



# Psychiatry in the Korean War; Perils, PIES, and POWs

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# Perils

- Task Force Smith
- Combat
- Cold
- Heat
- Chinese
- Capture
- Starvation
- Brainwashing
- Release



# Psychiatric Casualties

- Initial high rate of psychiatric casualties
  - leaving muddy foxholes for clean sheets
- Al Glass, psychiatric consultant visits Korea
  - Implements PIES principles
- Proximity, Immediacy, Expectancy, Simplicity
  - Lessons learned from WWI and II
  - Battle fatigue model



# Psychiatric Casualties

- Casualties varied with Army movements
  - Advancing or retreating, few casualties
  - Stuck in place, many casualties
- Frostbite
  - Preventable wound of war
  - Way out
- Capture by the enemy



He is the average American boy, just under 20, who was pulled from his malted milks and basketball scores to be wounded in Korea.



Back Down the Ridge, WL White

# PIES

- Proximity
- Immediacy
- Expectancy
- Simplicity



- BICEPS adds Brevity and Sleep
- Principles still used today

After three days of such treatment...one lanky mountain boy, who had arrived trembling and sobbing that he could never go back, sat silent for a minute. Then he stood up. “Hell,” he said, “I guess somebody’s got to fight this god-damned war,” picked up his rifle and started trudging back up the trail toward the sound of the guns.

Back Down the Ridge



# POWs

- Soldiers not trained for capture
- Racial tensions
- Brainwashing
  - Chinese captors emphasized inequality between races in US
  - Defections among US troops
  - Suspicion back at home
- Later led to SERE training
  - Search, evasion, resistance, escape
  - “I am an American fighting man”



# Questions/Discussion

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