

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 letters Jan 26. I also read the testament and fingerset set you sent and wish to thank you very much. The text of this letter will be considerably different. Nancy told you about losing my machine gun <sup>in an</sup> attack in my letter of the 9th I will repeat myself. Had only one casualty - the medic with my squad, who was hit 3 times. 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 Pan Am was around. Monday morning I got shot thru the leg and was left behind and recovered by the Chinese. One took my watch & ring and they left me lying. Later morning I managed to hobble to the docks but where I have been visited by numerous Chinese. Several children & 2 women refugee moved in the third day and the Chinese instructed them to feed me. Moses Garneau 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 feed & 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 surely am filthy. EXHIBIT #4a

EX #4b

copy of this letter was given to me by [unclear] and I have been taking a copy of it to my [unclear] to be kept in my [unclear] to be given to my [unclear] if I should be killed. I have also given a copy of it to my [unclear] to be kept in my [unclear] to be given to my [unclear] if I should be killed. I have also given a copy of it to my [unclear] to be kept in my [unclear] to be given to my [unclear] if I should be killed.



UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL SERVICES

FROM

Sgt. W. R. Bryant

PR 37200185

G. R. Kelly / Capt

1700 248 3 1st Div  
The Pentagon, Wash. D.C.

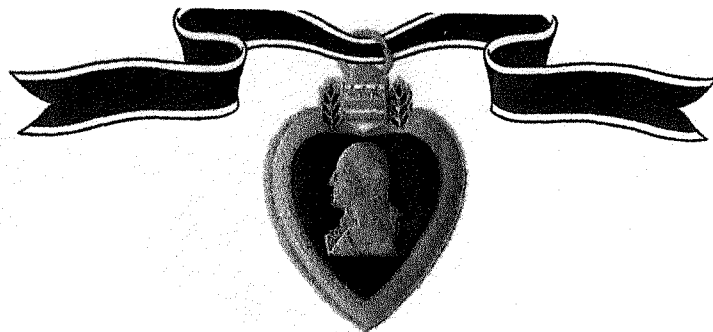
TO

Mr. Bryant

James Earl Ray

W. R. Bryant





# 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 <b>1-3</b>		<b>STATEMENT OF DEATH</b>		DATE <b>12 January 1953</b>
NAME <b>Hywster, William David</b>		SERVICE NUMBER <b>1E 37 784 485</b>	GRADE <b> CPL </b> PAY GR:	
ARM OR SERVICE <b>Infantry</b>	PLACE OF DEATH <b>Korea</b>			
CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Killed in action</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE	DATE OF DEATH <b>31 March 1951</b>	
EMERGENCY ADDRESSEE <b>Mr. William W. Hywster, Lenmon, South Dakota</b>		RELATIONSHIP <b>Father</b>	DATE NOTIFIED <b>2 January 1953</b>	
CIRCUMSTANCES				EXTRA-HAZARDOUS DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
HOME ADDRESS <b>Lenmon, South Dakota</b>		COUNTY <b>Perkins</b>	DATE OF BIRTH <b>3 December 1926</b>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;">95 252</p> <p style="text-align: right;">55 -- So. Dakota Veterans Bonus applied for</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;"> <b>WM. E. BERGIN</b>        Major General, USA        The Adjutant General     </p>				

# 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-  
vived 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.

LIAM DAVID BYWATER - KILLED IN KOREAN WAR

EN DEC. 3, 1926 DIED - MARCH 31, 1951

ITAL BURIAL - LEMMON, S. DAK.

IAL BURIAL - BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETARY, S. DAK.

N 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.

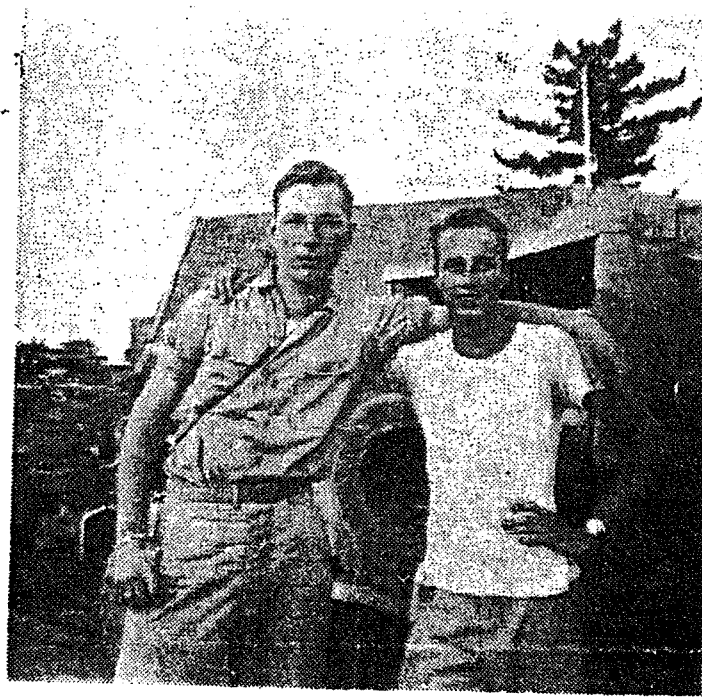
### Pay Final Tribute

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 F. Larson, Robert Sampson, John Kleinjan and Mark Nchl. 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-

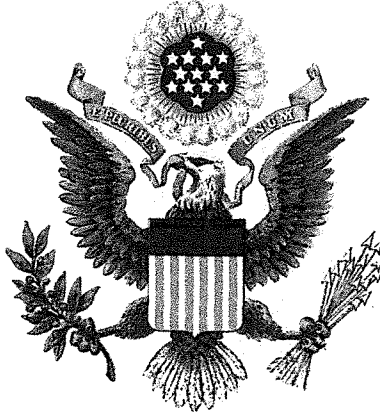
water, Butte, Mont., Robert Sampson, Lake Norden, S. D., Sgt. John R. Kleinjan, Rapid City Air Force Base and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Lewis, Deadwood, S. D.

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.

FRANK S. DAK



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