

EX-POW BULLETIN

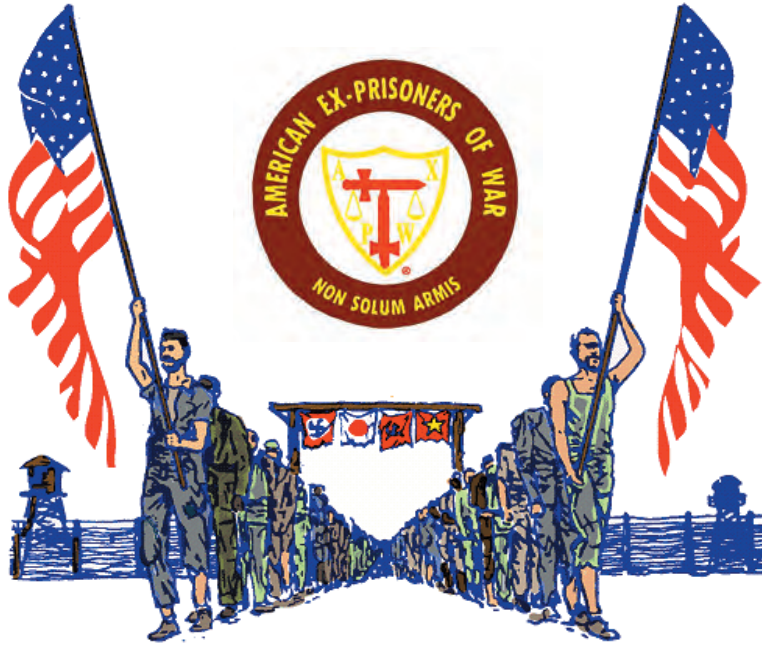
the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 71

www.axpow.org

Number 11/12

November/December 2014



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Nov/Dec 2014



Love Joy Peace

Joyous Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
from

Cheryl, Clydie, Marsha, Donna, Sally
National Commander Skip Moore
National Board of Directors

Publisher

PNC Maurice Sharp
9716 54th Street CT West
University Place, WA
98467(253) 565-0444
SHARP1955@msn.com

Editor

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508) 394-5250
axpoweditor@comcast.net
Intrepid Staff Reporter
Alice A Booher

Deadline for the Jan/Feb 2015
issue is Dec 1, 2014.

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

Website for US Army Awards and Decorations:

<http://usmilitary.about.com/od/armymedals/l/blarmedal.htm>

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EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published bi-monthly (six times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76010. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy. Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, “American Ex-Prisoners of War”, October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement.



axpow officers & directors 2014-2015

National Headquarters - Clydie J. Morgan, Executive Director/Treasurer, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40,
Arlington, TX 76010 (817) 649-2979 (817) 649-0109 fax HQ@axpow.org

Officers

National Commander

Milton "Skip" Moore
2965 Sierra Bermeja
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
(520)459-7295; (520)533-3757 fax
tombstone490@gmail.com

National Sr Vice Commander

Edward L. DeMent
8735 Doral Oaks Dr., #1617
Temple Terrace, FL 33617
(813) 985-3783; (727) 343-3607
deme8805@aol.com

National Judge Advocate

PNC Jack Warner
PO Box 117
Hammon, OK 73650
(580) 821-1526
elib@hammon.k12.ok.us

National Chaplain

ND Benny Rayborn
1111 Highway 29
Wiggins, MS 39577
(601) 928-9200
beanrayborn@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Commanders

Judy Lee
PO Box 56
Madisonville, TN 37354
(423)442-3223; (423)442-4702 fax
judithblee@ymail.com

Pam Warner Eslinger - Central Zone

PO Box 117
Hammon, OK 73650
(580) 821-1526
elib@hammon.k12.ok.us

Alice Gollin - Western Zone

37231 Turnberry Isle
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760)610-1271; (760)610-1752 fax
mortgollin@aol.com

Directors

North East Region

Charles A. Susino
951 Gates Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
(732)463-8355; (732)221-0073-C
charles.susino@gmail.com

Cheryl Cerbone
23 Cove View Drive
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508)394-5250; (508)760-2008 fax
axpoweditor@comcast.net

East Central Region

David Eberly
205 Roger Webster
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 253-9553
eberlydsl@verizon.net

Southeast Region

Benny Rayborn
1111 Highway 29
Wiggins, MS 39577
(601) 928-9200; (601) 270-0678, cell
beanrayborn@gmail.com

Marty Galloway Klumpp
221 Hallows Dr S
St Marys GA 31558
(912) 673-7315 - Home
(912) 227-2148 - Cell
martyklumpp@tds.net

Senior Director

James L. Lollar
292 VZ CR 3727
Wills Point, TX 75169
(903)560-1734; (903)560-1705 fax
B52Gunner0169@att.net



North Central Region

John W Clark
1201 S Johnmeyer Ln
Columbia MO 65203
(573) 445-3621
clarkjna@aol.com

David Claypool
PO Box 38
Hampton MN 55031
(612) 245-2247
claypool23@midco.net

South Central Region

Jan Williams
PO Box 366
Hammon OK 73650
(580) 821-2376
jwilliams@hammon.k12.ok.us

Ben Garrido
6813 W 60th Street
Tulsa OK 74107
(951) 313-9838
bgarrido24@aol.com

Northwest Region

Bonnie Sharp
9716 54th Street CT West
University Place, WA 98467
(253) 565-0444
SHARP1955@msn.com

Southwest Region

Edward "Ted" Cadwallader
9501 Nut Tree Court
Elk Grove, CA 95624
DCadwall@aol.com

Committee addresses appear
with their columns



**National Commander
Milton M Moore, Jr.**

Hello everyone. It has been a wonderful two months since I last talked to everyone. I have had a ton of phone calls and letters from all over the country. I have been to our Headquarters in Arlington. Those women are doing a bang up job there. I want to thank them very much for the job they are doing. I don't know about the rest of the country, but Sierra Vista has had over 15 inches of rain since July 4th this year. We, the state of Arizona, have had a whole lot of flooding in the past month. You have probably seen it on your local news. The desert is not ready for that much rain. We had 5 inches in a 24 hour period in some places in Sierra Vista. We all did survive. I am not used to this much green. Everything is growing so fast out here. At least I am getting some exercise. Mowing grass and pulling weeds. Hey exercise is exercise.

November is going to be a very special month for me. I am going to Washington D.C. for Veteran's Day. This is one occasion that the National Commander needs to attend. We are all Veterans. I am very honored to be able to represent this organization at such a solemn event. We also have our mid winter meeting on the 15th of November, in Arlington, Texas. I hope to

see all the board of directors there and anyone else that wants to attend.

Right now we are in the process of selecting a new Treasurer. We will do that at the mid winter meeting. All of the back taxes and penalties have been paid to the IRS now. We are submitting the last Form 990 thru our CPA this week. We are still operating under the 501c4 Tax Exempt status. The IRS has let us do that. Once everything is turned in we will be fully reinstated. We are going to start our Audit this week also. I don't want the outgoing Treasurer and the incoming Treasurer to not know where we stand in our finances.

I want to thank everyone in this organization for all the support they have given me. This is a tremendous job and I am learning so much. Just remember that a smile can go a long way.

Milton M. Moore

Notice

The American Ex-Prisoners of War Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Arlington, Texas at the Hilton Arlington.

Date:

Saturday,

November 15, 2014.

For more information, or to attend the meeting, please call National Headquarters. For hotel reservations, please call the hotel directly.

Clydie J. Morgan,
Executive Director

news from hq



"It's the Holiday Season!" as Andy Williams used to croon. I hope your plans are coming true for you.

We are processing renewals for next year. If you are an annual members, please get your dues in now.

The National Board of Directors meeting is Saturday, November 15, 2014 here in Arlington at the Hilton. If you're in the neighborhood, drop by. We like our members to attend and participate in the meetings.

If you need some gift ideas, how about the AXPOW Challenge coin. Only \$10 and a great way to share your heritage. See the order form for more information.

Also, the Certificate of Captivity is a great idea for the former POW. Only \$25 and you can include a picture. See page 33 for information on ordering.

The AXPOW and holiday labels will be arriving in your mailboxes in the next weeks. Enjoy using them and please donate generously. Your support keeps this wonderful organization vibrant.

We at National Headquarters wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Clydie, Marsha, Donna, Sally

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Ruth Powell, Director
191 Florence Road
Waltham, MA 02453
781-899-0726

POW Presumptive: Frostbite

Frostbite occurs when tissues freeze. This condition happens when you are exposed to temperatures below the freezing point of skin.

Hypothermia is the condition of developing an abnormally low body temperature. Frostbite and hypothermia are both cold-related medical emergencies.

The condition has long been recognized. A 5000-year-old pre-Columbian mummy discovered in the Chilean mountains offers the earliest documented evidence of frostbite.

More recently, Napoleon's surgeon general, Baron Dominique Larrey, provided the first description of the mechanisms of frostbite in 1812, during his army's retreat from Moscow. He also noted the harmful effects of the freeze-thaw-freeze cycle endured by soldiers who would warm their frozen hands and feet over the campfire at night only to refreeze those same parts by the next morning.

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Causes:

Your body works to stay alive first, and to stay functioning second.

In conditions of prolonged cold exposure, the body sends signals to the blood vessels in the arms and legs telling them to constrict (narrow). By slowing blood flow to the skin, the body is able to send more blood to the vital organs, supplying them with critical nutrients, while also preventing a further decrease in internal body temperature by exposing less blood to the outside cold.

As this process continues and the extremities (the parts farthest from the heart) become colder and colder, a condition called the hunter's response is initiated. The body's blood vessels are dilated (widened) for a period of time and then constricted again. Periods of dilatation are cycled with times of constriction in order to preserve as much function in the extremities as possible.

However, when the brain senses that the person is in danger of hypothermia (when the body temperature drops significantly below 98.6 F, it permanently constricts these blood vessels in order to prevent them from returning cold blood to the internal organs. When this happens, frostbite has begun.

Frostbite is caused by two different means: cell death at the time of exposure and further cell deterioration and death because of a lack of oxygen.

In the first, ice crystals form in the space outside of the cells. Water is lost from the cell's interior, and dehydration promotes the destruction of the cell.

In the second, the damaged lining of the blood vessels is the main

culprit. As blood flow returns to the extremities upon rewarming, it finds that the blood vessels themselves are injured, also by the cold. The vessel walls become permeable and blood leaks out into the tissues. Blood flow is impeded and turbulent and small clots form in the smallest vessels of the extremities. Because of these blood flow problems, complicated interactions occur, and inflammation causes further tissue damage. This injury is the primary determinant of the amount of tissue damage that occurs in the end.

It is rare for the inside of the cells themselves to be frozen. This phenomenon is only seen in very rapid freezing injuries, such as those produced by frozen metals.

Frostbite has been recognized as a military problem since the American Civil War. The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes frostbite as a service-connected disability for the purpose of presumptive compensation for former prisoners of war if it is determined that the veteran was interned in climatic conditions consistent with the occurrence of frostbite.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it is introducing a uniformed disability claims form to better serve Veterans, families and survivors. Standardizing the process by which Veterans file claims and initiate appeals will make it easier for Veterans and their survivors to clearly state what benefits they are seeking from VA and provide information that is necessary to process their claims and appeals. The new forms eliminate applicant guesswork, which often leads to delays in decisions and ultimately delays in receiving benefits. The new regulations go into effect in late March 2015.

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37
(Layman's Terms)
Originally published
by William Paul Skelton, III, MD
F.A.C.P.
updated by the Department of
Veterans Affairs

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

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

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

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet. This disorder is a fatal condition unless it is supplemented with vitamins within a few weeks. Therefore, most individuals suffer from hypovitaminosis, which is a relative deficiency of vitamins in the diet. The specific type, intensity and duration of

deprivation determines the long-term effects.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet. This produces changes in the nerves (both in the brain and extremities) and the heart. Brain changes could produce dementia or psychosis. Nervous changes are usually associated with numbness and/or painful feet. Beriberi heart disease is an acute condition, similar to congestive heart failure, except that the heart pumps more blood than in normal congestive heart failure and it is associated with the presence of an excessive amount of lactic acid in the body. It is unknown at this time whether this can produce a chronic state.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

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

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue. This is graded on a continuum with one representing mild to four representing mummification of

the tissue. The extremities furthest from the heart are usually affected, with primarily the nose, ears, fingertips, and toes being involved. This usually produces long-term side effects such as numbness, discoloration, excessive swelling, and pain in the affected area.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

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

7. MALNUTRITION

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

8. PELLAGRA

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

9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories

medsearch cont'd...

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

10. PSYCHOSIS

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

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear with at least four of the following during an attack: shortness of breath, feelings of heart skipping, chest pain, dizziness, sweating, fainting, trembling, fear of dying, or doing something uncontrollable during an attack. These attacks need to occur at least three times within a three week period, not associated with physical exertion or life threatening situations. Also there needs to be an absence of severe physical or other mental illness which could cause these symptoms.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

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

- (1) Motor tension as characterized by shaking, jumpiness, trembling and restlessness;
- (2) Autonomic hyperactivity, such as sweating, cold or clammy hands, high or irregular

heart rate, dry mouth, etc.;

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

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

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

13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions. Obsessions are recurrent, persistent ideas or impulses that are thoughts that invade consciousness and are experienced as senseless or repugnant. Attempts are made to ignore or suppress them. Compulsions are repetitive and seemingly purposeful behaviors that are performed in certain similar manners. The behavior is felt by the individual to produce or prevent some future event. Generally, the individuals recognize the senselessness of the behavior and do not derive pleasure from carrying it out, although it often relieves tension. Also, the obsessive or compulsive individuals are associated with a significant sense of distress in that it interferes with social or role functioning.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

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

- (1) Recurrent and intrusive recollection of the event;
- (2) Recurrent dreams;
- (3) Sudden feelings that the trauma was occurring because of an association, an environmental or ideational situation.

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

(1) Hyperalertness or exaggerated startle response;

(2) Sleep disturbance;

(3) Guilt about surviving when others have not;

(4) Memory impairment or trouble concentrating;

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

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

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

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

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes. These depressive periods are separated by periods of normal mood, lasting a few days to a few weeks, but no more than a few months at a time. During the depressive period, too little sleep or too much sleep, low energy or chronic tiredness, loss of self esteem, decreased effectiveness or productivity at work, social withdrawal, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, excessive anger, inability to respond with apparent pleasure to praise or reward, less active or talkative than usual, pessimistic attitude about the future, tearful or crying thoughts about death or suicide. There are also no psychotic features present..

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

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

medsearch cont'd...

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

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gas, bloating, and changes in bowel habits. Some people with IBS have constipation (difficult or infrequent bowel movements); still others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and some people experience both. Sometimes the person with IBS has a crampy urge to move the bowels but cannot do so. Through the years, IBS has been called by many names - colitis, mucous colitis, spastic colon, spastic bowel, and functional bowel disease. Most of these terms are inaccurate.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or duodenum (the first part of the small intestine). In addition to the pain caused by the ulcer itself, peptic ulcers give rise to such complications as hemorrhage from the erosion of a major blood vessel; perforation of the wall of the stomach or intestine, with resultant peritonitis; or obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract because of spasm or swelling in the area of the ulcer. The direct cause of peptic ulcers is the destruction of the gastric or intestinal mucosal lining by hydrochloric acid, an acid normally

present in the digestive juices of the stomach.

20. CIRRHOSIS

The liver, the largest organ in the body, is essential in keeping the body functioning properly. It removes or neutralizes poisons from the blood, produces immune agents to control infection, and removes germs and bacteria from the blood. It makes proteins that regulate blood clotting and produces bile to help absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins.

In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

Many people with cirrhosis have no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. However, as scar tissue replaces healthy cells, liver function starts to fail and a person may experience the following symptoms: Exhaustion, fatigue, appetite loss, nausea, weakness and/or weight loss. Cirrhosis may be diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, laboratory tests, the patient's medical history, and a physical examination. A liver biopsy will confirm the diagnosis.

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

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

The symptoms of a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness,

or loss of balance or coordination; or sudden severe headache with no known cause. Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

23. OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break. If not prevented or if left untreated, osteoporosis can progress painlessly until a bone breaks. These broken bones occur typically in the hip, spine, and wrist.

Any bone can be affected, but of special concern are fractures of the hip and spine. A hip fracture almost always requires hospitalization and major surgery. Spinal or vertebral fractures also have serious consequences, including loss of height, severe back pain, and deformity.

medsearch cont'd...

Quick Guide to Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations concerning former Prisoners of War.

Structure

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations is divided into two volumes with 46 parts.

Volume 1 is divided into 17 parts. The items include procedures for determining disabilities as a result of military service, veteran loans, life insurance, medical benefits, legal services, property of deceased veterans and administrative rules.

Volume 2 is divided into 29 parts. This volume includes the veterans benefits for home loans, small business loans, national cemeteries, grants for colleges and towns and the Fisher House for wounded veterans and family members.

History

The care for veterans who fought wars dates back 1636 when the Plymouth Colony passed a law to protect those who were disabled as a result of fighting the Pequot Indians. Veteran care facilities were state run until 1917, when the U.S. Congress established a program for veterans benefits. The actual Veterans Administration was formally established in 1930.

Eligibility

There are a variety of benefits available to veterans, regardless of their former branch of service. The range of degree of benefits are different based on the nature and cause of disabilities and wartime service.

38 CFR 3.309 (c)

Presumptive Service Connection

(c) *Diseases specific as to former prisoners of war.*

(1) If a veteran is a former prisoner of war, the following diseases shall be service connected if manifest to a degree of disability of 10 percent or more at any time after discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service even though there is no record of such disease during service, provided the rebuttable presumption provisions of § 3.307 are also satisfied.

Psychosis.

Any of the anxiety states.

Dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis).

Organic residuals of frostbite, if it is determined that the veteran was interned in climatic conditions consistent with the occurrence of frostbite.

Post-traumatic osteoarthritis.

Atherosclerotic heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease) and their complications (including myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, arrhythmia).

Stroke and its complications.

On or after October 10, 2008, Osteoporosis, if the Secretary determines that the veteran has posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

(2) If the veteran:

(i) Is a former prisoner of war and;

(ii) Was interned or detained for not less than 30 days, the following diseases shall be service connected if manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more at any time after discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service even though there is no record of such disease during service, provided the rebuttable presumption provisions of § 3.307 are also satisfied.

Avitaminosis.

Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease).

Chronic dysentery.

Helminthiasis.

Malnutrition (including optic atrophy associated with malnutrition).

Pellagra.

Any other nutritional deficiency. Irritable bowel syndrome.

Peptic ulcer disease.

Peripheral neuropathy except where directly related to infectious causes.

Cirrhosis of the liver.

On or after September 28, 2009, Osteoporosis.



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 receives 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. Private Joe Demler and another POW are liberated from XII-A, Limburg.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



9. Nick Mustacchia. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Stalag Luft IV.

POW Photos Order Form

These black & white 8x10" photographs are available from MedSearch. Please include a donation of \$5.00 per picture, or \$50.00 for the complete set of 12 with your order. Fill out the form below with selections.

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2014

andersonville



Andersonville NHS
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The week of POW/MIA Recognition Day is always very busy at Andersonville National Historic Site. Throughout the week, the park sponsored and hosted a series of special programs to commemorate the sacrifices made by those Americans who have been held prisoner of war. On Wednesday, September 17, the park sponsored the annual POW Convocation at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia. Former Vietnam POW Colonel Wayne Waddell shared with more than 300 students his experiences of captivity in North Vietnam. The event was moderated by Andersonville National Cemetery Administrator Kim Robins. On Thursday, September 18, The Korean War Ex-POW Association donated their organization's flag to the National Prisoner of War Museum.



On Friday, September 19, the annual Ride Home program dedicated a memorial marker in the national cemetery to Colonel

Floyd Thompson, who was held prisoner of war in Vietnam for nearly nine years. At the dedication a number of former POWs and friends of Colonel Thompson spoke and shared their memories of him, and a flag was presented to his daughter. During the program, the Stalag XVIII-B Survivors made a \$24,000 donation to the Friends of Andersonville, which was accepted by Friends of Andersonville board member Randy Jones and Acting Superintendent Eric Leonard. Over 100 former POWs and their families were on site for the services, and many spent the morning touring the National Prisoner of War Museum. National POW/MIA Recognition Day served as a public debut for the rehabilitation of "Those Who Wait" exhibit, which was made possible by a generous donation to the Friends of Andersonville by the estate of former POW George Matuch.



The National Park Service has also announced the selection of Charles Sellars as superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site in Americus, Ga., effective November 2. Sellars has been serving as the deputy chief of facility management for Great Smoky Mountains National Park since 2008.

"We are very proud to have Charles join our Southeast leadership team as superintendent of Andersonville," National Park Service Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin said. "He has served many parks in the region in various capacities and has a broad base of knowledge and ex-

perience. We know he will work hard to strengthen the park's bonds with local community leaders and other stakeholders."

Sellars began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1985 as a temporary engineering draftsman at the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1986 he accepted a permanent position with the parkway as an engineering draftsman, and in 1988 he became a civil engineering technician. In 1996 he became the Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor within the parkway's Pisgah District.

In 1998, Sellars moved to Bandelier National Monument in Los Alamos, N.M., as chief of facility management. Sellars returned to the Blue Ridge Parkway in 2000 as the Ridge District facility manager. In 2002 he moved to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Kentucky and Tennessee as the chief of facility management.

Sellars moved to the Outer Banks Group of North Carolina in 2004 to take the position of chief of facility management. In that role he managed facility operations at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. In 2012 Sellars served as the acting superintendent of Fort Donelson National Battlefield and National Cemetery.

"I consider it an honor to be selected as the superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site," Sellars said. "I look forward to working with the park staff, volunteers and partners in continuing to preserve the stories of all American prisoners of war, and to honor the sacrifices of all veterans as we care for the National Cemetery."

legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr
Chairman

With federal mid-term elections upon us, it is critical that veterans and their families get out and vote for members of Congress that represent our interests in supporting the quality of life for those that have served our country. It is important to extend our influence and participate in letter writing and visible and heard at public forums.

Ask your elected officials how they plan to address the VA healthcare access issue, provide the necessary funding, and ensure accountability. Do they plan to end Budget Sequestration and provide what Department of Defense needs to take care of our troops and their families?

Since the President signed into law The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, the Inspector General issued their final report after months of investigating wrongdoing at the VA Phoenix Hospital system. The investigation reviewed the care of over 3,400 patients and included interviews with 79 employees. Issues identified poor quality of care and inappropriate scheduling practices. It did not conclusively link wait times to any veterans' death but uncovered lapses in follow-up, coordination, quality and continuity of care. VA Secretary McDonald has stated that the VA is continuing to address

2014-2015 Legislative
Committee
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.
ND Charles Anthony Susino
charles.susino@gmail.com

many of the report's recommendations, and also advised that changing culture takes time, and that he intends to meet with employees, union leaders and other stakeholders to begin to work together on that change. During September the House VA committee approved several proposed Bills designed to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

Some of the other bills that cleared the Committee include:

- * HR 4399 - Performance accountability within the VA management
- * HR 4276 - Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Care Improvement Act of 2014 enhances assisted living pilots program to include community based living centers
- * HR 4971 - Ask Veterans Act requires VA to the conduct a veterans' satisfaction survey. The bill also included the Classified Veterans Act and the Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act.
- * HR 4862 -Our Vets deserve Better Act authorizes VA to meet with special advisory committees to make recommendations on how to improve health care delivery.
- * HR 5404 - VA Expiring Authorities Act reauthorizes many critical existing VA programs through 2015

Both the House and Senate have passed the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014, Bill S2258 and as of our Bulletin going to print, is awaiting the President's signature. The Bill will provide an increase in veterans' disability

compensation and Dependency and Indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. The increase is tied to the social security index and once determined will be effective Dec. 1, 2014.

During September, legislation that would extend several VFW-supported programs cleared Congress. The bill, HR 5404, would extend a requirement that the VA provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities, and reauthorize a grant program for homeless veterans with special needs. It would also allow the VA to continue collecting co-payments for hospital care and nursing home care. All the programs were set to expire on Sept. 30. The bill now heads to the President for signature.

In September, the Defense Department announced a new decision that will enable Vietnam veterans and others to request upgrades to their less-than-honorable military discharges due to an extenuating factor not known or recognized at the time of their separation, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. While this decision does not represent a blanket approval for every upgrade request, it does open an avenue for those veterans who may have been diagnosed with PTSD years after separation to submit new evidence and hopefully correct an injustice from the past.

As a reminder, you can research the status of any Bill in Congress by accessing the website govtrack.us and search by Bill number or subject. Politicians must hear from us to take the correct action!

namPOWs



Paul E. Galanti
804.389.1668 (cell)
p.galanti@verizon.net

Christmas in Hanoi (x7)

Heartbreak Hotel interrogation prison. Hanoi December 25, 1966.

It was bitter cold and damp. I'd been a POW for a little more than six months with much of it in a sweltering solitary confinement. Fifty of us had been paraded through Hanoi's city streets as thousands of Vietnamese chanted obscenities and threw various objects at us at the urging of their communist political commissars.

I'd had severe, brutal interrogation sessions that had left my emaciated body screaming in pain. Our daily meals of watery pumpkin gruel and rice had recently changed to sewer greens and rice twice a day. A mouth-watering scent wafted through the boarded up windows momentarily eclipsing the harsh, sewer smell of the toilet bucket. Wow... What was that? The smell of onions? Of actual meat? Of an exotic oriental smelling aroma of fish sauce?

To digress slightly, and for purposes of total disclosure, I am and have always been an optimist. Totally, unrepentantly

and without any hint-of-shame optimist!

From the day in June 1966 when I'd parachuted into North Vietnam from my burning A-4 Skyhawk and been immediately captured, I was convinced my internment would last six months to a year (at most).

So now I was approaching my first Christmas in Hanoi. Last year my squadron and ship had been at sea flying combat missions off the coast of South Vietnam but we'd had a "stand-down" for Christmas day, itself.

The meal aboard ship had been a traditional Christmas dinner.

And now with delightful aromas emanating from the usually pungent cellblock, my morale skyrocketed - and mouth watered. My emaciated 100 lb. frame longed for something that tasted as good as the aroma that drifted through the window boards.

When the meal came, it was a small chunk of turkey flavored with nuoc mam, the Vietnamese fish sauce. And some white rice. And a banana. And even a few sips of beer.

It's obviously a good sign. We'd be going home soon! And I was never going to complain about food again.

We didn't go home that year but, for whatever reason, the communists went through this charade every year. It served as a way to mark time.

Infrequently, they'd bring in their "Catholic priest" who'd serve communion to a few "believers" (as the Communists called them) while dutifully recording the event with their propaganda cameras.

In the Son Tay prison camp, I remember hearing the Christmas story according to Marx and Lenin on the camp P.A. system. Summarized here with apologies for a 50 year-old memory:

Jesus was a poor working man who was being exploited by the capitalistic foreign invader Pontius Pilate, But Jesus rallied the masses against the imperialist colonialists and for that he was martyred by the criminal invaders. Moral. We are all the same. Only the U.S. government exploiting its lackeys in South Vietnam, like the Roman imperialists, are attempting to enslave the heroic "Vietnamese people." A long diatribe against "Johnson, McNamara and Dean Rusk" would follow followed by exhortations to "side with the Vietnamese people" as opposed to following blindly "The U.S. Government."

Each year the Christmas "celebration" in four or five different prisons went about the same.

In 1972, several hundred of us were in a mountain camp near Lang Son near the Chinese border. It was somehow different. I remember thinking about the last eight Christmases - 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 — all of them in WESTPAC on cruise or in POW Camps. I thought, "You know, I've been here a long time. (But felt better when I realized that I was a newcomer. Good grief, Alvarez has been here 22 months longer than I have.) This is really a good sign." I thought, for the thousandth time, "We should be out of here in six months to a year."

I was wrong. We were home in less than two months. The next Christmas was much better!

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards
Chairman

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

Soldier Missing from Korean War Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and was returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Pfc. Arthur Richardson, 28, of Fall River, Mass., was buried Sept. 18 in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. In January 1951, Richardson and elements of Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment (IR), 24th Infantry Division (ID), were deployed northeast of Seoul, South Korea, where they were attacked by enemy forces. During the attempt to delay the enemy forces from advancing, Richardson and his unit were moving towards a more defensible position, when his unit suffered heavy losses. It was during this attack that Richardson was reported missing. When no further information pertaining to Richardson was received and he failed to return to U.S. control during prisoner exchanges, a military review board reviewed his status in 1954, and changed it from missing in action to presumed dead. In 1956, his remains were declared unrecoverable. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed

to contain more than 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where Richardson was believed to have died. In the identification of Richardson's remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his niece and grand-niece.

Soldier Missing From WWII Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing since World War II, have been identified and were returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Pfc. Bernard Gavrin of Brooklyn, New York, was buried on Sept. 12, in Arlington National Cemetery. On June 15, 1944, as part of an allied strategic goal to secure the Mariana Islands, U.S. forces were ordered to occupy Saipan. After a month of intense fighting, enemy forces conducted a suicide assault, known as a banzai attack. This was designed to inflict as many casualties as possible against the 105th Infantry Regiment (IR), 27th Infantry Division (ID). During these attacks, elements of the 105th IR sustained heavy losses, with more than 900 soldiers killed or injured. Gavrin was reported missing in action on July 7, 1944. On July 8, 1945, with no new information concerning Gavrin or 21 other service members of the 105th IR, investigators issued a presumptive finding of death. In November 1948, the American Graves Registration Services (AGRS) reviewed the circumstances of Gavrin's loss and concluded his remains were non-recoverable. In Sept. 2013,

several Japanese non-governmental organizations, with oversight from a private archaeological company, recovered human remains and personal effects belonging to American servicemen from an unmarked burial. The remains were turned over to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). In the identification of Gavrin's remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools including dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA, which matched Gavrin's nephew.



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel gives former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, a hug after introducing him as the guest speaker at the 2014 National POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the Pentagon, Sept. 19, 2014. DoD photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

“Keeping the Promise”, “Fulfill their Trust” and “No one left behind” are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,000+), Korean War (7,921) Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,642), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6).

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civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

“Rumors”

by Curt Brooks, Ex-STIC
curtbrooks@aol.com

Oh Lord be kind, and help us find,
The guy who starts the rumors...

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese invasion forces swept through Southeast Asia. Manila fell to the advancing Japanese on Jan. 2, 1942. Allied civilian residents of the city, my family included, were rounded up and incarcerated in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila.

From its earliest days, rumors were part and parcel of the living environment in Santo Tomas. Deprived of radio and a good source of newspaper accounts, rumors filled the void left by this lack of reliable news. And news, information, was critical to our outlook, our understanding of the events that had so shaken our existence, and above all, to the probable length and nature of our incarceration. The military situation, conditions in camp, the fate of friends, family, home, possessions all were present in our daily thoughts and activities. First and foremost all wondered how long internment would last, when would we get out? When would the tide of war change and freedom return?

Help is on the way. The overriding theme of rumors in the early days of camp lay in the vision of reinforcements coming to bolster the USAFFE and enable it to drive the Japanese

from the Islands. Rumors of help from the US, Australia, Singapore, China and even Russia were an everyday affair. Most were wildly illogical. Yet most probably had some isolated fact vastly magnified, that served to spark the rumor. A germ of truth led to a plague of fantasy. I remember one that had considerable currency in the early days. We heard that 300 Spitfires had landed at Antimonan, a town on the east coast of Luzon, the site of the second major Japanese landing on the island. Even to a 13-year old, this made no sense: Antimonan was in Japanese control. But there it was, no doubt earnestly believed by some. Years later, reading a history of the events of the war, I learned that before the war Army engineers had surveyed a number of sites for auxiliary airfield to assist in receiving reinforcements should war come. One of these sites was..., Antimonan. Perhaps someone in camp knew of this activity and mentioned it. From there, the story had a life of its own.

The Manila Tribune, the Japanese English language daily newspaper was available in camp from the early days until about the middle of February, 1944. It reappeared again in May, 1944, only to disappear for good a month later. As a news source, the Tribune was a very weak reed to lean on. Because the information was so distorted and had so many omissions, for example the Battle of Midway was never reported, the flow of rumors continued unabated.

Of course, rumors were not limited to the war situation. There were rumors about the arrival of relief supplies, the ‘comfort kits,’ about repatriation, about food supplies, about every possible activity that might affect our lives and well-being in the camp. With the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, the “help is on the way” theme faded, but others came along and our daily dosage never lessened. The availability of the Tribune allowed us to follow the overall changes in the war situation, in both Europe and the Pacific, however flawed these reports might be. With the termination of the delivery of the newspaper in June, 1944, all sources of news were, theoretically at least, cut off from the internees. Even after it was discontinued, information published in the Tribune would sometimes filter into camp to be spread as rumors.

As the situation in camp became increasingly grim, the need for news seemed almost as urgent as the need for food. Each day brought its full share of rumors on the war situation. I don’t think we ever doubted for a minute that the Americans would return, but when? How soon? We were waiting and starving. Rumors also sprang up, particularly in late 1944 about the imminent arrival of more comfort kits. Over and over we heard relief supplies were on the pier, on the way, coming soon. These rumors were so persistent that the Central Committee issued a notice that they had no information about any relief supplies and the internees should not count on them.

Where did rumors come from? How did they start? We know now that there was a radio hidden in camp and that information received was filtered out to a select few and then spread to others and eventually to nearly everyone as, of course, the latest rumor. Frequently rumors were prefaced by the qualifier that a person heard the local radio over the wall. Whatever their source, and whatever their accuracy, rumors did keep the internees vaguely informed of the progress of the war, though misinformation vastly clogged the reporting. Japanese activity helped; blackouts and air raid drills, the emplacement of searchlights, the construction of a small air raid shelter close to the commandant’s office were harbingers of the American approach. The first real air raid alarm sounded on September 14, 1944. Rumors quickly spread that the Visayan Islands had been attacked. None doubted the news. Following the awesome and magnificent display of air power on September 21st with the first carrier strike on the city, rumors of landings all over the PI became a nearly daily fare.

The following month occurred probably the most memorable event concerning rumors. With further air raids, the camp was rife with rumors of American landings in the Central Philippines. In the evening of October 20th in making announcements on the camp PA system, our renowned newscaster, Don Bell, mentioned some activity that needed to be done. There was a brief pause and then came the portentous and heartwarming, “Better Leyte than never.”

“Rumors, cont’d...

The months of November and December, 1944 seemed interminable with our ever-present hunger. On January 6th, 1945 came massive air raids, this time not only by the carrier planes of previous attacks, but including the very large B-24s from land bases. Rumors, so persistent as to almost become news, told of landings on Luzon, for sure this time, at Lingayen Gulf, the site of the principal Japanese landing on the Island in the dark December of 1941. Roles reversed. And so the last chapter of internment unfolded with the belief that rescue was nearly a daily possibility. Rations dwindled even more and the progress of the Americans was the subject of rumors and more rumors. The city rocked with the explosions of Japanese demolitions, which gave encouragement and hope and gave rumors a most fertile breeding ground.

On the morning of February 3rd, I wrote in my diary, “The whole eastern sky was lit up this morning as the Japs burn Camp Murphy and other points to the east. There were at least seven fires...” I also recorded that I heard a rumor that the Americans had reached San Fernando, Pampanga, about 40 miles north of Manila. I noted it seemed reasonable and accurate. Perhaps not coincidentally, the Manila Tribune of that morning, we later learned, carried the report that “in his frantic attempt to move southward to Manila, the enemy sent his advance units into the area around San Fernando, Pampanga, where severe fighting is in progress.” For once rumors trailed the actual events. Machine gun fire, tracer bullets, a light at the gate, green flares and as the light moved to the front of the Main Building, a momentous roar of pent-up hopes, prayers of all the years, of the liberated, echoed across the grounds of Santo Tomas and echoes yet.

Throughout internment our hopes and fears, floated on a sea of rumors; many buoyed us along, other seemed to drown our expectations. We learned to swim in that ocean, an integral and remarkable phase of our prisoner existence.



Jan. 30 - Feb.11, 2015. Manila Liberation 1945. We are on our way again with Philippine Airlines - Rajah Tours International, and yours truly, Sascha Jansen and friends. MABUHAY! See you in Manila! For information, contact Sascha at Mabuhayma@aol.com.

looking for



ATTN B-24 crew members: Collings Foundation is currently looking for **B-24 Veterans** who would like to be interviewed and potentially cast in the singularly unique film, **THE LAST LIBERATOR**. They are also looking for any women who worked at the Michigan Willow Run B-24 plant or women pilots (WASP) who ferried B-24s from Willow Run. If you are a B-24 Vet or know one who would like to be a part of the Last Liberator film, please contact Hunter Chaney at the Collings Foundation. Send email to: hchaney@collingsfoundation.org or call 800-568-8924. Send letter to: Collings Foundation Attn: Last Liberator PO Box 248 Stow, MA 01775.

My name is Manuel F. Van Eyck and for the last 23 years I have been searching for possible grave of **Pfc. Fred W. ASHLEY**. Pfc Ashley was shot and captured during the firefight in early hours in small German settlement in southern Bohemia (Czechoslovakia). With him was shot and killed outright Pfc. George H. BUTTRON, Jr. Rest of the group were captured by force of 300 Germans. Few days later all Americans were released. Pfc Buttron's body was recovered from isolated grave five days later but Pfc. Ashley was

not found. On June 15, 1945 body of American soldier was recovered from isolated grave and interred at the Nurnberg, Germany. Subsequently his remains were designated as unknown and buried at St. Avold, France. During the transfer from Germany to France remains were for some reason switched. This was done on August 13, 1945. Based on all similarity of place, date of death and physical characteristics remains we're identified as of Pfc. Fred W. Ashley based on accompanying file. However during reprocessing of remains on June 30, 1949, The tooth chart of remains revealed not favorable with Army dental records of Pfc. Ashley, even though embalmer noticed remains in Air Force uniform and noted different X number. Meanwhile, real Ashley was repatriated to Nebraska and interred as pilot and pilot was re-designated as Unknown and buried in USMC in Belgium. To this conclusion I came going through many files, visited three times Ashley isolated grave site and going there again for the last time tomorrow. During my searching I was assisted with many men who were with Pfc. Ashley in his unit and with this information I would like to reach some who are still alive. Pfc. Fred Warren Ashley was shot and badly wounded to be precise he was paralyzed from his waist down and at unknown time on or about May 04, 1945 he was shot in back of his head by his captors! This is in short his story. In 1991 I promised to Fred's sister Vivian that I will find him and I kept my word even though his sister passed away. Please print it so some survivors from May 4, 1945 firefight learn what happened to their buddy. Thank you very much! Manuel F. van Eyck; Librada@volny.cz.

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UNSPOKEN

By Norman Bussel

"...I gave you painted air - tears I couldn't weep - truths I couldn't speak - All the words that caught in my throat..." John Geddes, *A Familiar Rain*

For most POWs, and other combat veterans who carried home emotional baggage, talking about our war experiences was a topic we tried very hard to avoid. POWs felt it was impossible for family or friends to understand what it was like to exist behind barbed wire. To face the steely muzzles of guns every day. Guns carried by guards who wouldn't hesitate to shoot you if you disobeyed the rules. The humiliation of being denied food, medicine and other essentials was something you wanted to keep buried deep in your mind. Trying to explain that painful existence would be almost embarrassing. I call it the "naked mind syndrome."

So we chose not to open our souls and expose our wrenching torment to those who could not understand. Instead, we internalized the memories of POW misery and with that action, forever changed our personalities. Resentful that some seemed to take our time as POWs lightly, we became introverted. We led lives of controlled rage, except for the times when we lost it and our overreaction became a problem.

Of course we wanted to lead "normal" lives, so most of us got married and had children. My friend Steve Yarema called POW wives, "Our Angels," because only women with sainted dispositions could endure our quirks. But our wives were adults and capable of attributing our conduct to our POW experience. Our children, however, were unable to understand our mood swings, our

reclusiveness, our quick temper, our overreaction to loud noises. It was easier for them to simply accept our peculiarities and stay out of our way.

Conversations with our kids were awkward or non-existent. And this is perhaps the greatest loss suffered by POWs and their families. Unspoken words left a huge gap in our lives and far too many of us died without ever telling our children that we loved them. Our lips forever sealed to the explanation that would have helped them to understand; that would have forged a bond between us that we so desperately needed.

As time passed, we began to unwind enough to join service organizations such as: AXPOW, American Legion, DAV, VFW, Purple Heart and suddenly discovered that we could be comfortable discussing our war experiences in the company of fellow veterans. At this point, we might have been more open if our kids had asked questions, but past rebuffs had convinced them that this subject was out of bounds.

I didn't realize how pervasive our silence was until my book, *MY PRIVATE WAR, Liberated Body—Captive Mind* was published. Then I began to receive emails and telephone calls from POWs' children who were astonished to learn what their dads had been through. And it wasn't as if all of us tight-lipped guys were bad parents. Some of us just never did feel relaxed enough to talk about the past.

What really drove this home for me was a call from a daughter of my own waist-gunner, Merle Rumbaugh. Before our B-17 went down over Berlin on April 29, 1944, we were hit by German fighter planes and Merle took a large shell in his chest, which exited out of his back. He was gravely wounded and bleeding badly, but the Germans didn't take him to a hospital until the next day. We were in a small prison at an airfield and thought we were going to lose Merle. He was groaning but they gave him nothing to ease his pain. All we could do was use strips of our clothing to slow the flow of blood.

More than a year later, after liberation, I came home to find out that Merle's wounds were so severe that he was repatriated in exchange for a German POW and after many months in an Army hospital, he recovered enough to be discharged.

Anyway, Merle returned to his hometown in Pennsylvania, married and had four kids. Karen, his daughter, said he was a wonderful dad but would never speak about the war. She said what astonished her most when reading my book was that her dad had been wounded. "My siblings and I saw the scars on his chest and back, but they had been always been there and we just weren't curious enough to ask about them!" We've had several long chats since then and I was so pleased to be able to tell her what a hero her father was.

Then came the sad calls. I began to hear from kids whose fathers never recovered enough to be fathers. None of them had figured out that their dad's mood swings, aversion to noise, quickness to anger, silence, was a result of his war experiences. They simply couldn't wait to be old enough to leave home and get away from an oddball father.

What I found so depressing was that every son and daughter who had lost their dad was heartsick because they never knew that the pain their fathers lived with until they died was the result of the trauma of war. And every one had the same sad lament, "If I had only known!"

If I succeeded in helping some kids to see their departed dads in a different light, I am very pleased. But I know that there are still many veterans who are distanced from their families and time for reconciliation grows shorter by the day.

Over many years of chatting with veterans at AXPOW conventions, Air Force reunions and various meetings, I was surprised by how many of them said, "Nah, I'm not really in touch with my kids."

unspoken, cont'd...

I will be the first to admit that, basically, the fault is ours. As former POWs, we battled our demons as best we could. Some of us, including me, used alcohol as a crutch. Some worked long hours to avoid being at home. Others simply staked out space in a bedroom or den, which our families were made to understand was not to be transgressed.

But placing blame for the tragedy of unfulfilled parenthood is not my intention. My fondest wish is simply to bring together those fathers who are still estranged from their children before it is too late.

It was too late for my dad and me. He was a veteran of World War I and although I worked for him for over twenty years, our conversations were mostly about business. The times when he tried to talk about other subjects, they always concerned personal issues which we disagreed

on and our dialogue quickly deteriorated. In retrospect, he had “shellshock” and I lived with “battle fatigue.” Today both these conditions fall into the category known as PTSD: post traumatic stress disorder. It is not surprising that we grated on each other’s nerves. And no wonder that we never talked about war.

Over time, with the arrival of grandchildren who were curious about our role in our country’s history, some of us were able to overcome our reticence to talk about our combat experiences. But too many fascinating stories remain untold and it is sad that so many have already been buried.

If I could be granted one wish during the coming holiday season, I would ask for the reconciliation of all those POW families who have been estranged from loved ones. For some of us, the emotional baggage that we brought home has kept us apart just as effectively as the barbed wire that

surrounded us in prison camp. This is not a time to point fingers, to place blame. The fault lies with those who held us captive, the effect they had on our minds, and if we fail to change our situation, we allow ourselves to still be under their control.

Do me this one favor: If you’re a POW’s kid, get in touch with your dad. Set a date for a visit. Grab the moment before it’s too late. If you have children, be sure to bring them with you. Grandchildren can open doors that you may not be able to access. If you have a camcorder, record the conversation. It will become a family treasure.

If you’re a POW, I don’t have to tell you that time is short. We’re losing buddies every day. Let there be no regrets. Hold your family close and create memories that will live long after we are gone. Most important of all: Make sure that these precious words we hold in our hearts do not go...Unspoken.



We Appreciate you!

Hudson Valley Chapter Commander Melanie Bussel received a surprise presentation from PCC Vince Lisanti. He writes: “No Chapter Commander has done more for us than Melanie Bussel. She and her husband Norman went to Washington DC on our behalf to make sure we have disability evidence and viability. She broke through the bureaucracy of our local Veterans Administration to obtain wheelchairs for our chapter handicapped veterans.”

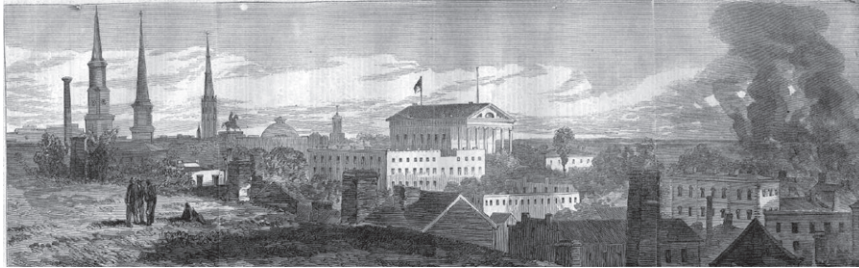
Vince designed and made the certificate. His son, Anthony was the photographer.

Congratulations, Melanie!

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POWs in the Confederate Capital: Richmond

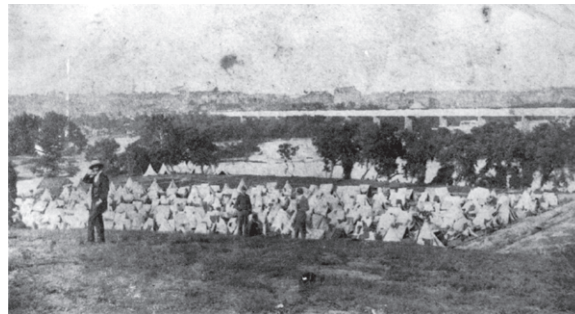
by Alice A. Booher



Given their basic unsavory and inherently unhappy nature, it would seem more than sufficient to have one POW camp in any given location, but the exigencies of the situation often trumped that logic. In this specific instance, recognized scholar Robert C. Doyle (*Voices From Captivity*) lists “major” POW camps in Richmond, Virginia, capital of the Confederacy, as including Belle Island (aka CSM Prison), Castle Goodwin, Crews Prison, Grant’s Factory, Libby Prison, Liggons Prison, Pemberton Prison, Scott’s Factory and Smith Factory; (of those, only Libby Prison was for officers, the rest enlisted). Moreover, Civil War authority MD Gorman adds the following additional (“lesser”) sites of POW prisons in Richmond (with a few alternative spellings): Atkinson’s Factory, Barrett’s Factory, “The Cage”, Castle Godwin, Castle Lightning (aka Castle Griswold, Castle Booker), Castle Thunder (Military prison), Crew & Pemberton’s Warehouse Prison (General Hospital #15), Franklin Street Guard House, General Hospital #21, General Hospital #22 (aka Howard’s Factory Prison), Grant’s Factory (General Hospital #12), Harwood’s Factory (General Hospital #24), Liggon’s Prison (General Hospital #23), “Officer’s

Prison on 18th Street”, Prison Depot (early war), “Prison opposite Castle Thunder” (Palmer’s buildings), Ross Factor’s Hospital (aka Main Street Hospital), Scott’s Factory Prison, Second Alabama Hospital (aka Turpin & Yarbrough’s

Factory Prison), Smith Factory Prison, State Penitentiary, including annotations on some of those cited by Doyle as concurrently serving as hospitals. None of these sites was a particular showplace, but whether referencing short or long lists, it seems an extraordinary number of POW camps in a single location, even if it was the Capital of the Confederacy.



To put this in context, one historian (White) notes that the U.S. Census of 1860 lists 39,910 people living in Richmond, 10,379 of who were slaves. By the time the capital of the Confederacy moved to Richmond in 1862, it was estimated that the population had increased to 100,000. At war’s end, with stragglers, refugees, government workers, soldiers, etc., there may have been 200,000 in the city. It is hard to imagine how any of them, including the

additional huge numbers of POWs, survived.

One Richmond POW facility was Belle Island (for enlisted) on the James River, first explored by Captain John Smith in 1607, later hosting a fishery and then an iron and nail company. According to Doyle, Belle Island’s lower part was the prison proper, surrounded by an embankment 3’ high (constituting the dead-line) and ditched on either side; water was available from barrels sunk in the earth, but was impregnated with human filth from the camp. Mike Wright, in *City Under Siege: Richmond in the Civil War* notes that as early as June 1862, after the Seven Days Battles, there were 10,000 POWs held there pending shipment to a more secure location further south. POWs were housed in a few Sibley tents, shacks and barracks, of which there were never enough as the population expanded. Richmond

can be an inhospitable climate during the intense cold of winter or heat of summer. Death rate estimates varied, but rose to the extremes particularly during the winter of 1863-4, as testified before Congress by Dorrance Atwater, who acted as

Quartermaster’s clerk for 7-8 months at Smith’s tobacco warehouse. (Atwater was later transferred to Andersonville and worked in the hospital; at the end of the War, he became renowned



Richmond, cont'd...



for working with Clara Barton in setting up The Missing Soldiers Office, a system for locating and identifying POW/MIA remains). Atwater described the Belle Island of August 1863: 10,000 POW men (were) without shoes, stockings or shirts, who lay upon the bare ground, going days in the severest weather without any food. Poet Walt Whitman later asked of some POW survivors: "can those be men", as many appeared to be mummified, dwindled corpses. One genealogical website estimates that 90% of the survivors weighed less than 100 pounds.

The Belle Island POWs were occasionally allowed to swim in the James River; some got temporarily cleaner, some acquired new infections or drowned and a few escaped by that route. In addition to the hospitals listed above as POW locations, there were some 25

hospital locations in Richmond, according to White, many having been converted from other purposes as casualties increased. Not all casualties occurred because of bullets or shelling, e.g., one hospital, the Alms House Hospital (General Hospital #1) was filled with smallpox victims.

Doyle quotes Capt Bernhard Domschke, a POW for 20 months, on Libby Prison, reserved for officers, in a converted 3-story tobacco warehouse on 2 levels. Originally built by a tobacco merchant, John Enders, who died before completion, the place was leased by Maine native, Captain Luther Libby, as a ship's chandlery and grocery business. Routinely, Libby installed a shopkeeper's sign reflecting his name. When war came in 1861, Libby had to vacate the property so quickly he left his sign behind, and it remained on the building throughout the war. White notes that Libby's name thus became so visually identified with the horrible place that he had to leave town for a while to escape reprisals by angry Northerners despite the fact that he was a Northerner himself.

Under Libby Prison's first floor was a cellar with tiny dark holes of cells infested by rats and other vermin, the lowest level of which housed accused spies, "dangerous" POWs and slaves. Above,

there were some skylights and windows, but the roof massively leaked; wooden troughs in each room were for washing, with water piped in from the nearby canal for drinking, cooking, bathing, but laced with yellow soil. Large numbers of POWs lived together in huge open rooms with open barred windows leaving them exposed to weather and temperature extremes. A letter home from one wounded Confederate soldier serving as hospital guard in Richmond re-



THOMAS. P. TURNER,
Commander of Libby Prison 1862

From Doc Aubrey, "Recollections of a Newsboy in the Army of the Potomac," p. 82; ca. 1904

ported that physicians and matrons ate rats they caught running over bodies of dead soldiers. With a nasty reputation for overcrowding, harsh conditions, and lack of sanitation, disease and mortality rates at Libby Prison were high; escape attempts were frequent and periodically marginally successful. According to White, after the war, the prison commandant, Dr. Thomas P. Turner fled to Mexico where he served



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Richmond, cont'd...



under Emperor Maximilian. He later returned to the U.S. and practiced dentistry in New Orleans.

In 1864, the Confederacy moved the Union POWs to Macon, GA after which the Confederate Army used Libby to house military criminals. After the Union occupation of Richmond, former Confederate officers were held there. President Abraham Lincoln visited Richmond in April 1865 (10 days before his assassination) when a crowd in front of Libby Prison shouted “tear it down” to which Lincoln purportedly replied “No, leave it as a monument”. Wright notes that Libby Prison was the largest in the Confederacy and over the length of the war, housed 50,000 POWs by some estimates, 75,000 by others.

Located near Libby Prison was the home of Philadelphia-educated Miss Elizabeth (“Crazy Bet” or “Miss Lizzie”) Van Lew, who on her father’s death in 1860 freed the family slaves in Richmond. She was an abolitionist who never hid her

Union sympathies, helped in some escape planning and purportedly hid POW escapees; she would often enter the Libby facility with food and reading materials, and leave with information for Union agents in the city of Richmond. During her lifetime Richmond neighbors ostracized her, and only after her death in 1900 did admirers in Boston recognize her grave with an appropriate stone tribute.

Torn down in 1888, the Libby Prison building was moved in 1889 by a consortium of businessmen to Chicago to serve as a war museum. The Chicago Historical Society (Northwestern) has an annotated account of the museum with its huge display of armaments, attracting a new generation of military personnel including active duty troops in Chicago during the Pullman strikes of July 1894; Civil War veterans were stationed throughout the Museum to guide visitors and share their wartime experiences. It would be dismantled a decade later, some pieces to be used as souvenirs; the bulk of the building, according to White, was to be exhibited on a world tour. Crossing Indiana, the eastbound train carrying the building was wrecked; much of the prison was salvaged in the local town at the crash site, and used as a barn until the Civil War Centennial in 1963.



Castle Thunder prison in Richmond consisted of several former tobacco warehouses set aside for spies, criminals and those charged with treason; for mixed reasons, it would eventually accommodate an unusual assortment of women. It allegedly got its name from the sound of artillery fire during the long siege of Richmond. The place developed such a dreadful reputation for cruelty that the Confederate House of Representatives itself investigated its commandant, a former POW himself who had avoided execution by the Union Army by escaping and returning to Richmond.



For a time, Dr. Mary Walker was incarcerated there. She had married fellow medical school student Albert Miller and they set up practice in Rome, NY. She volunteered with the Union Army as a civilian, and was initially allowed to practice as a nurse at the Battle of Bull Run. Working as an unpaid field surgeon near Union front lines at Battle of Fredericksburg and in Chattanooga after the Battle of Chickamauga, she offered to act as a spy but was turned down. In the fall of 1863, she was hired as a civilian contract surgeon by the Army in Cumberland,

Richmond, cont'd...

and was assigned to the 52nd Ohio Infantry. She had been captured as a spy after crossing Confederate lines to treat wounded, purportedly seized after having just finished helping a Confederate physician with an amputation. She was part of the prisoner exchange on August 12, 1864, and went on to serve during the Battle of Atlanta, supervised a female prisoner in KY and headed an orphanage in TN. The filthy conditions at Castle Thunder were said to have caused Walker's lifelong visual problems, which eventually ended her practice of medicine. The Medal of Honor recipient died in 1919. A number of



books and the Women in Military Service to America (WIMSA) website carry her remarkable complete history.

Even after the Union forces captured Richmond, they continued to use the facilities, including Castle Thunder, as POW prisons. Other POWs at Castle Thunder were Mollie Bean (and her sister Mary), who had served two years with the NC 47th while pretending to be a man; twice wounded in action, the Union Army suspected her of being a spy. The local paper, *Richmond Whig*, dated February 20, 1865, indicated that the other soldiers knew of her gender. A roster of NC troops edited by W.T. Jordan indicates that she may have fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. She became a major character in at least one historical novel. Another POW at Castle Thunder was listed as "Lt. Harry Buford", a woman in disguise, Loreta Janeta Valesquez, a 24-year old Havana, Cuba native, widow of a Louisiana planter who had died fighting for the Confederate cause. She took his place, raised a company of infantry (the Arkansas Grays) and led them to Virginia where they fought in the first Battle of Manassas. After she joined the so-called "Secret Corps" of spies, she was released from prison; even then she persisted in fighting, being wounded twice before the war ended.

The interested reader can find extraordinary diaries, letters and drawings by former POWs in Richmond both in print form and on the internet, many of them first

published relatively contemporaneously to the war itself (e.g., *Civil War Richmond* by www.mdgorman.com including *Prison-Life in the Tobacco Warehouse at Richmond: By a Ball's Bluff Prisoner* (Philadelphia, George W. Childs, 1862) also at <http://www.mdgorman.com/Prisons/Prison%20Life.htm>; another source is the National Park Service website (e.g., James I. Robinson, Jr.'s *Prisoners of War* (http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/civil_war_series/3/sec4.ht.) See also *Hell on Belle Island: Diary of a Civil War POW* by J. Osborn Coburn; and *Libby Prison Breakout: The Daring Escape from the Notorious Civil War Prison* by Joseph Wheelan.

After passage of 150 years, and having thus dissected the city of historic Richmond, now the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to include several examples of its many Civil War POW camps, it seems only fair to close with a gentler commentary by William Cullen Bryant: "A beautiful city is Richmond, seated on the hills that overlook the James River. The dwellings have a pleasant appearance, often standing by themselves in the midst of gardens. In front of several, I saw large magnolias, their dark glazed leaves glittering in the March sunshine."

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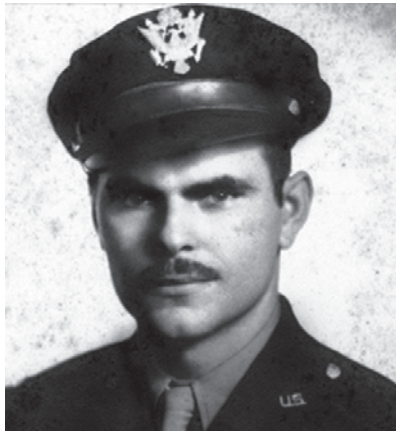
On February 20, 1865, the *Richmond Whig* published a report stating that on February 17:

A young woman, dressed in military uniform, was arrested somewhere up the Danville Railroad and sent to this city, charged with being a suspicious character. On examination of the Provost Marshal's office it appeared that her name was Mollie Bean, and that she had been serving in the 47th North Carolina Regiment for over two years, during which time she had been twice wounded. She was sent to Castle Thunder, that common receptacle of the guilty, the suspected, and the unfortunate. This poor creature is, from her record, manifestly crazy. It will not, we presume, be pretended that she had served so long in the army without her sex being discovered.

To hell and back

By Edward Lee Pitts

On Sept. 7, 1944, Edward Treski received a lifetime dose of perspective



In January, 2009, while chauffeuring around my then-87-year-old grandfather, he struck me speechless when, frustrated over losing his driving privileges and heart-broken that his wife of 63 years now lived in a nursing home, he blurted: "I have no idea why I am still alive. I should have died that day."

"That day" was Sept. 7, 1944, when 23-year-old Army 2nd Lt. Edward Treski descended into a war experience so hellish he could only be saved by a torpedo and a grenade.

For two years, three months, and 15 days he survived as a prisoner in three Japanese internment camps spread around the Philippines—places where the punished found themselves hanging by their arms at the camp gate or beaten with electric cattle prods while standing in water. Where guards played games to keep their saber skills sharp by swinging their swords at kneeling prisoners' necks, seeing who could get closest before turning the

blade to whack with its flat edge. Places where prisoners would hide the dead to get extra food rations until the smell became too great and where the decomposing bodies would rise out of their graves every rainy season demanding to be reburied.

Then, in the late summer of 1944 as Japan's long stranglehold on the Philippines began to weaken, my "Papa" found his neck tethered by ropes to hundreds of other emaciated prisoners. The guards, nervous because Allied planes had bombed nearby runways the night before, gave the order for these conjoined bare-footed men to march:

"There was no stopping. There were trucks in front of us with machine guns pointing our way and trucks behind us with machine guns pointing in our direction. Guards were on both sides with fixed bayonets. After several hours someone would drop. Those tied closest would have to drag him, pick him up and carry him. If a guard would see you carry one, he would hit you with his rifle butt. He would cut the man loose, retie the rope, put the fallen man into the ditch, and sometimes stick him with the bayonet before moving on."

By dark the prisoners found themselves in the port area of Davao. Soon they longed for the space and air found during the forced march:

"They put us down in the hull of the ship. Packed like sardines down there. They had the guards fix bayonets, and they'd send a bunch down the hull, and they would lunge at us, you know, sort of packing, packing until they got as many as they could get down in there. Then they got out, and they pulled the stairway up. They put the timbers across the hull and rolled some canvas and tarp over top of that. They just left one little hole open on the one end of it, one corner of it, where a guard sat down and was look-

ing down there laughing at us. It was like a furnace down there, no water, no facilities at all, nothing."

My grandfather found himself one of 750 POWs crammed into the hull of what survivors later called a "hell ship." Guards used a rope to lower a five-gallon can of water and peelings of rotten tropical vegetables to the starving prisoners. Fights for the food and water followed:

"Some of us decided to organize and take charge of the food when it came down to be sure the weak got some. They'd send a tin can down there for waste, and I believe it was the same can they put the food and water in. There was a lot of crying and praying going on. I thought it wouldn't have been but a matter of days before we would all be dead."

The prisoners of war managed to spend 14 days in that foul and steamy hold, four at sea hugging the coast and 10 docked at the port of Zamboanga. Then the Japanese switched ships to throw off U.S. submarines. Now crammed into the darkened hull of the Shinyo Maru, the prisoners lost track of time. Records show that on Sept. 7, 1944, the Shinyo Maru joined a convoy of four other ships: destination unknown. It would be a short trip.

Just hours later torpedoes from a U.S. submarine slammed into the unmarked ship. The Japanese guards panicked, unleashing a slaughter:

"A guard just stuck his rifle down into the hole there and emptied it, and the bullets were whizzing all over the place. After emptying his rifle, he took a hand grenade and threw it down there. And I was sitting there where I could see it coming. It exploded. Knocked me unconscious. . . . More?"

That was the question my grandfather asked me repeatedly dur-

to hell & back, cont'd...

ing tape-recorded sessions I began in 2001. Of course I wanted more. I'd spent my childhood trying to get his war experiences out of him.

Occasionally he'd reveal snippets at unexpected times. When commercials interrupted an Atlanta Braves baseball game, Papa would unleash a war tale perfectly timed to end before the next pitch. I wished the commercials would never end.

Once, he told about taking over the steering wheel of a military bus laden with explosives after the driver fled during a Japanese ambush, the bullets piercing the roof as Papa drove. From history books I learned that for six months after Pearl Harbor my grandfather and others in the 31st Infantry blew up bridges, ferries, and roads while trying to stop the Japanese army's inevitable steamrolling of the Philippines. By turning himself and his rifle in to a Japanese camp in May 1942, Papa had joined one of the largest military surrenders in American history.

But Papa's tales as I grew up avoided such humiliation and emphasized the fleeting moments of pride the soldiers shared. Like when he joined hundreds of prisoners to sing "God Bless America" at the top of their exhausted lungs while pushing a broken train back toward camp—all after a day of forced labor in the rice paddies. The jittery Japanese guards let the chorus continue while other prisoners could hear the refrain ringing all the way back to camp several miles away.

The starvation, diseases, torture, and executions unleashed on the POWs at the hands of the Japanese are also the stuff of history

books. While the death rate for Allied POWs in the European front was 4 percent, in the Pacific, it was 27 percent. My grandfather refused to talk about the tortures he likely endured.

He did say that whenever he was on the verge of giving up he'd visualize the tears running down his mother's cheeks the day that as an 18-year-old in February 1940 he asked her permission to join the service. He had to keep going, he decided, because he needed to get back home to wipe those tears away.

In the face of brutality, acts of defiance-and humor-kept him going. The POWs named one guard, who was mean, Caesar, and another, who was talkative, Donald Duck. When guards distributed fake newspapers recounting how the Japanese had invaded the United States using submarines to control the Mississippi River, the POWs took the papers to the outhouses.

Forced to build an airstrip using crushed coral, the prisoners dug holes on the landing strip and covered them with a thin layer of coral in the hopes Japanese planes would crash upon landing. And the prisoners hatched intricate plots to lure guard dogs into the inner fence of the camp, where their capture meant adding meat to the diet of one sardine can's worth of maggot-infested rice per day.

More?" he would ask. "Yeah, yeah. Definitely. Keep going," I replied. So he returned to the torpedoed Shinyo Maru: "I don't know how long I was out, but when I came to I was sitting in water in the slowly sinking ship. Bodies floated back and forth, parts of bodies. I looked across the ship and saw this big opening where the torpedo had hit. So I walked over to the hole to get out. There I

saw a sight that I will never forget as long as I live.

"The guards had their life rafts in a semicircle around the swimming Americans. These guys were struggling to keep their heads above water just so they could get a little breath of air only to have a saber come down to split their skulls. I could see the glitter of the sun in the sabers, just chopping heads. They cut heads like they were cutting wood-sometimes taking the heads completely off. Other soldiers had fixed bayonets and they were sticking their fixed bayonets into the swimmers. Those they couldn't reach, they would shoot."

The minutes in which the grenade explosion had knocked out Papa prevented him from becoming a victim in this massacre. With the ship about to sink, he swam to the other side away from the death-wielding Japanese lifeboats. He could see the shore three miles away. So Papa, down to 85 pounds from his normal 175-pound weight, grabbed a fellow prisoner and, holding onto a piece of timber, together they started kicking towards shore.

One of the torpedoed ships had managed to run onto a reef. The Japanese immediately set up their machine guns and, using binoculars, began to pick off prisoners swimming towards them. Soon they opened up on Papa and his companion: "Jim, we are making too big of a target. We're going to have to let this plank go. You go one way, and I'll go another."

Alone, Papa began swimming and praying, swimming and praying: "I felt like I was going to give out. I just couldn't make it anymore. I thought I'd just lie on my stomach and sink. When I did, I looked down and lo and behold, right below me was a white coral reef. I reached down to see if I could

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stand on it, and I could just barely catch it with my toes. I started heading towards the shore. The more shallow it would get, I'd sink down more, until finally I got down to where I was just on my stomach, pulling myself on my hands."

On the beach, he zigged and zagged to avoid the bullets. Diving over a pile of driftwood for cover, he felt a jerk that made him think his foot had fallen off. Crouched behind the driftwood, he pulled his foot up and saw a tremendous hole at his ankle with flesh pouring out of it. The bullet had gone clean through.

Taking the only clothing he had at the time-his groin cloth-he pushed his flesh back into his foot and wrapped it tight. Taking a deep breath and wiping the blood from the grenade wound on his forehead, he ran naked into a cornfield that fronted the beach. There he hid from patrols-telling himself he would not let anyone take him back to a prison camp alive.

Out of the 750 prisoners on the ship, 82 survived the torpedo blasts and the ensuing carnage, finding some way to shore. Many joined a group of battle-hardened Filipino guerrillas desperate to rid the island of Japanese. After more than 2 years of being imprisoned and tortured, the prisoners were eager to fight back.

There a patient Filipino doctor saved my grandfather's foot. Eventually a U.S. submarine arrived to supply the guerrillas. The captain said there were too many surviving prisoners to take into the sub. But when he saw

what kind of shape they were in, he changed his mind: "Put them all on here. We'll take them all," Papa remembered him saying-words that meant he was headed home.

The Japanese took more than 130,000 POWs during the war. The Shinyo Maru survivors represented one of the largest single groups of Pacific POWs to return at one time. Several traveled to the new Pentagon to brief war leaders on the prison camps and the hell ships. There Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall pinned a Purple Heart on the chest of my Papa, Edward Treski.

During subsequent reunions, the Shinyo Maru survivors dubbed themselves "the swimmers." Now less than a dozen of them are left after my grandfather passed away in March.

At his funeral, while standing above his flag-draped coffin, I tried to answer his question from January: Why had God spared him that horrible day in 1944? Could it be that God allowed Papa's peaceful, generous life-that somehow managed to flow out of those horrific experiences-to stand as a tribute to His grace? Was he allowed a rebirth in that hell ship so that he could live a life on Earth that reflected Heaven?

The salvation and redemption Papa experienced while swimming to safety at his breaking point taught me that sometimes you have to sink to the bottom before you can stand and that you should never quit:

"You know, many times you feel like you've had it, this is it, you don't want any more, and you give up," he said during one of our taped sessions. "And when you give up, that's it, and you're gone, sure enough."

The hell he suffered gave him a lifetime dose of perspective

needed to relish the simple things in life and to keep the faith: "During the six months of fighting I believed, during the prison camp I believed, and the time on the prison ship, I believed. I believe today and I'll believe forever."

Two rows of veterans came to Papa's funeral. We gave them seats at the front, and they led the processional outside after the service. The whole sanctuary paused and watched as these dying warriors used their canes, walkers, and each other to slowly make their way down the aisle. It took a while, but nobody else moved-except our heads as we turned in tribute to follow their quiet progress. The organist played "God Bless America" while they exited-the same song my grandfather sang as a prisoner over 60 years ago.

When we came out of the church carrying my grandfather's casket, I discovered why all those veterans wanted to leave first. They had formed two lines leading to the hearse. As we passed, they marshaled their military memories and stood as straight as their crippled bodies could and saluted with their shaking hands. That was the only time I cried during the service-but they were tears of joy and gratitude. For my grandfather and for these other veterans. For being fighters. For being survivors. For enduring.

You can stop swimming now, Papa. You've reached the shore.

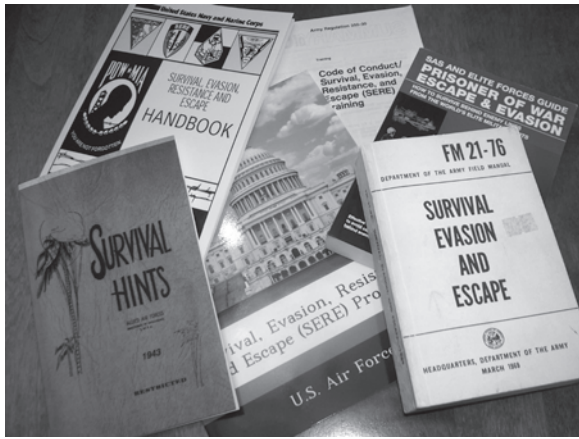
Edward Lee Pitts

Lee is WORLD's Washington Bureau chief. As a reporter for the Chattanooga Times Free Press, he was embedded with a National Guard unit in Iraq. He also once worked in the press office of Sen. Lamar Alexander.

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Lessons Taught and Learned: SERE

by Alice A. Booher



It must be stipulated that many of those reading this article literally “wrote the book” and/or “taught the course”; some helped in adaptations, improvements and redevelopment of the SERE programs in accordance with the “lessons learned” in their own captivity. This is not intended to diminish those experiences but to explain the premise, and to a limited extent, share the data with others who may be less informed - with a goal to mutual understanding. There may well be later opportunities for discussing purported shortcomings or potential misuse outside historical military contexts.

SERE is an acronym for a military program that means diverse things, involves multiple levels of training, and has been utilized in a variety of ways. In Great Britain, it stands for “Survive, Evade, Resist, Extract”; in the U.S., it stands for “Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape”. In general, it is a program made available by and to the military as well as DoD civilians, and private military contractors, and incorporates survival skills, techniques for evading capture, and the military code of conduct. Comparable current training in European military is based under NATO

STANDAG 7196: The NATO Survival, Escape/Evasion, Resistance and Extraction (SERE) Standard, which: “defines the set of tactics, techniques and procedures that will give isolated personnel the tools to survive in any environment and to evade capture where such a threat exists. Failing that, to resist exploitation by captors and, if the situation permits, escape captivity to finally support their own or assisted recover (extraction) and return with dignity”.

The Americanized version of SERE has never been a static concept; programming has evolved with time, changing circumstances and the collective captive shared learning experience. An article in the last issue of the Bulletin noted that during WWII, some efforts predated a formalized SERE with briefings absent actual training. From late in 1942, a CONUS operational site, Ft. Hunt outside Washington, DC, hosted MIS-X. One of the first tools created by MIS-X for US Allied Forces HQ Directorate of Intelligence, SWPA (1943, reprinted 2013), and utilized by the US, Australian, Free Dutch, New Zealand and British aircrews in the Southwest Pacific, was a small pamphlet, Survival Hints. Inserted in aircraft survival kits along with an Australian Army pamphlet “Friendly Fruits and Vegetables”, it was printed in waterproof ink and had a few illustrations. The focus on New Guinea was representational, and covered clothes, equipment, crashing/ bailing out, interactions with natives, jungle travel and camping, sea, jungle and beach foods (e.g., crocodile, kangaroo, wild fowl, cassowaries, rats, bats, cuscus, land snails, large lizards, bandicoots, hornbill, wild pigs), first aid (bites by snakes, leeches, scorpions, centi-

pedes, ants, ticks), and sea survival.

After WWII, SERE training became more refined and texts and booklets were expanded and incrementally more focused. The March 1969 Army Field Manual 21-76 was more detailed, but started with the basic “letter” concept of survival actions if isolated in enemy territory: Size up the situation; Undue haste makes waste; Remember where you are; Vanquish fear and panic; Improvise; Value living; Act like the natives; Learn basic skills. Other manuals have followed, but throughout the stated aim of SERE training has been to provide the skills needed to live up to the US Military Code of Conduct when in uncertain or hostile environments. Since WWII, some eventual POWs received formal SERE training and others did not.



In asking some former American POWs what they found to be particularly efficacious during captivity as adapted from their own SERE training, many agree that

SERE, cont'd...

“resistance” was both effective and satisfying. Former Vietnam Era POW Giles R. Norrington recently responded that: *“The most effective technique was doing anything we could to screw up their propaganda efforts. Dick Stratton’s bows, Jeremiah Denton’s Morse code blinking t-o-r-t-u-r-e. The Nam POWs learned the hard way that name, rank (etc.) would not work. Although the SERE program of the 1960s (had) touched on the importance of “lie, cheat and steal” as a GOOD thing, it was not until we made our inputs (including those of Doug Hegdahl) that the (SERE) curricula were changed to reflect some of the practical realities of resistance during and immediately after effective long-term torture aimed solely at propaganda.”*



In fact, since formal SERE training was established by the USAF in the 1950’s, much of the growth and expansion of the SERE training process has taken place as part of POWs giving back coupled with changing needs of the specific services. Navy survival training of the 1950’s started as an arctic survival course which grew by May 1962 to a life-saving course, providing tactics, techniques and procedures. At the Navy SERE’s 50th anniversary in 2012, former Vietnam POW and

radar intercept officer Robert S. Fant, Jr., returned to celebrate. After repatriation in 1973 and debriefing, Fant taught at the SERE school from 1974-1977, specializing in resisting interrogation; and after retirement in 1980, went back for another 20 years as a civilian instructor.

Other Nam POWs such as Army’s James N. (Nick) Rowe, with special expertise on escaping, wrote his book *Five Years to Freedom* in 1971 while still on active duty. Retiring in 1974, he was recalled in 1981 to build the SERE course based on his own POW experiences. Killed in 1989 by members of the New People’s Army, a communist insurgency in the Philippines, the special ops adjunct SERE training compound at Camp Mackall, NC is named for COL Rowe.

All programs include classroom instruction and hands-on field training. It is no cakewalk, but then neither is captivity. It must be noted that military SERE students are screened multiple times to make sure that they are healthy in mind and body. Various programs have different options and foci, all of which are updated for relevancy to the nature of the conflict. In an interesting collateral addendum, SERE Specialists are also now used to analyze in recovery programs and do such things as testing all parachute systems for DoD use.

USAF’s combat survival training at Fairchild AFB, Washington State, was intended to provide air crews the tools to survive, and “Return with Honor”. Created originally for pilots with Southeast Asia and Cold War scenarios, the course now has several short and longer options in various environments. Since 2007, the USAF has had training programs for “asymmetrical warfare”, the post-9/11 world with shadowy enemies, IEDs, kidnappers and using contractors as hostages.



Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Program

U.S. Air Force

There are post-ejection procedures/parachute landings, non-ejection water survival section, joint water survival courses (at Pensacola NAS) and Arctic survival (at Eielson AFB, Alaska).

There are 4 primary (A-D) Levels of any SERE course in part depending on the element of risk. According to urban (and some rural) legend, “mock POW camps” over the decades have realistically masqueraded as many potential venues, physically morphing and periodically including, as needs mandated, assorted buildings, grounds, simulated former colonial prisons, abandoned farms and vineyards, jungle and Quonset huts, caves and tents, medieval stables, modern warehouses, storage units and docks, occasionally stocked with vermin, filth, beasts of burden, smells and sounds of the ethnic locales. A few current acknowledged locations of military SERE training (some joint) include Ft. Bragg, NC and Ft. Rucker, AL; USN and USMC SERE School at the Navy Remote Training Site at Warner Springs, CA and the remote Marine Corps Mt. Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, CA, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME.

SERE, cont'd...

The then USAF SERE commander noted in 2007 that while air crews used to be the highest risk of capture, the most vulnerable now are truck drivers, embassy guards and military civil affairs officers. According, the new training components include peacetime government hostage scenarios; resistance training for POWs; and hostage detention in wartime.

Many of you proffer and endorse that POW Navy Seaman Apprentice (E-2) Doug Hegdahl was a singularly innovative genius, whose in-prison “resistance ploys” and perfected tactic of being what the North Vietnamese called “The Incredibly Stupid One” (e.g., involving convincing them he could neither read nor write among other things) became legendary. As later recounted by fellow former POW Dick Stratton, Hegdahl’s actions resulted in his having freedom to roam the camp, sabotage trucks, and eventually take pivotal information to the outside world (and Paris Peace Talks). For many years after release, Hegdahl shared his pragmatic yet creative approach as a

civilian instructor at the Coronado SERE facility named for former POW James B. Stockdale. Another former NamPow, radar intercept officer, Cdr Timothy (Tim) Sullivan, who spent 1,945 days in a former French prison, taught at Brunswick SERE School (1983-1994). Fant and Sullivan returned for the

50th USN SERE birthday party (and SERE Museum opening) at Kittery in 2012. The new relocated (onboard shipyard) Navy Survival School in Portsmouth, NH is named for former POW Jeremiah Denton for classroom training; field and practice work takes place at the 12,500-acre cold weather Ralph Oden (Odom) Training Facility in Redington, ME. As Admiral Denton noted at the dedication of the school in 2010: *“Your responsibility as an American war fighter does not end when you are captured. There is much you can do to inflict damage on the enemy”*.

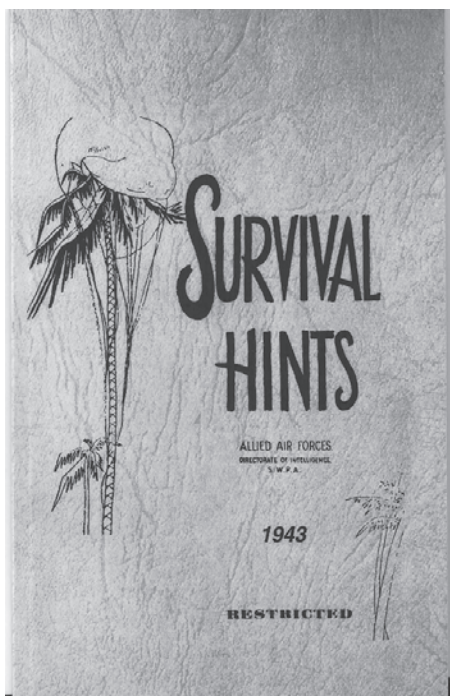
Chuck Law, Quartermaster on the *USS PUEBLO* whose intimate familiarity with torture came at a heavy price as a POW in North Korea, has long instructed Warner Springs (San Diego, CA) Navy trainees, preparing them for blatant and less blatant eventualities, all supervised by Navy medics doing a “Red Cross” inspection.

One example of effective utilization of SERE is Scott O’Grady, a USAF fighter pilot shot down over Bosnia-Herzegovina in June 1995. In *Return with Honor*, he recounts evasion in the hostile territory into which he ejected; O’Grady was able to grab a survival bag from the wreckage, run, hide, blacken his face with dirt, eat leaves, grass, and assorted bugs and collect rainwater with a sponge in plastic bags, surviving until rescue by the U.S. Marines.



The Resistance (Resistance Training Laboratory, often called mock POW camp) portion of SERE is mostly classified, but is primarily for special ops personnel. The program is tightly supervised but assumes participants will be captured by an enemy who does not observe the rules of the Geneva Convention and pushes them to psychological and physical limits. All SERE courses are realistic and flexible, as necessary to be productive, even though the trainees know they will be rescued, a luxury not known to real POWs; trainees become weak from lack of food, frightened from fake bullets and sleep deprived on cold nights, hard ground and absent protection. As recently summed up by Norrington, *“Our in-prison goal was to bring reality to the services’ training - to break the “train-to-the-last-war” paradigm. For the most part, I believe we succeeded”*. SERE training in each service endeavors to perpetuate that positive effort and result.

As has been true for some other recent POWs, in 1993 in Somalia, injured Black Hawk Army special ops pilot Michael Durant (as recalled in the movie *Black Hawk Down*, and his book, *In the Company of Heroes*), was required to respond to sequentially diverse circumstances, reflecting the increasing phenomenon of “revolv-



SERE, cont'd...

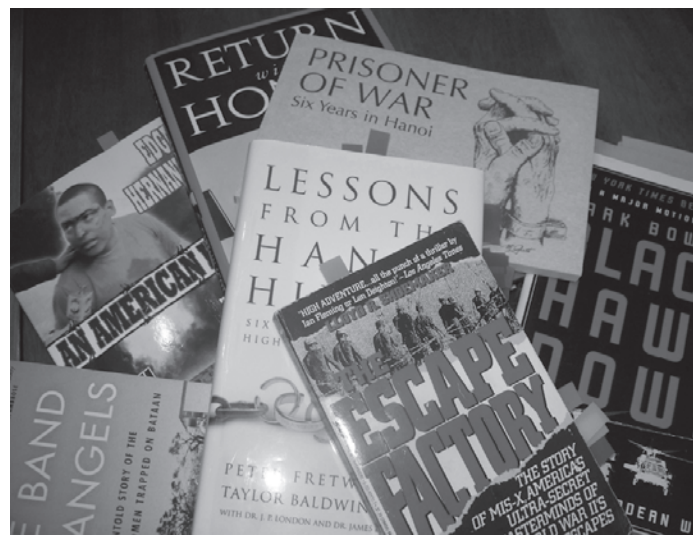
ing jailers". Durant's captors varied from day to day; first saved from an angry mob by a neighborhood militia leader, Yousef Dahir Mo'alim, they would be stopped by another better armed band of maverick *mooryan* which considered him not a POW to be swapped for captured clan leaders but a hostage for whom someone would pay "big" money. Durant says his immediate fear of being executed or tortured eased but his early mob experience made him fear discovery by the Somali public. Commonsensically, he combined "heads up" from his SERE background (e.g., cultivate your captors, be polite, learn words for please (*pil les an*) and thank you, (*ma hat san-e*) with an accelerated on-site lessons learned curve (e.g, eat whatever creature is cooked, "don't pick up bullets until they have cooled", and "run like your hair is on fire"). Mindful of decades old POW stealth tactics, Durant defiantly scribbling the 4 letters for the motto of his unit, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment on the bottom of a light hearted pizza- craving note

delivered by the Red Cross, which was soon acknowledged as received by his wife Lorrie in the



media as "As you always say Mike, *Night Stalkers Don't Quit*". Durant credits Army SERE training with saving his life.

In addition to former POWs returning to teach SERE courses, many former POWs have also written widely on their experiences and future POWs have fortuitously been able to stockpile some advance knowledge as a result. In *Edgar Hernandez: An Americam Hero* (written in 2008 by Jose Martinez and Megan Rellahan), POW Hernandez, [one of the 507th Maintenance Group



killed and/or captured as part of the ambush in Nasiriyah, Iraq on March 23, 2003], recalled that as he sat in his cell, woozy after surgery, he read the names on the wall of those who had come before him, and wondered if they included Rhonda Cornum, whose book about her 1991 captivity, *She Went To War*, he had read in high school.

Thus, it is worth noting that while SERE training comes in many forms, the lack of any formal SERE training for both historical and modern combat POWs found and will continue to find ample feasible and utilitarian substitution through the simple use of common sense, creative application and dedication to the mission.

Awareness of one's surroundings and circumstances may well be key to survival, and application of resourceful courage and sound judgment never hurts. Cornum observes that training may be especially helpful to those who are very young and inexperienced, but the impact of mature thinking skills plus an understanding of the core values can well sustain captivity.

The Code of Conduct and Core values may be reflected in numerous representations by various names, Soldiers or Ranger or NCO Creed - or it may come in the more streamlined version, Army Warrior Ethos: "I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; I will never leave a fallen comrade".



CODE OF CONDUCT

- I** I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.
- II** I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.
- III** If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.
- IV** If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.
- V** When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.
- VI** I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.



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.

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

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Wendell Fetters
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In memory of Mary Venegoni, by
Susan Vollmer
In memory of Mary Venegoni, by
Tower Grove Place
In memory of Morris W Larkin,
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Almo McElmurry
In memory of Thomas Endecott,
by Wendell Fetters
In memory of Thomas Endecott,
by Wendell Fetters

BULLETIN

Gladys Rask, Woodbridge NJ
In honor of Editor Cheryl
Cerbone, by Lloyd & Ruth Kilmer
In honor of Editor Cheryl
Cerbone, by the Brooklyn "Key"
Chapter

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The Legacy of your love can live on after...

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\$_____ or _____percent of the
rest, residue and remainder of
my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your
time to help.

Thank you!

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new members

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New Members "Welcome Home"

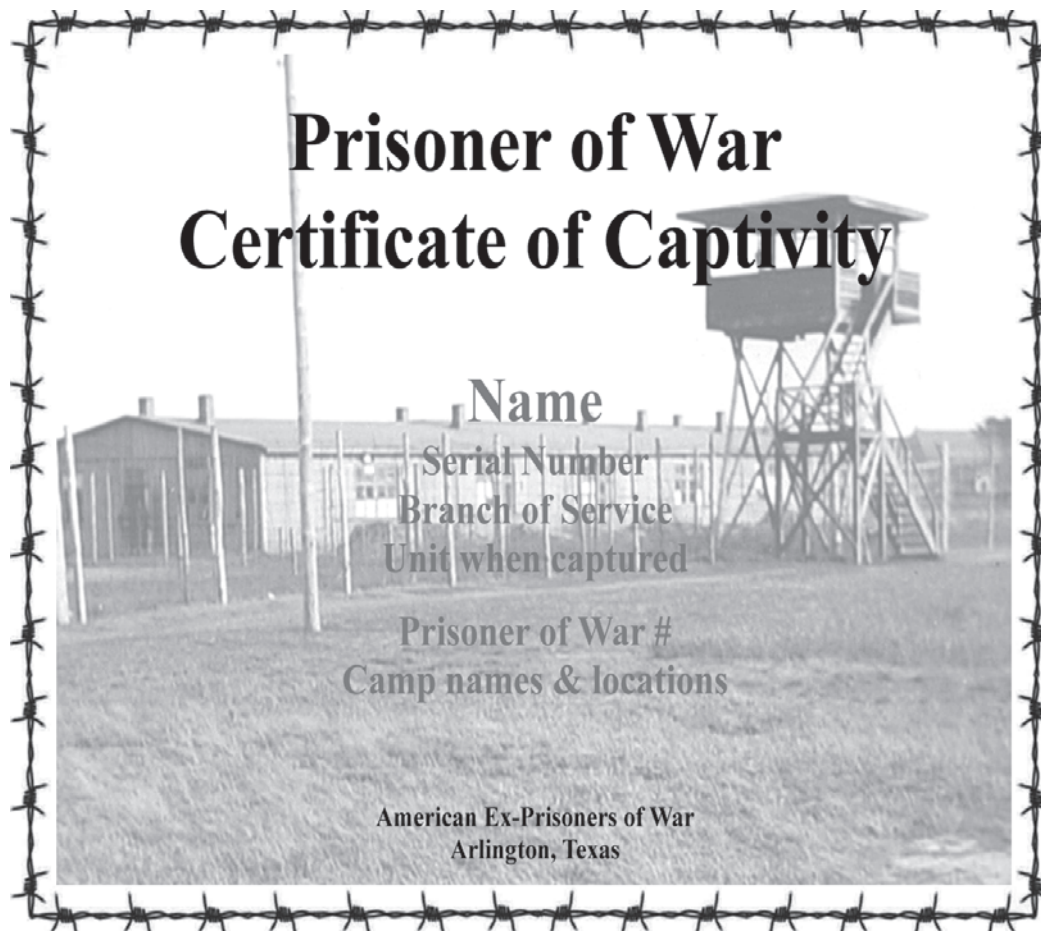
EDUARD UZUMECKIS PHD
ELIZABETH A YANCY
SEDONAAZ
SON OF EDWARD A
UZEMACK, ETO

MAUREEN M CASSIDY
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CASSIDY, ETO

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taps



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

ALEXANDER, Joseph, 82, of San Antonio, TX passed away Aug. 13, 2014. He was thought to be the youngest POW from WWII - captured at age 15 while stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. He spent the next 3 ½ years in various prison camps. Survivors include Norma, his loving wife of 68 years, 1 son, 2 grandsons, 4 great-grandchildren.

ALPUERTO, Ben, 93, of Grand Prairie, Texas, died December 29, 2013. Ben served in the 12th Med, 45th Inf Reg. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was held in Camp O'Donnell. He also served in Korea. Ben is survived by his wife of 28 years, Evelyn.

BOWERS, Carmita "Mitzie" of Roaring Springs, PA passed away July 17, 2014. She was the wife of ex-POW Roger (held in Stalag 9B). Mitzie was the chaplain for the Southern Alleghenies Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband of 66 years, she is survived by 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

BROOKS, James E., of Pittsburg, KS died April 13, 2014. He was 91. Jim was captured while serving with the 8th AF, flying out of England. He was held until liberation. He leaves his wife of almost 70 years, Claudia, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and their families. He was dearly loved by his family.

DETWILER, Donald M. (Stompie) of Santa Barbara, CA passed away August 3, 2014. He was a life member of AXPOW. He served with the 390th BG, Framlingham, England. He was shot down, captured and held until liberation. Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandsons, 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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DONALDSON, Harold J., of Holden, Louisiana, died May 14, 2014. He served in the US Army, and was held in Stalags 7A and 2B. He is survived by Linda, his wife of 26 years, and was active in the Red Stick Chapter.

DULL, Lloyd W., 92, of Landisville, PA, passed away Aug. 25, 2014. During WWII, he served with Co. B, 1st Btn, 134th Inf. Reg., 35th Div. After capture, he was held in Stalags 4B and 12A. Lloyd was an active member of AX-POW, last serving as Chaplain for the PA Dept. He leaves 2 sisters and many nieces and nephews.

ELIAS, Savedra, of San Rafael, NM died June 4, 2014. He was 96 and a survivor of the Bataan Death March (USA, Btry C., 200th Coast Artillery). He was preceded in death by his wife, Rose; survivors include 1 son, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and their families.

ELSTAD, John Orvin, 95, of Eastside, MN passed away Feb. 5, 2014. During WWII, he was shot down over Italy and held in Germany. John was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 2 grandchildren, 2 granddaughters and their families.

FARCHIONE, Amelia "Mimi", of Fairport, NY died July 19, 2014. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Daniel (4th Inf. Div., 12th Reg., 6-G). Mimi is also survived by 5 daughters, 1 son, 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

FIELDS, Daniel F of Independence, MO passed away on August 16, 2014. He joined the army in 1941 and served with Darby Rangers, Battalion 1, Co C. He was captured in Cisterna in 1944 and spent 16 months as a POW. He also served as a volunteer at the VA Hospital in KC. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Vera, 2 daughters and 1 granddaughter. We were so proud of his service and his accomplishments

FRY, Charles Dee, of Coushatta, LA passed away on Sept. 18, 2014 at the age of 90. He served in the Army during WWII, fought in the European theatre, endured most of the rest of the war as a prisoner in Germany, and eventually escaped to the Allies. He was a past National Director, AX-POW. Survivors include his wife, Shirley, 1 son, 4 step-children, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and nieces and nephews.

GILTZ, Artie, 90, died September 10, 2014. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. He served in the ETO, 8th AF, 385th BG. He was held in Dulag Luft, Nuremberg, Stalag VIIA.

GLOWACKI, Peter A., of Hales Corner, WI passed away July 26, 2014 at the age of 94. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years captivity in the Philippines and Japan. Peter loved his country and was proud to have served. He was predeceased by his wife, Florence. Survivors include 8 children, 25 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

GUARINO, Larry, of Indian Harbour Beach, FL died in August, 2014. He was 92. He served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was captured in the Vietnam War and held more than 7 years. His wife, Evelyn, survives him; he also leaves 4 sons, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

HEIMKE, Karl F., of Overland Park, KS passed away July 6, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Betsy Herold Heimke, a civilian ex-POW, 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandsons. He served his country in the Army Air Corps during WWII. Karl and Betsy were active members of the Heart of America Chapter, AXPOW.

HOSTETTER, Frank, of Sun City Center, FL, died June 12, 2014. Frank

taps cont'd...

served in three wars, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. He was captured and held in Bucharest Rumania. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, June.

KASPER, Leonard J., 96, of Streamwood, IL passed away Aug. 2, 2014. He was captured while serving with the 2nd Inf., Co. B and held until liberation. He leaves 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

KIRBY, Don, 91, of Groveport, Ohio, died July 28, 2014. He served in the 8th Air Force during WWII; he was shot down, captured and held for 17 months. He was a member of AXPOW and Ohio Chapter #1 where he last served as Sr. Vice Commander. He is survived by his wife of 68 years Helen, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

KNIGHT, Buel, of Northport, AL passed away Sept. 9, 2014. He was 96. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and imprisoned at Stalag 9B and 9A. He also served in Korea and Vietnam. Buel was an active member of AXPOW, serving as National Director for the Southeast Region. Survivors include his son, Ronald, 2 grandsons and 4 great-grandchildren.

MAJOR, John C. "Bub", of Chewelah, WA died Feb. 5, 2014 just one month shy of his 90th birthday. He was captured while serving with the 106th Inf. Div. in the Battle of the Bulge; he was held in Stalag 4B until he escaped to American lines. He was an active member of AXPOW and the Spokane Chapter. Bub is survived by his wife, Peggy, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MICKELSON, Earl S., of Littleton, CO passed away Sept. 18, 2014. He was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he was captured and held in 12A while serving with the 508th Para. Inf., 82nd AB. His wife, Alice, survives him.

MILLER, Francis P, 92, of Lancaster, PA passed away on September 20,

2014. He served in the AAC during WWII, stationed in England; he was shot down over Germany and held until liberation. He was married for 54 years to Bertie E. Miller, whom he wed on April 9, 1960. Frank was a member of the Conestoga Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 54 years, Bertie, 1 son, 1 daughter, one step-son, 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

NOAH, Robert J. Sr., member of the Greater Greensboro Chapter (NC) AXPOW, died Sept. 8, 2014. He was 93. Serving with the 1st Div. "The Big Red" during WWII, he was captured in North Africa and held in Italy until escaping and being protected by the local Italians until the end of the war. Survivors include 1 son, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 5 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren.

O'HARA, Irvan G., 98, of Fort Thomas, OH passed away September 13, 2014. Irvan proudly served his country during World War II with the 8th Air Force, stationed in Grafton England. He was a POW in Germany. He was a member of the OKI Chapter, AXPOW. Irvan was preceded in death by his wife, Jane; he is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 step-daughter, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

OKULA, Sylvia, widow of Francis, died in April, 2014, in Atlanta, GA. Francis served in the ETO, 8th AF, 95th BG, 336th BS, and was held in Stalag Luft III, VI, I and VI. Sylvia was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

PETERSON, John E. of Sun City West, AZ, a long time member of the Agua Fria Chapter, passed away on August 11, 2014. John was in European Theater Operations, 1st Armored Division, 16th Eng. He was held in Stalag 7A until liberation. He is survived by his wife Mary.

PLECKER, McPherson "Mac", 92, of Palm Harbor, FL passed away July 10, 2014. He served in the Navy, Pacific Theater, and was held in Woo Sung, China and Fukaoka, Japan. He was a long-time member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. Mac had 8 chil-

dren, 3 of whom pre-deceased him, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He will be missed.

RUETSCH, Robert D. born November 6, 1923 died October 16, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio after a short illness less than a month short of his 90th birthday. He was a B-24 Ball Turret Gunner with the 512th BS, 376th BG. His plane went down on his 43rd mission on January 31, 1945 and he was a POW for approximately 90 days at Nuremberg and Moosburg. His wife, Mary Jane, preceded him in death. He is survived by five children, six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. His oldest son was born 7 days after his capture. Two of his sons retired from the USAF and a daughter-in-law also served in the Air Force. A grandson served in the Marines in Iraq. It is believed that he was the last surviving member of his crew.

SABOL, Allen S. of Missouri passed away August 1, 2014 at the age of 92. He was captured while serving with the 492nd BG and held in Stalag Luft 4. His wife, Ruth, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 children and 2 grandchildren. Working almost singlehandedly on this for years, Allen was responsible for the legislation in Missouri whereby 100% service connected disabled former POW's are exempt from Missouri real estate taxes. He was a man with dogged determination and extreme caring for his fellow Ex-Prisoners of War. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

SCHOLTEN, Donald J., of Sarasota, FL died May 6, 2014 at the age of 88. He served with the 106th Inf. Div, 423rd G Company. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, held until he escaped to US lines. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Mary Ann, 3 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SCHUETTE, Orlyn L. "Orly", 92, of East Dundee, IL died Aug. 19, 2014, exactly 70 years after being captured and held as a POW. He was shot

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taps cont'd...

down over Romania and imprisoned. He is survived by his wife, Betty, 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 stepson, 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

SIMMONS, Harry, of Newberry, FL died Sept. 13, 2013. He was 91. During WWII, he served with the 351st BG; he was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B. Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter and 1 sister and their families.

SMITH, Marion May, 87, of Colorado Springs, CO died July 27, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert (Bob), ex-POW who served in Company B, 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division, USA. Both Marion and Bob were life members of AXPOW and long-time, active members of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, CA. Bob also served as chapter commander. Marion is survived by two sons and their families. Friends of the Smiths in the

49ers Chapter fondly remember Bob and Marion and they are missed.

SMITH, Robert C., 90, of Cocoa, FL passed away Dec. 31, 2013. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Brevard Space Coast Chapter. During WWII, he served with the 83rd Div, 329th Co. He was captured after being injured and held in Stalag VIIA. He leaves his wife of 66 years, Nita, 1 daughter, 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

STROUP, Lester L., of Colorado Springs, CO passed away Aug. 17, 2014. He was captured in Korea while serving with the 2nd Inf. Div. and held in Camps 3 and 5 until being repatriated in "The Big Switch". Lester served as commander and vice commander of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Doris, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother. He will be missed by all who knew him.

VLAD, Dan J., 92, of Struthers, OH passed away in September, 2014. During WWII, he served with the US Army, was captured and held in Germany for 6 months. He was an active member of the former Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Dan leaves 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

YOCHUM, Francis X., of Vincennes, IN died April 16, 2014 at the age of 97. He was captured in North Africa, while serving with the 9th Div., Co. M, 47th Inf., sent to Italy, then Germany and held in Stalag IIB. Survivors include one nephew, James.

ZAMPIERI, Tullio, 97, of Barre, VT passed away July 27, 2014. He and his wife, Yvette were life members of Vermont Chapter #1. He served with the US Army 422nd Infantry Regiment. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held at Stalag 4B. Survivors include his wife, 9 children, 16 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews.

chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

One man related that he would not have married his wife "...she's the meanest woman in three counties"

But is that really the proper thing to do (if you could)? For instance if the man had married some one else he would not have the two children he has now. He may or may not have had children. If he had children they would not be the children he has now. Who knows? The "new" wife and children may be more of a problem than the present one.

It has been said that our service personnel came home from the war and built a country.

They were shaped by their experiences. Good or bad, we all are shaped by our experiences. Although we have our emotions, those feelings are influenced by events that happen around and to us.

Joseph in the book of Genesis was sold into slavery by his brother. He suffered harsh experiences but he rose through the grace, care and pro-

tection of God to be the number two ruler in the land of Egypt.

Many years later, he was reunited with his family. In Genesis 50:20 he assures them of his good intentions, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good..."

The point is simply: No matter what terrible blows life hands us our faith in God can carry us through the bad times of life to a better future.

My prayer for you this issue is "May God take you through life and help you surmount all of life's problems. In the name God's Son, Amen."



Benny

From time to time I hear someone say, "If I had it to do over I would..." Or, I hear: "If I had my life to live over, I would..." And then, they would go on to say what they would change.



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

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

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY: _____ Date of Death _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

Memorial donations should be sent to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



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ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO
AXPOW OR AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR



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



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

Name:

Nickname:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Telephone:

Spouse:

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:

Your biography listing may include 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white) and a 1000 word or less narrative. Please type or print your narrative. Photos and narratives may be emailed to hq@axpow.org please reference "Biography" and your name.

Send to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40Arlington, Texas 76010-5396. Please include your check for \$65.00, your photos and narrative (or indicate what date they were emailed).

Ex-POW Bulletin

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The National 4th (IVY) Division Association

Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.

"Steadfast and Loyal"

50/50 drawing

June 28, 2014 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place JEANNE BREESE, AZ \$202.20
- 2nd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$151.65
donated back to organization
- 3rd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$101.10
donated back to organization
- 4th Place ELLEN BLOCKER, MS \$50.55

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

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

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

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



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active
since 1946

If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.

**The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946.
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman
121 McGregor Ave.
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856
973-663-2410
E-mail: jsc164@aol.com

Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2014

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

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

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

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

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.
Thank you for your support. (6/15)

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

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

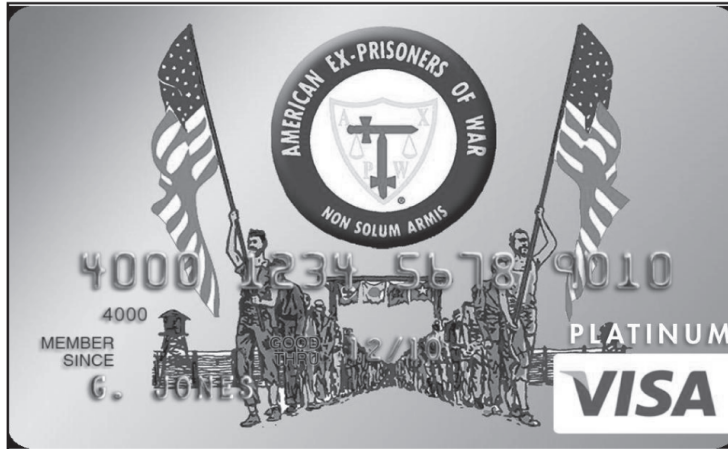
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Thank you for your support. (6/15)

**Every credit card sends you a statement.
This card lets you make one.**

American Ex-Prisoners of War Custom Visa® Platinum Rewards Card.



- No annual fee.
- \$50 donation by the bank when you first use the card.*
- Ongoing contributions made when you continue using your card.
- Low Introductory APR on purchases and no balance transfer fees for 6 months.[†]
- Enhanced Visa Platinum benefits, including 24/7 Emergency Customer Service, 100% Fraud Protection, Auto Rental and Travel Accident Insurance and much more.
- Earn points at hundreds of participating online retailers redeemable for name-brand merchandise, event tickets, gift cards or travel reward options.

Make your own statement with your custom



American Ex-Prisoners of War

Visa Platinum Rewards Card

VISA

Apply today at:

<http://www.cardpartner.com/app/axpow>

The AXPOW Visa card program is operated by UMB Bank, N.A. All applications for AXPOW Visa credit card accounts will be subject to UMB Bank N.A.'s approval, at its absolute discretion. Please visit www.cardpartner.com for further details of terms and conditions which apply to the AXPOW Visa card program. * Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. † After this period a low variable APR will apply.

CardPartner.com Powered by CardPartner. The #1 provider of custom affinity credit card programs.
From UMB

**Ex-POW Bulletin
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AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

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

\$75.00

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I
Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.**

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 S/H

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

AXPOW Challenge Coin



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00
Brooch pin	5.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00
Logo pin	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Challenge Coins	10.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (specify gold, silver or antique gold)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00

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 S/H)

Ship to: Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

We accept Master Card/Visa

12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo	60.00
Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
CLOTHSTRIPES (specify which title)	3.00
Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas	
Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer · Dep't Commander	
Past Dept. Commander · Dep't Adjutant	
Dep't Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander	
Jr. Vice Commander · Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer	

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.

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com**

What is a Veteran? - *Author unknown*

The veteran is special because he or she is selected. The fact that they are selected makes them something special. They are no longer free; they are subject to military law. They become a special breed, committed to fight to the death for the ideals of freedom around the world.

They cannot be flat-footed; they cannot be lame; they must be as perfect as possible.

They must be mentally alert. They cannot be moronic. They must be able to read and write.

They must have some talent. They must be morally fit. They cannot be a criminal. They cannot be nervously unstable. They must know the difference between right and wrong. They live in unsegregated barracks as equals; they fight together for freedom.

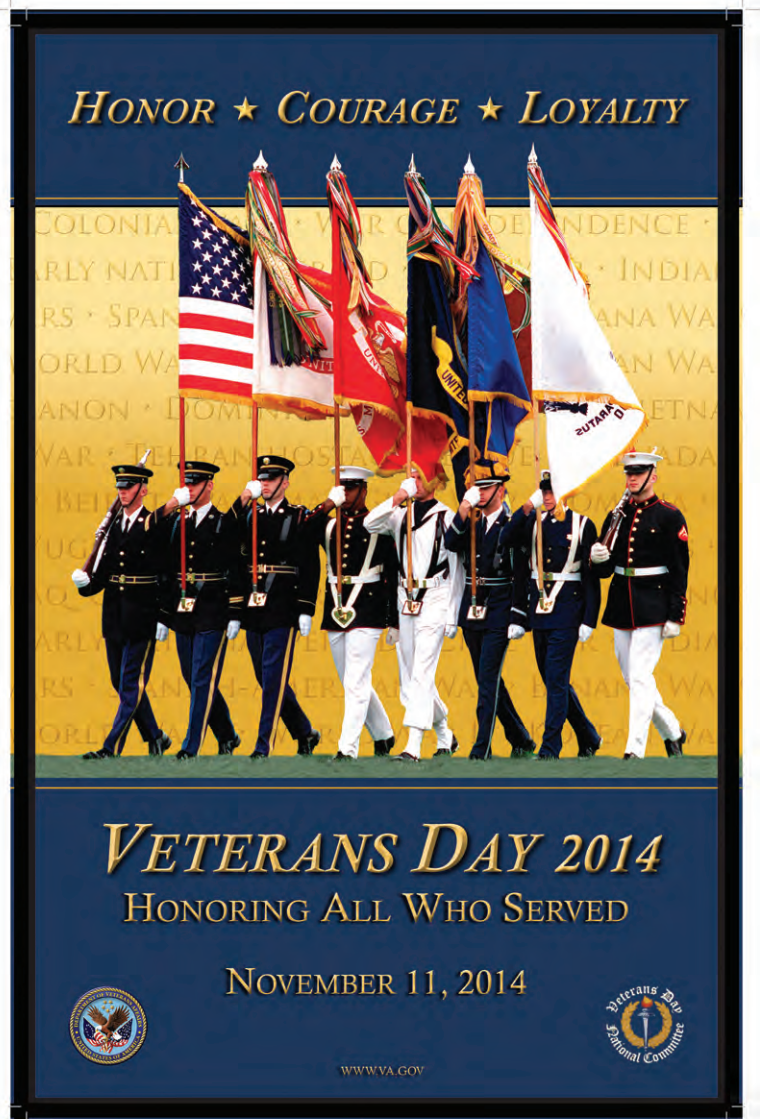
Only the best physically, mentally and morally are called to war. The tragedy is that only the best are fit to be killed. In our sophisticated society, this special breed of men and women perform a sacrificial service. Only the brave are selected and only a race of ingrates would forget their sacrifice.

This special breed, this select group, these physical specimens -- only the best -- these citizen soldiers, sailors, and airmen went to war, at the behest of Congress in defense of freedom all over the world and they became the best fighting men and women history will ever know.

They came home as veterans -- gassed and shell-shocked from Chateau-Thierry; bedraggled from the Battle of the Bulge; hungry from Corregidor; frozen from the Chosen Reservoir; maimed from Vietnam and in record time from Desert Storm. Some came back with yellow fever, some with malaria, some with TB. Some came back with mental disorders, some alcoholic; yes, some even returned as addicts and some with breathing problems from Desert Storm. Many live in the streets as urban POWs.

So, if you are asked, "What's special about a Veteran?" answer firmly, "The Veteran is someone special, they are our charge, they are our responsibility. They answered our call when we needed them. "May God bless them, may God bless our country, and may God bless each and every one of you.

A veteran is the reason you are here!





All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

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

Bronze Grave Medallions



\$75.00 plus \$15.00 S/H/I

Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396
Or fax: (817) 649-0109
Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com