

ARNOLD CARLOS GALLOWAY MASTER SERGEANT U.S. ARMY

KOREA 1919 - 1951

WRITTEN BY JACOB KLINGER
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

DRAFT THIS IS A WORK-IN-PROGRESS
FOR TEMPORARY DISPLAY ONLY



Arnold Galloway as a sophomore at Toledo's Libbey High School, where his son also attended in the 1950s—after Arnold's death. *Ancestry.com*

Arnold Carlos Galloway was born on January 7, 1919, in Wren, Ohio, a small town of about 300 inhabitants. The son of Dennis and Annie Galloway, Arnold was the youngest in a family of 13, including four sisters and seven brothers. Arnold's father Dennis worked as a laborer digging irrigation ditches, while his mother Annie kept house. The children in the family were active in the Fourth Street Baptist Church, performing recitations and musical numbers in their community. By 1920, the Galloways had moved to the adjacent and larger town of Willshire with a little over 2,000 inhabitants. Fewer than a hundred of Willshire's residents, most of whom worked as farmers, were Black like the Galloways.

By 1930, the Galloway family relocated to Toledo, Ohio, where they settled in

the city's lower west side just as the Great Depression began to wreak havoc on the manufacturing sector that helped support many of Toledo's nearly 300,000 citizens. In 1931, Toledo's financial district froze \$100 million in assets when three of its four largest banks failed. Factory closures contributed to a staggering 25 percent unemployment rate. To make ends meet, Arnold's mother left the house to find work as a maid, while his father worked as a janitor at one of the city's few remaining banks.

Despite the city's hardships, Arnold and his family remained in Toledo. He attended Libbey High School in the city's south side through his junior year before leaving to find work as a general laborer. While classes at Libbey High School were integrated, few Black students participated in sports or other extracurricular activities. Along with other Toledo residents, the Black community benefited from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which President Franklin Roosevelt's administration inaugurated to provide employment opportunities during the Great Depression. WPA sponsorship and labor developed numerous projects across the city such as the main library, the Toledo Zoo, and the Glass Bowl Stadium. The program offered employment opportunities to all Toledo residents. While statistics do not categorize the laborers by race, many Black Toledoans found themselves among the ranks of laborers.

In 1938, at the age of 19, Arnold married Maggie Ola Whittaker. Tragically,

18-year-old Maggie passed away only 11 months later of peritonitis, an affliction of the appendix. The widowed Arnold was left to care for their month-old son, Arnold Jr. They returned to the home of his family, where no doubt the baby's grandparents and several of Arnold's adult siblings helped raise the child. Arnold worked at several jobs on road construction crews. The WPA sponsored numerous road improvement projects in Toledo. When he was not working on roads, Arnold Galloway served guests at the luxurious Commodore Perry Hotel in the downtown district. Arnold remained in Toledo with his family until news of the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, broke across the nation. The following month, on January 22, 1942, Arnold enlisted in the U.S. Army and served throughout the war.

At the time Arnold Galloway enlisted, the military was racially segregated. Between 1941 and 1942, the number of Black Americans serving in the armed forces grew from roughly 98,000 to 468,000. Wary of deploying many of these men to the front lines, the military created segregated engineer or quartermaster units for construction projects or to manage logistics—transporting supplies from the factory to depots and the front lines. While many Black servicemembers served in rear-echelon areas, the Army did create some segregated combat units such as the 92nd Infantry Division, which served with distinction in Italy, and the 93rd Division, which fought the Japanese on New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands before participating in the liberation of the Philippines.

Shortly after enlisting, Arnold arrived at the Army's new Camp Crowder in Neosho, Missouri, for training. The camp opened in February 1942 and Arnold would have been among its initial recruits. After completing his 13 weeks of basic training, the Army transferred Arnold to the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS) for which he likely underwent an additional four-week training at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. Here Arnold would have learned a variety of procedures from handling and storing chemicals for mechanized equipment—mainly aviation—to conducting chemical decontamination, or operating smoke generators to obstruct enemy targeting.

The Army created 75 racially segregated CWS companies, making it one of the largest service branches composed of Black troops after the quartermaster, transportation, and engineer units. Of these units, 41 deployed overseas while the remaining 34 worked at managing or producing chemical stockpiles in depots throughout the country. By April 1944, Arnold had received a promotion to sergeant, making him a senior enlisted man and a squad leader. Arnold served in this capacity until he returned to Camp Crowder, where the Army offered him an honorable discharge on October 22, 1945.

On October 23, 1945, the day after he received his discharge, Arnold

reenlisted in the Army. It is difficult to determine precisely what Arnold did, but it is likely he transferred from the Chemical Warfare Service to the Medical Department, where he was eventually stationed with Detachment Five at Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan. The Army established this extensive hospital outside of Fort Custer in 1943. It became the largest medical facility providing care to wounded soldiers in the years following World War II. During this enlistment period, Arnold received another promotion to master sergeant. Arnold concluded his enlistment term at Percy Jones General Hospital, earning an honorable discharge on October 22, 1948.

Arnold's time away from the Army was short-lived. By 1950, he had again returned to military service. How often he saw his young son, now 11 years old, during the 1940s is unclear. Arnold Jr. appears to have remained with family members in Toledo, living with cousins by the time of the 1950 census and graduating from his father's alma mater, Libbey High School, later in the decade. The Army, meanwhile, assigned Arnold Sr. to the 2nd Infantry Division's 9th Infantry Regiment, stationed at Camp Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. As demobilization sent millions of G.I.s home following World War II, the "Second to None Division" had remained relatively intact and became one of the five remaining units that formed the Army's General Reserve—a first response force amid the growing tension of the Cold War.

As the Army's postwar composition shifted, some officials began agitating against its longstanding racial policies. Seeking to fill personnel gaps and maintain the strength of these units—while White soldiers, sailors, and airmen streamed home to take advantage of the G.I. Bill—the Army expanded job opportunities for Black servicemembers, allowing a greater number to serve in specialized jobs such as the medical field. During this transitional period, Arnold found himself in the 9th Regiment's Medical Company undergoing training to become an aidman, or medic. While President Harry Truman had ordered the armed forces to desegregate in July 1948, Arnold's regiment still maintained the all-Black 3rd Infantry Battalion, one of only two segregated units remaining in the Division. Arnold likely served as an aidman in the medical company attached to this battalion.

On June 25, 1950, communist North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel to invade South Korea. Within days, the United Nations (U.N.) condemned the assault and sanctioned its member states to provide military assistance. President Truman authorized General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Far East, to mobilize available forces to counter the North Korean offensive. Lacking the necessary troop numbers in his own department, MacArthur turned to the Army's General Reserve and its 2nd Infantry Division to deploy to South Korea. On July 17-18, Arnold's

ARNOLD CARLOS GALLOWAY

9th Infantry Regiment began departing Camp Lewis aboard the USNS *General Morton* (T-AP-138). Two weeks later, the unit disembarked at Pusan, South Korea, where its first two battalions entered the front line along the Naktong River.

The all-Black 3rd Battalion, meanwhile, separated from the rest of the regiment and remained in the northern sector of the line around the outskirts of P'ohang-dong. The city was strategically important as a communications and logistical hub, connecting the eastern portion of the Pusan Perimeter with the rest of the U.N. defenses. On August 10, North Korean forces pushed towards P'ohang-dong, and in response the Army assembled the 3rd Battalion, along with some armored and artillery units, into "Task Force Bradley" to reinforce the sector. TF Bradley departed along the road through Kyongju to help defend Yonil Airfield, then the operating base of two American fighter squadrons of the 5th Air Force.

Advance North Korean elements used unguarded mountain passes to slip behind U.N. lines and set a nighttime ambush along TF Bradley's line of advance. In the ensuing fight, the 3rd Battalion had to fend off repeated North Korean attacks. Two of its companies were isolated and forced to fight independently until the rest of the task force could relieve them the following day.¹⁷ During the action the 3rd Battalion suffered heavy casualties with one of its companies reporting seven killed and 40 wounded in just a single afternoon. Despite these losses TF Bradley joined the defense around Yonil Airfield, where they remained, allowing fighter planes to provide close air support until the aircraft were relocated to a safer position two days later. The 3rd Battalion was withdrawn shortly thereafter and reunited with the rest of the regiment in the western section of the Pusan Perimeter.

Engagements like Kyongju were exhausting and dangerous affairs for Arnold. As a company aidman, Arnold served on the front line with his fellow soldiers, offering immediate medical treatment for any who fell wounded or became sick. During the Korean War, company aidmen served as the first caregivers in an intricate network of evacuation centers and hospitals the Army established to care for its wounded. After providing first aid, Arnold and his fellow medics would facilitate the wounded men's evacuation to rear areas for stabilization.

Early in the war, the Medical Department primarily relied on ambulances or trucks to ferry the wounded, but the process could be slow and difficult in Korea's mountainous terrain. To expedite evacuations, 8th Army medical personnel relied on helicopter pilots to pick up the wounded from temporary landing zones along the front line and ferry them to the rear. Typically, a wounded man would arrive at a battalion hospital behind the front lines or one of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units where an attending physician would perform triage and emergency surgeries. Depending on the wounded man's condition, he could return to his unit or go on to more permanent care facilities in Japan or the United States for specialized

treatment. As the point man, Arnold and aidmen like him were a wounded soldier's first bulwark in this lifesaving care system which reduced the fatality rate among injured personnel from 4.5 percent to 2.4 percent.

The 9th Regiment remained within the Pusan Perimeter until September, when U.N. forces landed behind North Korean lines at the port city of Inchon and enabled a general U.N. breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. The 9th Regiment joined this advance that quickly pushed the communist forces out of South Korea. By October, Arnold and his regiment had reached the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, where they paused for a brief respite before moving northward towards the Yalu River and the Chinese border, pushing shattered North Korean units before them in what appeared to be a war nearing its conclusion.

On November 25, however, Communist Chinese Forces crossed the Yalu in support of their North Korean allies and slammed into the advancing 2nd Division. Arnold's 9th Regiment suffered heavy casualties and withdrew in confusion, along with much of the rest of the division, back toward the Chongchon River—just north of Pyongyang.

Under relentless pressure from the Chinese and contending with the winter cold, Arnold and his comrades made limited progress as they tried to move south along the Kunu-ri-Sunchon Road. Along the route's hills and ridgelines, Chinese forces fired upon and attacked the retreating U.N. forces, inflicting thousands of casualties in what became known as the Kunu-Ri gauntlet. One soldier in Arnold's regiment reflected how "the sounds of enemy bugle and whistle signals became all too familiar" as the unit faced repeated Chinese assaults and sustained numerous casualties along the route. The fighting was intense as the Division's command report stated there was real concern the "[2nd] Division would be annihilated."

By the end of the retreat, the 9th Regiment's roster had fallen from 3,332 to 1,555 soldiers, a casualty rate of 46 percent. The 3rd Battalion, which conducted many of the assaults to break Chinese roadblocks, sustained 61 percent casualties among its personnel—most of them missing in action, their fates unknown in the chaotic rush to regroup. As the survivors of the 9th Infantry reached the relative safety of friendly lines, Arnold Galloway was not among them.

On December 1, 1950, Arnold Galloway was officially designated a Prisoner of War. Owing to the time in which he was captured, the Chinese likely sent Arnold on a long march northward to camps they were building along the Yalu River. Chinese and North Korean guards segregated their POWs by race and nationality. It is difficult to know for certain where Arnold was confined, but he likely ended up in Camp Number Five along the Yalu River, which housed hundreds of Black American POWs. Conditions were miserable as cold weather and poor nourishment plagued the POWs, making it difficult for medical men such as Arnold to care for themselves and others. Gene N.

Lam, a fellow Army medical worker and POW, commented that "although I was a physician, there was nothing that I could do since there was insufficient food and no medicine. All we could do was to eat whatever was available, from weeds to rats. Our job was simply to survive." Of the 7,140 American POWs held during the Korean War, 40 percent did not make it home.

On February 4, 1951, a little over two months after he entered captivity, Arnold Galloway died of malnutrition at the age of 32. Due to the ongoing conflict, Arnold remained on the Army's list of men who were missing in action (MIA), leaving his family with few answers regarding his status. It was not until August 17, 1953, after the armistice ended the fighting in Korea, that Communist authorities revealed Arnold's fate.

Arnold's remains stayed in North Korea for two more years until U.S. officials secured their release. On September 8, 1955, Arnold Carlos Galloway's body was reinterred in Grafton National Cemetery, section A, site 53. Of his immediate family, Arnold is the only one buried in West Virginia. For his service, Arnold received the Prisoner of War Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea Presidential Citation, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Lieutenant General Julius Becton (1926-2023) also served in the 9th Infantry Regiment and fought in many of the same battles as Arnold Galloway (and another WV National Cemeteries Project veteran, Frank Collins).
U.S. Army photo



SOURCES FULL BIBLIOGRAPHY TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL VERSION

SOURCES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Full bibliographies will be included in the final draft of each biography, available later in the summer of 2024.

The West Virginia National Cemeteries Project is a program of the West Virginia Humanities Council, funded in part by the Veterans Legacy Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and initiated in 2021. All biographies produced as part of this program are composed by West Virginia high school students, who conduct original research on veterans interred at the Grafton National Cemetery or the West Virginia National Cemetery, both of which are located in Grafton, Taylor County, West Virginia.

As home to one of the nation's first National Cemeteries—founded shortly after the Civil War—the community of Grafton has longstanding traditions of honoring America's veterans, including the longest continuously celebrated Memorial Day parade in the United States. The Grafton National Cemetery, located in the heart of the city and founded in 1867, is typically the endpoint of each year's parade. Since the Grafton National Cemetery began to run short of space during the 1960s, the West Virginia National Cemetery was dedicated in 1987, just a few miles outside of Grafton.

The West Virginia Humanities Council is proud to thank the following organizations for their participation in the West Virginia National Cemeteries Project: West Virginia Archives and History, the West Virginia University history department, Taylor County Historical and Genealogical Society, Taylor County Public Library, Grafton High School, and University High School.

Please refer comments or questions to the West Virginia Humanities Council
 1310 Kanawha Blvd E, Charleston, WV 25301
wvhuman@wvhumanities.org
www.wvhumanities.org
 304.346.8500



Veterans Legacy Grant Program
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 Washington D.C.

