

rans Memorial, which honors veterans who died service-related deaths. The stories are published as

Remembering Howard J. Landry

"We really clobbered that hill!" AP newsman Hal Boyle quoted 1st Lt. Howard J. Landry in an Associated Press release after one highly successful mission over Korea.

But on March 17, 1951, Landry's F-80C Shooting Star fighter plane along with its jet fighter pilot never returned to base. His buddy, flying in the same 36th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, reported looking over and witnessing Landry's plane in a dogfight with an enemy MIG jet. As both planes collided they exploded in mid-air. There was no sign of ejection of either pilot.

Landry's fierce determination and the success of 111 missions with the 8th Fighter Bomber Group instilled in him the "do or die" attitude.

So die he did as his life ended instantly at 24 years young.

Landry descended from Swiss-French parents. As teenagers in 1894, his father and two uncles ran away from their Switzerland home and stowed away on a ship bound for the United States. They never returned to their native land.

The youngest of six children, Landry grew up on a farm near Wisconsin Rapids. Education was high on his parents' list of priorities. He attended elementary grades at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School and graduated from Lincoln High in 1944 with top honors.

Landry joined the U.S. Air Force in 1945 and took much pride in serving his coun-

try. He was awarded the Air Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

He was engaged to be married to a local girl and was looking forward to coming home on furlough the following month. Yet he chose to sacrifice a future family he might have had for the security of other lives in America.

Might 1st Lt. Howard J. Landry be remembered in the quote of Gen. John J. Pershing: "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

— Written by Betty Lassa