



UNDERSTANDING
SACRIFICE

Activity: “Bring home my lone babe”: The Investigation for Francis L. Raub

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| POULTER HAROLD O | · · | PVT | · · |
| PRATT GEORGE W M | · · | PFC | · · |
| PRICE LOUIS J | · 2 LT | · 334 BOMB S | |
| PUGH LLEWELYN E | · | PFC | · 47 IN |
| PYLE LESTER E | · · | PVT | · 83 RCN |
| RANCILIO ANGELO W | · · | PVT | · · |
| RAUB FRANCIS L | · · | S SGT | · · |
| REEVES WESLEY J | · · | PVT | · · |
| REPPUCCI MICHAEL JR | · | PVT | · 168 E |
| REUSCH HUBERT L | · · | TEC 4 | · · |
| RICKS EDWARD | · · | PVT | · · |
| ROBERTS LARRY E | · · | PFC | · · |
| ROBERTS | | | |
| ROBERTS | | | |
| ROBINSON | | | |
| ROESCH | | | |

Guiding question:

What lengths did the U.S. Army go to find the remains of servicemembers in World War II? How did the U.S. Army confirm the identity of the servicemembers found?

DEVELOPED BY ALAN BIRKEMEIER

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Subject(s): U.S. History, English/Language Arts

Cemetery Connection: Luxembourg American Cemetery

Fallen Hero Connection: Staff Sergeant Francis L. Raub



NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

Overview

Using interactive technology (with an option for virtual reality), students will use primary and secondary sources to investigate the death of Francis Raub. Students will explore sources available to U.S. Army investigators in 1947.

Historical Context

Of the approximately 400,000 U.S. service members killed in World War II, nearly 79,000 of them remain unaccounted for, buried in unmarked graves, lost at sea, or declared missing in action. In an effort to return the soldiers to their loved ones, the U.S. Army established the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), which operated from 1945 to 1951. AGRS agents often went in search of missing troops by interviewing civilians and unit members, and exploring battle sites for temporary graves. Any remains discovered were sent to laboratories set up in the field for identification. Currently, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency continues to search for and, when possible, identify those still declared Missing in Action during World War II and subsequent conflicts.

“We often think of those lost in war, but we do not give as much attention to the effort of the U.S. military and government to identify and return the missing. Students will experience the difficulties of trying to bring closure to families who lost loved ones during World War II.”

—Alan Birkemeier

Birkemeier teaches at Columbus Middle School in Columbus, Indiana.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Describe the lengths that the U.S. Army went to identify remains immediately following World War II through today; and
- Analyze the impact of the war on the families who did not have remains that could be identified.

Standards Connections

Connections to Common Core

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Documents Used ★ indicates an ABMC source

Primary Sources

89th Infantry Division Insignia
Wikimedia Commons

90th Infantry Division Insignia
Wikimedia Commons

Francis L. Raub Individual Deceased Personnel File (excerpts)
National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

Francis L. Raub Official Military Personnel File (excerpts)
National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

Photograph, Francis L. Raub, October 1, 1944
Indianapolis News

Photograph, *Members of a tank destroyer unit use the shutters of a damaged building to camouflage their gun as they set up in a position covering a road near France, September 11, 1944.*
National Archives and Records Administration (111-SC-193111)

Secondary Sources

Francis L. Raub Fallen Hero Profile ★
ABMC Education

<https://abmceducation.org/understandingsacrifice/soldier/francis-l-raub>

Materials

- Computer with internet capabilities
- Virtual Reality Systems (such as Google Cardboard) and Virtual Reality compatible phone
 - **Teacher Tip:** This is optional - the tasks can be completed using a laptop or desktop computer.
- Investigation Journal
- Headphones to listen to audio components

Lesson Preparation

- Test out all technology/equipment.
 - **Teacher Tip:** If using a computer, the activity works best in Google Chrome.
 - **Teacher Tip:** If using Virtual Reality, you have the option to download the Google Explorer app to your device. You can find the program by searching for “Understanding Sacrifice: Raub Investigation.” Download the tour, then view through your virtual reality viewer such as Google Cardboard. A controller is recommended but not necessary on most devices.
 - **Teacher Tip:** Copies of the primary sources are included in the downloadable lesson, if needed.
- Provide students with the following link: https://poly.google.com/view/bktiM1t_3eo.
- Divide the class into groups of two or three students each.
- Preview the Francis L. Raub Fallen Hero Profile for background information.

Procedure

Activity One: Virtual Reality (30 min)

- Lead a short discussion about the problems faced by those who lost family in World War II. Ask students about dog tags. *What information goes on dog tags? Why do soldiers wear them? What do you think happens when a soldier’s body is unidentified? How would it feel to be a family member of someone whose remains were not recovered and identified?*
- Tell the students that they are going to engage in a simulation based on the 1947 identification case of U.S. soldier Francis Raub.
- Divide the class into groups of two or three students each.
- Distribute a copy of the Investigation Journal to each student. Tell students, *This is your investigation log. You will fill it out with information provided during the investigation in Raub’s death. It will help you discover what happened to Raub.*
- Provide students with the following link: <https://poly.google.com/u/0/view/8WVQ-PzK-8N>.
 - **Teacher Tip:** For students using computers, make sure they turn on the narration. Click the gear button in the top right corner of the screen to turn on narration.
 - **Teacher Tip:** For students using virtual reality, tell students using their phones to put the phone into VR mode before inserting their phone into the VR headset. They will have to remove the phone in order to switch scenes.
- Tell students to begin with the point on the desk labeled, “Start here.”
- Help students navigate the investigation. If they have problems visit this webpage for help: <https://support.google.com/tourcreator/?hl=en>.

Assessment

- Collect the Investigation Journal once students complete simulation to assess student learning.
- Lead a short discussion about what they learned. Possible guiding questions:
 - *What steps did the U.S. Army take to find Raub’s remains?*
 - *How do you think Mrs. Raub would have felt about their efforts if she had survived?*
 - *Do you feel the cemeteries are an appropriate reminder of American soldier’s efforts in World War II?*

Methods for Extension:

- Show students Francis L. Raub’s Fallen Hero profile on the ABMC Education website and discuss student reaction to the eulogy video.
- Teachers can enhance students’ interest in the challenge of identifying missing service members by exploring these related lesson plans on [ABMCEducation.org](https://www.abmceducation.org):
 - [Some Gave All](#)
 - [Until They All Come Home: Locating and Identifying Missing Service Members](#)

Adaptations:

- Teachers can adapt the project to younger learners by changing the focus of the last activity to a shorter letter. It could also be adapted to English Language Learners in a similar way.

Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Francis L. Raub Dental Records

Francis L. Raub Individual Deceased Personnel File, National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

These are Francis L. Raub's dental records. All American service members in World War II received a complete dental examination. The U.S. Army kept dental records for identification purposes.

***REPORT OF DENTAL SURVEY**

UPPER TEETH

Right 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Left

LOWER TEETH

Right 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 Left

CLASS IV

Occlusion Good Calculus: Slight, Medium, Heavy

Periodontoclasia no

Dental foci suspected: Yes No

Other conditions _____

Full mouth xray
no evidence of any
dental foci
no work necessary.

Date 29 Nov. 1943

S. D. Linn
Dental Corps, U. S. A.

*Restorable carious teeth by O
Nonrestorable carious teeth by /
Missing natural teeth by X

Teeth replaced by denture (horizontal line)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | X | X |
|---|---|---|

Teeth replaced by fixed bridge (oval to include abutments)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ○ | X | ○ |
|---|---|---|

16-20622

Photograph, Francis L. Raub, October 1, 1944
Indianapolis News

This photograph is of Francis L. Raub. It was taken sometime between when he was drafted and when he died on September 15, 1944. The *Indianapolis News* published the photo on October 1, 1944 to announce Raub's death.

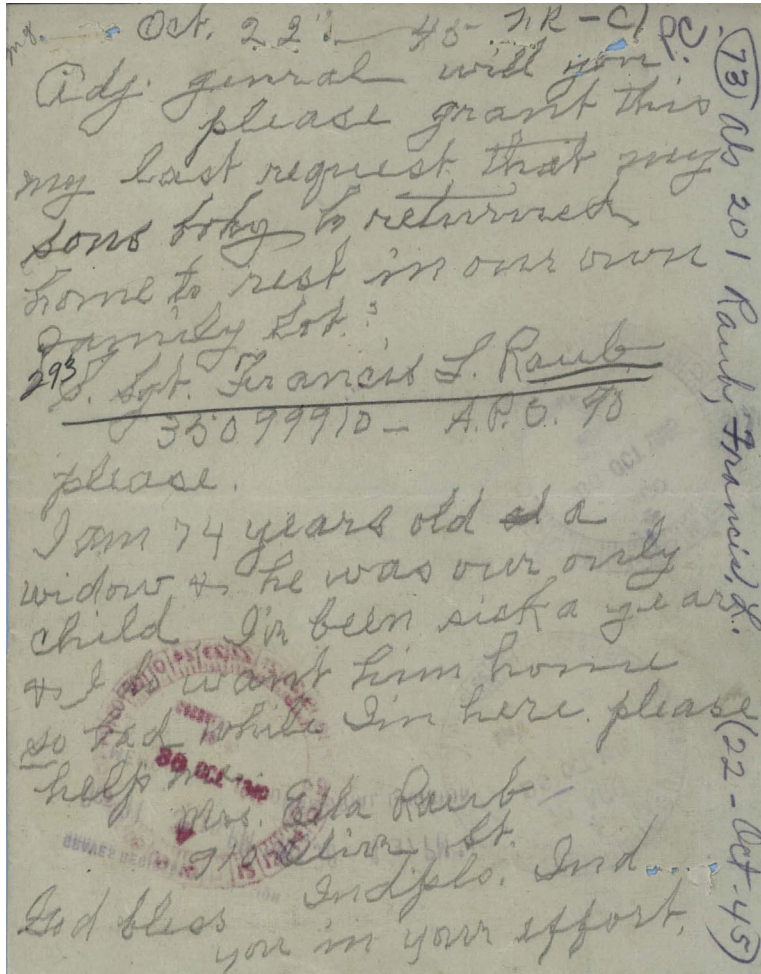


Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Letter, Ella Robb to her member of Congress, October 22, 1945

Francis L. Raub Individual Deceased Personnel File, National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

Ella Raub, Francis' mother, wrote this letter to her member of Congress on October 22, 1945. That Congressman expressed interest in the case, initiating the investigation by the U.S. Army.



Adj. General will you please grant this my last request that my lone baby be returned to rest in our family lot.

Sgt. Francis Raub

3509910 - A.P. O. 90.

Please,
I am 74 years old[,] a widow + he is our only child. I've been sick a year and I want him home so bad while I am here. Please help.

Mrs. Ella Raub Indpls, Ind.

God Bless you in your effort.

Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Data on Remains Not Yet Recovered or Identified

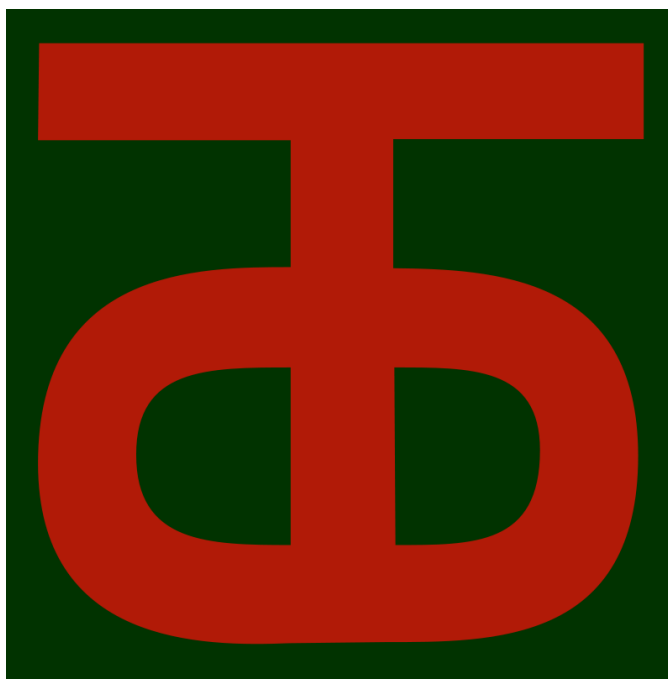
Francis L. Raub Individual Deceased Personnel File, National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

This form contains a basic description of Raub's physical characteristics. These will be important to help identify the body.

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| 293 FILE | | DATA ON REMAINS NOT YET RECOVERED OR IDENTIFIED | | |
| NAME (<i>Last, First, Middle Initial</i>) RAUB, Francis L. | | GRADE S/Sgt | PRESENT SERIAL NUMBER 35 099 910 | |
| ORGANIZATION Co. F, 357th Inf.Regt, 90 Inf.Div. | | RACE White | CREED No rec. | FORMER SERIAL NUMBER (<i>If applicable</i>) |
| DATE OF DEATH/MIA 15 Sept 44 | CAUSE OF DEATH K I A | | PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA Pierevillers, France while investigating a farm house behind enemy lines | |
| DATE OF FOD | | | | |
| HEIGHT 5' 9" | WEIGHT 175 Lbs. | COLOR EYES Blue | COLOR HAIR Light Red | SHOE SIZE 10-1/2 |

90th Infantry Division Unit Insignia

[Wikimedia Commons](#)



Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Francis L. Raub Official Military Personnel File

National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

These are excerpts from testimonies given by soldiers who witnessed Raub's death.

"We sent Sargent Raub ahead to investigate a farmhouse. He was off to my left when I heard a shot. I looked over and saw his glasses were knocked off and he had dropped. I hit the ground. I then fell back to the woods where the unit was. We wanted to go back and get him but the officers said it was too risky. We never did get back out there to check on him."

-Soldier One

"I was observing Raub and two other soldiers advance through field glasses. They were headed to the farmhouse to check for enemy soldiers. Raub fell and the others dropped back. I continued to watch Raub for another ten minutes. He made no movements or any other signs of life. The men wanted to return to him but it was too dangerous to send them into sniper fire. Then, artillery shells rained down. We sent two French men to check the area the next day they did not find anything. Then Germans retook the area for another 15 days. By that point his body was lost."

-Soldier Two

Photograph, Members of a tank destroyer unit use the shutters of a damaged building to camouflage their gun as they set up in a position covering a road near France, September 11, 1944.

National Archives and Records Administration (111-SC-193111)



Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Sworn Affidavits from Area Residents

Francis L. Raub Individual Deceased Personnel File, National Archives and Records Administration- St. Louis

These are sworn affidavits from locals who were in the area when the fighting occurred. One is from the town's mayor and another is from a local woman. Your team has conducted several interviews like this and they all produced the same results.

Casé # 258

(Moselle)
5346

I, the undersigned, Miss KLINGER, declare to the best of my knowledge that there is no American soldier by the name of RAUB Francis A interred in the commune of Marange-Sylvange.

9.1.47 /s/ Klingler
(Hillingler)

TOWN HALF OF PIERREVILLERS
(Moselle)

S T A T E M E N T

We, the undersigned, Mayor of the commune of Pierrevillers, herewith certify that the American soldier RAUB Francis is unknown to us. As far as we know there are no graves of American soldiers in the territory of the commune of Pierrevillers. In connection herewith we certify that the notices and posters affixed in the commune did not reveal any declaration of the population.

Made at Pierrevillers, 2 January 1947
The Mayor:

Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Body Recovery Number One

A body has been found near the area where Raub was killed. Here are the dental records of a body found in the area. Examine them and compare them to Raub's records.

| RIGHT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | LEFT | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|---|----|----|----|----|------|------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A | '25 | | | | | | '29 | | | A | A | G | A | '24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Side Views | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Side Views | | | | | | | | | | |
| Top Views | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | UPPER | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | LOWER | | | | | | | | | | |
| Side Views | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | A | A | '25 | '24 | | | | | | | A | G | A | | '24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | |

DENTURES (Plates): DRAW DIAGRAM OF RELATIVE SIZE AND SHAPE OF PLATE, BLOCK IN TEETH ATTACHED AND INDICATE RETAINING CLASPS ON NATURAL TEETH WITH THE WORD, "CLASP."
Other identifying media: height 66"
 fractured left radius, lower third, in 1915

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ACCURACY AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS CHART ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, IF SAME IS TO BE OF MAXIMUM VALUE.
2. NOTE CAREFULLY THAT: SYMBOLS INDICATING MISSING TEETH, CAVITIES AND BRIDGE-WORK ARE TO BE INSERTED IN WHOLE BOX; SYMBOLS INDICATING TYPE OF FILLING ARE TO BE INSERTED IN UPPER HALF OF BOX; AND SYMBOLS INDICATING LOCATION OF FILLING ARE TO BE INSERTED IN LOWER HALF OF BOX.
3. ANY ABNORMALITIES SUCH AS MALPOSED, MALFORMED OR DISCOLORED TEETH, ETC. SHOULD BE NOTED. DENTAL WORK NOT COVERED ABOVE WILL BE INDICATED, e.g. PORCELAIN CROWNS, GOLD CROWNS (FULL OR 3/4), 3/4 GOLD CROWN WITH SILICATE WINDOW.
4. FOR INFORMATION OF STANDARD NUMBERING OF TEETH, SEE DIAGRAM BELOW.

REMARKS:

/s/ J. W. Kappelman
 SIGNATURE OF PERSON WHO PREPARED CHART

/s/ JAMES W. KAPPENMAN, Lt.(jg)
 NAME AND RANK TYPED OR PRINTED

AGCS-C2 Remains Depot
 PLACE OR HQ. WHERE THIS FORM ACCOMPLISHED

VERIFIED BY GRS OFFICER

ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Capt., CMC
 NAME AND RANK TYPED OR PRINTED

2b Feb 47
 DATE

Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Body Recovery Number Two

A body has been found. This insignia was on the body's uniform. However, it is missing a skull, thus making identification by dental records impossible. It was also found several kilometers from here.



Francis L. Raub: Investigation Files

Photograph, Wall of the Missing, Luxembourg American Cemetery

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------------|----------------|
| PITTIS HAROLD D | TEC 5 | 318 INF 80 DIV | OHIO |
| POGLITSCH EDWARD R | PVT | 359 INF 90 DIV | CONNECTICUT |
| POTTS CLAYTON R | PFC | 347 INF 87 DIV | OHIO |
| POULTER HAROLD O | PVT | 318 INF 80 DIV | OHIO |
| PRATT GEORGE W M | PFC | 743 TANK BN | TENNESSEE |
| PRICE LOUIS J | 2 LT | 334 BOMB SQ 95 BOMB GP (H) | ARIZONA |
| PUGH LLEWELYN E | PFC | 47 INF BN 5 ARMD DIV | MINNESOTA |
| PYLE LESTER E | PVT | 83 RCN BN 3 ARMD DIV | CALIFORNIA |
| RANCILIO ANGELO W | PVT | 328 INF 26 DIV | MISSOURI |
| RAUB FRANCIS L | S SGT | 357 INF 90 DIV | INDIANA |
| REEVES WESLEY J | PVT | 347 INF 87 DIV | TEXAS |
| REPPUCCI MICHAEL JR | PVT | 168 ENGR COMBAT BN | MASSACHUSETTS |
| REUSCH HUBERT L | TEC 4 | 17 TK BN 7 ARMD DIV | OHIO |
| RICKS EDWARD | PVT | 112 INF 28 DIV | ARKANSAS |
| ROBERTS LARRY E | PFC | 112 INF 28 DIV | NEW YORK |
| ROBERTS LYLE T | PVT | 319 INF 80 DIV | ALABAMA |
| ROBERTSON JOHN P | CPL | HQ CO FIFTEENTH ARMY | KENTUCKY |
| ROBINSON MICKEL N | PFC | 110 INF 28 DIV | SOUTH CAROLINA |

Virtual Reality Credits:

Narrator: Alan Birkemeier

Ella Raub: Dr. Cathy Gorn

Soldier One: Chris Johnson

Soldier Two: Dr. Christopher Hamner

Mrs. Klinger: Kaat Vanderjeugt

Special thanks to:

The Ebell of Los Angeles

Bartholomew County Library's Digital Underground

Investigation Journal: Recovered Remains

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAN GRAVES REGISTRATION COMMAND
EUROPEAN AREA
APO 58 US ARMY

Investigator Name: _____

Subject: _____
(rank) (name) (unit)

Name of next of kin/Relationship: _____

Physical Description of the Subject: _____

Description of Dental work: _____

Country where the subject died: _____

Theater of War: Europe Africa Pacific Homefront

Cause of Death: _____

Circumstances of Death: _____

In your opinion were the remains found this soldier? Why or why not?

