

EX-POW BULLETIN

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American Ex-Prisoners of War

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January/February 2010



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Quincy, Massachusetts Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2009



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January/February 2010

Is Quincy, Massachusetts "Veterans City USA"?

It seemed like it on Halloween weekend when more than 400 residents attended the monument dedication in McIntyre Mall (across the street from the resting place of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams).

Larry Norton and Ed Murphy, former (if there is such a thing) Marines, had put together a weekend to remember in honor of Ex-POWs CAPT Richard Stratton and in memory of AF CAPT E Alan Brudno, two of Quincy's own. It started with a trolley-bus trip with Quincy police escort to the homestead of President John Adams. It included visits to the Church of the Presidents where wreaths were placed on the crypts of John & John Quincy Adams, the Memorial Clock Tower honoring Quincy residents who died in Vietnam, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. This was followed up by a terrific seafood dinner most enjoyed by the "Inlanders" who sadly don't have the opportunity for New England seafood. On Saturday, the monument was dedicated, with much fanfare. And finally, we all were trolled to lunch. You can read Paul Galanti's take on the weekend on page 16.

Thank you to the Vietnam Combat Veterans Combined Armed Forces (Quincy Chapter), Larry & Ed, former Quincy police Lt. Tom Bolinder and the Quincy police who were our escorts for the weekend. You guys sure know how to put on a show.

Now let's see what the other states can do! :—)

Cover: Standing, L/R: Robert Noble, WWII POW; Vietnam POWs Mo Baker, Gary Thornton, Dick Stratton, Jim Warner and Paul Galanti. In Uniform: Quincy's Finest.

NOTICE ABOUT AXPOW's CREDIT CARD: Our AXPOW Credit Card through Bank of America is getting a new profile. We'll be receiving new ads which have a different phone number and a different priority code, but won't have them until February. The new information will be published as soon as we get it, so be patient. We appreciate your using the AXPOW card; we make money every time you make a purchase!

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Deadline for the March/April 2010 issue is February 1, 2010.

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

Bring your grandkids!

National Convention
September 21-26, 2010
Albany, Georgia

Opening Ceremonies will be held at
Andersonville National Historic Site

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**National Commander
Kenny H Hanson**

Well, in my first few months as your National Commander, I have certainly found out that “the thoughtless are rarely wordless”.

It seems there is a segment of our organization that is bent on destroying it. My question is “Why?” The continuing threat of lawsuits really boggles my mind.

I am very hopeful that we can have our 501(c) 3 classification by the end of 2009. With that classification, we can put other fundraising programs into effect. In the meantime, we need to depend on the generosity of our wonderful membership. Those members who keep the organization going with their much-needed and generous donations are the real heroes of AXPOW. Always remember our programs such as direct mail, voluntary funding, 50/50 and credit card (where we get a percentage of every purchase) are how we keep solvent. You may always make a memorial or honorarium to these programs.

I really enjoy receiving the newsletters from our Chapters and Departments. They give me a feel for the activities and programs that are ongoing on local and regional levels. I also enjoyed receiving Christmas cards from many of you.

This year, I was part of a Veterans Day that I will remember the rest

of my life. Just to meet and shake hands with the President and Vice President was a thrill of a lifetime. The ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery were equally impressive. Then, the reception at the Mayflower Hotel, hosted by the Paralyzed Veterans of America was out of this world. You remember, AXPOW hosted this program in 1997.

Remember to make plans for the very special National Convention we have planned for 2010 in Albany, GA and Andersonville. If you have been to Andersonville before, you know what an exciting experience it is. Those who have never been there will be in for a moving and uplifting treat when they come this year.

Speaking of Andersonville, I would use you to support the Andersonville Traveling Exhibit. The hat was passed at our convention in Boise for this project and more than \$3,000 was raised. WOW! Past Director Ed DeMent is heading up this project for AXPOW in cooperation with The Friends of Andersonville.

Happy New Year!

Kenny

**From the
ByLaws Committee:**

All requested changes to the National Bylaws are to be submitted as follows:

Resolutions have two major parts: a preamble and a resolution. The preamble gives the reason for the resolution. The resolution gives the intent. Each can contain one or more paragraphs and the whole is read in its entirety, beginning with the preamble. Each preamble paragraph begins with “Whereas” and ends with “and” to connect it to the next paragraph. The final paragraph is joined to the resolution with a semicolon and followed by the phrase “Therefore, be it”

news from hq



The National Midyear Board meeting will be in Arlington, Texas on March 20, 2010. It will be held at the Hilton on 2401 Lamar Boulevard. If you wish to attend, you can make reservations directly with the hotel by calling 817-640-3322. Tell them you are attending the AXPOW meeting. The rates are \$99 per night and includes breakfast. We are having a dinner on Saturday night at the hotel. The cost for that is \$25 per person. Please contact National Headquarters for more information.

Attention Annual Members, this will be the last issue you receive if you have not sent in your dues. Please do that now.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Clydie, Marsha, Sally & Donna
Your National Headquarters

Whereas, (ETC); and
Whereas (ETC); therefore, be it
Resolved, that _____

One signature is required on resolutions and amendments. Members are reminded that resolutions must be submitted to the committee before Feb. 1, 2009. Those requesting changes should include a telephone number where they can be reached if more information is needed. Send requested changes to: Clydie Morgan, Chairman, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010.

VA Outreach S*O*O*N Before it's too late



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VA Outreach Soon! Before it's too late!

First the Good News! "Think Positive"

The good news is...there may be a possibility for a VA benefit. Carl called from Chicago. "I'm calling to see if my mother might be eligible for a VA widow's benefit." When did your father die? "He died Aug. 29, 2009." What did he die of? "The ER doctor said he had congestive heart failure." Is that what they put on the death certificate? "No, they put colon cancer as the cause of death." That won't do. If you can get the doctor to write a statement that congestive heart failure contributed to your father's death, you may have a possibility to validate your mother's claim.

The sad thing is that Carl's father had been a Japanese POW for 42 months in WWII, in the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan. His father did not have 100% disability rating, only 30%. About 25 years ago, he was so frustrated by the VA treatment, that he quit trying. Now it's a different story with our treatment by the VA. But there still may be some good news

for Carl's mother...congestive heart disease...if they can find that doctor. We shall see.

More Dear Abby: "Dear Mr. Campbell. My mother wants to thank you and Dear Abby for getting the word out about ALS pension (compensation). Her claim was approved and she is now able to quit work (at the age of 80), and enjoy life at a more relaxed pace. Truly, this is a life-changing event for her, and she as well as the whole family are so grateful for the work you do! Most sincerely, Keith G".

From Macon, GA, Flo writes: "Dear Rev. C: There are literally no words that sum up your thoughtfulness for notifying widows of ALS victims of the VA benefits. How would we ever have known? I was your 6th caller the day Dear Abby ran your article in her column. I called you that Saturday morning and you told me what to do. On Wednesday, I went to our local VA and by noon all papers were filed. My husband's diagnosis was on his death certificate. My retroactive benefits were deposited 8 weeks later. What a wonderful service you performed. Please accept my heartfelt thanks. Flo".

And from Sarah Jane: "Thank you so much for the information. I acted on it immediately with the help of the VA office in Galveston and began receiving payments this month. I am sharing my benefits with my children and grandchildren". Great, as whole families benefit!

Here's a fine accolade to the VA: "Hi Mr. C. I want to thank you so much for informing the public about the veterans benefits for spouses who have lost a spouse to ALS. I just received my first check and was absolutely amazed at the efficiency of the VA. They were wonderful to deal with. They kept me informed of the status of my claim and any phone conversations were handled with immediate answers. I appreciate your efforts and help. Sincerely, Bernice (Ewing Township, NJ). I also let Dear Abby know my positive attitude toward the VA".

NSO Betty Harlan reports from Sudan, TX: "Just got notice a Lubbock widow got her DIC because her husband died from ALS in 1981. She had remarried, but her second husband died and she filed on her first husband's ALS death record, and it was approved very quickly. It was filed in late August, so action came quickly on this one. Betty".

And a great letter from Phyllis in Delaware: "Dear Mr. C. I want to personally commend Charles Susino from Metuchen, New Jersey. He has been instrumental in working on my husband's file for me to receive my DIC. He has uncovered many factors in my husband's case that were medically incorrect. He was able to sort out what was not right. I have been seeking my DIC since my husband's death in 1995. I tried through the VA, DAV and VFW. Mr. Koehler recommended Mr. Susino to look into my husband's file I have just received my first check for the DIC. IT'S A SHOCK! I can't believe someone is really listening to my pleas. Thanks again to Mr. Susino for uncovering what I knew to be true. And thanks to our magazine with all the updated information. Very truly yours, Phyllis". (Thanks to persistent AXPOW JVC/NSO Charlie Susino who won't quit till it's right.)

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs has been criticized greatly in past years. Now, with the pressure of claims mounting in unbelievable numbers, the VA is making every effort to meet the challenge of veterans and their families. They have hired much needed additional personnel to handle the influx of claims. Still, long waits for claim results happens. And newly trained personnel are helping, but also human error can be a factor. Here are examples of issues misinterpreted that I know of:

Issue REMARRIAGE. Ms. Doe in Florida is denied her DIC, as VA rating specialist tells her since her husband died of ALS, and she remarried at age 61, she was not eligible. NSO Doris Jenks questions it, and calls Philadelphia VA (where all Atlantic coast death claims now go for processing) and talks with the rater, ask-

outreach cont'd...

ing her to review the decision in her case. The sticky problem is that if a widow receives her DIC on the death of her first husband and she remarries, she loses her widow's DIC benefit. However, in 2003, the VA provided a 12/16/2003-2004 one year "window" to get her DIC back if she remarried at age 57 or later. With her present husband still living, the only time she could reclaim her previous DIC was during that year "window". The VA rated evidently based Ms. Doe's original denial on this ruling. This calls for review and correction because Ms. Doe had remarried at age 61, and had never had the widow's DIC benefit before. The VA Travel Board from Washington DC was in Waco TX VARO recently and reviewed a similar case, and determined after consulting the judge, that this Reinstatement of Benefits section 38CFR 3.55 does not apply to those who have never had DIC before, and if they marry at age 57 or later they are eligible for the DIC. Now this Florida lady should qualify, thanks to AXPOW NSO Doris Jenks.

Issue MEDICAL EVIDENCE DURING MILITARY SERVICE. Ms. Doe 2 calls from suburb of Rochester, NY. Husband died of ALS, but she has been denied her widow's VA benefit because the VA rater says there is no medical record of husband's having ALS during his time of military service. A misinterpretation of rule! The medical evidence is validated if ALS is noted as cause of death on death certificate.

Issue TOO MUCH INCOME. Ms. Doe 2 again. The VA rater also denied her because she had too much income. Wrong again! There is no means test for DIC! It does not matter what your financial resources are for COMPENSATION. It does for Pension. I call Brian, Rating Supervisor in Philadelphia VA who pulls file for review, calls me back to say, "We rated the claim incorrectly." I said, Brian, this lady is really upset, would you call her? "Sure, I'll be glad to." I give him her phone number and he calls with the good news.

Issue NO RETROACTIVE COMPENSATION. Ms. Doe 3 calls from Rochester, NY (friend of Ms. Doe 2) to say shee has gotten her DIC effective Sept. 1, 2009. I told her it should have been effective Oct. 1, 2008 since her claim had gone to the VA in July. I call Brian in Philadelphia again and told him the claim problem. He reviews the file and apologizes, another wrong denial. He says, "Give me this lady's phone number." He calls Ms. Doe 3 and now shee will get her DIC effective Oct. 1, 2008, which means her first check will be about \$13,000. And Brian has also corrected a similar one for widow Barbara in Florida, and another lady in New York, calling both of them.

Issue VETERAN HAD 100% RATING EIGHT YEARS+. Sometimes a VA rater will not note that a veteran has had the 100% disability rating for at least eight year, and gives the widow only the standard widow's benefit, now \$1,154, when it should be enhanced to about \$1,400 a month. Once again, Brian in Philadelphia to the rescue, to correct such a recent ruling.

Brian in the Philadelphia VA office is a gem, caring to get things right.

Issue COMBAT. Some widows have been told they were not eligible for the VA widow's benefit because their husband was not in combat. Wrong. If the veteran served at least 90 consecutive days on active military duty and dies of ALS, the widow should qualify for the VA benefit.

Please note: It is my experience in our VA Outreach effort that VA personnel are generally doing their best to get our veterans' widows their correct VA benefits. Yes, there are errors, but not everyone is perfect...like you and I are. J

More gratitude: Nov. 1, 2009, from Lois L in Birmingham, AL. "Dear Mr. C, Thank you from my heart. My husband and I never needed help in our 40 years of marriage. ALS changed that. I had nowhere to turn, no one to understand. Then Linda Hodges (a member of Concho Valley AXPOW who called many who responded to

Dear Abby letter) came into my life. Please know what a blessing the two of you are. The VA started benefits within six weeks. I was not covered in paperwork, but was sent a kind and respectful letter when notified that benefits would start. It helped. My thanks come with love and gratitude for the difference you have made in my life. You & Linda have set an example for me to follow. Y'all are special, Lois L".

Nov. 10, 2009 from Phyllis in Michigan: "Dear Fred, I read the Dear Abby column on July 18, 2009 and I am so happy and grateful for the information; shortly after I went to the VA office here, armed with my late husband's DD214, our marriage license and his death certificate. A young lady helped me fill out the paperwork and I was done! Early Oct. I received a large envelope from the VA, and in the rest of the mail was a check. My daughter asked if I was expecting an extra check and I said no. I opened it and there was a check for me paying me back to Sept. 2008! We cried because my girls were 16 and 14 when we lost their father to ALS in 1987. I work for my Ottawa/Chippewa Indian Tribe and asked the editor of our monthly newsletter to print your letter to Abby". More gratitude, and more Outreach!

Nov/Dec EX-POW Bulletin TAPS contacts by: AL, Fred Liddell; OH, Doc Unger; MI, Robert Fletcher; WA, Maurice Sharp; MS Nancy Mullins; IL, Bill Smith; NY, Melanie Bussel; IA, Betty Grinstead; MO, Marion Rippee; SC, Lawrence King; CA/CO/TX/GA/LA/OK, Fred Campbell.

Make a
Contribution to your
Grandkids' Education!

Bring them to
Andersonville
September 21-26, 2010!

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pow medsearch

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American POWs in Korea

by John N. Powers

Part II

Camp 2

Location

Camp 2 is described in various debriefs as south, east, and north of Camp 5. The actual location of the main camp is only a few miles east of Camp 5 as the crow flies. Some POWs apparently marched directly over the mountains from Camp 5 on foot trails while others went by truck. The village names of Po-chang-ni, Chang-ni, Pi-chong-ni, and Obul are commonly found in debriefs.

The initial camp, formed in October 1951, held about 325 officers and 25 enlisted. The numbers included 150 US Army, 100 US Air Force, 22 US Marine Corps, 10 US Navy, 35 British, 20 Turk, 5 South African, 5 Australian, and 3 Filipino. These figures include only those POWs held at Camps 2-1 and 2-2. In December 1951 officers who had been on the Tiger Death March and then held at the Apex camps arrived at 2-1.

Camp 2 actually consisted of four separate villages in which

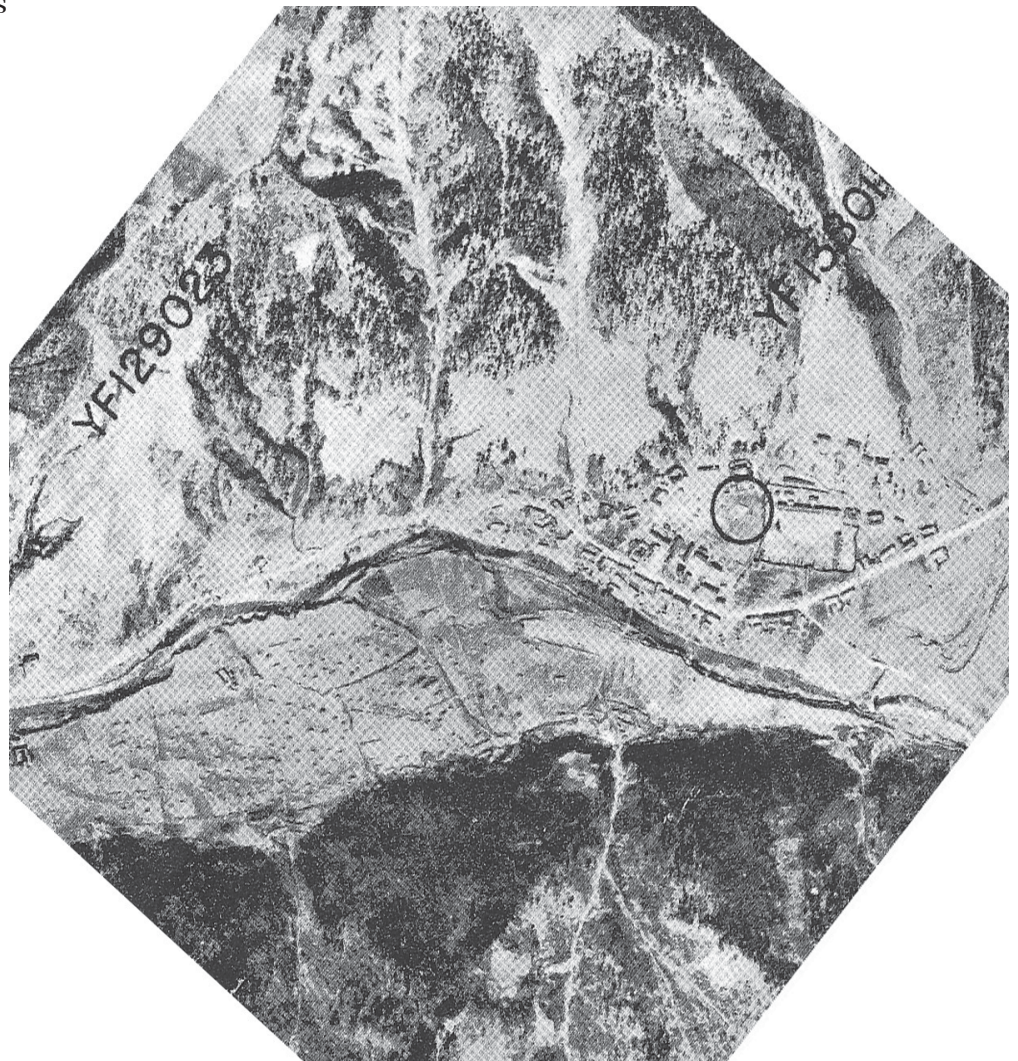
varying amounts of POWs were held. The majority were held at the locations labeled as 2-1 and 2-2 on the maps. Camp 2-1 was the primary camp and the interrogation center for the other three.

In October 1952 2-1 was split and 2-2 formed in a village less than a mile away. Camps 2-3 and 2-4 were held in smaller, more remote villages, farther east. Camp 2-3 was where the hard core reactionary enlisted men were sent. Camp 2-4

held many POWs captured in 1952 and '53, especially aircrew.

The US Air Force photo on this page shows Camp 2 Company 1. The long school building/barracks, the exercise yard, and the fence surrounding them can be seen next to the circle marking Camp 2.

The 2009 Google Earth picture on page 11 clearly shows the same building and exercise yard more than fifty years later.



medsearch continued...

Description

On arrival in October 1951 the POWs were held in one large school building and a few small huts. On the accompanying maps this is labeled Camp 2-1. The large building was a former schoolhouse of wood and mud construction divided into ten rooms which held 24-30 men per room. The village outside the camp area was called Pichong-ni. In October 1952 about half the group was moved to two newly constructed mud barracks in a village one half mile west. This was Camp 2-2. Company 1 remained at the original location and Company 2 went to the village down the road. POWs were constantly separated from the main area at Camp 2 and its sub-camps and held in solitary confinement or small groups. This led to areas that were sometimes referred to as Camp 2 ½, Camp 2 ¼, the Annex, and No Name Valley. There were at least four areas within a seven to fifteen miles of each other that were used to house the prisoners. The villages of Parun-dong and Chang-ni to the east were part of this system. Company 1 and Company 2 were at the two main locations, with Company 3 at Parun-dong, and Company 4 at Chang-ni. Annex, No Name Valley, and Camp 2 ½ apparently referred to 2-4. Camp 2 ¼ seems to have been a reference to Camp 2-3.

The first village at Camp 2, Pichong-ni or P'yongjang-ni, consisted of 40-50 Korean homes. A small stream ran through the village. Until March or April of 1953 the prisoners slept on rice straw mats, twelve men on each side of the room. At that time double deck wooden bunks were built but they still had no mattresses. On their arrival at Camp 2 each individual was issued a light padded comforter, a blanket, and an overcoat. They slept shoulder to shoulder

both for warmth and because of lack of space. Each squad had a bucket for water and a wash basin.

The 2-1 compound was in the eastern section of the village. It was about 110 by 80 yards, surrounded at first by one barbed wire fence and about mid 1952 by a twelve foot high double fence of barbed wire and saplings. These fences were separated by a three foot space. Some sources say this double fence was not erected until the spring of 1953.

The schoolhouse building had a series of classrooms in which the POWs lived. One classroom was used as a library and stocked with numerous communist oriented newspapers and books. The doors leading out of the building had been removed. In the hallway outside each room was a small stove used to heat water. During the last winter these stoves were moved into the rooms. The building was set on raised ground above what had been the playground and was now the assembly area and exercise yard. Behind the school and raised even further were the huts that had been housing for the school staff. POWs housed in these huts referred to the area as Snob Hill as it was above all the other camp buildings. On the east end of the school and down a few steps was the kitchen. On the other end of the barracks was a lean-to latrine. In the village itself was a jail with barred cells used to hold POWs who had been sentenced for various "crimes."

In October of 1952 Camp 2-2 was formed just to the west of the original camp. It was in a village in a small valley just a half mile west of the main camp. The building formed a U shape. One arm was prisoner housing, the middle was the kitchen, and the other arm was a library. The prisoners slept on raised platforms in heated rooms. In the middle of the U was their assembly area. Camp 2-2 had a

wooden fence around the compound.

Camp 2-3 at Parun-dong, eight miles due west of 2-1, was established in August 1952. It held 130 to 140 enlisted ranks from other camps that the Chinese considered extremely "reactionary". They were held in about four different groups of varying sizes in and around a small village. Individual prisoners would often be forced to stand at attention, sometimes for 24 hours or longer, and were beaten when they would relax. Many were forced to perform hard labor. At times doors would be removed from huts and no fires allowed. It wasn't until the spring of 1953 that this kind of treatment eased up. (The British referred to camp 2-3 as Son-Yi.)

Camp 2-4 at Chang-ni (or Osang-dong or Obul), was five and a half miles northwest of 2-1. It held mostly US Air Force officers, apparently captured later in the war. Many debriefs say it was at a village of about two hundred people called Obul. What may have been the first POWs at Camp 2-4 arrived in July or August 1952 and numbered about seventeen aircrew. They were held in the standard hut with mud floors covered with old straw mats. The room was small. Each POW had a small blanket which they stitched together with other POWs to form a bag to sleep in. The room was hot during the day and chilly at night. Some were in leg irons and handcuffs. By November 1952 their numbers had risen to thirty-four and they were held in an old school building. The room was 30' by 20' and they slept on bamboo mats. By December thirty more prisoners had joined the group and they had the use of a second room which they called the rec room/kitchen. Their compound was fenced. By June 1953 the prisoners at 2-4 were divided into one group of 55 to 70, one

medsearch continued...

group of 30, one group of 14, another of 11, and the rest in smaller groups or solitary confinement. Other sources say the number was closer to 200, about 40 of them enlisted men. A few POWs who arrived there in late January 1953 were held in a hut outside the compound until just prior to the release in August. It was only then they were allowed to mix with their fellow POWs.

In August 1953 about 130 POWs were held together in an old storage building. This was probably the bulk of POWs at Camp 2-4. The prisoners here were mostly US but included some South African, British, and Canadian. The camp was a seven mile hike from Camp 2 main. Individuals were frequently taken from Camp 2-4 back to Camp 2-1 or Pyoktong for questioning. At least one POW may have been shot and killed during an escape attempt in July 1953 at Camp 2-4. (*documents G*)

In all four of these camp areas were huts used to isolate those POWs, usually senior officers, who failed to demonstrate the correct attitude. Some of these huts were more like cages. POWs were kept in cells in the village jail, in woodsheds, store-rooms - any isolated spot that could be found in the villages or the area around them. The senior POW was held for a year and a half in an isolated Korean house just east of Camp 2-1.

The guard population was such that there was one guard for every two POWs.

Food

At the main camp water for cooking and washing was carried by the prisoners from a stream a short distance away. Food was cooked

by the POWs in the small kitchen that held nine large pots and standard Korean ovens. At meal time each squad sent men to the kitchen to carry food back to the squad room in wooden boxes to be doled out in set amounts into the squad members rice bowl and cup. POWs were the cooks at Camp 2-1, 2-3, and 2-4, it can be assumed that was the same for Camp 2-2. Initially they were fed two meals a day, mostly rice and soya beans. Once a week a small pig was butchered for the entire group of 370 POWs at Camp 2-1.

By the summer of 1953 the food ration differed by day of the week at Camps 2-1 and 2-2. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday they got two meals a day of rice and daikon soup (daikon is a large white radish). On Tuesday it was rice and daikon soup in the morning and rice and soya-beans in the afternoon with two small buns of bread. On Saturday rice and soya-beans again in the afternoon but no bread. On Thursday and Sunday the meal was rice and pork soup in the morning and pork stew and bread in the afternoon.

Meals were at eight-thirty in the morning and half past four in the afternoon. What they ate depended on the season, the mood of the guards, and how well peace talks were going at Panmunjom. The closer to the end the better they were fed. The POWs agreed the food was better than at Camp 5, but the staple was still rice and soya-beans.

Every ten days the prisoners got a sugar and tobacco ration. Also issued at this time was the equivalent of about ten regular sheets of paper. Half was for rolling cigarettes and half was for toilet paper.

POWs held in solitary were fed one, two, or maybe no meals a day. That meal was commonly a watery soup of kaoling (sorghum) and a bowl of eggplant.

In December of 1952 at Camp 2-3 the food was of lesser quality than that at other camps and varied within the camp from group to group. Some were fed boiled sorghum which was frequently only half cooked and usually included lots of stones and dirt. Another source says they received one bowl of rice twice a day. That same source stated those in solitary were fed only barley, not rice. By the summer of 1953 the diet was much better, consisting of steamed rice, bread, vegetables, and sometimes meat and eggs. Sugar was also part of their ration.

At one point meals at Camp 2-4 consisted of string bean soup and rice in the morning and potatoes and rice in the evening. Every third day they got some steamed bread. One POW recorded a diet of rice, potatoes, and cabbage. Soya beans were added and in March of 1953 they were given tomato seeds to plant. A POW arriving there in May 1953 was fed twice a day on rice, corn, and beans. In August of 1953 the food improved and the meals even included hot tea. Prior to this time they usually had enough rice but it was often cold.

Medical

At 2-1 and probably 2-2 sick call was held every two days. In most cases medical care was an improvement over that provided at Camp 5 but still at minimal levels. There was a "little makeshift camp hospital" in the village about fifty yards outside the compound at 2-1. Those who caused problems for the Chinese in any of the Camp 2 compounds had medical care withheld.

At 2-1 and 2-2 the camp doctor was called "Dirty Doctor" due to his dirty hands and constant spitting on the floor. He either had little or no medical knowledge or did not want to help sick POWs. Once a POW was used in a photo op with clean gowns, rubber gloves, and medical instruments. After the photo was taken of his supposed

medsearch continued...

treatment the gowns and equipment disappeared, never to be seen again. Eventually another doctor was assigned along with some nurses. The worst health problem was pneumonia and drugs were available for treatment.

There was a dispensary at 2-3 at which a POW medic was allowed to help.

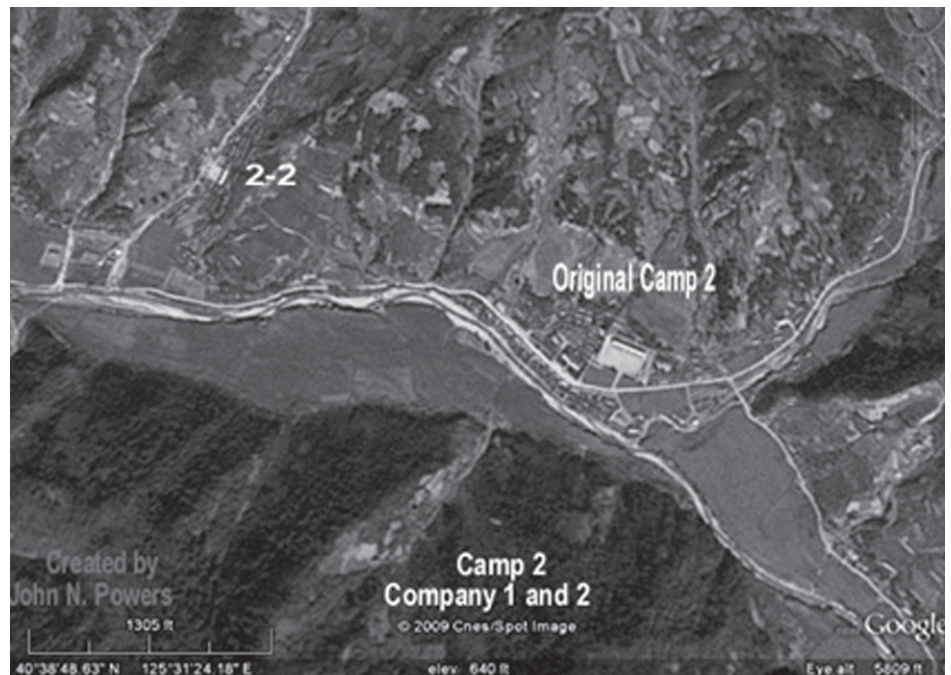
Some POWs at Camp 2-4 rated the medical treatment as good but said medical supplies were inadequate. Others said there were no medical facilities except for a "quack" who gave out pills for every medical problem. Since individuals or small groups were often held apart from other POWs and placed in categories according to their "behavior", both statements are probably accurate. There were only two deaths at the Camp 2 compounds and they were accidental. It is unclear whether a POW was killed during an escape attempt at 2-4.

Daily Activities

Initially the prisoners at Camp 2-1 dug latrines and food pits and carried rocks to build areas in the camp. They hauled wood and water as in other camps. In the summer of 1952 they helped build Camp 2-2. It was common for a group to be marched to the Yalu to unload barges. Some times they were allowed to swim.

In the first months at Camp 2-1 each day the POWs would be roused at dawn for roll-call and some type of exercise on the assembly area. They would return to their quarters where the squad leaders had to read out loud for an hour from Communist material. Breakfast was at eight-thirty followed by two hours of lecture with guards in the room. After a break they would have more political study from two until four. At four thirty they received their evening meal followed by more political study in small

groups. Every evening the entire camp was assembled to hear a speech by the camp commander. Even in the winter this all took place in unheated rooms or in the outdoor assembly area. Guards were present and the prisoners were made to sit still and "not make the jokes or rude noises." In the fall of 1951 there were nine and a half hours of lectures and study each day. By April of 1952 this had been cut down to about four hours a day. After April 1952 the lecture/study program ceased.



After the group lectures were ended the prisoners were allowed to play baseball, volleyball, and soccer. Camp 2-4 was supplied with reading material, which was generally communist books and newspapers. They were also issued playing cards. Some played chess with home-made pieces. In the late fall of 1952 Camp 2-3 was allowed to construct a small bathhouse for their own use. Basketball and volleyball equipment was provided for their use.

Around Easter of 1953 some POWs from Camp 2-3 were allowed to visit 2-1 and 2-2 for a short time of sports contests in softball, basket-

ball, volleyball, and soccer. By the time of the first prisoner exchange in 1953 prisoners at Camp 2-1 were allowed to listen to English news broadcasts from Peking. Just before the final release they were given Red Cross supplies.

Treatment

Use of "the hole" and extended periods of solitary confinement were common in all the Camp 2 villages. Senior officers were punished for trying to maintain military order. The three harshest sentences to solitary confinement stretched for four months, one year, and eighteen

months. These sentences were for the three senior officers in the camp. One of the charges against them was their failure to send Christmas greetings to the camp commander, Ding, and the general leading Chinese forces in Korea. The hole varied from a single hut, a jail cell in a local police station, storage sheds, an outhouse, or an actual hole in the ground covered with a door.

At Camp 2-1 one of the "holes" used was a rat-infested latrine in the village, still used by the villagers. In

medsearch continued...

dividuals were kept under the latrine for as many as two weeks at a time, even in the winter. There were POWs held in these various locations who were never allowed contact with other prisoners. In August and September of 1952 prisoners from 2-1 held in actual cells in the village jail noticed POWs they did not recognize being held in a hole covered with logs. The men were kept in this hole one at a time and then disappeared. A few weeks later the hole was filled in and the mystery POWs never seen again.

Debriefs of POWs held at Camp 2-4 tell of being sent to main Camp 2-1 in September 1952 for interrogation. They were held in bomb shelters dug in the ground in the village near the POW compound. The holes were about five feet wide and six feet high. There was a wooden door which had logs piled over it. Food was simply passed to them through the door. Once the interrogations were finished they were sent back to 2-4.

Treatment at the four camps varied depending on the alleged offense. When held in the jail cells in the town a prisoner was to sit on the ground in the middle of the cell all day. Depending on the guard, this rule was enforced with beatings.

One prisoner was stripped naked and forced to stand at attention for twenty four hours. His legs were beat with an ax handle when he wavered. Others had food and water withheld for five or six days. Some were strung up by their hands or feet. Some were placed before firing squads. Another was tied to a telephone pole during a February night wearing only a cotton shirt and pants. Soon after this he signed a confession. Another POW

was tied to an overhead beam from his wrists which were tied behind his back. The rope was then pulled tight so he had to stand on his tiptoes. He was kept in this position all night. The next day he was stripped to his waist and made to stand outside for the entire December day. That night he was tied to the beam again. Two POWs were confined to a small stone hut at one of the camps for one month. The floor had been flooded and was solid ice.

In February 1953 a POW was sentenced to 77 days solitary confinement for not cooperating properly. He was placed in a store room in a Korean hut with two blankets. The temperature would drop as low as 30 below zero during which time he slept on the dirt floor.

Another prisoner was placed in the hole from Easter 53 to July 53. During that time he was deprived of bathing, exercise, medical care, and light. He was constantly threatened by guards pointing their weapons at him and pulling the trigger.

In September of 1952 a POW at was placed in a hole of five square feet for six days. Once a day a bowl of rice and maybe some bread was passed through the door. He was then taken out for questioning. He gave no answers and was placed back in the hole for two more days. These were not the only POWs subjected to this treatment but examples of treatment frequently endured.

Prisoners would be sentenced to the hole for talking back to guards or even for singing. One was charged with attempting to convince a fellow POW to sleep past morning wake-up. Any show of leadership would get a POW "arrested", "tried", and "sentenced" to a period of time in isolation. At one "trial" after the charges were read the "court" adjourned for approximately three minutes. On returning to the room the sentences were

read - from a typed sheet which had been on the table all the while the "court" had been in adjournment to determine those sentences. The more serious offenses meant being confined in very small spaces.

Prisoners being punished for various offenses were grouped in five classes. First class meant time in jail in groups of no more than 30 with no contact allowed with POWs outside the group you were housed with. Sugar, tobacco, and soup were given. Second class meant you were held in groups of 4 or less and you received occasional sugar and tobacco. Third class were given no sugar, tobacco, or soup and only allowed to bathe occasionally. Fourth class were held in solitary in a house or shed. There was no sugar, tobacco, soup, or washing. Fifth class were held in solitary in a place that was both physically and mentally uncomfortable. The POW was cold, cramped, and received no food.

At times confinement to the hole meant using your cell as your latrine. Many of the prisoners who were put in these classifications were pilots who would not admit to germ warfare. Those who attempted escapes were usually punished by solitary confinement. A version of this method of assigning offenses by class seemed to exist at some level in some of the other camps along the Yalu, maybe all of them.

Prisoners were constantly pulled from the group, frequently at night, for extensive questioning about alleged offenses. Written confessions were demanded and often dictated. POWs had to guess how long they could refuse to sign these statements before they were thrown into solitary confinement. Crossing a very fine line led to harsh treatment.

In 1952 there were forty-one escapes from Camp 2-1 (Camp 2-2 is probably included in this figure).

medsearch continued...

Some of the escapees managed to stay free for a few days, others were caught in the act. When drying cabbage leaves on the roof of the schoolhouse the prisoners would spell out P O W in attempt to signal friendly aircraft. They stamped out P O W in the snow. Just as in the escapes, they were always caught and someone spent time in solitary for their efforts. Around Easter of 1953 at least three POWs escaped from Camp 2-4 and were caught that same day. Various debriefs say a POW was killed during this attempt. Some day he was an American and others say he was British but that name appears on listings of British survivors. It may well be there was no death. One prisoner was wounded in an escape attempt from Camp 2-3.

At Camp 2-3 the prisoners received Chinese uniforms including the standard rubber/canvas tennis shoe which was not adequate protection for the winter temperatures. They were fed one bowl of rice twice a day and went each day into the woods to gather firewood. The larger number of POWs here tended to be mostly left alone by the Chinese. An American was put in charge of cooking. A small bathhouse was built using a fifty-five gallon drum to heat water for bathing Japanese style. By spring of 1953 the food for most of the prisoners was greatly improved, as it was at most camps.

A small group of about fifteen hard-core reactionaries was first held in

a separate building about one hundred yards from the bulk of the men at Camp 2-3. The only door was kept locked at all times by the guards. Permission had to be granted even to use the latrine. In April of 1953 this group was moved to another building which was surrounded by a ten foot high brush fence. They were allowed to move in and out of this house at will, but had to remain inside the fence. A sentry box, manned twenty four hours a day, stood at the only opening in the fence. After the move to this location they received a tobacco ration and were given books to read. In general this group was treated much more harshly than others in the camp. In February they spent two weeks with their firewood supply cut off.

This was a throwback to the treatment during the first winter of 1950-51 when most of the POW deaths occurred. Any perceived misbehavior led to a beating or solitary confinement. A bucket of sorghum was brought to them twice a day. If the guard commander was in a good mood they got rice for one of the daily meals. Anything to sour his mood meant only sorghum for the prisoners, so they ate sorghum for weeks at a stretch. After the move in April they received the same meals as the rest of the camp. They also received new uniforms, soap, razors, and were allowed to bathe in the river. However, they remained isolated from others in the camp.

Clothing

Standard summer and winter issue. Prisoners were also issued a blanket, a light cotton comforter, and an overcoat. In December of 1951 each POW at 2-1 was issued a heavy blanket and a padded winter uniform. Periodically there were issues of underwear, towels, and soap.

Mail

Prisoners were allowed to write letters. Whether they received any depended partly on their compli-

ance with camp regulations and their attitude towards the guards. The common excuse for no mail arriving in camp was that US planes were constantly bombing supply routes. At one point at Camp 2-1 they were shown mostly burned envelopes as proof. On further investigation the POWs noted that some of the letters were ones they had written the day before. One POW received one letter fourteen months after he was captured. His family had sent over three hundred letters to him during the same time period. By January 1953 mail at 2-1 was delivered every two or three weeks. Some got mail from home, others did not

The prisoners held in isolation at 2-3 were finally allowed to send letters home in April of 1953.

Release

The first POWs left the main camp at 2-1 on 5 August 1953 with the last group leaving on 19 August. They traveled by truck to Manpo and then south by train. Even at the end the Chinese were trying to get signed confessions from POWs still held in isolation with threats they would be left behind. In May and June 1953 Camp 2-3 was broken up and the POWs sent to the various enlisted camps. The group of hard-core reactionaries held separately were sent to Camp 2-4 in May and held there until late June. At Camp 2-4 they were still held separately at a farm house a few hundred yards from the main POW area. A machine-gun was set up to cover the house. After six weeks they were sent on a few at a time to Camps 1, 3, or 5 to be released after the Armistice.

Part III will be in the March/April issue of the EX-POW Bulletin. Index and Credits can be found in the Sept/Oct issue.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2010**

**September
21-26, 2010
National Convention**

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Andersonville!**

AXPOW MEDSEARCH CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

Camp descriptions available from AXPOW. All are from the National Archives. If your camp is not listed, it is because the National Archives does not have it available.

JAPANESE CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Akenobe #6	\$.70
Batavia, Java	.90
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Bilibid Prison	1.30
Bridge House Jail, China	.50
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Cabanatuan #3	2.10
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D 12, Hitachi	.90
Davao Penal Colony	.70
Fengtai, China	.50
Fukuoka #1	.90
Fukuoka #2	.90
Fukuoka #3	.90
Fukuoka #10	.70
Fukuoka #11	.50
Fukuoka #17	.70
Fukuoka #22	.70
Hakodate Branch Camp #2	.70
Hoten, Juken, Manchuria	.70
Initial Phase – Philippines	1.10
Jinsen, Korea	.50
Kiangwan, China	.70
Manila, Port Area	.40
Mitushima, Tokyo Camp #2-D	.70
Makaishima, Honshu	.70
Mukden, Manchuria (temporary)	.50
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Omine	.50
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Osaka #5-B	.70
Osaka #12-B	.70
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Saigon POW Camp,	.50
French Indo-China	.70
Sendai Camp #6, Hanawa	.50
Sendai Camp #11	.50

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JAPANESE CAMPS

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Southeast Asia-Saigon, Port Area	.50
SS Oryuku Maru (Hellship)	.90
Sumatra	.90
Thailand (Siam)	.50
Tientsin, China	.40
Umeda Bonshu	.70
Utashinai, Hokkaido	.50
War Road Jail, China	.50
Woosung	.50
Zentsuji Headquarters	1.10
Taiwan Formosa, includes Camps 31,	
Taihoku: Camp V, Taihoku: Camp VI,	
Taihoku, Kinkaseki: Camp II, Taichu:	
Camp III, Heito: Camp IV, Kagi &	
Tako	2.10

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Camp Conditions (general)	.70
Dulag Luft	.40
Hohemark Hospital & Luckenwalde	.90
Marlag und Milag Nord	.90
Oflag 13-B	1.50
Oflag 64	
Reserve-Lazaret Obermassfeld	.70
(the orthopedic hospital)	
Rumania	.50
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Stalag 3-B	1.70
Stalag 7-A	1.50
Stalag 9-B	1.10
Stalag 17-B	1.50
Stalag Luft 1	1.50
Stalag Luft 3	1.50
Stalag Luft 4	.40
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Transit Camp - Section of Dulag Luft	1.10
German Orders Governing Prisoners	
of War in Europe	2.30

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News from the Park

by Brad Bennett, Superintendent
with contributions from
Ed Dement and Alan Marsh

Happy New Year!

By the time you are reading this, Andersonville will have witnessed its greatest participation yet in the national Wreaths Across America program. Thanks to the enthusiasm and organizational skill of Chief of Administration Lindsey Phillips, many individuals, families, businesses, and organizations sponsored wreaths which were delivered to our national cemetery on December 11th. Dozens of volunteers donated their time to help place the wreaths at individual gravesites on December 12th after a service conducted by the Civil Air Patrol. This was a great opportunity to honor the sacrifice and memory of our fallen veterans, whom we cannot thank enough.

2010 will be a special year for Andersonville National Historic Site, as it is the 40th Anniversary of its addition to the National Park System in 1970. We are excited about the many projects, programs, and special events that we have planned for the year.

On the second weekend of March, as has been the tradition, we will be

presenting “Andersonville Revisited.” This annual special event interprets the Civil War history of Camp Sumter (Andersonville Prison) and features living history displays, Confederate Camp and Guard Stations, Union Shelters, Live Artillery and 19th Century Musket Firings, and a Torchlight Tour of the Prison Stockade. Plans are also underway for our annual observance of Memorial Day, which will see large numbers of volunteers paying tribute to fallen members of the armed forces by gracing the national cemetery with American flags.

In September, of course, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. In addition to the special coordination we will enjoy with the National Convention of American Ex-Prisoners of War, we will also be hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall! We are indebted to Rolling Thunder, Inc. and to the Friends of Andersonville for arranging and supporting this momentous opportunity.

When we are not planning and conducting these major events, we continue to work tirelessly on the Prisoner of War Traveling Exhibition project. Kurt Wiedman and Sean Hooley, exhibit planners with Museum Design Associates (MDA), visited Andersonville NHS on November 12, 2009 and presented the latest design plans. The 55-page Design Development document presented the first detailed look at proposed exhibit panels, text, and photos. AXPOW members Bill and Maxine Price joined park staff for the review. Ed Dement sent his regrets, but will be hitting the road in the early months of 2010 to update 17 AXPOW chapters throughout the state of Florida about the project. The project advisory committee has been expanded to include a representative from Vietnam, AXPOW member Bill Robinson, who was able to join us for the November review meeting. Bill Norwood, AXPOW member and founder of the Korean War Ex-POW Association, has also agreed to offer his insights as the project moves forward. Kevin Frye, Vice President of the Friends of Andersonville, and Mitch Zetlin, exhibit designer from

the National Park Service’s Harpers Ferry Center, also participated in the design review. The team was pleased with the exhibit plans and offered suggestions that will be incorporated by the designers. Currently, MDA is working with Andersonville staff to select artifacts and additional photographs for the exhibit. Exhibit planning information will be posted on the Andersonville website, www.nps.gov/ande, under “Quicklinks.” Any and all members of AXPOW may download and use this information to share the vision and educate others about the project. For those of you whom I met in Boise who wanted printed copies and/or a CD, I hope this web-based information will meet your needs. If not, please contact me and we’ll figure out an alternative.

At this writing, more than \$17,000 has been donated – largely from AXPOW members – to the “POW Traveling Legacy” account managed by the Friends of Andersonville, which will see us through the final design phase. The last push for funds will be for the actual production costs. Fabrication of the POW Traveling Exhibition Production is estimated at \$240,000. The National Park Service is requesting half of that amount, \$120,000, through its budget channels with the expectation that matching funds will be provided by the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Friends of Andersonville. The great news from the Friends of Andersonville is that they have committed a recent bequest of \$62,000 to the project! Which means the partner match to park funds is already more than half-way achieved. We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of individuals who share our commitment to telling the Prisoner of War story throughout America.

*All donations are tax deductible.
Please make checks payable to: POW
Traveling Legacy and send to:
Friends of Andersonville, PO Box
186, Andersonville, GA 31711.*



Paul E. Galanti
National Director, East Central
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p.galanti@verizon.net

The Boys from Quincy

I'm not referring to the Adams boys, John and John Quincy, who are notable for other achievements as documented by David McCullough in his historical works.

On Saturday, October 31, 2009, the good citizens of Quincy honored former CAPT Alan Brudno, USAF and CAPT Richard Stratton, USN (Ret), two other Quincy natives, for their service as prisoners of war during the Vietnam war.

Representing Alan who died shortly after returning to the United States was his widow, Deborah Brudno and his brother, Bob. It was a moving tribute and the pleasant weather and warm demeanor of those in attendance added to the patriotic aura.

Several other Vietnam POWs who had known Brudno and Stratton attended. In addition to CAPT Stratton, Nam-POW attendees were COL Elmo Baker, USAF (Ret), Past President of Nam-POWs; CDR Gary Thornton, USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Warner and the guest speaker was your humble scribe made hum-

bler by looking up from the lectern at the United First Parish Church where Presidents John and John Quincy Adams and their wives are buried. Coincidentally, Friday was the birthdate of John Adams and part of our escorted trip around Quincy included placing wreaths on the tombs of John and John Quincy.

In addition to praising my long-term cellmate, Al Brudno, one of the smartest men I've ever known and Dick Stratton, one of the toughest resisters in the Hanoi Hilton, I asked the assemblage how one small town could have contributed so much to America's longest war.

As I looked around, my question answered itself. The entire town square had been transferred into a red, white & blue spectacle that would have made a George M. Cohan-type Yankee Doodle Dandy sing its praises. The "official" holiday on October 31 is Halloween but Quincy, Massachusetts had turned it into the Fourth of July.

The event was put together by the Quincy Veterans - including many Marines who had served in Vietnam. We were escorted everywhere in Quincy - from a private tour of the Adams' "Old House" and the burial sites of John & John Quincy Adams to the Vietnam and Korea memorials and finally to a wonderful dinner at a seaside restaurant - by an mostly veteran entourage from the Quincy Police Department

on their Harley-Davidson motorcycles with sirens blaring and lights flashing.

Saturday's ceremony was very well-attended and the crowd was in a festive mood. The gloom and doom of the national media was notably absent in this village, one of the founding cornerstones of our country. The people from Quincy kept us at the site for nearly an hour after the ceremony had concluded asking questions and posing for photos with the monument and the former POWs. Special thanks go to Larry Norton, Ed Murphy and Tom Bolinder, still Marines, for all they did to make this such a grand, moving experience for all who were there.

The weekend wound down quickly and anti-climatically as the kaleidoscopic event flashed in retrospect. What a wonderful three days to deliberate two fine men and, more importantly, a town that truly cares about its veterans. As I boarded the airplane to fly home, I couldn't help but reflect on a scene from my favorite movie, "The Bridges at Toko-Ri" when Frederic March playing Admiral George Tarrant looks out across the horizon from the flag bridge of the aircraft carrier and rhetorically asks, "Where do we get such men?" That rhetoric applies to Al Brudno, Dick Stratton and the warrior veterans of Quincy, Massachusetts who caused something to happen that I, frankly, thought was dead in this country.

Make Your Plans Now!

The 2010 National Convention is being held in Albany, Georgia on Sept. 21-26, 2010.

Albany is about 40 miles south of Andersonville...you can get there from anywhere!

Drive

Fly (3 flights daily into Albany)

Train (to Atlanta, then rent a car)

Here's a great idea: Grab your grandkids and have them bring you to the most wonderful convention!

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

889 Randall Road
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(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

AMERICANS RECOVERED:

1,724 Americans are now listed by Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. DPMO recently posted the names of **Staff Sergeant (SSG) Robert Griffith, USA**, of GA, and civilians **James Ackley** and **Clarence Driver**, both of CA, as no longer missing. SSG Griffith's remains were recovered November 21, 2007 and identified October 2, 2008; he was listed as MIA in Laos on Feb-

ruary 19, 1968. The remains of Mr. Ackley and Mr. Driver were recovered September 2, 1994 and identified September 21, 2003; both were listed as missing in Laos on March 7, 1973. The number of Americans accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now **859**, though another 63 US personnel were recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bringing the total to 922.

JPAC ACTIVITIES & OPERATIONS: JPAC teams recently concluded Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in Laos and Vietnam, and operations in India that have been hampered by weather will be completed before Christmas. JPAC Detachment Commanders from Bangkok, Vientiane and Hanoi have spent one week in Hawaii for their regularly scheduled Commanders' Conference.

Operations around the world continue to improve in quality; however, there is urgent need for increased funding and personnel to meet requirements mandated by the Defense Authorization Act for FY2010. Unfortunately, Congress is mandating that JPAC's Central Identification

Laboratory (CIL) identify at least 200 remains per year by 2015.

That is a significant increase in the number of IDs and establishing such a quota could adversely impact the scientific process. Without increases in budget and personnel, it could mean diverting attention and priority to easier to identify, large crew WWII sites in order to reach that numerical mandate.

Reaching that goal could also mean reducing investigations, surveys and excavations that are Vietnam War-related, the original reason for formation of JPAC and its predecessor organizations. For these reasons and more, it is critical that funding and personnel be increased to meet the Congressional quota now passed, without sacrificing the accounting principles.

MISSING/CAPTURED:

US Service members reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations.

Army PFC Bowe R. Bargdahi, 23, June 30, 2009, Afghanistan.

Army Staff Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie, 44 Oct 23, 2006, Baghdad

We've received a lot of input from our committee members, Civilian members of AXPOW and others. We're still working to refine exactly what we would like...others are pursuing other avenues with the Japanese government. It has been an interesting journey thus far.

The dictionary defines prisoner of war (POW) as "a person who surrenders to (or is taken by) the enemy in time of war. Congress has long used the term Civilian Prisoner of War when talking about us, or writing legislation for our benefit. We had much the same experiences and suffer the same ailments as our military compatriots. In Vietnam, there were a number of civilian POWs held in the same conditions as their military counterparts. The biggest difference we see is that most of us from WWII were children at the time of capture. Our parents, if they were captured with us, have since died.

Where better to be treated than at the Veterans Administration, where they treat military POWs every day. VA knows our disabilities. They are experts in the area of POWs.

And there is precedence for including us in VA treatment. At last count, there were 32 "Special Groups Recognized By Law As Veterans", directing VA to treat as Veterans certain persons previously considered civilians. Section 401 of PL 95-202 covers these groups. Currently, the US Cadet Nurse Corps has bill in Congress that would recognize their service under administration by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

We'll keep you up to date as we move along. We expect to have more to present to the Board of Directors when they meet in Texas in March, 2010.

Walter

civilians



Walter H. Riley, Chairman
14521 Cyprus Point Drive
Dallas, TX 75234
(972)247-6069
whriley222@att.net

If you served in the military after prison camp, please write and let me know. We're compiling number of Civilian POWs who then served in the military. Thanks!

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2010

tiger survivors



Shorty Estabrook

37645 Flora Court
Murrieta, CA 92563-2726
tigersurvivors@roadrunner.com

The Tiger Survivors Story

Capture and Beyond, Part II

At Chung-Gang-jin, we could see the war across a field just to the south. We were hoping to be rescued but that was as far north as the United Nations forces came. I really think that if they had come across that field, we would have all been shot.

On 16 November 1950, we were suddenly ordered to move out in the middle of the night. It was here that my best buddy, Jack Samms, was brutally beaten to death. I was powerless to do anything about it and had a terrible sinking feeling in my gut.

The next morning, we came to a place that was to become our home until 29 March 1951. It was a small place called Hanjang-ni, North Korea. There was a large school building of one story with several outbuildings and a central well. We thought that things would improve now but we were dead wrong again.

I won't go into the terrible description of life there. Suffice it to say that 222 brave people were promoted to Glory at that hell hole of all hell holes.

The dead were stripped of clothing, such as it was, and carried to a nearby

hill. The clothing was for the living. We had no other choice. We were not allowed to dig a grave nor did we have the energy or tools with which to dig.

We all weighed less than 100 pounds by now and were sick and consumed by lice. We were mental basket cases. The dead were left in shallow indentations in the earth. "God, please take care of our brothers," we would say.

One day a group of well dressed Russian Officers came to our camp and met with Major Dunn. The Tiger was not invited. Major Dunn took a calculated risk and told them about what the Tiger had been doing. The risk paid off and the Tiger was relieved a short time later. Great credit should be given to Major Dunn. He could have been shot for what he did.

Spring came even to that ungodly place and the warm sunshine was most welcome. And things were really going to get better now that the Tiger was replaced by a kinder North Korean Major from the North Korean Army. But we were still starving to death and there was little food even for the North Koreans. We would catch frogs to eat as well as other things that I won't mention.

On 29 March 1951, we moved from Hanjang-ni to Andong to an old Japanese Army Camp. As we approached ChungGang-jin, the sky became full of B-29 bombers ... the first we had seen since Pyongyang. We were happy to see them when suddenly their bellies opened up and the bombs started to fall. Now, we were not so happy. Miraculously, only one POW was wounded.

Summer passed at Andong and 50 more died there. In October of 1951, we were ordered to move again. The civilians went to a different place and we did not see them again.

We were put on river barges and moved down river to Chang-Song, North Korea and turned over to the Chinese Army Prisoner of War Camp system. Our camp was known as Camp 3.

The Chinese took us to a parade field of sorts and brought out huge amounts of rice and steamed bread. We couldn't believe our eyes. What a meal! We were in the "tall cotton," so to speak. The next day was the same. More food! We were given new clothing ... the first since our capture. Some tobacco was also issued, along with sugar. From then on, we started to gain weight.

Soon all the Officers were moved to the Officer's camp and the NCO's were moved as well but the NCO's were brought back and a special camp was established for them just one corn field away from us.

Ten more of our brothers died at Chang-Song. They died as a result of the treatment under the North Koreans. All of them were returned to our side and sent home to their loved ones during operation Glory.

Life became boring and the Chinese tried to make Communists out of us by using the so-called brain-washing method but they did not have much luck.

In August 1953, we came to freedom but it was not a quick plane ride to the states for most of us. We were put on ships that took 16 days to get to San Francisco, and we were treated on-ship as if we were still in prison.

Then, we were sent home which was a mistake. We should have been taken to hospitals and given thorough mental and physical examinations such as having the worms removed from our systems. The rest is history and I hope that I have explained how it really was.

58 % of the Tiger Survivors group died in captivity. It was a terrible price to pay when a simple medication could have saved many of our brothers and sisters.

In memory of all the people who did not make it out of that terrible place, I dedicate my life and the ongoing work that I do.

May God Bless America!

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News Briefs

AXPOW member

Leo K Thorsness Elected President, Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Leo Thorsness joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951 at age 18 and became a jet pilot during the Vietnam War. During an 1967 mission he was shot down over North Vietnam. Injured and captured, he spent six years in the Hanoi Hilton. When the war ended in 1973, Thorsness accepted the Congressional Medal of Honor, which had been awarded during his incarceration.

Col. Thorsness and his wife, Gaylee, currently live in Madison, AL.

About the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor was created by Abraham Lincoln in 1861. It's the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. Since the birth of America, over 40 million Americans have faced combat, yet fewer than 3,500 have received the Medal of Honor.

The six cornerstones of the award are courage, integrity, sacrifice, commitment, citizenship and patriotism. It is awarded for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of one's life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States."

Nurse Corps Bill

Many surviving Nurse Corps members throughout the country, have been writing letters to President

Obama, Congress members and their senators urging them to pass a bill that would recognize the service of the Corps members as active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. A bill for the Corps 116,717 members to receive veteran status has been introduced several times to Congress by Nita M. Lowey (D-NY) starting in 1996. Testimony for the newest bill, The United States Cadet Nurse Corps Equity Act (H.R.1522), was presented to the Veterans Affairs subcommittee in March, 2009.

President Signs VA Health Care Advance Funding into Law

On Oct. 22, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 into law. The new law will provide timely, predictable funding for the Veterans Health Administration, the nation's largest health care system, one-year ahead of the regular appropriations process. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Akaka sponsored the legislation in the Senate with the backing of leading veterans service organizations.

SBP/VA Ruling will not be appealed

On Oct. 22, 2009, the Defense Department announced it will not appeal the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the case of three widows who sued the government to keep both their VA survivor benefits and their military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. At issue is a 2004 law that restored DIC payments to veterans' surviving spouses who remarry after their 57th birthday. Before the law change, survivors lost DIC upon remarriage at any age. In JUL 07 three widows filed a lawsuit claiming that the unique wording of the

2004 law entitled widows who remarry after age 57 to receive both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities from DoD and VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), without any offset between the two.

US Navy Members on Stamps

Four members of the U.S. Navy will be immortalized on stamps: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy and Doris Miller. The First-Day-of-Issue dedication ceremony for the four 44-cent First-Class collectible "Distinguished Sailors" stamps takes place in Washington, DC, Feb. 4, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in the Arleigh and Roberta Burke Theater of the United States Navy Memorial www.navymemorial.org at 701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. The event open to the public.

VA To Survey Veteran Households

On Dec. 3, 2009, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a national survey of Veterans, active duty service members, activated National Guard and reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services.

In addition to assessing awareness levels, the National Survey of Veterans will collect important health care, benefits, employment, and demographic information that VA will use to inform policy decisions and improve benefits. Recognizing a broader client base than just Veterans, this is the first time VA has included others, such as Veteran family members, in its survey population.



March 5-6, 2010. The USS Houston Survivors Association Annual Reunion will be held at the Houston Downtown Doubletree Hotel. Feel free to stay a couple of days into the next week @ our *USS HOUSTON* rate, \$89.00. The group rate is now in the system - you may make your reservations by one of the following. Call 1-800-222-TREE and give the group name of *USS HOUSTON* before requesting your dates of stay. For more information, contact Lin at:
lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

looking for



My uncle was a POW during WWII. His name was **Charles H Sears, US Army**. His brothers were Luther Sears, US Navy and Warren Sears, US Army. They were from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. My uncle captured in Oct. 1944 while serving in the Infantry. He was held in Stalag 2B Hammerstein, West Prussia until liberated. All I was ever told was that he survived on potato peels and that he was about to be terminated when his camp was liberated. Thanks. Ed Sears, 5500 East Doubletree Road, Pahrump, NV 89061.

I'm looking for information about my father. His name was **Colquitt L Dowdy**. I believe he was stationed in Japan when he was **deployed to Korea**. I don't know what unit or

anything. I do know that he was one of the first to be sent, and one of the last to come home. He spent 33 months as a POW. I believe that he was not freed until peace agreements were signed. I have heard through the years that he came home on "The Blackhawk". I also heard when he was captured, he fought 4 N. Korean soldiers by himself, which led to him losing a finger. Once back stateside Daddy made a career of the Army and retired in 1968, after serving 21 yrs. Thanks for any information. Carla Dowdy-Blocker, 305 Willow Dr., Glennville, Ga. 30427.

I am looking for anyone who may have known **Alfred C. Carroll**. Dad was **captured at Battle of Salerno** beginning September 9, 1943. He was wounded and received Purple Heart. Believe he was captured about Sept 19. He was transported to Stalag 2B in Hammerstein Germany. He became acting Chaplain after Bruce Meads was repatriated because of an illness I do know of. My Dad conducted many services and went out to the Kommando units for religious services. I have copies of letters written to the mothers whose sons had died in the camp, telling who attended and that they were given military honors as could be under circumstances. He was with the 36th Infantry, trained at Ft. Devens in Mass. He conducted funerals of POW's which he noted, as well as who attended. He wrote that not all Germans were bad. In his journal, many prisoners wrote, thanking him, French, Serbian, English, etc. He kept a record of the march from Stalag 2B beginning Jan 29, 1945 thru Germany and noted each town and how many KM they marched. Thanks for any help.
patmunafa@hotmail.com.

I was **captured during the Battle of the Bulge** at around 4:00 pm on December 16, 1944. I was a 20-year old 2nd Lt. Combat Infantry Officer. By 4 PM that evening there only 4 of us left when were captured by the Germans. There is a long story

to be told but I will skip the details of my POW adventure and come to the day of **April 5, 1945** where our group (310 men) had just left the town of Nuremberg and had stopped to take a rest just as we got outside the main town. We were told that we were going to stop at a POW Camp and be able to get a shower and a Red Cross Parcel. We were elated with the "thought" but our hopes were dashed when the air rid sirens went off indicating that US planes were on the way to bomb the city.

Just about 10:00 AM or so the US planes arrived (8th AF out of England on their usual daily run) and started their bombing raid. We all could see the planes - there had to be at least a hundred or more planes and we "felt" so happy and proud that our "boys" were going to do a "bang up" job. But as we stood in the protection of a small wooded area, we suddenly got caught in the raid and we were hit by our own planes. It was devastating. After the raid was over we took a tally of the damage - of the 310 +/- we had the following: Dead: 28; seriously wounded: 40; walking wounded: many, of which I was one with concussion and hearing loss.

I never put in for a Purple Heart because I was told that my injury was caused by "friendly fire". I recently found out that I might be eligible. I made application through the assistance of my local congressman office and after nearly 2 years, I received denial, basically stating that I did not present any "corroborative evidence such as statements from fellow prisoners of war, that my injury was a result of an air raid by the U S Forces. Regretably, as there are no medical records which show that the applicant was treated for wounds received on April 5, 1945 and there is no corroborating evidence, there is insufficient evidence to base award the Purple Heart at this time...."

looking for cont'd...

I need to search for anyone who was at that April 5, 1945 bombing. Charles Norton Dean from Redlands, CA and Ed Myers can vouch, but are they still alive? Chester F. Lubeck, 581 Greenbush Rd., Blauvelt, NY10913; Phone: 845 358 3111.

I am the assistant air attaché at the US Embassy in London and recently attended a luncheon with some UK vets from the San Martino Trust—see web link below. Basically, these are vets who were **POWs of the Italians during WW II** and who when the Italian government collapsed were able (with the help of many Italians) to escape south to Allied lines. Many of the escapees were also Americans. This organization is interested in making contact with US POW groups who may have been held in some of these camps. I looked at your website but didn't see any links dedicated or pertaining to US POWs in Italy. Do you know of any such organizations, and if so, could you pass me their contact details? <http://msmtrust.org.uk/home/>. Many thanks, **Jeff Price**, Lt Colonel, US Air Force, Assistant Air Attaché, USDAO London, UK; pricejk@state.gov; diprijx@dia.smil.mil.

Hi my name is Chad. My Grandfather was a POW in Moosburg, Germany. I think he was there from Aug 28, 1944 - April 27, 1945 at Stalag 7A. What I'm looking for is good photos. I found several sites on the web but really no **good photos of Stalag 7A**. Any info will be very helpful. Thanks.
chad.mull@yahoo.com

The **Armed Forces Military Museum** in Largo, Florida is displaying an area devoted to Former Prisoners of War. The museum would like to display a **POW License Plate**

from all 50 states, if you would like to donate an old plate to the museum. Mail to: Bill Allen, 421 4th Ave N., Tierra Verde, FL 33715.

GROUP SEEKS VETERANS WHO SAW JOLSON PERFORM

The International Al Jolson Society, an organization of over 1000 members worldwide, dedicated to honoring the legacy of the late entertainer, is seeking help from American servicemen and women who may have seen the famed singer during one of his many USO tours.

Jolson, billed in his lifetime as "The World's Greatest Entertainer", played to millions of fans on the stage, screen and radio for nearly fifty years. But he often stated that his #1 audience was the American GI. During WW I he entertained stateside in many army hospitals all over the nation and appeared in countless War Bond rallies.

During WW II he was the very first to perform under the USO banner in Alaska, South America, England, Ireland, Scotland, North Africa and Sicily. In Algiers he had a private meeting with General Eisenhower and staff. Jolson was accompanied to the ETO by his pianist, famed music composer, Harry Akst. The two played dozens of shows, giving the soldiers a morale boosting taste of the music they'd left back home.

At the start of the Korean conflict in 1950, Jolson requested The White House to grant permission for him to be the first to entertain our soldiers. The USO had been disbanded earlier so Jolson paid his own way to the Far East to sing once again for his favorite audience. He

did twenty-three shows in one week for over 30,000 soldiers based in hospitals in Japan and on the front lines in Korea itself. He and Harry Akst were invited to a private lunch with General and Mrs. MacArthur at the time during which "Jolie" sang all of the old tunes that the General requested.

The exhausting entertainment schedule took a toll on the 64 year old Jolson, yet despite a severe bronchial infection, he continued to sing his heart out for "the kids." Three weeks after returning home to California, Al Jolson died (Oct. 23, 1950). President Truman called him as much a victim of the Korean War as was any soldier fighting there.

Accordingly, Al Jolson was posthumously awarded The Medal of Merit—the highest honor to be bestowed upon a citizen by the U.S. Government.

The Jolson Society (www.Jolson.org) is trying to contact Veterans who saw Jolson entertain in any of the many shows he did at army hospitals at home and abroad or in any of the famed front line performances. If these soldiers would write about their experiences, or perhaps tape record their precious memories, The Jolson Society would publish these accounts and share them with others. Any photos of these historical Jolson shows would be greatly appreciated too. It would be a wonderful way to honor the memory of an entertainment legend who worked tirelessly in three wars to ease our soldiers' burdens and bring them a few hours of laughter, tears, and sweet musical memories. Interested Vets and their families can contact Mr. Kirk Estee, of the Jolson Society, at estee@cox.net (402 616.0460). He will ensure that their special storied accounts are thoughtfully reported.





AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTEER FUNDING PROGRAM



The AXPOW Volunteer Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute.

All contributions are to be sent directly to the National Treasurer to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each month.

I am enclosing my contribution to support the operation of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

\$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other

Please circle one category:

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State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding
Mail contributions to: National Headquarters
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
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September

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National Convention

Tentative Agenda

Sept. 21-26, 2010

Tuesday Sept. 21:

National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 22:

National Board of Directors
Meeting
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 23:

Daytrip to Andersonville
Opening Ceremonies at Andersonville National Historic Site and the National POW Museum
Commanders Reception

Friday Sept. 24:

Past National Commanders
Breakfast
General Business Session
Camp Reunions

Hospitality Room

Evening Entertainment

Saturday Sept. 25:

General Business Session &
Balloting
Banquet and Installation of
Officers

Sunday Sept. 26:

Devotional
National Board of Directors
Meeting

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Your Stories



Pictures of the Past

Vince Lisanti
330 Clinton Ave.
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

a safe crash landing was made. Our crew chief and I tried in vain to burn the aircraft according to orders.

We were soon captured and transported to Budapest. We were vigorously interrogated, stripped of all except our minimum clothing and locked up in solitary confinement in totally dark cells. After eleven days, my cell door opened with a blinding flash. I was herded into an overcrowded boxcar and trans-



ing the war. Somehow, he identified me and gave me pictures of my B-24 in enemy hands! Authentication was made by my crew chief, Art Schleger, who compared the serial number with the number recorded in old maintenance records.



During the last few months, I have been corresponding with Mr. Mohos via email. He surprised me by sending images of the exterior of the Budapest jail and an interior photograph of the corridor of cells in which my crew and I were held captive. The photographs were presented to the Veterans Administration New York Museum by my crew chief, Arthur Schleger.

Pictures:

1. Presentation of the pictures to the NY headquarters museum of the VA by my former crew chief Arthur Schleger (left). Receiving is Mr. Bernard Finger, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation. It was to my enrollment in Mr. Finger's program that I gained the computer competence to correspond with Mr. Mohos in Hungary.

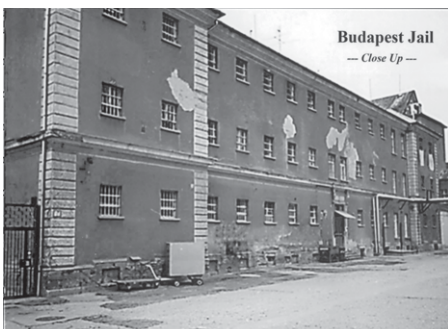
2. Pictures of the Budapest jail. The interior view in the picture held by my crew chief, Art, is of the corridor of solitary confinement cells where my crew and I were held.

1. picture of my B-24 in enemy hands. The tail section was enlarged to make the serial number more legible.

On April 13, 1944, I was shot down flying a B-24 bomber mission for the 15th Air Force. The target was a German aircraft engine plant West of Budapest, Hungary. Due to enemy anti-aircraft fire, too much altitude was lost to bail out. Miraculously an open field appeared and

ported to the German POW compound Stalag Luft 333. The atmosphere was permeated with confusion, frustration and anger. Remains of the murdered POWs of the "Great Escape" were being returned to the compound. I was finally reunited with my crew - all alive and well.

Ten years ago, there was a reunion of former POWs of Stalag Luft 3 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. The honored guest was Nandor Mohos of Hungary. During WWII, he worked for a Swiss historical society. He recorded photographs of all aircraft shot down in Hungary dur-



your stories,
cont'd...

A Promise Fulfilled

John J. Connelly
14470 Christen Drive
Jacksonville, Florida

All stories have a beginning and an end. Mine just took a little longer than normal to reach its conclusion: 64 years to be exact.

On July 21st, 1944, I was a member of the crew of the "Cape Cod Special", a B24 Liberator bomber, on our eighth mission. Munich Germany was the target. I, a native of the ironbound section of Newark, New Jersey, was manning the right waist gun, and Leonard Eramo (Little Chum), from Brooklyn, New York, was in the tail turret.

We were at 27,500 feet on a bright sunny day, entering the IP (Initial Point) over the target, when we were hit by flak and lost rudder control. The pilot and the co-pilot had difficulty controlling the ship and when we started to lose altitude, determined that we couldn't make it back to the base in Shipham, England, the cockpit decided we would try for Switzerland and headed west. While nearing Freiburg we were again hit by flak. The navigator put us on a southerly course and when he felt assured that we were definitely over Switzerland, he told us to bail out.

This would be the first jump for the entire crew. Little Chum went first, I followed and Paul Humphries, from Oklahoma, the other waist gunner, was the last man to leave from the rear of the ship.

On landing, you can imagine our disappointment, frustration and emerging fear, to learn that we were still in Germany. Capture was inevitability and as each crew member was eventually rejoined, various versions of how the villagers captured them flowed in excited conversations.

Like thousands of Air Men, we were sent to the interrogation center in Frankfort, then to Dulag Luft in Wetzlaer, where the officers and enlisted men were separated.

Little Chum and I ended up in Stalag Luft IV, in Gross Tychow, Kiefheidt (now in Poland) in Lager A, Barrack 10, Room 3, (a 15 x 23 area.) This was to be our plush quarters until we were evacuated on February 6th, 1945, because of the Russian advance on the eastern front. One of the 24 men in that sparse room was Jack Schuster, a law student from Rye, New York.

We began a marching odyssey, through the snow, that took us across Germany to Stalag 11 B, Fallingbostel, between Hamburg and Hanover.

Prior to the march, Little Chum, Jack, and I teamed up, agreeing to share everything: a practical necessity. Personal items were few and treasured to the individual possessing them, but on February 27th, 1945, a very dreary period in our lives, Little Chum traded his watch with a German civilian, for two loaves of bread, which the three of us shared. Jack and I promised to replace that watch when the war was over.

Retiring at 80 years old, with a lesser degree of responsibilities, and time to reflect, I began, what was to be, a four year search for Little Chum and Jack. I learned rather quickly that Jack Schuster died in 1991, but finding Little Chum was to become a much harder challenge.

What turned out to be one incorrect lead was information from the Mayor of Braselton, Georgia that the widow of a Leonard A. Eramo resided there; however, contact revealed that this was not the correct Leonard, nor a relative.

Eventually, it was the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, that gave me very promising leads. Within the packet of information were several forms: a 1980 request, by Leonard, for a copy of his discharge papers which were lost when he moved from Brooklyn, New York, to the south Jersey area in 1965. A burial request form indicating that Leonard had died on November 13, 1984, and information that prior to his death he was planning to retire from naval civilian service.

Assuming that his naval civilian service was in the Philadelphia shipyards, I contacted the shipyard and it was suggested to me that I put a notice on the Yard Bird web site. Three weeks later, Dave Hill of Atco, New Jersey, responded to my posting. Leonard was his supervisor; however, he knew nothing of his whereabouts or about his personal life, but wanted to help by reaching out to other shipyard workers for potential information.

So, having a date and place of death, my wife contacted the pertinent county historical societies, one of which was able to produce an obituary notice, which gave the name of the funeral home and place of interment. Dave, living in that area, visited the local church, located the grave site and forwarded pictures of Leonard's head stone. Leonard had been found, now the search was on for his wife or other living relatives. I contacted the funeral home, and the Director knew Mrs. Eramo, but understandably, because of privacy issues, would not release any information to me other than that she was still living. He said that he would contact her

your stories, cont'd...

by phone and relay the reason for my wanting to get in touch with her.

When days went by with no response, I wrote a personal letter to Mrs. Eramo expressing my reason for trying to contact her. I sent this to the funeral home with the request that it be forwarded to Mrs. Eramo. Again, after a long period of time with no response, I felt compelled to again contact the funeral Director. My thought was that, perhaps, due to ill health, or even diminished capacity,

Mrs. Eramo was unable to respond to my letter. The Director informed me that Mrs. Eramo had recently lost her only child, a son, and was not concerned with the past. I was happy that she was evidently in good health, sorry to hear about the loss of her son and deeply disappointed that I wasn't going to be able to fulfill the promise; a mixed bag of emotions from one conversation.

A few weeks passed. My wife and I had been in attendance at a "Remembrance" service for POWs and MIAs, at the VA Center in Lake City, Florida, and when we got home, I can't tell you my surprise and immense pleasure, when I found a letter from Mrs. Eramo in our mailbox.

In it she explained her initial hesitancy in responding to a stranger, but having read my forwarded letter, realized that my intentions were honorable.

Along with a note and a detailed account of our last mission and travails as POWs I mailed her a watch, symbolic of the promise to Leonard that his would be replaced. She responded with heartfelt thanks and so ends my story.

I wrote this poem in 1973, when I was watching T.V. when the first planeload of P.O.W.s landed in Barksdale A.F.B. in California.

The American P.O.W.s Are Home



The P.O.W.s are coming home,
I hear the plane roaring.
A miracle for some,
I feel emotions soaring.

After many trips to Paris,
By leaders from both sides.
I can say this is,
A joyful moment, I think I'll cry.

As the plane touched the runway,
As emotions grew, and grew.
I don't know what to say,
I don't know what to do.

After arrangements were made,
The ramp and red carpet rolled.
The T.V. cameras were in place,
I could here the crowd roar.

The P.O.W.s were in good spirit,
One by one they came.
They're free, they made it,
To the Free World again.

For them the World stopped,
They were caught in a turmoil.
But all that was topped,
When they were home, back
on U.S. soil.

The P.O.W.'s smiled, waved
and saluted,
And to the crowd they spoke.
Among the P.O.W.s was included,
A dog that was sneaked abroad.

Generals were waiting to
shake their hand,
They were on World Wide T.V.
They were the Pride of the Land,

They were very happy, everybody
could see.

Some got a Dear John letter,
From others the secret was kept.
Relatives thought it was better,
To give them a goal, a step.

Still some came to open arms,
To love and know the kids.
Trying to make up the charms,
That for years, they missed.

A statement was made by one,
As he stepped off the plane, a
smiling face.

It couldn't have been better
by none,
"God Bless America", was the
phrase.

I felt a lump in my throat,
When all this was said.
I asked myself,
who suffered the most,
The P.O.W.s or the relatives
in the States?

How they survived their ordeal,
One of the stated,
Determination, faith in God,
prayers were real,
Faith in America, was beautifully
related.

Tonight as I go to bed, I will
appreciate,
Freedom more, give thanks,
and pray,
I'll never forget this date
(03-14-73)

And I won't forget the M.I.A.s

Now I wonder what will happen,
Everything for the best.
No more hopes dampen,
What will the longhairs protest.

Written by:
Martin Vega, Ret. Sgt.
Travis County Sheriff's Dept.
409 Lightsey Road
Austin, Texas 78704
ph. # 512-444-5751

fan mail



Dear American Ex-Prisoners of War:

I am a Social Studies teacher in Middle School 7 in New Jersey. Last November, we studied Veterans' Day and honored all of the men and women who have served our country. All of my students were assigned an organization to thank the men and women for their service.

Enclosed are the letters that my students have written. My students were wondering if they would be receiving responses. If any veteran would like to write the student or myself back, all letters can be sent to me.

MS 7
Mrs. G Keeler
222 Laidlaw
Ave
Jersey City, NJ
07306

Any information from your organization would be appreciated. The students could use them as learning tools. I thank you for your time and I thank all of your members for their service. Without the service of our dedicated men and women who make up our military service, our country would not be the land of the free or home of the brave.

Thank you and God Bless
Gloria Keeler

Dear Axpaw veterans,
My name is Eriha from Middle School #7, Jersey City, New Jersey. I would like to thank you for what you've done for us all. I'm very proud. You guys risked your life for us. Not many people would do that.
You guys were brave enough to do that. I thank you for every bit of sacrifice you made for your country. Your service will always be appreciated. You have inspired others to do the same, and now there will be new veterans in your place. We live in a better world because of you.
Please write back to me. I would be to hear from you and the experience you had. Thank you for taking time to read my letter. Bye!

Dear Veteran and American ex-Prisoner,
My name is Sweta.
I am in the sixth grade. I am from MS #7 school. I like this Veterans day. It make me feel better that ex-prisoners are happy.
Thank you for helping. You helped America. You save the American people. Everyone thanks to you. Some of soldiers dies for our country. We all love you.
Thank for helping and saving America.

Sincerely,
Sweta

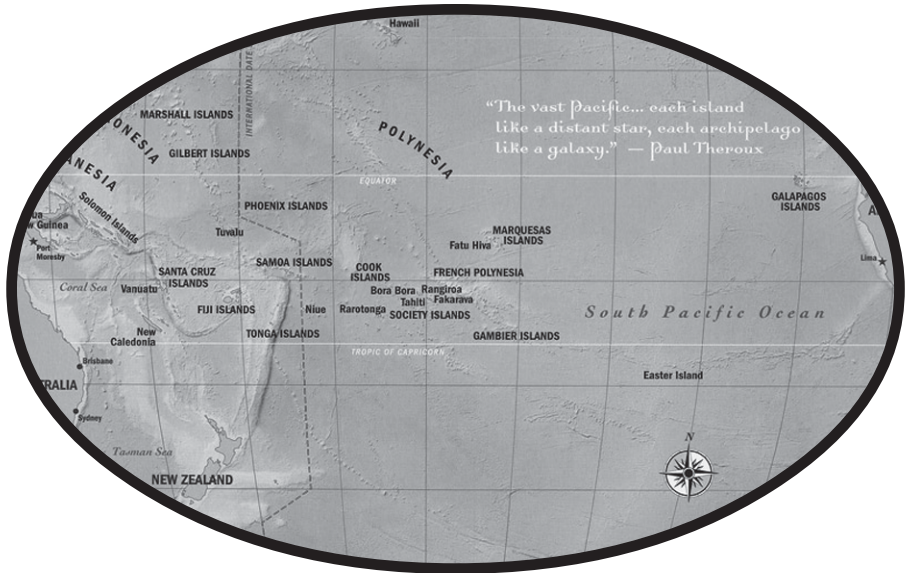
Hello My name is Davenicia and I am from MS #7 school. I'm in six grade now and I'm in the six grade. I am also...
Thank you ex-prisoners of war for making us feel safe in the world and in the streets safe too and also in are...
Your service means to me is to help the world and it's people and befall your has on from people who...
So I hope you...
By: Davenicia

Come with me where moonbeams light Tahitian skies and the amber waters linger in your eyes

Im going to return to my island Shangri-la in the South Pacific. You can join me on our FIRST AXPOW group trip.

Our gateway will be Los Angeles. Our first stop...the Tahitian capital of Papeete. We visit other Tahitian islands - Moorea, Bora Bora & Raiatea. You wont believe the things you can see and do! (The Tahitian dance makes the Hawaiian hula look like an old maids tea party :-)

Our next stop will be Fiji where the changing of the guards is an exact mimic of Londons...thanks to the British-taught and uniformed military. You will have an island feast and the Fire Walkers will leave you marveling.



Our last flight is to Auckland, New Zealand, which is composed of two big islands - the North and the South (which has the glaciers). The Maori dance for you...you visit the Glow Worm Cave...the Thermal Wonderland (somewhat similar to Yellowstone Park) and many sites to see including Christ Church on the South Island in the capital of Wellington.

By the time you read this, I should have the timing, air flights, fares, hotels, buses and events priced. The profits of this trip will go to our National Treasury. I will be acting as your host, saving advertising and staff charges. There must be a minimum of 12 attendees. I feel that a party of 35 would be ideal. I have had groups of 70 to Niagara, groups of 35 to Brazil, 40 to Iceland/Norway.

For more information, drop me at line or give me a call.

Wm. Lee Birch
190 Bethel Loop #104, Brooklyn, NY 11239
718-642-7647



American Ex-Prisoners of War
Website Biography
www.axpow.org

If you are not a current member of AXPOW,
you must submit documentation of your POW status.

Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Unit

Where were you captured?

Date captured

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Date liberated

Medals received

Job in the military

After military service

Submit 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white).
Biography:(please type or print)

SEND TO: American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Please include your check for \$65 payable to AXPOW. If you have any questions, please contact Clydie Morgan,
National Adjutant, at 817-649-2979; HQ@axpow.org

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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!

Denise R Kolm
Bullhead City AZ
Daughter of Henry Kolm, ETO

John W Patterson
Livonia MI
Son of Thomas R Patterson, ETO

Nathaniel Marcus
Edith
Columbia SC
CO K 422 REG 106 DIV
4B
12/31/44-5/13/45

New Life Members Welcome Home!

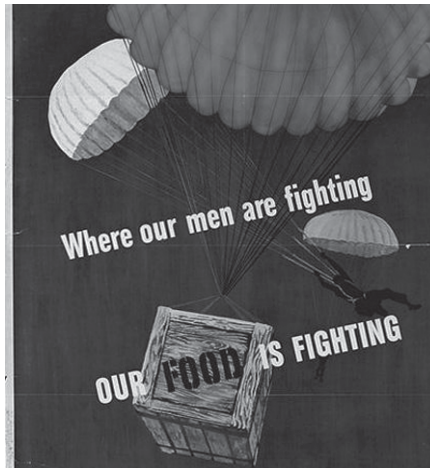
***denotes new member to AXPOW**

David James Innis **39635**
Porterville CA
Civilian
Santo Tomas, Los Banos
1/2/42-2/23/45

Susan Pritchard Green **39636**
Jefferson City MO
Daughter of Murray T Pritchard,
ETO

Marita G Swenson ***39637**
Gulfport MS
Daughter of Lloyd J Gray, ETO

David Goldstein ***39638**
Westfield NJ
75 INF DIV 289 REG CO F
Transit, Gerolstein, Stalag 12A
1/17/45-3/29/45



Melissa Hartman ***39639**
Miles City MT
Daughter of Frank Stoltz, ETO

Frank C Farr Jr ***39640**
Jamestown NM
8AF 91BG 323BS
Luft 3, 7A
11/3/44-4/29/45

Susan McQuilkin **39641**
Columbia MO
Daughter of Earl Duckworth, ETO

Tom Pritchard
Juanita R **39642 39643**

Gladstone MO
Son of Murray T Pritchard, ETO

R Dana Charles **39644**
Las Vegas, NV
Son of Howard R Charles, PAC

Jeff Pritchard **39645**
St Peters, MO
Son of Murray T Pritchard, ETO

Patricia G Southall **39646**
Topeka, KS
Widow of William A Southall
O'Donnell, Tarlac, Cabanatuan,
Kamioka, Manila Port

Annett Merritt **39647**
Ashford, AL
Widow of Charles Ray Merritt
Luft 6

Cynthia Ruzicka ***39648**
Springfield, MO
Daughter of John Ruzicka, ETO

Joe Brian McGreevy ***39649**
Ackley, IA
Son of Bob McGreevy, ETO

Madelyn P McGreevy ***39650**
Ackley, IA
Widow of Bob McGreevy, ETO

Rodger A Oetjen ***39651**
Colorado Springs, CO
Son of Pete Oetjen, ETO

Robert "Ted" Harris
Nancy B ***39652 39653**
Landrum, SC
386BG 553BS
Dulag Luft, Luft 2

Arthur L Goss
Delayne **39654 39655**
Colorado Springs, CO
8AF, 303BG 358BS
Luft 3, 7A

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HEY KIDS!
**GET GRANDMA & GRANDPA TO BRING YOU TO
ANDERSONVILLE NEXT FALL! YOU'LL HAVE A
GREAT TIME!**



**National Convention
September
21-26, 2010
Albany Georgia**

Members' forum



2010 Calendar

Thank you for giving these special women some highly deserved "Praise". They truly were "Brave Heroic Angels". They were denied compensation for many years. If any were due, they surely were.

Thank you.
Bobbie M Hauskins, Lafayette, TN

Wife of George W Hauskins, WWII POW shot down on his 21st mission in Germany. Held May 29, 1944-April 29, 1945. Two remain from that crew. George and William Striffler, NY. They flew the *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

Purple Heart Received

Dear Cheryl,
Earlier this year, you and I chatted via e-mail, regarding the possibility of running an excerpt of my book "MISSING IN BELGIUM", in your March/April issue which you so graciously did. Within weeks, I received a few e-mails from ex-POWs across the country. One of the e-mails was from Mr Allan Gavan an ex-POW with the NH Chapter. The e-mail chat back and forth resulted in my 77 year old mother attending the August 8th ceremony and receiving her brother's posthumous award of the Purple Heart. Cheryl, I wanted to thank you and your publication, for I am sure that would not have happened had you not posted my story.

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Out of the 60-plus Purple Heart recipients, many were honored without family members being there as next of kin could not be located.

Thanks again so very much.
Russ Wilkins
proud nephew of PFC Elliott Russell Lund, 17th Airborne Div.

Two Opposing Viewpoints

Editor's note: These are the only two that will be published. AXPOW is a widely diverse organization. The holiday messages are for the SEASON, which includes Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and any and all other holidays.

The Reverend Mr. James H. Beaver
National Chaplain, AXPOW
22644 Montego Bay Road
Abingdon VA 24211

Dear Rev. Beaver:

Several members of my Chapter have expressed concern regarding your most recent column in the *AXPOW Bulletin*.

Many of our members in the New York City area are Jewish. They found your exclusively Christian message inappropriate for the Chaplain of a non-sectarian organization. No VA chaplain would ever use a Christian invocation to a group of veterans.

AXPOW's membership is comprised of people who are Christian, people of other religions and some who follow no religion at all. Out of respect for our total membership, we suggest that future columns in the *Bulletin* and prayers at official AXPOW gatherings be sensitive to our religious diversity.

Sincerely,
Melanie Bussel
Commander,
Hudson Valley
Chapter
1739 Horton Road
Mohegan Lake NY 10547

Dear Cheryl:

This past week I received a packet with mailing address stickers. Along with this came a "happy holiday" statement. Then I opened my POWs Bulletin and sure enough, there it was again, "happy holiday."

Why have you given in to the atheists and non believers who have forced this kind of thinking upon us. It is not a holiday. It is Christmas and a HOLY day. It is the birthday of our LORD.

Our whole country has given in and surrendered to those who hate our Lord, but we as veterans who have served, been through terrible POW experiences should at least have the courage to stand up and be counted as believers. Isn't that part of why we served our country? If it weren't for our trust in God, many of us would not even be here now.

You, as the Editor of the POW Bulletin, are completely responsible. Why have you allowed this? I, for one, am very disappointed. So much so that I might stop giving. I am ticked off and offended. Perhaps there are other veterans who feel this way, I don't know.

We have seen the Bible taken out of the schools and know the results it has produced in our students. Now the ACLU wants to destroy Christianity. This is wrong. We must stand up and be counted for what is right!

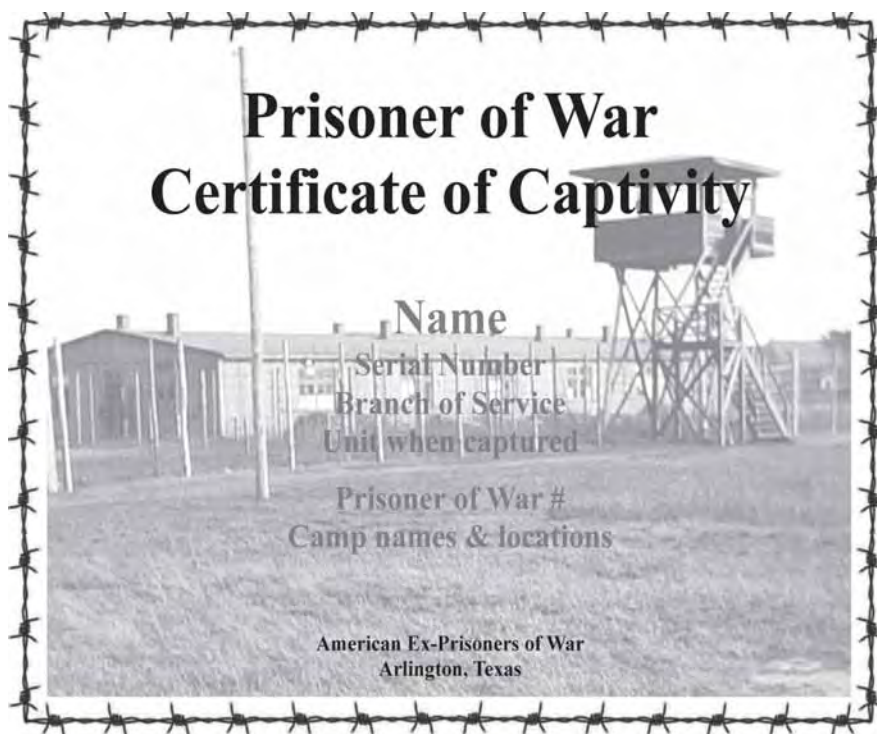
Dr. Robert W Otto
520 112th St SW Apt 222
Everett, WA 98204

*Georgia is the
nation's number one
producer of peanuts,
pecans, and peaches.*

Certificate of Captivity

Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To purchase this certificate from AXPOW, send your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations, along with your payment of \$25.00. You may include a picture with your order.

Please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room.



request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War



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

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

Do NOT send dues with this request for an application

Life Membership Rates

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36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40

Annual Membership Rates

Single Membership	\$ 40
Husband & wife	\$ 50

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American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936
(817) 649-2979 voice
(817)649-0109 fax
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org

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contributions



Please send donations to:
National Headquarters, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010. You can also make a donation with a credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-6492979. Thank you!

Contributions are not tax deductible at this time

GENERAL FUND

From the 1st FABN Association:
In honor of: John McMahan, Otis Bradford, William Jarema.
In memory of: Alfred P Jones, Charles Brookshire, Charles E Singleton, Charles W Gibson, Cicero H Falls, Clarence E Simmons, Clifford Wood, Daniel M Bridges, Dewey L Spivey, Earl D Beeth, Edd Rhodes, Edward A Murphy, Frank K Layton, Fred L Meachum, George D Melton, Glenn M Stroud, Henry C Watts, Howard Moore, James D Harrell, James E Osborne, James K Sweeney, Jesse W Harrison, Joe Vega, John A Carey, Keith Willis, Kenneth C Lanier, Mansell T Merchant, Melvin A Dorman, Noble E Gilkinson, Rifton E Holden, Roney Bailey, Roscoe W Gore, Ruffin R Fedwine, Steve T Loper Jr, Stopkes W Westbrook, Thomas S Morse, Wade Rozanski, Wilfred Becker.

Arthur Tilley, Bangor ME
Roger White, San Antonio TX
Roger Essaff, San Francisco CA
In memory of Barbara Proctor, by Rocky Mountain Chapter
In memory of Carl Ed Fessel, by Margaret & Ted Wendt
In memory of Carl Fessel, by Elizabeth Rhodes

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In memory of Carl Fessel, by Jean Dwyer

In memory of Col. Lewis Millet, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of Ernest Koss, by Alice Koss & Sons

In memory of James Hoffman, by Dan & Sharon Elvis & Family

In memory of James Hoffman, by Joyce Ammons

In memory of James Hoffman, by Perry & Judy Morris

In memory of John Hurd, by Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of John Novak, by Martha Novak

In memory of Lawrence Paulsen, by Adeline Robinson

In memory of Richard Ritchings, by Dolores Masucci

In memory of Richard Ritchings, by Thomas & Phyllis Hazelet

Donald Durant, Sun City Center FL
In memory of Helen Howell, by Forrest Howell

Lincoln & Mary Hanscom, Somersworth NH

In memory of Clarence Meinhardt, by Vera Meinhardt

In memory of Irene Scaglione, by Joseph Scaglione

In memory of James Hoffman, by Charles & Ramona Pippin

In memory of James Hoffman, by Lynn Stephens

In memory of James Hoffman, by Quality Auto Sales, Sales Staff

In memory of James Hoffman, by Troy Johnson and Family

In memory of John Mailander, by the Mid-Iowa Chapter

In memory of Louise Nettles, by Doris Yarema

In memory of Mark Dujmovic, by the Rocky Mountain Chapter

In memory of Pauline Owsen, by Dottie Biggs

In memory of Pauline Owsen, by Larry & Dolores Conrad

In memory of Pauline Owsen, by Pauline L Klein

In memory of Pauline Owsen, by Red Hat Society "Elegant Swans Chapter"

In memory of Richard Ritchings, by Tom & Pay Lyons & Family

LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of James Edward Lutz, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of Jack H Jacobs, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of William Love Cutaiar, by the Department of Maryland

MEDSEARCH FUND

In memory of Anne Cassimates, by Greater St. Louis Chapter

In memory of Elaine Korb, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of Gilbert E Stover, Sr, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of Maj John Philip Smith (USA Ret), by the Department of Maryland

NSO

In memory of Neal McIntyre, by the Department of Georgia

Eagles POWER Foundation in honor of NC Kenny Hanson

In honor of Fred Campbell, by Bob McAdam

In honor of Fred Campbell, by Lorraine Holland

In memory of Bert Wheelles, by the Department of Georgia

In memory of Thomas Fort, by the Department of Georgia

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Bert Krashes, Lake Worth FL

Ernest Poulson, Salt Lake City UT
Hill Kulik, Apopka FL

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Alice Cassaday-Lewis

Mary J Little

Benjamin & Lila Nienart

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Clifford & JeanFaeth

Albert/Reeder Leftwich

In memory of Walter Wenger, by George F Sheehan



taps



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

Correction: In the TAPS for Richard Behr in Nov/Dec, his chapter membership should have read POW-WOW Chapter #1.

ANDERSON, Howard C., of Roseburg, OR died Sept. 20, 2009 at the age of 84. He served in the Army during WWII, with the 82nd Airborne Div. He was wounded and captured and held in Germany for 18 months. Howard was predeceased by his wife, Goldie; he is survived by his loving companion, Kathleen Hoyer, 6 sons, 2 daughters, 18 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

BAILEY, Paul A., 85, of Stuart, FL died Dec. 5, 2009. He served in the 45th Infantry Division in WW II and was a POW. An active member of the Suncoast Chapter, he leaves his wife, Martea, 2 sons, 2 sisters, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

BAKER, John, 87, a member of the Ft. Vancouver Chapter, AXPOW passed away Nov. 2, 2009. He was serving with the 36th Inf. Div when he was wounded and captured in the battle of Casino, Italy in Feb. 1944. John was hospitalized in Rome and Florence before being sent to Stalag 9C and later 2B, 3B and 9B before liberation. Survivors include his wife, Maxine, 2 daughters, 1 son, 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BEAM, Roy, of Dallas, Texas, died in November, 2009. He served with Co E, 168th Inf, 34th Division and was a POW in Stalag 7A. An AXPOW life member since 1984, he was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Frances.

BERGQUIST, Francis Earle, of Justin, Texas, died in September, 2009. Earle served with the 200th Coast Artillery, and was a POW in Cabanatuan, Bilibid and Nagoya.

BITTNER, Helen, of Windom, MN passed away Nov. 25, 2009. She was 82 years old and the beloved wife of Ex-POW John Bittner. Helen was a member of the Prairieland Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by one daughter.

BOLDT, Howard L, age 88, of The Woodlands, TX passed away May 21, 2009. He was flying out of England when he was shot down over Germany. He landed in a tree, breaking both legs and was captured. Howard was held in the orthopedic hospital in Stalag IXC until liberated by the 11th Armored Div. He leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

BRYAN, Coy Wendell, 91, of Madison, AL died Oct. 19, 2009. He was a WWII POW and member of the Caterpillar Club for his bailout over Italy in 1943. Coy was past commander of the Capital City Chapter, AXPOW and commander of the Huntsville Chapter. He also served as State Dept. Commander in Alabama. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Edna, 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

BUTRUM, Clarence, of Lake Havasu, Arizona, died in October, 2009. He served with the 8th AF, 351st BG, 509th BS. He was a POW in Luft 3, 7A and 12.

CANTRELL, Dillard, of Duncanville, Texas, died in November, 2009. An AXPOW life member since 1986, he was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, Dillard served with 450 BG, 720 BS. He is survived by his wife, Betty.

CHRISTOFF, George, of Tustin, California, died August 29, 2009. He was shot down over Germany while serving in the AAC as a Tail Gunner on a B-17. George was a former chapter commander in California and a former Dept. of California Judge

Advocate. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Josephine. Both have been AXPOW life members since 1980. George also leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

COFER, James D. "Bill", 83, of Holdenville, OK died Oct. 28, 2009. He was a member of L Company 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division and was captured on 20 July 1950 near Taejon South Korea. He was repatriated on 29 August 1953 and returned to the States on the USS Black. He leaves his wife, Sarah.

CORBIERE, Ovila, "Frenchy", of Lakeland, Florida, died August 28, 2009. Stationed in England, he was a member of the 8th AF, as a flight engineer and top turret operator on the B-17. He was shot down November 26, 1944, over Moosburg. A life member of AXPOW, as well as a member of the Florida State Dept. and the Imperial Chapter, he was also the first commander of the Vermont Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara.

DAVIDSON, Brown Francis, of Lakewood, CO passed away Dec. 24, 2008. He was 88. During WWII, "Doc" was sent to the Philippines and served as an aviation electronics specialist on Bataan. He was captured, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. He leaves his beloved wife, Barbara, one son and one grandson.

DONATO, Joseph D, 85, of Sand Hill, WV passed away July 20, 2009. During WWII, he served with the 1st Ranger Battalion. He was captured and held for 16 months as a POW. Memberships included the Ohio Valley Barbed Wire Chapter 1, AXPOW

taps continued...

and the Darby Rangers. He leaves his wife, Judy, 4 sons, 5 sisters, 1 brother, 4 step-children, 11 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

DUJMOVIC, Mark Max, of Pueblo, CO died Oct. 24, 2009. He served with the 15th AF during WWII; he was a POW in Stalag 3A. Mark was a member of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Virginia, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 son and family.

DUNLAVY, Harry C, member of Fresno Chapter #1 in California, passed away Oct. 5, 2009. Harry served in the Marine Corp Band in Shanghai, China until 1941 when he was sent to the Philippines for the defense of Corregidor. He was captured by the Japanese in May 1942 and sent to Mukden, Manchuria serving 3 ½ years as a POW. Harry served 15 years as Commander of AXPOW Fresno Chapter # 1. He is survived by his wife, Betty, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He served his community in many areas of service and will be missed.

FAUST, Julian Grant, 83, of Chester, SC died Aug. 21, 2009. He was captured in March, 1945 while freeing POWs. Julian was a member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Adeline, 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters, 3 brothers, 1 sister and a special aunt.

FLORANCE, David C. died October 10, 2009. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW; his memorial was given by the officers of the chapter. Dave served in the 232nd Inf., 42nd Div. He was interned in Stalags 4A and 4B. He leaves his wife, Martie, 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grandchildren.

FREEMAN, George, of Dallas, Texas, died December 5, 2009. A member

of the Fort Worth Chapter, he served in 386 BG, 555 BS, and was held in Luft 3 and Nurnberg. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Wanda.

GARCIA, Andrew R. of Kinston, AL passed away Oct. 20, 2009. He was 88. He was captured July 12, 1950 while serving with I Co., 21st Inf. Reg., 24th Inf. Div. He was released Aug. 29, 1953. He was also with the Tiger Survivors and saw 58% of that group perish in captivity. His wife, Kathleen, predeceased him. He leaves one son, one daughter, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

GIERING, Edward J., 85, of Clinton, CT died Nov. 29, 2009. He was shot down over Munster, Germany while serving with the 8th AF, 303rd BG, 427th BS; he was held in Stalags 13D and 7A. Ed was Commander of the CT Chapter, AXPOW since its inception. He is survived by his wife, Judith, 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GOBER, Elvis J. 95, of Montgomery, AL, passed away October 6, 2009. He served in the Army with the 31st Infantry, in the Philippines during WWII. He was captured in the Battle of Corregidor, held in various POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. Elvis is survived by his wife, Muriel, and her three children; one brother, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

GOUDGE, Alfred Leo, passed away on Sept. 11, 2009 at the age of 87. Al joined the U.S. Navy in 1940. He was initially captured in Manila and escaped, and then was captured again at Corregidor Island, Philippines and survived the infamous Hell Ships in Japan. He was a POW for 3½ years. He is survived by his wife Lucille, two children, four stepchildren and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Al was a member of AXPOW and a long time member of the Tacoma Chapter.

HAMLIN, Melvin H., of Winfield, Kansas, died Oct. 27, 2009. A member of the Air Capital Chapter, AXPOW, he served with Battery D, 60th Coast Artillery, and was held in Bilibid,

Yodogawa, Oyama and Cabanatuan during WWII.

HAMM, Clarence L. "Bud", 87, of Dudley & Webster, MA passed away July 21, 2009. He served with the 527th BS, flying B-17s before being shot down and captured. He was held for 15 months before liberation. Bud was an active member of the Central Mass Chapter, AXPOW and the Dept. of Massachusetts. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 1 great-granddaughter, nieces, nephews and many good friends.

HARRIS, GEORGE W., age 86, of San Diego, CA died Nov. 13, 2009. During WWII, he saw combat action in North Africa, Sicily and Anzio where he was captured by the Germans and held in Stalag 3B. George leaves one son and two grandchildren.

HARTER, Donald James, 87, of Montgomery, AL, passed away October 22, 2009. During WWII, he served as a waist gunner on B-17's assigned to the 388th BG, 560th BS, 8th AF, ETO. He was shot down, taken prisoner and interned at Stalag Luft IV and VIII. He was predeceased by his wife Marjorie, and survived by one daughter and three grandchildren,

HITE, Ralph, of Ashville, OH, died October 20, 2009. He served in the ETO, 90th Div., 357th Reg., Co. D. He was held in Stalag 12A until liberation. Ralph is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. He was an active member of Ohio Chapter One.

HOFFMAN, James M., 87, of Hartsville, SC passed away Oct. 25, 2009. He was captured in Bitburg, Germany while serving with Gen. Patton's 3rd Army, 5th Div. as a foot soldier. He was held in Stalag 12A in Limberg. Survivors include his loving wife of 67 years, Dorothy, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and many other family members and friends who miss him very much.

HOLT, John A., 86, of Dennis, MA passed away Dec. 9, 2009. During WWII, he served with the 12th Air

taps continued...

Force. He was shot down over Italy in 1944, captured and held in Luft IV, then marched ahead of the Russian Army. Survivors include two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

HORN, Virginia, 87, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL died Nov. 20, 2009. Her ex-POW husband, Edward, is Commander of the Suncoast Chapter. In addition to her husband, she leaves one son. Always active in Chapter endeavors, she personally prepared the mail packets the Chapter regularly distributed to hospitalized veterans at the WPBVAMC.

HURD, John Lewis, of Hemet, California, died November 13, 2009. A member of AXPOW since 1965, he was a member of the Inland Empire Chapter. He served as a B-17 Ball Turret Gunner in the 8th AF, 401BG. He was held in Stalag 17B

INMAN, Eugene L. Sr, 78, passed away November 2, 2009. He was captured in Korea while serving in the Army and was a POW for 3 years. He was an Infantryman in the 9th Inf., 2nd Div. He was a life member of AXPOW and a dedicated NSO for them. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rosemary, and a large and loving family. He was a good husband, wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

IRWIN, Helen K. of Harrisburg, PA died Oct. 3, 2009. She was 82. Helen was the widow of Ex-POW Beverly Irwin and a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

JEAMBEY, Leo E., of Lincoln, NE passed away April 30, 2009 at the age of 85. His B-17 was shot down and he was captured over Germany, and then force-marched to several camps before settling at Moosberg. Leo was the 1st commander of the Lincoln, NE Chapter, AXPOW. He will be missed by his wife, Marjorie, 2 sons, 1 daughter and families.

KISTLER, Charles Richard passed away Sept. 18, 2009 at the age of 77. Charlie was a POW of the Korean War and served in Vietnam. He is survived by his beloved wife Chong Suk, two sons and five grandchildren. He was a devoted long-time member of the Tacoma Chapter and a life member of AXPOW.

KOSS, Ernest Fabian, of Sharon, PA, died November 1, 2009. He served with the 101st AB Division, commonly known as the "Screaming Eagles". His unit parachuted behind enemy lines in Normandy, France, prior to the D-Day invasion. He was captured and held POW, later escaping to join allied forces. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Alice.

LANEHART, John Aubrey, 88, of Cypress, TX passed away Nov. 27, 2009. He was a B-25 pilot during WWII, with the 12th BG, 83rd BS, flying out of Italy. He was held in Luft 1, Barth after being shot down and captured. His wife, Joyce, 1 son, 2 daughters 3 step-children, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren survive him.

LARKIN, Morris "Willie", 90, of Swampscott, MA died Sept. 28, 2009. He was a life member of AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 44th BG. He was shot down, captured and held at Stalag Luft IV, then force-marched across Germany. Morris leaves his loving wife, Elaine, 2 daughters, 1 son and 2 grandchildren.

LONGSTREET, Bruce E., 84, died Oct. 4, 2009 in Des Moines, IA. He served in the Army and was a POW in Germany during WWII. He was active teaching WWII history. Bruce was an important part of the 1995 National convention in Des Moines. He was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife and 1 son.

LOVELAND, Glenn, of South China, ME passed away Aug. 10, 2009. Survivors include his daughter, Donna.

LUTZ, James E, 87, of Churchton, MD died Dec. 2, 2009. He was a proud veteran of the Army, serving with the 394th Inf., 99th Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in

Stalag 13C until liberated by the 7th Army. James was predeceased by his wife, Doris; he leaves 3 daughters, 2 sons and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

LYLE, Samuel David, of Brenham, Texas (formerly Laurel, Iowa), died October 28, 2009. He served with the 15th AF, B-17 ball turret gunner. Shot down over Germany on February 22, 1944, he was a POW for fourteen months, until he escaped German captivity and traveled on foot to reach Allied troops. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Doris (Sally).

MAILANDER, John T. of Webster City, IA died Sept. 11, 2009 at the age of 87. He enlisted in the Army and trained with the British Commandos in Scotland. He was sent on the invasion of Algiers, Africa where he was captured. He spent 2+ years in camps in Italy, Germany and Poland. John was a member of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Dorothy, 1 son, 4 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-granddaughters.

MANGINI, Ernest W., 89, of West Haven, CT passed away Sept. 16, 2009. He served with the 1st Inf. Div. "BIG RED ONE", 18th Reg., I Co., 1st Platoon in France, Belgium and Germany. He was in the Ardennes Offensive and the Battle of the Bulge, captured and held at Stalags 12A and 11B. Ernest was a life member of the Ct. Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Marie, 2 sons and 1 granddaughter.

MAYER, Fergus, 88, died Sept. 26, 2009 in Des Moines, IA. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as a fighter pilot in Europe. After being shot down over Italy, he spent several months in a POW camp. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Marilyn, 1 son and 2 daughters.

McCOY, Jack, 86, of Columbiana, OH died Nov. 19, 2009. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah

taps continued...

before joining the Army where he served in the 36th Div. Jack participated in the battle of Naples-Poggio and the campaign for Rome in Italy where he was captured and held in Stalag IIB. His wife, Mary, predeceased him; he is survived by one daughter and one son and their families.

McDOLE, Glen "Mac", died Sept. 3, 2009 in Ankeny, IA. He was 88. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the Marines on Corregidor. He spent 3 ½ years as a POW of the Japanese. After the war, he was a key witness in the War Crimes Trials of 1945. Mac was a member of AXPOW and ADBC. He is survived by 2 daughters. His wife, Betty, preceded him in death.

McINTYRE, Neal Waldo Jr. passed away Nov. 29, 2009. He was held as a POW of the Germans during World War II after being shot down while on a bombing raid. He and his first wife, Ruth, were charter members of the Flatlanders Chapter in Valdosta. Waldo and his second wife, Bobbie Jean, were active members of the Southwest GA Chapter, AXPOW. Bobbie Jean has been commander of the chapter for several years.

MILLER, Clyde C., of Girard, OH died Sept. 29, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was a POW and member of the Mahoning Valley Ex-POW Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie, 1 son and 2 grandchildren.

OBERST, Mary Josephine, 95, of Owensboro, KY died Nov. 13, 2009. She entered the Army Nurse Corps in Nov. 1937. In Dec. 1941, she was stationed at Sternberg General. On December 25, 1941 she was sent to Bataan Hospital #2. On April 9, 1942 she and the other "Angels of Bataan" were moved to the Malinta Tunnel, Corregidor. After capture on May 6, 1942 the nurses were taken to Santa

Catalina, July 2, 1942 to Santo Tomas about August 13, 1942 until May 1943; then to the Hospicio de San Jose until September 1944, when she was recalled to Santo Tomas where she remained until the 44th Tank Bn. freed the prisoners on February 3, 1945. On return to the States February 24, 1945, she was a patient at Letterman General, San Francisco. Mary Jo leaves a loving family of nieces and nephews, special cousins and special friend, Charlie Hilton.



PIERMARINI, Dante J. of Harpswell, MA died Sept. 9, 2009. He was 85. During WWII he served with the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion, which saw combat in France and Belgium while attached to the 3rd Army under Gen. Patton. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Dante is survived by 2 brothers, 6 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

PITCHFORD, Jack, of Jackson MS, passed away Dec. 2, 2009 at the age of 82. He was shot down while serving with the Wild Weasels in 1965 and held more than 7 years in various prisons in North Vietnam, ending up at the "Hanoi Hilton". Survivors include his brother, Jim.

PITCHFORD, Jack, of Jackson MS, passed away Dec. 2, 2009 at the age of 82. He was shot down while serving with the Wild Weasels in 1965 and held more than 7 years in various prisons in North Vietnam, ending up at the "Hanoi Hilton". Survivors include his brother, Jim.

PLUMB, Norman W., of Erie, PA passed away Nov. 10, 2009. He was 90. During WWII, he was a musician in the Army band. He was sent to the front lines and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the Barbed Wire Assn. of NW PA. He is survived by a cousin and good friends.

PROCTOR, Barbara S. died Oct. 12, 2009. Her husband, Ex-POW Robert F Proctor predeceased her; both were active members of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW. Barbara served as chapter chaplain and led the singing at Christmas. They will be missed.

PURCELL, Robert, of Ft. Worth, TX died Dec. 6, 2009. He was 78. During the Vietnam War, he served with the Air Force, flying 25 missions before being shot down in July, 1965. He was released in 1973 after 7 years and 7 months of captivity. He will be missed by his loving family.

RASCH, Jacob L. "Jake", age 87, of Atlanta, GA passed away Sept. 11, 2009. He served with the 8th AF, 93rd BG, 409th BS flying out of Norwich, England. He was shot down over Germany, captured and held in Luft IV, then force-marched across Germany. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Audrey and one son.

REYNOLDS, William John 'Bill', of El Paso, Texas, died September 18, 2009. Bill served in the 29th Field Hospital, and was a POW in Europe.

RUSCH, Walter R., 85, of Chippewa Falls, WI passed away Oct. 21, 2009. During WWII, he served with the 401st BG, flying out of England. He was shot down over Germany and assumed dead until he was released from 17B. Survivors include his wife, Carol, 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

ROBERTSON, Billy R., 84, of Gregory, MI (North Lake) passed away Nov. 23, 2009. He served during WWII with the 305th BG, 365th BS. He was captured and held 9 months as a POW in Germany. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Marianna, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SALZSIEDER, Herbert S., of Oshkosh, WI died Aug. 11, 2009. He served with the 8th AF, 381st BG, 534th BS, based in England. He was shot down on his 21st mission, captured and held in Stalag Luft IV, then force-marched ahead of the Russian Army. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Janet, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter and 1 sister all who miss him very much.

SCARNECCHIA, Salvatore "Sam", 89, of Struthers, OH died October 23, 2009. Sam served in the army and was a part of the Normandy invasion. He was also a POW and a member of

taps continued...

the Steel Valley Chapter 13, AXPOW. Sam is survived by his wife, Fannie, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

SCHOENDUBE, Charles W., of Hickory, NC passed away at the age of 88. He was a civilian POW during WWII; held 3 ½ years in Santo Tomas Internment Camp in the Philippines. He was liberated on February 3, 1945. Survivors include his wife, Beverly, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SHIDEMANTLE, John D., 91, of Lancaster, PA and formerly of Pittsburgh, passed away Nov. 11, 2009. During World War II he served in the infantry and was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. He was predeceased by his wife Betty; he is survived by 3 nieces and their families.

SMITH, Wendell "Skip", of Lansing, MI died Nov. 8, 2009. He was a member of the Central MI Chapter, AXPOW; during WWII, he served as a paratrooper with the Army. He was a POW in Germany. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Evelyne, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

SMITH, William Jack, of Birmingham, AL passed away Sept. 24, 2009 at the age of 89. He served with the

9th Air Force, flying B-26s out of England; he was a POW in Germany. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Jane, 2 daughters, 1 son and 5 grandchildren.

SWEATMAN, Charlie, 89, of Azle, TX, died October 16, 2009. He served in the 4th USMC, and was a POW in Yokohama, Kamioka and Cabanatuan. A member of the Fort Worth Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 63 years, Velma, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

SWINNEY, Millard L., 89, of Olive Branch, MS passed away Sept. 11, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Infantry in the Aleutian Islands and Europe. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until the war ended. Millard was life member of AXPOW; he was chaplain for his local chapter. His two daughters survive him; he also leaves 1 sister, 1 brother, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

THOMPSON, Billie, 85, of Texarkana, TX died Oct. 30, 2009. He served in the Army during WWII. Billie was past commander of the Four States Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Hazel, 1 daughter, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and a number of other relatives.

WEBER, George A. Jr., of St. Louis, MO passed away Nov. 13, 2009. George served in Co. G, 423rd Inf. reg.,

106th Inf. Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge at St. Vith and held until liberation. He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Jacqueline, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

WEBSTER, Dorris 'Joy', of Amarillo, Texas, died October 5, 2009. Joy was the widow of Oscar "Red / Pinky" Webster. Both were AXPOW life members since 1985, and active members of the Texas Panhandle Chapter. Joy leaves 4 daughters, 1 sister and 3 grandchildren; her husband, PAC Ex-POW Oscar, predeceased her.

WHEELS, Bert, of Pooler, Georgia, died October 13, 2009. An AXPOW life member since 1988, he served with the 30th Div, 117th Reg, HQ Co. during WWII. He was held in Stalag 17B and Arbeit Kommando. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

WINN, David William, member of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW passed away Sept. 15, 2009. He was 82. He had flown 160 combat missions when he was shot down. He spent almost five years in the Hanoi Hilton, North Vietnam. His wife, Mary Jean, preceded him in death.

ZENN, Mike, age 89, passed away Dec 3, 2009. Mike was a veteran of WWII. He was captured in the early part of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a long time member of the Ohio Steel Valley Chapter, AXPOW and the 106th Div Assn. He enjoyed traveling, visiting many war memorials and always attended the POW state convention and the national 106th Div. conventions. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elaine, and four children.

ZETTI, Frances, age 86, died Nov. 10, 2009. She lived in the Akron area of Ohio since 1928. She was a charter member of the Wooster Chapter, AXPOW. She was an avid walker and a member of the Chapel Hill Walkers Club. Frances leaves her husband of 65 years, Joseph, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

Sacrifice and Courage

From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, American prisoners of war have endured untold hardships, and shown tremendous courage. Andersonville NHS commemorates the sacrifices of these brave Americans through exhibits in the National Prisoner of War Museum; preserves the site of Camp Sumter (Andersonville prison); and manages Andersonville National Cemetery, Andersonville, GA

AXPOW National Convention
Sept. 21-26, Albany, GA

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2010



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
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to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

Please feel free to make copies of this form and use when making donations.

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY: _____ **Date of Death** _____

Name _____

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City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ **Fund.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

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(rev. 02/07)

On Monday morning, 8 December 1941, we Brent School kids wildly cheered to a formation of air planes flying directly to Tokyo,, "Go to there and bomb it to smithereens!"

Several hours later we heard big BOOM-BOOM and saw thick black smoke rising from Camp John Hay... the American Army base in Baguio, Philip-pines. The sun played a trick on us so we couldn't see the big, round red "rotten fried egg" under the wings. Suddenly it dawned on us that those planes were Japa-nese. Twenty days later we were captured, ordered to meet at Brent School for a 3 hour or 3 day meeting that actually lasted for over three yreas of starvation, depravation, humiliation. Lacking utensliis in the Prison Camp, and for the few birthday parties, we had to tell our guests to bring CUP, PLATE AND SPOON.



BRING CUP, PLATE AND SPOON available from au-
 thor: Betsy Herold Heimke
 13820 Metcalf Ave. Apt 11320
 Overland Park, KS 66223
k.heimke@sbcglobal.com
 Price \$20.00 plus \$4.00 S/H

50/50 drawing

September 12, 2009
 Boise, Idaho

1st Place	Alice Gilligan New York, NY	\$676.40
2nd Place	Robert Boebel Fox Lake, WI	\$507.30
3rd Place	Victor Breite St. Louis, MO	\$338.20
4th Place	John DeVere South Charleston, WV	\$169.10

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating ex-penses. They allow our members to participate in a very worth-while project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are ask-ing \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Let's Light Up Your Way
 With a **NUMBERED**
 keychain/flashlight combination
 (battery included).

If it's lost, the finder can return it to us and receive a \$15.00 reward. We will return it to you. If you give this as a gift, you need to give us the name and address of your recipient.

This is an attractive, silver-colored and thoughtful item. It is sent in a handy gift box and is ideal for friends and family.

This is a fund-raising project of the Dept. of New York. Profits are being used to give Wounded Warriors and their families a "Taste of the Big Apple".Five days/four nights airfare, hotel, food, admissions.

\$10 each including S/H

To: Dept. of New York, AXPOW
 190 Bethel Loop, #104
 Brooklyn, NY 11239



**The 106th Infantry
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Organized at
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If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.
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 Valico, FL 33594-7288
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 Toll Free (888) 644-8952
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2010

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American Ex-Prisoners of War
50/50 Drawing

PLEASE PRINT
Name: _____ Telephone: () _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

Mail your donation and entry to: American Ex-Prisoners of War
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.
Thank you for your support. (3/10)

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2010
40

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The Quartermaster's Shop

order on page 42



AXPOW Pocket Knife

11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more! AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime. Rubber grip ensures easy handling...individually gift boxed...folded knife measures 3 3/4"x1"

\$13.00 plus s/h

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



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

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Bright safety light when you need it! AXPOW logo in color...individually gift-boxed.
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12 energy saving LED bulbs to provide ultra-bright light
The tough casing is made of aircraft aluminum
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Push button, sealed rubber switch, with handy carrying strap. Each is individually

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You love your country. Our Austrian Crystal Flag and USA pins are beautiful ways to show your patriotism. They make wonderful gifts ~ for yourself or someone you love.

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Bronze Grave Medallion with AXPOW LOGO

The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer, weighs approximately 1lb 4oz, containing 84% copper, balance in other metals. The hardware for mounting is included in each packet.

check with your local cemetery before ordering to see if medallions are permitted.

\$75.00 plus s/h/i

(\$15.00 for one; \$20.00 for two or more)

Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

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 Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to: _____
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Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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(For members only)

Name _____

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City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$55.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

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Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	8.00	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo	
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Jeweled Flag Pin	30.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00
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Canvas Sport Cap (offwhite or tan)	10.00	Logo Necklace	5.00	3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Logo Earrings (pierced or clip)	5.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	7.00
Necktie w/logo	30.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)	5.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)		Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	25.00	3" Blazer Patch	4.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00	4" Blazer Patch	4.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	25.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Barbed Wire pin	3.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	3.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
Life Member pin	5.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
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Logo pin	5.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
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AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
				AXPOW Flashlight	12.00

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Above, L/R: The Air Capital Chapter voted to donate to the Kansas Food Bank. Commander John Mock presented a check for \$500 to Food Bank Director Larry Gunkel. Cmdr. Mock said "As Ex-POWs, we know what it is like to be hungry"; On Veterans Day, Cal State University, Long Beach showcased its commitment to helping veterans transition from military service to college, the workforce and civilian life during the open house of its new Veterans Center. L/R: CSULB student and Army Sgt. Noel Rabina, CSULB President F. King Alexander, VetNet President Adam Renteria and Veterans University Director Pat O'Rourke; Ex-POWs from Arbite Kommando #A-97, Adorf, Germany met for the first time after more than 63 years. Bill McCarthy wants to know if this is a record. Seated: Roy Hopper of Albuquerque, 1st Bn, 357th Reg, 90th Div. Standing: Fred Sheer of Atlanta, 1st Bn, 2nd Reg, 5th Div.



Above, L/R: 30th Anniversary celebration of the O.K.I Chapter. John Lang, Carl Falch, Frank Bates, Leon Jordan, Cliff Faeth, Dale Crawford, Tom Linneman, Robert Clark, Frank Heekin, John Stenger, Charles Bowman, Ted Burch; The VA in White City, Oregon honored POW/MIA Recognition Day. Anna L. Diehl, chief Community Resources of Public Affairs at the VA Southern Oregon rehabilitation Center & Clinic directed the ceremony. Guest speaker was Col. David Dotterer, USMC (Ret.). Lunch followed.



Left: Ex-POWs at the annual Former Prisoners of War Brunch, hosted by the Boston VA Healthcare System.



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