



Korean War Ex-POW

ASSOCIATION[®]



The Forgotten War June 1950 - July 1953

Died: 36,568

Wounded: 103,284

MIA: 8,177

Founded in 1976 by William K. Norwood

Officers

Fred Liddell, President
email: fliddell@bellsouth.net

Gordon Madson
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Betty Sitler
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President's Message

Out-going President, Franklin "Jack" Chapman

The Charleston, WV reunion is now history and we had a great turnout. If you were not there, you missed a good one. Huge thanks to Frank Kaiser for his outstanding on-site supervision. Attendees included a producer from Voice of America who interviewed several EX-POWs and Family Members. The story was broadcasted into North and South Korea on August 7, 2007. You can check it out on their web site: <http://www.voanews.com/korean/2007-08-07-voa2.cfm>, it is in Korean but there are also some photos.

I had intended to mention my *thank you's* at the banquet, however I got sidetracked with an allergic reaction and couldn't continue. At first, I thought it was the flowers in the wreath behind me, however, I later found out that the pain relieving rub cream (containing Methyl Salicylate) that I had applied to my shoulder that caused the reaction. **Thanks** to Debbie, our daughter, for continuing our program and doing a grand job.

This is my last newsletter as your President and I would like to extend my heartfelt **thank you** to everyone for the outstanding job they did to make this reunion a huge success.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and **special thanks** to my wife, Claudette, who was a tremendous help to me during the past three years. Also, **thank you**, Cindy, for your help with the newsletters and putting together our website. A **big thank you** to all the Board Members and Officers for your help and support during the past three years.

Fred Liddell is our new President. **Congratulations, Fred.** Please give him all the help and support you can.

In-coming President, Fred Liddell

The reunion in Charleston, WV is in the memory book. Most had a great time. I always enjoy seeing everyone. Coming home from Korea on the ship, a Major told me most of us wouldn't last 5 years due to the treatment we received in prison camp. Well, a large group of us sure fooled him! Wonder if he was the one informing MacArthur that the Chinese wouldn't come into the war?

I didn't anticipate becoming President at this time, but will do my best to follow Jack Chapman's fantastic job. Thanks, Jack, you really did a great job. Thanks to the many others who work to make our reunion enjoyable.

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Sick Call

Aguilera, Vincent (Boogie)
Bingham, George
Browning, Jack
Charles, Ernest
Crews, Bill
Donner, Donald
Durant, Frank
Espinoza, Floyd
Fronapfel, Charlie
Frost, Charlie
Goodwin, Violet
Hunt, Rose
Johnson, Johnnie
Kennedy, French
Shinagawa, Betty
Simpson, Wayman
Sitler, Red
Tullio, Carol
Villafana, David
Vorossoff, Alex
Vorossoff, Masaria

Taps

Denton, Leo A. Died 8/27/07.

He is survived by his wife. He served with M.Co. 21 Inf. 24 Div. Camps 3 & 7.

Freeman, Helen, Helen was predeceased by her husband, John Freeman.

Hotson, Wayne on 8/5/07. He is survived by his wife, Bonny. He served with E Co, 19th Inf. Reg.

McTaggart, William C. Jr. He served with the 345 BS 98 BG USAF. Camp 2.

Morrison, Robert F. died 10/3/2006. He is survived by 2 daughters, one son and 3 grandchildren. He served with G Co. 8 Cav. 1 Cav. Div.

Poole, Dixon oHe is survived by his children and former wife. He was a long-time friend of the Association.

Risner, Carl "Buck" died 9/2007. Camp 1.

Chaplain's Corner

Norman Hale, Chaplain

Hello again to all my friends and families, it was so good to see and fellowship with all of you. We really had a great time. I thank God for all of you who pray for us and have faith in us.

My prayer today is on our obligations. In James 4:17, it says, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin". Our Lord, we rejoice in all the high privileges that belong to us individually, as well as those that come through our church and Nation. Surely the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places, bringing to us a goodly heritage. May we never forget the obligations that privileges always bring. Help us to use the blessings that are ours in doing good to others. Let us never grow weary in well-doing, remembering that Thou dost never grow weary in forgiving our sins, nor in bestowing upon us Thy grace according to our needs. We pray for the leaders of our Nation and our Troops. God bless them and keep them safe and God bless America.

In the name of Him who gave Himself for us, we pray. Amen

President's Message

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Many of us are members of American Ex-Prisoners of War. We are also members of other veterans organizations, but our organization is not affiliated with nor are we subordinate to any of them. We are a group of men who had a common experience and come to the reunion to see old hut mates, not to engrandize or politic. Our schedule of events is published and all are free to come and go as they see fit. If you want to go across the street for breakfast rather than attend the General Meeting and financially contribute to the organization, that's fine. We don't issue special invitations. We are all supposedly grown-ups.

Nick Nishimoto has a great get-together in Hawaii which Frances and I are looking forward to. We were unable to attend last year, but look forward to April 2008.

Don't forget to send pictures to Elliott Sortillo for the memory book. Frances has sent hers already.

Denver is just around the corner, so stay healthy, safe and keep on trucking.

Contributions

Donald Campbell, Gordon Madson, and Tilby Minton for operating funds.

Dan Kestermann, AVI Food System, Inc., Franklin, OH, a very generous donation of bottled water.

Richard Barber, President, Central Distributing CO, South Charleston, WV, a very generous donation of Budweiser beer.

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

Our friend, Phillip A. O'Brien, OSD-DOMO submitted the following update on recovery and identification work.

Dear Friends, let's return to Tiger Group, the first organized gathering of U.S. POWs in the Korean War. Most were taken during the opening days of the war, from 6 July near Osan falling back to 22 July 1950 near Taejon. Not everyone captured during this early period became part of Tiger Group, but many did. Picking up the story, by foot and train they worked north, reaching Manpo on the south bank of the Yalu River on or about 11 September. After a brief side trip, to keep them clear of the Chinese armies entering North Korea at Manpo, they began their infamous death march on 31 October to the faraway Apex Camps, where they arrived on or about 9 November 1950. There were three holding points at the Apex, two were villages and the third was an old Japanese army or police enclosure from colonial days. Members of Tiger Group spoke of Chungun or Chungong and of An-dong or Ando-ri, but these names were pretty much generalized. For working purposes we now use Chunggang-jin as the name of the first village, and Hanjang-ni as the name of the second. The police post was between the villages of An-dong and Kaeyambol. Let's have a look at the three sites.

Chunggang-jin was a little village where the trail coming down from the high mountain pass above Chasong met two lower roads, one still following the shore of the Yalu River and the other going inland along a tributary stream. Tiger Group was at Chunggang-jin from roughly 9 through 16 November 1950. Nothing was permanent there. Survivors of the march could go no farther, and some arrived by cart, a real surprise, for many others had already died violently along the wayside. North Korean guards panicked here, running men in circles and pushing them into huts. Some died in the process. Others simply continued to die from the effects of the march. In the week and a half that Tiger Group was at Chunggang-jin, 23 American soldiers and one airman died, with burials nearby. When we finally get back to the area, the biggest problem will be in finding the exact location of the village and these burials, which may have been at two or three sites near the huts. The North Koreans have moved the village name in recent years, from the site near the meeting of the roads which is now known as Chungsang-dong, to another cluster about two miles farther northeast. But we have enough cross-bearings, from accounts given by Tiger Group members, to know where we wish to go.

The second village was the Winter site, Hanjang-ni, where Tiger Group stayed from around 16 November 1950 to 8 March 1951. Hanjang-ni was a day's march northeast from Chunggang-jin, and right above a bend in the Yalu River. There was a small orchard above the river, and the village was above that. The main road, then dirt, is now gravel. It runs above the village, and was laid out by the Japanese sometime before World War II. This road was pretty well engineered, and it was above the flood plain of the Yalu River. This far upstream, the Yalu did not flood as heavily in the

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Taps, cont.

Ruffles, Anthony R. He is survived by his sister, M. F. Ruffles. He served with Hq. Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div.

Vieu, Herman J. He served with K Co. 35 Inf. 25 Div. Camp 5.

Wilmeth, Leonard B. (Tex), died 6/11/07. He is survived by his wife, Peggy. He served with Svc. Btry. 38 FABN, 2 Div. Camps 5 & 3.

Zellers, Larry died 8/19/2007. *Civillian*

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Personal Information Stolen From AXPOW Headquarters

On August 11 or 12, 2007, there was a break-in at National Headquarters for the American Ex-Prisoners of War, in Arlington, TX. All computer hard drives were stolen, along with several days of mail, checks and cash awaiting deposit and assorted paper files and records. These records include National Service Officer work, protected under Federal law.

The database of members has social security numbers, dates of birth and VA claim numbers in them, along with names, addresses and other personal information. AX-POW members need to be alert for any fraudulent activities concerning their finances.

Newsletter Info

The Association Newsletter is published four times annually in March, June, September, and December by the Korean War Ex-POW Association. Postage is paid at the Las Cruces, New Mexico bulk mailing facilities.

At the Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, August 3, 2007, a motion was made and passed by members of the Board present, that the Association should consider having a newsletter editor. A recommendation was made that Cindy Chapman be considered for the position of Editor and Webmaster of the Association website. A motion was made and passed that Cindy Chapman be appointed by the Board of Directors as the Association Editor and Webmaster. Please send all comments and information to the Editor at the address list below or e-mail at webmaster@koreanwarexpov.org

Email Newsletter: If you have internet access and would like to receive your newsletter via email rather than through the mail, email our editor at webmaster@koreanwarexpov.org, please include your name, mailing address, and email address.

This will be a benefit to those who travel to warmer places; you can keep up with what's happening without worrying about not getting the newsletter.

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Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

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in the Springtime. As near as we can tell, the road has never flooded out. This is important, for many of the burials at Hanjang-ni were above the village and some were even just above the road.

This was a terrible time, five or ten men, or more, died every day. Until Thanksgiving, burials were barely possible. After that, the ground froze up solidly, and surviving men were simply too weak to do very much. Our best estimate is that 203 American servicemen and three American civilians died at Hanjang-ni. After the ground froze, some burials were done with ice and rocks in shallow ditches, and some bodies were simply placed behind a nearby hut. We know that some graves were rummaged by wild animals, but our best hope is that returning villagers later did re-burials wherever they could. None of this is very pleasant to remember, but when we finally get to Hanjang-ni, we'll be treating the whole site as the scene of a mass casualty, like the crash of a large aircraft. We know that we will be finding partial, skeletal remains, and that we will be relying very heavily on DNA matches for identifications. This is why we have been working so hard against dates, remembered as well as could be, to determine who actually died at Hanjang-ni.

The "Johnnie Johnson List" becomes especially important here, for it has real dates, as remembered by "JJ" and his friends. After war's end, the Army used a different system for recording official dates of death. If three of four men cited someone, the Army took the latest date, and often rounded it out to month's end or even the end of the next month, trying to give benefit of doubt to the man himself. But in the process, they created mis-leads on where the man had actually died. For example, if a man passed sometime in February of March 1951, and the Army set 30 April 1951 for record purposes, he would have died at Hanjang-ni, but his date would match the police compound, instead. None of this is easy, so we've had to reconstruct man by man. And there are other complications: a few men attributed to Tiger Group after the war may not have been there, and a few others, not well remembered, may have been forgotten. But we'll keep trying.

The survivors of Tiger Group moved one more time at the Apex Camps, to the police post between the villages of An-dong and Kaeyambol, sometime around 8 March 1951. Winter was easing into Spring, days were a little longer and a little warmer. More importantly, the sadistic guard commander, The Tiger, had been removed. But many men were very near to death. What cold and hunger had not done, pneumonia often would. Good men continued to die, despite the best efforts of their companions and the little extra food that they were now receiving. Around 68 American servicemen and one British Marine died at the police post. (Civilians were separated and held at a nearby village, but we look on An-dong as one overall site.) Most of the burials occurred at one extended location. Friends carried bodies out the front gate, turned left up the road running along the stream in the valley. They did the burials some distance up the

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Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

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road, probably on both sides. The only saving graces here were that only one or two men died each day, and the ground could now be dug for shallow burials. In the fullness of time, we expect to recover most if not all of these men. The area has changed very little in the last fifty years, and the stream is a small, shallow one, not given to great flooding.

There are other issues, as well. Foreign members of Tiger Group, not just Americans, died at the Apex Camps. Our best procedure, once work begins, will be to recover their remains as well. You can't tell the difference in the field, and this is a courtesy which we would respect in any case. I honestly do not know when we will be able to get to the Apex Camps. I am hoping for 2009, if we can begin work at other North Korean sites, from previous base camps, in 2008. I am also hoping that we can use a stretch of level road near An-dong as a landing ground for possible shuttle flights, from either Pyongyang or Manpo, to support recovery teams. We sincerely doubt that the North Koreans would allow U.S. military aircraft into the area, but there are others that we could charter. Let us worry about the details.

Finally, Tiger Group left the Apex Camps in October 1951. They made a short march up the road to the Yalu River, then poled and floated down to Camp 3 below Changsong, part of the main Chinese camp system on the south bank. One man died en route, 1LT Bernard Ferdinand Roth, and he was buried on the south shore. Several other men from Tiger Group died after reaching Camp 3, but as near as we can tell, all of their bodies were returned by Chinese authorities during Operation Glory in September 1954, and were successfully identified.

Not the happiest of stories, but this was the incredible journey of Tiger Group.

Best to all! Phil O'B

Looking for Information

John D. (Jackie) Franklin: He was with A/19/24 and captured on July 16, 1950 and died on June 6, 1951, at the old Japanese Army Camp. He was from New Jersey. Please contact Shorty Estabrook with any information.

John Albrecht: He was with I Company, 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division who was captured on July 12, 1950 and died on Jan 31, 1951, at Hanjung-ni please contact Shorty Estabrook with any information.

William G. (Gustave) Toomey: Family is looking for any information regarding their father, William Toomey. Please email E. Varno at webmaster@koreanwarexpow.org.

Author Pat Avery is looking for pictures of **Sunchon Tunnel Massacre** survivors. Contact Pat at riverroadpress@yahoo.com.

Legislation Allows Veterans to Salute the Flag

There is new legislation that clarifies allowing Veterans and service members not in uniform to salute the flag. This may seem like a small change, but all Veterans can now render a smart hand salute to the flag during all appropriate public events.

Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not."

Status:

Latest Major Action: 7/26/2007:
Referred to House Committee.

Status:

Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Ascariasis

Here is a copy of one POW's service connection cause of death information.

Information: copy of internet article, from CDC's Parasite & Health Page, "Life Cycle" intestinal Ascariasis.

Medical opinion, VAMC San Diego, dated March 8, 2007.

Reasons For Decision:

Service connection for the cause of death. (Name of individual removed)

Service connection for the cause of the veteran's death is granted, based on the SMR evidence and the VA medical opinion, since evidence shows that it was related to military service. The cause of death is recorded as: acute respiratory failure and end stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The SMR medical treatment record dated August 1953, indicated that individual had been hospitalized during the POW incarceration in treatment of respiratory complaints. He was also found to have Ascariasis infestation while a prisoner and was treated for the same in 1953. At the time of his separation from service he demonstrated a chronic, non-productive cough. Chest x-rays dated August 1953, reported bronchial vascular markings to be diffusely increased, without infiltration being seen. The medical opinion states that based on the life cycle of the Ascariasis which migrates through the systemic circulation of the lungs, invade the alveolar walls, and then ascend the bronchial tree; that it

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2007 Reunion Report

Treasurers Report: "A good time was had by all" I hope!!! I certainly enjoyed visiting with ole friends as well as the new people that showed up.

Once again the hospitality function was a great success due to the efforts of Bo Bolinsky, Donald Denny and the many others much too numerous to mention (you know who you are). Before the Refreshment bar was open, we received \$830.00 in donations.

Everyone was very generous this year. After expenses, a record amount of \$1,374.98 was added to the hospitality fund from the bar activity. Many thanks to those who contributed to the activity and especially those who pitched in and made it happen.

As usual, Audrey and her crew did an outstanding job handling the raffle tables. The raffle activity generated a whopping \$3,698.00 this year. This is all profit to the hospitality fund. We greatly appreciate those who contributed the items for the raffle as well as those individuals who worked so hard to make the activity a success.

The 50/50 drawing was another great success. We decided not to do a 50/50 drawing on Friday night. The 50/50 drawing generated \$784.00 to the hospitality fund. Many thanks to all those who worked this activity and also those who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

A deposit of \$6,855.46 was deposited in reunion fund account in Mesilla, NM. This represents the proceeds from the hospitality bar, the 50/50 drawing, the raffle activity plus the \$1,000.00 seed money advanced from reunion fund account at Mesilla, NM, prior to the reunion.

A total of \$2,941.00 was deposited in the Association account here in Cleveland, TN. This represents the membership donations during and after the membership meeting.

If anyone has questions regarding this report, all records and receipts are in file for review at any time. I will be happy to answer any questions that may arise.

William K. Norwood, Association Treasurer

Resolution passed: With the intent to recognize, Philip A. O'Brien and Stephen Thompson, for their dedicated efforts in researching and skillfully documenting the plight of American Prisoners of War in Korea, and Tim Casey for his dedicated efforts in establishing and maintaining the roster of the Korean Ex-POW Association.

Whereas, by the act of the Board of Directors of the Korean War Association, a motion was adopted to accept, Philip A. O'Brien, Stephen Thompson and Tim Casey as an honorary members of the Korean War

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2007 Reunion Report

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Ex-POW Association. Therefore, be it resolved that Philip A. O'Brien, Stephen Thompson and Tim Casey be afforded all privileges extended to an Honorary Member of the Korean War EX-POW Association from this day forward.

Newly Elected Officers And Board Members:

President: Fred Liddell

First Vice-President: Lloyd Pate

Second Vice-President: Franklin "Jack" Chapman

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring 2010

James Ball, Cindy Chapman, Wilbur (Shorty) Estabrook, Betty Sitler, and Edward Smith.

Replacing Lloyd Pate, Carlos Lugo, Term expiring 2009.

50th Anniversaries Celebrated This Year:

Harold and Jean Beerbower

Larry and Eleanor Donovan

Troy and Beulah Williams

First Timers:

David Mills

Jim Jones,

Gerald Doyle

Impressive Attendance:

24 Webers: Irvin & Rita, their daughters and spouses and grandchildren. What an great group!

On This Day, July 10, 1951

From the VA, "POW study of former prisoners of war" printed May 1980.

Armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong. The peace agreement was signed 24 months and 17 days later. 3,597 American POW's (General Bill Dean among them) began being released over a two month period. 38% of the American POW's died in prison camps in North Korea. 5% of the POW's in North Vietnam died. 37% died in the Pacific and 1% died in Europe during WWII.

Keep us in the Loop

If you move, no longer wish to receive the newsletter, or if you are going away for the winter, **please** notify Tim Casey or Fred Liddell.

Email Tim at
csmcasey@charter.net.

Ascariasis

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is as likely as not, that the COPD (chronic bronchitis) began while as a POW. The rationale being that he was infested with roundworm, treated when he was expatriated (with X-rays finding of bronchial vascular markings in 1953) and that these finding are most consistent with the vascular truma from the presence of the roundworm infiltration, which ultimately developed into the chronic bronchities. Therefore, service connection for the cause of death is granted effective October 28, 2006, the date he died.

REFERENCES:

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulation of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our web site, www.va.gov.

Tiger Chop Chop

The **Tiger Chop Chop** will be at 5:30 PM on 1 August 2008 at the host hotel. Cost is \$38.00 per adult, \$19.00 under 12 and 5 and under are free. Payable in advance to Shorty Estabrook.

We will dine on the **Southern Comfort Buffet** with coffee and teas, soup, salad and cole slaw, cornbread and honey butter, pork, fried chicken, top round of beef, squished spuds, veggies, and apple and cherry cobblers.

The Korean War Ex-POW Association
Newsletter - September 2007

Fred Liddell, President

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Carlos Lugo (*replacing Lloyd Pate*)

Term Expiring 2010

James Ball
Cindy Chapman
Wilbur (Shorty) Estabrook
Betty Sitler
Edward Smith

Cindy Chapman, Newsletter Editor

2008 Reunion of the Korean War Ex-POW Association

Doubletree Hotel (Denver Tech)
7801 E. Orchard Rd.
Greenwood Village, CO. 80111

Sunday, July 27 – Sunday, August 3, 2008

*For reservations, call 303-253-3993 or
toll free 1-800-327-2242*

Rates are \$99.00 plus tax

We are starting to put together our program for the upcoming Reunion in Denver, and hope that you are making plans to attend. The Armed Forces Reunions will be handling our reunion as in the past.