



**News Release**  
**Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (Public Affairs)**  
**Washington, DC 20301-2900**

**Phone: (703) 699-1169**

**Fax (703) 602-4375**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**U.S. SOLDIER MIA FROM KOREAN WAR IDENTIFIED**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Pfc. Charles H. Higdon, U.S. Army. He will be buried Tuesday in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

In early November 1950, Higdon was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, occupying a defensive position near the town of Unsan by the Kuryong River known as the “Camel’s Head.” Two enemy elements attacked the U.S. forces, collapsing their perimeter and forcing a withdrawal. Higdon’s unit was involved in fighting which devolved into hand-to-hand combat around the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion’s command post. Almost 400 men were reported missing or killed in action following the battle.

In late November 1950, a U.S. soldier captured during the battle of Unsan reported, during his debriefing, that he and nine American soldiers were moved to a house near the battlefield. The POWs were taken to an adjacent field and shot. Three of the 10 Americans survived, though one later died. He provided detailed information on the incident location and the identities of the other soldiers.

Following the armistice in 1953 and the release of POWs, the other surviving soldier confirmed the details provided in 1950.

Analysts from DPMO developed case leads with information spanning more than 58 years. Through interviews with eyewitnesses, experts validated circumstances surrounding the soldier’s captivity and death, confirming wartime documentation of his loss.

In May 2004, a joint U.S.-North Korean team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass grave near the “Camel’s Head.” An elderly North Korean national reported he had witnessed the death of seven or eight U.S. soldiers near that location and provided the team with a general description of the burial site.

The excavation team recovered human remains and other personal artifacts, ultimately leading to the identification of seven soldiers from that site.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA – which matched that of Higdon’s sister—in the identification.

More than 2,000 servicemen died as prisoners of war during the Korean War. With this accounting, 8,025 service members still remain missing from the conflict.

For additional information on the Defense Department’s mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call (703) 699-1169.

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