

# **MATERIAL EVIDENCE REPORT: CILHI 1998-073-A-01 Through 06**

**U.S. ARMY CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, HAWAII**

**15 September 2001**

## **BACKGROUND**

The material evidence accessioned into the Central Identification Laboratory under CILHI 1998-073-A-01 through 06 was recovered from Site 3b, Kujang-dong town, P'yongan-Pukto Province in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) during the 98-2KN Joint Recovery Operations between the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) and the D.P.R.K. Government. The area of the excavation correlates to a three-day engagement that took place from 26 to 28 November 1950.

**NOTE: This case relates to PFC Beondred Lathan of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Chongchon River in November, 1950.**

## **MATERIAL EVIDENCE**

The material evidence associated with the accession CILHI 1998-073 consists of the following items recovered from Kujang Town, D.P.R.K. and listed as A-01 through 06:

<b>CILHI Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Figure</b>
CILHI 1998-073-A-01	Metal Foil Fragments	n = numerous	1
CILHI 1998-073-A-02	Metal Tack "Burst of Glory" Buttons.	n = 19	2
CILHI 1998-073-A-03	Large Type II, Style 20 Military Buttons	n = 4	3
CILHI 1998-073-A-04	Medium Type II, Style 20 Military Buttons	n = 11	3
CILHI 1998-073-A-05	Small Type II, Style 5 "Cat's Eye" Military Buttons	n = 3	3
CILHI 1998-073-A-06	Small Type II, Style 1 Military Button	n = 1	3

**CILHI 1998-073-A-01**

**Metal Foil Fragments**

**n = numerous**

The accession consists of numerous fragments of silver colored metal foil. The fragments are small and wrinkled with a large amount of adhering brown soil. Some small black and green coloring is also present on the foil, possibly indicating the presence of printed writing or design. However no words are discernable and the foil is very friable.



**Figure 1. Numerous fragments of silver colored foil.**

**CILHI 1998-073-A-02**

**Metal Tack “Burst of Glory” Buttons.**

**n = 19**

Nineteen metal tack “Burst of Glory” buttons (Stanton 1992:86) are represented in various states of rust and corrosion (Figure 2). The buttons depict thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies of the union, on the face of the button. Each button has a diameter of 17 mm, with a post length of 7 mm and weighs 2.9 g. During the time period of World War II and the Korean War, these buttons were typically found on issued military field uniform pieces including trousers and jackets.



**Figure 2. Nineteen “Burst of Glory” thirteen-star metal-tack buttons.**

**CILHI 1998-073-A-03      Large Type II, Style 20 Military Buttons      n = 4**

Four large, plastic, Type II, Style 20, composite, American military buttons are present in this assemblage (see Figure 3). The diameter of each button is 29 mm and weighs 1.5 g. One button is broken into three pieces, while the other three are still intact. The buttons are military style Olive Drab (OD) green with some adhering light brown soil. This style of button is most often associated with military-issue coats, suits, jackets, overcoats and raincoats (Federal Standard Stock Catalog 1945:9-10)

**CILHI 1998-073-A-04      Medium Type II, Style 20 Military Buttons      n = 11**

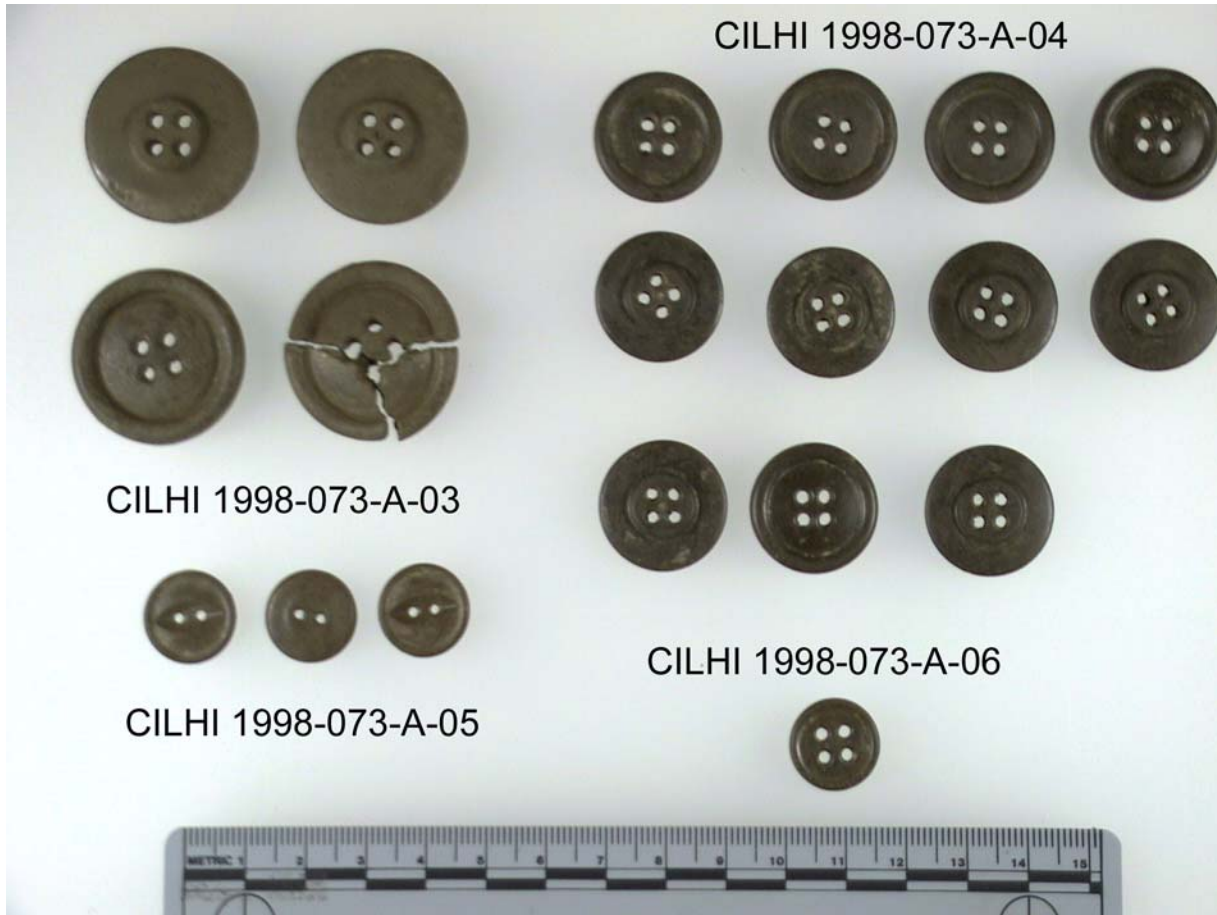
Eleven medium size, Type II, Style 20, composite, American military buttons are present in the collection (Figure 3). The buttons are OD green with some adhering light brown soil. Each button is 21 mm in diameter and weighs 1.2 g. According to the Federal Standard Stock Catalog Section IV, Specifications for Buttons (1945:9-10), this type of button was commonly used on military-issue coats, jackets, suits, overcoats and raincoats.

**CILHI 1998-073-A-05      Small Type II, Style 5 “Cat’s Eye” Military Buttons      N = 3**

Present in this assemblage are three OD green, Type II, Style 5, composite, American military buttons (see Figure 3) weighing 0.5 g each. The buttons are small, 15 mm in diameter, with a lozenge-shaped depression around the holes in the center. These are commonly referred to as Cat’s Eye buttons. These buttons were typically used on military-issue drawers, cottons shorts, sweaters and pajamas. (Federal Standard Stock Catalog 1945:8-10)

**CILHI 1998-073-A-06      Small Type II, Style 1 Military Button      n = 1**

One small, OD green, composite, Type II, Style 1, American military button is present, intact in this accession. The diameter of the button is 15 mm and weighs 0.5 g. There is a small amount of adhering light brown soil on the button. This type of button was commonly found on military issue coats, suits, jackets, overcoats, dresses, shirts, capes, skirts, raincoats, caps, sweaters and aprons. (Federal Standard Stock Catalog 1945:8-10)



**Figure 3. Nineteen plastic, OD green, military style buttons of various type and style.**

## **FINDINGS**

The items recovered by the CILHI excavations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot be positively associated with an individual or a specific event from the Korean War. Several items are consistent with being of American military-issue and are consistent with the purported time era of this loss. The metal tack "Burst of Glory" and all the plastic, OD green buttons are consistent with exemplars, diagrams, and metric specifications for Type II military issue buttons of the Second World War and Korean War era. The adhering soil and the amount of corrosion on the metal tack buttons suggests a period of exposure and burial for all items involved in this assemblage. None of the buttons can be positively correlated to a specific piece of military issue clothing as each button type was used on a number of different military-issue items.

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## **REFERENCES**

Federal Standard Stock Catalog

1945. Section IV, Federal Specifications for Buttons. (p. 86).

Stanton S.

1992. U.S. Army Uniforms of the Korean War. Stackpole Books: Harrisburg, PA. (pp. 8-10).