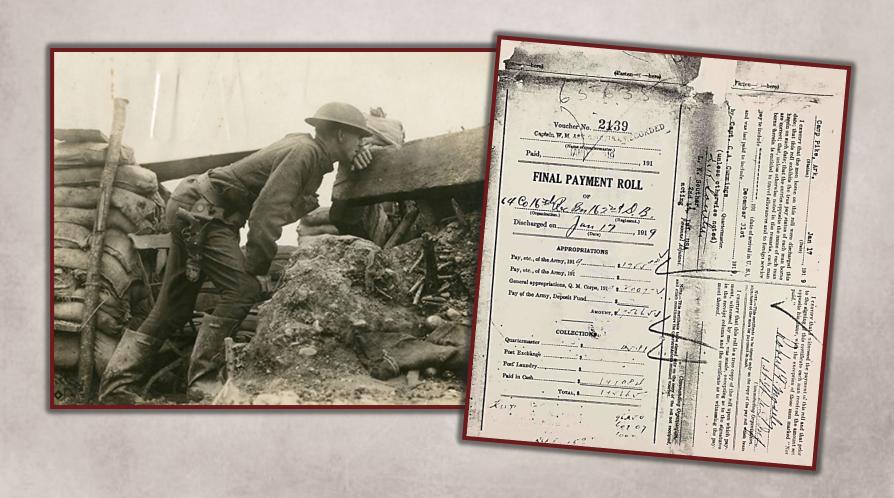
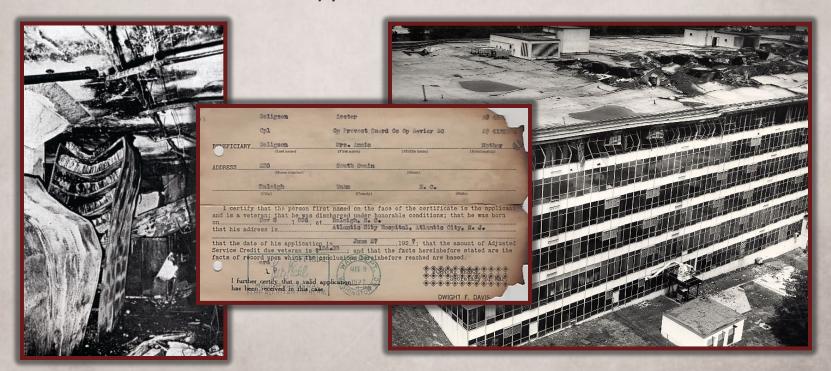
RESEARCHING A WWI ARMY VETERAN



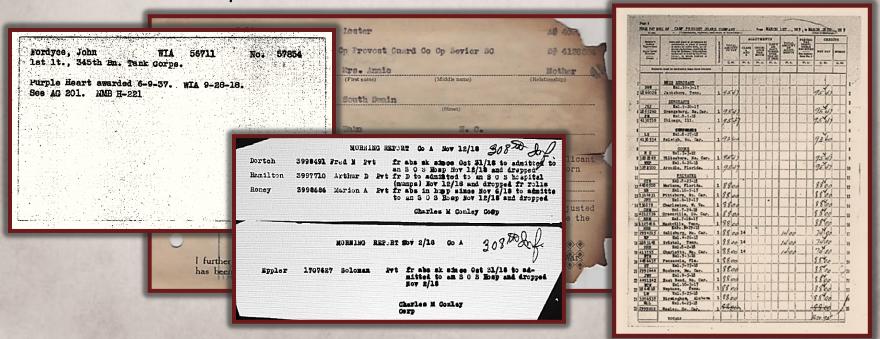
RESEARCHING A WWI ARMY VETERAN

This presentation explains how to reconstruct the service history of individual WWI Army veterans whose official military personnel files were lost in the 1973 archives fire.



RESEARCHING A WWI ARMY VETERAN

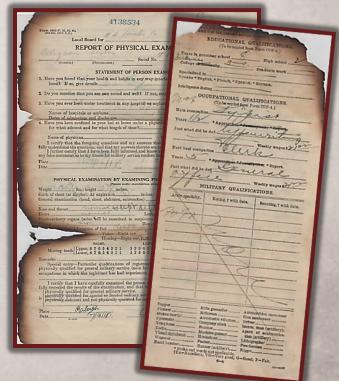
While the vast majority of the military service records which were consumed in the fire will never be recovered, there are alternate records which can be used to rebuild and document your veteran's story. Let's take a closer look at some of these records.



SAFEGUARDED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

The National Archives estimate that 80 percent of Army military service records were lost in the 1973 fire. About twenty percent of Army files survived at least partially intact.





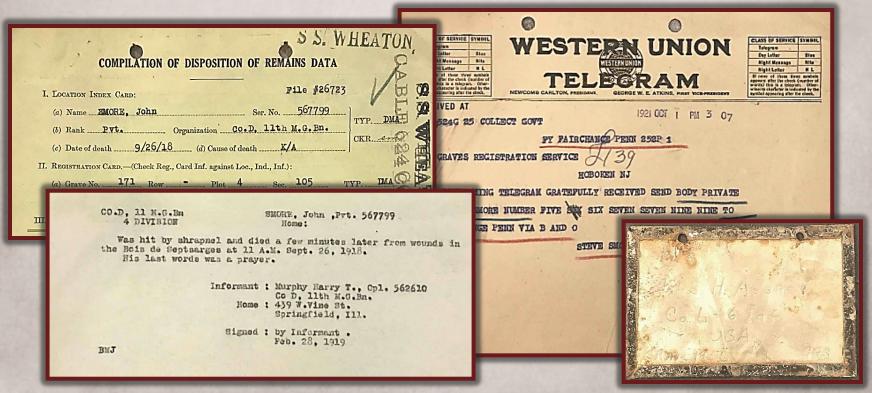
SAFEGUARDED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS

Service records with pages which survived the fire are classified as 'safeguarded military service records' and can actually be viewed in person at the National Archives. It is common to find singe marks as well as water damage on many of the surviving pages.

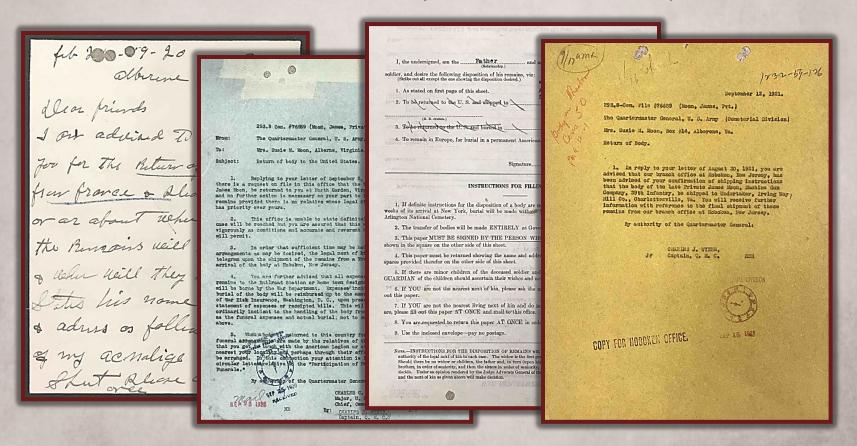


The Burial File was a separate personnel file created for veterans who died in the service between 1915-1939.

The focus of these files is primarily on the death and burial of the individual veteran.

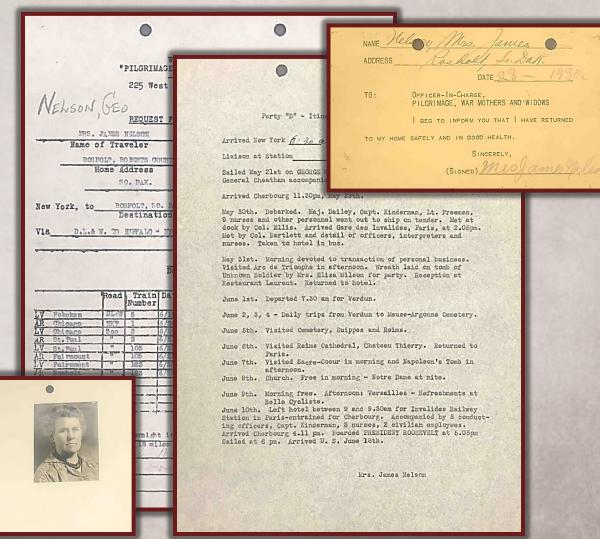


Many Burial Case Files include correspondence regarding the repatriation of the veteran's remains and transfer of their personal effects to the family.



Some files also include travel documents and photographs of widows or mothers who attended the federally sponsored pilgrimages of the 1920's.





Burial case files often contain eyewitness accounts describing exactly how a veteran was killed in action.

CO.D, 21 M.G.Bn 4 DIVISION

BMJ

LOUD, Harold E., 2nd Lt. Home: Oscoda, Mich.

SHORE, John ,Prt. 567799

Was hit by shrapnel and died a few minutes later from wounds in the Bois de Septsarges at 11 A.M. Sept. 26, 1918. His last words was a prayer.

Informant : Murphy Harry T., Cpl. 562610 Co D, 11th M.G.Bn.

Co F. 306th Infantry 77th Division RYGG Mike Pvt. 3135596 Home : Malla , Mont.

"At II A.M. on the 15th of October , Pvp. Rygg was killed being hit in the head by a machine gun bullet . This occurred about 500 yds East of St. Juvin . I do not know where he is buried . I was standing beside

of St. Juvin . I do not know where he is suried . I was standing beside him when he was hit and instantly killed . Pvt. Rygg was No 2 man in an Automatic rifle beam and was instantly killed as the Company was going into action . He was killed while on open ground as there was no shelter . The Flatoon was getting into position when fired upon by the German Machine Gun which was soon put out of action .

> Informant : Peterson Frederick W. Sgt. 1702167 Co F. 306th Infantry

: 814 Vulcan St. Iron Mountain , Mich. March 3rd 1919

Searcher : Robert Patterson , Capt.

Emergency Address :-Ale M. Rygg ; Harmndal Norfjord , Bergen ,

Co. 88th Aero Sgdn. 7th Army Corps

"On an Infantry Liaison Mission at 12:25 p. m., Sept. 28, 1918, o kilometer north of Hantillois, attacked by a patrol of four Booke machines at 500 meters. Lieut. Loud (Pilot) and Capt. Charles Trickey, (Observer). Plane came down in flames, under control. Trickey escaped by climbing out on wing and dropping off just before the control of the contro

reaching the ground. Lieut. Loud died from effects of burns." The a bove is an extract from the official report of Capt. Tri

Informant: Page, Richard C. M., Ls Home: Ft. Meyers, Fla. (88th)

Next of kin: B. F. Loud (Pather) Oscoda, Mich.

Signed: R. C. M. Page, 1st Lt. A.S.

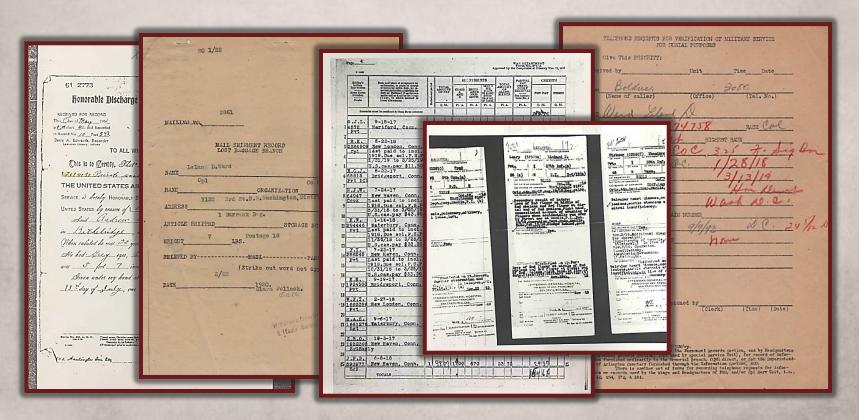
RECONSTRUCTED SERVICE RECORDS

If your veteran's service records were lost in the 1973 fire the National Archives may have created what is known as a 'reconstructed service file'.

XC-481-710 XC-481-710	TELEPHONE PROCESSES FOR VENIFICATION OF MILITARY SERVICE FOR SUMIAL PURPOSES Give This PRICEITY: Received by
G1. 2773 G062CJ1 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION 3/12/1999 0152 MPR FINDING AID REPORT 081:49:04	Tron Boldie. (Hare of caller) (Office) (Tel. No.) HATE Ward Stand Al ARET SERIAL MINISTER 1974758 RADE COL RANK AT DESCRIPTE AGA HIGHEST RAIK ORDANIZATION COC 325 7 Aug Con DATE OF INLISTIZETT AAC 1/28/18
Cote 18 to Gently, Flat Andrease Miletaria Periode Annanga Sander THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a Test Service is Arrey Honomary December of June UNITED STATES by season of 1. Explaination Send Graducer S. Nation in Bethelpingle, in the State of Other enhalted do may 22 years of ago and a	1964 RECORD OF SUPERCULAR SERVICE 197
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RECONSTRUCTED SERVICE RECORDS

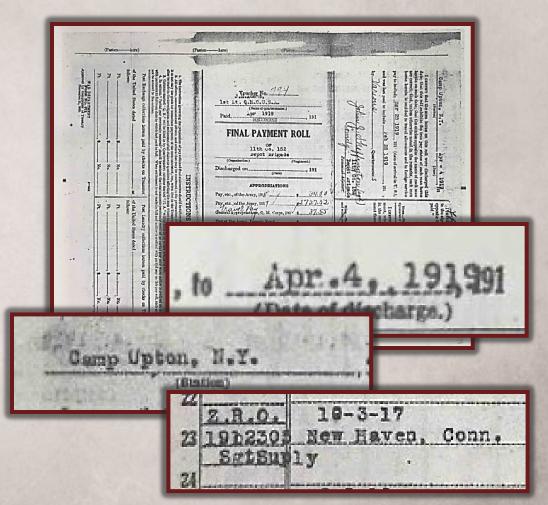
If your veteran's service records were lost in the 1973 fire the National Archives may have created what is known as a 'reconstructed service file'.



AUXILIARY SERVICE RECORDS

If there are no pages in your veteran's military service file which survived the fire, and no 'reconstructed file', there may only be auxiliary records on your veteran.

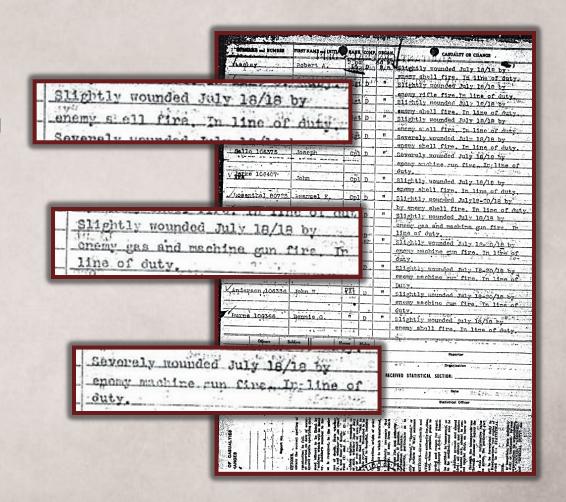
In almost every case the WWI veteran's final pay voucher is the only auxiliary record available.



CASUALTY REPORTS

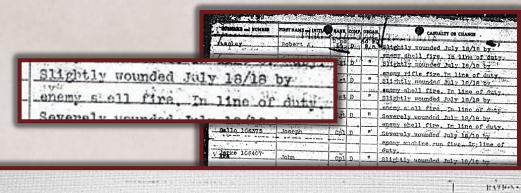
The WWI reports of casualties cover the daily losses for each company within army units.

These reports often describe exactly how individuals were wounded or killed in action as well as the location where the casualty occurred.



CASUALTY REPORTS

The reports of casualties are almost always typewritten making them easier to read than some of the other handwritten unit records from the WWI period.



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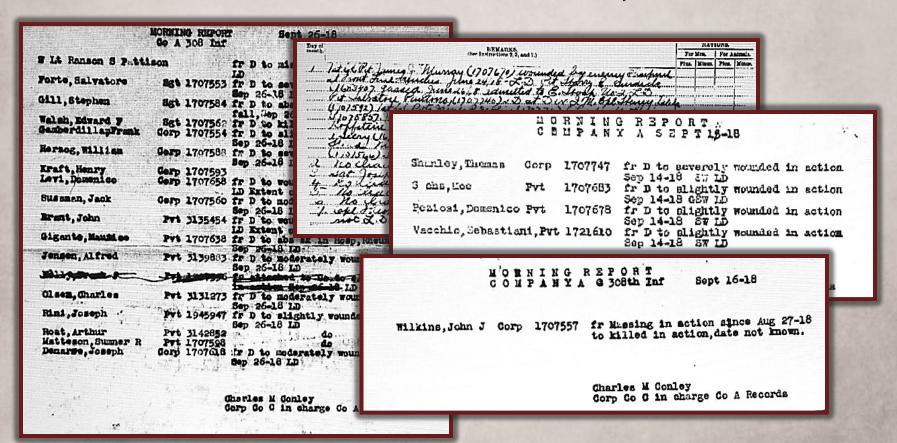
MORNING REPORTS

The morning reports are company-level unit records which enable us to track individual soldiers day to day within the units to which they were assigned.

Pet Harry G		TATIONS. For Men. For Animals. Pits. Mirror. 27cs. Mirror.
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25 Pote (ugla 1143884)	Rescurge viorine Stany Sunth (127537) pony	aft, (1707595)

MORNING REPORTS

These records document important details such as: combat participation, military duties, promotions, ranks, as well as dates and locations where a veteran was wounded, injured or killed in action.



MORNING REPORTS

The WWI morning reports were handwritten, making them a challenge to decipher from the microfilm format in which they are maintained.

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WWI MUSTER ROLLS

The WWI muster rolls provide a monthly list of the individuals who were present within army

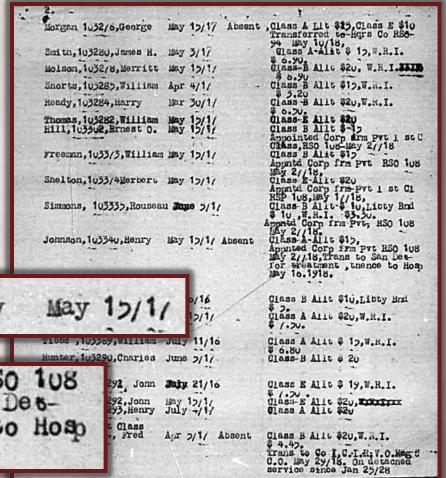
units during the war.



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MONTHLY ROST	TER .
of Company "C"	
(Company or Detachment	
	1111
of S69th U.S. Infantry	
(Regiment, Corps or Departme	-
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(Station)	111
Correct as of start	
Correct as of the last day of	July 191.0.
	2075
Signature	124
Commanding O	
	pcer.
INSTRUCTIONS	4
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istical Officer to the month. Two copies will be	
Ex. Forces.	e, A. P. O. 717,
rs will be listed according to r rs will be listed first, in alphabetical order, in alphabetical order. Number savigoed e ven as required by G. O. 27, A. E. P. 1019	nak Names of

WWI MUSTER ROLLS

In addition to providing names and serial numbers of individual soldiers assigned to specific units, these reports can also indicate status changes such as transfer to a new unit, injury or death.



Johnson, 103340, Henry Mi

Appriled Corp frm Pvt RSO 108 May 2//18, Trans to San Detfor treatment, thence to Hosp May 10.1918.

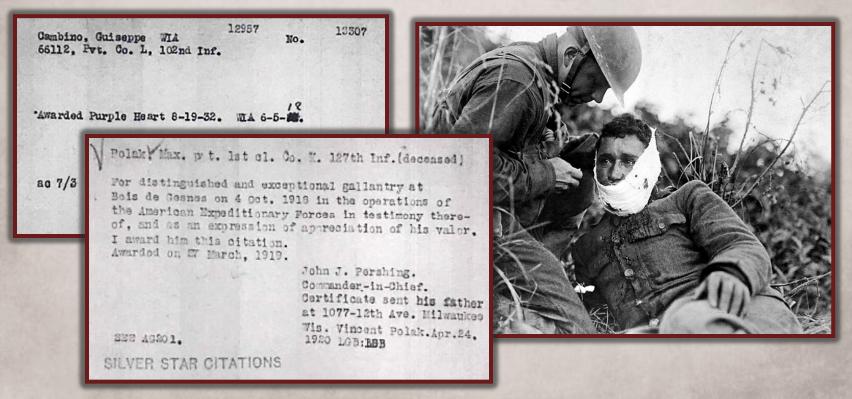
WWI AWARD CARDS

Many WWI army veterans were awarded medals for heroic actions performed in battle.



WWI AWARD CARDS

The WWI award cards record the medals to which the individual veteran was entitled. Most commonly these are for the award of the Purple Heart which was authorized in 1932 along with the Silver Star medal.



WWI AWARD CARDS

Some WWI award cards provide a detailed explanation of the gallantry exhibited by the veteran while under fire.

```
EBELING, EDWARD H., Pyt., Co. F. 7th Engineers.
     Hdgrs. 5th Div. A.P.O. #745, A.E.F., France 11/30/18
General Orders No. 77, show: *********
     The following ..... cited in orders for distinguished
ed conduct in action:
Set.1-cl Frank J.Rogers
                          Pvt. Thomas J. Fahey
                                                             bravery during the construction of the pontoon foot
Corpl. Harry A. Ficken
                         Pvt. Grover C. Fritz
                                                             bridges over the Mouse River and Canal near Brigulles,
Corpl. Jesse L. Bond . Pyt. Van Cleaf Gulick
                                                             on the night of November 3d and 4th, 1918. In the face
Corpl. Edward A.Pazlett Pvt. Clyde Cofer Corpl. Claude Bollier Pvt. Edward H. Ebeling Corpl. Lloyd Minter Pvt. Thomas F. Melvin
                                                             of heavy and direct machine gun and artillery fire they
                                                             carried t e bridge equipment across an open field and
                                                             constructed two bridges. By reason of their coolness.
Pvt.1-cl Ernest G. Wright Pvt. Glenn B. KePdall
                                                             determination and utter disregard of personal safety
Pyt.l-cl Edward E. Brandt Pyt. Harry Peterson
                                                             the infantry was enabled to cross the river and canal and
All of Company F, 7th Engineers, displayed exceptional
                                                             capture the important heights east of the Meuse.
                                                                   By command of Major General Ely:
                                                                       C.A.TROTT, Chief of Staff.
                                                              Official:
                                                              David P. Wood, Lieut. Col.
                                                              Infantry, Division Adjutant.
                                                                                   SILVER STAR CITATIONS
```

THE XC PENSION CLAIM FILE

Veteran's Bureau pension claim files were created when a veteran or family member of a veteran applied for benefits from the government.

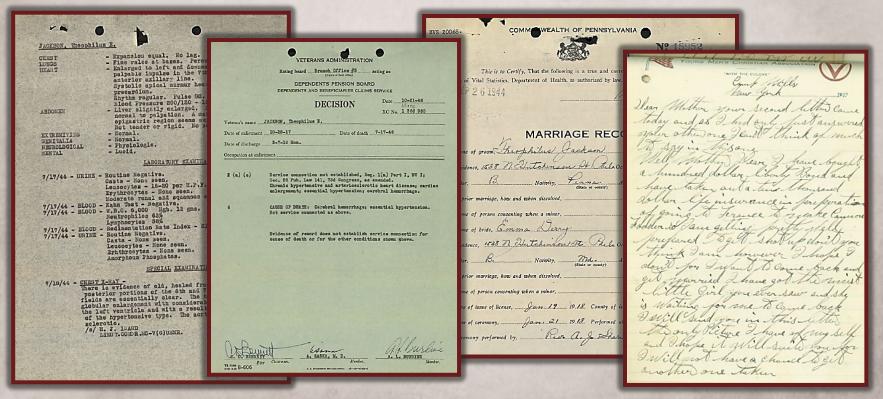
In many instances, crucial documents from the veteran's service record (the honorable discharge for example) would have been duplicated and placed within the pension claim file as a way to verify the veteran's eligibility for benefits.



THE XC PENSION CLAIM FILE

The XC Pension Claim Files often contain a treasure trove of documents pertaining to medical treatment, civilian occupations and disability payments.

It is also common to find correspondence both official and handwritten within the pension files.



THE XC PENSION CLAIM FILE

This page from an XC Pension file actually contains a statement from the individual veteran describing how he was wounded in action during the Great War.



Simeon J. Clukey. Dexter, Maine Enlisted March 7-1917 Disch. April 28-1919 Serial No. 66934

I, Simeon J. Clukey living in Dexter, Maine being duly sworn depose and say that I entered the U.S. Army at Dexter, Maine on Mar 7 1917, that I went overseas in Company "A" 103rd Inf. until date of discharge Arril 28, 1919 that while on duty with my organization at Raiville, France on Sept. 26, 1918 I received a machine gun bullet in my left ankle and was confined to various army hospital for three months, that I was slightly gassed several times during my term of service but did not report at the hospital, that I suffered often from exposure, that since my discharge my health has been poor. I have been losing weight, cough at night and have spit blood several times during the last two, that I filed a claim for compensation and medical treatment with the local examiner in October 1920 but have never treatment with the local examiner in October 1920 but have never received any asknowledgement of same that I am in immediate need of medical treatment, that I feel sure my disability was incurred in the U.S.Army and so make claim for medical treatment and compensation from the Government.

on Mar 7 1917, that I went overseas in Company "A" 103rd Inf.
until date of discharge April 28, 1919 that while on duty with
my organization at Raiville France on Sept. 26, 1918 I received
a machine gun bullet in my left ankle and was confined to various

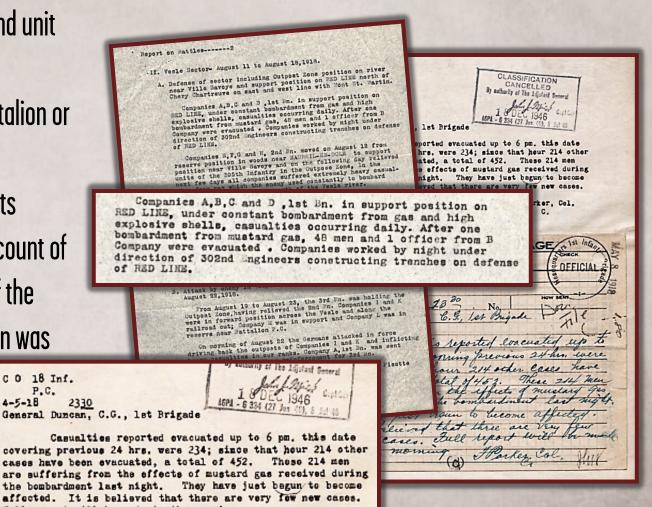
WWI AFTER ACTION REPORTS AND UNIT HISTORIES

After action reports and unit histories are normally maintained at the battalion or regimental level.

The after action reports provide a detailed account of the combat actions of the unit to which a veteran was C 0 18 Inf.

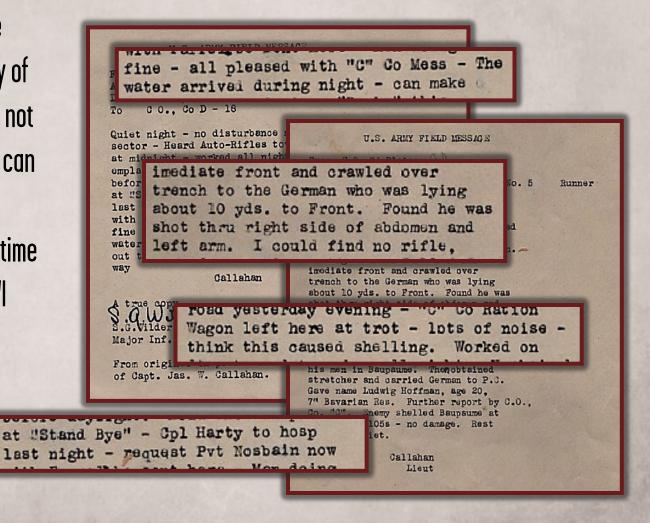
P.C.

assigned.



WWI AFTER ACTION REPORTS AND UNIT HISTORIES

Unit histories can provide more detail on the activity of support units which were not in combat. These records can help us to gain a better understanding of the wartime activities of individual WWI army veterans.





I hope that you found this presentation helpful.

If you think that others may be interested in
learning more about researching a family
member who served in the US Military, please
share this video on social media and let others
know about the services we provide!

"Every veteran has a unique story. The mission of Golden Arrow Research is to document your individual veteran's
wartime experiences, allowing you to better understand and also preserve the history of their military service. Our
expert research team is on-site daily at multiple archival facilities. We use our exclusive research process to
trace your individual veteran, showing you where they were and what they did during the war.
Let us help you to tell your veteran's story."