

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”. At Convention this year, a suggestion was brought before this Committee to submit on a monthly basis, a profile of a WI resident who is or has been classified as POW / MIA. The Committee has accepted this suggestion as an excellent means to fulfill our mission. It is with great respect that we present the first in our series of Profiles of WI Veterans.

PFC Robert Cahow, Clear Lake WI, 78th Infantry Division, was on patrol in Huertgen Forest, south of Aachen in western Germany, with his Company on DEC 13, 1944. As they were advancing on a bunker, he and others volunteered to retrieve dead and wounded. PFC Cahow was killed by a land mine during the action but his body was never found and he was listed as missing in action.

56 years later, a German ordinance-sweeping team helping to build a logging road, located PFC Cahow’s body by detecting the grenades he wore on a bandolier with a metal detector. Douglas Cahow, his brother and current member of Clear Lake Post 108, was notified that remains had been found with dog tags that were barely legible but may belong to someone named Cahon. The remains were shipped to Hawaii where they were identified by military experts to be that of PFC Cahow.

On June 4, 2001, American and German officials dedicated a memorial near the site where this American soldier had rested in an unknown grave those many years. A Plaque on the granite memorial reads, “Robert, we never did or will forget you”.

The Committee wishes to thank Douglas Cahow for providing this story about his brother. As Legion members it is our duty to never forget those who are listed as POW / MIA. There is a wealth of information available on the Internet concerning our POW/MIA service members. Please visit the following sites to learn more.

www.dtic.mil/dpmo

www.allpowmia.com

www.pow-miafamilies.org

www.pownetwork.org

Submitted by the POW / MIA Committee

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