

Puzzled Homefolks Quest In Vain For Clue To Desertion Of 22 Americans To Russians

NEW YORK (AP)—What were the roads that led 22 Americans to refuse to leave a Communist POW camp in Korea?

What turned these GIs, who for the most part joined the Army voluntarily, to a way of life their countrymen spurn?

What, on this Christmas Eve, keeps them from those who long for their return?

Some may be without friends or family. But not Cpl. Otho G. Bell, 22.

The daughter Bell has never seen, Paula, 3, weeps for him in Olympia, Wash. She wants her daddy to bring her a tricycle and wagon for Christmas.

Friends and kinfolk are bewildered by the prisoners' decision. Was it forced on them? Mrs. Bell and others think there is duress involved.

Unless some of the 22 return and speak, the answer may never be known.

But something of who they are, how they lived and what they sought from life can be learned from those who knew them.

As a group they are young. Some are still not old enough to vote, others turned voting age while in captivity. Generally they shouldered little responsibility. None was affluent.

Some came from homes broken by divorce or death. One or two had minor records as juvenile delinquents.

Most had at least gone to high school, many had graduated. Apparently none got to college.

Few held down jobs for any length of time—the span between school and the Army was too short.

Many were regarded by their neighbors as active churchgoers. Hardly any, by testimony of their friends, showed any interest in politics before capture by the enemy in Korea.

Hear what those who knew them have to say:

Mrs. Herbert E. Slaughter, maternal grandmother of Pvt. Samuel D. Hawkins, Oklahoma City: "This boy was raised a Christian. He couldn't really turn to anything such as communism. He has experienced God. I know the Lord will straighten it out."

Hawkins, 21, has been a POW three years. His mother, Mrs. Carley Jones, a preacher, has been divorced twice. Says Mrs. Jones: "I don't feel disgraced. He is just a boy and needs help. . . . I'm sure I was too strict with him. . . . But I think David wants to come home nevertheless."

Williams, teacher, Mrs. Bess Willis, says: "I just wonder what that boy had to suffer to bring him to that decision. . . . He was a good student, a 100 per cent American."

Sometimes it was hard to find people who knew, or would talk, about a prisoner. Such was the case with Cpl. Andrew Fortuna, 27, of Lincoln Park, Mich.

Fortuna's family was almost always on relief. Once he stayed home from school for 21 days for lack of shoes. His father is dead; neighbors haven't any idea where his mother is.

Fortuna quit school to enlist near the end of World War II. He re-enlisted for the Korean War. A bartender friend, Jack Lusas, says of him:

"Andrew was a good, quiet kid who never gave us any trouble. It's hard to believe he won't come back."

Cpl. John R. Dunn, 25, of Baltimore, is the son of an employment manager of an industrial firm. He worked as a wholesale grocery salesman before being drafted.

He was assistant Sunday school superintendent of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, whose rector, the Rev. Elmer P. Baker, says: "He is one of the finest boys I know. Most of his life centered in the church. I wish I had 20 more like him."

Dunn was graduated from high school in 1948. His class yearbook listed his ambition: "to be happy."

Sgt. Albert C. Belhomme, 27, of Ashland, Pa., is a naturalized American. Born in Belgium, he

came to the United States when he was 19, got his citizenship straightened out and enlisted in the Army.

Belhomme's mother, Mrs. Marcella Seifert, said: "In all his letters he indicated he was anxious to get out with Mom and Dad again for some good times."

Several prisoners, like Sgt. Lawrence V. Sullivan, 22, of Santa Barbara, Calif., are Negroes. With six other children he was reared by his grandmother, Mrs. Mary B. Frost, who says: "We were as poor as Job's turkey."

His mother was fatally beaten in July, 1951, and as a result a man was convicted of second degree murder. Grandma Frost doubts Sullivan has heard of it.

Sullivan, who enlisted, is one who seems to have been won over strongly to the Communist point of view. In his last letter to Mrs. Frost 13 months ago he said:

"I have come to realize that the war is not being fought for the common people like you and I, but for a handful of Wall Streets (sic). It really came as a surprise to me when I looked at my country from the outside."

Pfc. Lowell Skinner, 22, lived in a sparsely settled outskirt of Akron, Ohio, and his family kept pretty much to itself. He left high school at 18 to join the Army, hoping to get into the cavalry like his father, Brady, who was a

World War I cavalryman.

His mother thinks he must be "doped or mentally ill." Last year he wrote asking her to send \$50 he had in a bank to two Communist newspapers. She didn't.

Sgt. Richard G. Corden's teachers don't remember him up in East Providence, R. I.

Orphaned 18 years ago, Corden and his younger sister were raised by grandparents. He was a quiet boy with a bent for reading, classical music and church-going.

But several times between 1942 and 1945 Corden was sent to a state correctional school for what were said to be minor infractions of the juvenile law.

He enlisted in the Army in 1946, served three years in Germany and in 1950 asked for transfer to the Far East, telling friends promotions came faster there.

Ex-POWs who knew him in prison camp reported he had been converted to communism and that the Reds had to move him because of threats from fellow prisoners.

Kin of many refuse to believe the POWs are making free choices. Says Mrs. Howard L. Rush, of Marietta, Ohio, of her son, Cpl. Scott L. Rush, 21:

"The enemy by every evil means has imposed its will upon our boy, who is not remaining with them through his own free will and desire."

Mrs. Malbert Griggs of Jacksonville, Tex., won't believe that the prisoner listed as Pfc. Lewis Griggs, 21, of Neches, Tex., is her son. "I did not rear a Communist," she says.

Pvt. Richard R. Tenneson, 20, of Alden, Minn., once was picked up in Nebraska on a juvenile delinquency charge in an auto theft case and released to his mother.

Sheriff Lloyd Frank of Buffalo County, Neb., recalls that young Tenneson had the notion he should not be punished for taking the car because he felt all property belonged to everybody and he had a right to use it.

Tenneson's parents were divorced when he was but 3 years old. He ran away from home twice. "Richard went through some pretty rocky times during his early years," says the Rev. A. C. Swenson, his Baptist pastor.

But, the minister added, Tenneson was "absolutely sincere in his approach to God."

Pfc. Arlie Pate's former boss says he can understand "how someone might lead him into thinking communism is great."

Pate, 23, hails from Carbondale, Ill. He is the son of a southern Illinois hill country farmer who has been unable to work for 14 years.

Said Jim Nieman, parts department manager of an East St. Louis, Ill., motor firm for which Pate drove a truck:

"He was a little slow to get the drift sometimes and we had to write down each of the stops we wanted him to make. The kid was easily led."

Pfc. Aaron P. Wilson, 21, comes from Urania, a small farming community in central Louisiana. He is the oldest of eight children.

His sister, Mrs. Myrtle Rogers, reports: "My brother doesn't even know the meaning of communism."

Up in Fort Ann, N.Y., prayers will be said this Christmas for the return of Pfc. Morris Wills, 20. His mother died when he was 12. He was known as a quiet boy who never got into trouble.

Folks in Kermil, Tex., feel the Communists got to Cpl. Claude J. Batchelor, 24, before he was old enough to realize what was happening.

Sgt. Howard G. Adams, 28, is an Army reservist who volunteered for infantry duty shortly after the Reds invaded South Korea in 1950.

The other day his graying mother, Mrs. J. H. Adams, traveled from Corsicana, Tex., to a Dallas radio station to make a record, hoping that somehow the message might reach her son.

She said, "It is going to be a very sad Christmas for us unless you decide to come home. You have always had courage to do the right thing, so please have that courage now. . . . I love you."

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A/3c DENNIS SHORT, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Short, 234 No. 1st, is home for the holidays after completing 25 weeks of training in electronics at Biloxi, Miss. Short will be stationed at McChord Field in Tacoma as a Flight Simulator Technician after his visit home.

Slots Out In Idaho, Court Rules

BOISE (AP)—The State Supreme Court outlawed slot machines, punchboards, chance spinners and other chance prize games in Idaho Wednesday.

It held that the local option law under which they have been licensed since 1947 is "unconstitutional and void" because slots are lotteries.

The unanimous ruling came in the Garden City case, one of three slot machine cases heard last week. The court also handed down its opinions in the other two.

It reversed the lower court in the Gooding case, saying the city could not profit from the law and then challenge its constitutionality.

It also reversed in part the District Court decision in the Journal case which, if upheld, would have paved the way for a constitutional test of the 1953 Legislature's repeal of the 1947 law.

The Garden City decision was more sweeping than the Gooding case in that it held that punchboards, chance spinners and other chance prize games should be barred as lotteries.

The state has some 3,600 slot machines, but the number of punchboards decreased when the federal government enacted its \$50 gambling stamp law and taxed the returns of punchboards.

QUIET
PARIS (AP)—A strike and a light fog drifting over Paris' two commercial airports stopped all air traffic in and out of the French capital Tuesday as Christmas holiday neared what should have been its peak period. Some 2,000 control tower and radar operators struck for pay increases two days ago.

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Continental Union Asked Pope

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Pope Pius XII called today for a continental union of the European peoples to ease differences in standards of living and production.

The pontiff made his appeal in his annual Christmas message to the world, in which he said that contemporary man is blinded by the mechanical devices of his age.

He said that the time "seems ripe" for the idea of European union to "become a reality," the pope said.

He exhorted to action first foremost Christian statesmen, then it sufficient to recall to mind that Christianity always conceived its task to promote every peace of peaceful union between nations.

Strong encouragement to such men, he continued, is the "manifestation of the contrary policy."

The pope spoke in reply to Christmas greetings brought to him by the College of Cardinals. Words were carried around the globe by the Vatican radio over an international hookup. During the two days the radio will broadcast translations of the speech in languages, including Russian and Chinese.

Turning to man's preoccupations with technology, the pope said: "Around the radiant erode of the Redeemer there remain words of darkness and men go with their eyes closed to heavenly light."

The pontiff warned against "excessive and sometimes exclusive devotion for what is called 'progress technology.'"

He continued, "The first cherished as the omniscient myth and dispenser of happiness."

The pope declared: "It has imposed itself on the minds of men as the final end of man's life, substituting itself for every kind of religious and spiritual ideal."

He said, "The exaltation of technical progress, the pontiff declared, has led men's intelligence toward work."

The pope made it clear, however, that his words were not intended as a condemnation of technological progress itself. "The progress," he said, "loves and fulfills human progress."

CREDIT
MANILA (AP)—The Philippine National Bank Tuesday approved extension of a 20 million dollar credit by the U.S. export-import bank to the National Power Corp. of the Philippines.

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Japanese War Hero Tells Of Anti-American Feeling In Orient; Tells US 'Git'

Editor's Note — Vic Suzuki of the Associated Press Tokyo bureau obtained the following exclusive interview with Masanobu Tsuji, one of Japan's top military brains and an outspoken critic of U.S. policy in Japan. Tsuji, who is not considered basically anti-American, speaks for the nationalists. A member of Parliament, he has no organized following but is a national hero.

By VIC SUZUKI
TOKYO (AP)—Masanobu Tsuji, one of Japan's most brilliant military strategists in World War II, today warned the United States to pull its troops out of Japan as soon as possible or "The day will come when she will regret it."

He also warned "a strong anti-American feeling prevails and is increasing in this country."

"This is a pity," he said, "and it could be curtailed."

Tsuji devised the strategy behind Japan's lightning invasion of Malaya and the capture of Singapore in late 1941 and 1942.

He was listed as a war criminal by the Allied command, but was never captured. He has become a national hero and a living legend since the end of the occupation.

He speaks for the nationalists and has sharply criticized occupation policies, although he is not considered basically anti-American.

An influential member of Japan's lower house, he said today he has sent a letter to Vice President Richard Nixon warning against American policy toward Japan.

He said the United States should:

1. Withdraw her troops from Japan and not compel this country to disarm.
2. Admit the war crimes trials were a mistake.
3. Say what it expects to gain by mutual security administration aid to Japan.
4. Reconsider and revise its policy toward Asian countries.

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her troops from Japan this country will at once buckle down to prepare for any aggressive acts by the Communists," Tsuji said.

"The keeping of foreign troops in the country is, in fact, hindering the rebuilding of our defense forces."

He pointed out that America wants a Japanese army of 325,000 men whereas Japan had only 230,000 men under arms at the time of the Manchurian incident in 1932.

"If Japan could wage an aggressive war with 230,000 men, why does she need 325,000 men to defend the islands?" he asked.

He told this reporter Nixon was incorrect when he said he could find no anti-American feeling in Japan during his recent visit.

"Unless we were barbarians," Tsuji said, "we would not give a state visitor the impression we disliked his country."

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