

WWII MISSING RESEARCH, WAR GRAVES, & REMEMBRANCE

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Definitions & Terminology



DEFINITIONS & TERMINOLOGY

Archives

TNA The National Archives

DEPARTMENTAL NAMES

A.G.13 The Army Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries
at the War Office

S.7 (Cas) The Air Ministry Casualty Branch (beginning of war)

P.4 (Cas) The Air Ministry Casualty Branch (wartime)

S.14 (Cas) The Air Ministry Casualty Branch (after the war)

ACRONYMS

AAG Assistant Adjutant General

AD Assistant Director

ADGRE Army Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries, *or*
Assistant Director, Graves Registration and Enquiries

ADGR&E Army Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries, *or*
Assistant Director, Graves Registration and Enquiries

AGRC American Graves Registration Command

AGRS American Graves Registration Service

AMGOT Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories

AMP Air Member for Personnel

AOC Air Officer Commanding

ATS Auxiliary Territorial Service

BAFO British Air Forces of Occupation

BAOR British Army of the Rhine

BLA	British Liberated Area, sometimes British Liberation Army
BRCS	British Red Cross Society
CIP	Central Identification Point
CO	Commanding Officer
DAD	Deputy Assistant Director
DADAGR&E	Deputy Assistant Director, Graves Registration and Enquiries
DADAGRE	Deputy Assistant Director, Graves Registration and Enquiries
DD	Deputy Director
DDW	Deputy Director of Works
ETOUSA	European Theatre of Operations, United States Army
GCU	Graves Concentration Unit
GHQ	General Headquarters
GR&E	Graves Registration and Enquiries
GRE	Graves Registration and Enquiries
GRO	General Routine Order
GRU	Graves Registration Unit
IRCC	International Red Cross Committee
IWGC	Imperial War Graves Commission
KIA	Killed in action
L of C	Lines of Communication
MIA	Missing in action
MO	Medical Officer
MR	Missing Research
MRES	Missing Research and Enquiry Service
MREU	Missing Research and Enquiry Unit
MRGRS	Missing Research Graves Registration Section
MRM	Missing Research Memorandum
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer

OC	Officer Commanding
OR	Other Ranks
ORB	Operation Record Book
POW	Prisoner of War
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RACHD	Royal Army Chaplains' Department.
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
RE	Royal Engineers
REFORSEC	Reinforcements Section
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
SEAC	South East Asia Command
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force
SOE	Special Operations Executive
WOCINDOC	War Office Circular of Instructions Relative to Documentation in Theatres of War

Terminology used in the Articles and on the Website:

The word airman had a specific meaning in the RAF – it was used for anyone who was of lesser rank than officers and non-commissioned officers. However, it has often been used here as generic term to avoid such words as ‘the flyer’ or ‘the aviator’ which are clumsy and anachronistic.

The post-war American care for the dead programme is sometimes referred to as being the responsibility of the American Graves Registration Service (the AGRS) and sometimes that of the American Graves Registration Command (the AGRC). This is because the overall

organisation, supervising all aspects of the programme, was the AGRS, whilst the Commands were those sub-organisations which dealt with the fieldwork and recovery of remains. The full title of the key American Command in this study was ‘American Graves Registration Command, European Theater’, but the British documents used on the website and in the articles almost invariably referred to it as *the* American Graves Registration Command, thus giving the slightly misleading impression that it was the only one. It was the most important of the Commands because three-fifths of all American battle casualties died in Europe.

Lastly, the Soviet Union was usually referred to as Russia in the contemporary paperwork: for instance, the graves units and search officers were customarily described as dealing with ‘the Russians’ or working in the ‘Russian Zone’. For reasons of clarity, the same policy has been followed except when looking at the wider historical context of the Cold War.