

Not 'A Forgotten Victory'

After many issues of The Graybeards, I finally have to disagree with the statement "America's Forgotten Victory" on KWVA 's magazine.

I was a combat soldier with the 3rd Recon of the 3rd Infantry Division. I served on the MLR for almost one year in the Iron Triangle, Chorwan Valley and other areas. Fortunately, I survived some enemy ambushes and being killed or captured by the enemy.

I do not believe the Korean War was a victory. My belief is that this "conflict" was a humiliating military defeat. At best it should be called a "stalemate." As is well known, an armistice was declared, and it still is the case.

Even though South Korea was spared, we did not free North Korea. We advanced all the way to the Yalu River. We eventually retreated to the perimeter of the area of Pusan. Later on, after a bitter battle and negotiations, the war ended in a compromise.

Even though we advanced to the 38th parallel, we failed to defeat the North Korea and Chinese forces and regain North Korea. As I see it, it was the first war that America lost. This loss set the pattern as evidenced by the Viet Nam war.

I have studied many books and videos concerning the Korean "Police Action." I also write from firsthand experience, as well as reading some authors' views about the egregious mistakes by President Harry Truman, General McArthur, and some members of his Chain of Command. Their decisions caused the inexcusable loss of lives of many American and UN soldiers.

In no way are my thoughts meant to denigrate the wounded, killed, and captured soldiers who fought so bravely against such horrendous odds in this "conflict." I am sure there will be some veterans who will disagree with my conclusions, but I sincerely believe the Korean Conflict was a defeat and not a "victory!"

A very significant book, Bloody Snow, by Dr. Robert Jensen, reveals how President Truman sold the American military "down the river." On pages 51 and 52 he details how the war was lost even before it began.

President Truman made a deal with Prime Minister Clement Atlee that the UN forces would never invade China's territory. All veterans know you cannot win a war if you can't chase the enemy to their source of supplies. The UN pilots were not to bomb the bridges over the Yalu River. Our engineers, while attempting to build roads on the North Korean side of the Yalu River, could not return fire even though they were being fired upon from the Chinese side of the river.

Soon after writing this letter, I read The Graybeards and was surprised to see the top photo on page 29 of the March-April issue concerning the USAF graduation. The bottom of the photo states, "Korea—The Unresolved Conflict." Maybe this is a fairer statement than mine, "Korea—The Unforgotten Defeat."

Maybe one reason this was forgotten is because it was a defeat.

*William M. Ingbretsen, 14 Boardwalk Lane
Lexington, SC 29072-9461, (803) 808-6593*

Tour News

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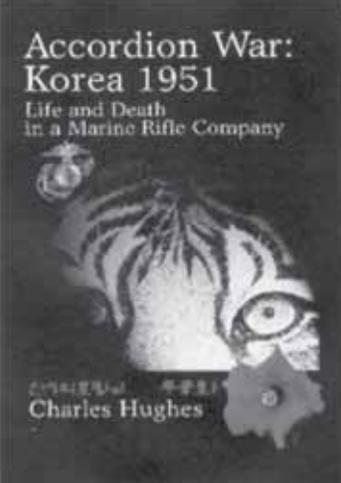
Remaining 2009 dates: 13 - 19 September and 19 - 25 October

Notes:

- September will be over the Incheon Landing Anniversary, 15 September
- Air Force veterans will have priority in October, since this is the 60th Anniversary of the ROK Air Force. A special Air Show will be included.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn,
Revisit Korea Coordinator, KWVA



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Accordion War: KOREA 1951

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Korean War Project Newsletter

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Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or material for publication, in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net