

# Hero of Seoul Death March Still Lost - - 'The Major'

Editor's Note—Pulitzer Prize winner Don Whitehead was a war correspondent in Korea at the time the story of the major about whom he writes here first came to light.

By DON WHITEHEAD

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Operation Big Switch has ended in Korea and still there is no word of what happened to "The Major"—the hero of a Communist-ordered death march from Seoul in the early days of the war.

His wife is still waiting after three years for someone, somewhere to end the terrible suspense of not knowing.

She is like thousands of other Americans who had a husband or a son or a father among the almost 8,000 men missing in action. She had hoped her man was still alive and would be among those freed.

### Still Hopes

Now she hopes there is someone among the returning prisoners who will be able to tell her the fate of her husband. There are undoubtedly hundreds of others with similar hopes.

Here is the beginning of the major's story. Perhaps someone among the returning prisoners might yet be able to write an end.

The major is William Thomas McDaniel of Ahsokie, N. C. and Albany, Ga. He was stationed at Camp Haugen in northern Honshu Japan, when the war began.

He was 35 years old, a graduate

### Rockets Used Early

Historians have concluded that the Chinese used rockets as early as 3,000 B.C. The rockets were of a black powder propellant type and used in fireworks displays.

In the early fifteenth century, a Chinese rocket-flight pioneer attached 47 large rockets to a chair, tied a kite on each side of it, strapped himself in, and had coolies light the rockets. He disappeared in a cloud of fire and smoke and was never seen again.

A&M has graduated 1,045 Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. About 90 per cent of the graduates go into private practice. Others are in research, teaching, and inspection. Only one per cent of these graduates have deserted the field.

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J. G. Potter,  
Head, Physics Department

Battalion

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of the U. S. Military Academy, class of 1941. He lived at Camp Haugen with his 27-year-old wife Helen and his two sons—then 4 and 3.

The war had been under way only a few days when McDaniel was ordered into Korea with the 24th Infantry division. He told his wife it would be best for her to take the children home to North Carolina until he could join them.

A few days after he left, Mrs. McDaniel received a letter. The major told her not to worry. Everything was going to be all right.

### Overrun by Reds

McDaniel reached the front about July 15, 1950. Elements of his division—commanded by Maj. Gen. William Dean—were fighting a desperate battle for time around Taejon. The Reds had overrun part of the artillery. Even Gen. Dean was down with his troops shooting at them.

McDaniel led a foray to recapture howitzers overrun by the Reds. He did, leading his men through a gantlet of enemy fire. And the McDaniel was captured only five days after he entered the fight. He never knew he won the Silver Star for his bravery and a promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

About three months later, he heard the story of McDaniel from survivors of a Red massacre at a railroad tunnel near the little town of Suncheon in North Korea.

The boys who escaped the massacre knew McDaniel only as "The Major."

### Wonderful Guy

"He was a wonderful guy," one of them said. "The major risked his own neck to get better treatment for us. He always gave us part of his food and shared his cigarettes and he took care of us as best he could."

McDaniel was forced to march from Seoul to Pyongyang with a prisoner group. Whenever a prisoner died on this death march—died of illness or a Red bullet in the head—the major insisted on a Christian burial.

He refused to go on until he had said a prayer over the grave. In each grave he left a bottle containing the name and serial number of the dead man.

A survivor said: "We never would have made it except for the major." And others who escaped agreed.

It was in October 1950 that the Reds put McDaniel and other prisoners on a train which was to carry them from Pyongyang to Manchuria. U. S. bombers attacked the train and it stopped in a tunnel to wait for the shield of darkness.

And there the Communist guards decided to kill their prisoners.

At dusk the guards told McDaniel to come with them—that they were going to get food for the

prisoners. The major left the train with his captors.

### Opened Fire

Then the guards took the other Americans from the train in three groups. As the boys sat in the fields with their rice bowls in their hands, waiting to be fed, the guards opened fire. We found 68 bodies. Somehow 22 youths survived that night of horror. And they told the story of the major.

"We never saw the major after he left the train," one youth said. "We don't know what happened to him."

For three years Mrs. McDaniel has been hoping someone will be able to tell her whether the major still lives—or what happened at the tunnel after he left the train.

She is living now in Williamsburg, Va. Both McDaniel boys, Tom and John, are old enough to go to school this year. And Mrs. McDaniel has decided to get a job.

"For a long time I couldn't bear to talk about what happened," she says. "But finally I knew I had to face reality. I still hope there will be someone coming back who can tell me something. Anything is better than this."

## Leaders' Qualities

(Continued from Page 1)

former student was very impressed with the sincerity of the friendly upperclassmen, and how much it meant to be a stranger.

5. The fifth characteristic is integrity. The leader must be fair in his dealings with his men. He also must be consistent and reliable in his decisions.

6. Technical mastery is an important point. The leader must know a little more about his role than the men under him if he expects to teach them anything.

### Must Be Decisive

7. At times it will become necessary for the leader to be decisive. He must weigh all the facts and make a fair and just decision.

8. Intelligence. He must be brighter than his men, and have a certain amount of "just plain common sense" in dealing with them.

9. The leader must teach skill. He can, if he is a good leader, pass on to others the work which can be handled by them, thus relieving himself of the actual performance. This leaves him more time to devote to the act of leadership.

10. A leader must have faith in people—confidence in them.

"As a leader, you will have to make decisions that will not be pleasing to certain elements in your followers," Dr. Morgan said. "If you give in and render a de-

cision pleasing to them, life at the moment will be easier, but the future will be rough. You have lost command.

"Keep in mind when you are dealing with your outfit that certain responses are meaningless unless they come from the individual and not as a command from you."

## Sophomores

(Continued from Page 4)

Sanford, agile enough to letter on the Wog basketball team last winter, has taken to the new job nicely. He's especially effective on blocking and defense. Engram, a 185-pounder who is 6-2, flashed promise in spring training and so far this fall looks like a real hand.

Right now, it looks as though Thompson and Sanford can man the left side with Crouch and Engram working on the right. Martin is about convinced they can get the job done. Curtis is still working at the spot but may return to halfback where his great speed could be used.

Several other newcomers have also drawn attention. One is Gerald Redus, a 185-pound fullback from Paris. The hard-driving sophomore has been very impressive and is given a chance to beat out seniors Sammy Morrow and Danny Hallmark.

## Underwater Television Will Snoop on Fish

By FRANK CAREY  
AP Science Reporter

MADISON, Wis.—(AP)—University of Wisconsin scientists will use a submersible television camera to snoop on the private lives of fish—and possibly gain information of aid to commercial and sport fishing.

They'll head out today on beautiful Lake Mendota, bordering the university campus, for the first American research trails of an underwater television system developed by the National Research Council of Canada.

The Canadian equipment was brought here for exhibition at the annual convention of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, which ends today.

The "pickup" camera itself is housed in a waterproof steel cylinder three feet long and 18 inches in diameter which is equipped with lights for illuminating the area in front of the camera.

The camera, lowered into the water by a small crane, is connected by a flexible conducting cable to a television screen on shipboard. An operator seated in front of the screen can maneuver the camera cylinder under the water

by manipulating controls on a panel near the screen.

Canadian demonstrators of the equipment said the apparatus has many possible applications, including commercial and naval salvage operations. They said biological explorations have been carried on with "excellent results" to a depth of 100 feet.

The Wisconsin scientists will use the equipment for several days.

"Conceivably," said Dr. A. D. Hasler, one of the researchers, "we might gain information that might not only aid fish production and management in this and other lakes where fishing is for sport but might also establish principles of value in connection with commercial fishing in the ocean."

He said the Wisconsin tests necessarily would be limited in scope because of the brief availability of the equipment, but he added:

"I believe that this new research tool would be of great aid in observing the spawning conditions in the springtime—something about which we know virtually nothing.

"Also, we won't know anything about the behavior of fish under the ice in wintertime. Some types are never caught in the winter. Where do they go? Maybe television will help us find out."

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