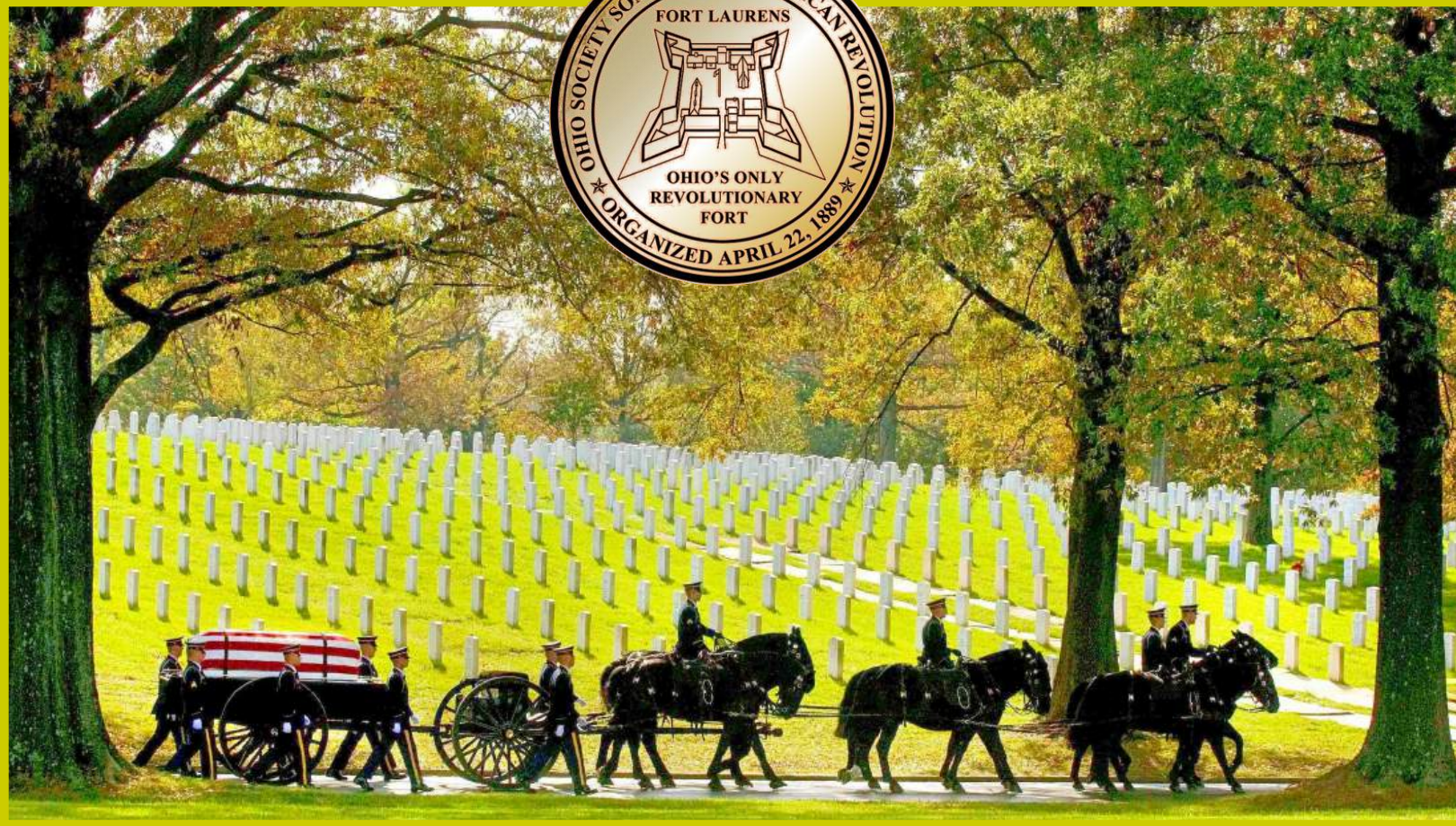
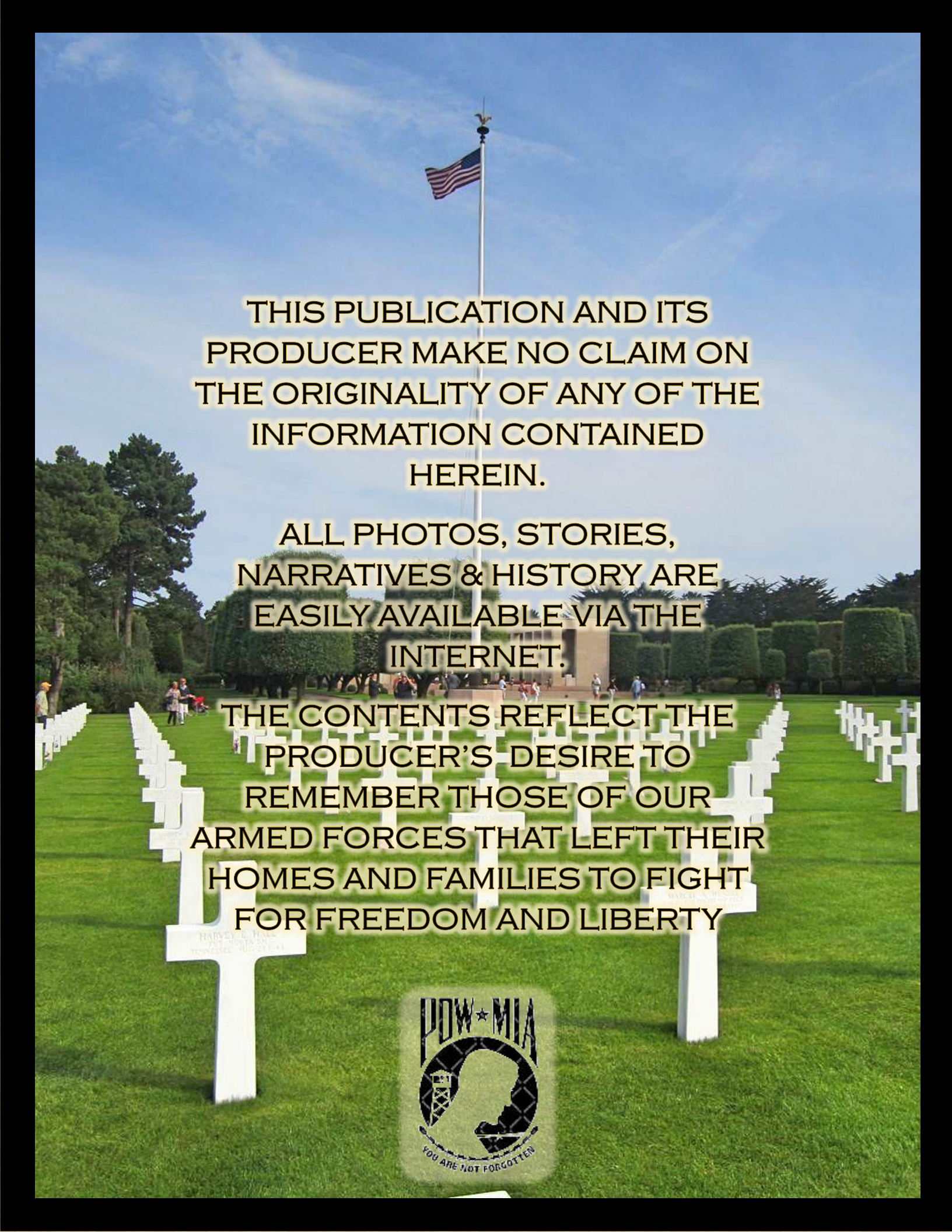


# Ohio Remembers





**THIS PUBLICATION AND ITS  
PRODUCER MAKE NO CLAIM ON  
THE ORIGINALITY OF ANY OF THE  
INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN.**

**ALL PHOTOS, STORIES,  
NARRATIVES & HISTORY ARE  
EASILY AVAILABLE VIA THE  
INTERNET.**

**THE CONTENTS REFLECT THE  
PRODUCER'S DESIRE TO  
REMEMBER THOSE OF OUR  
ARMED FORCES THAT LEFT THEIR  
HOMES AND FAMILIES TO FIGHT  
FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERTY**



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

	NAME	SERVICE BRANCH	MIA/DEATH DATE	INTERMENT DATE
1	PRIVATE 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS JAMES WILMER WHITE	"E" Co. 2 <sup>ND</sup> BN, 5307 <sup>TH</sup> COMPOSITE UNIT (PROVISIONAL) USA	KIA – 2 JULY 1944 MYITKYINA BURMA	12 JUNE 2021
2	CORPORAL CHARLES EDWARD LEE	"K" Co. 3 <sup>RD</sup> BN, 34 <sup>TH</sup> INF REGT. 24 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV. USA	MIA – JULY 1950 TAEJON SOUTH KOREA	11 APRIL 2022
3	CORPORAL KENNETH R. FOREMAN	"A" Co, 1 <sup>ST</sup> BN, 32 <sup>ND</sup> INF REGT 7 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV USA	MIA – DEC. 2, 1950 CHOSIN RESERVOIR NORTH KOREA	02 DECEMBER 2021
4	MUSICIAN 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS JOSEPH W. HOFFMAN	USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37) USN	KIA – 7 DECEMBER 1941 PEARL HARBOR OAHU, HAWAII	26 AUGUST 2022
5	PRIVATE 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS BILLY A. DEBORD	"F" Co, 2 <sup>ND</sup> BN, 5 <sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGT, 1 <sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIV, USA	MIA – 25 JULY 1950 – YONGDONG, SOUTH KOREA DOD PRESUMPTION OF DEATH – 31 DEC 1953	11 NOVEMBER 2023
6	FLIGHT OFFICER CHESTER L. RINKE	678 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQDRN, 444 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB GRP (VH) 58 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB WING, 20 <sup>TH</sup> BOMBER CMD USAAF	KIA – 26 JUNE 1944 SAPEKHATI, INDIA	06 NOVEMBER 2023
7	PRIVATE 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS THOMAS FRANKLIN BROOKS	192 <sup>ND</sup> TANK BN USA	KIA – 10 DECEMBER 1942 CABANATUAN POW CAMP LUZON, PHILIPPINES	01 OCTOBER 2023
8	PRIVATE 1 <sup>ST</sup> CLASS JACK E. LILLEY	HQ & HQ Co, 1 <sup>ST</sup> BN, 34 <sup>TH</sup> INF REGT 24 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV USA	MIA – JULY 1950 TAEJON SOUTH KOREA	14 JUNE 2022
9	SEAMAN 2 <sup>ND</sup> CLASS STANLEY CASMIER GALASZEWSKI	USS CALIFORNIA (BB-44) USN	KIA – 7 DECEMBER 1941 PEARL HARBOR OAHU, HAWAII	03 NOVEMBER 2023
10	STAFF SERGEANT JACK W. COY	703 <sup>RD</sup> BOMB SQDRN 445 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB GRP (HVY) 8 <sup>TH</sup> USAAF	KIA – 24 FEBRUARY 1944 BAD SALZUNGEN GERMANY	26 MAY 2024
11	2 <sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT JAMES H. MARRAH	415 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQDRN (HVY), 98 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB GRP (HVY), 9 <sup>TH</sup> USAAF	KIA – 1 AUGUST 1943	25 MAY 2024

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

	NAME	SERVICE BRANCH	MIA/DEATH DATE	INTERMENT DATE
12	COXSWAIN HARLEY EDWIN ALEXANDER	USS GLENNON (DD-620) USN	KIA – 10 DECEMBER 1944 BAIE DE LA SEINE FRANCE <i>(ROUGHLY 6 MILES FROM UTAH BEACH IN NORMANDY FRANCE)</i>	29 JUNE 2024
13	1 <sup>ST</sup> LIEUTENANT DANIEL WINSTEAD CORSON	401 <sup>ST</sup> BOMB SQDRN 91 <sup>ST</sup> BOMB GRP (HVY) 8 <sup>TH</sup> USAAF	KIA – 20 DECEMBER 1942	07 AUGUST 2024
14	TECHNICIAN 5 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE <i>(TECH5)</i> HAROLD D. PITTIS	“G” Co. 2 <sup>ND</sup> BN 318 <sup>TH</sup> INF REGT 80 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV USA	KIA – 8 FEBRUARY 1945 NEAR BIESDORF, GERMANY	21 SEPTEMBER 2024
15	SERGEANT JOHN PAUL RYTHER	“A” BTRY, 82 <sup>ND</sup> AAA WPNS BN 2 <sup>ND</sup> INF DIV USA	POW/MIA 1 DECEMBER 1950 KUNU-RI NORTH KOREA	20 SEPTEMBER 2024
16	2 <sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT ROBERT T. MCCOLLUM	565 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB SQDRN 389 <sup>TH</sup> BOMB GRP 2 <sup>ND</sup> CBT BOMB WING, 2 <sup>ND</sup> AIR DIV 8 <sup>TH</sup> USAAF	MIA – 20 JUNE 1944 BALTIC SEA OFF THE COAST OF DENMARK	03 MAY 2025
17	SERGEANT NORMAN H. DREWES	“D” Co. 708 <sup>TH</sup> AMPHIBIOUS TANK BN USA	MIA–15 JUNE 1944 ISLAND OF SAIPAN NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	24 MAY 2025
18	PRIVATE JAMES G. LOTERBAUGH	“C” Co. 774 <sup>TH</sup> TANK BN. USA	MIA–11 DECEMBER 1944 HURTGEN FOREST–STRAUS GERMANY	03 JUNE 2025
19	SERGEANT HOWARD L. HASSELKUS	192 <sup>ND</sup> TANK BN USA	POW/MIA DECEASED–22 NOVEMBER 1942 CABANATUAN POW CAMP BATAAN PENINSULA CORREGIDOR ISLAND PHILIPPINE ISLANDS	08 AUGUST 2025
20	2 <sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT WILLIAM B. BUCEY	121 <sup>ST</sup> INF REGT. PHILIPPINE ARMY	POW/MIA DECEASED–31 OCTOBER 1944 CABANATUAN POW CAMP BATAAN PENINSULA CORREGIDOR ISLAND PHILIPPINE ISLANDS	AUGUST 2025

# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

	NAME	SERVICE BRANCH	MIA/DEATH DATE	INTERMENT DATE
21	1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. HOTT	"D" Co., 1 <sup>ST</sup> BN. 32 <sup>ND</sup> INF REGT 7 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV	KIA – 1 DECEMBER 1950 CHOSIN RESERVOIR, NORTH KOREA	AUGUST 2025
22	CORPORAL EDWIN C. MARTIN	"A" Co., 1 <sup>ST</sup> BN. 9 <sup>TH</sup> INF REGT 2 <sup>ND</sup> INF DIV	MIA – 31 AUGUST 1950 YONGSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	SEPTEMBER 2025
23	CORPORAL EARL E. KIBBEY,	"I" Co, 3 <sup>RD</sup> BN, 31 <sup>ST</sup> INF REGT 7 <sup>TH</sup> INF DIV	MIA – 3 DECEMBER 1950 CHOSIN RESERVOIR NORTH KOREA	20 NOVEMBER 2025
24	PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NORTON V. RETZSCH	"C" COMPANY, 1 <sup>ST</sup> MARINE RAIDER BATTALION	MIA – 9 JULY 1943 BATTLE OF ENOGAI NEW GEORGIA, SOLOMON ISLANDS	TBA
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES WILMER WHITE

KILLED IN ACTION – 2 JULY 1944 – MYITKYINA, BURMA  
“E” Co. 2<sup>ND</sup> BN, 5307<sup>TH</sup> COMPOSITE UNIT (PROVISIONAL)  
UNITED STATES ARMY



**PRESS RELEASE | May 11, 2021  
WASHINGTON**

In the spring and summer of 1944, White, an infantryman, was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), also known as Merrill's Marauders. After taking the airfield in Myitkyina, Burma, from the Japanese on May 17, White's battalion was tasked with holding the airfield and taking part in the siege of Myitkyina. White was reported to have been killed during fighting on July 2.

The remains of servicemen killed during the battle were buried in at least eight different temporary cemeteries and numerous isolated burial locations. Eventually, all known burials were concentrated into the U.S. Military Cemetery at Myitkyina, including the remains of those who were not identified. In January and February 1946, all of the remains at the U.S. Military Cemetery were disinterred and transferred to the U.S. Military Cemetery at Kalaikunda, India. The exhumation of the U.S. Military Cemetery at Kalaikunda was conducted in September and October 1947.

One set of remains, designated Unknown X-52 Kalaikunda, was unable to be identified and was subsequently buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, in March 1949.

On July 16, 2018, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-52 Kalaikunda from the Punchbowl and transferred the remains to the DPAA laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

To identify White's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

White's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City, Philippines, along with the others missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

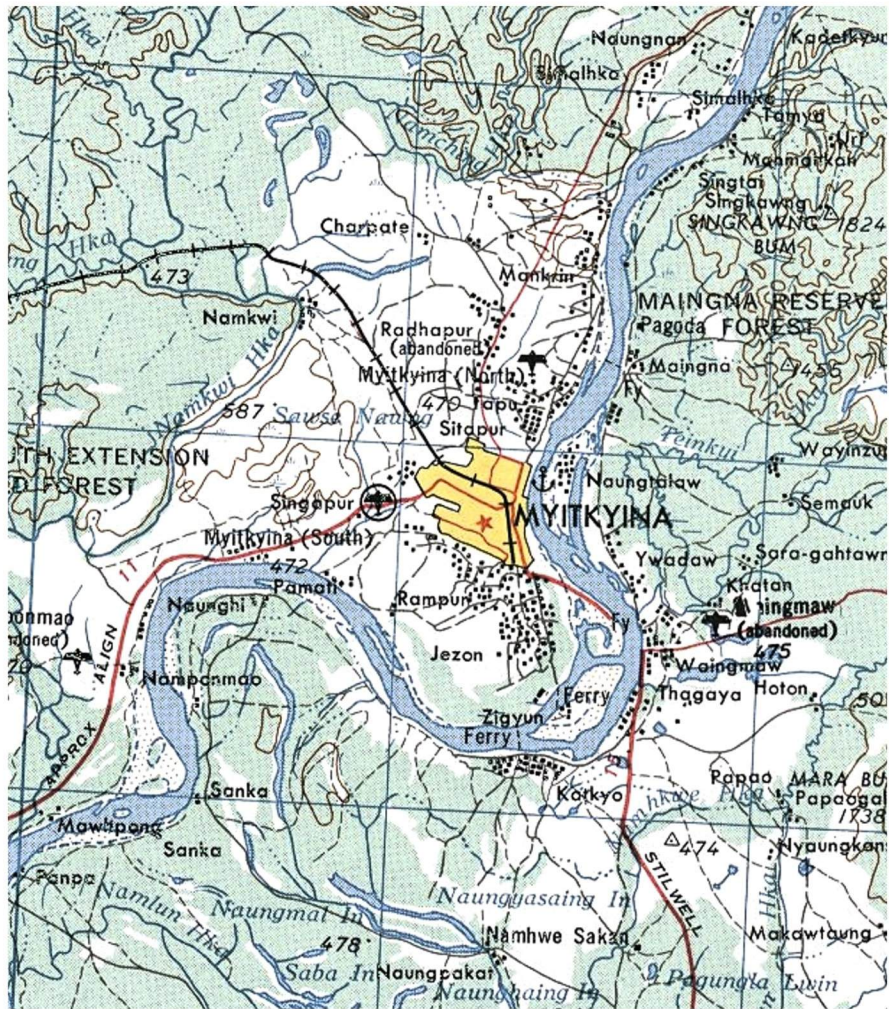
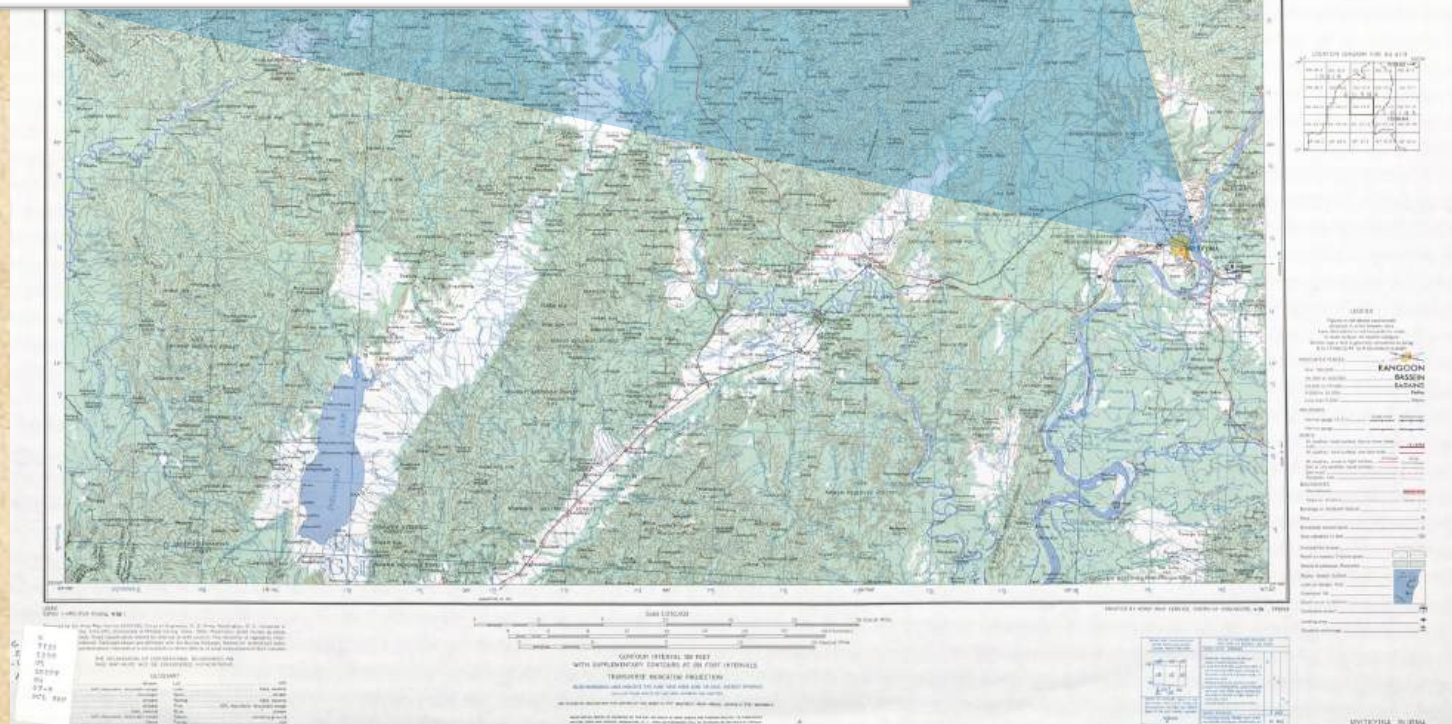


Photo Courtesy of Merrill's Marauders



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

In Five major (WALAWBUM, SHADUZUP, INKAN-GAHTAWNG, NHPUM GA, & MYITKYINA) and thirty minor engagements, they defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division (Conquerors of Singapore and Malaya) who vastly outnumbered the Marauders. Always moving to the rear of the main forces of the Japanese the Marauders completely disrupted the enemy supply and communication lines, and climaxed their behind the lines operations with the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all-weather airfield in Northern Burma.

The attack on Myitkyina was the climax to four months of marching and combat in the Burma jungles. No other American force except the First Marine Division, which took and held Guadalcanal for four months, has had as much uninterrupted jungle fighting service as Merrill's Marauders. But no other American force anywhere had marched as far, fought as continuously or had to display such endurance, as the swift-moving, hard-hitting foot soldiers, of Merrill's Marauders

When the Marauders attacked Myitkyina they had behind them over 800 miles of marching over jungle and mountain roads and tracks. They had to carry all their equipment and supplies on their backs and on the backs of pack mules. Re-supplied by air drops the Marauders often had to make a clearing in the thick jungle to receive the supplies.

Every wounded Marauder was evacuated, an extraordinary feat in itself. Each wounded Marauder had to be carried on a makeshift stretcher (usually made from bamboo and field jackets or shirts) by his comrades until an evacuation point was reached. These evacuation points were mostly small jungle village's, where the Marauders would then have to hack out a landing strip for the small Piper Cub Evac. Planes. The brave sergeant-pilots of the air-rescue unit would then land and take off in these very hazardous conditions, removing every seriously wounded Marauder one at a time. The small planes, stripped of all equipment except a compass, had room for the pilot and one stretcher.

At the end of their campaign all remaining Marauders still in action were evacuated to hospitals suffering from tropical diseases, exhaustion, and malnutrition or as the tags on their battered uniforms said "A.O.E." (accumulation of everything).

For their accomplishments in Burma the Marauders were awarded the "DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION" in July, 1944. However in 1966 this award was redesignated as the "PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION" which is awarded by the President in the name of Congress. The Marauders also have the extremely rare distinction of having every member of the unit receive the "BRONZE STAR".



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Saturday morning on 12 June 2021, Nine members of the Cincinnati, Lt. George Ewing, Marietta, Highlanders and Hocking Valley chapters of the Ohio Society met at the White Family Cemetery on a sunny ridge in Meig's County to welcome PFC James White home 77 years after his

death in Burma in 1944. The funeral was attended by many family members, friends of the family, members of the community, veterans from across the state. Many of the veterans were represented by the Ohio National Guard, Veteran's of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The funeral followed Military Protocol. A military's rifle salute was followed by the playing of Taps. The flag draped over the casket was folded and presented to PFC White's niece.

Attending on behalf of the Ohio Society SAR: Former Ohio Society President Lee Wilkerson, Cincinnati Chapter was represented by President Greg Ballman, Veteran's Committee Chairman Jim Crane and Ohio Society Color Guard Adjutant Mike Gunn. Scott Moody, Southeast District Chairman represented the Lt George Ewing Chapter. The Highlanders Chapter was represented by President Gary Duffield and Compatriot Gerold Wilkin. Compatriot Jeff Waits from Hocking Valley Chapter and Jean Yost, Vice President of the Marietta Chapter and Compatriot Jim Dana.



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# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

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**I**f you visit the website — <http://marauder.org/> — you will see many photos of days in the field with Merrill's Marauders. You will see smiles on faces and members of the group having a laugh—usually at someone else's expense. You'll see jungle scenes and panoramas of fields and distant mountains.

What you won't see—or feel and experience—is the isolation, the constant high humidity and temperature, the blistering sun at mid afternoon, and the bone deep chill at 4 AM.

You won't comprehend the misery of daily living in the field during Monsoon season—never being able to get dry clothing.

You won't dine on the same K-Ration or C-Ration everyday for days on end.

You won't wonder if the weather will remain calm for resupply by parachute/airdrop.

You won't fear an enemy ambush with each foray into the field and sweat through the march towards an objective.

You will not likely shed a tear for a wounded friend or grieve the loss of a brother in arms as you bury him in the field.

While we try to place ourselves in their boots for just a moment of reflection... we must surely come to realize that unless we have been with them we can not comprehend the faith, endurance and courage that possesses them in the face of loneliness, isolation and a deep longing for home!

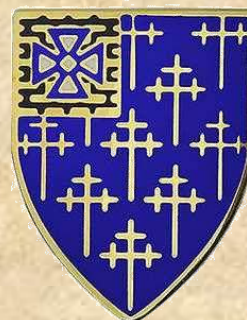
So, while you are attempting to understand the dilemma of ground combat, recognize that it has always been this way in war—be it 1777 at Valley Forge, 1863 in Vicksburg, 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne, 1942 at Bataan, 1950 in Pusan and Chosin Reservoir, 1968 in Hue or the battle of Fallujah in 2004—I believe the lives of our veteran's in ground combat has remained the same. Yes, technology seems to have made a difference in how we fight and recover. But the personal experience is not significantly different!

*At long last— Welcome Home PFC White !*

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT



## CORPORAL CHARLES EDWARD LEE

MISSING IN ACTION – JULY 1950 – TAEJON, SOUTH KOREA  
COMPANY K, 3RD BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION



**RELEASE | Nov. 10, 2021**

Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Lee, Charles.)

**WASHINGTON**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Cpl. Charles E. Lee, 18, of Cincinnati, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for June 14, 2021.

In July 1950, Lee was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20 after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. He was never found, nor were any remains recovered that could be identified as Lee. He was declared non-recoverable in January 1956.

Two sets of remains, designated Unknown X-781 and X-782 Tanggok, were recovered from a common grave near the Taejon-Kumchon main supply route a few miles east of Taejon in March 1951. X-782 was identified in February 1952, but X-781 was unable to be identified. The X-781 remains were later transported with all of the unidentified Korean War remains and buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, DPAA historians and anthropologists proposed a plan to disinter and identify the 652 Korean War unknown burials from the Punchbowl, including 53 recovered from the Taejon area. X-781 was disinterred July 15, 2019, as part of Phase 2 of the Korean War Identification Project and transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

To identify Lee's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Lee's name is recorded on the American Battle Monument Commission's Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Lee will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

## THE ROAD-BLOCK AT THE PUSAN PERIMETER

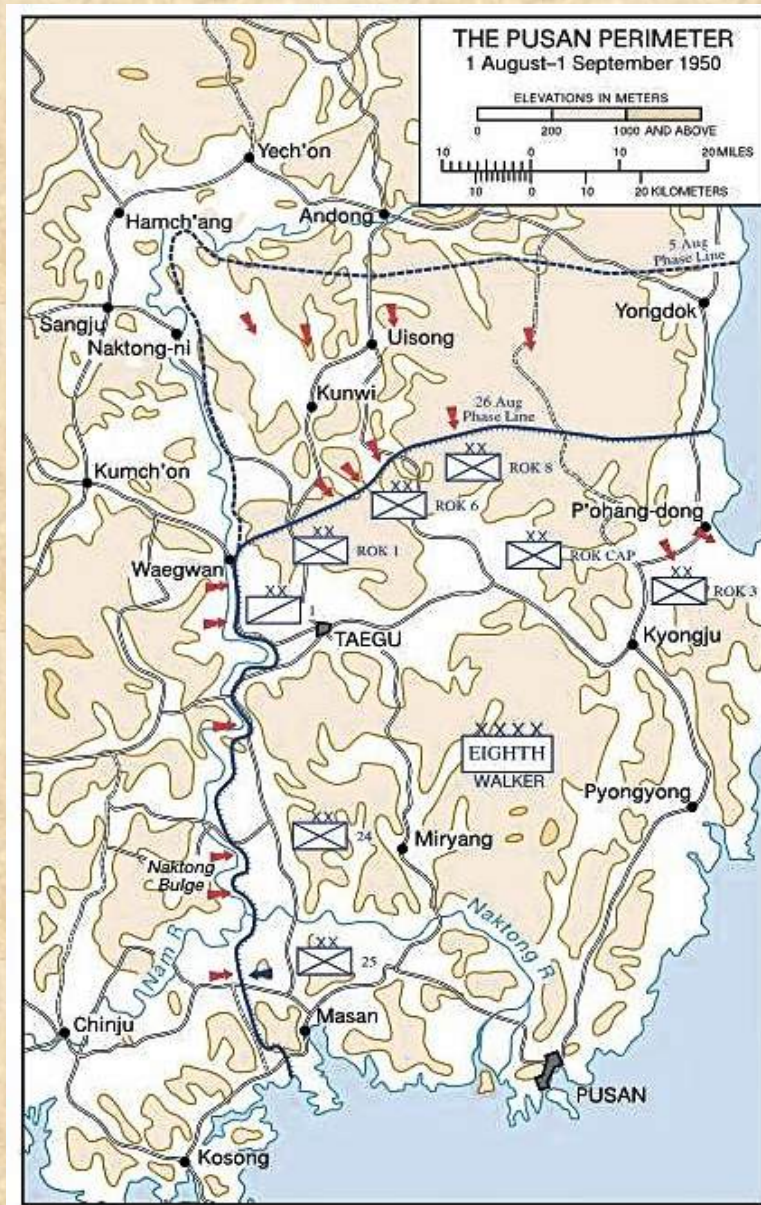
In the early Summer of 1950, the Communist Government of North Korea chose to invade the Republic of South Korea.

As the North Korean Army swept south through the Korean Peninsula towards the port city of Pusan, South Korean Army units collapsed in the face of the onslaught. As U.S. Army units were mobilized and fed into South Korea, they also were caught in the massive retreat to what became known as the Pusan Perimeter. One of the first US combat units to reach the battlefield was the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, a component of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division that had been stationed in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks.

The initial insertion of US troops occurred on or about 3 July 1950. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 34<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt. numbered approximately 640 troops led by Lt. Col. David H. Smith, a World War II infantry battalion commander.

This unit, Task Force Smith, was lightly armed, short on artillery and using, in some cases, obsolete equipment from the previous war. The North Korean Army, equipped with Russian T-34 tanks, outnumbered the South Korean and American defenders. While the defenders were simply trying to hold the enemy in place while the rest of their forces and equipment arrive in country they were being overrun by North Korean Forces.

Corporal Charles Edward Lee was assigned to the "K" Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. According to the record, he was lost during the battle to hold Taejon. The fighting was fierce, many American losses were sustained as whole battalions were decimated.



# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

By July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1950, the first US combat unit in Korea was dug in along the main highway south of Suwon, about 22 miles south of Seoul. This was Task Force Smith, two understrength infantry companies with support of a battery of light artillery. That morning 34 North Korean tanks came down the road from Suwon. Antitank mines would have stopped them, but the task force had no such mines. Recoilless rifles were fired at the tanks, but the rounds just burst against the tanks, causing the tanks to turn their 85mm cannons and 7.63mm coaxial machine guns on the dug-in defenders. The 2.36-inch rocket launchers did no damage to the tanks as they passed through TF Smith and headed for Osan. An hour later the 4<sup>th</sup> North Korean Division attacked. LTC Smith gave the order to withdraw in the early afternoon. The next morning, July 6<sup>th</sup>, LTC Smith had just 200 men left. In small groups, they moved south of Osan to P'yong'taek, 36 miles from Seoul. Survivors straggled in for several days. TF Smith had delayed the North Koreans for about seven hours, but at the cost of 150 lives.

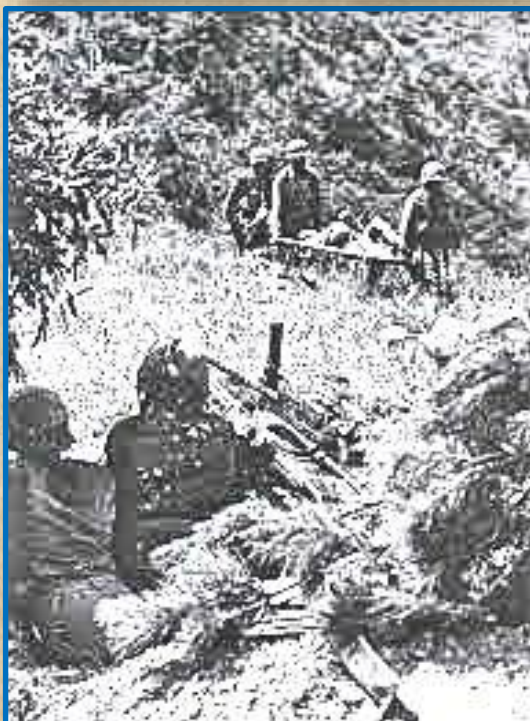
NOTE: For those seeking more specific insight into the battle of the Pusan Perimeter, particularly the combat surrounding the loss of Corporal Lee, Please see the following website:

<https://www.historynet.com/korean-war-forgotten-24th-and-34th-infantry-regiments.htm>



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

The Korea Peninsula was probably the only place that the United Nations actually went to war in unison! A truce was reached on July 27, 1953. Technically a Police Action—not a War North and South Korea Military forces are continuing to face each other across the Demilitarized Zone—“No-Man’s Land” to this day.



## UNITED NATIONS COMBAT FORCES

South Korea - 590,911

United States - 302,483

Canada - 26,791

Australia - 17,000

United Kingdom - 14,198

Thailand - 6,326

Ethiopia - 6,007

Turkey - 5,453

Philippines - 1,468

New Zealand - 1,385

Greece - 1,263

France - 1,119

Colombia - 1,068

Belgium - 900

South Africa - 826

Netherlands - 819

Luxembourg - 44

## HUMANITARIAN AID

*(not counted in total above)*

Denmark - 600

*(Hospital Ship MS Jutlandia)*

India

Italy - 71

*(68th Field Hospital)*

Norway (NORMASH)

Sweden

**Photos to Left**—Fighting along the Pusan Perimeter near Taejon in July 1950.

**Photos Below**— Withdrawal from the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in December 1950



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## CORPORAL KENNETH R. FOREMAN

MISSING IN ACTION – DEC. 2, 1950 – CHOSIN RESERVOIR, NORTH KOREA  
COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND INFANTRY REGIMENT  
7TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



7<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
DIVISION

**PRESS RELEASE | Nov. 8, 2021**

Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Foreman, Kenneth.)  
**WASHINGTON**



32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY  
REGIMENT

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Cpl. Kenneth R. Foreman, 19, of Mount Orab, Ohio, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for June 7, 2021.

In late 1950, Foreman was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after his unit was attacked by enemy forces as they attempted to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered.

On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-

Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Foreman's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), and autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis. Foreman's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Foreman will be buried Dec. 2, 2021, in his hometown.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

## THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR

By December 1950, just six months after the north Korean Invasion of the south, the US Army had successfully...

- ◆ Defended the Pusan Perimeter
- ◆ Outflanked the North Korean Army with a brilliant amphibious landing at Incheon
- ◆ Retaken the Capital City of Seoul
- ◆ Pushed the North Korean Army northward across the 38th Parallel
- ◆ Captured the North Korean Capital City of Pyongyang
- ◆ Deployed the 8<sup>th</sup> US Army with nine (9) Infantry Divisions
- ◆ Succeeded in pushing the enemy to the northern border of Korea with China along the Yalu River

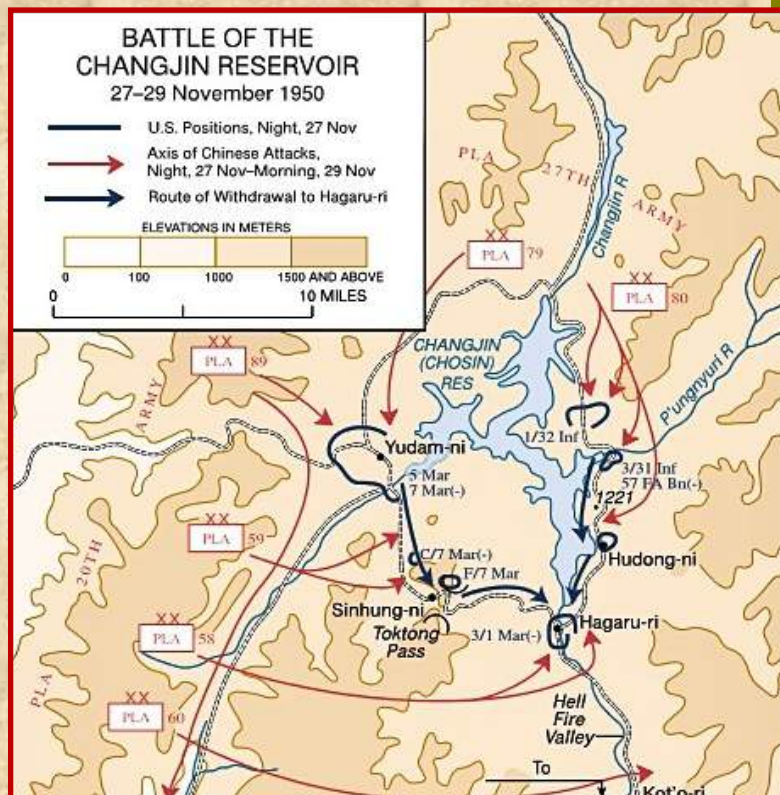
On October 19, 1950 the Communist Chinese Forces crossed the Yalu River attacking the US Army in support of North Korea. In the battles that followed this invasion by China, significant conflicts occurred around the Chosin Reservoir held by the 1st US Marine Division and the 7th US Infantry Division.

One of the thousands of young Americans involved in this conflict was Corporal Kenneth Foreman, assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion led by LTC Faith. The unit was recognized as Task Force Faith.

As vicious attacks by the Chinese hammered US forces on the east and west sides of the Reservoir, it became apparent that the planned US Offensive against the Communist in this sector would never get underway. The command was finally given to withdraw all forces from the Area of Operations around the reservoir. As the Marines and Army were attempting to withdraw under heavy fire from the Chinese, American losses continued to mount. It was during this withdrawal that Corporal Foreman's unit, located on A Company's defensive perimeter, came under its most serious attacks and was likely lost.

As Task Force Faith began to fall back from its many scattered positions, attempting to withdraw in a rag-tag convoy of still serviceable vehicles, losses continued to mount.

\* *As the Chinese fire intensified with heavy machine guns and grenades, the remaining able soldiers abandoned their trucks and fled to Hagaru-ri over the ice. Colonel Faith, later awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, remained behind*



with his men to die in the cold. All during the night of 1-2 December, shattered remnants of Task Force Faith trickled into the Marine positions at Hagaru-ri. A few were rescued by Marine jeeps racing out over the ice to pick up dazed, frost-bitten survivors. Some 319 Americans were rescued in this manner by individual marines. Many of the worst wounded were airlifted to safety. Of the 2,500 men of Task Force Faith, 1,000 were killed, wounded, captured, or left to die of wounds. After the air evacuation, about 500 7th Infantry Division soldiers were left to accompany the 1st Marine Division as it began its withdrawal from Hagaru-ri to the port of Hungnam, fifty miles southeast, and evacuation by sea.

The men of Task Force Faith did not die in vain. They had virtually destroyed an entire Chinese division and prevented any possible attack south by the Chinese for four critical days. If they had not been able to hold out as long as they had, the 80th Division might have hit the 1st Marine Division perimeter at Hagaru-ri in force before the 5th and 7th Marines could have withdrawn. Those units might then have faced dug-in Chinese roadblocks in their rear instead of a safe perimeter and a reasonably open road to the south. The entire fate of X Corps may well have been different, if not for the bravery and stubborn defense of the area east of the Chosin Reservoir by the men of Task Force Faith.

\* Text excerpted from CMH\_Pub\_19-8; United States Army Center for Military History;

[https://history.army.mil/html/books/019/19-8/CMH\\_Pub\\_19-8.pdf](https://history.army.mil/html/books/019/19-8/CMH_Pub_19-8.pdf)

# *A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS*

On 2 December 2021, members of the Cincinnati, Marietta, Highlanders and Hocking Valley chapters of the Ohio Society, along with two members of the Kentucky Society SAR, met at Mt. Orab Cemetery in Brown County to welcome home US Army Corporal Kenneth R. Foreman 71 years after his death. Foreman was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division and was killed during the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea on December 2, 1950.

The military funeral was attended by many family members, friends of the family, community members, and veterans from across the state. Members of the Ohio National Guard, VFW, and the American Legion also attended.

Attending on behalf of the Ohio Society SAR was Past-President Lee Wilkerson, current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jack Bredenfoerder and Chaplin Ed Bonniwell. Cincinnati Chapter was represented by Veterans Committee Chairman Jim Crane, Ohio Society Color Guard Adjutant Mike Gunn, and Compatriot Bob Bowers and Tim Madden. Ohio Society Color Guard Commander Bob Hill of the Hocking Valley Chapter, President Gary Duffield of the Highlanders Chapter, and President Doug Pettit of the Marietta Chapter were also in attendance.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## MUSICIAN FIRST CLASS JOSEPH W. HOFFMAN

DIED DECEMBER 7TH 1941 – PEARL HARBOR, OAHU, HAWAII  
USS OKLAHOMA (BB-37)  
UNITED STATES NAVY



**PRESS RELEASE | April 19, 2022**

Sailor Accounted For From World War II  
**WASHINGTON**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Musician 1st Class Joseph W. Hoffman, 24, of Chillicothe, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Sept. 8, 2020.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Hoffman was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Hoffman.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uānu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff

was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Hoffman.

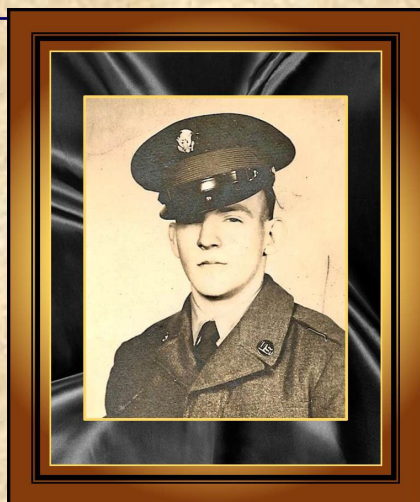
Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis.

To identify Hoffman's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Y chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Hoffman's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Hoffman will be buried Aug. 26, 2022. The exact location has yet to be determined.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BILLY A. DEBORD

MISSING IN ACTION – 25 JULY 1950 – YONGDONG, SOUTH KOREA  
DOD PRESUMPTION OF DEATH – 31 DEC 1953  
'F' COMPANY, 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, 5<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT, 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION,  
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY



**PRESS RELEASE | April 28, 2022**  
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War  
**WASHINGTON**



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Pfc. Billy A. DeBord, 18, of Miamisburg, Ohio, who was killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 28, 2023.

In July 1950, DeBord was a member of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Eighth U.S. Army. He was reported missing in action on July 25 while his unit was engaged by the North Korean People's Army near Yongdong, South Korea. Due to the fighting, his body could not be recovered at that time, and there was never any evidence that he was a prisoner of war. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953.

On April 17, 1951, the 565th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company recovered a set of remains designated Unknown X-945 near Yongdong. There was not enough identifying evidence to associate the remains with DeBord and were declared unidentifiable on April 15, 1955. The remains were sent to Hawaii where they were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punch-

bowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. On Oct. 21, 2019, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-945 as part of Phase Two of the Korean War Disinterment Project and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify DeBord's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparison. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

DeBord's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

PFC DeBord will be buried in Miamisburg, Ohio on  
Nov. 11, 2023.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



On 25 June 1950, the Army of North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea, overrunning and destroying large elements of the Republic of Korea Army; within three days, North Korea had captured Seoul.

On 30 June, the United States sent Air Force, Navy, and Marine troops, along with a 1,000 man Army battalion from the 24th Infantry Division and advisers from the 1st Cavalry Division to support the ROK Army.

On 18 July, the 1st Cavalry Division was ordered to Korea and landed at Pohang-dong, 80 miles north of Pusan, and 25 miles south of the communist forces. The 5th Cavalry quickly marched on Taejon and was deployed into battle position by 22 July. The next day, the men received their baptism by fire. The 8th Cavalry Regiment was swarmed by North Korean troops and the 1/5 Cavalry was sent to fill in the line. On 24 July, F Company moved to assist the overwhelmed 1/5 Cavalry on their right flank, but the numbers of North Korean troops was too much for the troopers. Only 26 men from Companies B and F escaped alive to friendly territory.

Over the next few days, a defensive line was formed at Hwanggan, and the 5th Cavalry relieved elements of the battered 25th Infantry Division on the line. This line became known as the Pusan Perimeter, and the troopers held on for over 50 days against unrelenting North Korean attacks. On 9 August, 1/5 Cavalry bore the brunt of a massive enemy attack of five divisions near Taegu. Troopers of the 5th and 7th Cavalry Regiments used artillery and air support to defeat the North Koreans, and seized Hill 268, "Triangulation Hill," accounting for 400 enemy dead. The 5th Cavalry Regiment withstood two more large attacks, but held the perimeter.



## Pentagon Lists 2 Dayton GIs Among Dead

Two Dayton soldiers, previously listed as missing in action in Korea, were placed on the defense department's list of presumed dead yesterday.

They were Pfc. Billy Allen DeBord, 22, first service man in Montgomery county reported missing in action in the Korean war, and Sgt. William Robert Oiler, 21.

DeBord's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Allen DeBord, 119 South Euclid avenue, were notified Saturday by the defense department. DeBord entered the service in February, 1950, and was sent to Korea July 18, 1950. He was reported missing on July 25.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## FLIGHT OFFICER CHESTER L. RINKE

KILLED IN ACTION – 26 JUNE 1944 – SAPEKHATI, INDIA  
678TH BOMB SQUADRON, 444TH BOMB GROUP (VH)  
58TH BOMB WING, 20TH BOMBER COMMAND  
UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE



**PRESS RELEASE | Sept. 8, 2023**  
Airman Accounted for from WWII  
**WASHINGTON**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Forces Flight Officer Chester L. Rinke, 33, of Marquette, Michigan, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 5, 2023.

In the summer of 1944, Rinke was assigned to the 678th Bombardment Squadron, 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), 58th Bombardment Wing, Twentieth Bomber Command. On June 26, Rinke while serving as the flight officer on the B-29 Superfortress crashed into a rice paddy in the village of Sapekhati, India after a bombing raid on Imperial iron and steel works at Yawata, Kyushu Island, Japan. All 11 crew members were killed instantly in the crash.

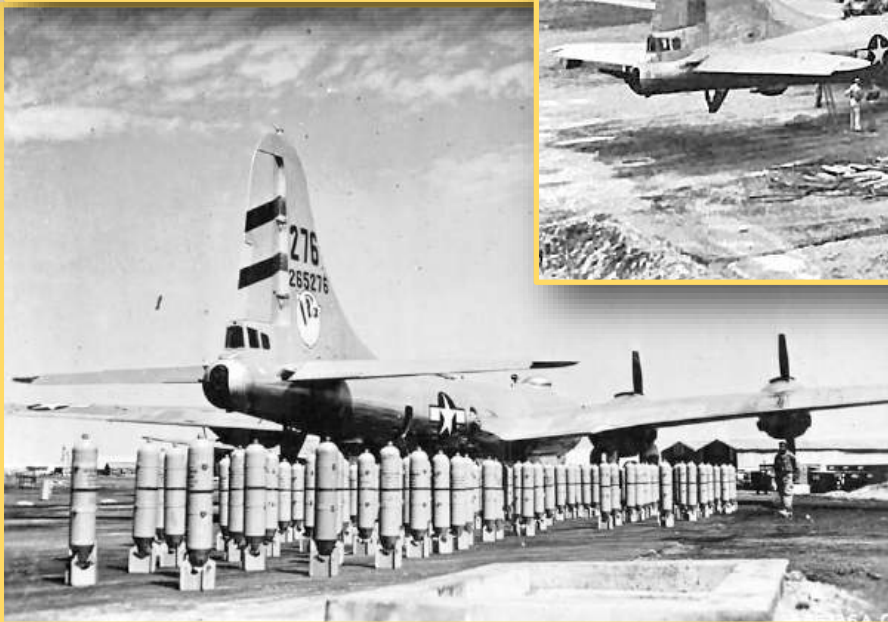
On June 28, 1944 a team from 342nd Service Squadron, 329th Service Group visited the crash site recovering and identifying only seven sets of remains which were interred at in United States Military Cemetery in Panitola, Assam, India and subsequently disinterred and sent to their final internment on Jan. 13, 1948. By September of that same year, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) concluded that Rinke's remains were non-recoverable.

In October 2014 the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (a DPAA predecessor organization) conducted a Joint Field Activity in Sapekhati, which led to the location of the crash site and the recovery of life support equipment and wreckage associated with the B29 aircraft. In 2018 and 2019, Southeastern Archaeological Research (SEARCH) a DPAA partner organization excavated the site and recovered possible osseous remains and material evidence.

To identify Rinke's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis as well as material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), analysis.

Rinke will be buried at Seville, Ohio, on a date to be determined.

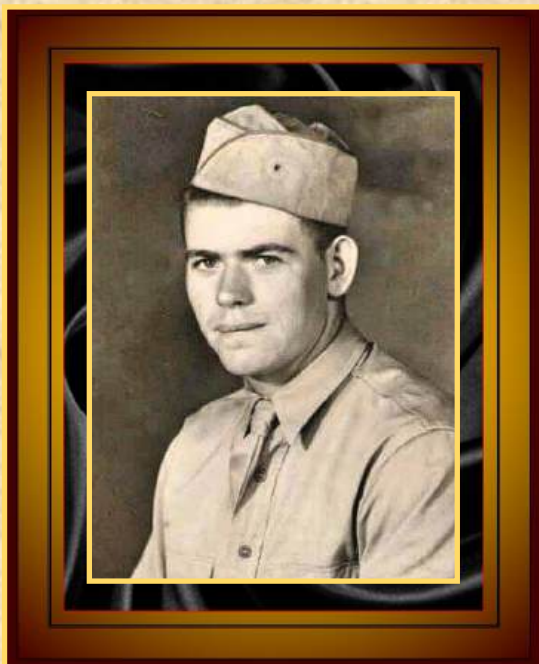
# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



**FLIGHT OFFICER  
CHESTER L. RINKE**

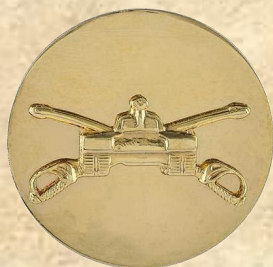


# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS THOMAS FRANKLIN BROOKS

KILLED IN ACTION – 10 DECEMBER 1942 – CABANATUAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
LUZON, PHILIPPINES  
192ND TANK BATTALION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



Following the Allied surrender on the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, the Japanese began the forcible transfer of American and Filipino prisoners of war to various prison camps in central Luzon, at the northern end of the Philippines. The largest of these camps was the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp.



At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war that were captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Camp overcrowding worsened with the arrival of Allied prisoners who had surrendered from Corregidor on May 6, 1942. Conditions at the camp were poor, with food and water extremely limited, leading to widespread malnutrition and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery. By the time the camp was liberated in early 1945, approximately 2,800 Americans had died at Cabanatuan. Prisoners were forced to bury the dead in makeshift communal graves, often completed without records or markers. As a result, identifying and recovering remains interred at Cabanatuan was difficult in the years after the war.

Private First Class Thomas F. Brooks joined the U.S. Army in Kentucky and served with the 192nd Tank Battalion in the Philippines during World War II. He was captured in Bataan following the American surrender and died of beriberi on December 10, 1942, at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in Nueva Ecija Province. He was buried in a communal grave in the camp cemetery along with other deceased American POWs; however, his remains could not be associated with any remains recovered from Cabanatuan after the war. Today, Private First Class Brooks is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

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# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

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U.S. Army Private First-Class Thomas Franklin Brooks will be laid to rest near his childhood home in Edmonson County, Kentucky on Sunday, October 1, 2023 as the community honors his ultimate sacrifice, having died as a prisoner of war in the Philippines during WWII at the age of 23 on December 10, 1942.

He joined the U.S. Army in January 20, 1941 and served at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Louisiana and the Philippines. He was in the first combat unit to arrive in the Philippines just a few days before the islands were invaded by the Japanese. He fought in the Battle of Bataan which lasted nearly four months and was one of the deadliest battles of the war.

He was there as thousands of men marched in the "Bataan Death March" to the Cabanatuan POW camp in Northern Luzon, Philippines. He was wounded and admitted to a field hospital on Bataan before being transferred to the prison camp in May 1942 where he survived for over eight months. He was buried in a mass grave with eight other men just outside of the prison camp in a shallow grave, dug by other soldiers in the prison camp.

Since his death in 1942, his remains along with thousands of others have been moved and disturbed several times in attempts to identify them. Finally on June 21, 2023, multiple DNA tests confirmed his identity and he has returned to the country he died to protect, to the county that never stopped searching for him and to his family that never stopped loving him.

"Frank" as he was known to family and friends was born October 3, 1919, and raised in Edmonson County, Kentucky near Mammoth Cave National Park. He was the 7th of 12 children and of the 6 males, 5 served in the military including Frank. Three served in WWII, as did Frank, and one served in the Navy in the 1930s. His parents, Charles Smith and Francis Isabell Priddy Brooks were farmers, loggers and owned a small country store.

Frank along with his brother Easol traveled to Louisville, KY to join the Army. Easol was assigned to Ft. Hood, Texas and Frank was assigned to the 192nd Tank Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His company of 97 members was comprised almost completely of men from Kentucky, known as the "Harrodsburg Tankers." His unit was requested by General Douglas MacArthur and was evaluated during maneuvers by Major General George S. Patton who noted "That is the finest tank unit I have ever seen."

While he was assigned in close proximity to home, Frank traveled home and invited fellow soldiers to accompany him to enjoy home cooking, family and friends. The journey home involved multiple modes of transportation including bus transport of about 50 miles from Fort Knox to Park City, then a road of hitchhiking through Mammoth Cave National Park to the Green River Ferry, developed in 1934, and walking approximately 10 miles to home. There were no phones to announce their impending arrival. His last visit home was in the summer of 1941.

"The large family was loving and accepting of his friends" said U.S. Army (retired) great nephew Gerald Carroll who recalled that Frank's mother would ask about his friends in letters to the Army after he was

missing. "It was years and years of no answers and his parents and siblings died without knowing what happened to Frank."

Frank's company trained diligently to prepare for probable deployment in 1941, participating in the Louisiana maneuvers across the US southern states. Frank wrote a postcard home from Tremont, Louisiana on August 6, 1941 that he "was having a fairly good time and the hot weather and mosquitos are terrible but I can take it, I guess."

The 192nd Battalion arrived in the Philippines on November 20, 1941 and eighteen days later, on Dec 8, 1941, Frank and his fellow soldiers received their baptism by fire when the Japanese attacked US and Filipino forces on the islands. Frank and his unit were in almost constant close combat with the Japanese. They fought valiantly without reinforcements or resupply until ordered by their superiors to surrender in April 1942. The soldiers who could not escape were forced to endure the infamous "Bataan Death March" as prisoners of war. Only 37 of the original 66 Harrodsburg Tankers survived captivity.

During the fighting, Frank was wounded and admitted to a field hospital on Bataan. The extent of his injuries is unknown. History indicates that the Japanese allowed the hospitals to continue to operate until the US forces on Corregidor eventually fell about a month later and the hospitals were closed and Frank was transferred in May 1942 to the prison camp. Conditions in the camp were horrific with rampant malnutrition and disease; as well as, unspeakable brutality from the Japanese military. Over 2,700 soldiers died in the camp as unknowns.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

## LEFT IN THE PHILIPPINES

After the Japanese surrendered and the war ended on August 15, 1945, there were multiple efforts to identify the men who were buried in the prison camps. Those efforts were partially successful as 6 of the 8 men buried with Frank were identified, but Frank and 2 others were buried together as unknowns in January 1950 among the 17,000 buried in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines and 36,286 missing, mostly lost at sea and aircraft losses.

He remained buried as an unknown from 1950-2018, when the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) exhumed the remains and began the analysis of DNA, making a positive identification, 81 years after his death.

"Frank's family was never informed as to what happened," said Carroll, "and each of his siblings died without knowing the story of his death or what happened to him. The family made many inquires over the years, but no satisfactory answers were received; however, we are grateful that we know more of what happened and that his life and his death is relevant again."

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND APPRECIATION

The family invites the public to celebrate his life and legacy as they prepare for his homecoming.

At this time, details are unavailable as to when his remains will arrive before the schedule graveside service on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hill Grove Missionary Baptist Cemetery in Mammoth Cave. He will be buried with full military honors.

Individuals and businesses along the procession route are encouraged to create patriotic displays of American Flags and yellow ribbons. "We are so appreciative of the Patriotic displays of the American flag and yellow ribbons, and so many acts of kindness. Our family is deeply honored," said Carroll.

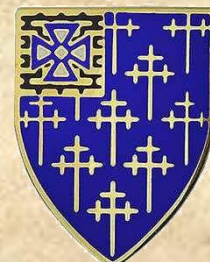
Additional information will be available as his story continues and our country honors this American Hero.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY



34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACK E. LILLEY

MISSING IN ACTION – JULY 1950 – TAEJON, SOUTH KOREA  
H&H COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
24TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



**PRESS RELEASE | May 2, 2022**

Soldier Accounted For From Korean War  
**WASHINGTON**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Pfc. Jack E. Lilley, 19, of Waldworth, Ohio, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Nov. 5, 2021.

In July 1950, Lilley was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20 after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. He was never found, nor were any remains recovered that could be identified as Lilley. He was declared non-recoverable in January 1956.

Seven sets of remains were recovered from a common grave a few miles east of Taejon in March 1951. Six of the sets were able to be identified. The lone unidentified set was designated Unknown X-769 Tanggok and were later transported with all of the unidentified Korean War remains and buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

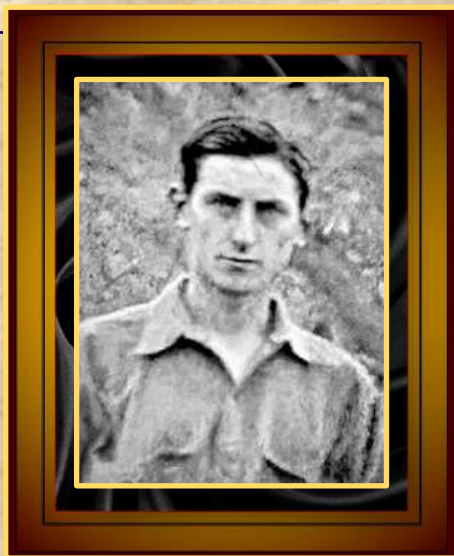
In July 2018, DPAA historians and anthropologists proposed a plan to disinter and identify the 652 Korean War unknown burials from the Punchbowl. X-769 was disinterred July 15, 2019, as part of Phase 2 of the Korean War Identification Project and transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

To identify Lilley's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Lilley's name is recorded on the American Battle Monument Commission's Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Lilley will be buried June 14, 2022, in Westerville, Ohio.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## SEAMAN SECOND CLASS STANLEY CASMIER GALASZEWSKI

DIED DECEMBER 7TH 1941 – PEARL HARBOR, OAHU, HAWAII  
USS CALIFORNIA (BB-44)  
UNITED STATES NAVY

**PRESS RELEASE | November 23, 2023**  
Sailor Accounted For From World War II  
**WASHINGTON**

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Stanley Casmier Galaszewski was born on September 5, 1912. His life was tragically cut short at the age of 29, during the attack on the USS California at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Making his ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, his life is forever etched in the annals of history.

Stanley enlisted in the United States Navy on November 15, 1940 in Cleveland, OH. He then became a Seaman 2nd Class and was stationed on the USS California. His awards and decorations include: Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Stanley's remains were exhumed from the graves of the USS California "unknowns" after nearly seven decades and identified using recent advances in forensic technology. Finally, after so many years, there is a renewed sense of closure and remembrance for his family and loved ones.

As we bid farewell to Stanley, let us remember the brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. Their courage and sacrifice shall never be forgotten, forever embedded in the tapestry of our nation's history. May Stanley Casmier Galaszewski rest in eternal peace, knowing that his contribution to our country will always be cherished and honored.

Burial with full military honors will be held at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Steubenville on Friday, November 3 at 1 p.m. Friends are invited to observe the funeral procession that will start at the funeral home and will go through Sunset Boulevard at approximately 12:30 pm



# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

## **Remains of Ohio Sailor Identified 80 Years After Pearl Harbor Attack**

Officials say Stanley C. Galaszewski, 29, who died in the December 1941 attack, will be buried in November, officials said. By Brian Brant | Published on October 4, 2023

The remains of an Ohio sailor who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor have been identified after over 80 years, officials announced Monday.

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Stanley C. Galaszewski, 29, of Steubenville, was one of the 104 crewmen on the USS California battleship who died in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said in a news release.

The moored ship was attacked by a Japanese aircraft and sustained multiple torpedo and bomb hits, which caused it to catch fire and slowly flood.

According to Naval History and Heritage Command, the surprise attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy killed thousands of people and led to the United States getting involved in World War II.

"From December 1941 to April 1942, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uaniu Cemeteries," officials added in the release.

After members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains from both cemeteries

in September 1947, only 39 men aboard the ship were able to be identified at the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks.

RELATED: Sailor Who Died in Pearl Harbor Finally Identified and Laid to Rest 80 Years Later, Thanks to DNA

"The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu," officials wrote. "In October 1949, a military board classified the 25 Unknowns who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Galaszewski."

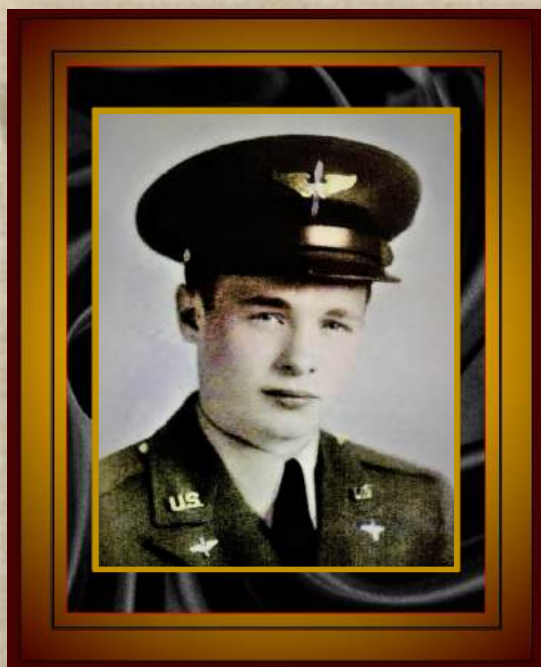
However, in 2018, DPAA personnel exhumed the remains of 25 unknown casualties from the Punchbowl for analysis. DNA and other evidence were then used to finally determine Galaszewski's identity on May 23, 2022.

Galaszewski's remains were returned to Steubenville, where he was buried on Nov. 3.

"Galaszewski's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII," the release added. "A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for."



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## STAFF SERGEANT JACK W. COY

KIA FEBRUARY 24, 1944—NEAR BAD SALZUNGEN, GERMANY  
703<sup>RD</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
445<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)  
8<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE

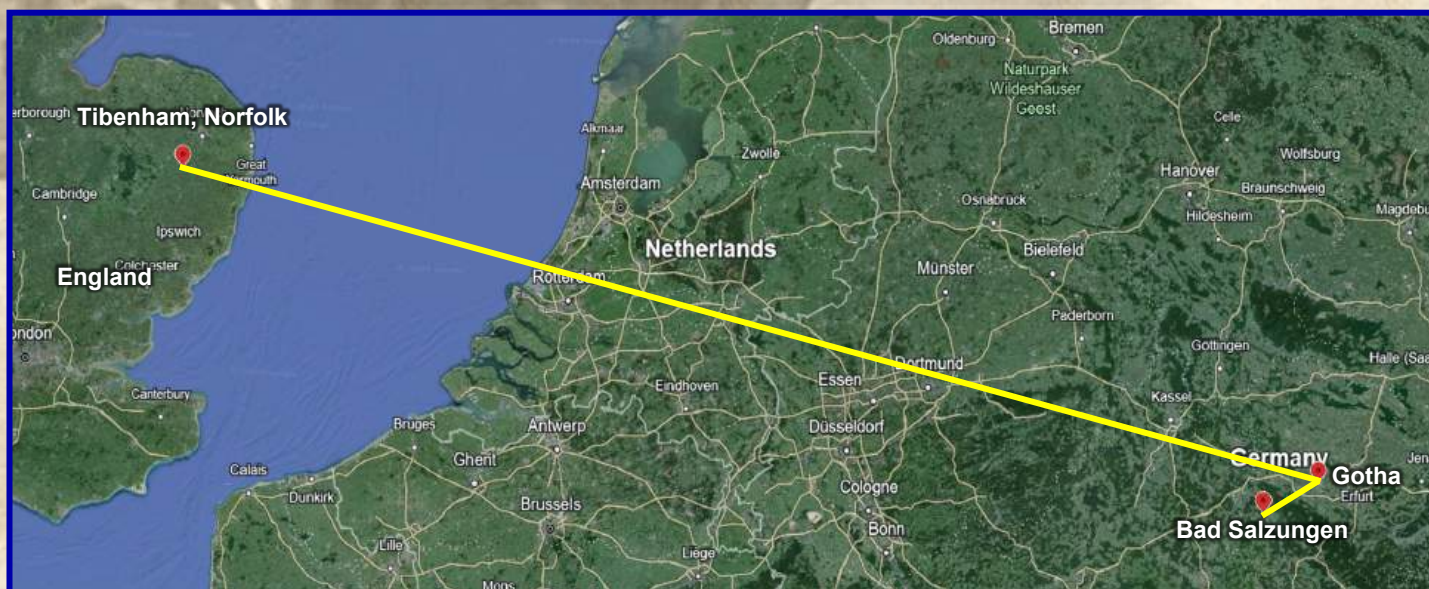
On September 20, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Staff Sergeant Jack W. Coy, missing from World War II.

Staff Sergeant Coy entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Ohio and served in the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 403rd Bombardment Group. On February 24, 1944, he was the tail gunner aboard a B-24J Liberator (serial number 42-100312) which took off from its airbase in England, for a bombing mission against enemy targets near Gotha, Germany. During the mission, this aircraft sustained damage from an enemy fighter attack and exploded in mid-air near Bad Salzungen, Germany. Two crew members survived the attack, but the rest, including SSG Coy, were lost in the explosion. Post-war search efforts to find his remains were unsuccessful. In March 1952, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) took custody of commingled unidentified remains from Bad Salzungen Cemetery. Among them were remains belonging to several crewmembers from a bomber crash between Bad Salzungen and Leimbach-Kaiseroda. However, there was not enough evidence to warrant an individual or group identification, and they were ultimately interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery. In June 2021 these remains were disinterred and transferred to a DPAA Laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of SSG Coy.

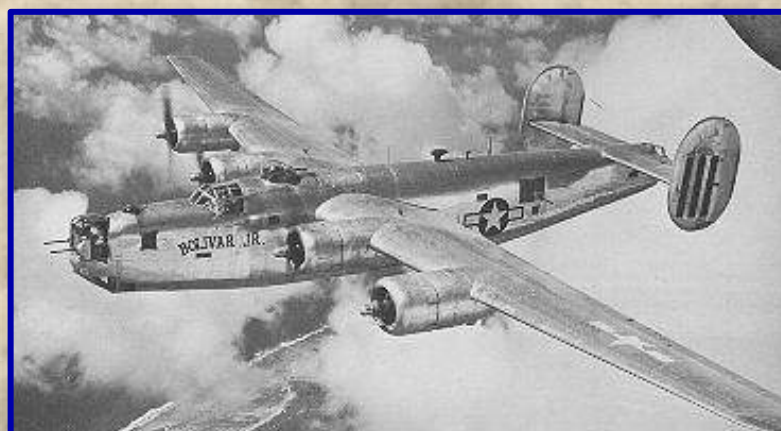
Staff Sergeant Coy is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium.

There will be a graveside service for Coy on 26 May at Willow Cemetery in Oregon. The city of Toledo has several events occurring that day. The time has not been finalized yet.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



The 445th Bomb Group flew B-24 Liberators from Tibenham, Norfolk. The crews' first mission was bombing U-boat installations at Kiel on 13 December 1943. The Group continued to hit strategic targets in Germany, including the aircraft components factory at Gotha on 24 February 1944, during USAAF's Big Week of raids against the German aircraft industry, which earned the Group a Distinguished Unit Citation. The Group was awarded the Croix de Guerre,



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT JAMES H. MARRAH

KIA AUGUST 1, 1943—NEAR BUCHAREST, ROMANIA  
415<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (HEAVY),  
98<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY),  
9<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. James H. Marrah, 22, of London, Ohio, killed during World War II was accounted for August 3, 2023.

In the summer of 1943, Marrah served with the 415th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 98th Bombardment Group (Heavy), 9th Air Force. On Aug. 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft on which Marrah was serving as a co-pilot, crashed as a result of enemy anti-aircraft fire during Operation TIDAL WAVE, the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, north of Bucharest, Romania. His remains were not identified following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section of the Civilian and Military Cemetery of Bolovan, Ploiesti, Prahova, Romania.

Following the war, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the organization that searched for and recovered fallen American personnel, disinterred all American remains from the Bolovan Cemetery for identification. The AGRC was unable to identify more than 80 unknowns from Bolovan Cemetery, and those remains were permanently interred at Ardennes American Cemetery and Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, both in Belgium.

In 2017, DPAA began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted-for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE losses. These remains were sent to the DPAA Laboratory for examination and identification.

To identify Marrah's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis and autosomal DNA (auSTR).

Marrah's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Impruneta, Italy, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Marrah will be buried in London, Ohio, on a date to be determined.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

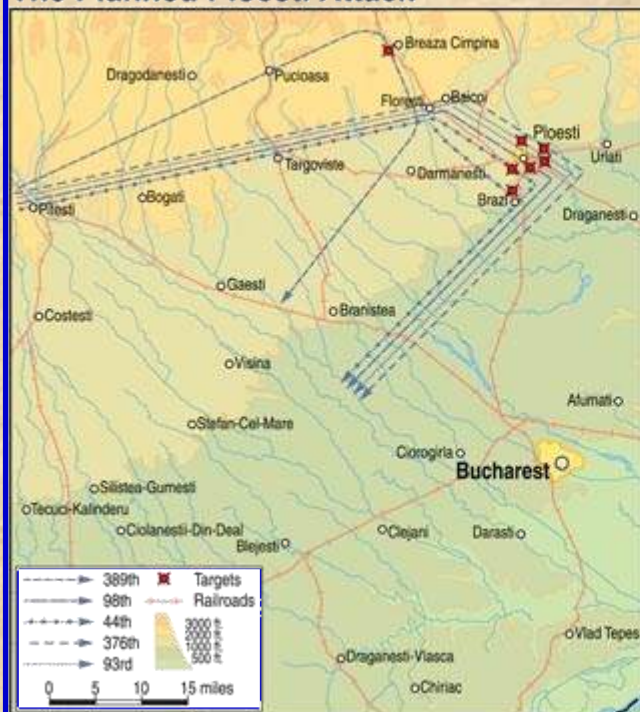
## OPERATION TIDAL WAVE



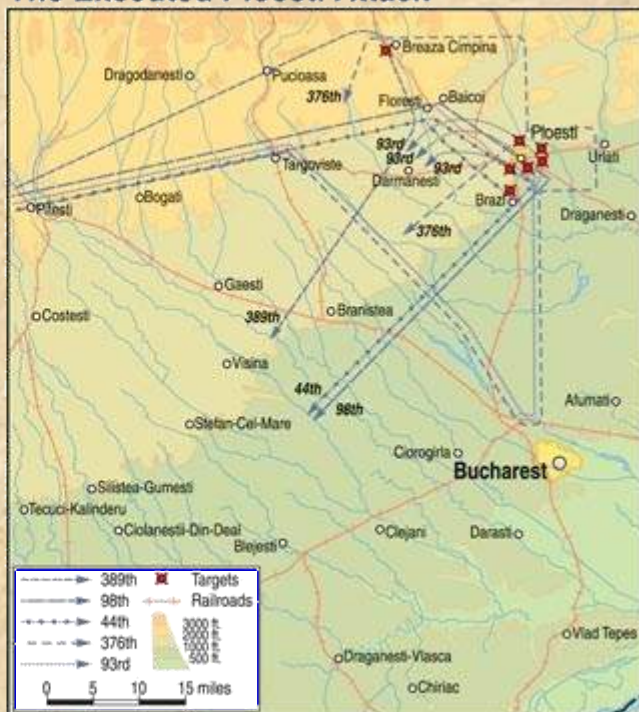
Operation Tidal Wave was an air attack by bombers of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) based in Libya on nine oil refineries around Ploiești, Romania on 1 August 1943, during World War II. It was a strategic bombing mission and part of the "oil campaign" to deny petroleum-based fuel to the Axis powers. The mission resulted in "no curtailment of overall product output".

This operation was one of the costliest for the USAAF in the European Theater, with 53 aircraft and 500 aircrewmembers lost. It was proportionally the most costly major Allied air raid of the war, and its date was later referred to as "Black Sunday". Five Medals of Honor and 56 Distinguished Service Crosses along with numerous other awards went to Operation Tidal Wave crew members. A 1999 research report prepared for the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama concluded that the bombing campaign in Ploiești was "one of the bloodiest and most heroic missions of all time". One of the downed American planes crashed into a female prison in Ploiești, resulting in about half of the civilian casualties from the total of 101 killed and 238 injured.

### The Planned Ploesti Attack



### The Executed Ploesti Attack



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## COXSWAIN HARLEY EDWIN ALEXANDER

BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 1944— BAIE DE LA SEINE, FRANCE  
(ROUGHLY 6 MILES FROM UTAH BEACH IN NORMANDY FRANCE)  
USS GLENNON (DD-620)

**PRESS RELEASE** | May 10, 2024  
Sailor Accounted For From World War II  
**WASHINGTON**

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Coxswain (Cox) Harley E. Alexander, 22, of New Madison, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Mar. 22, 2024.

On June 8, 1944, Alexander was assigned to the destroyer USS *Glennon*, which struck a mine off the coast of Quinnéville, France, which forced 16 sailors overboard. Ultimately, the majority of the crew had abandoned the vessel, but a few remained on board for salvage operations, including Alexander. Two days later, on June 10, the *Glennon* was struck by multiple artillery barrages from German forces on shore, eventually causing the ship to sink late in the evening. Following the attack, 38 sailors had been wounded and 25 were missing, including Cox Alexander. Other than the rescued sailors thrown overboard from the initial mine strike, there is not report of any recovery of other missing sailors. The remains of Cox Alexander were not accounted for and he was deemed non-recoverable on May 4, 1949.

In 1957, pieces of *Glennon* were hauled to shore by salvagers. A local resident was searching through the larger sections of wreckage and found human remains within the forward portion of the ship. The remains were turned over to American officials and processing determined the remains to be those of at least two individuals, subsequently designated X-9296 and X-9297. After unsuccessful efforts to identify the remains, they were interred on 4 March 1959 in Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupré, Belgium.

In 2021, DPAA researchers began an effort to associate unresolved sailors from the *Glennon* based on historical documentation of the remains removed from the ship's wreckage. By August 2022, the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission exhumed unknown remains X-9296 and X-9297 from Ardennes American Cemetery for comparison with unaccounted-for sailors from *Glennon*.

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# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

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## **INVASION OF NORMANDY AND SINKING OF USS GLENNON (DD-620)**

USS Glennon shifted to a different station on 7 June 1944 and expended 430 5-inch shells at numerous designated targets to support troops advancing eastward toward Quinéville, France. At sunrise the following day, the destroyer returned to the same shore fire control station to resume shore bombardment, but was directed to standby and received no targets. While maintaining her position in the shore fire control station and awaiting further orders, at 0803, Glennon's crew felt the impact of a tremendous explosion close aboard the port quarter. The force of the explosion ripped a 600-pound depth charge off the stern racks and hurled it onto the torpedo platform and slung a 150-pound cement dan-buoy anchor 125 feet from the fantail to the port gun tub. Two sailors who were standing on the fantail during the explosion were tossed 40 feet into the air before landing overboard. One of the men was later rescued with broken legs and possible internal injuries. Glennon went to General Quarters. Crewmembers lowered the ship's motor whaleboat to pick up 16 men who had been thrown into the water and repair parties assembled aft to begin rescue and salvage work. An immediate assessment of the damage revealed that the ship had struck or detonated an acoustic mine, but was in no danger of sinking.

Just after 0830 on 7 June 1944, the minesweepers Staff (AM-114) and Threat (AM-124) arrived on the scene to tow Glennon to the transport area. Staff took up a towline and Threat set out to sweep a path in advance. A short time later, the Rich (DE-695) arrived to provide assistance, but Glennon's crew signaled that no help was needed and warned her to clear the area with caution to avoid mines. As Rich rounded Glennon's stern to depart, a mine detonated 50 yards off her starboard beam. The concussion tripped Rich's circuit breakers, shutting down the ship's lighting, and knocked several sailors off their feet, but resulted in no structural damage. Minutes later, however, a second mine detonated directly under Rich and blew off a 50-foot section of her stern and a third mine exploded under her bow, breaking her across the forecastle just forward of the bridge, sinking the ship in minutes. Fortunately, several small craft near the vicinity of the explosions rushed to pick up the survivors in short order.

By 0900 on 7 June 1944, Staff had determined that she could not budge Glennon, whose broken fantail sat firmly anchored to the bottom by her starboard propeller. Lt. Cmdr. Johnson thus altered his plans and ordered all of the wounded men and half of the ship's able-bodied crew to transfer to Staff. He then instructed those who remained on board the stricken vessel to proceed with salvage efforts. On 9 June, Lt. Cmdr. Johnson arranged to have a salvage detail of five officers and 50 men transferred from the tank landing ship LST-539 to the liberty ship Ben Robertson and brought to Glennon.

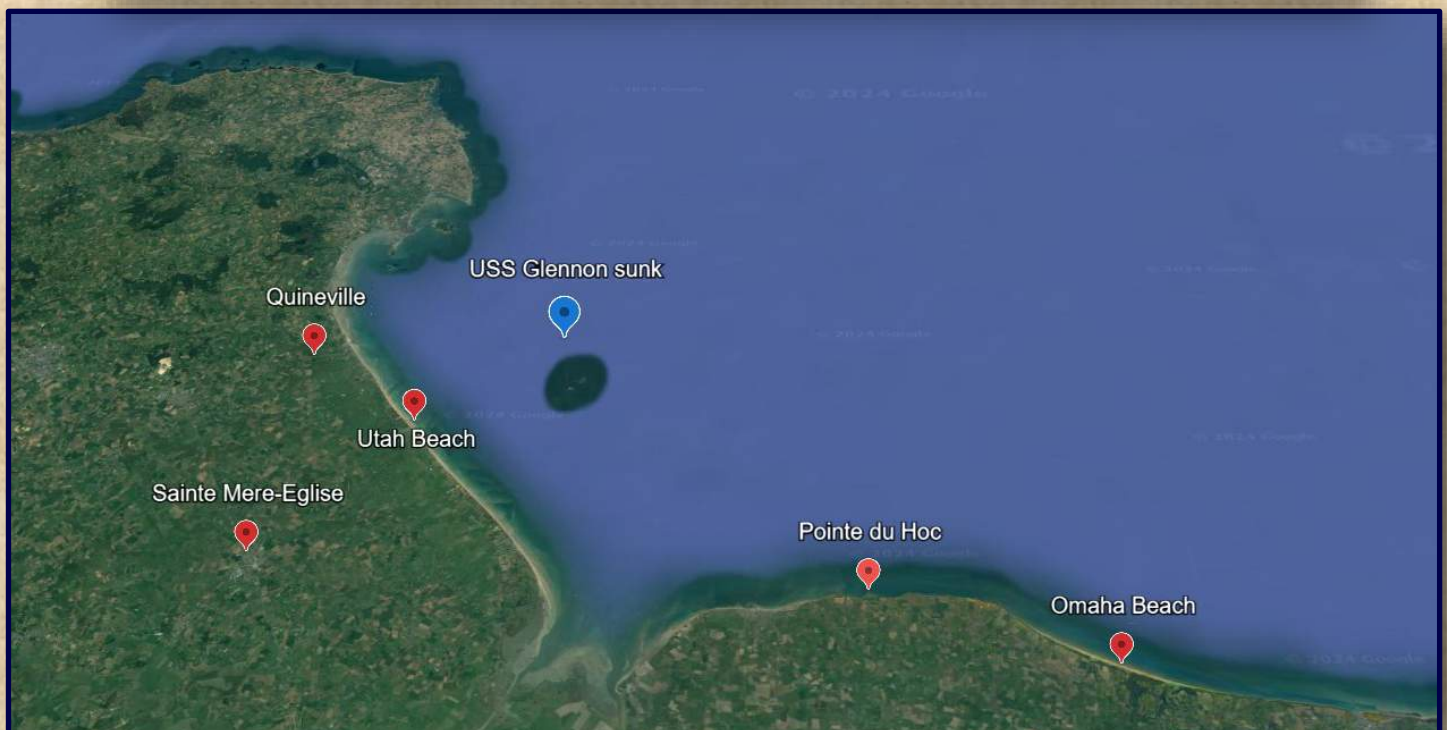


**USS GLENNON (DD-620)**

# ***A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS***

The following morning (8 June 1944), as Lt. Cmdr. Johnson was preparing to bring on the salvage detail and resume efforts to save his ship, a German battery near Quinneville fired a salvo that splashed about 200 yards off Glennon's port quarter. The battery then found its range and fired a second salvo that struck the destroyer amidships. After a third salvo wounded two men, one seriously, and cut off all power, Lt. Cmdr. Johnson gave the order to abandon ship and the crew quickly evacuated onto landing craft. Glennon continued to float until 10 June 1944, when around 2145, she began listing heavily and sank. She had suffered 25 dead and 38 wounded.

Glennon, stricken from the Navy Register on 29 July 1944, received two battle stars for her service in World War II.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## 1<sup>ST</sup> LIEUTENANT DANIEL WINSTEAD CORSON

KIA DECEMBER 20, 1942—NEAR ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE, FRANCE.

401<sup>ST</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
91<sup>ST</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)  
8<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE

On September 22, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of First Lieutenant Dan W. Corson, missing from World War II.

First Lieutenant Corson entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Ohio and served in the 401st Bombardment Squadron, 91st Bombardment Group. On December 20, 1942, he was the pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress (serial number 41-24432, nicknamed "Danellen") which took off from Cambridgeshire, England, for a bombing mission against targets in the area of Romilly-sur-Seine, France. During the mission, "Danellen" was shot down by an enemy fighter plane and was last seen spinning towards the ground with smoke coming from its engines. It crashed near the village of Bernieres-sur-Seine, France. One crew member, who managed to bail out of the aircraft before the crash, later reported that the remaining eight crew members perished when the

B-17 went down. During postwar recovery efforts, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) disinterred four sets of remains from the city cemetery in Evreux, France. One set of these remains was identified as belonging to the top turret gunner of the B-17, however the AGRC was unable to make conclusive associations for the other sets of remains, and they were eventually interred as Unknowns in the Normandy American Cemetery. In 2011, a family member of one of the crew contacted the Department of Defense after visiting the crash site and interviewing a witness who had artifacts belonging to "Danellen". That same year, acting on this new information, researchers from what is now the DPAA conducted research into the crash site and re-analyzed the Unknowns associated with the crew, determining there was enough evidence to pursue the case. Cont'd

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

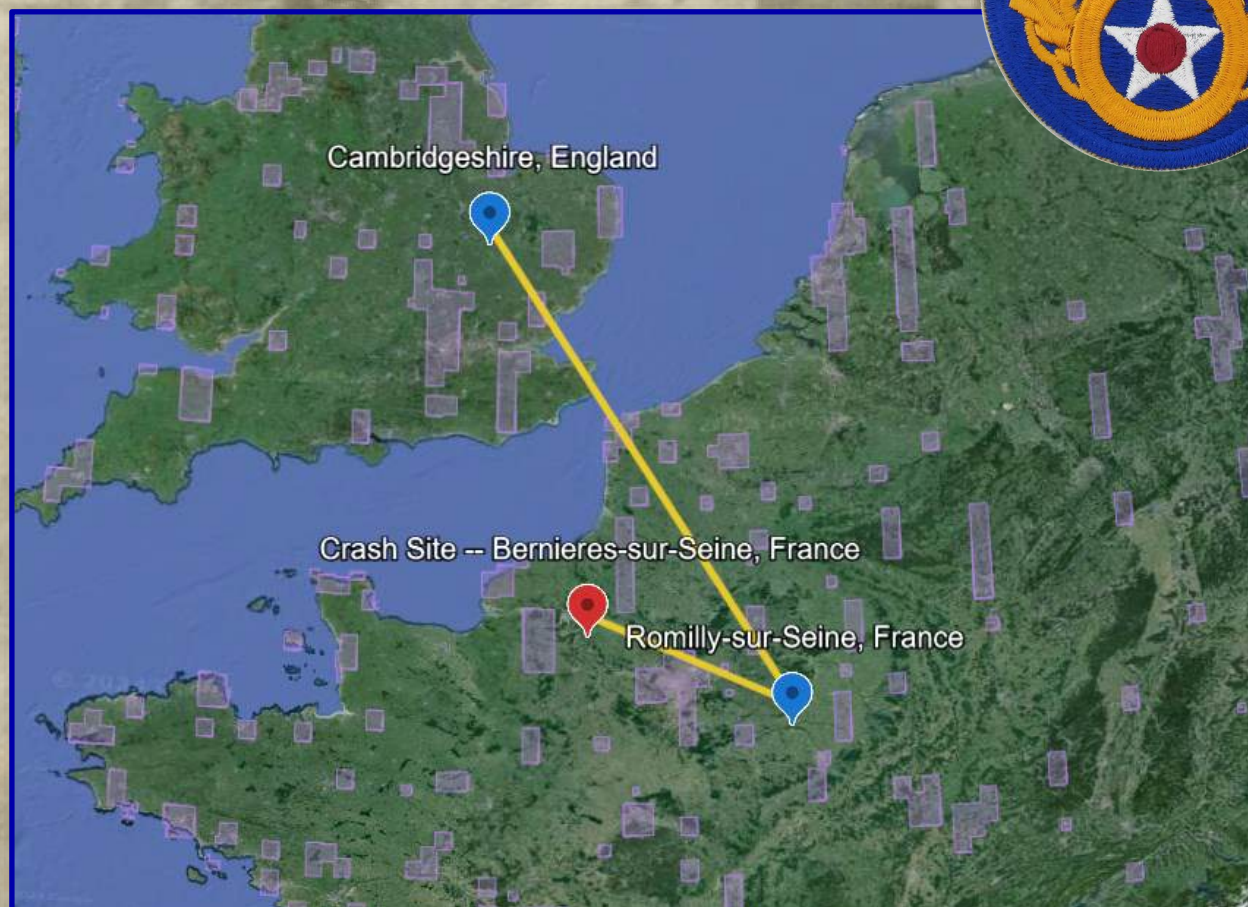
## Avenges Brother In Antwerp Raid

A U. S. BOMBER STATION, England, May 5. (P)—Those bombs Lieut. William L. Corson, 25, of Middletown, O., sent crashing down on Antwerp war plants yesterday had a special tag on them—"Revenge for my brother."

The brother, Dan W. Corson, 28, was the pilot of the Flying Fortress "Dannellen," named after their parents, which did not return from the Dec. 20 raid on Romilly. William is bombardier of the Fortress Mizpah.

In March 2019, the Department of Defense and the American Battle Monuments Commission exhumed the three sets of unknown remains and sent them to a DPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of 1st Lt Corson.

First Lieutenant Corson is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



80TH INFANTRY  
DIVISION  
"THE BLUE RIDGE  
DIVISION"

TECHNICIAN 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
(TECH5)

HAROLD D. PITTIS

KILLED IN ACTION – 8 FEBRUARY 1945  
NEAR BIESDORF, GERMANY  
COMPANY G, 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, 318<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT,  
80<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY

**PRESS RELEASE | August 1, 2024**  
Soldier Accounted For From World War II  
**WASHINGTON**



318<sup>TH</sup>  
UNITED STATES  
INFANTRY

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Technician Fifth Grade (Tech5) Harold D. Pittis, 21, of Freeport, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for March 20, 2024.

In February 1945, Pittis was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division. His regiment was engaged in fierce fighting near the town of Biesdorf, Germany, when he was reported killed in action by small arms fire on Feb. 8. His body was unable to be recovered due to intense fighting against heavily reinforced German forces on an elevated position. Despite various recovery attempts, Pittis's remains were not accounted for during or after

the war.

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. In 1951, remains were recovered from a wooded area southeast of Biesdorf. Remnants of military clothing, an American helmet and ammunition were found, but no identification tags or personal effects were located. The remains were designated X-8517 Neuville and interred at the U.S. Military Cemetery at Tunisia, known today as the North Africa American Cemetery.

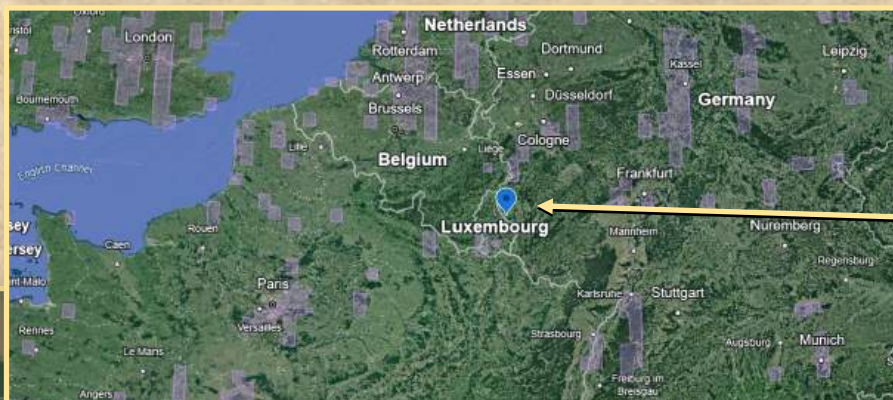
In September 2022, Department of Defense and American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) personnel exhumed X-8517 Neuville for forensic analy-

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

sis and comparison with unresolved soldiers known to have been lost in the Biesdorf area. The remains were sent to the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Pittis's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and dental analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR), and Autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

Pittis's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Luxembourg American Cemetery, an ABMC site in Hamm, Luxembourg, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.



The approximate area on the German Border where T-5 Pettis of "G" Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 318<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was believed to have been lost after crossing the Our and Sauer Rivers.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



2ND  
INFANTRY  
DIVISION



## SERGEANT JOHN PAUL RYHTER

MIA – 1 DECEMBER 1950

KUNU-RI , NORTH KOREA

BATTERY "A" , 82<sup>ND</sup> ANTI-AIRCRAFT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION

2<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION

UNITED STATES ARMY

**PRESS RELEASE | April 4, 2024**

Soldier Accounted For From Korean War

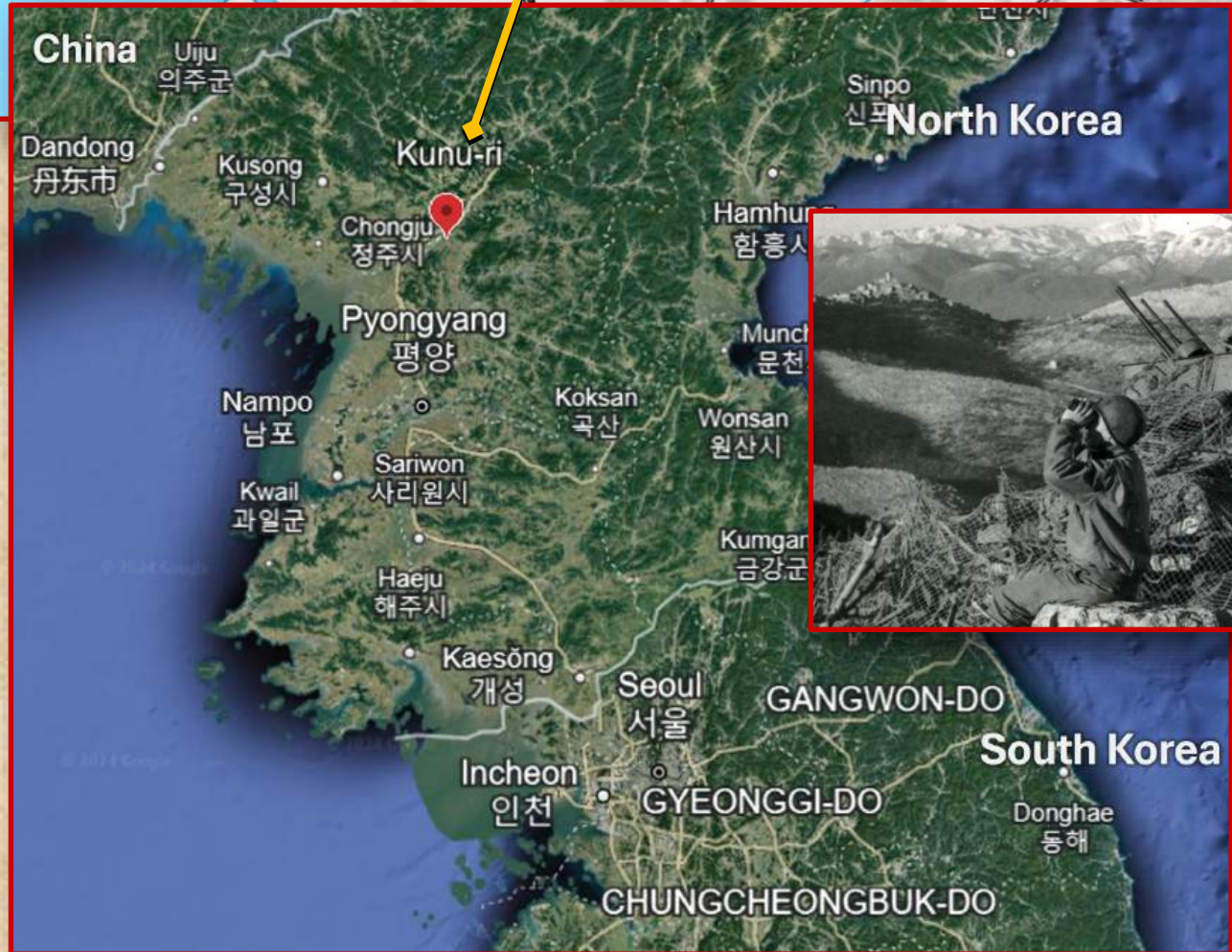
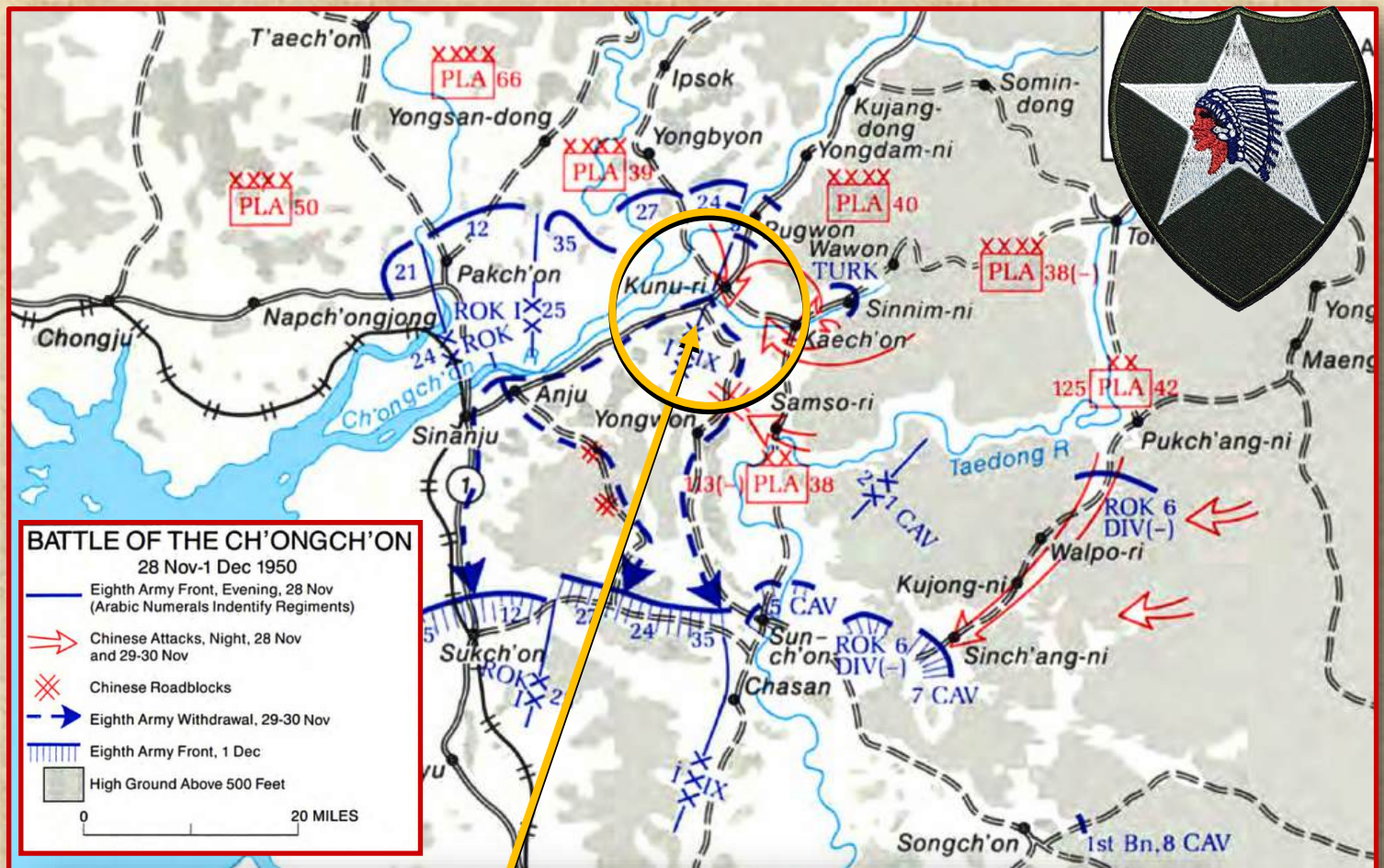
**WASHINGTON**

On April 8, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Sergeant John Paul Rhyter, missing from the Korean War.

Sergeant Ryhter entered the U.S. Army from California and served in Battery A, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. By mid-November 1950, U.S. and Allied forces had advanced to within approximately sixty miles of the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China. On November 25, approximately 300,000 Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) "volunteers" suddenly and fiercely counterattacked after crossing the Yalu. The 2nd Infantry Division, located the farthest north of units at the Chongchon River, could not halt the CCF advance and was ordered to withdraw to defensive positions at Sunchon in the South Pyongan province of North Korea. As the division pulled back from Kunu-ri toward Sunchon, it conducted an intense rearguard action while fighting to break through well-defended roadblocks set up by CCF infiltrators. The withdrawal was not complete until December 1, and the 2nd Infantry Division suffered ex-

remely heavy casualties in the process. Sgt Ryhter went missing in action on December 1, 1950, as his unit provided direct fire support to 2nd Infantry Division troops withdrawing from Kunu-ri south to Sunchon, North Korea. In 1954, the opposing nations reached an agreement to exchange war dead, the execution of which was known as OPERATION GLORY. As part of this exchange, one set of remains was reportedly recovered from Pyoktong (Camp 5) Prisoner of War Cemetery. The remains could not be identified at the time and were interred as an unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In September 2019, DPAA personnel exhumed these remains for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established that the remains were those of Sgt Ryhter.

Sergeant Ryhter is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include the names of the fallen.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT ROBERT T. MCCOLLUM



565<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
389<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)  
2<sup>ND</sup> COMBAT BOMBARDMENT  
2<sup>ND</sup> AIR DIVISION  
8<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE

On 10 December 2024, The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Robert T. McCollum, 22, of Cleveland, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for.

McCollum's family recently received their full briefing on his identification, therefore, additional details on his identification can be shared.

In June 1944, McCollum was assigned to the 565th Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group, 2nd Combat Bomb Wing, 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, in the European Theater. On June 20, McCollum, the bombardier onboard a B-24J "Liberator" bomber, went missing in action when his plane crashed into the Baltic Sea off the coast of Denmark after colliding with another B-24 in the same formation. The pilot and co-pilot of McCollum's aircraft were able to bail out and survived, but all evidence points to the rest of the crew being killed in the crash. The U.S. War Department issued a Finding of Death for McCollum on June 21, 1945.

In early 1948, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the organization that searched for and recovered fallen American personnel in the European Theater, investigated the crash, but were unable to find any of the missing crewmen. Over the next couple of years, the AGRC also assessed unidentified remains that washed ashore in the area where McCollum's aircraft crashed but were not able to identify any of the crew. McCollum was declared non-recoverable on May 12, 1950.

In 2019, Danish divers alerted the Royal Danish Navy to a WWII-era aircraft wreck in the general area where McCollum's aircraft crashed. A .50 caliber machine gun with a damaged serial number that partially matched on the guns on McCollum's aircraft was recovered. In August 2021, after the Royal Danish Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal cleared the site of unexploded ordnance, DPAA partner University of Delaware, along with the Royal Danish Navy, returned to conduct an

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

underwater survey. The survey found possible human remains as well as enough evidence to recommend the site for an archaeological excavation.

From Sept. 21 to Oct. 11, 2022, DPAA primary partner Trident Archäologie, along with Wessex Archaeology and volunteers from Project Recover, and with stakeholders from the Royal Danish Navy and the Langelands Museum, returned to the site to conduct excavation and recovery operations. They found extensive evidence, including remains, material evidence, and the ID tags of two of the crew members, all of which was turned over to the Danish authorities and then accessioned into the DPAA laboratory. Trident Archäologie, Wessex Archaeology, the Royal Danish Navy, and the Langelands Museum again returned to the site from Sept. 4-23, 2023, and May 18 to June 9, 2024, to conduct further operations, during which

they found further material evidence and possible remains. That evidence was also accessioned into the DPAA laboratory.

To identify McCollum's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA and autosomal DNA analysis.

McCollum's name is recorded on the Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

McCollum will be buried in San Jose, California, on a date yet to be determined.



Constituted as 389th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 19 Dec 1942 and activated on 24 Dec. Prepared for duty overseas with B-24's. Moved to England, Jun-Jul 1943, and assigned to Eighth AF.

Almost immediately a detachment was sent to Libya, where it began operations on 9 Jul 1943. The detachment flew missions to Crete, Sicily, Italy, Austria, and Rumania. The group received a DUC for the detachment's participation in the famed low-level attack against oil refineries at Ploesti on 1 Aug 1943.

The detachment returned to England in Aug and the group flew several missions against airfields in France and Holland. Operating temporarily from Tunisia, Sep-Oct 1943, the 389th supported Allied operations at Salerno and hit targets in Corsica, Italy, and Austria.

Resumed operations from England in Oct 1943, and until Apr 1945 concentrated primarily on strategic objectives

in France, the Low Countries, and Germany. Targets included shipbuilding yards at Vegesack, industrial areas of Berlin, oil facilities at Merseburg, factories at Munster, railroad yards at Sangerhausen, and V-weapon sites at Pas de Calais.

Participated in the intensive air campaign against the German aircraft industry during Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944. Also flew support and interdiction missions on several occasions, bombing gun batteries and airfields in support of the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944, striking enemy positions to aid the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944, hitting storage depots and communications centers during the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945), and dropping food, ammunition, gasoline, and other supplies to troops participating in the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Flew last combat mission late in Apr 1945. Returned to the US, May-Jun 1945. Inactivated on 13 Sep 1945.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## SERGEANT NORMAN H. DREWS

KILLED IN ACTION – 15 JUNE 1944  
SAIPAN ISLAND, NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS  
“D” COMPANY  
708TH TANK BATTALION  
UNITED STATES ARMY

**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Army Sgt. Norman H. Drewes, 24, of Hamler, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 13, 2024.**

In June 1944, Drewes was a member of Company D, 708th Amphibious Tank Battalion. He was killed June 15 during Operation Forager on the island of Saipan, in the Northern Mariana Islands. Marines ashore on the island were under constant assault from Japanese mortars, which caused heavy casualties and impeded American's movements. The exact cause of Drewes's death is unknown, but it is believed his unit was providing armor support to the Marines' initial landing on the beaches. Drewes's remains were not known to have been accounted for during or after the war. The War Department declared him non-recoverable in September 1949.

The American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) searched for and disinterred remains throughout the Pacific theater in an effort to identify fallen service members after the end of the war. Remains identified as Unknown X-58 were first reported as buried in the 4th Marine Division Cemetery on Saipan. However, the AGRS was not able to identify X-58, and the remains were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines in 1950.

After thorough research, DPAA historians concluded X-58 was possibly associated with Drewes. In December 2022, Unknown X-58 was disinterred and sent to the DPAA Laboratory for analysis.

To identify Drewes's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as dental and circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis.

Drewes's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

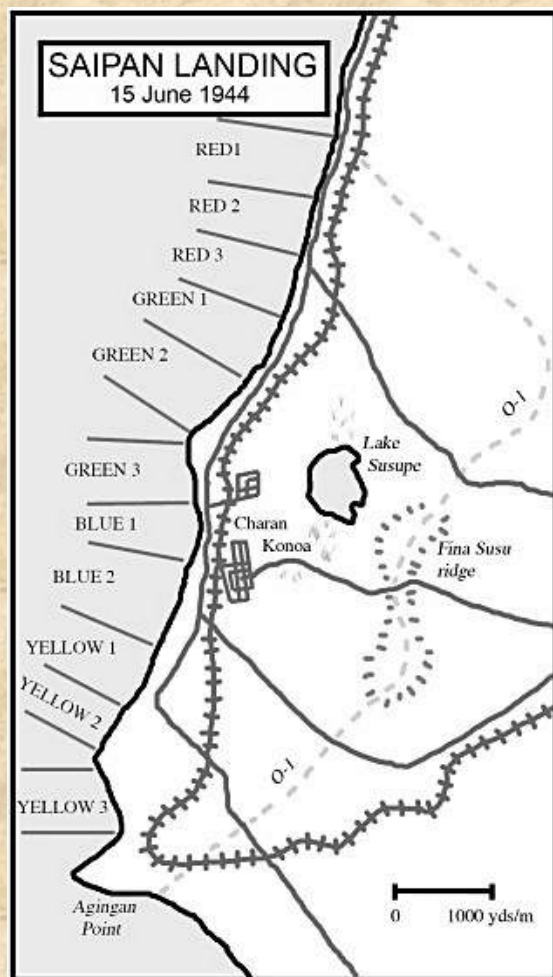
# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

## Saipan: Amtanks Fight as Land Tanks

<https://worldoftanks.com/en/news/history/chieftains-hatch-amtanks/>

Saipan was the next major operation for the amtanks, and more Armored Command personnel (including the army amtrac crews) participated there than in D-Day at Normandy. The 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion provided the armored fist for the 4th Marine Division's landing on 15 June 1944. By the time of Operation Forager, the 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion was organized into four companies, each consisting of four LVT(A)(4)s and thirteen LVT(A)(1)s.

The battalion, less Companies C and D, were attached to the 23d Marines, and the other two companies were attached to the 25th Marines. The battalion was to form the first wave for the entire 4th Marine Division front, each company leading an LVT-mounted assault battalion. The amtanks were to help the Marines seize and secure a phase line designated O-1 and then assist the infantry as ordered.



The Navy provided a massive bombardment, and the assault waves followed rocket- and gun-firing LCI(G)s toward shore. When the amtanks reached a line about 600 yards from shore, heavy artillery and mortar fire crashed around the vehicles. Marines crouched in the amtracs not far behind the amtanks, hoping and praying that none of the

shells would find them. A moment later, the amtanks opened fire in return, although the gunners could see nothing through the cloud of dirt and debris raised by the naval bombardment. Indeed, fire from 5-inch naval guns continued until the assault wave was 300 yards from the beach.

"Observation was limited to about fifteen yards," recalled Lieutenant Semmes, who was with Company A's amtanks, "and it is a frightening thing to go into something you cannot see, so the tanks stopped momentarily. The beach, however, was receiving a lot of shellfire, and it was urgent that the tanks move inland. The platoon started ahead ten yards at a time, halted, fired a few rounds, and then moved another ten yards."

The amtanks accompanied the Marines to their objectives in most places and stayed with them fighting as land tanks. D-day losses in the 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion amounted to eight amtanks destroyed and six damaged by enemy fire, plus seven put out of action for other reasons. Twelve men were killed and eighty-three men wounded, and five men were listed as missing. Over the next eleven days, losses of men and equipment would nearly double.



LVT(A)(1) (left) and LVT(A)(4) amtanks belonging to Company D, 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion, line up to attack with the Marines on

The 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion judged that the use of its amtanks beyond the beachhead had been a mistake because they lacked sufficient armor and mechanical stamina. The battalion therefore proposed that its 75mm howitzers be put to use as artillery once a beach had been secured. Central Pacific Base Command and Tenth Army endorsed the idea. The battalion also urged that the amtanks be camouflaged for land instead of painted light blue, as the dust raised by bombardment obscured the enemy's view of the vehicles when in the water.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## PRIVATE JAMES G. LOTERBAUGH

MISSING IN ACTION – DECEMBER 11, 1944  
HURTGEN FOREST–STRAUS GERMANY  
“C” COMPANY ; 774TH TANK BATTALION  
US ARMY

**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Army Pvt. James G. Loterbaugh, 35, of Roseville, Ohio, killed during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 20, 2024.**

In December 1944, Loterbaugh was assigned to Company C, 774th Tank Battalion, as a crewmember on an M4 “Sherman” tank. On Dec. 11, his platoon became separated from the rest of the company during a battle with German forces near Strass, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest. The enemy surrounded Strass and by mid-day the entire platoon, including Loterbaugh’s tank, was reported Missing in Action. The Germans never reported Loterbaugh as a prisoner of war and Army personnel who searched the battlefield after the fighting found no lead regarding his fate. The War Department issued a presumptive finding of death in December 1945.

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. They conducted several investigations in the Hürtgen area between 1946 and 1950. In the fall of 1947, investigators found unidentified remains in a destroyed tank near Strass. Officials designated them X-1128 Margraten (X-1128). Comparison and analysis were made, but at the time X-1128 could not be identified as Loterbaugh.

While studying unresolved American losses in the Hürtgen area, a DPAA historian determined that X-1128, recovered from one of the burned-out tanks in Strass, possibly belonged to Loterbaugh. The remains, which had been buried in Netherlands American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Margraten, Netherlands, were disinterred in July 2022 and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Loterbaugh’s remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA, Y chromosome DNA, and autosomal DNA analysis.

Loterbaugh’s name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Margraten, Netherlands, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Loterbaugh will be buried in Dayton, Ohio on a date yet to be determined.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

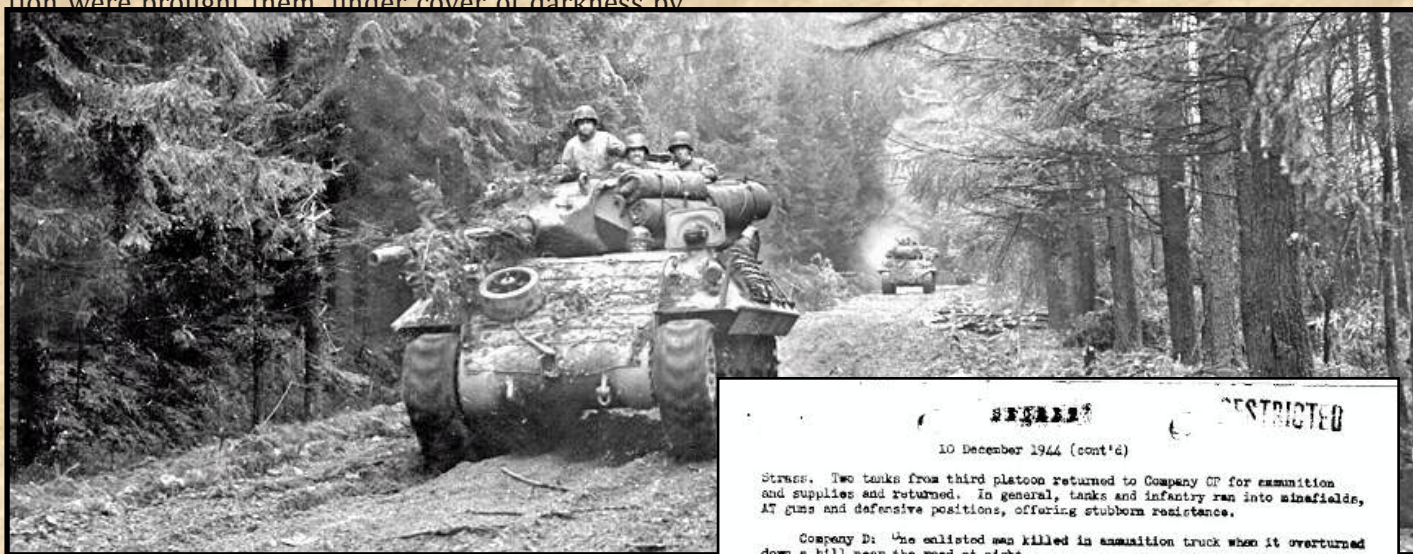
## Hurtgen Forest

In early December, the Battalion moved in the bloody Hurtgen Forest front in Germany to support the 83d Infantry Division in driving the enemy from the area southwest of Duren to the Roer river. December 8th marked the initial phases of the operation. The difficulties of this attack were apparent from its inception. The enemy had made extensive and strategic employment of mines throughout the area held high terrain affording his use of direct fire weapons to canalize approaches to the Roer.

On 10 December, Companies B and C attacked the key towns of Gey and Strass respectively, and met fierce opposition from enemy tanks, high velocity antitank guns and machine gun fire as well as undergoing mortar and artillery fire. Elements of the two companies and infantry succeeded in reaching the towns but were almost entirely cut off during the three succeeding days. Limited quantities of supplies and ammunition were brought them under cover of darkness by

tanks of A and D companies, over routes that had been re-mined and that were under constant observed artillery and mortar fire. Losses in tanks and men were heavy but the positions taken were retained despite strong counterattacks and by 16 December both Gey and Strass were firmly secured, with the following known losses to the enemy: 286 personnel killed and 553 captured, 48 heavy guns and machine guns emplacements destroyed, 15 tanks or armored cars and much miscellaneous equipment either captured or destroyed.

Rehabilitation and reorganization of the Battalion was now undertaken while most of the platoons were yet engaged in the continuing operation. With many platoons reduced to 2 and 3 tanks each, they proceeded against heavy odds to take the towns of Gurzenich, Berzbuir, Birgel and Winden.



**HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION**  
A.P.O. 280, 5 Postmaster.

**RESTRICTED**

31A.7  
2 January 1945

**SUBJECT:** Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

**TO :** The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.

**THRU :** Obannels.

In compliance with change 3, par 10, AR 345-105, the following summary of Action Against the Enemy by the 774th Tank Battalion for the period 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 inclusive is submitted:

- ORIGINAL UNIT:**
  - The Battalion's personnel losses during the month were nine officers and 154 enlisted men, all having had at least two years tank experience, who were replaced by 15 inexperienced officers and 85 enlisted men who had only seventeen weeks basic training.

**RESTRICTED**

10 December 1944 (cont'd)

Strass. Two tanks from third platoon returned to Company CP for ammunition and supplies and returned. In general, tanks and infantry ran into minefields, AT guns and defensive positions, offering stubborn resistance.

Company D: One enlisted man killed in ammunition truck when it overturned down a hill near the road at night.

11 December 1944

Company A: Harassing fire received in bivouac area commencing at 2300. First and third platoon moved to vicinity of Grossbau. Second platoon left company bivouac area at 1945 proceeding toward support of C Company; two tanks knocked out of action by enemy mines, seriously injuring three enlisted men. One tank returned to company bivouac area with wounded personnel. Remaining two tanks continued on mission and arrived Strass, Germany to support company C. Second platoon knocked out two enemy Mark IV tanks and one self-propelled gun. Unknown number of enemy killed, wounded and taken prisoner by infantry.

Company B: Continuing attack in Gey, Germany.

Company C: Assisting 330th Infantry Regiment in repulsing counter attacks of enemy infantry and tanks in Strass, Germany. Continued to draw heavy artillery and flat trajectory weapons fire. Commanding Officer, Company C, unable to contact 1st platoon.

Company D: Second platoon moved from Wicht, Germany with supplies for company C in Strass, arrived company C rear CP near Grossbau at 1600.

Elements in Strass, Germany successfully occupied the town under heavy artillery and mortar fire. Two of our tanks hit mines and one tank's gun hit by mortar fire.

12 December 1944

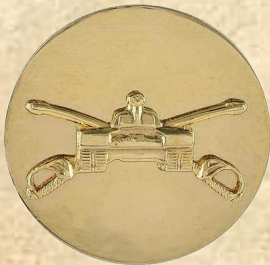
Company A: 1st and third platoons in reserve. Two tanks of second platoon in Strass, Germany, supporting company C. Counter-battery fire received in company bivouac area at 1600, killing one BM and seriously wounded another.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## SERGEANT HOWARD L. HASSELKUS

KILLED IN ACTION – 22 NOVEMBER 1942– CABANATUAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
LUZON, PHILIPPINES  
192ND TANK BATTALION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Army Sgt. Howard L. Hasselkus, 24, of Elmore, Ohio, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2024.



In late 1941, Hasselkus was a member of the 192nd Tank Battalion when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. Hasselkus was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp #1. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war.

According to prison camp and other historical records, Hasselkus died Nov. 22, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 807.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Three of the sets of remains from Common Grave 807 were identified, while the remaining nine were declared unidentifiable. The unidentified remains were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns.

# *A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS*

In 2018, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, DPAA exhumed the remains associated with Common Grave 807 and sent them to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Hasselkus's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA mitochondrial genome sequence, Y chromosome DNA (Y-STR) and autosomal DNA analysis.

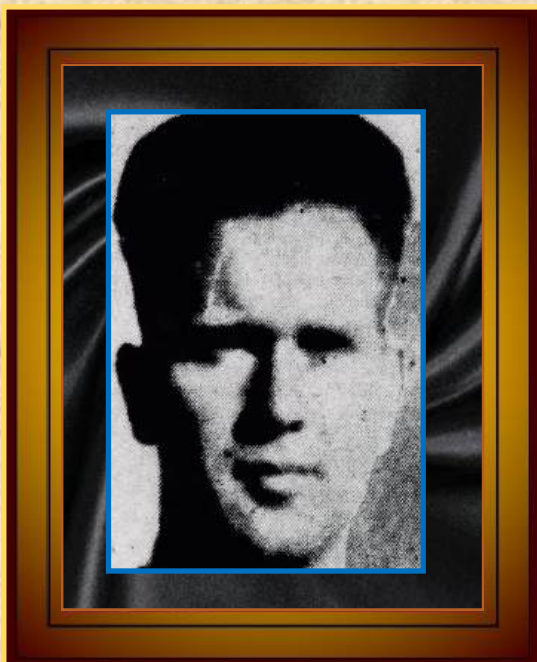
Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, Hasselkus's grave was meticulously cared for over the past 70 years by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Today, Hasselkus is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Hasselkus will be buried in his hometown in August 2025.

*SITE OF THE JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
1942 TO 1945  
THIS MEMORIAL HONORS  
THE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AND THE CIVILIANS  
WHO DIED HERE AND GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE EQUALLY HEROIC SACRIFICES  
MADE BY FILIPINO SERVICEMEN AND CIVILIANS  
IN A MUTUAL QUEST FOR HONOR, FREEDOM AND  
PEACE  
IT ALSO REMINDS MANKIND OF MAN'S INHUMANITY  
TO HIS FELLOWMAN*



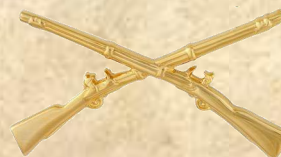
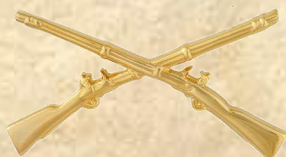
# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT WILLIAM B. BUCEY

POW/MIA AFTER 6 MAY 1942

DECEASED – 31 OCTOBER 1944 – CABANATUAN PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
LUZON, PHILIPPINES  
121ST INFANTRY REGIMENT  
PHILIPPINE ARMY



Lt. Bucey entered the U.S. Army from Ohio and served with the 121st Infantry Regiment (Philippine Scout), 8th Infantry Division in the Philippines during World War II. He was captured following the American surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and forced on the Bataan Death March. He was ultimately interned in the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp in Nueva Ecija Province, where he died of malaria at the Cabanatuan Camp 1 Branch Hospital on October 31, 1944.

At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war that were captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Conditions at the camp were poor, and by the time Cabanatuan was liberated in early 1945, approximately 2,800 Americans had died at the prison camp. Bucey was buried in Common Grave 836 at the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery along with other deceased American POWs.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Two sets of remains from Common Grave 836 were identified, but the rest, declared unidentifiable, were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns. In December 2020, the remains associated with Common Grave 836 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between one set of these unknown remains and Bucey.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

## Bataan Diary

The narrative below is an excerpt from the Bataan Diary  
<http://www.bataandiary.com/Research.htm>

When the Japanese attacked the Philippines on December 7, 1941 (US time), they landed their first large troop contingent at Vigan on the north coast on December 10 (Philippine time). Walter Cushing, one of three Mexican-American Cushing brothers living in the Philippines, immediately began organizing some local Filipinos into a guerrilla unit in order to help with the war effort if called upon.

The main body of the Japanese invasion force landed at Lingayen Gulf on December 22, 1941. The Filipino-American divisions assigned to defend the coast, the 11th, 21st, and 71st Infantry Divisions, PA, were quickly dispersed and retreated into the mountains of north Luzon, then down the central plain to Bataan. However, several groups of Fil-American soldiers were cut off in the mountains and unable to retreat. Among them was Lt. Robert Arnold, who Walter Cushing recruited to train his guerrillas. Cushing and his men pulled off several successful attacks on the Japanese in north Luzon.

In January 1942 Lt. Colonel John P. Horan, who had been commandant of Camp John Hay in Baguio before the war started,

organized a group of 2500 miners, former soldiers, constabulary officers and Igorote tribesmen into a guerrilla force he designated the "43rd Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts." He sent Lt. George Barnett to contact Walter Cushing and added Cushing and his men to his organization as the "121st Infantry Regiment."

The 121st Infantry did quite well against the Japanese until Bataan fell on April 9, and Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942. On direct orders from General Wainwright, Col. Horan surrendered also. But many of his men, including Walter Cushing, refused. Cushing's guerrillas continued in operation, continuing to designate themselves the "121st Infantry." In September 1942, Walter Cushing was killed in action.

The 121st Infantry, now led by Capt. William Peryam, joined the United States Army Forces in the Philippines--Northern Luzon, the guerrilla organization led by Lt. Cols. Martin Moses and Arthur "Maxie" Noble. Moses and Noble's activities, their October 1942 attack on the Japanese Ito-gon mines, and eventual capture and execution are described in Bataan Diary. Charles Cushing, one of Walter's brothers,

was also part of this organization. Peryam was captured by the Japanese in January 1943. Charles Cushing surrendered in March 1943. Moses and Noble were captured in June 1943, and subsequently executed.

After Moses and Noble were captured, the 121st was taken over by (guerrilla) Major George Barnett. Barnett was arrested by the Japanese on January 25, 1944.

The 121st Infantry was one of the more important and more successful guerrilla organizations in the Philippines during the war. It was probably the first resistance group to be formally organized, it was authorized and given its unit designation by General MacArthur, and it operated all the way through the Japanese occupation. In an interesting aside, a third Cushing brother, James, was a guerrilla leader on Cebu island, and at one point in 1944 he captured one of the highest ranking admirals of the Japanese Navy, and with him the Japanese defense plans for the Philippines. Unfortunately, the Japanese retaliated on the local Filipino population until they forced Cushing to give up both the admiral and the plans.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## 1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. HOTT

MIA – DEC. 1, 1950 – CHOSIN RESERVOIR, NORTH KOREA  
COMPANY D, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION  
32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
7<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



7<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
DIVISION



32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY  
REGIMENT

In late 1950, Hott was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action December 2, in the vicinity of Chosin Reservoir, North Korea and witnesses later reported that he was killed during a withdrawal on December 1. The U.S. Army disused a report of death on Feb. 28, 1951, and declared his remains non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956.

On July 27, 2018, following the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in June 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Hott's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial and Y-chromosome DNA analysis and nuclear single nucleotide polymorphism.

Hott will be buried in his hometown in August 2025.



# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



2<sup>ND</sup>  
INFANTRY DIVISION



9<sup>TH</sup>  
INFANTRY REGIMENT



## CORPORAL EDWIN C. MARTIN

MIA – 1 DECEMBER 1950 – YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA  
“A” COMPANY., 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION,  
9<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
2<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



In 1950, Martin was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Aug. 31, in the vicinity of Yongsan, Republic of Korea (South Korea) after his unit encountered enemy combatants attempting to cross the Naktong River. He was never reported as a prisoner of war and subsequent searches of the battlefield failed to recover his remains. With no evidence of his continued survival, the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He was declared non-recoverable on Jan 16, 1956.

On Oct. 25, 1950, a set of remains was recovered near the village of Sangde Po, South Korea. The remains, designated Unknown X-261 Tanggok, could not be positively identified at the time and were interred in the United Nation's Military Cemetery (UNMC) Miryang, the next day.

As part of the process to evacuate U.S. casualties from the Korean warzone, X-261 was exhumed and reinterred in UNMC Tanggok, before being disinterred again and transported to the Central Identification Unit (CIU) in Kokura,

Japan for potential identification. The CIU analyzed the remains but ultimately, they were declared unidentifiable and transported to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. In June 2021, DPAA personnel disinterred Unknown X-261 as part of Phase Three of the Korean War Disinterment Plan and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Martin's remains, scientists from DPAA used DNA, dental, anthropological and isotope analysis, as well as chest radiograph. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA analysis and mitochondrial genome sequencing data.

Martin's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## CORPORAL EARL E. KIBBEY

MIA – DEC. 3, 1950 – CHOSIN RESERVOIR, NORTH KOREA  
COMPANY I, 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION  
31<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
7<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



7<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
DIVISION



32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY  
REGIMENT

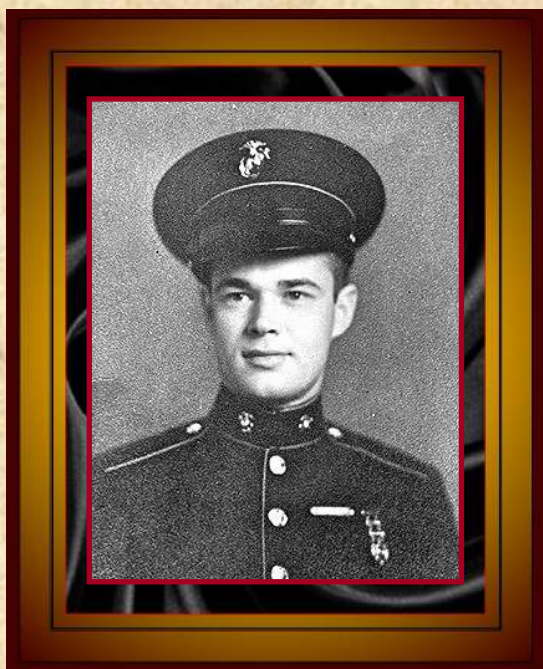
In late 1950, Kibbey was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 3 during a major battle near the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir, North Korea. The U.S. Army issued a presumptive finding of death for Kibbey on Dec. 31, 1953.

In 1954, during Operation Glory, North Korea unilaterally turned over remains to the United States, including one set, designated Unknown X-15858 Operation Glory. The remains were reportedly recovered from prisoner of war camps, United Nations cemeteries and isolated burial sites. None of the remains could be identified as Kibbey and he was declared non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956. The remains were subsequently buried as an Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. On May 16, 2022, DPAA personnel disinterred Unknown X-15858 as part of Phase Four of the Korean War Disinterment Plan and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

Cpl. Kibbey was welcomed home by remaining family members and his community present and interred in his hometown of Blanchester, Ohio on 20 November 2025.

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



## PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NORTON V. RETZSCH

MIA – 9 JULY 1943

BATTLE OF ENOGAI, NEW GEORGIA, SOLOMON ISLANDS  
"C" COMPANY, 1<sup>ST</sup> MARINE RAIDER BATTALION  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



**PRESS RELEASE | April 1, 2025 | WASHINGTON**

PFC Norton Retzsch served with Company C, 1st Raider Battalion, during the New Georgia campaign. He landed at Rice Anchorage on 5 July 1943 and participated in a grueling march through thick swamps and across swift rivers. When the Raiders reached the Dragons Peninsula and closed in on their objectives – Enogai and Bairoko – Japanese resistance grew more serious, and several minor but vicious skirmishes in the jungle cost lives on both sides. Making matters worse, the Raiders were poorly supplied: ammunition was limited, and rations ran out a few days into the operation. The only way out was to capture their targets.

On 9 July 1943, Captain John "Black Jack" Salmon's Charlie Company led the Raiders on the march to Enogai Harbor. As they paused to get their bearings about 750 yards from their objective, a pair of Japanese machine guns opened fire, trapping the Marines in a pocket. "All hell broke loose up front," commented Raider Marlin Groft (Co. B). "C Company had blundered into a prepared killing field of Nambu machine gun nests aided by snipers cleverly concealed in the surrounding trees. C Company's lead platoon took heavy losses." The firefight raged for more than two hours, and only petered out as dusk fell.

At the end of the day, the Raiders counted their casualties: many wounded (two mortally), and six killed outright. Three other Marines – PFC William A. Pelkey, Private Burrell D. Hodges, Jr., and PFC Retzsch – were reported missing. All three Marines were declared dead on 10 July 1944.

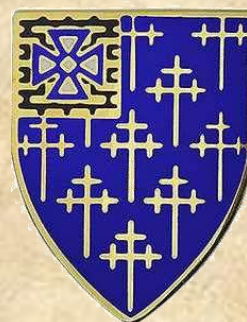
Retzsch's dog tag was taken by a Japanese soldier who later ran into a Raider patrol:

*At Bairoko Harbor, Colonel Harry Liversedge was leading a small patrol around the Jap positions. On the way back, we heard a noise in the bush ahead. Someone challenged, "who is it?" A voice answered, "Rites" and our men immediately opened fire. It was a small enemy ambush. We found a dog tag on one dead enemy with the name of one of our Raiders, PFC Norton P. Retzsch [sic], MIA 9 July at Enogai Inlet. He had always insisted his name was pronounced "Reetz," that is why we opened fire immediately after the enemy said "Rites."*

# A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION



34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT



## CORPORAL LAWRENCE ARTHUR SMITH

MISSING IN ACTION – 6 AUGUST 1950 – TAEJON, SOUTH KOREA  
COMPANY “C”, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNITED STATES ARMY



Corporal Smith entered the Army from Ohio and served with C Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing on Aug. 6, 1950, after as his unit tried to dislodge enemy forces from high ground near the Naktong River in South Korea. No one saw him fall in battle, and he was not reported as a prisoner of war. Searches conducted for his remains were unsuccessful at the time of his loss.

In November 1950, a team of the 565th Graves Registration Company recovered an unknown set of remains near Yongsan, South Korea, which could not be positively identified at the time, and which in February 1956 were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu as an Unknown.

By early August 1950, six weeks after North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, United Nations forces had been driven steadily south in a series of costly withdrawals. The surviving American and South Korean units established what became known as the Pusan Perimeter, a defensive line roughly 140 miles long around the southeastern corner of the peninsula, anchored on the vital port of Pusan. From Aug. 4 to Sept. 18, 1950, this prime-

ter became the scene of one of the first major turning points of the Korean War, as United Nations commanders used the Naktong River and surrounding high ground as the last major defensive barrier against further North Korean advances.

In this sector, the 24th Infantry Division faced repeated assaults as North Korean forces sought to break through the line and sever United Nations supply routes. On the night of Aug. 5-6, 1950, elements of the North Korean 4th Division crossed the Naktong River near Yongsan and established a dangerous bridgehead, triggering the First Battle of the Naktong Bulge. Over the following days, American troops launched a series of counterattacks in intense fighting marked by confusion, heavy casualties, and shifting control of hills, roads, and villages. Units of the 34th Infantry Regiment, including Company C, fought in efforts to retake commanding terrain and contain the penetration. The broader battle for the Pusan Perimeter ultimately ended in a United Nations victory after weeks of attrition, reinforced by growing numbers of troops, armor, artillery, naval support, and air power flowing through Pusan.



ASSEMBLED AND PRESENTED BY  
FORMER STAFF SERGEANT LEE WILKERSON  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON, "B" COMPANY, 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION  
503<sup>RD</sup> PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT  
173<sup>RD</sup> AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
RVN '69 - '70  
LEEWILKERSON503@GMAIL.COM