**President's Message**  Franklin “Jack” Chapman

The Thanksgiving Holiday has past and we hope everyone had a great Day with family and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

I also wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each one for the honor of serving this great organization as your President. I have received mail from several family members of POW's and MIA's who are looking for closure. I will do my very best to continue to provide whatever assistance I can.

See you all in Charleston, WV.

**Korean War POW/MIA Report (JPAC)**

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

One of the strangest stories to come out of the Korean War concerns a large group of POWs who simply disappeared. Sadly, we know exactly what happened to them, even though we do not know, by name, who they all were. Doesn’t seem possible, but it is all too true.

Our story begins with the fall of Taejon, South Korea, 20-22 July 1950. Men were gathered up and began to march north. Some POWs had already gone north, from the first actions of the Korean War. This extended group joined up at Seoul early in August and continued on to Pyongyang in September. Today, it is very well known as the Tiger Group. Many good men died, but there were many survivors as well.

Now comes the surprise: a second group followed Tiger Group north. It contained men late in leaving Taejon, and others from Hadong, Anui, and Chinju, and others from Yongdong and from the early battles along Naktong Front. This group of POWs also made its way to Seoul, where most arrived at the end of August 1950. There were almost 350 men in this group. Many of these POWs wrote their names on black boards in the school house where they were held. Some were already dying, and the North Korean guards were in a hurry. The nearby landing at Inchon took place on 15 September, and Seoul was back in allied hands on 26 September. But this second POW group had already slipped north, arriving in Pyongyang around 12 October. More and more men died, and some were accidentally killed by strafing aircraft. And the North Koreans

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continued on page 3
Chaplains’ Corner

Hello to all my friends and their families. We hope everything is going well for you. We are doing fine. Well its that time of the year again that we celebrate our saviors’ birth and my family and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I think of you all through the year and say a prayer for you all.

Lord, let the utterable sweetness of the life of Jesus breathe through the spirit of Thy people at this Christmas time. Cause the light that radiates from lives truly devoted to Thee to glow so brightly during the coming days that men who know Thee not will stop to wonder of such spiritual beauty. And having turned to seek, may they find for themselves the manner of Bethlehem and, with it, life everlasting. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Taps

ADDRESO. Harry J. died 10/28/06. He Served with M Co. 21Inf. 24 Div. He is survived by his wife Carole and son Lawrence. Cp 3 & 7.

BAILEY, William A. (Bill) died 10/4/06. He Served with E Co. 23 Inf. 2 Div. Cp 1. He is survived by his wife, Betty and children, Don and Daisy Barton, Gene and Janice Evers, Ken and Myrna Viles and some WWII POW’s and a whole host of Korean War Veterans attended the funeral at Willamette National Cemetery on Tuesday, October 10, 2006.

CLARKE, Colonel Conley died 9/29/06. He Served with B Co. 38 Inf. 2 Div. He is survived by his wife Neva Clark. Cp 2 & 5.

DIAZ, Enrique G. (Hank), died 10/18/06. He Served with 357 BS, 307 BW. He is survived by his wife Joan, a son, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Cp 2.

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HANBAIT, Helen died recently. She is survived by her husband, Oren, three daughters and a son.

OSBORN, John died recently. He Served with 69 FBS, 58 FBG. Cp 2. He is survived by his wife.

Sick Call

Johnny Johnson would like to hear from the old gang even though he cannot respond.

Contributions

Trilby Minton, Harry Eittinger, Linda Bruseau, David W. Ludlum, and Wesley Coston for our operating funds.

Chaplains’ Corner

Norman Hale, Chaplain

PURPLE HEART HR 2369 IN CONGRESS: As you know the Purple Heart Bill has gone to the President for a study. He has been mandated by legislation to make a report by 1 March as to a yea or nay on this. I hope he will say yea. If he doesn’t he will have to explain to both committees in the House and the Senate as to why he turned it down.

Now we have a grass roots program to encourage him to approve this measure. It happened this way because of Senator Warner. Of course, I don’t know, but should the President approve this bill, there might be a ceremony in DC when he signs or whatever he will do. I don’t know if anyone will be invited. If this happen should I have all the EX-POWs of our organization who can, would come to DC for this ceremony. Remember this is not a Tiger thing. It is a POW thing for all who have died while being a captive from December 7, 1941 to the present and beyond. The President could make a decision before 1 March. So it could be anytime, but probably it would be after the first of the year. Some of our guys know and are in contact with next of kin of those who died. Perhaps the next of kin would want those guys to make the presentation once awarded. At any rate I will keep you posted on this as soon as I get word. Luvs ya’ Shorty

NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM (Columbus, AL.) Samsung, a South Korean electronics manufacturer, wished to honor the American soldiers who fought for South Korea’s independence from North Korea during the Korean War. They have donated $1 million for a gallery dedicated to American Infantry Soldiers who fought in the Korean War: Construction on the facilities for the museum, which covers the history of foot soldiers in 20th century, began earlier this year, with a projected opening in 2008. Exhibits at the museum will include interactive combat-simulator programs and an IMAX movie theater.

Information

SURVIVING SPOUSES: Veterans Benefit Improvement Act Of 1996 allows the surviving spouse an entire month of compensation for the month in which the veteran died. It also authorizes payments of accrued benefits for up two years (instead of one) in the event of the Veteran’s death before final adjudication of a claim. Section 1318. Benefits for survivors of certain veterans rated totally disabled at time of death.

VIETNAM VETS: Foundation has identified 2,944 dog tags belonging to these men. Some of the remains could not be identified.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION: They were lost. Visit http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/CIL/DogTags.htm.

In 2000, a joint U.S. and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Team, led by the Joint POW/MIA (JAC) interviewed a farmer living in the vicinity of Ulsan who told the team that while doing land reclamation work, he uncovered remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers. The team excavated the burial site and uncovered the remains of at least 10 different individuals. They also recovered other items and identification tags belonging to these men. Some of the remains could not be identified and will be held for further research and analysis.

Help Our Troops

Operation Paperback is a non-profit, grassroots program founded in 1999. They collect gently used books and send them to American troops deployed overseas. As we all know, our troops are serving far from home and living in facilities that provide few of the comforts of home. At the end of the duty day, the opportunity to escape into a good book is welcomed. It takes so little to let them know that we appreciate what they are doing for us. When you join in Operation Paperback, you will let our troops know that you support them, and you have not forgotten them. Please check them out: http://www.operationpaperback.org.
were even more desperate, for allied forces were marching north, in close pursuit.

This second group of POWs, still with about 300 men, left a rail station at the north side of Pyongyang on 18 October. Two days later, exactly 100 men were taken off the train at Sunchon Tunnel. The train left, and instead of feeding their prisoners, the guards open fire then fled north. 67 were killed, but amazingly, 25 men, most wounded, lived to tell. And they tried to provide names of others, who had already died or who were still on the northbound train.

Later that day, the train stopped again at the Kujang Tunnel. It could go no farther. About 125 men who could still march were prodded on, but 33 others could go no farther. Guards showed them no mercy, but again, amazingly, 3 men survived to tell their stories. The 125 men who continued north disappeared from the face of the earth, or nearly so. You see, there were 3 more survivors. These 3 men reached Manpo at the end of October, just in time to join Tiger Group as it began its long march toward the “Apex Camps” far up the south bank of the Yalu River. We now know that the 125 men of the second group had died along the way, mostly by violence. Of the 3 men who reached Tiger Group, 2 survived the war. They helped to fill in the details, but so many names were now lost. They could not remember.

In very rough numbers, almost 350 men in this second group left Seoul, 20 escaped and 30 died en route to Pyongyang. Another 10 men escaped there, and about 20 died. At Sunchon, 75 died and 25 were recovered alive. At Kujang, 30 died and 3 were recovered. The final 125 marched north, of whom 3 finally reached Tiger Group. One of our problems is to reconstruct the names of those lost. Some were remembered by name, and some names were recorded on black boards at Seoul and Pyongyang. Some were remembered by name, and their bodies were lost again when the Chinese entered the war.

Amazingly, a few survivors from this group of men got together at Branson, Missouri. The site of their meeting is going to all of them!
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Jimmy Chavez
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Jose Hinojosa
Frances Lidelli, back surgery
Annabel Lavadus
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VWII POW's and a whole
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Contributions

Trilby Minton, Harry Ettinger, Linda
Bruseau, David W. Ludlum, and Wesley
Coston for our operating funds.

Servicemen Returned, cont.

Buchheit was buried in September; Scarborough, Sisk and Sizemore were buried in October; Alonzo was buried in November, and Lindsey and Wood’s burial dates are being set by their families.

The soldiers were assigned to the U.S. 8th Cavalry Regiment and attached units (1st Cavalry Division), when their unit came under attack by Chinese forces near Unsan, North Korea on the night of Nov. 1-2, 1950. During the battle, these eight and nearly 400 others from the 8th Cavalry Regiment were declared missing or killed in action.

In 2000, a joint U.S. and Democratic People’s Republic of Korean Team, led by the Joint POW/MIA (JPAC) interviewed a farmer living in the vicinity of Unsan who told the team that while doing land reclamation work, he uncovered remains he believed were those of U.S. soldiers. The team excavated the burial site and uncovered the remains of at least 10 different individuals. They also recovered other items and identification tags belonging to these men. Some of the remains could not be identified and will be held for further research and analysis.

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VIETNAM VETS: Central Identification Laboratory at JPAC reports in 1994 a tourist to Hue City, Vietnam, purchased more than 1,400 dog tags believing they were from Americans listed as missing in action (MIA). A check of the dog tags revealed that although none appear to be those of an MIA, most are genuine and were worn by Americans during the war. These soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines served with honor and returned home after the war; their dog tags, however, didn’t. The CIL has started the dog tag project to reunite lost dog tags with their owners or family members and collect some background information on how they were lost. Visit http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/CIL/DogTag.htm.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION: Mrs. Fannie Smith is seeking information on her Uncle, William Dean Smith, who died about 2/14/51 in Camp 5. He was captured on or about November 24, 1950. He served with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Engineer Combat Bn, 24th Infantry Division. If you knew or have knowledge of William Dean Smith, please contact Mrs. Smith.

Keep us in the Loop

If you move or are going away for a while, please notify Tim Casey or me.

We would like to thank those who provided us with their address changes.

Shut Down

The Korean War Project leaves the air; due to possible litigation. The Korean War Project has been in operation since 1998.

Help Our Troops

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http://www.operationpaperback.org

“The Korean War was the bloodiest War of the 20th Century in which American Soldiery fought. Without exception, in Korea, Americans deployed in field faced more enemy ground combat forces than in any unbroken series of campaigns in any of the Foreign Wars of the 20th Century in which U.S. Forces were engaged.”

-Chrus R. Vance, Secretary of the Army,
March 15, 1963
The Korean War Ex-POW Association

Newsletter - December 2006

Franklin “Jack” Chapman, President

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

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2007 Reunion of the Korean War Ex-POW Association

Charleston Marriott Town Center
200 Lee Street East, Charleston, WV 25301

Sunday, July 29 - Sunday, August 6, 2007

For reservations, call 304-345-6500 or toll free 1-800-228-9290

ROOM RATES: $89.00 plus 12% tax per room per night. Mention the Korean War EX-POW Association Reunion to get these special rates. Group rate will be honored 3 days before and after the official program dates.

Please note: Charleston Marriott Town Center Hotel non-smoking policy includes all guest rooms, restaurants, lounges, meeting rooms, public spaces and employee work areas.

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See you all in Charleston, W. VA.

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