

**Casualty Branch, Bureau of Personnel 1921-
1959**

COLL/655

4 cubic feet

**Updated by Roy Grossnick
March 2010**

**Archives Branch
Operational Archives Section
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374**

Records of the
Casualty Branch, Bureau of Personnel

1921-1959

4 cubic feet

Processed by
Wade Wyckoff
June 2001

Operational Archives Branch
Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

Historical Note

The Casualty Section was established within the Bureau of Personnel's Dependents Welfare Division to carry out a number of functions relating to deceased, missing, and wounded personnel serving in the Navy. During World War II, the Casualty Section was tasked with a variety of functions. In addition to keeping the Navy's official casualty lists, the Section prepared condolence letters from the Secretary of the Navy to service members' next-of-kin, forwarded accolades and ships' histories to the next-of-kin, and responded to their inquiries regarding the status of service members.

Following World War II, the staff of the Welfare Division declined sharply, from the 709 military and civilian personnel on duty as of 1 September 1945 to 138 by October 1946. Despite the decrease in strength throughout the Division, the Casualty Section's efforts continued, as they worked to complete action on wartime casualties. Much of this immediate post-war work involved determining the final status of men who had been listed as missing or as prisoners of war. When a final determination was made, the service member's status was changed accordingly, the next-of-kin notified, and forms for settlement of the death gratuity, arrears of pay, and A(V)N bonus sent. Additionally, the Section continued to answer a large number of inquiries family members, and with the war ended was able to provide them with more details regarding the loss of their loved one.

With the coming of the Korean War the number of Navy casualties grew, and the Casualty Section, now the Casualty Branch of the Bureau of Personnel, found itself facing a "tremendous increase" in work. Efforts were made to speed the notification of next-of-kin and the processing of their benefits. The multi-national nature of forces operating in Korea under the United Nations banner meant that casualties were sometimes foreign nationals. Working through the Chief of Naval Operations and U.S. naval attaches, special letters of condolence were prepared and sent to the next-of-kin of these foreign officers. The Casualty Branch also worked to improve and standardize procedures and policies with the other armed forces on such matters as statistics, disposition of personal effects of missing and deceased personnel and prisoners of war, the identification and repatriation of prisoners of war, and repatriation of Korean dead.

In the years following Korea, the Casualty Branch continued working to improve its responsiveness to family members and next-of-kin of Navy personnel. It issued new directives that progress reports on seriously ill and injured personnel be kept daily. Planning for a Casualty Assistance Program, in which a Navy officer would contact the family within hours of a casualty, was underway by 1953. Further, efforts were being made to improve relations between the armed forces and to develop Department of Defense forms that would expedite the payment of benefits. Cooperation with the State Department, United Nations, and other agencies on matters relating to missing and captured personnel would also be an ongoing program.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains records generated by the Casualty Branch of the Bureau of Personnel. Much of the collection relates to World War II and the Korean War, and casualty lists from both conflicts are included. Additionally, information on Navy casualties sustained as early as the Mexican-American War may be found in the collection. Later material, dating from the Vietnam era, consists largely of telegrams to next-of-kin following the 1967 explosion and fire on board USS *Forrestal*.

Other material found in these Records relates to the operation of the Casualty Branch. Their Procedure Manual, detailing the steps to be followed when casualties are incurred, is of special note. Changes to the Branch's standardized correspondence and telegram forms are also contained in the collection.

The collection is organized in four series. In Series I, State Summaries, are booklets created by the Casualty Branch following World War II. These booklets list Navy personnel from each state lost during the war. This series is arranged alphabetically by state.

Series II, Post-World War II, contains additional casualty lists. Among the items in this series are several lists of Navy losses in Korea, formatted both alphabetically and by state. Listings of officer casualties as late as 1959 and enlisted casualties through 1954 are included as well. This series is arranged alphabetically by title.

Series III, Investigation Reports, consists mostly of reports following the investigation of aircraft losses in which the crew was killed or captured. In some cases, the alleged mistreatment of captured aviators was examined as well. The reports include a synopsis of facts followed by a lengthier description of the incident and findings of the investigation. This series is arranged by the assigned case number.

The final series, Subject Files, contains a variety of documents. Included in this series are casualty lists from the Mexican-American and Spanish-American Wars, the interment of the Unknowns from World War I, World War II, and Korea at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Casualty Procedures Manual. Also of interest in this series are lists of Navy personnel buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of Hawaii and at Sitka, Alaska during World War II. Finally, the series holds telegrams and correspondence relating to the 1967 explosion and fire on USS *Forrestal*. Use of this material is restricted; see the Restrictions Note for further information. The Subject Files are arranged alphabetically by title.

Restrictions Note

Due to privacy considerations, the telegrams and message traffic relating to the USS *Forrestal* fire are restricted to Official Use Only until 1 January 2018.

Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as Records of the Casualty Branch, Bureau of Personnel, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, DC.

Subject Headings (LCSH)

Korean War, 1950-1953—Casualties
United States. Navy
World War, 1939-1945—Casualties

Box and Folder List

Box 1

Series I: State Summaries, 1946

1. Alabama	1946
2. Arizona	1946
3. Arkansas	1946
4. California	1946
5. Colorado	1946
6. Connecticut	1946
7. Delaware	1946
8. District of Columbia	1946
9. Florida	1946
10. Georgia	1946
11. Idaho	1946
12. Illinois	1946
13. Indiana	1946
14. Iowa	1946
15. Kansas	1946
16. Kentucky	1946

Box 2

Series I: State Summaries, 1946

17. Louisiana	1946
18. Maine	1946
19. Maryland	1946
20. Massachusetts	1946
21. Michigan	1946
22. Minnesota	1946
23. Mississippi	1946
24. Missouri	1946
25. Montana	1946
26. Nebraska	1946
27. Nevada	1946

Box 3

Series I: State Summaries, 1946

28. New Hampshire	1946
29. New Jersey	1946
30. New Mexico	1946
31. New York—Folder 1	1946
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33. North Carolina	1946
34. North Dakota	1946
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36. Oklahoma	1946
37. Oregon	1946

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Series I: State Summaries, 1946

38. Pennsylvania— Folder 1	1946
39. Pennsylvania— Folder 2	1946
40. Rhode Island	1946
41. South Carolina	1946
42. South Dakota	1946
43. Tennessee	1946
44. Texas	1946
45. Utah	1946

Series II: Post World War II, 1950-1959

46. Casualties— Enlisted	1950
47. Casualties— Enlisted	1951
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Box 5

Series II: Post World War II, 1950-1959

49. Casualties— Enlisted	1953
50. Casualties— Enlisted	1954
51. Casualties— Officers	1950-1951
52. Casualties— Officers	1952-1953
53. Casualties— Officers	1954-1955
54. Casualties— Officers	1956-1957
55. Casualties— Officers	1958-1959
56. Korean Casualties— Alphabetical	1957
57. Korean Casualties— State Lists— Enlisted	1955
58. Korean Casualties— State Lists— Officers	1955
59. Korean Mark Sense File— Book 1	1953
60. Korean Mark Sense File— Book 2	1953
61. Non-Recoverable Korean Casualties	1956

Box 6

Series III: Investigation Reports, 1946-1948

62. No. 466	1947-1948
63. No. 467	1948

64. No. 608	1947-1948
65. No. 759	1947-1948
66. No. 763	1947
67. No. 765	1947
68. No. 792	1946
69. No. 840	1948
70. No. 925	1946
71. No. 1062	1948
72. No. 1234	1947-1948
73. No. 1249	1946-1947
74. No. 1252	1948
75. No. 1257	1946
76. No. 1259	1946-1948
77. No. 1265	1947-1948
78. No. 1326	1947-1948
79. No. 1403	1946-1947
80. No. 1406	1948
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82. No. 1408	1946
83. No. 1608	1947
84. No. 1621	1947-1948
85. No. 1637	1948
86. No. 1646	1948
87. No. 1701	1947-1948
88. No. 1702	1947
89. No. 1739	1947
90. No. 1750	1947
91. No. 1803	1947-1948
92. No. 1804	1947-1948
93. No. 1844	1948
94. No. 1853	1948
95. No. 2076	1948
96. No. 2106	1948
97. No. 2112	1948
98. No. 2124	1948
99. No. 2125	1947
100. No. 2154	1948
101. No. 2188	1947
102. No. 2202	1948
103. No. 2225	1947-1948
104. No. 2262	1947
105. No. 2584	1948
106. No. 2679	1948
107. No. 2700	1948
108. No. 2702	1948

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| 109. No. 2766 | 1948 |
| 110. No. 2767 | 1948 |
| 111. No. 2776 | 1948 |

Box 7

Series IV: Subject Files, 1921-1977

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| 112. Casualty Procedures | 1950-1955 |
| 113. Correspondence Changes | 1944-1945 |
| 114. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Messages on Personnel Casualties— Folder 1 | 1967 |
| 115. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Messages on Personnel Casualties— Folder 2 | 1967 |
| 116. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Not Casualty Telegrams— Folder 1 | 1967 |
| 117. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Not Casualty Telegrams— Folder 2 | 1967 |

Box 8

Series IV: Subject Files, 1921-1977

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| 118. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Miscellaneous Correspondence— Folder 1 | 1967 |
| 119. <i>Forrestal</i> , USS— Miscellaneous Correspondence— Folder 2 | 1967 |
| 120. <i>Hollister</i> , USS | 1949 |
| 121. Mexican-American War Casualties | 1977 |
| 122. Philippines | 1943-1951 |
| 123. <i>Preston</i> , USS | 1942 |
| 124. <i>Repose</i> , USS | 1949 |
| 125. Ships and Squadrons Not Coded— World War II | 1950 |
| 126. Spanish-American War Casualties | |
| 127. Statistics, Pre-World War II | 1938 |
| 128. Unknown Soldier— World War I | 1921 |
| 129. Unknown Soldier— World War II and Korea | 1958 |
| 130. War Claims Letters | |
| 131. War Crimes | 1945-1949 |
| 132. World War II Casualties buried in National Memorial Cemetery
of Hawaii | 1956 |
| 133. World War II Casualties buried in Sitka, Alaska | 1956 |