



Ministry
of Defence

THE RT HON THE EARL HOWE PC
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

D/Min(Lords)/FH PQLW/17-19/2018/08377

4th October 2018

Dear Santa,

On 3 July, I undertook to write in response to your Parliamentary Question of 25 June (HL 8890) regarding an estimate of the number of UK Service personnel whose remains are still in North Korea, and what proportion this is of the total number of UK Service personnel killed in the conflict.

We have recently concluded an exercise to cross reference records in the UK and the British Embassy in Seoul of those personnel with no known grave, to confirm the number of personnel whose remains might possibly be in North Korea. From a total of 301 UK Service personnel with no known grave, I can now confirm the remains of 255 UK Service personnel are believed to be in North Korea. This represents 23% of the 1,129 Service personnel who died as a result of the Korean War between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954. The remaining 46 with no known grave were either lost at sea or buried at sea.

You may like to know that following the commitment of the US and the DPRK to recover Service personnel missing or killed in North Korea, the Ministry of Defence is offering the opportunity for relatives of UK Service personnel killed or missing in action in the Korean War to provide DNA samples to facilitate identification. We have launched an appeal through the national media and are also reaching out through regimental and Service Associations.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Freddie

THE RT HON THE EARL HOWE PC

Lord Alton of Liverpool CB
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

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Written questions and answers

Q Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

Asked on: 25 June 2018

Ministry of Defence

Lords **HL8890**

Korea: Armed Conflict

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have been held with the United States authorities about the repatriation of the remains of United States and British servicemen killed during the Korean War; what is their estimate of the number of UK servicemen whose remains are still in North Korea; and what proportion this is of the total number of UK servicemen killed in the conflict.

A Answered by: **Earl Howe**

Answered on: 03 July 2018

On 12 June 2018 President Trump and Kim Jong Un signed the Sentosa agreement, which included a commitment to recovering Prisoners of War - Missing in Action remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified. The UNC Military Armistice Commission have informed the UNC Sending States that a repatriation event for the transfer of remains will shortly be announced. Some of the remains may be from Sending States other than the US. UK and US officials are in discussion about the handling of remains that are demonstrated to be other than US personnel.

From 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954, 1,129 UK Armed Forces died as a result of the Korean War[1]. An exercise is currently under way to cross reference records in the UK and the British Embassy in Seoul of those personnel with no known grave, to confirm the number of personnel whose remains might possibly be in North Korea. I will write to the noble Lord when this work is complete.

[1] For deaths prior to 1984, Defence Statistics (Health) uses the AFM database and specifically the 'Theatre' field to identify all those personnel who died as a result of operations in a medal earning theatre