

OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

234th Army Band amplifies U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band



Photo by Spc. Frank Ritchey, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Oregon Army National Guard 234th Army Band gather for a group photograph after a concert at Heidelberg Castle in Heidelberg, Germany on July 30, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Oregon Army National Guard Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany, to cover down for the United States Army Europe and Africa Band.

Story on Pages 8-9

173rd FW pilot selected as newest Thunderbird demo pilot

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.- The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, known as the “Thunderbirds”, recently announced the latest addition to their team for the 2024-2025 season, and at the top of the list was Maj. Tyler Clark, a 173rd Fighter Wing Instructor Pilot and Chief of Scheduling.

Clark is the first Air National Guard fighter pilot selected to be a Thunderbird demonstration pilot.

“Being a Guardsman is an opportunity to represent the Total Force and the ‘Land of No Slack,’” says Clark. “I am extremely thankful for the 173rd Fighter Wing and my leadership who enabled me to pursue this opportunity.”

‘Land of No Slack’ is the nickname given to the 173rd, which Clark has been a member of since early 2022.



Photo courtesy of 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Major Lauren Schlichting, #4 Thunderbird for the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Team, presents Major Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Instructor Pilot, with a signed photo after his flight evaluation July 6, 2023 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Clark was selected as one of the newest demonstration pilots for the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron in the 2024-2025 season.

Story continued on Page 13

PRSRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #605
Salem, OR

OFFICE OF THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON
P.O. BOX 14350
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Oregon Army National Guard: Bringing harmony from homeland to Deutschland

Continued from Front Page

Story and photos by Spc. Frank Ritchey,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WIESBADEN, Germany - When most people imagine members of the military, they most often think of Soldiers brandishing weapons ready to defend the United States. When you see that familiar camouflage pattern, it's easy to think of the countless men and women who laid down their lives on the battlefield. Every Soldier goes through Basic Combat Training and is expected to maintain readiness to engage the enemy. However, it is essential to remember that the military is not exclusively a fighting force. In fact, only about 10% of soldiers who join fire their weapons in combat throughout their careers. The other 90% have unique support duties and responsibilities that serve the United States. This is no different for the Oregon Army National Guard's "Oregon's Own" 234th Army National Guard Band.



Members of "Withycombe Winds," a music performance team with the Oregon Army National Guard 234th Army Band perform during the Summer Night Music Concert in Otterbach, Germany on July 29, 2023.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Duane Reno sings during a performance at Pulaski Park for the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day, July 28, 2023.

The 234th falls under the 821st Troop Command Battalion and is based out of Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon. Their mission is to promote the Army and its national interests, enable commanders to shape the environment to accomplish their mission, and set the conditions that lead to trust and confidence in America's Army and its readiness to conduct operations in peacetime, conflict, and war. On July 23, 2023, the 234th set out to do just that; this time, instead of performing around the state of Oregon, they would be performing

overseas in Germany.

"Our mission...in Germany is multifaceted," said Staff Sgt. Duane Reno, the 234's vocalist, explaining the overseas mission, "One is to backfill the USAREUR-AF [United States Army Europe and Africa] Band so they can go on block leave, to give them the ability to take some rest from all the missions that they do," Reno explained, "Our ability to fall on that accomplishes one portion of the mission. Another portion of the mission is community relations. Being able to thank the community for their support and what they do in terms of recognition and interaction with the military."

The 234th conducted 10 separate performances during 15 days on and off military installations around Germany. From formal ceremonies to 'Biergarten performances,' their music reached many people in and out of uniform.

They even had the opportunity to perform at Heidelberg Castle for tourists and locals alike. This was especially impactful to members of the units; it was the first time the full band had performed together since August of 2019 due to the constraints of the Coronavirus outbreak.

Another significant performance was for the reactivation ceremony of the 7th Engineer Brigade. The 7th Engineer Brigade was originally formed in 1948 and deactivated in 1991. The brigade is the only European-based Engineer Brigade and they served in both World War II and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Members of the unit, led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ashley Alexander,

commander of the 234th Army Band, provided musical support for the ceremony.

"Since we have been here, we have done a reactivation ceremony for the 7th Engineers, which was a very high-profile gig," said Sgt. Thomas Richards, a member of 234th, "That particular (brigade) has a very storied history, so it was very important for us to go and support that job and commemorate that brigade coming back."

When unit members aren't performing as their full concert band, they are divided into Musical Performance Teams. These include "45 Away," the band's pop group; "Foxhole," the band's country group; "No Brass, No Ammo," the band's brass group; and "Withycombe Winds," the band's wind ensemble. Each of these groups' unique talents and sounds ensure that the 234th could reach a large variety of people.

"The whole band has performed admirably, not just as (the concert band) but in their individual music performance teams," Alexander said.



The Oregon Army National Guard 234th Army Band performs a concert at Heidelberg Castle in Heidelberg, Germany, on July 30, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany, to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.



ORARNG Staff Sgt. Duane Reno receives a coin from the U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Rheinland-Pfalz Commander during a performance at Pulaski Park for the USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day, July 28, 2023.

This mission is important to the 234th because of how long it has been "in the books." Talk and planning about this mission has been ongoing for about a decade.

"We've been working toward a mission like this for years," Reno said, "I was floored when we finally got the approval... and it was like, 'alright, it's full go!' Being able to make that happen, actually being here, is something that's just amazing."



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ashley Alexander conducts members of the 234th Army Band during the 7th Engineer Brigade's reactivation ceremony at Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany July 27, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.



"Fox Hole," a subsection of the 234th Army Band, performs at Pulaski Park for the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Organizational Day July 28, 2023. This performance is part of the unit's mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Shannon Michael plays her flute during the 7th Engineer Brigade's reactivation ceremony at Katterbach Kaserne, Ansbach, Germany on July 27, 2023. This performance is part of the 234th Army Band mission to Kaiserslautern, Germany to cover down for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band.

The 234th Army Band has a large age range, providing this opportunity to older and younger Soldiers alike. For some of the younger service members, this was their first overseas mission with the Army and even their first time out of the country in general—one of the youngest soldiers, Spc. Ricky Mesa had this to say about the mission.

"I've gotten to do a lot of stuff that a suburban-raised kid like me wouldn't be able to do otherwise," he said, "You get a lot of small, unique experiences, a lot of opportunities to do good things with the Guard which is one of my favorite parts about it. I think one of the coolest parts about this mission is that you get to experience and live in a whole different country for two weeks. Work in it, experience the differences, and experience how people view the United States Army in other places."

He explained that the importance of this mission was not lost on him and that he believed it was valuable that the unit could give a positive, outward-facing military presence to the German public.

FEATURES

Pacific Partnership 2023 unites nations, fosters enduring friendships

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

TUY HOA, Vietnam – Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard military branches from around the globe, gathered in Tuy Hoa in the Phu Yen Province of Vietnam, Aug. 9-18, 2023 for Pacific Partnership 2023 (PP23). Now, in its 18th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

During the opening ceremony, Đào Mỹ, Vice Chairman of the Phu Yen People's Committee, and head of the organizing committee for PP23 in Phu Yen Province, quoted President Lyndon Johnson who said, "Peace is a journey of a thousand miles, and it must be taken one step at a time."

"The Pacific Partnership mission," Mỹ said, "builds trust among nations to work efficiently together, and is critical to maintaining peace and stability in the region."

U.S. Navy Capt. Claudine Caluori, PP23 mission commander, also addressed the audience during the opening ceremony. Also focusing on the journey, she quoted American author Ursula LeGuin who wrote, "It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end."

"Pacific Partnership is our journey," Caluori said.

Each year the PP23 mission team works with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. PP23 activities are coordinated with the host nation and are conducted based on host nations' requirements and requests.

For PP23 Vietnam requested engineering projects—including building classrooms and renovating schools, performing band concerts, engaging the community through outreach events, medical exchanges—including performing surgeries, and a subject matter expert exchange on Humanitarian Aid

and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) at Mien Trung University of Civil Engineering (MUCE) and at the Phu Yen Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

The HA/DR team, led by Lt. Col. Evan Hessel, Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon Army National Guard, included members of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard, members of the 440th Civil Affairs Battalion, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, Colorado Army Reserve, and a Coast Guardsman.

The HA/DR team was also joined by two civilians from Oregon who conduct academic research and have an expertise in disaster response.

At the request of MUCE, students and faculty engaged in a symposium with the two civilians, Aug. 12. Dr. Cassandra Moseley, Research Professor, Institute for Resilient Organizations, Communities, and Environments, University of Oregon, discussed her research on "Building Community Resilience to Extreme Weather: Lessons from Wildfire," and Dr. Daniele Spirandelli, Senior Associate, Climate Resilience Specialist for Haley Aldrich, and adjunct university professor at Portland State University, shared her research on "Failure to Protect Beaches Under Slowly Rising Sea Level."

"When disaster strikes the time to prepare has passed," Caluori said. "Lt. Col. Hessel and the men and women from the Oregon National Guard constructed this event as a launching point for a long-term partnership

between the Mien Trung University through collaboration that can enhance disaster preparedness and resilience for the Phu Yen Province through preparation, mitigation, response and recovery from natural or man-made disasters."

Dr. Le Dam Ngoc Tu, Head of Department of Research Administration & International Cooperation, MUCE, said she believes this type of intellectual exchange is important for MUCE.

"We want to improve the research capacity of lectures and students," she said.

The HA/DR team's presentations provided MUCE with some examples in disaster response, particularly wildfires and coastal zone management.

"We can apply these lessons into our research and policy-making," Tu said.

Tu and the students and faculty at the MUCE symposium were very pleased with the exchange.

"The team is very friendly, and the presentations are professional and gave us some take-away lessons," Tu said. "We also want to extend the cooperation in the future, through lecturers or students' exchange and cooperation in research and practices in disaster response."

It's important to have experiences like this," Moseley said after sharing her gratitude for the opportunity to share her research during the symposium. "Even though I work mostly in the U.S., I collaborate with people from other parts of the world. I feel like it's really important to work together, and research collaboration has always been a really important part of peacemaking around the world."

Because of Moseley's research related to wildfires, she pays attention to fire response and has always been impressed

with the Oregon National Guard's work in that area. Despite her observations of the Guard's wildfire response efforts, she said she has never seen the Guard in action.

"What's been really cool about the prep for PP23, and the time here in Vietnam, is starting to see a little more about how the Guard works – how they're connected to the larger military system, and how they all work together and collaborate," Moseley said. "I've really felt valued and appreciated by all of them, and I'm very grateful for that as well."

Spirandelli has also really enjoyed her first time working with the Guard in Vietnam for the subject matter expert exchange. "So far, what I've really enjoyed is understanding what the Guard's priorities are and what their role is in disaster, waste reduction and emergency management. I think there's so much opportunity to expand upon that."



Pacific Partnership 2023 (PP23) Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HA/DR) team and the Phu Yen Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) visit a protective sea wall near An Chan, Aug. 16, 2023.

Spirandelli also said she enjoyed meeting the MUCE professors and faculty and hopes to collaborate with them again in the future.

"I am so incredibly impressed," she said, "with the value in terms of the relationships that are being built and nurtured here. There's such care involved in being able to continue those relationships on all levels."

The HA/DR team engaged in a similar subject matter expert exchange at DARD, Aug. 14-15, with a site visit to An Chan, Aug. 16, to view a sea wall that had been built to reduce erosion and protect lives and property from the sea.

Lu Ngoc Lam, Deputy Director of DARD and vice chief of the PP23 organizing committee was thankful for the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on disaster response issues and capabilities.

"I believe all the Vietnamese delegates have gained a deeper understanding of how to prevent and respond to wildfires, oil spill incidents, and coastline erosion," Lam said. "Personally, I feel this is a good opportunity for both sides to learn from each other, have experiences together and work closely to understand more about the effective measures to tackle natural disasters to make sure we can save more human lives and property. I hope it's not only limited to the seminar itself, but in the future, we will have more opportunities for information exchange sessions."

Hessel said the highlight of PP23 has been, "working with our Vietnamese hosts who are incredibly gracious, warm and friendly people; working with other branches of the military—it's a Navy led event and they have done a great job of bringing us in and making us feel like equal members of the team; and working with civilians and members of the Coast Guard and Air Force—all sorts of different sectors of the military and civil society. It's been an unbelievable chance to bring people together, and I think that's the essence of Pacific Partnership."

Hessel also believes coming together for events like PP23 is incredibly important. "In terms of global geopolitics today, it's a fraught time," he said. "I think it's more important now, than maybe ever before, to strengthen our connections, strengthen our ties and strengthen our partnerships with our allied and partnered nations, not just across the Indo Pacific but around the world because we are all stronger together."

As part of PP23 the mission team will conduct missions throughout Southeast Asia and the South Pacific Islands.



Cpt. Claudine Caluori, PP23 Mission Commander and Royal Navy Capt. Joseph Dransfield, PP23 Deputy Mission Commander, pose on stage after receiving flowers from an official at Yen University on Aug. 11, 2023.



PP23 members gather on stage at Phu Yen University, Aug. 11 to celebrate the end of a successful music exchange with the students at the university. Now in its 18th year, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard Soldier recognized for heroic actions

Story and photos by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

BOISE, Idaho - National Guard Soldiers traditionally use their annual training to sharpen their military occupational skills, while updating their current capabilities and building on past successes. In many ways it is part of the Army's 'R2' foundation, helping to enhance personal readiness and resilience.

While visiting the Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment during their annual training at the Orchards Combat Operation Center, Idaho on July 21, 2023, Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, got an up-close look at the units training. He also used the occasion to recognize one of the Soldiers, whose readiness and resilience contributed to an extraordinary act of heroism.

On September 23, 2020, near Adair, Oregon, Sgt. Colton A. Church disregarded his own personal safety when he entered a burning vehicle to evacuate a stranded passenger. He exposed himself to smoke inhalation and open flames and evacuated the individual to a safe location. His quick thinking and daring action saved the life of the individual



ORARNG Sgt. Colton A. Church, an Infantryman assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, pauses for a photograph following his presentation of the Army Soldier's Medal.

Sergeant Church's actions and immediate response, he ran toward the fire and saved a fellow Oregonian."

The awarding of the Soldier's Medal is exceptionally rare. It was first introduced in 1926, and is presented to a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, while serving in any capacity with the Army, in distinguishing themselves by heroism in a non-combat event.

Sergeant Church has been a member of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment for nearly 13 years, serving as an '11 Bravo,' Army Infantryman for his entire career as a Citizen-Soldier with the Oregon Army National Guard.



ORARNG Sgt. Colton A. Church, assigned to the 3-116th Cavalry Regiment is presented with the Army Soldier's Medal and congratulated by Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon on July 21, 2023.

Instructor pilot realizes dream as part of the Thunderbird Team

Continued from Front Page

Clark says his time flying at Kingsley Field will help him fulfill his mission as a future Thunderbird pilot.

"The 'Land of No Slack' creates top-notch fighter wingmen who earn the coveted 'Eagle Driver' patch," says Clark. "With that comes a tremendous responsibility to maintain and constantly demonstrate a dedication to our mission and students...but it also extends well beyond the cockpit. We must possess an ability to build a rapport and connect with the student across the table."

Clark started his career in the Air Force Academy, graduating in 2009. He went on to flight school, ending up at Kingsley Field

as a student pilot where he learned to be an Eagle Driver. His time in Active Duty took him all over the world, serving in multiple leadership roles. In 2022 he decided to leave Active Duty and join the Air National Guard returning to Kingsley Field as Instructor Pilot.

"I look at the Thunderbirds as a unique opportunity to fulfill my dreams and passion for motivating others while getting to fly high-performance jets in airshows across the United States," says Clark. "It's really a fusion of everything I love!"

That passion started at a young age. "Going to airshows growing up sparked an interest in aviation that later led to fighter aviation," he says. "Every year my family took me to see the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels. That always left me with a huge 'WOW!' factor and were always exciting to watch."

He adds that his passion in life to have a positive impact on those around him.

"I'm really looking forward to interacting with the public, having a positive impact on communities, and inspiring that young kid - who used to be me," Clark says.

The path to Clark's selection wasn't direct. In fact, the first time he applied, he was not selected. "I don't like taking 'no' for an answer, so I continued pursuing my dream!" Clark says with a laugh.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Tyler Clark

U.S. Air Force Maj. Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C Instructor Pilot, is seen as a young child sitting the cockpit of an airplane during a visit to an airshow. Clark, who was just selected as a Thunderbird demonstration pilot, began his dream of being a pilot as a child while attending airshows with his family.

Seeing that dream realized wouldn't have happened without support all around.

"I thank God for my amazing wife who's always pushed me to pursue this dream, she's my rock and a truly inspiring woman who's a critical part of this story," said Clark. "I'm incredibly grateful for my family, friends, mentors, and leadership at Kingsley Field for helping me achieve something I thought would be unattainable."

Clark is not the first Team Kingsley member to be a part of the Thunderbirds. In 1999, Tech. Sgt. Kim Long, a 173rd Fighter Wing F-16 crew chief, was selected to be a member of the maintenance team for the Thunderbirds, serving with them until 2002.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Tyler Clark

U.S. Air Force Major Tyler Clark, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C Instructor Pilot, stands in front of the Thunderbird F-16s July 6, 2023 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Clark was selected as one of the newest demonstration pilots for the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron in the 2024-2025 season.

AZUWUR

WINGS CLIPPED: A 'REDHAWK' F-51 MUSTANG PILOT CAPTURED IN KOREA WAR

AZUWUR

Oregon & Military History

Commentary by

USAF (ret.) Lt. Col. Terrence Popravak, Jr.,
142nd Wing / Historian's Office

PORTLAND, Ore. - Seventy years ago this summer, the guns went silent on the Korean Peninsula after three years of intense fighting as the Armistice took effect on July 27, 1953. Although combat had ceased, a number of actions resulted from this - one of which was the repatriation of prisoners of war. Of the 7, 140 American POWs held captive in northern Korea, one was an Oregon Air National Guard 123rd Fighter Squadron Redhawk pilot, 1st Lt. Orval H. Tandy.

September 15, 2023 is designated as National Prisoner of War / Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day. On this day, the 142nd Wing remembers and salutes 35 unit-related personnel who were POWs or MIAs in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. This year we will examine the experience of this Redhawk pilot whose wings were clipped in Korea.

Background

Orval H. Tandy was born in Eugene, Oregon on August 11, 1921, and grew up in the Camas-Washougal, Washington area, and then was a resident of Multnomah County, Oregon. A high school graduate by the time World War II came, he was married and a carpenter, when he first entered military service on November 4, 1942. He later requested to become a pilot, and earned his wings and commission as an officer in 1944. He did not serve overseas before the war ended.

After the war he was discharged and in 1946 joined the Oregon Air National Guard, which operated the famous North American P-51D Mustang fighter plane (redesignated as F-51D in 1948). His home of record was then Camas, Washington.

Combat

The outbreak of the Korean War surprised many, including Air National Guard members called up in the first true test of the capability of the enhanced force structure of this reserve component. After the Chinese communist intervention in November of 1950, more help was needed and the Air National Guard answered the call. Lt. Tandy entered active duty again when he and his squadron were called up on February 1, 1951. The fighter pilots of the squadron internally "racked and stacked" their time in the service and experience to determine which ones would see combat over in Korea, and nine men were eventually sent overseas to augment existing U.S. Air Force units. (See *"They Waived Everything but Goodbye: Oregon Air National Guard in the Korean War"* for an overview of how the Korean War affected the Oregon Air National Guard).

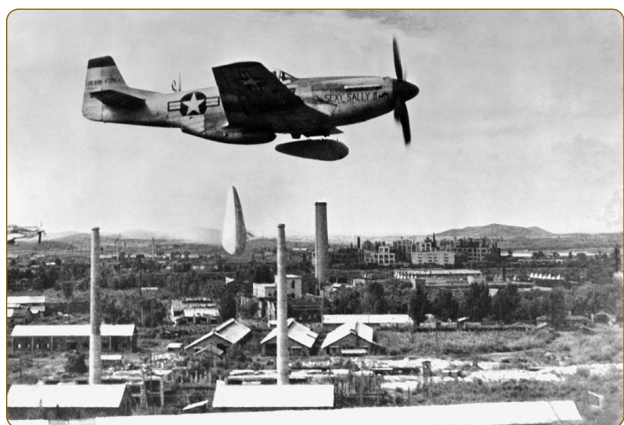


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A North American F-51D Mustang assigned to the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron during the early part of the Korean War. The U.S. Air force expended many of the Mustang fighters during the Korean War from June 1950 to July 1953.

For Tandy and some others, that meant assignment to the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, the "Cobra-in-the Clouds" squadron attached to the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing. Although an air defense outfit by designation and pulled from occupation duty in Japan, the squadron flew the F-51D in combat in Korea, in a predominantly air-to-ground role. Coming from the 123rd Fighter Squadron which served mostly in air defense of the Pacific Northwest, Tandy and the others had to adapt to the war situation. Most of the Oregon Air Guardsmen sent ultimately completed 100 combat missions and returned home. More details of their experience in Korea are recounted in *"Remembering Redhawk Fighter Pilots who sacrificed during the Forgotten Korean War."*

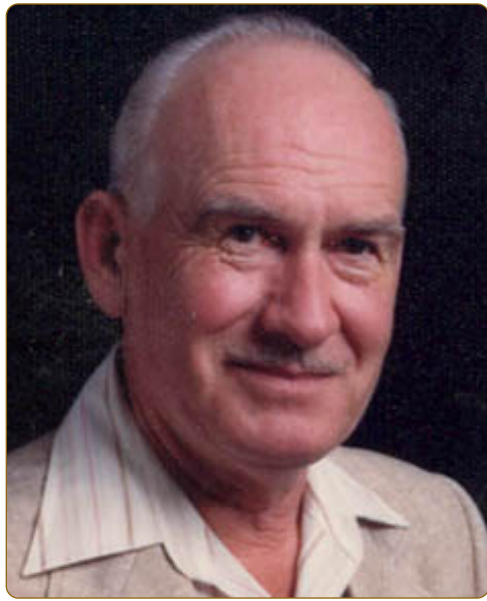


Photo courtesy of Legacy.com, Mr. Jack Cook

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Orval H. Tandy in his later years. His military career spanned nearly three decades, from 1944 to 1972, including two years as a POW in North Korea.

Wings Clipped

But unlike his fellow Redhawks who reached the century mark, Tandy completed 56 and a half. His final combat mission in Korea took place on September 5, 1951, an interdiction mission up near the Yalu River and the border with China. He flew F-51D-30-NA serial number 44-74794 that fateful day. On return to home base from the assigned target, his flight attacked a target of opportunity, a train, and unfortunately his aircraft was hit in the engine by enemy fire which forced him to bail out at only 1,000 feet in altitude. Wounded by

shrapnel (which later caused a leg infection), he landed on a small hill, with enemy troops in the area.

Tandy wore a summer flight suit and flying boots and only had his sidearm and a knife. A Korean civilian happened along and took his parachute and some survival gear while he hid in a nearby ditch. The rest of his flight overhead kept the enemy at bay for about 15 to 20 minutes before they had to leave due to low fuel.

Other United Nations pilots rallied to defend him in hopes of a rescue. The South African Air Force's Flying Cheetahs of No. 2 Squadron helped provide a rescue combat air patrol. One of their pilots, Lieutenant Willem van den Bos, took a hit in the engine of his F-51D, serial number 44-74570, from enemy ground fire which emptied the coolant for the liquid-cooled engine, the bane of the Mustang in this kind of situation.

Lt. van den Bos' engine eventually seized up and quit, and he was forced to crash-land in a stream bed in a lonely place about 75 miles west of Wonsan. A successful search and rescue mission by a Navy helicopter based on a Japanese LST in Wonsan Harbor retrieved the South African pilot before the enemy could capture him. His and Tandy's were two of five F-51Ds lost in Korean operations on September 5, 1951.

But Tandy was out of luck in his individual circumstances and Chinese communist troops soon captured him. He was force-marched for four days to the north Korean capital, Pyongyang, and a POW camp known as 'The Brickyard,' where he was detained for over two months.

Around Thanksgiving time, he was force marched again, this time for 14 days, to a northern POW camp up near the border with China. For rations they had a watery cup of rice twice a day, and a baseball-sized ball of millet to eat while walking during the day. Three prisoners died on the way, and the snow of the ground chilled the prisoners. Tandy only had his summer flight suit and boots, but he was luckier than some who had no shoes although none of them had jackets. They marched to a place up near the Yalu River.

Camp 2 - Pyoktong

A declassified Central Intelligence Agency information report titled "The Pyoktong POW Camp" described the camp as it was in February, 1953: "(It)...comprised of a United Nations POW camp in 20 grass-roofed houses and 10 stone houses...and a ROK army POW camp in 30 grass-roofed houses, 15 stone houses, and 5 Korean tile-roofed houses..." near Pyoktong (N 40-38, E 125-26, YF-0600). About 1,000 prisoners were in the UN camp, mostly Americans, and about 2,000 in the ROK camp (200 officers, 1,600 enlisted men and 200 civilians).

Lt. Tandy and the other UN prisoners were guarded by 80 Chinese communist troops armed with automatic rifles, PPSH's and older Imperial Japanese Army rifles. Of note, the camp was not enclosed in barbed wire. Instead, 17 guard posts surrounded it spaced 50 meters apart. Thirty guards were present for duty and a three-man security team patrolled the camp twice in the day and hourly at night. In the event of trouble, three rifle shots signaled for all guards to respond.

Around the time that Lt. Tandy arrived in late-November of 1951, food conditions improved slightly. UN POWs changed from 300 grams of soybeans and 300 grams of corn per day (ROK prisoners received 300 grams of millet and 300 of corn) to 700 grams of grain; wheat flour replaced the corn for UN POWs due to their poor digestion and malnutrition. Every 15 days allotments of salt, turnips, radishes and dried vegetables were issued.

Once a week, the prisoners gathered their own firewood for cooking from the surrounding mountainsides.

Their waking hours were mostly consumed with communist indoctrination, though every other day music and stag dancing parties were allowed. At the time of the source's report on the camp, no medical facilities were noted (Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Warrant Officer (WO) Ronald Guthrie reported that although there were some doctors were amongst the UN POWs, they had no equipment or medical supplies to treat anyone with).

On average, 130 prisoners became ill each day (50 UN and 80 ROK). About four prisoners died each day, and the death rate for UN prisoners was about two-percent higher than the ROK POWs. For UN prisoners, five percent suffered from typhoid, 80 percent had diarrhea and 15 percent some other ailment. In comparison, ROK POWs had 10 percent typhoid, 70 percent diarrhea and 20 percent with other diseases.

Tandy was one of the 40 percent of POWs who still wore the clothing they were captured in. The rest were given khaki-colored Chinese-made cotton clothes. Straw sandals were the footwear for all. The Chinese communists prohibited any contact between the UN and ROK prisoners. Rapport between the Chinese guards and Korean POWs was rated as "good." However, UN captives and Chinese guards reportedly looked down on one another.



The Chinese communists' frequent indoctrination and self-criticism efforts paid them little dividend. The report estimated that two-percent of UN POWs became communists, and from five-to-ten percent of ROK prisoners did so.

Tandy was not one to be converted. In fact, he was singled out during one indoctrination session, as described by fellow UN POW, Royal Australian Air Force No. 77 Squadron Mustang pilot Warrant Officer Ronald D. Guthrie:

"The political Commissar was a fanatical Marxist who spoke reasonable English. This young Chinese, intense of manner and small of stature, was Comrade Sun. Typically, with the prisoners assembled in the lecture room, Sun would make his entrance, gazed disdainfully on the unruly student body and voice his high-pitched order "Keep silence!" The boring routine would commence. In spite of the most diligent effort of Ding, Sun, Wong and all of the Honshos, the daily dose of compulsory political lectures did not seem to be having the desired effect on the prisoners, many of whom liked to 'play up' during these sessions. Guards were stationed around the room in an effort to maintain control but disruption was usually the order of the day. An American officer named Orville (sic - Orval) Tandy, of "You on the end of the pipe fame' fame, was arrested. Orville had been carving chess pieces while sitting on the floor of the lecture room, hiding his activities behind the man in front. He was marched off for "Dirtying the Peoples' floor and not paying attention." The punishment for infractions was typically some time in solitary confinement in even more primitive conditions. (Colin G. King, Historical Anecdotes 77 Squadron RAAF In Korea 1950-1953)

His personal freedom wasn't the only thing the Chinese communists deprived him of. Connection to home and family was also denied. During his first year in captivity, no letters from home made it in or out of the camp. Back at home in Camas, Mrs. Dolores (Anderson) Tandy with her three small children knew that Lt. Tandy was alive as his picture was featured in a French communist newspaper. Tandy eventually received seven or eight letters from home during his two years of confinement. He sent six letters home, cut up badly by censors.

Freedom

Tandy survived this run-in with camp authorities and slim connection home to be repatriated during Operation Big Switch on September 10, 1953. He went into captivity weighing a healthy 170 pounds, and came out of it at 128 pounds, after some pre-armistice 'plumping-up' by the Chinese communists.

The POW experience didn't daunt him from continuing his military service, and he remained on active duty until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on June 30, 1972. He passed away in Lakewood, Washington on September 26, 2004 at the age of 83.