

# *Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs*

Summary Report: Research  
National Archives Records Administration Washington, D.C.  
January 10-15, 2011

John Zimmerlee, Director of Research, traveled to the National Archives to conduct research in the institution's Korean and Cold War POW/MIA records. Sixty hours of research was conducted in thirteen record groups consisting of 228 boxes of approximately 500 documents each.

A total of 886 documents were considered valuable and were scanned electronically. After another 96 hours of follow-up review, it was determined that 426 of those documents contained new information on 345 cases of missing American servicemen. Sufficient information was found in 203 of those cases to support a change in status:

- 160 MIA cases should be reclassified Prisoner-of-War
- 8 MIA cases should be reclassified Died-in-Enemy-Hands
- 8 MIA cases should be reclassified Killed-In-Action
- 15 KIA cases should be reclassified as Prisoner-of-War
- 12 KIA cases should be reclassified as Died-in-Enemy-Hands

The remaining *Prisoner-of-War* cases were enhanced with witness accounts of sightings and/or deaths.

A typical example is the case of Air Force Sgt. Louis Henry Bergmann, AF17124468 (official status *MIA-1951*). The government report on the B-29 loss incident states:

“Aircraft attacked by 15-20 MIGs, #2 engine and entire wing caught fire, exploded, crashed into mountain; tail gunner of another B-29 observed crash & no parachutes observed.”

The government's *Korean War Air Loss Database* (created in 2004) continues to list Sgt. Bergmann as *MIA* . . . no further information available. However, the attached statement (in government hands since 1953) of six repatriated *POWs* clearly indicates that Sgt. Bergmann was held in captivity, taken to China for interrogation, and reportedly died at Pak's Palace (North Korean POW camp named for the officer in charge).

The families of missing servicemen deserve to have this kind of knowledge about their missing loved ones and copies of the relevant documents. Locating and informing the families continues to be a vital facet of the *Coalition's* mission!

*(Note: Documentation on additional cases is available upon request.)*