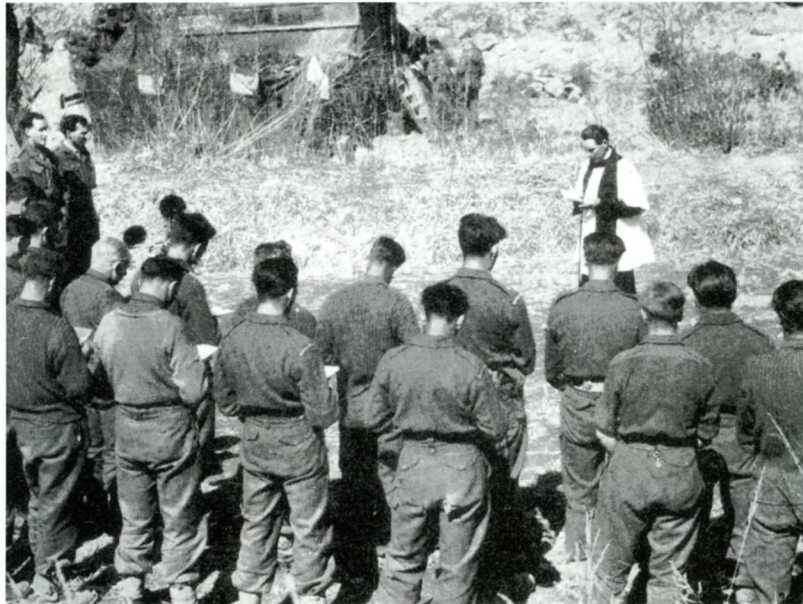




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THE REVD STANLEY JAMES DAVIES M.B.E.(Military) PRESIDENT OF K.M.P. 2001 - 2009



Fr. Sam Davies conducting Sunday service for the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment, before the battle of the Imjin River.

Fr Stanley James Davies, always known as Sam, died on 15 March, aged 91. Born in Liverpool in 1918, he attended Allsop High School, Liverpool and went on to Durham University to read Theology and prepare for ordination at St Chad's College. Ordained in 1941, he served his title at St Margaret's Church, Anfield, going on to Wigan Parish Church in 1942, before joining the Royal Army Chaplain's Department, where he served for 28 years.

Fr Sam, who had a lifelong interest in the Korean Church, first went to Korea during the Korean War as chaplain of the 1st Battalion, Gloucester Regiment. The 'Glorious Glosters' made a heroic stand against Chinese forces at the Imjin River a few miles north of Seoul, where, hopelessly outnumbered, they gallantly held on to the ridge, known as Gloucester Hill, for three days. During these three days Fr Sam was in the thick of the fighting, ministering to the wounded, praying with the dying and helping recover the bodies of the fallen. The bloody action enabled the main Chinese attack on Seoul to be stemmed.

Fr Sam and the medical officer elected to go into captivity with the wounded and he was heard to say "It looks like a holiday in Peking for some of us". For the 370 who were captured it meant a 600 mile march over six months to Pi-chong-in Prison Camp near the Chinese border, mainly undertaken at night to avoid detection by UN aircraft. On first being interrogated Fr Sam was contemptuously informed that the Chinese had "no Geneva Convention" and that the British soldiers had been duped by American imperialists.

