

April 18, 1995

Mr. Bill Bell  
National Veterans Research Center  
c/o V.F.W. Post  
4209 Boys Ranch Road  
Lavaca, Ark. 72941

Dear Mr. Bell:

I read about your organization in the Legion Magazine and was so happy to hear of your research center as I've received no satisfaction through the years regarding my search for my late husband, Jackie Lee Cole, who is missing in action from the Korean war.

I tried to get his service record and was told they were destroyed in a fire in 1975. I requested assistance from the Dept. of Defense in 1951, but received little information.

I have some information as to his whereabouts at the time he became missing. My feeling is if I could obtain the name and address of his Lieutenant and ascertain whether he lived to tell the story (or became a prisoner or was killed) perhaps we would have at the least, a clue as to what happened to Jackie, as Jackie was a radioman and was in the same foxhole as his Lieutenant at least a few hours before his disappearance, if not at the very time of his disappearance. Here's how I know these things:

Jackie's best friend, Jesse Loder, was injured in the same battle. At that time, he asked the medics to take him to Jackie who was a few foxholes away from him. (In the accompanying letter to my mother, Mrs. Hunter, it states that Jesse "asked the medics how Jackie was" rather than taking him to him.) There is a discrepancy here; however, we do know that at 2 p.m. on October 10, 1951, Jackie was still alive. Then, according to the enclosed Chaplain's letter, he wasn't seen for some time prior to withdrawal.

Jackie's name was not listed on any POW list, yet the enclosed article was printed in the L.A. Examiner. It was felt at that time by his family that this was printed simply because he was missing and may have been a prisoner. I wonder if all the rest of those listed were actually proven to be prisoners? Also - I wish now that I had contacted Congressman Roosevelt to ascertain where he got his information. I do not know if James Roosevelt is still living.

I am enclosing all backup information for you.

The following is pertinent information on Jackie:

(See page 2)

NAME: PFC Jackie Lee Cole (Promoted to Cpl. on May 1, 1953 -  
after being declared MIA)  
DOG TAG #: US 56140567  
PLACE OF BIRTH: Pawhuska, Oklahoma  
DOB: April 11, 1929  
REGIMENT: 8th Calvary Regiment  
BATTALION: 3rd Combat Team Battalion  
DIVISION: First Calvary Division  
COMPANY: K  
BATTLE: Near Mago (or Mugo?) ri and Sinpo-dong.  
We're told it was Heartbreak Ridge.  
DATE OF BATTLE: Oct. 10, 1951  
HIS DUTY IN THE BATTLE: Radioman

Jackie's friend, Jesse Loder lives only about 60 miles from me. Shortly after Jackie's MIA status was declared, I graduated from high school and moved to Washington state. I didn't talk directly to Jesse, but my mother obtained information of his progress and the information in the enclosed letter (to Mrs. Hunter).

Several years after that, I remarried and started a family. Through the years, we didn't discuss my late husband and were caught up in "getting on with life" and raising our children. But I never stopped wondering about Jackie.

Now I am retired and reflecting on the past - and I wish that I had aggressively done more, but at that time, I did feel our government was doing everything they could to find him. My husband and I do share the concern for finding the missing pieces to the puzzle, which helps.

I tried contacting Jesse a few years ago, but he did not acknowledge my request to talk with him.

My heartfelt thanks to you for organizaing this much needed research center. Do you think you could help me?

I know there must be thousands who wish your help. Best wishes to you.

Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

  
Stella E. Fleming (Previously Stella I. Cole)

Phone:

(Usually here. Has recorder.)

Encs.

2  
K Co. 3rd Bn. 8th Cav

Public Information Office  
Hqs. 1st Cavalry Division  
APO 201, San Francisco

Immediate Release  
Miele/August 25, 1951

Independence, Calif.

WITH THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY, IN KOREA—(Delayed)—  
Private Jackie L. Cole, Independence; and Private Jesse E. Loder, Lone  
Pine, were in the honor guard at the United Nations' advance peace camp.

They are frontline soldiers with the 8th Cavalry Regiment's Third  
Battalion Combat Team, the armored-infantry-artillery force chosen for  
the special assignment.

The unit provided security for the historic peace camp, portions  
of the road leading to Kaesong—site of the peace talks—and also the  
correspondents' press train.

However, when daily guard duty was completed, the yellow-scarved  
Cavalrymen shouldered their battle equipment and went through several hours  
of rigorous training to improve fighting tactics.

On guard posts, the colorfully-uniformed Cavalrymen provided an  
impressive addition to the formality of the peace camp area.



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# WESTERN UNION

1301

**SYMBOLS**  
 DL = Day Letter  
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 NLT = Cable Night Letter  
 Ship Radiogram

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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GOVT. PD

WASHINGTON, D. C. 10:43 AM 31 OCT. 1951

MRS. STELLA I. COLE

INDEPENDENCE, CALIF.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR HUSBAND, PFC COLE, JACKIE L., HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION IN KOREA SINCE 10 OCTOBER 51. UPON RECEIPT OF FURTHER INFORMATION IN THIS OFFICE YOU WILL BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY PD. CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS.

WM. E. BERGIN, MAJ. GEN. USA, ADJ. GEN. OF THE ARMY

9:35 AM

Dear Mrs. Hunter.

I got a letter from  
Jack this morning and  
this is what he said  
about Jack.

About Jack Cole he was  
on the same hill as  
I was at about 2 o'clock  
in the afternoon when  
I got hit he was alright  
because I asked the  
medic he said he was  
over a couple of fox  
holes from me so he  
was alright when I left.

The Chinese take  
prisoners and send them  
to the rear and try to  
indoctrinate them to  
communism in some  
cases they come back

in about a weeks time  
when the Chinks turned  
them loose.

If Jack got hit they  
probably sent him to  
some hospital probably  
to Yongdong Co.

There is quite a mix up  
and confusion when they  
move all the fellows from  
the aid station - some go  
by jeep - train, helicopter so  
there one never knows  
what is going on.

I will try to get our platoon  
medics address and write  
him a letter maybe I can  
find out something.

Hope Jesse will be able  
to get the address. maybe he  
will be able to find out  
something more.

Margaret Stader.

Copy

Independence, California  
6 November 1951

Dear Chaplain:

This is an effort to assist a member of my church in obtaining more information about her husband, reported as missing in action.

Two men from this county were on "Heartbreak Ridge". One, Jessie Loder, was wounded on 10 October and returned to the states. He wrote to Mrs. Jack Cole (Member of my church) about seeing Jack on the 10th, I will copy the letter:

"About Jack Cole, he was on the same hill as I was at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when I got hit. He was alright because I asked the medic, he said Jack was over a couple of fox holes from me, so he was alright when I left. The Chinese take prisoners and send them to the rear and try to indoctrinate them to communism. In some cases they come back in about a weeks time when the Chinese turn them loose, If Jack got hit they probably sent him to some hospital, probably to Yongdong Po. - ..... I will try to get our platoon medic's address and write him a letter. Maybe I can find out something."

Mrs. Cole has no other information, Jack wrote her on the 9th--- then no word until the government "Missing in Action".

She is trying through the Red Cross and also by this letter to get more information. If you have access to some such information, or if you can get this letter into the hands of a Chaplain closer to Jack's group can you impart such information? Jack's address was

Pfs Jackie L. Cole  
U.S. 56140567  
Co. K 8th Cavalry Reg.  
1st Cavalry Division  
A P.O 201 ½ P. M.  
San Francisco, Cal

Mrs. Cole's address is Mrs. Stella Cole, Independence, Cali

Thank you graciously for any word you may be able to send Mrs. myself.

Sincerely yours,

Francis B. Baldwin  
Chaplain (Capt) USAFR

COPY

Independence, California  
Nov. 20th, 1951.

Adjutant's General Office,  
Casualty Branch, Dept. of Army,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: Pfc Jackie L. Cole  
U.S. 56140567  
Co. K 8th Cavalry Reg.  
1st Cavalry Division  
APO 201 # P. M.  
San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:

I am Mrs. Stella I. Cole, of Independence, California, wife of the above named Jackie L. Cole, who has been reported missing in action in Korea since 10 October 1951. Previous to the report of his missing in action he had been fighting on the "Heartbreak Ridge"- my last direct letter from him was dated 9 October 1951, in which he stated he was "going out".

Naturally I am quite concerned about my husband and have been informed by the Red Cross that any information I could submit to your branch of the service might be helpful in aiding you to trace him. Therefore, I am submitting to you what little I have been able to obtain about the circumstances under which he was last known to have been placed. This information is in the letter which Pfc Jessie E. Loder U S 56140590, now in Ward K-1 of the Letterman General Hospital of San Francisco, California, has sent to me. These two soldiers have been together continually while in Korea, and they were both local boys from our County previous to their entry into the service.

Enclosed also is a clipping taken from our local county paper "The Progress Citizen"- published by Chalfant Press, Bishop, California, which information they had copied from a Korean paper. I was unable to secure the original copy from the press from which this article was printed in our local paper. Neither myself nor Jack's family had any knowledge of his having been awarded the combat infantryman badge, until this article appeared in our local paper. The date he was supposed to have received it is not known here.

The Red Cross has advised me that it might be helpful if I were to suggest that you contact any other men who were in this same group that had been returned, since the group was small, and Jessie E. Loder was one member of that group also. They suggest also that I ask you to contact any medics that might have been in connection with the above named group, or any chaplain of the group.

Thanking you most kindly for any research you may be able to do and for any additional information which you may send to me, I remain,

Sincerely,

---

Mrs. Stella I. Cole  
Independence, California  
Box 114

HEAD QUARTERS  
10TH CAVALRY REGIMENT  
APO 201

4 February 1952

Mrs. Stella Cole  
Box 114  
Independence, California

My dear Mrs. Cole:

The following information in regard to your husband, Private First Class Jackie L. Cole, US56140567, who became missing in action on 10 October 1951, is forwarded in reply to a request from Chaplain Francis B. Baldwin.

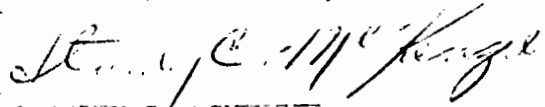
On 10 October 1951 Company "H" made a probing attack against enemy held hill positions in the vicinity of Sinpo-Dong, North Korea. This attack began about 10:00 AM and lasted until late in the afternoon when the order was given to withdraw to the main line of resistance. Jackie was seen at various times during the day as you have already been informed. However, no one recalls having seen him for some time prior to receiving the order to withdraw. Since no one knows what happened to him, he has been listed as missing in action.

I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that if at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under battle conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty. If I may be of any additional assistance to you, please feel free to call upon me at any time.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
FRANCIS B. BALDWIN  
Chaplain (Captain)  
Regimental Chaplain



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGPS-D 201 Cole, Jackie L.  
US 56 140 567 (20 Mar 52)

20 March 1952

Mrs. Stella I. Cole  
Box 114  
Independence, California

Dear Mrs. Cole:

I am writing you concerning your husband, Private First Class Jackie L. Cole, who has been missing in action in Korea since 10 October 1951.

Your husband became missing in action in the vicinity of Mago-ri, Korea.

If at the expiration of twelve months a missing person has not been accounted for, all available information regarding the circumstances attending his disappearance is carefully considered under the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, and a determination of his status is made.

Occasionally relatives and friends of a missing person receive personal communications from individuals who indicate that they have personal knowledge of the whereabouts or fate of the missing person. If you have received any such communications, it will be appreciated if you will send the originals, including any letters and envelopes received from the missing person together with a sample of his handwriting for comparison, and when they have served their purpose they will be returned direct to you. However, it is requested that you not send such items as newspaper pictures, clippings, or information from persons who do not have personal knowledge of the circumstances, as none of these contribute to the efforts of the Department.

The Department of the Army is mindful of the anguish you have so long endured and you may rest assured that, without any further request on your part, you will be advised promptly if any additional information concerning your loved one is received. Should it become necessary to establish his status in accordance with the provisions of the law cited, you will be notified of the findings shortly after the expiration of the twelve months' absence.

AGPS-D 201 Cole, Jackie L.  
US 56 140 567 (20 Mar 52)

You have my heartfelt sympathy in your anxiety and it is my earnest hope that the fortitude which has sustained you in the past will continue through this distressing period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. E. Bergin".

WM. E. BERGIN

Major General, USA

The Adjutant General of the Army

0418

NFS/abs

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (*Public Law 490 77th Congress*) as amended, upon direction and delegation by The Secretary of the Army, The Chief, Casualty Branch, Office of The Adjutant General, finds **Corporal Jackie L. Cole, US 56 140 567, Infantry** to be dead. He was officially reported as missing in action as of the **10th** day of **October** 19**51**. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the **31st** day of **December** 19**53**.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

**Wm. E. BERGIN**

**MAJOR GENERAL, USA**  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY

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