



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

August 17, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND (CMAOC-PCRB)

SUBJECT: Update Evidence Analysis for WWII Missing Aircrew Report (MACR) 12511, Italy

This memorandum is provided to the Army for purposes of notifying the family members concerned that in August 2016, DPAA received inquiry from the 449th Bomb Group requesting an update to our work on Missing Aircrew Report (MACR) 12511. MACR 12511 involves the 28 Feb 1945 air loss of 11 crewmembers onboard a B-24J (serial #: 42-51642) aircraft that crashed while performing a bombing mission over Italy; resulting in four listed as resolved, and seven crewmen still unaccounted-for. In 2015, DPAA recovered evidence for this case during an underwater operation at the site associated with MACR 12511 in Gorizia Province, in the town of Grado in Italy. The 449th Bomb Group has asked for an update on our processing of the evidence from this mission.

The remains recovered during this underwater excavation are fragmented and commingled. In order to preserve the remains, which were underwater since the time of the incident in 1945, DPAA has completed the process of desalination. This process took longer than expected, and we were unable to perform any analyses of the evidence until the process was complete. Following the desalination procedure, DPAA scientists conducted an initial inventory and sorting, DNA sample selection, and submission of samples for DNA analyses. To date, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, (AFDIL) has assigned 36 samples of the 47 for testing. We expect the remaining 11 samples will be processed in the near future. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we expect to have all DNA results by the end of this calendar year, and the goal is to complete the identifications in the first quarter of 2017.

I hope the families find this information helpful. Please feel free to forward along any further inquiries.

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Outreach & Communications