

COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



WINTER

2013

There is a fundamental choice in perspective on life:

The glass is either half full or half empty. Reading between the lines of this newsletter, you may find yourself waffling between the two. In most instances, the news is not so much about what is happening but about what is not happening in the Korean/Cold War POW/MIA accounting effort.

We should be used to that by now. We've put all our eggs in the government's one basket for a long while. Unfortunately, that *humanitarian* commitment proved to be too vulnerable to ever changing *political* policy issues. Another ideal dashed. The Administration's current commitment to the mission has become something of a slight of hand act.



Moving patriotic speeches claim that the accounting effort is among the nation's highest priorities. These proclamations, however, have become the magician's model, diverting our attention from what's going on behind the curtain.

When the veil is pulled away, much of the commitment has disappeared. Live sightings continue to haunt us. Each effort to return search and recovery operations to North Korea disappears as quickly as a Siegfried and Roy tiger. The USRJC once produced important documents. For years now, big news there has revolved around the ongoing saga of high level

Voilà: On Our Own Again!

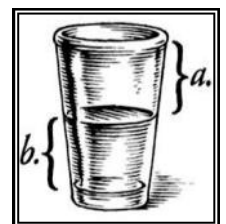
meetings and appointing commissioners ... non-

news events ... milk poured into a paper cylinder and when the cylinder is unfolded, nothing is there. A potential breakthrough archival agreement with China has produced two reports. Neither of them includes POW camp records, which will lead to answers for thousands of families.

This pattern suggests that it's time the families take a central role in the mission, become the hub of what needs to be a great wheel. To that end, the *Coalition's* agenda will focus on broadening the issue by reaching out to additional resources, added *spokes* to the wheel. The goal will be to coordinate these resources as a complement to the government's role, establishing some consistency and developing momentum. (See the *Coalition News* page for details.)

The answers are out there for so many families.

They wait in the archival records of the U.S., China and Russia. They lay in old Korean battlefields, on shelves in U.S. laboratories, and in the memories of eyewitnesses. All that's needed is a consistent commitment that builds momentum. We aren't that far off.



We can provide that consistency by working together as one strong voice. We can revitalize the Korean War mission to the point where this newsletter will be about progress being made, about the glass being half-full!

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President's Corner



My seasonal holiday card arrived from the President of the United States. You know, one president to another. These cards come when you write a letter to the White House. You undoubtedly will not get what you write about but will get a holiday card. It's nice; not a bad way to spend taxpayers' money. Then again, I get them.

These cards are generally like most holiday cards, with a picture of the family, *First Family*, in a seasonal setting. There's a generic message inside, auto-signed by the President and the family. Add in the Presidential Seal, of course. One year, President Obama broke tradition by sending a cozy picture of the family dog in front of a White House fireplace. No President. No family. Just the dog.

President Obama broke tradition again this past year. He sent a one-sided, off-white card, with a narrow gold border. Holly leaf branches, with berries, adorned each corner. The Presidential Seal is embossed in the top center. There is no picture. There is just this message:

I extend my warmest wishes this holiday season. Across our country, Americans are giving thanks for the tremendous service and sacrifice of all who have worn the uniform of the United States. And as we pay tribute to the brave men and women who have not returned from the battlefield,

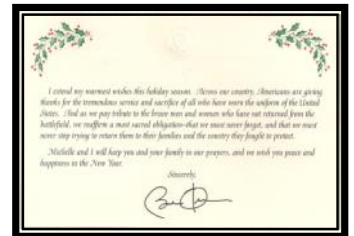
we affirm a most sacred obligation - that we must never forget, and that we must never stop trying to return them to their families and the country they fought to protect.

The card is autographed by the President alone.

I share this because the message is directed to the families of all the missing men. It is also worth noting that someone at the White House took time to distinguish the reason I am on the holiday card list. The message is tailored to why I wrote those letters. It indicates also that there are enough of us writing in on the issue to warrant the attention.

In my naive optimism, I choose to interpret this as being a gesture of good faith, one that has the President saying: *"World politics dictate that I'm unable to reach your loved ones right now, but I will."*

The more cynical among us, and I have my cynical side, will mock my optimism. It keeps me going, however.



Rick Downes
(Lt. Hal Downes - MIA)

United States

* As of publication, the government's 2013 Korean/Cold War annual family member update has been postponed pending resolution of the nation's budget troubles. The meeting was originally scheduled for April. DPMO hopes to reschedule the meeting before the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2013).

* Discussions between the U.S. and North Korea on returning humanitarian search and recovery teams to North Korea have reportedly been on hold pending recent U.S. and ROK elections. The ROK president will take office in February.

* Five missing men have been identified to date this year. Three of the men were returned in the 208 boxes of remains handed over by the North Koreans between 1991 and 1994. Two men were returned during the JFAs that ended in 2005. Forty men were identified in 2012. For all identifications, go to: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/news/news_releases/.

* The 208 boxes of remains returned by North Korea between 1990-1994 (believed to be 200-400 men) were labeled with the counties that the remains came from. Match

ing the locale with the known losses of American servicemen could be a strong factor in narrowing down the identification process.

* 17 sets of remains of missing servicemen from the Korean War, interred in Hawaii's Punch Bowl since the end of the war, have been approved for exhumation. Over 800 missing men from the war remain buried there.

* The recent DoD Rose Parade float honoring Korean War veterans *did not* include a tribute to the veterans still serving their tour of duty in uncertainty, POW/MIAs. This was a missed opportunity to present the mission to a nationwide viewing audience.

* On the other side of the coin, New England's Gillette Stadium will leave one black seat permanently unoccupied at all sporting events in recognition of POW/MIAs from all conflicts. A driving force behind this acknowledgement was an NGO, Rolling Thunder.



In A Land Far Away - Donna Knox

My father was lost, but never found, in the Korean War. *Missing* is quite different than killed. I have a shadow that follows me. It is the question never answered, it is the heartache born of what might have been and of what might have happened.

One Father's Day, my brother sent an innocent message: *Happy Father's Day, Dad.* I cried, again, and wrote back "Why does it break my heart every time?" His answer was direct. "At some point, we will need to accept that he's gone." It was logical. It was the truth. It is something I will never be able to do.

I have, from the first day I remember, needed to know what happened to my father. I have spent the last two decades trying to find out. This process is a sad one. You learn enough to know there is more that must be told. You learn men were taken and never returned, and that your father might have been among them. You learn enough to never, ever, be able to let go.

About ten years ago, I was invited to participate in a Department of Defense delegation to North Korea. I packed my bags to travel thousands of miles, a world away, and decades in time. I knew it would be a trip back to January 13, 1952, months before I was born, the night a part of me died.

Our landing was uneventful. Our escort was military. They took us to a state-owned facility for official guests. Though simply outfitted, the residence was lovely. We were free to walk its grounds, which I did frequently. There was a body of water on the property that appeared to be a habitat for beautiful white cranes. The cranes were large and stately birds. One of our hosts told me that North Koreans believe the crane is the symbol of eternal life.

Our main purpose in North Korea was to visit the sight of ongoing remains recovery operations. U.S. teams were in-country searching for Americans who had been buried and left behind during the war. We flew by helicopter to one recovery site, the Chosin Reservoir. When we arrived, we walked to the edge of a grave. The top surface of a set of remains had been exposed. The fallen man's position in his grave told a harsh story. You could tell he had not been buried by friends or anyone who cared about him. He'd been cut down and disposed of without kindness, with no reverence. It was a sight no loved one should ever see.

We traveled the next day by vehicle to the second site in Unsan county. The ride there took us through the western region, the area in which my father's plane went down. Rice paddies and flowers lay amongst low rising hills. Scattered farmhouses with thatched roofs dotted the landscape. It looked as though the country had stood still in time.

Our vehicles stopped at the side of the road. One of the soldiers invited me to get out. He pointed off in the distance with a sweeping gesture. "Your father...here. His plane crashed somewhere here."

My legs felt wooden as I walked into a field through tall waving flowers that whispered against each other in the breeze. My mind traveled back, as if in a time machine. It went to that night, when their engines stopped and the plane fell. I closed my eyes and I saw my father, maybe jumping into the darkness, maybe riding the plane into the ground. Either way, he'd been here. I could feel him around me. I hoped, wherever he was, that he could feel me around him. It was the most spiritual moment I've ever experienced.

When we returned to Pyongyang later that afternoon, we attended a dinner hosted on our behalf. I sat next to a military man about my same age. He spoke some broken English and told me he'd lost his father in the war, too. He didn't know what happened to his dad, either. I'd never stopped to think of losses suffered by the North Korean people. We each tried, but failed, to contain our emotions. From distant parts of the world we had grown up hating everything about each other. That night, we became friends.

We were taken the next day to the national war museum in Pyongyang. Our guide turned our attention to their main exhibit. There, from floor to vaulted ceiling, was the story of my father's loss mission. Two of his crew mates had been captured. They were forced to sign germ warfare confessions and had become poster boys for North Korean anti-American propaganda. I felt a sweat creep up under my hair. Did they know my father had been on the same mission?

By the time the trip was coming to an end, I felt almost schizophrenic. One minute I'd been confronted with deep rooted hatred and shameless repression that stirred dark and angry responses. Then, almost from nowhere, beauty or kindness or compassion or some powerful connection to my father would come upon me. It was a place for which I had no use, and it was a place that meant more to me than anywhere else.

It came time to leave. Our plane taxied then gathered its speed down the runway. I was sad. It felt like I was leaving my father behind. I turned to take one last look at this country that had swallowed him up. The sky was blue that day and the hills were green, but my eyes saw nothing past the white crane that flew just beyond the wing, keeping pace at my window. His large wings moved as though to music. The bird could have gone anywhere, but he went with us. Just before we lifted off, the crane turned his head to me and our eyes met. In that fleeting instant, I found my father and knew then I would never let him go. Like the crane, he would have eternal life.



(See Donna's blog for the full story of her visit: <http://donna-knox.blogspot.com/2012/06/in-land-far-away.html>)

Korea

DPRK (North Korea)

* While North Korea is well known for inconsistent, often inflammatory rhetoric, one statement stands out with interest. An August 2012 DPRK Foreign Ministry release included the following statement on U.S. response to their satellite rocket launch: *"It is true that both satellite carrier rocket and (a) missile with warhead use similar technology. The U.S. saw our satellite carrier rocket as a long-range missile that would one day reach the U.S. because it regards the DPRK as an enemy."* This raises an undoubtedly simplistic but intriguing question: What if the U.S. no longer viewed North Korea as an enemy?



* Former governor Bill Richardson visited North Korea in January. He was accompanied by Google executive, Eric Schmidt. Sophie Schmidt also went along and wrote an entertaining perspective on the experience (<https://sites.google.com/site/sophieinnorthkorea/home>). In a 2007 visit, Gov. Richardson returned with the remains of American soldiers lost during the Korean War.



Republic of Korea (South Korea)

* The remains of four American servicemen lost in South Korea were brought home in 2012. Two have been identified. JPAC conducted four South Korean investigations in 2012.

* The KFE is underway in South Korea, with a four person staff. The U.S. will still rely on MAKRI to locate U.S. servicemen's remains then tell JPAC.

* Park Geun-hye became the country's first female president. Park will replace Lee Myung-bak on Feb 25. She agreed that the country needs greater engagement with Pyongyang.

* On January 30, South Korea launched a satellite rocket. No UN sanctions were mentioned.

China

* China's 2011 archival report is scheduled to be released early this year. The 2012 report has been translated and is being analyzed. As of publication, there is no scheduled date of release.

* The 2009 and 2010 archival reports are available on DPMOs website: <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/korea/>

* In January, DPMO and JPAC representatives met with Chinese officials. There was a lot of discussion about possible recovery operations. Among the cases discussed was a Korean War loss in Liaoning Province.



Russia

* To date, the only in-depth research on American POWs from the Korean War was done in the 1990s on Americans known to be taken to the Soviet Gulags. The work was done by Task Force Russia and its later incarnation the U.S. /Russia Joint Commission (resulting report: The Gulag Study). There were also extensive reports done by Paul Cole (one for the Rand Corp).

* In November of last year, DPMO met with General (Ret.) Foglesong, Chairman of the U.S. Side of the USRJC. There was a lot of discussion about organization and direction. No reports.



Acronyms Key

CIL - Central Identification Laboratory
DASD - Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
DoD - Department of Defense
DMZ - Demilitarized Zone
DPMO - Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
DPRK - Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
JCSD - Joint Commission Support Directorate

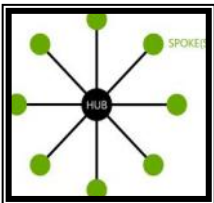
JFAs - Joint Field Activities (Remains recovery)
JPAC - Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
KFE - Korea Forward Element
KIA - Killed-in-action
MAKRI - South Korea's equivalent to JPAC
MIA - Missing-in-action
NARA - National Archives and Records Administration
ROK - Republic of Korea (South Korea)
USRJC - U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs

Our Collective Voice - Coalition News

* The *Coalition* welcomes three new board members! Gary Boyle has a long history as an outspoken advocate for the mission. Suzanne Schilling and Mary Jo Loftus have worked with the *Coalition* for years. All three family members will be valuable assets. Welcome!

* The search for Cold War missing servicemen is narrowing. We would like Cold War family members to share developments on the issues as a regular feature to the newsletter. (Please contact us at info below.)

* *Hub of The Wheel* - The *Coalition's* agenda generally focuses on governmental activity or inactivity, the primary driver of the mission. As we all know, the POW/MIA commitment of every president's administration since the war has been inconsistent at best. Any momentum gained is ultimately lost. To keep the mission moving forward with any consistency, the families need to adjust the paradigm. While the government will always be the major player, it benefits the mission as a whole if the families assume a central role; the *hub of the wheel*, if you will.



The challenge then becomes aligning support *spokes* to keep the wheel rolling. Here are some resources the *Coalition* will seek out:

The American People - The POW/MIA accounting mission is a national promise that is unknown to most people in the nation. Yet broad public support will be necessary if the mission is to develop consistency and build momentum. It becomes imperative for the families to spread the word that the mission exists, is relevant, and needs national support to move forward.

To that end, the *Coalition* is developing projects to coalesce people's natural interest in the issue into supporting action:

Petitions - The *Coalition* will be initiating online petition campaigns to inform the public and garner support for specific issues;

Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War is an episodic documentary series that will feature personal stories of the missing men and the family members still hoping to learn their fate. (Seeking development funding. A full synopsis is on page 7);

Social Media - The *Coalition's* Facebook page, new Twitter account, and ongoing website will be used to share new developments and promote the issues.

The Media - The media readily picks up on POW/MIA issues as they arise. The coverage fades, however, as circumstances surrounding a story reach a standstill. It becomes the families' role to add depth to these stories and promote the issues. Look for details on the *Coalition's* upcoming network of family member response teams.



NonGovernment Organizations - Many vital roles conducted by the government are also conducted by NGOs. The *Korean War POW/MIA Network* and *Korean Confidential* carry out extensive archival research. *HistoryFlight* organizes search teams for remains recovery. With expanded roles, these and other organizations can supplement the government's role and provide more consistency to the mission.

Funding Community - Corporate and nonprofit grants will be pursued to fund these expanded goals.

Congress - Congress has been a consistent advocate for the mission. Members listen and respond to input. They are an invaluable spoke in the mission's wheel.

The Administration - The President and combined agencies will always be the most significant spoke in the wheel.

The Families - Family members of the missing men are an active spoke in the wheel, as well as the Hub. We will learn the fate of our own missing loved one only by searching for them all.

When all of these spokes are aligned, the wheel will roll again. There's every reason for families to find closure, and do so in the present frame of time. This can be done!

* Please let us know when your address changes, email especially, and renew membership as you can. New family members are always welcome! (A membership/renewal form is on page 7.)

* Please visit the *Coalition's* Facebook and new Twitter pages. Join us, ask to become a *friend*, invite other family members and friends. Numbers demonstrate support for the mission! We are all in this together.

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Donna D. Knox
 Suzanne Schilling
 Gary Boyle

Rick Downes, President/Executive Officer

“What Happened to Our Missing Loved-One?”

John Zimmerlee

The answer to that question is not in North Korea, China, or Russia, but most likely in our own National Archives, 6th floor, “Classified!”

A very small amount of that material has been released over the years, but you’ll never find it on their website. In fact, you can’t get anything worthwhile through a simple request. It takes years of research in each agency’s records to reveal anything on individual cases.

The National Archives is intimidating. Just inside the front door is a security system that puts TSA to shame. In the research room, one gets a feel for how forbidding prison life would be.

Yet, in spite of all that, my wife, Melissa, and I were at the Archives in late November with completed request slips in hand. As the requested boxes were slowly delivered, we hurriedly read through each folder. If something looked promising, we scanned it . . . over 1200 documents. I have meticulously examined each one. As usual, most were worthless. Yet and still, we now have new information on 756 servicemen, including 192 POWs. More interesting though is the new information on 31 supposed “KIA” and 114 supposed “MIA” cases that strongly suggests . . . they were actually POWs.

According to ex-POW, Myles Cables, “MIA” **Julio Navarro** was among those captured on 19 July 1950, marched north for two months to Seoul, then marched for another month to Pyongyang where he was loaded on a train. Miraculously, Julio escaped from that train and was in good health at the time. But that is where we, again, lose Julio’s trail.

About that same time, Myles witnessed another man dying on that train. He was “MIA” **Harold E Drown**. Printed 31 July 52, a supplemental list of POWs includes “MIA” **Herbert Kalama** . . .with the note, “per eye-witness account.”

An affidavit from ex-POW Sgt Takeshi states “MIA” **Sam Takahara** escaped after the POW group left Pyongyang. He was clearly identified with his division and regiment.

Ex-POW James Gunnoe witnessed the death of an entire B-29 crew in captivity in July 1952. During the night of 11 June 52 a Soviet search team found debris of a B-29 & 8 corpses to the west of Kakusan region. Each of these reports could easily describe either 44-62183 or 44-61967 that went down 10 & 11 June 1952. “MIAs” **John H Adams, Douglas Attinger, Edgar Barrington, Robert Baumer, William Canning, Louis Gorrell, Harold Holmes, Robert Hudson, Paul Kellstrom, David Mandell, Thomas Pettit, Elbert Reid, & Robert Ross.**

. . . or “MIAs” **Buddy Bonney, Marvin Cessna, William Earns, John Errington, John Flaherty, Richard Fried**

man, George Hadley, Carl Jenkins, Wilbur Lewis, John Miller, Preston Skinner, Westervelt Stagg, and Elwood Thompson.

Per Wayne Johnson, “MIA” **Edward Logston** died 4 November 1950 on a POW march from Mampo to Chungung.

On 30 October 1950 ex-POW Dale Blake mentions fellow POWs including Sgt Reeves Company C, 3rd Engineers. A good solid match would be “KIA” **Clifford M Reeves.**



Communist broadcasts, POW lists, and burial reports suggest that “KIA” **Coleman Flaherty** and “MIA” **John LaPointe** were actually POWs. United Nations Command identifies “MIAs” **Clarence A Tish** and **Phillip T. Hoogacker** as a POWs.

War Crime #20, according to Harold Uptegraft, includes “MIA” **Willie Flores**. Flores is also on the list of 389 men most likely alive and in enemy hands after the war. On the UN list of those who died in enemy hands is “KIA” **Floyd Rivera**. The “Death of American POW’s in Korea” dated 2 Sep 53 includes “MIA” **Frank Leo Jones**.

Cpl Howard O Evans recalled “MIA” **William O’Malley as a POW**. A camp death list includes “MIA” **Roger Francis Meagher**.

Raymond Bombach was captured and escaped. When interrogated he mentioned fellow captives, including a “Lee” of 9th Infantry, 3rd battalion. “MIA” **Arthur Lee** is a logical match.

A January 1954 document adds “finding of Death” date of “MIA” **Paul Schad** to be the same as MIA date, thus he appears to be KIA.

On the 389 list and actually witnessed as a POW by Joseph Loomis and Marion Horne . . . is “MIA” **Emil Lee**.

In addition, we found hundreds of documents confirming what we already know about the deaths of 174 POWs.

About half of what we requested had been previously submitted through the “Mandatory Declassification Review” process and had been released more than a year ago. Unfortunately, the MDR system failed and these documents were again withheld.

If you have a loved-one still missing from the Korean or Cold War, please call me at 404-394-6930 or email at john.zimmerlee@gmail.com.

Together, we can . . . and will get answers!

John Zimmerlee (Capt. John Zimmerlee, Jr. - MIA)

(John’s article was edited for space limitations. Please contact him for the full content ... and more!)

Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War

(Synopsis)

Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War is an episodic documentary series developed to touch people's hearts with personal stories of unresolved loss. These tales are the mysteries of men missing from the Korean War. The series will investigate the mysteries, chronicle the long-term impact they have had on the men's families and then pursue their final chapter in order to achieve some definition of closure.

The central characters in these stories are the men themselves, who they were and their hopes for a future that took very different direction. The men's wives, siblings, and children are just as much a part of these stories. The families have lived with the mysteries and the doubt surrounding their loved one's loss for, in many cases, a lifetime; wondering if their loved one might come home at any time, and now, want to learn why he didn't.

The settings are the battlefields that created the mysteries and the home fronts the men left behind. Underlying these storylines is the intrigue of the Cold War, documented reports of men kept behind in enemy hands, six decades of still classified files, and multinational government efforts dedicated to learning the men's fate; peak and valley efforts, subject to policy dilemmas that too often challenge humanitarian priorities.

2013 marks the 60th anniversary of the armistice in the Korean War. The promise to bring home its missing soldiers is the same one made to today's servicemen and women and their families. If this promise is to hold credibility for the nation's present day armed forces and their families, it should be honored to completion for those who served before them. *Forgotten Men from the Forgotten War* will explore these men's stories, seek closure for their families, and play its role in the nation's promise to bring them home.

Join Us!

New members are always welcome! (Membership is tax deductible.) Please visit the *Coalition's* website, Facebook and new Twitter pages. Become a *friend*, invite other family members and friends. Numbers demonstrate support for the mission!

www.coalitionoffamilies.org

www.facebook.com (search Coalition of Families)

www.twitter.com/KoreanWarMIAs

Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs

National Membership Application

New

Renewal

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to missing service member:

Service member's full name: _____ Service # _____

Branch of Service/Unit or Group:

Date & Area of Loss:

Annual Membership Donation - \$20.00 * Please make checks payable to: Coalition of Families.

Send to:

Coalition of Families (Attn: Treasurer) P.O. Box 4194, Portsmouth, NH 03802