

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 68

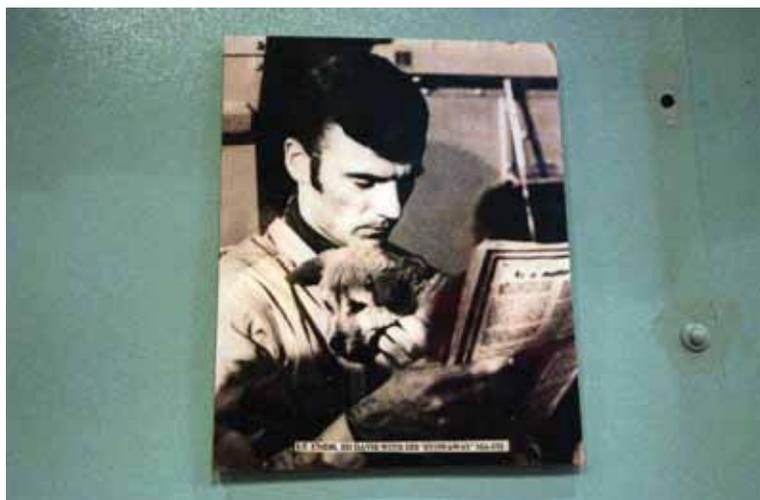
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Number 1/2

January/February 2011



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



February, 1973. Then LCDR Ed Davis aboard the Hanoi Taxi with Ma-Co, the Ho Lo (Hanoi Hilton) camp commander's puppy.

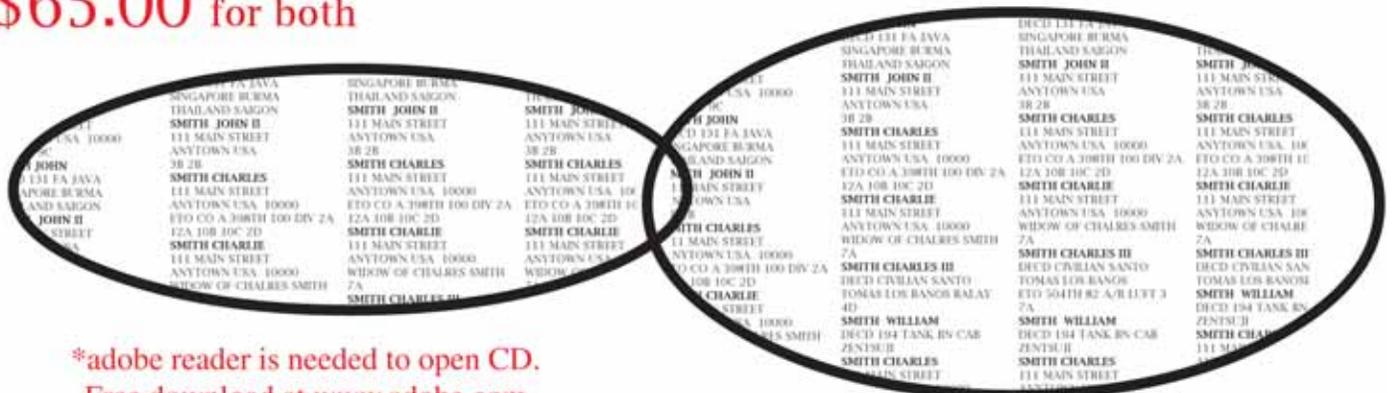


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*Deadline for the Mar/April 2011
issue is Feb 1, 2010.*

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

January/February 2011

Freedom!

The release of U.S. POWs began in Hanoi on February 12, 1973 as part of the Paris peace settlement. The return of U.S. POWs began when North Vietnam released 142 of 591 U.S. prisoners at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport. Part of what was called Operation Homecoming. The first 20 POWs arrived to a hero's welcome at Travis Air Force Base in California on February 14. Operation Homecoming was completed on March 29, 1973, when the last of 591 U.S. prisoners were released and returned to the United States.

After the surrender of tens of thousands of American troops during the Battle of Bataan, many were sent to Cabanatuan prison camp following the Bataan Death March. The Japanese transferred most of the prisoners to other areas, leaving just over 500 American and other Allied POWs and civilians in the prison. On Jan. 30, 1945, United States Army Rangers, Alamo Scouts, and Filipino guerrillas liberated more than 500 from the POW camp.

On January 9, 1945, the U.S. Sixth Army waded ashore at Lingayen Gulf and began moving south. Three weeks later the Eighth Army landed at Nasugbu and began moving north. Within a month, the advancing U.S. forces were on the doorstep of Manila. For the occupants of the Los Baños camp, rescue appeared imminent. As the advancing U.S. forces drew nearer and nearer to Manila, General MacArthur became concerned that the Japanese might decide to slaughter the American POWs and other Allied civilians under their control. During the Sixth Army's movement south, troops liberated American and other Allied POWs in several camps. One of the most spectacular liberation efforts was that conducted by the 6th Ranger Battalion at Cabanatuan. A Ranger task force, assisted by Filipino guerrillas, penetrated deep into Japanese territory and, after crawling more than a mile on their bellies, attacked Cabanatuan prison and freed some 500 POWs, bringing them 20 miles to safety. Nearer Manila, elements of the 1st Cavalry assaulted the campus of Santo Tomas University and freed more than 3,500 civilian internees.

At Bilibid Prison, on February 4, 1945, Commandant Ebiko presented the camp's chairman with a document freeing the internees. The Japanese were not seen after that. A patrol of the 37th Infantry broke into the prison thinking it was a Japanese ammunition dump; they found 700 military prisoners and 500 civilian prisoners.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2011**



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with their columns



**National Commander
Morris Barker**

First, let me say we are saddened by the loss of a good friend and member of the AXPOW organization, Sidney Hecker, who passed away October 9, 2010. Sid was an active member of his local chapter, Magnolia Chapter, in Mississippi for many years, and a valuable member of the National Board of Directors, Southeast Division since March 2008. He was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, always vigilant in the interest of POWs and dependents. Sid served in the Army during WW II and was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He will be missed by the organization, family and friends. We also want to remember all the POW families, especially during this season, who have lost family members.

On November 11, 2010, I was privileged to attend the *Veterans Day Activities* at the White House,



along with several others representing the various veteran organizations. Vice President Biden (pictured) was host at the White House meeting and later participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was very impressive. He was also the principal speaker at the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. It was also an honor to meet and talk with Secretary of the VA Erick Shinseki and several members of the Chief of

Staff of the various branches of the military (shown here Gen. Schwartz, Chief of Staff Air Force).



For those who may have missed the announcement by Ruth Powell, NSO Director, the President signed into law H.R. 3219/S 728, *The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010*, which is of particular interest to surviving spouse of the POW. This Bill removes the eligibility date and makes all survivors of former POWs eligible for DIC if the veteran died from non-service connected causes but was totally disabled due to a service-connected condition for a period of one (1) or more years immediately prior to death, regardless of date of death. This change is effective October 1, 2011. It is recommended that this new information be a topic of discussion at your Chapter or State Department meetings. Also, encourage the surviving spouse previously denied DIC benefits because of the eligibility date restriction to reapply.

As previously discussed, the Board of Directors with the approval of the membership at the 2010 National Convention directed that the AXPOW Washington office be closed. Several questions have been asked recently about the closing. In answering the questions, you are requested to refer to the November/December 2010 issue of the Bulletin (paragraph 3-4), which list the events leading to this action by the Board. *The sum of these events resulted in the decision by the Board and membership to close the office.* I want to point out that this action was given considerable discussion and thought by the board prior to the decision. The possibility of closing the office has been a matter of discussion by AXPOW Boards and membership over the past several years because of the continued decrease in operating funds. However, through budget adjustments and reduction of funds in other areas, the office was permitted to continue operations because of its importance

to the organization and membership. Regretfully at this point, operating funds of the organization have continued to decrease requiring several difficult decisions by the board in addition to closing of the Washington office. Some programs were discontinued while others were reduced drastically or combined in order that the organization could continue to be of service to POWs and dependents. If you have further questions, please contact me. I want to commend the various staff members of the Washington office for their faithful and valuable service to the American EX-Prisoners of War organization over the past 24 years. *A special thanks to the most recent staff members, Les Jackson, Mary Rolen, Dr. Charles Stenger, and Johnnie Robinson.*

In another cost saving move for the organization, the duties of the Treasurer will be combined with that of the National Adjutant effective January 1, 2011. This action was taken in accordance with a resolution by PNC Jim Cooper and approval by the National Board and membership at the national convention in September in Albany GA. Any correspondences and other transactions after the effective date should be directed to the headquarters office in Arlington, TX. Our thanks to Sonnie Mottern, past treasurer, for his dedicated service to the AXPOW organization.

The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War, Department of Veteran Affairs, met in Waco, TX, October 25-27 of which I was privileged to attend. The meeting was under the direction of Dr. Tom McNish, Chairman. Dr. McNish in his opening remarks, made the statement that the purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veteran Affairs on the administration of benefits for former prisoners of war, and more importantly to make recommendations concerning the needs for compensation, health

commander continued...

care, and rehabilitation of such veterans. The Commission is a responsible organization with special interest in former POWs and dependents. Areas of special concerns and discussion were related to qualifications of examining physicians in determining disability ratings of the POW. This was a matter of concern since most VA physicians were not familiar with conditions under which POWs faced during captivity. To assure adequate results, it was recommended that VA physicians be given special training to certify their expertise in performing exams. It was also recommended that VA revisit certain limitations on DIC ratings and time required in processing claims of FPOW widows. Several other recommendations were discussed which were important to POWs and dependents for which the committee is to be commended.

Progress has been made in obtaining tax-exempt status for the organization. Under the IRS Code the AXPOW organization is currently classified as 501(c)4 which limits activities in soliciting funds outside our membership. The AXPOW Board approved researching exempt status under 501(c)3 which would remove this limitation and allow a wider range for soliciting funds through individuals and corporations. At one time the organization was classified as 501(c)19 under the tax code which is tantamount to (c)3 regulations but, wider in scope, and justified further research. Research through AXPOW HQ with IRS leads us to believe that reapplying for 501(c)19 status would be advantageous time-wise and allow the same privileges. Considering this, I have directed the Adjutant to follow through with applying for (c)19 status.

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The procedures for increasing revenue and cost cutting items as directed by the Board at the last National Convention are being addressed, and will be announced in the Bulletin or by other means when completed. Thanks to the Ways and Means Committee, and others who are working on these projects for their efforts.

The AXPOW organization has completed approximately six decades of service to our POWs and dependents however, there is still work to do. We have the opportunity to improve our chapter, state department, and National organization and contribute to our national goal by sharing our message and give assurance to those in need.

The loss of 7 POWs each day creates an urgent need for processing DIC claims in a timely manner by National Service Officers. The return of processing POW DIC claims to the Regional Offices rather than to three central offices will help speed the process. In many cases POW DIC claims processed in local Regional Office can be completed in less than 3 days where in many cases 50-60 days were previously required if processed through the central offices.

Again, I want to encourage those members not currently active, who were once the stronghold of the organization and enjoyed the comradeship of other POWs, to step forward and assist in reaching our goals, and know that there is a place for them in our leadership.

I will attend the Texas Department Mid-Winter conference January 14-16 in Bastrop, TX and the Department of Texas Convention June 10-12, 2011 in Abilene, TX. I have been asked to be the guest speaker at the Department of Texas Convention in June.

Morris



**news
from
hq**

Happy New Year to all from National Headquarters. Here's to a healthy and prosperous new year.

The National Mid-Year meeting will be in Arlington, Texas at the Hilton on March 19, 2011. If you wish to be on the agenda or would just like to attend, please contact Clydie at HQ for more information. The number for the Hilton is 817-640-3322. Just tell them you are with the AXPOW meeting. The meeting is open to all.

This is your last magazine if you haven't renewed your annual membership. Please get your dues in now.

We will be sending out the delinquent listing along with bad addresses to all the chapters this month. Please let us know of any updates you find on the print-outs.

The National convention is in Dayton, Ohio this year September 13-18 at the Marriott Dayton. Please mark your calendars.

Clydie, Marsha, Sally & Donna

National Salute to Veterans

The National Salute to Veteran Patients Week is an official VA program that is celebrated at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country. This annual weeklong celebration, formerly called "No Greater Love Week" and "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week", began in 1978 and is timed to coincide with Valentine's Day.

VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late



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You Too Can Help! Like Mary...

Mary Boyett with husband John in Amarillo, TX went to the 463rd Bomb Group reunion recently in Rapid City, SD. Mary says: "When I find a former POW at these reunions, I'm always asking if they have the VA 100% disability rating. When I asked Hut from Naples, FL if he had 100%, he said no. He only had 10% and had been a prisoner for only ten days."

Mary told me about Hut and I called him. He had never had a POW protocol physical, and several of our POW presumptives apply even with no minimum time as a POW. These include anxiety sates (PTSD, etc.), cold injury, traumatic arthritis, stroke and heart disease. Hut suffered from heart disease, PTSD, cold injury and traumatic arthritis, most likely. Now Doris Jenks in New Port Richey, FL is helping him with his VA claim. Thanks to Mary for her persistent OUTREACH!

Sept. 30, 1999: Before that date, when a POW died, he had to have 100% VA disability rating for at least 10 years for his widow to automatically qualify for the VA widow's benefit, DIC. After that date, he had to have had the 100%

for only one year when he died. Now that ten-year rule has been rescinded and the one-year rule applies to all. IF YOU KNOW OF A WIDOW WHO HAS BEEN DENIED HER WIDOW'S BENEFIT BECAUSE OF THAT TEN-YEAR RULE, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN HELP HER GET HER DIC. This change is not effective until Oct. 1, 2011, but efforts are being made to make it effective sooner.

More caring! Boyd Engle in Glen Dale, W VA calls to ask for help in getting back in touch with his old POW buddy Manuel Granado in Taft, TX. I give him phone number of San Patricio County Veterans Service Office in Sinton, TX and they make the connection to check up on Manuel who is blind and deaf, with wife whose limited English prevents communication with Boyd. He's concerned that they have their VA benefits.

Bernice e-mails from New Hampshire about getting her mother in New Jersey her VA benefits; she's in a nursing home. Bernice makes connection with VA in New Jersey.

Delbert in Huntington, W VA calls. His mother has gotten her DIC effective June 1, 2010; husband died of ALS and they got claim to VA on Oct. 15, 2009. I call Philadelphia VA Rep to ask why effective date of claim was not much earlier. He said when the fiduciary papers came to the VA, due to mother's Alzheimer's problem, they will go back to make effective date Nov. 1, 2008. Good!

Elizabeth in Johnstown, PA writes: "Thanks to your letter in Dear Abby, I just got my 3rd check from the VA, due to my husband's ALS death. It took a long time, but it happened. Thank you for caring about fellow veterans. I for one will be forever grateful. God bless you. Elizabeth."

Kathy in Red Bluff, CA has good news: "I just called to tell you I got my first VA check, since my hus-

band died of ALS." I asked Kathy if she didn't get a retro check also. Her excitement rose as she answered, "Yes, I got a check for \$27,000 and I have been able to pay off all my debts! Thank you for your help."

For many years, VA Rep Bob Manchester has served veterans, especially former prisoners of war. Retired from VA, now serving with the Texas Veterans Commission, Bob is still at it, doing good deeds. In late October, Bob drives 125 miles to Vidor, Texas, picks up Tiger Lyons to take him to the VA POW Advisory Committee's semi-annual meeting, this time in Waco, Texas, 265 miles from Vidor, for the three day meeting and seeing old friends on the Committee. then back to Vidor with Tiger, 265 miles, and then 125 miles back to Houston. Caring is the word.

Elsie in Connecticut writes: "Dear Fred, I am thinking of you this Thanksgiving, and I am grateful for many things. One of them is the benefits I receive each month that you have helped me to get. I am grateful to you and your work. I have passed on my ALS claims information to a destitute widow I met by chance. Wishing you all the blessings this Thanksgiving."

AXPOW service officer Ben Garrido was parking his motor home near Needles, California, adjacent to the Colorado River Indian Reservation bordering the Colorado River in Arizona, for some winter months. And still thinking OUTREACH. Thus, this letter: "Mr. Eldred Enas, Chairman, CRIT Council, Parker, AZ. I strongly support our organization's endeavor in getting the word out to our POWs, widows of veterans and our war orphans. Attached is an article in our May/June 2010 POW Bulletin about our successful Outreach

outreach, cont'd...

due to our letter in the Dear Abby column of last year's newspapers. I hope you and your tribal council will help us in reaching out to our veterans, widows and war orphans in obtaining their rightfully earned entitlements. I am available to assist you in this, Ben Garrido (of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, home of the Cherokee Nation)" Thank you, Ben, for reaching out wherever you are!

Recently, I referred Harriet to the Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Office in the Buffalo, NY VARO. And she writes: "Fred...I just had a call from the PVA Rep. What a nice man that called. Michael Kruse. He told me all the forms he needs from me including burial expense etc. Thank you so very much for the lead. He said PVA represents us without obligation, and he was so helpful. Thanks again."

Please know that Paralyzed Veterans of America service officers are to be found in most states' VA Regional Offices, and give excellent service. Don't hesitate to use them when you are where there are no AXPOW NSOs.

"Dear Mr. C, I have you to thank for leading me in the right direction. With the help of Mr. Fletcher in Ann Arbor (who sent me the proper form) and a church friend who is a volunteer with the Kalamazoo Red Cross (who went to the VA office here), I received notice today that service connected death benefits (DIC) are granted effective May 3, 2009, one year prior to the date of claim. I am absolutely overwhelmed to know that I will receive a monthly check of \$1,260. Talk about taking a load off my mind! I had been worried that should I live to be 92 years old (I am now 90), I would only have Social Security as my total income. I was under the impression that I would only receive a one-time benefit, so you can imagine my surprise. I am going to

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sleep better and I hope you will too! Be sure to keep your halo polished and on straight! Again, thanks for making life easier for this veteran's spouse. God bless you, Kathryn". (Kathryn, you are the only one who has noticed my halo, except my wife who says it's on crooked.)

(NOTE: Kathryn had been advised that she was not eligible because her husband who died of ALS had served in WWII, and this benefit was for those who served in Vietnam. Bad advice! IT PAYS TO GET A SECOND OPINION.)

Variety is the spice of life, for sure. Here's a note from Marsha Coke in AXPOW Headquarters in Arlington, TX: "Fred, he's not in Texas, but can you help this man? Thanks!"

The shaky-hand letter from Art in Scottsdale: "Dear Ms. Coke, I am an XPOW, 100% disabled, and I am very happy with the findings of the POW Medsearch. However, I have one thing in my mind that perhaps no one has brought up before. Many of us XPOWs have outlived our original spouses and have subsequently married a younger woman. In order to maintain a sexual relationship, because of medications we are forced to take to live, it becomes impossible. I am 89 and perhaps too old to think of such things, but I'm sure a lot of younger men have thought of this. Thanks for your consideration. Art, Bataan Survivor"

Art, fond memories can certainly spark concern!

OUTREACH to former POWs continues, but I believe we've reached most by now. There may still be a few old soreheads who refuse to have anything to do with the VA or government in general, but we've tried as best we can. Father Time marches on, and so do we.

Over 22,000 people are employed at Wright-Patterson, which occupies a site where the Wright Brothers tested their fledgling airplane about a century ago.

NSO



Ruth Powell, Director - NSO
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Update on Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Veterans Compensation and Pension Benefits in 2011 COLA Tied to Social Security and Consumer Price Index

The Social Security Administration has announced that no cost-of-living adjustments will be made to Social Security benefits in 2011 because the consumer price index has not risen since 2008 when the last Social Security increase occurred.

Like recipients of Social Security and other federal benefits, Veterans, their families and survivors will also not see a cost-of-living adjustment in 2011 to their compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security benefits.

Compensation Rates

100% rating:	
Veteran Alone	\$2,673
Veteran with Spouse	\$2,823
Dependency & Indemnity Rates:	
Basic Payment Rate	\$1,154

VA provides compensation and pension benefits to about four million Veterans and beneficiaries.

Ruth

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Korean Hemorrhagic Fever

More than half a century has passed since the end of the Korean War. More than three years of fighting between United Nations and communist forces culminated indecisively with the July 27, 1953, signing of what has become an uneasy truce.

Although the belligerents finally stopped killing each other, a different type of assailant — oblivious to the armistice — continued its relentless assault. It waged war not only on the ravaged Korean peninsula, but throughout the world. Today, the battle against this adversary isn't being fought by armies, but by soldiers of science whose basic weapon is research. They have yet to achieve victory, as their elusive target adopts divergent forms.

Not differentiating friend from foe, this enemy of both enemies first attracted international attention after it struck U.S. troops during the Korean War. No stranger in a part of the world where it had been active for centuries, it blindly attacked opposing sides and civilians with equal intensity and was irrefutably responsible for the demise of untold numbers on and off the battlefields. Unarmed and unnoticed as it moved among its prey, striking indiscriminately — this insidious killer was a disease: Korean hemorrhagic fever (KHF). Allied and communist troops alike, as well as civilians, endured its wrath.

KHF is a widespread and often fatal illness caused by a rodent-borne

species of Hantavirus known clinically as Hantaan virus. The same or closely related Hantavirus maladies (called epidemic hemorrhagic fever in China and by several different names in at least 20 countries) are pervasively rampant throughout the Far East.

And it still continues to silently kill.

Fourteen cases of Korean hemorrhagic fever (KHF) were identified among 3,754 U.S. Marines who participated in a joint U.S.-Korean military training exercise in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from late September to mid-November 1986. Ten individuals were hospitalized; two of these died. Cases were confirmed by serologic testing and by postdeployment screening of serum from 2,053 of the participants.

Korean hemorrhagic fever occurs frequently among rural civilians and Korean military personnel. However, in recent years, fewer than 10 cases have been recognized annually among U.S. troops. The Marine units participating in the military exercise were from camps in Okinawa, Japan, where KHF has not been reported. In addition, KHF had not been previously reported in association with this exercise, which is held annually, even though most of the training takes place northeast of Seoul in an area where the disease is endemic. There was nothing unusual about the exercise, except that it occurred approximately 1 month earlier than those held in previous years. The weather was milder; conditions were warm, dry, and dusty until early November.

Most (1,969) of the U.S. force was quartered in tents at Uncheon Base Camp, within the perimeter of a permanent ROK Army garrison

camp southwest of Uncheon. Another 1,105 Marines were at Watkins Range, about 2 km northwest of Uncheon Base Camp. The remaining 680 troops were engaged in aviation activities at various locations distant from the base camp.

The patient with the index case became ill on October 26. The other patients had onsets of illness throughout the ensuing 51 days (Figure 1). The last patient identified became ill on December 17, 38 days following his departure from Korea. The 10 hospitalized patients initially had nonspecific flu-like illnesses. The four nonhospitalized patients had a variety of symptoms. Prominent findings on admission included fever (100%), fatigue (100%), headache (90%), conjunctival injection (90%), thrombocytopenia (100%), and proteinuria (100%).

The overall attack rate was 4.6/1,000 among the total group of soldiers deployed in the Uncheon area (14/3,074) and 7.0/1,000 among the group that was screened (14/1,985). Cases occurred in several different units, but 13 of the 14 were among the 1,969 persons housed at Uncheon Base Camp. One was among the 1,105 persons housed at Watkins Range (rate ratio = 7.3; 95% confidence interval, 0.96 to 55.7). At least 10 of the patients lived in tents pitched along the periphery of the camp in an area near high grass and scrub brush. Six of the 14 patients (43%), including the two who died, were from a single engineer company of 118 men and women. All of the affected persons in this company were assigned to two of the three company

medsearch continued...

platoons (attack rates, 54/1,000 and 94/1,000).

All of the soldiers who had been tested for antibody completed a questionnaire within 2 months of their return from Korea. In addition, 11 of the 12 surviving patients were interviewed. No temporal clustering by unit, field exercise area, environment, or work-related factors could be identified as risk factors for infection.

Fifteen persons with IgM antibody titers greater than 1:3,000 were identified by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) specific for hantaviruses. Thirteen were confirmed by indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA) (greater than 1:128) and plaque-reduction neutralization (PRN) (greater than 1:20). The fourteenth case was diagnosed by IFA and PRN alone. Neutralization tests distinguished Apodemus-associated (Hantaan) virus from urban rat-associated (Seoul) virus. All sera that had been confirmed as positive yielded titers at least fourfold higher against prototype Hantaan virus than against Seoul virus.

Approximately 150 cases of KHF were reported among ROK military forces between September and December 1986. Nine cases of KHF were identified among ROK troops stationed in the Uncheon area during the time of the exercise. Two of these occurred among the approximately 1,500 ROK Marines participating with the U.S. forces. Differential neutralization revealed Apodemus-associated infection in these patients as well. Reported by: CDR E Pon, LCDR B Merrell, LCDR R Thomas, US Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit #6, Pearl

Harbor, Hawaii. LT A Corwin, Consolidated Preventive Medicine Svc, US Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan. MAJ B Diniega, MAJ K McKee, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, DC. LTC T Ksiazek, US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Maryland. H-W Lee, Korea Univ Medical College, Seoul, Korea.* Special Pathogens Br, Div of Viral Diseases, Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC.

Note: Hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), sometimes known as Korean hemorrhagic fever, is a viral infection acquired from rodents, principally the species *Apodemus agrarius*, *Rattus rattus*, and *Clethrionomys glarolus*. Human infections are widespread, particularly in Asia north of the Himalayas. For example, in the People's Republic of China, HFRS is responsible for over 100,000 reported cases annually, with the reported incidence increasing rapidly in the last few years (1). This increase may be the result of recent changes in agricultural practices, which may have altered rodent populations. The disease is undoubtedly ancient, but was first recognized independently and reported in the 1930s in Scandinavia and in Manchuria during the Japanese campaign (2). Most of the early recognized outbreaks were associated with military maneuvers, especially where troops had bivouacked in the open or had been involved in trench warfare. During the Korean conflict, at least 3,000 United Nations troops were affected (3,4). The prototype virus was isolated in 1978 and named after the Hantaan river in Korea (5).

The group of closely related viruses causing HFRS have recently been classified as the genus *Hantavirus*, forming a subgroup of the family *Bunyaviridae* (6). The virus is usually acquired directly from rodents, in which it establishes a silent but persistent infection. In these rodents, the virus is detected prima-

rily in the lung and kidney, where it is able to persist in the presence of serum antibodies. Large quantities of virus are excreted throughout life. Humans may become infected through minor cuts and abrasions contaminated with rodent urine or feces, but evidence also suggests that aerosol infection may occur where virus contamination is heavy. Infections have also been reported among laboratory personnel in the Soviet Union, Japan, Scandinavia, and Belgium. Most of these have been associated with handling of infected wild or laboratory rodents (2,7).

Both the epidemiologic characteristics of outbreaks of human disease and the severity of the infection may be determined by the rodent host. *A. agrarius*, the major host in Asia, is found mainly in rural areas, particularly in the eastern Soviet Union, mainland China, and Korea, where its habits are increasingly peridomestic. The *Apodemus*-associated hantaviruses probably cause the most severe human disease, with mortality rates currently reported between 3% and 7% (1). *Rattus*-associated disease is apparently less severe, and asymptomatic infections may be more common than with *Apodemus*-associated disease (8). Human infections from *R. rattus* are reported from some inner cities in Asia and probably occur also in rural areas where infestation with both *R. rattus* and *A. agrarius* is common. Although infected rats have been detected in Western cities, associated human disease has yet to be described (9). *Nephropathia epidemica*, which was first described in Scandinavia, is now known to be due to infection with a strain of *Hantavirus* that infects voles (*Clethrionomys* species) (10). It has become apparent recently that infected voles and human disease occur throughout Western Europe (11). *Nephropathia epidemica* is typically the least severe disease and causes very few deaths, although some patients

medsearch continued...

may require dialysis. Some severe cases with hemorrhagic tendency have occurred in some European countries, particularly France (12). A severe disease caused by the local *Apodemus* species has been recently reported from Greece (13).

Hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome has classically been divided into five stages: febrile, shock, oliguric, polyuric, and convalescent (2). In practice these stages frequently overlap, particularly the shock and oliguric phases. The initial symptoms are usually fever, flushed face, periorbital edema, and palatal and axillary petechiae. Conjunctivitis, headache, eye pain, lumbar pain, and tenderness are also common. Principal laboratory findings are proteinuria, hemoconcentration, and thrombocytopenia. Most patients recover spontaneously from this stage. A few progress to a phase of oliguria or anuria that is short and usually self-limiting. Shock can be managed by careful fluid replacement; the greatest danger to the patient is inadvertent fluid overload. Although petechiae, thrombocytopenia, and platelet functional abnormalities are very common, overt bleeding is not. In hospitals in some endemic areas of the People's Republic of China, the infection is most often self-limiting and without a severe phase, and the few deaths are usually due to intracranial hemorrhage or generalized uncontrollable bleeding.

The outbreak being reported is typical of endemic *Apodemus*-associated HFRS in Asia. There were no asymptomatic seropositives among those at risk for the disease. There was no evidence for a point source. The cases occurred sporadically during the fall season and were localized in an area presumably infested with infected *A. agrarius*. The experience mirrors those of the Japanese during their occupation of China and of the United Nations

forces during the Korean conflict. The attack rate of the outbreak in this report is higher than that usually reported in civilian populations and probably reflects the relatively intense exposure to the virus encountered during the military operation.

The mission of the Army Public Health Command is to promote health and prevent disease, injury, and disability of Soldiers and military retirees, their Families, and Department of the Army civilian employees; and assure effective execution of full spectrum veterinary service for Army and Department of Defense Veterinary missions.

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1. Santo Tomas prison camp internees Lee Rogers and John Todd.



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



2. Pvt. Robert Collins & M/Sgt. Woodrow Haines back behind UN lines, Chechon, Korea.



3. Pfc. Robert Brandon rations Red Cross parcels, Stalag IX-B.



4. Nichols Field Detail, PI, taken at Pasay Schoolhouse.



5. An American POW suffering from dry beri-beri being treated in Bilibid.



6. Nick Mustacchia and another POW are liberated from a German prison camp.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



8. Three American POWs released by the Viet Cong near Tay Ninh City.



9. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Nick Mustacchia is shown.

POW Photos Order Form

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Happy 2011!

At this writing, cold winter winds are blowing the last of autumn's leaves from the trees and Andersonville National Historic Site has already experienced its first frost. By the time you are reading this, Andersonville National Cemetery will have once again witnessed the annual *Wreaths Across America* program, held the second Saturday of December, where the public has an opportunity to remember and honor our nation's veterans during the holiday season. This year's event is being coordinated by the park's new Chief of Interpretation and Education, Eric Leonard, who has brought fresh energy and ideas to the National Prisoner of War Museum, our public programs, and our website. Eric,

who holds a Master's Degree in Public History, has served at several national parks, and he is now excited about leading Andersonville through the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War – the Sesquicentennial – during the next five years. He has also worked with the National Park Service Center for Media Services in West Virginia (also known as Harpers Ferry Center, or HFC) on exhibit projects in the past. Thus, he is the perfect person to take the reins of the POW Traveling Legacy project, "Victory From Within: the American Prisoner of War Experience" as we transition from the design phase to fabrication.

On that note, I want to thank once again the park's resident historian and Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources, Alan Marsh, and the AXPOW advisory group, for their hard work over the past year in getting the exhibit package ready to build. I also want to thank the many AXPOW members and chapters who have continued to support the project through donations. As you know, through your efforts, with the last big infusion in September provided by your National Convention in Albany, Georgia, the POW Traveling Legacy account grew to \$38,000. That amount, combined with the \$62,000 bequest received by the Friends of Andersonville, brought the total amount of private dollars raised to \$100,000! Matched with the \$136,000 requested and received by the National Park Service

through a public-private grant source brought the balance to \$236,000.

Needing another \$36,000 to reach the \$272,000 project budget and begin the contracting phase, the Friends of Andersonville made a much-appreciated executive decision in November to provide a \$36,000 "advance" from the Andersonville Trust fund, so that the project could proceed without delay. However, those monies need to be replenished into the corpus of the endowment, so that it continues to earn the level of interest that provides other annual support to small and medium-sized National Prisoner of War Museum research and education projects. So, to paraphrase the words of Wayne Waddell, Vietnam POW, and a member of the Friends of Andersonville Board of Trustees, who spoke at Andersonville NHS on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, "if you haven't yet supported this project, please do. And if you already have, please consider 'doubling down' and making another donation."

Another way to support the project would be through your time. If you would be willing to serve as a Guest Host at a Grand Opening of the exhibit at a museum near your home, please contact Eric at 229-924-0343 x110 or at Eric.Leonard@nps.gov via email. After all, this is your story, and it our purpose to ensure that Americans, particularly younger generations, never forget about the sacrifices that you and your families have made in service to our nation. With your continued support, we will accomplish this mission together.

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.

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Thousands of Wreaths Decorate Veterans' Graves

Donors and Volunteers Honor Veterans at VA National Cemeteries

Thousands of red-bowed wreaths decorated Veterans' graves and memorials across the country this holiday season when volunteers placed them at 131 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries, state Veterans cemeteries, and at Arlington National Cemetery and memorial sites.



namPOW news



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Operation Homecoming 1973

Release of the longest held prisoners of war in American history.

"What kind of an airplane is that?" – long-term resident of the Hanoi Hilton upon seeing his first C-141, the aircraft that had been the logistics workhorse of most of the Vietnam war.

February 12, 1973 was unlike any other February day in the last seven years. We'd been issued our clothes the night before - real shoes (not Ho Chi Minh tire-tread sandals) khaki trousers and shirt (not cheap pajamas) and a cheap tan jacket - all from Czechoslovakia - not good quality but the best we'd seen in a long time.

Our senior officers had put out the word that no one was to show any emotion during the release. We knew that the North Vietnamese communists would try to use any joy or smiling or happy faces to propagandize the release and use the film to rebut reports of the awful treatment we'd received over the previous 6, 7 or 8 years of captivity.

Several weeks previously, the guards had moved many POWs into differ-

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ent cells around the prison based on the date we'd been shot down. The camp commander had lined everyone up – and actually allowed our senior officers to form us into military ranks. He read the provisions of the Geneva agreements signed in Paris on January 26, 1973 which stated that all POWs were to be released within 60 days. Although we were ecstatic we showed no emotion. None. No facial expressions. No cheering. Nothing.

The camp commander became very perplexed. The senior interrogator who spoke excellent English came up to the microphone and asked, "Do you understand you will be going home soon." There was still no reaction from the POWs. We displayed no emotion. Gave no positive or negative reaction to the news. We just stood there.

As we glanced around the Hanoi Hilton's courtyard, we could see many motion picture cameras set up in the gun towers of the prison. Aha! Suspicions confirmed.

The obviously very irritated camp commander and interrogator said simply go back to your rooms. Which we did quietly and without showing any emotion.

It was the first actual victory we POWs had achieved over our captors in the many years we'd been held.

As soon as we got into the cells we started cheering wildly as we finally realized that we'd soon be going home. And then the room got very quiet as each man contemplated freedom after years of brutal imprisonment coupled with torture, beatings and starvation. The emotions were overwhelming as we realized that all

those dreams and fantasies compiled during years of solitary confinement were about to be realized.

The morning of February 12 was chilly by north Vietnamese standards but we didn't feel it a bit. The first two buses left about an hour apart and we were on the third bus waited and waited and waited and we thought here it comes... finally it's just a drill - we're not going home after all.

We'd heard that POW Ed Davis (Navy pilot shot down nearly 8 years before) had stolen the camp commander's puppy - "Liberated" was the word Ed used! - and had actually got the pup aboard the Air Force C-141 and out of the country.

Finally the guards got the last group of us and herded us into a bus. We marched from the bus to the staging area at Gia Lam airport and then marched to a table where our names were called. We were grabbed by some Air Force medics who cautioned us to be quiet and not say anything inflammatory. We were then guided individually to our Air Force MedEvac C-141. There was a first class airline seat for each of us as well as a litter in case we wanted to rest. Fat chance! Most didn't sit down for the three hour flight to Clark AFB in the Philippines electing instead to check out the cockpit, chat with the flight crew, read magazines from Life to Playboy, smoke cigarettes and stand in line to sniff the perfume of our much appreciated Air Force flight nurses who frequently had to wipe their eyes!

It had been a very long final combat mission but at last it was over. We were going home...

Photo: Ed Davis with USNA classmates aboard the last flight of the Hanoi Taxi at the 2003 Nam-POW Reunion when it was the last flying C-141 and became part of a survival exhibit at the Air Force Museum In Dayton, Ohio.<L-R> Paul Galanti, Mike McGrath and Ed Davis. The Miniature Schnauzer was Ed's dog in 2003. Ed died in 2008 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



pow-mia



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Americans Identified

There are **1,705** Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. On November 2, DPMO posted the news that the remains of one US Marine had been recovered. He has now been identified as **SSgt Samuel E. Hewitt, USMC**, listed as MIA in South Vietnam from a ground incident that occurred March 23, 1966. His remains were recovered June 24, 2010, and identified September 20, 2010, with notice just released by DPMO with the family's agreement. On November 3rd, the remains of two US Air Force officers had been recovered and identified. The first is Major Thomas J. Beyer, of North Dakota, listed as MIA in south Vietnam on July 30, 1968. His remains were recovered December 1, 2009, and identified on October 12, 2010.

The second officer is Major Richard G. Elzinga, of Oregon, listed as MIA in Laos on March 26, 1970. His remains were recovered June 22, 2009 and identified October 28, 2010.

Several others have been identified, but not yet announced by DPMO as they are awaiting family notification by the Service Casualty Offices. **The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 878**; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 941. Of the 1,705 Americans POW/MIAs from

the Vietnam War, our unreturned veterans, **90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control**: Vietnam - 1,305 (VN-478, VS-827); Laos - 334; Cambodia - 59; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters - 7. Over 450 are considered over-water losses.

Soldier Missing in Action from World War I Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War I, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Private Henry A. Weikel, 28, of Mt. Carmel, Pa., was buried on Dec. 9 in Annville, PA.

On Sept. 16, 1918, as part of the 60th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, his unit encountered heavy enemy artillery barrage and machine gun fire near Jaulny, France, in a wooded area known as Bois de Bonvaux. Weikel was killed during the battle and his remains were buried with two other soldiers in a wooded area between Bois de Bonvaux and Bois de Grand Fontaine. Attempts to locate his remains by U.S. Army Graves Registration personnel following the war were unsuccessful. In September 2006, French nationals hunting for metal in the area found human remains and World War I artifacts. A Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team, operating near the location, was notified of the discovery and recovered human remains upon excavating the site.

Missing WWII Airman Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Air Forces Capt. George W. Grismore, 30, of Salt Lake City, was buried at sea Nov. 17 off the coast of Newport Beach, Calif.

In 1945, Grismore and five crew members aboard a C-47A Skytrain departed Tanauan Airfield on Leyte, Philippines, on a resupply mission to guerilla troops. Once cleared for takeoff, there was no further communication between the aircrew and airfield operators. When the aircraft failed to return, a thorough search of an area ten miles on either side of the intended route was initiated. No evidence of the aircraft was found and the six men were presumed killed in action. Their remains were determined to be non-recoverable in 1949.

In 1989, a Philippine National Police officer contacted U.S. officials regarding a possible World War II-era aircraft crash near Leyte. Human remains, aircraft parts and artifacts were turned over to the local police, then to U.S. officials at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. From 1989 to 2009, JPAC sought permission to send teams to the crash site but unrest in the Burauen region precluded on-scene investigations or recovery operations. Meanwhile, JPAC scientists continued the forensic process, analyzing the remains and physical evidence already in hand. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA-which matched that of Grismore's nephew-in the identification of his remains.

At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 72,000 are unaccounted-for from the conflict.

Missing/Captured

US Service members reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations: Army Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 24, June 30, 2009, Afghanistan Army Staff Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie, 45, Oct. 23, 2006, Baghdad.

civilians



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Finch, A.L. *Child P.O.W.—A Memoir of Survival*. Enumclaw, WA: Annotation Press, 2008. Pp. 399. Large print.

This book is a personal account of abuse to the author and her mother by the Japanese during World War II in the Philippines. It covers the author's childhood, concentrating on slightly more than three years ending when she was eleven. During this period, Ms. Finch writes that she and her mother were held as civilian POW's and slave laborers in a series of camps in the Philippines, China and Japan. Her tale is lively, interesting, and reasonably well-written. However, it contains descriptions of alleged Japanese atrocities that didn't happen. It also contains "eyewitness" testimony that is impossible to believe. The author appears to have conflated, exaggerated and sometimes invented events in the Philippines and elsewhere, and then placed herself and her mother in the midst of them.

An early exaggeration is her tale of flying to the Philippines on a Pan Am Clipper which made "extemporaneous stops" at uninhabited tropical atolls to allow the passengers to swim, picnic and collect shells (p. 43).

This is nonsense, but rather harmless nonsense. Much of the rest is not so benign. The following review will highlight some of the many inventions and inaccuracies in this book.

As she and her mother had limited finances, Finch credits her "Aunt Alice", stationed in Manila as a "Major"

in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, with financing the trip. The "Aunt" supposedly was evacuated along with several other nurses from the Philippines by submarine on December 11, three days after the initial Japanese air raids (p. 82).

No such submarine evacuation occurred and no Major Alice is on the roster of U.S. Army nurses in the Philippines. The ranking Army nurse at the time was Capt. Maude Davison¹, one rank lower than Finch's "Aunt". Initially the 100 Army and Navy nurses were desperately needed to treat the wounded. A few (22) were evacuated in the week before the May 5 surrender of Corregidor², but most (77) were incarcerated by the Japanese for the nearly three years prior to liberation³³

In Chapter 9, "Death at Tea Time," Finch claims that after she and her mother were arrested by the Japanese, they were transported to the Bay View Hotel, which she described as "second rate" and "across the tracks" in downtown Manila (p. 113).

At this point Finch launches into one of her most serious inventions when she describes seeing piles of dead women and children at the hotel, many of whom appeared beaten and raped (p. 114). Finch further claims that well under half the women and children taken to the Bay View left alive. Among these victims she lists a wealthy Filipino family that had befriended her and her mother because of Finch's friendship with their daughter when both were attending a private school in the U.S. This family is never identified.

Actually the hotel was good quality, located across the street from Manila Bay and the lovely new American High Commission, now the U.S. Embassy.

In addition, this entire episode is fiction. The Bay View Hotel was a gathering place for foreigners (not Filipinos) to be interned by the Japanese, but no violence took place there during this period. Violence did occur at Bay View three years later when the Japanese used it as a rape hotel during their murderous rampage as American liberation forces approached Manila. Then approximately 100,000 Filipino men, women and children were murdered.

In Chapter 10, "Evil Swords," Finch claims that she and her mother were imprisoned with a mixture of military men and civilians in a series of 7 or 8 sub-camps to O'Donnell and Cabanatuan (p. 119).

In actuality, the Japanese separated male military prisoners from most male and all female civilian internees; and there is no listing of "sub-camps", which Finch claimed totaled around thirteen (p. 119).

She also describes a camp commandant, whose hobby was raising roses, which he regularly watered by decapitating prisoners while the survivors were forced to watch. According to Finch, she and her mother were always placed in the front row, so were regularly splattered with the victim's blood (pp. 125-6).

Finch further charges that this camp commander "became a mega-millionaire" and a member of the Japanese Diet following the war. And that he was protected from prosecution by the American government which "needed...men to run the new Japanese government." (p. 128) Later she claims General Douglas MacArthur placed this man as "the American head of an immense electronic corporation, which MacArthur helped establish." (Ch. 21, "A Long Road Home," pp. 248-9)

Finch also describes torture where victims were crucified face-first against wooden buildings, doused with gasoline and set on fire (p. 125).

These two execution stories aren't found elsewhere in wartime accounts of Japanese abuse and the flaming crucifixion incidents surely also would have burned down the buildings to which the victims were nailed.

No evidence is offered to support the charges against Gen. MacArthur and the U.S. Government, and neither the Japanese man, nor the company she claims he headed is identified.

An excuse Finch uses for not identifying such people is fear of retaliation. By the time her book was published it is unlikely that any still would be living. Hundreds of war criminals were prosecuted due to eyewitness testimony and scores were executed.

In Chapter 13, "The Basket Man," is another of the more serious inventions

in Finch's book. Here she claims that, upon the surrender of Corregidor, the Japanese rampaged through the Malinta tunnel hospital, where "they came across wounded patients, nurses, doctors and surgeons [and] ... machine gunned every single person without mercy..." (p. 142)

This massacre never happened, nor were patients and medical personnel massacred at the two large field hospitals on Bataan when the Filipino and American forces surrendered a month earlier. Indeed, all 100 American military nurses survived the war.

In Chapter 16, "The Jumping Frogs," Finch's account of five months in a Japanese officers' brothel in the mountain resort city of Baguio is suspect. In this chapter (and elsewhere) Finch alleges the Japanese broke her fingers, burned her with cigarettes, tore out her toe nails and broke bones in her feet "solely to amuse" themselves. She further stated that x-rays taken of her feet after her release showed "more than 50 healed fractures". (p. 176) Finch also claims that, when repatriated, she initially weighed just over 25 pounds, despite being nearly 12 years old (p. 269).

No evidence appears to exist of this brothel, which she describes as "near the former summer home of Philippine kings....and emperors." (p. 162-3.) Moreover, there were no Philippine kings or emperors, unless you count the series of Spanish kings who never visited the Philippines in the 350 years the archipelago was part of their Empire.

Indeed, her tale of more than three years of starvation, disease, physical abuse and incredibly long hours at hard labor makes it difficult to conceive of her (or her mother) surviving. In Finch's case, this all allegedly began when she was only eight years old and recovering from polio.

In Chapter 18, "Lennie and the Rose Garden," Finch writes that an Australian friend "Dear Lennie" was beheaded for no apparent reason in front of her and her mother while in Fukuoka, Japan in early February 1943.

A photo accompanying this beheading account appears on p. 198. At the bottom of this photo is a link to the Aus-

tralian War Memorial website (www.awm.gov.au). The Australian site identifies this as a famous photo of Sgt. Leonard George Siffleet being decapitated on a beach in Aitape, New Guinea along with two other Australian military men on 10/24/43.

In Chapter 19, "The Hell Ship," Finch adds a "Hell Ship" story to the book by claiming that she and her mother were sent from Fukuoka to Manila in early February 1943, and then shipped back to Japan (Kobe) less than a week later along with "nearly 800" POWs. The trip to Kobe, she writes, took eight days during which no food or water was supplied (p. 207).

However, there is no record of a Hell Ship departing the Philippines for Japan (or anywhere else) during that month. There also appears to be no record of Hell Ships transporting captive women along with military POWs. Furthermore, eight days without water spent packed in the sweltering ship's hold likely would be fatal to the POWs. Finch claims they traveled to multiple camps in the Philippines (*most of which aren't known to have existed*); to Foochow, China (work in a tin mine); to Fukuoka, Japan; back to Manila; back to Japan (Kobe); and then repatriation from Japan to the U.S. via Australia.

No accounts of prisoners being moved around this much appear to exist. Furthermore, civilians seized in the Philippines were either murdered (in remote locales) or taken to one of three holding camps, Santo Tomas University (Manila), University of the Philippines (Los Baños) and Baguio.

In Chapter 20, "Kobe Dock Laborers," Finch states that she and her mother worked 25 months, twenty hours a day, shoveling and hauling coal to power Japanese ships, while, subsisting on a daily diet of 50 to 100 grains of rice, supplemented by seaweed and anything they could scavenge. (p. 215).

In Chapter 21, "A Long Road Home," inexplicably, at the end of the stint on the Kobe docks, mother and daughter were suddenly placed aboard a Swedish repatriation ship, the *Drottninghom/Sverige* and taken to freedom in Australia. Supposedly about 200 others, most of them "severely wounded soldiers" were repatriated with them (p. 237).

Such repatriation missions didn't occur late in the war. Furthermore, wounded (or unwounded) military POWs never were repatriated by the Japanese.

A constant Finch complaint is the refusal of military authorities to believe the stories she and her mother told, but couldn't document. Her mother finally obtained counterfeit state-side documentation from a sympathetic unnamed colonel in military intelligence to assist her in getting a job. This included "personnel records and paycheck stubs"; along with tax receipts showing she had worked in "aircraft companies in San Diego" during the war. Documentation of school attendance, including report cards, for her daughter also was provided (pp. 334-5).

Upon finishing this book, one is left wondering if the stateside "cover story" supposedly provided by military intelligence, is actually the true account of Finch and her mother's wartime experiences. In her final chapter, Finch warns Americans against "charlatans" and advises that "when we hear an unusual fact or claim...we must check the sources carefully." (p. 383)

Her book illustrates the wisdom of that advice.

Reviewed by J. Michael Houlahan
Houlahan is a retired U.S. diplomat, who was stationed at the American Embassy in Manila 1989-92. He writes on the Philippines and visits that country frequently with his wife, a Filipino academic. Ten of his articles are based on interviews with POWs, including eleven American military nurses, most of them imprisoned with the non-Filipino civilians at the Santo Tomas (University) Internment Camp.

NOTE: We understand that there is now a movie being made from this book. If you are as outraged by this as we are, please contact the publisher.
~ Sascha Weinzheimer Jansen
BACEPOW Board Member
American Ex-POW Member
Mabuhayma@aol.com

looking for



Cheryl, I recently met a group of WWII British POWs who organized themselves into the **Monte San Martino Trust**. They survived captivity and performed multiple escapes out of northern Italy. There are at least 6 still living and they are curious if there might be a similar organization in the US. There intention is to declare a "sister organization" for future gatherings. The current director of this organization is: Sir Nicholas Young (btw: he is also CEO of the British Red Cross and son of one of the former POWs). I've been researching for about 3 weeks and have thus far come up blank. Might you have some contacts who could point me in the right direction? Thank You,
Sonny Blinkinsop.

Colonel, U.S. Air Force
Air Attaché
U.S. Embassy London
work +44 (0) 20-7894-0714 (0761)
mobile +44 (0) 7850 793965
BlinkinsopSP@state.gov

My father, **Porter E Stevens** was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner in 9C Bonn, 13C Hammelberg, Schweinfurt, 13D Nuremberg, 7A Moosburg and was the last known American to be liberated from Dachau. He made two different escapes during his captivity. He died in April 2010. I would like to hear from anyone who knew of him. I am his son and only survivor. Thank you.
mstevens8@neo.rr.com.

On D Day, June 6, 1944, my family lived on an old farm at St. Georges

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d Boron. Early that day, we helped with some American paratroopers who were misdropped near the village. Unfortunately, there were German paratroopers there as well and most of the Americans were captured. I have a unit roster of these men; most all camp from the **501st Parachute Inf. Reg. 1st Bn, Companies A, C and HQ**. Here are some of the names: Privates Anthony Capobianco, Charles Duckworth, John Fekete, Michael Kovalick, Hugrd. Snead, Keiffer Bohannan, Talmadge C Burrell, Gilbert A Smith, S/Sgt Herbert H Smith, Tech/Sgt Ross W Ford...all from "A" Company. If anyone knows these heroes or their families, I would be grateful. My information is: Thierry Ferey, 3, route du Rivage, 50500 Auvers, Normandy, France.

I am looking for anybody who knew a **Philip Mintz**. He was in the 77th infantry in WW2 stationed in Japan. He was a POW and we need proof of this fact for the army. They lost all records in a fire they had. I hope someone out there knew him and can help me. Please call me at 954-424-4084 or e-mail me at: sjmintz@earthlink.net. Thank you, Edythe Mintz.

News Briefs

Warning to Veterans

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty,
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

VA Processes First Claims for New Agent Orange Presumptives New Program Speeds Approval for Vietnam Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam Veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

"With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam Veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit."

news briefs, cont'd...

VA published a final regulation on Aug. 31 that makes Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, or a B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia eligible for health care and disability compensation benefits. With the expiration of the required 60-day congressional review on Oct. 30, VA is now able to process these claims.

Vietnam Veterans covered under the new policy are encouraged to file their claims through a new VA Web portal at www.fasttrack.va.gov <<http://www.fasttrack.va.gov/>> . Vietnam Veterans are the first users of this convenient automated claims processing system.

If treated for these diseases outside of VA's health system, it is important for Veterans to gather medical evidence from their non-VA physicians. VA has made it easy for physicians to supply the clinical findings needed to approve the claim through the new Web portal. These medical forms are also available at www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams.

The portal guides Veterans through Web-based menus to capture information and medical evidence required for faster claims decisions. While the new system currently is limited to these three disabilities, usage will expand soon to include claims for other conditions.

VA Launching New Personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored

to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual Veteran.

"These handbooks will give Veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our Veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy to understand roadmap to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each Veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments when applicable.

"Enhancing access isn't just about expanding the kinds of services VA provides. It also includes making sure we do everything we can to ensure Veterans have a clear understanding of the benefits available to them so they can make full use of the services they have earned," Shinseki said.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain Veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 for across the county.

Veterans in Congress

At the start of the 111th Congress of 2009-2010, only 25% of U.S. senators and 21.6% of U.S. representatives had served at least some period in military uniform (active duty, Guard, or Reserve). That per-

centage has been declining steadily since it peaked at 74% for the House (1969-70) and 78% for the Senate (1977-78).

The decline will continue when the newly minted 112th Congress takes office next year. In the new Senate, there will be 25 vets, including four military retirees - the same figures as the 111th Congress. Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL), Scott Brown (R-MA), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) are currently serving National Guard or Reserve members. In the House, a whopping 98 seats turned over. Among incoming freshmen, 22 are veterans, including four military retirees. Rep Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Reps-elect Tim Griffin (R-AR), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Steven Palazzo (R-MS), and Joe Heck (R-NV) are currently serving in the National Guard or Reserve. The new House will have a total of 87 veterans (20% of voting members), including 10 military retirees.

Disabled Veterans Memorial

Two Veterans Affairs secretaries and the Speaker of the House were among the dignitaries who joined a crowd of some 400 on 10 NOV at a groundbreaking ceremony for Washington's newest monument, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. On a strip of land near the U.S. Botanical Garden with a sight line to the Capitol, the privately funded memorial will take the form of a star-shaped pool, ceremonial flame, panel of glass walls and four bronze sculptures. It is scheduled for completion by Veterans Day 2012. Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, in thanking the donors and the leaders of the Dis-

news briefs, cont'd...

abled American Veterans who first conceived the project 12 years ago, said, "The price of liberty has been paid by the vigilance and valor of the many young Americans" who put service to country above self and "displayed a courage at which we can only marvel." One of his predecessors, Anthony Principi, said, "Life-long disabilities are part of veterans' contribution to the cost of war," and quoted the aphorism from Gen. John J. Pershing that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

Government Funding Extended

Before adjourning, Congress approved a continuing resolution in order to keep the federal government funded through March 4, 2011. The resolution came just in time to prevent a government lock-out as funding for federal government operations would have expired on December 22.

The bill extends most agencies funding at 2010 levels, but it also includes an additional \$460 million for the VA in order to maintain claims processors and help reduce the backlog of claims.

Reducing the claims backlog has been a long-standing goal. More funding was required to keep pace with the swell of claims brought on by the three new presumptive conditions for exposure to Agent Orange approved by the VA this fall.



The resolution also includes a two years pay freeze for federal civilian employees starting on January 1. Military personnel will not be affected by the freeze, and instead will see a 1.4% pay increase in 2011.

VA Urges Veterans to Sign Up for Direct Deposits

Treasury Publishes Final Regulation to Phase Out Paper Checks by 2013

The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge Veterans to sign up for electronic payment of benefits. On March 1, 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card.

Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation or pensions for the first time after May 1, 2011. Those people will automatically receive the benefits electronically.

Along with payments for VA benefit, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management.

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"

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 Pkwy, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010.

From OHIO



Retired Air Force Col. Thomas Moe, who spent five years with in the infamous Hanoi Hilton in Vietnam with U.S. Sen. John McCain, is Gov. John Kasich's pick to run the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

Kasich made the announcement with Moe, 67, of Lancaster, during a press conference at VFW Post 1380 in Lancaster on the 69th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Moe, a Republican, is honorary chairman of Ohio Veterans United, which endorsed Kasich this fall over Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland. Moe also was chairman of Ohio Veterans for McCain when the Arizona senator ran for president in 2008.

"The citizens of Ohio can rest assured that partisan politics will not be involved in any of your decisions, only what is best for Ohio," Moe said of Kasich during the campaign.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services was created as a cabinet agency in August 2008. Previously, the functions mostly were run out of the governor's office.

The department provides services for Ohio veterans and runs veterans' homes in Sandusky and Georgetown near Cincinnati. The agency has about 900 employees, most of whom work at the two homes.

And VIRGINIA

LATE POST MEMBER TO BE HONORED IN PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Our Blue & Gray VFW Post 8469 comrade, Colonel George Juskalian USA (ret), a Centreville (VA) resident, passed away on Independence Day 2010. The Colonel was a three-war veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam whose personal decorations included two awards of the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, four awards of the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the POW Medal. Over the summer, the Commander of Centreville American Legion Post 1995, Peter DeFreece suggested that our Post join his in writing Congressman Frank Wolf and Senator Mark Warner recommending that the local Centreville Postal Facility be named after Colonel Juskalian. We sent such a letter including all the biographic material and pictures contained in the Colonel's Pillars of the Post biography, along with some heartfelt sentiments via a letter dated 16 August 2010.



This October, our Post received a letter from Congressman Wolf's office relaying that he has introduced legislation, co-sponsored by every other member of the Virginia delegation, titled H.R. 6392 which would name the Centreville Postal Facility after our comrade. This legislation has been introduced and referred to committee, two of the six steps necessary for the proposal to become law. Congressman Wolf promised to keep us abreast of developments as H.R. 6392 moves through the process. The last paragraph of our letter to Congressman Wolf last summer reads, "Thousands of our World War II heroes are leaving us every day. Centreville needs a lasting reminder of their service and sacrifice for all generations to come. Please lend your support to designate the United States Post Office at 5003 Westfields Blvd, Centreville, VA as the "Colonel George Juskalian Post Office." Thank you for your consideration."

From: Jim Adams, VBAVACO" jim.adams1@va.gov

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Walnut Iowa Monument



POW/MIA flag across its chest, a folded American flag to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, barbed wire signifying the internment of military personnel in prisoner of war camps, and a rose laid at the base of the eagle, reminding us of the life of each of the missing, and the loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The small bronze child is about to place a second rose at the base of the eagle to



In the small Iowa town of Walnut, a town of 800 residents, the dedication of the Walk of Honor Veterans Monument was held on October 24, 2010. Assisting with the dedication was National Senior Vice Commander Carroll Bogart, Iowa Department Commander Tom Snyder, and Iowa Junior Vice Commander Elwin Diehl. They were given the honor of raising the POW/MIA flag during the ceremony. Moderator of the dedication was Iowa Department Junior Vice Commander and National Historian Gloria Myers of Walnut, who was also co-chairman of the Walk of Honor committee responsible for the design and construction of the monument.



“honor the walk” of all veterans and their families.

had gone down in Vietnam and his remains were never recovered. The bracelet was given a final resting place within the Walk of Honor Veterans’ Monument, the only monument in Pottawattamie County to hold a memento of this kind.

During the ceremony special recognition was given to two World War II POWs, who were long time resi-

Within the eagle was placed an MIA bracelet for Vietnam Army SFC Leroy Donovan. His bracelet was discovered on a bronze sculpture of the Statue of Liberty in Loveland, Colorado as the sculpture was being cleaned. It was given to the Walk of Honor committee by the bronze artist to be placed in the Walnut monument. SFC Donovan’s plane



The Walnut Monument is one of fourteen Eagles of Honor Monuments in Pottawattamie County in western Iowa. The fourteen towns in the county each have an Eagle of Honor Monument, each having a different theme to honor veterans past, present and future. The Eagles of Honor Monuments will be reminders for future generations that “ Freedom is not free”.



dents of Walnut. Louis E. Myers, Gloria’s father, was surrendered at Bataan, survived the Bataan Death March, and was held prisoner by the Japanese for three and a half years in the camps of O’Donnell, Cabanatuan, Mukden, and Kamioka. Edwin A. Holtz was captured at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 and held captive by the Germans for 110 days.

On the monument are these words that explain the Walk Of Honor: “ Walnut, Iowa’s Veterans Monument...A tribute to honor the men and women who have unselfishly provided us with our freedom and with a special tribute to the MIA’s and POW’s who have gone beyond their call of duty. May the walk of your life be a journey filled with the values our veterans have fought for with their service.”

The Walk of Honor Monument in Walnut emphasizes the sacrificial walk made by the POW/MIA veterans and their families. The bronze eagle is adorned with a



American Ex-Prisoners of War 2011 National Convention Dayton Marriott

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Local Attractions

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National Convention Tentative Agenda Sept. 13-18, 2011

Tuesday Sept. 13:
National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 14:
National Board of Directors
Meeting
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 15:
Opening Ceremonies
Commanders Reception
Evening Entertainment

Friday Sept. 16:
Past National Commanders
Breakfast
General Business Session
Camp Reunions
Hospitality Room

Saturday Sept. 17:
General Business Session &
Balloting
Banquet and Installation of
Officers

Sunday Sept. 18:
Devotional
National Board of Directors Meeting

*The first All-American
Soap Box Derby
was held in
Dayton, Aug. 19, 1934*

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Your Stories



Eleven Two - as in November 2nd

By Frank A. Kravetz

November 2, 1943, was the day I left to begin my training with the United States Army Air Corps. I boarded the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road train in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and headed for Greensboro, North Carolina. There were servicemen traveling in the car with me who were going to other bases. They were already wearing their Army issued uniforms. I was still in civilian clothes. As we talked, I told them that I was going to Greensboro because I had enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps Cadet Program and that was pretty much all the conversation that there was. They wished me good luck.

The date was November 2, 1944 and we were scheduled to fly, so we received our usual early wakeup call at 3 AM. After making the trip to the mess hall for breakfast, we reported to the large Nissen hut where the briefing room' was. This served as the big war room where crews that were going to be on a particular mission for the day assembled.



The commanding officers in charge pulled the curtain back to show a big map of Germany and pointed out the target for the day. As they pushed the sticks around they moved planes into different locations pinpointed on the map. I watched intently and vividly remember seeing a target that was highlighted for this morning's mission.

The target was Merseberg, Germany. I kept pressing my throat microphone, shouting, "Tailgunner to crew, tailgunner to crew, I'm hit, I'm hit!" I heard nothing in response - no one answered my call. I found out later that our intercom system had been knocked out by fire from the FW-190s, which is why my crew never heard my cries for help over the radio. The tail section was filling with smoke from the direct hit received from the enemy fighters. I had no idea how badly I was injured and shortly after my repeated attempts on the radio to reach a crewmate, everything went black and I passed out.

When the train eventually stopped to pick up a few more prisoners of war, I found out that this train was taking us all to Stalag Luft XIII D (13-D) in Nuremberg, Germany (Stalag Luft means, "camp for Airmen").

I really had no idea what to expect. Of course, I thought of cells and imprisonment and barbed wire, but I couldn't comprehend what being a 'Prisoner of War' would mean to me. Up until now I was a patient, then a prisoner-patient in a hospital setting, but not in a prison camp. I wondered what kind of medical attention I would get, if any. As the train raced down the tracks, I tried to just appreciate not being in a hospital bed, and accept this next part of my journey.

Arriving at the train station in Nuremberg, I grabbed my crutches, walked off the train and immediately noticed how the station had been severely damaged by bombings and stood partially in ruins. Guards from the Nuremberg Prisoner of War camp met us there and

began walking us to the prison camp, as there was no transportation available. There were several of us who had just been released from hospitals, so we were all plodding along, me on my crutches, others just shuffling along dealing with their injuries and sickness.

If you would like to learn more about my story, I have written a book, "Eleven Two" *** One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom. A biography of Frank A Kravetz, Staff Sgt. US Army Air Corp B17 Crew Member. The book was published on November 2, 2010. It is available at the following web site: www.silverbeargraphics.com/frankakravetz.

Vet recalls three years without hope: Two former POWs to serve as grand marshals for Veterans Day Parade

By Barbara Arrigoni - Staff Writer. barrigoni@orovillemr.com. Copyrighted article reprinted with permission. Chico Enterprise-Record/Oroville Mercury-Register

Sixty-five years after the end of World War II, two veterans and former prisoners of war will be honored as grand marshals for the annual Veterans Day parade.

The men are Homer Cooley, 89, a U.S. Army Air Corps gunner whose B-17 plane was shot down over Germany, and Bob Wolfersberger, 91, an Army soldier who was captured in the Philippines when the United States on the Bataan Peninsula surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1944, Cooley, a crew chief and top turret gunner on a B-17, was on a mission out of Italy when his plane went down in Germany. He parachuted safely from the plane, but was captured by Germans shortly after

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PICTURES TAKEN AT DULAG LUFT, WETZLAR, GERMANY
18 DAYS AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN.

your stories, con't...

landing, according to Stan Rinehart, adjutant and quartermaster of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9602.

Cooley was interned at a Luftwaffe POW camp. At one point, he and a friend escaped, trying to get to what they thought were friendly lines. About two weeks later, the two were recaptured and sent to another German camp, where Cooley remained until the end of the war.

Cooley was unavailable for comment and will not be able to ride in the parade, Rinehart said. On Tuesday, Wolfersberger spent more than 90 minutes recounting his capture in 1942 and the three years he spent in captivity.

Wolfersberger was stationed in the Philippines when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He was 24. For the next four months, he fought on the Baatan Peninsula, the largest island of the Philippines.

He was in a dive-bombing outfit, a crew chief and rear gunner, but the planes were destroyed on the ground. They were converted to infantry.

Wolfersberger said Gen. Douglas MacArthur was in charge, but failed to do anything for eight hours after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, and the Japanese got tanks and infantry onto the main island. "We were at a great disadvantage," he said. "It was chaos."

Wolfersberger said MacArthur fled and put Gen. John Wainright in charge of forces on Corregidor and Gen. Edward P. King in charge of forces on Bataan, he said.

King agreed to surrender.

"That's when our trouble started," Wolfersberger said. "They were our **Ex-POW Bulletin**
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enemy. As a Christian, we're supposed to pray for our enemies, but boy, it's hard to do that when they're throwing rocks at you, so to speak.

The Japanese captured approximately 20,000 Americans and 50,000 Filipinos, he said.

"I can't describe to you the chaos," Wolfersberger said. "It was a mixture of everybody."

Wolfersberger said he was moved to Manchuria, China, on Nov. 11, 1942. About 1,200 people were sent to Manchuria.

His captors started out trying to train the prisoners as machinists. But that didn't work, and they were divided into 200-man groups. Some were sent to work in sawmills, steel mills, a canvas factory and a leather factory.



Wolfersberger wound up making leather.

Prisoners suffered from malnutrition. If a prisoner got sick, there was very little medication to help them. Wolfersberger said if the body didn't heal itself, they were out of luck. "We were in bad shape." "I truly

didn't think I would make it," Wolfersberger said. He spent the next three years without hope.

Not all the guards treated the men badly. "Some were halfway decent," Wolfersberger said. "They didn't torment you or think you were inferior. Others thought they were king of the world. They considered us lower than a duck's instep." "You just took a beating when they felt like it," he said. "They believed a lot in mass punishment, but also individual punishment."

Wolfersberger was working in the leather factory one day in 1945 when the prisoners were told they'd be sent back to their barracks and to get their personal belongings. They were told not to say anything or make any gestures to anyone as they were driven back.

"We didn't know what was going on, but we knew something big," he said.

Apparently, a crew from a B-17 had landed. The crew included a doctor and was looking for Gen. Wainright. The Japanese were told they'd lost the war and the Americans would be taking over. It took more than a day for the camp officials to verify the information. "It was indescribable," said Wolfersberger. "We couldn't go anywhere, but I was free. That's what counts. We were in a concentration camp and couldn't go anywhere, but we were free."

Wolfersberger was flown out of the camp in a B-24 that had a red cross painted on it. He was first taken to a hospital in San Francisco and eventually transferred to a hospital near his home in Windber, Pa.

Later, Wolfersberger married and raised a family. He worked for the city of Fairfield at a wastewater treatment facility before retiring and moving to Oroville in 1980.

For 60 years, Wolfersberger shunned anything to do with Japan and wouldn't buy any products made there. That changed when his car broke down and he drove a Mazda loaned to him by the repairman. He ended up buying one. He has reconciled with the past and let it go. "You have to. You can't drag all this stuff around in your mind," Wolfersberger said. "It's called forgiveness. It's what the Lord told us. He's forgiven us, so we're to forgive others. That's hard to do at times."

Although he's honored to be named grand marshal and proud he served, Wolfersberger voiced one regret. "It didn't have to happen," he said.

The Veterans Day parade begins at 11 a.m. Thursday and runs along Montgomery Street from Fifth Avenue to Downer Street.

Dayton was named for John Dayton, a congressman from New Jersey who, along with several partners, owned the land when the original settlers arrived.



AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Voluntary 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.

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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!

Jose Manuel Astorga
La Mesa CA
Army F Trp 8 Cav 196
Light Inf
Plantation, Gardens, Hanoi
Hilton
4/2/72-3/73

William Reiley
Alfred ME
82 Airborne Co H
Stalag 2

Susan Hecker Cram
Ronald
Diamondhead MS
Daughter of Sid Hecker,
ETO

Frederick E Saefke Jr
Bismarck ND
USMC 3 BN 4 RE
Corregidor, Cab, Manila
5/6/42-9/13/45

Thomas Morelli
Maupin OR
Army
12A 2A
5/30/44-5/45

Dianne Parker
Germantown TN
Daughter of Kenneth
Parker, ETO



New Life Members Welcome Home!

***denotes new member to AXPOW**

Francis R Edwards **39718**
Punta Gorda FL
USAAC
Rangoon Burma
12/14/44-5/45
Pat Agresta **39719**
Manahawkin NJ
15 AAF 376 BG
Luft 1, Others

Colby A Davis **39720**
Canton ME
15 AF 454 BG 736 BS
Luft 4

Clarence W Spence **39721**
Bend OR
4 COMP GP 28 MATL SQ
Bataan Bilibid O'Donnell,
Cabanatuan 1&3,
Fukuoka 10

Michael R Potts 39722
Milledgeville GA
Son of Hal H Potts, PAC

Martin Sylvester **39723**
New York NY
409 Inf Div
2A Labor Camp

Charles K Braun **39724**
Cincinnati OH
15 INF 3 DIV
7A 2B

Helen F LaGarde **39725**
New Market MD
Widow of William
LaGarde
Luft 3 13D 7A

Dorothy A Tiarks **39726**
Underwood IA
Widow of William Tiarks

Camp 3 Korea

7/50-8/23/53

Donald B Heslop **39727**
Akron OH
CO C 607 Tank
7A
8/17/44-4/29/45

Elisabeth Lukashevich
39728

Palm Coast FL
Widow of Joseph
Lukashevich
Luft 17 Sagan
5/30/44-4/29/45

Edward K Bier **39729**
Calabase NC
Son of Jesse Bier

Kenneth T Kockhart
39730

Wyckoff NJ
USAAF
Oberussels, Meiningen,
Nurnburg, Moosburg

Jane Bianchin **39731**
Carpinteria CA
Widow of John Bianchin
Luft 4 11B
9/44-5/2/45

Jennie Di Giovanni
39732

Philadelphia PA
Widow of Anthony Di
Giovanni
Munich, Others
9/11/44-4/29/45

Raymond L Ruetsch
***39733**

Columbia MO
Son of Robert Ruetsch,
ETO

Jacob G Roth Jr
Betty **39734 39735**
Fayetteville NC
CO L 34 INF REG 24 DIV
Camp 3

Dennis J Cronin
Louise H **39736 39737**
Edgewater FL
CO I 119 INF 30 INF DIV
Zerbst, East of Elbe River
4/5/45-5/10/45

Robert B McClure
Niki **39738 39739**
Indianapolis IN
15 AF 745 BS 456 BG
Hungary, Hospital,
Nurnburg, 7A
1/31/45-4/29/45

Charles E Spargur Jr
Lora M **39740 39741**
Indianapolis IN
15 AF

James King Miller
Rosemary **39742 39743**
Louisville KY
CO F 2 BN 242 INF 42
DIV
5A 13C
1/6/45-5/2/45

Charles Bachini Jr
Claudette **39744 39745**
Spotsylvania VA
Son of Charles Bachini,
ETO

Harry J Hall
Geraldine **39746 39747**
Tipton IN
1 Army 112 REG CO A
Bad Orb, Berga
12/20/44-4/23/45

Members' forum



Cheryl:

We received the Nov/Dec 2010 Ex-POW Bulletin here at Andersonville National Historic Site and it was nice to see the many pictures and articles relating to the September convention — and the day in Andersonville. It was good to be with you all again for this special time, and I look forward to seeing you again next year in Dayton! Thank you for your ongoing support of the National Prisoner of War Museum, and our effort to tell your story through the “Victory From Within” traveling exhibition

Commander Barker: if you are able to put in a plug for the project in your next column, we'd certainly appreciate it. As you know, AXPOW members have been very generous thus far, contributing over \$38,000 toward the \$272,000 budget. As you also know, the Friends of Andersonville helped temporarily close the \$36,000 fund-raising gap so that we could meet our mid-November deadline for launching the production phase...but they'll need to recoup those dollars to replenish the Andersonville Trust fund that annually supports other POW projects at the National Prisoner of War Museum.

Thanks again for your support and leadership.
Brad Bennett
Superintendent, Andersonville
National Historic Site

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Dear Cheryl,

I was pleasantly surprised when I received the new calendar, and the September month had a picture of the POW exhibit at the Dayton, Ohio museum, at Wright Patterson, AFB. This picture shows very clearly the propeller off the B 17 airplane that was shot down over Holland, in 1943, which was the plane that my husband parachuted from, and we were able to obtain the propeller in 1982, and had it mounted in our yard, and after his death I donated it to the Museum.

The picture is excellent, and I plan to make a trip to the museum next summer. The same Curator is still the same Curator which we contacted and he helped with the dedication. I planned to go there last summer but had other conflicts.

Ruth Natvig Kilmer
Sun City West, AZ

Dear Ms. Morgan:

Each day we edge closer and closer to reaching our goal for full funding of the Traveling Legacy Exhibit — “Victory from Within”. We have

always been amazed at the support that has come forth from your members across the country. The support of this major project at your convention in Albany, Georgia was overwhelming. The generous donations collected at the convention will all be used in support of this project. ...

Since I do not have a list of donors and the majority of them donated cash, I cannot acknowledge individual gifts. Therefore, I hope you will extend our thanks en masse. ...

Once completed, the exhibit will travel throughout the country to museums, galleries and other host institutions where it can be experienced by people unlikely to visit Andersonville and the National Prisoner of War Museum.

Again, please thank your members for their continued support of this worthy project. We could not do this without AXPOW.

Sincerely,
Pat Recker, Secretary
The National POW Memorial
Museum
Andersonville NHS

The Annual Veterans Day Parade in Wichita, Kansas was held on Nov. 6, 2010. The Air Capital Chapter, AXPOW was the guest of the Wichita Horseless Carriage Club. Many of the Vehicles Transporting the Ex-POWs were older than the WWII Veterans. The photo shows Dr. Wm. Paschal, &

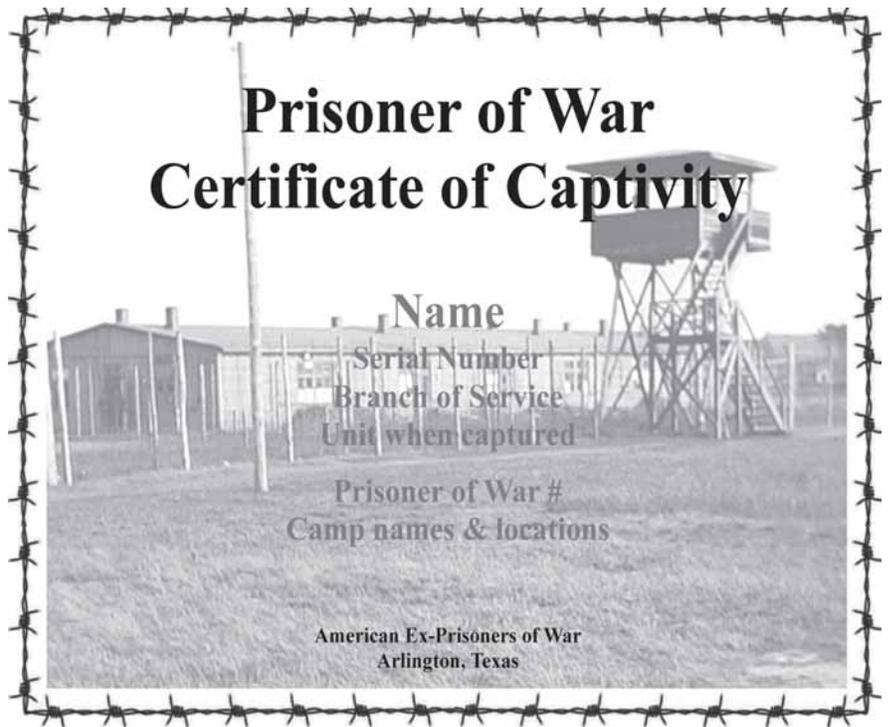
John & Mary Ellen Mock. John Mock is the commander of the Air Capital Chapter.



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

Membership Rates

Single Membership
\$40
Husband & wife
\$50

Mail to:

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

GENERAL FUND

Virginia Timpanaro, Brick NJ
In honor of my parents, Alex &
Mildred Donaldson, by LuAnn
Walz
In honor of my grandparents,
Alex & Mildred Donaldson, by
Elizabeth Walz
In honor of Jerry Reyes, Waco
VARO, by Robert McAdam
In memory of "Beau" Bolensky, by
Hartwell & Frances Champagne
In memory of Annabelle
Livaudais, by Hartwell & Frances
Champagne
In memory of Clifford Fox, by
Thelma 'Susie' Fox
In memory of Dan Abriola, by
Frank & Mae Koehler
In memory of Elsie Bilof, by Edwin
Bilof
In memory of Frank Proto, by
Patricia Kapsinow, by Pierre &
Rosemary Kennedy, by the Con-
necticut Chapter, by Gene & Jane
Bishop, by Theresa Proto, by
Connie Proto, by M/M Edmund
Terracciano, by Judy & Abe
Homar, by Mary Ann Anderson,
by Maryann Bracken, by Marjorie
Mendillo, by Marion Larkins, by
John & Frances Sgueglia, by
Family of Matthew & Celeste
Proto, by M/M Richard Ardolino,

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by Frank & Angela Carrano, by
Thomas & Elizabeth Pugh, by
Margery Demay, by Mae Christie,
by the Guilford Rotary Club, CT
In memory of Frank Zito, by
Shirley & Jim Muisse
In memory of Gail Waites, by
Archie Aitcheson
In memory of Hillman Rabalais, by
Hartwell & Frances Champagne
In memory of James Ben Kert, by
The Zittau Survivors
In memory of Lucille
VanMoorlehem, by Art
VanMoorlehem
In memory of Orland 'Red'
Friesen, by John & Phyllis
Hutchins
In memory of Robert
Abrahamson, by the
Greenmeadow Womans Golf
League, by Debra Tsouprakakis,
by Janet & Darryl Weidler, by
Denise Weidler, by Peter and Ethel
Deane, by Nabnasset American
Legion Auxilliary Unit 437, by
Janice & Hubert Dudley, by Craig
& Sharon Galipeau, by Michelle
Leedberg, by Catherine Burns, by
Carol Archibald, by Elizabeth &
Gary Keegan, by Kathleen Rogers,
by Linnea Fader, by Mrs. Zmuda,
by Mary Partirdge, by Marjorie &
Jim Hennessey, by Nabnasset
American Legion, Post 437

LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of Donald Powell, by
Helen Powell
In memory of Donald Powell by
Kim Powell Ongie
In memory of Harry
Schaumloeffel, by the Department
of Maryland

MEDSEARCH FUND

In memory of Alexander Yonych,
Sr. , by the Department of Mary-
land
In memory of Donald Powell, by
Helen Powell
In memory of Donald Powell by
Kim Powell Ongie

BULLETIN

Brooklyn Key Chapter
In honor of Ralph Mottola, by
Haskell Yadlovker

In honor of William Birch, by
Haskell Yadlovker

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Billy Reinbeau, Thirnville OH
Deloris Brain, Golden Valley MN
Eugene Ostrowsky, Cheektowaga
NY
Frank Annis, Gerald MO
George Strong, Bremerton WA
Gerold Tucker, Loco MT
H Paul Greenman, Kihei, HI
Harry Crane, Las Cruces NM
Herman Molen, Mabank TX
Horace Hosbach, Morton PA
Howard latton, Portage WI
John Gatens, Fair Lawn NJ
John Terborg, New Port Richey FL
Leon Gray, Malvern AR
Leon Tracy, Tucson AZ
Lew Sleeper, Tucson AZ
Lt Col George P Korb, Kingsville
MD
Marvin Roslansky, Apache Junc-
tion AZ
Merland Buttolph, Lowden IA
Mid-Iowa Chapter, Iowa
Neil Brennan, Orange Beach AL
Paul & Dolores Young, Lakewood
WA
Robert Lattin, Yardville NJ
Robert Vogler, San Diego CA
Tacoma Chapter, Washington
Victor Breite, St Louis MO
William Koeln, St Louis MO
In honor of Clydie, Sally and
Marsha, three of the finest people
we know, by Frank & Anne
Kravetz
In memory of John Novak, by
Martha Novak
In memory of Lt Col Grant M Bird,
by Jean Bird
In memory of Sid Hecker, by Bob
Seitzinger
In memory of Sid Hecker, by
Harold & Gloria Brick





taps



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

TAPS for Central Missouri

Chapter members:

Roy K. East, Born 9-13-15, died 11-29-08 at age of 93

Marian East, Born 1-7-24, 11-17-08 at age of 84

Clone Foster, wife of Charles Foster passed away. Date unknown.

Raymond L. Ruetsch

Vice Commander

ABRAHAMSON, Robert Manfred, of Westford, Massachusetts, died November 23, 2010. He served with the 141 Inf, 36 Div, was captured in Italy and held in Stalags 4B and 2B. An AXPOW life member since 1985, he was also a member of VFW, Combat Infantrymen's Association and 59 year member of the American Legion. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Joyce.

ABRIOLA, DANIEL of Brick NJ passed away on August 25, 2010. He was 89. He flew with the 416th Bomb Group (8th Air Force) out of England. He was held captive at Stalag 6B. He was an active member of the Ocean County Chapter, New Jersey. He was a Past Commander, and at the time of his passing was the Chaplain. He is survived by his wife, Gloria and a son Michael.

ACRI, Vincent James, 87, of Hershey, PA died Oct. 21, 2010. During WWII, he served with the 110th Inf. Reg., 28th Div. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Angeline, 1 daughter, 1 son and many beloved nieces and nephews. Vince was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter.

APODACA ALFOND, Dolores, Chairperson and founding member of the National Alliance of Families died Dec. 2, 2010. Dolores came to the POW/MIA issue the day her

brother Victor was shot down over North Vietnam, on June 8, 1967. After the Vietnam War, she quietly worked on her brother's behalf. Her private effort went public in June of 1990, when she joined with POW/MIA families from World War II, Korea, Cold War, and the War in Southeast Asia to form the National Alliance of Families. Dolores made the Alliance a respected and honest advocated for our missing men and their families. Over the last 20 years, she dedicated her life to our unaccounted for POWs and MIAs. She made it her life's work to bring the issue of our POWs and MIAs to the public and hold Washington accountable for their return. She is survived by her son, Michael, 2 grandchildren, 3 sisters and a host of extended family and friends.

BENKERT, James E., of Willow Grove, PA died June 20, 2010. In December, 1944. While serving in the 28th Div., B Co., 103rd Combat Engineers, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and sent to a labor camp near Zittau, Germany. At the time of his death he was one of 10 living Zittau survivors. Family survivors include his wife, Janet, nieces and nephews.

BRITTON, Robert L., of Soldier, KS passed away Oct. 5, 2010. He was 88. He was captured while serving with the 232nd Inf. Reg. in WWII; he was held in Germany. He leaves his wife, Norma, and 2 foster daughters.

CADORET, Roland A., 91, of Bradenton, FL died Aug. 19, 2010. While serving with the 351st BG, he participated in the D-Day invasion. Following 15 successful missions, his plane was shot down in June 1944 and he spent nearly a year

in Stalag Luft III. Roland was a charter member and past commander of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Helen, 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

CANUP, Luther Paul "Luke" of Salisbury, NC passed away Nov. 13, 2010. During WWII, he enlisted in the AAC; he flew a P-47 Thunderbolt over Germany before being shot down and captured. He was held in Luft III. Luke is survived by 3 sons, 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 2 siblings and their families.

CARMICHAEL, Edwin M., of Maryville, MO passed away September 29, 2007. Edwin was a member of the 8th Air Force stationed in England during WWII. He was a navigator and was a POW in Germany from 1943-1945. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

CODERRE, Robert R., 91, died Nov. 17, 2010. He was a charter member of New Hampshire Chapter #1, AXPOW. Robert served in the Army, 28th Division. He was captured in Oberkamnitz, Germany and spent 6 months in a POW camp. He was liberated May 6, 1945.

COOK, Archie Lee, of Vernon, FL passed away Nov. 14, 2010. He was 85. During WWII, he served in the Army's 100th Inf. Div in Europe. He was a former prisoner of war and a long-time member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW

COUTURE, Donald, of Fort Mill, SC passed away Oct. 22, 2010. Dur-

taps continued...

ing WWII, he was captured and spent 15 months as a POW in Germany. He was a member of POW Chapter #1. His loving wife of 63 years, Florence, survives him; Don also leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 brothers and 4 grandchildren.

CRAWBUCK, John R. died November 30 in St. Petersburg, FL. He was a B-17 waist gunner in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He is survived by Eileen, his wife of 64 years; two daughters, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War.

DAHLSTROM, Norman R. of Venice, Florida died Nov. 6, 2010 at the age of 86. He was co-pilot on a B-17 with the AAF and was shot down on Oct. 15, 1944 over Cologne, Germany. He leaves his loving wife of 65 yrs., Audrey, 1 son, 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

DeVERE, John, 92, of Charleston, WV passed away Oct. 9, 2010. He was a member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers. Survivors include 1 daughter, 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

FARMER, George R., 85, member of the Sioux Land Chapter (SD), AXPOW, died Aug. 2, 2010. He was captured while serving with the AAF during WWII. He is survived by 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

FARRELL, Charles, member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AZ died Nov. 15, 2010. During WWII, he volunteered as a glider pilot, and served in the AAC. He was shot down in 1944, and was interned in Luft I. He is survived by his wife, Helen, 4 sons and 4 daughters.

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FREEMAN, Richard, of Webster, NY passed away Sept. 22, 2010 at the age of 89. He was shot down over Austria on his 35th mission, captured and held at Luft 1 for 15 months. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Virginia, 1 son, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

FRIESEN, Orlando H "Red" of Littleton, CO passed away Oct. 7, 2010. He was 87. He was captured while serving in the 8th AF, 392nd BG during WWII; he was held in Stalag 17-B. Red was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife Iris (Jackie), 1 daughter, 2 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren.

GERHOLD, Mel of Groveport, Ohio, died Dec. 16, 2010. He served in the ETO, 384th BG and was a POW in Stalag Luft 4. Mel was a member of Ohio Chapter One. He is survived by his wife of 65 years Catherine, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

GLIPTIS, John M., 91, of Ambridge, PA passed away May 8, 2010. While serving with the Navy aboard the destroyer USS Pope 225 in the South Pacific, he was captured and held in the Celebes Islands for 3-1/2 years. He was a member of AXPOW. John leaves his beloved wife of 64 years, Katherine, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

HALVERSTADT, Eldon M., 89, member of the Steel Valley Chapter #13, AXPOW, died Oct. 29, 2010. He was a resident of Columbiana, OH. Eldon was captured while serving in the Army's 3rd Inf. Div. during WWII. His wife, Winnie, 3 daughters, 1 stepson, 2 brothers, 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild survive him.

HIRSCHI, Alvin L., of Fridley, MN passed away Dec. 3, 2009. During WWII, he was serving with the 379th BG, 8th AF. He was captured and held in Luft IV, then

marched. He leaves his wife, Ardelle, and six children.

HODGES, A "Vic", 81, of New Milford, NJ passed away May 19, 2010. He was a member of the F-86 Sabre Pilots Association and AXPOW Chapter #1. Vic was shot down on his 93rd mission in Korea; he was captured and held until Sept. 5, 1953. Survivors include his loving wife, Harriet, 5 children and their spouses and 10 grandchildren.

HUFFMAN, Rosa L., of Greensboro, NC died Nov. 23, 2010. She was 83. She was the widow of ex-POW Pete, who passed away in July. Rosa was the past commander of the Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW, secretary of the Dept., and a life member of ADABC. She is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and their families.

JAMES, William Lloyd, of Mesa, TX passed away Sept. 16, 2010. During WWII, he was captured on Bataan while serving with the Air Force. He was a POW for nearly 3-1/2 years. William was a member of the East Valley Chapter, AXPOW and ADABC.

JANKES, Les, member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona, died on November 9, 2010. Les was in the 447th BG and Luft 3 and Stalag 7A. He is survived by his wife, Shirley. He and Shirley lived at Freedom Inn, located in Sun City West.

JOLLY, Phil, of Lodi, CA died Nov. 1, 2010. He was 80. While serving with the 1st Cavalry in Korea, his unit was overrun by the Chinese Army and he was captured. He was wounded in the capture and was sent home in 1951 with 26 others. Phil was a member and chaplain for the Delta Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 59-1/2 years, Alice, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 1 sister.

taps continued...

KELLEY, Harry T., 90, of Basehor, KS., survivor of the USS Houston, passed away Oct. 20, 2010. Harry served his country honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1945. He was an ex-prisoner of war held for three and a half years under Japan. He was a life member of AXPOW, DAV and MOC (Military Order Of The Cooties). Survivors include the love of his life, wife of 62 years, Audrey, two sons, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

KEOUGH, Doris E., 99, of Warwick, RI died Sept. 4, 2010. She was the wife of the late Daniel Keough (WWII ex-POW and member of the Rhode Island Chapter #1.). She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 1 nieces and their families.

KRALIK, Roy H., of Creston, IA passed away September 25, 2010. He served in the US Army from 1941 to 1945. In February 1943, he was taken prisoner in Germany and released in August, 1945. **KRALIK, Velma**, passed away October 13, 2010. She was the widow of Ex-POW Roy. She was a member and Adjutant/Treasurer of the Southwest Iowa Chapter. They are survived by one son, two daughters, Linda and Jane, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

KUSHERA, Fredrick, Jr., of Cypress, CA, died Oct. 7, 2010. During WWII, he served with the 603rd BG, 398th BS, flying out of England. He was shot down, captured and held until liberation. He leaves two children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their families.

KYROVAC, Bernard, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW passed away recently. He was captured in Trieste, Italy in 1944 and held until liberation. Bernard is survived by his wife, Ellen, 2 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MAGALONG, Felix B. Sr., of Aurora, CO died Oct. 9, 2010. He was 91. He was captured while serving with Co H, 45th Inf. Reg. BRZSR in the Philippines; after enduring the Bataan Death March, he was held in O'Donnell, Tarlac, Capas. His wife, Sandra survives him; he also leaves 2 daughters, 2 sons, 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

MAGNUSON, Morris W., 89, Commander of the Sioux Land Chapter, AXPOW, died Aug. 28, 2010. He was shot down while serving with the AAF during WWII, captured and held until liberation. Morris leaves his wife of 65 years, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

MANSELL, Roger of Palo Alto, California passed away October 25, 2010. He was an avid reader, and fascinated by history, and especially the history of World War II. After he retired, he began researching the allied POWs of the Japanese, a rich and terrible story that, until he began his work in the 90s, had been largely buried in inaccessible archives. Over more than twenty years, he made multiple and extended visits to the National Archives, scanning and photographing thousands of documents that had not been centralized or compiled. He founded the Center for Research Allied POWs Under the Japanese to post this information on its website, www.mansell.com.

MARSH, Clark Dean passed away in Morgan Hill, CA August 4, 2010. He was 89 and a veteran of WWII and Korea. He was captured in WWII in the Battle of the Bulge and spent several months marching across Germany until liberation by the British Army. His wife, Sarah, predeceased him; he leaves his son, James, and his family.

MARSH, Helen L., 78, of Austintown, OH died Nov. 19, 2010. She and her husband, ex-POW Homer were members of the

Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her loving husband of 62 years, she will be sadly missed by 3 daughters, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother.

MITCHEL, Herbert W. of Nevada City, CA, died September 11, 2010. He is a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was a POW of the Japanese for 3-1/2 years. He was an AXPOW life member since 1979. He is survived by his wife, Helen.

MONTANARI, Mary Catherine "Bunny", of Dennisport, MA passed away Nov. 8, 2010. She was an active member of the Western MA Chapter, AXPOW until she and her husband, Carl, moved to Dennisport in 1995. She leaves her loving husband, 1 son and 2 grandchildren who will miss her very much.

MYHR, Ellsworth B. "Bud" of Sun City, AZ died Oct. 21, 2010. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. He served with the 94th Inf. during WWII; he was captured and held in Stalags 13C and 12A. He is survived by his wife, Lila.

NAJARIAN, Askanaz "Arky" of Pawtucket, RI passed away Nov. 4, 2010. He was captured while serving in the AAC, flying over Germany; he spent 18 months as a POW. Arky was past commander of Rhode Island Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and a host of extended family and friends.

OPSAHL, Dorothy K., of Fishers, IN, passed away Sept. 4, 2010. She and her beloved husband, ex-POW Roland, were members of the East Valley Chapter, AXPOW. She also leaves 1 son and 2 granddaughters.

taps continued...

PEARCE, Charles W., of Novinger, MO passed away Sept. 27, 2010. He was 88. He was captured while serving with the 82nd Airborne Div., 504th Parachute Inf. in Holland after Operation Market Garden. He was held in Stalags 7A and 11A near Munich. Charles is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joanne, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was a life member of the Green Hills Chapter, AXPOW.

PROTO, Frank A. of Guilford, CT, died October 31, 2010. He served in the US Army, 29th Inf. Div., 115th Reg., Co. B on Normandy on D-Day; he was captured at St. Lo in July and held prisoner for ten months in Stalag 12A. An AXPOW life member since 1982, and member of the Connecticut Chapter, Frank is survived by his wife, Emma and 3 brothers.

POWELL, Donald W., a member of Eastern Iowa Chapter, AXPOW passed away Sept. 18, 2010 at the age of 85. Don was in the 45th Div., 180th Inf. Co. E. He was first scout for his unit and was captured twice; 1st for one day and the second time for 9 months. He was held in Stalag 7A and then a work farm. Don leaves his wife of 63 years, Helen, 1 son, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

PURVIS, George, of San Antonio, TX passed away Sept. 12, 2010. He was 88. During WWII, he served as a Medic in the Army, stationed in the Philippines. He was one of the "Battling Bastards of Bataan". George spent 3-1/2 years as a POW in Cabanatuan and O'Donnell. He leaves his beloved wife, Minnie, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

RICHTER, Leroy, of Flatonina, TX died Oct. 27, 2010. He was captured while serving with the 36th Div., 141st Inf. Co. L; he was held in Stalag 2B and other camps until liberation. Survivors include his beloved wife, Melba, 2 sons, 3 stepdaughters, 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

RITTHALER, Paul, of Puyallup, WA, formerly of Texas, died October 27, 2010. An AXPOW life member since 1976, he served in the US Marine Corps and was a POW in Zentsuji. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Betty, who is also a life member since 1976.

SAXON, Joseph Edward, of Winston Salem, NC, died February 22, 2009. He served in the 2 Tank Bn and was held as a POW in Korea. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Carolyn.

SEALS, Noah Junior Jr., 86, of Vincennes, IN passed away March 24, 2010. He was 86. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the 106th Inf., 590th FA BN. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Arlyna, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 3 sister, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

SIMEONE, Francis L., 87, of Rocky Hill, CT died Oct. 25, 2010. He served with the 29th Inf. Div., 116th Reg., 2BN Co G. Frank was in first wave of the D-Day invasion; he was captured on June 12 and held at camps 12, 4B, Work Kommando 1308, Dresden. He was a member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Ellen, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 1 brother.

SOMMERS, Marjorie, 83, of La Junta, CO passed away Sept. 3, 2010. She was the beloved wife of Dean who was a POW in Stalag 17B. In addition to Dean, she will be sadly missed by 2 sons, 4

grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

STEVENS, Porter E., of Ashland, OH died in April, 2010. During WWII, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in 9C, 13C, Schweinfurt, 13D, 7A and was the last known American to be liberated from Dachau. Porter is survived by one son.

TRIMBLE, J. Leo, of San Leandro, CA passed away Aug. 2, 2010 at the age of 85. He was captured at Anzio Beach while serving in the Army, held prisoner at Stalag IIB, then transported by boxcar to work on a farm at Besswitz. His wife, Marjorie, survives him.

TWEEDY, Paul, of Beebe, Arkansas, died December 31, 2009. He served in Company G, 168th Inf, 34th Div and was held in Stalags 7A, 3B, 2A and 483C. He was a member of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Irene.

UNGER, Allen Leroy, of Loveland, CO passed away Oct. 10, 2010. He was 88. He was a member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter, AXPOW, where he served as chaplain; he also served as chaplain for the Dept. of Colorado. During WWII, he served with the 739th BS, 454th BG, DFC; he was captured and held in Vienna Austria, 7A Bavaria. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Florance, 2 daughters, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-grandson.

Van MOORLEHEM, Lucille, of Marshall, MN died Oct. 19, 2010. She was the beloved wife of 68 years of ex-POW Arthur (106th Inf. Div; 9B, Bad Orb). Lucille was a life member of AXPOW. In addition to Arthur, she is survived by 4 sons, 1 daughter and their families.

VINCENT, Leonard John "LJ", of Buffalo, SC passed away Nov. 20, 2010. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII; he was a member of the Catawba

taps continued...

Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 brothers, 2 sisters, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WAITES, Gail Everett, of Yoakum, TX died Oct. 7, 2010. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was captured and held in Luft IV, then marched across Germany. Survivors include 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren and best friend and Army buddy, Archie Aitcheson.

WOLZ, Dorothy E. of Youngstown OH passed away Nov. 7, 2010. She was a longtime member of the Steel Valley Chapter #17, AXPOW. Her husband of 65 years, Albert (SVC of Chapter #13) survives her; she also leaves 3 daughters, 1 granddaughter and 1 great-granddaughter. She will be missed by all who knew her.

ZETTI, Frances, of Akron, Ohio, died November 10, 2009. An active member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, she was married to Joseph Zetti for 65 years. Joseph was a POW in Stalags 2B, 3B, 4B and 3A.



Capitol City Chapter
Commander Sina Chandler and
National Commander Morris
Barker. Sina has served 14 years as
commander of this Texas chapter.
Way to go, Sina!

national chaplain



PNC Gerald Harvey
709 Baptist Home Lane
Chillicothe MO 64601
660-646-4301

This story came to me on my email and I want to share it with you.

"A pastor was on a long airplane flight. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign flashed on: Fasten your seatbelts.

Then after a while, a calm voice said, 'We shall not be serving beverages at this time as we are expecting turbulence.' Then the storm broke.

There were ominous cracks of thunder. Lightning lit up the skies. Within moments, the airplane was like a corked tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the fear of those around him. He said, 'As I looked around the plane, I saw that nearly all of the passengers were alarmed. Some were praying. Many were wondering if they would make it through the storm.

'Then I saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her. She was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm.

'When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm; when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid.'

When the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, the pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. He asked her why she had not been afraid during the storm.

The little girl replied, 'Cause my daddy's the pilot and he's taking me home.'

God is our Father. The prophet Isaiah assures us that God is with us during the difficult times in our lives. Isaiah 25:4 "For Thou hast been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm..."

We are starting a new year with all of its uncertainties. No matter what comes, God will be with us.

Gerald

Did you know?

The Wright Brothers built the world's first successful engine-powered aircraft here and today the community hosts the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, one of the nation's largest military bases.



Over
22,000
people are
employed
at Wright-
Patterson.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2011



**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.

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GIVEN BY: _____ Date of Death _____

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Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ Fund.

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Name _____

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Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



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(rev. 02/07)

Life's Journey

Authored by Cor Longiotti

List Price: \$17.95



Growing up in a small town.
Enduring Life in the great
depression era.

Attending Catholic school for
six years and graduating from
Public High School.

Serving in U.S. Army with the 179th Infantry as a machine
gunner in Sicily. Fighting in Italy, landing on the beaches
of Salerno and fighting our way to Casino then retreating
to make a landing at Anzio. After much fierce fighting
getting captured, and spending time as a POW in Italy
and Germany. Returning home, getting married,
raising a family **and** working to build a better life.

For a copy of book, go to;

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This is an attractive, silver-colored and thoughtful
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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

50/50 drawing

March 2010
Arlington, TX

1st Place	Walter Riley Dallas, TX	\$431.60
2nd Place	Milton "Skip" Moore Sierra Vista, AZ	\$323.70
3rd Place	Ernest Smith Wichita, KS	\$215.80
4th Place	Sally Morgan Grand Prairie, TX	\$107.90

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:
National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
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1946

If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were
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per year. Published since 1946.
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Contact: Lyle Beeth, Membership Chairman
2004 Golf Manor Road
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(813) 689-9621; fax: (813) 655-8952
Toll Free (888) 644-8952
beeth2@hotmail.com

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Jan/Feb 2011

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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

AXPOW Vests!

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



\$55.00 each includes shipping/handling

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

AXPOW Flashlights
Bright safety light when you need it! AXPOW logo in color...individually gift-boxed.
\$12.00 plus s/h



12 energy saving LED bulbs to provide ultra-bright light
The tough casing is made of aircraft aluminum
Water and shock resistant
4.5" long
Push button, sealed rubber switch, with handy carrying strap. Each is individually gift boxed.

Jeweled Flag

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.

American Flag ~

\$30.00 plus s/h



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)

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2011

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Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
 Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____

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

(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to: _____
 Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail orders to:

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

AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$55.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

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

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	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
Black Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	USA Jeweled Pin	15.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00
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	10.00
Necktie w/logo	30.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)		Aluminum License Plate	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)	5.00			3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00	3" Blazer Patch	4.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	25.00	4" Blazer Patch	4.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Barbed Wire pin	3.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
Life Member pin	5.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	3.00	AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	5.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Brooch pin	5.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Logo pin	5.00	State Department Commander		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Service Officer · Legislative Officer		Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
		Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		AXPOW Flashlight	12.00

We accept Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00

For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

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11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more!

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\$13.00 plus s/h

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