

Lee was held in the *Hwamyon* POW camp located in *Saebyul* County, North *Hamkyung* Province. He was then sent to the *Onsung* coal mine. For about 40 years, he was forced to work in the coal mine like a slave. After the Armistice, Lee heard rumors that South Korean POWs who said they wanted to go back to South Korea were all shot to death at the Tumen River. So Lee kept silent about his wishes to be repatriated. Lee married a woman, whose father had defected to South Korea. Because he was a POW married to the daughter of a "traitor," Lee's family was in the lowest caste in North Korea. The children of victim 15 struggled against discrimination and social inequality, especially in their education.

#### **Victim 16. Lee**

Lee was taken prisoner by People's Volunteer Army(PVA; Chinese) forces during the Battle of *Kumhwa* battle, in *Kangwon* Province, on July 14, 1953.

After being detained in the *Kangdong* POW camp, he was forced to work in the *Ah-Oh-Ji* coal mine in North *Hamkyung* Province. He was forced to work in hard labor until he was 60 years old. He was told by authorities that at 60 he could stop working and receive an old age pension. However, his situation worsened because the pension was too small to support Lee and his wife. They lived in poverty and there was no way for Lee to find work he could do at that age to supplement his income. He and his wife suffered from malnutrition. Lee testified that many other POWs who turned 60 also suffered as he did including from malnutrition.

"Many POWs lived in extreme poverty once they stopped working at 60. We suffered from malnutrition and I was in critical condition when I escaped. Stopping us POWs from working at the age of 60 did not mean freedom for us. They were actually abandoning us. We were too old to find other work and because of the malnutrition, many of us became crippled."

#### **Victim 17. Jang, Hyun Soo**

Jang was kidnapped by the North Korean Army in *Kanghwa* island near Seoul on Oct 3, 1950. Jang e was 18 years old. He is currently categorized in South Korea as a civilian abductee and not a POW. However, he lived close to 4 families of POWs in North Korea and forced to spy upon them by North Korean State Security agents. Jang passed away in North Korea, but his daughter, who escaped to South Korea, testified about her father.

Jang lived in *Musan*, North *Hamkyoung* Province and worked as a railroad laborer. The North Korean government forced Jang to spy on four neighbors who were

POWs. When there was any political disobedience, Jang and his sons often were tortured and beaten.

The State Security agents visited Jang's home almost every other day, even when he lay ill from bronchitis and demanded that he write 3 page reports of what had happened. Jang died in 2009 shortly after hearing news that his daughter had escaped to South Korea and visited Jang's birthplace.

#### **Victim 18. Jang, Jin Hwan**

Jang was captured by the People's Volunteer Army(PVA; Chinese) forces on February 25, 1951 near *Hoengsung*, *Kangwon* Province. He was incorporated into an artillery unit of the Korean People's Army(KPA; North Korean), 2d Corps, 2d Division. Three days after he was assigned to his KPA unit, Jang and 30 other South Korean POWs, including the company and platoon commanders attempted to escape. The attempt failed and all were captured.

Five of the escapees died from torture during the investigation, and 25 were executed by firing squad. Jang, who was the youngest amongst the 31 escapees was spared. He received a 20-year sentence in a political prison. He served 17 years of his sentence at the *Shinuiju* prison before he was granted and early release in the 1970's. He worked at the *Ah-Oh-Ji* mine in North *Hamkyoung* Province.

#### **Victim 19. Jang**

Jang was taken prisoner on July 23, 1953, during the Battle of *Kumhwa*, in *Kangwon* Province by People's Volunteer Army(PVA; Chinese) forces.

He was held in POW camps in *Koksan*, *Hwanghae* Province and *Kangdong*, *Pyongan* Province and then assigned to Ministry of Internal Affairs Construction Brigade 1701. He worked at the *Ohbong* coal mine.

#### **Victim 20. Jeon, Yong Il**

Jeon was born in *Youngchun* County, South *Kyongsang* Province, and he joined the Republic of Korea Army(ROKA; South Korean) in 1951. His military serial number was 0347876 and he served with the 6th Division, 19th Regiment, 3d Battalion, 2d Company, 2d Platoon. In July 1953, he was taken prisoner by the Korean People's Army(KPA; North Korean) in the Battle of Mt. *Jeamsan* in *Kangwon* Province. In June 2003, he and his son escaped from North Korea and hid in China. In November, 2003, they were captured by Chinese police and were detained in a camp for North Koreans in the Tumen River area. On Dec 24, 2003, Jeon was able to go to South

Korea thanks to the efforts of the South Korean government, but his son was forcibly deported to North Korea in August of 2008.

During the war, Jeon was held in the *Kangdong* POW Camp and *Sungcheon* mining camp where he received political indoctrination. In June 1956, he was released from prisoner camp and was assigned to hard labor in a mine in *Musan*, North *Hamkyoung* Province, where he worked for over 35 years, until July of 1992.

### **Victim 21 Jeong**

Jeong was captured by the People's Volunteer Army(PVA; Chinese) on Dec 12, 1950. After screening by Korean People's Army(KPA; North Korean) officers at the *Kangdong* POW camp, he was incorporated into KPA Unit 9670(later renamed to Unit 990) where he worked as a laborer, loading supplies for transport in the rear areas.

After combat had ended in 1953 with the Armistice, he was assigned to Construction Brigade 2 which worked on reconstruction projects in *Pyongyang*. He worked in *Pyongyang* as a railroad worker for a while, but in 1972, he was expelled from *Pyongyang*, where lower caste individuals such as POWs were not allowed to live. Jeong was sent to *Namyang*, North *Hamkyung* Province. Jeong testified that POWs suffered discrimination at work and were kept under strict surveillance. He was also denied education opportunities because of his POW status.

"The surveillance upon POWs was severe. The State Security Agency, Worker's Party and Public Safety (Police) all took part in watching over POWs. If we made one slip of the tongue they would imprison us, so I kept my mouth shut in North Korea. I was a 'mute who could speak.' The psychological torture was worse than hunger.

When I was younger, I wanted to get an education. I was working in a large cement factory where they had night classes. When I told my manager my wish to attend the classes, I was promptly fired."

### **Victim 22. Cho, Chang Ho**

Cho was a freshman in *Yonsei* University when the Korean War broke out in June, 1950. He volunteered for Artillery Officer School and was assigned to the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA; South Korean) 9th Division, 101 Battery.

On May 19, 1951 Cho was taken prisoner by the People's Volunteer Army( PVA; Chinese) at the battle of Mt. *Hansuksan*, *Kangwon* Province. After 43 years of captivity, he escaped from North Korea in 1994. On April 27, 2006, he testified about

his life a POW before the U.S. Congress. He testified he was not notified that the war ended and POWs had been exchanged. He found out long after the ceasefire.

After capture, Cho was incorporated into the Korean People's Army (KPA; North Korean) 8th Corps. On Feb, 1952, he was caught trying to escape back to UN lines and was sentenced to 13 years in prison by the court-martial. In 1953, he was held in Special Prison Camp Number 1 in *Ah-Oh-Ji*, North *Hamkyung* Province. Throughout his 13 year sentence, he was moved between six different prison camps in *Wonsan*, *Hamheung*, *Dukchon*, *Manpo*, *Ah-Oh-Ji* and *Kangkye*.

The condition in the camps was unsanitary, so most prisoners, many of whom were also South Korean POWs, suffered from malnutrition and disease. Cho testified that POWs' names were replaced with numbers, and possession of private property was prohibited. POWs only had thin clothes to wear even in the cold of winter. There was no bed, blanket, or pillows. An oil drum was used as a toilet. Conversations between inmates were prohibited. If POWs talked to one another, they were detained by State Security agents.

After he was detained in such political prison camps for over 12 and a half years, he was released from the *Ah-Oh-Ji* mine in 1964. He was assigned to hard labor for over 13 years in the *Hwapoong* mine from 1964 to 1977. After 1977, he lived under surveillance by State Security agents in North Korea until he escaped from North Korea in 1994.

### **Victim 23. Choi**

On Dec 30, 1951, Choi was taken prisoner by the People's Volunteer Army (PVA; Chinese) in the *Yangku* region of *Kangwon* Province. He was handed over to the Korean People's Army (KPA; North Korean) and sent to the *Woosi* POW camp, in *Jakang* Province.

There were approximately 400 South Korean POWs in the *Woosi* camp who had been captured when UN forces advanced deep into North Korea in the Autumn of 1950. All such POWs were repatriated to South Korea following the 1953 Armistice. However, 27 POWs including Choi, who were captured after the combatants had exchanged initial POW rosters were not repatriated. They were sent to the *Chilpyung* POW camp, and then assigned to Ministry of Internal Affairs Construction Brigade 1709. Choi as forced to work in the *Shinchang* coal mine in South *Pyongan* Province and the *Kokonwon* coal mine in North *Hamkyung* Province.

#### **Victim 24. Han, Jae Bok**

On July 12, 1953, Han was captured by the People's Volunteer Army (PVA; Chinese) in *Kumhwa, Kangwon* Province. He was held in the *Sepo, Kangdong, and Baekhak* POW camps, and then assigned to a Ministry of Internal Affairs Construction Brigade where he worked at the *Chunma* mineral mine. Later he was sent to the *Hamyon* coal mine.

He was always under surveillance by the State Security agency, so there was no time to meet friends freely, he said. Since he had to work hard and had to attend political lectures all the time, Han could not have any private time for himself or for his family. State Security agency spied on his family even when they had conversations on holidays.

Their neighbors would also spy on them. If more than two POWs gathered for a conversation, they could be arrested by the Stated Security Agency.

Han testified many POWs were killed while they worked in the coal mine. POWs were blamed for accidents and were either shot to death or taken away to an unknown location whenever accidents occurred. Han also testified that one would care if any of the POWs were killed. At one time, all the POWs who had held a rank higher than Staff Sergeant were blamed for hurting North Korean civilians during the war and taken away and never heard from again.

Han testified that the POWs always struggled with hunger and poverty. They would not be given enough to eat so they had to find wild roots which they boiled with their corn. From 1998, the government stopped providing food rations altogether. The POW families tried to survive by boiling corn husks. They would not have time to soak out toxins from the wild roots and if they ate such roots they would suffer from swelling.

#### **Victim 25 Huh, Jae Seok**

Huh was born in 1932, in *Jinyang* County, South *Kyongsang* Province. He was drafted into the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA; South Korean) in 1952 when he was 20 years old. During the Battle of *Kumsung*, in *Kangwon* Province, he was wounded and taken prisoner by the Korean People's Army (KPA; North Korean). He now lives in South Korea after escaping from North Korea. On Nov 18, 2008, he published his memoir about life in North Korea as a POW.

Huh was assigned to work at *Ah-Oh-Ji* mine until 1956. Huh testified that he was assigned to Ministry of Internal Affairs Construction Brigade 1701 and he believes