

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

# HANOI HILTON

## HOA LO PRISON, VIETNAM WAR

Ho Chi Minh City was a prison in Hanoi originally used by the French colonialists in Indochina for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for U.S. prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. During this later period, it was known to American POWs as the "Hanoi Hilton". During the Vietnam War, the first U.S. prisoner to be sent to Hoa Lo was Lieutenant Junior Grade Everett Alvarez Jr., who was shot down on August 5, 1964. From the beginning, U.S. POWs endured miserable conditions, including poor food and unsanitary conditions. The prison complex was sarcastically nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" by the American POWs, in reference to the well-known Hilton Hotel chain.

Beginning in early 1967, a new area of the prison was opened for incoming American POWs. It was dubbed "Little Vegas", and its individual buildings and areas were named after Las Vegas Strip landmarks, such as "Golden Nugget", "Thunderbird", " Stardust", "Flowers", and the "Desert Inn". These names were chosen because many pilots had trained at Nellis Air Force Base, located in proximity to Las Vegas. American pilots were frequently already in poor condition by the time they were captured, injured either during their ejection or in landing on the ground.

The Hoa Lo was one site used by the North Vietnamese Army to host, torture and interrogate captured servicemen, mostly American pilots shot down during bombing raids. Although North Vietnam was a signatory of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, which demanded "decent and humane treatment" of prisoners of war, severe torture methods were employed, such as rope bindings, iron, beatings, and prolonged solitary confinement.

The prison was demolished during the 1990s, although the gatehouse remains as a museum.



A small informational card with text, likely providing details about the exhibit or the historical context.

A collection of historical artifacts displayed on a white surface. It includes several handwritten letters, some with red stamps, a small metal container, a stack of papers, and a newspaper clipping titled "WESTERN UNION". There are also several identification cards and a small photograph of a man.

**UNTIL THEY ARE HOME** 

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

PRISON DOES NOT COME FREE. No one knows better what it is like to have that freedom suddenly snatched away than those individuals who, in the process of serving their country, have found themselves prisoners of war or missing in action. It is an experience neither asked for nor desired. Still, there is a common bond that is shared by all. Their stories are an inspiring chapter of our history as a nation never to be forgotten.

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

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**COLD INSURANCE AGENCY** 

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

## HANOI HILTON

HOA LO PRISON, VIETNAM WAR



**CHARLES B. HILTON**

As a POW, Hilton was held in the Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi, Vietnam. He was held there for 11 years, from 1965 to 1976. During this time, he endured extreme conditions, including lack of food, water, and shelter. Hilton's story is a testament to the resilience and courage of American POWs during the Vietnam War.






REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

## ST. PLAIN LONESOME

THE LAST MISSION OF 2ND LT JOHN T. BULLINGER



St. Plain Lonesome was a POW/MIA who served in the Vietnam War. He was held in the Hoa Lo Prison in Hanoi, Vietnam. His story is a testament to the resilience and courage of American POWs during the Vietnam War.



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## EUGENE



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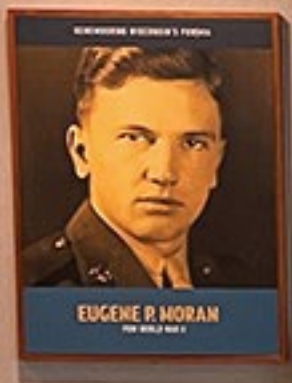
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# UNTIL THEY ARE HOME

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA



911



# REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

## POW/MIA IN AMERICAN HISTORY

### FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO THE GULF WARS

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

During the Revolutionary War, an estimated 20,000 Americans were held as prisoners of war (POW) and 8,500 died in captivity. Some were subsequently released as part of an exchange system between America and Great Britain. Many, however, were not that fortunate. Some were kept a British job but for many, life as a prisoner of war was spent in the damp, musty holds of vessels. Andrew Jackson was a 13-year-old soldier when he was captured by the British during the American Revolution; he is the only former prisoner of war ever to become president.

#### WAR OF 1812

Several hostilities with Great Britain in 1812 meant war and, consequently, prisoners of war. Initially, American POWs were once again kept in great numbers until 1812 when they were taken to England and held in prisons, such as the infamous Dartmoor. Francis Scott Key was a POW during the Battle of Fort Mifflin when he wrote the Star-Spangled Banner.

#### THE CIVIL WAR

During the Civil War, an estimated 174,000 Union soldiers and 214,000 Confederate soldiers became prisoners of war, more than in any other conflict in the history of the country. Approximately 30,000 Union soldiers died in Confederate prisons while the death rate was almost as bad in the North with approximately 24,000 Confederate soldiers dying in Union prisoner-of-war camps. Since both sides predicted a short war, neither spent large numbers of POWs during the four years of conflict. As prisoners were taken, commanders usually worked out exchanges among themselves. Some an exchange system was accepted by both governments, but failed to work due to a variety of disagreements that arose.

#### WORLD WAR I

During U.S. involvement in World War I (1917 and 1918), approximately 4,100 Americans were held as prisoners of war and there were 147 confirmed deaths. Rules for the fair treatment of POWs had been set in place some years earlier. Still, each prisoner of war had to face days without sleep in wet or without adequate clothing.

#### WORLD WAR II

During World War II, thousands of Americans were held as prisoners of war. In Europe, nearly 94,000 Americans were imprisoned as POWs. Many of them had been shot down while flying missions over Germany or had fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Conditions for POWs worsened as the war drew to a close. Malnutrition, overcrowding and lack of medical attention was common. In the Pacific Theater, nearly 30,000 Americans were captured by the Japanese. Most of these men and women were captured after the fall of the Philippines and suffered some of the highest death rates in American history at nearly 40 percent. Prisoners of war suffered a brutal captivity and many were crowded into "hell ships" bound for Japan. Often, these overcrowded ships were torpedoes by submarines.

#### KOREAN WAR

Treatment of American prisoners of war during the Korean War rivaled that of prisoners in the hands of the Japanese during World War II. American captives did not abide by the Geneva Convention. More than 7,100 Americans were captured and imprisoned and just over 2,700 are known to have died while imprisoned. There were 8,377 Americans classified as missing-in-action (MIA). The United States in February 1954 declared them presumed dead.

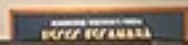
#### VIETNAM WAR

During the Vietnam War, 141 Americans are known to have been prisoners of war. Of this number, 114 died during captivity. Unlike previous wars, the length of time as a POW was extensive for many, with some being imprisoned for more than seven years. Torture was common and the Geneva Convention was not followed, so the North Vietnamese claimed the Americans were political criminals, not prisoners of war.

#### PERSIAN GULF WAR

The United States and a coalition of allies declared war on Iraq in 1991. During the one-month conflict, 23 Americans were captured, including two women. Fortunately, all 23 of the American POWs returned to the United States.

Source: National POW/MIA Center (2019)



**REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S PRISONERS OF WAR AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA CIVIL WAR**

**345 WISCONSIN SOLDIERS WERE HELD AS PRISONERS OF WAR AT ANDERSONVILLE.**

Andersonville was the site of the largest and most notorious prisoner-of-war camp during the American Civil War. It was located in Andersonville, Georgia, and was built in a swampy area. The camp was overcrowded and unsanitary, leading to the deaths of thousands of prisoners.

Wisconsin soldiers were held at Andersonville from June 1862 to June 1864. They suffered from lack of food, shelter, and medical care. Many died of disease and starvation.

The prisoners were held in a large stockade made of logs. The conditions were so poor that many died of cholera, typhoid, and other diseases. The camp was known as "Hell on Earth."

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**REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S PRISONERS OF WAR AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA CIVIL WAR**

**CLOSURE**

ARMY PFC WILLIAM L. SMITH

Private First Class William L. Smith was a member of the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. He was captured at the Battle of Andersonville in June 1862 and spent the next two years as a prisoner of war at Andersonville. He survived the camp and returned to Wisconsin in June 1864.

Smith's story is a testament to the resilience and courage of Wisconsin soldiers who served in the Civil War. He was one of the few Wisconsin soldiers who survived Andersonville and returned home.

**"In Flanders Field"**

The helmet is a M1 helmet, commonly used by the United States Army during World War I. It is displayed in a glass case, which is part of a larger exhibit. The exhibit is titled "In Flanders Field" and features a background image of a battlefield with soldiers in a trench. The helmet is positioned in front of the background image, and a small informational card is placed in front of the helmet.

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**BATTLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

The Battle of Papua New Guinea was a significant battle during World War II. It was fought between the United States and the Japanese. The battle took place in Papua New Guinea and was a decisive victory for the United States.

The battle was fought in a jungle environment and was a difficult and bloody battle. The United States forces were able to defeat the Japanese forces and capture the island of Papua New Guinea.

The battle was a testament to the courage and sacrifice of the United States soldiers who fought in World War II. It was a significant battle in the Pacific theater of the war.

# REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA WISCONSIN POW CAMPS

...the presence of German prisoners by the time the U.S. entered  
...the English prison camps  
...the inside  
...Liberty Ships

...one of the first places  
...1,500 Japanese and  
...13,000  
...labor force was  
...By the end of the war, there  
...10 percent of the population, housing

...American men were all  
...cotton, and corn fields and  
...the crops during the  
...The  
...the military paid the POWs 85 cents  
...to buy candy or tobacco.



## REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

### A KRIEGIES' MOTTO

“Each day successfully completed  
is a day closer to liberation.”

- TAKEN FROM A PRISON WALL IN ST. GILES PRISON, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 1943

“KRIEGIES” was short for Kriegsgefangener, German for POW, WWII

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA



**EUGENE P. MORAN**  
POW WORLD WAR II

REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA  
**"JUST PLAIN LONESOME"**  
THE LAST WISCONSIN OF 2nd LT JOHN T. KELLEHER



2nd Lt. John T. Kelleher, a Wisconsin native, was captured in the Philippines during World War II. He was held in a POW camp for the remainder of the war. After the war, he was listed as missing in action (MIA) because his remains were never recovered. He was later declared deceased in 1972. His family has been searching for his remains ever since.



REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA  
**THE JAMESVILLE 99**  
NOVEMBER 1942



The Jamesville 99 were a group of 99 Wisconsin soldiers who were captured in the Philippines during World War II. They were held in a POW camp for the remainder of the war. After the war, they were listed as missing in action (MIA) because their remains were never recovered. They were later declared deceased in 1972. Their families have been searching for their remains ever since.



REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA  
**THE ESCAPEE'S**  
REMEMBERANCE



REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA  
**THE ESCAPEE'S**  
REMEMBERANCE



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REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

## THE HAGUE AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The Hague Conventions of 1864 and 1907 were the first multilateral treaties that addressed the conduct of warfare and were largely based on the Lieber Code, which was signed and issued by US President Abraham Lincoln to the Union Forces of the United States in April 1862 during the American Civil War. The Lieber Code was the first official comprehensive codified law that set out regulations for behavior in times of armed conflict, protection of civilians and civilian property and punishment of transgressors: deserters, prisoners of war, hostages, and pillaging partisans, spies, traitors and prisoners, exchange, parole of former rebel troops, the conditions of any armistice, and respect for human life, assassination and murder of soldiers or citizens in hostile territory and the status of individuals engaged in a state of civil war against the government.

Provisions concerning the treatment of prisoners of war are contained in the Hague Regulations of 1864 and 1907. In the course of World War I they revealed several deficiencies as well as a lack of precision. Such defects were partly overcome by special agreements made between belligerents in Bern in 1917 and 1918. In 1929, the International Red Cross Conference held at Geneva, expressed the wish that a special convention on the treatment of prisoners of war be adopted. The International Committee of the Red Cross drew up a draft convention which was submitted to the Diplomatic Conference convened at Geneva in 1929. The Convention does not replace but only completes the provisions of the Hague regulations. The most important innovations consisted in the prohibition of reprisals and collective penalties, the organization of prisoners work, the inspection by the prisoners, of representatives, and the control exercised by protecting Powers. L.C.

The 1929 Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War was replaced by the Third Geneva Convention of August 1949.



### PRISONER OF WAR



### MISSING IN ACTION



### MIA CAP. ZUGLER



### ANDYVILLE 99



### "WEST PLAIN LOWESOME"



### HANOI HILTON

