

THE FRONT PAGE

KOREA-COLD WAR
FAMILIES OF THE MISSING
PO BOX 454
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735



<http://www.koreacoldwar.org>

August 2013 Issue #41
POW-MIA WE Remember!

SEND TO:

2013 FAMILY UPDATE SCHEDULE

There is only one more Family Update Scheduled for 2013 September 14, 2013, Rosemont, IL. For updated information on family updates check in on the DPMO website http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/family_events/

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email instead of by US Postal Service, please email the editor at koreacoldwar@aol.com

CASUALTY OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

United States Air Force - 1 (800) 531-5501

United States Army - 1 (800) 892-2490

United States Marine Corps - 1 (800) 847-1597

United States Navy - 1 (800) 443-9298

Department of State - 1 (202) 647-6769

Contact your Congressional Reps through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard - 1-202-224-3121 or House Cloak Room at 1-202-225-7350 (R) and 1-202-225-7330 (D)

Congressional Contacts:

<http://congress.org/congressorg/home/>

US Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/>

House: <http://www.house.gov/>

White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

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IN MY OPINION

by Irene Mandra

On August 9, 2013 we held our annual dinner, in Crystal City, VA, at which time we honored Dr. Thomas Holland. The food was excellent and we were so proud to give Dr. Holland our organization plaque. We sincerely hope that JPAC can find enough money to hire forensic people to carry on the work at our new laboratory. In my speech at the dinner I spoke about the good Doctor. Dr. Holland is a recognized laboratory pioneer in the field of skeletal forensics, a scientific trailblazer, a technical virtuoso, a gifted investigator and accomplished author. We were so proud to honor him, and his work.

Recently, I was terribly upset to hear that DPMO is saying that no men were shipped to Russia, China or North Korea, after the Korean war. We have so much evidence that men were left behind; that no matter what proof is produced, our government's mind set is to continue to deny, no matter what proof is given. Deny, deny, deny and then deny.

At the annual meeting, hearing Mr. Dan Baughman explain that the train full of men, who were being shipped to Russia, were French Foreign Legion, is more than I can bear. I sincerely hope that someday I will hear the truth from the Department of Defense; although unlikely. Mr. Baughman should be aware that despite there being many new family members present, at the family outreach, there are many old timers that will not accept that propaganda. Where did he find that bull? Why pretend? I guess next year I will hear that they were Eskimos, on their way to Russia; because they love snow and cold. Please give me a break.

I heard that fairy tale some twenty years ago; and DPMO should know that those men were not French Legionnaires.



Korea- Cold War Families of the missing Dinner Honoring Dr. Thomas Holland was held the evening of Friday August 9, 2013
Left- Irene Mandra, President Korea Cold War Families and Dr. Holland, Right- Dr. Holland and award

Meet the new Director of External Affairs



DPMO announced that Michael G. Fowler is the new Director of External Affairs (External Communications.) He replaces Chuck Henley who retired last year. Mike is a long-time friend of the families and we wish him the very best in his new position.

THE COLD WAR CORNER

Melody Raglin

At the Korean/Cold War family annual update in Crystal City, Arlington Va. last month, DPMO arranged a separate break out session for Cold War families. As there are so few Cold War families in comparison to Korean War, we are very grateful for this additional session. There were only 8 family members compared to 20 last year.

Dr. James Connell, Senior Analyst, JCSD, gave a brief presentation of all 10 Cold War Shoot downs. Dr. Connell has been a constant for us since 1992 and he is by far, the leading expert on these 10 cases. His expertise, knowledge and genuine compassion has been an asset to the family members all these years.

We were introduced to the new JCSD Chief, Mr. Rich Lyda. He has been in this position since May 2013. The only important question which came up: "What is happening with the Russian Joint Commission?" I have asked two other people who were present at this gathering what answer they heard, and I can only say we all did hear and interpret the answer in the same way. Mr. Lyda told us that we still have a team in Russia. The team is ready whenever the Russians grant us permission into their archives. He expressed a lot of "hope". The familiar ring of that "hope", waiting and waiting to get into the Russian Archives is a broken record that comes up each time we ask this very same question for the last 10 years.

Mr. Lyda also expressed how challenging it was to expect the Russians to give us access to their "CIA" archives. We are having the same challenge right here with our own NSA and NARA attempts! We need to be granted access to our own archives. As long as the family members get FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) documents consisting of blank pages and blacked out pages, we must believe the answers are right here in our government file. Before we declare Russia uncooperative, let's exhaust the information, we have, right here in our own country. Let's look at the process that continues to keep documents classified for 60+ years. How many more Family members will die before we find closure?

On August 8 and 9, 2013 DPMO held the Annual Family update in Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

205 Families attended
197 were from Korean War
8 were from Cold War

There were 406 Family members at the update.

389 were Korean War Family Members

17 were Cold War Family members

161 were first time attendees.

COLD WAR WRITING CAMPAIGN

Melody Raglin

I am attempting to get as many Cold War family members together with one strong voice to be heard. There is no time like the present with the hearings going on in Washington, DC. When I made a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Request to NSA (National Security Agency) through Senator Dianne Feinstein's office last year, I received 19 blank pages and numerous blacked out pages. Her office has continued to be helpful and supportive. I was told that I must be extremely "specific" with my request/question. What I am hoping to accomplish with this letter writing campaign is that we have the same questions. Please feel free to ask any request/question you need to. Again, be as specific as you can be. I know many of you have already written many letters. Our attempts are fragmented, a letter here, a letter there. I am hopeful that if we can collectively send our letters as one packet to the Head of Intelligence, Senator Feinstein, we can be heard loud and clear. We are so few. I am also suggesting that all your family members send in a letter. Siblings, children, grandchildren can all submit a letter with this campaign.

I have a Privacy release form from the Senator that is to be used with this letter writing campaign and I will send it to you. I would love to hear from each and every one of you.

Together, I pray, we can change this dreadful process of being told "It's classified" or the "executive order" has our hands tied!

Here are a couple of suggestions for collective questions, and I welcome any new suggestions you may have:

- 1) WHEN WILL THERE BE A REVIEW OF THESE RECORDS HELD AT NSA FOR DECLASSIFICATION?
- 2) WILL THE EXECUTIVE ORDERS THAT CHANGED CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS FROM 50 YEARS OF SILENCE TO 75 YEARS BE CONSIDERED FOR RE-EVALUATION? (executive order 13526-executed 12/2009, and predecessors 13292-executed 3/2003, 12958 executed 4/1995, and 12356 executed 4/1982).

Please be sure to include the whole crew's names along with your family member.

"CC" this FOIA request to your Congressional representative and Senator.

I sincerely hope to hear from you. Together, we can be heard!

Respectively,

Melody Raglin

raglinmia@yahoo.com

530-265-5741

Army Sgt. 1st Class William Robinson

Army Sgt. 1st Class William Robinson, 26, of Denison, Texas, was buried on Aug. 7, 2013 in Indiantown Gap, Pa. In late Nov. 1950 Robinson and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) were deployed along the east of the Chosin Reservoir near Sinhung-ri, South Hamgyong Province, in North Korea. On Nov. 29, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position near the Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. It was during this withdrawal, Robinson was reported missing.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. service members. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the human remains were recovered from the area where Robinson was last seen.

U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Jonathan R. Posey Jr.

U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Jonathan R. Posey Jr., 20, of Dallas, was buried Aug. 12, 2013 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. In Dec. 1950 Posey, assigned to L Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, was serving provisionally as an infantryman with the 7th Marine Regiment at Yudam-ni in the vicinity of the Chosin Reservoir. On Dec. 2, 1950, Posey was killed in action while the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments withdrew to Hagaru-ri.

In 1954, United Nations and Communist Forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called "Operation Glory." All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army Central Identification Unit for analysis. Those which were unable to be identified were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the "Punchbowl."

In 2012, analysts from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) reevaluated Posey's records and determined that portions of the remains recovered from Operation Glory should be exhumed for identification. To identify the remains, scientists from JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental and radiograph comparison, which matched Posey's records.

Army Pfc. Herene K. Blevins

Army Pfc. Herene K. Blevins, 18, of Hagerstown, Md., was buried Aug. 27, 2013 in his hometown. In late November 1950 Blevins and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) were deployed along the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when they came under attack by Communist forces. The 31st RCT began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. Following the battle, Blevins was reported missing on Dec. 2, 1950.

In 1953, returning U.S. prisoners of war told debriefers that Blevins had been captured by enemy forces and taken to a prisoner of war camp known as "Death Valley." Soldiers also stated that Blevins died from malnutrition shortly after being captured. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces in 1954.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. service members. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the human remains were recovered from the area where Blevins was last seen.

Army Cpl. Donald V. MacLean

Army Cpl. Donald V. MacLean, 17, of Dover, OH., was buried Aug. 31, in Cary, Ill. In late Nov. 1950, MacLean and elements of the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), historically known as Task Force Faith, were deployed along the east side of the Chosin Reservoir near the P'ungnyuri Inlet, in North Korea, when the RCT was attacked by a large number of Chinese forces. On Dec. 1, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. On Dec. 2, 1950, during the withdrawal, MacLean was reported missing.

In 1954, United Nations forces and Communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead, in what came to be known as "Operation Glory." Among those remains turned over by enemy forces was a box which allegedly contained the remains of a U.S. serviceman who was buried on the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir. After all attempts to identify the remains failed, a military review board declared the remains unidentifiable and the remains were interred as "unknown" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the "Punchbowl."

In 2012, analysts from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and DPMO reevaluated MacLean's records and determined that, due to the advances in technology, the remains should be exhumed for identification. In the identification of MacLean's remains, scientists from JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental and radiograph comparisons.

UPDATE FROM DPMO

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission:

General (Ret.) Robert F. "Doc" Foglesong, Chairman of the U.S. Side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC), visited Washington, D.C Aug. 26 - 27, 2013. General Foglesong conducted meetings and discussions as part of overall efforts to reorganize and reinvigorate the work of the U.S. Side of the Commission, especially since the recent approval of the U.S. side's Charter. During the visit, General Foglesong met with DASD Winfield and DPMO leadership to discuss next steps for the U.S. Side, which include a meeting of the U.S. Side of the Commission, future meetings with Russian counterparts, and future cooperation between the U.S. Side and DPMO to enhance efforts to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing.

Korea Forward Element Support:

A DPMO case analyst will augment JPAC in August and September on its fourth Korean Forward Element (KFE) mission. The mission will operate out of Seoul investigating battlefields and crash sites in search of men still unaccounted for in South Korea from the Korean War.

Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Posters Available:

The 2013 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster honors those still missing from our Nation's past wars and conflicts. The poster depicts the Missing Man Table, and there is special significance to each item that is displayed. A single red rose is displayed in a vase as a reminder of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith while seeking answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon symbolizing the continued determination to account for them. To learn more about the Missing Man Table tradition, and to request your free copies go to: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/pow_day/ and click on the image of the poster to be taken to a page where you can download a hi-resolution of the poster or to order up to twenty posters.

A FINAL TOAST FOR THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

Bob Greene

On April 16, 2013 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered publicly for the last time.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans.



Now only four survive.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around.

Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never before been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.

And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia.

The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story "with supreme pride."

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.

Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.



There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions. He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.

The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts . . . there was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that emblemizes the depth of his sense of duty and devotion: "When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At

night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission. The town is planning to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice? They don't talk about that, at least not around other people.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- some time this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets.

And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



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All projects are funded through contributions. Annual membership dues and newsletter subscriptions will greatly assist us in our endeavors. Membership and contributions are tax deductible.

Annual Membership is \$25.00. From thereon, all membership renewals will be due 1st January at \$25.00 per year.

Family Members and Friends may join/subscribe any time.

We look forward to working with Family Members and Friends as we strive to find truth, answers and closure.

STAR Fields are required. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

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*Applicant's relationship to POW-MIA: _____

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*BRANCH OF SERVICE/UNIT OR GROUP: _____

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