



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

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President's Message

Fred Liddell

It's that time of year, Holidays are fast approaching. We, Frances and I, are headed to Oregon and Washington for Thanksgiving, then back home to Alabama for Christmas. Hopefully we'll get some travel in our motorhome before too long.

I received a mailing from another organization regarding alcohol use at a reunion. It explained how all of us could be liable for someone traveling home and having an accident. It was explained that the usual procedure is to sue the organization, then the officers, then the board members and lastly, the members at large. In Denver, the laws, not the hotel, say we can't furnish drinks as we have in the past, so come prepared to use the bars or BYOL.

A committee has been formed to come up with a plaque for Andersonville. The Tigers have one, but we'd like to put one up for the whole Korean POW group. Bring your ideas to Denver or contact Lloyd Pate.

The memory book has gone to the printer so hopefully you'll have them by Christmas. I always look forward to receiving mine to see what Elliott and his crew put together.

Please drop me, Tim Casey, or Jack Chapman a line if your address changes. We had 31 returns with a new address and I don't remember the number of "Unable to forward" we had, but it is a considerable one. They cost \$0.58 to be returned and those I can mail back out are \$0.58, too. So it's \$1.16 each plus the original mailing cost. It all adds up. Help us keep the mailing list up to date.

Have a great Holiday and hope to see everyone in Denver.

PS. Our computer is gunny sack, hope to put it in the closet with Norwoods'.

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

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

The year is winding down, and quite a bit will be happening in 2008. As of right now, we do not have an invitation to enter North Korea for continued recovery work. But we are hoping. These things unfold at their own pace. But there are other developments that we can speak about . . .

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Sick Call

Carol Bolinsky
Frances Liddell
Glenn (Jake) Stotts

Taps

BROWN, Ira James, died 2/24/07. He is survived by his wife, Wanda. He served with B Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div.

CALE, Val J., died 11/8/07. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann. He served with A Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div.

Col. COURY, Robert A., died 7/11/07. His funeral, with full Military honors, was at Arlington National Cemetery, on Monday, October 15. He is survived by his wife and son, Lt. Col. Thomas R. Coury, USAF Ret. He served with 12 FBS 18 FBW USAF.

CUMMINGS, Richard E. died 10/21/07. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude. He served with Svc Btry, 52 FA BN, 24 Div.

DELUCAS, John J. died 11/16/07. He is survived by his wife, Marlene. He served with E Co 23 Inf Reg. 2 Div.

JENKINS, G.W. died 9/24/07. He served with A Btry 11 FABN 24 Div.

KASCHKO, Harold L. died 10/22/07. He is survived by his wife, Marie and two sons. He served with C Btry 38 FABN 2 Div.

MILKOVICH, Michael, He served with F Co. 21 Inf. 24 Div.

PARSONS, Auvil died 4/20/1993.

RINDELS, Raymond M. died 8/15/1997.

SANTIAGO, Abraham He is survived by his wife, Antonia.

SANTO, Joseph Ciro He served with C Co. 19 Inf. 24 Div.

TAFT, Leonard C, died 09/2006. He was with MAG 61, 1 MAW.

Chaplain's Corner

Norman Hale, Chaplain

Greetings to all my pals and their families. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and all other Holidays, we need to thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all our blessings. We wish everyone the best this coming year and my prayer is that everything goes well with all of you during these Special days.

The Bible tells us in II Corinthians 8:9, that every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord. So we ask God to help us to be thankful in everyday life, bringing forth the fruits of thanksgiving in ministering to others for our masters sake. Let us rejoice to minister to those in need, remembering the faithful ministry of our Savior, "Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed."

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Looking for Information

PFC Glenn Alan Carter RA 19 350 843: I have researched my Father's service records and found out he was in Company B, 7th Inf, part of Task Force Dysdale. He was one of those stranded in Hell Fire Valley. He was shot in the head on November 29, 1950, and survived that injury but was never the same and died 15 years later at age 35. In the process of researching his life, I have become very emotionally disheveled and am very sad that my Father was someone I could not know. Please give me any info you can.

Please contact Merrie (Carter) Miller at webmaster@koreanwarexpov.org.

Richard "Dick" Edward Killion: My father was a POW during the Korean War. He passed away in 1989 and is now buried in the national cemetery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There was never any discussion in our family about his experiences and no documentation, except one letter home that I was able to find among my aunt's belongings. If you have any suggestions for my finding out about his military service, his time in Korea and anyone that may remember him, I would very much appreciate it.

Killion, Richard E., born 02/16/1933, died 08/19/1989, buried 08/28/1989

Please contact Kim Killion at webmaster@koreanwarexpov.org.

Robert Dean Smith: My dad was a POW in Korea for 33 months, captured November 28, 1950. He was killed in 1960 in a helicopter crash. If you have any information about him, his daughter, Theresa King, would be interested in learning about him.

Please contact Theresa King at webmaster@koreanwarexpov.org.

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

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Between March and September 2007, our recovery teams explored across much of South Korea. This was not unusual, for we have a standing invitation. But we did have a chance to do something we hadn't tried for a while. We walked parts of the POW evacuation routes north. The area we explored, this time, was used by men captured in February and May of 1951. The village of Hwachon, now a real town, was the main stopping point. It was also our starting point. From there, the main road worked north then gradually west to cross the base of what would later be known as the Iron Triangle. Night by night, POWs marched on through a valley between Kumhwa and Chorwon, then farther northwest into the present DMZ. There were recoveries along this route during the Korean War and afterwards, but it had been some years since anyone had gone village by village in a systematic way, speaking with local inhabitants every day. A real advantage here: the South Korean government is making a strong effort to re-settle the area. Many of the people living there now are children and grandchildren of those displaced during the war. This is hill country, but garden, terrace, and even tree farming are possible. While hiking up from Hwachon toward Kumhwa, our team from Hickam AFB recovered two sets of human remains believed to be U.S. POWs who died en route north. We're now working on IDs.

Some of the team members who work in South Korea also do work in Europe and other places, and they will not be back in South Korea until next year. But, with any luck we'll have work ongoing in both North and South Korea in 2008. Scheduling becomes an art, because the anthropologist who recovers human remains is not allowed to make the final ID. This has to be "reviewed work" by someone else. But the same person can be used to identify someone else's recovery, and prior field experience in the same general area can be very helpful. So in a given case, an anthropologist might [1] return from field work in Europe, [2] complete the identification of a Korean case that he or she did not recover, then [3] go to either North or South Korea for more field work, and [4] return to do yet another ID on remains that had just come in with a different team. Gets complicated, but the system works.

Meanwhile, other developments . . . Recent recoveries from North and South Korea are kept in respectful storage above ground at the Central Identification Laboratory, belonging to Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. A lot of progress has been made toward identification of these men, as well. We now know to a certainty that many of those returned by the North Koreans between 1990 and 1994 were POWs who had died at the Suan Bean Camp and the Suan Mining

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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 me.

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Taps, cont.

TENARIO, Sam He is survived by his wife, Roberta. He served with 13 FABN 24th Inf. Div.

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Email Newsletter:

If you have internet access and an email account, and would like to receive your newsletter via email rather than through the mail, email our editor at webmaster@koreanwarexpow.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. This will also save our Association time and money by eliminating the need to forward newsletters if you are not at your main address.

Reunion info

Beginning in 2008, we will be able to register for our reunion online with AFR. This new system is secure, and AFR-owned, none of our information will be seen by a third-party. More information will come in our March newsletter.

Purple Heart Awarded

Our old Prisoner of War Buddy, Lupe Robriquez, Medical Company 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, received his long overdue Purple Heart Medal today! It was 57 years ago that he earned this coveted medal!

Lupe had escaped with two other guys and both of them were shot to death. Lupe, was also wounded and returned to our encampment at Kosan North Korea and forced to kneel with a stick between his legs and he had to hold a big rock above his head. Whenever he lowered the rock the North Koreans would start beating on him. It looked like they would pour kerosene over him and light it but for some reason they never did that.

Lupe was denied the Purple Heart on his first attempt and thanks to the many buddy letters that came from the Tiger Survivors his second application was approved. His grandkids are going crazy over this medal.

It was not until 1956 that Former Prisoners of War were authorized to apply for wounds received while a Prisoner of War regardless of the circumstances.

It is wonderful to have success for a change. Maybe now approval for a Purple Heart for those who died while a Prisoner of War will become official.

Shorty Estabrook

How to Avoid Probate

A POW friend of mine who lived in Florida passed to Glory and his wife is now going through Probate. Probate can take up to 3 years and cost 10% or more of the estate. So it is common sense to avoid Probate if at all possible. How can one do this?

First of all have a will drawn up. Husband and Wife can draw up their own will if you prefer. We do not know who will pass first.

I suggest you get "An Agreement to Establish Right of Survivorship to Community Property between Spouses." Each state could be different so it is best to check with your lawyer about this where you reside. This agreement is good when both spouses intend to leave everything to each other. This is a simple agreement between them.

This agreement would cover your home and other real property, all furnishings and household goods in the home, all automobiles and other vehicles, all bank accounts, stocks, bonds, IRAs, Certificates of Deposits and all property jointly owned and all other property acquired during marriage, except property acquired by gift or inheritance, clearly identified as separate property and kept separate and apart from the community property of the Husband and Wife.

This means that all community property of Husband and Wife shall pass to the surviving spouse upon the death of the first to die, without the necessity of Probate Court proceedings or other legal actions other than the recording of this Agreement in the records of the County Clerk where you reside at time of death.

If you have a Military ID Card through disability or Retirement you can use the services of the Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) office on any Military Base that has one. They can do a will for you and one for your wife and also this Agreement as well as a living trust etc.

Don't leave your spouse in a bind.

Shorty Estabrook

This & That

Room to Share in Denver: One of the Tiger Survivor's widow wants to come to the reunion in Denver and need to share a room with another lady to save on expenses. Her husband was a retired USMC Colonel and was the first Marine to fly missions in Korea. His name was Davy Booker and she is Lil. Contact Shorty if you are interested.

Guest Speaker: Medal of Honor Recipient and former Korean Ex-POW, Hiroshi "Hershey" (also known as Mike) Miyamura was a special speaker at a Veterans Appreciation Day event in Las Cruces, NM.

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

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Camp. Six of these men from Suan have already been identified. About 20 others are in work, right now, and some will be completed before year's end. For February 1951 POWs, this includes some of the men accidentally killed in an air raid on 22 April 1951. Here, one name will lead to another. In many cases, we've already discovered which men were buried together, and which men separately. The logic unfolds in small steps, and this work will also continue into next year.

Between 1990 and 1994, the North Koreans returned other men who had died in Camp 5 at Old Pyoktong. There were 20 caskets from Camp 5, now known as Tongju-ri, containing the partial remains of around 50 men. DNA sampling continues as we write. One of the problems here is that the North Koreans and Chinese had already returned human remains from Camp 5 during Operation Glory in September 1954. Most of the returns in 1954 were individual burials from well above Yalu River or from behind the pagoda sick house. But the returns in 1990-94 appear to have been from common burials, low down along the back water arm of the Yalu River. So they were badly commingled. But separation work continues. Later, we should have some identifications from here, as well.

We've been looking at these returns from Camp 5 very carefully because we hope to be working in the same area at some future time. We know that most of the back water arm, behind Camp 5, has been diked and drained. So our work will probably begin just below the old water line, for there were many wash-aways from the Winter burials, which were just covered by rocks and ice and brush. In some cases, we expect to find additional portions of skeletal remains that we received in 1990-94. We are working with some of these, which are substantially complete, now, to press ahead for IDs. But I wouldn't be surprised if others, later on, will require recombination from different sources, the past turnovers and our own future work.

One final item . . . We still have 867 Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. One went to Arlington National Cemetery as the Official Unknown from the Korean War. But since then, ten others have been exhumed, and six of these men have now been identified. It might come as a surprise, but three of these exhumations were of men returned from Camp 5, of whom one has been identified. Here the question was one of taking a very close look at newly discovered dental records, and even a chest x-ray. Work continues on the others. We will probably exhume three or four more men next year, based on recently developed leads. But if we can get back into North Korea, our first obligation becomes recovery. We don't like the idea of leaving remains in possession unidentified, but at a given point, there are only so many hours and so many anthropologists who can do the final ID.

I'm very optimistic about next year. The recovery teams working out of Hawaii have worldwide obligations, but we know that we will be able to

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Contributions

Lloyd Pate, Bruce H. Cram for our Association operating fund.

Please send donations to:
William K. Norwood

Addresses Needed

Here are the names of individuals whose newsletters were returned with no forwarding address. If you have a current address for them, please let Fred Liddell, Tim Casey, or Jack Chapman know.

Baugh, Milton H.
Bourg, John J.
Bridgewater, Lawrence E.
Capurro, Umberto Jr.
Chapman, Ollie
Chappell, Mrs. Dorothy
Davis, Floyd A.
Fritz, John H.
Hope, James R.
McClain, Mrs. Faye
McCrary, William R.
Strainger, Bobby P.
Tarpley, Walter D.
Witt, James

Hawaii Reunion

The April 2008 POW week runs from April 2-10, the banquet is on Thursday, April 3, and the Punch-bowl ceremony is on April 9. Nick has 35 room blocked under POW at the Hale Koa Hotel for the Reunion. The phone number there is 1-800-367-6027. Reserve a room as soon as possible, as the Hale Koa is fully booked in April, except for those rooms.

Thanks for organizing the mini-reunion, Nick!

Sunchon Tunnel Massacre

Merry Helms, who is working on a story for TARO LEAF about the Sunchon Tunnel Massacre, has identified the following survivors of the massacre who have passed away. All are on the honor roll.

Arakawa, Jack C., Staff Sgt, 19th Inf, a WWII as well as Korean veteran, died 3/30/1973

Bomberry, Robbie O., Corp, 26th AAA, died 4/17/1992

Brady, Thomas L., Pfc, 29th Inf., died 10/15/1994

Cables, Myles A., Corp, H&H Co. 34th Inf., died 4/9/1993

Cerino, Joseph T, Jr., Corp, 29th Inf., died 2/4/2002

Craig, Arlton, Corp, 19th Inf., died 3/1974

Eggen, Burdett, Pvt, 29th Inf., died 2/1974

Makarounis, Alexander G., 1 Lt, CO of I Co. 29th Inf., died 7/31/1994

Mounce, Aaron W., Pvt, 29th Inf., also a WWII veteran, died 2/21/2003

Parsons, Auvil, Sgt, 29th Inf., also a WWII veteran, died 4/20/1993

Rindels, Raymond M., Pfc, 19th Inf., died 8/15/1997

Rookstoll, Melvin D., Pvt 29th Inf., died 2/16/2006

Rufatto, Barney P., MSgt, I Co., 34th Inf., died 2/4/1979

Stamper, Theodore F., Pvt, 29th Inf., died 10/13/1998

Sweat, Leonard B., Corp, F Co., 19th Inf., died 8/20/1970

Volturo, Sylvester, Pfc, 29th Inf., also a WWII veteran, died 12/1980

The following have been previously reported, but not as survivors of the massacre:

Blake, Dale D, Pfc, 3rd Eng. BN, died 4/11/2002

Hanchey, Ray H., 19th Inf., died 7/24/1996

Kumagai, Takeshi, Sgt, HQ., 34th Inf., died 10/1989

Marine/Soldiers Identified

Soldiers Missing in Action Identified

July 19, 2007: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors. They are Sgt. Donald C. Trent, of Crab Orchard, W.Va.; Cpl. Robert K. Imrie, of Randolph, Mass.; and Cpl. Samuel Wirrick of Lancaster, Pa.; all U.S. Army. Imrie will be buried Monday at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.; and Trent and Wirrick will be buried at Arlington in October.

In late November 1950, these soldiers were members of the 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, then operating south of the Chongchon River in North Korea. Their regiment's positions came under heavy attack by Chinese forces and the 2nd Battalion was forced to withdraw to positions near the town of Kujang. On Nov. 27, Imrie was killed in action, and Trent and Wirrick were reported missing.

In 2000, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Korean People's Army team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass burial believed to contain the remains of U.S. soldiers who died near Kujang. The team found human remains, Wirrick's identification tag and other material evidence associated with U.S. Army infantry equipment.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.

Soldier Missing in Action is Identified

Aug. 7, 2007: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is Sgt. Frank Bunchuk, U.S. Army, of Medina, N.Y. He will be buried Thursday in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

In November 1950, Bunchuk was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division then occupying a defensive position southwest of Unsan, North Korea near a bend in the Kuryong River known as the Camel's Head. On Nov. 1, parts of two Chinese Communist Divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. In the process, the 3rd Battalion was surrounded and effectively ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Bunchuk was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

In 2002, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of North Korea team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a burial site south of Unsan near the nose of the Camel's Head formed by the joining of the Nammyon and Kuryong rivers. The team recovered human remains.

Marine/Soldiers Identified

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Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of Bunchuk's remains.

Marine Missing is Identified

Sept. 14, 2007: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is Pfc. Carl A. West, U.S. Marine Corps, of Amanda Park, Washington. He will be buried Oct. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

West was a member of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division deployed near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, 1950, three Communist Chinese Divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S. forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south, first to Hagaru-ri, then Koto-ri, and eventually to defensive positions at Hungnam. West died on Dec. 8, 1950 as a result of enemy action near Koto-ri. He was buried by fellow Marines in a temporary United Nations military cemetery in Hungnam, which fell to the North Koreans in December 1950. His identity was later verified by the FBI from a fingerprint taken at the time of the burial.

During Operation Glory in 1954, the North Korean government repatriated the remains of 2,944 U.S. soldiers and Marines. Included in this repatriation were remains associated with West's burial. The staff at the U.S. Army Mortuary in Kokura, Japan, however, cited suspected discrepancies between the dental remains and West's dental file as well as discrepancies between the biological profile derived from the remains and West's physical characteristics. The remains were among 416 subsequently buried as "unknowns" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) in Hawaii.

In May 2006, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command exhumed remains from The Punchbowl believed to be those of West. Although the remains did not yield usable DNA data, a reevaluation of the skeletal and dental remains led to West's identification.

Soldier Missing in Action is Identified

Nov. 20, 2007: The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified. He is Sgt. Agostino Di Rienzo, U.S. Army, of East Boston, Mass.

Di Rienzo was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division then occupying a defensive position near Unsan, North Korea in an area known as the "Camel's Head." On Nov. 1, 1950, parts of two Chinese Communist Forces divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's

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Korean War POW/ MIA Report (JPAC)

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cover possible work in both North and South Korea. We also know that we will have fully qualified anthropologists rotating in and out of the main laboratory, between times in the field, and that they will be able to continue identification work. Several cases are nearing completion, right now. All I can do at this point is to help with a few details here and there ... and hope for an early invitation to continue recovery work in North Korea. No need to write to anyone ... in fact, it's better if you don't ... Things are already moving along. But an occasional prayer would be very welcome.

Marine/Soldiers Identified

continued from left

lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. In the process, the 3rd Battalion was surrounded and effectively ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Di Rienzo was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted-for from the battle at Unsan.

In 2002, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of North Korea team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a burial site south of Unsan near the nose of the "Camel's Head" formed by the joining of the Nammyon and Kuryong rivers. The team recovered human remains.

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Fred Liddell, President

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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.