

EX-POW BULLETIN

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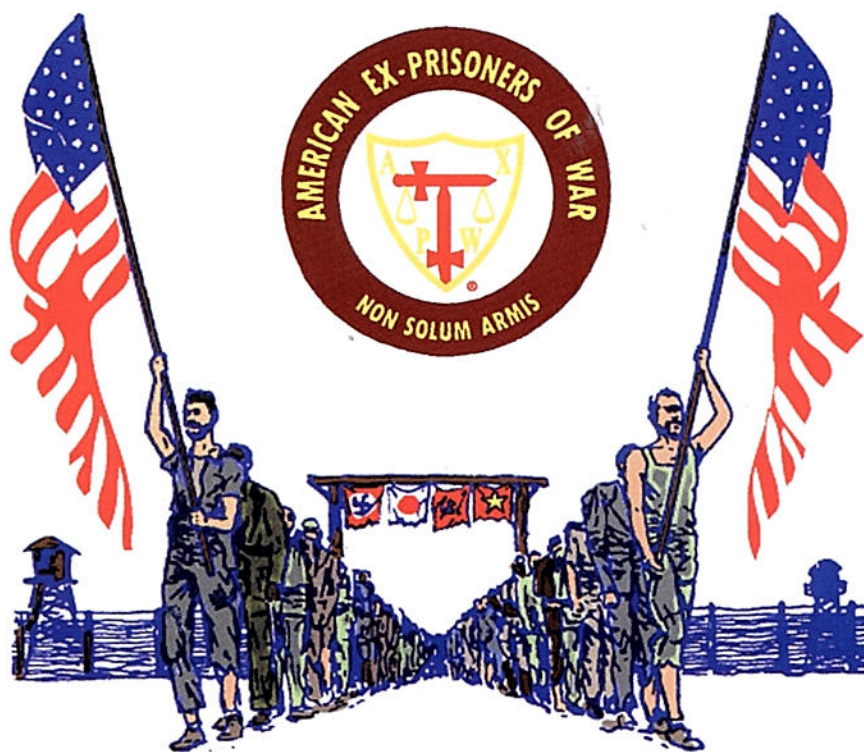
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 62

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Number 5

May 2005



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Inside: ..Memorial Day...stories...Andersonville...national convention information...news, events...NSO success stories... and more



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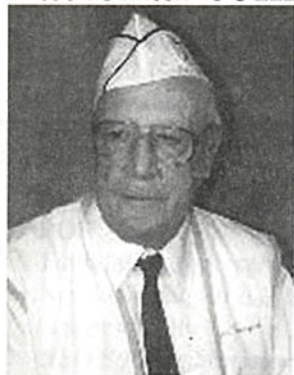
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national commander



James Cooper

I won't get into a discussion of the Foundation Times front page, except to say I have e-mail, voice mail and caller ID. At no time did I have any calls from the two directors quoted. Others were able to contact me. The Foundation Board members are very interested in my whereabouts and where our National Office is located.

I have worked with mining companies most of my life, so I can recognize a shaft when I see one. And I see a large one in the operation of our foundation.

I am ashamed and I am sure most members will be when they see the lists the name of our organization appears on. The situation can be described in one word: **DEPLORABLE.**

The AXPOW Service Foundation also managed to get our name on a number of lists of worst foundations.

The Secretary of State of South Carolina has a Scrooge list. We are at the top because **we received \$.80 of every one hundred dollars collected.** President Bussel disagrees with their calculation, but the same criteria were applied to all organizations. This includes money donated directly to the foundation by our members and chapters.

The American Institute of Philanthropy gave us a failing grade on two counts. The first because we received only one percent of the money donated.

This put us in a tie with another foundation.

And secondly, because the fund raiser kept 89% of the money.

This put us in a tie for third worst.

The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance reported that they were unable to rate us because several requests for information went unanswered.

In May 2003, the US Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech did not apply to a fund raiser who deliberately misleads donors. This permitted the State of Illinois to sue a fund raiser, who kept 85% of the money (less than the foundation's fund raisers).

This was 2 ½ times the percentage considered acceptable by the Better Business Bureau.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundations financial report (their 990 - submitted to the IRS) for the period ending on 31st August 2003 (the last report published) is as follows:

Funds Raised:	\$ 1,700,170.00
Received by Foundation:	\$ 193,941.00 (11.4%)
Fund Expenses:	\$ 61,246.00
Net Raised:	\$ 132,695.00
Interest:	\$ 2,358.00
Total Income:	\$ 135,053.00

In talking with other organizations, I learned that it is expensive to raise money in small amounts. But that a fund raiser should not receive more than 40%. When people reach the age of most of us, we learn that there is no free lunch. Somebody pays the cook.

The difference between 89% and 40% = 49%. \$1,700,170.00 x 49% = \$833,083.00. Is this the cost of the Foundation Times?

One of the foundations fund raisers is a Canadian Corporation with an office in Fort Lauderdale.

The Better Business Bureau of Southeast Florida reports Xentel has an unsatisfactory record because of unanswered complaints. This company was fined in Oregon for violating no-call laws.

The BBB of eastern Missouri and southern Illinois states Xentel was fined for using manipulative, high pressure tactics and denying or interfering with requests to be placed on their no-call list. They were fined again in 2004.

This same organization raises funds for the Purple Heart and a department of the VFW, but they don't appear on these lists.

Can't we do better?

I hope the Foundation Board can find time to look into the operation of their own organization. Editing a newspaper and running AXPOW is time consuming.

Jim



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*Deadline for the July, 2005 issue
 is May 25, 2005*

Please send all materials to the
 editor at the above address.

Memorial Day, America's day for mourning its Soldiers fallen in wartime is also referred to as Poppy Day, Remembrance Day, or Decoration Day. The concept is universal; nearly every country on the globe has a national holiday for mourning its war dead.

Memorial Day came into being in the United States soon after the Civil War, when General John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, declared May 30 a special day to honor the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers. The selection of May 30th may be because it was "The Day of Ashes" in France - the day that Napoleon's remains were brought back from St. Helena.

Sheet music for a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet, includes text dedicating it "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead". This indicates that women's groups were organized in the South to place flowers on the graves of the fallen (both Confederate AND Union it is thought), before the end of the Civil War. The tradition of handing out red poppies was begun in 1915 by a woman named Moina Michael, after reading the poem "In Flanders Fields", written to commemorate those fallen in the First World War.

Recently, there has been a movement to rescue the holiday from being a three-day weekend devoted to six packs and lawn chairs, and turn it back into a day for mourning soldiers who died serving their country. The "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution, passed by Congress in December of 2000, asks that all Americans formally observe a silent moment of "Remembrance and Respect" at 3 P.M. on Memorial Day. In 1999, Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii introduced bill S 189 to the Senate, which proposes to return the Holiday to May 30th, its original day of observance, instead of "the last Monday in May".

From the Awards Committee

It's time to get your award nominations in. Awards are given out on Saturday at the National Convention in Denver, CO. Please send your nominations to: Ruth Williams, Awards Committee Chairman, 237 North Main Street, Apt. 143, South Yarmouth, MA 02664.

The Editor has moved!

I've crossed the Bass River from
 South Yarmouth to South Dennis.

New Address: 267 Main Street, South Dennis, MA 02660.
 The phone, fax and email addresses have stayed the same.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Cheryl

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sr. vice commander



Gerald Harvey

This is one of the most beautiful times of the year. Flowers are blooming everywhere. Gardens are producing some early vegetables. Birds are singing, nesting, and having their young. Every day look for something beautiful. That will help make your day sweeter. One beautiful impression can last all day.

In our chapters most of us are in our latter days, but they can still be beautiful. Every time we go to a chapter meeting, some of our friends are not there. Here is a suggestion. The commander or the adjutant makes a list of all the members who are not present (including those on your list who are

national members but have never attended chapter meetings). Divide the list up among the members who are present. Each one is to contact those on his or her list and report at the next meeting.

Getting a notice of a meeting is fine—but how much better is a phone call or a personal visit. Some may usually be present, but missed this time. There are those who used to come, but haven't been to a meeting in a long time. There are widows who live alone or in a nursing home. Let members know that they are missed. Find out how they are getting along. How is their health? Could they come to a meeting if someone could give them a ride?

There are some on almost every chapter list who have never had a personal invitation to join the group. They need to have someone express a personal interest in their welfare. They may not be getting the compensation that they deserve. They may not know what is available. They may not know where they can get help. They need

to know that someone cares enough to give them a call.

Every member needs to keep your record at national headquarters up-to-date. When you move, send your new address to our National Adjutant. You need to do this to stay on the mailing list and receive your Bulletin. If your Bulletin cannot be delivered by the post office, it is returned to headquarters and costs AXPOW seventy-five cents each time it is returned.

When you find out that a member has died, that needs to be reported also. Sometimes the family does not think to do that. Sometimes mail is forwarded to another address and the person who receives it thinks it is no longer important and doesn't notify the sender.

Keeping track of each other will help your chapter members feel closer to each other. You will be able to help when help is needed. We have a great family. Let's keep it that way.

Gerald

national adjutant



Clydie J. Morgan
HQ@axpow.org

It's spring across America (and summer here in Texas!). State Department Conventions are in full swing...Daisy Drives are taking place in shopping centers... veterans are meeting to honor Memo-

rial Day...Ex-POWs are getting together in small groups and large.

Whatever the occasion, if you have the opportunity to attend any of these events, we encourage you to do so. Wherever you gather, you meet old friends, make new friends and "connect" with your fellow Ex-POWs.

Our National Convention is rapidly approaching as well. If you plan to attend, you are encouraged to get your registration form and hotel reservations in early. It's going to be beautiful in Colorado and our hosts are planning to show everyone a great time! You'll find information in every Bulletin between now and convention time.

We'd like to give a special thank-you to the Mahoning Valley Chapter, Ohio, for their generous donations made to the Legislative,

MedSearch and General funds. They gave \$500 each (\$1500. total) along with a note...

We are pleased once again to make our annual donation to our National Organization to be distributed as follows: General Fund - \$500; Legislative Fund - \$500; MedSearch Fund - \$500. Our aging veterans have worked diligently to raise these funds, so it is with pride and grateful appreciation that we support our National Organization through this donation.

Until next month,

Clydie, Sally, Marsha and Donna
Your National Headquarters



civilian committee

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman

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BACK TO MANILA TRIP, 2005

The Philippine Airlines plane touched down at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila early on the morning of 1 February 2005 carrying a group of 50 people, many of whom were former internees of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp and the Los Banos Internment Camp. The "Back to Manila" trip was hosted and led by Sascha Jean Jansen, herself a former internee of the Santo Tomas camp. The internees were returning to commemorate the liberations of the two camps 60 years earlier in February 1945.

After a first day of rest we toured Corregidor, visiting artillery battery sites where huge bomb-scarred guns still sit in vacant and heavily damaged concrete, some still pointing toward Bataan as they were left in 1942. Massive, silent ruins of war-damaged barracks greeted the group at Middleside and Topside Barracks. Dark Malinta Tunnel seemed ominous and heavy with lingering memories hanging in the air reminding the visitors of those who lived and died in its labyrinthine bowels in 1942.

Day three, February 3 found the group at the University of Santo Tomas, 60 years to the date of liberation February 3, 1945. The staff and faculty went all out to fete the internee group with an impressive military wreath laying ceremony, followed by a symposium made up of several internees describing their lives as young civilian prisoners of the Japanese at the same site so many years before. Then internees eagerly sought out their former individual living quarters in the Main Building to point them out and exclaim to fellow tour group members indicating by their actions and words how personally important these improvised living areas, mere floors

and room corners, were to the former internees in their experience. These classroom corners and floors are "holy" sites, burned into memories never to be forgotten by the survivors. Later in that evening former internees were guests at a concert, including an excellent choir, and dinner in front of the Main Building. Speeches were delivered by officials, which included the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. It was an impressive day.

The next day the tour group traveled to the site of the Los Banos Internment Camp, and former internees from that camp were included in a memorial tree planting ceremony honoring those who were held at that location. A visit to a local rural high school was included.

The following day found the group on the road north of Manila headed to the site of the Cabanatuan military prison camp. At the Cabanatuan Memorial on the site of the camp, Bob Wolfersberger, a former prisoner at the camp, described the pitiful conditions at the infamous prison where malnutrition and death were grim partners.

We then drove to Subic Bay to spend the night, and the next day the majority of the tour group visited the site of the sunken Oryoku Maru, the last Hellship out of Manila in December 1944. The horrific story of the Oryoku Maru, the men killed at the Subic Bay sinking site, and the subsequent voyages of the survivors who were to cruelly die on the next two Japanese ships taking them to Japan, would take a book to adequately describe. Suffice it to say, it is beyond belief to realize anyone survived this vicious three-part voyage which serves as a testament to the pure human brutality and viciousness of the Japanese.

The tour of Bataan included time spent on the Death March route with stories of that trek provided by Bob Wolfersberger who survived. The burning need for water during the March has been well described. The incredible denial of this available substance by Japanese guards still

stirs animosity in the hearts and minds of survivors. An important stop in Bataan was the huge cross and memorial atop Mt. Samat dedicated to the Filipinos and Americans who fought on the hot, dusty, bloody peninsula in 1942 leaving a legacy that will never be forgotten.

From Bataan we rode to the former Clark Field and later visited Camp O'Donnell. Before entering Camp O'Donnell many of the party left the buses to walk the final portion of the Death March in honor of the Filipinos and Americans who staggered into the camp in groups during the deadly hot season of 1942. Thousands of these men would never leave the camp and were buried in pits after a pitiful death. Some call Camp O'Donnell the worst POW camp in history, a surprisingly short history, which was marked by ignominious Japanese disregard and maltreatment of prisoners leading directly to severe malnutrition, disease, and death by the thousands. A huge monolith, set in place by the Philippine government, and somber memorials to the Filipino and American prisoners mark the camp and its dark past.

The last two days of the tour included visits to the beautiful Malacanang Presidential Palace and the United States Embassy. The flagpole in front of the embassy still has numerous bullet holes and scars on the street side exhibiting the furious battle that took place there in 1945 when American troops had to virtually destroy the building in order to wrest it away from its suicidal Japanese defenders.

The last night of the visit to the Philippines found the group saluting each other at a farewell dinner in the Manila Hotel. Emotion was notable and new friends talked closely about their experiences and future plans to keep in touch after their shared experiences. An excellent tour came to a notable end with lasting memories of times current and certainly of times past.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

on capitol hill



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The following was an attachment to Commander Cooper's testimony before the Joint House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on April 14, 2005.

PROMISES MADE

Promises Broken

Promises Forgotten

Charles A. Stenger, Ph.D
National Consultant
American Ex-Prisoners of War

The United States is recognized as the world's foremost protector of freedom and democracy. One major reason has been willingness of many generations of Americans to answer the call to arms whenever those principles were threatened - with the determination to prevail no matter the sacrifices involved.

Each time a grateful nation assured those veterans their wounds, injuries and long-term health consequences would be cared for. However, each time the concerns of the nation shifted to more current matters or future problems. While not intended, apathy toward those who served developed, nurtured by the assumption that the promise had been kept.

The reality, unfortunately, is a different story. "Out of sight, out of mind" has been all too true. While this failure to deliver on the promise impacts on many categories of servicemen and veterans, this report will focus on one particularly deserving group - those who became prisoners of war during World War II; 130,000 in all.

Despite the unanimous warnings of health care experts, returning prisoners of war (POWs) were simply permitted to become a part - an invisible part - of the millions of veterans returning from that war.

The captive experience, almost without exception, was brutal and inhumane. POWs lived under the constant threat of death or injury. They existed on starvation diets. Illnesses, rampant during confinement, went untreated as did wounds suffered at the time of capture. Little or no protection was provided against environmental extremes. On top of this, forced labor was common.

Thousands died under these conditions and those who survived were host to a wide range of health problems in later life. Of the 116,000 who survived, less than 30,000 are alive today. They are now dying at the rate of ten or more each day.

How has our nation met its obligation to Americans who lost their freedom for months and years while defending the freedom of others? Genuine compassion has always been expressed by Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs, but far too little has been

done to assure that the promise "to heal their wounds" has been kept.

For some 30 years VA adjudicators (those who assess disabilities) has literally nothing to go on to determine the relationship of existing health problems to the deprivations of the captive experience. They had to rely on service records that were grossly inadequate or totally lacking for those experiences. To complicate their task further, there was virtually no definite information as to what those long term health consequences might be. As a result, most POWs were simply denied benefits to which they should have been entitled.

By comparison, Canada, faced with the same problem, simply declared ALL their World War II POWs service connected at the 50% level, with higher ratings available based on individual evaluation. Our Congress, however, rejected this approach and let the established process, no matter its inadequacy, continue.

The Vietnam War, particularly the media attention to Americans held captive, stimulated a review of what had been "accomplished" on behalf of World War II POWs. As a result, Congress from 1981 to 1994 enacted a series of laws establishing specific medical conditions as "presumptive" for POWs. This means simply that it is presumed to have been caused by the captive experience. As a result, VA adjudicators were able to approve disability benefits for many POWs. Currently, many more POWs have now been service

on capitol hill continued...

connected for one or more presumptive condition.

However, this still means that, after 50 years, many other POWs exposed to the **same** extreme circumstances have not been favorably rated for **their** health problems even though they are common among those POWs. Those conditions have not been established by Congress as presumptives.

Why have additional medical conditions not been made presumptives for World War II POWs? Simply because Congress continues to require **conclusive research proof** that a specific causal relationship to the captive experience exists. This standard, though entirely appropriate for typical medical research, requires 95% proof that the research findings could not have occurred by chance. Anything less is totally rejected even though the data may show that far more POWs have the condition than other World War II veterans. Also, after 50 years, it is extremely difficult to conduct studies that might be conclusive, or to do so in a timely manner.

What makes this position even less defensible is that Congress, in 1991, accepted a far more reasonable standard for Vietnam veterans presumably exposed to herbicides, such as Agent Orange. Rather than requiring conclusive proof, the criteria is simply that research data "suggest" the likelihood that a causal relationship may exist, i.e. an equal balance of evidence or better.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War (AXPOW) endorse this more realistic standard for Vietnam veterans, and believe it is also appropriate for determining additional presumptives for POWs. Just as Vietnam veterans were exposed to the long term impact of herbicides, POWs were exposed

to the long term impact of the captive situation. In both groups, a wide range of subsequent health problems occurred!

We have asked Congress to recognize and correct this situation for POWs, and to do so expeditiously. However, an entirely different factor exists - the priority of funding! While given the fact that many POWs have already waited 50 years - there is the very real possibility that this request will be denied even though the total cost is comparatively small.

If World War II POWs and their widows continue to be denied benefits that are fully warranted, it is a **tragic** message to give to ALL AMERICANS as well as those POWs - sacrifices in war are secondary to budgetary constraints. What you did for your country, no matter how justified, can simply be brushed aside or forgotten.

In October 2004, the Department of Veterans Affairs did act administratively to establish both heart disease and stroke as presumptive conditions. We are grateful for this important action that will benefit many POWs and/or their widows. We are asking Congress to simply codify this action and several other medical conditions demonstrated to be directly related to the brutal conditions of captivity as soon as possible.

While this brief review focuses on POWs from WWII, we are deeply concerned that all veterans, particularly those from Afghanistan and Iraq, will be sacrificed by the budget process. It is a tragic message to give to our newer veterans and their families

- SACRIFICES CAN SIMPLY BE
BRUSHED ASIDE - AND THEN
FORGOTTEN.

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Vic Snyder (AR)
Mike Michaud (ME)
Stephanie Herseth (SD)
Ted Strickland (OH)
Darlene Hooley (OR)
Silvestre Reyes (TX)
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Senators

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Arlen Specter (PA)
Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
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Daniel K. Akaka (HI) Ranking
John D. Rockefeller, IV (WV)
Patty Murray (WA)
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INDEPENDENT

James A. Jeffords (VT)

PACKET #5 (What Every POW Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) includes the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet (approximately 110 pages) may be purchased from National Headquarters. The cost of the packet is \$11.00 plus shipping.

Cold Injury

By Dr. Jerrod Johnson

NOTE: Dr. Jerrod E. Johnson, MD wrote the following article originally for "The Scuttlebutt" - a monthly newsletter for the men of Ammunition Company, 1st Ordnance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, in which most are veterans of the Chosin Reservoir. Dr. Johnson was a doctor with the Reno, Nevada VA Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. He was, in addition to being a authority on Cold Injury, serving as the POW Coordinator for the Medical Center. Our thanks to him and to Director Gary Whitfield, and Associate Director Debra Hershman, of the Medical Center for making this article possible.

Cold Injury has a long, military medical history. Of particular significance, is that both Napoleon and Hitler made tactical mistakes trying to take Russia, and lack of planning put them deep into Russia as the weather turned cold. Their armies suffered as much from freezing to death as anything else.

Medicine is still in the learning process about Cold Injury. Longitudinal studies of WWI, WWII and Korea survivors, and more recently the war in the Falkland Islands, have given better insight into the initial injuries, and the long term consequences. During WWII and the Korean War, thousands of United States military personnel suffered Cold Injuries including frostbite, in other words

a Freezing Cold Injury, and immersion foot which is also called Non-freezing Cold Injury. The winter of 1944 and 1945 in Europe, when the Battle of the Bulge was fought, was one of the coldest on record.

The winter of 1950/51 in Korea was bitterly cold, and the veterans of The Chosin Reservoir in Korea were recognized as having suffered especially high rates of severe Cold Injury. It was during WWI, that Non-Freezing Injuries were distinguished from those of freezing of tissues. Freezing Cold Injuries are designated as frostbite, whereas conditions usually referring to Non-freezing Cold Injury include: trench foot; immersion foot; paddy foot, which is described in soldier's whose feet had been immersed in warm water for long long periods, such as in Viet Nam; and shelter limb, which occurred in Londoners taking refuge in WWII, whose feet were neither cold or wet, but remained in a dependent or "hanging down position" for long periods of time. Many soldiers forget that they actually had frozen feet, and some of them never had their shoes off to recognize the frostbitten changes. Generally, it has been easier to connect frostbite with the later symptoms that develop over the years. On the other hand, in Non-freezing Cold Injuries where there is no freezing of the tissues, the afflicted soldier would not be aware that anything had happened other than he had been miserable.

Later, when the symptoms develop, neither they nor medical personnel have been able to make a connection between their Non-Freezing Cold Injury and the later symptoms

that happen. Consequently, these patients often have long careers following a progression from seeing a vascular or blood vessel surgeon, to a neurology specialist, and often end up with a psychiatrist.

Frostbite, on the other hand, goes through stages similar to a burn. In the first stage, the feet are cold and white. Then it goes to moderate, where people develop blisters as though they were burned. There can be clear fluid filled blisters, such as you see after a sunburn. And finally, if they had severe frostbite, they would have blood blisters in addition to toes turning black. But all this is very obvious, very miserable and easy to connect. Generally speaking, our military soldiers who have been exposed to cold injury can expect resolution or disappearance of their symptoms in anytime from three months to 12 years. But many of them never get well, and as they get older have greater problems. Because Cold Injury is damage to the small blood vessels, this is a similar type of damage that would occur with both diabetes and smoking. Consequently, smokers and diabetics will have exaggerated results from their having had a Cold Injury many years before.

One other thing that doesn't occur with Non-Freezing is that those who suffer frostbite can not only lose toes, and have problems with their feet, but suffer loss of fingers, earlobes, and the tip of the nose. It is important to remember that even though the immediate effects of having had a cold injury can heal or appear healed, it does not prevent the development of a severe disability many years later. Veterans

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with a history of Cold Injury can have the following signs and symptoms:

Chronic fungus infections of the feet, or athlete's foot

Abnormal, or thick and horny toenail growth

Excessive sweating called hyperhidradenous, chronic pain

Abnormal skin color or thickness of skin

They become very sensitive to the cold, in that minimal cold weather, which would have no effect on a normal person, will give them cold, white feet for a long periods of time

Joint pain and stiffness

They develop a problem called Raynaud's phenomenon, which means the toes or fingertips will turn chalk white on contact with a cool, damp object

They can develop weakness of the hands or feet

Night pain

Weak or fallen arches

Swelling of the feet

Numbness

Odd sensations in the feet

Development of ulceration of the cold injury scars

Shiny, atrophied or deteriorated skin

Loss of foot hair

In other words, in a person who has had frostbite the foot would be shiny, white, devoid of hair, and cool. They can also develop excessive pain, which is called peripheral neuropathy. They may develop skin cancers at the site of the scar from a cold injury. They develop arthritis, or other bone abnormalities, which appear as deformed joints, and osteoporosis which means thinning of the bone.

There's no really good treatment for long term effects of Cold Injury, other than to keep feet dry, warm and clean. It is essential to take good care of toenails, stop smoking, and maintain good diabetic control.

A blood pressure medication called Nifedipine can cause blood vessels to open up or dilate. This can be useful in people who have Raynaud's phenomenon, where the toes or fingers turn chalk white when they touch a cold surface.

To control chronic pain in the feet, an anti-depressant drug called Elavil in doses of 25-150 mg at bedtime can be helpful. Another anti-depressant drug called Nortryptilene also works well.

Veterans suffering from long term, and delayed effects of Cold Injuries, frequently require continued medical care, as well as specialty consultations and periodic reevaluations. These patients, or veterans should enroll in a VA Primary Care program, and they should be encouraged to see a Veteran's Benefits Counselor to discuss submission of a benefits claim, if appropriate.

Veterans, who previously have received some service-connected compensation for the residuals of Cold Injury, may wish to reapply for additional benefits because extremities have been evaluated separately for the last several years. There can be additional service connection for arthritis and development of cancers at the site of the Cold Injury.

In summary, the Veterans Administration recognizes that greater attention needs to be given for Cold Injury, and that sufferers are entitled to more adequate compensation.

Unfortunately, as with a lot of other things in medicine, we do not have satisfactory cures. Control of diabetes, stopping smoking, and keeping feet warm and dry can go a long ways towards adding to an affected veteran's comfort.

The Veterans Administration offers a Cold Injury Protocol as part of the Compensation & Pension Examination. It is as follows:

Cold Injury

Protocol Examination

Name:

SSN:

Date of Exam:

C-number:

Place of Exam:

Narration: Veterans during World War II, the Korean War, and in smaller numbers during other campaigns, have suffered cold injuries, including frostbite (freezing cold injury or FCI) and immersion foot (nonfreezing cold injury or NCI).

Documentation of such injuries may be lacking because of battlefield conditions. A number of long-term and delayed sequelae to cold injuries are recognized, including peripheral neuropathy, skin cancer in frostbite scars, and arthritis in involved limbs.

Review Examination: Any veteran examined for residuals of cold injury should undergo a cold injury protocol examination if it has not already been carried out.

If the veteran has already had a cold injury protocol examination, only an interval history is required, and the extent of the examination, laboratory tests performed, etc., will be determined by the examiner based on the history, and as requested.

A. Review of Medical Records:

B. Medical History (Subjective Complaints):

History of Cold Injury: If the cold injury protocol form has been filled out by the veteran, most details about the circumstances of the acute cold injury and its subsequent course will be recorded. Review for any needed expansion or

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clarification by the veteran. If the protocol history form has not been completed, obtain the following history and comment on each:

1. Description of the circumstances of the cold injury.
2. Parts of the body affected.
3. Signs and symptoms - at time of acute injury.
4. The type of treatment and where it was administered.
5. Any treatment since service - where and what type.
6. Current symptoms - specifically inquire about:
 - a. Amputations or other tissue loss.
 - b. Cold sensitization.
 - c. Raynaud's phenomenon.
 - d. Hyperhidrosis.
 - e. Paresthesias, numbness.
 - f. Chronic pain resembling causalgia or reflex sympathetic dystrophy.
 - g. Recurrent fungal infections.
 - h. Breakdown or ulceration of frostbite scars.
 - i. Disturbances of nail growth.
 - j. Skin cancer in chronic ulcers or scars.
 - k. Arthritis or joint stiffness, including limitation of motion of affected areas.
 - l. Edema.
 - m. Changes in skin color.
 - n. Skin thickening or thinning.
 - o. Any sleep disturbance due to associated symptoms.
 - p. Cold feeling (relationship to season or not).
 - q. Numbness, tingling, burning.
 - r. Excess sweating.
 - s. Pain - location, intensity, constancy, precipitating factors (cold, walking, standing, night pain); type (sharp burning, etc.).
7. Current treatment, including nonmedical measures taken - moving to warmer climate,

wearing multiple pairs of socks, etc.

Other Medical History:

1. Major illnesses, surgery, current medical conditions and their treatment, including diabetes mellitus or hypertension.
2. Smoking history, other risk factors for vascular disease, history of skin cancer.

C. Physical Examination (Objective Findings):

Address each of the following and fully describe current findings:

1. General: Carriage, gait, posture.
2. Skin:
 - a. Color.
 - b. Edema.
 - c. Temperature.
 - d. Atrophy.
 - e. Dry or moist.
 - f. Texture.
 - g. Ulceration.
 - h. Hair growth.
 - i. Evidence of fungus or other infection.
3. Scars:
 - a. Location.
 - b. Length.
 - c. Width.
 - d. Color.
 - e. Tenderness.
 - f. Raised or depressed.
 - g. If of head or neck, any disfigurement.
4. Nails:
 - a. All or part missing.
 - b. Evidence of fungus infection.
 - c. Deformed or atrophic.
5. Neurological:
 - a. Reflexes.
 - b. Sensory - subjective complaints of pain, numbness, etc., Objective sensory changes - pinprick, touch.
 - c. Motor - weakness, atrophy.
6. Orthopedic:
 - a. Pain or stiffness of any joints affected by cold injury.
 - b. Deformity or swelling of any joints.

- c. Measure range of motion of all affected joints.
- d. Strength of ligaments in affected areas.
- e. Pes planus.
- f. Callus.
- g. Pain on manipulation of joints.
- h. Loss of tissue of digits or other affected parts.
7. Vascular:
 - a. Status of peripheral pulses.
 - b. Doppler study to confirm vascular compromise, if indicated.
 - c. Evidence of vascular insufficiency - edema, hair loss, shiny atrophic skin, etc.
 - d. Blood pressure in arms and legs (is ratio normal?).
 - e. Evidence of Raynaud's phenomenon.

D. Diagnostic and Clinical Tests:

Provide:

1. X-rays of affected areas of extremities if never done or if not done in past five years.
2. Doppler study of blood vessels, if indicated.
3. Nerve conduction studies, if indicated.
4. Biopsy of any area suspicious for malignancy.
5. Scrapings to confirm fungus infection.
6. Include results of all diagnostic and clinical tests conducted in the examination report.

E. Diagnosis:

1. List each diagnosis and state whether related to cold injury (if that can be determined).
2. Specialty exams that might be needed:
 - a. Neurology.
 - b. Podiatry.
 - c. Dermatology.
 - d. Rheumatology.
 - e. Others as needed.



**Doris Jenks, National
Service Director- Training**

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I want to recognize a few of our very dedicated Former Prisoner of War Coordinators working at the V.A.

1) Ginger Raney, Coordinator. Waco, Texas. She wrote the following:

"Serving Former Prisoners of War - What It Means to Me"

"There isn't a greater honor than meeting and serving American Ex-Prisoners of War. As the Ex-POW Coordinator, I am grateful to have been given the privilege of communicating daily with former Prisoners of War.

As we discuss their eligibility for VA benefits, I gain a far deeper understanding than would be received by reading history books or watching historical films. Every conversation is a meaningful lesson about an especially significant part of an American hero's history.

For many Former POWs, discussing their experiences brings out deeply moving feelings. I hear the emotions in their voices, see the expressions on their faces and sometimes even see the tears that come with remembering their extremely painful experiences during their captivity.

Their ordeals as prisoners of war far surpass anything that most of their fellow citizens can imagine. They suffered painful torture, cruel isolation and terrible hunger.

Their daily distresses and deprivation were made even worse by not knowing when or how - their captivity would come to an end. Somehow they found the strength and resolve to endure the unendurable.

I truly love having the opportunity to serve former POWs, as I encounter them at meetings, and outreach seminars, or when they come to the Waco Regional Office or call me on my direct line. I am completely committed to assisting each former POW, and his or her family members to receive the full range of VA benefits and services that they have earned at so great a cost.

When I began my career with the VA, my expectations were to serve veterans faithfully and effectively. The special experience found in serving former POWs have clearly exceeded my expectations. Throughout each day, my interactions with former POWs carry reminders of their heroic examples of courage and endurance.

With all my heart, I want to say to every former POW: Thank you for your selfless service and sacrifices. And thank you for allowing me to serve as your Coordinator."

2) We also have a very caring and wonderful Former POW Coordinators in Florida. Our new Former POW Coordinator - Larry Brown - at the Regional Office in St. Petersburg, has only been in his position a few months, but he is already attending chapter meetings,

is a member of the POW Advisory Committee which meets at James Haley Medical Center and handling claims for the new presumptives promptly and efficiently.

3) The West Palm Beach Medical Center has a wonderful Former POW Coordinator in Betty Barnett. I attended their POW support group to enlighten them about the new POW presumptives. I was surprised to find more than 70 in attendance.

4) I also attended the Daytona VA Outpatient Clinic former POW support group. The very caring and wonderful Marilyn MacQuarrie is the Former POW Coordinator at this facility. More than 50 former POWs and their wives were in attendance here.

5) I also regularly attend the Former POW support group at James Haley Medical Center run by wonderful Rachael Brink. She has quarterly POW Advisory Group meetings, attended by the Regional VA Coordinator, other Former POW Coordinators in nearby VAs, the Former POW doctor at James Haley and a number for Former Prisoners of War.

All of these Former POW Coordinators go the extra mile in helping former POWs.

They go beyond their duties as coordinators and assist in claims and help in any matters that a former POW might ask of them. They are always there for them.

Thanks

Doris Jenks

pow-mia committee



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

889 Randall Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4815
(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

POW/MIA car-window decals are available at a cost of \$20 per 100 by sending a check to the League office at 1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 170, Arlington, VA 22201. POW/MIA lapel pins are also available at \$3 each or 2/\$5. For added information please contact the League's web site at www.pow-miafamilies.org or call the national office at 703-465-7432. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message.

POW/MIAs - Vietnam War

There are still 1,836 Americans listed by the Defense Department as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War - 1,399 in Vietnam, 375 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. The League of POW/MIA Families was recently informed that the remains of four US personnel, previously listed as KIA/BNR in South Vietnam have been recovered and identified. The four Americans were all lost on May 10, 1967, and their remains were recovered May 27, 2003, though identified late last year and accepted by their families recently. Those now accounted for include 2LT Heinz Ahlmeyer, USMC, of NY; HM3 Malcolm T. Miller, USN, of FL; LCpl Samuel A. Sharp, USMC, of CA; and SGT James N. Tycz, USMC, of WI. In addition, the League recently confirmed that COL Sheldon J.

Burnett, USA, from NH, and CWO (3) Randolph J. Ard, USA, both listed as MIA in Laos March 7, 1971 are now accounted for. Their remains were jointly recovered October 4, 2004, and recently identified. Still others have been ID'd, not yet announced by DPMO, perhaps due to delays in scheduling ID consultations with the primary-next-of-kin (PNOK).

Missing in Action Servicemen Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. Navy pilot, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Navy Commander Thomas E. Dunlop of Neptune Beach, Fla., will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on March 21.

On April 6, 1972, Commander Dunlop took off in his A-7E *Corsair II* from the USS Coral Sea on a bombing mission of enemy targets in Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam. While over the target area, his aircraft was struck by an enemy surface-to-air missile and as his wingman watched, Dunlop's aircraft exploded in a fireball and crashed. No emergency beeper signals were received from the area of his crash.

In April 1993, joint U.S. and Vietnamese teams interviewed five residents of Quang Binh Province about the crash, but the information did not further the investigation. In 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1998, U.S. or Vietnamese investigators interviewed at least 13 other people in the province, without results. Meanwhile, U.S. survey teams visited potential crash sites in 1995, 1998 and twice in 2002. Again, no useful information was obtained.

Then in 2003 and again 2004, specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) excavated a crash site where they found aircraft debris, personal effects and human remains later

identified by JPAC scientists as those of Commander Dunlop.

U.S. POW/MIA Delegation Leads Talks in Laos

Senior officials from Laos and the U.S. concluded talks this week reaffirming close cooperation in the mission to account for missing Americans from the Vietnam War.

Director, Europe-Americas Department of Laos' Ministry of Foreign Affairs Southam Sakonhninhom opened and closed the discussions with officials from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO). He stated that he considered the U.S. and Laos to be one team with the same vision, working to carry out the same mission.

The discussion began a two-day visit to assess Lao cooperation, address the efforts of the Lao government in an archival research initiative begun last year, and to express appreciation for strategies to help accelerate the accounting efforts in Laos. In addition to new levels of assistance in archival research, Laos has worked cooperatively with the U.S. over the past year in areas such as: allowing U.S. teams more flexibility to conduct investigations and excavations; investigating cases requiring close coordination between the U.S., Laos, and Vietnam; refining the Lao unilateral investigation program; and enhancing the safety of American and Lao personnel by streamlining medical evacuation procedures.

While in Laos, the team spent a day and a half in southern Laos where specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command are seeking to recover American remains. U.S. officials noted the "one team" concept being put into practice at all levels during their visits to the Taoy base camp as well as to several excavation sites.

Of the 1,836 Americans missing from the Vietnam War, the remains of 375 are believed to be in Laos. Since the end of the war, 194 Americans have been accounted-for from Laos.

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Service Foundation



President Norman Bussel

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It's surprising how often one can fail to recognize opportunity, even when it's staring you in the face. The Foundation office receives many telephone calls each day from POWs, their spouses or next-of-kin, with questions on various topics. But it was only recently, on sheer impulse, that I asked a POW how much compensation he was receiving. He replied that he had been at 50% for about nine years, even though the conditions for which he was receiving his award had become much worse. When I asked why he

didn't reapply, he said that he was afraid he might lose his present 50%.

It took me a while to convince him that he would be in no danger of losing anything if he reopened his claim and, within a few days, we had all of his current medical information and had filed with the VA for increased benefits. Shortly afterward, he called again to ask if we could help his POW friend, who was getting no benefits at all, and we're presently working on his claim. Now, every POW who calls our office is automatically asked what his compensation rating is and if he has any POW buddies who are not at 100%. It's unfortunate that there are 11,000 POWs the VA says are still not in the system, but it's really sad that a great number of **AXPOW members** are not receiving their full benefits.

This ties right in with Chairman of the AXPOW Outreach Committee, Fred Campbell's campaign to call every POW in the National Directory to see if they are receiving their full entitlements.

For those who have asked about the repayment procedure for Certified AXPOW NSOs who have expended their own personal funds in the process of helping veterans file claims for benefits, following are the expenditures which the Foundation will reimburse:

- Postage
- Office supplies
- Telephone calls (copy of telephone bill with calls flagged)
- Personal car expenses computed at .35 cents per mile
- Automobile road tolls

All of the above, with the exception of mileage, require paper documentation, such as: receipts for postal expenditures, office supplies, telephone calls and tolls. Mileage should be noted by trip, showing miles driven on each official occasion.

Expenses must be submitted no later than 60 days after they were incurred and should be sent to:

Doris Jenks
National Service Director
1120 Daleside Lane
New Port Richey, FL 34655

VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late

NSO Fred Campbell, Chairman
3312 Chatterton Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-944-4002; fredrev@webtv.net
Committee members:
NSO Frank Kravetz (412) 824-2674;
ND Bill Richardson (910) 864-7318;
ND Bonnie Sharp (253) 565-0444.

**We Ain't What We Use-Ta Be.
And the VA Found Out Why!**

Rudy Collins of Leavenworth, Washington, covering Montana's Big Sky in our AXPOW National Directory OUTREACH program, tells me about Ash-T who had moved to Texas from Montana. I called this new Texan.

He'd had the same Stalag Luft 3/13D/7A experience I had endured, with a blizzard forced march out of

Stalag Luft 3, liberation at Moosburg on April 29, 1945. Ash-T wasn't interested in VA benefits, had good civil service retirement for self and wife, even though a sure thing for 100% Disability Compensation, about \$30,000 annual, and widow's benefit potential. "No, I won't apply," Ash-T said, "I feel like I'd be cheating the government." And I couldn't convince him otherwise, even though his back was messed up. No, he didn't think it had anything to do with his hard landing on his shoulder when he parachuted.

KNOW THIS! We are NOT cheating the government. The government knows well the consequences of what happened to the former POWs of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, etc., and it's still learning about Iraq and other on-going conflicts. The National Academy of Science has done extensive research for over 50 YEARS, with two control groups (one former POWs, one not POWs). They know us better than we know ourselves! Dr. Charles Stenger,

AXPOW Legislative Co-Chairman, says this is the best in-depth research ever done in the world. RESULT: In 1980 Public Law 97-37 passed, our Congress legislating presumptive conditions that were caused by our deprivation as POWs. Presumptives began with Post Traumatic Stress disorder, Frostbite, and then later 20 others, including Ischemic Heart in 1993 and 2003 Cirrhosis of Liver, and in the fall of 2004, expanded Heart problems, with Hypertension and Stroke.

Our VA OUTREACH program is so important...for you and your spouse. You'll be called soon. If not, please call us.

Because we know: Not all POWs and Widows have their due benefits, just because they are listed in the AXPOW Directory.

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news, events and information



April 29-May 7, 2005. 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Italy will be hosted by the American Legion Post 50. Contact: Kenneth G. Kraetzer, Jr. (914) 381-5353; kgk914@aol.com.

May 1-4, 2005. Stalag 17B Reunion will be held at the Radisson Opreyland, Nashville, TN. Contact Pat Moulis, 37376 N. US 19, # 101, Palm Harbor, FL (727) 937-7499.

May 3, 2005. The Department of Colorado will have a one-day convention at the Holiday Inn, Denver West Village, 14707 West Colfax Ave., Golden, CO 80401. Reservations: 800-729-2830. Contact PNC Richard Throckmorton, 303-422-2941.

May 4-6, 2005. 4th Marine Regiment (Bataan and Corregidor) Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, Arlington, TX. For information, contact Martin Christie, 23424 Mobile St., West Hills, CA 91307-3323; retiree539@yahoo.com.

May 10-12, 2005. The Minnesota State Convention will be held at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. Reservations: 320-253-0606. For information, contact Earl F. Miller, Commander, Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, 1941 Ford Parkway #107, St. Paul, MN 55116; 651-698-4321.

May 12, 2005. Stalag Luft IV, Germany, Reunion will be held at Camp Dix, New Jersey. There will be a luncheon from 11AM to 1PM. Contact: Herbert S. Gold, 406 Highland St., Cresskill, NJ 07626; 201-569-3079; email: HSGOLD27200. Or Joseph O'Donnell, 20 ORourke Dr., Robbinsville, NJ 08691; 609-585-1346. Contact Joe for overnight accommodations.

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May 15-16, 2005. Dept. of Mass. Annual Convention will be held at the Tewksbury Holiday Inn. For more information, contact Irving Lerner, 508-757-4051.

May 16-18, 2005. The Department of California Annual Convention will be held at the Picadilly Inn Hotel in Fresno, CA. For reservations, please call 559-226-3850. For convention information, contact: Betty Dunlavy, 5174 E. Belmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93727; 559-252-7520.

May 27-29, 2005. The Department of Georgia Annual Convention will be held in Perry, Georgia. On the 29th we go to Andersonville for the ceremonies. For further information contact Commander Theron Powell, 770-923-2762 or Ray Reiersen at 912-925-7073.

June 2-5, 2005. The Department of Florida will hold its annual convention at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL. For more information, contact SVC Bill Allen, 421 Fourth Avenue North, Tierra Verde, FL; 727-866-8337.

June 6 - 9, 2005. The Dept. of New York 21st Annual Convention will again be held at the Hudson Valley Resort & Spa in Kerhonkson, N.Y. 12446. Contact: Eugene Powell, Commander, 456 Christian Herald Rd., Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989; 845-480-5172; geneval@optonline.net.

June 10-12, 2005. The Department of West Virginia Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, 100 Lodgeville Rd., Bridgeport, WV. Contact: Dept. Commander Norman Waldman, 126 Highland Ave., Waynesburg, PA 15376; 724-852-2543. Or Chapter Commander Annette Smith, 621 Front St., Brownsville, PA 15417; 724-785-8536.

June 13-19, 2005. Welcome Home...America's Tribute to Vietnam Veterans will be held in

Branson, MO. Contact: Gary Linderer, 1756 Bee Creek Road, Suite F, Branson, MO 65616; 417-336-5719.

June 15, 2005. The 5th Army Association tour of Italy. They will be visiting Rome, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Sorrento and a special stop at the American Military Cemetery near Anzio. Please contact Sy Canton at 5277B Lakefront Blvd, Delray Beach, FL 33484; (561) 865-8495.

July 12-16, 2005. The 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division Reunion will be held in Indianapolis, IN. Contact: Pete Pettus, 1121 N. Desloge Dr., B1, Desloge, MO 63601; 573-431-6184; jrpazir@juno.com.

July 13-16, 2005. Second Battalion (2/4) Fourth Marines Association Reunion will be held in San Diego, CA. All or any attached personnel are also invited. Contact: Becky Valdez, 8221 E. Birch Tree LA., Anaheim Hills, CA., 92808; (714) 281- 2846; fxala@hotmail.com.

July 17-23, 2005. The 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Assn. National Reunion. Contact: Gregory Rollinger, 8891 Aviary Path R-4, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077; www.4thinfantry.org.

July 21-25, 2005. The WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 41st Annual Reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, Wichita, KS. Complete information may be obtained at PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; ptboats@ptboats.org.

July 28-31, 2005. Co. "B" 9th AIB 6th Armored Division 60th Annual Reunion will be held in Ashville, NC. Contact: Dee R. Williamson, 714 8th St., Newport, TN 37821; 423-673-5191.

August 24-27, 2005. The 86th Annual Convention of the 80th Division Veterans Asn. will be held at the Marriott North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43229; (614)

news, events, information continued...

885-1885. Chairman: Walter Spangler, 8275 Hagerty Rd, Ashville, OH 43103; (740) 474-5734.

August 26-28, 2005. Department of North Carolina Annual Convention will be held at the Woodlawn Inn and Conference Center, 212 W. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC 28120. Room rate is \$55.50 plus tax. For reservations, call 704-525-8350. Contact Roy Hudnall, Dept. Commander, 704-841-2174.

Aug. 27-31, 2005. The 42nd and final Annual Reunion for Survivors of Bataan, Corregidor and Former Prisoners of War of the Far East will again be held at the Fontana Village. Reservations: 800-849-2258. For information, please contact Wayne Carringer, PO Box 46, Robbinsville, NC 28771; (828) 479-6205.

Sept. 7-11, 2005. The Mukden Survivors Annual Reunion will be held in Kingston, NY, at the Ramada Inn. We are working on a visit and possibly a seminar at West Point, as well as a Boat ride up the Hudson and a tour of Historic Kingston, First Capitol of NY state during the Revolutionary War. Our banquet dinner will be Saturday evening. For additional information- please contact: Sheldon Zimble 845-339-9960; email address: Shelzanne@aol.com, or write to: 90 Fairview Avenue, #7-8, Kingston, NY 12401.

Sept. 15-18, 2005. The Third Infantry Division Society and attached units will hold their 86th reunion at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108; 800-882-0858. Contact: Bruce Monkman, 818-343-3370; bruce Monkman@earthlink.net, or Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521; info@TheReunionBrat.com.

Sept. 21-25, 2005. USS Abanki AFT 96 Reunion will be held in Bowie, Maryland. Contact: Adolph

Channell, R.R. 1, Box 246A, Marlinton, WV 24954; (304) 799-6442; achannell@marlintonwv.com.

Sept. 27-Oct. 2, 2005. AXPOW National Convention will be held in Denver, CO at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St. Registration forms and additional information will be in the Bulletin until convention.

Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2005. The 45th Infantry Division Association (Thunderbirds) Reunion will be held in Oklahoma City, OK. Please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; (210) 681-9134.

looking for



A few days ago, I received a card on a **book** that someone was writing about the **466th Bomb Group out of England**. If you have any information, please let me know. R. L. Boebel, 11 Lazy Hollow, Wildwood, FL 34785.

My husband, **James Wheeler**, XC 04 540 348, was a POW in the Cabanatuan prison camp in the Philippines. He was part of a group of a fourteen-Sergeant Boat Detachment, assigned to the US Army, 3rd Division, Infantry, I believe. I'm looking for help gathering information regarding my late husband and his internment at Cabanatuan and/or his appearance at the war crimes trial in Japan as a witness in prosecuting the infamous leader of that camp. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge supporting my husband's **status as an Ex-POW or that he attended the war crimes trial in Japan**. Thank you, Evelyn D. Wheeler, 1724 Minnewawa #30, Clovis, CA 93612; 559-325-5564; jc_miracles@hotmail.com.

My name is Samuel E. Underwood, III. My grandfather, **Samuel E. Underwood, Sr.** was a POW from February 1943 to May 1945. He died when I was only three years old in

1980. When my grandmother, his wife passed away, my aunt found a personally written memoir of his experience as a POW. This account of his is incomplete, because it ends in August 1944. From this account, he said he was a prisoner of Stammlagar VIIA and Stammlagar IIIB. I want to get as much information as is possible about these two camps and would also like to hear about other POW experiences. I am also wondering if anyone might have known him. My mailing address is: Samuel E. Underwood, III, 1031 N. Park Ave., Springfield, MO 65802.

If anyone could please tell me if anyone remembered my dad, **Thomas Morris**, he was a POW at Stalag 7B. Any information would be appreciated. He never spoke much about his experience. But he loved his country! He was in the United States Army 3rd inf. division of the 7th Army. Thank you, Michael Morris; E-mail address: Mmybeer4@wmconnect.com. Home Address: 26 Harvey Johnson Dr. Agawam, MA. 01001.

I am trying to help a brother of R.C. **Ruble, Lt. from Arkansas**, get information like his service number, unit served with, etc. He was captured and held in Stalag Luft 1. Please contact: James Farley, 2106 W. Twin Springs, Siloam Springs, AR 72761; phone 479-524-3528. I will accept collect calls.

I am looking for any information about my grandfather's wartime experiences. His name was **Harold James La Schuma**. There may or may not be a space between the Laschuma or La Schuma. I can tell you what I know from papers and letters; my grandfather never spoke of his ordeal as a POW. He had lingering medical problems and aftereffects from being beaten in WWII. I know his serial number was 32112118. He was a Sgt. in a medical detachment in the Army. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His DOB was 6/6/1919. His War Dept card had ID# R343513. I also know from a letter he was a Private in the 121st Infantry medical unit in 6/25/1942. I also have a response letter from a chaplain that on May 16,

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May 2005**

1945 he was sent to a 10th Reinf depot. The last letter from the chaplain was while he was being rehabilitated from his injuries. I know he came back sometime in 1945. Anything you can find would be wonderful or if you can point me in the right direction I would really appreciate it. My grandfather died in 1981 and like I said before, he would never talk about anything. Nicole La Shuma, 7190 Bannister Park Lane, Cumming, GA 30040.

For a proposed television documentary, we are searching for **former prisoners-of-war who were held in or near Nagasaki and witnessed the atomic bomb blast there.** Can you pass along any names and email addresses of those you think are still alive? Thanks, Jed Duvall, Amissville, VA. jd.duvall@wap.org.

Fred J. Byrd is looking for **Vietnam veterans or former prisoners of war** who can verify his experience, briefly outlined below. If you are aware of this situation, please contact me: Fred Byrd, 1105 Vaughn Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101 - Telephone: 702-642-8717. I served on active military duty in the U.S.M.C. from 27 Nov 1952 until 27 Nov. 1960. I served on active military duty in the U.S.A.F. from 27 Nov 1960 to 1 Dec 1972. I was stationed at K-3 Korea 2 Mar. ABCP MAG-33 U.S.M.C. from March 1954 to April 1954. Stationed at Phanrang Air Base 309th Air Commando Sqd. PACAF APO San Francisco. In re: POW status: Approximate date of capture: April 1969. Captured in a group - flight crew of six people. Time in captivity: Approximately 6-weeks, 2-days. We had just made landing in C-123K (cargo plane) at US operated army base "Tam La Chan" near Anke Vietnam, close to Benja AB Saigon, Vietnam. We were hauling ammunition and food items. Engines on A/C still running. Flight crew was in progress of pushing ammo out of cargo door on wooden pallets when A/C was hit while still on the runway, by Viet Cong launching mortar rounds disabling A/C.

I am hoping to find my old mentor and military crew mate **Sgt. James Brady**. He was a Japanese POW and was held in the Kyushu area and work in the coal mines during WWII. If he is still on the "right side of the grass" - and reachable - please contact me, Walt Sowles at ike.sowles@juno.com. I was on his crew at Itazuke and was with him on the "Honeymooner Special" C-46 at Brady Air Base at Gonasu near Camp Hakata. 1950 to 1953, our crew also had Zerby, Jim Kelley and Van ??? When the Korean war started up, Jim schooled several of us on crewing P-51's at Itazuke. Thank you for any help. Walt/Ike.

My father passed away unexpectedly 5/4/04. He never spoke of his war-time experience but from the memorabilia that he left behind I am able to provide the fact that he belonged to the 92nd Bomb Group, 407th Bomb Squadron. He was a ball turret gunner and was shot down on his third mission on 2/4/44 over Frankfurt, Germany. He was a POW in Hydekrug, East Prussia at Stalag Luft VI from February 21, 1944 to July 15, 1944; in Kiefhied, Germany, Stalag Luft IV from July 18, 1944 to January 29, 1945 (Gross Tychow Poland) and in Barth, Germany, Stalag Luft I from February 8, 1945 to May 13, 1945. It appears that he may have been in Lager E in Stalag Luft VI. I have found that 2 of my dad's crew members were escapees and one of their names was Milo Blakelee (not sure of spelling). My father's name is **John R. Kyler**. I would be grateful to hear from anyone that may have been with him. Thank you for whatever information you can provide. Candy Brown, 6126 Sullivan Hollow Road, Kill Buck, NY 14748. Telephone: 716-945-5208.

My dad was very good friends with air gunner **Sgt Katz** from somewhere in Massachusetts. He met him in Moosburg in 1941 after Sgt Katz was shot down in a raid over Germany. My dad was in the rifle brigade British Army. He would love to contact anybody that knew him. Or if Sgt. Katz is still alive! Doug Anderson, 44 Liptraps Lane, Tunbridge Wells Kent England Tn23AA. dougmatrix@hotmail.com.

I am trying to locate **Lillian Ventura**, formerly of California, daughter of Gilbert Ventura and Robert Eastman, formerly of Washington State. Both have been doing similar historical documentation on Teterow Kommando, a work Camp of Stalag IIA. I would like to get back in touch with them and share information. David Gould, 1290 N. Main Street Winterport, ME 04496; (207)223-4701. dggould@adelphia.net.

We want to know more about our great-uncle **Jacob Heinrich**, who was a POW in the Philippines. He served in the Army, and died July 5, 1942, as a POW. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew our uncle, or knows his circumstances. Elma Heinrich-Propert, 821 Louie Avenue, Loda, CA 95240. (209) 368-0784.

I was with the 106th Inf. Div, 423rd Reg. Co. C and captured 12-19-44. For part of my captivity I was in a **work detail of a few hundred men in Zeitz, Germany**. I have never run across anyone who shared that experience with me, I suppose because there were so few of us. I would like to hear from anyone who was there. My address is Gil Basnik, 113 Jockey Court, Grayslake, IL 60030. Thanks for your help.

Hello, I am looking for information on my grandfather, **Oren Edgar Howard**, from Texas. He was in WW2 and was both MIA and POW. Can you help point me in the right direction? Unfortunately there is no family with whom I can ask any questions regarding his duty. Thank you in advance for your help! Felicia Kochalka, 2713 Summerwood Ct. McKinney, TX 75070. daveandfelicia@comcast.net.

I am seeking information regarding my father's internment at Stalag IXB, Bad Orb Germany from January 21, 1945 through April 2, 1945. He was captured during the battle at Nennig, Germany and was with the 94th Infantry Division, 302nd Infantry Regiment, Company M as a heavy machine gunner (30 cal. water cooled). **James Osman**, 1025 Plantation Drive West #2833, Little River, SC 29566; 843-399-2925. osmanj@sc.rr.com.

Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
Kandace_Muller@nps.gov

A New Exhibit and "Fired Up" at
Andersonville
by Alan Marsh and Kandace Muller

New Exhibit

In conjunction with National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, Andersonville National Historic Site opened a new temporary exhibit titled Letters To and From Home.



The exhibit features official documents, letters and postcards to and from prisoners of war and shows the importance of mail during World War II as a means of maintaining contact between POWs, their families and their friends. As evident in the letters, prisoners of war often used their writings to let family members know what they needed and to reassure them they

were okay. Often they downplayed the extent of their hardship.

The exhibit contains official guidelines for sending mail between prisoners and their families. It also illustrates what prisoners and families found important to communicate, the difficulties in receiving and sending mail, and censorship. As seen in "Letters To And From Home", correspondence between prisoners of war and their families is an important part of the prisoner of war experience.

A "Good" Fire at Andersonville



On March 23rd employees at Andersonville NHS started, yes started, a fire. The fire was a prescribed burn and was conducted in accordance with the historic site's new fire management plan. A prescribed burn is an intentional burning in woodlands or other terrain and can be conducted for many reasons. National Park Service areas conduct prescribed burns to promote certain vegetation or native ground cover, prevent brushy vegetation from impeding the visitor's views of the historic scenes, restore fire as a natural process within a park or to reduce hazardous fuels.

The primary purpose of the prescribed burn at Andersonville was hazardous fuel reduction. Over the years the pine forests have

grown thick. Downed trees, along with an accumulation of pine straw and leaves, have created a thick layer that would add "fuel" to a forest fire.



A fire of this type could have the potential to destroy not only the trees but could also threaten visitor safety and park structures. The 23 acre burn was conducted by park staff and the Georgia Forestry Commission. The growth of spring vegetation will quickly begin the process of replacing the burned area.

Photo 1 The Kittle family of Columbus, Indiana reads "Letters To & From Home"

Photo 2 Prescribed burn reduces risk of major wildfires

Photo 3 Unburned area of downed trees, straw and other "fuel" buildup.

The Guest-Host Program is Alive and Well at Andersonville

If you would like to devote a week to teaching others about the POW experience, you should sign up for Andersonville's Guest-Host Program. Lodging is provided at the National Historic Site. For more information, call the Park at: (229) 924-0343.

NSO Success Stories

"We Exist to Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves!"

And AXPOW does. When we work together for good, SUCCESS happens. More recent "success" stories, because of AXPOW team work.

Betty Grinstead writes: "Having been married to an ex-POW for 38 years, going through four nursing homes and more hospital stays has given me insight that helps in what I do now with the POWs. My husband passed away in 1998. With Marion Rippee's help, after 3 ½ years, I received my DIC. Marion's the best!"

Then Marion trained Betty, of Silver City, Iowa, to be an NSO and this is some of what Betty is doing now.

1. Contacted an ex-POW in Pennsylvania. He was a POW for only 21 days. He's been trying to 20 years to get his 20% disability rating up. He now has 100%; one happy guy who wanted his wife to be protected. She is applying for ChampVA free Medicare supplement. POW Coordinator Fred Johnson was a big help.

2. I have a lady who has been drawing DIC since 1998, but due to the circumstances of her husband's death, she was denied ChampVA coverage. With help from Des Moines POW coordinator Vic Tate and Ratings Specialist Anne Lanigan, his death was ruled service-connected. Now this POW widow has her free Medicare supplement ChampVA and all that goes with it

to cover her high medical bills. Happy relief.

3. I contacted a lady in central Iowa whose former POW husband was in a State Veterans' Home two hours away. I made some calls and got help from people in the know. Her husband is now only 25 miles from home, in a VA contracted nursing home. Now this lady has signed up for ChampVA, to help with horribly high medical bills. And now she can visit her husband more regularly.

NSO Betty Grinstead says: "My stories could go on and on. I have many! This has been the most rewarding thing I have ever done! I owe this to Marion Rippee, super-NSO in Nixa, Missouri. She never gave up helping me get my DIC. She trained me for over two years, until she felt that I was ready to help others."

(If you want a shot of enthusiasm, call Betty in Iowa!)

A veteran in Harlingen, Texas, can thank Wren Bowyer for NSO persistence. Wren's story follows.

Raymond and I are friends from 40 years ago when we lived in Oklahoma City, and then later we both moved to Harlingen. One day in 2001, I asked him, "Do you draw any disability?" He replied, "Yes, 40%. I've had it ever since I got out of the service."

I asked Raymond to tell me about his combat and POW experience, and learned he was in the 3rd wave of Infantry to hit the beaches on D-Day; he had to walk over the dead to get ashore. His decorations included the Silver Star, Bronze Star and 3 Purple Hearts.

Raymond said, "I was shot in the stomach, and that is where I got my 40%. And I don't want anyone to touch it because I don't want to lose it." I assured him they couldn't take it from him, and asked him about other health problems. He had open heart surgery and three bypasses in

1976; five bypasses in 1990; now he uses a breathing machine four times a day. In 1970, he had ear surgery since his hearing was so bad from the shelling.

"Also I have cold feet, so numb they don't feel when I walk; all this not to mention prostate cancer in 1980." He had endured Germany's coldest ice and snow winter in 25 years. I asked him if he had ever been to the VA. "No! As a retired civil service employee, civil service is much better for me than VA could be."

I told him he needed to go to the VA; that I had known for a long time that he had PTSD. He was so hyper. "Raymond, you shake a lot, and I bet your wife can tell me other things." She spoke up, "I do NOT dare touch him when he is asleep or he comes up fighting, thinking he's in a fox-hole."

I told Raymond to go to the VA, tell them his story and ask for a complete physical. He went to the nearby VA clinic and the Service Officer sent him to the psychiatrist; he got 20% more disability. I told him that was not enough; to go back and ask for a complete physical. Back they sent him to the psychiatrist and he got another 10%, for a total of 70%. I told Raymond to go back and ask for 100% with unemployability. The local VA clerk told him he made too much money. I blew my top! Your income has nothing to do with Disability Compensation!

I sent Raymond's complete file to the Houston VA Regional Office. Within 60 days Raymond had his 100% Unemployability.

But he has never had a complete VA physical. Now I live in California, so NSO's Bill and Margaret Fabian in Harlingen, Texas, are helping Raymond get his full range of disabilities on record with the VA, which should get him 100% service-connected without unemployability. Raymond is fortunate to have old friend Wren and new friends NSOs Bill and Margaret helping him get his due VA benefits.

Members'

forum



Dear Cheryl,

I have not seen anything in our Ex-POW Bulletins regarding the treatment of enemy prisoners by our American forces and our own government.

As a member of an organization made up of a group of people who have either experienced the consequences of direct brutal mistreatment while in the care of an enemy, and/or survived the deprivation of food, and lack of proper medical care while a POW, or borne the results of forced marches and all the suffering that went with being a captive.... it behooves us to speak up here and now.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War organization should be among the first and most vocal of all organizations to stand firm against the mistreatment of prisoners of any country in any place.

We owe our lives to having either benefited by the adherence to the Geneva Convention by those who held us captive, or to having survived the mistreatment by those who did not commit to its' conditions. Either way, we are unique in having survived, and thus have first

hand knowledge whereof we speak.

If we do not speak out, we will be remiss and could readily be accused of condoning the poor treatment we have doled out to those who are our captives or who may become our captives.

We cannot have it both ways. We cannot expect our troops and our people to receive humane treatment, and still be on record around the world for the mistreatment we mete out to others. A human being is a human being, and we above all should be aware of what it is like to be held against our will by enemy forces who want our cooperation and information and who are also in a position to torture or starve it out of us. Our members have their own stories of mistreatment, deprivation and brutality, and it only takes one look at the photos shown in our EX-POW Bulletin to see what others of our people have suffered as captives.

I would expect that we must take this time to speak our minds, and make our feelings known in no uncertain terms to our own government officials that we want to go on record as being against the mistreatment of those who we capture in any of our military ventures. If we do not do so, and quickly, then we will be unfaithful to those of our own who died from beatings and torture and never made it home to join our organization. If only for the most selfish of reasons, we have to make our statement strong and clear so that it cannot be misunderstood. We as former victims, cannot allow ourselves to victimize others... we know all too well the unhappy consequences.

It is wrong and shortsighted for some of our members to confuse this issue with support for our troops. It is specifically FOR our troops that this issue must be discussed and clarified.....for if and when some of our own service men or women are captured in the future, they would be the ones who

would surely suffer. Support for our troops means to protect them as much as possible, to see that they are well equipped, well fed, well supplied, and well cared for when injured or wounded.

Brutality towards captives must be exposed to the light of day if we are to deserve the respect of the world, and therefore we must disavow such methods for the good of our own troops. After all is said and done, these same troops are our own children and grandchildren. And as former POWs no one knows better than we do the suffering that beatings and torture bring to the body and soul of the individual and his or her family as well.

The members of this organization are special, and the only ones who have experienced the trauma of captivity, and therefore know first hand what the cost has been and the price paid. We are still paying the price for what was done to us. Do we admire those Japanese, Germans, or Viet Cong who did the beatings or watched the torture and did or said nothing to stop the mistreatment? Should we be the same as they, and just step aside and pretend that it isn't happening?

In memory of those who died uncared for and untended, from starvation, torture, and neglect, if we ignore their sacrifice and do nothing to prevent such things from happening in the future, we only make sure that they WILL continue to happen in the future.

I trust the board will take this under advisement, and I look forward to an official statement of policy.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Howard and Rosalyn Saz
17453 Arbor Drive
South Bend, IN 46635

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members forum continued...

rozsaz@juno.com

Dear Cheryl,

I have just finish reading the Foundation Times (Spring 2005) and I am appalled at what Mr. Norm Bussel had to say.

The Foundation Times is not the EX-POW Bulletin, the official publication of our organization. The Foundation Times needs to be used to keep the members of AXPOW informed on what is happening in the Foundation and not degrade our elected officials. The last two editions of the Foundation Times have dedicated a lot of room in the publication to items that have no business in there. I am tired of Mr. Bussel degrading our National Commander and other members of our board.

Where does he get the idea that he is better than anyone else? I think his position has gone to his head. He should either be reprimanded or expelled from the Foundation. I honestly feel that the State Departments need to get involved and stop the Foundation for reporting anything out of their scope of business. Let the Bulletin report the AXPOW news.

Milton (Skip) Moore, Jr.
Commander, Cochise Chapter,
AXPOW

Dear Editor of the Ex-POW Bulletin,

We at the Health Administration Center, CHAMPVA program would like to thank you for including an article about the CHAMPVA Meds by Mail program in one of your recent issues of the Bulletin. It is gratifying to know that you help spread the word about such a wonderful program. However, some of the infor-

mation in the article is not correct. In the article it says that all Rx orders are to be sent to the Dublin, GA servicing center. This is not quite right. The Meds by Mail program has two servicing centers, one in Dublin, GA for the Eastern Region (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Mass., New Jersey, Penn., Ohio, Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Miss., and Alabama) and one in Cheyenne, WY for the Western half of the United States (Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California.)

Would it be possible to print a correction in your next issue so that we can get the beneficiaries back on track? You can have them refer to our Meds by Mail Web page at <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/meds/meds.asp> and/or print the states for each region. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, Glenn A. Johnson
Chief, Public Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
Health Administration Center
300 S. Jackson St.
Denver, CO 80209
(303) 331-7864

Dear Cheryl,

Where does this backbiting group get all the **venom**? Every few years, we look as though things might be starting to turn to what we are here for (the good of their well-being) and of the spouse. At this time in life, why in the world fight over a few dissatisfied people. There are many more important things in the world than to be picky old goats.

There are so many members with great backgrounds in work, profes-

sions, business, farmers, etc. that used their heads to better their positions in the world and we can use those initiatives in better operating this great institution of ours.

Yes, we are going to have a few "Dead Heads" that the only thing they really know is to upset the "apple cart" and we must live with that.

We have those who want to be a big wheel no matter how they can manufacture the new wheel. The world is full of all of our various kinds and I for one am ready to level the field, appoint good coaches, recruit people interested in the good of the order and put this thing on track and make it go generally in the same direction with God Speed. We don't need broken rails. God loves all of us.

Jack Maher
Commander, Dept. of Wisconsin

Correction for the Record:

RE: "US Army Nurses Liberation in the Philippines", in the segment on The Bravest (64 American Nurses), the big civilian camp "at Santo Tomas University on Rizal Avenue" should accurately be at "España Ave., Quezon City", some 2 miles east of Rizal Avenue. Los Banos is not in Manila, but in Laguna Province some 40 miles south of Manila.

I just returned from out of the country, visiting ailing elder siblings in the Philippines. I was with the Luzon Allied Intelligence Bureau and served as co-coordinator, Liaison Officer to the various guerilla units in the Los Banos Internment Camp on Feb. 23, 1945 - Joint US 11th Airborne Div. and the Filipino guerillas of southern Luzon.

Will appreciate the correction, albeit belated, if it has not already been written and brought to your kind attention.

Sincerely and many thanks,
Jaime E. Concepcion
626 Riverside Dr., #21-A
New York, NY 10031

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News Briefs

Medal of Honor awarded to Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith

The White House announced on March 29, 2005 that President George W. Bush planned to honor Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith on the second anniversary of his courageous actions during the Battle of Baghdad Airport. The Medal of Honor will be presented to the Smith family during a White House ceremony, April 4, 2005.

Smith is the first to receive the military's highest award for actions taken in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Smith's leadership and personal actions to engage the enemy thwarted an attack on his outnumbered platoon. Smith hastily arranged for a defense using grenades, an antitank missile launcher, and individual weapons to evacuate wounded Soldiers and take control of a .50 caliber machine gun. Smith prevented the enemy from overtaking his unit's position, protected his Task Force's flank, and defended the lives of more than 100 Soldiers. He was mortally wounded during the battle.

Smith was serving as a platoon sergeant in Bravo Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, Task Force 2-7, 3rd Infantry Division. He answered the noble call of military service when he joined the Army in October 1989.

For more information, visit the www.army.mil/medalofhonor or contact Maj. Elizabeth Robbins at (703) 697-5343. elizabeth.robbs@hqda.army.mil.

Tax-Free Disabilities Compensation for 20+ Year Retirees!

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is a tax-free benefit available for retirees of all services with military or Veteran Affairs (VA) rated disabilities resulting directly from combat: **armed conflict, specially hazardous military duty, training exercises that simulate war, or an instrumentality of war.** Only approximately \$431 million has been awarded across the services from of a total of \$22 billion set aside for this benefit!

To apply for CRSC compensation, applicants must meet ALL four of the following criteria AND have at least one rated VA disability determined to have been combat-related:

- 4 Served 20+ yrs Active Duty - OR - Reservist age 60+ with 20+ creditable yrs (per 10 USC 12731);
- 4 Are in a retired status;
- 4 Are entitled to retired pay (must be offset by VA payments); and,
- 4 Have at least a 10% VA rating.

CRSC versus CRDP (Concurrent Receipt):

Retirees who qualify for both CRSC and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) entitlements may elect only one. The Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) is currently paying the benefit based on the higher dollar entitlement. CRSC is tax-free but, unlike other benefits, **retirees must apply for CRSC.**

CRSC is:

Tax Free
Retroactive to as early as 1 June 2003
Immediately Payable in Full
Payable at 10% VA Disability Rating

Program Facts

The Army CRSC Division has received over 35,000 applications (including reconsiderations), with approximately 1,400 new applications

arriving each month. The Division is on target to process all applications older than 30 days from receipt by 6 FEB 2005. To view the weekly progress made on processing applications, go to <http://www.crsc.army.mil/utilities/stats.htm>.

For more information or to obtain an application packet, visit www.crsc.army.mil or contact your local RSO or the Army's CRSC Service Center toll free at 1-866-281-3254 (or 703-325-5163 for residents of the DC-metro area) Mon-Fri 0800 - 2000 hours (EST).

For Navy and USMC:

<http://www.hq.navy.mil/ncpb/CRSCB/combatrelated.htm>

For USAF:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/disability/CRSC/CRSCnew.htm>

H.R. 1220, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-living Adjustment Act of 2005

Chairman Steve Buyer of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs introduced the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005. Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Lane Evans, as well as Jeff Miller of Florida and Shelley Berkley, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, respectively, joined as original cosponsors of the bill.

"Nearly 3 million service-connected veterans and survivors of service-connected veterans will continue to utilize this resource and rely on this annual increase," said Chairman Steve Buyer.

This bill would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits

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news briefs cont...

effective December 1, 2005. Additionally, the bill codifies the current disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) rates. In addition to compensation, it increases the amount for additional compensation for dependants, the clothing allowance paid to veterans' whose service-connected disability causes irreparable damage to their clothing and DIC for surviving spouses with minor children. Dependent children receiving DIC will also benefit from this increase.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability compensation and DIC programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in compensation and DIC benefits.

Congress has consistently provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The adjustment in cost-of-living is reflective of the economic shift annually. This is especially crucial to those veterans living on a fixed income. The Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget submission includes funding for a projected 2.3 percent increase.

Fish Oil Holds Promise in Alzheimer's Fight

Even our grandmothers told us fish was "brain food"-and now scientists have evidence to back the claim.

Researchers with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California at Los Angeles

(UCLA) found that a diet high in docosahexenoic acid, or DHA-an omega-3 fatty acid found in relatively high concentrations in cold-water fish-dramatically slowed the progression of Alzheimer's disease in mice. Specifically, DHA cut the harmful brain plaques that mark the disease. The results appear in the March 23 online edition of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Senior author Greg M. Cole, Ph.D., a neuroscientist at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System and UCLA, said that unlike many studies with mice, this one points to the benefits of a therapy that is easily available and already touted for other medical conditions. DHA-either from food sources such as fish and soy, or in fish-oil supplements-is recommended by many cardiologists for heart health, based on scores of previous studies.

"The good news from this study is that we can buy the therapy at a supermarket or drug store," said Cole. "DHA has a tremendous safety profile-essentially no side effects-and clinical trial evidence supports giving DHA supplements to people at risk for cardiovascular disease."

The new study involved older mice genetically altered to develop Alzheimer's disease. The researchers fed one group of the mice DHA-fortified chow. The control mice ate a normal or DHA-depleted diet. After three to five months-the equivalent of several years in human biology-the high-DHA group had 70-percent less buildup of amyloid protein in the brain. This sticky protein makes up the plaques, or patches, that are a hallmark of Alzheimer's.

A similar study by Cole's group published in *Neuron* last fall showed that DHA protected against damage to the "synaptic" areas where brain cells communicate and enabled mice to perform better on memory tests.

The studies, say the scientists, suggest that even people who are genetically predisposed to the disease

may be able to delay it by boosting their DHA intake.

Omega-3 fatty acids, typically deficient in the American diet, are essential for human health. DHA in particular is vital to proper brain function, as well as eye health and other body processes. In recent years epidemiologists have tied fish-rich diets to a lower incidence of Alzheimer's disease and homed in on DHA as the preventive factor. Omega-3 fatty acid supplements are now being tested in clinical trials with early-stage Alzheimer's patients in the United States, Canada and Sweden to see if the therapy really slows the disease.

Food sources of omega-3 fatty acids include fish such as salmon, halibut, mackerel and sardines, as well as almonds, walnuts, soy, and DHA-enriched eggs. Concerns about mercury contamination in fish have helped popularize purified DHA supplements based on fish oil or algae.

Last year, Cole's team identified another nutrient that appears to combat Alzheimer's plaques in mice: curcumin, the yellow pigment in turmeric, one of the spices that make up curry powder. Researchers became interested in curcumin's potential to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease after noting the low prevalence of dementia among the elderly in India, where curry is a staple.

Cole is the associate director for research at VA's Los Angeles-based Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, and a professor of medicine and neurology at UCLA. Lead author for the new study was Giselle P. Lim, PhD, a UCLA postgraduate researcher in Cole's group. Working with them were colleagues from VA, UCLA and the National Institutes of Health. The study was supported by the National Institute on Aging, VA, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

news briefs cont...

VA Reaches Out to Veterans Exposed to Mustard Agents

On March 17, 2005, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a national outreach campaign to locate veterans who were exposed to mustard gas or the chemical weapon Lewisite during their service.

"Many of these veterans have already sacrificed for their country, above and beyond the normal call of duty," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "At VA, we will ensure they receive the benefits and care they have earned."

Most of these veterans participated in chemical testing programs during World War II. They were exposed to mustard agents, which includes sulfur mustard and nitrogen mustard, and Lewisite, which is a blister-producing chemical that contains organic arsenic.

VA launched an awareness campaign in 1993 about benefits for veterans exposed to chemical warfare materials. This new effort includes direct mailings to veterans newly identified by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Most of these "mustard gas veterans" took part in DoD tests during World War II. The tests were designed to evaluate clothing, ointments and equipment that would protect American troops from mustard agent attacks.

As part of those tests, DoD reported some participants were exposed to a drop of a chemical-warfare agent on an arm, while others had full-body exposure in test chambers, sometimes with limited protective clothing. According to DoD, approximately 4,500 service members were exposed to these agents.

VA is mailing information to the veterans and survivors within the first group of participants identified by DoD. The information covers VA medical and financial benefits, data about the effects of exposure to chemical warfare agents, and telephone numbers for VA and DoD offices involved in the outreach campaign. VA is continuing to seek addresses for additional veterans and survivors.

VA invites veterans to file disability compensation claims for any condition related to service, including exposure to mustard agents and Lewisite.

Veterans or their survivors with questions about these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-749-8387 or visit VA's benefits Web site at www.vba.va.gov.

Inconsistent VA Compensation Levels

During Senate hearings on the new VA Director Jim Nicholson's confirmation he acknowledged that veterans in different states are awarded different levels of compensation. Knight Ridder's Washington Bureau has made available information that allows veterans to compare each of the 55 VA regional area's performance to others nationwide. Knight Ridder is the second-largest newspaper publisher in the United States and is a communications company engaged primarily in newspaper and Internet publishing. It also operates the Real Cities Network of local news Web sites in more than 105 markets nationwide. To see how the compensation you are receiving stacks up against others go to http://www.realcities.com/mld/krwashington/news/special_packages/veterans/10915802/11033390.htm. This site provides data comparing the region selected with the nationwide average in the following areas:

- Percentage of cases granted
- Error rate on benefit rating
- Average monthly disability payment
- Percentage of veterans waiting 1 year or more for a decision
- Average days pending appeal
- Veterans satisfied with the process
- Veterans who said their claim was handled fairly
- Veterans who appealed decision
- Veterans who said VA was not at all helpful
- Disability levels for ailments in 20 major areas ranging from "Adjustment Disorder" through "Tinnitus".

VA Health Education Library Available Online

The VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, partnering with VHA Patient Education and VHA Environmental Hazards and Public Health, has developed an educational and health promotion library of materials on certain health conditions to enable veterans to take control of their own health. Located at My HealtheVet, the library covers topics ranging from Age-Related Macular Degeneration to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. To access the Health Education Library, go to <http://www.myhealth.va.gov> and select "Health Info."



Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

Y our Stories



Hard Time at Bad Orb!

(Life as a POW in Stalag IXB)

by James F. Sansom
2333 Glascock St.
Raleigh, NC 27610

Hundreds of us GIs had traveled by foot, under German guard, from Limberg, Germany (Stalag XIIA). We had marched 20-25 miles a day for six days. Along the way, our daily rations were a liter of soup (mostly spinach and turnips) and a sandwich of bologna with margarine on black bread. Occasionally a farmer would throw us an apple from a basket.

Nights, we were housed in buildings such as schools that had been vacated. Several times, during overnight stays, we were guarded by Hitler's Youth Corps (trigger-happy boys that ranged in age from 14-16 years old). As we talked with them, we found that they had been led to believe that major US cities had been bombed and leveled. They even claimed to have "seen pictures" supporting these reports and they believed Germany was winning the war. Even though we were the "underdogs" at this time, we were not discouraged.

We arrived at Stalag IXB-Bad Orb, at dusk, March 2, 1945. The Stalag was on the top of a 3000-4000 foot mountain. We were tired and hungry. Just inside the entrance gate, we were herded into a building. We spent the night, with barely enough room to sit on the floor. The next morning we were allowed hot showers; however, it was insufficient to kill the many body lice and other vermin we were infested with. After we redressed with the same clothing we had worn for more than three months, we were assigned our quarters. The barracks contained about

30 triple-decker steel beds with no springs, wooden boards with burlap mattresses partially filled with straw. The assignment was six men to a bed, two per tier.

Mid-day each barracks would like up at the soup kitchen, which was in the center of camp. The soup usually consisted of lumpy, unbleached flour, water, with bits of diced potatoes and a few strands or slivers of some sort of meat. The cook had a one-liter ladle and would pour the soup into our containers. Most used their helmets as a bowl (helmets were also used for shaving and bathing as well). Some POWs had tin cans and jars.

In the evening, we were given one small loaf of German black bread, made with sawdust and unbleached flour. Each POW was allowed one slice. Slicing was a daily ritual. The "slicer" was given a knife to try to make 12 equal slices. Each man would select his slice. The "slicer" would get the last slice. The next day, yesterday's "slicer" could select the first piece. Believe me, those guys developed "caliper" eyes!

In the morning, coffee (?) was brought to us. Often we could get a handful of coffee grounds from the bottom of the barrel to eat. That would be our total food for a 24-hour day.

If the weather was decent, we would walk around the compound (about a mile or so). There were 50-75 barracks in the camp area, surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence with guard towers at strategic locations. There was a 75-100-bed infirmary building for the sick and wounded. I spent one night there with fever and dysentery. While there I was given some kind of sulfa drug treatment. In the evening, the camp dentist, an American lieutenant sang Brahms Lullaby (a cappella). I was sent back to my barracks the next morning.

Death was not an uncommon occurrence. At least 30-40 men passed away during the six weeks at Bad Orb. About 1100 hours most mornings, all able inmates would stand at attention as the funeral procession passed by. The bier was a flat-bed,

two wheeled cart about 4 feet wide and 8 feet long. One or two bodies were placed on the bier, covered with blankets. Several pall bearers would push or pull the cart. They were followed by several gravediggers. The chaplain, Lt. Robert R. Neale of Jackson, TN, and two or three mourners would follow to the main entrance. The bodies were interred in a plot near the gate.

Another building was set aside as a chapel. Wednesday evenings, our group would have devotions. Some would offer prayers, while others would read scripture while offering a word of comfort. Private Richard Thacker of Burlington, NC sang a hymn that was very comforting. "Be not dismayed, what ere betide, God will take care of you...beneath His wing of love abide, God will take care of you". A number of guys complimented and thanked him.

Sunday mornings, Chaplain Neale would conduct the church service. We were led in singing hymns and prayers. Then he ministered with a sermon. He always encouraged us to "hang in there". Good Friday service, the chaplain "served" communion. There were no elements available (bread or wine). It was a simulated service. The chaplain had us kneel at our seats and bow in prayer. He then "broke the bread" and said, "Take the bread and eat it". We made like we had bread in our hands and would put it in our mouths and eat. He "lifted the cup". We copied his actions and drank. To me, it was a really moving service.

To pass the time, some of the fellows would play cards with the few decks that were available. Another "ritual" we did on a daily basis was to go through our clothes to attempt to kill all the lice and vermin. This process would take an hour or so.

On a lighter note, we spent time sitting and talking, mostly about food. One of the guys talked about baking a cake. He would tell us about putting this and that ingredient in and mixing it all together. Then he would talk about putting the cake in the oven, baking it, then icing the cake. We could almost taste it. Even

stories, continued...

our German black bread seemed to taste like cake!

One time, my buddy, Mel Brasier of Chartly, MA, told us that his uncle had an ice cream store. Mel would talk about the ways the ice cream could be served and how great it tasted. He would name some of the 27 different flavors such as: chocolate, strawberry, cherry, caramel, vanilla, tutti-frutti, butter pecan, etc. With each mentioned flavor, we would lick our lips and almost taste the ice cream.

About March 20, 1945, we began to hear small arms fire in the valley. Evidently the Air Corps already knew our camp location, because we were never bombed or strafed. A few days later, the guards and other German leaders gathered their belongings and left the Stalag. A few of the Germans surrendered their arms to the chaplain and remained in the area. Liberation, without a doubt, was very near.

On April 2, 1945, at 9AM, many US armored vehicles came rolling in the front gates and paraded down the camp streets. Some of our liberators tossed down K-rations and various POWs tried to climb onto the vehicles to beg for more food. It was rumored that one of the guys slipped and fell under the track of the truck, killing himself.

Several days later, C-rations were trucked into the camp. This was the first GI food that we had since we were incarcerated. Instead of stuffing ourselves, Mel Brasier and I shared a can of beans together. Boy, it sure bloated us and very nearly made us sick! Some ate full cans, stuffing themselves and truly had problems.

We also requested DDT powder to rid ourselves of lice. This helped a great deal and we slept a lot better.

It took several days to evacuate the sick and wounded. A week or so later, we were trucked down to the valley where a tent and showers were erected. All of our clothes were discarded. The hot showers were wonderful! On to delousing,

then we were issued clean clothing. We were then taken to a nearby airstrip and flown to the coast of France. From there, we were trucked to Camp Lucky Strike where we were examined. I had lost about 35-40 pounds, weighing in at 115. Several days later, we were taken to Le Havre, France, where we boarded a liberty ship. Sixteen days later, the very welcome sight of the Statue of Liberty came into view and we docked in New York Harbor.

A Tribute to My Grandfather, SFC Rosendo Luna

By Marisol Luna Pizano
1808 E. Cherry Street
Seattle, WA 98122

To my dearest Lolo on your birthday,

I want to begin by sharing this quote with you: The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. ~ William Arthur Ward.

As long as I can remember, you have always been a great teacher. As a child I remember you inspiring me to do great things with my life. You would remind me that I could be an astronaut if I wanted, always hinting that anything was possible. I remember you were the first person to teach me algebra...you are the reason my interest in math blossomed into a love for math and science which guided me to a career in medicine. I remember feeling overwhelmed in high school and you always reminded me to stay focused by saying, "Education is power." In college, through all my academic struggles, I remembered the perseverance and determination you had when you decided in your late fifties to go to school to obtain your Associate's Degree.

Lolo...you have given me great advice. You have shared many lessons with me that you have learned in your own life. You have demonstrated the value of faith, love and family through the sacrifices and the struggles that you and Lola have endured for the

benefit of this family and those you respect and love.

You have borne many crosses in your life...Books have been written about the nightmares of being a POW in WWII, but you experienced it and have chosen to share your experiences with others. You and Lola have survived through famine and poverty. You both braved moving to new countries, learning about foreign customs and languages. Most importantly, you both built a strong family with the values of hard work, faith, respect, education and perseverance. I can only imagine what your ninety years of life have been like. But you, Lolo, have given me more than amazing adventures and life lessons. You have inspired me...inspired me to be true to who I am and where I come from...inspired me to have faith in God, love and family...inspired me to attain any dreams that I envision...and inspired me to continue to build upon the foundation that you have set before this family.

Words cannot express the gratitude I have for both you and Lola...Maraming Salamat Po! Thank you, Lolo, for being more than a grandfather...you have been a father, teacher and role-model. I share every accomplishment I have reached and those that are before me with you and Lola. You are always remembered and appreciated.

I thank God for you. I thank Him for allowing you to be with our family to celebrate your amazing ninety years of life. This is a momentous occasion that I wish I could celebrate with you and our family. I know that you understand the demands of medical school, but please know that I am there in spirit.

I love you Lolo. Enjoy your celebration. I will see you soon.

Love Always, Minnie Haha (Marisol)

Legend:

Lolo means grandfather; Lola means grandmother; Salamat Po! means thank you.

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Andersonville National Cemetery

Andersonville National Cemetery was established on July 26, 1865, to provide a permanent place of honor for those who died in military service of our country. The initial interments, beginning in February 1864, were of those who died in the nearby prisoner of war camp. Today the cemetery contains more than 18,000 interments. The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, administers Andersonville National Cemetery as a part of Andersonville National Historic Site. Andersonville National Cemetery uses the same eligibility criteria as cemeteries administered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs and is open for burials.

Persons Eligible For Burial in a National Cemetery

*Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

*Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty.

*Any citizen of the United States who, during any war in which the United States has been or may hereafter be engaged, served in the Armed Forces of any Government allied with the United States during that war, whose last active service terminated honorably, and who was a citizen of the United States

at the time of entry into such service and at the time of death.

*Reservists, National Guard members, Commissioned Officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service as well as World War II Merchant Mariners are eligible for burial under certain conditions.

*The spouses, unremarried widow or widower, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children of an eligible individual.

Persons Not Eligible for Burial in a National Cemetery

*A surviving spouse of an eligible decedent who marries an ineligible individual and predeceases that individual.

interment by reason of relationship to an eligible individual even if he or she is dependent upon the veteran for support and/or is a member of the eligible individual's household.

*A person whose only separation from an Armed Force was under dishonorable conditions.

*A person who was ordered to report to an induction station, but was not actually inducted into military service.

*Persons convicted of a capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole.

*Persons convicted of subversive activities after September 1, 1959, unless he or she is pardoned by the President of the United States.

Burial Arrangements

Burial arrangements for an eligible veteran or dependent are made by the funeral director or the next-of-kin at the time of need by contacting the cemetery. Cemetery staff must verify the veteran's eligibility prior to the interment. To establish eligibility, cemetery staff must be provided with a copy of the veteran's discharge documents or Form DD-214.

To facilitate arranging an interment, a person contemplating burial in a national cemetery should assemble discharge documents or Form DD-214, prepare a statement of wishes, and place them among other important papers that will be immediately available to the person(s) making final arrangements for burial. For assistance in acquiring discharge documents, contact the VA Regional Office, Veterans Services Division,



*A former spouse of an eligible individual whose marriage to that individual has been terminated by annulment or divorce.

*A father, mother, brother, sister, or in-law or other family member other than listed above is not entitled to

Andersonville National Cemetery continued...

nearest you for assistance in establishing eligibility.

Cremated Remains

Cremated remains are interred in an in-ground gravesite at Andersonville National Cemetery. Cremated remains may not be delivered to the cemetery until cemetery staff has verified eligibility.

Space Assignment

Cemetery staff will assign a gravesite after the decedent's interment application has been approved. Spaces are assigned at the time of need and advance reservations may not be made.

Committal Services

Committal services are held in a large, open-air structure that is located in the east side of the cemetery. Graveside services are no longer conducted. It is the responsibility of a funeral director or the next-of-kin to arrange for the placement of chairs and other items needed for the committal service. Floral arrangements and plants may be placed at the committal shelter. Viewing remains in National Cemeteries is not permitted. Cemetery staff shall not permit a casket to be opened after the hearse has entered the cemetery. It is the responsibility of a funeral director or the next-of-kin to arrange for the presentation of military honors. The cemetery does not provide this service. Assistance may be rendered by the cemetery staff as to whom to contact. A United States flag is usually provided by the funeral director or the next-of-kin to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a veteran.

Burial Benefits

Cemetery staff will open and close the grave, and a headstone with authorized inscription(s) will be pro-

vided by the government. Perpetual care will also be provided. A graveliner is required but not provided by Andersonville National Cemetery. For information regarding other burial benefits, please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Inscription Information

A headstone will be provided at no cost to the next-of-kin to mark the grave of an eligible decedent. The next-of-kin will be asked to complete a Certification of Monument Data form to ensure the accuracy of the inscription.

Mandatory items of inscription include name, branch of service, year of birth and year of death. Emblems of belief are permitted but are restricted to those approved by the National Cemetery System. Additional inscriptions may be inscribed at no expense to the family but are subject to approval. Such items may include the rank of the veteran, his or her period of service or terms of endearment. Also available are special inscriptions indicating that the deceased received a Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or Purple Heart, was missing in action, killed in action or a prisoner of war. When the remains are not interred, a memorial headstone inscribed "In Memory Of" may be requested.

Cemetery Regulations

Andersonville National Cemetery serves as a shrine for the nation's honored dead. Therefore, its regulations have been designed to ensure beauty, dignity, and preservation of a reverent atmosphere. Please adhere to the following regulations while on the cemetery grounds.

*Pets must be kept on a leash at all times should not be allowed on the grassy areas.

*No jogging. *No picnicking.

*Please keep your voices lowered.

*Please place all litter in refuse containers.

*Please place flowers in accordance with the Grave Decoration Policy below.

Grave Decoration Policy

Flags

The staff of Andersonville National Cemetery and volunteers decorate the cemetery with small United States flags in observance of Memorial Day. Flags may not be placed on graves at any other time.

Flowers

Fresh-cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. All flowers will be removed when they become faded or unsightly. Artificial arrangements are not allowed from April 15 through October 10.

Seasonal and Other Decorations

During the periods ten days before and ten days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day, potted plants and wreaths are permitted. Christmas wreaths and floral blankets not longer than 2 by 3 feet are permitted from December 1 through January 20. Plantings, statues, vigil lights, or other decorations are not permitted at any time.

Containers

Temporary floral vases are available in the cemetery. Permanent, below-ground metal floral containers are not permitted. Breakable containers such as ceramics or glass are not permitted. Containers or other items may not be attached to the headstone.

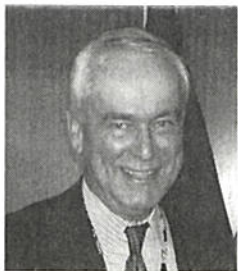
The National Park Service is not responsible for floral arrangements or other items placed in the cemetery.

For more information, please call 229-924-0343 or write to 496 Cemetery Road, Andersonville, GA 31711.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

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Paul E. Galanti
NSO Director ~ R&D
pgalanti@comcast.net

Phony POWs - Redux

Several years ago, the VA reported that it was taking care of 665 Vietnam era POWs. This was interesting since Nam-POWs' historian and past president, Mike McGrath confirmed that there were only 661 military POWs incarcerated in Vietnam! We knew at the time that many of the POWs had retired from the military and had never applied for VA benefits seeing - wrongly - no benefit to doing so.

It was obvious that some were being carried as POWs - with all the presumptive diagnoses and often better treatment - who were never POWs. It is difficult for someone who was never in the military to get VA benefits but all it takes is for the fortunate "con" artist to get the right individual at the VA and he's in.

Chuck and Mary Schantag maintain a website called the POW Network that has extensive research on Vietnam POWs and phony POWs from all wars. Chuck a decorated Marine from Vietnam has a personal vendetta against those who would usurp the honest service and sacrifices of true veterans of any stripe. Although the Schantags' passion is to uncover phony POWs, their site also includes resources and links to others. Pho-

nies prefer to be part of the Special Forces, Marine Force Recon, or Navy SEALs, and POWs.

Mike McGrath, a retired Naval Captain and Tailhooker, also uncovers phonies and several years ago found himself standing on a speakers' platform at the Air Force Academy next to a tall distinguished looking Air Force colonel. Mike noted the Air Force Cross and many rows of ribbons. When the "colonel" was introduced, the emcee stated he'd been a POW in the "infamous Hanoi Hilton." Mike, who maintains the database of all Vietnam POWs and probably knows more about them collectively than anybody else, didn't know the "colonel's" name.

After the festivities, Mike asked a couple of questions to the USAFA authorities and determined that the "colonel" always was invited to official functions as a guest of the Superintendent or Commandant since he had such a distinguished record "and was a POW on top of all that!" Mike approached the "colonel" and asked where he'd been in Vietnam. And the classic phony story emerged.

He couldn't really talk about it, you see, because it was a highly classified mission. He was captured with several others and kept in a secret camp in Hanoi. He heard that the "VC" were going to kill them so he and the others made their escape plans. The others (whose names he couldn't remember) were all killed. He managed to escape and evaded until picked up by friendly, clandestine forces (who he couldn't reveal because they and their mission was classified).

Mike, who'd been an All-American wrestler and Captain of Navy's wrestling team, called him a liar to his face and began checking. Mike discovered that he'd never been any of the things he claimed and, with a local TV reporter in tow, pulled a "60 Minutes" on the "colonel."

So what happened? The colonel's status as VIP at the Air Force Academy was rescinded. That was all!

None of the local newspapers were interested in the story as "it cannot be verified." The FBI said it wasn't a high enough priority for them even though impersonating an officer is a felony. Mike couldn't check the status with the VA as it was a privacy violation or HIPAA or something else designed to help fraudulent people beat the system.

Chuck & Mary Schantag press on exposing phonies. Mike McGrath has uncovered several hundred. But nothing happens to most of them. Several on the Schantag's website moved a perpetrated another hoax using the same name!

So why does this matter? There are only so many resources within the VA. If it is so easy for phonies to game the local political and military systems, can it not be assumed that they're gaming the VA also? What's the solution? I'm not sure since Congress, obviously in the interest of "personal privacy," makes it harder and harder to ascertain these felons' crimes.

Yet all any of us has to do is walk into the VA, give 'em our first initial of our last name and last four numbers of our SSN and virtually any employee in that hospital with access to the computer can find out an awful lot about us. I suspect one of the reasons that the VA doesn't pursue this harder is that to uncover a phony in its midst, implies that the VA management isn't doing its job properly which might be true.

But by failing to aggressively pursue and punish those who game the system, the VA is punishing those who deserve everything the VA is capable of providing. I don't think any of us or the VA want that. We must insist that privacy laws and HIPAA do not apply to phonies and that they must be held accountable for their actions that steal services from legitimate, deserving veterans.

Paul

contributions



Please send donations to:
National Headquarters, 3201 East
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,
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make a donation with a credit
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call 817-6492979. Thank you!

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Tex Chapter
In memory of Pauline Bargas, by Cen-
Tex Chapter
In memory of Philton Hebert, by
South Louisiana Chapter
In memory of Stewart Cooper, by
William & Margery Nichols
In memory of William Biggs Cox, by
South Louisiana Chapter

N.S.O. FUND

In honor of Fred Campbell, by Ann
Garrett, by Harold Fisher
In memory of Edward Perro, by
friends

chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

1609 S. 23rd Street
Rogers, AR 72758
(479) 636-2287

The True and Living God Doth Care

O' wondrous story of
everlasting love;
Each person is dear to that
heart above.
He fights for me when I

cannot fight.
He comforts me in the
gloom of night.
He lifts my burdens, for
He is strong.
He stills the sigh and
awakens the song.
The sorrow that bows me down
He bears;
And loves and pardons, because
He cares.
Let all who are sad take
heart again.
We are not alone in our
hours of pain.
Our Father stoops from
His throne above
To soothe and quiet us with
His love.
He leaves us not when the
storm is high
And we have safety, for
He is nigh.
Can it be trouble that
He doth share?

Oh, rest in peace, for the Lord
doth care!

Let us pray: Dear Lord, our Heavenly
Father, we are so thankful that You
are very near and dear to us as we
face the trials and tasks of each and
every day, knowing that You do care
for and have undying love for us.
Please Lord, forgive us when we fail
to show Your love and caring in ev-
ery way as we reach out to those
that we might touch. May it be in Your
name and full of Your love. AMEN.

Thought for the month: Never take
God's love for granted. It is there to
be used to glorify His Holy name.

We do ask the Lord to bless and
keep you in his care always.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

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taps



Please submit taps notices to: Cheryl Cerbone, 7 Turner Lane, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

ARTHUR, Vel L. of Ralls, TX died March 22, 2005. He was 78. Vel served with the 4th Armored Tank Div. of Gen. Patton's Third Army. He was wounded and held in Germany until liberation. He was a member of the Hub of the Plains Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife Dorothy and two sons.

BARRETT, Edward Miles, 86, of Spokane, WA died Feb. 15, 2005. He served in the Marine Corps during WWII, stationed in Hawaii. He was transferred to the USS Houston and captured by the Japanese when it was sunk. He spent 3 ½ years in Java and Singapore. He was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter and life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Janet, 3 daughters, 3 sons, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

BESINGER, Lola Mae, 76, of Cummings, Kansas, died March 23, 2005. She was a member of the Leavenworth Chapter AXPOW. Lola Mae leaves behind her husband Robert (ex-POW who was captured near Metz, France and held for 7 months). She is also survived by two sons, a daughter, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

BIAGIONI, Louis, of Chesapeake, VA died Jan. 23, 2005. During WWII, he was captured and held POW in Germany. He later served in the Korean War. He leaves 2 sons, 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

BLESSED, Charles W., of Birmingham, MI passed away Jan. 29, 2005. While serving in the Army during WWII, he was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Margaret, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 1 sister and 6 grandchildren.

BOYAJIAN, John, of Larchmont, NY died Jan. 30, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 106th Inf. Div., 423rd

Reg.. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in 4B. He leaves his beloved wife, Lillian, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter and 1 grandson.

BROWN, Hugh "Bud" T., of Yuba City, CA passed away Feb. 22, 2005. He was 83. Bud was a top turret gunner on a B-17. He was shot down and held in Luft IV for one year. Survivors include his wife, Virginia, 1 daughter, 3 grandsons and 4 great-grandchildren.

BROWN, William B., of St. Augustine, Florida, died Feb. 26, 2005. A past commander of the Ancient City Chapter, he served with Easy Company, 38th Inf. Reg., 2nd Div. "Indianhead". He was POW in Camps 1, 2 and 3 in Korea. He is survived by his wife, Joan.

BRUTUS, Glen J., of Pine Village, IN passed away Jan. 2, 2005. He served with HQ Co., 1st Bttn., 423rd Reg., 106th Inf. Div. and was captured near St. Vith, Belgium. He was held in Stalags XIIA, IVB and IIIA until liberation. He leaves 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 brothers.

BUCHANAN, Hawthorne "Buck" C., 84, of Richmond, VA passed away Feb. 18, 2005. He was captured at the Battle of the Caves while serving with the 45th Div., 157th Inf., 2nd Bttn. Co. F, 60 MM Mortar Sq. He spent most of his 14 months of captivity in Stalag VIIA. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Denny Landrum Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Roberta, 1 daughter, 3 sons and 8 grandchildren.

CHAPPELL, Robert T., of Independence, MO died March 9, 2005. He served with the 9th Armored Div., 1st Army, 2nd Tank Bttn. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held in 4B and 8A. He was an active member of the Heart of America Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

COX, William Biggs, a member of the South LA Chapter, AXPOW, died Feb. 1, 2005 at the age of 84. He

served with the 493rd BG during WWII. He was captured over Northeast Germany. Survivors include 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

CRYER, Gladys M., 81, of Rochelle, IL died March 5, 2005. Gladys was a charter member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband Alfred John served in the 15th AF. He was held POW at Luft 1, Barth. Besides her husband, she is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

DELEMAN, Bernard, of Panama City, FL died Feb. 5, 2005. He was 84. He was captured while serving on the USS Perch #174 submarine. He spent 3 1/2 years in Japanese POW camps. His wife of 57 years, Aldina, survives him.

DIADUK, Walter W., 86, died Feb. 5, 2005. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne and was captured in Italy. He leaves his wife of 51 years, Mary, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 sisters and 3 grandchildren. He was a member of the Western MA Chapter, AXPOW.

FISHER, Robert, of Pittsburgh, PA died Nov. 24, 2004. Bob served with the 8th AF, 92nd BG. He was shot down over Germany, wounded and held in POW hospitals and Stalag 17B. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, June, two sons, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

FLORIO, Thomas, a member of the Nassau-Suffolk Chapter, AXPOW, died March 6, 2005. He was a Waist Gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the 445th BG, 703rd BS. He was shot down and captured over Hamm. He was held in Stalag 17B for 13 months in Barracks 30B. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Antoinette, 2 children, 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

FREDRICKSON, Bruce "CB", age 80, died Feb. 26, 2005 in Woodland

taps continued

Hills, CA. He was a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Bruce served with the 304th Wing, 15th AF, 455 BG, 743rd BS. He was captured in Hungary and spent time in Stalag Luft III, 13D and 7A. Bruce is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Jeanne, 2 sons, 2 daughters and many, many friends.

HARPER, Clyde, age 84, of Buckhannon, WV died Feb. 28, 2005. He was 84. He was an ex-POW. He is survived by 5 sons, 4 daughters, 2 sisters, 22 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

HAVENS, Joe L., of Ferryville, WI died Sept. 1, 2004. During WWII, he served with Co., F, 410th Inf., 103rd Div. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalags 12A and 9B. He was a member of the East Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Eleanor, 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

HRUSKA, Andrew, age 87, of Pittsburgh, PA passed away Nov. 24, 2004. Andy served with the 4th Div., 12th Inf., Co. "C". He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 12B until liberation. He leaves one daughter, one son and friend, Mary.

HUNT, Robert P., 88, of Rapid City, S. Dakota died Feb. 4, 2005. "Coach" Hunt served with the 15th AF out of Foggia, Italy. He was shot down over Austria and held until liberation. He is survived by his loving wife, Helen, 4 sons, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

JENNINGS, Clinton, of San Francisco, California, passed away October 28, 2004. He served in the 59th Coast Artillery. Captured May 6, 1942, at Corregidor, Philippine Island, he spent about two years in Cabanatuan, then was shipped to Japan to work in a coal mine as slave labor. He was a POW for 3 ½ years. He was a member of the John Lay Chapter and later joined the Cecilia McKie Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Esther.

JENSON, Evelyn E., of Taylor, MI died Nov. 22, 2004. She and her late husband, ex-POW Donald, were members of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

KITTILSON, Wayne A., of Libby, MT died Dec. 27, 2004. He served in the 8th AF, 351st BG (H), 509th BS during WWII. After being shot down over Germany, he was captured and held POW in Stalag 17B. Wayne was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

KOENIG, Mary Margaret, 86, of Baltimore, MD passed away March 7, 2005. Margaret and her husband William were life members of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. In addition to her husband, she is survived by one step-daughter and one brother.

KONTOS, Athan G., of Nanuet, NY died Dec. 21, 1999. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII and was held until liberation. He was a member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Violetta, 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

KWIECIEN, Viola A., 81, of Chicopee, MA died Feb. 6, 2005. She was the widow of Walter, who died in 1991. Immediately after Walter reported for duty, she enlisted in the WAAF. She is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 brothers, 2 sisters and many nieces and nephews.

MALLOS, James, of Royal Oak, MI died Aug. 18, 2004. He served in the Army during WWII. He was a POW in Germany. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Patricia, 2 daughters, 3 sons and 4 grandchildren.

MAUSE, James P., 83, of Myersville, MD passed away March 7, 2005. During WWII, he served in the 8th AF, 305th BG and was held prisoner in Stalag Luft III and Stalag VIIA. He was a member of the Maryland West Chapter, AXPOW. James is survived by his wife, Wilma Jeannette, one daughter and one sister.

McATEE, Charles Oliver passed away on March 10, 2005 at age 84. Originally assigned with the 17th BS, 27th BG, AAC, he arrived in the Philippines just 18 days before Dec. 7, 1941. After Bataan fell, McAtee spent approximately two-and-a-half years in captivity at Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. He was transferred, near the end of 1944, to the Fukuoka group of prison camps on Honshu Island, Japan. He is survived by his wife, 1 daughter, 2 step-sons, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

McCLUE, Barney D. 82 of Choteau, MT passed away September 14, 2004. A member of the 4th Marines he was surrendered on Corregidor. Barney spent 40 months as a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines and Japan. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Chris, 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 1 sister and numerous nieces and nephews.

McLAIN, Robert E., 86, of Gorham, ME passed away Jan. 20, 2005. He was a life member of the Maine Chapter, AXPOW. While serving with the AAF during WWII, he was shot down over Germany. He spent 14 months as a POW in Luft 3 and in Moosburg, Germany. He leaves his loving wife, Dorothy, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, 1 brother and 3 sisters.

MEADS, Bruce W., of Spring Arbor, MI died Oct. 11, 2004. He was 91. Bruce was captured in the battle of Kasserine Pass. He became camp chaplain while he was imprisoned. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Rose, 1 son, 2 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

MILLETT, Ethel "Sally" Blaine, 90, one of the "Angels of Bataan", died March 8, 2005. She was 25 when she joined the Army in Nov. 1940. In June 1941, she was sent to Manila. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, she was transferred to Bataan. Millett and 20 other nurses were to be evacuated to Australia, but the amphibious craft they were

taps continued

on capsized and they went on to Mindanao. Sally and the other nurses were held at Santo Tomas until they were liberated in Feb. 1945. She is survived by 2 sons, 10 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 4 siblings.

NAYLOR, Leonard D., of Fort Myers, FL died Aug. 17, 2004. Len was on Corregidor at the start of WWII, serving with Battery H of the Coast Artillery AA. He was first held in the Philippines, then later shipped to Osaka, Japan. Three months before the war ended, he was moved to Miadsu, Japan. Len is survived by 4 daughters, 2 step-children, and by numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

NOEL, William, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Marcy 10, 2005. He served with the 8th AF, 303 BG, and was a POW in Luft 4 and 1. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marjorie.

OLESKA, John, of Girard, Ohio, died March 26. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Mahoning Valley Chapter. A member of the Navy, he was held by the Japanese for 3 1/2 years in Corregidor and the Philippines. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary, 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grand children and 2 great grandchildren.

PERRO, Edward J., of McMinnville, OR passed away Dec. 24, 2004. He served with the 8th AF, 453rd BS, flying B24s. After being shot down, he was held in Luft III. He is survived by his loving wife, Dee, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

PRITCHARD, Murray Thomas, 86, of Jefferson City, MO died Feb. 12, 2005. He entered the Army Medical Corps as a medic in the 34th Div. in North Africa where he served for a year before being captured in 1943. He was an active member of AXPOW. His wife, LuAnna, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 granddaughters and 2 great-grandchildren survive him.

St. HILAIRE, Leo, of Salem, NH died March 9, 2005. Leo served with 36th Div. in Europe. He was a prisoner in Stalag II for two years. He leaves his wife Ann of 59 years, one son and one daughter deceased. Leo and his wife Ann were strong members of Chapter 1 of New Hampshire, Ann currently is Commander. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

SCARFFE, William N., of Ishpeming, MI died Jan. 28, 2005. His plane, the Birmingham Jewel, was shot down over Germany and he was a prisoner of war. He leaves his wife, Carol, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SCHWISOW, Lauren L., of Olympia, WA passed away July 29, 2004 at the age of 81. While flying a B-24 over the tank factory target at Linz, Austria, his plane was disabled and he was captured. He was taken first to Mauthausen and later to Luft 1, Barth. A life member of AXPOW, he served as commander of the Washington Dept. At the time of his death, he was commander of the Christmastown Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Reta, 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

SEPPALA, Leslie W., of St. Clair Shore, MI passed away Jan. 11, 2005. He was 88. He served in the Air Force during WWII as a fighter pilot instructor. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 sister, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SEXTON, Edward J., of East Bridgewater, MA died Feb. 27, 2005. He was 85 years old. He served with the 8th AF, 303rd BG, 359th BS. On Nov. 5, 1943, his B17 "Ramblin Reck" was shot down and he spent 18 months as a POW in Stalag 17B. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Florence, 1 son, 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.

SHIPP, Stanley, 84, of Coeur d'Alene, ID passed away Jan. 27, 2005. While serving in the Navy, he was captured two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and spent the remainder of the war as a POW in Zentsuji, Moji and Fukuoka #3. He was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. Survivors in-

clude his wife of 59 years, Shirley, 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 brothers, 1 sister and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SMITH, Edwin "Ed", of Jemison, AL died Oct. 12, 2004. While serving with the 134th Inf. Reg., 35th Inf. Div. in France, he was wounded and taken prisoner. He is survived by his wife, Lois, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandsons.

STENSBY, John L., 84, of Huntsville, died Feb. 27, 2005. He was a survivor of Bataan and Corregidor and was a POW for 3 1/2 years. John leaves his wife, Suzanne, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 stepchildren, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SVACHA, Joseph Jr., of Utica, MI passed away March 6, 2005. He served in the Army during WWII with the 35th Div., 320th Inf. He fought at Normandy and escaped after being captured. Survivors include his wife, Reina, 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

TUHOSKI, Marion, of Ft. Collins, CO died March 3, 2005. She was 78 years old. Marion was a member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by her husband Stanley, 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 brother, 1 sister and 6 grandchildren.

WEBER, Gordon F., of Wauwatosa, WI passed away Nov. 2, 2004. He served with the 115th Reg., 29th Div. and was captured in France. He was held for 10 months in Limburg, Hartmannsdorf and Muhlburg. His wife, Betty, survives him.

Zechman, Earl, of Pine Grove, PA passed away Feb. 29, 2004 at the age of 81. During WWII, he served in the 420th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Earl was taken prisoner in Dec. 1944 and liberated 9 months later. He was proud to be an active member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War in Lebanon, PA. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son and 3 grandchildren.



new members

National Headquarters
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979
Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



New Annual Members Welcome Home



Everett M. King, Jr.
Whitethorn, CA
ARMY
No camp, escaped
2/1/68-2/8/68

Wilbur G. Frenchy
Torrington, CT
143 Reg 36 Div
Kleinwasser Farm Work,
Forced labor
1/22/44-4/12/45

Anthony J. Vaccaro
Milford, CT
USAAC 379 BG 529 BS
17A, Others
5/25/43-4/15/45

Philip W. Balsam
Boca Raton, FL
CO A 109 Inf 28 Div
12A, Others
12/23/44-5/45

Robert W. Brown
Orlando, FL
Son of William J. Brown

Sue Mize
Council Bluffs, IA
Niece (heir) of Robert
Sherman, ETO

Robert Edward Sherman
Council Bluffs, IA
168 Inf
Palermo, Italy, 7A, 3B, 3A
2/17/43-5/8/45

Max J. Cychner

Mt. Prospect, IL
36 Inf Div
2B
1/44-4/45

Lamoine H. "Bud" Gehner
Staunton, IL
106 Inf Div 423 Reg CO
C
9B
12/16/44-4/5/45

Joanne B. Maffenbeier
Mt. Prospect, IL
Daughter of Max
Cychner, ETO

Judith K. Filipi
Gary D
Shickley, NE
Daughter of Frank
Hromadka, ETO

Walter M. Steen
Lillie S
Chester, SC
5 ARMY 36 Div
2 B
1/5/44-4/12/45

Sidney J. "Jack" Tivey
Ellen
Richland, WA
Brother of Donald K.
Tivey, PAC

New Life Members Welcome Home

*denotes new member



William C. Hamby
Zelma L 114 38541
Mt. Hope, KS
ARMY Corregidor
Bilibid, Cabanatuan,
Fukuoka

Vincent E. Shank
Ruth 1697 38892
Las Vegas, NV
12 AF 348 BS 99 BG
7A, Luft 3, Sulmona Chifti

Jerome Jacobs
Shirley L 33737 38893
Miami Beach, FL
8 AF 357 FG
Oflag 64, Luft 3, 7B

Coleman Jacobson 38894
Dallas, TX
392 BG 579 BS
Luft 1
8/44-5/45

Salvatore C. Valenzia *38895
Millersville, MD
HQ CO 3 BN 101 Inf 26
Div 3 ARMY
East of Dresden
12/3/44-5/15/45

Catherine White *38896
Petal, MS
Widow of Robert C.
White
Luft 4
2/5/44-5/4/45

Anne Retzlaff *38897
Fargo, ND
Daughter of Paul J.
Lauzon, ETO

Donald H. Reichel *38898
Sun City West, AZ
100 BG 351 BS
Oflag 79
3/18/45-4/19/45

Val F. Stoddard *38899
Pocatello, ID
358 BS 303 BG
17B
10/21/43-5/3/45

Harold L. Sundermeyer *38900
Holts Summit, MO
ARMY
North Africa

Anthony La Barbera
Elsie *38901 38902
Arlington Heights, IL
Comb Eng 1 Armrd
3B, 3A, Luft 3
3/27/43-8/2/44

David I. Drummond
Jill *38903 38904
Manalapan, JF
USAF
Hanoi Hilton, The ZOO
12/22/72-3/29/73

Jerry Oxenreider
Mary M *38905 38906
Rogers, AR
ARMY
9B
1/9/45-4/2/45

Evelyn Hopkins
Gene *38907 38908
LaGrange, OH
Daughter of Clarence
Hopkins, ETO

John A. Cooper
Elaine *38909 38910
Sun City West, AZ
388 BG 563 BS
Luft 3, 7A
3/24/44-4/29/45

Angelo M. Anzalaco
Carmela *38911 38912
Mansfield, TX
91 Div
7A
11/43-11/44

Ex-POW Bulletin
May 2005



"America The Beautiful"
58th National Convention
September 27 – October 2, 2005
HOST HOTEL ~ Doubletree Hotel
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207
303-321-3333; 800-222-8733
fax: 303-329-5233



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of Beds in Room 1 2 Smoking Non-Smoking

Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Special Needs _____

ROOM RATES: \$79 PER NIGHT

Please make your reservations prior to Sept. 11, 2005. There is a one-time fee of \$50 that applies to early check-outs not specified at the time of check-in.

Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon

A continental breakfast, with oatmeal, is included in the room rate.

Complimentary transportation to and from Denver International Airport

Complimentary Transportation between the Doubletree Hotel and the Red Lion Hotel if needed

**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 2, 2005**

TUES SEPT 27

WED SEPT 28

THU SEPT 29

FRI SEPT 30

SAT OCT 1

SUN OCT 2

NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING - TOURS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OPENING CEREMONIES-NATIONAL LEGISLATION PROGRAM-

MEDSEARCH SEMINAR-COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

MEN AND WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS-EDUCATION SEMINAR-LADIES'

LUNCHEON-NATIONAL CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER-REUNION NIGHT

CONTINUATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BANQUET AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

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"America The Beautiful"
58th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
September 27-Oct. 2, 2004
Denver, Colorado



Convention Registration

Registrant's Name _____ Nickname _____

Spouse's Name (if attending) _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) _____

Unit When Captured _____ Theatre _____ Camps _____

REGISTRATION (per person) until September 1 ~ \$55.00

after September 1 - \$60 no refund after September 15

Payable to: 2005 Convention Fund

Mail to: Mrs. Phyllis Hutchins, Registration Chairman

3191 South Leyden Street

Denver, CO 80222

AD ORDER FORM

Overall page size is 8 1/2" x 11"

AD PRICING

Full page.....\$200 Quarter page.....\$75

Half page.....\$125 Business card.....\$35

Deadline for submissions is Sept. 1, 2005

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Ad Size _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:
2005CONVENTION FUND**

**Mail order form with ad materials and check to:
AXPOW CONVENTION - PROGRAM AD**

**3191 S. Leyden Street
Denver, CO 80222**

Saturday Night Banquet Choice:

_____ Roasted Pork Tenderloin

_____ Atlantic Salmon

Total Registration: \$ _____

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**1. Tour to Air Force Academy and
Garden of the Gods**

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$37.50 per person

Number _____ x \$37.50 \$ _____

2. Tour to Central City/Blackhawk

Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ \$24.00 per person

Number _____ x \$24.00 \$ _____

3. Ladies Luncheon

Friday, Sept. 30 @ \$21.00 per person

Number _____ x \$21.00 \$ _____

Registration and Activities

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005



American Ex-Prisoners of War

Candidate for National Office 2005

Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

Military Service Organization (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or civilian):

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please include picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years.

Submit To:

Jim Clark, Chairman

214 Oakdale

Bastrop, LA 71220

(318) 281-5505

jaclark@bayou.com

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

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The Battle for Corregidor

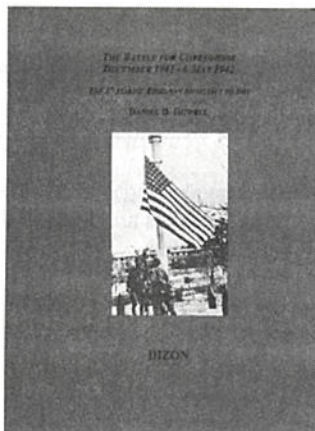
December 1941-6 May 1942

The 4th Marine Regiment

Hung Out to Dry

by Daniel D. Howell

The 6th of May 1942 was the first time in Marine Corps history that a regiment had ever surrendered. For three years following the surrender, the Defenders of Corregidor continued fighting. The battle against starvation and disease was, for many POWs, more deadly than actual combat with the enemy.



This well-researched hardbound book is written by the curator of the Pacific War Memorial Museum on Corregidor. The 293-page first edition is complete with maps and photos.

For your signed copy, send \$40.00, plus \$4 shipping (CA residents, add \$3.10 sales tax) to: T. Cadman WWII Books, 5150 Fair Oaks Blvd. #101, Carmichael, CA 95608; (800) 540-0053 or visit www.cadmanbooks.com.

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<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/membership.htm>

Or contact John Kline, Membership Chairman
Past President '97-'98; Editor, The CUB since 1987

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: jpk@mm.com

106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

50/50 drawing

Latest winners drawn in Washington, DC

Prize winners will be announced in the June issue

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes.

The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win.

Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets.

These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing

3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40

Arlington, TX 76010-5396.

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project

Solid Bronze

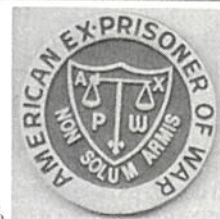
Grave

Medallion

actual size: 4" diameter x 3/8" thick

weight: 1 pound

content: copper 86%/zinc 4%/tin 6%/lead 4%



This is a non-profit endeavor for all Ex-Prisoners of War, spouses, National Headquarters, Chapters, to get this medallion on all Ex-POW markers or headstones. Contact the next-of-kin and the cemetery to get their approval to have these medallions put on the deceased ex-POW's marker, and have yours for when the time comes.

Outdoor grave medallion, drilled, tapped, & studded
\$30.00 each _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make all checks and money orders payable to: Stalag Luft IV. Send orders to: Grave Medallion, Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St. Lawrence, IN 46226-2018.

The Board of Directors has given me approval to make and sell these grave medallions.

*Check with your cemetery to make sure you can place this medallion on the headstone.

Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

39

**American Ex-Prisoners of War
50/50 Drawing -- October 2005**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.

Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

Mail your donation **American Ex-Prisoners of War**
and entry to: **50/50 Drawing**
 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
 Arlington, TX 76010-5396

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible.
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.

Thank you for your support.

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Ex-POW Bulletin

May 2005

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You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible.
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.

Thank you for your support.

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____



Membership is open to US Military and Civilians captured because of their US citizenship.

**Do NOT send dues with this request
for an application**

Mail to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice
(817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: axpow@sbcglobal.net

Life Membership Rates

Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40
Annual Membership Rates	
Single Membership	\$ 30
Husband & wife	\$ 40

Provided by: Prisoner of War Information System (POW-IS) Website: www.powid.com

**Prisoner of War
Certificate of Captivity**

**PROVIDED BY:
PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION SYSTEM
(POW-IS)**

Website: www.powid.com

Order a Certificate of Captivity as a lasting memento
for family members. Various backgrounds based on
your POW experience.

Cost: \$25 with photo/\$20 without photo

For further details contact:
Steve Stofko: (703) 878-7882
15550 Golf Club Drive, Dumfries, VA 22026
Patti Leigh: www.patti8356@yahoo.com

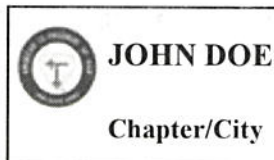
Space provided
for vintage
photo if desired

Captivity data obtained from official military records.

Name Badge Order Form

Choice of attachment
(check one or we choose)

- ☐ Pin-on
☐ Clip-on



Actual size of badge - 2" x 3"

Print information below

First name _____

Last name _____

City or Chapter _____

Name Badge with name & chapter or city..... \$ 8.00*

Cost of additional lines (\$1.00 each)

*includes shipping/handling

Total cost of name badge \$ _____

Ship to:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) _____

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	7.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	6.00
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	3" Blazer Patch	3.50	Aluminum License Plate	3.00
Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	4" Blazer Patch	3.50	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire pin	2.50	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	2.00	8" Vinyl Decal	5.00
Life Member pin	4.00	Life Member • Chapter Commander		12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	4.00	Past Chapter Commander • Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"	1.50
Brooch pin	4.00	Adjutant • Chapter Treasurer		Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	1.50
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	State Department Commander		Memorial Seals	
Logo pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander • Department Adjutant		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	Department Treasurer • Sr. Vice Commander		AXPOW Daisies	1.50 dozen
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Jr. Vice Commander • Chaplain • Historian		In lots of 12 doz, (ie, 24, 36, 48, etc.)	1.25 dozen
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Service Officer • Legislative Officer		Wall Clock (battery included)	20.00
Fagle pin w/Barbed Wire	7.00	Past Chapter Officer • Past Department Officer		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)				Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	5.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	20.00	12x18 inch American Flag	5.00	AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)		12x18 AX-POW Graveside Flag	10.00	Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	3x5 ft. AX-POW Flag w/3-color logo		POW Medal Poster Print	5.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	18.50	with fringe, indoor use	60.00	AX-POW Constitution & By-Laws	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord	9.00	Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00		
Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00	"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00		
2" Medallion (for plaque)	4.00				

Now accepting Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$2.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$6.00

For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$8.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$10.00

For orders over 100.00, add \$15.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$ _____

MAIL TO:

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979

axpowqm@aol.com



National POW/MIA Memorial

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

A Living Memorial
Riverside, California

Dedication Ceremony
September 16, 2005

MEMORIAL

Honoring 607,000 American prisoners of war
and 173,000 servicemen and women listed as
missing in action since the
Revolution. More than
88,000 Americans remain
MIA.

Sculptor: Lewis Millett Jr.
of Idyllwild.

Cost: \$750,000.



For donations or
information contact:
Riverside National Cemetery
Support Committee
Attn: POW/MIA
Memorial Project - Paul Adkins
22495 Van Buren Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92518
(909) 957-3982 cell or
(909) 820-1577 work
email:
compcomp@earthlink.net
website: <http://www.rncsc.org>

*The Support Committee is all Volunteer.
100% of any gift will go towards National POW/MIA Memorial
construction, repairs and maintenance.*

AXPOW Vests!

The uniform of the American Ex-POWs consists of the military cap and the vest. These vests are custom-made with your name on the front, and your chapter and logo shield on the back. Orders take approximately six weeks to complete.

\$50.00 each, includes shipping/handling

For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page inside.



Thank you for supporting the American Ex-POWS with your purchases of National Merchandise.

change of address form

Include your mailing label for address change or inquiry. If you are receiving duplicate copies, please send both labels. If moving, please give us your new address in the space provided.

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members
\$20.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions
\$30.00 per year

Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

All orders for products sold by
AXPOW National Organization,
including dues/subscriptions
should be mailed to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

