

America's War Dead 1775-2016



A Memorial Listing by the Numbers

Americans have lost their lives in some 83 wars and assorted military actions in the past 241 years. Most of the casualties occurred in a dozen or so major wars. But that does not lessen the sacrifice of those killed in the numerous and mostly forgotten minor expeditions in the far-flung corners of the globe. Whenever any American in uniform is killed by hostile enemy action it is meaningful, and that loss must be remembered and forever recognized.

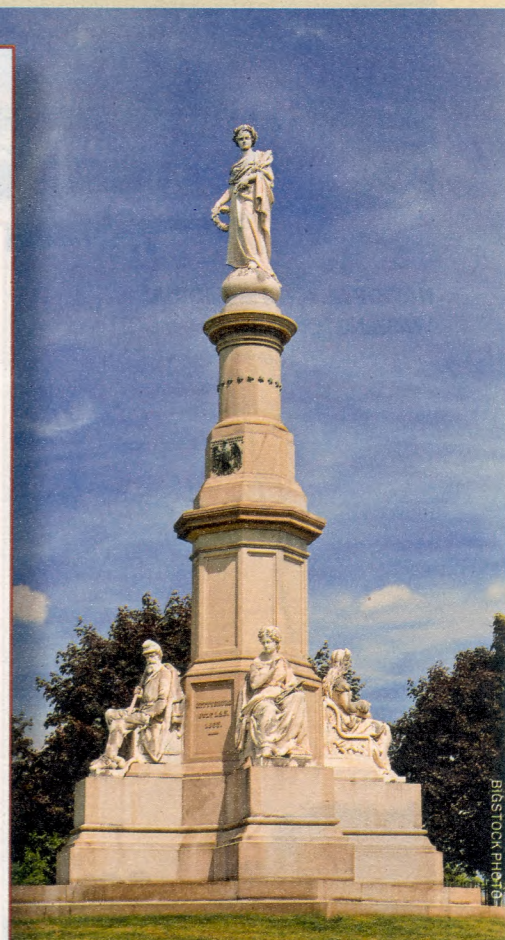
BY THE EDITORS



NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARCH
REVOLUTIONARY WAR, VALLEY FORGE, PA.

MILITARY ACTION	HOSTILE DEATHS	WOUNDED	NON-HOSTILE DEATHS
Revolutionary War (1775-1783)	6,824	8,445	18,500 ¹
Indian War (1775-1898)			
Soldiers ²	4,546	2,156	N/A*
Indians ³	4,000	N/A	N/A
Franco-American Naval War (1798-1800)	20	42	N/A
Barbary Wars (1801-05, 1815)	35	64	N/A
USS Chesapeake vs. HMS Leopard (1807)	3	18	0
War of 1812 (1812-1815)	2,260	4,505	17,500
Marquesas Islands (1813-14)	5	3	N/A
Slave Attack in Florida (1816)	4	0	0
Peru (1820)	2	6	0
West Indies Anti-Piracy Campaigns (1822-25)	4	5	N/A
Aegean Sea (1827)	1	0	0
Sumatra (1832)	2	11	N/A
Texas War of Independence (1835-36) ⁴	704	138	N/A
Mexican War (1846-48)	1,733	4,152	11,550
Paraguay (1855)	1	0	0
China (1855-59)	14	31	N/A
Fiji (1840, 1855, 1858)	3	9	N/A
"Cortina War"/Texas Border (1859-60)	5	18	N/A
Vera Cruz, Mexico (1860)	1	3	0
Civil War (1861-65) ⁵ Total	204,070	476,881	413,952
Union	110,070	281,881	249,952
Confederate	94,000	195,000	164,000
Japan (1863)	5	6	N/A
Formosa (1867)	1	0	N/A
Mexico (1870)	2	8	N/A
Korea (1871)	3	10	1
Chile (1891)	2	18	0
Spanish-American War (1898)	362	1,637	2,621
Philippines War (1899-1902)	1,053	2,840	3,220
Samoa (1899)	4	5	0
China/Boxer Rebellion (1900)	53	253	51
Moro/Pulajan Campaigns (1902-06, 1913)	130	323	500
Dominican Republic (1904)	1	0	0
Mexican Border (1911-1919, excluding 1916)	20	N/A	N/A
Nicaragua (1912)	5	16	N/A
Vera Cruz (1914)	19	72	N/A
Haiti (1915-20)	10	26	136
Dominican Republic (1916-1922)	20	50	124
Mexico Punitive Expedition (1916)	18	30	9
World War I (1917-18)	53,513	204,002	63,195 ⁶
North Russia Expedition (1918-19)	144	305	100
Siberia Expedition (1918-20)	35	52	135
Nicaragua (1927-32)	47	66	89
Yangtze Service, China (1918-1941)	5	71	N/A

continued on page 22 ►



SOLDIERS NATIONAL MONUMENT
CIVIL WAR, GETTYSBURG, PA.



LIBERTY MEMORIAL, WWI
KANSAS CITY, MO.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

America's War Dead ← continued from page 21

MILITARY ACTION	HOSTILE DEATHS	WOUNDED	NON-HOSTILE DEATHS
North Atlantic Naval War (1941)	126	44	15
World War II (1941-45) Total	293,121⁷	670,846	115,185
European Theater	185,179	498,948	66,805
Pacific Theater	107,903	171,898	48,380
Trieste/Italy (1944-46)	9	14	N/A
Chinese Civil War (1945-47)	12	42	22
Cold War (1944-94) ⁸	382	N/A	N/A
Philippines (1946, 1951)	8	N/A	N/A
Greek Civil War (1946-49)	1	1	2
Korean War (1950-53)	33,739	103,284	2,835 ⁹
Quemoy and Matsu (1954)	3	N/A	N/A
Lebanon (1958)	1	1	4
Bay of Pigs, Cuba (1961)	4	0	N/A
Laos (1961-62)	11	3	3
Vietnam War (1961-73) ¹⁰	47,434	153,303 ¹¹	10,786
Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)	1	0	8
Panama Canal Riots (1964)	3	85	N/A
Dominican Republic (1965-66)	27	172	20
Guatemala (1965-68)	4	2	0
Korea DMZ (1966-69) ¹²	92	134	183
<i>USS Liberty</i> off Israel (1967)	34	171	0
Terrorism (1970-1998) ¹³	73	227	0
<i>Mayaguez</i> -Cambodia/Koh Tang Is. (1975)	18	50	23
Iran (1980)	0	0	8
Lebanon (1982-84) ¹⁴	266	169	2
Grenada (1983) ¹⁵	10	152	9
El Salvador (1983-91) ¹⁶	9	35	11
Southwest Africa (1984)	1	0	0
Honduras (1984, 1989)	1	28	N/A
Libya (1986)	2	0	0
<i>USS Stark</i> -Persian Gulf (1987)	37	21	0
Persian Gulf (1987-88)	2	10	14
Panama (1989-90) ¹⁷	23	240	18
Persian Gulf War (1990-91)	148 ¹⁸	467	235
Aircraft Shoot-down, Peru (1992)	1	5	0
Somalia (1992-94)	30	175	14
Haiti (1994)	1	3	2
Khobar Towers/Saudi Arabia (1996)	19	66	0
U.S. Embassy/Kenya (1998)	3	0	0
Kosovo (1999)	1 ¹⁹	16	10
<i>USS Cole</i> /Yemen (2000)	17	39	0
Islamist Terrorist Attacks (2001-02)	57 ²⁰	N/A	10
Iraq War (2003-11)	3,519	32,246	965
Afghanistan War (2001-16) ²¹	1,854	20,155	512
Islamic State Campaign (2014-16)	1	5	12

*N/A = Figures not available.

PHOTO BY RICHARD KOLB



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.



**VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.**



**MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICTS MEMORIAL WALL
MARSEILLES, ILL.**

Sources and Notes

- 1 Includes 8,000 deaths on British POW ships. In modern wars, POW camp deaths are appropriately tallied under the hostile category.
- 2 Includes combatants killed by Indians during the Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War. This is a low estimate because only battles in which 12 or more KIA were sustained are counted. The WIA figure is for regulars only since 1789. That number is actually far higher.
- 3 Indian deaths are for after 1850 only. Don Russell, "How Many Indians Were Killed?" *The American West*, July 1973, p. 47.
- 4 *Texas Independence* by Andrew Jackson Houston (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1938).
- 5 Non-hostile category includes 26,000 Confederate and 32,000 Union soldiers who died as prisoners of war. See *The Concise Illustrated History of the Civil War* by James I. Robertson, Jr. (National Historical Society, 1979), p. 61 and *Civil War Handbook* by William H. Price (L.B. Prince Co., 1961), p. 17. Recent research puts total Civil War dead at 750,000, but does not break that figure down by civilian vs. military, or Union vs. Confederate.
- 6 Of the non-hostile deaths, 32,000 were claimed by the flu epidemic (Sept. 1-Nov. 11, 1918)—23,000 soldiers died stateside and 9,000 overseas.

- 7 WWII: The Army and Air Forces' total includes 39 deaths in unspecified locales.
- 8 All 382 hostile deaths are documented by name in *Cold War Clashes* (Kansas City, Mo.: VFW Publication, 2004) by Richard K. Kolb. They include every verifiable death due to Communist conventional, guerrilla and terrorist forces worldwide between 1944 and 1994. This total includes 17 specific actions listed here during that 50-year period. The Pentagon did not begin to track accidental and other deaths in peacetime until Oct. 1, 1979.
- 9 The old, inaccurate figure of 20,617 was worldwide. It was officially revised in 2001.
- 10 Included for Vietnam are the deaths of one soldier in 1956, one in 1957 and two in 1959, as well as two in 1975.
- 11 Hospitalized wounded only. Also applies to the Korean War.
- 12 Included in the hostile deaths figure for Korea are 60 KIAs along the DMZ (7 were KIA between 1955-63), one sailor from the *Pueblo*, 31 crewmen of a recon plane shot down over the Sea of Japan and six soldiers killed in the DMZ between 1974-1977. One helicopter crewman was KIA Dec. 17, 1994.
- 13 Islamic terrorism (1970-1998) claimed 49 military lives and wounded 173. Marxist terrorism (1973-1991) claimed 24 military lives and wounded 54. Not included in either category are the KIAs in

- Lebanon or El Salvador.
- 14 Includes 241 servicemen killed in the terrorist bombing on Oct. 23, 1983; four Marine guards in the embassy bombing; two who ran over land mines; one Navy pilot; and 18 Marines killed in action.
- 15 Casualties for Grenada are still confused. It appears that four Navy SEALs drowned; four Army Rangers were killed accidentally; and one soldier was killed accidentally in a strafing incident.
- 16 Of the nine hostile deaths in El Salvador, only one soldier was actually killed in a firefright; three of the hostile deaths resulted from a helicopter shot down over Honduras.
- 17 Of the 23 deaths due to hostile action in Panama, one occurred prior to *Operation Just Cause* and one after in a terrorist bombing. Of the 18 non-hostile deaths, 11 occurred Feb. 21, 1990, accidentally in a helicopter crash during an "air assault" against a village harboring Panamanian rebels. On June 10, 1992, another U.S. soldier was killed in an ambush.
- 18 Of the 148 deaths classified as "hostile," 35, or 24%, were due to "friendly fire."
- 19 Death due to a land mine.
- 20 Includes 55 at the Pentagon (9-11-01), 1 in the Philippines (10-2-02) and 1 in Kuwait (10-8-02).
- 21 As of March 2016.