



UNITED STATES ARMY
SPECIAL SERVICES

Somewhere in Korea - Prisoner
February 17, 1951

Dear Folks -

I am rewriting a letter I wrote the 9th. I rec'd
your letter Jan 26. I also rec'd the testament and fingerprint
set you sent and wish to thank you very much. The text
of this letter will be considerably different. Having told you
about losing my machine gun ⁱⁿ an attack in my letter of the
9th I will repeat myself. Had only one casualty - the medic
with my squad, who was hit ⁱⁿ 2nd platoon lost a
man and there were several more casualties.

I had wished Dad and Boy had very Happy Birthdays.
Sunday night we were hit hard and I miraculously escaped.
Monday morning I got shot thru the leg and was left behind
and discovered by the Chinese. One took my watch & ring and
they left me lying. Later morning I managed to hobble to this
look hut where I have been visited by numerous Chinese.
Several children & 2 women refugees moved in the third day and
the Chinese instructed them to feed me. Moses Garnum of White
River, S.D. washed out, but joined me the 2nd night and was
with me when the Chinese came. They have since taken him
away and left me here to rest & take care of myself. I

don't know how long I may be here. Almost every day a
different Chinese comes around & searches me. They have
taken all valuables except my testament, bellfold & pictures.
I think my chances of staying alive are good, but God
knows when I'll get back to civilization.

I have just joined the family group this morning & they
have been picking fleas. So far I have not been bothered
with them but I sure am filthy. EXHIBIT #4a

Some of our men are very nervous and some of them
have been taking away. They are afraid to try
recopying to our lines. I hope you would like
this note. Please love me. Sgt. H. B. B. #4a

EX #4a

Hard to tell when
and if this will get
mailed but anything can
and does happen.

The girl has been by
my side in my hour
of need.

Please don't worry!
I'll be okay.

Love to all,

Billy

To: My American Soldier

The boys of the 4th will be able
to guide you. At the small side valley and
down where 3 of us were kept prisoner by
70th Koreans, we have all left this area.
Two of us have been wounded and our glasses
have been taken away. So we are afraid to try
reaching to our friend. In your dear
and in nite. Please love! Pl. G. B. Warner
Ex 44 b

UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL SERVICES

FROM

Sp. M. R. Evans

TR 51130085

A.R. 2141/Regt

1100 248 30 Postmaster

the following copy...

100

To *Mr. Evans New Britain*

James Earl Ray

U.S.A.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO

Corporal William D. Bywater, ER 37 784 485, Infantry

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

resulting in his death 31 March 1951

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 26th DAY OF March 1953



Robert J. Stevens
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 1a

DISTRIBUTION E-2		STATEMENT OF DEATH		DATE 12 January 1953
NAME Hywater, William David		SERVICE NUMBER HR 37 784 485	GRADE CPL PAY GR:	
ARM OR SERVICE Infantry	PLACE OF DEATH Korea			
CAUSE OF DEATH Killed in action		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE	DATE OF DEATH 21 March 1951	
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE Mr. William W. Hywater, Lenmon, South Dakota		RELATIONSHIP Father	DATE NOTIFIED 2 January 1953	
CIRCUMSTANCES				EXTRA-HAZARDOUS DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
HOME ADDRESS Lenmon, South Dakota		COUNTY Perkins	DATE OF BIRTH 3 December 1936	

95 252

NOTE: When imprinted with the official seal of The Adjutant General's Office, this form requires no signature. The form may be used to facilitate the cashing of bonds, the payment of commercial insurance, or in the settlement of any other claim in which proof of death is required. When issued to commercial insurance companies, it replaces AGO Form 0670-1.

55 -- So. Dakota Veterans Bonus applied for

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

WM. E. BERGIN
 Major General, USA
 The Adjutant General

Army Sends W. Bywater Son's Notes

Cpl. William Bywater Wrote
As Chinese Prisoner After
Being Reported Missing

INVESTIGATION MADE

Search Continues For Trace
Of Lemmon Soldier Who
Was Lost In Korea

Is Cpl. William D. Bywater of
Lemmon still alive as a prisoner
of war in North Korea?

Is he a refugee in enemy coun-
try unable to return to his com-
pany within American lines?

Or did he meet a dread fate
at the hands of the enemy after
he had been wounded on the
battlefields of that far off land?

Parents Receive Letter

These are the questions his
parents Mr. and Mrs. William M.
Bywater are pondering in their
minds and of which the Depart-
ment of the Army is endeavoring
to determine the answers.

Reported Missing

Cpl. Bywater was reported
missing in action in Korea Feb.
12, 1951 when a Chinese Red
strike wiped out entire American
divisions. No further word was
received by the distraught par-
ents here in Lemmon until Fri-
day. That day they received a
communication from Major Gen-
eral William E. Bergin, Adjutant
General of the Army, enclosing
a letter from their son which
was dated Feb. 17, 1951, five days
after he had been reported miss-
ing in action.

Found Near Place

"Cpl. Bywater's letter," Gen-
eral Bergin wrote, was found near
the place where he became miss-
ing. Attached to the letter was
an appendage written by Cpl.
Bywater dated March 12, 1951 or
a full month after he was first
missed. It contained an appeal
for help and ended with the plea
"Please Come!"

Investigation Pressed

Gen. Bergin assured Mr. and
Mrs. Bywater that the Depart-
ment of the Army would press
its investigation now under way
to determine the casualty status
of Corporal Bill with all possible
speed. He extended to them his

MISSING



Cpl. Wm. Bywater, Jr.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William
Bywater of Lemmon, Cpl. By-
water has been missing in action
in Korea since February 12, his
parents were informed by the
defense department Sunday. He
was with the Second Division at
the front in command of a small
unit.

Letter Follows

Bill's letter which was for-
warded by Gen. Bergin read:

"I am rewriting a letter I wrote
on the 9th (February 1951). I
received your letters Jan. 26.
I also received the Testament and
fingernail set you sent and wish
to thank you very much. The
text of this letter will be consid-
erably different. Having told you
about losing my machine gun in
an attack in my letter of the 9th,
I will repeat myself. Had only
one casualty, the medic with my
squad, who was hit three times.
Second platoon lost a man and
there were several minor casual-
ties.

Had Narrow Escape

"I had wished Dad and Boyd
both very happy birthdays. Sun-
day night we were hit hard and
I narrowly escaped. Monday
morning I got shot through the
leg and was left behind and was
discovered by the Chinese. One
took my watch and ring. They
left me lying. Later Monday I
managed to hobble to this Gook
hut where I have been visited
by numerous Chinese.

Refugees Move In

"Several children and two wo-
men refugees moved in on the
third day. The Chinese instructed
them to feed me. Moses Garneau,
of White River, S. D., was hid
out but joined me the second
night and was with me when the
Chinese came. They have since
taken him away and left me here
to rest and take care of myself.
I don't know how long I will be
here but almost every day a dif-
ferent Chinese comes and search-
es me. They have taken all of
the valuables except my Testa-

"I have just joined the family
group this morning and they
have been picking fleas. So far
I have not been bothered with
them but I surely am filthy."

"Hard to tell when this will
be mailed but everything can and
does happen. The Lord has been
by my side in my hour of need.
Please do not worry. I'll be okay.
Love to all, Billy."

Asks Soldier Aid

Then on the appendage in the
same handwriting under the date
of March 12, 1951 was the fol-
lowing plea addressed to "Any
American Soldier."

"The bearer of this note will
guide you to the small side al-
ley and house where three of us
were kept prisoners of war by
the North Koreans who have all
left this area. Two of us have
been wounded and our glasses
have been taken away. We are
afraid to try escaping to our lines
without a guide so will try this
note. PLEASE COME. Cpl. Wm.
D. Bywater, Co. K. 9th Infantry."

Receipt of this last known let-
ter written by their son has re-
ceived a faint hope in the minds
of Mr. and Mrs. Bywater that he
may still be alive and some day
in some way be returned to them.
It is true that the hope is only
a faint one. The latest date on
the letter was March 12, 1951.
Twenty months is a long, long

time. But as Corporal Bill wrote
in those trying hours "anything
can and does happen." Until the
investigation now being conduct-
ed by the Department of the Ar-
my, crushes that hope, his par-
ents and countless number of
friends will be praying for his
safety.

IN THE LEMMON LEADER - LEMMON, S. DAK.
WILLIAM DAVID BYWATER - KILLED IN KOREAN WAR
ON DEC. 3, 1926 DIED - MARCH 31, 1951
INITIAL BURIAL - LEMMON, S. DAK.
FINAL BURIAL - BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETARY, S. DAK.
197-?
SON OF WILLIAM W. AND ELVA G. BYWATER
Sept. 1972

NEWSPAPER DATE ?
(WHO CARES)?

Korean War Hero Rites Held Here

City Pays Final Tribute
To Cpl. Wm. D. Bywater At
Military Rites, Here

KILLED AS CAPTIVE

Taken By Chinese Forces At
Battle Zone After Winter
Break Through In 1951

Funeral services for Cpl. William D. Bywater of Lemmon who was killed by the Chinese Reds on March 31, 1951 while being held captive in North Korea, were held from Spencer Memorial church here Saturday at 2 p. m.

Brother Escorts Body

His body, recovered by the army, and returned to the United States, was brought home from San Francisco Thursday night. His brother, Seaman Boyd Bywater, was the escort. Boyd was assigned to the sad duty at the request of Mr. and Mrs. William V. Bywater, the parents. Seaman Bywater went directly from the New London, Conn., naval station to San Francisco.

Pay Final Tribute

Friends of the family filled the church to overflowing as they gathered to pay their final tribute of respect and honor to the well known young man who gave his life for his country. Cpl. Bywater was the fourth Lemmon and Perkins county lad to die on the Korean Battle front. Business places of the city were closed during the funeral hour.

Rev. Ford Officiates

Rev. Chas. P. Ford, pastor of the church, officiated during the services. Alan Durick sang "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep" and "Some Day." Mrs. E. L. Sattler was the accompanist.

Pall bearers, chosen from among companions of his youth and members of Brattvet-Green post of the American Legion, were Stanley Quay, Chas. Hall, John J. Larson, Robert Sampson, John Kleinjan and Mark Nehl. Full military honors were accorded by the color guard and firing squad of Brattvet-Green post in Lemmon cemetery.



Memories of the meeting of two Lemmon lads during World War II on far off Okinawa were revived here last week when the body of Cpl. William D. Bywater of Lemmon, killed while a captive of Chinese Reds after being

wounded on the Korean battlefield, was brought home for funeral services and burial. Shown above are Cpl. Bywater, left and Roger Rien, right, also of Lemmon. Both men were stationed on Okinawa at the time.

Born In 1926

William David Bywater was born in Lemmon December 3, 1926. He spent his boyhood and received his education here, graduating from Lemmon high school with the class of 1944. In December of that year he enlisted in the service of his country. World War II was then still raging.

Served On Okinawa

He received his basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. In September 1945 he sailed with his division for Okinawa where he served for one year. Receiving his honorable discharge from the army December 8, 1946, he remained in the Unorganized Reserves.

Continued Education

Returning to his home here he spent the next several years, continuing his education, taking business and secretarial training. During summer months he held positions with the Bureau of Reclamation at the district offices here and with the Collins Construction company and the C. A. Wagner company, then sub-contractors on the Shadehill dam.

Active In Youth

Here he was active in school affairs, in Boy Scout and in youth work of Spencer Memorial church in which he held membership. He also held membership in Lemmon Post No. 2969, Veterans of Foreign Wars and in Brattvet-Green post of the American Legion.

Recalled To Service

Cpl. Bywater was recalled to the service of his country on October 2, 1950. He spent his 24th birthday on shipboard between Japan and Korea. His division landed at Inchon December 7 in time to replace the almost annihilated Second Division on its retreat south.

Captured By Reds

It was on the northward push again at a point near Hoensong on February 12 that he was wounded in battle and captured by the Chinese Reds. From a letter written by Cpl. Bywater to his parents and found near that point it was learned that he was still a captive on March 12, 1951.

Parents Notified

Mr. and Mrs. Bywater were notified by the Department of the Army on March 4, 1951 that their son was missing in action. There followed long months of anxiety. In November they received another communication from Washington enclosing a letter their son had written to them after his capture by the Reds but had never been mailed. Last month a third letter came to inform them that it had been definitely established that their son had been killed March 31, 1951 while a captive and that his body was being returned home.

Among those who came from a distance to attend the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Heaton of Eyota, Minn., Mrs. Burton By-

water, Butte, Mont., Robert Sampson, Lake Norden, S. D., Sgt. John R. Kleinjan, Rapid City Air Force Base and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Lewis, Deadwood, S. D.

NEWS PAPER DATE ?

Feb. '53

FROM THE LEMMON LEADER - LEMMON, S. DAK.
WILLIAM D. BYWATER - KILLED IN KOREAN WAR

BORN - DEC 3, 1926 DIED - MARCH 31, 1951

INITIAL BURIAL - LEMMON, S. DAK.

STANLEY S. DALL



IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

Corporal William D. Bywater

WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY

in the military operations in Korea
on March 31, 1951

HE STANDS IN THE UNBROKEN LINE OF PATRIOTS WHO HAVE DARED TO DIE

THAT FREEDOM MIGHT LIVE, AND GROW, AND INCREASE ITS BLESSINGS.

FREEDOM LIVES, AND THROUGH IT, HE LIVES—

IN A WAY THAT HUMBLER THE UNDERTAKINGS OF MOST MEN

Dwight D. Eisenhower
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA