

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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February 2006



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Operation Homecoming ~ 1973

*Inside...new "cut out and save" VA pamphlet...
stories...events...NSO success stories...and more*

Wreath laying at St. Vith, December 16, 2005

The wreath laying ceremony at the Monument for the 106th Infantry Division, St. Vith. "We had the support of a Color Guard of the 'Blue Spaders' from Schweinfurt, who were with us all day, and despite the bad weather were just great. A group Dutch reenactors being in the area, supported us also from the start, and had a M3 Halftrack coming up to the Monument in St Vith." ~ Hans Wijers



national commander



Gerald Harvey

American Ex-Prisoners of War is a great organization. Our **chapters** play an important part in keeping the organization great. Some of our members do not belong to a chapter. Some do not live close enough to where a chapter meets. Some in your area may not even know that your chapter is there for them.

If you are not in a chapter you are missing out on some of the best parts of belonging to AXPOW. To find out where there is a chapter near you, look in the October Bulletin where all of the chapters in your state are listed together. Each chapter is listed with the name, address, and phone number of the Chapter Commander. The commander may or may not live in the town where the chapter meets. Give him or her a call and find out about the chapter. That commander will be able to tell you if there are other chapters that might be closer to you or more accessible to where you live.

You can choose to belong to whichever chapter you wish. Being in a chapter gives you a family of expows with whom you have a lot in common. You have so much in common that it is easy to share with each other and quickly become good friends.

Because of aging, and for many of us, because we are not able to do all of the things that we used to

do, we tend to get discouraged. However, we don't want to give up. We still need the fellowship. We still need the information that we get at the meetings. We still need to help each other, and we still need to find other pows who need our help.

Wherever you go - north, south, east, or west - wherever there is an AXPOW chapter, you find men who have bonded and have become family because in prison they lived and survived together. You remember the times when, day by day, you didn't know whether or not that day would be your last. But we did not lose hope. We dreamed of freedom and going home. Just thinking about our loved ones helped keep up our spirits.

Our faith in God gave us strength. Many times our minds went back to things that we had learned at church, or that our parents had taught us. We knew it would take a miracle to get home, but it happened. Remember the excitement of going to see loved ones the first time after getting back to America.

AXPOW has given us opportunities to know each other, to share our lives, and to be of service to others. We are grateful for mothers, sisters, and wives who, while we were away at war, laid the foundation for our AXPOW organization. Over the years they have worked for us and with us.

Fellowship brings our chapters together, but there are things that we can do to keep our chapters alive as we age and can do less.

1. Stay in contact with your members - especially those who cannot come to meetings.

Assign members to keep in touch with certain members, report to the group on how they are doing and what needs they might have. Would they be able to come if someone could give them a ride? Be espe-

cially mindful of widows, others who live alone, and those in nursing homes. Phone calls and cards help to let them know that they still belong and that we care.

2. Don't have enough people to fill the offices? Keep the same officers if they can and will serve. Fill the most important ones. Don't hesitate to give responsibilities to spouses and younger members. Some are just waiting to be asked. Some spouses and next-of-kin are already doing terrific jobs.

3. Be sure that any information that comes to the chapter gets passed on to everyone, not just those at the meeting. Use the mail, email, and the phone — anything to get the word around.

4. Don't let meetings get dull. Take care of business, have fellowship, and have some fun.

POW's have a bond that will last and make our lives better as we help each other and people around us. Do whatever you can to keep your chapter alive. Don't hesitate to call on your department leaders and your national officers when you need help.

Until next month...
Gerald



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It seems somehow fitting that on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln - "The Great Emancipator" - the Vietnam POWs started their journey home to freedom.

Clark Air Base, the Philippines, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1973 — The first released American prisoners of the Vietnam war were greeted with cheers of welcome and tears of joy here yesterday as they stepped off military evacuation jets. They looked in better physical condition than most onlookers had expected, and the hospital commander here pronounced their general health "reasonably good."

The last of four evacuations, planes touched down at 11 P. M. (10 A. M., Monday, New York time), carrying 19 military men and seven civilians released in South Vietnam. Three other planes, carrying 116 prisoners released in Hanoi, had arrived yesterday afternoon.

Welcome Home!

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*Deadline for the May 2006 issue
is March 25, 2006*

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

The National Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for March 30-31, 2006. Testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is tentatively planned for the morning of Thursday, March 30.

The meetings will be at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The hotel is located at 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia 22204. This is at Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard. The hotel has free shuttle service to and from National Airport. To make reservations, please contact the Washington office at 202-530-9220. The room rate is \$142.22 per night. This amount includes the taxes. The organization will pay for three nights for elected Board members. All other attendees will be responsible for their own rooms.

Clydie J. Morgan, National Adjutant

Notice: Due to the increase in postage costs...and the decrease in the Bulletin budget for 2005-2006, there will be three combined issues this year. They are: March/April, July/August and November/December. In the past, only the Nov/Dec was a combined issue.

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
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on capitol hill



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An orbit may be described as a range or sphere of activity or influence. What I like about being your Executive Director in Washington; there are several orbits of activity. There is always something that needs attention and it is not necessarily what you were doing yesterday and probably will not be working on tomorrow.

One phone call can change all that. We have pending POW claims in the Board of Veterans Appeals that require our attention, and in addition it is important that we keep on top of the claims in the Appeals Management Center, plus watching all the small details of our new claims as they work their way through the system. That is the "Service Officer Orbit" and in many ways, the most rewarding because you know without being told what that claim award from the VA means to "one of us" and/or his widow. When you hear words of thanks and gratitude spoken through tears of joy you know how much it means to them. We feel we have done something worthwhile. You move on to the next issue with confidence and enthusiasm.

The next project may be an appointment with someone or a group meeting we have been invited to attend in Central Office in the "VA Orbit". Central Office is truly central. It is the Command Post or nerve center of a huge bureaucracy. All that case work mentioned above is with the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. What goes on there is important to us but that is not all the VA does. There is the Veterans Health Administration that operates the nation's

largest health care system that maintains a huge network of Medical Centers and Clinics across the country. The National Cemetery Administration that maintains 121 Cemeteries and numerous other monument sites is directed by the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

I don't know how to express to you in the written word the respect and regard held by so many VA people from the Secretary on down through the various offices. I can only conclude that our reputation today was built by those who have gone before us and continues by two caring respected and dedicated volunteers - Charles Stenger and Mary Rolen. The three of us are familiar faces in the offices and corridors of this vast complex as we go about our business of maintaining the presence of former POWs. We try hard to maintain that image. Our last two presumptives were granted administratively by Tony Principi. Was he telling us something? You bet he was.

We can "shift gears" and swing into our "Legislative Orbit" on cue. Our "Legislative Orbit" is Capitol Hill. One hundred Senators and 435 Representatives hammer out the laws that guide our nation. Each year the leadership of AXPOW convenes in Washington to make their presence known to the leaders the American people sent to Washington to represent them. Congress is a huge orbit to cover.

It takes more than three people to cover all those offices; fortunately we can concentrate on those legislators on the Veterans Affairs Committees. Grass roots action is what it takes. They respond to their constituents. Your legislator needs your vote. In the meantime, the three of us are here keeping in contact with key

people, which means a lot of personal contact with staffers. Your officers and directors will be here this spring working on your behalf, calling on Capitol Hill offices, talking about our two bills (S1271 and HR1598) that need cosponsors. In addition to pushing our two bills, we try to keep abreast of all legislation that has any effect on prisoners of war - former, present or future. For example: an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill was introduced known as the Graham-Levin-Kyl Amendment. Our office wrote to every Senator to remind them that this Amendment has never been brought before any House or Senate committee, or been the subject of any hearings. The Amendment threatens to strip Federal Courts of their habeas corpus jurisdiction, in order to foreclose consideration of habeas corpus petitions filed by prisoners detained at Guantanamo Bay. Any restriction on habeas corpus as contemplated by this amendment would be a momentous change. It is not a change to be tacked on to any bill without careful consideration.

Our values and what we stand for are America's great strengths. We stand for the rule of law. That's why other nations look to us for leadership and follow our lead. Every step we take that dims that bright shining light undermines our role as a world leader. As we limit the rights of human beings, even those of the enemy, we become more like the enemy. That makes us weaker and imperils our troops. I am proud to be an American and proud of my service to my country. This Amendment, no matter how well intentioned it may be, will diminish us.

Les

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The last month I have visited many chapters in the state of Florida and has been asked many questions regarding the following subjects:

1) Many wives and widows are under the impression that ChampVA is not a complete supplement to Medicare and only covers prescriptions. This is incorrect as ChampVA is a COMPLETE supplement to Medicare and covers the same as any other Medicare supplement you presently may still have.

ChampVA covers hospital, doctor and prescriptions. If you have another supplement to Medicare, ChampVA will only pay after Medicare and your other supplement pays first and there is a balance. If you are still paying premiums for a supplement to Medicare, it would be wise to consider discontinuing this and using ChampVA as your supplement to Medicare.

As you know prescriptions are free if you use the Meds by Mail program and you have no other prescription coverage.

If you need a prescription immediately, you can take your prescription to your local drugstore and show your ChampVA card for your approximately 80% discount.

All drugstores will accept your card, except Walgreens.

2) Also, many wives and/or widows are becoming disabled and still want to stay in their homes, but need to hire help with their daily chores.

If this is the case, get a letter from your doctor stating you need Aid and Attendance and/or are Housebound and send it your local V.A. Regional Office.

This will result in an additional payment per month for you to hire someone to help you. The amount will either be \$122 or \$257 per month depending if you need Aid and Attendance or are Housebound.

3) The new Former POW presumptives now are resulting in additional money for veterans.

Depending on the limitations of your daily activities due to irregular heartbeats, pacemakers, congestive heart failure and/or stroke, and you receive 100% for one of these disabilities, and have an additional 60% combined for other disabilities, you may be granted Special Monthly Compensation, which amounts to \$285 more per month if you are married.

So if you feel you may be eligible for this, gather your new medical evidence and file a new claim.

4) If you need help or further information, our office at the V.A. Regional Office in St. Petersburg, can either give you the name of a National Service Officer in your area or help with your claim if there is no one in your area.

We are all also able to answer most of your questions, so call if you need help. We are usually there everyday from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

We are still finding many Former POWs who have not filed and

widows whose husbands died many years ago from strokes or heart problems and are probably eligible for benefits. Many of the calls we are getting have been referred by their fellow POWs, so keep getting the word out there.

Doris Jenks

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VA Outreach

S*O*O*N

Before it's too late

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Facets of VA Outreach

We Can Give Thanks For!

My, how things have changed. As Walt Rencehausen of Albuquerque, NM opined sadly, "So many veterans were treated so badly by the VA in past years that many won't bother to apply for help now." How true. But NOW the VA is reaching out to Former POWs and their widows in great ways. Like this!

The POW Advisory Committee: When Public Law 97-37 was legislated on 8/14/1981 after being introduced in Congress by our good friend Sonny Montgomery of MS, it was mandated that this committee be formed to alert the VA to the needs of former POWs, and in what ways their treatment could be improved. This committee has pushed for the additional presumptive conditions that go back to our POW experience, for which we now receive Disability Compensation. We former POWs and surviving spouses can thank all who have served on the VA POW Advisory Committee for their dedicated work over the last 25 years, to enhance our lives and take some of the sting out of our service-connected problems. The committee, which meets twice a year, recently met in Kansas City, MO to address current VA issues. Presently the committee is chaired by Thomas M. McNish, MD ~ Vietnam POW. Also on the committee are: Michael Ambrose, MD ~ Special POW Pensacola, FL Project; Rhonda Cornum, MD ~ 1990 Iraq POW; Earl

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Derrington ~ WWII Germany POW; Robert W. Fletcher ~ Korea POW; Paul E. Galanti ~ Vietnam POW; Giles R. Norrington ~ Vietnam POW; Charles A. Stenger, PhD ~ WWII Germany POW; Fernando A. Tellez, MD ~ WWII Germany POW; and Henry J. Wilayto ~ WWII Japan POW.

And a VA POW Coordinator goes extra miles: When her current Ex-POW Bulletin comes, Ginger Raney in Waco (TX) VARO goes through the TAPS column and calls all the new widows in the North Texas Region to make sure they get their benefits, if eligible. Then she goes through the New Members listing and contacts them where possible.

And a fantastic emergency action: By Director Robert Lynch, Jackson MS VA VISN 16 Director who engineered evacuation of the Gulf Coast Area's VA facilities in the face of Hurricane Katrina. All of that entailed moving all VA hospital patients, personnel, computers, supplies, etc. to safer healthcare units. It was business as usual very quickly, with veterans being able to go to any VA hospital in a three-state area where their medications were efficiently supplied to them. We must compliment that VA! New Orleans VARO claims went to Little Rock, AR, Muskogee, OK, and Jackson, MS for expedited handling. AND THE VA PERSONNEL DID ALL THIS FOR US VETERANS!

Success Stories

How NSO Success Can Blossom!

Got a note from Bill Jones in Cheyenne, WY: Please check on my crew buddy's widow, Mrs. W. in Smalltown, Nebraska to see if she has her VA benefits. I couldn't find her phone number, but in the AX-POW National Director in that town were two listings - Doris, a widow and the other a POW and wife.

About 8:00 PM, I dialed that widow's number. "I'm sorry to tell you, but Mrs. W. has died." So Doris, do you have your VA widow's benefit? "Yes, I do." Do you have ChampVA? "Yes, and it really works good for me. By

the way, I have two POWs right here in my home now. Would you like to talk with them?" Certainly!

Frank got on the phone and I asked him if he had 100% Disability Compensation. "Yes, I do." Does your wife have ChampVA? "She wrote about a year ago, but never got an answer." So I said I would send her ChampVA information with the toll-free number for her to call (which I did the next day).

Kenny took the phone and I asked him if he had 100% DC. "No, I don't have anything." What camps were you in Germany? "Stalag Luft III in Sagan; 13D at Nurnberg; and 7A at Moosburg." The very same camps I was in. I told him he should have 100%. So we are starting a new claim.

Back to Doris who said, "I'm glad you interrupted our pinochle game! It will help my friends." I said I would call the POW listed in our directory, E.S. Doris said, "He died a while back." Thus, now to check on another widow, down the street.

Darlene answered the phone and I asked if she had her VA widow's benefit. "No, I don't have any VA benefit." M'am, what did the death certificate say your husband died of? "It showed COPD and heart disease." I said, Mrs. S., I believe that will help you get your widow's benefit. Another DIC claim.

Thanks to Bill Jones' caring in Cheyenne, and pinochle hostess Doris in Nebraska, a POW spouse will get ChampVA; a POW will apply for his VA benefits for the first time; and a POW's widow should receive her compensation of over \$1,000 monthly and be eligible for ChampVA, the free medicare supplement. Some folks win a lot at pinochle!

The point is this. Be alert to your acquaintances. Did you just learn that someone you knew had been a POW many years ago? Maybe a former POW's widow who is unaware of her VA eligibility? Please give them to our AXPOW NSO Director Doris Jenks (727-372-7238) or me (325-944-4002).

Packet #5 (What Every POW's Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) has been updated again, with much time and effort on the part of Marlene Agnes, to include the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet (approximately 110 pages) may be purchased from National Headquarters. Cost of the updated packet is \$16.00~includes S/H.

The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes Gastrointestinal Disabilities as presumptives. Three of those listed by the VA are: Peptic Ulcer Disease—ulcerations of the digestive tract; Irritable Bowel Syndrome – symptoms can include pain and constipation, chronic diarrhea, or both; Chronic Dysentery – frequent, watery stools with rectal/abdominal pain, fever and dehydration.

The most common of these is Irritable Bowel Syndrome or IBS.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a disorder that interferes with the normal functions of the large intestine (colon). It is characterized by a group of symptoms—crampy abdominal pain, bloating, constipation, and diarrhea.

IBS causes a great deal of discomfort and distress, but it does not permanently harm the intestines and does not lead to intestinal bleeding or to any serious disease such as cancer. Most people can control their symptoms with diet, stress management, and medications prescribed by their physician. But for some people, IBS can be disabling. They may be unable to work, go to social events, or travel even short distances.

What are the symptoms of IBS?

Abdominal pain or discomfort in association with bowel dysfunction is the main symptom. Symptoms may vary from person to person. Some people have constipation (hard, difficult-to-pass, or infrequent bowel movements); others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and still others experience alternating consti-

pation and diarrhea. Some people experience bloating, which is gas building up in the intestines and causing the feeling of pressure inside the abdomen.

IBS affects the motility or movement of stool and gas through the colon and how fluids are absorbed. When stool remains in the colon for a long time, too much water is absorbed from it. Then it becomes hard and difficult to pass. Or spasms push the stool through the colon too fast for the fluid to be absorbed, resulting in diarrhea. In addition, with spasms, gas may get trapped in one area or stool may collect in one place, temporarily unable to move forward.

Sometimes people with IBS have a crampy urge to move their bowels but cannot do so or pass mucus with their bowel movements.

Bleeding, fever, weight loss, and persistent severe pain are not symptoms of IBS and may indicate other problems such as inflammation or rarely cancer.

How is IBS diagnosed?

If you think you have IBS, seeing your doctor is the first step. IBS is generally diagnosed on the basis of a complete medical history that includes a careful description of symptoms and a physical exam.

No particular test is specific for IBS. However, diagnostic tests may be performed to rule out other diseases. These tests may include stool or blood tests, x rays, or endoscopy (viewing the colon through a flexible tube inserted through the anus). If these tests are all negative, the doctor may diagnose IBS based on your symptoms: that is,

how often you have had abdominal pain or discomfort during the past year, when the pain starts and stops in relation to bowel function, and how your bowel frequency and stool consistency are altered.

What is the treatment for IBS?

No cure has been found for IBS, but many options are available to treat the symptoms. Your doctor will give you the best treatments available for your particular symptoms and encourage you to manage stress and make changes to your diet.

Medications are an important part of relieving symptoms. Your doctor may suggest fiber supplements or occasional laxatives for constipation, as well as medicines to decrease diarrhea, tranquilizers to calm you, or drugs that control colon muscle spasms to reduce abdominal pain. Antidepressants may also relieve some symptoms.

With any medication, even over-the-counter medications such as laxatives and fiber supplements, it is important to follow your doctor's instructions. Laxatives can be habit forming if they are not used carefully or are used too frequently.

It is also important to note that medications affect people differently and that no one medication or combination of medications will work for everyone with IBS. You need to work with your doctor to find the best combination of medicine, diet, counseling, and support to control your symptoms.

medsearch continued...

How does stress affect IBS?

Stress—feeling mentally or emotionally tense, troubled, angry, or overwhelmed—stimulates colon spasms in people with IBS. The colon has a vast supply of nerves that connect it to the brain. These nerves control the normal rhythmic contractions of the colon and cause abdominal discomfort at stressful times. People often experience cramps or “butterflies” when they are nervous or upset. But with IBS, the colon can be overly responsive to even slight conflict or stress. Stress also makes the mind more tuned to the sensations that arise in the colon and makes the stressed person perceive these sensations as unpleasant.

Some evidence suggests that IBS is affected by the immune system, which fights infection in the body. The immune system is also affected by stress. For all these reasons, stress management is an important part of treatment for IBS. Stress management comprises: stress reduction (relaxation) training and relaxation therapies, such as meditation; counseling and support; regular exercise such as walking or yoga; changes to the stressful situations in your life; adequate sleep.

Can changes in diet help IBS?

For many people, careful eating reduces IBS symptoms. Before changing your diet, keep a journal noting the foods that seem to cause distress. Then discuss your findings with your doctor. You may also want to consult a registered dietitian, who can help you make changes to your diet. For instance, if dairy products cause your symptoms to flare up, you can try eating less of those foods. You might be able to tolerate yogurt better

than other dairy products because it contains bacteria that supply the enzyme needed to digest lactose, the sugar found in milk products. Dairy products are an important source of calcium and other nutrients. If you need to avoid dairy products, be sure to get adequate nutrients in the foods you substitute or take supplements.

In many cases, dietary fiber may lessen IBS symptoms, particularly constipation. However, it may not help pain or diarrhea. Whole grain breads and cereals, fruits, and vegetables are good sources of fiber. High-fiber diets keep the colon mildly distended, which may help prevent spasms. Some forms of fiber also keep water in the stool, thereby preventing hard stools that are difficult to pass. Doctors usually recommend a diet with enough fiber to produce soft, painless bowel movements. High-fiber diets may cause gas and bloating, but these symptoms often go away within a few weeks as your body adjusts. Drinking six to eight glasses of plain water a day is important, especially if you have diarrhea. But drinking carbonated beverages, such as sodas, may result in gas and cause discomfort. Chewing gum and eating too quickly can lead to swallowing air, which again leads to gas.

Also, large meals can cause cramping and diarrhea, so eating smaller meals more often or eating smaller portions should help IBS symptoms. It may also help if your meals are low in fat and high in carbohydrates, such as pasta, rice, whole-grain breads and cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Is IBS linked to other diseases?

IBS itself is not a disease. As its name indicates, it is a syndrome—a combination of signs and symptoms. But IBS has not been shown to lead to any serious, organic diseases, including cancer. Through the years, IBS has been called by many names, among them colitis,

mucous colitis, spastic colon, or spastic bowel. However, no link has been established between IBS and inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Hope Through Research

The NIDDK conducts and supports research into many kinds of digestive disorders, including IBS. Researchers are studying gastrointestinal motility and sensitivity to find possible treatments for IBS. These studies include the structure and contraction of gastrointestinal muscles as well as the mechanics of fluid movement through the intestines. Understanding the influence of the nerves, hormones, and inflammation in IBS may lead to new treatments to better control the symptoms.

For More Information:

International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

P.O. Box 170864
Milwaukee, WI 53217
Phone: 1-888-964-2001 or 414-964-1799
Fax: 414-964-7176
Email: iffgd@iffgd.org
Internet: www.iffgd.org

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

2 Information Way
Bethesda, MD 20892-3570
Email: nddic@info.niddk.nih.gov
The National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse (NDDIC) is a service of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The NIDDK is part of the National Institutes of Health under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Established in 1980, the Clearinghouse provides information about digestive diseases to people with digestive disorders and to their families, health care professionals, and the public.

POW MEDSEARCH CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

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

JAPANESE CAMPS

Akenobe #6	.70
Batavia, Java	.90
Beppa	.50
Bilibid Prison	1.30
Bridge House Jail, China	.50
Burma	.40
Cabanatuan #1	.50
Cabanatuan #3	2.10
Camp O'Donnell	.60
Changi, Singapore	.70
D 12, Hitachi	.90
Davao Penal Colony	.70
Fengtai, China	.50
Fukuoka #1	.90
Fukuoka #2	.90
Fukuoka #3	.90
Fukuoka #10	.70
Fukuoka #11	.50
Fukuoka #17	.70
Fukuoka #22	.70
Hakodate Branch Camp #2	.70
Hoten, Juken, Manchuria	.70
Initial Phase – Philippines	1.10
Jinsen, Korea	.50
Kiangwan, China	.70
Manila, Port Area	.40
Mitushima, Tokyo Camp #2-D	.70
Makaishima, Honshu	.70
Mukden, Manchuria (temporary)	.50
Nakhon Pathom, Thailand	.50
Naval POW Camp, Shanghai	.40
Notogawa #9-B	.50
October Ship (Hellship)	.90
Omine	.50
Osaka #3, Oeyama	.70
Osaka #5-B	.70
Osaka #12-B	.70
Osaka Group, Sakurajima, Osaka	.70
Palawan Barracks	.90
Rangoon Prison, Burma	.90
Roku Poshi	.70
Saigon POW Camp,	.50
French Indo-China	.70
Sendai Camp #6, Hanawa	.50
Sendai Camp #11	.50

DONATIONS

JAPANESE CAMPS

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

GERMAN CAMPS

Camp Conditions (general)	.70
Dulag Luft	.40
Hohemark Hospital & Luckenwalde	.90
Marlag und Milag Nord	.90
Oflag 13-B	1.50
Oflag 64	
Reserve-Lazaret Obermassfeld	.70
(the orthopedic hospital)	
Rumania	.50
Stalag 2-B	1.50
Stalag 3-B	1.70
Stalag 7-A	1.50
Stalag 9-B	1.10
Stalag 17-B	1.50
Stalag Luft 1	1.50
Stalag Luft 3	1.50
Stalag Luft 4	.40
Stalag Luft 6	.40
Transit Camp - Section of Dulag Luft	1.10
German Orders Governing Prisoners	
of War in Europe	2.30

**mail to: American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
817-649-2979**

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to \$3.00, add \$1.50; \$3.00-\$10.00, add \$3.00; over \$10.00,
add \$6.00. overseas orders - for orders up to \$3.00, add
\$2.00; \$3.00 to \$10.00, add \$4.00; over \$10.00, add \$7.00.**

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Expiration Date _____

**Ex-POW Bulletin
February 2006**

Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Alan_Marsh@nps.gov
Kandace_Muller@nps.gov

American Overseas Military Cemeteries

By Betty Johnson

Andersonville National Historic Site is not only the home of the National Prisoner of War Museum and the site of the historic Civil War prison, but is also the home of an active National Cemetery. People who work here are very much aware of the special feeling that comes over you as you pass through the cemetery's row upon row of headstones, crowned by the American flag.

A similar feeling occurs when sighting the Stars and Stripes in a foreign country. Combining the two produces an awe inspiring feeling indeed.

Recently, I had the privilege of being included in an after hours visit to Florence American Cemetery and Memorial near Florence, Italy. I had already visited the

American Cemetery in Normandy, France and the Honolulu National Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii, but still was surprised to learn the number and extent of American Cemeteries abroad.

The American Battle Monuments Commission was created in March 1923 to oversee the construction and maintenance of memorials and monuments erected where the United States Armed Forces have served since 6 April 1917.

Memorial chapels were erected in each of the eight military cemeteries already established by the War Department after World War I.

These cemeteries are located in Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France; Brookwood, England; Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium; Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France; Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France; St. Mihiel, Thiécourt, France; Somme, Bony, France; Suresnes (See WWII also), France.

After World War II, fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries. Their locations reflect military operations in that area and were selected with various practical considerations as well.

The World War II cemeteries are Ardennes, Neupre, Belgium; Brittany, St. James, France; Cambridge, England; Epinal, France; Florence, Italy; Henri-Chapelle, Belgium; Lorraine, St. Avold, France; Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; Manila, Republic of the Philippines; Netherlands, Margraten, Holland; Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France; North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia; Rhone, Draguignan, France; Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy; Suresnes (See WW I also), France; East Coast Memorial, New York City, NY; Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii; and West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, CA.



Each site has a small chapel, an inscription of the names of the Missing in the region, and, except for Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, and St. Mihiel, a graphic record of the services of our troops. Rather than the curved headstones (or in the case of Confederate soldiers, pointed ones) found in most National Cemeteries in this country, Overseas Military Cemeteries have Crosses or Stars of David as grave markers.

If future travel plans take you near any of the areas mentioned above, it would be well worth a little extra trip to visit one of these sites.



NamPOW news



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Homecoming plus 33 - keeping things in perspective

I suppose it's not a milestone as such things go. 33 is just a number. Its anniversary stone is the Amethyst which doesn't slide as easily off the tongue as its more famous anniversary-markers, gold or silver.

But there are 591 former Vietnam War POWs who were released 33 years ago during Operation Homecoming in the winter of 1973 - more than half held for longer than five years. Many were held under truly brutal conditions - among the worst ever suffered in American history. And like the POWs of earlier wars, they were ecstatic about their re-discovered freedom and much more appreciative of things they'd previously taken for granted. A simple hamburger engendered much more pleasure than it did before six, seven or eight years of 700 calories/day's worth of pumpkin soup and rice.

Just walking outside - just being able to walk outside - and seeing vistas unimagined in 7' x 7' black cells, enjoying fresh air and the freedom to go anywhere and do

anything made repatriation a heady, almost giddy experience. Everything - *everything* - seemed to live up to the eagerly anticipated perception we'd created in our minds. Everything seemed possible.

And then reality hit.

Despite a disproportionate number of our band becoming general and flag officers, Senators and Representatives, Mayors and Presidential Candidates, everything wasn't perfect, after all. Having already learned that we weren't invincible - as many 20-somethings think - it still came as a shock to see the changes that had ensued. I'm not going into all the major changes but suffice it to say that our entire country had changed mightily. We were welcomed home but... Our military profession was no longer the most respected profession in the country. The federal government which had consisted of, basically, the State Department, the Defense Department and the U.S. Post Office and a handful of bureaucracies had been transformed into an intractable monolith. When LTJG Everett Alvarez, the first aviator captured in North Vietnam, was shot down during the Gulf of Tonkin crisis in August 1964, the Defense Department's budget was nearly half of the government's total!

I suppose it was television that made it happen. Television helped to dumb down our entire nation creating a flock of useful idiots whose miniscule knowledge about any particular problem was no barrier to their discoursing at length on a solution. Or even campaigning on that issue without fear of informed opposition.

Television was such a great generator of emotion that it helped take our entire system of legislation and laws into an emotional rollercoaster such that a cool, dispassionate, objective look at a controversial issue always came in

dead last behind inflamed passions.

Raw emotion, not fact, divided the country about the war in Vietnam so that it was still being fought in the election of 2004. Divisive emotions convinced enough people that they're owed something by the rest of us (for basically doing nothing) that the "Gimme" generation rules in politics.

It turns out that until people are faced with horrible alternatives, they have nothing from which to draw a meaningful comparison. The term "hunger" connotes something different to, say, a New Yorker who missed a meal than it does to a recently released 6' tall, 100 lb. former POW! Similarly, those who fought and sacrificed for this nation see red (as in rage) when those who have done nothing, who haven't served, who haven't actually *done* anything complain about the terrible state of affairs in this country.

Put in perspective, the 33 years have gone by too quickly. Many who came home with us are no longer here. But the ones I know best still get along well with each other. We have a great time at our reunions - which will be held this year (May 4-7) in Dayton jointly with the valiant Son Tay Raiders. And we won't be distracted by those who badmouth our administration or way of doing things without offering a positive course of change.

And, at that reunion for a few brief moments, we will return to those great post-release days, 33 years ago, when there truly is not a bad day when there's a doorknob on the inside of the door.

Paul

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

889 Randall Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4815
(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

Army Personnel Announced as Accounted For

The Defense POW/MIA Office announced that all four US Army personnel listed as KIA/BNR March 20, 1971 a result of a UH1H helicopter incident are now accounted for as a result of joint US-Lao cooperation. The four Army personnel are MAJ Jack L. Barker of GA, CAPT John F. Dugan of NJ, SP4 William

E. Dillender of FL and PFC John J. Chubb of CA. Recovery date was December 5, 2002, ID date was August 30, 2005, and all four families recently accepted the results, announced today by DPMO. The accounting for these four Americans brings to 1,808 the number of US personnel listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War - 1,382 in Vietnam, 364 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. Over 90% of the 1,808 were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia then under Vietnamese control.

Laos Takes Positive Step

In response to requests from JPAC, reinforced by supportive US Ambassador Patricia Haslach, the Lao Government has officially notified the US, via diplomatic note, of their agreement to permit two-year, accompanied tours for Detachment II personnel. That is a positive development and, hopefully, reflects

improving military-to-military relations that will lead to exchanging Defense Attaches, as is the norm for most countries around the world. Vietnam permitted this step for Detachment Two some time ago, and the two governments have improved relations across the board. The Prime Minister visited Washington, DC, last June, a visit preceded by the November and December 2003 visits of Vietnam's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense. It is anticipated that US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will soon visit Hanoi, and the President is expected to do so by this time next year.

This track is one that should be pursued to continue improving bilateral relations between the US and Laos. Of course, Detachment One in Bangkok, Thailand, has long been led by an Air Force LtCol for a three-year, accompanied tour. Thailand is a treaty ally, and the military-to-military relationship is very close.

education

Robert Ball, Chairman

cnwysprngs@idcomm.com
5145 West Lakeridge Road
Denver CO 80219-5634
(303) 936-5347

One of the well remembered statements made by former President John F. Kennedy might well have been intended for all former American Ex-POWs is this: "By your magnificent wartime service you have defended America's freedom and security. Today, as veterans, you serve with equal tenacity, devoting brain and heart to the task of keeping our country free and strong."

Perhaps better remembered is his famous and often repeated "Ask

not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.."

I'm offering these two quotations as a reminder that with whatever capability we still have, we must try constantly to keep the stories of gallantry, duty, and service given willingly to our nation ever before the generations that follow us. They must know, for they have heard many times that "Freedom is not Free" — but do they know the price that was paid ?

Seek every opportunity to speak out with honesty and passion about what you did — and why. You may have to truly seek the first opportunities — make yourself known and available to your service organizations, clubs, schools, and other similar groups where you might have a chance to speak and relate your experiences in the larger effort that helped maintain the freedom that was earned.

Obviously, it is my humble opinion that our mission is not yet completed.

We had a good and appreciative audience at the Education session during the National Convention in Denver where some good and informative information was presented. Many of you got the chance to ask questions and share ideas.

Sessions like that should serve as a springboard to help get you started — you may well be surprised at the reception you will receive from those to whom you speak, especially from school students right up through college and university levels.

Experience has taught yours truly that they DO want to know about us and what happened to you as an individual. It is a rewarding opportunity wherever you can appear—

Let's not let any of them slip by.

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civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman
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dcadwall@aol.com

My Conversations with a Huk

Before the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the farmers and peasantry of Central Luzon formed organizations to protect themselves against the abuses of the landlords. These landlords were pro-Hitler, pro-Franco, and pro-Japan. The landlords used private armies to discipline and oppress rebellious farmers, and to prevent them from organizing.

College educated liberals from upper middle class families went to the agrarian communities of Central Luzon and assisted the farmers in their plight against the landlords. Pedro Abad-Santos was one of the first leaders of the farmer organizations.

Soon after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, the landlords developed a cooperative relationship with the Japanese, allowing them to keep their land, wealth, and power. Their relationship with the Japanese was identical to the one they had with the Americans, prior to the Japanese invasion.

On March 24, 1942, under the leadership of Luis Taruc, the various organized farm groups formed a new anti-Japanese organization called the Hukbalahaps, which was an

acronym for "Hukbo Ng Bayan Laban Sa Hapon," translated into English, "The Peoples Army to Fight Japan." Most referred to them as the "Huks."

Luis came from the town of San Luis, Pampanga. Luis's brother, Peregrino, a former high school teacher, joined his brother's organization. The Huks were comprised of various units. Each unit had a leader who was usually a town mayor or a barrio lieutenant. The Huks also had Chinese units under their umbrella group, the "Wa-Chi."

The other guerrilla groups hid in the mountains avoiding any direct contact with the Japanese. They only actively engaged the Japanese at the very end, after the arrival of the US Army.

The Huks first engaged the Japanese in Barrio Mandili, in June, 1942, in the town of Candaba, Pampanga. Japanese soldiers went to Candaba to pillage the town. They also raped several women. Unbeknownst to the Japanese, Candaba was under the protection of an organized Huk unit, led by a woman, whose "nom de guerre" was Commander Kulala.

The Huks continued to engage the Japanese throughout the war, and by the end of 1944, had gained control of large areas of land in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, and Bulacan. These areas gave the US Army "safe havens" as they marched south to Manila.

The Huks aided and assisted the US Army. Luis Taruc signed several agreements with the USAFFE

Guerilla Groups. They hid and protected escaped US POWs. They agreed to intelligence sharing, reporting directly to the Alamo Scouts (who were also Pamgpangos), under the command of Col. Cabangbas and Gen. Peralta.

After the War, the USAFFE Units betrayed their agreements with the Huks. Gen. Mac Arthur refused to recognize the Huks as a legitimate guerilla unit. The same pro-Japanese landlords, suddenly became pro-American again, courting Gen. Mac Arthur under their influence.

Gen. Mac Arthur passed the Anti-Subversion act. The farmer's resistance movement was classified as subversive and so the Huks became the enemy of the Philippines and of the United States.

Prior to the Philippine independence from the United States, on July 4, 1946, an election was held for positions in the new government. The Hukbalahap participated, and the Huk leader Luis Taruc won a seat in Congress, along with other Huk candidates. They were forcibly unseated. Manuel Roxas, a Japanese collaborator, became the President of the Philippines. He ordered the Philippine Army to hunt down the Huks, who retreated to the mountains.

Fred Baldassarre
*A Summary of My Conversations
with Pelegrino (Reggie) Taruc*

events and information



ONE MORE TRY to find two or three guys who are ready, willing and able to re-trace by vehicle the long walk from Luft IV to the Bitterfeld or Fallingbostal areas this coming spring. For details contact Claude Watkins at 703 437 3939, e mail clauwtk@aol.com, Fax 703-437-1097 or at 11318 Fairway Court Reston, VA 20190.

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

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

May 9-11, 2006. The Department of Minnesota will hold its 20th annual State Convention at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. For registration/reservation information contact Kenny Hanson at 1-952-888-2703.

May 14-21, 2006. 505th Bomb Group - 313th Bomb Wing "B-29" WWII Reunion will be held in King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Samantha Kemp, 1-800-367-2577.

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June 21-22, 2006. The Dept of Iowa 2006 state convention will be held at the Best Western Starlite Village located at the intersection of Highways 169 and 7 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Motel reservations may be made directly at 1-800-903-0009, ext. 5. Contact Adjutant Pat Ludwig, P.O. Box 246, West Bend, Iowa 50597, 515 887-7409 or patlesone@yahoo.com.

August 24-27, 2006. The Department of Ohio State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn/Fremont, Ohio. Contact: "Doc" Unger, 1316 Sloane Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 or call (216) 521-1889.

August 27-30, 2006. The 1st Gathering of Bataan & Corregidor and Former Prisoners of War of the Far East (including Wake and Midway Islands) will be held this year in Pigeon Forge, TN. Family, friends and guests are welcome. For reservations: Smoky Shadows, 1-800-362-1188. For information, call Wayne Carringer, 828-479-6205.

looking for



Walter Frankiewicz, the son of deceased ex-POW **Joseph Frankiewicz**, came to my house to purchase five copies of my book **ESCAPE!!!** to distribute throughout his family so the family would get some idea about Joseph's life in the 106th Inf. from the time of Ft. Jackson to the Battle of the Bulge when Joseph was captured and sent to Bad Orb. Unfortunately the father did not want to talk about his life in the Army or his life as a POW

but did tell them he was at **Bad Orb**. So the family is hoping to find someone who may have been at Bad Orb also and would know something about Joseph. I am trying to all I can for the family. If you have any knowledge about Frankiewicz while you were in service or were in the Stalag at Bad Orb (9 B) Contact Jack Roberts; jmr81024@aol.com.

I am looking for a former POW named **Cpl. Robert N. Bell from Oak Park, ILL.** He was a POW in Japan and released on or about Sept 1945. My father was in the Navy aboard the USS Waterman (DE 740). His ship picked up a lot of the POW's in Tokyo Bay. He befriended Mr. Bell. I have found letters from his family to my father thanking him for his kindness. My father passed away in 1995 but I just recently came upon these letters. Anyone having any knowledge of Mr. Bell or his family I would appreciate talking with them. cliffcollins@remax.net. Cliff Collins, Re/Max Town & Country, 1315 Tuskawilla Rd #101, Winter Springs, FL 32708; 407-695-2066 x-670; 407-366-8167 fax.

I am looking for any member of the **106th, 424th, A CO.** weapons platoon who was with me during the Battle of the Bulge starting in Dec.1944. My name: A. A. Marcoux, 2970 Mendon Rd., Apt. 116, Cumberland, RI 02864. Thanks.

My son and I would appreciate hearing from anyone with memories of my father, ex-POW **Ralph E VanLandingham**, captured, December, 1944, in the Battle of the Bulge. Also, anyone who knew Air Force Lt. **Keith Rudolph**, my uncle, MIA from Korean War. His plane was hit around June 19, 1953. My son's name contact information is Keith Aguilar, 4213 N 92nd Lane, Phoenix AZ 85037 (623) 877-0129, keith@zcarton.com. Thank you. Gretchen Aguilar.

Y our Stories



Tales From South East Asia

The occasional
memoirs of "The Beak,"
a.k.a. Capt. Richard A. Stratton,
USN [ret.]

Who won the Army Navy Game?

It had been seven hard days in cell #7, torture chamber with knobby walls to suppress sound and a hook in the ceiling from which to hang you like a side of beef. The new accommodations a solitary confinement cell 6 feet by 4 feet were not much better. It was one of eight cells in an isolated prison wing of Hoa Lo [the "Hanoi Hilton"] we called heartbreak hotel. The torture wounds had become infected, the discouragement factor was high and mortal fear was at a peak.

Isolation and torture were the name of the game. Communication compromised was a guaranteed trip back to the torture ropes where anything went and death was not an option except by accident. Later we found that 95% of the men captured in North Vietnam had been tortured, mostly for propaganda less for military information. To lead was to be tortured. Communication was a de facto sign of leadership. Yet communication was the life blood of resistance and survival.

In the middle of the night in between the rounds of the guard patrol I heard a knocking on my wall. It started with a series of taps with the rhythm of "Shave and a Hair Cut". The rest was unintelligible.

Was it a trap? Was it for real? I struggled back 12 years all the next day to dredge up the Morse code learned in the Naval School of Pre-flight to be ready for the next night. It started up again in between guard patrols. The incessant tapping still did not make sense.

One two man cell was let out twice a day to clean up out sanitary pots and soup bowls which tasks were accomplished in one of the end cells that had a spigot of water piped in through a high window. These would talk out the window as if talking to each other attempting to contact the solitary confinement cells.

One day it finally dawned on me what these guys were doing at great risk to themselves and listened in with rapt attention.

"Hey new guy in cell number six. Listen up. Cough once for yes, twice for no. Spit for I don't know."

"Are you Air Force?" Cough, cough.
"Are you Navy?" Cough.

"Are you O-1? O-2? O-3?" Cough, cough.

"Are you O-4? Cough. "Oh s__t, another senior officer!"

"WHO WON THE ARMY NAVY GAME?" Spit. "Oh s__t, a stupid one at that!

"CAG [Carrier Air Group Commander] Stockdale is the SRO [Senior Ranking Officer]. His policy is to resist torture as long as you can. Do not despair when they break you [too late!!]; everyone here has been tortured and bent. Make them torture you to get anything. Communicate at all costs. Pray. Did you get that?" Cough.

"The guy next to you is RVN [Republic of Vietnam]. He is trying to contact you. The guard is coming! Just remember the RVN is calling up with a shave and a haircut and tapping a box: American Football League Quits Victorious. GBU [God Bless You]. Oh s__t!!!"

The twosome and the RVN were moved within the hour. It took a week, but I finally figured out that the tapping was not the Morse Code but a quadratic alphabet which I could not track through repetition because they had left the letter "K" out of the box. At the risk of their lives, these two gents had given me the means to communicate through two years of solitary confinement, to retain my pride and my sanity.

American	BCDE
Football	GHIJ [K]
League	MNOP
Quits	RSTU
Victorious	WXYZ

The first series of taps gives you the line in the five by five box. The second series of taps gives you the letter within the box. Tap-tap/tap-tap-tap, tap-tap/tap-tap-tap-tap says "Hi". A "Shave and a haircut" rhythmic rap answered with an immediate "two bits" - two quick taps is a call up the communists never figured out or were able to duplicate. A rapid series of bumps were the erasers. A loud thump was the danger termination sign. The normal termination was GBU acknowledged by two taps. The sound is distinctive enough to reverberate along a cement pad or wall over a hundred feet long without alerting a guard.

We could tap faster than sending Morse Code, we could flash our hands under the cell doors in tap code, we could punch holes in paper in tap code, we could sweep brooms in tap code, and we could cough, hock and hack in tap code. Up through 1968 the Navy classified the tap code as secret and guys were told in survival school they had no need to learn it as we would teach it to them when they got there!!! This code was first mentioned in literature at the turn of the century in Arthur Connan

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stories continued...

Doyle's "The Sign of Four" and was featured in "Darkness At Noon" in 1942. European and American miners have used it to communicate during mine disasters. We thought we had invented it in prison.

Communication indeed was the key to survival in prison. Those that risked their lives to pass it along were heroic as were our seniors who had the courage to lead in the face of the greatest of dangers - torture and death. Then Commander James Bond Stockdale currently of Coronado, California was our Senior Naval Person [to steal from Winston Churchill]; Lt. Col. Robinson "Robbie" Risner, currently of Austin Texas was our Air Force Senior. Others more senior came later, but these two warriors set the pace. Oh yes, the irreverent junior officer who passed me the code was then LT jg Paul "Pablo" Galanti. I still do not know who won the Army Navy game in 1966.

On Reachin' Seventy-Five (And Beyond)

Bill Smallwood
July, 1997 and July 2005
Exeter, NH

Now Twenty and five's
a very good age
For people still at
the partyin' stage
Drinkin' and dancin'
from dark until two
Next mornin' a sauna's
the place for you.

Your thirties produce
the family years
Of marriage and children,

same as your peers.
Then schoolin' 'n' soccer
plus sis's first play
And always that monthly
mortgage to pay.

Well, forty and five
arrives pretty fast
For would-be execs
just hopin' to last
Scalin' the walls of
corporate success
And joggin' at sundown
to relieve the stress.

By sixty and five and
retirement year,
Though a little less sound
of eye and ear,
It's time for donnon'
stout walkin' shoes
For visitin' places with out
standing views.

My seventy-fifth slipped
in too soon
Before any chances to
walk on the moon.
Best relish fine dinin'
and Bordeaux wine,
Then watch golden oldies
till bed at nine.

Into Your Eighties

Still pretty well, with good
fortune your friend,
You do think of others
whose ailments don't mend
Don't sweat it, accept it
'n' savor each day
Enjoyin' God's wonders
along the way.

For Better or Worse

Eugene M. Wiley
10523 Beas Lane
Conifer, CO 80433

On Aug. 7, 1943, my 92nd Bomb Group was alerted for a raid to Germany. At the briefing, when the curtain was removed from the route map, it showed the target as Schweinfurt. This news sent shivers up my spine. We had never gone

this deep into Germany. After sitting in the cockpit for over an hour, we were told the mission was scrubbed.

On Aug. 12th, we were alerted again and the briefing showed the target as Gelsenkirchen in the heart of the Ruhr. This was no milk run and red hatch marks on the map showed heavy flak. On the bombing run, the sky was black from flak bursts. Right after the bomb release, there was a heavy blast under the ship. I lost number three and four engines and, unable to stay with the formation, peeled off and headed for home. At 2000 feet, number three caught on fire, so I told the crew to prepare for a crash landing. I belied up in a flat field and everyone walked out of the ship, although two had flak wounds.

Three of us were captured right away and the Germans made us help put out the fire. The nose was burnt off back to the wing and my "Kansas City Killer" was no more. That afternoon, we were all held in a nearby city hall. That night, we were taken to an air base and eventually on a two-day train ride to Frankfurt and then to Dulag Luft nearby.

We were guests of the Luftwaffe and the British POWs ran the mess hall. We even had beer that Saturday night. When there were enough POWs to fill freight trains to Stalag Luft III and Stalag 17B, we would be shipped out.

On Aug. 17th, the air raid sirens went on around noon. Shortly we saw hundreds of bombers flying southeast with heavy con trails. I said, "they're going to Schweinfurt." At that instant, I had mixed emotions. Would I rather be there or on the ground? The question was not answered until many years after the war.

I, being an optimist, was gung ho for doing nine more missions after Gelsenkirchen to make 25.

stories continued...

Whether I could have done it, or been shot down later, or killed, is unknown, or what would I have done after the tour?

As it turned out, my being shot down then was for the best. After being returned to Kansas City, I met my future wife, which resulted in a very happy marriage, a wonderful daughter and son and four grandchildren. Without the POW experience, I might not have ever met Ginny.

Now the answer is clear. I'd rather have been on the ground.

The Story Beginneth

Author Unknown (Luft One)
Submitted by Dan Joba
312 Devon Road
Battle Creek, MI 49015

And so it came to pass that there dwelleth in the land of the Romans, a group of strange men who flitteth hither and yon among the clouds and maketh in the manner of the birds (for such was their travel), to bring success and protection to their brethren, who limbereth about on more unwieldy limbs, and they were called BIRDMEN.

And it came to pass that upon one morning as the sun first beameth on the tents of the dorman BIRDMEN, one called the CQ entereth therein, and did proclaim, "Arise ye, for the hour of briefing is at hand," and he therefore departeth in great haste; for he was one wise in the ways of the BIRDMEN.

And lo! With much cursing and mumbling, they arose and appeaseth their hunger on powered eggs and fat from the belly of an aged sow, for alas, such was the way of their mess officer who strutteth about on padded feet.

Wherefore these BIRDMEN wendeth their weary way to the place of briefing in which they beheld strange markings upon its walls for such they were and they murmureth one to the other, "no, this cannot be" and there was much weeping, wailing and much gnashing of teeth.

And the sound of their mutterings ceaseth as the great silver eagle entereth the hall, and he spake unto them saying, "Yea, verily, wing upon wing of our friends must go forth this day and assaileth the enemy, and let us not lag behind, for he who strayeth is surely lost."

And there was one amongst us in that assemblage who was called S-2, but he sallied not forth against this enemy and they believeth him not, and they spoke one unto the other saying, "Wherefore speaketh he? For he knoweth not the ways of the enemy and the odds that we all reapeth in the end."

And still another amongst them spoke of the winds and the clouds, but they heeded him not, for he did but confuse them.

As they departeth from this place of briefing, they did make their way to the winged steeds wherein they entangled each of them with many strange hooks and straps after a confusing manner, and each was known unto the other by sundry names and letters and colors that they may be aware of their positions, and so in this manner each after the other breaketh his bonds with the earth.

And one of them runneth speedily but lifteth not, for his RRM's runneth out and the others did wonder at his good fortune. And still another returneth for his temperature of oil runneth over, tho he waxeth cold.

And as they cometh unto the appointed meeting place, their big friends are gone before them, and

the BIRDMEN are troubled, for lo, their fuel deibbleth fast.

And so they drew nigh unto the target and did behold many and numerous flashes amongst them, and they weaveth and swooped and maketh with the evasive action in order to escape this Flak, for so it was called.

Thence low squadron leader for charlie calleth upon the great silver eagle saying "whither shall we turn? Canst thou not lead us to the light?" and the great silver eagle did respond unto him "O, ye of little faith, why doest thou broadcast against me?"

And at the time great multitudes of hostile BIRDMEN ascendeth against the forts and Mustangs and T-Bolts and they were surely clobbered, for such was the custom in those days.

And they called upon their brethren with the sharp claws to come to their succor, and they came there upon all save one who spoke of having a focke-wolfe on his tail, and he came in fifth.

Then each BIRDMAN turneth unto the other and great confusion reigneth - and upon whipcream, leader Y for yoke calleth upon whipcream leader N for nan saying, "Wherefore art thou?" and N for nan did answer "Lo, and behold, I spineth in and am lost unto thee."

And they sayeth one unto the other "hitteth the silk," and bright parasols fluttereth earthward.

And so this is how it came to pass that they came unto the barren land of the enemy where they dwelt unhappily for the duration and were known unto all men as "KRIEGIES!"

M

Members'

forum



Dear Cheryl,

A report from Mississippi Life

Much has been said about Louisiana devastation, particularly in New Orleans by the news and TV media, but little about the Mississippi Coast and much less about Jackson County and Pascagoula along the Eastern coast. About 80-90% of Pascagoula was under 4-5 feet of water.

There are some 40 to 50 Ex-POWs living along the coast. My files have been destroyed, so I'm quoting from memory.

Some have lost their house and possessions like James D. Gautier, a Bataan Death March survivor. Others have lost personal possessions and home damage through flooding, while others have lost roofs and had other physical damage from the high winds. To see this devastation up close and in person would leave you in a state of disbelief.

The Outreach article on page 8 of the November-December Bulletin quoting National Director and NSO Bill Roberts praising New Orleans' handling of veterans evacuated, but nothing was said about the anticipation of the hurricane along the Mississippi coast by VA authorities moving patients from

Gulfport to Biloxi and the more critical patients from both locations to Jackson, MS BEFORE the hurricane struck.

I do not know of any communication from any National Director or NSOs concerning our well-being.

The outpouring of help from churches outside the area has been tremendous. They have fed us, provided water, clothes and sundries. Helping people clean up and removing house damage caused by wind and water.

My wife and I, along with seven other members of the Magnolia Chapter came to the National Convention in Denver to get away from the devastation for a few days. Speaking with Commander Harvey on December 27th, he asked why I didn't comment at the Convention. I found people I spoke with didn't know where the coast was exactly, except those with training at Keesler Field, which incidentally suffered considerable damage. I wasn't in a frame of mind to open discussion, having had no inquiry regarding our plight, or sorrow to hear about the devastation in our area.

W. Guy Krebs, Jr.
State Commander, Dept. of MS

2111 Pascagoula St
Pascagoula Ms 39567
228-762-1372

Dear Cheryl,

Mr. Franco says (Members' Forum, Nov/Dec 2005) that "these nurses were also deprived of service connected benefits, ..." All the Army nurses, and I suppose all the Navy nurses, were commissioned officers. I find it hard to believe that they were denied the benefits that were given to buck privates.

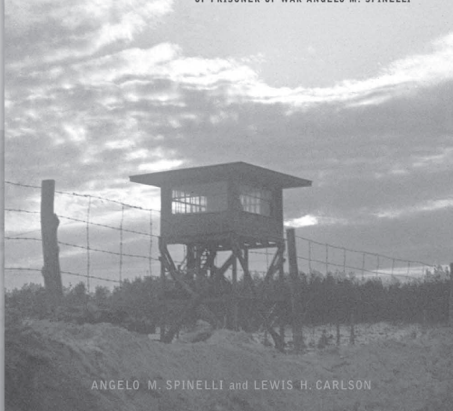
Mr. Franco also said the he had heard "stories how the White Angels kept many POW's from the agony of hunger, and also in the Bataan Death March, ..." Well, I was in the 31st Infantry on Bataan and insofar as I know all the Bataan nurses were sent to Corregidor just before General Parker surrendered Bataan. I know that I made every step of the Bataan Death March and I didn't see any nurses. And I have never heard of anyone else who did.

Sincerely,
Smith L. Green
LM 8435
6513 Lago Vista Dr.
Benbrook, TX 76132
smithlgreen@charter.net

Open the Stalag gates.

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News Briefs

National Defense Authorization Act

On Dec. 16, 2005, House and Senate negotiators reached agreement on the \$441.5 billion FY 2006 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House and Senate approved the Conference Report thus preparing the bill for the President's signature by the end of the year. *(Editor's note: On Jan. 3, 2006, it was presented to the President for signature.)*

The bill contains numerous changes to benefits and programs but unfortunately not all that were sought. The widow's tax was not eliminated, acceleration of paid up SBP at 30 years was not enacted, and concurrent receipt payment for 100% IU vets was accelerated but not made retroactive to 2005.

Final approval of the bill, which has been held up since July, became possible after the President decided to embrace a proposal by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), clarifying U.S. policy on treatment of detainees in the war on terrorism so that inhumane treatment, abuse and humiliation are barred. The White House had threatened to veto the defense bill over McCain's provision, but overwhelming votes of support for the measure in both the House and Senate led administration officials to drop objections. To view a summary of the Conference Report prepared by the Senate Armed Services Committee, go to: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/press/conf06press.pdf>.

VA Community Nursing Home Program

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs Health Administration's (VHA) Community Nursing Home (CNH) program places patients requiring nursing home care in community nursing homes (NH) at VA expense. All VA facilities have CNH capability.

VA contracts with nursing homes which meet Medicare/Medicaid standards and the most recent edition of the Life Safety Code. The contract allows VA to place a patient in a nursing home when the home agrees to accept the patient at a previously established price. Patients who require care in nursing homes because of activities of daily living impairments; medical diagnoses; and/or the inability of the informal and formal care system to provide care at home or in the community comprise the target population for this program.

The population includes patients in need of rehabilitation, special clinical care, and those with behavioral management problems where nursing home care is needed and appropriate mental health interventions can be provided in the nursing home. Patients should not require hospital based nursing home care. At www.va.gov/sta/guide/division.asp you can determine the locations & phone numbers of all VA medical centers. Contact the one nearest you and request to speak with a Social Worker for assistance if you are interested in this VHA program.

VA Exempt From Budget Reduction

Congress decided to exempt the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget from the 1 percent across-the-board reduction that was applied to other fiscal year

2006 discretionary spending. Spending for veterans' health care has risen from \$19.3 billion in FY 2001 to approximately \$30 billion in FY 2005, a 55 percent increase. The President recently signed the appropriations bill providing VA more than \$70 billion in total funding for FY2006, which includes an increase in veterans' medical care spending of 18 percent over the past two years. In addition VA received \$1.5 billion in supplemental funds in August 2005 after a health care funding shortfall was discovered. VA, unable to use the entire amount in FY 2005, will roll more than a billion dollars into FY2006.

VA Budget Committee Schedule

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman announced the 2006 schedule for the annual budget and legislative presentations of national veterans' service organizations. These full committee hearings will occur in February and will provide veterans groups and military organizations the opportunity to present their budget and legislative views prior to the Committee's 2007 budget views and estimates submission to the Budget Committee.

The hearing schedule for February and September 2006 includes four full committee hearings; whereby leadership of the VSOs and MSOs will present their budget views on February 8 and their legislative views on February 15 and 16. For the first time in its history, the Committee will host VSO and MSO leaders for an end-of-year hearing scheduled for September.

news briefs cont...

VA Prescription Refills through MyHealtheVet

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is now providing veterans their prescription drug refills with greater convenience, speed and security, thanks to a new service available to them over the Internet. More than 70,000 prescriptions have been refilled using this added service to VA's "MyHealtheVet" web site where the personal online health record system designed for veterans in the VA health care system is located. The prescription refill service began on 31 AUG 05. It has quickly emerged as one of the more popular features in the MyHealtheVet system, which connects with VA's electronic records system. When a veteran orders a prescription refill, the request is routed to VA's computer system to be filled by one of the department's outpatient mail pharmacies. The refill is then sent directly to the veteran, eliminating the need for a trip to the pharmacy and a wait in line. On 11 NOV MyHealtheVet marked its second anniversary by adding three new health records that veterans can keep in a secure electronic environment and make available to VA health professionals nationwide

- 1) Blood oxygen levels taken from a pulse oximeter
- 2) Daily food intake in the Food Journal, and
- 3) Physical activity and exercise in the Activity Journal.

Among the services already available to veterans, their families and VA care providers at MyHealtheVet is the ability to track health conditions - entering readings such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels - and to record medications, al-

lergies, military health history, medical events and tests. Veterans can also include personal information, such as emergency contacts, names of medical providers and health insurance information. From MyHealtheVet they can access health information on the Internet from VA, MedlinePlus via the National Library of Medicine, and Healthwise, a commercial health education library. Future expansion of MyHealtheVet will allow VA patients to view appointments and co-payment balances, access portions of their medical records, and give access to their records to doctors, family members and others. As of 31 OCT more than 100,000 veterans had signed up to use MyHealtheVet, which is located on VA's Web site at www.myhealth.va.gov.

Survivor Benefit Plan Loses

The House refused to go along with either of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) fixes that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) persuaded the Senate to pass, primarily for cost reasons (in combination, the programs would cost about \$9 billion over Congress' 10-year scoring period). So SBP widows will still have to pay the "Widows Tax" (i.e. VA payments deducted from their SBP benefits if the member's death was service-connected) and retirees who already have paid more than 30 years of SBP premiums will have to wait at least another year to win the same paid-up SBP coverage that post-1978 retirees enjoy.

CRDP

The National Military Family Association reported that (according to the NDAA Conference Report), Congress has agreed to accelerate the timetable to 1 OCT 09 for phase-in of full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veter-

ans' disability compensation for military retirees who are rated 100% disabled by the VA for non-combat injuries and have individual unemployability (IU) as a factor in their rating. Current law would have made them wait until 2014 to receive full payment of both. In doing so the committee rejected Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) Senate-passed plan which would have allowed those retired veterans who are rated IU and compensated at 100% by the VA, to be paid retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005..

In accordance with Section 1414 of Title 10, U.S. Code requirements the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) announced the open season election period for those retirees entitled to both Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement Disability Pay (CRDP). Retirees who fall into this category should have received individual letters from DFAS indicating their election choice and current compensation amount. During the open season, retirees can elect to change from one type of payment to the other. Retirees can receive either CRDP or CRSC, but not both. Therefore, retirees have the right to change the type of payment they receive. To be valid, DFAS must receive an election to change a retiree's entitlement no later than Jan. 31, 2006. Elections received after Jan. 31, 2006 will not be honored. Retirees are not required to make an election. If retirees do not make an election, they will continue to receive their current entitlement for 2006, even though it may not be the greater entitlement. A retiree's election will remain in effect until the next open season. Those who have questions can reach representatives at DFAS by calling 1-800-472-7098 or (216) 522-5955; or by fax at 1-800-469-6559. You also can write DFAS at: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130

news briefs cont...

Eligible retired members who have not yet done so, must apply for CRSC through their branch of service. Additional information on CRSC, guidance, and addresses are available online on the DFAS Retired Pay's website at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas/money/retired/crsc-home.htm>. There, you can also find a CRSC application form. Eligibility for CRDP is automatic based on meeting minimum disability rating criteria and does not require an application.

New Disabled Veterans' Memorial

The new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial is expected to open in the year 2010 adjacent to Independence Avenue in view of the U.S. Capitol. The memorial will honor the service and sacrifice of an estimated 2.3 million disabled veterans. People interested in making a tax-deductible contribution can make secure, online donations through the foundation's website at <http://www.avdlm.com/>; by calling toll-free (888) 525-2009; or by sending a check to: The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 302, Arlington, VA 22201-3367. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will be the first permanent physical tribute to the nation's disabled veterans.

Bugles Across America

At www.buglesacrossamerica.org can be found the Bugles Across America organization. This is a non-profit network of buglers from across the country. It is a non-profit network of 4494 buglers who volunteer their time to play "Taps" at veterans' funerals. They also play at other military events, including Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances. If the need arises you

can complete an online request form for a bugler at:

www.buglesacrossamerica.org/volunteer.php. You will be required to indicate on what date a bugler is needed, the state, city, and funeral home location one is needed at plus your contact information.

USMC Stamps

In honor of the 230th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, the U.S. Postal Service released the U.S. Marine Corps Heritage Collection of four distinguished Corps postage stamps. The Distinguished Marine Stamps honor four of the most reputable Marine Corps war heroes including Gunnery Sgt. John Basilone, Sgt. Maj. Daniel J. Daly, Lt. Gen. John A. Lejuene and Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. Purchase of the stamps is available exclusively on Marine Corps installations at \$7.40 for a book of 20 stamps. Other post offices began sale of the stamps on 11 NOV. First Day Cover Envelopes with a distinctive Eagle Globe and Anchor design are also available on site or at www.marineclub.com. The Marine Corps specially produced two postmarks of the 1st Marine Division Fleet Marine Force unit insignia and the Camp Pendleton base insignia for the stamps. The postmarks are specific to Camp Pendleton and will only be available there and Washington, D.C. Also available for purchase is a U.S. Marine Corps silver dollar with a memorial of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima on one side and the Corp's emblem on the other side. Proceeds from this coin will help build the Marine Corps National Museum in Quantico VA

Travel Discounts for Seniors and Veterans

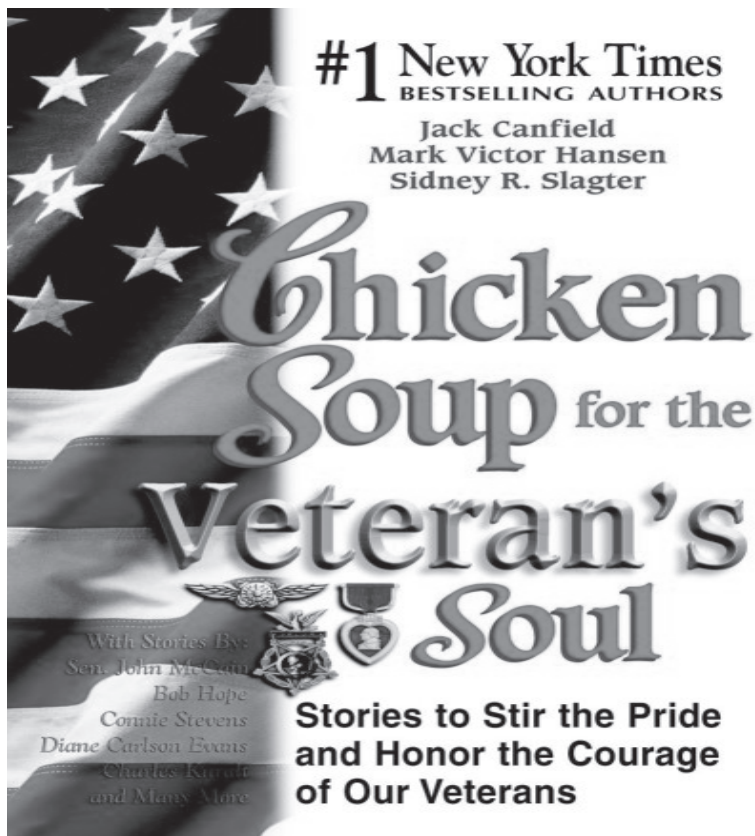
Never assume you are not eligible for some type of discount when traveling. Take the position nothing ventured nothing gained and al-

ways ask when planning your trip or purchasing your tickets. Some advance research on the internet often will give enough details to allow you to ask the right questions or bring the appropriate documentation that will save you money. Most transportation companies have some sort of website that will provide information similar to what appears below:

TRAIN: Amtrak travelers 62 years of age and over can receive a 15% discount on the applicable adult rail fare on most Amtrak trains. This discount does not apply to sleeper accommodations, the Auto Train, or weekday Acela Express/Metroliner service. A 10% discount is available to seniors on the North America Rail Pass offered jointly by Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada. This Pass provides each holder with 30 consecutive travel days of unlimited rides and stopovers to over 900 destinations throughout the United States and Canada. This is a very affordable way to see both countries. Amtrak also has discounts for children age 2 to 15 (50%), students (15%), military (10%) and veteran's (15%). Veterans and student discount cards require an annual membership fee (~\$20).

BUS:

1. Delta Charter Bus travelers age 50 and over receive 10% off all tours inclusive of daily scheduled casino runs.
2. Gray Line Bus travelers age 50 and over who are AARP receive 10% discount on any half or full day tour at participating locations throughout the US, Canada and Mexico.
3. Greyhound Bus (www.greyhound.com) travelers save 10% by purchasing their ticket online for advertised locations. Seniors age 62 and over may request a 5% discount on unrestricted passenger fares.



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In memory of Wyman Vanmdiver,
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chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine
1609 S. 23rd Street
Rogers, AR 72758
(479) 636-2287

Here it is, Christmas Eve, and everything seems to be in place except the February devotion and I have until midnight to get it to Cheryl or it will be late. Needing help as usual, I turn to the Lord and

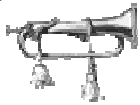
ask Him to put some thoughts into this feeble mind of mine. The first one that came though loud and clear was, "look back on 2005 and remember the great blessings that came our way." Having dedicated more than 30 years to our unique organization, the second thought that came to mind was the frustration of actions taken by a small segment trying to influence the whole. "This too will pass". I believe with all my heart that things will get better. Third, we must look forward and remember that the true and living God has all kinds of blessings stored up just for us and all we have to do is praise His holy name. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, our God and our salvation...look down upon Your people and forgive us

when we might offend, hurt or fail to love others as we should. May praise and glory be sent Your way, for all the good and great things that we receive from you as we face the trials and tasks of each and every day. Be with those who are suffering in any way. Those standing in harm's way. Those who are still listed as POW/MIAs. Please Lord, continue to bless the USA as You have in the past and may praise and glory be unto You our Lord and our God. AMEN.

Thought for the month: As we go further into 2006, may we always remember Your love and kindness that we are to share with others.

Ex-POW Bulletin
February 2006
25



taps



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

ANTHONY, Richard, 84, of Greeley, CO passed away Dec. 1, 2005. He served in the AAC during WWII and was shot down over Germany in April, 1944. He was liberated a year later. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, 1 daughter, 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

BARROW, Elbert, of Kinston, N C passed away Nov. 28, 2005 at the age of 81. He served in the Army, Co. C, 320th Inf. He was wounded in action and held in Stalag 12A until liberation. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Ruby Grace, 2 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

CALDWELL, Blanche Castler, of Wichita Falls, TX died Nov. 8, 2005. She was a member of the Wichita Falls Chapter, AXPOW. Her late husband, Frank Caldwell, Jr. was a POW in Germany during WWII.

CLARK, Gordon F. passed away December 11, 2005 in Tacoma, WA at the age of 81. Gordy served as a tanker in the 82nd Armored Battalion, 9th Armored Division. He was captured and severely injured during the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW in Germany, Stalag 5A. He escaped prior to the end of WWII and successfully made his way back to the American lines. Gordy is survived by 1 sister, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren as well as 4 stepsons, 2 step-grandchildren and 1 step-great-grandchild. He was a long time member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization as well as a long time and devoted member of the Tacoma Chapter.

DAHL, Arlane A., of Minnetonka, MN died Nov. 4, 2005. She was 82. Arlane was the wife of Ex-POW Floyd R. Dahl, who served with the 106th Div., 590th FA, Btry C. He was held in Stalag IVB. They were married for 54 years and both were members of AXPOW. She is survived by Floyd, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

DETWILER, Mary Alice, age 86, died Nov. 22, 2005 in Santa Barbara, CA. She was a life member of AXPOW, along with her husband, Donald. Donald was a POW in Germany. He was captured while serving with the 390th BG. Other survivors include 1 son and 1 daughter.

ESKRIDGE, Thelma L., 84, of Muskogee, OK passed away Nov. 24, 2005. She was 84. Thelma and her husband, ex-POW Nathan, were longtime members of the Muskogee Chapter, AXPOW; she was Adjutant of the chapter for a number of years. In addition to her husband, Thelma is survived by 1 son, 1 brother, 2 grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

FLOYD, Kay, of Springfield, MO, passed away Dec. 25, 2005. She was the wife of Steve Floyd; both were long-time members of Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. Steve was a service officer for many years and worked diligently for the Agua Fria Chapter, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She is survived by her husband Steve, and one son.

GRUBB, Evelyn Fowler, 74, of Melbourne FL died Dec. 28, 2005. Evelyn was the national coordinator of the National League of POW/MIA Families in 1971-72. Her late husband, Wilmer, was shot down over North Vietnam in Jan. 1966. He later died in prison camp. Sur-

vivors include 4 sons, 4 grandchildren and companion Frank Campbell.

GRUSH, Ruth Riviere, of River Ridge, LA died Aug. 30, 2005. She and her husband, John (captured in Budapest, Hungary) were members of the South Louisiana Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to John, she leaves 4 sons and 8 grandchildren.

HEINZEL, Charles, 82, of Presque Isle, MI passed away Sept. 18, 2005. He served in the AAC during WWII. His B-24 was shot down and he spent 10 months in Stalag Luft IV until liberation. His wife of 59 years, Theresa, survives him; he also leaves 3 sons, 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 1 brother.

KERN, Richard L., of Topeka, KS died Nov. 24, 2005. He was 87. During WWII, he served with the 306th BG as a ball turret gunner. He was shot down on "Black Thursday" and he spent 18 months in Stalag 17B. His wife of 63 years, Marcella, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

LIPSKY, Henry "Hank" of Arlington, VA. Hank served with the 8th AF, 533rd BS, 381st BG and flew out of England. He was shot down over Germany and held POW in Luft 1, Barth. Hank is survived by his wife, Jean, 2 sons and 1 granddaughter.

McBRIDE, Charles A., of Muscatine, IA passed away Nov. 18, 2005 at the age of 80. Charles served with the 8th AF, 487th BG. He was shot down and held in Stalags II and IV. He will be missed by his wife of 54 years, Phyllis, 2 daughters and 4 beloved grandchildren.

MOORE, Ray, 81, of Maryville, TN died July 16, 2005. During WWII, he was with the 29th Div., 115th Inf.,

taps continued

Co. G. He was captured after the Normandy Invasion and held in camps 12A, 4B and 3C. Ray was a member of the Smoky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 55 years, Bernice, 1 son and 2 grandchildren.

MOTZ, Philip, 92, of Columbus, OH passed away Dec. 5, 2005. He was captured while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division during WWII. Survivors include his wife, Monabelle, 1 daughter, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MULCAHY, Esther May, 80, of Bel Air, MD passed away Aug. 10, 2005. Esther was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Albert J. Bland MD North Chapter. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard. She is survived by one brother and his family.

ORNELAS, Isaac V., age 75, passed away Nov. 11, 2005 in Bakersfield, CA. He served in the Army - 1st Cav. Div, then 45th Inf. Div. He was captured in Korea and spent 14 months as a POW. Ike was a member of the Cessna Sargent Chapter, AXPOW. He was also active at the national level, serving as National Director and National Jr. Vice Commander. He leaves 3 sons, 1 daughter and 13 grandchildren.

POTTS, Hal H., 84, of Jefferson, died December 24, 2005 in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Potts was a POW of the Japanese for 42 months during WWII. He was in the 440th Aviation Ordinance Company stationed in the Philippines. He was wounded Dec. 8, 1942 in the air attack by Japanese forces against Clark Field. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He was held in Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Bilibid in the Philippines before being transported to slave labor camps in Japan. He was an active member of AXPOW on the State and Local levels. Survivors include two sons.

PRAETORIUS, Everett, 86, of Johnstown, NY died Aug. 23, 2005. He served with the 82nd Airborne Glider Div. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held as a POW until the end of the war. Everett was a member of the Northeast NY Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruth, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

RUPERT, Bertha, of Coronado, California, died August 27, 2005. She was the wife of Frank Daniel Rupert, for 36 years.

THOMPSON, Doris, of Peoria, Arizona, died Jan. 5, 2006. She was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Agua Fria Chapter. She is survived by her husband, Maynard, who served in the 2nd Inf., 5th Div. Maynard was captured and held in Stalag 13D. She is also survived by 1 son and 1 daughter.

THOMSON, Vinton, of Seabrook, TX, formerly of Jackson, MS and Onawa, IA died Nov. 12, 2005 at the age of 87. He served with "H" Company, 134th Inf. Reg., 35th Inf. Div. He was captured in France and held as a POW primarily at Oflag 64. Survivors include 1 daughter and 1 son.

TIRAPELLI, Attilio M. "Terry" passed away Aug. 19, 2005. He was 80. Terry was captured while serving with the 379th BG. He was held in Stalag Luft III. He leaves his wife, Pat, 1 son, 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren.

TWAIT, Joseph I., 82, of Sandwich, IL died Dec. 7, 2005. He was captured while serving with the Army's 101st Airborne Division. He spent one year as a POW. He was a member of the Fox River Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Bernice, and two grandchildren.

VAIRA, Alvin, age 81, of Denver, CO passed away Nov. 12, 2005. He served with the 8th AF, 385th BG,

551st BS during WWII. He was shot down over Germany and held in Luft 1. Alvin is survived by his wife, Dixie, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

VICK, Wilma Sue, 82, of Chico, CA died Dec. 6, 2005. She was a devoted homemaker and wife of 64 years to ex-POW Harold J. Harold was a tank commander with Co. C, 194th Tank Bn. on Bataan. In addition to her beloved husband, she leaves 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

WALKER, Helen, widow of ex-POW Dail Walker, passed away April 27, 2005. She and her late husband were members of the Clearwater, FL Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include her daughter, Rachel Savage.

WOLF, Russell A., past Commander of Collier Chapter in Naples, FL died December 18, 2005. He served as a Sergeant in 82nd AB Div. as a paratrooper. He was captured at Salerno and sent to Stalag 2B-3B. He is survived by his wife, Shirley M.

WOODRUFF, Cecil Dorven "Hap", of Overbrook, KS passed away recently. He was a member of the Kansas Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, Hap served with the 8th AF, 457th BG. He was shot down and interned until liberation. He leaves three daughters, three stepchildren, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

YOUNG, William Martin II, of Dixon Springs, TN passed away Aug. 17, 2005. He served with the 480th BG, then the 36th FG as a pilot. He was shot down and imprisoned in Sagan, then forced to march to Moosburg. He is survived by his wife, Faith, 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grandchildren. As preservationist, pilot, pioneer and patriot, his family and friends miss him.

KEEPING THE PROMISE

Benefits and Services for Former Prisoners of War

This is a new brochure, put out by the VA. It is designed to introduce former POWs to the VA. Clip it out and give it to an ex-POW who is not in the system, or who does not have the benefits to which he is entitled.

DEFINITION OF A FORMER PRISONER OF WAR

Period of War – a former POW is a veteran who, while on active duty in the military, air, or naval service, was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents or a hostile force.

Periods of war include: World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and service after August 2, 1990.

Peacetime-Comparable to War-time – a former POW also includes a veteran who, while on active duty during peacetime, was forcibly detained or interned by a foreign government or its agents or a hostile force, if the circumstances of the internment were comparable to wartime internment (for example: Iran, Somalia or Kosovo).

HEALTH CARE

The VA health care system affords priority treatment for former POWs.

Former POWs who have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA health care. This includes hospital, nursing home, and outpatient treatment.

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Former POWs who do not have a service-connected disability are eligible for VA hospital and nursing home care – without regard to their ability to pay.

They are also eligible for outpatient care on a priority basis – second only to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

While former POWs are receiving treatment in an approved outpatient treatment program, they are eligible for needed medicines, glasses, hearing aids, or prostheses.

Former POWs are also eligible for all needed dental care.

There is no co-payment requirement for former POWs at VA pharmacies.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Former POWs are eligible for VA service-connected disability compensation to the same extent as other veterans. Certain conditions, however, are presumed to be related to time in captivity. These presumptive disabilities are based on studies of the long-term effects of captivity, deprivation, trauma, and cold injury on former POWs. For first-time claimants, there must be a special POW Protocol Examination conducted at a VA medical facility to determine the existence and degree of these disabilities. Former POWs who are diagnosed with any of the conditions in the five categories below are presumed to be service-connected for those conditions, ***regardless of their length of time in captivity:***

Neuro-Psychiatric.

Disabilities in this category are normal consequences of POW captivity. Some of these disabilities can show up many years following captivity and can produce mild to severe symptoms.

Irritability, anxiety, restlessness, sleep disorders, and unsociability are only a few of the symptoms. These disabilities include:

- Psychosis
- Dysthymic Disorder (Depressive Neurosis)
- Any of the Anxiety States (e.g., PTSD)

Cold Injury.

The freezing of tissue. The extremities farthest from the heart are usually affected, primarily the nose, ears, hands and feet. This usually produces long-term side effects such as numbness, discoloration, excessive swelling, pain, and possibly arthritis in the affected areas.

Traumatic Arthritis.

This disability looks and is treated like degenerative arthritis (arthritis associated with age) except it is caused by severe trauma to specific joints.

Stroke.

Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke.

Heart Disease.

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension). Ischemic heart disease and coronary artery disease are included within this provision. Complications of atherosclerotic heart disease are included. Complications may include myocardial infarction (“heart attack”), congestive heart failure (“heart failure”), and arrhythmia (“irregular heart beat”). Hypertensive vascular disease refers to disease associated with elevated blood pressure. Complications caused by hypertensive vascular disease are included. Dis-

KEEPING THE PROMISE

Benefits and Services for Former Prisoners of War

eases arising from viral or bacterial causes are not included.

The following additional conditions are presumed to be service-connected for **Former POWs who were captive for 30 days or more:**

Nutritional.

These disabilities result from the long-term effects of the malnutrition suffered as a POW. While the former POW may not be suffering from malnutrition now, it is possible to have residual disabilities from malnutrition during captivity.

These include:

- **Avitaminosis** - a disease resulting from lack of vitamins.
- **Beriberi** - a disease marked by inflammatory or degenerative changes of the nerves, digestive system, and heart caused by a lack of thiamin.
- **Malnutrition** (including atrophy associated with malnutrition).
- **Pellagra** - a disease marked by dermatitis, stomach disorders, intestinal disorders, and nerve symptoms associated with a lack of niacin.
- **Any other nutritional deficiency.**

Helminthiasis.

Infectious residuals from any type of parasitic worm.

Gastrointestinal Disabilities.

Includes:

- **Peptic Ulcer Disease** - ulcerations of the digestive tract.
- **Irritable Bowel Syndrome** - symptoms can include pain and constipation, chronic diarrhea, or both.
- **Chronic Dysentery** - frequent, watery stools with rectal/abdominal pain, fever and dehydration.

Peripheral Neuropathy. A neurological disorder characterized by numbness and tingling of the ex-

tremities. It can be caused by nutritional deficiency and will be evaluated by VA as a separate disability for each extremity affected.

Cirrhosis of the Liver. A chronic disease of the liver in which normal tissue is replaced with fibrous tissue and associated loss of liver function. It can result from nutritional deprivation or infectious hepatitis.

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

DIC is payable to the surviving spouse (and parents and children in some cases) of a former POW who:

- was a service member who died on active duty; or
- died from service-related disabilities; or
- died on or before September 30, 1999, and was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 10 years immediately preceding death; or
- died after September 30, 1999, and was continuously rated totally disabled for a service-connected condition (including individual unemployability) for at least 1 year immediately preceding death.

DIC is terminated for a surviving spouse who remarries, but is resumed if the remarriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment. Generally, DIC entitlement continues for a surviving spouse who remarries on or after attaining age 57.

OTHER VA BENEFITS

The following are other significant VA benefits to which certain veterans may be entitled: education and training, vocational rehabilitation & employment services, home loan guaranty, insur-

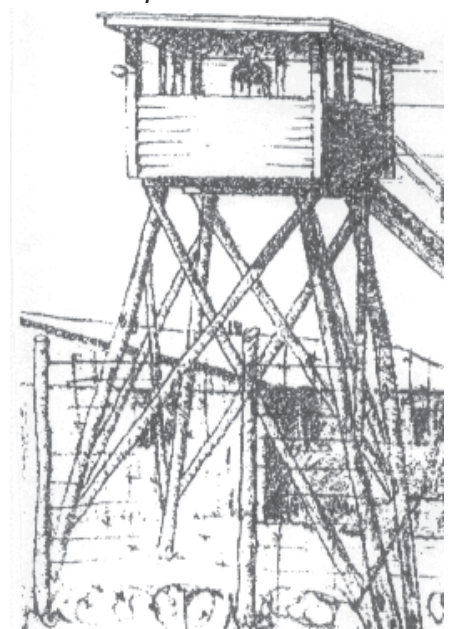
ance, and burial benefits. Certain survivors may be entitled to health care, death pension, education and training, home loan guaranty, and burial in a national cemetery. Contact VA for more information.

FOR ASSISTANCE

A Former POW Coordinator has been designated at each VA regional office who can provide you information about and assistance in applying for the benefits and services available to you.

Call toll-free
1-800-827-1000 for VA benefits
information
(TDD 1-800-829-4833)
or
1-877-222-VETS for VA health
care
OR
Visit the VA Web Site

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan"



Ex-POW Bulletin
February 2006

new members

National Headquarters
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979
marsha.coke@axpow.org



New Life Members Welcome Home! *denotes new member

Theresa E. Delmerico
39064
Las Vegas, NV
Widow of Frank
Delmerico, Jr.
Dulag Luft 1

June Polvado **39065**
Mesquite, TX
Widow of Robert Polvado
17B 4/44-5/45

Iris Bowers ***39066**
Lima, OH
Widow of Donald L.
Bowers
Bitburg Mainz
Oranienberg
Gremervorde Poland 12/
24/44-4/28/45



John Edward Wolf
***39067**
Bradenton, FL
34 BG 4 BS
Dulag Frankfort Luft 4
9/27/44-4/26/45

Olaf O. Book ***39068**
Forest City, IA
Army

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7A Bavaria Munich

Edwin Braswell ***39069**
Fayetteville, NC
15 AAC 347 BS 99 BG
Bucharest Romania 7/9/
44-8/26/44

Lillian Leete ***39070**
Sheds, NY
Widow of Gerald A. Leete
12A 1/1/45-4/28/45

George W. Dennis
***39071**
Muttontown, NY



8 AF 381 BG H
Luft 3 13D 7A 5/21/44-
4/29/45

Daniel J. McCabe ***39072**
Napa, CA
83 Inf 33a Reg CO E
12A 3/2/44-3/29/45

David W. Mills
Shirley ***39073 39074**
Scottsdale, AZ
Fox CO 15 Reg 3 Inf Div
Mining Camp 4/24/53-8/
24/53

Stephen F. Orleanski
Joanne **39075 39076**
Oceanport, NJ
CO L 135 Inf
2B Prussia

Everett M. King, Jr.
Evelyn M. **39077 39078**
Whitethorn, CA

Army
No camp, escaped 2/1/
68-2/8/68

John E. Washburn
Margaret M **39079**
39080
Warner Robins, GA
15 AF 455 BG 342 BS
Hospital in Bucharest
Romania 8/17/44-8/31/
44

Edsel H. Flanders
Cristeen **7678 39081**
Goose Creek, SC
7 Armd Div
2A 2B 2C 2D

Rosie P. Wolfe **39082**
Breckenridge, TX
Widow of Everett Stroud
3B Prussia 1943-45

Mario J. Angelo **39083**
Rochester Hills, MI
CO D 1 BN 423 Reg 106
Inf Div
Dulag 11B 12/19/44-5/
27/45

Aaron Kuptsow **39084**
Philadelphia, PA
8 AF 398 BG 600 BS
Dulag Luft, Luft1 11/26/
44-5/45

Helen R. Wolf **39085**
Birmingham, AL
Widow of Irvin N. Wolf
Luft 4, 3, 7A

Shelah Bellis Hockman
39086
Owosso, MI
Civilian
Santo Tomas

Edith Stelzer **39087**
Laguna Hills, CA
Widow of Bernard Stelzer

Dulag Luft, Luft 4, 11A

Virginia Brown **39088**
Yuba City, CA
Widow of Hugh T. Brown
Stalag 4

Lynda McDaniel ***39089**
Silverdale, WA
Daughter of Douglas
Morse, PAC

Kate Thompson ***39090**
Puyallup, WA
Widow of James E.
Thompson
Germany

Herve L. Da Gesse
***39091**
Sun City West, AZ
2B

Benny Mark Rayborn
***39092**
Lumberton, MS
Son of Mark Rayborn,
ETO



Alvin M. "Rosenberg"
Russell
Janet **39093 39094**
Suffern, NY
8 AF 78 FG 82 FS
18C 4/17/45-5/29/45

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

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

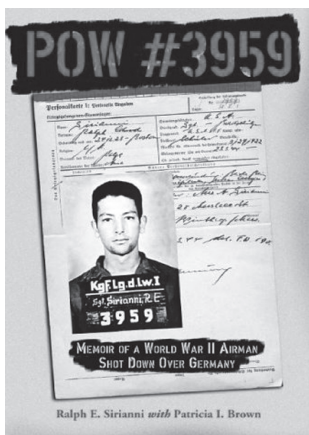
This memoir offers harrowing stories of combat, including detailed descriptions of each of Sirianni's combat missions; reveals the horrors of confinement and the despair of skin-of-the-teeth survival; and remembers camaraderie in the face of German abuse. Appendices offer excerpts from Sirianni's POW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

\$29.95

Publisher: McFarland & Company

ISBN: 0786422971

www.amazon.com



Ralph E. Sirianni with Patricia I. Brown

50/50 drawing

Latest winners drawn in Denver, CO

October, 2005

1st Place, \$1140.00 - Fred Frey, Montgomery, AL
2nd Place, \$855.00 - Joe Tannehill, McAlester, OK
3rd Place, \$570.00 - Victor Breite, St Louis, MO
4th Place, \$285.00 - John Petruska, Pittsburgh, PA

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes.

The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing

3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40

Arlington, TX 76010-5396.

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active
since 1946

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

Annual Dues \$10.00 < > LIFE Membership \$75.00

The CUB Magazine has been published every quarter since August 1946.

Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/membership.htm>

Or contact John Kline, Membership Chairman

Past President '97-'98; Editor, The CUB since 1987

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: jpk@mm.com

106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

Solid Bronze Grave Medallion



actual size: 4" diameter x 3/8" thick

weight: 1 pound

content: copper 86%/zinc 4%/tin 6%/lead 4%

This is a non-profit endeavor for all Ex-Prisoners of War, spouses, National Headquarters, Chapters, to get this medallion on all Ex-POW markers or headstones. Contact the next-of-kin and the cemetery to get their approval to have these medallions put on the deceased ex-POW's marker, and have yours for when the time comes.

Outdoor grave medallion, drilled, tapped, & stud-ded \$30.00 each _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Make all checks and money orders payable to: Stalag Luft IV. Send orders to: Grave Medallion, Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St. Lawrence, IN 46226-2018.

The Board of Directors has given me approval to make and sell these grave medallions.

*Check with your cemetery to make sure you can place this medallion on the headstone.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
February 2006**

American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation and entry to: American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396 You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support.	American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation and entry to: American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396 You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support.
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request for membership application

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

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for an application**

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936

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(817) 649-0109 fax

e-mail: hq@axpow.org

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Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40
Annual Membership Rates	
Single Membership	\$ 30
Husband & wife	\$ 40

Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40
Annual Membership Rates	
Single Membership	\$ 30
Husband & wife	\$ 40

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for vintage
photo if desired

Captivity data obtained from official military records.

**Ex-POW Bulletin
February 2006**



Magnetic Ribbons \$5.00

AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	7.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	6.00
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	3" Blazer Patch	3.50	Aluminum License Plate	3.00
Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	4" Blazer Patch	3.50	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire pin	2.50	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	2.00	8" Vinyl Decal	5.00
Life Member pin	4.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	4.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"	1.50
Brooch pin	4.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Bumper Sticker "Freedom – Ask us"	1.50
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	State Department Commander		Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Logo pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		Memorial Seals	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		AXPOW Daisies (dozen)	1.50
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Service Officer · Legislative Officer		In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)	1.25
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	7.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		Wall Clock (battery included)	20.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)				AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	20.00	12x18 inch American Flag	5.00	Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)		12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag		AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	10.00		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	18.50	3x5 ft. AX-POW Flag w/3-color logo		POW Medal Poster Print	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00	AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord	9.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	POW Videotape – ETO or Pacific	11.00
Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00			"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	4.00			Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00

Now accepting Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$3.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$7.00

For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$10.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$13.00

For orders over 100.00, add \$18.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handlng/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

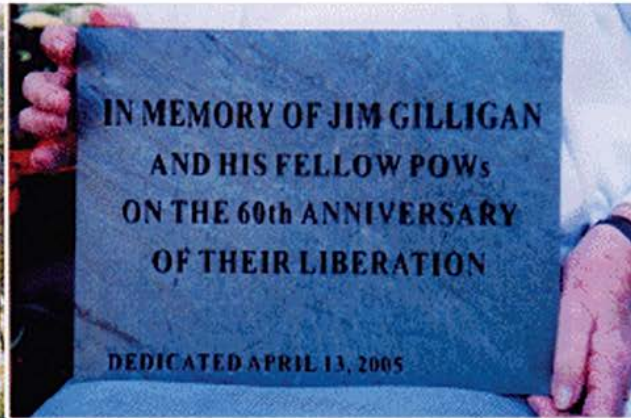
Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpowqm@aol.com



From top clockwise: 1&2 - "My dad, Jim Gilligan, was part of the Sicilian invasion (45th/180th). He was captured 7/10/43 and spent 22 months in Stalag 2B. He never talked about his time as a POW and is long deceased. With the help of this wonderful organization and its members, I have been able to gather information about his time as a prisoner. My

family wanted to recognize the 60th anniversary of his liberation, along with so many other POWs, so we decided to erect the Jim Gilligan Liberation Flag Pole. On behalf of the Gilligan family, we thank all former POWs for your service to our country. Sincerely Kathleen Gilligan, kathygilligan@aol.com."



3&4 - Members of the Albert J. Bland MD North Chapter, AX-POW participating in Memorial Day and POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies. Bottom left: Walter D. Czawlytko, Cmdr. Milton O. Price, Sr., JVC Bud Huson and the Honorable Robert L. Erlich, Jr., Governor of MD on Memorial Day. Just above: Cmdr. Milton O. Price, Sr., General Richard B. Myers, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, JVC Bud Huson and William Long, Sept. 16, 2005, The Pentagon.

AXPOW Vests!

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

\$50.00 each, includes shipping/handling

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



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

change of address form

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

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: Marsha.coke@axpow.org

Subscription Rates -- non members
\$20.00 per year

Foreign subscriptions
\$30.00 per year

Now accepting MasterCard/Visa

All orders for products sold by
AXPOW National Organization,
including dues/subscriptions
should be mailed to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

