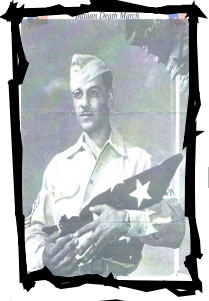


FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR



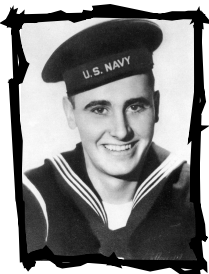
ABIE ABRAHAM, USA enlisted at age 19 and served during WWII with the 18th, 14th, 15th and 30th Infantry. He was a light-weight boxing champ with the 31st Infantry in Manila, Philippines, where he served for 9 years. He fought, was captured, and was forced to participate in the 60 mile long Bataan Death March. Imprisoned for 3 ½ years he was bravely rescued by the 6th Rangers. Promoted to Master Sergeant he stayed behind at the request of General MacArthur for two and a half more years identifying and helping disinter the bodies of his brave fallen comrades along the death march trail and in the prison camps, and seeing that they were properly laid to rest. He has written two books, "Oh God, Where Are You?" and "Ghost of Bataan Speaks" which can be purchased from Amazon.com



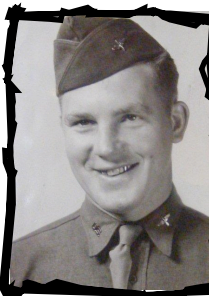
HAROLD "CURLY" BEERBOWER, USA at 18 became a machine gunner in the US Army with D Company, 7th Infantry, and G Company, 20th Infantry. During the fighting he found himself in a foxhole with his buddies on each side of him dead and a bayonet at his own neck. His regiment was overrun at the Imjim River near Yongwon-ni, South Korea in 1951. He was marched 500, with only 700 of the 1500 surviving the march, to the infamous Chinese Communist Prison Camp 1 near Chang Song, northern border of North Korea along the Yalu River near Manchuria. A 28 month captive, he proudly reports the Chinese called him one of the "Incorrigibles", one who would not co-operate with them. He was confined in a 6' x 6' area at times and forced to stand in temperatures 45 degrees below zero for hours. There was no medicine. "If you got sick it was up to you to get over it or die". 250 men shared rice with worms or soy beans with a small piece of ham added.



HAROLD ANDREWS, USA was 17 in 1950 when he joined the US Army and headed for Korea as an infantryman with L Company, 17th Regiment, 7th Division. They advanced into northern Korea behind enemy lines and couldn't get back out. He was captured at Chechon and was held for 31 months, the last camp being near Chang Song. He became ill and was taken to a hospital area. When he returned he a fellow Pennsylvanian had moved in and, though he hadn't known him back home, had been raised just 15 miles away from Curly Beerbower. What a joy to discover someone from home! One place he stayed was called Bean Camp because they fed the prisoners twice a day, beans, and soup. Nearly 40% of all Korean prisoners of war died.



KARL GABER, USN, was a gunner, top turret, on a PB4Y-2 Privateer. His plane was part of Patrol Bombing Squadron 121 in 1945 and was the last 4-engine bomber to be shot down in WW II, 2 days after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Japan and 3 days before the Japanese surrendered. Flying a patrol mission 200' above the water surface the plane was hit and burned and Karl ended up on a life raft. The Japs picked them up and took them to a camp where the Japanese counterpart to the German Gestapo interrogated the prisoners, often by the use of torture. Speaking was strictly forbidden, and if you were caught doing so the punishment was severe and often in front of all the others. The camp had no interpreter and the prisoners didn't always understand the commands. This would then be understood as a demonstration against the rulers, punishable by a fist or a bamboo cane. He was stripped, tied, beaten, blindfolded, pushed down a flight of stairs. He lived in a 6' x 8' cell with an 18" window and fed rice, weak tea, and potato peels going from 136# to 98# in a month's time. Each day brought mistreatment at the hands of his captors, more than Karl can or will tell. "It's too brutal." Of being a prisoner Karl says, "It put a crease in your mind. It never leaves."



DAN KING, ARMY AIR CORPS was given only one meal during the 10 days that passed between bail-out of his P51 Fighter (384th Squadron, 364th Fighter Group) and reaching Stalag Luft 1 where he became a prisoner of war March 15, 1945 in Germany. He was assigned a room with 19 other prisoners who would not talk to him for 2 weeks because they thought he was a German plant. As the Russians approached they knew Hitler had given the order to shoot all prisoners so they began digging foxholes to protect themselves but all Danny had to dig with was a spoon. When the Russians took over they held them hostage instead of releasing them. Dan and his friend had some freedom to wander and, led by a bad smell, discovered an unlocked gate to a compound. As they opened the door to the first building they could see least 2 rows of double-decked cots with people. Some seemingly could not move their emaciated bodies and others looked at us with pleading eyes, expressing extreme horror. This memory has haunted him to this day.

THESE MEN WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE MEMORIAL SALUTE AND YOU MAY VISIT WITH THEM AT THE VETERANS RECEPTION MONDAY, MAY 31. THEY REMIND US OF THE PRICE OF FREEDOM.

THEIR BIOGRAPHIES MAY BE PRINTED OFF OUR WEBSITE

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