

MIA Korean War Service Members Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of four U.S. servicemen missing in action from the Korean War have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Representatives from the Army and Air Force met with the men's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the men's remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169.

The four men are:

◆ **Sgt 1st Class W. T. Akins**, U.S. Army, of Decatur, Ga. He was buried on June 26 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

In November 1950, Akins was a member of the Medical Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division then occupying a defensive position near Unsan, North Korea north of a bend in the Kuryong River known as the Camel's Head. On Nov. 1, elements of two Chinese Communist Divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. Akins was reported missing on Nov. 2, 1950, and was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted for from the battle at Unsan.

In April 2007, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.), acting through the intermediary of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, repatriated to the United States six boxes of human remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers. The D.P.R.K. reported that the remains were excavated in November 2006 near Unsan in North Pyongan Province.

◆ **Sgt. Gene F. Clark**, U.S. Army, of Muncie, Ind. He was buried June 28 in Muncie.

In September 1950, Clark was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, then occupying a defensive position along the Nammyon River near a bend known as the "Camel's Head." On Nov. 1, 1950, parts



Sgt. Gene Clark, USA

of two Chinese Communist Divisions struck the 1st Cavalry Division's lines, collapsing the perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. Clark was reported missing on Nov. 2, 1950 and was one of the more than 350 servicemen unaccounted for from the battle at Unsan.

Between 1991-94, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. Among several

Jim Clark, Art Flotow, and Richard Looney of CID 133 attended Sgt Clark's church service on 28 June 2008. As Chapter Commander Mel Aldridge noted, "He gave his life and after all these years was able to come home."

boxes turned over in 1993, one contained a dog tag for Clark, and the accompanying North Korean documents indicated that the remains were exhumed near Chonsung-Ri, Unsan County, North Pyongan Province. This location correlates with where Clark's unit fought during the battle at Unsan.

◆ **Cpl. Steven Lucas**, U.S. Army, of Johnson City, N.Y. He was buried July 11 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

In late November 1950, Lucas was assigned to the Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, making up part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), then engaging enemy forces east of the Chosin Reservoir near Kaljon-Ri, South Hamgyong Province, North Korea. On Nov. 29, remnants of the RCT began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions near Hagaru-ri, south of the reservoir. Lucas never made it to the lines at Hagaru-ri and was last seen on Nov. 30.

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◆ **Capt. William K. Mauldin**, U.S. Air Force, of Pickens, S.C. He was buried on July 18 in Easley, S.C.

On Feb. 21, 1952, Mauldin departed Kimpo Air Base, South Korea, on an aerial reconnaissance mission of enemy targets in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.). While over Odong-ni, Mauldin's RF-51 Mustang was hit by enemy fire and crashed near Sinan-ri, Hoeyang County, D.P.R.K. An aerial search of the crash site was conducted that day and the next, but found no evidence that Mauldin escaped the aircraft before it crashed.

Between 1991-94, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 U.S. servicemen. One set of remains turned over in 1993 included fragments of aircrew life-support equipment, and were reported to be those of an American pilot recovered near Sinan-ri.

China admits taking US POW from Korea, burying him in Chinese cemetery

This excerpt appeared in a 19 June 2008 AP article by Robert Burns, an AP Military Writer.

WASHINGTON (AP) – After decades of denials, the Chinese have acknowledged burying an American prisoner of war in China, telling the U.S. that a teenage soldier captured in the Korean War died a week after he "became mentally ill," according to documents provided to The Associated Press.

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