

SENSITIVE INFORMATION DELETED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 96/023
By NU NARA, Date 1/28/99

COPY NO. 2

BP OPNS G-2
TS# 1815

HEADQUARTERS

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SANITIZED COPY
SENSITIVE INFORMATION DELETED

KOREA

DOWNGRADED TO
PER AUTH OF
CWO LT
~~SECRET~~
CO CCRAFE
5 JAN 1958

May 1953

COMBAT COMMAND REPORT

5862

Security Information

C-151

~~TOP SECRET~~

6503680WV
DECLASSIFIED

~~Top Secret~~
Security Information

TS
Copy 2 of 4
Page 3 of 7
Copies
Pages

(c) Establishing selective screening program in the Partisan Division to eliminate all of the undesirables.

(3) Lt Col GILL (USMC) from CTO 96.8 visited the island of YODO and inspected all of the GORAK agencies on that island. Many small deficiencies were noted. All deficiencies noted have now been corrected.

(4) General Stuart visited the island of KANGHWA-DO on 19 May 1953. The purpose of this visit was (1) to determine if the defense mission was being carried out and (2) to determine if the physical arrangements of the Partisan Commanders Headquarters was adequate. The defense system and the apparent state of training were found to be adequate for the purpose, however, the tank support was found to be inadequate. (1) Tanks were not being maintained properly and at the time of the visit all five tanks were out of action. The average being two or three tanks out of action at all times. The maintenance problem has not been solved but a plan is being formulated to solve this problem. (2) The tank ammunition resupply was behind schedule. Since the time of the visit this deficiency has been partially corrected.

The physical arrangement, security, and housekeeping of the Partisan Commanders Headquarters was good except inadequate fire precautions were being taken. Corrective action was taken on the spot.

Major Johnson assured General Stuart that light aircraft could take off from and land on the public playground located near the village of Kanghwa. However, there is no airfield near the CP nor does there appear to be any possible location in that vicinity to construct one.

(5) Lt Col Barros and three Korean National Police conferred with General Stuart 21 May 1953. General Stuart informed the Korean Police officials that he would appreciate receiving information on offenses against law and order committed by the partisans and other indigenous employees of the 8240th AV. General Stuart also informed the National Police that he wanted only the information after it had been screened and that they must first satisfy themselves that the charges were true and not just rumors. The National Police agreed on this policy and to date no complaints have been received.

(6) Lt Button, Intelligence Division, FEC/LD(K), who was also GORAK coordinator on YODO was listed as MIA on 12 May 1953. Lt Button failed to return from mission of launching two agents on the East Coast of Korea. Captain Karlstrom who was on YODO at that time enroute to YANG-DO was ordered to remain on YODO and assume Lt Button's duties. (See Tab "E")

(7) The partisan operational plan for Phase II A was completed during the month of May 1953.

(8) On many islands various GORAK agencies maintain personnel with the mission of interrogating refugees and POW arriving from the mainland. Procedures for interrogation of POW and Refugees at Friendly West Coast Islands was published in an unnumbered memorandum dated 9 May 1953. (See Tab "F")

Authority NND 851011
By DR NARA Date 12/4/97

01489

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, FAR EAST (ADY)
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G2, Intelligence
APO 500

admin
file
287

21 JAN 1954

SCD

SUBJECT: Possible Detention of UN (US) by the Enemy

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, J2
Far East Command
APO 500

1. Inclosed is information pertaining to US personnel known to have been alive and under communist control in May 1953. These individuals have not yet been repatriated.

2. The information pertaining to the five US airmen (Incl #1) has previously been passed to UNCMAC. Inclosure #2 constitutes the first report on 1st Lt Leonard W. Button.

2 Incls
a/s

for *Richard D. Collins, Jr.*
RICHARD COLLINS, JR.
Colonel, General Staff
Assistant Chief of Staff, G2

Reviewed by DPMO
IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R
Date: 09 DEC 1998 Initials: RED

0101

01489

LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF 1ST LT. LEONARD W. BUTTON

1. On 8 May 1953, 1st Lt. Leonard W. Button, 02263234, Infantry, United States Army, was captured by NKA Security Forces, in the general vicinity of TAE'CHON (DV 9338), while overtly launching intelligence agents into North Korea. At the time of his capture he was dressed in US Army field uniform and wore appropriate insignia denoting his grade and branch.

2. Interrogation of certain refugees and returnees since the Armistice has revealed the following information relative to Lt. Button.

a. Park Suk TAE, while serving with the 8th ROK Div., was captured by the CCF on 17 Feb 1951, and was sent to the Mine Mountain Prison Camp in Hapung. The subject frequently was transported to various areas for farm work, and while on a trip from Shi-ju to Kaesong, the subject was accused of distributing leaflets from the back of the truck and was consequently imprisoned in Pyongyang on 19 May 1953 to await trial.

On 20 May 1953, another prisoner, named SHIN HAN SU, was placed in the cell with Park. This new prisoner stated that he and an American Lt., for whom he had worked as an interpreter, had just been captured. The following day, 21 May 1953, the interpreter pointed out an American, who had just entered the jail in the company of 4 or 5 Koreans, as his former CO.

Park stated that although he saw the American several times and even heard his name mentioned once, due to the darkness prevailing in the jail he was unable to give an accurate description of the Lt., and is also unable to recall his name. The subject was instructed, however, by SHIN HAN SU, to remember the dates and circumstances of the incident even if he forgot the rest.

SHIN HAN SU was tried by the Ministry of Social Security and was sentenced to seventeen years imprisonment. The Lt. was also tried by the Ministry of Social Security but his sentence is unknown. The Koreans captured with the Lt. were not to be tried until their families who were residents of North Korea were contacted.

b. Other South Korean agents who were in confinement at the same jail with Park Suk TAE at this time, confirmed the details of the Lt's capture. They were Pak Sung HAK and Kim (full name unknown). Their story is as follows:

"PAK SUNG HAK and KIM were launched from YODO in the latter part of April and were apprehended by the NKA soon thereafter. Upon interrogation, the two agents told the NK's their mission, unit designation, pick up time, and recognition signals. As a result of this information, when

the American Lt. approached the shore in a small boat for the pre-arranged agent pick up, the NKA were waiting for him. When challenged, the Lt. tried to swim to safety, but he and 4 or 5 of his companions were captured."

3. Suk Yong SOO, one of the guards captured with the Lt. also confirmed the story of the two agents.

4. Since the foregoing information coincides perfectly with details given by other members of the launching party who were not captured, and Lt. Button was seen and identified alive on 21 May 1953 and further was reportedly tried and sentenced by the Ministry of Social Security there is an excellent chance that Lt. Button is alive and in the hands of the NK authorities at a penal institution.

5. Information contained in the file of G2 AFHE confirms that Lt. Button, an intelligence project officer based on the Island of Yodo in Wonsan Harbor, was reported 14 May 53 to be missing in action since 12 May 1953 when he failed to return from an agent launching mission.

~~SECRET~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

C O P Y

CASUALTY (OR NONBATTLE) REPORT

Casualty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonbattle <input type="checkbox"/>			Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supplemental <input type="checkbox"/>	
1. Last Name First Name Middle Initial -BUTTON, Leonard M.			2. Service Number 02263284	3. Race Cau
4. Grade 1st Lt	5. Branch Inf	6. M/R Designation of Unit 8240 th Army Unit		7. Years for Pay 9 years
8. Add. Pay None				
9. Status MIA	10. Date 13 May 1953	11. Place NK	12. Date of M/R Entry 14 May 1953	13. Line of Duty Final <input type="checkbox"/> Great <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Circumstances, Diagnosis & Remarks Officer landed with six Korean personnel at approximately 2130 hours on a beach along the east coast of North Korea, located at DV9978. Officer was engaged in a highly classified intelligence mission. AT Approximately 2230 hours PPSH firing was heard by observers standing offshore in a ship; hand grenades were heard shortly afterwards. A few minutes later small arms and mortars were also heard. The waiting ship was then subjected to mortar fire and was forced to move 200 yards south to get out of range. The ship remained in the area until 0900 hours, 14 May 1953, searching the area without results. No results have been reported from* (OVER)				
15. Witnesses -				
Name	Grade	Service No.	Unit	
Jio Dong Sik	N/A	8240th AU		
Joo Jae Yong	N/A	8240th AU		
16. Emergency Addressee -				
Name	Address	Relationship		
Leonard Button	Route 1, Viola, Arkansas	Father		
17. Name & Grade of Officer Preparing Report HAROLD W. GLEASON, JR., 1st Lt, AGC			18. Signature Harold W. Gleason Jr.	
19. Preparing Organization FEC/LD(K) 8240th AU APO 301		Report Checked Through Following Headquarters		
		20. Headquarters	21. Headquarters Eighth US Army APO 301	22. GHQ- FEC
Date Prepared 14 May 1953	Date	Date 16 May 1953		
Control No.	Control No.	Control No. 61513		
Date Admitted Hospital (For Hospital Use Only)	Officer's Initials	Officer's Initials EX		

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL	1366
DECLASSIFIED IN PART	294
EXEMPT	0
RD/FRD	0
REFERRED IN FULL:	99
REFERRED AGENCY:	
CIA, DIA, ECOM, JC	
ARMY DECLASSIFICATION ACTIVITY	

*a subsequent naval search. Officer was not in hazardous duty.

8th ARMY NOTE: WITNESSES LISTED IN ITEM 15 WERE NOT MEMBERS OF LANDING PARTY. NO MEMBERS OF LANDING PARTY RETURNED. THERE ARE NO EYE WITNESSES. STATUS CHANGED TO MIA BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES IN ITEM 14. CAPITAL LETTER PPSH REFERS TO A TYPE OF RUSSIAN GUN.

IDENTIFICATION
MAY 29 4 47 PM '84
MEMORIA DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
MEMORIAL DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

A Board of Officers appointed by paragraph 1, Division Order No. 25, dated 27 October 1955 (copy attached) convened at 1000 hours, 16 January 1956, for the purpose of reviewing all relevant data pertaining to unresolved casualties of the late Korean Conflict and, after considering the pertinent factors involved as outlined below, duly approved Findings of Nonrecoverability of Remains in the case of BUTTON, Leonard W. 1st Lt. O 2 263 284.

American Graves Registration personnel have concluded thorough and systematic search and recovery operations in all of South Korea. Although these operations effected the recovery of many United States deceased servicemen, the search was unsuccessful insofar as this particular individual is concerned. Area Clearance Certificates have been received for all of South Korea, and an applicable Certificate of Nonrecoverability for this decedent has been furnished by the Overseas Command.

Available evidence indicates that many of the casualties which are carried on the records of the Department of Defense as missing in action in South Korea were actually captured and transported to North Korea where they subsequently died; however, specific information is lacking as to the number, identity or circumstances surrounding their disappearance.

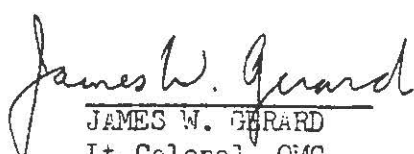
Shortly after cessation of hostilities in 1953, arrangements were made between representatives of the opposing forces to permit search and recovery operations in the Demilitarized Zone for a limited period of forty-five (45) days. Within the restrictions imposed, as complete a search as possible was made and some remains were recovered. Entry into the Demilitarized Zone by either side for search and recovery operations has not been permitted since that period.

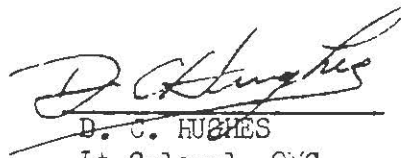
In September 1954, the United Nations Military Armistice Commission and the Communists concluded negotiations regarding the recovery of those deceased servicemen who were interred in territory under the control of the opposing forces. As a result of these negotiations, disinterments were accomplished by the occupant of the territory and a mutual exchange of remains was subsequently effected. The agreement did not permit either side to enter the territory of the opposing side to conduct search and recovery operations. Although the Communists turned over approximately 4000 United Nations deceased personnel, it is now known that not all of the United States servicemen actually interred in North Korea were returned.

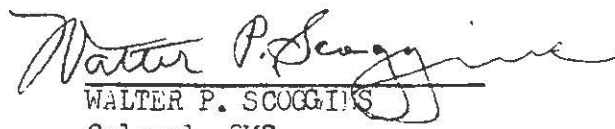
All United States remains recovered by Graves Registration units or received from the Communists during the exchange of remains in 1954 were removed to laboratories in Kokura, Japan, where they were scientifically processed by identification specialists and physical anthropologists. Despite the most exhaustive efforts, identification of a number of these remains could not be established.

Physical characteristics and dental data for each unidentified remains as recorded by the professional personnel of the laboratories have been compared with like data for each unresolved casualty, including those known to have been lost at sea, without effecting an association. A wide disparity exists between the number of unidentified remains and the number of unaccounted for casualties.

In view of the completion of search and recovery activities in accessible territory, the inaccessibility of both the Demilitarized Zone and North Korea, and the inability to associate a remains in our custody at this time with the decedent, it is concluded that his remains are NONRECOVERABLE.

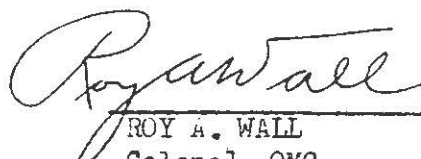

JAMES W. GERARD
Lt Colonel, QMC
Member


D. C. HUGHES
Lt Colonel, QMC
Member


WALTER P. SCOGGINS
Colonel, QMC
President of the Board

1 Incl
Special Order No. 25

APPROVED:


ROY A. WALL
Colonel, QMC
CHIEF, MEMORIAL DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORIAL DIVISION

Division Order)
No. 25)

27 October 1955

SUBJECT: Board of Review

1. Under provisions of AR 15-6, dated 25 July 1955, the following officers are hereby appointed members of the Memorial Division Board of Review:

Colonel Walter P. Scoggins, QMC, O-277640, President
Lt Colonel Donald C. Hughes, QMC, O-25114
Lt Colonel James W. Gerard, QMC, O-1577220
Captain Richard F. Albera, QMC, O-1576872

2. The purpose, authority and scope of activities of the Memorial Division Board of Review will be in accordance with the provisions of Memorial Division Order No. 5 dated 13 April 1954.

3. Memorial Division Order No. 15, dated 22 June 1955, subject: "Board of Review" is rescinded.


BY ORDER OF THE DIVISION CHIEF:

OFFICIAL:

WALTER P. SCOGGINS
Colonel, QMC
Memorial Division

/s/ Bernice B. Handzel
/t/ BERNICE B. HANDZEL
Administrative Officer

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


R. F. ALBERA
Captain, QMC
Memorial Division

DISTRIBUTION: "C"

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (Public Law 490 77th Congress) as amended, upon direction and delegation by The Secretary of the Army, The Chief, Casualty Branch, Office of The Adjutant General, finds First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button, O 2 263 284, Infantry to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the 13th day of May 1953. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the 14th day of May 1954.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

R. B. Branks
Adjutant General
Chief, Casualty Branch

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

AREA	FLYING STATUS	JUMP STATUS	LINE OF DUTY	OWN MIS-CONDUCT	ON DUTY STATUS	ABSENCE AUTH'D
Korea			Yes	No	Yes	

PREVIOUS REVIEWS

None

CORRECTED COPY

DATE OF BIRTH (Day, month, year)	HOME ADDRESS (Number, street, city and state)	DATE OF ENTRY ON CURRENT ACTIVE SV	LENGTH OF SERVICE (as of presumed date of death)
16 Jan 1923	Rural Route One, Viola, Arkansas	8 Jul 1951	YEARS MONTHS DAYS

EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS (Number, street, city and state)
Leonard Button	Father	Rural Route One Viola, Arkansas

BENEFICIARIES

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS (Number, street, city and state)
Gertrude H. Murphy	Mother	12098 North Dixie, Clio, Michigan
FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS (Number, street, city and state)
Leonard Button	Father	Rural Route One Viola, Arkansas

REMARKS In view of the lapse of time without information to support a continued presumption of survival the Department of the Army must terminate the absence of the subject individual by a presumptive finding of death.

No designated beneficiary under PL 23, 82C.

*Corrected to show Report No A-4506, as above, previously omitted.
Also corrected to show signature, as above, previously omitted.

DISTRIBUTION

C-2-9

Reserve Status

TAGG FORM 0353
1 DEC 50REPLACES WD FORM 0353
1 FEB 45, WHICH MAY BE USED.Comp: Form prescribed by
1st General, U.S., October 7, 194

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
E ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

☐ INITIAL

☒ CORRECTED

NO.

100026

—BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

(AG 201) NAME

SERVICE NO

GRADE

RELATION TO EA

DATE TELEGRAM SENT

DATE CAS. REPORT
RECEIVED

1ST LT

NO TELE

1 JUL 53

SOURCE AND CIRCUMSTANCES

YOKOHAMA DX 80024 CAS MSG 3560 DA IN 779608

The individual named below designated the addressee below to be notified in case of emergency, and official telegraphic notification will be sent to this person. The relationship, if any, is shown below. It should be noted that this person is not necessarily the next-of-kin or relative designated to be paid six months' pay gratuity in case of death.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR
EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET

GRADE	NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING COMMAND	SHIPMENT NUMBER
1ST LT	BUTTON, LEONARD W.	O 2 263 284		AFFE	U3560-1
TYPE OF CASUALTY		PLACE OF CASUALTY	DATE OF CASUALTY		
			DAY	MONTH	YEAR
MISSING IN ACTION **		IN KOREA	13	MAY	53
					GRAVY

MAJOR GENERAL, USA, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY

IMPORTANT

Do not make entries of any kind in dotted areas.

REMARKS

AG 704/ 30 JUN 53/

AFFE MSG EX 3560 **DATE GRAVY NOW DETERMINED 13 MAY 53. WITNESS
STATEMENTS FWD UROFF THIS DATE.

RECORD OF ACTION:	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SHIPMENT NO. R-2413-1	DATE EA NOTIFIED 18 MAY 53	COMMAND AFFE	VERIFIED BY
DATE OF CASUALTY 14 MAY 53	TYPE MIA	ATTACHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 41 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAS. FILE <input type="checkbox"/> AG 201 FILE	CHECKED BY DABNEY	
TELEGRAM <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (For)	LETTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (For) FAT & MOT	<input type="checkbox"/> NO ACTION		ANALYZED BY SNOWDEN	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)				REVIEWED BY [Signature]	
				DISTRIBUTION [Signature]	

NO TELE COPY FILE

tfr

FORWARDED

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

☒ INITIAL

☐ CORRECTED

NO.

095047

-BATTLE CASUALTY REPORT

AG 201) NAME

SERVICE NO.

GRADE

RELATION TO EA

DATE TELEGRAM SENT

DATE CAS. REPORT
RECEIVED

BUTTON LEONARD W

02263284

1ST
LT

SON

18 MAY 53

13 MAY 53

SOURCE AND CIRCUMSTANCES

YOKOHAMA EX 16568 CAS MSG 2418 DA IN 268521

The individual named below designated the addressee below to be notified in case of emergency, and official telegraphic notification will be sent to this person. The relationship, if any, is shown below. It should be noted that this person is not necessarily the next-of-kin or relative designated to be paid six months' pay gratuity in case of death.

MR LEONARD BUTTON

RURAL ROUTE #1 VIOLA ARKANSAS
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO

EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON

GRADE	NAME	SERVICE NUMBER	ARM OR SERVICE	REPORTING COMMAND	SHIPMENT NUMBER
1ST LT	BUTTON, LEONARD W	0 2 263 284	INF	AFPE	R2418-1
TYPE OF CASUALTY		PLACE OF CASUALTY	DATE OF CASUALTY		
HAS BEEN			DAY	MONTH	YEAR
MISSING IN ACTION		IN KOREA SINCE	14	MAY	53
			CASUALTY CODE		
			GRAVI		

CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS

WM E BERGIN MAJOR GENERAL USA, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY

IMPORTANT

Do not make entries of any kind in dotted areas.

REMARKS

AG 201/ 17 MAY 53/

NORTH KOREA. DATE OF RANK ASAP. ADDITIONAL PAY, NONE. "A CODE 0"
CF - DATE OF RANK.

BUTTON LEONARD WAYNE
VIOLA FULTON COUNTY ARKANSAS
16 JANUARY 1923

LNOK: MR LEONARD BUTTON (FATHER)
RURAL ROUTE #1 VIOLA
ARKANSAS PER DA AGO FORM 41
41 DTD 15 FEB 52

RECORD OF ACTION:	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	SHIPMENT NO.	DATE EA. NOTIFIED	COMMAND	VERIFIED BY
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
DATE OF CASUALTY	TYPE	ATTACHED	CAS. FILE	AG 201 FILE	CHECKED BY
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 41 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COLINS
TELEGRAM	LETTER	NO ACTION	ANALYZED BY	REVIEWED BY	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (For) FAT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (For) FAT	<input type="checkbox"/>	RENTZ	Hart	
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)			DISTRIBUTION		
			C-2		

FORWARDED
TO

1. FILE UNDER NO.

BUTTON, LEONARD W.

02263284

SYNOPSIS

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT: CASUALTY REPORT (Non battle) 3. DATE: 29 MAY 53

4. FROM: CAS. REC. SEC.

5. TO: O.Q.M.G.

6. SUBJECT: W

7. DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. BUTTON, LEONARD W. 02263284

(MIA)
SECRET

INSTRUCTIONS.—Enter after the above headings information as follows:

1. File classification under which this cross-index sheet is to be filed.
2. Appropriate term, such as: "ltr," "memo," "1st ind," etc.
3. Date of Document.
- 4 and 5. Enter either or both, as applicable.
6. Brief and comprehensive synopsis of the content or subject matter.
7. File classification under which the document is filed.

Feb. 21 - 55^d

Dept. of the Army
Dear Sirs.

I am very sorry, I can not
find any record of any dental
work or any x-ray of any bone
injuries of my son ^{29B} First Lieutenant
Leonard W. Button (02 263 284).

Sincerely
Leonard Button
Viola Ark.
#1

File
2 Mar 55
NAN
Braman

QMSF 293
Button, Leonard W.
02 263 284

3 February 1975

Mr. Leonard Button
Rural Route One
Viola, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Button:

I regret that I must communicate with you at this time without being able to furnish you with any definite information regarding your son, the late First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button.

The Department of the Army is making every effort to resolve all of the casualties of the Korean Conflict. To accomplish this important task, it is necessary for the records containing the physical characteristics of our unresolved casualties to be as complete as possible. Although the servicemen's files contain a record of all dental treatments received and all bone fractures or malformations sustained during their military service, there is a possibility that they may have received treatment by a civilian dentist or doctor which is not reflected in these records.

Since your son is one of our unresolved casualties, we would like to have a complete record of any of his dental and physical characteristics which may have been recorded by his family dentist or doctor prior to his entry into the service. This information should include such dental treatments as extractions, fillings, bridge work, dentures, and peculiarities of the teeth and physical treatments for injuries to bones which may have resulted in fractures. Any x-rays of bones or teeth will also be of great assistance. These x-rays will be returned, if so desired, after our records have been annotated to reflect the information. If you prefer, you may forward the name and address of the dentist and/or doctor, and we will contact him direct for this information.

Your prompt cooperation in this matter will be appreciated and, for your convenience in replying, I am enclosing an envelope which requires no postage. Your son's name, rank, and service number should be included in any communication pertaining to him.

Sincerely yours,

ROY A. WALL
Colonel, QMC
Chief, Memorial Division

KOREA

Encl
Envelope

FEB 3 1975

QWBF 293
Button, Leonard W.
02 263 284

3 February 1955

Mrs. Gertrude E. Murphy
12098 North Dixie
Clio, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Murphy:

I regret that I must communicate with you at this time without being able to furnish you with any definite information regarding your son, the late First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button.

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Sincerely yours,

ROY A. WALL
Colonel, QMC
Chief, Memorial Division

KOREA

Encl
Envelope

mt

FEB

REA

067mG

ahm

AGPS-N 201 Button, Leonard W.
O 2 263 284 (14 May 54)

14 May 1954

Mr. Leonard Button
Rural Route One
Viola, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Button:

Since your son, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button, O 2 263 284, was reported missing in action on 13 May 1953, the Department of the Army has entertained the hope that he survived and that information would be received dispelling the uncertainty surrounding his absence. However, as in many cases, no information has been received to clarify his status.

Full consideration has been given to all information bearing on the absence, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered. In view of the lapse of time without information to support a continued presumption of survival the Department of the Army must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved March 7, 1942, as amended.

The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death. However, as required by law it includes a presumptive date of death for the termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In this case this date has been set as 14 May 1954.

I regret the necessity for this message but hope that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may give at least some small measure of consolation. I trust that you may find sustaining comfort in the realization that your loved one made the supreme sacrifice while serving honorably in our country's cause.

Sincerely yours,

2 Inclosures
DA Pamphlet No. 20-15
Copy Finding of Death
(In duplicate)

JOHN A. KLEIN
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General

PRH/fab

AMPS-CN 201 Button, Leonard W.
O 2 263 284 (14 May 54)

14 May 1954

Mrs. Gertrude H. Murphy
12098 North Dixie
Clio, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Murphy:

Since your son, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button, O 2 263 284, was reported missing in action on 13 May 1953, the Department of the Army has entertained the hope that he survived and that information would be received dispelling the uncertainty surrounding his absence. However, as in many cases, no information has been received to clarify his status.

Full consideration has been given to all information bearing on the absence, including all records, reports and circumstances. These have been carefully reviewed and considered. In view of the lapse of time without information to support a continued presumption of survival the Department of the Army must terminate such absence by a presumptive finding of death. Accordingly, an official finding of death has been recorded under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, approved March 7, 1942, as amended.

The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death. However, as required by law it includes a presumptive date of death for the termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts and payment of death gratuities. In this case this date has been set as 14 May 1954.

I regret the necessity for this message but hope that the ending of a long period of uncertainty may give at least some small measure of consolation. I trust that you may find sustaining comfort in the realization that your loved one made the supreme sacrifice while serving honorably in our country's cause.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. KLEIN
Major General, USA
Acting The Adjutant General

AGPS-1 201 Batten, Leonard W.
O 2 263 284 (3 Jul 53)

3 July 1953

Mrs. Gertrude Murphy

Randa Landing, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Murphy:

I am referring to the recent letter from this office concerning your son, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Batten.

The records of this office are being amended to conform to a supplementary report which has been received, stating that your son has been missing in action in Korea since 13 May 1953, instead of 14 May 1953 as you were previously informed.

Sincerely yours,

WM. E. BIERGIN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General of the Army



*One
Copy*

ASPS-1 201 Botton, Leonard W.
0 2 263 284 (3 Jul 53)

3 July 1953

Mr. Leonard Botton
Rural Route #1
Viola, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Botton:

I am referring to the recent letter from this office concerning your son, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Botton.

The records of this office are being amended to conform to a supplementary report which has been received, stating that your son has been missing in action in Korea since 13 May 1953, instead of 14 May 1953 as you were previously informed.

Sincerely yours,

WIL. E. HERGEN
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General of the Army



AES/bab

AGPS-1 201 Button, Leonard W.
O 2 263 284 (18 May 53)

19 May 1953

Mr. Leonard Button
Rural Route #1
Viola, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Button:

I regret that I must confirm the recent telegram in which you were informed that your son, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Button, has been reported missing in action in Korea since 14 May 1953.

I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under battle conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that a number of persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as returned to duty or being hospitalized for injuries.

In order to relieve financial worry on the part of the dependents of military personnel being carried in a missing in action status, Congress enacted legislation which continues the pay, allowances and allotments of such persons until their status is definitely established.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,

ajmc
Copy

2 Inclosures
Bulletin of Information
Sheet entitled "Important"

WM. E. BERGE
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General of the Army

A CODE ~~25~~

0

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

BUTTON, Leonard W. ^{11/14}

GRADE

1/Lt

PRESENT SERIAL
NUMBER

0 2 263 284

ORGANIZATION

INFANTRY

RACE

WHITE

CREED

PROTESTANT
BAPTIST

FORMER SERIAL
NUMBER (If applicable)

3071 5772

DATE OF DEATH/MIA

14 May 53

CAUSE OF DEATH

MIA

PLACE OF DEATH OR PLACE LAST SEEN IF MIA

KOREA

DATE OF FOD

HEIGHT

5'7 1/2

WEIGHT

175

COLOR EYES

BROWN

COLOR HAIR

BROWN

SHOE SIZE

8B

EAD JAN 52

DENTAL CHART EXAM 15 OCT 52

UPPER RIGHT

8 7 6 X X 3 2 1

UPPER LEFT

1 2 3 4 X 6 7 (8)

LOWER RIGHT

(16) 15 14 X 12 11 10 9

LOWER LEFT

9 10 11 X X X X 16

X=Extracted

O=Carious

1=Carious Non-Restorable

FRACTURES AND/OR BREAKS

GLISSE

TATTOOS AND/OR BIRTHMARK

RIGHT 12 INCH
(SHARP L WOUND)

VISION: LEFT 20/80 TO 20/20

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DOB 16 JAN 23

PRIMA SERVICE

(NG) 11 FEB 41 TO 8 APR 45 (H.M.A.)
3 AUG 45 TO 5 DEC 48 (H.M.A.)
6 DEC 48 TO 7 JUL 51 (H.M.A.)
PTD 1LT

CURRENT SERVICE: 10 JAN 52 TO MIA

STATIONS FROM LOCATOR CARDS:

CP BRECKRIDGE, KY - 10 JAN 52

FT EGNAN, GA - 12 FEB 52 T. 11 APR 52

NO OTHER STATIONS SHOWN

NO FINGERPRINTS

ATTACHED, 1 MIMO DENTAL

NO OTHER DENTAL DATA AVAILABLE

[illegible]