

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

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**October~November~December 2022**



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*Wreaths Across America ~  
Andersonville National Historic Site*

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 11, 2022

# VETERANS DAY

DUTY • HONOR • COUNTRY



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Deadline for the Jan-Mar 2023  
Bulletin is November 30, 2022  
Please send all materials to the  
editor at the above address.

## October-December 2022

Elsie Senften of Damascus, Oregon wrote the other day. She is a big reason why I think of you all as family. She was writing to thank us for continuing the organization and – as she puts it – “sticking with Ex-POWs”. We do. And we will. Thank you for your kind words, Elsie. You made my day. – Cheryl

Wreaths Across America 2022. Event activities will begin at noon on Saturday, December 17, in Andersonville National Cemetery. Wreaths sponsored through the nonprofit Wreaths Across America organization are delivered to and placed on gravesites in national cemeteries across the country, including Andersonville National Cemetery. Sponsored wreaths can be designated for placement on the specific grave of a loved one, or left undesignated and placed on one of thousands of gravesites that otherwise may not be visited or honored.

With the invaluable help and support of Bennett International, the Taylor Family Foundation, Wreaths Across America, Friends of Andersonville, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and other partners, thousands of wreaths are brought to Andersonville National Cemetery each year. Our shared goal is to honor each of the over 20,000 gravesites in the cemetery with a wreath.

The public is invited to attend a small ceremony to be held at the Rostrum at noon, when wreaths honoring each branch of military service will be presented. Limited seating will be available. Immediately following the ceremony, the public will be invited to help place wreaths on graves in Andersonville National Cemetery as a way to honor and remember those who served our country.

COVER: Gravesites honored with wreaths create a beautiful setting around monuments at Andersonville National Cemetery.  
*NPS/H. Peacock*

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# national commander



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## THE TIME IS DRAWING NEAR

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we read, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up."

The American Ex-Prisoners of War was formed in 1942, chartered by Congress in 1982 and has worked for the last 80+ years to keep the plight and health effects of POWs before the Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, laws have been passed, medical investigations have been conducted and benefits created to honor and support men and women of our armed forces who had the misfortune of falling into enemy hands and held as POWs. We all know the stories of abusive treatment and torture, lack of medical care, poor sanitation, and meager diets. All of those elements have had long-lasting effects on our physical and psychological health. Our combined efforts have been to mitigate our maladies, to compensate us for our honorable service, and to remind the Nation of the sacrifice we all made in those days.

At this point in time, our numbers are fast dwindling due to our advanced age. The Veterans Administration estimates fewer than 1,000 surviving POWs from World War II and Korea. The NAMPOW rolls are below 500, and the Global War on Terror has but about twenty.

I last testified before the joint Congressional Committee on Veterans Affairs in 2020. Not a single question was asked,

although I raised several points that should have been addressed. In 2021, after forty years of invitation to testify, we were told that our presence wasn't needed, although we could submit written testimony. Our organization was completely ignored in 2022. For these reasons, we are approaching a time in the not-too-distant future that our efforts will be complete and we will need to fold our flag. When the Board met in Andersonville on POW/MIA Recognition Day, that was the prime topic discussed.

I was not present for that meeting because I was in Walla Walla, Washington speaking to two school groups and a VFW Post. Whenever I stand before young people my heart is glad because of the interest and patriotism they show. The same is true when I speak to other veterans around the country. Be assured of this, our legacy of service, valor, heroism and sacrifice will be enshrined forever at the Andersonville Historic Site. You have not been forgotten by this Nation, and your memory will continue to live for generations to come. When the time comes for American Ex-POWs to furl our flag, it will not be in defeat, it will be in victory for a job well done.

Commander Certain

*All blessings during this holiday season from the directors  
and officers of American Ex-Prisoners of War*



## from the CEO

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Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Mawlid al-Nabi. The last quarter of the year brings events and holidays and times to get together...as families and friends.

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" for nearly all faiths.

I know it is for me. The lead-in to winter is always a time for excitement and anticipation. The holidays are filled with spending time with loved ones, charity, worship and other festive activities. Decorating the house...cooking, baking, cooking, baking...meals and camaraderie with family and friends. The time always goes too fast and then we're stuck with – shudder – January, February and March. The dreariest time of year.

Do you think it was planned that way?



I had always wondered why my dad didn't get as excited as my mother and I did. Then, after I was older, he talked about Christmas in a POW camp. Not a place of joy by any means. His first months there, he was held by the Luftwaffe and treated with some semblance of respect. In the months heading into the winter of 1944, all that changed. Unlike Japanese, Korean or Vietnam POWs, torture wasn't the norm, but simple humanity didn't exist either. Food, heat and hope was scarce.

In his Wartime Log, I found his imaginary Christmas dinner. Turkey and stuffing. Gravy and potatoes and onion peas. Buttered rolls. Pumpkin and cottage cheese pies. And piles of cookies. He even drew pictures of each course. It existed only in his mind, but it gave him comfort planning it out and sharing it with his barracks mates.

Vietnam POW Paul Galanti said he looked at the holidays as "this time we're going home". Every. Single. Year.

In both wars, in both cases, there was optimism and a belief in a future.

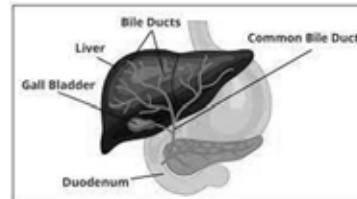
Now decades later, I wish you all the most wonderful season and the best of wishes for 2023. You all have been my family for nearly 40 years, through children and grandchildren, through love and loss. Your lives have been an inspiration to mine.

God Bless you all and God Bless America.

Fondly  
Cheryl

*At left: Christmas in a POW camp...by Angelo Spinelli*

## Gallbladder Disease



The risk of developing gallstone disease and its complications increases with age. With an aging population, the prevalence of gallstone disease is likely to escalate. New diagnostic and therapeutic health technologies have significantly improved the care of patients with gallstones. The dissemination of laparoscopic surgical techniques, also known as minimally invasive surgery, has revolutionized patient care. Elderly patients, in particular, benefit from rapid detection and early definitive therapy of gallstone disease.

### Symptoms

The symptoms of gallbladder attack result most commonly due to the presence of gallstones. Less common causes include tumors of the bile duct or gallbladder or certain illnesses. With blockage to the flow of bile, the bile accumulates in the gallbladder, causing an increase in pressure that can sometimes lead to rupture. Symptoms of a gallbladder attack include pain in the upper right side or middle of the abdomen. The pain may be dull, sharp, or cramping. The pain typically starts suddenly. It is

steady and may spread to the back or the area below the right shoulder blade. Having steady pain particularly after meals is a common symptom of gallbladder stones. Movement does not make the pain worsen.

A complication of gallstones is inflammation of the gallbladder (cholecystitis). Symptoms that can accompany acute this are fever, nausea, vomiting, clay-colored stools, and jaundice (yellowing of the whites of the eyes and the skin).

### Related Symptoms & Signs

- Abdominal Pain
- Nausea

### Other gallbladder attack symptoms and signs

- Abdominal Pain
- Abdominal Tenderness
- Fever
- Nausea
- Pain After Meals
- Stomach Pain
- Vomiting
- Yellowing of the Whites of the Eyes
- Yellowish Skin

### Treatment for Gallstones

How do health care professionals treat gallstones?

If your gallstones are not causing symptoms, you probably don't need treatment. However, if you are having a gallbladder attack or other symptoms, contact your doctor. Although your symptoms may go away, they may appear again and you may need treatment. Your doctor may refer to you a gastroenterologist or surgeon for treatment.

The usual treatment for gallstones is surgery to remove the gallbladder. Doctors sometimes can use non-surgical treatments to treat cholesterol stones, but pigment stones usually require surgery.

### Surgery

Surgery to remove the gallbladder, which is called cholecystectomy, is one of the most common operations performed on adults in the United States. The gallbladder is not an

## medsearch, cont'd...

essential organ, which means you can live normally without a gallbladder.

A health care professional will usually give you general anesthesia. Once the surgeon removes your gallbladder, bile flows out of your liver through the hepatic duct and common bile duct and directly into the duodenum, instead of being stored in the gallbladder.

### Surgeons perform two types of cholecystectomy:

**Laparoscopic cholecystectomy.** Almost all surgeons perform cholecystectomies with laparoscopy. Surgeons perform many laparoscopic cholecystectomies on an outpatient basis, meaning you may be able to go home the same day. You will probably be able to return to normal physical activity in about a week.

**Open cholecystectomy.** A surgeon performs an open cholecystectomy *NIH external link* when your gallbladder is severely inflamed, infected, or scarred from other operations. Your doctor may perform a cholecystectomy if problems occur during a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. After the surgery, you may need to stay in the hospital for up to a week. You will probably be able to return to normal physical activity after about a month.

Surgery to remove the gallbladder, called cholecystectomy, is one of the most common operations performed on adults in the United States.

### What happens after gallbladder removal?

A small number of people have softer and more frequent stools after gallbladder removal, because bile now flows into your duodenum more often. Changes in bowel habits are usually temporary; however, discuss them with your doctor.

All surgeries come with a possible risk of complications; however, gallbladder surgery complications are very rare. The most common complication is injury to the bile ducts, which can cause infection. You may need one or more additional operations to repair the bile ducts.

## Nonsurgical treatments

Doctors use nonsurgical treatments for gallstones only in special situations, like if you have cholesterol stones and you have a serious medical condition that prevents surgery. Even with treatment, gallstones can return. Therefore, you may have to be regularly treated for gallstones for a very long time, or even for the rest of your life.

A doctor may use the following types of nonsurgical treatments to remove or break up cholesterol gallstones:

**Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP).** Sometimes doctors use ERCP to remove a gallstone that is stuck in the common bile duct.

**Oral dissolution therapy.** Ursodiol (Actigall) and chenodiol (Chenix) are medicines that contain bile acids that can break up gallstones. These medicines work best to break up small cholesterol stones. You may need months or years of treatment to break up all stones.

**Shock wave lithotripsy.** A doctor can use shock wave lithotripsy to blast gallstones into small pieces. Doctors use this procedure only rarely, and sometimes along with ursodiol.

How can I help prevent gallstones?

You can help prevent gallstones by:

- adjusting your eating plan to include more foods high in fiber and healthy fats, fewer refined carbohydrates, and less sugar
- losing weight safely if you are overweight or have obesity
- maintaining a healthy weight through healthy eating and regular physical activity

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# PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37

by William Paul Skelton, III, MD F.A.C.P.

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

## 1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma.

## 2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet.

## 3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet.

## 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.

## 5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue.

## 6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human.

## 7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition.

## 8. PELLAGRA

It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet.

## 9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects.

## 10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities.

## 11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear.

## 12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

## 13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions.

## 14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress.

## 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.

## 17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord.

## 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.

## 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).

## 20. CIRRHOSIS

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

## 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.

## 22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension).

## 23. OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break.

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined by VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected.

To be eligible for compensation, the Veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of eligible dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation (SMC). Disability compensation benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

# legislative



Legislative officer  
Charles A Susino

Summertime in Washington is always different. Congress is out of session so we hear politician's sound bites with no chance of meaningful action. Summer of 2022 is no different with the air waves packed with partisan politics. We always hope for the two sides to work together to obtain results to improve our country...but disappointment prevails. A select few highlights follow.

Honoring our PACT Act has been signed into law. In August, President Biden signed into law S.3373, Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the PACT Act. Unfortunately, exposure to harmful chemicals by our veterans has been common for so many conflicts anything short of aggressively addressing the health of these impacted veterans is unacceptable. It is comforting to see the Senate overwhelming positive vote, 86-11.

In late June the House passed The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great (STRONG) Veterans Act of 2022, HR 6411. It awaits action from the Senate. This bill would

improve VA's mental health provider workforce, strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line, expand Veteran Center eligibility to include students and survivors of suicide loss, and bolster mental health research. Mental health continues to be an area of high need for the veterans and their family.

President Biden signed into law in June three Bills impacting veterans. First, the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act will expand eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods. The Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act will address provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA. Lastly, Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021, S.2687 gives the VA Office of Inspector General the authority to subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as needed. It requires notice and concurrence from the Department of Justice.

I close this article asking us all to reflect. My Dad, Charles Susino, Jr., asked us time and again to remember. Remember the sacrifices of all the POWs, all the MIAs, all the Purple Hearts, all the veterans and their families. Remember all they gave for our country. Our legislative platform has always been for Congress to provide the needed benefits that the veterans have earned. Key word earned. In today's society where there are many entitlements, veterans' benefits are fundamentally different because they are earned. That fundamental difference can never

be understated or forgotten. In many cases Congress has moved too slowly or not at all. But without the tireless legislative efforts of the AXPOW and other veterans' organizations and veterans to inform, justify, and charge Congress, there would be no action. Thank you.

## CAS

Here are a couple of my favorite pictures of my dad "educating congress". He never did anything halfway and his passion for his country was obvious.



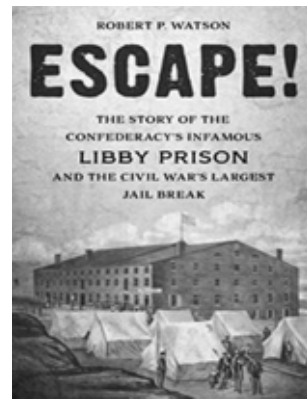
# andersonville



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Greetings from Andersonville National Historic Site. We are preparing for a busy fall season at the national historic site. In the last issue, I mentioned we were expecting a team of experts to assess our preservation needs in the national cemetery for the national cemetery initiative. The mission was very successful and has resulted in just under a million-dollar request for funding starting in October 2022, to prune trees, replaces missing and dead trees, aerate compacted soils, replace sod, and repair monuments and the cemetery wall. The initiative focuses on training a new generation of park stewards and development of professional skills. A good portion of the funding will be used to hire youth crews who will receive valuable training from National Park Service experts.

On September 15 we look forward to the annual Friends of Andersonville and AXPOW dinner. AXPOW and the Friends of Andersonville National Historic Site, will conduct a wreath laying ceremony in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day the morning of September 16 followed by the joint annual meeting that afternoon.



Dr. Robert Watson, author and professor at Lynn University, will be at the National POW Museum providing a program on his research and new book, "Escape from Libby Prison" at 2:30PM on Friday, September 16 at 2:30PM and Saturday September 17 at 10:30AM. The Friday program will be broadcast on C-SPAN for those who cannot attend.

On September 24, we are hosting a Public Lands Day event.

We invite the public to work with us for 4 hours cleaning headstones in the national cemetery. We are hoping to hold a monthly volunteer workday to clean headstones if our Public Lands Day event goes well.



The weekend of November 5/6, we will host a Civil War Weekend. Highlights of the weekend include; living history, black powder demonstrations, and formal programming by Stephen Hoy, Author of "Camp Oglethorpe: Macon's Unknown Civil War Prisoner of War Camp, 1862-1864" who will speak about the history of Camp Oglethorpe.

At the National POW Museum, lighting for some of the exhibit spaces in the National POW Museum was recently upgraded and those upgrades will continue through the fall. We are in the design phase of upgrading the museum restrooms, repair of the water feature, as well as a new HVAC system.

We have selected a new Interpretive Chief, Susie Sernaker to replace Jody Mays. Susie comes to us from Timucuan National Ecological and Historic Preserve near Jacksonville, Florida. Susie has decades of experience interpreting history, and we

andersonville, cont'd...

are very excited for her arrival on October 2, 2022.

The national historic site is adding a new position; a permanent museum technician to assist our curator in caring for the collection and to allow us to rotate exhibits in the museum more frequently. In addition, the oral history transcription process will begin this fall, a project funded by AXPOW.

We hope to welcome you to the museum and national historic site this year. We appreciate all AXPOW continues to contribute to Andersonville National Historic Site.

## Civil War Living History Weekend



# namPOW news



Capt. Richard A. Stratton, USN (Ret.)

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A C-141

Many folks around Hanoi and around the world rejoiced when LBJ announced a partial bombing halt on the territory of North Vietnam and the commencement of "peace talks" in Paris, France on March 31, 1968, and a complete halt on October 31, 1968.

Perhaps the only ones saddened were the warriors tasked with the prosecution of a rules-of- engagement bound fight with an implacable enemy who promised to fight a hundred years if necessary to conquer the Republic of Vietnam. We prisoners were adjusting to the reality of another 25 years in jail which would be the inevitable result of the bombing halt.



The infantile squabble over the shape of tables in the conference room, the endless propaganda ramblings of the Communist propa-

gandists, and the seating of the phony representatives of the Viet Cong (Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, National Liberation Front) whom we had destroyed in the 1968 Tet offensive were our clues that this was nothing but a delaying action while the North Vietnamese army beefed up its regular army units already in South Vietnam to full strength.

In the summer of 1967, the Vietnamese Ministry of Propaganda in cooperation with Communist East Germany allowed a communist film crew limited access to already identified POWs in a specially set up show-camp at 17 Pho Ly Nam De, Hanoi. [The Enemy Proselyting Department (a component of the General Political Directorate) took control of the compound and used it to detain American POWs. The Enemy Proselyting Department was the principle PAVN element responsible for administering American POWs until about April 1972.]

The film was shown worldwide entitled ***Pilots in Pajamas*** and selected still pictures sold to ***Life*** magazine for their October 20, 1967, issue. The Politburo, embarrassed by the revelations of released (8/5/1969) Douglas Hegdahl regarding torture, depravation, neglect, and propaganda exploitation of POWs wrote more politically correct regulations for the treatment of prisoners. < Politburo Resolution No. 194-NQ/TW, 20 November 1969 > Torture as a rule, except for certain military information, was stopped. Men were taken out of solitary confinement and placed in larger cells. Food increased in quantity to minimum to sustain life. Mail was permitted to be exchanged through Soviet Russia, not the Red Cross.



## All I want...



To give the illusion of progress and to win the hearts and minds of Americans as well as their supporters worldwide, the peace delegation started to ration out "good deals" for the POWs which they were already obliged to do by international law. A couple of these gratuities were letters and packages from home for Yankee Air Pirates. These of course would only go to already identified prisoners, especially those who had been paraded in public in front of those traveling to Hanoi to give aid and comfort to the enemy, an enemy who were killing our men in South Vietnam.

It all started for me as Christmas of 1968 approached. The mail started to dribble in starting with those prisoners who had been the unwilling but very public participants in the Communist propaganda to win the hearts and minds of the nascent U. S. peace movement. At that time, I had a cellmate, Al Stafford (RIP).

We were marched off to the prison Big House interrogation center one evening in our Mess Dress (striped PJs). It was obviously to be a good guy quiz – no torture or beatings – as there were no POW witnesses to torture. Frenchy was all smiles and announced that we were permitted to receive one package each from home. Naturally there were propaganda department flacks there taking pictures. Al, always very hungry, was busy picking

the oranges off the decorative Bonsai tree. [The VC never forgave him for that!]



The packages were shoe boxes that had obviously been opened, inspected, and raided. Certain things routinely were pulled out like Bibles which the VC (and many Christians) never could understand. Cigarettes and bars of soap never seemed to make it to the cell. Most pictures and notes were removed. Books of a general nature appeared all together in 1973 once the Accords were signed, dumped in cells not delivered to designated recipients. [My favorite was Adelle Davis' *Let's Eat Right to Keep Fit*. Who in their right mind would send this to starving prisoners? The concept was so outlandish that we were convinced that it must be filled with secret messages. We spent hours trying to break its code in the last month of imprisonment.]

How come there is so much missing? With a big smile, Frenchy, speaking as one man of the world to another, remarked: "Well Stratton you certainly understand that your post office takes its share. The package came

through Moscow; they took their share. It was delivered to Hanoi's post office; they took their share. And it came to the Army post office; they took their share. And voila! Here is your share!"

Now there are times in life when one must bow to the laws of nature and the foibles of mankind. The explanation was a patient recitation of fact. Who could argue with such impeccable logic?

In later years we learned of the arrival of packages by the odors emanating from the guards whose perfume normally was "Essence of Pig Pen". American tobacco had distinctive odors, even ivory soap through Irish Spring had their own distinctive perfumes. The guards never did figure our peanut butter. Maybe the fact that some of the younger men had convinced them that it was baby poop planted there by the CIA to poison them. They never understood the concept of chewing gum so that always got through



When I received a dozen packets or so of Juicy Fruit Chewing Gum, I was convinced that my wife was about to divorce me since she well knew that I did not like gum of any kind but despised Juicy Fruit to the extent that just the smell of it made me ill. Why would she take up precious space with that unless she was sending a message?

## All I want...

Aha! That was it. Somehow a secret message was embedded in the gum or applied to the wrapper. Since I could not chew the gum to search out the message without getting sick, I got the task of urinating on all the wrapping paper and tinfoil. After all, we had no acidic citrus juice or matches for heat to bring out latent writing. To do this task thoroughly you end up wet to past the wrists. And then consider the control that must be exerted to ration out the precious decoding fluid. Three college degrees, 3,000 flight hours, 300 carrier landings, 22 combat missions and my contribution to the war effort is to spend a week urinating on my hands for the good of the nation.

Upon our return I finally screwed up the courage to ask the wife about the chewing gum in the package. She gave me a blank stare, denied it all and was convinced that I was demented. About a year later, a friend in Colorado Springs broke out laughing upon hearing the story. He was the culprit. He had been assigned to get the package into the postal system. On the way he rattled it and determined the contents were poorly packed. So he stopped at a store and purchased enough packets of Juicy Fruit inside to make a solid pack. Mystery solved; marriage saved. And there was no secret message!

In all fairness to our captors, they did make an honest effort on Tet, 4th of July, their Independence Day (September 2nd) and Christmas to provide the prisoners with a special holiday meal more frequently than not. It included a random appendage of a turkey, a plantain like vegetable, bread

without gravel or rat feces in it, a pastry, and a dram of liquor. [In most cells that I was in we would save up the liquor until we had a cup full and then hold a lottery of some kind so at least one of us could have a good drink.]

Our Navy Senior Ranking Officer (SRO) Jim "CAG" Stockdale MOH (RIP), a wise and kind man, reflected on Christmas and other prison holidays with a depth of understanding only he could express but what we all knew to be true in our heart of hearts.



"Who didn't make it out?" Stockdale was once asked about his fellow prisoners of war.

"Oh, that's easy," he said. "The optimists."

"The optimists? I don't understand," the interviewer replied.

"The optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart." (*The Stockdale Paradox*)

The ultimate solution for me was: "One day at a time, sweet Jesus; one day at a time. . . ."

So, the survivor hoped for a C141-A for Christmas and the pessimist wished for a C130-H. But all we - like all little boys - all we wanted was an airplane for Christmas. In truth, all I really wanted for Christmas was. . . Christmas.

# pow/mia

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## Known Americans held overseas

*Daily Mail reports on 08/17/22 "[Syria denies kidnapping American prisoner Austin Tice after Biden said he knew 'with certainty' that Damascus is holding Marine veteran and journalist who disappeared 10 years ago...](#) The former US Marine was kidnapped in August 2012 aged 31 while reporting freelance in Damascus on the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad."*

Emad Shargi, 56, is an Iranian American businessman, sentenced to ten years without a trial for espionage in Tehran in January 2021.

In August of 2022, ABC news reported that David Barnes has been held since January in a Moscow jail. He is one of several Americans being detained in Russia, but unlike Brittney Griner, Paul Whelan or Marc Fogel, law enforcement in Moscow has alleged that he engaged in criminal activity in the United States -- an accusation that has bewildered members of his family, American prosecutors and his local congressman.

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As of Sept. 1, 2022, the number of Americans Missing and Unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War remains at 1,582.

There are 81,614 still unaccounted for US Military personnel since 1941.

Held since March 2022 news reports in the Daily Mail state that Russia has confirmed it is in talks with White House to swap Brittney Griner for 'Merchant of Death' arms dealer - one day after WNBA star was sentenced to nine years in prison ...

DAILY MAIL reported in August 2022 that a Colorado teacher and mother, 46 year old Sarah Krivanek has been behind bars in Moscow since last year, when she was arrested for assaulting her abusive, drunk Russian boyfriend. He had beaten her up in a drunken rage and she retaliated by cutting him in the nose. ... She has been locked up for eight months in the same jail as Brittney Griner - but unlike the WNBA star, no one is rushing to bring her home

Daily Mail reported on Jul 8, 2022 "Biden FINALLY phones sister of Paul Whelan (held since 2018 and arrested on espionage charges) after a family member of ex-Marine detained in Russia complained that he called wife of Brittney Griner but not her sibling."

In 2018, Long Island resident Kai Li (now 60) was sentenced to 10 years in a Chinese prison for politically motivated *espionage*. In 2021, the U.N. stated he was denied due process and arbitrarily detained in violation of international law and asked for his immediate release. He suffered a stroke in captivity.

Marc Fogel was detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport in August 2021. CBS News reported that Russia accused the American teacher of being "large scale" drug smuggler almost half a year after detaining him .

Mark R. Frerichs was kidnapped in Afghanistan 2020. The Associated Press ran a story April of 2022, saying "An American man kidnapped in Afghanistan two years ago is seen in a video pleading for his release so that he can be reunited with his family..."

A US Marine veteran, Matthew Heath, 40 detained in Venezuela on terrorism charges since 2020, has attempted suicide, according to his family and a Daily Mail story in June 2022. The story also mentioned the previously the "US marine was stripped and strapped to wire mesh connected to car battery then shocked twice and threatened with rape when he was stopped and tortured by Venezuela's counter intelligence..."

Siamak and Baquer Nazami, a father and son, were locked up in 2016 for 'collaborating with a hostile foreign government' and a father accused of spying: The Americans are still imprisoned in prison in Iran.

FOX NEWS reported on July 18, 2022 that U.S. Air Force veteran Suedi Murekezi has been captured by pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine, according to his brother, making him at least the third American to be detained.



## pow/mia cont'd...

Sele Murekezi told the Washington Post that on July 7 he received a call from an unknown caller who gave the phone to Suedi. Suedi Murekezi then told his brother that while living in the city of Kherson he had been wrongfully accused of being part of a pro-Ukraine protest and taken captive, Sele said...

"Moscow has said it can not guarantee the lives of Alex Drueke, 39, and Andy Huynh, 27, who were captured by state-backed forces during fighting in Kharkiv on June 11...."

In August, News Nation reported that Alexander Drueke called home and spoke with his mother Lois "Bunny" Drueke, Alexander Drueke affirming he is being held in the same prison cell with two other Americans in Ukraine.

An online petition to the President reads: On May 29, 2021, Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, along with his wife and three children, were involved in a tragic car accident. After a day trip to climb Mt Fuji from their home in Yokosuka, Japan, LT Alkonis experienced a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency in which he lost consciousness while driving the family vehicle to get lunch and ice cream. An unconscious LT Alkonis crashed into several parked vehicles in a restaurant parking lot resulting in the tragic death of two Japanese citizens. LT Alkonis was immediately arrested by Japanese authorities...and sentenced to three years in prison after a trial.

## Students, Faculty To Conduct Second Forensic Archaeology Field School In Germany At Site Of World War II Airplane Crash

For the second year, Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Anthropology has been selected by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc. through the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to conduct a field study in Germany at the site of a crash of a World War II airplane.

The mission of the DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel from America's past conflicts.

IUP Department of Anthropology faculty Andrea Palmiotto and William Chadwick are directing the five-week field school, which began June 27. Six IUP students are part of the field school, joining five other students from other universities across the US and a German teacher from the Chambersburg School District in Pennsylvania who is providing translation services.

While the students will not be analyzing any materials that they find—that will be done by the DPAA—the field school provides an opportunity for the students to make and properly document the discoveries. Two of the IUP students are in the Applied Archaeology master's program and have had previous field experience. This year they are working as "crew chiefs" for the group, gaining supervisory experience in addition to a different type of field work experience.

### *More About the DPAA*

*DPAA combined the functions of the former Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command, and the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory. DPAA today is comprised of more than 600 highly skilled and talented civilians and military from each of our services (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force), and includes historians, research analysts, policy experts, anthropologists, archivists, archaeologists, odontologists, linguists, logisticians, communication experts, field operators, material evidence experts, strategists, and planners, as well as numerous additional support personnel. These professionals with a wide variety of backgrounds and specialties are integral to the successful day-to-day operations of our important mission.*

Personnel from DPAA, along with other US and foreign specialists, research, investigate, recover, and identify remains of Americans unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Iraq and Persian Gulf Wars. When recovery operations are unsuccessful, DPAA professionals work hand-in-hand with Service Casualty Officials to provide answers to family members on the fate of their loved ones.

The analysis and investigation sections also provide historical analysis to help with the identification of recovered remains. At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active cases under analysis.

# Civilian

## The STIC Tissue Issue\*

### Part II

By Prof. Martin Meadows

## The Women's Perspective

*INTRODUCTION.* This is the second of a two-part exploration of a heretofore generally (and perhaps understandably) neglected subject. Its focus is on the shortages of sanitary supplies for the WWII prisoners of the Nipponese Empire in Manila's Santo Tomas Internment Camp (STIC) — more precisely, on how the camp's roughly 4,000 inmates coped with the problems caused by those shortages. Both Parts I and II concentrate attention on bathroom tissue (a "polite" term for toilet paper); and in addition Part II, centered on the women's side of the story and more extensive in scope, takes into account the sanitary-napkins aspect of the subject. As to its results, here is a concise judgment in the form of a broad overview: Sufficient information surfaced during the course of this survey to enable it to develop several major (and I think credible) conclusions — but of course it is subject to modification if justified by the discovery of additional information.

[Note: Part II on the whole is self-contained, though it does include various references to passages in Part I in the July-Sept EX-POW Bulletin.]

[Note: I have followed herein the now acceptable usage of "Santo Tomas" rather than "Santo Tomás."]

At the outset, it is worth emphasizing that the process of writing Part II was far more difficult and complex (and thus took far longer) than I had anticipated, and certainly was far more so than had been the case with Part I. Part II is longer and more involved for three reasons. One was the absence of existing "guidelines," so to speak; this topic not only has not received any (known) extended coverage, but (as noted in Part I) it is *not even mentioned* in the works by the camp's principal ex-internee historians and record-keepers — namely, A. V. H. Hartendorp (author of a massive two-volume history of STIC), James E. McCall, and Frederic H. Stevens. Second, unlike the situation I faced in writing Part I, this time I was able to rely on sources other than myself; but, with more material to work with (though no "guidelines"), it had to be developed into a coherent and consistent whole (a goal which proved to be difficult to attain). Third, as the process evolved, Part II turned into more of a research paper than an essentially informal survey of individual recollections that I had expected it would be. (This helps explain its academic tone, for which apologies are hereby extended.)

Next, as background, it would be useful to briefly review Part I, in terms of the major factors which influenced its nature. In essence, the content of Part I was governed by two closely-related procedural constraints. One was that, since I was not aware of any previous extended coverage of the subject, the account thus was purely personal in nature, based almost entirely on my own recollections (which themselves were affected by the passage of more than seven decades). The other *procedural* constraint was that Part I, as a result, necessarily reflected only the men's point of view — or rather, one male teen-ager's version of that. These procedural limitations in turn entailed an undesirable though unavoidable substantive defect — namely, neglect of the women's perspective. Therefore, seeking to rectify that deficiency, I asked members of Maurice Francis' extensive email distribution list to submit any relevant material they could provide. Fortunately, several of them (cited below) were able — and took the trouble — to contribute useful information.

Part II seeks to answer three major questions that Part I covered in much less detail: (1) **how** — that is, by which method: a procedural question — did internees receive their rations of bathroom tissue, or BT for short; (2) **how much** BT did internees receive, on a daily basis — a substantive question, which, for Part II, includes by extension the closely-related one of whether it was possible to exceed the formal daily ration; and (3) **what substitutes** for BT — a purely factual matter — did internees resort to, if and when necessary. Based on my personal account in Part I, I assumed (rightly or wrongly) that, for men in general, the answer to (1) was that BT was distributed by room monitors (as was the case in my room); and that the answer to (2) was

## civilian

that, whatever the daily ration amount (which declined over the years, as shown later), the fact that room monitors dispensed it meant there was no way for men to exceed that amount (barring favoritism or bribery, of course). As for (3), no assumption was necessary — the answer was a purely factual one, which cited specific substitutes for BT (such as newspapers, pages torn from books, and showering immediately after defecation). And now, before examining the information on which Part II is based, its sources should be recognized — as should civilian

the fact that most of those sources (in all three of the following categories) were women.

**SOURCES.** I received a number of valuable submissions, and I would like to gratefully acknowledge, and express my appreciation to, everyone who responded. They fall into two groups, personal memory and public domain (i.e., written works), and collectively they helped fill an enormous knowledge-void. In the personal-memory group, respondents included, in alphabetical order, George Baker; Sharon Kezer Barnes (relaying comments from her mother, STIC teen-ager Shirley Hackett (Kezer)); Curtis Brooks; Heather Holter Ellis (on behalf of her late parents, Don and Isabelle Holter); Connie Ford (and her late mother, Consuelo B. Ford); Andrea Geary Gardner Goodwin; Sandy Holmes (recalling her late great-aunt, Luella K. Walters); Mary Beth Klee (not only on her own, but

also channeling both her late mother, STIC teen-ager Lee Iserson, and another teen-age internee, the late Virginia McKinney (Glass)); and Peggy Tileston (on behalf of her mother, STIC teen-ager Margaret Hoffmann (Tileston)).

[Note: Bob Hansen Beltrán added some interesting comments, though in a different context not directly relevant here.]

In the written-works group, two persons submitted material. Sally Meadows furnished extracts from five books: Frances Cogan, *Captured: The Japanese Internment of American Civilians in the Philippines, 1941-1945*; Celia Lucas, *Prisoners of Santo Tomas*; Margaret Sams, *Forbidden Family: Wartime Memoir of the Philippines, 1941-1945*; James Scott, *Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila*; and Mary Schwaner, *Courage in a White Coat* (a "biographical novel"). And Cliff Mills provided passages from three books: the aforementioned Celia Lucas volume; Bruce E. Johansen, *So Far From Home: Manila's Santo Tomas Internment Camp, 1942-1945*; and Teedie Cowie Woodstock, *Behind the Sawali: Santo Tomas in Cartoons 1942-1945*; he also made available an unpublished manuscript by Robert B. Jones, entitled *Eternal Picnic* (dated March 1945).

In addition, I consulted the following sources, all of which are cited herein: Bernice Archer, *The Internment of Western Civilians Under the Japanese 1941-1945*; Mary C. Farrell, *Pure Grit: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific* (obtained with Rod Hall's help); Tressa R. Cates, *Infamous Santo*

*Tomas* (originally entitled *The Drainpipe Diary*); A. V. H. Hartendorp, *The Japanese Occupation of the Philippines* (two volumes), and *The Santo Tomas Story*; Carol M. Petillo, ed., *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Vaughan: A Wartime Diary of the Philippines*; Elizabeth M. Norman, *We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese*; James E. McCall, *Santo Tomas Internment Camp: STIC in Verse and Reverse, STIC-toons and STIC-tistics*; Rupert Wilkinson, *Surviving a Japanese Internment Camp: Life and Liberation at Santo Tomas, Manila, in WWII*; Frederic H. Stevens, *Santo Tomas Internment Camp*; Natalie Crouter (Lynn Z. Bloom, ed.), *Forbidden Diary: A Record of Wartime Internment, 1941-1945*; Bob Pool, "Time To Pay Up," *Los Angeles Times* (14 May 2000); and an undated issue of the STIC newsletter *Internews* (probably from mid-June 1942). And now we can proceed to the substance of Part II.

[Note: Hereafter all sources will be cited by last name only.]

**BATHROOM TISSUE.** It should be noted, for the record, that I embarked on Part II with the expectation that the general framework described above (in the final paragraph of the introductory section), including the accompanying assumptions, likely would also apply on the women's side. That expectation caused most of my early difficulties in attempting to deal with the material that became available. That was particularly true for what I foresaw would be the crucial problem — how to explain (and justify) what I (wrongly) assumed to be identical

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and inflexible BT rations for both women and men, despite the glaringly obvious fact that women use BT more often, and thus need more BT, than men do. With this context in mind, we will now discuss the women's perspective on the tissue issue. That will be followed by coverage of another similarly-ignored yet equally critical issue — that of the unavailability of sanitary napkins in the camp; and finally by concluding remarks. To repeat, the ensuing account seeks to answer the above-mentioned three main questions more briefly examined in Part I.

(1) On the procedural issue of *how* BT was distributed to STIC women, virtually all sources — except for one “outlier” and one “super-outlier” — agree that BT was handed out not by room monitors (as with the men) but rather by bathroom monitors (those sources include Klee, Lucas, Cogan, Archer, Johansen, Woodcock, Farrell, Tileston, etc.). As a clinching point, in effect, Barnes states that this was true for the women's bathrooms on all three floors in the Main Building (which is the only location covered herein). Those bathroom monitors, because of the nature of their duties, often were facetiously referred to variously as “paper lady” (Woodstock, Cogan); “Miss Issue Tissue” (Klee, Cates); “Miss civilian

Tissue Issue” (Farrell); and “Issuers of Tissue” in general and “Ida, Issuer of Tissue” for the first-floor BT-dispenser (Lucas). Johansen, who married ex-internee Patricia Kieffer, has a listing of “Mr., Miss, Mrs. ‘Issue Tissue’ ”; however, his inclusion

of “Mr.” is questionable and will be discussed further in (2) below.] [Note: Wilkinson claims that the source of the term “tissue issue” was a “Japanese instruction.” Whatever its source, I had already decided to use it in the title of Part I of this now two-part survey well before I first encountered it (and its variants), after I began Part II.]

Their informal titles may have varied slightly, but the bathroom monitors all had similar tasks. Those ranged from the simple (as Klee quotes the diary of her mother, Lee Iserson: “sitting in the bathroom, rationing out three sheets of [BT] to each customer”) to the much more onerous one of keeping the commodes clean (in Woodstock's words, “In her spare time, she disinfects the commodes. . . [and] when dysentery abounds, she does this after each use”). Cogan, quoting from several sources, describes this burdensome job in painful detail. In this regard, Scott cites Hartendorp to stress that all bathrooms were thoroughly cleaned twice a day, as part of the camp's attempts to minimize the dangers of disease. On a less serious note, Lucas says that first-floor tissue-issuer Ida used to spend hours calculating how much BT would be required for a week's supply for 285 women.

Despite the just-described overwhelming consensus on how BT was dispensed, it could be argued that the matter does not end there, because the foregoing does not take into account the aforesaid “outlier” and “super-outlier” positions. But in rebuttal, it could also be argued that “outliers” almost by definition can be ignored for purposes of analyzing any issue, including this one. Certainly the easy — and

tempting — course here would indeed be to simply ignore them, since they are not in accord with the compelling consensus that the bathroom-monitor method prevailed for women. Thus it should be explained why the “outliers” should even be mentioned herein, let alone discussed in detail. For one thing, to disregard the “outliers” would undermine any claim that this survey is as thorough and comprehensive as possible. Too, such disregard would inexcusably squander the efforts of those who submitted material. Finally, the term “outliers” implies that they pose a problem — and, in this case, a problem significant enough to require attention.

The problem at issue is that the two “outliers” raise both procedural and substantive questions. The reason is that the method of distribution (“how”) — via residence room or bathroom — could have affected the total amount (“how much”) of BT that each person received daily. The “how much” issue of course will be explored in (2) below. As for the “how” question, its consideration necessarily becomes complicated by the decision to take the “outliers” into account (for reasons already noted). Specifically, that decision raises three additional questions: (a) did the two distribution methods exist in reality and not simply as possibilities; (b) if so, did they exist at the same time (concurrently) or at different times (consecutively); and (c) what is the significance of the concurrent-consecutive issue? These three questions will be applied to the “outlier” and the “super-outlier” in turn.

First, the term “outlier” herein refers to information supplied by

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Ford, whose mother, Consuelo B. Ford, was a room monitor (for third-floor room 55A); as such, she handled the task of dispensing BT (on a weekly basis) to the room's residents (at least until they were moved to the second floor). Ford's account should not be disregarded; on the contrary, it is quite convincing, for she herself on occasion helped her mother count the BT that each room resident was to receive. (Moreover, Ford provides striking detail about the BT: it was "Scott brand, 1000 sheets per roll, probably 1 ply.") Thus the answer to (a) is that both methods actually did exist (though probably, I assume, only until the room's residents were moved). On (b), there is no evidence either way on the concurrent-vs.-consecutive issue, but logic (relying, e.g., on the consensus view) dictates that concurrency was the case. Finally, on (c), if we assume that the two methods did exist concurrently, that would matter because the belief that there was a strict daily-ration limit would prove to be erroneous. (As will be shown in (2), if both methods existed concurrently, individuals could exceed the daily ration limit by using both methods; whereas that would not have been possible had the two methods existed consecutively.)

[Note: As also will be shown in (2), exceeding the ration limit was possible just for women, because men used only the room-monitor method; this conclusion is based on both the available evidence and personal experience.]

The term "super-outlier" refers to a January 1943 entry in Margaret Hoffmann Tileston's diary, which her daughter Peggy Tileston recently re-discovered. I use that term because it greatly complicated (and its recent arrival delayed) completion of Part II. It did so by describing an entirely different BT-distribution process — one that is not mentioned by any other source. (By comparison, the Ford "outlier" describes the "conventional" room-monitor method of BT distribution used by the men.) Tileston's diary entry agrees with the consensus on the prevalence of the bathroom-monitor method; but then it says that method was either supplemented or replaced (the entry is ambiguous on this point) by "the honor system," whereby "each room hangs up its own roll [of BT] in the room by the door." This quite startling statement can be characterized as "super-disruptive" for both the "how" and the "how much" issues: as noted, it depicts a unique third method for BT distribution, and on top of that it thoroughly shreds the notion that BT was strictly rationed (and not just for women, since conceivably women could violate the honor system by taking enough BT to pass on to men of their choice). Clearly the Tileston diary entry poses far more of a problem than does Ford's account, hence the term "super-outlier." Thus the temptation is great to disregard it — yet there is absolutely no reason to doubt the validity of this (or any other) diary entry. Consequently, being unable to reconcile Tileston's assertion with all the other information at hand, I am forced to conclude, albeit without any supporting evidence, that the "honor system" (a) was a

singular and most probably short-lived anomaly, (b) must have existed concurrently with the bathroom-monitor method, and (c) was significant because, as noted, it makes mincemeat of the notion that BT was strictly rationed to all.

Fortunately for present purposes, any difficulties posed by the two "outliers" are irrelevant in the broader scheme of things, because virtually all the available evidence does support two major findings, on which the remainder of Part II rests. First, as already emphasized, it is valid to conclude that the bathroom-distribution method predominated almost exclusively for women. Second, it also can be concluded that, on the whole, women and men employed two different methods of BT distribution. These are distinguishable on two principal counts, for women and men respectively: by location — bathrooms vs. residence rooms; and by frequency — as needed (i.e., per bathroom visit — again, see (2) below), vs. on a strictly weekly (not daily) basis. The fact that these differences existed raises two major (and obvious) questions. One is whether the bathroom-method of distribution in reality did enable women to receive more BT daily than did men; and the other is why these differences — both procedural (i.e., in methods of distribution) and substantive (in their consequences) — existed in the first place. In short, how can these differences be explained? These questions are examined next.

(2) At last we come to the substantive question of *how much* BT was distributed — more precisely, what was the

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formal (centrally mandated) daily allotment of BT per person (for both women and men)? This is a purely factual question which is relatively easy to answer. Among the sources used for Part II, there is general agreement that the formal daily ration over the course of three years began with five sheets, dropped to three sheets, then to one sheet, and finally to zero at the end. As examples, Lucas mentions the 5-3-1 regression; Woodstock states "Tops for 1942 is five [sheets], late 1944, one"; Klee's (as yet unpublished) manuscript mentions the decline from five to three sheets; and Archer quotes Karen Darras' autobiography as saying she (as bathroom monitor, evidently) dispensed "five sheets, then three sheets, then two and eventually none." And, although I encountered a wide variety of other comments, they all fit within the 5-3-1 framework: Farrell writes of "four or five sheets"; Barnes' mother says women received "4 squares"; Pool notes "three sheets"; Ellis states that her parents told her "2-3 sheets depending on stated need"; Johansen mentions "three or four sheets"; Cates says three sheets; and Holmes recalls that her great-aunt "mentioned two sheets" daily. (These varied numbers would seem to confirm Woodstock's wry assertion that "the number [of sheets] varies according to who is telling the story.") Finally, as to whether distribution of BT to all internees ceased entirely toward the end, I found several assertions to that effect (including Norman; Archer,

citing Cogan; and Farrell, who states that "the commandant's office announced there was no toilet paper left in the Philippines.") Furthermore, it is logical to recognize that rationing could have ended, because the Japanese (who had never provided sanitary supplies) stopped permitting internee squads to leave the camp to make purchases, stopped allowing aid to enter the camp, and after 1943 did not distribute any Red Cross comfort kits, which had included BT (and which the Japanese confiscated for themselves).

But the question of "how much" cannot be answered so easily, because it should also be considered in relation to the question raised in (1) above: Did the method of distribution make it possible to exceed the *formally fixed* daily ration? Excluding favoritism and bribery, that was not possible for men — room monitors presumably knew all of their room residents, and/or could keep track of them via their room rosters. On the other hand, it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for bathroom monitors to rely on either room rosters or recognition to keep track of potentially hundreds of women BT recipients. As a result, whereas men could not go from room to room seeking BT, women faced no comparable restrictions. It seems clear that women not only could receive the prevailing ration *each and every time they entered a bathroom* (the only limit apparently was one's conscience/morality); they also *could go from floor to*

*floor* for BT. To illustrate, Barnes, in a particularly compelling passage, quotes her mother (teen-ager Shirley Hackett in STIC) as saying exactly that — she, like others, would receive her BT ration, enter a stall, pretend to have used it by flushing, then repeat the procedure on other floors. Scott's book also alludes to the use of this tactic, as Ellis has pointed out. Obviously it is impossible to ascertain how widespread this practice was, but clearly it was a fact of STIC life.

What is the more general significance of the foregoing account? Simply this: It can be argued — and indeed I am so arguing — that the "informal" (some might say unethical) tactic just described was necessitated by the fact that there was no formal recognition of the reality that women need more BT than do men. In other words, the bathroom-monitor method of distribution can be regarded as at least tacit, or informal, recognition of the facts of sanitary life. If there was any such formal recognition, I have not discovered it. To the contrary: McCall's book has a section entitled "General Code of Regulations: Santo Tomas Internment Camp," with a segment within it headed "Title IV: Sanitation and Hygiene," which contains no mention of BT, let alone of apportioning it as between women and men. Similarly, the Stevens book has a chapter on "Sanitation and Health" with not a mention of BT. The same is true of Hartendorp's work. As a result, this survey of the STIC tissue issue must conclude that, consciously or otherwise,

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deliberately or otherwise, wittingly or otherwise, the predominant method used to distribute BT to women implicitly recognized the disparate needs of women and men. Moreover, that Conclusion — which is henceforth capitalized — not only is not contradicted by, rather it is reinforced by, both the “outlier” and the “super-outlier” accounts.

However, there remains another “outlier” to deal with, this time on the men’s side. Previously I questioned Johansen’s use of the term “Mr. Issue Tissue”; that was because of doubt that that there were any men’s bathroom monitors. Recently, though, I found a cartoon, in what is an undated (but likely a mid-June 1942) issue of *Internews*, which depicts a man handing out BT to another man *in a men’s bathroom*. Furthermore, Wilkinson writes of a bathroom monitor who dispensed four sheets to women and three sheets to men. On the one hand, if true, that would strengthen the aforementioned Conclusion, since it could be interpreted as at least informal recognition of the facts of sanitary life. On the other hand, the scenario Wilkinson describes also (like Johansen’s) is questionable, for it implies that both women and men were using the same bathroom, which was simply not the case, in either the Main Building or the Education Building (except when the water supply was cut off following Japanese shelling of the camp after liberation; Tileston’s diary also mentions this). In short, I find the evidence of these three sources difficult to accept, judging from personal experience with bathrooms in both the Main

and the Education Buildings. Thus I believe these sources comprise a justifiably-ignored “collective outlier,” and one which in any case has no bearing on the Conclusion.

[Note: I do not know whether the outdoor facilities constructed for the shanties had joint usage, though that seems likely. Nor do I know whether the Annex and the camp hospital had joint usage; but even if that was the case in the hospital, Wilkinson’s scenario still would not apply there, because I saw no bathroom monitors while confined to the hospital with a broken left elbow.]

One last point remains to be considered with respect to this issue. All the available evidence, to repeat, indicates that the initial daily ration was five sheets, for both women and men. But a possible discrepancy on this point stems from the reference in Part I to teen-age internee Curtis Brooks’ recall of a six sheet daily ration. Fortunately, he has since dispelled the apparent conflict with the aforesaid 5-3-1 consensus. Stressing his “very vague” recall of the matter, he states that his earlier mention of “six sheets” probably reflected the fact that he and his (now deceased) identical twin brother, Bernard (better known as Barney), received *a total daily ration of six sheets* — in other words, three sheets each (likely dispensed on a weekly basis, I assume). Admittedly, this was not a major discrepancy and it could have been disregarded, but I thought it was a matter that should be clarified. Having done that, we can now move on, with the satisfaction of having demonstrated (in my view, anyway) that the facts of sanitary life — namely, that since women

need more BT than do men, for them bathroom distribution was both more necessary and more practical than room distribution — were recognized in STIC, informally in practice if not formally in camp regulations.

(3) Now to the factual question of *what substitutes* for BT internees used, if and when that became necessary. As might be expected, almost all sources cite newspapers, that most obvious and most ubiquitous of alternatives. The newspaper of choice for this purpose obviously was the only one allowed into the camp — the Japanese propaganda sheet called the *Manila Tribune* (which sources often cite explicitly by name — e.g., Farrell; Baker). Apparently there was enough of it accessible that some men supposedly used it instead of BT in order to augment the supply available for women (an occurrence Klee mentions). Interestingly, Wilkinson points out that the “Tribune was doubly suitable” as a substitute for BT because of its absorbency. Aside from the possible appeal of that factor, it is tempting to speculate, as I commented in Part I, that “when using the newspaper as BT, internees perhaps were thinking that it was serving its proper function.”

Though the *Tribune* was the most common as well as the most convenient substitute for BT, its status as such was not permanent. When the Japanese barred its entry into STIC after the tides of war finally began to turn against them, internees had to rely increasingly on other kinds of paper as well as on other materials. For instance, Jones supports my observation in Part I that pages were torn from

## civilian

library books to use as BT; Ford asserts that her father used pages from Sears and Ward catalogues; Lucas states that, when the "Issuer of Tissue" ran out of BT, she "had to resort to cutting up the inner cardboard [cylinders] into little squares" to hand out; Pool claims that "pages of a Chinese yearbook were used" instead of BT; and Farrell says that the interned military nurses used "medical supply wrappers" as well as "any scrap of paper" they could find. In short, internee options validated the proverb that beggars can't be choosers.

Of course, paper of any kind was not always available, and certainly was not always handy; thus we need to consider some of the non-paper substitutes. The use of one such substitute seems rather obvious in hindsight; however, because I had no connections with shanty life in STIC, either personally or through friends, it had not occurred to me that plant leaves were a plentiful alternative to BT. Goodwin, for example, recalls that leaves were commonly utilized in her family's shanty area (and no doubt elsewhere among the shanties). Ford specifically cites the use of hibiscus leaves; and, caught away from her shanty on one occasion, she made the painful mistake of using leaves from "the sand paper plant." Another example is cited by Wilkinson, who says that "bottles of water" also served as substitutes for BT. In turn, his reference to water could be construed as more or less indirect confirmation of the off-putting practice, cited in Part I, of showering immediately after defecation. And finally, there is one other off-putting substitute to describe; doing so will enable this survey to boast of having

managed to provide one repellent example for each of its two parts.

In this case it is necessary first to point out that curtains replaced stall doors in the women's bathrooms. This fact, cited by Norman among others, was mentioned in Part I (where, incidentally, I also stated that most men's stalls lacked both doors *and* curtains). Wilkinson

claims that the doors were removed "supposedly to deter lingering" in the stalls; however, Barnes' mother, Shirley Hackett Kezer, supplies a far more amusing (and unexpected) explanation — the doors were replaced because young pranksters would enter the stalls, lock the doors, and then crawl out under them (presumably when the bathroom monitor was too busy to notice them). But the relevant point to emphasize here is that, as Barnes/Kezer declare, some women used the curtains "when paper proved to be insufficient." Similarly, Holmes recalls that her late great-aunt, Luella K. Walters, stated that "the curtains [were used] as a last resort." As additional evidence, Lucas describes a bathroom monitor who almost quit her job "in desperation. . . after repeated attempts to. . . stop women [from] substituting the meagre curtaining for toilet paper had failed."

Before leaving this rather unsavory topic, and the tissue issue in general, two points merit attention. First, the topic of substitutes for BT is far less significant than are the subjects considered in (1) and (2). It is included herein (a) for the sake of coverage which is as comprehensive as possible under the circumstances; (b) in the

belief that it might be of interest to non-internees seeking to understand the nature of Nipponese internment camp conditions; and (c) because it may possibly serve to underscore the old adage (hereby modified) that desperation is the mother of invention. Second, no survey of the tissue issue in general would be complete without highlighting another old adage — money talks. It should be no surprise that, as with other items in short supply (such as canned food), there was a limited supply of privately-owned BT available on the black market in the camp, for purchase by those internees wealthy enough to pay the price, or to sign exorbitant IOUs for postwar payment in "real money." (Some specifics: Norman says that one roll of BT cost \$2.50 in May 1943, while Cates puts the cost at six pesos, or three dollars, at the same time; barely a year later, in July 1944, Petillo/Vaughan state that it took *100 pesos* to buy one roll of Scott tissue at the camp bazaar.) In the words of a 1946 recording by the Andrews Sisters, "Them That Has — Gets."

**SANITARY NAPKINS.** An outside observer could have found it difficult to decide whether STIC women more urgently required BT or sanitary napkins (hereafter SN). The women themselves, though, might have thought that SN posed a more serious problem than did BT, inasmuch as there was no central supply of SN for monitors (either residence room or bathroom) to dispense. As Sams puts it, "For those who menstruated it seemed an insurmountable problem." Of course, to repeat, money talks — the affluent were far less likely to endure privation on this (or any other) score. And, as is not



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infrequently the case, some wealthy individuals were insufferably ostentatious. As Lucas declares (and Cogan recounts), "To show the world that she [had money], Winnie the Bitch left her four new boxes of Kotex on display on her cabana table. . . . [T]he whole tasteless exhibition was pure boast — she must have been well past the [age when she] needs. . . . such articles." And in a category of their own were the interned military nurses who, according to Norman, received SN *gratis* from an un-interned, wealthy Swiss woman benefactor — until the Japanese stopped allowing outsiders to send aid into the camp.

How did the vast majority of STIC women cope with the problem of the lack of SN? Lucas says that the camp's "Sewing Department rallied to the business of making [SN] out of rags"; she leaves it at that, but Sams continues the story (which Scott retells). To begin with, each woman received "a certain number of small flannel cloths" (made by the aforementioned Sewing Department), and placed her name and room number on each one. After being used, the cloths went into a "bucket of disinfectant" in the bathroom, and were taken for cleaning. Fortunately for the STIC record, Klee furnishes a description of the distasteful cleaning process, thanks to the fact that in 2010 she had interviewed since-deceased teen-age internee Virginia McKinney Glass. According to Glass, adults in the camp had one easy and one hard job; her easy one was

library duty, but at one point she was "in charge of making sure that all the menstrual rags were washed." (The job may have been assigned to her, Glass surmised, because she was "brown.") That "horrible" task involved "boiling and all that stuff" — and all the while having to endure the accompanying stench. Then, once the SN were cleaned, Sams says, they were returned to their owners, via room monitors. Ford confirms this, stating that her room-monitor mother handled the SN returns for her room.

On a related matter, Ford says that in the camp she had heard about "a society lady [who had] volunteered to wash [SN] for the whole camp." It would have been tempting to dismiss this as just another wild STIC rumor, if not for the arrival of passages from Schwaner's "biographical novel," in which she says that her heroine, an internee named Dr. Dorothy Chambers, knew a woman internee who owned a washing machine and who "made it her personal mission" to clean SN for STIC women. This

account, too, could have been disregarded, in view of its lack of detail, its biographical-novel origins, and the preposterous notion that an internee possessed a washing machine. But then came material from Cogan's book, in which she quotes an internee's claim that "a former society butterfly . . . volunteered to wash" SN, using "a hand-crank washing machine [she had obtained] from outside and [she] did this unpleasant job throughout internment." So perhaps credence should be

accorded to a narrative that initially sounded implausible.

Schwamer mentions another noteworthy fact — namely, that starvation eventually caused most women in the camp to cease menstruating. Many other sources refer to that notable consequence of extreme malnutrition (a nicely-contrived euphemism for starvation), including Sams, Goodwin, Wilkinson, and Glass/Klee. Cates claims "menstrual disturbances" occurred as early as January 1942, though such events usually are thought to result from more prolonged privation. The most noteworthy account I have found is Norman's relatively extended discussion, in which she cites an "early 1943" survey by "a camp physician," who found that some 12% of women (125 of 1,042) had stopped menstruating by that time. Norman asserts that many women began to menstruate again after adjusting to camp life, but that in 1944 cessation of periods became considerably more prevalent; indeed, Cogan declares that 80% of STIC women stopped menstruating during 1944. Archer states that women "greeted this [occurrence] with relief" (since they lacked SN, privacy, and acceptable sanitary conditions); but Norman emphasizes a much more serious reaction from the military nurses. To them, menstruation was not just an annoyance; "With their bodies wasting away and their lives literally hanging in a dangerous biochemical balance, they did not want to lose one ounce of blood or body fluid and they desperately hoped their flow would dry up." Understandably,

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therefore, the nurses celebrated when menstruation ceased, and they bemoaned its continuation. But the problem was not a permanent one, and apparently menstrual normality returned to most STIC women after liberation.

**CONCLUSION.** It is notable that, because most women's menstrual periods ceased during the course of their confinement, their needs for SN decreased and in many cases ended. Also noteworthy is yet another unremarked by-product of starvation, one which affected both women and men alike — their need for BT also may have lessened somewhat, at least insofar as "number two" was concerned.

Goodwin, for instance, points out that lack of food led to "little production of bodily waste" — which, to the extent that was the case, meant a reduced need for BT. Jones explicitly alludes to this situation; he notes that, toward

the end of internment (when he was in the Los Baños camp), internees' bowel movements occurred not daily but every two to three days, and even then often were hampered by constipation. Interestingly, Jones also states that malnutrition/starvation had the opposite effect on urination — its frequency *increased*, he asserts, due to lack both of food (which within the body absorbs moisture) and of energy (which by enabling exertion/exercise helps induce perspiration.)

[Note: Crouter, who was interned in Baguio's Camp Holmes, alludes to the seriousness of the constipation problem with a cryptic reference to having to resort to a desperate-sounding invocation of "the Dysentery Prayer."]

The foregoing comments provide a convenient and appropriate springboard for some final reflections to conclude this two-part examination of "The STIC Tissue Issue." As noted at the outset, this inquiry has produced several major and plausible

conclusions, which obviously are subject to modification if justified by the discovery of additional information. Not subject to change, however, are the observations in the preceding paragraph. It is both fitting, and yet exceedingly ironic, to close this survey with what at its inception likely would have appeared to be a most perverse observation — namely, that internee requirements for both BT and SN actually *lessened* over the course of their three-years-plus confinement (even if perhaps only slightly so in the case of BT).

Nevertheless, although that outcome was a direct result of, shall we say, nutritional stringency (to coin another euphemism), it is doubtful that the internees of STIC were sufficiently grateful for these exceptional benefits of the highly effective weight-reduction diet magnanimously bestowed upon them by the benevolent Nipponese Empire. — Martin Meadows

### CPOW Reunion - 2023

April 14 to April 16, 2023

#### Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento Riverfront Promenade

Because of Covid, we missed out on having our reunion this year, so we are making up for it in 2023 with a reunion at our familiar hotel in Sacramento. The hotel is newly renovated for guest rooms and the atrium lobby, and features a managers cocktail social period in the late afternoon plus a cooked-to-order breakfast.

Details of the presentations and activities are still being developed, but it will be a good time for all. Now is the time to make your hotel reservation to be sure you have a room at the discount rate in our reservation block. There are three different ways to make a reservation.

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2. Visit [www.sacramento.embassysuites.com](http://www.sacramento.embassysuites.com) and make a reservation using the group/convention code: POW
3. Call (916) 328-5000 and let the Front Desk Agent know you would like to make a reservation under the CPOW Civilian Prisoners of War discount rate.

Please note that **all reservations must be made before March 23, 2023**, and will only be available until the CPOW block of reserved rooms is sold out.

**Registration** for the reunion is **\$45 for members** and **\$55 for non-members**. Not sure of your current membership status? Contact Cindie Leonard at [cindieleonard@gmail.com](mailto:cindieleonard@gmail.com) or 208-890-5694.

**Banquet reservations** for Sunday are **\$46 for all attendees**.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

APRIL 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2022

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 57K+ People Fully Vaccinated by VA  
 92K+ Veterans Vaccinated by VA or by Others (at least one dose)



**1M+**  
COVID-19 Tests Completed



**4.4M+** Unique VA Health Care Patients



**27M+** Clinical Encounters

- 17.6M+ Presumed In-Person Appointments
- 7.9M+ Telehealth/Telephone Appointments
- 1.7M+ Community Care Referrals



**76%** Veteran Trust in VA  
36K+ Surveys Received

**89.9%** Trust in VA Health Care  
Based on 397K+ Outpatient Surveys Received



**13.2M+** Calls Answered by VA Contact Centers (FY 2022 Q2)

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- 42K+ Calls to National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (1-877-4AIDVET)



**39,395** Veterans and Family Members Interred with Honor



**28.5M+** Visitors to VA.gov

- 3.2M+ Logged In Users
- 495K+ Form Submissions
- 2.9M+ Visitors to [Blogs.VA.gov](https://blogs.va.gov)
- 47.8M+ [#VetResources](https://www.veteransaffairs.gov/veterans/#/veterans/vetresources) Newsletter Emails Opened
- 213K+ Visitors to VA's [Event Calendar](https://www.va.gov/event-calendar)



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**444K+**  
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**24,816**  
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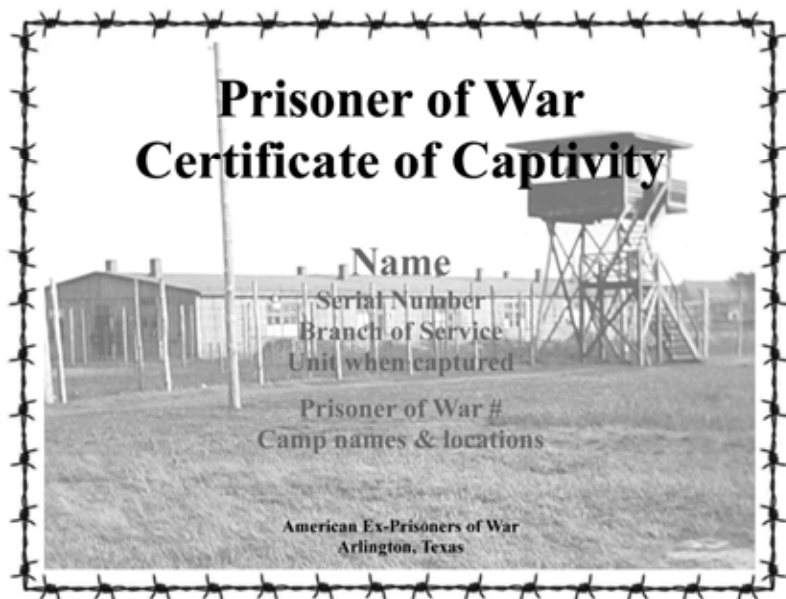
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IRAQ: US Army  
Baghdad, Embassy Compound  
8/2/90 to 11/1/90

Lewis, Karen Kerns  
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# taps



Please submit taps notices to:  
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BRUNSTROM, ALAN L. of Ocklawaha, FL passed away May 29, 2022 at the age of 91. He was a 30 year AF veteran. In 1966 during a mission near the China border, his RF101 VooDoo was shot down. He ejected, was captured and spent the next 7 years as a POW in North Vietnam. He endured "hours of boredom punctuated by moments of terror". His wife, Helen, predeceased him; he leaves one daughter and one grandson.

DOWLING, JAMES E "RED", of St. James, Long Island, N.Y. died on May 26, 2022. He was 99. While serving with the 8th AAC under flight leader Jimmy Stewart during WWII, he was shot down over Kassel, Germany, captured and interned. Red has a chapter written about him in Tom Brokaw's book *The Greatest Generation*. He is lovingly reunited in heaven with his sweetheart, the late Dorothy Dowling. He leaves 7 children, 25 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

FLEMING, ROBERT W., of Memphis, TN, the first Korean POW to be released in Opera-

tion Little Switch passed away Dec. 6, 2018. He was a BAR man with the 2nd Infantry Indianhead Division and captured when Chinese over ran their position. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 1 brother and 3 sisters.

HOBBS, EDNA, 97, of Woodburn, OR passed away March 6, 2022. She was the widow of Ex-POW Everett (388th BG, Stalag 17-B). Edna and Everett were married for 56 years and had three children, ten grandchildren twelve great-grandchildren and their families.

HUNTER, GUY LESLIE JR, of N. Topsail Beach, NC passed away Dec. 16, 2021. He was 77. Over the course of Hunter's 32 year Marine Corps career, he was the first ever Marine CW05. While serving in Kuwait, he was captured by the enemy and became an Iraqi POW. In addition to his contributions in service to his country, Guy was a true swashbuckler, a wizard at Ace Deuce, and the life of every party. He will be fondly remembered by family and friends for his sage advice,

gregarious nature, and sly wit. Guy is survived by his loving wife of forty-five years, Mary, 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and their families.

JAHNKE, WANDA A. of DeWitt, NE died May 11, 2022. She was 99 and an active member of AXPOW. Wanda loved playing cards, sewing, quilting, camping, and traveling across the United States. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Her husband, Howard (Ex-POW) predeceased her; she is survived by 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and a large, loving extended family.

JEFFERSON, ALEXANDER, of Detroit, MI passed away June 22, 2022 at the age of 100. Assigned to a fighter escort wing protecting bombing missions of the US 15th Air Force, his job was to attack key ground targets and guard the bombing mission. During his 19th mission over Toulon, southern France, he was shot down. Parachuting to safety and landing within a forest, he was immediately captured by Nazi ground troops. He was sent to Stalag

## taps, cont'd...

Luft III, moved to Stalag VII-A, then marched to Munich by the Germans, where they were freed by General George Patton's US Third Army. He received the Congressional Gold Medal for his service.

KOVAR, LEONARD 99, of Orangevale, CA passed away on July 16, 2022. Len was a bombardier/navigator in a B-24 Liberator, 15th AF, 451st BG (H), 727th Squadron in Italy. After his aircraft was shot down in August 1944, he was captured and held in Luft 3, 13D, and 7A. Len's wife of 73 years, Lorraine, predeceased him. He is survived by 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. He and his wife were members of the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW, in Sacramento.

LEVINE, ROBERT M, 97 of Ithaca, NY passed away Aug. 18, 2022. During WWII, he served in the US Army. He landed on Utah Beach with the 90th Div. One month later, he was seriously wounded and captured. When he woke up from surgery, his right leg was missing and there was a note (in German) in his shirt pocket. Months later, Bob had the note translated. In it the German doctor explained the reasons for the amputation. Stunned by this humane act, performed by a German in the middle of a war with America, Bob said to himself, someday I want to thank that doctor. In 1981 he returned to Utah Beach, 37 years after D-Day. A chance encounter with a man named Henri

Levaufre, a local historian whose village of Periers had been liberated by the 90th Division, changed Bob's life. He was given a hero's welcome and the key to the town. Using the note Bob had saved, and his contacts in Germany, Henri identified the surgeon as Dr. Woll. Although the doctor had died in 1954, The Woll family invited Bob and his wife Edith to visit them in Germany. Thus began a long friendship that has lasted to the present day. Edith died in 2020. He leaves 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, a many friends and extended family.

MCCAIN-HINGLE, EDDIE FAYE, of Prairieville, LA died June 26, 2022. She was 92 and the widow of Ex-POW Lindell. They were married in 1948. They were able to spend almost 49 years together before Lin passed away in 1997. When she returned to LA, she married Paul Hingle. They were able to share 14 years together. She is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

SMITH, MARIE, of Nesbit, MS, 88, widow of Ex-POW Bennie D. (Korean War POW) died July 21, 2022. She was an active member of the Mid-South Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves one son, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and many friends and family.

STISCHER, WALTER, of San Antonio, TX passed away Feb. 20, 2022 at the age of 91. He was

captured in Vietnam while serving with the Air Force and spent 1.811 days in captivity. He was released as part of Operation Homecoming in Feb 1973. Two daughters, one son, and many other loving family members survive him.

WILLEY, ELOISE DEMESNIL, of Nederland, TX died June 14, 2022. She was 97 and the widow of Ex-POW James M. Willey, Jr. (WWII, 91st BG, Luft 4). She is survived by 2 nephews, 1 niece, great-grand and great-great-grand nieces and nephews. Eloise had a large extended family and she said recently she wanted ALL her family to know she loved them dearly.

In loving  
memory  
Your presence  
we miss...  
Your memory  
we treasure  
Loving you  
always...  
Forgetting you  
never



# Chaplain



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Since the pandemic began most have been out of sorts within ourselves and our society. There is such a divide within our country – culturally, politically, economically etc. I've never seen it so upsetting. It reminds me of the Old Testament. The book of Deuteronomy is a good example of what is happening here and now. When the Israelites followed the Word of God they

prospered, when they fell away from following God, separated from His will, unfortunate things happened. That is what is happening to our country now. The prophets kept warning the people but they didn't listen. There are many evangelicals preaching the Word. I don't see any results. The right people are not listening. We need to be praying for our country – we volunteered our lives for it – now let's pray for it.

When I have a hard time getting my thoughts together, I turn to a book of prayers and often these prayers can express my thoughts and give direction in which to address our Lord. A prayer that I use is in the Book of Common Prayer – Prayer for Guidance.

"O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices; that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path

we may not stumble; in your Name we pray. Amen."

After this prayer, and others, I begin to see hope for our future. I see people organizing events and even church services around our national holidays – just recently in my small community there was a fourth annual boat parade celebrating veterans. Coming up there is Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas & Hanukkah, opportunities to celebrate with those near to us. Let's continue praying for our country and those serving to protect it.

"O Judge of the nations, we thank you with grateful hearts for the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for our liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Prayerfully,  
Keith H. Lewis+

## What does burial in a VA national cemetery include?

When a Veteran, service member, or family member qualifies for burial in a VA national cemetery, they receive certain burial benefits at no cost to their family.

VA burial benefits include:

- A gravesite in any of our national cemeteries with available space
- Opening and closing of the grave
- A burial liner provided by the government
- A headstone or marker provided by the government
- Perpetual (ongoing) care of the gravesite

At the time of need, the person planning the burial can also request other VA memorial items as well as military funeral honors provided by the Department of Defense. These items and honors have other eligibility requirements.

# 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.

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

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

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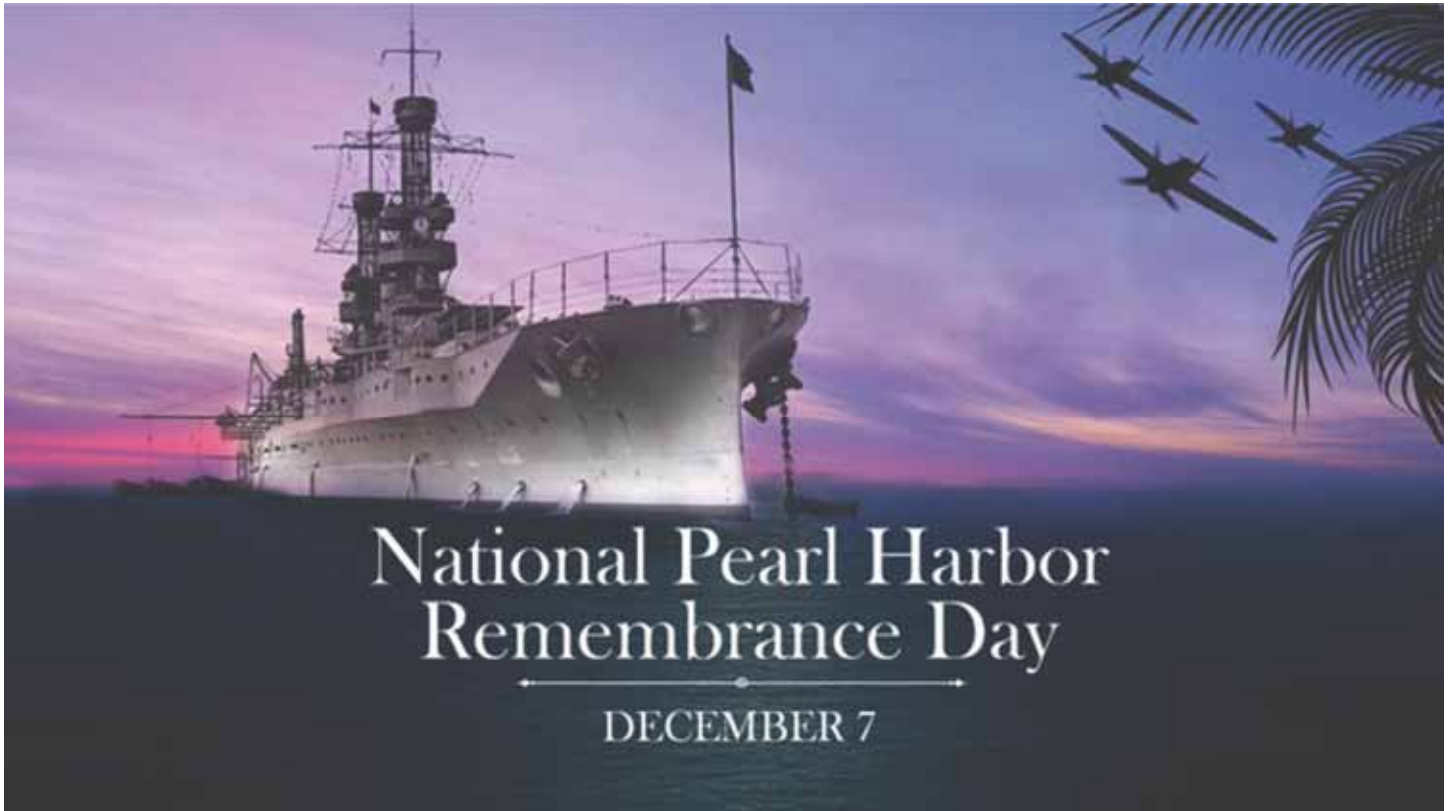
Please make checks payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding  
Mail contributions to: National Headquarters, American Ex-Prisoners of War  
PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445



JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM  
JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM

*N is for Never Forget* is a child-friendly book that takes readers on a compelling journey through wartime history. Poignant illustrations and stories capture key people, concepts, and memorials to help readers understand and honor the sacrifices endured by men and women prisoners of war and missing in action on behalf of freedom.

Proceeds from books purchased through JBPM, Inc. (501c3) go directly to restoring \ renovating the former 1896 Officers Quarters Building into the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum. \$21.95 including S/H. Contact Paul Dillon at [rpdcw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpdcw@sbcglobal.net); 314-609-9037.



Pearl Harbor naval base was the scene of a devastating surprise attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

No moment in the history of the United States casts a longer shadow than Pearl Harbor. "Remembering" it has become a national imperative, a patriotic duty for the American people, and reminding us of that duty has become a ritual of media and political discourse—repeated so often and in so many ways that it's become part of the routine of our communal life. You might say, even 80 years after the fact, Pearl Harbor is still a national obsession.



Challenge Coins

\$13.00 includes S/H/I



Bronze Grave Medallions

\$100.00 includes S/H/I

All orders for products sold by AXPOW, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to: American Ex-Prisoners of War, National Headquarters, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445; axpow76010@yahoo.com

### 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 below.

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