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Huge Discovery For Group Searching For MIA Soldiers



Reporting
[Amelia Santaniello](#)

(WCCO) A local man has dedicated his life, and life [savings](#), to finding the bodies of soldiers missing from World War II. Now all that searching has paid off big time.

Bryan Moon lives in Randolph, Minn. and started the group MIA (Missing In Action) Hunters. The group recently made a huge discovery in Papua New Guinea, where it's believed that hundreds of [World War II](#) MIA soldiers will soon be recovered.

"There are still 76,000 Americans missing in World War II and World War II has been over 65 years. You can't leave them there forever... they've got to come back," Moon said.

For 20 years, Moon and his group have made it their mission to bring back those airmen.

With tears in his eyes he said "I can tell you its very hard for us to get to some of these sites. It's a very emotional thing because you know whose there."

Their recent mission took them to Papua New Guinea. The [Island](#) nation in the Southwest Pacific was highly contested. The Japanese had control of it in 1942 -- two years later American and Australian forces took it back.

Thousands of soldiers died. Thirty-two [MIA Hunters](#), most from Minnesota, went deep into the jungle to find crash sites, where bodies might be buried.

"We were there a whole month. We broke up into four search groups. But in order to set it up, we've been working on it for two years," said Moon.

They also had native Papua New Guinea guides to show them the way. It was dangerous -- they often had to walk on narrow bridges and alongside slippery cliffs.

But the risk paid off because they found more sites than they expected.

"When we finished adding up the sites they found, there were 92 crash sites," Moon said. "We estimate currently that at least 50 of them. We should be able to retrieve MIAs from 50 of those sites."

They don't know yet how many airmen are buried at those crash sites but it could be hundreds. The group will give GPS crash site locations to the Army and they will go dig up the remains and later identify them.

Sonya Goins, Producer
[Contact Sonya](#)



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