UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT FORMER

PRISONERS OF

WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

15 September 1995

By
Chief Master Sergeant Chalma Lee Sexton Jr.
United States Air Force

With Foreword By
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
(Retired)
Paul Wesley Airey

FOREWORD

Scores of books have been written about prisoners of war, and men and women missing in action. Our prisoner-of-war and missing-in-action experiences began with the American Revolution. To my knowledge, this is the only historical document on this subject dedicated solely to Air Force enlisted members.

Chief Sexton has limited his work to Air Force senior noncommissioned officers who honorably served in the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. His intention was not to overlook the thousands of brave airmen, living, dead and missing, who flew war-torn skies or fought on land and sea. Chief Sexton voluntarily worked on this project for over three years. By necessity, he had to narrow his scope. It is gratifying to know we have enlisted leaders like Chief Sexton who value sacrifice, service and patriotism.

To all my fellow former prisoners of war and to those who are still missing in action, my thoughts and prayers to you, your families and your loved ones.

Chief Sexton's work merits close study and wide dissemination through our Enlisted Heritage Hall, Professional Military Education system and Air Force ceremonies.

Never forget!

Paul Wesley Airey
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (Retired)

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This collection contains the names and a historical synopsis of Air Force Chief Master Sergeants who were Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). Some of the MIA physical remains were located and returned. In those cases, the Department of Defense changed their status to killed in action (KIA), and I have placed a note on the appropriate page. No information was available on former POWs who have died since repatriation. Their identities and stories might be lost forever.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) George E. Atkinson for his tireless efforts, dedication and assistance. Chief Atkinson is the Director of Air Force Casualty Matters, Missing Persons and Inquiries Division, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. As I was completing this project, he was departing for aircraft crash sites in Vietnam and Laos in search of MIA physical remains. I am deeply indebted to this great chief. Special thanks to Sue Langseth of the Ex-POW Association, Technical Sergeant (Retired) Leonard E. Rose, publisher of the Stalag Luft IV Newsletter, and to all the former POW Chiefs who put up with my telephone interviews, letters, surveys and nagging. Three retired Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force and the first enlisted Commandant of the Air Force Senior NCO Academy (Paul Airey, Jim McCoy, Sam Parish, and Bobby Renfroe) had major impacts on me regarding our enlisted heritage. They aroused a hunger many years ago to explore Air Force enlisted history. Colonel Al "Grilla" Guarino was a special inspiration. On 14 June 1965, Colonel (Retired) Larry Guarino, Colonel Al Guarino's father, was shot down during his fiftieth combat mission. He was flying his F-105 fighter against ground targets at Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam. He spent 2,801 days as a POW, enduring some of the most horrible physical and psychological abuse man can perpetrate on his fellow man. Colonel Al Guarino sensitized me to the family side of the POW and MIA experience. The colonel was just a lad when his dad was captured. Like his father, he went on to fight in Vietnam as a fighter pilot, even though his father was still a POW. It was an honor to have served as his Senior Enlisted Advisor. Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Robold, Master Sergeant John L. Burroughs, Master Sergeant Leshan Briggs, Technical Sergeant William H. Mongon, Technical Sergeant Robbie J. Monte, Staff Sergeant Patricia Thompson, Senior Airman Dawn L. Strachan, Senior Airman Leslie Taylor-Lawrence and Ms. Kate Vannorsdall turned long labor into successful outcome. Finally, a very special acknowledgment goes to the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) for their continued support of projects and efforts to document, publish and distribute Air Force enlisted history.

There were several times when this project began to take a mental and physical toll. At one point, I had to put it away for several months. The frustrations of trying to locate historical information on Air Force enlisted people were unbelievable. This started out to be a small effort to gather the names of former POW and MIA Chiefs for display at Barksdale's annual Chief Master Sergeants' Induction Ceremony. It was only after I became exasperated with the lack of enlisted historical information that I expanded the scope of this project to a biographical sketch on each POW and MIA Chief. With God's help, much encouragement from my wife, Leslie, and a great deal of inspiration from Chief Paul Airey, I was able to finish. Last year, we placed a draft copy on our POW and MIA table as a special honor.

Whenever I start to feel sorry for myself and catch myself "whining" about how hard I work or how unappreciated I am, I read about the unbelievable and sometimes ultimate sacrifices of these Chief Master Sergeants. I also think about leaders like Captain Lance P. Sijan, Colonel (Retired) Larry Guarino and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (Retired) Paul W. Airey. I then thank God for all of them and rededicate myself to being the best Air Force Chief Master Sergeant possible. I hope this information finds its way into our Enlisted Heritage Hall, our Airman Leadership Schools and all NCO Academy Heritage Corners. I believe it is fitting that this work 's publication date is 15 September 1995, National POW and MIA Day.

CHALMA "LEE" SEXTON JR.
Chief Master Sergeant
United States Air Force

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT CHALMA LEE SEXTON JR.

Chief Master Sergeant Chalma Lee Sexton Jr. is the Security Police Manager, 2nd Security Police Squadron (2 SPS), Barksdale AFB, LA. Consisting of over 500 personnel, the 2 SPS is Air Combat Command's largest security police squadron. The unit provides physical security, enforcement of standards, law and order, and technical services for home station and deployed forces.

Chief Sexton was born August 9, 1950 in New Orleans, LA. His diverse career includes services as a Security Policeman, a Technical Instructor, a First Sergeant and a Senior Enlisted Advisor. His tactical leadership of the Air Force Special Emergency Services Flight and protection of the deposed Shah of Iran, during the 1979 U.S. Embassy hostage crisis, contributed immeasurably to the American captives' safe repatriation. He was personally commended by the Secretary of State, the Chief of Security Police and the Director of the U.S. Secret Service. Chief Sexton assisted the Headquarters United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's office in preparing for the "landmark" U.S. Supreme Court case, Albertini versus the United States. He also led the response to more than 100 anti-nuclear protests, resulting in over 1,200 apprehensions.

Chief Sexton and his spouse, Staff Sergeant Leslie Sexton, have one daughter, Heather.

EDUCATION:

1970 Warren Easton Senior High School, New Orleans, LA
1970 Honor Graduate, 3723rd Basic Military Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, TX
1974 Distinguished Graduate and Class Speaker's Award Winner, 15th Air Force Noncommissioned Officers Leadership School, March AFB, CA
1978 Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Lackland AFB, TX
1982 Associate in Applied Science Degree in Police Science, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB, AL
1982 Associate in Applied Science Degree in Instructor in Technology, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB, AL
1983 Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico Marine Base, VA
1984 USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Maxwell/Gunter AFB Annex, AL
1987 Associate in Applied Science Degree in Industrial Security, Community College of the Air Force, Maxwell AFB, AL
1993 Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, Brighton University, Honolulu, HI
1993 Master of Science Degree in Police Administration, Brighton University, Honolulu, HI
1994 Master of Science Degree in Management and Human Resource Development, Johannine Institute, Boulder, CO

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Aug. - Oct. 1970, 3723rd Basic Military Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, TX
2. Nov. 1970 - Aug. 1971, Security Police Member, 862nd Security Police Squadron, Minot AFB, ND
3. Sep. 1971 - Sep. 1972, Security Police Entry Controller and Response Force Member, 95th Strategic Air Refueling Wing, Goose AB, Labrador, Canada
4. Oct. 1972 - Sep. 1973, Minuteman III Site Security Controller, Response Force Leader/Member and Standardization Evaluation Team Member, 91st Security Police Group, Minot AFB, ND
5. Oct. 1973 - Apr. 1977, Security Controller, Shift Sergeant, and Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Information Security, 320th Security Police Squadron, Mather AFB, CA
6. May 1977 - Aug. 1983, Technical Instructor, Resident Course Manager/Writer, and Air Force Special Emergency Services Flight Sergeant, 3280th Technical Training Group (USAF Security Police Academy), Lackland AFB, TX
7. Sep. 1983 - Dec. 1983, Student, Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Quantico Marine Base, VA
8. Jan. 1984 - Feb. 1986, First Sergeant, Law Enforcement Superintendent, and Chief Enlisted Manager, 3902nd Security Police Squadron, Offutt AFB, NE
9. Mar. 1986 - Oct. 1987, Operations Superintendent, 1605th Security Police Squadron, Lajes Field, Azores
10. Nov. 1987 - Jan. 1990, Operations Officer and Chief Enlisted Manager, 48th Security Police Group, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom
11. Feb. 1990 - Feb. 1991, Security Police Manager, 833rd Security Police Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM
12. Mar. 1991 - Nov. 1991, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander, 833rd Air Division, Holloman AFB, NM
13. Nov. 1991 - May 1992, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander, 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, NM
14. Jun. 1992 - Present, Security Police Manager, 2nd Security Police Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters
Air Force Good Conduct Medal with seven oak leaf clusters
Air Force Combat Readiness Medal
Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon
Air Force Recognition Ribbon
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device
Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Short
Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Long, with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Professional Military Education Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star device
Air Force Longevity Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters
United States Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal
Air Force Training Ribbon

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Minot AFB Security Policeman of the Year - 1971
Sacramento Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young American - 1976
Mather AFB Security Police Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1976
Mather AFB Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1976
Master Military Training Instructor Award - 1979
Air Force Security Police Academy Senior Noncommissioned Officer of theYear - 1981
3250th Technical Training Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1981
Air Force Military Training Center (Lackland) Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1981
San Antonio Area Military Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1982
Air Force Association Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1982
3902nd Security Police Squadron Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1984
3902nd Air Base Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1984
3902nd Security Police Squadron Senior SP Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1984
Offutt AFB Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1984
3902nd Security Police Squadron Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1985
3902nd Air Base Wing Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1985
Master Law Enforcement Qualification Badge - 1986
Strategic Air Command Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - 1986
Lance P. Sijan United States Air Force Leadership Award - 1986
Best Large Security Police Group in the United States Air Forces in Europe - 1988
Noncommissioned Officers Association Military Excellence Award - 1991
Tactical Air Command Commander's Special Medallion - 1992

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS:

RANK	DATE
Airman Basic	Aug. 17, 1970
Airman	Oct. 29, 1970
Airman First Class	May 1, 1971
Sergeant	Aug. 1, 1972
Staff Sergeant	Sep. 1, 1974
Technical Sergeant	July 1, 1978
Master Sergeant	July 1, 1981
Senior Master Sergeant	July 1, 1984
Chief Master Sergeant	Nov. 1, 1987

(Current as of 15 September 1995)

PREFACE

The top two enlisted ranks within the United States Armed Forces became effective when Congress and the President instituted the Career Compensation Act of 1958. Many former POWs from World War II remained on or returned to active duty, serving throughout the 1970s. Several were promoted to Chief Master Sergeant. One, Chief Paul Wesley Airey, became the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. The first Senior Master Sergeants were promoted effective 1 September 1958. The first Chief Master Sergeants were promoted effective 1 December 1959. The first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force was appointed on 3 April 1967. During the Southeast Asian conflict, missing in action military members and prisoners of war were promoted to the highest enlisted rank with the dates of rank they would have held had they competed and been selected for promotion. This revised promotion policy was published and implemented on 3 April 1969.

Some former POWs, like Arthur Cormier, Southeast Asian conflict, were later commissioned and retired as officers or warrant officers. They were included in this writing because they once honorably held the highest Air Force enlisted rank Chief Master Sergeant. All former POW and MIA Chiefs chronicled here are listed alphabetically.

Information concerning the living conditions and the treatment of our former POWs was largely gathered from many hours of personal interviews. Some of these Chiefs had not spoken to anyone about their experiences for many years. In at least two cases, they had not spoken on the record since official debriefings. I deeply appreciate their confidence and their trust. Information they wanted kept in confidence is not included within this document. I promised I would not betray their trust and I intend to honor that promise. Other information was freely and openly offered. Former POW opinions concerning past and present government officials, policies and relationships with Germany, Japan, and Vietnam, and the conduct of various Americans who protested the Vietnam War or who visited Vietnamese prison camps during the course of the Vietnam War, were not included. It is inappropriate for me, an active member of the United States Armed Forces, to venture down this road.

The information and technical illustrations concerning the torture and abuse of our Vietnam POWs, was obtained from Chief Master Sergeant Richard R. Robold and Master Sergeant John L. Burroughs, United States Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall, Gunter Annex, Alabama. I have used anecdotal information from former POWs in order to clarify and expand the exhibits.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

The publishing and distribution of this collection of histories was performed by the Airmen Memorial Museum (AMM) as part of its ongoing efforts to bring to light the many contributions and accomplishments of the U.S. Air Force's enlisted corps. Since its founding in 1986, the museum, a non-profit afilliate of the Air Force Sergeants Association, has been an integral part of unveiling and preserving the rich heritage of the enlisted force.

CONTENTS

Page

Foreword i

Introduction and Acknowledgments ii

Author's Biography ..... iii - iv

Preface v

Contents ..... vi - viii

I. Recognized Inclusive Dates of U.S. Involvement in Recent Conflict 1

II. POW/MIA -- All Wars 1

III. POW Prayer -- "I Am a POW" 2

IV. United States Armed Forces Code of Conduct 2-3

V. Chief Master Sergeant Former Prisoners of War and Missing in Action ..... 3 - 25

John Q. Adam 3

Samuel Adams 3

Paul W. Airey 4

Bobby J. Alberton 4

Harry W. Angus 4

Walter L. Bell 5

Robert A. Brown 5

William J. Brown 6

Gean P. Clapper 6

Fred L. Clarke 7

Lawrence Clark 7

William K. Colwell 7

Arthur Cormier 7

Edward J. Darcy 8

Gene E. Davis 8

Rexford J. DeWispelaere 8

Spencer B. Dukes 9

Charles G. Dusing 9

Dean A. Duvall 9

Wayne A. Eckley 10

Robert M. Elliot 10

Richard Etchberger 10

Charles R. Fellenz 10

James R. Fuller 11
David E. Garrett 11
Calvin C. Glover 11
Larry I. Grewell 12
Donald J. Hall 12
James S. Hall 12
John E. Hankins 12
Raymond Harwood 13
Arden K. Hassenger 13
John Hazy 13
Ronnie L. Hensley 14
Robert L. Hill 14
Robert N. Ireland 14
Kenneth L. Jones 15
Paul Kerchum 15
Charles D. King 16
Thomas E. Knebel 16
Harold R. Lawrence 16
William L. Madison 17
John M. Mamiya 17
Jack McCrary 17
Roy C. McGinnis 17
Arthur V. McLaughlin 18
Robert L. Modell 18
Edwin E. Morgan 19
Harold E. Mullins 19
Edward M. Parsley 19
Marshall I. Pauley 19
Edwin J. Pearce 20
Alan D. Piittmann 20
Charlie S. Poole 20
James A. Preston 20
Melvin D. Rash 20
William R. Rogers II 21
Victor Romero 21

Luther L. Rose 21
Eli S. Ross 21
Herbert E. Smith 22
Joseph R. Smith 22
Lynn Steincamp 22
Daniel H. Surprise 23
Larry C. Thornton 23
Ernest A. Viles 24
Samuel F. Walker Jr. 24
Therman M. Waller 24
Ervin Warren 24
James E. Williams 25
James R. Williams 25
John Q. Winningham 25
VI. POW Treatment and Abuse While in Captivity ..... 26 - 34
Figure 1, Stool Tie 27
Figure 2, Propaganda Sessions 27
Figure 3, Kneeling 28
Figure 4, Knee Walk Through Broken Glass 28
Figure 5, The Vietnamese Rope Trick 29
Figure 6, Manacled to Beds 29
Figure 7, Iron Shackles 30
Figure 8, Rusty Leg Irons to Beds 30
Figure 9, Rope Tied to Iron Bar 31
Figure 10, Beatings With Hoses and Straps 31
Figure 11, Gagging the POW's Painful Screams 32
Figure 12, Bondage With Ropes 32
Figure 13, Manacles 33
Figure 14, Iron Bar Used to Silence Painful Screams 33
Figure 15, The Physical Scars of Torture 34
VII. POW/MIA "Remember" Table Ceremony 35
VIII. EPILOGUE 36

I. RECOGNIZED INCLUSIVE DATES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT CONFLICT

WWI	6 April 1917 — 11 November 1918
WWII	7 December 1941 — 2 September 1945
KOREAN CONFLICT	25 June 1950 — 27 July 1953
VIETNAM	4 August 1964 — 29 March 1973
DESERT STORM	17 January 1991 — 11 April 1991

Source: AFMPC/DPWCM, Randolph AFB, Texas

II. POW/MIA -- ALL WARS

	WORLD WAR I	WORLD WAR II	KOREAN WAR	VIETNAM WAR	DESERT STORM	TOTAL
Captured/Interned	4,120	130,201	7,140	766	23	142,250
Still Classified as POW	0	0	0	0	0	0
Died While POW	147	14,072	2,701	106	0	17,132
Refused Repatriation	0	0	21	0	0	21
Returned to U.S. Military Control	3,973	116,129	4,418	725	23	125,268
Unaccounted For	3,350	78,700	8,100	2,198	0	92,348

Source: AFMPC/DPWCM, Randolph AFB, Texas

III. I AM A POW

I am a POW — I was born during the First War. I've been in every war since then. I didn't plan to be a POW when I became a soldier — I only wanted to do the job that my superiors sent me to do. I've been tortured, used, abused, humiliated and beaten. In some wars, I've been killed. In some wars, I've been made to do work that hurt my fellow countrymen. I did what I could do to survive and come home alive. As a POW, no one can understand what I went through unless they've been a POW too. Sometimes I try to explain to my family and friends, but they feel so bad for me. I quit telling them about it. I've joined other POWs and they help me because they understand. The only thing worse I could be right now would be if I were a POW and listed as MIA.

Written by a Vietnam ex-POW

IV. UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES CODE OF CONDUCT

The Articles of the Code

The Code of Conduct for members of the armed forces of the United States was first published by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 17, 1955. In March 1988, President Ronald Reagan amended the code with language that is gender-neutral. The code, although first expressed in written form in 1955, is based on time-honored concepts and traditions that date back to the days of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE I

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

ARTICLE II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

ARTICLE III

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

ARTICLE IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

ARTICLE V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

ARTICLE VI

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which make my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

V. CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

NAME: John Q. Adam

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 May 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 22 December 1947

HOME OF RECORD: Bethel, KS

CURRENT STATUS : Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 41st Tactical Airlift Sq, Ubon Airfield, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Adam was the loadmaster on a C-130, HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-130 did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Adam was continued in a missing status until 29 June 1978 when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Samuel Adams

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 31 October 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 02 August 1935

HOME OF RECORD: Goldenrod, FL

CURRENT STATUS: Died in Captivity/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 6250th Support Sq, Tan Son Nhut AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Adams and three other companions were reported missing in action when they failed to return to their unit following a trip to an R&R center. An intensive search failed to reveal their whereabouts. On 4 November 1965, one of the members walked into a Special Forces camp and told how they were captured by Viet Cong on their way back to the base, but he managed to escape. The status of the remaining members was subsequently changed to captured. No further information has ever been received regarding their fate. Chief Adams was continued in a captured status until 25 June 1974, the date death was presumed to have occurred. His status was then administratively changed to killed in

action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Paul W. Airey

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

DATE OF CAPTURE: July 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Austria

DATE OF BIRTH: 13 December 1923

HOME OF RECORD: Quincy, MA

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 485th Bomb Gp, 15th Air Force, Italy

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: In July 1944, Chief Airey was flying on his twenty-eighth combat mission as an aerial gunner over Vienna, Austria. His B-24, LIBERATOR, was shot down by anti-aircraft fire. His luck ran out when, at the age of 20, the flak caught up with him during a raid against an oil refinery near Vienna. When the pilot said, "Get out," there was no hesitation on his part; he had seen too many bombers spin out of formations, the centrifugal force trapping aircrews. During the slow, silent descent to earth by parachute, he remembers ripping up his Morse encryption code and, undaunted, smoking a cigarette. Parachuting safely, he was immediately captured, and beaten by hostile civilians. A short time later, he was taken into custody by Hungarian Axis forces and made a prisoner of war (POW). He was first incarcerated in Stalag Luft 4, near the Baltic Sea. For the next year, he survived a 90-day forced march from the Baltic Sea area to Stalag 11B, near Berlin, Germany. Before being liberated by the British Army in 1945; he had lost a third of his 160-pound weight, almost 60 pounds under normal. Returned to the States within one month for a three-month recuperation leave, he re-enlisted, a move he had considered while a POW. The next six years were spent at Scott Field, IL, where he was a radio school instructor before being assigned as NCOIC of Communications at Naha AB, Okinawa. There, he observed the tremendous toll the salt air and fungi exacted on the electronic equipment that had not been prepared for tropical climate. He introduced procedures to protect the gear that resulted in him being awarded the Legion of Merit. Chief Airey returned to Scott Field in 1953 to an assignment as a First Sergeant, a specialty in which he was to spend more than half of his career. On 3 April 1967, he was appointed by General John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, as the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (other Chiefs considered were Chief Jefferson F. Marsh of PACAF and Chief Conrad F. Stevens of MAC). The new post found less than unanimous support among the Air Force's senior leadership. Chief Airey's perception of the position was "90 percent common sense and 10 percent knowledge." He felt, at the time, that the establishment of the office "could be the best thing to happen to airmen, or the worst if the office becomes a front for the Pentagon or a lobby for malcontents." Chief Airey aided in the development of the Air Force's Weighted Airman Promotion System (WAPS). On 31 July 1969, upon completion of his two-year term, Chief Airey returned to Tyndall AFB, FL. He remained on active duty for one more year. He is, so far, the only Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force to have taken a follow-on assignment and, in retrospect, believes that retirement is the most logical step for an outgoing Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Today, he resides in Panama City, FL, with his wife, Shirley. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Bobby J. Alberton

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 31 May 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 30 August 1937

HOME OF RECORD: Anaheim, CA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 61st Troop Carrier Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Alberton was the flight engineer on a C-130 HERCULES aircraft performing a tactical mission when he was reported missing in action. When the aircraft failed to return to its base, the crew members were declared missing at the time of the estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Alberton was continued in a missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Harry W. Angus

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 21 February 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 April 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Belleville, IL

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 96th Bomb Gp, 337th Bomb Sq, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Angus was flying his fourteenth mission as a radio operator and gunner, on a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS over Germany, when his B-17 was shot down by German fire. The B-17 crashed, killing five crew members. Five crew members survived, and were captured and made prisoners of war. Chief Angus and his fellow crew members were interned in Stalag Luft 4, Poland. He was held captive in both Stalag Luft 4 and 6. He was force-marched 900 miles across Germany from January 1945 until April 1945. Following the forced march, Chief Angus was held in Stalag 357. The chief remained a prisoner of war until April 1945, when he and his fellow prisoners of war were liberated by British Field Marshal Montgomery's Army. Chief Angus returned to the United States for rest and recuperation, and served more than 26 outstanding years in the United States Air Force. He retired on 31 October 1969, and worked for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company for 17 years. He retired from McDonnell Douglas on 30 April 1986. Today, Chief Angus resides in Belleville, IL. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Walter L. Bell

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: April 1942

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Philippines

DATE OF BIRTH: 16 January 1920

HOME OF RECORD: Sparta, NC

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Separate Chemical Company, Ft. Wm. McKinley, PI

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Bell was stationed at Fort McKinley outside Manila on 7 December 1941. In addition to the devastation of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Philippine Islands were repeatedly attacked and subsequently invaded by Japanese Imperial forces. When the Japanese struck Nichols Field, a few miles from Fort McKinley, Chief Bell and members of his unit were dispatched to assist in base recovery after attack operations. The Chief's unit then retreated slowly toward Manila and the Bataan Peninsula. By early January 1942, all American and Filipino forces had withdrawn to the Bataan Peninsula. There, for over three months, with food rationed to one small meal a day, ammunition almost gone and many troops sick with malaria, dengue fever and combat wounds, the Chief and his troops held the Japanese at bay for over three months against immeasurable odds. In the spring of 1942, 200,000 Japanese broke through forcing the Philippines' surrender. For Chief Bell and 22,000 American military men, the Bataan death march began. It was five grueling days of brutal torturous treatment. Prisoners who struggled or broke ranks in search of water were shot to death or bayoneted to death. Once interned at Camp O'Donnell, Chief Bell and his troops lived on small portions of rice and insects. There were no barracks or tents, and disease claimed thousands. Only 17,000 of the 22,000 survived 30 days following the death march. The chief was shipped to Cabanatuan on the Eastern side of the island and then to Prison Camp #4 at nearby Nichols Field. While there, he and his troops were starved and used as forced labor. After two years, Chief Bell and his men were shipped to Japan. During the voyage, they were attacked by American aircraft. In Japan, Chief Bell was imprisoned at Osaka, where he and others were once again put to work to bolster the Japanese war effort. Chief Bell, a large-framed six-footer, weighed less than 100 pounds upon repatriation. He was awarded the Purple Heart for a gunshot wound in his hand, the Bronze Star for Valor and the Prisoner of War Medal. Chief Bell's 27 years of service began in August 1939. He retired in March 1966 and resides today in Sparta, N.C., with his wife, Nell. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Robert A. Brown

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 9 April 1942

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Philippines

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 August 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Marysville, CA

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 34th and 17th Pursuit Sq, 24th Pursuit Gp, Philippines

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Brown enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on 2 October 1940. He was assigned to Hamilton Field, CA, as a Medical Technician. On 1 November 1941, he departed for the Philippines aboard the USS Coolidge. On 30 November 1941, the Chief deployed from Nichols Field, Manila, to a new dirt airfield at Del-Carmen, west of Clark Field. On 10 December 1941, the 34th Pursuit Sq's aircraft returned to base and were followed by Japanese fighters. All but five of the P-35s were destroyed. Amazingly, the squadron suffered no casualties. The Americans retreated toward Bataan and on to Orani, taking up air operations from sugar cane fields. On 2 January 1942, the P-35s evacuated to Australia. Chief Brown then deployed to west Bataan, where troops were issued World War I rifles and assigned to "KM Post 192." The Chief and his troops were then assigned to the 71st Provisional Infantry. The 17th Pursuit Sq, deployed to "KM Post 200." Lacking medics, Chief Brown was ordered to join them en route. These events would later be known as the "Battle

of the Points." The troops salvaged machine guns from aircraft and resisted two Japanese amphibious landings. After four weeks, the Japanese suffered over 2,000 killed. The airmen were nicknamed the "Flying Infantry." In late February 1942, the 17th Pursuit Sq was assigned beach defense operations on Bataan's Southern tip. They were exhausted, hungry, wounded and sick with malaria, dysentery, beri-beri and other jungle diseases. On the evening of 8 April 1942, Maj General King ordered their surrender, effective 9 April 1942. For Chief Brown and 22,000 brave defenders, the infamous "Bataan Death March" began. It was four days of brutality. Prisoners who struggled or broke ranks were shot or bayoneted to death. Chief Brown saw over 1,500 men die during his 70-mile march and over the next 30 days. On 14 April 1942, Chief Brown was interned at Camp O'Donnell. Prisoners lived on small portions of rice and insects. There were no barracks or tents, and disease claimed thousands. Only 17,000 of the original 22,000 survived 30 days later. On 8 October 1942, Chief Brown departed Camp O'Donnell for Mukden, Manchuria, aboard the Japanese "Dysentery Ship," the Totoru Maru. On 11 November 1942, he arrived by rail at Mukden Camp. Chief Brown weighed 80 pounds. He learned to speak Japanese, which helped in the treatment of prisoners. He recalled that Mukden POW camp had 19 deaths and 54 seriously injured during a 7 December 1944, B-29 SUPER FORTRESS attack. On 20 August 1945, Chief Brown was liberated by a American and Russian forces. He said, "It was my twenty-first birthday and the happiest birthday of my entire life." Chief Brown was an Air Force Outstanding Airman of the Year, 1956. He retired from the United States Air Force on 6 October 1969, following 29 years of outstanding service. Chief Brown holds the unique distinction of being "the youngest 'Bataan Death March' survivor." He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: William J. Brown

***RANK:** Chief Warrant Officer (CW04)

DATE OF CAPTURE: 9 August 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Hungary

DATE OF BIRTH: 17 March 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Rochester, NY

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 464th Bomb Gp (H), 778th Bomb Sq, 15th Air Force, Italy

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 9 August 1944, Chief Brown was flying on his forty-eighth combat mission as a B-24 LIBERATOR gunner. He had flown 47 missions with his permanently assigned air crew and was scheduled as a replacement gunner with another crew that had lost their gunner on a previous mission. The bombing mission was the marshaling yards at Budapest, Hungary. During the bomb run, the Chief's B-24 received a direct hit on the port (left) wing. The LIBERATOR turned sharply over on its side. The aircraft commander struggled and finally regained control. The crew dropped their bombs on their target. Upon completing bomb release, the B-24 received another direct anti-aircraft fire hit in the bomb bay area. The seriously damaged LIBERATOR broke in half. Chief Brown, then a Technical Sergeant, was in the waist section of the B-24 when the aircraft broke in half. Chief Brown was blown clear of the LIBERATOR and knocked unconscious. Shortly, he regained consciousness and successfully deployed his parachute. He was severely wounded in his right arm, making parachute deployment both difficult and painful. Upon safely landing, Chief Brown was immediately captured and transported to a German military hospital. There he remained for 30 days. Following his release from the German hospital, the Chief was incarcerated in Luft Stalag 3, Northern Poland. In January 1945, with the Russian Army approaching, the Germans force-marched Chief Brown and his fellow prisoners of war hundreds of miles to Stalag 7A, Germany. Chief Brown was liberated by the US Army on 29 April 1945. Following the end of the second World War, Chief Brown remained on active duty with the United States Army Air Corps and later entered the United States Air Force. He retrained into the Air Traffic Control Career Field. Chief Brown was promoted to the permanent rank of Chief Master Sergeant on 1 May 1966, while assigned to HQ Eastern Command Region. He retired from the United States Air Force on 1 May 1969. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

* Retired in his reserve rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CW04).

NAME: Gean P. Clapper

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 December 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 July 1942

HOME OF RECORD: Altoona, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 314th Tactical Airlift Wg, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Clapper was a crew member on a C-130E HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when

he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Clapper was continued in a missing status until 27 April 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Fred L. Clarke

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 December 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 28 January 1932

HOME OF RECORD: Troutman, NC

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 56th Special Operations Wg, Udorn Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Clarke was a loadmaster on a C-123K transport that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-123K transport collided with a B-57 bomber during the mission. The pilot of the C-123K parachuted and was rescued. The other crew members of both aircraft were reported missing in action. Chief Clarke was continued in a missing status until 28 May 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Lawrence Clark

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 18 October 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 15 June 1928

HOME OF RECORD: Logansport, IN

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 38th Air Rescue/Recovery Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Clark was the radio operator on an HU-16 aircraft that was performing a rescue mission when he was reported missing in action. The crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Clark was continued in a missing status until 18 July 1973, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: William K. Colwell

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 December 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 1 June 1921

HOME OF RECORD: Glen Cove, NY

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Colwell was the flight engineer on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on a strike mission when he was reported missing in action. The AC-47 failed to return from the mission, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Colwell was continued in a missing status until 29 August 1977, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Arthur Cormier

***RANK:** Captain

DATE OF CAPTURE: 6 November 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 October 1934

HOME OF RECORD: Rumeford, ME

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: Det 5, 36th Air Rescue Sq, Udorn Air Field, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Captain Cormier, then a Staff Sergeant, was shot down on 6 November 1965, 30 miles from Hanoi, North Vietnam, while flying on board a CH-3 Helicopter, out of Nakhon Phanom AB, Thailand. He and Captain Warren R. Lilly, Pilot/Commander; First Lieutenant Jerry Singleton, Copilot; and Staff Sergeant Berkley E. Naugle were attempting a para-rescue mission of Captain Richard Bolstad, a downed A1-E pilot. Upon encountering hostile ground fire, their craft was seriously hit and all four men bailed out.

Four parachutes were observed descending from the damaged helicopter. One member was observed on the ground gathering his parachute. One member (missing less than 24 hours -- Staff Sergeant Naugle) was rescued, receiving minor burns. Sergeant Cormier evaded capture for eight days, and twice during this period, he waived off rescue attempts due to intense enemy ground fire. He was captured on the eighth day and held prisoner of war at the Hoa Lo or Hanoi City Jail, "Hanoi Hilton," North Vietnam, and the "Zoo," another makeshift prison camp in North Vietnam, until his release and repatriation. The status of Sergeant Cormier was officially changed by the Department of the Air Force to captured on 21 February 1966, and subsequently, the status of Captain Bolstad, Captain Lilly and Lieutenant Singleton was also changed. Major Bolstad, Major Lilly, Captain Singleton and Senior Master Sergeant Cormier (all promoted during captivity) were returned to military control during OPERATION HOMECOMING, Hanoi, North Vietnam, on 12 February 1973. Senior Master Sergeant Cormier was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant on 1 April 1973, after declining an Air Force commission. He enrolled with Long Island University in the fall of 1973 and completed his bachelor's degree in 1975. In May 1994, he accepted an active duty Air Force commission as a First Lieutenant. He was assigned to Pease AFB, N.H., as the Fuels Management Officer. He was reassigned to Hahn AB, Germany, in March 1977 and to RAF Mildenhall in July 1980. In November 1984, he retired from the United States Air Force at the permanent rank of Captain. He was assigned to Altus AFB, OK. Captain Cormier's decorations include three Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, two bronze stars, the Air Medal, and two Purple Hearts. Captain Cormier resides with his family in Lunenburg, MA.

*Accepted an active duty Air Force commission as a First Lieutenant in May 1974, while a Chief Master Sergeant. Retired at the permanent rank of Captain on 1 November 1984.

NAME: Edward J. Darcy

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 December 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 19 June 1938

HOME OF RECORD: Portland, ME

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 314th Tactical Airlift Wg, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Darcy was reported missing in action after the C-130 HERCULES aircraft on which he was a crew member failed to return to Nha Trang Air Base from an operational mission over North Vietnam. The crew was reported missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Darcy was continued in a missing status until 27 April 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Gene E. Davis

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 March 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 5 April 1928

HOME OF RECORD: Evansville, IN

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Davis was a flight mechanic on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was performing an armed reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The last radio contact from the crew members was shortly after takeoff from DaNang Air Base. Chief Davis was continued in a missing status until 24 January 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Rexford J. DeWispelaere

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 November 1969

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 9 September 1945

HOME OF RECORD: Penfield, NY

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 374th Tactical Airlift Wg, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief DeWispelaere was a loadmaster on a C-130A HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-130A was struck by several rounds of 37MM anti-aircraft fire, burst into flames, crashed and exploded on impact. Chief DeWispelaere was continued in a

missing status until 6 April 1977, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Charles G. Dusing

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 31 October 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 April 1928

HOME OF RECORD: Charleston, SC

CURRENT STATUS: Died in Captivity/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 6250th Support Sq, Tan Son Nhut AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Dusing and three other companions were reported missing in action when they failed to return to their unit following a trip to an R&R center. An intensive search failed to reveal their whereabouts. On 4 November 1965, one of the members walked into a Special Forces Camp and told how they were captured by Viet Cong on their way back to the base. He managed to escape. The status of the remaining members was subsequently changed to captured. No further information has ever been received regarding their fate. Chief Dusing was continued in a captured status until 9 July 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to died in captivity. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Dean A. Duvall

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 March 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 04 September 1945

HOME OF RECORD: Monticello, IN

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Duvall was the aerial gunner on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on an armed reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The last radio contact with the crew was shortly after takeoff from DaNang Air Base, South Vietnam. The aircraft did not return to the base and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Duvall was continued in missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense

as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Wayne A. Eckley

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 December 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 22 May 1936

HOME OF RECORD: Enterprise, OR

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 314th Tactical Airlift Sq, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Eckley was a crew member on a C-130E HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Eckley was continued in a missing status until 27 April 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Robert M. Elliot

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 21 December 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 18 December 1948

HOME OF RECORD: El Dorado, AR

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Elliot was the flight engineer on an AC-130A HERCULES gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was struck by hostile fire and crashed. Voice contact was established with two crew members on the ground and they were rescued. Chief Elliot was continued in a missing status until 24 July 1979, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 21 February 1985.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: Richard Etchberger

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 11 March 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 5 March 1933

HOME OF RECORD: Hamburg, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 1043d Radar Evaluation Sq, Bolling AFB, DC

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Etchberger was killed in action when the radar site (Lima Site 85) was overrun by enemy forces. He was shot down while riding in a US Army helicopter attempting to evacuate the site. The chief was deployed in support of OPERATION HEAVY GREEN. This was a highly classified and covert operation providing precision radar bombing in North Vietnam. Geneva Accords prohibited stationing United States Armed Forces personnel in Laos except accredited attaches. Chief Etchberger and other selected United States Air Force personnel were "officially" discharged from the Air Force and hired outside of the United States Department of Defense. During the operational phase, two locations were overrun by communist forces, resulting in the loss of 14 Americans. Two Americans were killed in action at Muong Phalane Laos (Channel 77) on 25 December 1967. Their physical remains were recovered and they were reinstated in the United States Air Force. Since their bodies were recovered, they were placed on the official Department of Defense listing of Air Force personnel killed in action in Southeast Asia. Twelve Americans were killed in action during the same operation at Phu Pha Ti, Laos (Site 85) on 11 March 1968. All were reinstated in the United States Air Force. Eleven of the Americans remain unaccounted for since their physical remains have not been recovered. Chief Etchberger 's physical remains were recovered. His name was added to the official Department of Defense killed in action listing sometime after 1981. Chief Etchberger was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Force Cross. General McConnell, then Air Force Chief of Staff, presented the decorations to Mrs Etchberger - Chief Etchberger's widow.

NOTE: Remains returned

NAME: Charles R. Fellenz

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 November 1969

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 20 October 1939

HOME OF RECORD: Marshfield, WI

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 374th Tactical Airlift Wg, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Fellenz was a non crew member on board a C-130A, HERCULES aircraft which was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was struck by several rounds of anti-aircraft fire, burst into flames, crashed and exploded. Chief Fellenz was continued in a missing status until 29 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: James R. Fuller

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 21 December 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 4 April 1937

HOME OF RECORD: Cibolo, TX

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Fuller was the flight engineer on an AC-130A HERCULES gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was struck by hostile fire and crashed. Voice contact was established with two crew members on the ground and they were rescued. Chief Fuller was continued in a missing status until 5 March 1980, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 21 February 1985.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: David E. Garrett

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 9 April 1942

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Philippines

DATE OF BIRTH: 6 April 1921

HOME OF RECORD: Carbondale, IL

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 17th Pursuit Sq, Nichols Field, PI

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Garrett was stationed at Nichols Field, PI, on 7 December 1941, the day Imperial Japanese Forces attacked Pearl Harbor and began hostilities in the Pacific theater. He remained at Nichols Field repairing and maintaining aircraft for ongoing combat sorties. His unit was flying P-40 and P-35A aircraft. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor bombing, the Chief's squadron and its few remaining aircraft were ordered to Pilar Airfield on Bataan. The unit completed its move on 24 December 1941. In early February 1942, all flyable aircraft were ordered to "island-hop" south in hopes of reaching allied Australia. Chief Garrett's squadron was sent to the Agaloma Point area in order to assist in repulsing Imperial Japanese landing forces attempting landings on the west coast of Bataan. Following several landing attempts, the Imperial Japanese forces were denied success and were virtually wiped out. Chief Garrett's squadron was then sent to Mariveles in order to establish a beach defense operation. The Chief and three of his fellow defenders were assigned coast watch observation posts on a mountain top in order to report sightings of Imperial Japanese Naval craft approaching the mouth of Manila Bay. Due to a massive lack of food, medicine and ammunition, and with disease at epidemic proportions, a surprise enemy force broke through the weakening allied defenses, forcing Bataan's surrender. On the evening of 8 April 42, the allies surrendered and the infamous "Bataan Death March" began to Camp O'Donnell. Following a short internment at Camp O'Donnell, Chief Garrett and his comrades were returned to Bataan and placed in forced labor. Chief Garrett and some of his fellow prisoners were sent to Cabanatuan. The Chief, now ill with malaria, dysentery, and beri-beri, worked on a farm. In August 1943, Chief Garrett was one of 500 prisoners of war sent to Imperial Japanese Prisoner of War Camp 17, in Omuta, Japan. There, he and his fellow prisoners were used as forced labor in a Japanese coal mine. Most prisoners worked 15 days on and one day off to rest. The Chief worked in the coal mine until September 1945. Upon repatriation, Chief Garrett weighed 85 pounds. He was sent home to the United States for rest and recuperation. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Chief Garrett enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in October 1939 and retired from the United States Air Force in September 1970. Today, Chief Garrett resides in Panama City, Florida. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Calvin C. Glover

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 May 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 January 1938

HOME OF RECORD: Steubenville, OH

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 41st Tactical Airlift Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Glover was the flight engineer of a C-130 HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-130 did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Glover was continued in a mission status until 29 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Larry I. Grewell

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 November 1969

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 6 July 1945

HOME OF RECORD: Tacoma, WA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 374th Tactical Airlift Wg, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Grewell was a loadmaster on a C-130A HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was struck by several rounds of anti-aircraft fire, burst into flames, crashed and exploded. Chief Grewell was continued in a missing status until 29 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Donald J. Hall

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 6 February 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 26 March 1937

HOME OF RECORD: Stroud, OK

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 38th Air Rescue/Recovery Sq, Nakhon Phanom AB, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Hall was the flight mechanic on an HH-3 helicopter that was on a rescue mission when he was reported missing in action. A downed airman was hoisted aboard the helicopter. As it was departing the area, the helicopter was struck by ground fire, causing it to crash and explode. The helicopter pararescueman was thrown free, survived the crash and was rescued. Chief Hall was continued in a missing status until 29 May 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: James S. Hall

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 July 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 5 October 1935

HOME OF RECORD: Greensboro, NC

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 630th Combat Support Gp, Udorn Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Hall was the radio operator on a C-47 SKYTRAIN aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. All contact was lost with the aircraft and crew. The crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Hall was continued in a missing status until 30 May 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 24 September 1987.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: John E. Hankins

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 4 February 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 20 October 1920

HOME OF RECORD: Osborn, MO

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 412th Bomb Sq, 382d Bomb Gp, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 4 February 1944, Chief Hankins was flying on his twenty-first combat mission over Frankfurt, Germany, as a top turret gunner in a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS. He and his fellow crew members were shot down by

anti-aircraft fire. The Chief parachuted safely and was immediately captured by a group of German women, armed with assorted farming tools, pitch forks and hoes. Shortly after his capture, he was turned over to the German military. Following several days of interrogation, the Chief was moved by rail (box car) to a German prison camp near East Prussia. While in transit, Chief Hankins and his fellow prisoners of war were bombed by allied aircraft. Fortunately, none of the prisoners were killed or injured. Six months later, Chief Hankins and some of his fellow prisoners of war were moved by rail to a German prisoner of war camp just South of East Prussia. In early 1945, Chief Hankins and his fellow prisoners were force-marched 800 miles to a Stalag near Berlin, Germany. From there, Chief Hankins and his fellow prisoners were force-marched to the River Elbe and transferred to allied forces (The Timber Wolves). Chief Hankins' first friendly encounter after crossing the river was with a soldier from his home town. The Chief separated from military service for a brief period. He re-enlisted and spent most of his outstanding Air Force career in aircraft maintenance within Strategic Air Command, (SAC). The Chief spent two years as Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Aircraft Maintenance, Clark Air Base, Philippines. Chief Hankins retired from the United States Air Force in July 1967. He worked as parts and maintenance supervisor for a large retail company until his retirement in 1989. Today, he resides in Osborn, Missouri. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Raymond Harwood

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 10 October 1943

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 October 1920

HOME OF RECORD: Shaftsbury, VT

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 562d Bomb Sq, 388th Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 10 October 1943, Chief Harwood was shot down while flying his eighteen combat mission as a Flight Engineer/Gunner on a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS over Munster, Germany. His FLYING FORTRESS was repeatedly pounded by enemy ground and fighter fire. Just after, "bombs away," the crew bailed out. The chief landed hard in a large pine tree. He was captured within minutes of landing and immediately transported to Dulag Luft in Frankfort, Germany. Following a brief internment at Dulag Luft, Chief Harwood was moved to Stalag 17B, Krems, Austria. The Chief remained a prisoner of war in Stalag 17B from October 1943 through April 1945. In April 1945, Chief Harwood and his fellow prisoners of war were forced marched in groups of 500, in the face of the advancing Russian Army. After approximately 380 kilometers of forced marching, the chief and his fellow prisoners of war were placed in the cold woods of Braneau, Austria with no shelter, sanitary facilities or medical care. Food was virtually non-existent. On 3 May 1945, members of the United States Army's 3rd Army, 13th Armored Division, liberated the prisoners. The 13th Armored Division was an advancing "spearhead." This caused Chief Harwood and his comrades to have to hold in an aluminum factory until 5 May 1945. Chief Harwood moved on to La Harve, France, better known as, "Camp Lucky Strike." Following administrative processing, the chief boarded the USS Lejune, for his final journey through England and to repatriation in the United States of America. Chief Harwood holds the unique distinction of being one of the first Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officers to be promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and the dubious distinction of being shot down and captured on his twenty third birthday. Today, Chief Harwood resides in Mount Holly, VT. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Arden K. Hassenger

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 December 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 15 September 1936

HOME OF RECORD: Lebanan, OR

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Hassenger was an aerial gunner on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on a strike mission when he was reported missing in action. The AC-47 failed to return from the mission, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Hassenger was continued in a missing status until 1 December 1977, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: John Hazy

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 24 April 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 July 1918

HOME OF RECORD: Perryopolis, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 306th Bomb Gp, 368th Bomb Sq, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 24 April 1944, Chief Hazy was flying on a heavy bombing mission to Obrafaffenhofen, Germany, as a tail gunner, when his B-17 FLYING FORTRESS was attacked by German fighters. His B-17 lost three engines, one at a time, and then caught fire. The pilot was killed in flight and the remaining crew members bailed out. Chief Hazy and his fellow crew members were immediately captured upon landing. They were transported to Dulagluft in Frankfurt, Germany, and interned until their transfer to Stalag 17B, Krems, Austria. On 3 May 1945, Chief Hazy and his fellow prisoners of war were liberated by General Patton's Army in the woods near Branau, Austria. He was transported to Camp Lucky Strike, France, for repatriation processing. Following processing, he was returned to the United States. In November, he was discharged at Randolph AFB, TX. In June 1946, he re-enlisted in the US Army Air Corps and retired in 1968 from the United States Air Force, following a highly successful and distinguished career. Today, he resides in Elizabeth, PA. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Ronnie L. Hensley

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 April 1970

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 8 June 1948

HOME OF RECORD: Richwood, WV

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Hensley was a crew member on a C-130 HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-130 was struck by hostile fire and crashed. One crew member was rescued and hospitalized for treatment. Chief Hensley was continued in a missing status until 11 September 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Robert L. Hill

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 18 October 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 25 September 1931

HOME OF RECORD: Detroit, MI

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 37th Air Rescue/Recovery Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Hill was the flight mechanic on an HU-16 that was performing a rescue mission when he was reported missing in action. The last radio contact from the HU-16 was approximately 53 nautical miles in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of North Vietnam. When they did not return from the mission, the crew members were reported missing in action at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Hill was continued in a missing status until 18 July 1973, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Robert N. Ireland

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 April 1970

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 July 1935

HOME OF RECORD: San Bernardino, CA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Ireland was the flight engineer on a C-130 HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. His aircraft was struck by hostile fire and crashed. One crew member parachuted to safety, was rescued and treated for minor injuries. No other parachutes were seen and no beepers heard. Chief Ireland was continued in a missing status until 11 September 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Kenneth L. Jones

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 12 August 1943

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 19 April 1923

HOME OF RECORD: East Bernstadt, Kentucky

CURRENT STATUS: Collin Country Veterans Service Officer, Plano, Texas; Director Service Officer, American Ex-POW; State Service Officer, Ex-POW; National Service Officer, VFW, Military Order Purple Heart.

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 91st Bomb Gp (H), 401st Bomb Sq, (H), 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 12 August 1943, Chief Jones was on his seventeenth combat mission as a ball-turret gunner when his B-17 FLYING FORTRESS and another from the same squadron collided at 30,000 feet. The plane crashed in Gelsenkirchen near Koblenz, Germany. Prior to the crash, his aircraft was attacked by ME-109s from the Herman Goering Fighter Squadron. Chief Jones and four other crew members were wounded. They were taken to a German military hospital near Bonn, Germany. The Chief remained in the hospital for approximately six weeks being treated for gunshot wounds, then was sent to Stalag 6G, Bonn, Germany. He was the only American in the camp at that time. The Chief escaped and was re-captured and taken to Buchenwald; from Buchenwald to Dulag Luft, Frankfurt, and then five days by box car (40 and 8) to Stalag 17B, Gneixendorf, (Kerms) Austria. In April 1945, Stalag 17B was evacuated and the POWs force marched from Kerms to Brauna, Austria. Chief Jones was liberated by the 13th Army Division, US 3rd Army, on 2 May 1945. He returned to the United States and was given 60 days recuperation leave. After WWII, he served as a top-turret gunner in B-29s and B-50s. He was assigned to Convair Aircraft Company, San Diego, CA, as a member of a test flight crew on B-36s and T-29s. From there, he was assigned to Grand Central Aircraft Company, Tucson, AZ, as a flight test crew member on B-47s and B-29s. From Tucson he was transferred to Douglas Aircraft Company, Tulsa, OK, flying on B-47s. He was grounded and assigned to Ladd AFB, AK, as a procurement supervisor. The Chief served as a contracting officer and his last overseas assignment was as a procurement officer, Templehof AB, Berlin, Germany. Chief Jones retired 1 April 1975. He joined the Texas State Guard (State Military Forces) and retired as a Major in January 1991. Today, he resides in Plano, TX, with his wife, Lee. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Paul Kerchum

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 9 April 1942

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Philippines

DATE OF BIRTH: 25 January 1920

HOME OF RECORD: McKees Rocks, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: Bravo Company, 31st Infantry, Philippines

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Kerchum enlisted in the United States Army on 7 January 1938. He re-enlisted, joining Bravo Company, 31st Infantry, in Manila on 10 September 1940. The Chief fought in three battles, the first at Layac Junction, the gateway to the Bataan Peninsula. The plan was to retreat into the Bataan Peninsula and hold defensive positions until relieved. The 31st Infantry, supported by the Philippine Scouts, held until all allied troops withdrew to Bataan. The Philippine Army formed a defensive strong point later known as the "Abucay Line." In early January 1941, the Japanese broke through the 51st Philippine Division. The 31st Infantry was ordered to counterattack. The battle raged on for 14 days. Chief Kerchum received the first of three combat wounds from mortar fire. Chief Kerchum, then a young corporal (E-4), was in charge of a machine gun squad. While the fighting grew more intense at Abucay, the Philippine Army formed a new defense known as the "Orion Bagac Line." The 31st Infantry was ordered to counterattack. The six-day battle became a "fight-and-withdraw operation." Chief Kerchum received his next two wounds. He was hit once by rifle fire and once by artillery fire. The Chief fought on and never missed a single duty day. On the evening of 8 April 1942, Maj. General King ordered the surrender. For Chief Kerchum and 22,000 brave defenders, the infamous "Bataan Death March" began. The forced march was approximately 68 miles long. It spanned from Mariveles to the San Fernando Railhead. Allied deaths were approximately 1,500 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos. Prisoners who struggled or broke ranks were shot, bayoneted or beaten to death. Upon arriving in San Fernado, Chief Kerchum was transported by rail (box cars) to the village of Capas. From Capas, Chief Kerchum and the remaining survivors were force-marched eight kilometers to Camp O'Donnell. At Camp O'Donnell, Americans continued to die at a rate of 50 per day. This rate was sustained for the next two months. Chief Kerchum was taken to the Camp Cabanatuan Prison Camp. In October 1943, the Chief was a member of a work detail building a Japanese airfield at Las Pinas. In

October 1944, Chief Kerchum was transported by sea to Japan. He spent over 39 days in the hold of a Japanese dysentery ship being chased by American submarines. Interned in Northern Japan, he was used as forced labor in a lead mine. Chief Kerchum was liberated in September 1945. He was a prisoner of war for 43 months. Re-enlisting in the new United States Air Force, Chief Kerchum served with the 483d Troop Carrier Wing in Japan and Korea from June 1952 until November 1954. He was a base supply superintendent. Chief Kerchum retired 1 August 1966, following 29 years of outstanding service. Today, he resides with his wife, Gloria, in Benson, Arizona. He owns and operates PK Realty. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Charles D. King

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 25 December 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 29 May 1946

HOME OF RECORD: Muscatine, IA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 40th Air Rescue/Recvry Sq, Nakhon Phanom Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief King was a pararescueman on an HH-3E helicopter and was performing duty as rescue specialist to pick up a downed pilot when he was reported missing in action. Once he fixed the downed pilot in the hoist and it was being raised to the hovering helicopter, the hoist broke, dropping the pilot back to the ground. Because of heavy hostile fire, the helicopter was forced to leave the area, abandoning the rescue and leaving both members on the ground. Chief King was continued in a missing status until 5 May 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Thomas E. Knebel

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 May 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 June 1947

HOME OF RECORD: Midway, AR

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 374th Field Maintenance Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Knebel was on board a C-130 HERCULES aircraft that was performing an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-130 did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Knebel was continued in a missing status until 29 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Harold R. Lawrence

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 9 April 1942

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Philippines

DATE OF BIRTH: 22 September 1917

HOME OF RECORD: Omaha, NE

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 27th Bomb Gp (L), HQ Sq, PI

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 20 November 1941, Chief Lawrence arrived in the Philippines with the 27th Bomb Group (L), aboard the USS Coolidge. The 27th Bomb Group's assigned aircraft were shipped aboard the US Army transport ship, Miggs. On 7 December 1941, Imperial Japanese naval forces bombed Pearl Harbor and the Miggs was rerouted to Australia. A small group of 27th Bomb Group pilots flew out of the Philippines to Australia. The 27th Bomb Group's enlisted men were assigned infantry duties on the Bataan Peninsula. The US Army Air Corps' Infantry spent 99 grueling days on the front lines. On 9 April 1942, Maj. General King ordered the allies to surrender following the breakthrough of 200,000 Japanese troops. For Chief Lawrence and 22,000 American fighting men, the "Bataan Death March" began. For four days and nights, the chief marched from the tip of Bataan to San Fernando, Pampango. It was four days and four nights of brutal torturous treatment. Prisoners who struggled and broke ranks in search of water were shot to death or bayoneted to death by Japanese soldiers. Following rail transport and internment at Camp O'Donnell, Chief Lawrence and his troops lived on small portions of rice and insects. There were no barracks or tents, and disease claimed thousands. Only 17,000 of the original 22,000 survived 30 days following the "death march." From Camp O'Donnell, the Chief and some of his fellow prisoners of war were sent on work details to Baguio. After 15 months of forced labor details, Chief Lawrence and what remained of his fellow prisoners of war were sent by rail to Cabanatuan and onto the Japanese

Mainland. There, the chief and his fellow prisoners were used as forced labor in Japanese copper mines at Motoyama-Tokeyo Camp #12. Chief Lawrence worked as a driller for about 17 months. From Motoyama, Chief Lawrence and his fellow prisoners were shipped by rail to Hitachi, then Yokahoma, and were eventually repatriated and returned to the United States of America on 8 September 1945. Chief Lawrence is retired and residing in Jefferson, Texas. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: William L. Madison

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 15 May 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 3 November 1935

HOME OF RECORD: Lexington, KY

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Tan Son Nhut AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Madison was an aerial gunner on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on a visual reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft failed to return from the mission, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Madison was continued in missing status until 24 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: John M. Mamiya

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 July 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 21 November 1933

HOME OF RECORD: Wahiawa, HI

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 630th Combat Support Gp, Udorn Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Mamiya was a crew chief on a C-47 SKYTRAIN aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. All contact was lost with the aircraft and crew. The crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Mamiya was continued in a missing status until 17 June 1977, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 2 March 1988.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: Jack McCrary

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 December 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 30 November 1934

HOME OF RECORD: Madison, TN

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 314th Tactical Airlift Wg, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief McCrary was a crew member on a C-130E HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft departed its base and did not return to friendly control. The crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief McCrary was continued in a missing status until 27 April 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Roy C. McGinnis

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 14 October 1943

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 18 January 1923

HOME OF RECORD: Prattville, AL

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 96th Bomb Gp, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCE OF LOSS: Chief McGinnis was on his fourth mission as a right waist gunner on a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS. His bomber was crippled by flak over Schweinfurt, Germany. After falling out of formation, his bomber was attacked by fighters, eventually causing the loss of another engine and a crash landing. Following the loss of the second engine, the pilot put the plane into a steep dive to put out an engine fire and to keep fighters from attacking under the plane's belly. A fighter followed the B-17 down and

kept attacking from the rear. By the time Chief McGinnis released the emergency door preparing to bail out, the plane was already on the tree tops. He was almost pushed out by other crew members lined up behind him. Feeling that a crash was imminent, Chief McGinnis lay down in the waist section. The bomber crash-landed, going through a pond and almost into a wooded area. Even through the plane was on fire, all crew members survived. The entire crew was captured by the Germans within 45 minutes of the crash. After processing the officers, the enlisted men went to a separate POW camp and Chief McGinnis and the enlisted crew members were sent to Stalag 17B in Krems, Austria. They were liberated on 8 May 1945. Chief McGinnis was discharged in October 1945 and re-enlisted in the US Army Air Force in 1947. In April 1968, he retired from the United States Air Force, following 26-and-a-half years of outstanding service. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1973 and a Master's Degree in Personnel Management in 1979, while working for the State of Alabama. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Arthur V. McLaughlin

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 20 December 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 December 1927

HOME OF RECORD: Tampa, FL

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 307th Strategic Wg, Utapao Afld ,TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief McLaughlin was reported missing in action while on an arc light mission as a crew member on a B-52 STRATO FORTRESS. The aircraft was struck by intense hostile fire while over the target and was seen to explode in the air. No parachutes were spotted and no beepers were heard. Chief McLaughlin was continued in a missing status until 16 August 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Robert L. Modell

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 16 March 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 5 July 1923

HOME OF RECORD: Bayside, Long Island, NY

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 91st Bomb Gp (H), 323 Bomb Sq, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Modell entered the United States Army Air Force on 21 May 1943. Following basic military training and technical training as a gunner and engineer, he was assigned to the B-17G FLYING FORTRESS. On 16 March 1944, Chief Modell was flying out of England on his fourteenth combat mission over Lechfeld, Germany. His FLYING FORTRESS was repeatedly hit by ground fire. German fighters immediately joined in the attack. The Germans were desperately defending FW 190 Fighter factories. The Chief's bomber was disabled and the order was given to "bail out!" Parachuting safely to the ground, Chief Modell and his co-pilot successfully evaded enemy forces. The two Americans decided that the best course of action was to attempt to make it to the Swiss border. They walked and evaded the enemy for three days. On the third day, they reached Switzerland. Chief Modell, his co-pilot, and later his aircraft commander, were taken into Swiss custody and interned at a Swiss internment camp located at Adelboden, Switzerland. Officially, Switzerland was a neutral country. However, the Swiss were unofficially sympathetic to the Axis powers. All allied forces entering Switzerland without permission were held captive. Chief Modell was held for approximately 12 months. The Chief would later learn that of the remaining seven members of his bomber crew, six were captured by the Germans and one was killed during their parachute jump. The Swiss internment camp held Poles, Russians, Britians, Americans and many other assorted nationalities. Chief Modell's repatriation began with a Swiss prisoner exchange of four hundred men in March 1945. The Chief was shipped by rail to Bern, Switzerland, and on to Geneva, Switzerland. From Geneva, Chief Modell continued by rail to Marsay, France. From Marsay, he was flown to Bassingbourne, England, and on to Stone, England, near Liverpool. Chief Modell then traveled by hospital ship to Boston Harbor, Massachusetts. The ship landed on Palm Sunday, 1945. Chief Modell said, "It was a wonderful Palm Sunday." Following his repatriation, Chief Modell separated from active duty and remained in the active reserve. He went to work for Republic Aviation. On 1 May 1952, Chief Modell returned to active duty. It was the height of the Korean War. The Chief was assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) as a maintenance superintendent. Most of Chief Modell's service would be in SAC. He spent almost four years at Edwards AFB, CA, assisting in the development of the first B-1, Lancer bombers. Following President Carter's initial cancellation of the B-1

program, Chief Modell was selected for the Chief Master Sergeant high-year-of-tenure extension program. In 1978, he returned to Barksdale AFB for the second time in his career. The Chief retired on 1 April 1982, following almost 35 years of outstanding service. Today, he resides in Bossier City, LA, with his wife Margi. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Edwin E. Morgan

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 March 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 4 September 1927

HOME OF RECORD: Salisbury, NC

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Morgan was the loadmaster on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was performing an armed reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The last radio contact from the crew members was shortly after takeoff from DaNang Air Base. Chief Morgan was continued in a missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Harold E. Mullins

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 3 June 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 26 February 1930

HOME OF RECORD: Denver, CO

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Ubon Afld ,TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Mullins was the flight engineer on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was performing an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. Another aircraft in the area witnessed his AC-47 crash. No parachutes were spotted and no beepers were heard. Chief Mullins was continued in a missing status until 28 May 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Edward M. Parsley

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 3 February 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 22 January 1933

HOME OF RECORD: Naugatuck, WV

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 311th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Parsley was the loadmaster on a C-123 aircraft that was on a combat airlift support mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and they were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Parsley was continued in a missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Marshall I. Pauley

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 March 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 17 October 1941

HOME OF RECORD: Milton, WV

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Pauley was an aerial gunner on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN aircraft that was performing an armed reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The last radio contact with the crew members was shortly after takeoff from DaNang Air Base. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and they were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Pauley was continued in a missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Edwin J. Pearce

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 March 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 8 December 1947

HOME OF RECORD: Milford, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Pearce was an aerial gunner on an AC-130A HERCULES gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was observed to crash in a ball of fire. No parachutes were seen and no beepers were heard. Chief Pearce was continued in a missing status until 24 July 1979, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 1 March 1986.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: Alan D. Piittmann

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 16 November 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 27 March 1945

HOME OF RECORD: Shelby, IA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 5th Air Commando Sq, Bien Hoa AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Piittmann was a non-crew member on an A-1G aircraft that was on an administrative flight when he was reported missing in action. The A-1G was struck by hostile ground fire and all aboard were forced to eject. The pilot and copilot were rescued; however, Chief Piittmann could not be located. He was continued in a missing status until 4 April 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Charlie S. Poole

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 19 December 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 June 1932

HOME OF RECORD: Gibsland, LA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 307th Strategic Wg, Utapao Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Poole was an aerial gunner on a B-52 STRATOFORTRESS bomber that was on a night combat arc light mission when he was reported missing in action. Contact was lost with the crew while in the post-strike turn-in. No parachutes were seen and no beepers heard. Subsequent information revealed that four of the crew members were captured and subsequently repatriated during OPERATION HOMECOMING. Chief Poole was continued in a missing status until 8 June 1979, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: James A. Preston

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 15 May 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 August 1939

HOME OF RECORD: Bowdon, GA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Tan Son Nhut AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Preston was the loadmaster on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on a reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. Their aircraft failed to return to its scheduled destination. Chief Preston was continued in a missing status until 25 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Melvin D. Rash

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 22 May 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 8 June 1946

HOME OF RECORD: Yorktown, VA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 41st Tactical Airlift Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Rash was the loadmaster on a C-130 HERCULES aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Rash was continued in a missing status until 29 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: William R. Rogers II

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 7 February 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Austria

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 June 1922

HOME OF RECORD: Morton, MS

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 301st Bomb Gp, 419 Bomb Sq, North Africa

CIRCUMSTANCE OF LOSS: Chief Rogers was performing duties as an enlisted bombardier aboard a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS. While flying a daylight bombing mission over Austria, his B-17 was shot down by anti-aircraft fire. After parachuting to the ground, he was immediately captured by Austrian Axis forces and confined in Aspen Air Base, Austria. Several days following his imprisonment, he was transferred to Stalag Luft 4, near the Baltic Sea. Some months later, Chief Rogers and his fellow prisoners of war were force-marched hundreds of miles to Stalag 7, near Moseburg, Germany. He was repatriated on 29 April 1945, and returned to the United States for medical leave and recuperation on 7 June 1945. Chief Rogers served with the allied occupation forces in Japan following WWII. He also served one tour in Korea during the Korean conflict and two tours in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He retired from the United States Air Force, following 30 years of outstanding service. Today, he resides with his wife, Louise, in Brandon, MS. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Victor Romero

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 19 March 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 December 1947

HOME OF RECORD: San Francisco, CA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 21st Tactical Air Support Sq, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Romero was the radio operator on an O-1G aircraft that was on a visual reconnaissance mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Romero was continued in a missing status until 9 October 1979, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Luther L. Rose

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 3 June 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 August 1935

HOME OF RECORD: Howe, TX

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Rose was the aerial gunner on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The AC-47 was observed by other flight members in the area to crash. No parachutes were seen and no emergency signals were heard. Chief Rose was continued in a missing status until 6 March 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Eli S. Ross

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 8 December 1943

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 25 October 1922

HOME OF RECORD: Tucson, AZ

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 379th Bomb Gp, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: In December 1943, Chief Ross was fly-

ing on his fourth combat mission as a radio operator/gunner over Bremen, Germany, when his B-24 LIBERATOR was shot down by German fighter planes. He parachuted, injuring his right leg. He was captured by a farmer, turned over to German soldiers and made a prisoner of war. He was incarcerated at Stalag 17B, Krems, Austria, where he met his nephew who had been shot down in Italy. In May 1945, the Russians were advancing on Stalag 17B, and Chief Ross and the other prisoners were force-marched to Braunau, Austria, where they lived in a forest until liberated by General Patton's Third Army. He was transported to LaHarve, France, for return to the United States. Having lost 45 pounds, he was sent to Miami, Florida for recuperation leave. Later, he was discharged. Not finding contentment in civilian life, Chief Ross returned to active duty in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant. He worked his way up through the ranks and served as a weapons control systems supervisor. He was sent to Vietnam for a one-year tour of duty in 1967. After returning to the States, Chief Ross was assigned to Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona. While there, he served as a flight line supervisor, First Sergeant, and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander, 355th Tactical Training Wing. After 32 years of service, he retired in 1977. Since retirement, he has volunteered his services at Davis Monthan AFB, and is a guest speaker at high schools and veterans organizations on the subject of his POW experiences. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Herbert E. Smith

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 July 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 1 March 1936

HOME OF RECORD: Appalachicola, FL

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 630th Combat Support Gp, Udorn Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Smith was a crew chief on a C-47 SKYTRAIN aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. All contact was lost with the aircraft and crew. The crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Smith was continued in a missing status until 4 December 1975, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 2 March 1988.

NOTE: Remains Returned.

NAME: Joseph R. Smith

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 27 May 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 11 March 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Scuylkill Haven , PA

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 351st Bomb Gp, 508th Bomb Sq, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCE OF LOSS: Chief Smith completed radio operator mechanic technical training shortly after entering the military in November 1942. He then cross-trained into the aerial gunner career field. Following gunner's school, he was assigned to the 401st Bomb Group, Great Falls, MT, flying on the B-17 FLYING FORTRESS as a radio operator, mechanic and gunner. Chief Smith departed the United States for England in October 1943. He arrived in England following a crash landing in Iceland. Upon arriving in England, Chief Smith was transferred to the 351st Bomb Group. He flew 26 heavy bomber combat missions over Germany. He was flying on his twenty-seventh combat mission when he was shot down over Schwienfort, Germany, following air-to-air combat with German fighters (ME-109s and HWF-190s). Chief Smith was captured and spent 11 months interned at Stalag Luft 4, Poland. In September 1944, Chief Smith and his fellow prisoners of war were force-marched out of the camp due to the approach of the Russian Army. He eventually linked up with British forces on 18 April 1945. Chief Smith separated from the military for three years. He was promoted to the permanent rank of Chief Master Sergeant in 1962 and served 26 outstanding years. He retired from the United States Air Force in March 1971. Today he resides in Warner Robins, GA. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Lynn Steincamp

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 8 May 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 7 June 1922

HOME OF RECORD: Ripley, OK

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 364th Fighter Gp, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: On 8 May 1944, Chief Steincamp, then a First Lieutenant and a P-38 fighter pilot, was flying escort duty for

heavy allied bombers engaged in saturation bombing of the German heartland. As he was returning from one of his missions, the left (port side) engine of his aircraft caught fire, forcing him to bail out over the Rhur Valley. He was captured by German civilians who were extremely hostile over allied bomb damage. Following brutal treatment, Chief Steincamp was eventually released to the German Army. The Chief attempted several unsuccessful escapes. For the next year, hunger, cold, sickness and forced marches were the order of the day. In January 1945, allied forces had Germany in a virtual strangle hold. On 1 January 1945, during one of Germany's worst blizzards on record, the Chief and his fellow prisoners of war were force-marched out of Stalag Luft 3 near Sagan, Germany. The Russian Army was very near, and the prisoners could hear the sounds of Russian artillery fire as they marched. The prisoners of war were incarcerated near Nuremberg, Germany. Shortly thereafter, in about April 1945, allied forces were again pushing back the German Army. Chief Steincamp and his fellow prisoners of war were once again force-marched. This time they were incarcerated at Munich, Germany. Here, thousands of Russian, American and British prisoners of war were held until 29 April 1945, when General Patton's Third Army forces liberated the camp. Upon return to the United States, Chief Steincamp gave up his commission and separated from service. He said, "The mundane flying I was assigned lost its appeal." Following a brief try at civilian life, the Chief re-enlisted in the US Army Air Corps as a Staff Sergeant. He retired from the United States Air Force at the permanent rank of Chief Master Sergeant on 1 August 1970. His diverse career included service in almost every Major Air Force Command. He also served in Alaska, Korea and Vietnam. Today, he resides with his family in Shreveport, Louisiana. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Daniel H. Surprise

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 24 May 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Denmark

DATE OF BIRTH: 20 November 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Ness City, Kansas

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 351st Bomb Gp, 8th Air Force, Polebrook, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Surprise was flying as a waist gunner on his twenty-second combat mission in a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS, leading the 8th Air Force bombing of Berlin, Germany. A short while after hitting the Dutch coast, one engine started losing oil pressure. The aircraft commander decided not to abort and the plane continued on. Once the bombs were dropped, the engine had to be feathered. Another engine started giving the crew trouble, but by doing a slow descent, the pilot made it back over the North Sea safely, where the second engine gave up and was also feathered. When the third engine began acting up, the aircraft commander decided to try for Sweden. Ditching in the North Sea was almost certain death at that time of year. Flying at a low altitude, the crew could see enemy ME-109 fighters taking off as their third engine was giving out. The order was given to "bail out!" Floating down, Chief Surprise could see an enemy patrol boat heading his way, loaded with troops. By the time the boat reached him, the Danes had captured the American crew and grouped them together for the Germans. The crew was taken to an enemy naval base, where the co-pilot had a cut in his eyebrow stitched. The crew was moved later that day to a German air base. After spending the night in the guardhouse, they were put on a train and taken to Frankfurt, Germany, for interrogation. A large number of POWs, including Chief Surprise, were later shipped to Stalag Luft 4, Poland, and placed in compound "D." When the Russians began a drive in the direction of the Stalag, several hundred POWs were placed on a train, 50 to a boxcar, and moved to Nuremberg, Germany—a trip of nine days. On 5 April 1945, Chief Surprise and his crew were put on the road and force-marched 10 days to Moseburg, Germany, where they were liberated on 29 April 1945. Chief Surprise served 26 years and four months (more than 18 years as a First Sergeant), and saw thousands of fine young men and women come and go. He retired short of 30 years because, in his words, "The Air Force was not allowed to take the war to the 'North' and make the North Vietnamese say, 'UNCLE'." Today, he resides with his wife of over 49 years on a small grass farm in Southwest Missouri and backgrounds about 100 head of steer a year. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force.

NAME: Larry C. Thornton

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 24 December 1965

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 3 March 1932

HOME OF RECORD: Idaho Falls, ID

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Thornton was an aerial gunner

on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on a strike mission when he was reported missing in action. The AC-47 failed to return from the mission, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Thornton was continued in a missing status until 22 January 1974, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Ernest A. Viles

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF CAPTURE: 21 June 1944

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Germany

DATE OF BIRTH: 14 July 1924

HOME OF RECORD: Knoxville, TN

CURRENT STATUS: Retired

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 303d Bomb Gp, 360th Sq, 8th Air Force, England

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Viles was flying on a B-17 FLYING FORTRESS out of England, as a ball turret gunner, on his fourth mission over Germany. The target was Bremen, Germany. He was shot down by anti-aircraft fire known as the JU-88. He landed in the tallest tree in the drop zone. He was captured by civilians, beaten and turned over to the Berggermicster (Mayor) House in the city. He was held for a short time, then taken to a holding camp at Frankfort, Germany, and held for several days. He was then put on a train for Stalag Luft 4, Poland. His diet consisted of barley soup, three times daily. Rarely did he eat any meat. He was force marched on 14 February 1944. He marched hundreds of miles between the allied lines, until he was liberated on 2 May 1945. Once liberated, he confiscated jeeps and trucks, and headed for Brussels. About halfway there, he had to give up his transportation and walk the rest of the way. The British gave him clothes and food. He was able to transfer to Lucky Strike, France. He stayed in France for about a week, and was put on a ship and sent back to the United States. Upon returning, Chief Viles was given 120 days' leave because of overcrowded military camps. He was discharged from the US Army/Air Force in 1945. He stayed out seven months and then re-enlisted, serving another 24 outstanding years. The Chief retired on 1 January 1970. He now lives in Bossier City, LA, with his wife, Vera. He remains an outstanding supporter of the United States Air Force. He is a life member of the American Ex-Prisoner of War Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5951.

NAME: Samuel F. Walker Jr.

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 13 December 1968

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 July 1942

HOME OF RECORD: Philadelphia, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 56th Special Operations Wg, Udorn Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Walker was a loadmaster on a C-123K aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The C-123K collided with a B-57 bomber aircraft during the mission. The pilot of the C-123K parachuted and was rescued. The other crew members of both aircraft were reported missing in action. Chief Walker was continued in a missing status until 21 June 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Therman M. Waller

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 3 February 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 9 February 1943

HOME OF RECORD: Wynne, AR

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 311th Air Commando Sq, DaNang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Waller was a flight mechanic on a C-123 aircraft that was on a combat airlift support mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Waller was continued in a missing status until 9 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: Ervin Warren

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 3 June 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 6 September 1936

HOME OF RECORD: Philadelphia, PA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Warren was the loadmaster on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was seen crashing, and no parachutes were spotted or beepers heard. Chief Warren was continued in a missing status until 2 March 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: James E. Williams

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 15 May 1966

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 October 1939

HOME OF RECORD: Oxford, MS

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 4th Air Commando Sq, Tan Son Nhut AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Master Sergeant Williams was the flight mechanic on an AC-47 SKYTRAIN gunship aircraft that was performing a visual reconnaissance mission over Laos when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft failed to return to its base, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Williams was continued in a missing status until 25 January 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: James R. Williams

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 29 December 1967

COUNTRY OF LOSS: North Vietnam

DATE OF BIRTH: 28 March 1945

HOME OF RECORD: Charlotte, NC

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 314th Tactical Airlift Wg, Nha Trang AB, VS

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Williams was a crew member on a C-130E aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft did not return to friendly control, and the crew members were declared missing at the time of estimated fuel exhaustion. Chief Williams was continued in a missing status until 24 June 1977, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. Since his remains have not been recovered and returned, he is listed by the Department of Defense as unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

NAME: John Q. Winningham

RANK: Chief Master Sergeant

DATE OF LOSS: 21 December 1972

COUNTRY OF LOSS: Laos

DATE OF BIRTH: 15 September 1944

HOME OF RECORD: Grover City, CA

CURRENT STATUS: Killed in Action

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT: 16th Special Operations Sq, Ubon Afld, TH

CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: Chief Winningham was a crew member on an AC-130A HERCULES gunship aircraft that was on an operational mission when he was reported missing in action. The aircraft was struck by hostile fire and crashed. Voice contact was established with two crew members on the ground and they were rescued. Chief Winningham was continued in a missing status until 11 September 1978, when his status was administratively changed by the Department of the Air Force to killed in action. His remains were returned by the Vietnamese on 21 February 1985.

Note: Remains Returned.

VI. POW TREATMENT AND ABUSE WHILE IN CAPTIVITY

This section was added only after a great deal of soul-searching on my part. With the normalizing of relations with old and former enemies, it is important to all of the former POWs, their families, and the families of those killed or missing in action, that the inhumane and mostly barbaric treatment of our POWs not become distorted, played down or forgotten. The greatest frustration I encountered during my personal interviews was that these "war criminals, who violated all laws of armed conflict and rules of human decency, " would never be held accountable or brought to justice. The wars may have been on different continents and during different periods in our history, but the cruel treatment and unbridled abuse of our POWs was and is a hard fact.

Some of the most horrific accounts of POW maltreatment and abuse occurred in the Pacific Theater during World War II and during the Vietnam War. Of course, there was maltreatment and cruelty in the European Theater during World War II and during the Korean War. By far, the most blatant and open abuses occurred at and following "Bataan" during World War II and in North Vietnamese prison camps throughout the war in Vietnam. Throughout my interviews and fact finding, some common threads appeared within the POW experiences.

First, the enemy more often than not disregarded all aspects of international law and human rights.

Second, a common tactic was to try to turn prisoner against prisoner, through systematic torture and selective treatment. Captors almost always refused to recognize rank and precedence among POWs. Occasionally, they would if it served their purposes.

Third, POW groups that formed a solid chain of command and developed an internal communications network had much greater success in resisting and surviving. Time after time, I was reminded that things were worse when the chain of command broke down and military order and discipline was forgotten. The Senior Ranking Officer (SRO), who took charge, made and interpreted policy regarding duties, discipline and the Code of Conduct, was a key factor in successful resistance, stabilizing morale and personal survival.

Fourth, enemies of the United States of America will most often attempt to exploit American POWs along social, racial and ethnic lines. The chain of command had to be on constant guard against these types of divisive tactics.

Fifth, enemies of the United States of America will most often attempt to exploit the American value of "family."

The enemy's mode of operation was basically consistent, no matter which war or theater:

1. Isolate, inflict pain, create fear and uncertainty; raise the level of physical and mental exhaustion.
2. Undermine military authority, respect and discipline.
3. Divide and attempt to conquer through racial and ethnic exploitation.
4. Create cracks in their faith in government, their leadership, their service and their families.
5. Use any and all of the above in order to gain propaganda and political advantages.

There were many atrocities committed against POWs. Some of the most terrible were in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Medical experiments, such as pumping sea water into the blood streams to test blood volume expansion and inflicting gun shot wounds to practice treatments, were documented. There were also experiments involving the removal and reattachment of limbs and vital organs. As I went to press on this project, there was new evidence being investigated concerning germ warfare experiments on American POWs in World War II. By far, some of the most vivid examples of wholesale human cruelty were the conditions in North Vietnamese prison camps. Whether it was the "Zoo" or the "Hanoi Hilton" (Hoa Lo - the Hanoi City Jail), the scenarios were most always the same.

Drawings and data obtained through the United States Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall, Maxwell\Gunter AFB Annex, AL. From the collection donated by John "Mike" McGrath, (USN), shot down over North Vietnam, 30 June 1967. Author of, **Prisoner of War: Six Years in Hanoi.**

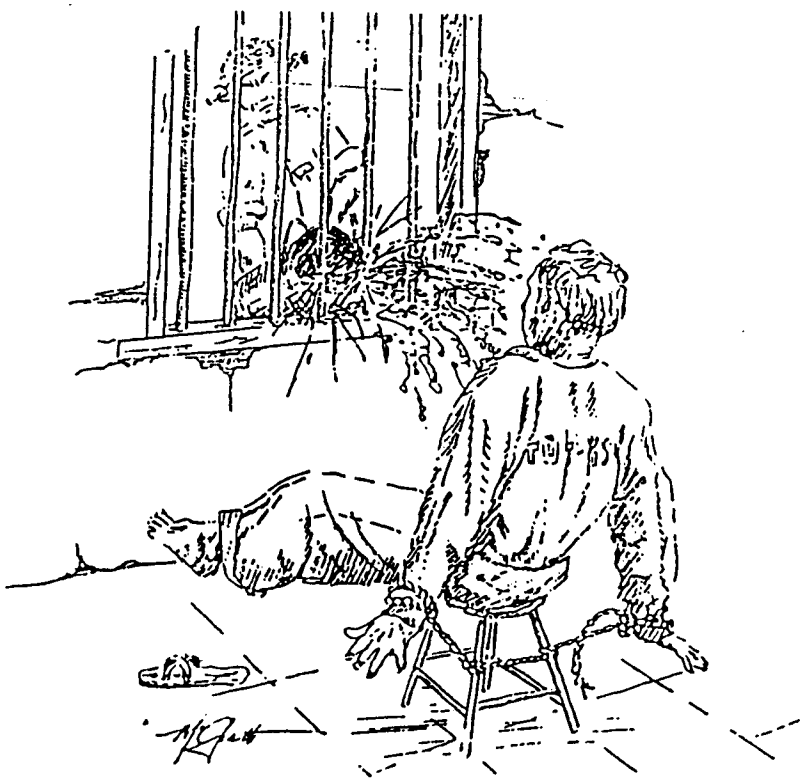


Figure 1, Stool Tie: Many Pows were handcuffed or tied to stools as a means of slow torture They sat in this position day and night without sleep or rest until exhaustion and pain took their toll. Some POWs, through heroic efforts, lasted for 15 to 20 days. One POW endured it for 33 days before acquiescing to his torturers' demands. Here, a guard named, "Mouse," sadistically throws cold water on a POW during one of the cold North Vietnamese winter nights.

Figure 2, Propaganda Sessions: Many POWs were forced by torture to appear before peace delegations from the United States. Before the interview, they would be tortured until the North Vietnamese were certain of the, "proper," recital of prepared statements. Such statements read: "I have received lenient and humane treatment from the peace-loving Vietnamese people..." Here, as actually happened, a POW attempted to show a member of the delegation the ugly rope burns and scars on his wrists. As was so often the case, she ignored them because she was interested in only one thing - ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA.

Figure 3, Kneeling: Often during interrogations, POWs were forced to kneel for hours causing their knees to become flattened, red and swollen. For quicker results, a small rock would be placed under each knee. It was not unusual for POWs to spend more than 12 hours at a stretch in this torturous position.

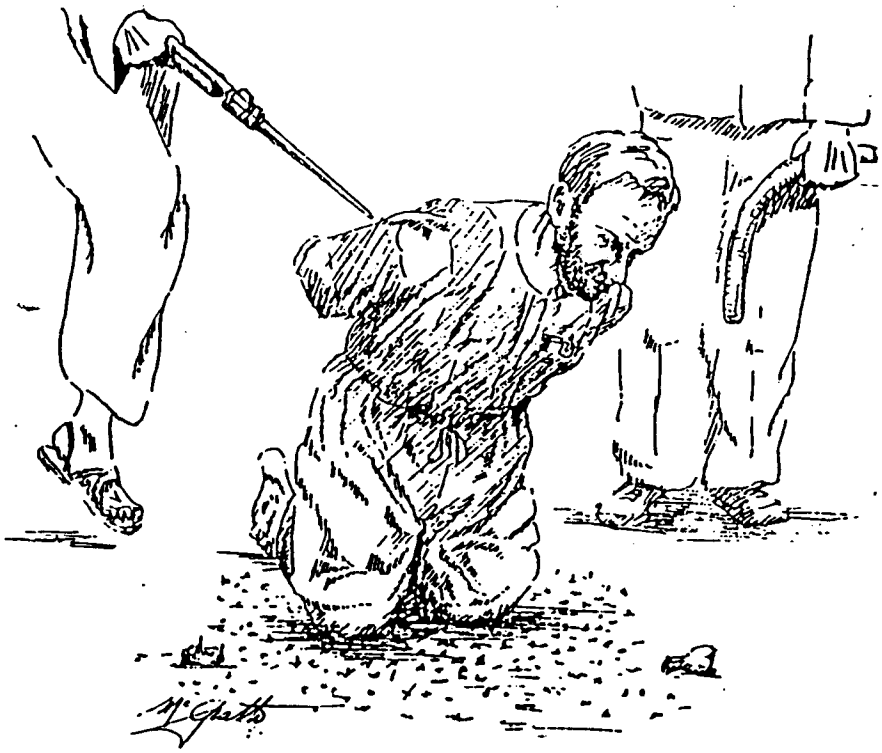


Figure 4, Knee Walk Through Broken Glass: Prison camp atrocities committed by the North Vietnamese were numerous. Some of the milder forms of torture were: Being burned with cigarettes; having bamboo slivers pushed into fingers; suffering electrical shocks, etc. Here a POW is forced to walk on his knees through broken glass.

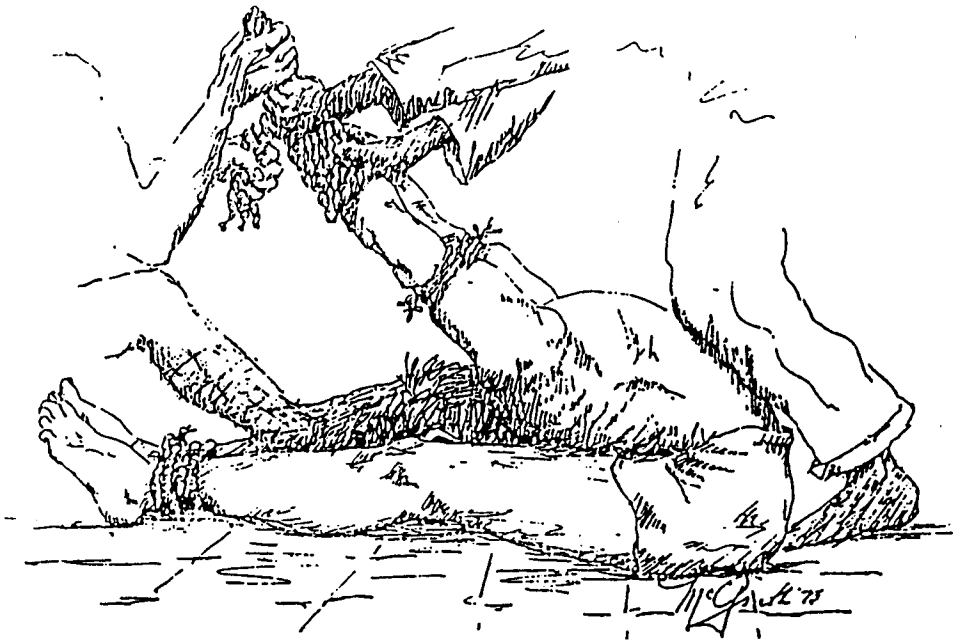


Figure 5, The Vietnamese Rope Trick: Procedures for the "Vietnamese Rope Trick":
1. Force the POW's arms together until his elbows touch.
2. Apply "Hell Cuffs" (ropes) to his upper arms until his shoulder blades touch and blood circulation is cut off. Result: Unbelievable pain.
3. If the POW was not broken by this time, his arms would be rotated until his shoulders were dislocated. Torture would continue until the torturers were no longer amused.

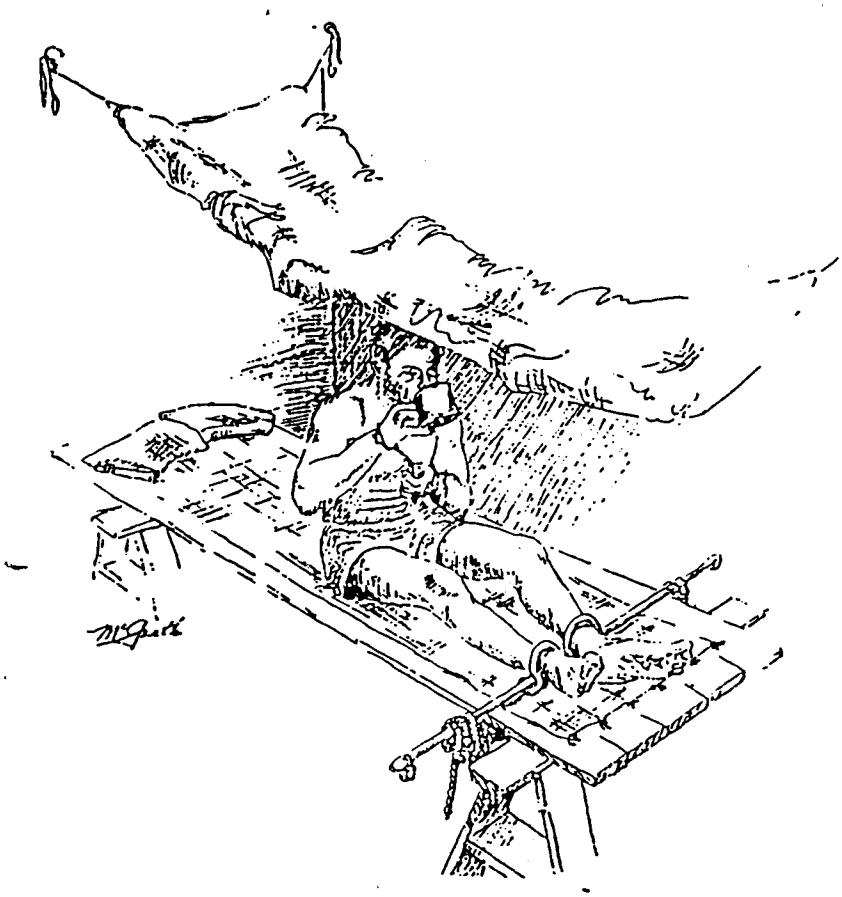


Figure 6, Manacled to Beds: POWs were manacled to their beds, often for weeks at a time. Here, a POW in leg irons was allowed a drink of tepid water. When finished, he would be handcuffed again with his hands behind his back. He would have to live in this manner, day and night, without sleep. In this position, he could not lie down because his body weight would cinch the already-tightened cuffs even tighter, nor could he turn sideways due to leg irons. Bodily functions were performed in this position forcing the POWs to live in human bodily waste.

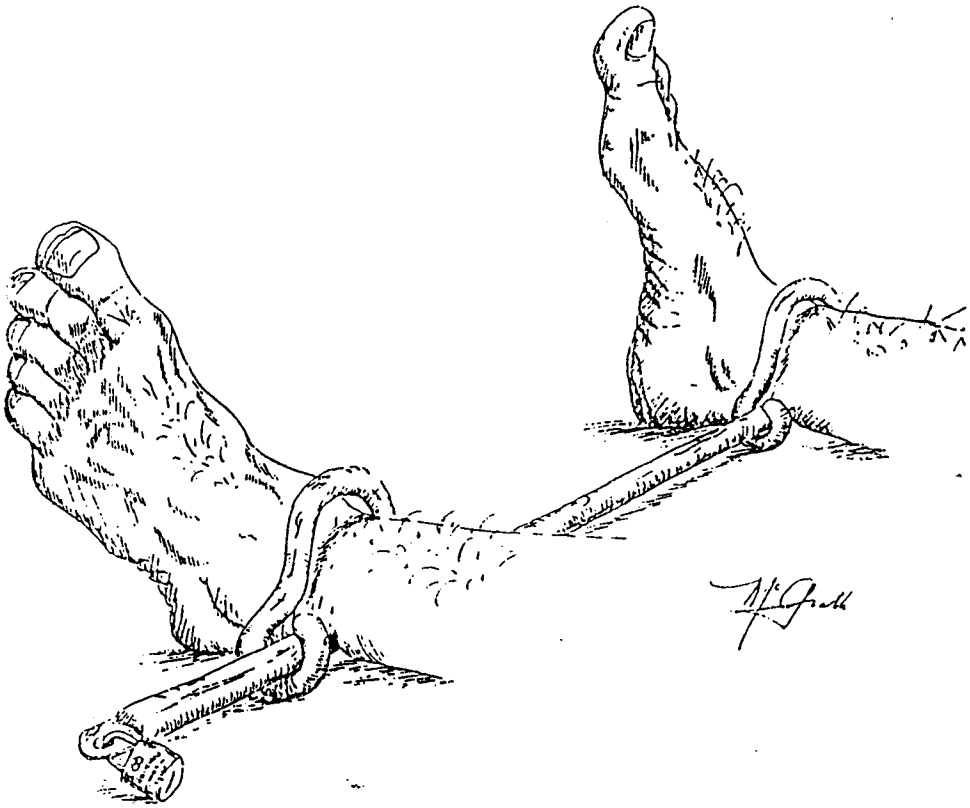


Figure 7, Iron Shackles: Iron shackles were used to limit movement. This was painful and injurious. The rusty, rough iron rods easily cut into the legs causing infection. Many POWs' legs swelled so badly only the loop which the rod slid through was visible. Various weights of iron rods were used - some weighing as much as 30 pounds. When the torturers wanted things rougher, they would install the rod so it rested on top of the POW's ankles.

Figure 8, Rusty Leg Irons To Beds: Installed across the foot of beds, these rusty leg irons were used to confine POWs to their beds for weeks and months. If the POW's ankles were too swollen of large to fit into the stocks, the guards on the top bar were pushed and forced shut. This ripped the ankles and caused excruciating pain. Infection then set in, causing the entire leg to swell.

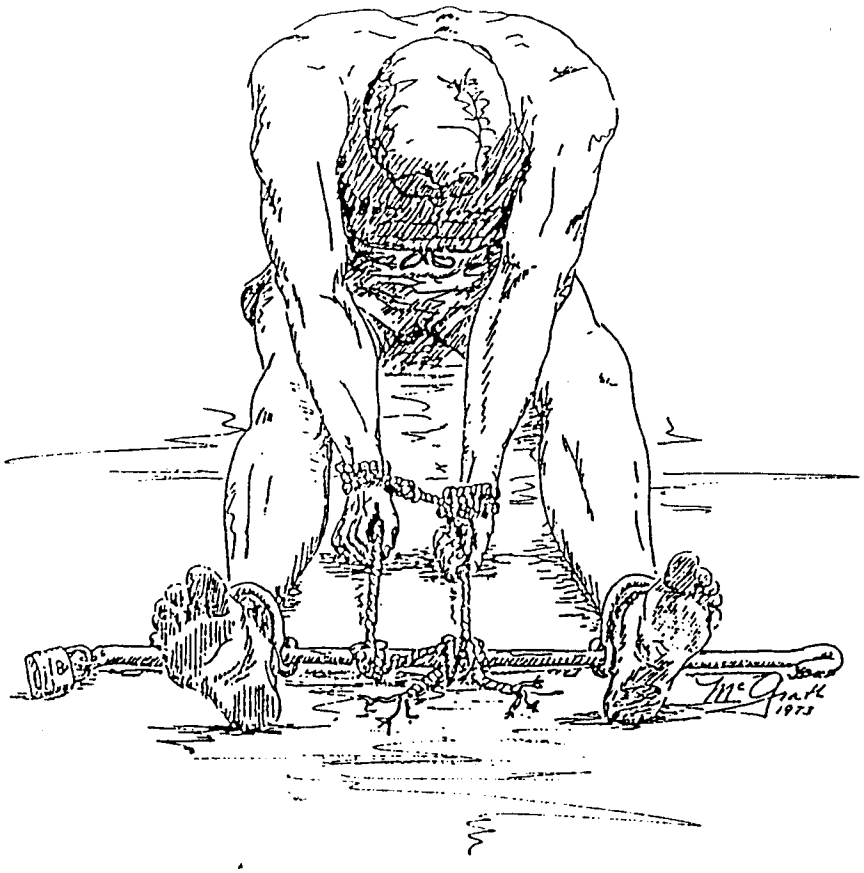


Figure 9, Rope Tied To Iron Bar: POWs lived in this position for months at a time. Only when the guards permitted them to wash, perform bodily functions, or bath were the irons and ropes removed.

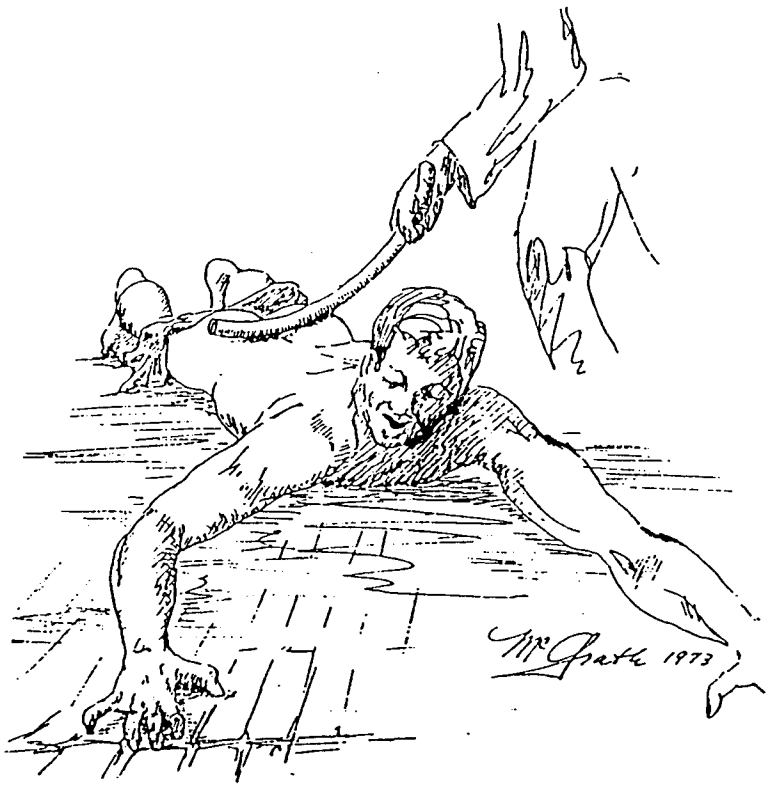


Figure 10, Beatings With Hoses And Straps: One form of torture was the use of rubber hoses and straps. One POW nearly died when he received 100 strokes or lashes a day for nine days. Another POW was tortured into complete insanity and reportedly died. Still another was tortured to death after an unsuccessful escape attempt.

Figure 11. Gagging The POW's Painful Screams: Unimaginable torture created unbearable pain. To stifle screams, torturers stuffed dirty rags into POWs' mouths with rusty iron bars that would chip teeth and rip the mouth. A favorite torture position was to hang the POWs upside down from the rafter - then beat them into unconsciousness.

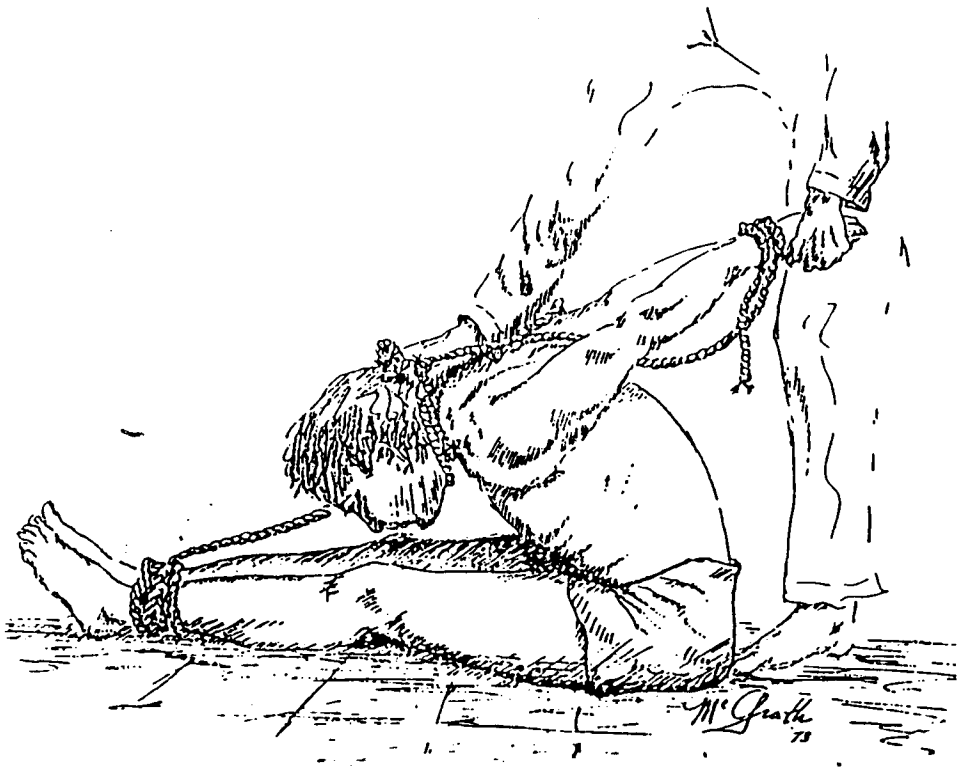


Figure 12, Bondage With Ropes: An excruciatingly painful position, torturers used this technique often. It was a favorite because it left no telltale scars unless the torturers made mistakes - as was often the case.

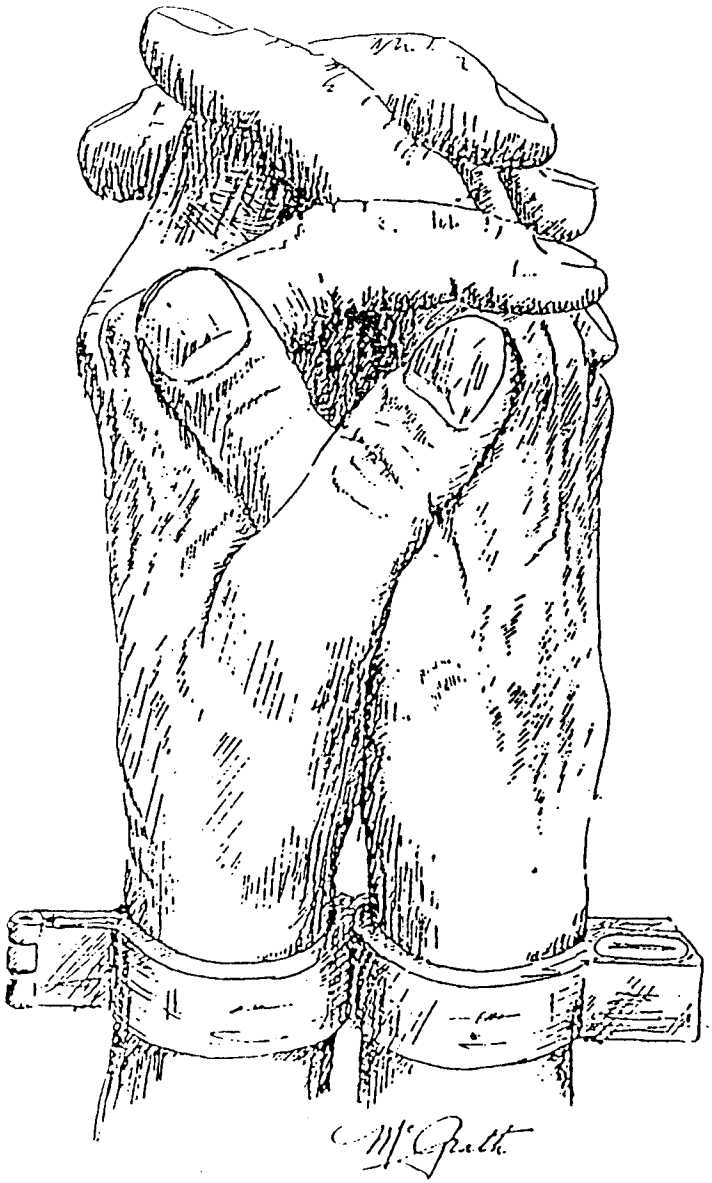


Figure 13, Manacles: POWs dreaded the manacles. The wrist openings were small so the flat bands would cut into the wrists if the elbows were relaxed enough to separate. Manacles were applied with the wrists in front or behind the backs. When applied with the hands behind the back, this would induce excruciating pain. The manacles were sometimes left on for weeks at a time.

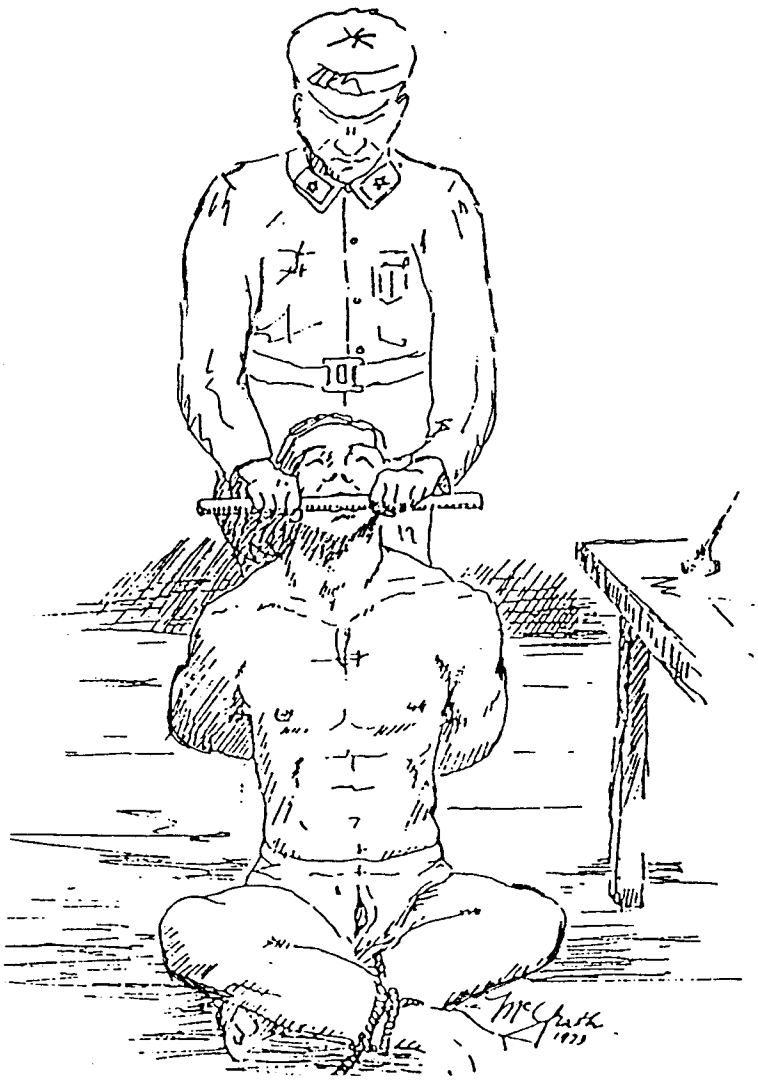


Figure 14, Iron Bar Used To Silence Painful Screams: In order to silence screams, a guard would force an iron bar into the POW's mouth. If the POW resisted, by not opening his mouth, the torturer would apply pressure until the POW's mouth would open or his teeth shattered.

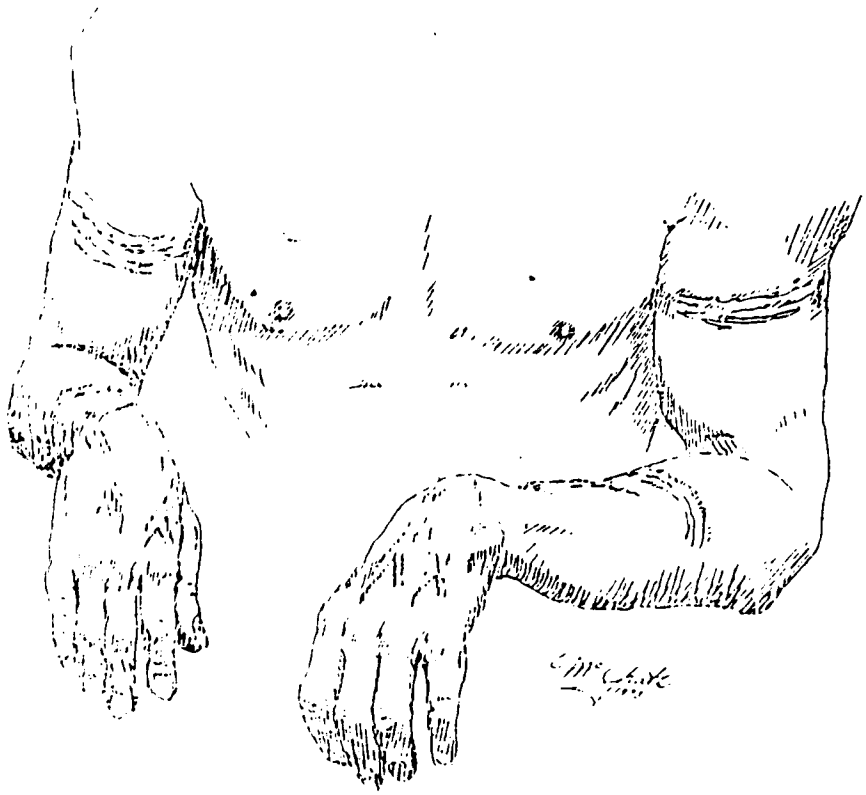


Figure 15, The Physical Scars of Torture: The results of torture through the use of ropes or nylon parachute cords, was deep burns that became infected. Ugly white scars were left behind. Most POWs who underwent, "the ropes," are still today suffering neurological impairment in all or most all of their extremities.

VII. POW/MIA "REMEMBER" TABLE CEREMONY

By Master Sergeant Larry H. Tassone, USAF (Retired)

Light dims. Spotlight on POW/MIA table.

Speaker 1: "As you entered this room, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor near our head table. It is set for one. Please let me explain. The military is filled with symbolism. This table is our way of symbolizing the members of our profession of arms who are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs and MIAs . . . We call them **FAMILY.** They are unable to be with us, and so we remember them this evening."

NOTE: The rank and name of individual **POWs/MIAs** may be added prior to "REMEMBER."

Speaker 2: "This table set for one is a small symbol of the frailty of prisoners alone against their oppressors . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 1: "The tablecloth is white -- symbolizing their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 2: "The single rose displayed in the vase symbolizes the families and loved ones of those comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 1: "The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn on the lapel and breast of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 2: "A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 1: "There is salt upon the bread plate -- symbolic of the families' tears as they wait . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 2: "The glass is inverted -- they cannot toast with us tonight . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 1: "The chair is empty -- they are not here . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 2: "**REMEMBER** . . . All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them. For surely, they have not forgotten or forsaken you . . . **REMEMBER!"**

Speaker 1: "_____" would you please come forward. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and remain silent as we seat our **POW/MIA** table."

NOTE 2: Honor guard or selected member places the helmet or hat on the table next to the vase. This portion may be modified to include a hat from each service and the U.S. Coast Guard. A proposed toast with water from the senior military member present. Taps are normally played as the glass is lifted and touches the senior military member's/toaster's lips.

VIII. EPILOGUE

On April 9, 1942, Major General Edward P. King Jr. surrendered Luzon Forces on the Bataan Peninsula to the Japanese. These Americans were suffering from malaria, dysentery and starvation, yet were forced by their captors to march nearly 70 miles, in terrible heat, without sufficient food or water, and no medicine, through jungle and small barrios. This was the "Death March," during which men might be shot, bayoneted or clubbed to death at the whim of a Japanese guard. Almost 72,000 Americans and Filipinos were captured on Bataan, representing the largest number of our forces ever to surrender in a single engagement with a foreign enemy. Twenty-seven days later, on May 6, 1942, Lt General Jonathan Wainwright surrendered Corregidor Island and its forces to General Homma Masaharu. Faced with the national disaster at Pearl Harbor, Bataan and Corregidor, the fate of the American captives drifted into the shadows of defeat.

It was almost two years later, on January 28, 1944, before the American public was made aware of the horrible experience and the inhumane treatment that our men were forced to endure as captives.

During the next year-and-a-half, until September 2, 1945, when the harrowing ordeal would end with the release of the remaining POWs, conditions became even more gruesome. Most of the remaining captives were moved to Japan. Only half of these survived the trip on what they called the, "Hell Ships." Crammed into the hold of the ship, they received little or no food and water. Some died sitting up because there was no space to fall down. Some went mad and others drowned when their unmarked ships were torpedoed by American submarines. Those who survived faced even worse conditions in Japanese labor camps. Already suffering from malnutrition, beri-beri, pellagra, malaria and dysentery, they now faced the cold weather of Japan with improper clothing and the grueling labor in coal mines and steel mills.

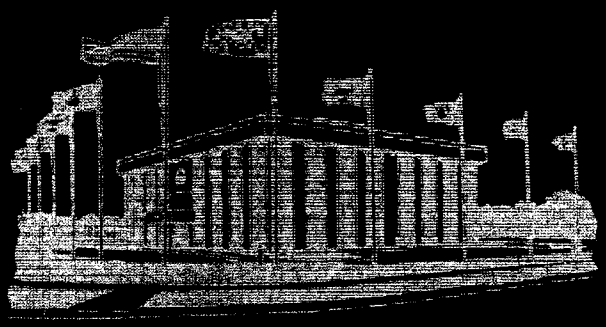
When the survivors returned home, they spoke little of their experiences because they felt that no one would believe them and would think that the stories of their ordeals had been exaggerated. They were told by friends and family that they were lucky because they didn't have to bother with ration books or stand in line for sugar and butter.

Only someone who had been there could really understand the horror and death, hatred and friendship, and the personal struggle for survival that they had lived with for almost four years.

So it was that the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor was organized and held its first convention in 1946. It is at these gatherings that the bonds of friendship are kept alive. It is at these gatherings that we can speak with ease about experiences unknown to most men -- when living became almost worse than dying.

Searching the history books used in our public schools, you might find a paragraph telling about the fall of Bataan, but nothing of the years of cruelty and deprivation that followed. The horror and the torment of our captivity is still fresh in our minds, but it is only in the memory of the survivors that these stories remain alive. We share not only the memories of our ordeal, but we also share the nightmares, scars and the effects of malnutrition, physical abuse and hard labor. To survive required luck. What a prisoner did one day to stay alive might cause his death the next. We would like our buddies whose luck ran out, and never made it home, to be remembered for their valor and heroism in their losing struggle to stay alive. As long as there is a member left in the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, this is assured.

Andrew J. Aquila, Commander
American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, 1992-93.



Published and Distributed by the
AIRMEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM
5211 Auth Rd., Suitland, MD 20746
1-800-638-0594 or 301-899-3500