

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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November/December 2005



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



National Commander
Gerald & Eunice Harvey

Inside...Convention News...stories...events, annual listing of presumptives...NSO success stories...and more

Dedication of the National POW/MIA Memorial, Riverside National Cemetery, CA



national commander



Gerald Harvey

I want to thank you for supporting me through the years. It has been a real pleasure to be in many of your state department conventions and to visit many of your chapters. You all do a great job of making your visitors feel more than welcome. Because of the experiences we have had and the bonds that we share, we are family. We always feel that when we are with you.

We are getting older. It is harder to do the things we used to do. It is harder to see, harder to hear, harder to speak, harder to go to meetings. Fewer POWs are able to hold office or participate in service projects.

We are depending more and more on our younger members, on our spouses, and our children to carry much of the load. We appreciate all who serve in any way.

Serving as your commander is a heavy responsibility. I take that responsibility very seriously. Because of aging, loss of members, decline in income, and some serious differences of opinion among our members, we have many obstacles to overcome this year. I have four goals that I think we need to work toward. They are all important and in some ways have common elements.

Goal Number One - Finance

Live within our means. Do not spend more money than comes in.

This starts with budgeting more realistically. As our numbers decline we can anticipate decline in income. We must budget expenditure within the amount of revenue that will probably come in.

At times it may be necessary to make budget changes during the year if income does not come in as expected. It will help us to know how we are doing if requests for reimbursement are sent in soon after the funds are spent. We need to look for the most economical way to do our work. We also need to be looking for new sources of revenue and new fund raising programs.

Goal Number Two - Legislation

Our Legislative Committee works hard at keeping in touch with the Veterans Administration and with Congress. They try to keep us aware of what is going on with our presumptives and other benefits. We all need to work with them. We are not doing very well at that.

Read the legislative reports in the Bulletin and letters you receive from the Washington Office and the Legislative Committee. Make the phone calls and write the letters that will help your Senators and Representatives know what we need and what we need them to do for us. In your chapters and departments keep reminding the members of what all of us need to be doing.

Goal Number Three - Outreach

The Outreach Committee is doing a great job finding POW's and widows who have not applied for the compensation they deserve. They may be non-members or members of our organization - especially those members who do not attend meetings. There are those who do not know that their compensation could be upgraded because of changes in the benefit laws.

Goal Number Four - Support the National Service Officer Program

This is an important part of what we do to help those who need help. We can support the program in several ways. We need to train NSO's and keep our NSO's up to date as changes occur. We need to put those who do not have all the compensation they deserve in touch with an NSO. These people may be in your chapter, in your community, among your friends and neighbors, or in another veterans organization to which you belong.

We need to give special attention to the widows of POW's. Some have been widows for many years and have not made claims because they are unaware of some of the newer legislation.

Although the NSO work is a volunteer service, we want to provide funding when it is necessary and when funds are available.

To accomplish these goals, we need to work hard to become better communicators. We need to share with others helpful and positive information that comes to us. Be sure to check the source of the information, making sure that it is correct and not a rumor.

We need to work on downsizing our organization.

When we disagree, we need to talk to each other, listen to each other, and work together to accomplish our goals. Working together we can have a great year.

Eunice and I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Gerald



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table of contents

Commander	3
On Capitol Hill	6
NSO	7
Outreach/Success	8
MedSearch	9
Andersonville	12
NamPOW	13
POW/MIA	14
Civilian	15
Stories	16
Events, Info	17
Members Forum	20
News Briefs	21
Contributions/Chaplain	25
TAPS	26
New Members	30
Raffle/Ads	31
Quartermaster	34

November/December 2005

Your officers for 2005-2006 are listed on page 4. We have three new board members - Ray Van Duzer from Florida; Morris Barker from Texas; and Ralph Kling from California. Welcome!

Senior Officers are: Gerald Harvey, Commander; Robert Fletcher, SVC; Charlie Hill, JVC-Eastern; Jim Clark, JVC-Central; Isaac Ornelas, JVC-Western. If you have questions, please contact your National Director or any of these officers. They are there to help you.

The Ex-POW Bulletin has a different look. Due to budget restraints, we have had to cut the number of pages in each issue. There will be a couple of combined issues as well, but the Publications Committee will work out the details.

The AXPOW Offices will be closed from Dec.23-Jan. 2.

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*Deadline for the Feb. 2006 issue is
December 25, 2005*

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



Happy Holidays!
Cheryl, Clydie, Sally,
Marsha, Donna,
Sonnie Bill,
Les and Mary

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005

on capitol hill



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Veterans Disability Benefits Commission Update

Are you a candidate for the "Henny Penny Award of the Month"? There are a lot of you out there making it difficult to choose just one. THE SKY IS FALLING! A natural reaction, I suppose, when an acorn bounces off your head and the tranquility of your comfortable nest is shaken. THE SKY IS NOT FALLING. The Veterans Disability Benefits Commission is charged to carry out a study of the benefits that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and death attributable to military service. There are three subcommittees: 1. Compensation; 2. Duty-Service Connection; 3. Transition/Coordination/Readjustment. When done, the report is to be submitted to the President and Congress. The final report is due to be delivered 15 months from its inception and they are considering asking for an extension.

Currently, the commission is, and will continue until sometime in the future, in a "fact-finding" mode. They will not be issuing any statements or reports while fact finding. They are holding hearings, taking testimony from witnesses on many subjects and expertise. And they want to hear from you. Their meeting agenda provides time for "Public Comment". Their e-mail address is vetscommission@va.gov. They are not in a position to respond on individual claims.

The meeting in September was for two days, Thursday and Friday 9:00 to 5:00. Among other things, they discussed research questions to guide them through their deliberations and issues the commission intends to address. They heard from the Center for Naval Analysis and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences offering their expertise in the conduct of the study. I see nothing in the procedures of the Commission or attitude of any member of the Commission that this is a "hatchet job" to cut or eliminate benefits. There is no hidden agenda. It is an honest and straightforward attempt to do exactly what their charter instructs. A comprehensive evaluation and assessment of benefits to compensate veterans and their survivors for disability or death attributable to military service.

In carrying out their study, the Commission shall make recommendations concerning the appropriateness of benefits under existing laws, the appropriateness of the level of benefits and appropriate standard for determining whether the disability or death should be compensated. They are breaking new ground with some of their research.

Quality of life of the disabled veteran seems to be of great interest. They ask many questions of the witnesses and they are usually right on point. The charter calls for 13 members. There are currently 12. The recent appointment is Ken Jordan of San Diego, a retired USMC Colonel with two tours in Vietnam. Upon retirement in 1988,

he joined Bank of America in their corporate headquarters in San Francisco. For other members of the Commission, see page 8 of the August Bulletin.

There is one fairly consistent theme running through the testimony of the VSOs who have testified. The VFW testified "...the problems are not with the design of the programs; rather they are with the execution and management of them". The Vietnam Veterans of America said, "The problem is the way the laws are administered...the C&P system is frankly a mess, despite the fact the vast majority of the people in VA who do the work are good, hard-working people and would do a good job if they were properly trained, supervised, allowed to do the good job they can do if they only had the time allowed and the right tools, and all (particularly managers at every level) were properly held accountable for actual performance."

The American Ex-Prisoners of War said, "Would it not be more efficient and cost effective to assure more well-trained staff at the VARO level? The millions VA spends at the BVA level to simply tell VARO 'to do the job right the first time' could have certainly been better spent". And so it goes. I have not seen this issue covered in the list of research questions. For more information, refer to the Commission's web page at www.va.gov/vetscommission.

Les

nsO



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VA activates surviving spouse web site

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently activated a new website aimed directly at surviving spouse of military members who died on active duty and surviving spouses of veterans who died after serving their country.

The site: www.vba.va.gov/survivors not only has links to the VA pages describing survivor benefits, but also to other government sites that may offer valuable information and assistance. There is also a link to Frequently Asked Questions that answers most questions. For more specific questions, the site tells how to contact the VA directly. The main VA web site is <http://www.va.gov/>.

Many widows of Former Prisoners of War are either applying for the first time, even though their husbands died many years ago, or re-applying if they were denied in the past. Many of these claims are being approved for Dependents Indemnity Compensation, even though their husbands never filed a claim. The new legislation approved in Oct. 2004 has allowed this to happen. Thanks to Fred Campbell, he has found many of these widows and encouraged them to file for this benefit. If your husband died of any type of heart disease or stroke, contact an American Ex-POW National Service Officer.

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On Capitol Hill, continued...

For most of you who did not attend the 58th National Convention in Denver, CO, I will just mention a few of the high points.

As we are all aware of the tragic circumstances resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, all of the members of Congress and their aides were frantically involved in legislation of the highest priority. This resulted in our invitations to a number of persons being cancelled for our convention activities.

We were, however, able to have Mr. George Cramer, who is Special Assistant for VSOs to VA Secretary Jim Nicholson, who joined us for two days and brought a very informative message and personally talked with a large number of former prisoners of war. Also, Mrs. Mary Beth Sadlin, Deputy Director of ChampVA, Denver, CO, spoke on the entire program in depth and answered many questions for our group.

Another participant on our program was Mr. Bennie Milliner, Veterans Liaison to our **new Senator Ken Salazar, CO**, who is on our Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. Actually, we ran out of time on our program and everyone seemed to benefit from all presentations.

Last, but certainly not the least, was the appearance of Secretary Jim Nicholson, who was our banquet speaker on Saturday evening. Actually, Secretary Nicholson gave us more time than we were expecting due to his busy schedule. (He had several events that day). Everyone truly enjoyed his personal touch and his speech.

Let us not forget to call your Representatives and Senators to urge them to co-sponsor HR 1598 and S 1271 immediately.

Have a wonderful holiday! See you in the New Year!

Mary

**Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005**

VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late

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Good Words about the VA When Hurricane Katrina Blew In a Flood

From AXPOW National Director & National Service Officer, Bill Roberts, Sept. 7, 2005, after Hurricane Katrina: "Spent yesterday at Audie Murphy Hospital and Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic as concerns VA patients among the New Orleans evacuees. There is a VA nurse at each shelter. They screen the VA veterans to see if they need medicine or hospital care. There is a shuttle to take them to the Tejada Outpatient Clinic and back. At the clinic are rows of chair in a waiting room designed for Katrina patients, and separated from the regular scheduled visits. They are seen right away. Those needing hospital care go straight to Audie Murphy Hospital. There is a station set up to do new VA cards for those that have lost theirs.

POWs will have to identify themselves for now, as there were no separate listings. There are 1700 in the Levi Strauss Building, 2300 in one building and 1250 in another building on Kelly Base, and 1000+ at Windsor Park Mall building. All is unsettled for now; deeper search later. This just so you know San Antonio VA is going max effort on it here. Bill Roberts, San Antonio, TX"

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005

8

From NSO Betty Harlan, Sudan, TX: "At the Lubbock VA Clinic, Stephanie, our POW Coordinator and the Field Representative are taking turns staying at Reese Center to take care of disabled veterans displaced because of Hurricane Katrina, seeing that they see their doctors and get their prescriptions. Betty"

Houston VARO: "We sent specialists to serve Katrina Hurricane-displaced New Orleans veterans at the Astrodome and their medical needs and benefits. Our VAMC set up a clinic with doctors and nurses for them in our nearby gymnasium."

Report via Washington State Dept. Commander Lloyd Gabriel: "Hi Gabe, great to hear from you. In WA State, our ex-POWs are very highly service-connected. 95% of those receiving compensation are at 100% service connected (including individual unemployability). Nationally, the percentage at 100% has been only about 30% of the ex-POWs, historically - hopefully improving with our training and the new presumptives. Great to hear of Montana, and NSO Rudy Collins' outreach there. Mac at WA VARO, Seattle".

Success Stories

NSO Success Brings Enriched Lives

AXPOW's National Service Officer Program has helped thousands of former POWs and their spouses/widows to have enhanced living in their later years. The average annual 100% Disability Compensation award now comes to about \$30,000. NSOs have gotten at least 4,000 POWs their 100% award; add say 2,000 widows receiving their average annual benefit of \$12,000. All of that comes to a very conservative \$150,000,000 annually generated by our NSO program.

Meet an old pro: NSO Randall Edwards has gotten more than 1,000 POWs their 100%. A former Japanese POW, Randall at 88 plays golf at Lakeland, FL, between hurricanes and is well-acquainted with the Manila, PI, VARO, as well as those in the USA. Here's a recent "success" of his:

Former POW Joe is retired military. Who long ago got his 10% DC rating on various presumptive conditions; later 20%, 30%, 30% military retired disability in 1961. Now on Aug. 18, 2005, 100% due to cardiopulmonary, for monthly Special \$2,700, now to be added to his Combat Related Service Connected \$1265. Another hole in one for Randall's super NSO work.

Guy G. in Denver responds to a POW benefit alert we got published in the 483rd Bomb Group epistle; he calls me in San Angelo, TX:

"My brother-in-law in Kansas was a POW in Germany in WWII. Can you help him get his POW benefit? Sure. Here goes. Our NSO network teamwork is fantastic. Since I don't know the folks in the Wichita, Kansas VARO, I call super-pro NSO Jack Sites in Leavenworth, KS. Jack tells me the number to call direct to POW Coordinator Carla in Wichita VARO.

I call Carla, who is very helpful, sensitive to the needs of Guy's brother-in-law, Frank. Frank is double deaf with dementia onset, and his wife is legally blind. I talk with her and she tells me the situation, and is able to complete the necessary forms. But it is hard for them to arrange transport for the 100 mile trip to Wichita. Carla in Wichita VARO gets the most convenient exam schedule she can for Frank. Result is 100% Disability Compensation rating for Frank and wife, on limited income; and ChampVA will help."

My thanks to Carla, and Jack Sites for their great networking help!

pow medsearch

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Packet #5 (What Every POW's Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) has been updated again, with much time and effort on the part of Marlene Agnes, to include the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet (approximately 110 pages) may be purchased from National Headquarters. Cost of the updated packet is \$15.00~includes S/H.

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES Public Law 97-37 (Layman's Terms)

**Originally published
by William Paul Skelton, III,
MD F.A.C.P.
updated by the Department of
Veterans Affairs**

All ex-POWs should keep these and/or make copies. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your own story as it relates to your problem.....

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma. This disorder looks and is treated just like degenerative arthritis (arthritis associated with age) except it is caused by severe damage to a single or few joints producing early onset arthritis. Since it has a definite cause, it is called a secondary form of arthritis. This is an extremely difficult diagnosis to make, but in general one has to prove that a specific trauma occurred to a single or very few joints, and other changes consistent with degenerative arthritis are not present throughout the rest of the body at the same time. In short, these changes need to be localized.

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet. This disorder is a fatal condition unless it is supplemented with vitamins within a few weeks. There-

fore, most individuals suffer from hypovitaminosis, which is a relative deficiency of vitamins in the diet. The specific type, intensity and duration of deprivation determines the long-term effects.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet. This produces changes in the nerves (both in the brain and extremities) and the heart. Brain changes could produce dementia or psychosis. Nervous changes are usually associated with numbness and/or painful feet.

Beriberi heart disease is an acute condition, similar to congestive heart failure, except that the heart pumps more blood than in normal congestive heart failure and it is associated with the presence of an excessive amount of lactic acid in the body. It is unknown at this time whether this can produce a chronic state.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration. This is an infection in the colon and can be caused by a multitude of different organisms, the most common of which is amoeba which can produce a mild or severe dysentery and possibly be associated with a chronic irritable colon. Bacillary dysentery is associated with the bacteria shigella, but will not cause a chronic state. There are multiple other bacteria that can cause dysentery which usually do not produce chronic states. Viral dysentery can also present like amoebic or bacillary dysentery and will not produce a chronic state.

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue. This is graded on a continuum with one representing mild to four representing mummification of the tissue. The extremities furthest from the heart are usually affected, with primarily the nose, ears, fingertips, and toes being involved. This usually produces long-term side effects such as numbness, discoloration, excessive swelling, and pain in the affected area.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human. Most infections usually resolve spontaneously either with proper treatment or as the natural course of the disease. Strongyloides is known to persist in a permanent state in humans due to its ability to reinfect the host.

7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition. The nutritional depletion may be either caloric, vitamin, fatty acid, or mineral deficiency, or more likely a combination. Depending on the type, intensity, and duration, it may yield permanent side effects or no lasting side effects at all.

8. PELLAGRA

Literally meaning rough skin in Italian, also known as black tongue in dogs. It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet, producing the classical trio of diarrhea, dermatitis, and dementia. All are easily treated early on with no side effects. The dementia, if left untreated, may produce permanent mental deficits.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005**

medsearch continued...

9. ANY OTHER

NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects. However, vitamin deficiencies other than the aforementioned B1 (beriberi) and B3 (pellagra) can have very disastrous effects on one's body. Also deficiencies of certain fatty acids and essential minerals in the diet can have lasting and long term sequela.

10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities. Generally, it is thought of as a mental disorder causing gross disorganization of a person's mental capacity and his ability to recognize reality and communicate with others regarding the demands of everyday life.

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear with at least four of the following during an attack: shortness of breath, feelings of heart skipping, chest pain, dizziness, sweating, fainting, trembling, fear of dying, or doing something uncontrollable during an attack.

These attacks need to occur at least three times within a three week period, not associated with physical exertion or life threatening situations.

Also there needs to be an absence of severe physical or other mental illness which could cause these symptoms.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

Characterized by generalized persistent anxiety and with symptoms of at least three of the following four categories:

Ex-POW Bulletin

October 2005

12

(1) Motor tension as characterized by shaking, jumpiness, trembling and restlessness;

(2) Autonomic hyperactivity. such as sweating, cold or clammy hands, high or irregular heart rate, dry mouth, etc.;

(3) Apprehensive expectations, anxiety, worry, fear, anticipation of misfortune to himself or others;

(4) Tendency to insomnia, hyper-alertiveness, irritable.

All these symptoms had to have lasted at least one month. Also, there needs to be an absence of all other mental disorders and physical disorders which could explain the symptoms.

13. OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions. Obsessions are recurrent, persistent ideas or impulses that are thoughts that invade consciousness and are experienced as senseless or repugnant. Attempts are made to ignore or suppress them.

Compulsions are repetitive and seemingly purposeful behaviors that are performed in certain similar manners. The behavior is felt by the individual to produce or prevent some future event. Generally, the individuals recognize the senselessness of the behavior and do not derive pleasure from carrying it out, although it often relieves tension.

Also, the obsessive or compulsive individuals are associated with a significant sense of distress in that it interferes with social or role functioning.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress. This re-experiencing needs at least one

of the following:

(1) Recurrent and intrusive recollection of the event;

(2) Recurrent dreams;

(3) Sudden feelings that the trauma was occurring because of an association, an environmental or ideational situation.

Also involved is reduced involvement with the external world beginning after the trauma, revealed by at least one of the following:

(1) Hyperalertness or exaggerated startle response;

(2) Sleep disturbance;

(3) Guilt about surviving when others have not;

(4) Memory impairment or trouble concentrating;

(5) Avoidance of activities that arouse recollection of the traumatic event;

(6) Intensification of symptoms by exposure to events that symbolize or resemble the traumatic event.

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

This is a category that is used for diagnosis when the affected individual appears to have an anxiety disorder that does not meet the criteria for entry into any of the other known anxiety disorders.

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes.

These depressive periods are separated by periods of normal mood, lasting a few days to a few weeks, but no more than a few months at a time. During the depressive period, too little sleep or too much

medsearch continued...

sleep, low energy or chronic tiredness, loss of self esteem, decreased effectiveness or productivity at work, social withdrawal, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, excessive anger, inability to respond with apparent pleasure to praise or reward, less active or talkative than usual, pessimistic attitude about the future, tearful or crying thoughts about death or suicide. There are also no psychotic features present.

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord. There are several different causes for peripheral neuropathy, and vitamin deficiency and possibly mineral deficiency are just two.

Other causes to be considered are various toxins such as lead, copper, and mercury, a hereditary predisposition to neuropathy, deposition of amyloid or protein produced by one's own body mounted in response to an infection, infections such as by leprosy, which is the most common form of neuropathy in the world, and multiple other less common causes.

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gassiness, bloating, and changes in bowel habits.

Some people with IBS have constipation (difficult or infrequent bowel movements); still others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and some people experience both. Sometimes the person with IBS has a crampy urge to move the bowels but cannot do so.

Through the years, IBS has been called by many names - colitis, mu-

cous colitis, spastic colon, spastic bowel, and functional bowel disease. Most of these terms are inaccurate.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or duodenum (the first part of the small intestine).

In addition to the pain caused by the ulcer itself, peptic ulcers give rise to such complications as hemorrhage from the erosion of a major blood vessel; perforation of the wall of the stomach or intestine, with resultant peritonitis; or obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract because of spasm or swelling in the area of the ulcer.

The direct cause of peptic ulcers is the destruction of the gastric or intestinal mucosal lining by hydrochloric acid, an acid normally present in the digestive juices of the stomach.

20. CIRRHOSIS

The liver, the largest organ in the body, is essential in keeping the body functioning properly. It removes or neutralizes poisons from the blood, produces immune agents to control infection, and removes germs and bacteria from the blood. It makes proteins that regulate blood clotting and produces bile to help absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins. In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

Many people with cirrhosis have no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. However, as scar tissue replaces healthy cells, liver function starts to fail and a person may experience the following symptoms: Exhaustion, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, weakness and/or weight loss.

Cirrhosis may be diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, laboratory

tests, the patient's medical history, and a physical examination. A liver biopsy will confirm the diagnosis.

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells. Brain cells die when they no longer receive oxygen and nutrients from the blood or there is sudden bleeding into or around the brain.

The symptoms of a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination; or sudden severe headache with no known cause. Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension). Ischemic heart disease and coronary artery disease are included within this provision.

Complications of atherosclerotic heart disease are included. Complications may include myocardial infarction ("heart attack"), congestive heart failure ("heart failure"), and arrhythmia ("irregular heart beat").

Hypertensive vascular disease refers to disease associated with elevated blood pressure. Complications caused by hypertensive vascular disease are included. Diseases arising from viral or bacterial causes are not included.

Andersonville



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POW/MIA Recognition Day Exhibit at Andersonville NHS

By: Kandace Muller

In preparation for POW/MIA Recognition Day September 16, a new temporary exhibit opened in the National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site. Inspired by POW/MIA Recognition Day posters offered to the park by Jo Anne Shirley, the exhibit looks at the importance of this day through these posters and objects from within the museum collection.

Once the park decided to exhibit the posters staff found objects in the museum collection that help tell the importance of this day. The artifacts along with the posters are on exhibit in the central hall of the museum. The posters, produced annually by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, demonstrate many of the images that have become synonymous with POWs and those MIA. Symbolism associated with prisoners of war and those missing in action, commonly include a guard

tower, barb wire, a chained eagle, and the American and POW/MIA flags. This exhibit also features documents such as telegrams, pages from POW scrapbooks, POW bracelets, and the POW/MIA flag. Artifacts in the exhibit portray the impact of the POW/MIA experience on their families and the nation from the Civil War to the present. They illustrate the commitment on the part of Americans not to forget the service of those who become unaccounted for, missing in action or prisoner of war.



The display provides a look at organizations that developed in support of POWs/MIAs, such as VIVA (Voices in Vital America). Organizations like VIVA made it their mission to keep the situation of prisoners of war and those missing in action and unaccounted for in the public sphere. The exhibit also focuses on the family members of POWs/MIAs. Families were often faced with a lack of closure not knowing if their loved ones were prisoners of war, missing in action, or even alive. Contained within the exhibit you will find telegrams sent to family members indicating soldier's status, whether a POW or MIA. Images, telegrams, letters, POW/MIA bracelets, bumper stickers and other items within the exhibit show the human story. They show the hardship placed on families and the privations suffered by prisoners of war.

It illustrates the strong need through time for families and the nation to account for those who have served the nation. After the Civil War Clara Barton who served on a Commission to mark the graves of the dead at Andersonville wrote family members of those who were buried here verifying if the soldier was buried at

Andersonville. She wrote on the stationery of the *Office of Correspondence with friends of the Missing Men of the United States Army*. There was a great effort by a young prisoner of war, Dorence Atwater, to get published a list he had of those who died at Andersonville so their families would know what happened. Clara Barton assisted him in raising money for this endeavor. A number of organizations continue the effort to account for those unaccounted for missing in action or prisoners of war in American conflicts. There are those still looking for prisoners they believe were taken to the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, those trying to account for service members from the Cold and Korean Wars, up through to the Vietnam War and the Gulf conflict.

The items in this exhibit exemplify the nation's commitment to account for all prisoners of war, missing in action, or unaccounted for soldiers. Accounting for all service members is a promise made by the nation to those who defend its freedom. Family members and organizations make sure the nation lives up to this promise.



The homecoming of prisoners of war is a joyous occasion for their families, friends, and the nation as it was with Operation Homecoming following the Vietnam War. The nation remains committed to bring home those still unaccounted for from all conflicts. It honors their service to the nation. Service members need to know the nation appreciates their service and will not forget them, leaving them in foreign hands. POW/MIA Recognition Day is the nation's way of acknowledging this commitment and renewing its promise.

NamPOW news



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Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee on Former POWs

The Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee on Former POWs met in Kansas City November 24-26 to follow up on recommendations made during previous committee meetings.

In addition to the committee members, around 40 former POWs from the Kansas City area joined the advisory committee for a very active question and answer session. AXPOW was well represented by Commander Gerald Harvey, SVC Bob "Fletch" Fletcher and your humble correspondent.

The Honorable Ronald R. Aument, Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits (VBA), addressed the group and eased our concerns in several areas. He specifically mentioned the item of most concern to ex-POWs and their wives, the "review" of all PTSD and Individual Unemployability (I/U) claims.

Mr. Aument specifically stated and reaffirmed when asked *that having been a POW is de facto proof of the stressors required for a PTSD diagnosis*. He said re: former POWs, all such cases are closed, meaning they will not be reviewed with the potential of reducing an award based on PTSD. When asked about I/U, he repeated that since the I/U was caused

by the PTSD, those claims are closed, also.

This is very good news, indeed. There has been much angst and anxiety from POWs worrying about having their ratings reduced and suddenly losing DIC, incurring co-pays and lowered priorities of treatment. So, on behalf of AXPOW, Mr. Aument was personally thanked for setting so many minds at ease.

Of further interest to ex-POWs, Aument stated that a major concern is achieving consistency between geographical regions in the processing of claims. Much work has been done in this area but more has to happen (to preclude the wide variance in ratings between, for example, Tampa-St. Pete and Jackson, Mississippi).

More will be said on that topic when the committee's report to the Secretary is finalized in a few weeks.

Additionally, Mr. Aument suggested our re-visiting the Turbo-POWER service officer training and filing assistance program. Dr. Bob Smith, new head of the VA's employee education system, thinks it will dovetail in perfectly with some enhancements he has in mind for the VA employees.

And finally, unofficially, the highlight of the meeting for me, personally, was unexpectedly running into an old friend, fellow Hanoi cellmate and overall good guy. Barry Bridger had never attended any POW functions but came to this excellent gathering for the Q&A session with the committee. Mark Campbell, a reporter for the *Kansas City Star* (And nephew of WWII POW and AXPOW NSO Fred Campbell!), picked up the story and turned it into an excellent front page article that appeared in the *Star* the last morning of the conference.

As soon as the minutes and recommendations are completed, I'll revisit them. But this is very hot information and needed earliest dissemination.

Paul

VAVS Director Reporting:

Thank you, Commander Harvey, for appointing me another year as VAVS Director. It will be an honor to serve in this capacity.

To those of you who still serve as Representative, Deputy and Volunteer, I thank you so very much. Your faithfulness to the volunteer program is appreciated.

Don't forget National Salute To Hospitalized Veterans Feb. 12-18, 2006. Visit a veteran, give him/her encouragement and tell them they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games will be held in Hampton, VA May 7-12, 2006.

May 3-6, 2006 will mark the 60th VAVS National Advisory Committee meetings in Sparks, NV at the John Asuaga Nugget Hotel. May 17, 2006 we will celebrate 60 years of volunteer service to the veteran. Will your VAMC participate in a program?

Did you know it is illegal to have a 50/50 drawing at your VA Medical Center? This is government property and it is not a sanctioned activity. Off station is permitted.

As I started in my report to the National Convention, please do not send letters of request to the National Commander or National Adjutant to be appointed Representative or Deputy. This only delays your request because they are forwarded to me for certification.

According to the Independent sector, rates for volunteer time are \$17.55 per hour. I think you are worth a million.

May you be blessed abundantly this holiday season. Tell someone you love them and you will be blessed.

Jean Thiede
VAVS Director

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005
13

pow-mia



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 1,815 Americans listed by the Defense Department as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War - 1,381 in Vietnam, 372 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. Over 90% of all 1,815 Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia controlled by Vietnam.

REMAINS OF MISSING WWII AIRMEN RETURNING HOME

The remains of three U. S. servicemen, missing in action since 1941, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Augustus J. Allen, of Myrtle Springs,

Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2005

14

Texas; Staff Sgt. James D. Cartwright, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Cpl. Paul R. Stubbs, of Haverhill, Mass.

On June 8, 1941, the three men departed France Field, Panama, in an O-47A aircraft, en route to Rio Hato, Panama. When the aircraft failed to arrive, a search was initiated by both air and ground forces. They were not found.

In April 1999, a Panamanian man found the aircraft wreckage while hunting in the mountains of Panama Province and reported it to Panamanian Civil Aeronautics (PCA.)

After a PCA search and rescue team visited the site, the wreckage was reported to the Joint Prisoner of War Accounting Command. Command specialists surveyed the area in August 1999 and, in February 2002, excavated the site. They recovered remains and crew-related artifacts.

The crash site was along Lieutenant Allen's suspected flight path, and the aircraft was consistent with O-47A aircraft from their unit, the 39th Observation Squadron. Additionally, the team recovered crew-related items at the site which helped confirm the identity of the Airmen.

Scientists from the command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab used mitochondrial DNA as one of the tools to identify the remains.

US-RUSSIA COMMISSION: Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), co-chairman of the Vietnam War Working Group of the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, met with General Vladimir Shamanov (ret), newly named Chairman of the Russian Interagency Commission on POWs, Internees, and MIAs. General Shamanov, also Assistant to the Prime-Minister, reportedly indicated that there should be no limits to US-Russian cooperation on POW/MIA accounting and reaffirmed support to making available Vietnam-era documents pertaining to missing U.S. service members.

JOINT OPERATIONS: JPAC Commander BG Michael Flowers, USA,

recently hosted semi-annual POW/MIA consultations with Lao officials in Hawaii. The Lao delegation was led by the Foreign Ministry official serving as head of the Europe-Americas Department, and he was accompanied by officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Public Security. General Flowers hosted similar talks with Cambodian officials in August, and just led a US delegation to Hanoi for talks that occur there every two months.

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civilians

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US Embassy, Manila story continued...

Dr. Najeeb Saleeby -

A naturalized American, Dr. Najeeb Saleeby, came to Manila along with hundreds of other teachers aboard the S.S. Thomas. He was born in Syria and studied at the American University of Beirut but had a unique fascination of Moro culture in the Philippines, publishing two hugely respected books on the subject. Today, the "Najeeb Saleeby Court Yard" stands as a proud reminder of the many generous gifts of education and trust this gentle man gave to the Philippine people.

The Honorable Francis Murphy -

In 1933, Frank Murphy was appointed Governor-General of the Philippines. He held well to this position till President Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court where he became a staunch advocate of civil liberties and is duly remembered for his scathing dissent in the court case that sanctioned the internment of Japanese-Americans.

At the dedication ceremonies in the Embassy, Ambassador Francis Ricciardoni remarked on these honorees.

"Each of the above - mentioned individuals are unique, and being unique what I like most about them is that they may not have even liked each other had they met... But they were all great Americans, all great friends of the Philippines, and all greatly committed to freedom and justice."

As our group moved slowly around the U.S. Embassy building and grounds, we were continually in awe at the many riches of history encountered. Through each hall way and

corridor were wonderful framed black and white pictures of historical era's of the American presence in the Philippines. The American citizens who made things happen, and those who made a difference in the structure of the Philippines' foundation and future, were paramount in these collections.

Uniquely, the collection of many WWII pictures of U.S. prisoners graced these hallways. One of the women in our group, Margaret Whitaker Squires, who had been a prisoner in Santo Tomas, found a picture of her at 15 years old in one of the pictures. This particular picture had been taken by Carl Mydans, one of the Foreign Correspondents for LIFE magazine. The official Embassy photographer was summoned and a picture of Margaret, with a joyous smile, was snapped beside the old photograph of her as a young girl in Santo Tomas right after liberation.

This year with the showing of the movie, THE GREAT RAID, by Miramax, the name Lt. Col. Henry Mucci has become a household word. The Liberation of the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines 60 years ago gave testimony to Mucci and his 6th Ranger Battalion for the daring rescue of the military prisoners held within.

A man of vision, charisma and intellect, with larger than life self reliance, Mucci set out to train a group of "mule skinnners" for one year in the mountains of New Guinea. The results were "one of the first American special operations fighting forces," combat ready for anything!

We were learning a lot about this military icon as we stood in front of the newly dedicated, MUCCI BALCONY, on the back gardens of the Embassy. "He inspired us and trained us," says Captain Robert Prince, 2nd in command of the POW raid. "Mucci's actions and decisions on the raid were flawless." "We loved him - we feared him - we would follow him anywhere."

In describing "the back yard of the house", a prominent piece of land facing Manila Bay, one of the most

poignant and interesting stories emerge.

While waiting for the arrival of the Japanese Military to enter Manila on January 2, 1942, the four remaining officials of the U.S. High Commission - George Gray, Elise Flahaven, Margaret Pierce and Virginia Hewlett - had removed the U.S. flag from the flagpole in front of the building. As protocol dictated, they burned the flag and carefully buried its ashes in the back garden to prevent it from falling into enemies hands.

Across the street from the "house" many refugees from the provinces were held up at the Bay View Hotel also waiting for the invaders to arrive. My family and I were among that number. With tears in our eyes, we watched in attention, as the flag was being lowered, not to be seen again for three years. After the enemy took over, we were privy to the "fried egg" being hoisted on this same flagpole. Again, through many tears, we watched, "by strong invitation."

Today there is a rough-hewn headstone of the American Flag where the ashes of old glory still rests. The names of those High Commission loyal employees with that stone tells the story of that important day.

Each year, the Ambassador and his staff, holds a short and special ceremony at this flag pole continuing the tradition set forth by General MacArthur during the Battle for Manila.

Today, the colors fly free and majestic on this plot of land known as America. It flies with the values we hold so close and important and never abandoned - patriotism and duty. There is a plaque with the pole that tells this story.

"Welcome to America, folks!"

Sascha Jean Jansen
Ex-STIC prisoner
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005
15

Y our Stories



The Bet at Barth

by: Earl Wasson - 466th Bomb Group
ex-POW - Luft 1, Barth, Germany

In war-time, a place called Barth was Hell. It was a prisoner of war camp located only a few miles south of the Baltic Sea in Northern Germany. Downed aircrews were interned there after having been shot down and captured by the enemy. Ten thousand were held there as prisoners.

The camp was divided into four administrative compounds with 2,500 airmen in each unit. These "guests of the Germans" were elite quality men - leaders and brave American youths. They had been effective in their aerial combat activity against Nazi Germany.

But now, their role had dramatically changed. Internment brought suffering beyond belief; the unending frigid weather, the unpredictable behavior of the guards. Inadequate food, lice, sickness, boredom, death by starvation or by exposure, was their unchanging agenda. Yet there were times when the spirits of the Prisoners of War were lifted. It was always through their own methods of creativity and ingenious that this happened.

One on-going "high" occurred when each new contingent of "guests" arrived in the camp. Up-to-date uncensored information became immediately available. The reports brought in by these new POW's gave fresh, unbiased running accounts of how the war was progressing on both the Eastern Front with the Russians and on the Western Front.

The increasing numbers of bombers and fighters appearing in the air overhead brought silent but exuberant joy and hope to Barth's imprisoned. As optimism flourished small group conversation centered on the war's end and their freedom. Liberation

was on everyone's lips. The war was indeed winding down! Talk of being home for Christmas became a Utopian Dream.

Although all embraced the Dream, not all were optimistic. This difference in opinion brought about the "Bet at Barth". A wager was on. New life came to the camp. But what was there to wager!? There was no money, no freedom of 3-day passes to London, no material possessions for the loser to forfeit, no points or promotions to be gained or lost.

In a heated conversation two men got carried away in their claims. An optimistic airman bet a pessimistic one on the following terms. "If we aren't home by Christmas, I will kiss your a** before the whole group formation right after head-count on Christmas morning." They shook hands. The bet was on!

Well, the optimist hadn't counted on the Battle of the Bulge in early December. Consequently, the war was prolonged and they were still in Barth on Christmas Day, 1944. Christmas morning was cold, there was snow on the ground and frigid air was blowing in off the Baltic Sea. The body count for the compound began, each man was counted off. *ein, zwei, drei, vier, funf, sechs, sieben, acht*. Under ordinary circumstances, when the counting was completed and the German guards were satisfied that everyone was accounted for, the group split up and everyone went to their barracks. But this time, everybody stayed in formation. The two betting "Kriegies" walked out of the formation and went into the barracks. No one else moved! The guards were puzzled. They didn't know what was going on.

Soon, the two men came back out of the barracks. One was carrying a bucket of water with a towel over the other arm. The second one marched to the front of the formation, turned his back toward the assembled troops and guards, pulled down his pants and stooped over. The other took the towel, dipped it in the soapy water and washed his posterior. The whole formation was standing there looking and laughing.

Then the optimist bent over and kissed his opponent on the rear! A mighty cheer went up from over 2,000 men. Then the puzzled guards joined in the fun.

Nothing changed on Christmas day - the same black bread and thin soup,

sparse and flavorless. As evening fell, the weather worsened, the barracks were cold, the last of the daily allotted coal briquettes were reduced to nothing but white ash. Boredom was setting in and the prisoners anticipated another long miserable night. Suddenly, the door opened...a voice shouted, "The curfew has been lifted for tonight! We're going to have a Christmas service over in the next compound." The weather was bitterly cold, the new fallen snow crunched under the feet of the men as they quickly shuffled towards their congregating comrades in the distance.

The nightly curfew always kept men inside - this Christmas night's reprieve allowed them to be outside after dark for the first time. Above, the stars were shining brightly and were high in the northern skies; the dim flicker of Aurora Borealis added a magical touch as the troops assembled. Gratitude was felt in their hearts... a lone singer led out with one of the world's most familiar and loved carols. Others joined in and soon there was joyful worship ringing throughout the camp.

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright...

The German guards marching their assigned beats stopped in their tracks...they turned their heads toward the music. The words were unfamiliar but they recognized the tune...after all, *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* was composed by a German. They loosened up, smiled, and joined in the celebration; the praise became bilingual.

Round yon virgin
mother and Child

*Cinsam wacht nurdas traute
hoch heilige Paar*

Holy Infant so tender and mild
Holder Knabe im lockigen Hoiar

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Schlaf in himmlischer ruh.

Schlaf in himmlischer ruh.

The Bet at Barth had paid off. Everyone had won! As the words of the carol rang in their hearts, there was a literal fulfillment. Tonight they would sleep in peace. War and internment did not have the power to destroy the meaning and beauty of this special day.

It was Christmas. They were not at home. But they declared, "Next year we will be! All of us!"

And they were!

news, -events and information



January 12-14, 2006. Department of Texas midwinter conference will be held at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites, 201 S. Washington. Those wishing to attend may call 800-446-0202 or 830-997-0202 for reservations. Registration fee \$12.00. Send registration fee to Ruby Williams, 1306 N. 4th, Temple, Texas 76501-2013.

April 2006. The Association of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans will lead a group to England and France to commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of these historical events: The D-Day Landings, the Battle for Normandy and the drive through France to the Rhine. For information call Sy Canton, 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484; 561-865-8495.

April 2006. Dept. of Tennessee Annual Convention will be held at the Carnegie Hotel, Johnson City, TN. Contact: Commander Ruth M. Lewis, 105 Hughes Road, Watauga, TN 37694; 423-543-4391.

looking for



My husband's name is **Frederic B. Miller**. In 2002 and 2004, we traveled through Germany and Poland looking for the prison farm where he was held during WWII. Last July 18, 2004, with the help of some wonderful people from Poland and Germany, and some good railroad maps, we found this prison farm. How very emotional this was for all of us. It was a large **German farm in Poland called Adolphium**,

which was south of Schlawa/Slawno. There were about 25-30 POWs there. My husband, Frederic, was a PFC, 36th Div., 142nd Inf. Reg., Co. C. They were there from Nov. 6, 1943-Feb. 20, 1945. If any of you were prisoners with my husband and want more information, please contact: Frederic B. Miller, 201 Laurel Lane, Green Bay, WI 54311-6887.

I am interested in the cause of **Sainthood for Father J. Verbis Lafleur**. Father Lafleur was at Clark field when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. His actions there earned him the Distinguished Service Cross. He was captured and held at Luzon and Davao before being put on the Hellship Shinu Maru. We went to a memorial mass in Opelousas, LA on April 22, 2005. It was very impressive because it was 61 years since his death aboard the Shinu Maru. Archbishop Hannon (Ret.) of New Orleans interviewed my son and me which will be used in the cause for his beatification. It would certainly help if anyone who knew Father Lafleur at Clark Field or in the prison camp could share their impressions or memories of him, even if you knew him slightly. Anything you have to say is important. Please contact me about this. Thanks, Bill Lowe, 4115 Via San Luis, Riverside, CA 92504. 951-689-3269.

Thank you very much for posting my "Looking For" ad in the October 2005 Bulletin, and for sending a copy of that Bulletin. I appreciate it. Question: I see reunions in the Bulletin listed for various infantries, etc. Do you know if a **Stalag 2B Reunion** ever took place? If not, is it possible to post that question in the Bulletin? If such a reunion ever took place and a record of any kind was made, I'd like to get a copy. For example, a tape was made of the 1983 Luft III Reunion and is available from RDR Productions, www.rdrproductions.com. (This

tape includes footage of Ray Toliver and Hans Scharf, WWII POW Interrogator. Ray Toliver wrote The Interrogator. The movie, The Great Escape, is based on Luft III.) Thank you for all you do. The POWs deserve so much, and the recognition that this organization brings to them is priceless. Janice Goldman, jg12333@msn.com.

My name is Matthew L Noble and I saw the movie The Great Raid. It stirred my heart to find out about my Grandpa, **Herbert Augustus Kuhlenschmidt**. He was stationed in New Zealand during the war. He never talked about his experience to any of the grandkids that I know of. I know my Dad recalls bits and pieces here and there, but nothing in great detail. My mom, his daughter, never recalls Grandpa talking about it. I want to know what I need to do to find out all I can about his service time. Is that possible? He was also a member of the American Legion in Elberfeld, Indiana for 50 years. I believe it was post #351. Seeing this movie challenges me to remember the cost paid by those before me. Our generation is so selfish these days. I'm sorry for the way we have forgotten our history. I'm reminded to remember those ones who came back and those who didn't. They deserve our best. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Matthew Noble, pickupman_ak@hotmail.com.

I would like to hear from any ex-POW who was with the **railroad work party in Salwedel, Germany** in March/April 1945. I am trying to recall, after 60 years, dates and events that occurred during my internment in Germany by backtracking from Salzwedel through Altengrabow (Stalag XIA) or Luckenwald (Stalag IIIA) and back to Limburg (Stalag XIIA) in Decem-

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005

news, events, information continued...

ber 1944. Would also like to hear from anyone from 423rd Service Co. who was with Captains Frieze and Burrmeister when we surrendered at that little farmhouse on 19 Dec '44. Any information or helpful web site references would be gratefully appreciated. Jim Leonard (Svc Co. 423rd Regt., 106th Div). Tel:425-391-2607. E m a i l : cobhill_762000@yahoo.com.

My father, **Gerald S. Pratt Jr.** was a Lt. serving in 590 Bn. at the time of the breakthrough. During post break-thru reshuffle he was briefly (a few days) in 589th and then assigned to 592nd. I am in the process of transcribing his letters home during that period and have references to others which may be interesting to family or to the person. Is there a way to connect? Also, how can I find out regiment assignment? (All Bulge locations are given by regiment... and I haven't a clue...) My dad is slipping into advanced Alzheimer's. In some way, the transcription is therapeutic for me. But, I know that contact with people who knew dad would be meaningful for me and I suspect the reverse is true, too. I know also that time is limited for making any connection. I know things like who delivered the post bulge mail in Bn., who played the piano on Thanksgiving day in England and two of the tunes he played. I know who (by rank and last name) went with him to destroy a mired truck during the break-through and have an account of their run through the woods afterwards. I have descriptions of their various makeshift dug in officer's tent, some of the people who were with him, and even what they cooked during the wee hours of the AM. I know

Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2005

18

about the menagerie collected by men around him... I am compiling day to day detail written by a man who could write well. I also have a growing number of questions dad can no longer answer... like departure and arrival points for shipping out. How many ships took the 106th and where there multiple departure and arrival points? Someone else said they went from Boston to Liverpool. Is there any way of tracking down my father's ship and route...? And, once in England, was the division together or in multiple locations? Sincerely, Connie Pratt Baesman, baesman@rockisland.com.

I am trying to do some research on my father's WWII and Nazi POW experience. He passed away in 1999. He did not talk much about his experiences. Is there any mechanism (i.e. newsletter, Web posting, etc.) through your organization to locate/contact any Ex-POWs that may have spent time as a POW in **Stalag IV-G lazarette** located in Leipzig-Wahren, Germany? Thanks for any assistance that you could provide me in my historical research efforts. Pete Schreiber; pschreiber@virtualaw.com.

I am looking for anyone who may have known my father, **Lt. Robert F. McClure**, who was a POW in the Philippines during WWII. He spent the majority of time incarcerated in Davao prison camp and was subsequently killed on one of the "Hell Ships", the **Arisan Maru**. He was from Pennsylvania. Please contact: Charlotte Lowrey, 1109 San Felipe Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505; 505-988-4126; clowrey1109@comcast.net.

news

Team McGuire renames Second Street

By Airman 1st Class Rachel Martinez

In honor of National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day, Team

McGuire recently renamed one of the last numbered streets on McGuire (AFB, New Jersey).



Second Street officially became POW/MIA Boulevard during a ceremony Sept. 16, 2005.

The idea to rename the street came from Joseph O'Donnell, a former POW. Mr. O'Donnell presented the idea to Brig. General JJ Jackson, 305th AMW commander, who then approved it. McGuire 56 organized and completed the project.

Newest Medal of Honor Recipient, former POW in Korean War

Tibor Rubin, a Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor who immigrated to the United States in 1948, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Korean War by President George W. Bush on



events, information continued...

September 23, 2005. Rubin is a resident of Garden Grove, CA.

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Corporal Tibor Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period from July 23, 1950, to April 20, 1953, while serving as a rifleman with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of Korea.

While his unit was retreating to the Pusan Perimeter, Corporal Rubin was assigned to stay behind to keep open the vital Taegu-Pusan Road link used by his withdrawing unit.

During the ensuing battle, overwhelming numbers of North Korean troops assaulted a hill defended solely by Corporal Rubin. He inflicted a staggering number of casualties on the attacking force during his personal 24-hour battle, single-handedly slowing the enemy advance and allowing the 8th Cavalry Regiment to complete its withdrawal successfully.

Following the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter, the 8th Cavalry Regiment proceeded northward and advanced into North Korea. During the advance, he helped capture several hundred North Korean soldiers.

On October 30, 1950, Chinese forces attacked his unit at Unsan, North Korea, during a massive nighttime assault. That night and throughout the next day, he manned a .30 caliber machine gun at the south end of the unit's line after three previous gunners became casualties. He continued to man his machine gun until his ammunition was exhausted. His determined stand slowed the pace

of the enemy advance in his sector, permitting the remnants of his unit to retreat southward. As the battle raged, Corporal Rubin was severely wounded and captured by the Chinese.

Choosing to remain in the prison camp despite offers from the Chinese to return him to his native Hungary, Corporal Rubin disregarded his own personal safety and immediately began sneaking out of the camp at night in search of food for his comrades. Breaking into enemy food storehouses and gardens, he risked certain torture or death if caught. Corporal Rubin provided not only food to the starving Soldiers, but also desperately needed medical care and moral support for the sick and wounded of the POW camp.

His brave, selfless efforts were directly attributed to saving the lives of as many as forty of his fellow prisoners. Corporal Rubin's gallant actions in close contact with the enemy and unyielding courage and bravery while a prisoner of war are in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

We're Thankful We're Alive



Leaving the movie "The Great Raid" after its opening Aug. 12, 2005, Domenic Pellegrino gently touched

his friend Antonio Casanova on the shoulder.

Simultaneously, silently, both gave a thumbs-up.

The two survived the horrors of the Japanese prison camp Cabanatuan in the Philippines, a little-known chapter of World War II

The former POWs said their eyes filled with tears at images of the infamous camp where they were starved, beaten and tortured.

NCOA Honors Ex-Prisoners of War with Room Dedication



The McGuire (AFB, NJ) NCO Academy American ex-POW/MIA Heritage Room was officially dedicated Aug. 11, 2005.

PNC Zack Roberts, far right, tells Brig. Gen. JJ Jackson, 305th Air Mobility Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Roger Ball, 305th AMW command chief, the story behind the Nazi flag in the display case after the dedication.

Shortly after being liberated in 1945, an ex-POW took the flag off a German tank and wrote "This flag will fly no more!" on it.

The flag is on loan from Zack.

Members'

forum



Dear Cheryl:

I want to single out some heroic females who served our country during WWII in the Army. These brave women became known as "the White Angels of Bataan".

Little has been said about the US Army nurses who spent many years as prisoners of war in the Japanese theater of operations. While serving as the public relations person for the American Ex-Prisoners of War for the state of California, I had the occasion to meet some of the nurses and hear their stories of treatment while held captive, not for weeks, but years of inhumane treatment. I admired their courage and secrecy in questioning them, but of course, I understood that some day they would come home to lead a new life.

I know for a fact that these nurses also were deprived of service-connected benefits, and some of them would comment they could not understand why our government neglected them and the men also.

I used to hear stories how the White Angels kept many POWs from the agony of hunger, and also in the Bataan Death March, where half of the prisoners died on the road.

Germany also had a death march; as far as I know, there were no

"White Angels", only tough luck if you got sick or hungry.

Luis J. Franco
11006 Alburty Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Cheryl:

I am a 100% disabled veteran and have a problem which many other veterans also have. I cannot take advantage of VA medical care because the nearest VA Medical Center is 160 miles away, and the nearest full service facility (with hospital facilities for surgery, etc.) is 250 miles away. I am sure you can understand why it is difficult, if not completely impossible, to receive any medical care through these facilities.

Because of this, I have to pay over \$5,000 per year (plus the Medicare premium) for health insurance. My wife is fortunate to be able to have VA insurance through ChampVA, and she is able to receive treatment from her family doctor or any other doctor she chooses in our local area or otherwise, at no cost.

Why shouldn't veterans have the same benefits as their dependents have? We could use an insurance card the same as ChampVA which could be presented to any doctor or hospital for medical attention as necessary. This would allow those of us who live a great distance from the VA to use our own family doctors locally to receive the medical benefits to which we are entitled.

I would hope that the American Ex-POWs, of which I have been a long-time member, would be able to make this into a proposal to the VA and to use your influence to accomplish this. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Edgar R. Kreft
PO Box 156
Rogers City, MI 49779

Dear Cheryl,

61 YEARS AGO

It has been several years since attending an AXPOW National Convention! While browsing around the hall in the hotel, I happened to notice on one of the tables a list compiled of POWs from Stalag Luft IV for their Reunion Night at the Convention. As I browsed the list I ran across a name that rang a bell in my poor memory, but not from Luft IV, it was from the 44th Bomb Group, 506th Sq. at Shipdam aerodrome near Norwich, England.

The name Frank Stoltz was very familiar but I could not quite conjure up a recollection of who to look for, so began embarrassing folks by looking at name tags, dangling at the end of the band around their necks. I knew we were in the same Nissen Hut, as I also recalled one of his crew members who was in the bunk next to mine. One morning in the breakfast line, I located Frank and we started a conversation, and after putting several stories together we concluded that indeed we were in the same Hut and flew many of the same missions. I had not remembered that he was shot down on the Berlin Mission June 21st just 8 days before our crew (Gerald Westcott's crew) was, on the Magdeburg Mission, June 29, 1944. Frank was in A Lager and I was in B Lager, first in the dog houses, then moved to C Lager around Nov. 44. Needless to say it was great to stretch our memories a bit and recall happenings of over 61 years ago, and to bring us up to date on our families and other events in our lives since that rather difficult time.

The Denver-ites put on a great convention and I appreciated the name tags, to say the least.

Walter (Tex) Lawrence
354 Random Rd.
Arkansas City, KS 67005

News Briefs

Online Veteran Service Office Resources

Veteran Service Offices are a resource created to assist servicemembers and veterans in applying for and getting the VA benefits they need and deserve. Veteran Service Offices, which are normally located at VA Regional Offices, VA Hospitals and Clinics, are operated by one of many military veterans service organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The counselors who work in these offices are referred to as either Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) or District Service Officers (DSOs). These counselors are committed to assisting you with the process of getting enrolled in the VA, filing claims, appeals and pursuing your hard-earned benefits and compensation. In the past it has been difficult for veterans to find their local VSO, however thanks to the VFW there is a new online resource to assist veterans who need the type of assistance only a truly dedicated VSO can provide. To find a VSO near you go to www.vfwserviceofficer.org and click on the resources link. Read more about the valuable services VSOs provide. http://www.military.com/NewContent/0,13190,VeteransArticle_111004,00.html.

Missing Airman Discovered

It's a mystery from the days of World War II. Forensic experts in California are slowly thawing a frozen body, believed to be the remains of a missing airman. Investigators believe the man died in a

1942 plane crash. While the investigation continues out west a family in Belmont County gains hope that the body may be their missing brother. Jeanne, Sara, and Lois are all sisters; two of them live here in Belmont County, the other in Pittsburgh. There is one sibling missing, their brother. Ernest Glenn Munn enlisted in the Army Air Corps when he was 21. His family says he was part of a crew who died in 1942, when a military plane crashed during a training mission. Ernest's sister, Francis Jeanne Pyle says the body was never recovered, "My mother even made a trip clear to California to try and find out particulars and they said they could not find the bodies." The sisters believe the body that was found in California is that of their brother. The body was found in a glacier in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The man was wearing a parachute with the word "army" stenciled on it. Ernest's sister, Sara Zeyer, says if the body is that of their brother, his sisters would like it to be brought back to Pleasant Grove for burial, "The Lord works in mysterious ways, this was supposed to be." The family has been told identifying the body could take months.

Commissary and Exchange Privileges (reprinted again from the Federal Benefits Handbook)

Unlimited exchange and commissary store privileges in the United States are available to honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 100 percent, unremarried surviving spouses of members or retired members of the armed forces, and their dependents and orphans. Certification of total disability is done by VA. Reservists and their dependents also may be eligible. Privileges overseas are governed by international law and are available

only if agreed upon by the foreign government concerned. Though these benefits are provided by DoD, VA does provide assistance in completing DD Form 1172, "Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card." For detailed information, contact the nearest military installation.

Retiree Pay Statement Change

Retirees who have been receiving two separate checks from the Defense Accounting and Finance Center (DFAS) for retired pay and concurrent retired disability pay (CRDP) will see those payments combined in a single check starting in NOV 05. In the past, DFAS had to make the payments separately and did not have the computerized capability to show the CRDP payment on retiree pay statements. Now that is changing. But the updated statements are causing some confusion. Retirees eligible for concurrent receipt will notice a change in the VA waiver line of the pay statement. Normally that means your VA payment changed. In this case, it just means that the accounting system is catching up with the actual amount of retired pay that is offset by the retiree's VA compensation. Now that CRDP is being incorporated in disabled retirees' pay statements, the statements will show a dollar-for-dollar decrease in the waiver amount and a dollar-for-dollar increase to their taxable retired pay. The bottom line: disabled retirees are still receiving the same pay amounts from both the VA and DFAS that they have in the past. All that is changing is that the two payments have been combined, and the tax withholding may be different. Retired members can ask DFAS to adjust their withholding rate at any time.

news briefs cont...

COLA 2006

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that recent jump in energy prices boosted the Consumer Price Index another 1.5% in September. That resulted in a 4.1% COLA based on the increase in average costs from the third quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2005 — this 4.1% percentage increase is the increase that will be applied (in most cases) to military retired pay, Social Security, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities and veterans' (VA) disability compensation as of 1 DEC 05. The increases will first appear in January 2006 paychecks. This is the largest COLA since the 1991 increase of 5.4%.

SSA COLA 2006

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 52 million Americans will increase 4.1% in 2006. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 4.1%. The COLA will begin with benefits that more than 48 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in JAN 06. Increased payments to 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on 30 DEC. Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$94,200 from \$90,000. Of the es-

Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2005

22

timated 161 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2006, about 11.3 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum in 2006. It is important to note that no one's Social Security benefit will decrease as a result of the 2006 Medicare Part B premium increase, announced last month. By law, the Part B premium increase cannot be larger than a beneficiary's COLA increase.

ABC Radio

Salutes Veterans

Officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and ABC Radio Networks today announced a partnership designed to enhance VA's outreach to America's nearly 25 million veterans through a public service campaign, a special global broadcast saluting veterans and participation in key VA events. Under the relationship, ABC Radio Networks and American Country Countdown with Bob Kingsley will air a series of public service announcements detailing benefits available to veterans. In addition, on November 11, 2005, "Bob Kingsley Salutes America's Veterans" will be broadcast on the ABC Radio Networks. The program will feature interviews with and historical pieces narrated by some of country music's biggest names, including Faith Hill, Toby Keith, Trace Adkins, Brooks & Dunn and Trisha Yearwood, among many others. It also includes information on veterans' benefits, and interview segments with the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The agreement announced today by Nicholson and ABC Radio representatives enables VA to work with private industry, in addition to its other outreach activities, to inform veterans of the entitlements they have earned as mandated by Congress. As part of the campaign, VA has also created The Secretary's Award for Outstanding Service to American Veterans. The award will be presented in early 2006. Details

will be announced in late 2005 or early 2006.

Traumatic Brain Injury

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at least 1.4 million Americans sustain Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) each year. Of these 1.1 million are treated and released from hospital emergency rooms, 250,000 are hospitalized and 50,000 die. Many do not seek care at all and suffer serious complications. The CDC defines TBI as a blow, jolt or penetrating injury to the head that disrupts brain function. Falls, traffic accidents and assaults are the leading causes of TBI. By a 2-1 count, men outnumber women who suffer brain injuries. Adults 75 and older are at high risk for TBI. Anyone who loses consciousness or appears disorientated at the time of an accident should be evaluated for head injury. Symptoms may occur some time after an accident. Physical problems such as nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headache, blurred vision, poor sleep, fatigue, lethargy or sensory loss are signals that you should see a doctor as well as problems with concentration, perception, memory, speech or language, or changes in behavior such as irritability and quickness to anger. Current diagnostic methods can result in under detection of TBI and therefore delay treatment. It is important for family members, coworkers and clinicians to be aware of physical, behavioral or emotional changes that may indicate an undiagnosed or hidden TBI.

No two brain injuries are exactly alike, so treatment must be highly individualized. Team efforts involving clinicians, therapists and family members have proven effective in helping patients regain independence. Therapists often focus on helping patients become aware of their own deficits, so patients and their families can monitor daily progress or setbacks outside the clinic. This helps thera-

news briefs cont...

pists and clinicians design movement therapies, teach speech or language skills, and provide tools aimed at improving problem solving, reasoning, and organizational ability.

Several studies on TBI are taking place at the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center in Gainesville FL sponsored by VA's Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. Investigators from VA and the University of Florida integrate physiologic and behavioral treatments to address cognitive, sensory and movement disorders. The focus is on improving patient's performance in real-life situations and determining how best to deliver therapy. In other VA research investigators at the Miami VA Medical Center are examining how to use genetically modified nerve cell grafts to repair the brain, and scientists at the Hines ILVA are studying whether electrical brain stimulation can assist with the recovery of motor abilities.

The goal is to restore as much functioning and independence as possible to brain injured veterans, and thereby assist them in returning to productive, satisfying lives.

PTSD Reevaluation

On Oct. 20, 2005, the House Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs convened a hearing to address this issue. In the hearing Representative Tom Udall, (D-NM) urged the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to halt its review of 72,000 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) claims.

The VA is currently reviewing approximately one-third of the cases of veterans who are receiving disability benefits for PTSD. After conducting an internal study, the VA believes that they were too lenient in deciding which servicemen were

eligible for PTSD benefits. Last year, the VA spent \$4.3 billion on PTSD disability payments. (There is more on this as it pertains to former POWs in Paul Galanti's NamPOW column in this month's Bulletin.~Editor)

VA Joint & Spine Exams

In a report released Oct. 14, 2005, congressional investigators said the Veterans Affairs Department doesn't consider some necessary medical factors in about one in five of its most common types of exams. Still, the department has improved considerably since 2002, when 61% of its reports from joint and spine impairment exams were insufficient for regional offices to judge veterans' benefit eligibility. Now 22% of the reports are inadequate for case reviews was the conclusion of the Government Accountability Office.

In assessing joint and spine injuries, the VA must factor in pain and fatigue that occur after repetitive use or during a flare-up of the condition, according to a 1995 appeals court ruling. The GAO concluded that case reviewers cannot properly determine benefits if VA medical centers don't provide this type of information.

The GAO report also found wide variation within the Veterans Health Administration's 21 regions. In New England, only 57% of reports from these types of exams provided information about pain, fatigue and flare-ups. The two regions that cover North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma tied for the highest score, with 92% of their joint and spine exam reports including adequate information.

The GAO recommended that the department develop a strategy for improving the consistency of VA medical center exam reports. In its formal response to the report, the

department agreed that more consistency is necessary, but also said it is premature at this point to devise a new strategy to accomplish that goal. The report was to be considered at a congressional hearing scheduled earlier this fall.

Flu Shots

This year as in the past much attention is given to the potential spread of bird flu. It's wiser to avoid the flu, by getting a flu shot now. Unlike last year, when there was a shortage of flu vaccine, supplies seem plentiful this year, but this should not be a reason to delay getting flu shots.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strongly recommends that people aged 65 years and older, with or without chronic health conditions and those people of long-term care at home or in resident of long-term care facilities or people aged two to 64 years with chronic health conditions including their home or resident care providers should get their flu shots now. The exception in certain specific cases, everyone should consider getting a flu shot. If you want to see whether you are in exception group, you should talk with your health care provider.

In addition, recent research also has determined that veterans aged 65 years and older, specially with chronic health conditions and includes those veterans of all ages going through health treatment with chronic conditions are high potential routes of transmission for flu. If you are a candidate to get flu shot but do not know where to get one, you should talk with your health care provider or visit website www.flucliniclocator.org/ for a location near you.

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Ex-POW Bulletin

Nov/Dec 2005

24

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For me and most Americans, we look forward to the end of a year with awe, frustration and some wonder. As we look back on what has happened - such as the ongoing war, Hurricane Katrina and the like - then count the blessings that

came our way during the year. And THEN, when we think about what God has in store for us in the New Year, we cannot help but pause and bow before His holy throne, expressing our gratitude.

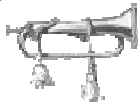
As we come to the last months of 2005, we have many opportunities of giving God our thanks and praise. All Saints' Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Hanukkah, Christmas and more - all leading up to the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. In all things, we must praise the true and living God from whom all blessings flow. You will be gloriously blessed if you do.

Let us pray: Please Lord, make us a grateful people who reach out in Your name and for Your glory as we face each day. May it be with

love and appreciation for all the great blessings that have come our way during this year. Forgive us when we fail to remember Your love, kindness and instructions for life here on earth. We do lift up to you those who are sick and afflicted. Those who stand in harm's way. And any and all who suffer in any way. Those who are still listed as MIA and all who need Your love and care. In Your holy and blessed name we pray and ask these things. AMEN.

Thought for the month: Even small good deeds done in the name of the Lord take on eternal value.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005



taps



Please submit taps notices to: Cheryl Cerbone, 23 Cove View Drive, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

AMOYO, Maximo C., Sr., age 86, of Killeen, TX passed away July 8, 2005. He served in the Army during WWII and was a Bataan Death March survivor. His wife, Magdalena, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 2 brothers, 4 sisters and 10 grandchildren survive him.

ASHER, Robert died October 8, 2005. He was in the 82nd Airborne and was held in Stalag IVB and a work group in Dresden. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. Survivors include his wife Barbara.

ATKINSON, Malcolm J. "Mac" of Hartford, CT passed away Aug. 17, 2005. He was 85. Mac served with the 36th Division during WWII. He was a POW for 1½ years. His wife of 63 years, Louise, predeceased him; he leaves 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and many dear friends.

BALLOWE, Thomas Curtis, 79, of Junction City, KS passed away July 24, 2005. He served in the Army and was a POW in WWII. He was a member of the Kansas Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Mary Louise, 4 daughters, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 2 brothers.

BLUM, Gilbert T., of Miami, FL died Aug. 30, 2005. He was 82. Gilbert was a proud member of the 1st Ranger Battalion and participated in the assault landings in Sicily, Salerno and Anzio. He was captured on Jan. 30, 1944 and held at Stalag 2B. He was a member of the Gold Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Betty, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

BOUNDS, Eldred L., 86, of Salisbury, MD passed away May 30, 2005. During WWII, he served in the 106th Div., Co. B. He was held prisoner in Stalags I, II-D and XII-A. Eldred was a life member of AXPOW and member of Maryland East Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Irene, 1 daughter, 1 son,

1 sister, 2 step-children, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

BOWER, Bryant H., 83, of Fitzgerald, Georgia, died Thursday, October 6, 2005. He served in the AAC during World War II and was shot down during the Battle of the Bulge. He was captured and held in a German POW camp from December until May, 1945. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons and 8 grandchildren.

CAIN, Odis L. passed away Oct. 2, 2005 at the age of 84. He served in the Army with the 99th Inf. Div., 394th Reg. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his wife, Ruth, 4 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

CALDERBANK, Bernard F. "Bernie" died October 11, 2005, in St. Petersburg, FL. He served in the Army Air Corps, 351st BG, 511th BS, and his plane was shot down over Belgium. He was in Stalags IV-C and I. He was a member and Past Commander of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. Survivors include his wife Catherine, a step-daughter, and two stepsons.

CALDWELL, Benjamin Frank, of Wichita Falls, TX died Aug. 30, 2005. During WWII, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Frank and his wife, Blanche, were faithful members of the Wichita Falls Chapter, AXPOW. They were married 56 years.

CAMPBELL, Douglas Earl, 82, of Krypton, KY passed away Sept. 20, 2005. He was shot down over Austria while serving with the 15th AF, 98th BG, 345th BS. He was a POW in Luft IV and Stalag 7A. He leaves his wife, Lizzi, 1 daughter, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

CAREY, Thelma M., of Millville, NJ died recently. She and her late husband, Ex-POW Gerald, were active members of the Garden State Chapter, AXPOW. Gerald was a POW in Stalag Luft III. Survivors include one daughter, Judith C. Moore.

CASILL, Clyde V., of Iowa Falls, IA died July 22, 2005. He was 84. He served in the Army Air Force during

WWII and was a POW in Germany. He leaves his wife, Maxine, and one daughter.

CHAMPION, John G., of Tyler, Texas died February 19, 2005. He was 84. John served as flight engineer on B17 bombers with the 306th Bombardment Group. He was shot down on July 26, 1943. He was severely wounded in the eyes and spent 18 months as a POW in Stalag 17B. His wounds caused blindness in his later years. He is survived by 7 loving children and their mother as well as 7 grandchildren.

CONNOR, Father Glenn T., 86, of Pittsburgh, PA died Aug. 25, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 94th BG. He was a POW in Luft 1. Father Glenn was a Catholic priest in the Pittsburgh Diocese for 55 years. He was the beloved brother of Mary Jane, Joseph, John and Gilbert.

CRAPTS, Joseph Francis, member of Bossier City Chapter, AXPOW, died July 15, 2005. Joe served in the Army during WWII. He was in the invasion of Algeria, captured by Germans and held POW for 3 years. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, 2 sons and 5 daughters.

DAVIS, Barbara, life member of AXPOW and the Brevard Space Coast Chapter, passed away July 29, 2005. Her husband, Ex-POW Warren, predeceased her in 1998.

DAVIS, Delphine (Dilly), widow of Roy L., passed away Sept. 14, 2005 in Eugene, OR. She was 90. Dilly is survived by 3 sons, 2 sisters, 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and lots of close friends.

DeBella, Joseph J., 84, of Meriden, CT died Aug. 12, 2005. He was a US Army veteran of WWII, and was a POW for 18 months. He was predeceased by his wife, Thelma. He is survived by 10 children and 19 grandchildren.

DIDERIKSEN, Chris, age 89, of Gravity, IA died Aug. 20, 2005. He was captured at Faid Pass while serving in the Army (Co. E., 168th Inf., 34th Div.). He was a POW for 27 months in Ger-

taps continued

many. Chris is survived by his wife, Ruth, and one brother.

EDWARDS, George Verl, 84, of Fairfield, CA passed away Aug. 13, 2005. During WWII, he was a POW in the Philippines and Manchuria, China. He was a member of AXPOW and ADBC. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Caroline, 1 son, 2 granddaughters and 2 great-grandchildren.

ESTES, Norman E. (Slim), age 83, died Sept. 6, 2005 in Leon, Virginia. He served with Co. F, 414-104th Div. He was captured at Mulnark, Germany and held in IIB until liberation. He was a life member, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Shirley, 1 son, 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

FRASER, Harry S., 81, of Killingworth, CT passed away Feb. 20, 2004. He joined the Navy in 1940 and was on Wake Island when he was captured by the Japanese in December, 1941. He leaves his wife, Helen.

GAAL, Stephen A., 85, of West Palm Beach, FL died Sept. 9, 2005. As a B-17 pilot during WWII, he was shot down over Berlin and held one year as a POW. Stephen was a member of the Suncoast Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marjorie, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 6 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-granddaughter.

GREEN/BOLT, Bette E., of Amarillo, TX died June 23, 2005 at the age of 82. She first married Ex-POW Orville Green, who died in 1987. She then married Ex-POW Charles Ruby Bolt. Mr. Bolt died in 1998. Bette was a life member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

GUERIN, Thomas J., of Berlin, New Hampshire, died Aug. 11, 2005. He was a POW of the Germans for 21 months and a member of AXPOW since 1984. He is survived by his wife, Theresa.

GUILLORY, Alvis C., age 88 and a resident of Diamondhead, MS. died September 10, 2005, in Biloxi, MS. She was a member of the Magnolia Chapter, AXPOW. She was preceded in death

by her husband of 62 years, Louis D. Guillory. Survivors include 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 brothers. She will always be remembered as a feisty, spirited woman, not always liked, but always loved and will be sadly missed.

HENDRIX, Earnest Ray, of Dayline, LA passed away Aug. 26, 2005. He was captured on Bataan during WWII and held 3 ½ years. He was an active member in the Ark-La-Tex Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Gemmale, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HICKMOTT, Edward W., of Amarillo, TX passed away Dec. 18, 2004. He was shot down near Munich and was a POW in Stalag Luft IV for 11 months. His loving wife of 61 years, Ruth, and four children survive him.

HOEGH, Robert H., of Kennewick, WA, died Sept. 23, 2005. He served with the AAF during WWII. He was shot down on his 19th mission and held POW in Stalag 17B until liberation. His loving wife, Zennia, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

HOLMES, Kirksey Kinnon, of Mt. Olive, AL died October 2, 2005. Retired from the State of Alabama as chief clerk of District Criminal Court of Jefferson County. Attended the First Baptist Church, Mt. Olive. A veteran of WWII, ETO, Co B 417 Reg 76 Div. A member of VFW and American Ex-Prisoners of War. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Hattie C. Holmes, and 1 daughter.

HOUSTON, James L., 89, of Creston, WA passed away July 5, 2005. He served with the 15th AF, 451st BG during WWII. He was shot down over Albania and held in Luft IV. Jim was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Gladys, 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandsons and 3 great-grandchildren.

JONES, Arthur W., 85, of Del City, OK passed away Sept. 13, 2005. Art served with F Co., 2nd BN, 4th USMC in the Philippines. He became one of the "Battling Bastards of Bataan". He was a member of the Central OK Chapter, AXPOW; life member of AXPOW and

ADBC. He leaves his wife, Dorothy, 3 daughters, 1 son, 1 sister, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

KASSA, Stephen L., of Milwaukee, WI died March 9, 2005. He was 81. He was shot down over Yugoslavia while serving with the 15th AF, 756th BS, 459th BG. Steve is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary, 1 daughter, 2 sons and 5 grandsons.

KLINE, Clarence A., of Myerstown, PA passed away July 16, 2005 at the age of 87. He served with the 75th Div., Co. I, 290th Inf. during WWII and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Mildred, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

KNIGHT, Russell Nelson, age 90, passed away May 29, 2005 in Claremore, OK. Russell served with Co. L, 333rd Inf., 84th Div. during WWII. He was captured by the Germans in November, 1944 and held until liberation. Russell is survived by his wife of 64 years, Loyce, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Tulsa Chapter.

LAIRD, Glenn H., age 89, of Prescott, IA died Sept. 11, 2005. He served with Co. E, 168th Inf., 34th Div. during WWII. He was captured at Faid Pass and held 27 months as a POW in Germany. His son, Wayne, and one grandchild survive him.

LEONARD, James M., age 87, died Aug. 1, 2005 in Westampton, NJ. While serving with the 15th AF out of Italy, he was shot down over Wiener-Neustadt and held 13 months in Stalag III. He was a member of the Continental and Neglected Heroes Chapters, AXPOW. His beloved wife, Marguerite, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

LOVE, Leona M., of Amherst, OH died May 19, 2005. She was 87. Both Leona and her husband, Ex-POW Kenneth, were active members of AXPOW. Kenneth was captured in Italy during WWII and held in Stalag 7A. In addition to her husband of 57 years, she

taps continued

leaves 4 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

LOUDER, Helen Ruth, 86, Stanton, TX, wife of Tull Ray Louder, 60th CAC, passed away September 28, 2005. She was a member of West Texas Chapter of AXPOW and ADBC. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2001; she is survived by 3 sons, 5 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

MITCHELL, William, 82, of Baltimore, MD died Sept. 24, 2005. He served in the Army, Co. I, 168th Inf., 34th Div. He was held prisoner in Stalag VII-A, III-B and work camps from Feb. 1943-April 1945. He was a member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Dottie, 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

MOERKE, Robert A., age 81, of Palm Bay, FL passed away Sept. 21, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 95th BG. He was a POW in Luft 1. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Patricia, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

MONAHAN, John J. (Jack), founding member of the Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter (OH), AXPOW, passed away Feb. 2, 2003. He served with the 9th AF, 394th BS, 585th BG out of England. He was shot down on his 13th mission and held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Alice, 4 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

MOSES, John G., 82, of Wheeling, WV died Aug. 25, 2005. He served with the 1060th AAF Base Unit as a radioman and gunner during WWII. He was a POW for one year in/around Germany. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sophia and nine children.

MOYER, William died Oct 9, 2005. He was a member of East Central FL Chapter. During WWII, he served in the AAC with the 483rd BG, 815th BS. He was held in Stalag Luft 3 and Luft 7A.

NEECK, Herman A. "Poosty", 82, of Park Falls, WI passed away Oct. 26, 2004. He served with the 4543rd BG in England. Herman was shot down over Belgium and held as a POW at Stalag Luft III. He was dearly loved by his wife of 55 years, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

NEWMAN, Saul, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL passed away Aug. 10, 2005. He was 85. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106th Div., 422nd Reg., Co. G. His wife, Marilyn, 1 son and 1 daughter survive him.

NICKOS, Elaine, L., 79, life member of Greater Chicago Chapter, AXPOW, died Sept. 9, 2004. Her husband, George, was with the 82nd Airborne, 325th Glider Inf. with the D-Day invasion when he was captured. He was kept in XIIA, IVB and XVIIIB. They have 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

PANAGAS, John S., 86, of North Reading, MA died Sept. 3, 2005. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held POW in Stalag VIIA, Moosburg. John was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Ethel, and two sons.

POLVADO, Robert L., of Mesquite, TX passed away July 15, 2005. He was serving in the Air Force during WWII and was shot down over Berlin. He was held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He leaves his beloved wife of 41 years, June, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 stepchildren, 3 grandchildren, 1 brother, 3 sisters and many nieces and nephews.

PRICE, Donald E., 82, of Enon, OH passed away Aug. 9, 2005. Don was shot down and held prisoner in Stalag 17B for 13 months during WWII. He was a life member of AXPOW and Chapter 10 in Springfield. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

RACSTER, Mary Jane, of Cullman, AL passed away Sept. 19, 2005. She was 79. Mary Jane was the wife of Ex-POW John (422nd Inf., Co. H, POW in Stalag IVB). Both were members of the North Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 3 sons.

RAGAZZO, Frank J., Sr. passed away March 1, 2005 at age 80. During WWII, he became separated from his unit during the Battle of the Bulge. He was captured by German soldiers and held until liberation. He leaves his wife of 56 years, Frances, 2 sons, 4 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren.

RAMIREZ, CAMILO passed away in Lakewood, WA Aug. 23, 2005. He was 87. He proudly served in the Philippine Army and the US Army Philippine Scouts. Camilo served under General MacArthur, then later escaped from a Japanese POW camp. He is survived by his loving wife Sofia, seven children and 14 grandchildren. Camilo was a life member of the AXPOW and an active, dedicated member of the Tacoma Chapter.

REMPELAKIS, Emanuel "Rumpy", of Milford, MA died Sept. 3, 2005. During WWII, he served in the AAC with the 463rd BG. He was shot down 3 times before being captured. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Mary, 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 brother and several nieces and nephews.

REPPA, Robert, 85, of Alexandria, VA died Aug. 23, 2005. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and sent to POW camps at Nuremberg and later Hammelberg. Dr. Reppa was a member of the Bill Rolan Memorial Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Jane, 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

ROGERS, Charles D., 87, of Timpson, TX died Aug. 10, 2005. He was captured in the Philippines while serving in the Army during WWII. He spent 42 months as a prisoner of the Japanese. He leaves his wife of 59 years, Mary, 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren.

RUSSELL, Roy H., member of the Idaho Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 30, 2005. Survivors include his daughter, Elizabeth Lee of Twin Falls, ID.

SCOTT, Robert Taylor, age 87, of Shady Valley, TN died June 6, 2005. He was captured on Corregidor and remained a prisoner of the Japanese for 42 months. He was a member of the East TN Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 sister, 1 brother, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

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SEIFNER, Joseph Lawrence, of Kansas City, MO passed away Aug. 27, 2005. He was 90. He was captured in Germany and held POW for 5 months. He was a member of the Heart of America Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Margaret, 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

SHOCKLEY, Kenneth W. died Oct. 14, 2005 and **SHOCKLEY, Belvia (Betty)** died Sept. 12, 2005. Betty and Ken had the same birthday. He buried Betty on their 60th anniversary; he died on his 80th birthday. Ken served with the 106th Div., 423rd Bn., Co. K. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 9B. Both were members of the Indiana Hoosier Chapter, AXPOW. They leave 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SIMPKINS, James E., 84, of Lumberton, NJ passed away Apr. 28, 2005. He served with the 94th Div., 302 Med. Det. and was a POW in Germany. James was SVC - Neglected Heroes Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 sons, 1 brother and 7 sisters.

SMITH, Edwin J. died Sept 2, 2005. He was a POW in Europe, a member of the 79th Infantry Div. He had been held in Dachau, Baden-Baden and other camps. He was a member of the East Central Florida Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

SMITHERMAN, Grover D., 89, of Randolph, AL passed away May 28, 2005. He served in Co C, 112th Reg., 28th Div. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and interred in Stalag III-A, Luckenwalde and III-B, Furstenburg. He was a former member of the Montgomery Chapter, AXPOW. He was predeceased by his wife, Gladys E.; survivors include three children.

STEPHENS, Walter, age 83, of Tuttle, OK died Aug. 13, 2005. While serving with the Army during WWII, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Oklahoma City Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Helen, preceded him in death; he is survived by 2 daughters and 1 grandson.

SUTTON, Frank T., 87, of Richmond, VA died Aug. 31, 2005. He was serving as a bomber pilot in ETO when his plane was shot down. He spent the last 14 months of WWII as a POW in Germany. He is survived by 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. His wife of 57 years, Lucy, predeceased him.

TIEFEL, Dale J., of Dubuque, IA passed away Aug. 29, 2005. Dale was a survivor of the USS Houston and was a POW of the Japanese. He is survived by his loving family.

TRAGELLIS, Gregory S., 82, of Milton, MA passed away May 1, 2005. He was a member of MA Chapter 1, AXPOW. Greg served with the 8th AF, 546th BS, 384th BG (H). He was shot down and held 18 months in Stalag 17B. Greg is survived by his wife of 54 years, Helen, 1 son, 1 daughter and 6 grandchildren.

TRASKO, Andrew M., age 84, of Norwich, CT died Sept. 8, 2005. He served as a gunner with the 162nd Inf., Co. L. He was captured as Faid Pass and held POW for 27 months at camps in Tunis, Capua, Italy, and Stalags 7A, 3B, 2B and 4D. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marcella, 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

TRENT, Kenneth Walter, of La Mesa, CA died Aug. 14, 2005. His B-17 "Little Girls" was shot down and he spent the last 16 months of the war in Stalag 17B. His wife of 62 years, Toni, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 1 brother, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

TREVINO, Domingo, 90, of Abram, TX died Aug. 17, 2005. Mr. Trevino was a veteran of WWII and a former POW. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Elena, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

TRIPPLEHORN, Jack R., of Cherokee Village, AR passed away July 19, 2005. He was 89. He was shot down while serving with the AAF during WWII out of England. He was a POW for 1½ years. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Lucille, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

VONTICH, Adam, 83, of Delmont, PA died Sept. 8, 2005. He served with the 94th Div. and was captured in the

Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by one son and one daughter.

WALKER, Sanders B. Jr., of McRae, GA died Aug. 28, 2005. He was an active member of the Middle Georgia Chapter, AXPOW. He was a POW in Germany and a survivor of the Heydekrug Death March. He leaves his wife, Irene, 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

WELLINGTON, Harry D., 86, of Spirit Lake, ID passed away July 14, 2005. He served with the 8th AF, 322nd BS, 91st BG during WWII. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was held in Stalag Lufts I & IV. Harry was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Claire, 3 sons, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

WELLS, Franklin E., 80, of Lewis, NY passed away July 27, 2005. During WWII, he served with the 81st Div (Custer's Last Stand) in Sicily. He was wounded and taken to a slave labor camp near Zittau, Germany. Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Mae, 2 daughters, 1 son, 1 brother, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WILKINSON, Donald E., 85, of Bigler, PA passed away Aug. 16, 2005. Don served with the Army Corps of Engineers in WWII. He was a POW for 27 months in Germany. He was a member of Southern Alleghenies Chapter, AXPOW, where he formerly served as Commander. Don is survived by his wife of 50 years, Irene, 1 son and 2 daughters.

WINDLAND, Raymond E., 82, of Fairfield, IL died Aug. 6, 2005. He served with the 106th Inf., 424th Reg., Co. K. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elsie, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 2 step-brothers, 1 step-sister, 3 granddaughters and 2 great-grandsons. "His greatest asset was his love."

WINTERS, Hubert, age 81, member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW, passed away recently. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo, 4 daughters and 7 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!	Luft 3, 7A Bavaria 6/26/ 44-4/29/45	New Life Members Welcome Home! *denotes new member	Joseph J. Dobies 39016 Pompano Beach, FL 15 AF 99 BG 346 BS Luft 1
John S. Jacoby Sacramento, CA 385 BG Luft 4 5/7/44-4/29/45	Robert E. Kelley Chillicothe, OH Pathfinder 507 PAR Reg 82 Div 4B	Bernard A. Fields Delma D. 742 39007 Jeffersontown, KY 17 Ord O'Donnell, Japan	Hazel Stephens 39017 North Richland Hills, TX Widow of Herman E. Stephens Luft 1
Betty M. Woodbury Denver, CO Daughter of Homer J. Martin, PAC Mother was Civilian POW	Jack W. Ries Evelyn H. Jamestown, PA CO K 168 Inf Reg 34 Div 7A, 3B, Kdos. #1-5 Arb Bns Farm 2/43-5/45	AR Preston Mary E. 3612 39008 Oklahoma City, OK 8 AF 351 BG 511 BS 4D	Joe Bob Tyler 39018 Wichita Falls, TX 106 Div 423 Reg CO M 4B, Marched
Roy E. Nelson Jane H. Westmont, IL 28 Div 110 Inf 2A Others 12/18/44-6/45	Leonard Steinberg Barbara Wynnewood, PA Army AC 305 BG Luft 4 & 6 Pomerania, Prussia 357 2/44-5/45	Robert Seitzinger Helen 7858 39009 Van Cleave, MS 301 BS Luft 3, 7A	William Gordon Cannon 39019 Jackson, CA AAC 13C, Hospital Annex 11/ 1/44-4/18/45
Joseph A. Wargo Strator, IL 95 Div Limburg Romisch Lippa Sudatenland 4B	Clark Olin Riddle Greenville, SC HQ CO 1 Bn 393 Inf 99 Div Nurnburg 13D Hammelburg 12/18/44-4/ 29/45	Martin R. Baumann 39010 Mansfield, TX Army 4A 12/21/44-5/4/45	Robert EL Probasco 39020 Daytona Beach, FL 8 AF 351 BG 511 BS Luft 3, 13D, 7A 5/28/44- 4/29/45
Harry G. Malin Havre de Grace, MD 2 Air Div 790 BS 467 BG Geneva Bern Adelboden Wengen 5/11/44-2/10/45	Pervis J. Bertolio Rebecca Port Neches, TX USAAF Luft 1	Nick Chintis 39011 Silver City, NM Btry G 200 CA (AA) O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Yokohama 4/42-8/45	Margie C. Cloaninger 39021 Williamsburg, VA Widow of Francis Cloaninger Luft 3, 7A 8/22/44-4/29/ 45
William C. Canup Adele Santa Fe, NM 449 BS H Luft 9, 12 8/24/44-4/8/ 45	Jack C. "Chris" Blair Willow Park, TX Great(5) Grandson of William Blair Revolutionary War, captured by British troops	Mary E. Peterson 39012 Winter Park, FL Widow of Clifford L. Peterson	Florene Shertzer 39022 Moore, SC Widow of Sidney Shertzer Freising, Lazerette, 7A
Pasquale J. Libretti Staten Island, NY 15 AF 824 BG 7A 2/21/45-4/30/45	Carl B. Coleman Henrietta, TX Army 7A 8/28/44-5/3/45	Anthony Trunzo 39013 McMurray, PA 34 Div 2B	Catherine D. Bishop 39023 Findlay, OH Daughter of Francis O'Connell, ETO
John D. O'Brien Eileen E. Yonkers, NY 15 AF 97 BG 414 BS Italy	Yolanda A. Reyes Fort Worth, TX Daughter of Vincent Aguilera, KOREA	Ethel Caravolas 39014 Peabody, MA Widow of James Caravolas Luft 3	Stephen Carfora 39024 Arlington, VA Son of Joseph Carfora, ETO
Ex-POW Bulletin Nov/Dec 2005 30		Mary Diaduk 39015 Springfield, MA Widow of Walter Diaduk 2B, 2A	

POW #3959: Memoir of a World War II Airman Shot Down Over Germany

In January 1943, not long after his nineteenth birthday, Ralph Sirianni was drafted for active duty by the U.S. Army. Ordered to the European Theatre of Operations in February 1944, Sgt. Sirianni served as the right waist gunner on a B-17. On his seventh mission over Germany, the plane—severely damaged by German fighters—crashed near Wildeshausen. With shrapnel in his legs and shoulder, Sirianni bailed out, and he spent the following 15 months in the infamous Stalag Luft I prisoner of war camp.

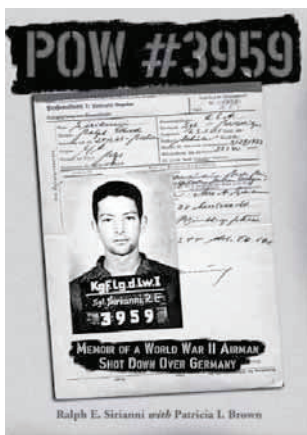
This memoir offers harrowing stories of combat, including detailed descriptions of each of Sirianni's combat missions; reveals the horrors of confinement and the despair of skin-of-the-teeth survival; and remembers camaraderie in the face of German abuse. Appendices offer excerpts from Sirianni's POW log book and pilot George McFall's firsthand account of the ill-fated final mission.

\$29.95

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October, 2005

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2005

31



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