG, immediately proposed that the estimated total of Pacific overseas burials - 38,022. The following two years of above-ground storage in Hawaii proved them correct in this assumption.

In Punchbowl, Honolulu, 40% of knowns in area	6,695
Add token unknowns	400
40% from Guam Area	8,834
Total estimated burials at Punchbowl	15,929
In Fort McKinley, Manila, 40% of knowns in area	13,906
All Pacific unknowns less 400 in Hawaii	7,593
Total Estimated Burials in Manila	21,499
40% of cremated remains in Pacific	594
Total estimated burials in Pacific	38,022

Construction of the Punchbowl Cemetery finally started in August 1948 and, for all practical purposes, was completed in September 1949. The task was accomplished in four phases under the supervision of the Honolulu District Engineer. The first phase consisted of clearing, grading, and preparing the site, and installing a drainage system; the second, of construction of water and electrical systems, retaining walls, sidewalks, and preliminary work on roads. The third phase included the building of entrance pylons, the flagpole and observation point, the completion of roads, top-soiling and grassing, and lastly, the general

CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

landscaping and construction of the superintendent's lodge, administration and utility buildings.

While construction activities were in progress, graves registration officers considered which methods and procedures should be followed in making final interments. After studying the construction schedule, the District Engineer recommended the period from 10 January to 28 February 1949 for the first phase of interments. As the end of 1948 approached, graves registration officials realized that burials could begin as early as 4 January 1949. By then, the subsoil water distribution lines, sewer lines and manholes and electric primary cables would have been installed and work begun on the fine grading and base course of the roads and on the curbing.

With the date for starting interments now determined and with work specifications written, the necessary directives were issued. Interments in the new cemetery commenced on 4 January 1949 with the reading of a burial service over the casket of an unknown serviceman who lost his life during the attack on Pearl Harbor. One hundred and eight others were buried that same day. The interment of these war dead shaped the general procedure followed during subsequent interments in the Punchbowl. Military chaplains of each of the major faiths professed by the decedents conducted appropriate rites, which were followed by the traditional firing of three volleys and the sounding of taps.

During the first phase of operations, covering the period from 4 January to 25 March, some 9,940 deceased received final burial. Interments occurred on 49 working days, with 8 days lost because of heavy rains. Those buried during this time came from such widely scattered localities as China, Australia, India, Burma, Saipan, Guam, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima, and the temporary Hawaiian Island cemeteries from which the remains had been disinterred more than a year previously and placed in above-ground storage. Those ten-thousand included the Yodayadet eight unidentified sets of remains temporarily stored at Schofield Barracks. Those remains were interred at Punchbowl in eight separate caskets in Section Q, Grave Sites 129 through 132, two to a site. The four grave site markers would read, "Unknown".

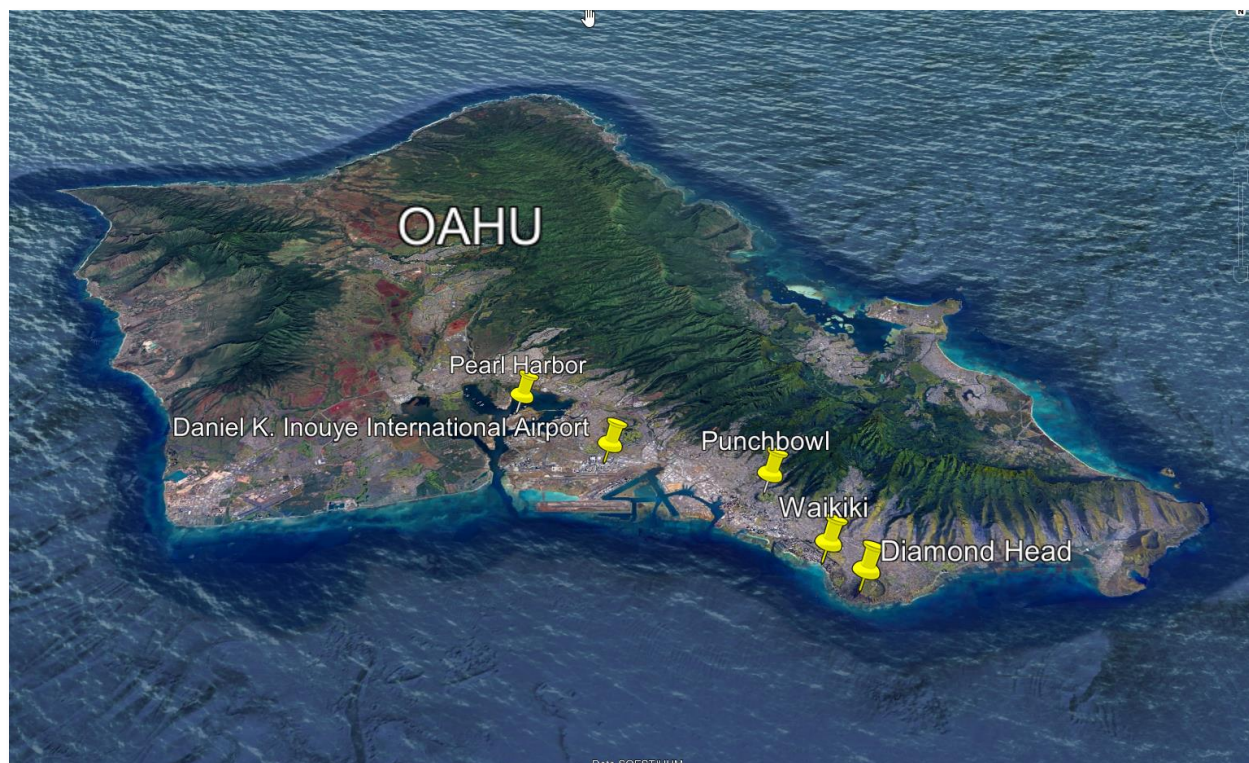


Punchbowl

The cemetery's official name is the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. However, most people know it simply as Punchbowl Cemetery. Effectively, the cemetery is the equivalent of Arlington National Cemetery, just in the Pacific. The Punchbowl Cemetery is also unique in that it is the only National Memorial Cemetery located on top of a mountain, about four miles from Waikiki, 6.6 miles from the Honolulu International Airport, 2.5 miles from Honolulu port, and 9.1 miles from Pearl Harbor National Memorial.



CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES



CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

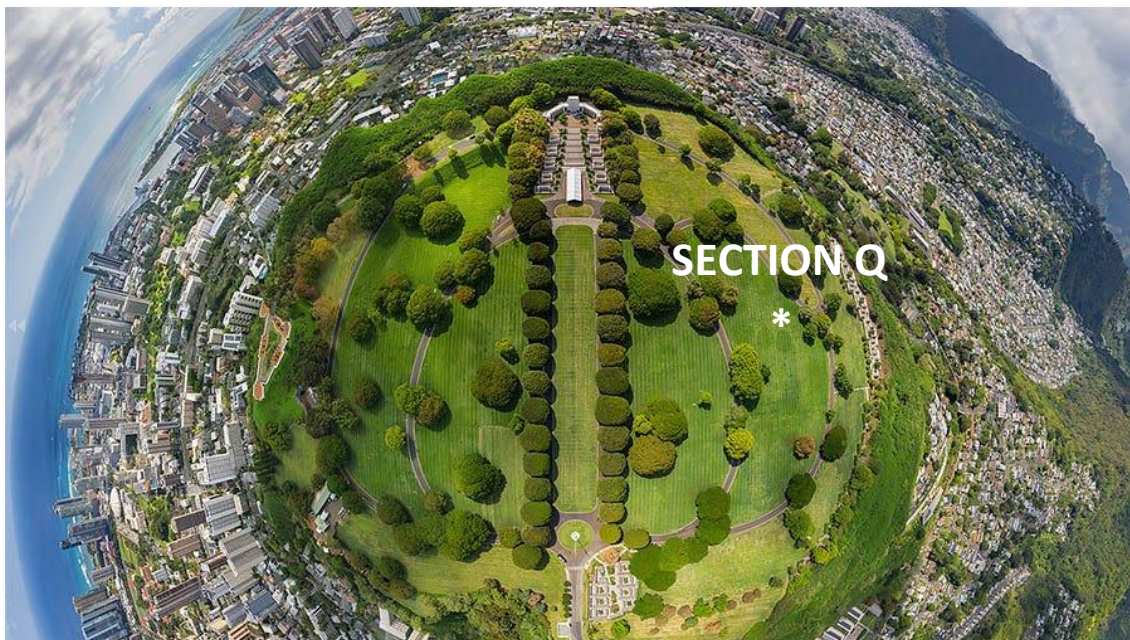
The most common Native Hawaiian name for the mountain where the cemetery is built is Puowaina (Poo-oh-wah-ee-na). This extinct volcanic crater was the location of many ancient Hawaiian rituals, including Human Sacrifice. Once the Kingdom of Hawaii was established, King Kamehameha placed a pair of saluting guns atop the mountain to welcome foreign dignitaries. The crater eventually ended up in the hands of the Hawaii Territorial guard, which has facilities in the crater.



During WWII, there were plans to use the Punchbowl as a location for shore batteries to defend Honolulu Harbor in the event of invasion. Tunnels were dug into the crater rim for the guns and observation positions. However, these plans were never completed.

While there had been thoughts of making Punchbowl crater into a cemetery as far back as the late 19th century, such plans were not popular. Locals were not enthused about a city of the dead looking down on a city of the living. It was not until WWII that plans were set in motion to establish a National Cemetery with Punchbowl Crater as the location.

Eight caskets with the remains recovered at Yodayadet, would be interred in four grave sites in Section Q.



CHAPTER 12 – WWII SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Grave Sites 129 through 132 were located just off of Outer Drive. The area was beautifully manicured and stunning as are most venues in Hawaii.

