



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. (Bill) Norwood

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President's Message

All though we were small in numbers, we were large in camaraderie. We really had a great time in Chicago. I was honored to be re-elected as your President for another year. I know there are many of you that could do a better job, but you never step forward. WHY? I would like to acknowledge one of the most important members of our organization, Ms. Paula Norwood. For more years than I can remember, she has always been there when we needed her. It did not matter if it was in the hospitality room or the registration desk or any other position, she was there to volunteer. Then we had Cindy Chapman, Peggy Sullivan, Betty Sitler, Mary Fenton, Bo Bolinsky, Donald Denny and so many others that I cannot remember, but one I cannot forget is Bill Norwood who brought us all together and changed our lives forever. I hope to see as many of you as possible in Norfolk next year. I love all of you and may God bless America again.

Pate

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello to all our buddies and families!! It was a pleasure to see each of you at the reunion this year! I did miss the ones who could not come. I pray that God will take care of you. I would like to thank Shorty for the invitation to their Tiger banquet, it was absolutely great! Also, we were proud to see so many single people attending. Peggy, you are doing a great job. We are looking forward to seeing each of you in Norfolk next year, but until then, let us pray for good health to everyone. My prayer is taken from John 16:33 give us Life this day, O Lord, above the strife and sin of the streets into the calm, clear atmosphere of communion with, and peace in, Thee. "Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace."

Having been thus refreshed let us then face the tasks and take up the burdens of life without fear or anxiety, and with gladness and singleness of heart. Make our lives count from day to day, not only in things done, but in the quality of spirit we possess when things go wrong and the road seems rough. In Jesus name, Amen.

Your Chaplain, Norman Hale

Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)

Continuation from June 2010 Newsletter Report

Let's do some more exploring! In the last issue, we spoke of the men who later formed Tiger Group. Here are some of the sites where they were held in North Korea. You'll need a home computer or access to one at your local public library. Use **Google Maps**, in **satellite mode**, the **button is at far right, on the map**. You can drop down easily on the locations you pick. Don't worry, the librarian can explain "how to," if need be. In the little story that follows, you'll see map references, like **126 08 00 E, 41 02 45 N**. They are in East longitude and North latitude. They are pretty exact, down to a few hundred feet or so. Just read them as they are, including spaces and the comma. When you are ready, punch them in, to "**Google Maps**," in "**satellite**." As soon as the map image shows on your screen, **just keep zooming in**

Back to our story! The POWs who became Tiger Group marched north and gathered at Seoul in July and August 1950. Next, they were in Pyongyang, leaving by train in early September to arrive at Manpo a few days later. Tiger Group did not stay in Manpo for long. This was also an entry point for Chinese troops coming into the Korean War. Tiger Group made a short side trip down to Kosan in October, where the old compound is still standing at **126 08 00 E, 41 02 45 N**. Take a peek, it stands out very clearly! Just keep zooming in, closer, closer, closer

Then back to Manpo near month's end. We do not know the exact location of the "cornfield site" where POWs camped in the open at Manpo before marching to the Apex Camps. But we believe it was not far from the old round house for steam engines used at that time. Find the "C-shaped" round house at Manpo near **126 17 00 E, 41 09 00 N**, Tiger Group may have stayed in one of the open fields south and east of it.

A terrible death march up to the three villages of the Apex Camps followed. We can still find those villages. Tiger Group arrived at the first, now known to us as Chunggang-jin, early in November 1950. We believe the village, then, was where the trail up from Manpo crossed a local stream, near **126 51 45 E, 41 45 20 N**.

The POWs came to the second village, now known as Hanjang-ni, later that month, to winter-over. The village is now at **126 56 25 E, 41 48 15 N**, probably rebuilt a little south from the bend in the gravel road where the original huts were reported. You can see that the area is still pretty thinly settled. During Spring and Summer of 1951, Tiger Group stayed at an old Japanese army compound between the villages of An-dong and Kaeyambol. That compound is still there, at **126 52 34 E, 41 44 35 N**. From there, Tiger Group barged south on the Yalu River, finally arriving at Camp 3 just below Changsong. Next time, a different group

Best to all! Phil O'B - 703-699-1222

OAK BROOK REUNION 2010 REPORT

There is so much to say in such a small allotted space, so many people to thank, so many memories and friendships revived; so much to be thankful for but I will summarize my thoughts by saying our reunion this year was a great success. The total attendance was 314 who registered, 98 of which were EX-POW's. There were 5 first timers and 18 surviving spouse. Our receipts from the hospitality room this year broke an all time record in most all categories.

A special thank you goes out to all those who worked so long and hard to accomplish this goal. We also appreciate those who contributed so generously to our cause. Space will not permit us to list each name but you know who you are. The Association membership approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to the Andersonville National Historic Site to be applied to "The POW Traveling Legacy Project". Dallas Mossman also made a very generous donation.

60th Anniversary Gift All former POW's and surviving spouse who attended the reunion this year received a miniature of the plaque installed at Andersonville, GA. in 2009. Our initial supply of plaques has been depleted. However, the manufacturer has agreed to produce additional plaques for sale at our cost if there is additional interest.

The vendor says the shipping and handling charges will be \$10.00 per plaque shipped. This includes the box and packing. The orders should be sent to me with a check payable to The Korean War EX-POW Association in the amount of \$62.00 per plaque (\$52.00 per plaque plus \$10.00 shipping and handling) and noted - PLAQUE ORDER. **The cut off date for plaque orders will be October 15, 2010. No orders will be accepted after that date.** There will be some delay in accumulating the orders and producing the plaques, but this will be done as rapidly as possible.

Mark your calendar for July 31st - August 7th, 2011 at which time we will meet again at Norfolk, VA. Best wishes to all. Bill Norwood, 1st Vice President/Treasurer

SICK: BRUNELLE, Harry E, IONADI, Anthony, VILAFAN, David, RABY, Dick and SHEFFIELD, Edward .

TAPS

BOLINSKY, Walter J. (BO), _____ died, 08/17/2010. He is survived by his wife (Carol) of 54 years, a son Daniel, two granddaughters, a sister and several nieces and nephews.

He had attended the reunion at Oak Brook, IL, and stopped off at the home of Elliott and Sandy Sortillo, on his way home. That night he became ill and on August 17, 2010, one day shy of his 79 birthday, he died. In lieu of flowers, the **families appreciate donations in Bo's memory to Anderson National Historic Site, c/o Bill Norwood,** _____.

He served with HQ Co. 9Inf. 2Div. POW 50/12/01-53/08/25, Cps 3 & 5. The following were in attendance in Pennsylvania to give final respects for Bo: Jim & Audrey DeLong, Donald & Jean Denny, Chuck & Betty Elder, Ed & Mary Fenton with son-in-law Greg Bruseau, Sophie Guintier & daughter Nancy Wheel, & Eugene & Bernadine Johnson, Bill & Liz Norwood and daughter Paula, Dick & Treva Raby, Larry & Marian Schadler, Fred Searles, Elliott & Sandy Sortillo, Andy & Helen Viscuso. Burial will take place with Military Honors Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 2pm in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

The following members from the area Rolling Thunder chapters attended the service to pay respects to Bo:

Lynne Jenks, National Vice President of Rolling Thunder; Joe Bean, National Reports Officer; Donald Crane, President Scranton, PA Chapter 3; and others from Rolling Thunder who were unidentified.

The following is a list of those who attended Bo's final tribute at Arlington:

Chuck & Betty Elder, Elliott and Sandy Sortillo, Donald & Jean Denny, Bill & Liz Norwood, Jim &

Audrey Delong, Don & Hanneltjie Denny, Gayle & Brian Roderick, Sarah Petersen, Ed & Mary Fenton, Greg & Linda Bruseau.

Also, the following Rolling Thunder members were in attendance; John & Fran Harrison, Fla. Chapter, Mike Ellis, Jim Furr, Virginia Chapter # 3 . Kathy Tuck, Monika Price, Ken Price Virginia Chapter #4. Murray Hall President Maryland Chapter # 1 James Shelton and Ruth Skeleton Maryland Chapter # 1. A large number of family members was also present. I must say this was a most fitting tribute to Bo.

A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

The loss of Bo. Bolinsky will have a great impact on many of our lives, especially those of us that were fortunate enough to have been closely associated with him. Bo was our rock, someone to cheer us up when our spirits were low, someone to crack a joke and make things right, someone to depend on for support.

Bo first showed up at our 1978 reunion in Louisville, Kentucky and he never missed a reunion since that time. He immediately became involved in all our activities, especially the hospitality room. Bo was Mr. Hospitality spreading cheer and good will to everyone around him. Bo never met a stranger; just someone he had not met before.

I regret that I never told Bo I loved him. It just didn't seem the manly thing to do, but I think he knew it anyway.

My life, along with many others, has been greatly enriched by having known Bo Bolinsky as a true friend and I will miss him dearly. Bo's life exemplified sacrifices and dedication for his country, his family and friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, but he will never be forgotten.

Bo always made certain he would beat me to the reunion each year. He would drive all night in order to arrive first. I suppose when my time comes and I arrive at the pearly gates 'ole Bo will be standing there with that familiar grin on his face and signifying by saying to me "Well Norwood, I beat you again"

Long live the memory of our friend and best buddy, Bo Bolinsky. May he rest in peace until we meet again?

Bill Norwood and all of Bo's many friends.

BAUMGARTNER, Leroy V. died 05/ 23/ 2010. He is survived by four sons, a daughter, four brothers and four sisters. He served with D.Co. 21Inf. 24 Div. 24 Div. POW 50/07/05-53/08/25.CPs 3 & 7.

FONTANA, Anthony (Tony) died, 06/ 29/ 2010 at Oklahoma City, OK. He served with I.Co., 21Inf. 24th Div. POW 07/12/50 - 09/02/53.Cps 3 & 7. NFI

GARCIA, Andrew R. died. NFI. He served with I. Co. 21 Inf. 24 Div. POW 50/07/12- 53/08/29. CP 3 & 7.

HASTINGS, John (Jack) H. died 4/3/2010. He served with C.Co. 19Inf. 24Div. POW 50/11/04-53/09/02. Cp 2 & 5. He is survived by a daughter.

PAUL, Frank G. Died, date unknown. He served with "D"Co. 5 Rct. 24 Div. POW 51/04/22-53/04/24. Cp 1. NFI

SHIREY, William M.

died 11/08/2009. POW 51/02/13-53/09/06.

Cp 2. He served with HQ Btry, 15FABN, 2 Div. He is survived a daughter.

TIARKS, William M.

died 07/09/2010. He served

with Med.Co. 17Inf. 7Div. POW 52/07/14-53/08/27. Cp 3A. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, a son, two granddaughters and one great grandson.

ESCOBAR-TORRES, Vincent,

died, 8/8/2010 He served

with L.Co. 21 Inf. 24 Div. POW 50/07/11-53/08/27. CPs 3&7.

ROBINSON, Marshall Jr. from Toledo, OH, died 6/20/2009. He served with A Btry/503 FA Bn. Cp 5. Info received from his brother.

WOOLWORTH, Carl F.

died 06/18/2010. He server with E.Co.

19th Inf, 24 Div. POW 51/04/28-53/08/15. Cp 1. NFI

Contributions: William (Willie) Freeman (frequent donor) through the efforts of John Toth, donations from Denver KWVA and DAV Chapters, was made to our Association Operating funds. Fred & Frances Liddell in memory of Bo Bolinsky.

TWO NUNS FROM BELGIUM

During the first month of the Korean War many men from the 24th Infantry Division were killed, wounded or captured. Many were part of Task Force Smith.

There were 81 multinational civilians arrested who were interned with this group of American Prisoner of War.

That group is now called the Tiger Survivors.

Two of the civilian group were from Belgium and were stationed in Seoul with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres. When the communist North Koreans came into Seoul in early July 1950 these two Nuns were arrested along with many others.

Belgium had a military unit in Korea during that war and is now writing the history of that unit. The people doing the research had no idea that there were two Belgium nuns that had been arrested by the Communist.

Their story will be featured in the first pages of the general introduction of a catalogue entitled, "Belgians Can Do Too!" The story of these nuns is in the section entitled "The Forgotten War or the Ignored War."

Mother Mechtilde De Vriese, born in 1888 died at age 62 in North Korea on 18 November 1950. She was born Godelieve Devriese at Ypres, Belgium. She became a nun with the Carmelites when the Germans invaded in 1914.

At one point she was assigned to Turkey and an insurgency broke out and she and others barely escaped with their lives on a French Navy boat. She was then posted to Korea and endured the long Japanese occupation of that country.

She was arrested on July 15, 1950. She was promoted to Glory at Hanjang-ne North Korea and her remains are still there on that hill side. It is hard to imagine how hard this ordeal was on this 62 year old lady of the church. But consider this: she was blind as well!

This dear and wonderful lady of the church endured a veritable Martyrdom without complaint. Mother Therese **BASTIN** was born Irene **BASTIN** in 1901 in Belgium. She was only 14 when the Germans invaded in 1914. For the next four years she was an active member of "La Dame Blanche", a secret underground group.

Several of her friends were executed by the Germans and, in 1918 she was arrested but released due to lack of evidence and ill health. She had TB.

She went to Korea as a Carmelite nun in 1938. Her health had been failing for many years and it declined steadily after she was arrested. In prison she would make socks for other people. She knew that her death was fast approaching and was promoted to Glory on November 30, 1950 at Hanjang-ni North Korea where she remains to this day.
Shorty Estabrook

Gallup, New Mexico

Hiroshi (Hershey) Miyamura Day (Medal of Honor).

It was a great day for Hershey and his family. The Governor of New Mexico signed a proclamation declaring September 4, 2010, the "Hiroshi (Hershey) Miyamura Day.

The City Council and Mayor of Gallup also had a proclamation which named the new High School, The Hiroshi I. Miyamura High School!

An estimated 400-500 people were in attendance including a group of about forty Japanese American Korean War Veterans came from LA. The dedication of the school lasted about two hours. Attendees were given a tour of the new school and treated to refreshments. Joe Annello and Dan Lee McKinney attended dedication.

A STREET FOR DAVID

The city of Barstow California has named and dedicated a street to David **VILAFANA**. He also was just awarded a Purple Heart Medal for wounds received while a POW.

MISSING SAILOR: U.S. Navy Ensign Robert W. Langwell, of Columbus, Ind., was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on July 12th, 2010. On Oct. 1, 1950, Langwell was serving on the minesweeper USS Magpie when it sank after striking an enemy mine off the coast of Chuksan-ri, South Korea. Twelve crewmen were rescued, but Langwell was one of twenty men lost at sea.

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER: It has been an honor to produce our Association Newsletter during the past five years. The next issue in December will be developed under the direction of David Mills, our good friend and fellow POW. Our Association website will be maintained by Cindy and I will still manage our POW Roster along with Tim Casey. Should you have information for our sick and deceased columns, or change of address, please inform Tim Casey, or me.

If someone is seeking information on EX-POWs or MIAs, please inform Cindy or me.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS. Claudette, Cindy and F. Jack Chapman.

Korean War Ex-POW Association
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the Korean War Ex-POW
Association**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside

777 Waterside Drive

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Sunday, July 31-- Sunday, August 7, 2011

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