

KOREAN WAR PROJECT REMEMBRANCE



MAJ CHARLES TRACEY BARTER
Class 2-41

Silver Star - Bronze Star

63rd Field Artillery Battalion (105MM)
Headquarters Battery

24th Infantry Division

Hostile, Died While Captured (POW)

Date of Loss: July 14, 1950

MAJ - O4

Service Number: O-0451624

Mount Vernon, Indiana

Born: May 5, 1911

Major Barter was a member of Headquarters, 63rd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. He was taken Prisoner of War while fighting the enemy along the Kum River, South Korea on July 14, 1950, forced to march to North Korea on the "Tiger Death March", and died at An-Dong, North Korea on May 3, 1951. His remains were not recovered. Battalion Executive Officer as well as Battalion S-3 due to officer shortage.

MAJ CHARLES TRACEY BARTER

Posthumous Award of the Silver Star:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Major (Field Artillery) Charles Tracey Barter (ASN: 0-451624), United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a member of Headquarters, 63d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, in action on 14 July 1950 near the Kum River, Korea. Serving as Battalion S-3, Major Barter was in charge of the fire direction center, directing the Battalion's fire on enemy targets when the position was subjected to enemy ground attack on both flanks and from the rear. Disregarding his own safety, Major Barter continued to operate the fire direction center until it received a direct hit from mortar fire. Although wounded, major Barter supervised the destruction of the Battalion Command Post and led the personnel of the Battalion through an escape corridor to safety. After having reached a safe position, Major Barter returned to the Command Post area to collect wounded and stragglers. Major Barter has been missing since. By his gallant acts, Major Barter brought great credit to himself and to the military service.

General Orders: Headquarters, 24th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 107 (August 22, 1950)

Page 126 SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU, DISASTER AT THE KUM RIVER LINE:

The command situation for Colonel Wadlington continued to worsen as both the regimental S-2 and S-3 were evacuated because of combat fatigue. Then, that night, K Company, a composite group of about forty men of the 3d Battalion in such mental and physical condition as to render them liabilities in combat, was withdrawn from the Kum River Line with division approval and taken to Taejon for medical disposition.

There were now only two understrength rifle companies of the 34th Infantry in front of Kongju-L Company on the left and I Company on the right of the road on the river hills, with some mortars of the Heavy Weapons Company behind. These troops knew of no friendly units on their left (west). From the 19th Infantry on their right, Capt. Melicio Montesclaros had visited the I Company position and told the men there was a 2-mile gap between that flank and his outpost position eastward on the regimental boundary.

Shortly after daybreak of the 14th, American troops on the south side of the Kum at Kongju heard enemy tanks in the village across the river. By 0600, enemy flat trajectory weapons, possibly tank guns, were firing into I Company's area. Their target apparently was the mortars back of the rifle company. Simultaneously, enemy shells exploded in air bursts over L Company's position but were too high to do any damage. Soon thereafter, L Company lookouts sent word that enemy soldiers were crossing ...