

MATERIAL EVIDENCE REPORT: CILHI 1993-347-A-01

U.S. ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, HAWAII

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BACKGROUND

On 21 Dec 1993 the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea turned over osseous material purportedly recovered from Chongryang-ri, Chanjin County, South Hamgyong Province that was believed to be associated with unaccounted-for US military personnel. The CILHI received the remains and one item of material evidence on 23 December 1993, and the assemblage was designated CILHI 1993-347. The material evidence was segregated from the osseous material and sub-designated as CILHI 1993-347-A-01.

MATERIAL EVIDENCE

CILHI 1993-347-A-01 Metal canteen with cap n = 1

The accession contains one silver-colored metal canteen with black screw-on cap (Figure 1). The maximum dimensions of the canteen (including cap) are as follows: 18 cm in length, 12 cm in width (at seam), and 4 cm in thickness. The total weight is 271.0 grams. The body appears to have been made from two halves joined by a crimp seam along the horizontal axis: the upper half curves inward towards the collar, and the lower portion tapers slightly to a flat base. One side of the canteen body is concave and the opposing side convex. The convex side has a thin metal band attached at both ends to the area between the seam and the collar; this band most likely served as an attachment for a metal chain linking the body to the cap. Visible on the base (Figure 2) is the following information:

U. S.
G.P. & F. CO
1945

The black cap contains vertical ridges spaced approximately 1.1 mm apart, and has a smooth, circular depression in the center at the top (Figure 3). A small fragment of rusted metal protrudes from the center of the cap, which may represent a remnant of chain and the chain anchoring rivet. The canteen is in good condition, with a thin layer of brown soil adhering to the outer surface, and a slight amount of rust visible on the cap.



Figure 1. CILHI 1993-347-A-01, metal canteen. Scale is in centimeters.



Figure 2. CILHI 1993-347-A-01, base of canteen. Scale is in centimeters.



Figure 3. CILHI 1993-347-A-01, top of canteen with rusted metal visible within the center of the cap. Scale is in centimeters.

FINDINGS

The canteen is consistent in morphology to those in use by the US military during World War II, specifically one of the M-1910 models, which was made of stainless steel and began to be manufactured in 1943 (Lewis 1993). Although the M-1942 models with horizontal seams were manufactured around the same time, the two types of the model were made out of enamelled metal and a plastic called "Ethocel" (Lewis 1993: 208). Therefore, the CILHI 1993-347-A-01 canteen most closely resembles the stainless steel M-1910 model with the horizontal seam. The black plastic cap with vertical ridges is identical to the M-1910 model pictured in Lewis (1993: 208). The "1945" on the base of the canteen probably indicates the year in which the canteen was manufactured. Although the "G.P.& F. CO." stamp most likely indicates the company that made the canteen, no reference could be found that indicated the full name of the company.

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REFERENCES

Lewis, K.
1993 *Doughboy to GI: US Army Clothing and Equipment 1900-1945*. West Midlands, UK: Norman D. Landing Company Publishing House.