

## POW / MIA PROFILES

The purpose of the State POW/MIA Committee is to “provide increased awareness of POW / MIAs, to organize the Department and Posts’ POW / MIA activities and to provide education to the public”. To realize this duty a profile of a WI resident who is or has been classified as POW / MIA will be presented each month for your reflection. It is with great respect that we present this month’s Profile.

Another Wisconsin Veteran returns home ! The remains of 2Lt. John F. Lubben of Wisconsin Rapids has been identified and will be returned for burial with full military honors. 2Lt. Lubben, along with two other servicemen, Sgt. Albert Forgue of Providence RI and Sgt Charles Spiegel of Chicago IL have been missing since WWII.

These three men crewed an A20J Havoc aircraft operating out of Coullomiers, France. On Dec 12, 1944, they departed on a bombing mission to hit targets near Wallseifen, Germany. The aircraft was last seen in a steep dive near Cologne, Germany. Several searches of this area and reviews of wartime documents failed to provide information concerning the incident.

Fast forward to 1975 – a German company clearing wartime mines and unexploded ordnance near Simmerath, Germany discovered a gravesite to the northeast where American servicemembers were buried. The remains were evaluated by U.S. officials and determined they represented three individuals. No identification could be made at the time so they were buried as unknowns in the Ardennes American Military Cemetery in Neupre, Belgium.

In 2003, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) was notified that a group of German citizens had information linking the three servicemembers who were buried in Neupre to the A-20J aircrew. JPAC exhumed the three unknown graves in 2005. Scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA identification laboratory used dental records, mitochondrial DNA, other forensic identification tools, and circumstantial evidence to make identification possible.

On April 18, 2Lt. Lubben and the others will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The Committee thanks Jessika Erickson, Dept of WI HQ, for bringing this story to our attention. Please contact Tom Ingram, Chairman, State POW/MIA Committee at [tingram5@wi.rr.com](mailto:tingram5@wi.rr.com) or Robert Miller, Vice Chairman at [bmillerplake@charter.net](mailto:bmillerplake@charter.net), 262-279-6429 if you have any information to help our endeavor. Thank you !