

EP-007

**얼어붙은 전장에서의 얼굴개방손상:
장진호전투에서의 안시중위**

(An Open Face in Frozen War: Lt. John Yancey, the Chosin Reservoir, and the Origins of Modern Maxillofacial Trauma Care)



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[The injury: A clinical reconstruction] Lt. John Yancey sustained a high-velocity facial gunshot wound with extensive midfacial destruction and orbital involvement during the extreme conditions of the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Despite severe and immediate risks of hemorrhage, infection, and airway compromise, he survived due to the sparing of critical vascular and neural structures as well as the paradoxical effects of environmental vaso-constriction.

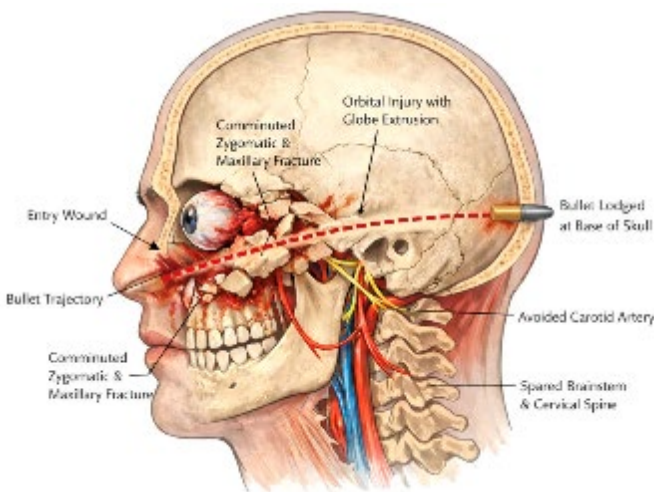


Fig. 1. Schematic reconstruction of Lt. John Yancey's maxillofacial gunshot injury at Hill 1282, illustrating projectile trajectory, comminuted midfacial fractures, orbital violation, and spared neurovascular structures.

[Self-first aid without training] Without formal medical training, Yancey manually repositioned his extruded globe and continued combat operations while maintaining situational awareness and

command. This response reflects an instinctive form of damage control, prioritizing functional preservation and mission continuity even in the setting of catastrophic facial injury.

[Evacuation and surgical lineage] Survival depended not only on individual resilience but also on evolving evacuation systems and surgical principles established during the World Wars. Core principles such as debridement, staged reconstruction, and infection control enabled survival, with restoration of function consistently prioritized over aesthetic considerations.

[Beyond technique: Ethics and identity] Facial trauma challenges identity as well as anatomy, as the face serves as the primary medium for recognition, communication, and social interaction, deeply tied to personal identity and societal perception. Yancey's case emphasizes that reconstructive success lies in preserving dignity and functional capacity rather than merely restoring external appearance, highlighting that true recovery includes psychological and social reintegration beyond physical repair.

[Lessons for contemporary craniofacial surgeons] Wartime cases such as this provide critical insight into the origins and fundamental purpose of craniofacial surgery as a discipline, shaped by necessity, urgency, and limited resources. They remind modern surgeons that the field was founded not for aesthetic refinement, but to save lives and preserve essential function under conditions of extreme scarcity and urgency, offering an enduring ethical framework in an era increasingly influenced by elective and aesthetic priorities.



Fig. 2. Photograph of Lt. John Yancey (1918–1986) taken in 1986. It shows his appearance 36 years after injury.