

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

September-October 2020
Vol. 34, No. 5

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Veterans Day

November 11, 2020

HONORING
ALL WHO
SERVED



70th Anniversary Edition

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

In loving memory of General Raymond Davis, our Life Honorary President, Deceased.



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WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur, M.A./C.A.G.S.

We had a busy month despite the COVID. Secretary Harold Trieber and I made the trek to Wreaths Across America (WAA) in Columbia Falls, Maine (on our own dime). We presented WAA Founders Morrill and Karen Worcester a KWVA plaque and KWVA Challenge Coins for their service to our nation's veterans. WAA gave the KWVA its own plot of trees of over 300 acres—and more, if needed.

These trees are tagged in the new KWVA plot with you or your loved one's dog tag. The tags are created by WAA free of charge and placed on a tree that will be trimmed every three years. The wreaths that are placed on our nation's veterans' gravesites come from those trees. You can go the WAA website and fill out a form to place a dog tag of your Korean War or Korean Defense Veteran on your tree. Make sure you put "KWVA plot" on the form.

We have created new recruiting tools for the chapters which include new and improved KWVA Membership applications. You can call Membership Secretary Sheila Fritts and get 100 free applications for your chapter. To complement the applications, new recruiting chips can be purchased at the office for a very low price.

The chips have our website and membership phone numbers on the edge. They can be given out to potential members or new members. I traveled to Chapter #267, Gainesville, FL and presented not only the new KWVA Tell

New KWVA 70th Anniversary Challenge coins were created with an image of Colonel Bill Weber in 3D on the back. The coins will be available for a small price for the members through the membership office.

America Posterboards, KWVA applications, KWVA decals and KWVA Challenge coins, but also 2 new KWVA Recruiting Chips to 2 new members who joined that night. A KWVA Award of Excellence was presented to the chapter for community service and its outstanding honor guard. The next day, after they posted the meeting on Facebook, another member joined the chapter. He served in Korea in 1972-73.

New KWVA 70th Anniversary Challenge coins were created with an image of Colonel Bill Weber in 3D on the back. The coins will be available for a small price for the members through the membership office.

Masks were distributed throughout America compliments of the Korean Veterans Association, Seoul, Korea, and the Military Patriots and Veterans Affairs. KWVA National Director Michele Bretz coordinated the distribution of 540,000 masks with Steven Lymox at the VA Logistics Warehouse in Charles City, VA. Michele did an outstanding job, considering that none of us were given a heads up on the situation. The KVA also made a \$10,000 donation to the KWVA. We thanked the Korean Veterans Association and KVA Chairman General (Ret.) Kim with KWVA plaques,

KWVA challenge coins, and framed letters of appreciation.

The KWVA National Board Meeting will be conducted at the Naples Grande Hotel on October 26-29. It will be strictly voluntary. We will be voting on the KWVA National Membership Meeting in 2021.

KWVA D.C. Representatives and National Directors Warren Wiedhahn and Rocky Harder presented our \$10,000 donation for the Korean War Veterans Wall of Remembrance to Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Founder Colonel William Weber at his home in Maryland. A KWVA Lifetime Achievement Award and several of the new KWVA 70th Anniversary coins in which Bill is featured were also presented. Fred Lash was present to take photographs.

I encourage you to support our raffle and "like" our Facebook page. We have over 51,000 likes on our Facebook page and it has helped us tremendously with recruiting new members, getting donations, and selling our products during this pandemic. We update it almost every day.

We need all our members to recruit. Many of our members are passing. Some chapters have members who have not joined the KWVA National. Chapter officers, please encourage them to pay their national dues.

I encourage all our members, both Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans, to submit articles of your service to *The Graybeards*, so our members can hear of your experiences.

*In Comradeship,
KWVA National President
Jeffrey J. Brodeur, M.A. / C.A.G.S*

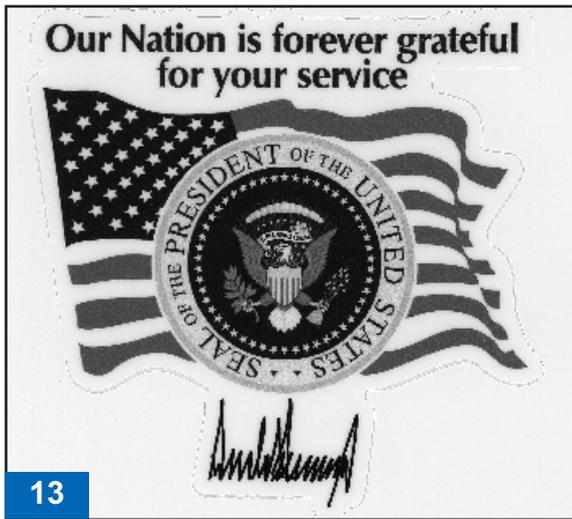
THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be received by the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

- Jan-FebJan 15
- Mar-AprMar 15
- May-JuneMay 15
- July-AugJuly 15
- Sept-OctSept 15
- Nov-DecNov 15

COVER: The official 2020 Veterans Day poster provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (modified to fit).

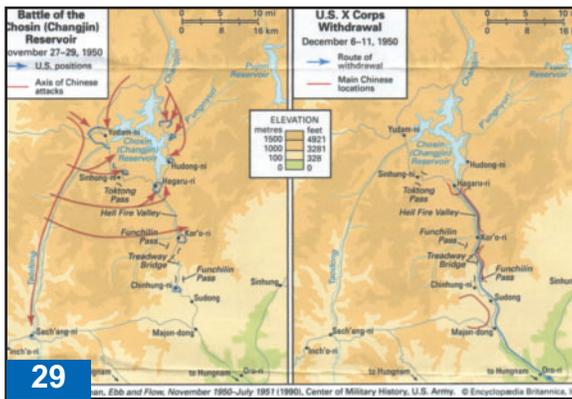
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70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS REGISTER FOR 2021 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)



**CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE**



*COVID-19 ended the Korea Revisits before they started in June this year.
Above Veterans at a ceremony in front of the War Memorial of Korea.*

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN
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CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2021 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, INC. (KWVA) positions: The offices of three (3) DIRECTORS. The DIRECTORS will serve 3-year terms: 2021-2024.

Any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Co-Chair of the Elections Committee, Tom Cacy, in writing, using the format below. **All applications and required documentation must be received no later than December 15, 2020.**

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

A. Present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the application form for verification by the Elections Committee (no fee required).

B. Present a current photograph in which the applicant is the central feature and which is suitable for publication in *The Graybeards*.

C. Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

- Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.
- Your current mailing address, telephone number, email address, availability, and KWVA membership number.
- A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without a Meeting, and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.
- A statement that your dues are current through the entire term of the office that you are seeking. Note: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the Association.

D. Send the above items by USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the Elections Committee Chairman, to arrive not later than 5 p.m. EST 15 December 2020.

NOTE: Scanned documents and pictures sent by email will be deleted. Applicants are requested to contact the Elections Committee Chairman if they have any questions.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Application packages and questions are to be addressed to: Tom Cacy, Elections Committee Chairman, 18207 Newcliff, San Antonio, TX 78259.

For sample letters refer to previous copies of *The Graybeards* (Jan/Feb 2020). If you do not have a copy of this issue, go to KWVA.us, scroll down the left side, and click on *The Graybeards*, online archives for past issues.

THE ELECTION PROCESS

1. The Elections Committee certifies the candidates who are qualified to stand for office.
2. The letters and photos of the certified candidates are then sent to the membership office for review and forwarding to *The Graybeards* for publication.
3. Members cast their ballots and mail them by May 11, 2021 to the Membership Office address printed on the front of the ballot.
4. The Membership Office verifies the eligibility of members to vote in the election, counts the ballots, reports the results, and sends the ballots to the CPA for verification.
5. The results reported by the CPA are then verified by the Elections Committee.
6. Copies of the completed and verified tally sheets are sent by certified mail to each board member and to each candidate for office.

National KWVA Fund Raiser

Flower Rose of Sharon

The Rose of Sharon is the National KWVA fund raising flower. The Rose of Sharon is sold by the dozen.

- Sample order is 5 doz. @ \$15 plus \$7.90 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$55 plus \$14.35 S/H.
- Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$2.75/doz. plus \$19.95 S/H
- Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$2.25/doz. plus Shipping

Write or call: Sheila Fritts, PO Box 407
 Charleston, IL 61920-0407
 Phone: 217-345-4414
 Email: membership@kwva.us
 Make Checks payable to: KWVA



What did 'the wife' really think?

Canadian Asks To Stay on Korea Father-Son Team

By the Associated Press

SOMEWHERE IN KOREA, Feb. 22.—A veteran Canadian soldier has volunteered to stay in Korea for six more months so he and his son can go home together on rotation.

"I don't know what the wife will think," the father said, "but I believe she will understand. The lad and I have been seeing each other for months now and we'd like to finish it out together."

The father, Pvt. John J. Wheeler, 46, and son, Pvt. John, Jr., 22, both are serving with the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. They are from West Selkirk, Manitoba. (Washington D.C. Evening Star, Feb. 22, 1952, p. A-5)



From the Secretary

Harold Trieber



Wreaths Across America dedicates parcel to KWVA

“The mission of Wreaths Across America is to REMEMBER our fallen U.S. veterans, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH our children the value of freedom.”

This past July I had the honor to visit Wreaths Across America [WAA] with our President, Jeffrey Brodeur. We were both on vacation. I was in Eastport, Maine and Jeff was on Cape Cod. WAA is located in Columbia Falls, Maine, some 65 miles south of Eastport and 6 hours by car from the Cape. We had the honor to present a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation to WAA founder Morrill Worcester and Karen Worcester at the WAA Museum, and honor one man’s tribute to our veterans.

WAA believes that it is not enough to just place wreaths on graves. WAA has made it their mission to honor every veteran both past, present and future, with a lofty goal of one day placing a wreath on every veteran’s grave. WAA has made great leaps and bounds each year through the efforts of so many individuals across the world. The goal to honor all of the men and women is something that is within reach.

Each December 13th, on Wreaths Across America Day, wreath-laying ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,000 other locations in all 50 states. Ceremonies are held at sea and abroad as well.

It all started during the holiday season of 1992, when the Worcester Wreath Company found itself with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Morrill Worcester, remembering his childhood experience visiting Arlington National Cemetery, realized he had an opportunity to honor our country’s veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snow he made arrangements to place wreaths in an old section of Arlington.

This practice continued with lots of outside help until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington adorned with wreaths went viral on the internet. The annual trips to Arlington and the

groups of volunteers eager to participate in the wreath laying event grew each year. It became clear the desire to remember our country’s fallen heroes was bigger than this one company could satisfy. The iconic image of the wreaths on the stones at Arlington prompted the formation of Wreaths Across America as a non-profit 501-[c][3].

In 2008 over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state and overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans’ graves with the help of over 60,000 volunteers. On December 13, 2008 the U.S. Congress voted by unanimous consent the day as “Wreaths Across America Day.”

In 2014 WAA and its national network of over 700,000 volunteers laid wreaths at more than 1,000 locations. The organization’s goal of covering all of Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths. The wreath laying continues today to remind people how important it is to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH.

WAA has various other programs to honor our veterans, e.g., a “Thank You Card” program to honor our nation’s heroes. It also has a “Memory Wall” on the WAA website. These two avenues of honor allow families to keep the memory of their loved ones alive. The Wall has over 50,000 names on it.

Jeff and I had the honor to place the first dog tags of two Korean War veterans on the new 100-acre parcel of balsam trees that the WAA donated to the Korean War/Korean Defense Veterans as a part of the Remembrance Tree Program. WAA will be erecting a memorial to identify the KWVA parcel at its cost.

We at KWVA can help in this effort, as there are many national cemeteries around the country that still need support in this great endeavor to honor our veterans. For more details on their programs go to WAA’s website, wreathscrossamerica.org.

Harold Trieber, National Secretary



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2021 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

16 Feb-1 Mar VN War: Friends & Families

20 Feb - 4 Mar Tet Offensive/I-Corps

SOLD OUT! 22 - 29 Mar Iwo Jima

17 - 30 Apr VN War: "Saigon to the DMZ"

17 - 30 Apr VN War: Friends & Families

HIGHLIGHTED TOUR: 1 - 7 May

Civil War "North To Gettysburg"

Bull Run—Gettysburg—Antietam

22 - 31 May WWI US Battlefields France
Doughboys & Devil Dogs

27 May - 9 Jun 77th Anniv of D-Day &
Battle of the Bulge & Paris

1 - 9 Jun 77th Anniv of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

12 - 25 Jun Cathedrals of Northern France

1 - 11 Jul Russia

15 - 29 Aug Germany—
Rise & Fall of the 3rd Reich
Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg

29 Aug - 7 Sep D-Day &
Battle of the Bulge

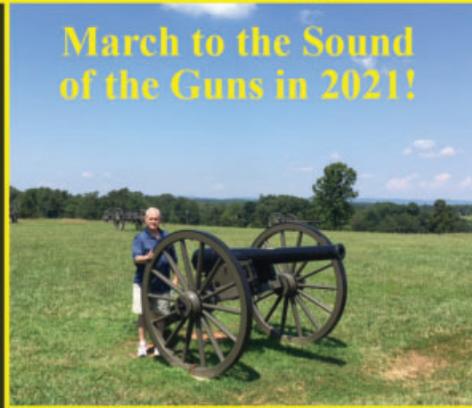
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of the Guns in 2021!**



Flashback to the 1952 presidential election

One of the main topics of debate during the 1952 presidential campaign between Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson was the Korean War. Remember this?

Eisenhower:

On June 5, 1952, he said: "I do not believe in the present situation there is any clear-cut answer to the present Korean War. We are there to support a principle. I don't think it would be possible for our forces to carry through a decisive attack, but I do not believe that we can in the ideological war we are waging retreat from the area we occupy...I believe we have got to stand firm and take every possible step we can to reduce our losses and stand right and try to get a decent armistice out of them."

Stevenson:

"One thing is clear to me. The war won't be settled in

Korea. The right address in Moscow. We all know...that the Korean War is part of a larger struggle, that it is but one aspect of the Soviet drive for world domination.

"This struggle is directed from Moscow. The men in Moscow are not yet ready for an armistice...They do not like an armistice on the honorable terms we have offered, for an armistice on those terms would mark a big setback in their drive for world domination.

"Just as the Korean War is part of this larger struggle, so does an armistice in Korea have implications for them that spread far beyond Korea."

While Eisenhower and Stevenson engaged in their political rhetoric, Americans continued to fight and die in Korea. They had no choice in the outcome of the election or the peace talks. That is the nature of war and politics.



Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



LETTER OF APPEAL FROM THE KWVA CO-CHAIR, ELECTION COMMITTEE

KWVA Elections for 2021-2024 Directors

The reason for this letter is two-fold. First, to remind our membership of the importance of voting in our upcoming elections for the position of National Director for KWVA for 2021-2024. And second, to remind you that these positions are open to all members in good standing with KWVA. If you believe that you can impact the national scene as one of the directors, please send in your application. (Instructions for applying are found in this issue.)

As we are all aware, 2020 has been a challenge is just about all aspects of our lives. Impeachment hearings, demonstrations and rioting in the streets, the cancellation/postponement of sports, political ads for the upcoming November national elections and finally, COVID19 has affected everyone in

one way or another and the KWVA has been no different.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. 2021 is just around the corner and change for the better must and will be taking place. One of the changes happening for 2021 is elections for three new directors of KWVA. As directors, we meet semi-annually to discuss issues impacting the membership and formulate informed decisions to ensure KWVA continues to be the best organization for those who have served to both protect and defend the Korean Peninsula.

So, what exactly are the responsibilities of a National Director? I quote from the Standard Procedures Manual for KWVA: RESPONSIBILITIES: 2.3.4.1 The Director, along with the other officers of the Board, shall be responsible for establishing the policy within which the Association shall func-

tion. The directors shall collectively control the Association's property, be responsible for its finances, and direct its affairs.

As you can tell from this paragraph, the position of National Director oversees all aspects of the management of KWVA. It is extremely important to ensure only individuals who have the best interests of the Association in mind be elected for these positions.

So put a reminder on your calendar. Deadline for sending in an application to become a candidate for a position as National Director is December 15, 2020. And VOTE!!! Ballots will be in the January/February 2021 issue of *The Graybeards* and voting must be completed by May 11, 2021

Tom Cacy, Co-Chair
KWVA Elections Committee

MIAs ID'd

Below is the up-to-date list of the remains of U.S. Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 09/15/2020. All the warfighters listed were members of the U.S. Army.

- Sgt. James N. Stryker, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Inf. Rgmt, 2nd Inf. Div., 5/18/1951, SK
- Pfc. Bobbie Ray Daniels, Co. F, 2nd Bn., 5th Cav. Rgmt., 1st Cav. Div. 8/16/1950 SK
- Pvt. Donald A. Fabrice, Co. B, 19th Inf. Rgmt., 24th Inf. Div. 7/16/1950 SK
- Sgt. Jesse "Johnnie" D. Hill, Co. C, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div., 12/2/1950 NK

NOTE: According to the DPAA, as of 9/15/2020 there were 7,572 unaccounted for personnel.

LEGEND: NK = North Korea; SK = South Korea; SFC = Sgt. 1st Class;
ANC = Arlington National Cemetery

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.kwva.us

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LEGEND: IMO = In Memory Of; NMS = Non Member Sales

NEWS RELEASE

**Korean War Veterans Association Voices Support for
National POW/MIA Recognition
Day and the Personnel Accounting Effort**

September 18, 2020—Washington, DC

The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) is proud to observe and celebrate the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The KWVA pledges its assistance and full support to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)'s personnel accounting effort for the Korean War and as well as other past wars and other military operations.

As stated by KWVA president Jeff Brodeur, "Because the U.S. still has more than 7,500 Korean War military personnel unaccounted for from the Korean War, which includes more than 5,300 American remains in North Korea, the KWVA is fully supportive of the noble mission of the DPAA and is proud to be among the many veterans service organizations (VSO) that stand behind it as it continues to strive for a full accounting of all Americans." Brodeur continued to state that, "Our nation's ability to bring home our fallen heroes is a national commitment, but it is extremely limited by the lack of resources and the cooperation of our former enemies particularly in the case of the Korean War. It is also affected by dwindling numbers of eyewitnesses who can provide information useful in identifying possible incident sites, among other factors."

That is why the Korean War Veterans Association has been partnering with the DPAA and its predecessor organizations to work with foreign governments to help American researchers gain access to foreign military officials, applicable archives, and persons knowledgeable of the locations of battlefields where remains might still be buried.

The KWVA urges Congress to continue its support for the Department of Defense personnel accounting effort and provide DPAA with the necessary resources to expand its search and recovery operations world-wide. It also requests that legislators fully support efforts that would lead to the resumption of remains recovery operations in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the future. We encourage the DPRK to repatriate any U.S. or allied remains that they may have unilaterally recovered.

An unfortunate reality of military engagements is that sometimes service members are held against their will as prisoners-of-war or are killed-in-action and buried in remote and unmarked battlefield locations or near POW camps.

The KWVA recognizes the importance of its involvement in DPAA activities and the responsibility that this country has to ensure the fullest accountability for its missing service members.

In closing, Brodeur said, "As president of an organization that consists of many veterans who fought in the Korean War and those who served in the defense of the Republic of Korea after the war, I am honored to pledge the KWVA's support to the DPAA. I promise that we will continue to play a strong role toward accounting for fallen servicemen, whose remains were left behind enemy lines during the Korean War and all other wars or military operations."

How the Korean War affected American farmers

No doubt the last thing many service members serving in the Korean War had on their minds was how it would affect farming. According to the Montana Farmer-Stockman, February 1, 1951, p. 18, the farmers were in for good times. Here's an excerpt from an article titled "Produce All You Can: You're not likely to lose. You'll do great service."

"As we entered World War 3, and recent events seem to indicate that is exactly what we have done, we have more people, more employment, and more money to spend than at any other time in our history. The inevitable result on the prospective war economy will be an even greater inflationary pressure than during World War 2.

Prices, Costs Will Rise

"The effect on farm and ranch operations is not difficult to foresee. For 1951 and until this war ends, it is certain that the demand for farm products will increase and prices received will thus rise. At the same time farm costs are also almost certain to rise. This is important in planning 1951 operations: costs of production may very well rise as fast as receipts with the result that net income may be no more than in 1950.

"The reasons for this are fairly obvious. Already there is a shortage of metals, and prices are high and rising. Thus farm machinery, equipment, tools, etc., will become scarce and high priced. The same situation probably will hold true of many other production items such as fertilizers.

"Farm labor, too, will be in critical supply. Military authorities are asking now for a 3,500,000-man army—with no exemptions for farm youth. To make matters worse in the labor picture the low birthrates of the 1930s are now catching up with us. The relatively few boys born in the early 1930s are now the source of manpower for the armed forces.

High Prices, Scarcity

"The best guess for advice to farmers and ranchers in looking ahead for 1951 thus seems to be this: Prices will rise but so will costs, so plan now for high prices and scarcity of production goods.

"In short, produce all you can. It will be difficult to lose, financially speaking, and you will be doing your country a great service."

**All Chapter and/or Department news
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Stop the firefight: I didn't pay my taxes[©]

The last thing a warfighter should have to ask in the middle of a scrap is "Did I pay my income taxes?" Ironically some have been put in that position. Government bureaucracy never ceases to amaze me.

Read Frank Barron's story on p. 19. There he was aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer off Wonsan firing at the North Koreans and wondering about what tax forms to file, when to file them, or even if he had to file them. One would think such issues would be unnecessary when you're in the military—especially in combat. One would be wrong.

In that same story he mentioned the \$300 per tree charge levied by the South Korean government against interlopers who destroyed one accidentally. Who was in charge of that program?

I empathize with Mr. Barron. I may have run afoul of the tree program back in 1959, and the income tax and draft registration laws affected me as well when I was a young Marine. Such situations are comical now, but they weren't then.

I was seventeen years old when I enlisted. Therefore, I was too young to worry about the draft registration law. It took four years for my local draft board to figure out that I had not registered. So, in 1962, a month after my four-year active duty tenure was over, I received an invitation from the board to chat with them. I responded dutifully so I could play with them.

The inevitable question arose. "Why didn't you register when you turned eighteen?"

My answer was simple: "I was practicing helicopter assault landings at Vieques."

"Why?" the dude asked.

"Because the U.S. Marine Corps issued me an invitation to participate," I explained.

"Oh, you were in the military?" he

I was seventeen years old when I enlisted. Therefore, I was too young to worry about the draft registration law. It took four years for my local draft board to figure out that I had not registered.

asked. That man was quick on the uptake.

"Yes," I responded. "I didn't have time to register for the draft. I hope that doesn't mean I have to enlist today, does it?"

That ended the conversation. It was a moral victory for me. Score: Art = 1; Bureaucracy = 0. (58 years later the score is approximately Bureaucracy = 942; Art = 1. I stopped counting at 942.)

Income tax wise, same thing. I was seventeen. What did I know about the IRS? I couldn't even spell IRS. I was earning like \$105 a month. So, I figured I was exempt from income tax. The country wasn't going to get rich on my earnings. Neither was I. I didn't file for four years. After I was discharged the IRS got in touch and asked why I hadn't filed for four years. I explained, the IRS laughed. Two problems solved.

I have no idea how the tree issue was resolved, if it was. Our battalion carried out an amphibious landing in Turkey in October 1959. Our mission was to show the flag to the Russians, who probably were not concerned. We were tactical during the day most of the time, but not at night.

Weather-wise the days were beautiful: mostly dry with temperatures in the 70s. At night they dropped into the mid-30s. We carried a poncho and one blanket in our field transport packs. It got a bit chilly at night. Well, Marines learn to adapt, improvise, and overcome. So we adapted, improvised, and overcame—at some Turkish farmer's expense.

We were bivouacked near a large field covered by black trees that looked pretty barren to us. Problem solved. We cut down enough trees to build fires that

kept the chill away, by which time the Russians were probably laughing. We cut; the field grew emptier and emptier. By the time our seven-day exercise was over and we returned to our ship, there wasn't a tree to be seen. We thought we had done someone a favor by clearing the land. Nope!

Turns out we had destroyed some farmer's olive tree forest. We never knew for sure who—if anybody—paid for those trees. And we never admitted to cutting them. But, at the going rate of \$300 a tree the total had to be steep. If we had known that the policy was in place we would have counted the trees as we chopped them in order to facilitate the accountants tallying the sum. Anything for the sake of good foreign relations.

So, does the U.S. military have a Department of Tree Compensation in place? If I ever go back into the "Corps" I would like to get assigned to it as branch manager. After all, I feel guilty about the olive trees that "fell due to unknown causes" back in 1959 and I would like to atone for my fellow Marines' lack of dendrology awareness.

And, while I am at it, I have a question about another blurb in Mr. Barron's story: the one about U.S. soldiers having to pay \$300 out of their own pockets for each South Korean who they kill accidentally. The set price for killing a tree or killing a person was the same? Was that policy established by the Department of Tree Compensation? Please let us know.

Meanwhile, pay your taxes and register for the draft. You never know when not doing so will come back to haunt you. And, eat plenty of olives. You never know who that will help.

1,127 Days of Death

This is part III of a four-part chronology of those killed during the Korean War. When reading this article please keep in mind, as in Part I which ran in the Jan-Feb 2020 issue, that these numbers are only U.S. deaths during the war. UN and ROK deaths are not included as part of this series.

By *Anthony Sobieski*

April 1951 – 1,224

April 1951 saw a marked increase in air operations throughout the month. There were 1,224 deaths during the month in Korea. With this increase came the inevitable deaths of young airmen. Bomber crews greatly added to this number, as one aircraft being shot down had a crew of sometimes 3, 4 or 10 men on board.

The first few days were relatively quiet, with single deaths occurring in multiple units across the front. This was neither be the first nor the last time this can be noted. April 4th was the first day to show an uptick in combat deaths. The 5th Regimental Combat Team lost 23 men killed while fighting around the hamlets of Tumon-Dong, Kumji-ri and Painmal, while the 27th Infantry Regiment lost 13 KIA during the 25th Infantry Division's Yongpyong River crossing. These actions took place at the beginning of Operation Rugged, which officially started on the next day to secure phase Line Kansas. April 4- 5 were days on which death took its toll from almost every walk of military life.

The 4th proved to be another day when leadership has its price, as the Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 312 commander was hit by AAA and bailed out near Hwangju, North Korea. He died of his wounds. And, on April 5th the 1st Cavalry Division HQ Company chaplain, a battalion surgeon, 2 medics, and 2 soldiers, were killed by a single booby-trapped land mine.

As the month progressed, air crew losses continued to mount. 31 men, along with their assorted aircraft, were destroyed in the first ten days. April 12th was a hard day for B-29 crewmembers in Korea, especially those of the 93rd

Bombardment Squadron. On what came to be known as Black Thursday, a formation of three B-29 squadrons was attacked by Mig-15s, which shot down two B-29s and forced a third to crash land, with the total loss of 23 men. One of those killed was the commander of the 93rd Bombardment Squadron. His death was a chance occurrence, since he decided to be a ride-along observer on the mission.

Meanwhile, Operation Rugged continued into the second week of April until it slowly petered out. Losses from Rugged were mostly small numbers of men from a number of different units across the front. Rugged lasted through April 13th. During that timeframe there were four regiments that suffered the most.

The 23rd Infantry Regiment lost 24 men KIA. There were 26 dead in the 21st Infantry Regiment, 20 from the 7th Cavalry Regiment, and 40 men of the 17th Infantry Regiment gave their lives fighting for small villages with names like Taehung-ni, Tanjang-ni, Oron-ni, Chiaegol, Umyang-ni, Morumegi, and a host of other not-so significant places on the push to secure Line Kansas.

Almost immediately after Operation Rugged came to a close, Operation Dauntless began. Troops launched it on April 11th to secure phase Line Utah. It lasted roughly another two weeks. This operation was an extension of Operation RUGGED, designed to push the front line north and solidify it. The offensive tactics of the U.S. forces involved, along with the defensive efforts of the CCF, continued with Dauntless as they did with Rugged. Because of this, the small

KIA counts spread through numerous units continued for the American regiments and attached units.

As U.S. units moved north, there were scattered engagements which brought small groupings of combat deaths. A few examples of the small daily KIA that affected units suffice. On April 16th the 27th Infantry Regiment lost 8 men attacking Hill 486, which was north of Yongbyong, and the 24th Infantry Regiment lost 9 men, also in the area of Yongbyong. The 19th Infantry Regiment endured the worst during this time. On April 12th eleven of its men were killed outside Uijongbu. Another 23 men killed while on the attack near Kalmal-Myon.

April was proving to be a tough month for close-in air support by those flying F4U Corsairs. Bombing runs, strafing runs, and reconnaissance were tough duty for those U.S. Navy and USMC flying units in April, with 20 pilots and their corresponding machines being shot down. This was the highest monthly total for any type aircraft serving in Korea for the whole of 1951.

April turned out to be the biggest monthly attrition rate for the entire year, with 56 aircraft of varying types being shot down or crashing. Many of these air crew, as was common for this period of the war, are still listed as MIA or KIA-Remains not Recovered.

The remainder of April was dominated by the CCF First Spring Offensive, considered by some to be the largest battle of the war. American participation involved a total of six U.S. divisions. Beginning on April 22nd, the two major battles of this offensive were the Battle of the Imjin River and Battle of Kapyong. While both of these battles included a large participation (and loss of life) by United

Please turn to **CHRONOLOGY** on page 67

Bombing runs, strafing runs, and reconnaissance were tough duty for those U.S. Navy and USMC flying units in April, with 20 pilots and their corresponding machines being shot down. .

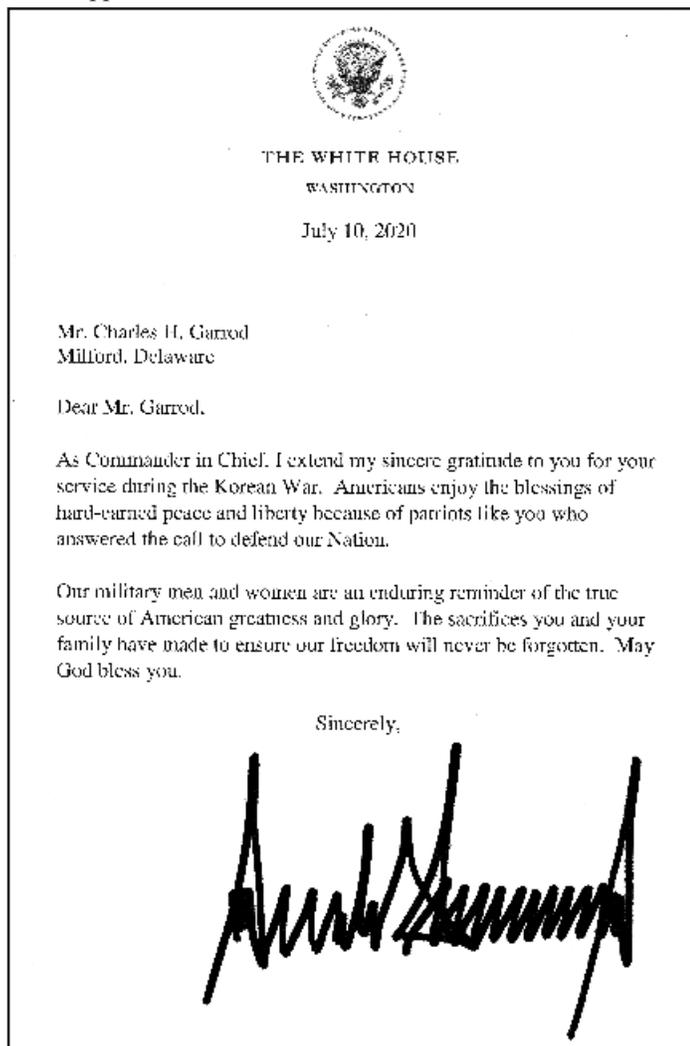
Members in the News



Milford, DE Korean War veteran receives letter from President Trump

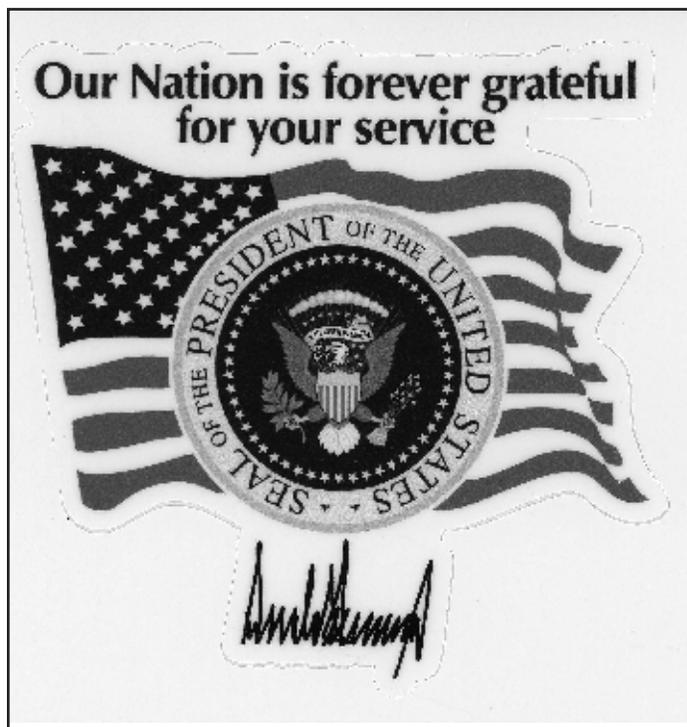
On July 24, 2020 U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran Charles Garrod gathered his mail. He normally gets a lot of it, so large envelopes are not a trigger of interest. A large manila envelope with the return address “The White House” caught his attention. He opened it with interest, but no expectations, since fundraising requests often come in such envelopes.

You can imagine his surprise when he saw a letter with the recognizable signature of President Trump. The letter began with “As Commander in Chief, I extend my sincere appreciation to you for your service during the Korean War.” It continued with more supportive statements.



The letter from Pres. Trump to Charles Garrod

Garrod said, “I recall my brain slowing down as I asked myself what this was about. Even today I am having a difficult time accepting the fact that I received a letter from the President! I have never heard or seen press coverage of any Korean War veteran receiving such a letter.”



The stamp on the letter to Charles Garrod

Charles spent many years in politics in New Jersey in the past, but he knows that twenty years ago is a lifetime in the political world, so his day of recognition is long gone. And, he thought, “I have never spoken to anyone in the White House about anything, not even the Korean War, so why would I get this letter?”

The sad thing is, he revealed, “I have no one to talk to about this letter.” Still, Charles believes, “My recognition of the Korean War is a tribute to all Korean War veterans.”

Moreover, he thought, the timing of the letter was auspicious. He received this letter just before the anniversary date of the signing of the Armistice.

In retrospect, Charles speculates that the letter may have been triggered by his project of getting all 50 U.S. governors to issue a proclamation for their state to declare June 25th as “Korean War Remembrance Day.” Charles found 24 volunteers to request such a proclamation from their state. He stills needs 25 more volunteers and is working on that quest.

Charles Garrod, chasgarrod@gmail.com

Monika and “Mom” talk about the Army Museum

Capt. Monika Stoy, U.S. Army (ret) and her mother, Hae Sook Choi, appeared on WJLA, the local ABC affiliate for the greater Washington DC area, on August 7, 2020 to speak about the National Museum of the United States Army. Monika spoke eloquently about hers and her husband’s commitment to the museum. Her husband is LtCol Tim Stoy, U.S. Army (ret). Watch the clip at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFqp9MR1i3g&feature=youtu.be>.



WELCOME TO OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

This edition of *The Graybeards* begins our commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Please note the word “begins.” There will be a Part II. So, if your contribution does not appear in this issue it will be in the next...or the next.

When we invited folks to submit their memories and opinions of virtually all aspects of their Korean War experiences we did not know what kind of a response we would get. We should have known better. KWVA members—and nonmembers—have always responded well to such invitations. This time was no exception.

We received long stories, short stories, opinions about the war and how it was conducted, photos, sketches...all of which contributed to the advancement of our knowledge of the Korean War. Seventy years later, and we are still learning more about the history of the war.

This is one of the times when we wish we had more than eighty pages to fill. But, we don't. So, we will continue our Anniversary Special with the next edition.

Thanks for your outpouring of stories, opinions, memories, etc. You make the editorial staff's job easier. Enjoy the results of your collective contributions.

Korea/Corea/Chosen: A Long History by Any Name

By John Dennis Hannigan

The country of Korea has a long Asian history. In January 1911 the Empire of Japan occupied the Country of Corea, called Chosen in Japanese, and changed the name to Korea. The Japanese Occupation continued for the next 34 years under the Japanese War Slogan “Asia for the Asians.”

During the Japanese occupation of Korea, the Japanese military built a railroad so that it could move its personnel and materiel from the south to the north. The railroad started in the south in the village of Yong-Dungpo, crossed a railroad bridge over the Han River north to the 38th parallel, crossed another bridge over the Imjin River, and continued north to Pyongyang. The Japanese occupation of Korea ended with the Pacific Campaign of World War Two. The Empire of Japan surrendered on August 25, 1945. A peace treaty was signed in Tokyo Harbor with the U.S., beginning the post-war Occupation of Japan.

It should be noted that President Harry S. Truman did not allow Josef Stalin, the leader of Russia, to participate in the signing of the Japanese peace treaty. Stalin was an ally of the west during the European Campaign against Germany's Adolph Hitler. But, he turned against them when they entered Berlin, Germany, thereby dividing Europe into Eastern Europe, under Stalin, and Western Europe, under the western allies.

In 1945 Korea was divided at the 38th Parallel into two countries, North and South. The U.S. Army sent troops to Korea to round up Japanese military troops in the south. Stalin and his Communist partner Mao Zedong supported Kim Il-Sung in the north as President of the Democratic People's Republic.

The U.S. sent a Military Advisory Group [K MAG] to support the civilians of the south. Stalin sent Russian advisors to the north to train the North Korean People's Army. In 1946 Kim Il-Sung attempted to eliminate the 38th Parallel Division by unification of Korea. The peace talks failed. Stalin defined a battle

On June 25, 1950, Kim Il-Sung's North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the south, overrunning the K MAG positions and capturing or killing Americans.

plan to invade the south and the Russian advisors continued to train the North Korean People's Army in accordance with that invasion plan.

In 1948 the Republic of Korea (South Korea) was established, headed by Sigmund Rhee, a North Korean born in Pyongyang who escaped communism and fled south and eventually to Japan. He was befriended by the United States. In 1948, he applied for a passport to return to the Republic of Korea, which was granted. He became the first South Korean president. Rhee left during the Korean War and returned after the armistice and served the South Korean government until 1960.

On June 25, 1950, Kim Il-Sung's North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the south, overrunning the K MAG positions and capturing or killing Americans. They quickly moved south. On June 27, 1950, the United Nations activated its military forces to support the United States, which sent troops there from Japan. In retaliation, Chou En Lai amassed 200,000 Chinese troops on the Chinese side of the Yalu River, across from North Korea, in preparation for entering the Korean War in support of Kim Il-Sung.

The Korean War lasted over three years, with thousands of casualties on all sides. In January 1953, the North Korean People's Army and the Chinese military wanted to end the war, but Stalin said no. The war continued. He died in March 1953, which led to the beginning of peace talks between the United Nations and the North Koreans at Panmunjom within the DMZ. Eventually, on July 27, 1953, an armistice went into effect. However, no peace treaty ending the Korean War was ever signed.

I served in Korea with I Corps in 1957 and 1958. There were a couple of alerts due to the infiltration of the North Koreans across the DMZ into South Korea, including a hijacking of a civilian Air Korea plane with both Korean civilians and American pilots on board. An assassination squad was stopped by President Sigmund Rhee's security detail in Seoul, and other DMZ incidents.

There was the *USS Pueblo* crisis of January 23, 1968, when the crew was taken prisoner for a year before being released. One man was killed in the attack by the North Korean ships. The Navy Communications and Cryptographic systems were compromised. The crew members endured punishment from which they still suffer health issues today. The *USS Pueblo* remains in North Korea today.

June 25, 1950

By George V. Lampman

In June 1950, Sergeant George V. Lampman, USMC was a member of the Marine Security Guard (MSG) detachment at the newly established U.S. Embassy in Seoul, Korea. The detachment numbered twenty Marines in all. George was at the U.S. Embassy when, on June 25, 1950, North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea.

Backtracking a bit, these 20 Marines who would eventually serve in the first MSG detachment at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, Korea were selected from approximately 70 Marines, mostly veterans of World War II. They reported to Henderson Hall in Arlington, Virginia on November 10, 1948 and were trained for several weeks by State Department security officers in Washington, D.C. Then they were taken to a local clothing store to be fitted for civilian clothes (suits, overcoats, hats, shirts, etc.).

George should know—he is the only living member of that twenty-Marine MSG detachment. The reason they had to be outfitted with civilian attire is because they would not be able to wear Marine Corps uniforms where they would be going. They were also ordered not to tell anyone where they were to be assigned.

The twenty Marines arrived at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on January 9, 1949. It is interesting to note that they arrived in Korea without uniforms, military identification cards, or dog tags. On November 10 of that same year, the detachment held its first Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Seoul, with more than 300 guests.

Next came routine security duties and time passed rather quickly—until Sunday, June 25, 1950 when, at 8:45 a.m., the MSG learned that North Korean forces had crossed the 38th Parallel at approximately 4 a.m.

The following is an account by CWO George V. Lampman, USMC (Retired) of the actions and events that occurred on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of June 1950.

“On Sunday, June 25, I was the Embassy Security Officer and had the midnight to 8 a.m. watch. About 4:30 a.m. I started getting telephone calls from various people asking me what was going on in the north and what I had heard. Even newspaper reporters were asking the same questions and I just told them that I did not know anything.

The U.S. sprayed Agent Orange along the DMZ to reduce the foliage in 1968, so that the 2nd Infantry Division military troops patrolling there could encounter the North Korean military infiltrating it. Troops stationed there still suffer from health issues related to Agent Orange.

Yes, in 2020 the Korean Peninsula is still a combat area. Hundreds of Korean Defense American troops have died since the armistice of July 23, 1957 and many more have been injured. On June 25, 2020, the war will be 70 years old—the longest war on record in United States history.

May it end soon.

*John Dennis Hannigan, 5523 Sable Ct.,
Ft. Wayne, IN 46834, 260-749-7471*

I and other two Marines who were on watch with me went back to our quarters. However, we were not there long when our ‘room boy’ came into our room, woke us up, and told me that I was wanted on the phone right away. I spoke with Paul Dupre, who relieved me and said “George, get all the guys, bring any weapons you have, and get down here right away. We are sending a jeep to pick you up.”

As we were driving down a main street some aircraft were flying extremely low over us. Gus said “Look at those damn P-51s and how close to us they are flying. It’s very dangerous.”

We had heard recently that the first class of the Korean Air Force had graduated from flight school and we thought these new pilots were just showing off. As we continued down the street, it became clear that these planes were not our P-51s; they were Russian Yaks flown by North Korean pilots.

We found out later that the Yak has the same silhouette as an American P-51. The Yak started strafing us and we had to do a lot of dodging and stopping quite often to get protection behind the stone pillars of government buildings. Finally, we made it to the embassy and our NCOIC told us there were pre-prepared evacuation orders that we had never heard about.

At that point we learned that we were among the lead people in these evacuation orders. However, the orders were up-to-date and extremely precise, telling us exactly where to go, what to do, and when to do it. After we received our instructions and knew what we had to do, we drove to all the quarters in the city occupied by embassy staff personnel, advising them of the evacuation plans.

We took a couple M-1 rifles, a couple cases of armor-piercing ammunition, and destroyed perhaps 200 jeeps and other vehicles...One guy would open the hood and another guy would then fire two or three rounds into the flywheel.

The evacuation went quite smoothly, considering the circumstances. The personnel were all driven in buses to the port of Inchon, southwest of Seoul where there was a fertilizer ship on which everyone boarded. The Seventh Fleet escorted this ship to Japan. After they were all evacuated, we still had work to do.

The ambassador directed us to destroy all the communications equipment in the embassy. All we did was to go from floor to floor, grab all the telephones, and throw them out of windows. Now it was Monday and we began wondering just how remaining personnel would be evacuated.

The embassy had inherited all the 24th Corps' vehicles, which were in our embassy motor pool. We took a couple M-1 rifles, a couple cases of armor-piercing ammunition, and destroyed perhaps 200 jeeps and other vehicles. We devised a system to make this operation go more smoothly. One guy would open the hood and another guy would then fire two or three rounds into the flywheel. That way, the North Koreans would not be able to cannibalize them. We did all of that in about three to four hours.

We continued to destroy classified and sensitive material. The Army Attaché's office had tons of training manuals marked "Restricted," all of which fell into the category of burning. There was so much burning of various documents that the furnaces became overloaded and we needed to erect a burning bin in the parking area made from chain link fencing. With the use of lots of gasoline, we were able to get everything destroyed.

After that, I was given the task of getting the two code machines to the sidewalk in front of the embassy. We got everyone back to safety, hooked up the code machines to Jeep batteries, and put an electrical charge into them. Within about 10-15 minutes, we had two football-size lumps of molten metal.

After finishing with the code machines, we drove to the airfield at Kimpo. There were very few transport aircraft available for the evacuation since General MacArthur was using them to bring in the 24th Division. Task Force Smith was at Osan, with a reinforced company of the 24th.

The last planes for evacuating embassy personnel and U.S. citizens had supposedly landed while we were still shaking the bushes to locate ambassadors of other countries who we could evacuate. We found most of them; however, there were so many people they overloaded the planes.

Journey to the Kingdom of War

By William Alli

Toward the middle of February 1951 we were finishing up our six-week (too short) Advanced Infantry Training course at Camp Pendleton, California. We assembled for our final inspection and got a pep talk from the legendary BGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, recipient of five Navy Crosses; that medal is second only to the Medal of Honor. He had commanded the 1st Marines from Inch'ŏn to the Chosin Reservoir. As he finished his address, "Chesty" told us that if we got shot and were "going down," we should "reach up and pull one more of those bastards down with you." It was good bravado talk, but I wasn't sure just how to carry out the details.

For our final weekend at Pendleton, we were looking forward to shore leave. Instead, we were confined to the base. Everyone was angry. We knew we were leaving soon for Korea. They had even given us a new address: "E" Co., 6th Replcmnt. Draft c/o F.P.O. San Francisco.

So, late on Saturday evening I joined a few of my friends in

After what we were led to believe was the last plane had departed, four or five of us got ready to drive our Jeeps to anywhere south of Seoul. Just as we were departing Kimpo, someone let us know that there was to be one more plane coming in. It was a C-54 that was being flown to Suwon from Inosuke in Japan. When the pilot reached Suwon, he was informed that there were more people at Kimpo to evacuate, including several Marines, so he headed there.

Meanwhile, while we waited for this plane to land, more people arrived and wanted to board it. The crew chief said the plane was grossly overloaded; however, everyone got aboard. I never knew how many people a C-54 was supposed to carry, but there were approximately 110 aboard.

As we were taxiing down the runway, I heard the pilot tell the crew chief, "I don't know if I'll be able to get this SOB off the ground, so we better open the doors and throw anything out that's not nailed down." The Marines assisted in tossing lots of stuff out the doors—life rafts, weapons, cargo boxes—and we were just barely able to lift off.

I was responsible for the Great Seal of the United States that was used at the embassy for passports. Because of International Law the Great Seal of the U.S. was not to go into another country. My instructions from the embassy security officer were to throw the seal out the window of the aircraft after we were over the Straits of Tsushima. I got the crew chief to open the navigator's window and I threw it out of the plane.

We landed at Inosuke, Japan, where the Air Force wives had set up a nice reception for us with refreshments. A few days later, nineteen of us (MSG detachment) were assigned to different posts at embassies throughout the Pacific area. Later, after we retook Seoul in September, six of us would be recalled to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. We would be together again until the Chinese Communists invaded South Korea later that same year—but that's a different story.

an unauthorized military exercise. We put on our uniforms and conducted a reconnaissance of downtown San Diego. It required that we avoid any sentries as we left and returned to our barracks. The foray was good for our morale and improved our combat readiness. It was an act of patriotism or, at least, a morale booster.

If we had been caught we would, no doubt, have been punished. But since we were sailing on the following Wednesday, what were they likely to do? They could always throw us into Pendleton's brig (jail) and delay our arrival in Korea. That didn't seem very likely. Even if they did, none of us would have protested. On the other hand, they could have incarcerated us in the brig of the troopship on its way to Korea. However, there were so many of us who had gone out on the town that no ship's brig could hold us all. Nobody was caught or punished.

Before we boarded the buses to take us to the San Diego docks, we had a little gift for SSgt Stavru, the NCO in charge of our training. He had hectorated us with all sorts of half-comical threats of punishment for whatever mistakes or shortfalls he

deemed us to be guilty of.

Most often he had threatened us by saying we were “going to get the purple shaft.” Nobody was sure what that meant, but it sounded painful and definitely obscene.

One time he threatened us with “the purple shaft with dingleberry clusters.” We weren’t sure what that meant, either, but we sure didn’t want to have any contact with it. Our gift to him was a broomstick, about three-feet long; it had been painted purple. We told him that we were getting revenge by giving him the purple shaft, but without any dingleberry clusters.

Finally, we packed our seabags and went by buses to a pier in downtown San Diego. More than 2,000 of us boarded a troopship, the USNS *General G. M. Randall*, and sailed on 14 February 1951, bound for Korea via Japan. We would be at sea for about two weeks, my first ocean voyage, and it would be free of charge for me, a round-trip, I hoped.



USNS General G. M. Randall

diminish as it was absorbed into a thin dark layer of the atmosphere, which merged with the shrinking image of San Diego’s waterfront. I thought that more people should have been saying goodbye to us; after all we were more than 2,000 Marines leaving for a war. I guess that most of the people on that pier lived nearby in California and most of us on the ship had come from more distant states. Our families and friends were too far away.

I felt slightly sad, but calm. I knew I would not feel better if I stayed on the deck, watching the shore receding and the ocean completing its encirclement of us. I was leaving my country for the first time. I might never see it again, nor all that it contained: my family, my friends, my memories. I began to feel some loss. I must shut it out of my mind; I had to go below deck.

I was the second person in my family to take a long voyage by ship. In 1913, when my Turkish father left his country, he too was journeying westward. Both of us would be at sea for about half a month. Each of us was in the military. He was deserting the Imperial Ottoman army, in civilian clothes, and maybe would avoid involvement in a future war; I was in the U.S. Marine Corps, still in uniform, and certainly destined for combat. We were almost the same age as we made our journeys. He could not know whether he would ever return to his homeland. The same was true for me.

The interior of our troopship gave us much less living space than we had back at Pendleton. It’s tempting to speculate about what “quarters” really means; we’re talking about 25 percent of something. I can now make the case that the writer of the biblical story of Jonah (and the whale that swallowed him) would have

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better understood Jonah’s predicament, if he had traveled on a troopship. Many years later I learned how ignorant I was. I was traveling in luxuriousness without knowing it. The Randall had an official troop capacity of 5,289 and we were only about 2,000.

My quarters on the Randall were Compartment C-2, three decks below the main deck. Think of Compartment C-2 as a large ships’ lounge partitioned into bays, holding scores of men sleeping in racks, stacked six high, about eighteen inches apart. A rack was a rectangular frame of one or two-inch diameter steel pipe, painted grey like so much else on the ship. The rack was about two feet wide and six-and-a-half feet long; its outside corners were curved.

Like the drop leaf of an old-fashioned desk, one side of the frame was hinged to the bulkhead (wall); the outer side was suspended by a chain bolted at about forty-five degrees to the bulkhead. The sleeping surface was a sheet of dirty canvas, edged with brass grommets spaced six inches apart, laced tautly to the frame by a thin rope. All the racks could be folded up against the bulkhead to open up space for us to sweep and swab (mop) the deck.

As we first entered our quarters, the sailors advised us: “For sanitation, self-defense, or riot prevention, do not occupy the upper racks, if you think you might get seasick.” Perhaps they should also have told us that in case of diarrhea a lower rack would be best, for everybody around.

Thrice a day we were invited to dine in the ship’s mess hall by a voice calling out over the public address system, “Chow down for Compartment C-2 and cabin-class enlisted passengers. Form port and starboard mess lines.” Most of the time that was a welcome invitation, but for anyone who was seasick, it might even bring on more nausea.

The mess hall was perfectly suited for a ship that pitches fore and aft and rolls port to starboard. Thus, there were no chairs, stools, or anything else to sit on; everyone ate standing up. The metal tables were like lunch counters securely bolted to vertical metal poles that were themselves bolted through flanges to the deck and to the overhead (ceiling).

The tables had a raised rim around their edge so that food trays, etc. would not slide off. The idea was to provide a stable surface to hold food trays and an object to hang onto as the ship moved in various ways. The deck was easy to clean because the only things on it were the bottom of the poles.

Aboard ship, clean water must be parsimoniously used, hence the “navy shower.” It starts by quickly wetting your body and immediately turning off the water flow. But you’re using sea water; it doesn’t lather up easily. Nevertheless, you rub yourself all over with the soap. Finally, you turn on the shower again to quickly rinse off. Then you turn off the water, step out of the shower, and dry yourself with a towel.

The bathroom facility (the head) is located at the stern of the

ship. So if it's there, why is it referred to as "the head?" Because, on sailing ships, where it got its name, it was located near the bow, meaning downwind (and downsmell) from the rest of the ship. On modern ships the wind is going from bow to stern, so the head is located appropriately.

Instead of separate commode units, there is the equivalent of a long benchlike platform running crosswise to the ship's keel and having individual toilet-seat openings. The droppings go into a gutter, running the full length of the platform. It has drainage pipes, but the speed of outflow is affected by the number of men using it and the amount of rolling that the ship is doing. The sloshing about of the sewage, the bubbling and gurgling noises, and the accompanying smell are nothing to write home about.

On vacation cruise ships, passengers have a full array of optional activities to keep them occupied; on the Randall participation was mandatory. We did calisthenics and even some practice with our weapons. I guess we shouldn't complain. After all, we weren't paying any money for the cruise.

A select few were assigned to work in the galley (thank God I was not one of them) and some Marines learned to use chisels to chip off old marine paint from the ship's steel surfaces, clean the surfaces with steel bristle brushes, and brush on fresh paint. Nevertheless, most of us had some time for reading and walking around the ship every day.

I do not like the sea. It is desolate and dangerous. When I look out from the railing, I see where the sky meets the ocean's surface about thirteen miles away, all around our ship; it's no wonder thirteen is an unlucky number. Nothing stable is protruding upward from the ocean. What happens to us if our ship sinks?

There is much deception in the sea's appearance. By day it reflects the sky's color, ranging from beautiful blue to glummer grey. It is merely copying the sky's colors and can make no claim to possessing them innately. By night it ignores the countless starlites and reflects only the brightest moonlight, restricting it to a beam hemmed in by black water.

The ocean can claim mastery of surface texture. Much of the time it is smooth-rolling waves and swells. Less frequently it can be glassy-looking steppes of water; in storms it is wild turbulence.

The sea proclaims nature's power; seldom does it reveal nature's beneficence. If my mother's eighteenth century ancestors had known in advance about the dangers of the sea, would they have left England, Scotland, or Wales to cross the Atlantic in wooden sailing vessels to reach America?

Before our ship reached Japan, I saw more evidence of kooky ideas by young men. Maybe they had been at sea too long. Some Marines wanted to use nature to launder their dirty clothes. Their solution: put the dirty clothes into a seabag, tie it to one end of a long rope, throw the seabag over the stern of the ship, and tie the other end of the rope to the ship's railing. Of course, the rope broke and the seabag made its way to Davey Jones's locker. My guess is that they failed because they did not put enough, if any, soap into the seabag. Everybody knows that soap makes bubbles and that bubbles float on the ocean surface. There was no need for the seabag to sink, if only they had been less stingy with the soap.

After fifteen days at sea I was relieved to see the coast of Japan, that nation which we had loathed so much during World War II, barely five-and-a-half years before. But it was land, solid, firm soil. People lived there and were aware of our American superiority. Still retaining some hatred, I thought, we beat these sons of bitches and now occupy their goddam country.

After two days in port, we left for Korea. We sailed through the Inland Sea, where countless islands and rocky formations abound. Small Japanese fishing boats were everywhere. I could not imagine how our ship could safely make its way through this area. But I believed we would arrive in Korea safely.

Two days later, 5 March 1951, after having passed thru the Tsushima Strait and the main part of the Korea Straits, we saw the port of Pusan. With tugboat assistance, the Randall moored at the dock. We had arrived in the "Land of the Morning Calm." From the ship's railing it looked more bustling than calm. It also looked shabby and smelled bad.

As the 6th Replacement Draft, we were a temporary organization, hardly a unit. We would be dispersed soon to fill vacancies throughout the ranks of the 1st Marine Division. We went down the gangplank and got into formation to march to the train station. The march from the dock to the train station was to be our final display of strength.

We marched in platoon formation, a column of three men abreast, through the drab and stinking streets of Pusan. We were in combat gear, our helmets covered with camouflage cloth, unlike the bare helmets worn by most of the U.S. Army. We had M1 rifles slung over our shoulders and our pockets were filled with eight-round clips of ammunition. Our backpacks were stuffed with our belongings.

As we marched, we were more serious; no one seemed to be making any comments or whispering anything to others at their sides. I sensed some kind of collective power, without any pretensions of fierceness. Yet, we were advancing toward the unknown. If anyone had apprehensions, it was well concealed. Maybe we were starting to develop that basic survival skill: fatalism.

Nothing in my life before, nor anything after, compares with the next twelve-and-a-half months. Like countless ancestors before me—English, Turkish, etc.—I was entering the Kingdom of War. There I might get killed, and I was too young for it all.

How many of us realized that just eleven weeks before we arrived, some 22,000 men of the 1st Marine Division, nearly all (to some degree) famished and suffering from exposure to frost-bite, had disembarked at Pusan. They were survivors of the brutal winter campaign at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Instead of being annihilated by the huge Chinese People's Liberation Army, they had fought an unbelievable battle against huge odds and emerged to reach the sea.

Our Navy had brought them safely to the docks of Pusan. We were walking in their steps on the very streets that these Marines had been on so recently. We would be joining them at the front in not too many hours.

More than fifty years later, I realized how ignorant we were

about the ordeal that our forces had endured at Chosin before we arrived in Korea. Maybe it would have terrorized us replacements. Perhaps we might feel guilt at not rendering enough honor to them, or to their memory.

In my Korean War memoir I attempted to honor them, as did ancient bards who proclaimed heroic deeds, in verse. With much emotion, including tearful eyes, I managed to complete the poem:

Down to the Sea with O.P. Smith

From frozen heights and reservoir,
Where Death had ruled the scenes,
Down to the welcome Eastern Sea,
Came O.P. Smith's Marines.

The U.S. Navy had its ships,
Waiting to give their praise,
To the First Marine Division,
Exiting winter's maze.

A taxing time in Korea

NOTE: These letters were written by U.S. Navy officer LTG William Franklin (Frank) Barron to his mother while he was assigned to USS Eversole (DD-789). They point out the inanities of war. Why would a service member have to worry about his taxes during the middle of a war? Yeah, life is pretty amazing at times.

Letter 8

Date: Saturday, March 14, 1953

From: USS EVERSOLE – Back at sea headed for Korea

Dear Ma,

Well, our 10 days in port are over- and back to sea again. It's gonna be kind of good to get away from this hole. Sasebo is not exactly the town I would pick to live in. It was a big Jap navy base during the war, but there weren't any people here. When the US Navy came in about 2 or 3 years ago it mushroomed.

I haven't done anything about my income tax. Is Dad doing it? I'm not sure but I think I have 6 months after I get back in the states before I have to file - get Dad to check because I didn't leave the states until 1953. Also, did I give him a W-2 form from Newport? - and is my tax on a fiscal or calendar year? Tell him to get Virginia to send me a statement or something and explain the setup to me.

Johnny Allen is here - I was with him a couple of nights ago. Also tied up next to us is a DD with two of my friends from OCS on it.

Finally got a camera - have been taking pictures around the ship - I'll send some to you.

Let me know about my income tax and what I have to do.

Love,
Frank

Letter 9

Date: March 30, 1953

From: USS EVERSOLE – Off North Korean coast near Wonsan Harbor

Not bloody corpses in the snow,
But victors – grim and free,
Shortly they'd fight the foe again,
These "Soldiers of the Sea."

Carry them onward, Oh Ocean,
To Pusan on your waves,
Don't claim these Marines, but keep them,
Safe from watery graves.

Down from Chosin (Some say "Changjin"),
Eighty miles, I would say,
General Smith, and a few good men,
In History had their day.

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Dear Ma,

Well -we've been out here for two weeks now - and it's getting rather old. Will be here for 3 or 4 more weeks then back to Japan.

I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that this is a very stupid situation. No one seems to be really trying to win. We set off and lob shells all day - and occasionally they shoot back at us -but they haven't come very close. They don't dare fire more than one or two shells - because we'd blast them - & we've got much more ammunition than they do.

We went into Wonsan Harbor the other day - blasted a train & some tracks - sort of like shooting at sitting ducks. You can't even tell that there are people over there.

Other things kind of make you mad too - for instance - if we chop down any trees to build bunkers - the USA has to pay for them. Each South Korean who is killed accidentally by a US soldier costs him \$300 out of his own pocket. Sounds kind of silly doesn't it?

Even things which are supposed to be dangerous have a funny ending. Our gunnery officer went on the beach to spot for us a few days ago - even got about 100 yards from the lines - but the biggest thing that happened to him was that he got stopped by an MP for driving a jeep while under the influence of alcohol - only 6 miles from where this "conflict" is supposed to be raging. Strange war.

Oh well- only 93 more days & back to Long Beach (I hope) - Send me the news - tell all hello.

Frank

P.S. Tell Dad I have a W-2 form now for '52 - but don't have to file until after I get back. Also - I don't have to pay income tax while I'm in Korean War Zone (on US pay anyway - don't know about the other!)

P.P.S - Just found out- I was in USA in Jan. 1953- so I don't get 6 mos. after I get back - guess I'll get fined.

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Mystery Solved: Where Your Gloves and Socks Went

1951. Life was good. Graduated high school, had a job, got my first car, had a steady girlfriend, Freeda, who I married eventually, and usually enough pocket money to operate. (Freeda did not miss a single day of sending a letter to me while I was in Korea.) Enter Uncle Sam and my good friends from the local draft board. They wanted me to spend a couple years serving the country.

Leaving Cleveland, Ohio I was inducted at Fort Meade, Maryland. From there to Fort Hood, Texas, where I was assigned to an Artillery Battalion in the First Armored Division. Intense and thorough training. I learned every phase with the 105 Howitzer artillery, forward and backward. I learned every position on the gun crew, then fire direction center, then forward observer. Months and months of repetitive training. I learned it all.

So when I was assigned to Far East Command (FECOM), common sense and logic led me to expect to be in some artillery unit in Korea. Not so.

After a wonderful fifteen-day ocean cruise on the General Meigs, I ended at a replacement depot in Yokohama, Japan. At an assignment formation, I listened to names and numbers, waiting to hear what artillery unit I would be with in Korea. Surprise! None! I was assigned to 545 Q.M. Service Co. 23rd Quartermaster.



Cpl) Harry Dean Johnson with 27th Field Artillery Bn., 1st Armored Div., Ft. Hood, TX

I made a Korea landing from an LST at Inchon. A back of the truck ride to Chun Chon, then on to Socho-Ri, where we had a large petroleum storage within sight of the Sea of Japan. We had no showers, so we swam in the sea.

Eventually, someone must have decided that this might not be the best location for a fuel dump. We were ordered to relocate to Uijongbu, just north of Seoul. My job was to help keep things organized, but my priority was to load and unload convoys of trucks. I had to work with a crew of twenty or more Korean civilian laborers, with one translator.

Now to my reason for writing this account. When the temperature dropped below freezing, those steel drums would get a coating of frost and ice along their edges. The Korean laborers, not having gloves, would double up pieces of cardboard or use dry grass and weeds to keep their bare hands off the icy metal when loading or rolling drums.



Acres and acres of drums of P.O.L. at 23rd QM, 545 QM Svc. Co.



Korean civilian laborers waiting for next truck at 23rd QM, 545 QM Svc. Co.



Korean laborers taking a break at 23rd QM, 545 QM Svc. Co. P.O.L. dump, Uijongbu, 1952



Korean civilian laborers loading 55-gal. drums by hand in 1952



Dean Johnson and Freeda Moore Johnson in their younger days



Dean and Freeda Johnson in their post-Korean War days

I have always been a softie for needy people, so I set about to solve the problem. I would go through our tents and pick up any gloves or socks. Knowing that if you give away items you became a target, I would walk in front of a worker who worked the hardest and then drop gloves or socks in front of him on the ground. So most of my civilian crew had something to keep their hands off the icy metal.

My punishment came from the guilt feelings when my buddies would yell, "Has anybody seen my gloves?" Or socks?" Then they would go to the supply tent and get new ones and I would just sit and look dumb.

A funny aside story. All around the perimeter of the dump were signs painted with Korean letters. I asked my interpreter what they said. He answered, "Is some instruction to Korean workers."

I said, "Well, what does it say?"

He replied, "It says, 'In case of fire or bomb, run like hell.'"

So, if there is anybody from 545 Q.M. SVC. CO. still hanging around, now you know where your gloves went. Call me and yell at me.

Incidentally, that girl I mentioned earlier. We married after I came home from Korea—and stayed married for 54 years until she died in 2008.

Dean Johnson, 1500 Hite St., Akron, OH 44314, 234-226-7141

Working together

Identical twins Privates William and Charles Bewley served at the 45th Division NCO Academy before moving to the 24th Division after the 45th rotated out of Korea. Their careers paralleled one another in and out of the Army.

Both Bewleys graduated from Northeast High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Then they worked as engineering draftsmen at the Philadelphia Naval Base. They entered the Army on the same day and took basic training at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

After completing basic they undertook engineer training. Their next step was Leadership School. They shipped overseas together, arriving in Korea in July 1952. They were assigned to the HQ Co, 19th Engineering Group (C) as draftsmen—still together. After that they were reassigned TDY (Temporary



The Bewley brothers

Additional Duty) as draftsmen with the 45th Division in the Leadership School Training Aids Section.

Their tour of duty was cut short due to emergency leave state-side for family problems. They were assigned to the 506th AAA in Philadelphia until they were separated from active duty. The good news was that they did not receive any bad time, but they

remained Pvts E-2.

After separation they returned to their former jobs with the Navy, attaining the status of Design Technicians before retirement. They are still active in civilian life.

Contact Charles R. Bewley at 35 Windy Knoll Dr., Richboro, PA 18954 or William C. Bewley, 55 Bittle Ave., Berlin, NJ 08009.

The good and the bad in everything

The date June 25, 1950, always remained in my thoughts. At that time I was 19 years old, 2 years out of high school, and a young man. I had a factory job with the Bendix Corp. in South Bend, Indiana, and I had a new 1950 Ford. It was vacation time from Bendix, and my girlfriend (years later to be my wife) and I were on a drive in Lower Michigan. All of a sudden an announcement came that the North Korean army had invaded South Korea.

We had never heard of these two countries, where they were, or why we would be involved. But, with the serious sound of it all, I remember the vivid thought that this is going to affect me. We were close to Battle Creek, Michigan, the home of Fort Custer. Less than a year from then, I would be a new inductee in Uncle Sam's Army at Fort Custer.

Induction came on April 23, 1951 at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana. From there I went to Fort Custer, where I stayed for two weeks of processing before boarding a train for Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. I went through six weeks of infantry basic training, which led to 16 or 18 weeks of radio school, still at Camp Chaffee.

Back then, summer in Arkansas, with the heat and humidity, no insulation in the barracks, and no air conditioning anywhere that I remember, brought a rather rude awakening to a bunch of guys from up north. It was also an introduction to what Army life can be—especially in a service school where the cadre were not always in a cordial mood.

So our first introduction to FECOM came on our last day of bivouac. After turning in our gear, we were loaded in a truck and delivered to a dayroom dispensary for inoculations. Since we had heard rumors as to where our next stop might be, we were all surprised at the new term FECOM. We also learned just how many shots it takes before you head for the Far East. After receiving them, fourteen of us left the day room, lay down on the grass, and promptly passed out cold.

Education? Definitely. I came from the country, but I had never quite seen vegetables the size of the ones grown in Korea. They were grown, of course, with human fertilizer. Being fall, it was harvest and fertilizer time. That led to the opening of the “honey pots,” which could make your eyes water and open your sinuses involuntarily.

We sailed from Camp Drake to Inchon. We went over the side to a landing craft with mud and tank tread tracks—and more of a realization that this is real. We boarded a train north. As we traveled through Seoul we could see that it was pretty much leveled. Kimpo Airfield was functioning with our military aircraft. The train cars were pretty much wooden boxes.

The cars were cold and bare, with wooden shelves that represented bunks. The cars were uncomfortable and too cold, so not many of us used the “bunks.” But ingenious young GIs make do. So, after our evening C-rations, we piled the boxes in the middle of the car and lit them ablaze.

It was pretty smoky in the car, but we got a lot of heat before the door almost left its hinges when the first sergeant and a lieutenant came through, stomped the fire out, and explained how we could have burned the train in half. They also provided a few other colorful descriptions, which mainly fell on deaf ears. We were semi-warm despite their rantings.

Chunchon was the division rear for the 24th Infantry Division. By this time it was November and getting colder the farther north we went. We spent a week in our pup tents in the hills doing hikes up and down hills, and practicing long thrust and hold, and short thrust and hold with the old Garand M1s to get rid of rust from traveling for nearly a month.

I got selected for guard duty one night. The sergeant took me up into the hills to a cave. It was an ammo dump. There was not much there. I was alone after he left, so I lit matches and took a look. That was probably not a bright idea, I thought later. But,

also not a bright idea was the fact that I was on guard duty by myself, with NO ammo for my rifle. So, the next best idea I had was to bring a few grenades to the mouth of the cave. I had no trouble staying awake.

From there it was north by truck. Guys were let off wherever they were assigned. It was pitch black at night, until we got close



HQ Co., 52nd FA Bn., looking down from outpost



Chunchon Airstrip in Korea



PFC Eugene Morris in Korea



OFC Eugene Morris "on guard" in Korea



Eugene Morris sees sign as he heads north



Outpost bunker with 50 cal machine gun near Eugene Morris's position

to big artillery. They were the 155 batteries. How far back they were we couldn't tell. But the light and rumble from them again let us know that this was serious business.

As we got close to our final stop the big searchlights came on. They were bright enough to read by, and surprisingly scary. I guess they worked to intimidate the Chinese at night, since they used the dark to change and improve their position.

I moved into a bunker with three other guys. Having completed radio school, I was now a wireman with C Company. We never repaired a wire. If a line went down, we strung a new one, two guys with the wire spool and one with his rifle. There was so much wire strung over those hills it was a wonder anyone could walk.

The winter got colder. Later I had a ¾-ton truck with a radio. It didn't work well, and my job was to see if I could get a weather report for the artillery each morning. Some mornings the temperature was reported to be -30 F. Needless to say, not much equip-

ment works well that way. That's when I learned to drink coffee. At least it was warm.

If the cooks from somewhere could get us breakfast and it was oatmeal, I learned to eat oatmeal. It was warm. If they tried for cold cereal, the powdered milk didn't mix. It could freeze before you got it eaten.

Good news in February 1952. The 24th was shipping out for Japan, to be replaced by the 40th from Japan. The bad news? The 40th didn't have enough radio men. So I and a few others were kept over in the 40th. But, there was some good news in that. That put our names at the top of the R&R list. I could finally take a shower, which I hadn't done from October to March. That is a long time to go without one. Kokura looked good.

As summer came, our last move was in the Kumwha/Kumsong area. They told us to dig in as we would be there a while. We even dug in a hillside and had a squad tent set up. There were eight or ten of us there. By then I had a jeep with a radio. Like everything else there, it was good and bad. Good if an officer needed to go to the rear. That meant a couple days with food and a shower. Bad if you were drafted as a Forward Observer (F.O.) driver. The Chinese had an aversion for people calling in fire missions on them. If they could see you and you were in range, the mortars could walk your way.

The tragedies of this war? We had this Korean boy, Kim Ouk Yong, "Sip" for short. He seemed to be the most inherently intelligent child I've ever known. He wasn't sure of his age. We thought he was about 8 or 9 years old. His immediate family had been killed early in the war.

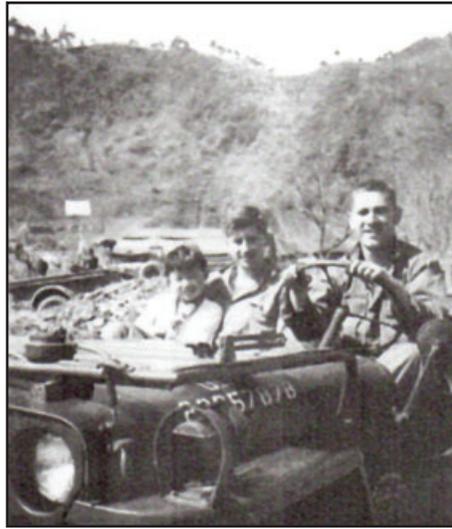
Sip could recite the events of the day the Chinese killed all the adults in his village. He had been living with GIs ever since. We were not legal having him, but we kept low key and our company officers understood.

One day I was driving a captain to division rear. He had a mission at a graves registration area. As I sat waiting for him and looking at the line of full body bags, it occurred to me that despite the proximity of a full scale war, it seemed I had never sat in a place so quiet. And, I was thinking, there, but for the grace of God, could be me.

Rotation home came late. Though some of us had enough points, the 40th personnel due for discharge got first priority. My



Radio truck in Korea



“Sip,” Leon Schwartz, and Gene Morris (L-R)

stay lengthened from nine months to a year. The Army and I finally parted company on January 25, 1953. Coming home from that war did not make you a hero. Being barely recognized was more likely.

In retrospect, the Korean War was absolutely a worthwhile mission to accomplish. Compare South Korea to North Korea and China today. It's like the difference between day and night. Having participated in a return visit in 2008 to South Korea and comparing the Seoul then to the Seoul of 1952 was absolutely mind-boggling. The people recognizing us as Americans couldn't thank us enough for saving them and enabling them as a country to be where they are today.

As I look back at the leadership of that conflict, I have to believe that Gen. Matthew Ridgway was the most able at providing the leadership that led to the most efficient direction for the war and the most effective strategies for the least casualties—unlike the General who tried to direct the action from plush accommodations in Tokyo.

Eugene Morris, 2800 Sycamore Rd., Walkerton, IN 46574, 574-586-0777, 2800GGMorris@gmail.com

Remembering the Forgotten War

By Bob Confer, as printed in the 01 July 2020 Batavia [NY] Daily News

Last week marked the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. You'd never know that given the activity on news feeds and social media. That anniversary was but a footnote. That's nothing new.

For many years this conflict has been known as “the Forgotten War” because, collectively, we as a nation have ignored it and its meaning because it was bookended by an epic world war and the controversies of the Vietnam War. It's rare that we discuss it and as we saw — or more accurately didn't see — last week it's rarer yet that we give the participants their just recognition and appreciation.

Consider this: Almost everyone can readily identify the center point of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC — the restrained yet powerful Vietnam Wall — but how many can identify the primary image of the Korean War Memorial?

For those who don't know, the memorial, finally built in 1995, is a collection of 19 statues of American soldiers trudging across rough terrain, harried looks on their faces, anticipating the next surprise attack.

That haunting memorial perfectly represents the Korean experience. It was a frightening war, full of dreadful fighting reminiscent of World War I's close-quarters bloodbaths. None of us today can imagine the stressful horrors of scaling a steep hill, wondering if the barrel of an enemy's gun will be at your head at the next rise. Our soldiers paid a heavy price in life and limb and those who survived saw things on a daily basis that no one should ever see, memories they carry with them to this day.

The war was so violent that come 1953 — after both sides each lost more than 1 million soldiers — it ended with an armistice, a cease-fire that left a ravaged land and its two primary nations in no better shape than before the war.

It started off horribly as more than 1,000 inexperienced and under-equipped young soldiers were cut down in one of the first American battles of the war. U.S. and U.N. forces greatly underestimated the power of the North Koreans. The body count remained high throughout the three-year occupation when battles in extremely rugged and dangerous mountain terrain became the norm. The war was so violent that come 1953 — after both sides each lost more than 1 million soldiers — it ended with an armistice, a cease-fire that left a ravaged land and its two primary nations in no better shape than before the war.

It was a brutal affair, but so few know that. Ask anyone to list in order the three U.S. military involvements of the past 100 years that had the highest number of casualties. Most respondents will answer incorrectly. They will answer in a hurry, and correctly, with number one (World War II) and number two (the Vietnam conflict). After some stumbling over a response for the third slot, most everyone will come back with the nation's most recent wars in and occupation of Iraq, responsible for more than 4,400 deaths.

That is the wrong answer. As horrific as that death toll is, it is dwarfed by that of the Korean War. The bloody conflict accounted for the deaths of more than 36,000 Americans and the wounding of 103,000 more from 1950 to 1953.

It's really a travesty that most Americans are grossly unin-

formed in regard to something so great in scale of sacrifice. It seems that their only knowledge of the war is MASH, the classic television series.

We need to change that and use the 70th anniversary as a means to finally celebrate the real-life heroes, especially since time is of the essence. Less than 40 percent of those who survived their service in the war are still alive today. They are in their twilight years and they won't be with us much longer. The youngest of the Korean War veterans turned 85 this year. The youngest!

As a country, we need to give them the love that is long past due. The Covid-19 world will likely stymie most memorial events, but you can do your part by sharing a simple heart-

felt "thank you." The Korean War veterans haven't been told those simple words enough in their lifetimes. Let them know they weren't forgotten.

NOTE: This article was brought to our attention by Charles Koppelman, former State Commander of the Korean War/Defense Veterans of New Jersey. He contacted the author of the article, who responded accordingly:

"Charlie,

"Thank you for the email and, more importantly, thank you for your service. I have attached the article to this email. Please feel free to share it and print it wherever you'd like.

"Have a great Independence Day!

Bob Confer

A Hollywood career cut short

I was a member of Company A, 32nd Regt., 7th Inf. Div. We were in reserve north of Seoul around April 1953. A Hollywood movie company came to Korea to make a movie named "Cease Fire"—in 3-D no less. My platoon was chosen to be in the background. There were no Hollywood stars, all GIs.

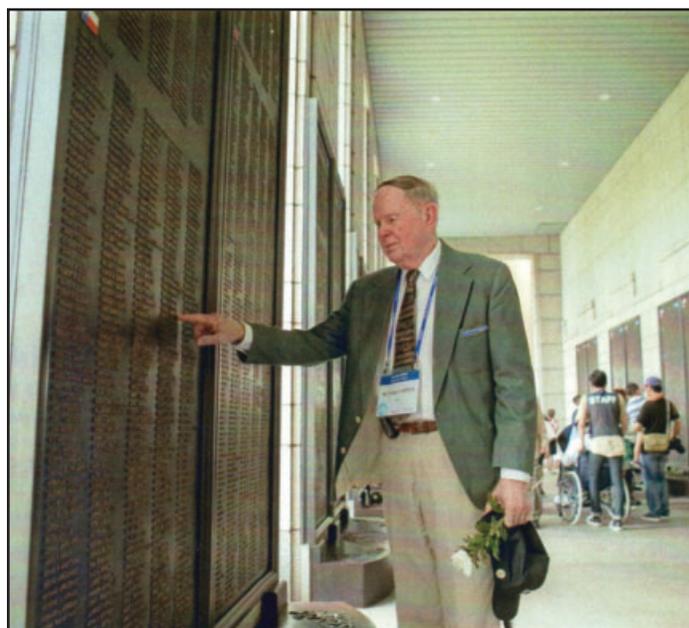


The movie was about a patrol sent out to establish an observation post. Two of our guys were chosen to be in the patrol. One was PFC Ricardo Carrasco, from Texas. The two remained with the film company as our company moved up to the front line on Hill Ice Cream Cone.

Carrasco could have stayed filming, but he wanted to be with his buddies. By the time the production crew wanted him back to finish the film he had been KIA by a mortar shell on July 6, 1953—just four days after doing his death scene in Cease Fire!

I revisited Korea in July 2016 and had the honor of placing a white rose at the Wall of Remembrance at the War Memorial, where the names of Americans KIA are listed by state.

Charles Hertz, 13 Broad Wing Dr., Denver, PA 17517



Charles Hertz checking the names on the Wall of Remembrance at the War Memorial

You can't be in the Army and Navy at the same time

As a 17 year old from Phoenix, AZ, I joined the Naval Reserve. On June 26, 1950 I was attending my two weeks active duty for boot camp training at the San Diego Naval Training Center. We were informed of the attack on South Korea by North Korean forces and told that the United States was joining other United Nations members in defending the south from the invading forces.

The "old salts" who were our faculty were predicting that we would be activated immediately. It didn't happen, and we were happy to return to our homes.

Two years later I still hadn't been ordered to active duty and I became a student at Arizona State College at Tempe, now Arizona State University, and joined the Army ROTC program. When I started to receive a small stipend as an advance ROTC student I was told that I couldn't be paid by

When I started to receive a small stipend as an advance ROTC student I was told that I couldn't be paid by both the Navy and Army, so I had to make a choice. I decided I would rather be an Army officer than a Navy swabby.

both the Navy and Army, so I had to make a choice. I decided I would rather be an Army officer than a Navy swabby.

Upon graduation from ASC I reported to Fort Sill, OK, for Basic Officer Artillery School. After graduation from the course I was ordered to Korea, arriving there in October 1955. I was assigned to the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. The regiment was on the DMZ with the mission of holding the line until reinforcements could be sent if the Chinese and North Koreans came back across the border.

I returned to the U.S. in October, 1957 and remained on active duty until December, 1961, with service at Fort Carson, CO and Germany. After discharge from active duty, I remained in the active reserve for a total of about 34 years of service.

My thoughts on my service in Korea are mixed. Even though my time there was several years after the cease fire, it was still not the best of assignments. However, I was young, single, and all my needs were taken care of. Seoul was still shot to hell with hardly a building that was undamaged or not destroyed.

I really had no concerns about doing our duty well if we were attacked. The Army made it possible for me to see a good part of the world. I still believe that if President Truman had allowed General McArthur to attack Chinese military

forces across the Yalu River we would not have the serious problems we have with China and North Korea. Then again, who am I to second guess the final outcome if that had happened?

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to see the recovery of South Korea, but I am concerned over the future of our relationship with the north. The South Korean government has been giving outstanding credit to the United States for saving its country and has recognized Korean War veterans through the revisit trips back to Korea. Many South Koreans have become U.S. citizens and their heirs continue to recognize their new country for saving the old.

(Col) Phil Hanson, 14917 W. Florentino St., Surprise, AZ 85374, (623) 977-2589, (cell) 623-606-3506, pih103@cox.net

Not in 70 years or in 170 years

This letter was written by Hannah Kim, music director for the Hilo Korean Community Choir, to the members of Ch. 20, Hawaii #1. Her group participates in all chapter activities.

Stan Fuji, stan_fujii@hotmail.com

June 17, 2020

Dear Korean War Veterans,

My name is Hannah Kim, Director of Hilo Korean Community Choir. I hope this letter finds you happy and healthy. I wanted to send you this short message of thanks in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

First, let me say how sorry I am that we were not able to meet in person. However, I do understand that the virus is serious and I gladly sacrifice so that we can all be safe. Still, it would have been nice to meet in person, and for our group to do our show for you as we used to do.

I cannot believe that it has been 70 years since the Korean War. In my mind, it feels like only a short time ago when my dad took my three-year-old self in his arms and led our family all the way from Hyesan city on to an American LST ship during the Hungnam evacuation for the journey south.

Though I was still too young to fully grasp the situation, it still left an indelible mark on me for which I grew more grateful, every day. You see, only because of your courage and heroism was I able to get on that ship. And, because I got on that ship I was able to go to school, find a job, get married, and even go to America! Because you fought and sacrificed I got on that ship and you not only saved my life, but enabled the creation of much more life in the form of my children and now grandchildren.

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened had I not got-



Hannah Kim, wearing green top (2nd from the left in the front row), with Korean War veterans

ten on that ship. Would I be one of those paying tribute to that cruel regime? Would I even be alive? I let these thoughts pass quickly because I was able to get on that ship and so the 'what ifs' don't matter.

It has been an honor to deliver this message to you. 70 years is a long time and many may not remember well all that you did all those years ago. However, please rest assured that I, and many, many Koreans all over the world, will never forget your heroism, sacrifice and love—.

Thank you, thank you! Please stay strong and safe.
Sincerely,

Hannah Kim

ZOOM...Technology, Sae Eden, and a remembrance

Dear beloved Korean War veterans, Gold star families of Korean War veterans, and friends,

I hope you are all safe and well in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year has been especially difficult for our Korean War veterans with the pandemic cancelling many important commemoration events for the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.



Rev. Dr. KangSuk So, Senior Pastor of Sae Eden Church

I had the great honor of assisting Sae Eden Church in South Korea to commemorate this important anniversary and to honor America's Korean War veterans and families of fallen heroes. The event took place in South Korea and I share this with you.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we could not gather the Korean War veterans and families of fallen heroes to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War. So, it was decided by Sae Eden Church that they would hold a ceremony in South Korea to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

I served as main coordinator in the U.S. to invite Korean War veterans and their families and families of fallen heroes to participate via videoconferencing Zoom to the event. I am grateful for the opportunity to have nominated eight Korean War fallen heroes who were honored at this ceremony. I thank God for the tremendous blessing of being able to know and honor these families and their loved ones.

It took several weeks of much coordination but, in the end, the event was truly beautiful, meaningful, and magnificent. This event was the only one in the world which commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Korean War by having Korean War veterans and families participate via videoconferencing from the USA, Canada, Philippines, and Thailand. I am so grateful to Sae Eden for doing the work which is so important to show to these heroes that the Korean people have not forgotten their sacrifices. The Korean War fallen heroes we honored at this ceremony are:

1. John Albert (KIA)
2. Joseph A. Blissenbach, Jr (MIA)
3. James Cribben (MIA)
4. Baldomero Lopez (Medal of Honor) (KIA)
5. Earl C. Nazelrod (MIA)
6. Frank Vejar (MIA- recently recovered from East Chosin Reservoir, North Korea)
7. Robert McGovern (Medal of Honor) (KIA)
8. Francis Jerome McGovern (KIA)
9. Harvey Storms (MIA- recently recovered from East Chosin Reservoir, North Korea)
10. David Daniel Steward (KIA)

I share with you this fully recorded video of the ceremony. Please watch to the very end and you will see a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace and Arirang and Hallelujah. Truly beautiful.

Please also visit my Facebook page, where I posted some photos of this event: <https://www.facebook.com/susan-keewriter/posts/1352760524914844>



Jin Pyo Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, read a congratulatory message from Korea's President Moon Jae In

The photographs of fallen servicemen eulogized by Admiral Chong Dae Kim were each shown full screen while he discussed their service, then added to the row of images above the presentation stage.

Here's the link to the video of the entire ceremony on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/qmKG7Mx94WU>



Sae Eden Church Elder Presider Chul Hwee Lee (Retired Army General) was the presenter and master of ceremonies. In this screen shot he is saying "I would like to thank you all for participating in the world's first online Korean War Veterans appreciation event service."



You saved my country, Korea, Thank You, and Thank You, Again and Again, sung by a Korean girl and boy, was most touching. So was Handel's 'Messiah,' sung in Korean in an arrangement by a huge, powerful choir supported by a grand orchestra and choir.



Sae Eden Church Elder Chong Dae Kim (Ret. Rear Admiral) gives a greeting to all participants, then holds a memorial service for all servicemen who were killed or listed as missing in action during the Korean War. The service included eulogies to several fallen bereaved servicemen whose families were participating.

**Please feel free to share and forward this email to any Korean War veterans or anyone interested. We want as many Korean War veterans and families as possible to see that the Korean people have not forgotten their sacrifices.

I thank God and I thank our Korean War heroes for saving my family and the people of South Korea from the grips of North Korea's communist regime. I thank God every day for the life and liberties given to me by these heroes.

The fact that this ceremony took place at the Presbyterian Church is by no means an accident. It is something God has orchestrated...considering that my uncle was killed in a Presbyterian Church in Pyongyang North Korea when the North Korean communists burned it down to the ground. Over 70 years later, for me to have assisted with this ceremony in a Presbyterian Church in South Korea, to thank our Korean War heroes who saved us from communism, is the ultimate payback to North Korea's communists and testimony to God's grace.

The fact that the people of Sae Eden Church can freely wor-

ship God and live in freedom is the greatest testimony to your loved ones and all who laid down their lives for us. I hope you can see that the legacy of all fallen heroes' lives on in me and in all Koreans who live free.

For the families of Korean War fallen, I pray that every day God will lift the burdens of pain you have carried for nearly 70 years and give you a sense of peace and joy that your loved ones left such an incredible legacy for us...a legacy of freedom for millions of Koreans. I will spend the rest of my life doing all I can to turn the hearts and minds of all Koreans to remember our greatest heroes.

May God always bless you and fill your hearts with peace and joy.

With everlasting love and gratitude to all who served and sacrificed their lives in the Korean War,

Susan Kee, 623-332-2199, sk4vets@gmail.com, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/susankeewriter

Honoring all who served in the Korean War

Georgia veterans honored by POSCO

Members of POSCO's Atlanta office recently traveled to southern Georgia to thank and honor two Korean War veterans who recently passed away. (POSCO, formerly Pohang Iron and Steel Company, is a South Korean steel-making company headquartered in Pohang, South Korea.)

On right, Mr. Kevin Kim presents plaque to Mrs. Patsy Ford in Georgia ceremony



Accepting the awards on behalf of their husbands were Mrs. Patsy Ford, wife of Korean War Veteran Lyndel Ford, and Mrs. Grace Hatcher, wife of Walter Hatcher.

The POSCO presenters were Mr. Kevin Kim, President of POSCO America, Mr. Kun Youp Kim, HR General Manager for POSCO America, and Ms. Sara Bae, Assistant HR manager for POSCO America.

Left, POSCO team and Hatcher family at plaque presentation

The Significance of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

By Bob Harbula

As long as I can remember there has always been inter-service rivalry. Like who are better warfighters, the Army or Marines? The Chosin Reservoir certainly answered that question.

Even though the Marines are not a land army their performance at Chosin towered over that of the Eighth Army that was involved in the "Big Bugout." When the Chinese offensive started, they reacted as though the Chinese were supermen. They didn't stop running until they reached Seoul. They were a defeated Army.

The Chinese didn't have vehicles, tanks, heavy artillery, or air cover. They couldn't keep up. They were spent and had used up a lot of their ammo and food supply. They were ripe for a counter-offensive that never came. Where were our leaders? How did we defeat the Germans and Japanese?

This left the 12,000 Marines surrounded at the Chosin Reservoir by 150,000 Chinese. Many in the news media had written them off. What chance did they have after seeing what happened to the Eighth Army?

Other military units have been surrounded by overwhelming odds with no possibility of help coming, i.e. the Alamo, Custer's Last Stand, Wake Island, Bataan and the Japanese on Iwo Jima. The outcome was either death or surrender—except for the Marines at Chosin.

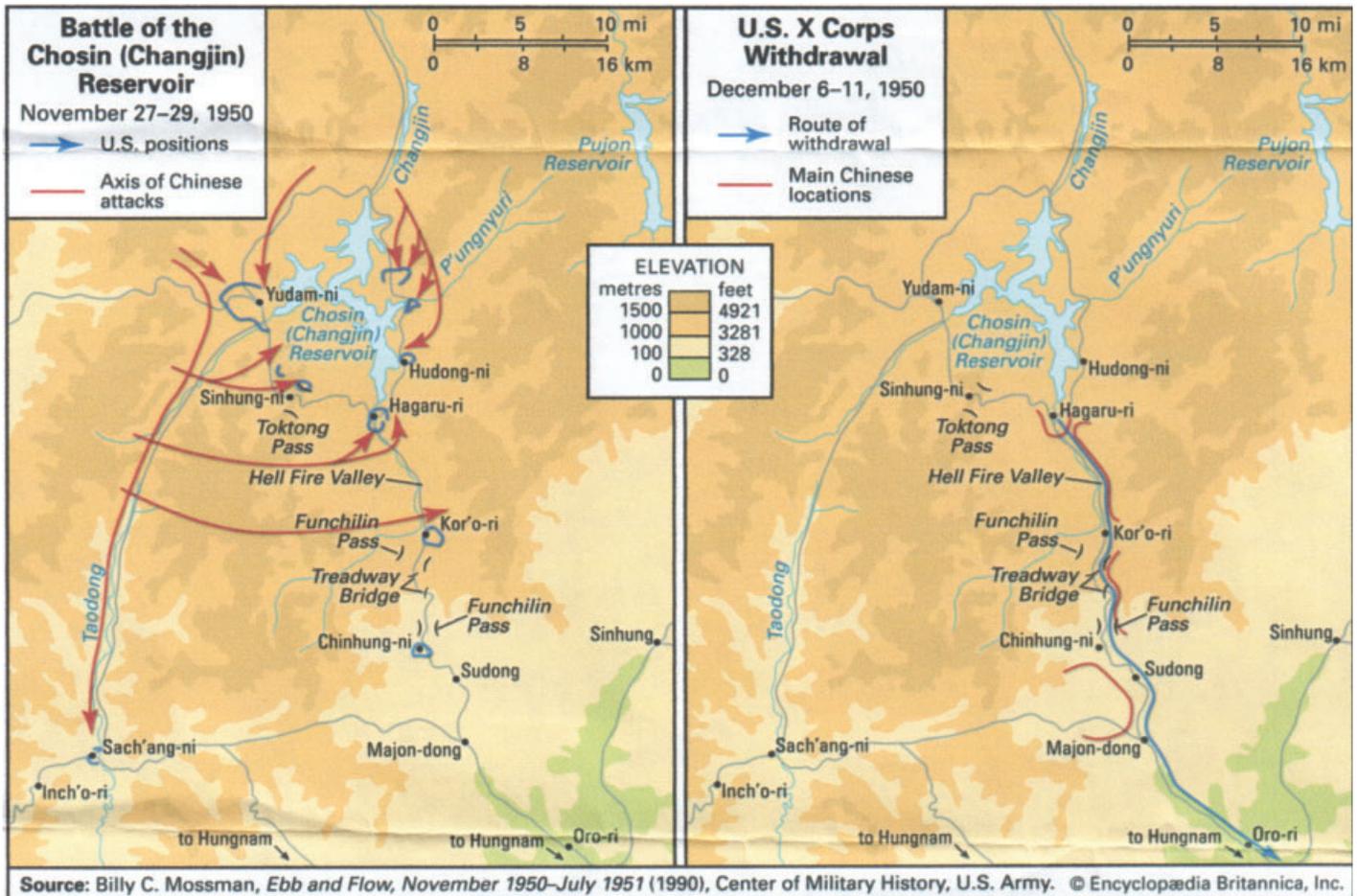
They not only fought their way out but destroyed the Chinese 9th Army group in the process. I remember reading a book written by Marine General Edwin Simmons, who was a Marine Corps historian. He quoted the Assistant Commander of the 9th Army Group saying, "We went into Chosin with 150,000 men and only had 35,000 effectives after the battle." This explains why the Chinese didn't apply pressure on the Hungnam perimeter and allowed us to take almost 100,000 North Korean civilians to South Korea.

Our secret weapon in this battle was Major General Oliver P. Smith. How he defied some of the stupid orders that his Army superiors gave him is why the Chosin Few are here today. His men showed our military establishment that the Chinese were not supermen and could be defeated with the proper leadership and tactics.

His brilliant observation of the battle scene, the construction of an airstrip at Hagaru-ri, and the fortifying of five enclaves on the MSR at Chinhung-ni, Koto-ri, Hagaru-ri, Toktong Pass, and Yudam-ni were the keys to our success. They all played significant roles in the battle.

Without our victory at Chosin would we have stayed in Korea? Would there still be a South Korea today?

Please turn to **70th ANNIVERSARY** on page



We Need Your Support Now in the 2020 Fund Raiser: It is Not Too Late

I thank every member who has supported the KWVA Fundraiser this year as well as in the past. President Brodeur and his staff are proud to serve our members. As Fundraiser Chairman it is a pleasure each year to be able to phone members and tell them they have won \$1,500 or \$1,000.

We are at 79% of our goal—but \$10,000 short of it. Even at this late date our goal is attainable. But, fewer than 1,000 members have donated. Our invest-

ments are not as profitable due to the COVID fluctuations and every donation or purchase is important.

Each ticket is only \$20, and all cash prizes are great. If you do not take chances, please consider a donation by notating “Fundraiser.” You may also purchase a ticket and put your chapter’s name on it. Make sure you put your member number on the ticket.

This will be the last opportunity to

remind each of you to send in your tickets for a tax deductible donation. The winners will be drawn at the KWVA Board Meeting, the last week in October.

Even if it is too late to send in your tickets PLEASE DONATE NOW.

*Thomas McHugh, 2nd Vice President
Chairman, Fundraiser Committee*

*Albert McCarthy, 1st Vice President,
Co-Chairman, Fundraiser Committee.*

KWVA Donates \$10,000 for Wall of Remembrance

The rolling hills and colorful farms in eastern Maryland provided a wonderful setting for the presentation of a donation for \$10,000.00 for the Wall of Remembrance, a KWVA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the new KWVA 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Challenge Coins to the Chairman Emeritus of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMF), retired U.S. Army Colonel William E. Weber. Bill, a longtime friend and supporter of the KWVA, was the main driving force behind the Korean War Veterans National Memorial in Washington D.C. The new KWVA 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Challenge Coins were created with Bill’s image on the coin.

In support of the KWVMF’s fundraising campaign for its Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., KWVA D.C. Representatives and National Directors Col. Warren H. Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret) and Col. Bruce R. “Rocky” Harder, USMC (Ret) met with Colonel Weber and his wife (and KWVMF Board member) Annelie on the front porch of their farmhouse to present the KWVA’s contribution to Bill for his lifetime support of our Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans.

Col. Weber stated that he was “quite pleased by the size of this donation” and hoped that more military-related organizations and associations would “follow the example set by the KWVA and contribute to this most worthy effort.”

I thank Fred Lash for contributing to the article and providing the pictures and our



Bruce R. ‘Rocky’ Harder (L) and Warren Wiedhahn (R) present Bill Weber with awards

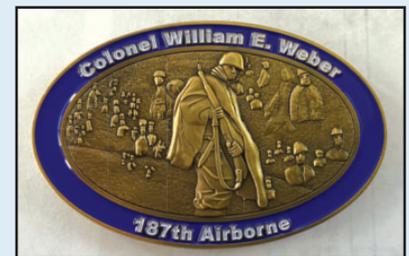
new KWVA D.C. Representatives Warren Wiedhahn and Rocky Harder for making the drive to Bill’s house and representing

me and the membership of the KWVA.

Jeffrey J. Brodeur,
National President



One side of new Korean War Challenge Coin



William Weber’s image on Korean War Challenge Coin

The Peanut Butter JAR-head

By Walter E. Kuhle

Once upon a time, about 40 years ago at a hamlet named Hagaruri, Korea, and about a day or so after the Chinese hit us, we found our larder short on C-rations and machine gun ammo. The same morning our U.S.A.F. flying box dropped us our rations and ammo, only it was closer to the enemy than us. With some "poopin and snoopin" through knee deep snow, we retrieved ammo and the cherished C rations. Only there was one snafu there: the rations were in gleaming, shiny tin cans without can openers.

I'm sure the enemy could spot those shiny cans a mile away. K-Bars for can openers and frozen food in cans. Oh, for the good old days at Inchon and Seoul where we had green cans and good old C rations left over from World War II—and they even had can openers.

To hell with this. I went back out and found a big can, a green one. I knew it had to be good. All the way back I imagined these steaks would be already cooked and tender. Hell, I knew the Air Force ate well and wouldn't let us down.

After getting back to the perimeter I hid behind a boulder and cut off the top of my green can. Steaks? Hell no, peanut butter—about a gallon of it! While the rest of the squad tried to heat up their shiny cans, where the bottom got hot and pushed everything up and out of the can, I sat back and ate soft peanut butter. The top quarter inch would freeze, but under that it was always soft. Hell, I began to wonder if this peanut oil would keep my machine gun block from freezing up. On second thought, I'd rather eat.

It came time to pull out of Hagaruri. I slid my treasured peanut butter under my parka and started walking. I knew I must have looked nine months pregnant, but if anyone asked I figured I'd just tell them it was a pile of bandages on where I got shot. I wouldn't share this with anyone.

My thoughts went back to a movie I saw when I was a kid, "Northwest Passage." Spencer Tracy led his

He picked up a piece of bologna, scraped off coffee grounds, and shoved it in his mouth. I picked up a slice and was cleaning it off when an Army officer walked up. He was a chaplain.

He said, "Oh God! What Army are you in? What country are you from?"

"Just Marines," Ski said.

rangers, who were suffering from starvation, against overwhelming hordes of Indians. One of his men had cut off an Indian's bead and hid it so he could eat it later himself. Hell, that was my can of peanut butter.

For years after returning stateside, I told my story about eating peanut butter and Tootsie Rolls for about two or three weeks, only no one believed me so I quit talking about it. You know how it is with ex-combat men; they don't talk much about war experiences.

Down below at Hungnam, sunrise brought hunger and not far away an Army outfit was being served breakfast in a huge tent. That's when I ditched my green can of peanut butter. A buddy and me (I remember as "Ski") decided to go over and get in line.

An overfed and underworked Master Sergeant in a clean uniform—as were all those Army guys—came over and told us to get lost. I guess it was easy for him to spot us; dirty faces, beards, filthy dungarees, parkas, snow-pacs. I guess we sorta stood out from the rest.

Being a streetwise New Yorker, Ski says to me, "Follow me." He led me to the garbage cans outside the tent where the breakfast leftovers went. I thought, "Marines would be court-martialed for leaving all that edible food," so I took Ski's lead.

He picked up a piece of bologna, scraped off coffee grounds, and shoved it in his mouth. I picked up a slice and was cleaning it off when an Army officer walked up. He was a chaplain.

He said, "Oh God! What Army are

you in? What country are you from?"

"Just Marines," Ski said.

With tears welling up in his eyes, he led us into the Army mess tent and took us to the head of the line, yelling at everyone to get out of the way. I had to hand it to Ski; it was one hell of a way to get a hot meal.

Well, it's over now, except for the memories. Every night after a delicious supper cooked by my wife of 30 years, I sit back in my easy chair, watch TV, and eat my dessert: a slice of Italian bread with peanut butter. This time it's the crunchy kind.

Ski, wherever you are, God bless you and thanks for the hot meal! Gung Ho!

Walter E. Kuhle (Wpns/3/1)

Note: This article appeared originally in the May/June 1990 issue of the Chosin Few Digest, pp.10-11.

Note 2: Just as a matter of record, peanut butter in C-rations was never a favorite. It was even less appreciated in Vietnam after C-rations were replaced, Field reports indicated that "The peanut butter issued in the B-1 unit was unappetizing to some and was often discarded, but was consumed by those with diarrhea, as it was certain to stop a case of "the runs." Soldiers in Special Operations units hoarded B-1 peanut butter in empty ration cans to make improvised smoke candles while on long patrols. Being extremely oily, the peanut butter burned with ease, and could be used to boil water for coffee, although it left a greasy black stain on the bottom of the canteen cup.

Chapter & Department News

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

Recently we donated nearly 200 COVID 19 face masks to the local Home of the Brave (HOB) Foundation in Milford, DE. Both men and women at the HOB will benefit from the donation.

The Home of the Brave Foundation was established to furnish food, shelter and counseling to veterans of the armed forces of the USA without regard to sex, race, color, or creed. Its motto is "To serve those who served us."

At least 2,000 masks were received from the people of South Korea and were immediately put to use to benefit various veterans' groups and individuals in the local area.

"We continue to serve" is our chapter motto. Anyone interested in the KWVA is encouraged to call Jack McGinley at 610-247-1207 or jomcginl@aol.com.

*Jack McGinley, 302-945-0698,
jomcginl@aol.com*



Tommy Tahara, Stan Fujii, CAPT Jeong Hyun Kim (Defense Attaché), Herb Schreiner, and Ace Kaleohano of Ch. 20, and gifts presented to the Executive Board

20 HAWAII #1 [HI]

On August 6, 2020, the chapter's Executive Board visited the Korean Consulate in Honolulu to present a plaque to outgoing Consul Sonyong Song. Additionally, the Executive Board members were gifted with hand sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizers, disposable masks, and reusable fabric masks with the printed phrase, "Korean War Veterans, Our Heroes."

These gifts were also packaged for mail to other Korean War veterans in Hawaii and originated from Captain Sung Hwan Kim, Commander of the ROK Navy RIMPAC Exercise Squadron, who regretted not meeting the veterans in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Captain Jung Hyun Kim provided the food for a luncheon for the visiting group.

*Stan Fujii,
stan_fujii@hotmail*



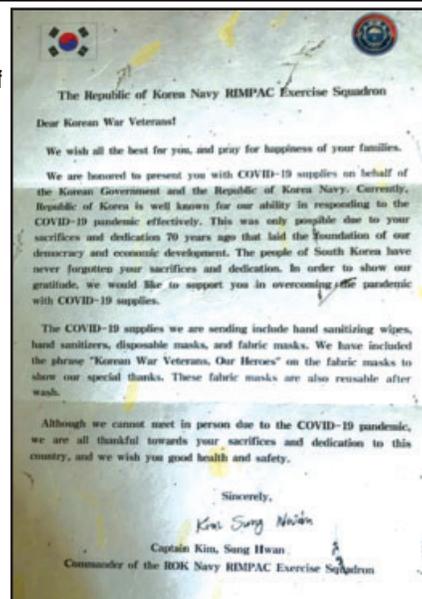
Ch. 20 President Herbert Schreiner presents plaque of appreciation to Consul Sonyong Song



The plaque presented to Consul Sonyong Song



Group photo of Ch. 20 event attendees outside Korean Consulate with staff members Sue Son on extreme left and Leo Oh on right



ROK Navy letter to Ch. 20

34 CPL ALFRED LOPES, JR./ LT. RONALD R. FERRIS [MA]

On June 25, 2020, we commemorated the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War with a memorial service at the Korean War Monument at the Marshfield, Massachusetts Town Hall.

kwvamarshfield@yahoo.com



The Korean War Memorial at the Marshfield, MA Town Hall

Dignitaries gather for Marshfield, MA commemoration ceremony



"Taps" is played in Marshfield, MA

Ch. 34 member receives applause at 70th Anniversary event



Masked crowd at Marshfield commemoration practices safety protocol



Veterans "at ease" in Marshfield, MA

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

We are very active in raising funds, donating to worthy veterans organizations, and visiting local high schools to educate young students about the Korean War. The story below exemplifies some of the work we do for the community.

The Korean United Methodist Church of Cherry Hill, NJ usually hosts our members at a nice luncheon at its church in April. This year the COVID pandemic resulted in it being cancelled. But, we did not let that stop us from cleaning up around the sign that identifies a tree that was donated by U.S. Marine Robert Scully in 1991.

The Korean War Memorial Tree along Rt. 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ



On May 2 members Carl Letezia, Kenneth Mills, and George Ulmer, assisted by Michael Letezia and church members Capt Hee J. Park and Jae Jin Hwang, cut the weeds around the tree and sign and then mulched the site.



Kenneth Mills, Capt Hee J. Park, Michael Letezia, George Ulmer Sr., and Capt. Carl Letezia landscape around the Korean War Memorial Tree maintained by Ch. 54 on Rt. 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ



The decorated base of Ch. 54's tree in Cherry Hill, NJ

Motorists driving Route 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ can see this memorial tree and the sign as they drive along this well-traveled highway. Andrew Jackson, President of Chapter 54, complimented the members on their work keeping the memorial tree and sign looking great.

Kenneth A. Mills, 119 Meadow Ln., Marlton, NJ 08053, 856-596-0407, sfoxlx1@aol.com

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We gave out flags at Watercrest Senior Living Center on the Fourth of July Drive-by celebration. We also donated \$1,000.00 to Eric Stien from the Southeast Honor Flight, along with N-94 masks and gift bags from South Korea.

Commander Harold Trieber visited the Wreaths Across America HQ in Columbia Falls, ME. (See the story on p. 6.)

Members attended a 9/11 memorial service at the 911 Memorial at Clover Park in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. Over 100 people showed up.

Louis DeBlasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, 772-344-8628, LouDi@bellsouth.net

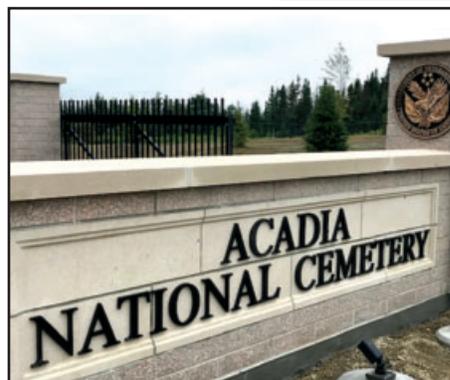


Charlie LoMonaco of Ch. 106 gives out flags at Watercrest Senior Living Center



Commander Harold Trieber donates check and masks to Eric Stien of Southeast Florida Honor Flight

Commander Harold Trieber of Ch. 106 at Four Chaplains Tree at Wreaths Across America museum (HC)



Entrance to the Acadia National Cemetery that opened in Harrington, ME this summer; the land was donated by Wreaths Across America.



Jeff Brodeur, Karen Worcester, Morrill Worcester, and Harold Trieber (L-R) at the presentation of the KWVA Presidential Award



Honor Guard comprising members of the Saint Lucie County Sheriff and Fire Departments at Port Saint Lucie 9/11 memorial service



9-11 Memorial at Clover Park in Port Saint Lucie, FL

137 MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

Founder/Commander Bob Bakalik Goes To Final Post

Normally, when we send in an article to *The Graybeards* it is about things we have been doing here in the Mahoning Valley of Ohio. Sadly, this article is the Final Call for our Commander, Bob Bakalik, 88, who died of cancer on the Fourth of July.



Bob Bakalik, recently deceased Ch. 137 Commander

After Bob enlisted in the Army in 1951, he had his basic training at Ft. Hood, Texas, then was assigned to Eta Jima Technical School in Japan for training as a Track (Tank) Mechanic. After completing his training, he was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division, 140th Tank Battalion in Korea in July, 1952.

After 9 months on line with the 140th his last duty was Battalion Maintenance Sergeant, after which he rotated back to the U.S. in March, 1953, to his new assignment as an instructor at the Ft. Knox, KY. Armored School. He was discharged in April, 1954.



Ch. 137 members at local Korean War Veterans Memorial

For his service in Korea, Bob received:

1. The Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze campaign stars
2. Army of Occupation Medal (Japan)
3. United Nations Service Medal
4. National Defense Service Medal
5. Korean War Service Medal
6. Good Conduct Medal



Bob Bakalik offers salute

After retiring in 1998, he became very involved in veteran affairs. Bob was a founding member of Ch. 137, serving as commander for many years, which he was at the time of his death.

He was on the executive committee of the American Legion Post 15 in Poland, Ohio and also belonged to V.F.W. Post #4237 in Austintown. He was instrumental in naming the KWV Memorial Bridge in Struthers, building the KWV Memorial in Austintown and naming Route 680 as the KWV Memorial Highway. In 2001, Bob was honored as a Veteran's Representative during a trip to Seoul, South Korea.

Our chapter held an annual ceremony at the Korean War Vets Memorial he was instrumental in having constructed. Every June there would be a Laying of the Roses ceremony to honor the 116 men who died from the three counties here (Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana), one of whom, Marine John Kelly, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

A Roll Call of all their names was read aloud in their memory, "Taps" was played, and a rifle salute was fired by the Marine contingent present. On July 8th, it was for him that Taps and a rifle salute were given.

Rest in Peace, Bob Bakalik, Commander, KWVA #137

Loretta Ekoniak, loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com

138 AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

We held a dedication ceremony on Monday July 27th at 11 a.m. to dedicate a Korean War Veterans bench at the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park (OVMP) in Clinton, Ohio. The bench looks toward 15 blank black granite panels where 1,822 KIA names will be engraved honoring those from Ohio who lost their lives during the Korean War.

It will cost \$30 per name to have the names engraved on the wall, so a fundraiser has started to raise the \$54,660 to get all 1,822 names engraved on the 15 panels.

Anyone wishing to donate can mail their donation to Korean War Veterans, PO Box 4788, Akron Ohio 44310.

Bob McCullough, bobmc717@gmail.com



Members of Ch. 138 at July 27th commemoration: (Back, L-R) Frank Thomas, Dean Johnson, Larry Dole, Floyd Spice, Bob McCullough; Front (L-R): Fred Zimmer, Max Bowers, Walter Worobel, Al Leyerle



Front and back side of Ch. 138's bench

142 COL. WILLIAM E. WEBER [MD]

Members Lay Wreath at Korean War Memorial in Frederick, MD

On July 27, 2020, National Korean War Armistice Day, members placed a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in Frederick, MD, in remembrance of comrades who gave their lives for the freedom of South Korea. The Korean War armistice was 67 years ago, when hostilities ceased on the Korean peninsula and an uneasy truce began. The names of 26 Frederick County residents are engraved on the Memorial's centerpiece. Hundreds of other Marylanders who sacrificed their lives are engraved on either side.



Ch. 142's July 27th wreath



Members of Ch. 142 at Frederick, MD Korean War Memorial



Fred Becker and Chip Chiple of Ch. 142 salute at Korean armistice commemoration



The Frederick, MD, Korean War Memorial



The wreath placed at Frederick, MD Korean War Memorial



Priscilla Rall at Ch. 142's Korean War display

Commander Fred Becker and Chip Chipley lay the wreath, after which all saluted. Fred Becker gave a speech ending with the reading of all 26 names on the centerpiece of the memorial.

Priscilla Rall, who has been instrumental in recording thousands of veterans' histories, also spoke and brought home some of the stories about the 26 Frederick County soldiers. She set up a display with information on the Korean War and local soldiers.

Members participating, socially distanced and masked due to the pandemic, were Glenn Wienhoff, Bob Mount, Chip Chipley, Bob Eader, Fred Becker, Tony Marra, and Richard Cody.

Linda Crilly, Ch. Webmaster, CID142Webmaster@gmail.com, or Glenn Wienhoff, cid142kwva@gmail.com

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

We had the pleasure of hosting William (Bill) Cummins as guest speaker at a recent meeting. He is the award-winning author of the book "The Forgotten," which is filled with true foxhole stories spoken by soldiers in their own words during the Korean War. Bill, along with his wife Ann, read some chapters to the members.

In his earlier days Bill was a radio and stage singer who performed with his show horse King. He is also the award-winning author of four additional books and is an enrichment speaker for Stonecroft Ministries.

Joseph Sicinski, sicinskij@aol.com



William Cummins, Ch. 189 Commander President Joe Sicinski, and Ann Cummins (L-R)



William Cummins (L) accepts certificate of appreciation from Ch. 189 Commander Joseph Sicinski

199 MANASOTA [FL]

We installed our officers at VFW 10141 in Bradenton, FL on December 19, 2019. Two people missed the group photo, outgoing Chaplain Earl Sonner and Judge Advocate Don Courtney.

After the installation we had our Christmas dinner, with a choice of prime rib or roasted chicken, followed by a wonderful dessert. There were 25 people in attendance. We all enjoyed our dinners, drinks, and camaraderie.

Henry (Hank) Buhlinger, 586-261-3970



At Ch. 199 installation ceremony: Barry Yoder, Joseph Nichols, Chaplain Harold Crapo, Jeff Brodeur, Commander Bill Skinner, 1st Vice Commander and Honor Guard Captain Terry Willis, Secretary Shirley Sullivan, 2nd Vice Commander and Sgt.-at-Arms Roy Robertson, and Treasurer Hank Buhlinger (L-R)

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented any face-to-face group activity for our chapter. Our Honor Guard has not been permitted to participate in the services for two of our members who died recently. Only immediate family can attend services at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery. However, both funeral services were available for viewing with online live streaming.

The Executive Council is still meeting on Zoom and we are able to publish a monthly newsletter. The calling committee is actively making health and welfare checks on each of our members.

Dave Moore, dmoorekwva215@outlook.com

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

There are still no meetings being held because of COVID 19.

On July 27th a wreath was laid at the Korean War Veterans Monument in Providence, Rhode Island to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the ceasefire. (Pictures submitted by Charles Crompton)

*Margaret Walsh, Secretary/Photographer,
311 Hardig Rd., B205, Warwick, RI 02886*



Commander Richard St Louis, Bo Kenahan, Dick Mende, Richard Bartlett, and Charles Compton of Ch. 258 at wreath laying ceremony



Rhode Island state officials at Providence, RI Korean War Veterans Monument: Samuel A. Azzinaro, House of Representatives Chair Committee of Veterans Affairs and Jerry Squatrito, Secretary of Veterans Administration

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

We have been very active in the past as the nearby photos suggest, and we will be in the future.

Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr., Pinole, CA 94564



Past President Dave McDonald of Ch. 264 at an event



A float towed by a truck used to transport veterans, including members of Ch. 264



A military display at a recent meeting in Concord, CA, home of Ch. 264



MGen Dan Helix with members of Ch. 1525, VFW, with Ch. 264 members at a recent meeting



Ch. 264 members passed out water and Remembrance Poppies to public at a Veterans Day Parade

267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

We welcomed our National President, Jeff Brodeur, to our September 2020 monthly meeting. Twenty-two members and guests greeted him. He presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation for being an active chapter for the last 20 years. He also gave us some of the new Tell America poster boards and 100 new National membership applications.



Members of Ch. 267 gather with KWVA President Jeff Brodeur at September meeting



Cmdr. Rich Stalbaum, Jeff Brodeur, and Don Sherry (L-R) display Certificate of Appreciation presented to Ch. 267

The new COVID 19 prevention masks were discussed and he noted that it was a big job for everyone to get them all distributed to the VA hospitals. We have given 17,000 of these masks to our

local VA hospitals, to the Director, Mr. Tom Wisnieski, who covers North Florida and South Georgia veterans. Also, 540,000 masks were distributed and coordinated with the VA Warehouse in Virginia. Jeff thanked our friends in the Republic of South Korea for donating one million of these excellent quality masks to all the chapters in the USA.



Jim Ramos (L) and Jeff Brodeur at Ch. 267 meeting



Cmdr. Rich Stalbaum (L) and Don Sherry of Ch. 267 display new Tell America poster



Former POW Sarge McQuinn (L) with Jeff Brodeur at Ch. 267 meeting

Jeff discussed the upcoming National Directors meeting to be held in Florida this fall. Jim Ramos, Past American Legion State Commander, was in attendance to discuss future plans for both organizations for recruiting opportunities. Jeff mentioned our recent involvement in the “Wreaths across America” program, noting that they have 300 acres of trees for us up in Maine. This fall our members can put WWII and KWVA dog tags in our KWVA plot at Wreaths Across America in Maine, as well as wreaths on our fellow veterans’ graves.

He passed out his new challenge coins and a few 70th anniversary coins to everyone and presented the new recruiting chips to our two new members. We were pleased at all he has accomplished in such a short time as our new president.

Commander Richard Stalbaum presented Jeff with an Honorary Chapter 267 Lifetime Membership card, noting the he will be carried on our rolls with our members as long as we have an active chapter. Jeff also visited our “Walk in Time” Monument at the Alachua County’s Veterans Memorial Park and took some pictures of this impressive monument.

Don Sherry, Adjutant, 352-375-8355, dpskwva@yahoo.com

281 ROLLA [MO]

Member Leslie Burris was honored by the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment on August 2, 2020 at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Rolla. Les was recognized for his service with the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, and most notably his encounter with three North Korean tanks in September of 1950.

He and his assistant bazooka gunner, Robert Myers, were sent forward at the request of an infantry unit to engage the enemy. After destroying all three tanks, Les put his final round square through the door of a building occupied by the enemy. For his actions that day, Les would eventually be awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor.

Military artist Larry Selmon captured this combat action in a painting which was also presented to Les at the Park.

Greg Sanden, (573)465-0241, sandeng@fidnet.com



U.S. Army Engineer School Commandant Brigadier General Mark Quander presents Les Burris with his Bronze Star Medal certificate and painting



Veteran's Memorial Park in Rolla, MO



Ch. 281 members (L-R): Arlo Robb, Myrlen Troutt, 1st Vice CDR Harrison Meaux, Adjutant Norman Ragan, Walt Timson, Leslie Burris and Bill Noack

297 PLATEAU [TN]

We continue to enlist quality and inspiring speakers during our monthly meetings. At a recent meeting the group was addressed by Knoxville TV10 news anchor John Becker, whose message involved military stories that he was involved in during his career at Channel 10. Mr. Becker is very involved in military events in and around the Knoxville, TN community.

Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292, kaslam2001@yahoo.com



Looking and listening to John Becker at Ch. 297 meeting are Treasurer Pete Staab, Commander Gene Stone, and Secretary Ron Lickens (L-R)

306 WEST MICHIGAN [MI]

Rod Chapman puts this display out every July 27th to remember the Armistice of July 27 1953. Rod can't forget this day, not only because he is a Korean War veteran who served in the 7th Infantry Division, but July 27th is his birthday. So it's a very special day for Rod.



Rod Chapman of Ch. 306's July 27th display

This day will also be known as Korean War Veterans Day when the American flag is flown half-staff. Freedom is not free.

Doug Voss, Sr VP/CH 306, dwv123@aol.com

320 NEW HAMPSHIRE [NH]

Three members, Al Heidenreich, Jack Meisel, and Jim Connolly, were featured in a New Hampshire Union Leader article on February 27, 2020.



The newspaper article featuring Al Heidenreich, Jack Meisel, and Jim Connolly of Ch. 320

Jack Meisel, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, participated in an Honor Flight a short while ago.



Al Heidenreich, Jack Meisel, and Jim Connolly of Ch. 320



Honor Flight group at Korean War Memorial: Jack Meisel is on far left



Honor Flight group at Korean War Memorial: Jack Meisel is third from left

Thanks to Mr. Meisel's daughter, Eileen Nunez, for submitting the story.

Richard Zoerb, 72 Hawkstead Hollow, Nashua, NH 03063

321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

We continue our drive to raise funds for the Wall of Remembrance. Of course, anonymous \$5,000 donations help—and are always welcome.

Edward L Barnes, 13816 NE Laurin Rd., Vancouver, WA 98662, 360-695-2180



WEST VANCOUVER: Commander Ed Barnes shows the thank-you sign and copy of the check after an anonymous local donor gave \$5,000 for a Wall of Remembrance for Korean War veterans.

WEST VANCOUVER — The Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance is \$5,000 closer to reality thanks to an anonymous local donation. Ed Barnes, commander of the Richard L. Quatier Southwest Washington Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, recently received the donation and passed it on to the national organization for its memorial in Washington, D.C. The Wall of Remembrance will contain the names of 36,574 Americans who gave their lives during the conflict, which ended 65 years ago with a cease-fire agreement.

War memorial wall closer to start

Retired IBEW Local 48 business manager Ed Barnes reports that the Clark County chapter of the National Korean War Veterans Association received an anonymous \$5,000 donation last month toward a Korean War "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington, D.C. Barnes, second vice president of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, has helped the chapter raise nearly \$77,000.

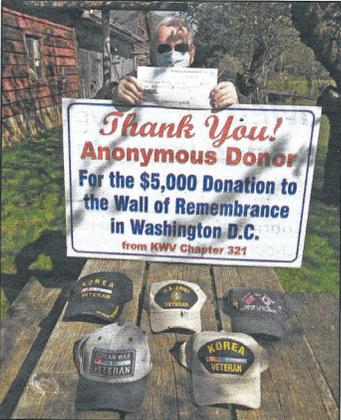
"That's tops in the country," said Michel AuBuchon, treasury officer for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., which has been tasked with raising the funds necessary to build the Wall.

In 2016, President Barack Obama signed a law authorizing a Wall of Remembrance to be incorporated into the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The Wall will list the names of 36,574 American military personnel and over 8,000 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) who gave their lives defending the people of South Korea.

Shamefully, Congress didn't attach any money to the legislation, which at the time was estimated to cost \$15 million. Today the price tag is \$22 million. All money to build the Wall has to be collected through private donations. To date, only \$1.3 million is in the bank.

But help could be on the way. AuBuchon says the Foundation has been in contact with a delegation from the Republic of Korea and there is a very good chance that South Korea will appropriate "a good portion," if not all, of the money needed to build the Wall.

The concept and design of the Wall have cleared several commissions, and general con-



Ch. 321 welcomes anonymous donation

tractor Whiting-Turner of Washington, D.C., has been awarded the contract. AuBuchon said the National Capital Planning Commission is slated to vote on final approval May 7.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE
Checks payable to The Korean War Memorial can be sent to the NW Oregon Labor Council, 9955 SE Washington, St., Suite 305, Portland, OR, 97218.

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www.kwva.us

Korean War Veterans Mark the 70th Anniversary of the Start of the War



KVA officials applaud as donations are presented to KWVA reps

Like so many groups planning events to mark the seventh decade since the start of the Korean War, those plans of our ROK comrades-in-arms, the KVA, likewise, had to be seriously curtailed due to the virus pandemic. However, utilizing ZOOM technology, the KVA conducted a video conference on June 27th – a date selected to avoid conflict with their national observance of this event. (The Korean Veterans Association comprises 10,000,000 members.)

Hosting the event was Chairman, KIM, Jin Ho, (Gen. Ret. ROK Army). He was assisted by KVA Vice Presidents for each branch of their armed services. BG (Ret) KIM, Hyung Soo moderated and Col. Lee, Jongjae served as translator. Honored guests were: Gen. (Ret.) John Tilelli, former commander of the Combined Forces in Korea and currently serving as chairman of the Wall of Remembrance Foundation, and Dr. Paul H. Cunningham, past president of the KWVA.

To open the program, MC Lee called upon Chairman Kim to bring greetings and opening remarks. Immediately following, the chairman presented awards. They included gifts of \$10,000 each to the KWVA and the Korean War Memorial Wall of Remembrance Foundation. There was also a special documentary commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War breakout.

The program concluded with Chairman Kim, Dr. Cunningham, and Gen. Tilelli each reflecting on the importance of commemorating this event and the need for strengthening the ROK/US Alliance. Following Chairman Kim's remarks, Dr. Cunningham proposed a toast to Chairman Kim for his strong leadership of KVA and fostering ties with KWVA.

KVA's commitment to honor Korean War veterans continued to

be shown by their donation of 40,000 face masks to be distributed to our veterans. To facilitate distribution of the masks, the KVA consented to ship masks to eight U.S. locations where the greatest need for masks was perceived. Mr. Hee Jung Park, President of the Philadelphia area KVA, was on hand when the masks arrived at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.

The masks were turned over to MG Mark Shindler, Dep. Adj. Gen., PA National Guard. He accepted them on behalf of the PA Veterans and Military Affairs Commission. The commission will see that the masks will be distributed to veterans in the six veterans homes serving Korean War veterans.

The KWVA is grateful to the KVA for its generosity and, like its KVA counterpart, looks forward to maintaining the longstanding relationship between the two organizations.



The office of chairman
THE KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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Seongdong-gu, Seoul
04766 Republic of Korea

Tel: +82-2-417-5274
Fax: +82-2-417-5273
www.korva.or.kr

August 6, 2020

Dear National President Jeffrey J. Brodeur,

On behalf of the 10 million members of the Korean Veterans Association, I sincerely congratulate you on your election and swearing in of National President of the Korean War Veterans Association. It is my earnest hope that, under your superb leadership, the KWVA will develop further in this transition period of the organization.

I still vividly remember and thank you for your warm welcome as KWVA 1st Vice President when I visited Washington D.C. in July last year. Especially, the Twilight Tattoo, which I participated with KWVA members, was very impressive. I was also able to have a very meaningful and memorable time with your members through July 27 Armistice Day ceremony and Korean War Veterans Banquet.

The ROK and the USA have maintained the most exemplary alliance based on the blood-shed alliance forged in the Korean War. And the KWVA and the KVA have long been in close relationship with each other through Revisit Korea Program, which KVA had run from 1975 to 2015. I hope that the relationship between our two organizations will develop further under your leadership.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, various commemorative events had been planned. But because of Covid-19 situation, many of the events have been postponed or canceled. In this situation, in order to express KVA's appreciation to the KWVA, the KVA held a video conference with then President Paul Cunningham in June and donated 40,000 masks and USD 10,000 to KWVA. I hope these will help veterans a little bit overcome the COVID 19 situation.

The KVA will continue to work closely with you and to support your organization in the future.

Once again, congratulations on your inauguration, and wish you and all the members of KWVA good health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,



General (Ret.) Kim, Jin Ho
Chairman
The Korean Veterans Association

Congratulatory letter from KVA Chairman Kim, Jin Ho to newly elected KWVA President Jeff Brodeur

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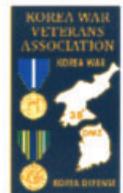


Back

New



Front



Back

\$15 each plus postage



Service



Defense



Decals \$5
 3/10

Window Klings Stick on
 Inside \$3 each 2/\$5



PETERAN
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOC. INC.
 25 JUNE 1985



New Oval Shape

Items not shown actual size

Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Ron Rosser

By *Monika Stoy*

Ron Rosser, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his combat actions in Korea in 1952, died on 26 August 2020, aged 90. Ron served a full Army career, retiring in 1968 as a Master Sergeant. After retiring, Ron served in law enforcement as a police chief in Florida, and as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. His obituary in the Washington Post on 27 August 2020 provides many details on his life and service.

We were fortunate to meet Ron the first time ten years ago in June 2010. He attended the Department of Defense's ceremony at the Pentagon to mark the beginning of the three-year commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War. My husband, Tim, was a member of DOD's KW60 committee organizing the event and he contacted Ron to invite him to the ceremony. We served as his escorts.

That afternoon we took Ron to visit the headquarters of the Army Historical Foundation in Arlington, VA and to meet with several of the officers of the Foundation to get an overview on progress in building the National Museum of the United States Army, a project Ron very much supported. The day after the ceremony at the Pentagon, and after a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall, Ron came with us and another Korean War veteran, former-POW David W. Mills, to visit great American warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The wounded warriors were, of course, very happy to meet Ron, and Ron enjoyed talking to each of them, sharing their experiences.

Besides being a genuine American hero, Ron was a genuine American. Outspoken, funny, brash – being in Ron's presence was a never-ending adventure. He loved to tell stories, and he held everyone around him spellbound with his tales of combat in Korea, and his very interesting life afterwards. He was always totally honest. We learned just how much he enjoyed working with young people to instill in them love of country and a sense of duty. We enjoyed a great three days with Ron during his stay in Washington, and formed a wonderful friendship which lasted 10 years until his death.



Taeguk Medal Presentation Ceremony, July 2014: Ron Rosser (L) and LTG Rowny (Front Center), Korean War MOH recipient Hiroshi Miyamura (second row left). Monika Stoy stands to Ron Rosser's left; her husband, Tim Stoy, stands directly behind him.

We stayed in touch through phone calls and notes and had the great pleasure of seeing him again in Louisville, KY for the annual Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention in 2011. He introduced us to the other Korean War Medal of Honor recipients attending the convention, opening doors for us as military historians to speak with great American heroes. Attending the convention, we got to know many of the recipients as people, not just heroes – real and ordinary people who did extraordinary things in combat on behalf of our country.

In 2012 we saw Ron again at the MOH Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. He hadn't changed, he never did, and continued to entertain all and sundry with his vivid tales from his multi-faceted life. One thing is certain, he was strong-willed, and would have been a demanding subordinate for any commander. And he was certainly outspoken!

In 2014 the Korean government asked our assistance in locating and inviting American Korean War Medal of Honor recipients who had not received the Korean government's

highest award for combat valor, the Taeguk. Ron Rosser was one of the MOH recipients who had not previously received that award, and we arranged for him to travel with us to Korea to receive it in a large ceremony presided over by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

The most wonderful aspect of this trip to Korea was that Ron's 38th Infantry Regimental Commander who nominated him for the Medal of Honor, LTG Edward L.



Monika Stoy (L) with Ron Rosser at his Roseville, OH home

Passes Away at Age 90

Rowny, was also traveling with us to Korea to receive the same award. Rowny was receiving it for his important contribution to the Incheon Landing plan and the evacuation of X Corps from Hungnam! It was a memorable trip with these two great Americans. We enjoyed listening to them trade memories of their shared time in Korea.

In April 2017 we organized our first Korean War historical seminar. Ron graciously accepted our invitation to be one of the marquee participants and gave a riveting presentation on his Korean War experience during the seminar. In April 2018 Ron again attended one of our Korean War seminars.

Our seminars include a commemorative ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery honoring the fallen from the war. Our guest speaker for the ceremony was GEN Mark Milley, the Army Chief of Staff, and the supporting chaplain was the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, Chaplain (MG) Paul K. Hurley. General Milley enjoyed speaking with Ron, and Ron appreciated the attention. Of course, over the course of his years as a Medal of Honor recipient, he met many important and powerful people. He always fondly recalled his award ceremony when President Truman placed the Medal around his neck, but just as much as Ron enjoyed meeting the high and mighty, he loved speaking to kids and passing on love of country.

The last time we saw Ron was in June 2019. We were returning from a trip to the West Coast and stopped by his home in Ohio. He was the same old Ron, looking slightly weary. He told us then that he had just been diagnosed with leukemia, but he was taking it in stride. He said, "All those darned Chinese couldn't kill me when they had the chance. I can handle this too."

We were remarkably honored and blessed to have spent quality time with such a great American as Ron Rosser. He was always ready to help, as long as his crowded schedule allowed it. He handled his responsibilities as one of our country's greatest heroes with grace and a full appreciation of what the Medal of Honor means. There are few of his caliber still alive. Rest in Peace, Ron, and we'll meet you on the high ground when the time comes.



Korean War MOH recipients gathered at MOH Convention



Monika Stoy, BG Abrams, David Mills, Ron Rosser, MG Herrling (L-R) at Army Historical Foundation

My Four Weeks on the Frontline in Korea

By Bill Goss

These are the events as I recall them on July 1, 2018, that happened over 67 years ago. In 1948 I joined the National Guard of Pennsylvania while a junior in high school, because it paid a whole day's pay for a few hours of drilling and learning.

The one thing that stands out about my time at the armory in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania was the classes that our Battery Commander ran, as well as marching and close order drills. The battery was supposed to be composed of six 155 mm Howitzers with Prime Movers, but we only had three. A Prime Mover is a tracked vehicle designed to pull the Howitzer. It also has room for the gun crew of 6 to 8, 20 rounds of ammunition, powder charges, and fuses. Its top speed is around 15 to 20 mph.

I spent two summers at Indian Gap Military Reservation doing basic training, which included classes on such things as how to position our Howitzers, how to sight them into positions, how to read a quadrant (elevation), how to bore sight the "cannons" (or Howitzers), and a small amount of fire control. All of this proved to be helpful when I was sent to Korea to a Field Artillery Battery.

Being a Boy Scout I learned how to read maps, use a compass, pitch a tent, make a fire, and cook food when required. These skills, when added to my learning at summer camp, put me in a great position when I was in combat after a few months.

When I arrived at Battalion Headquarters in Korea I was assigned to the fire control section for about two-and-a-half weeks. I knew some of the routines, but this training gave me a greater insight into how the batteries worked and how to coordinate the three different batteries.

I was then assigned to Battery B as a gun sergeant in charge of one of the Howitzers. We moved frequently, both forward and back, repositioning and setting up each "piece," or Howitzer, quickly, and then moving the piece from place to place. This was called limbering up the gun.

Sometimes, if we had only been at a position for a few days, this could be done in thirty minutes. If we were in a position for over a week, the trails which had large spades on them would be dug into the earth and it might require hours to dig out and get ready to move.

The battery, as well as the battalion, had a forward observer embedded with the infantry to direct fire from the batteries. The information from the forward observer (FO) would be sent to the battalion fire control and fire control would give directions to the batteries. This information was in the form of azimuth (right/left) and elevation (up/down), as well as coordinates on the maps.

It is important to point out that all the maps of Korea were in Japanese, as Japan had occupied Korea for years and mapped the whole country. Fire control had made velum overlays with

English names and numbers for the hilltops. The information could be relayed by telephone (landline), radio, or runner to battalion. For the most part, it was relayed by radio.

When the front was stationary for some time, two or three days, landlines would be laid and used as they were clearer and easier to understand. Radio in those days was not very good, and was fuzzy and unclear most of the time.

In November our Battery FO got very ill and had to come off the line. The First Sergeant of our battery called all the gun sergeants together and described the situation. He asked if any of the six of us, since there were six Howitzers in the battery, were interested in volunteering to fill the FO position.

He looked at me and asked if, since I had the most training for the position, I would be willing to give it a go. At this time the peace talks were in full swing and the front line was not moving at all. It was called the Kansas line and had been stationary for over three weeks. I was told in a roundabout way that if I made good in the position I would be in for a promotion to Second Lieutenant. This sounded like a great opportunity and I jumped at the chance.

I was called to the Battery Commander's tent and given instructions and comments on how to behave and how to communicate with battalion. I learned that there was a Marine First Lieutenant who was in charge of the Marines on the left side of the line and that the First Cavalry was on the right. I was to consult and work closely with the Marine, but not necessarily take orders from him when the First Cavalrymen were in harm's way or if I thought they were. This was very disturbing and did not give me a good feeling about the thing I was about to undertake.

I was told this would be a two-week assignment. I was then sent to battalion HQ for some additional instructions. This took the better part of two days. I then returned to the battery.

I was instructed to go to the mess tent and draw two weeks' worth of "C" rations. There would be two ROK (Korean Soldiers) there to help me load my things and the food in a jeep. When I got to the mess tent there were four cases of 10-in-1 rations. A ten-in-one case holds 10 meals for one person, or one meal for ten people. With the four cases I had enough food for 40 meals to cover my two weeks on the line. The ROKs were to take me to the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) and help me move the materials from the jeep to my position at the FO.

When everything was loaded and the radio was checked out we started for the MLR. The road, if it could be called that, was very rutted and bumpy. It was no more than a donkey trail. When we got to the hill where the FO was set up, the ROKs helped me move all the materials to a dugout close to the top of the hill. As soon as all was secured they were nowhere to be seen. They scooted off the hill as quickly as possible. I could hear the jeep making tracks back to the battery. So much for

It is important to point out that all the maps of Korea were in Japanese, as Japan had occupied Korea for years and mapped the whole country. Fire control had made velum overlays with English names and numbers for the hilltops.

ROK help.

I met the Marine First Lt. who was dug into a large trench about 6 to 8 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 4 to 5 feet deep. He said he got two Korean civilians to dig it for several boxes of C-rations. The ditch was divided into two parts, as there was a very large tree root that ran across it in about the middle. I was informed that my half was on the right side. The first question that struck me was what we were going to do if it were to rain, as that ditch would be a large mud hole.

The Marine Lt. was pleasant, but very matter-of-fact about all things. He had a lot of maps and a radio that worked only

about half of the time. On my side of the trench was a very good BC scope which just reached over the top of the dirt that was piled on the front side that was dug out of the trench. That way we had cover and no one could see us or our movements.

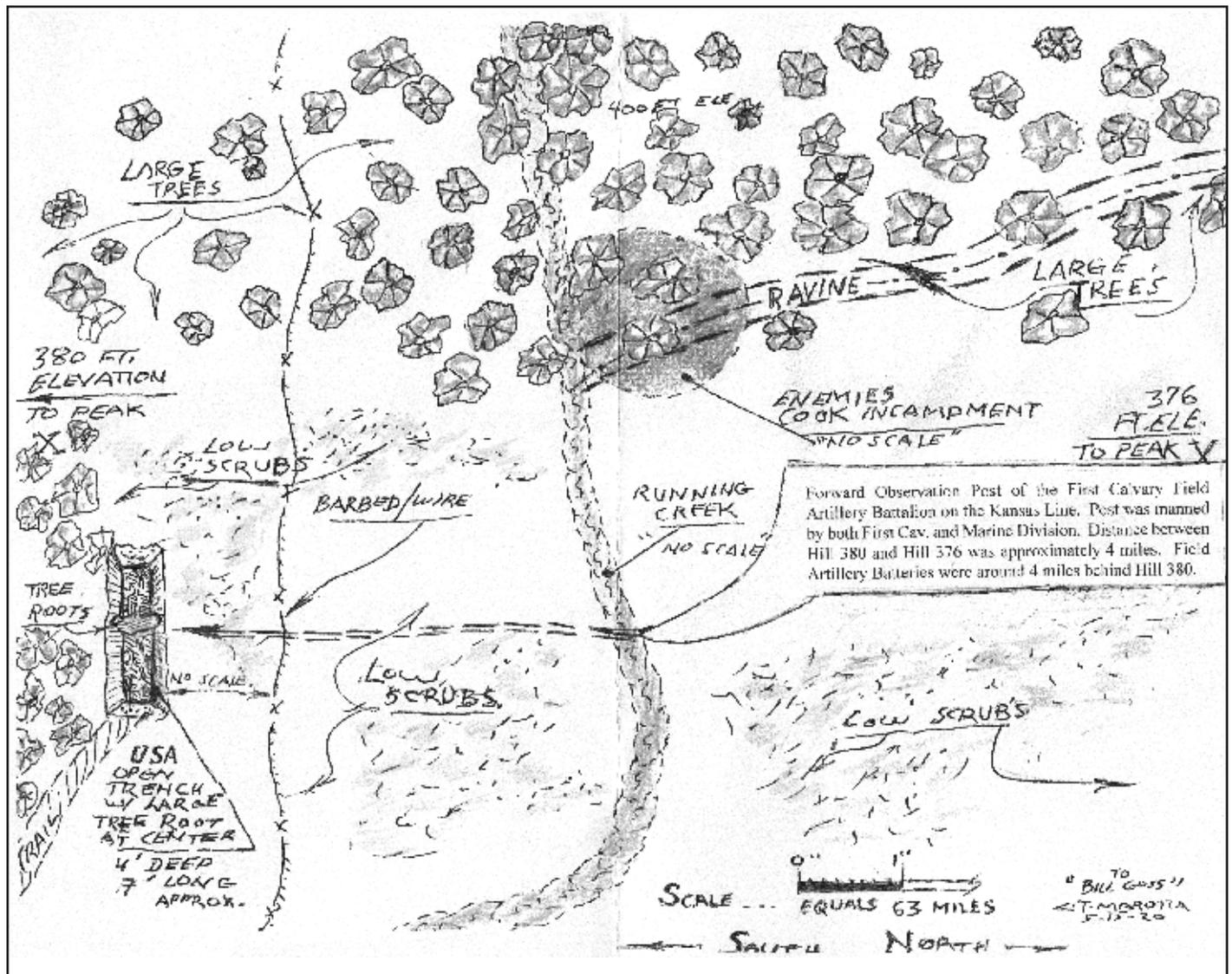
A BC scope is like the toy we had as kids to look over your back fence to see what was going on the other side without being seen. A BC scope is a very expensive instrument, which allows for focal length and magnification. It had a radical or crosshairs that could be used to estimate distance. I had used one only briefly at one of my classes back at the armory in

Pennsylvania.

I laid out my blow-up air mattress and sleeping bag and resumed worrying about what I would do if it started to rain, as there was no overhead cover. I surmised that I could use my poncho to try and cover over the top of the ditch.

For this first day, there was zero action and I got to know the Marine Lt. quite well. From then on we got along. He had a good sense of humor and kept kidding me about my volunteering for the position. He said they must have given me a good sales talk. I did not tell him that I was doing it for a promotion, but I wished I had, which I will discuss later in this article.

The night of the first day the Marines sent out two patrols to infiltrate the enemy to see what they were doing, their strength, and if there had been any move-



When the patrols went out that night they returned stating that there was no sign of any Chinese on the hill and there were over 300 bodies where we thought the kitchen was set up. What a mistake on their part.

ment during the previous day. They returned the next morning stating that nothing had changed.

The second day the Marine Lt. suggested that we fire a couple rounds in the enemy's direction just to keep them off guard and keep them from coming any closer to our position. I called battalion on the landline and gave them the information and map coordinates for shooting a couple rounds.

Actually, they fired 3 rounds from each gun in Battery A, or 18 rounds altogether. I watched through the BC scope and was surprised how much destruction it made. Then things were all quiet for the rest of the day.

The Marines again sent out two patrols after dark and I settled into a not-so-sound sleep for the first time. When the two patrols returned they said the enemy had moved in two tanks that were just behind the tree line over the top of their hill. Korea is 75% hills and forest—or was before we started to shoot the trees down. It was decided that the tanks were just far enough behind the hill that we most likely could not hit them. They promised to send out another patrol the next night to see if they could destroy or disable them.

From my position, I could see down the hill into a ravine that ran from left to right with a small stream in it. There was a second ravine coming from the enemy's side down into the ravine that ran from left to right. That ravine did not have any water in it. The ravine that ran left to right went down and crossed the road that the jeep traveled, then trailed off into a large ravine that ran north to south. That is where the First Cavalry Infantry was positioned. The distance to the enemy (Chinese) was approximately 4-1/2 miles by direct sight, and six miles down one side of the hill and up the other to the enemy.

Day four was quiet again with zero activity on both sides, so I caught a good nap while the Marine Lt. kept watch. The patrol was again sent out to check on the tanks. They returned and said the tanks had been moved back and they could no longer find them.

On day five things changed. There seemed to be a lot of activity on the enemy's side of the hill. We could see them moving up and then retreating and then moving up again. The movements made no sense, but we kept a close eye on the activity. The Marine Lt. and I took turns watching through the BC scope all day. That night the Marine Lt. sent out three patrols and contacted the First Cavalry Infantry on our right to send out several patrols to see what was taking place. When all five patrols returned, they said most of the enemy had moved back and there was very little activity or contact.

As I watched in the BC scope on day six I saw what looked like smoke coming from where the left to right ravine met the small ravine coming down the hill that the enemy occupied. I

was about to call in to battalion to have several rounds dropped into that area as it had been well defined by the former FO on the map when the Marine Lt. suggested we hold off and see what was happening.

As the day progressed I noticed more smoke and what seemed like more activity in that area. At about 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon there seemed to be a lot of movement around where the smoke was coming from. We surmised that the Chinese had set up a kitchen where two ravines came together, as there was water there for cooking. The Marine Lt. and I put our heads together and decided that this was what they had done.

I notified battalion what we surmised and suggested they completely destroy the area. The battalion had all three small 105 mm batteries and all three 155 mm batteries shoot six shells each to blanket that area. When all the shelling stopped the area was nude of any foliage and there was no sign of any movement. When the patrols went out that night they returned stating that there was no sign of any Chinese on the hill and there were over 300 bodies where we thought the kitchen was set up. What a mistake on their part.

The peace talks must have been doing some good, as we saw very little action from days 7 through 14. Things were so slow that the Marine Lt. only sent out one patrol at night. I fired a couple rounds at different times of the day just to keep the enemy on alert—or jitters, as I called it.

On some nights I would have a battery shoot several illuminating rounds just to light things up and make the enemy troops think we might be doing something like advancing, sending out more patrols, or things like that. As I think about it now it must have kept our batteries on alert and jitters as well, but I did not consider that.

Right on schedule, on day fourteen, a Second Lt. from battalion showed up with the jeep and the two ROKs to relieve me. He was curt, short, and did not seem very pleasant or interested in what I had to say. I guess that was because as a Second Lt. he was replacing a sergeant. I tried to explain what was taking place and how we were living and introduced him to the Marine First Lt. I then went with the two ROKs to the jeep and returned to my battery.

When I got back to the battery I visited the First Sergeant, and we went to the Battery Commander's tent to report in and pass along all important information I had for him. I also requested a trip to the rear to take a shower, as I had not had one for the two weeks on the line, which was normal in combat.

I returned to the battery after my shower and put on a clean uniform (fatigues). The First Sergeant told me that they had borrowed a gun sergeant from another battery and he was servicing my Howitzer. I was told to just hang loose and take a rest.

The next day the First Sergeant called me and said because of my time on the line I was going to be given a special R&R to Japan for two weeks. That sounded wonderful to me until the men came to me with money and asked me to buy things for them in Tokyo. I had a shopping list a mile long and felt I would need two duffle bags to carry all the goods back with me.

It turned out that I did not get to go to Tokyo, but to a rest

hotel on the southern coast in a town called Hakone. There were stores there where I was able to purchase most of the items that the men wanted, but it sure cut into my rest time and made the trip more of a burden than fun.

When I got back to the battery I distributed all the items I was able to purchase. I had not been able to satisfy all the requests. Some of the men got angry about it. In retrospect, I should have turned down the requests of the men to purchase things for them, but I could not do that.

The First Sergeant called me to his tent and said our normal FO was still quite ill and the Battery Commander wanted to know if I would do another two weeks on the hill. I asked about the promotion and was assured it would be considered.

I followed the same routine going to the mess tent and requesting rations for two weeks. I was pointed to four cases in the corner where the other 10-in-1 cases were located, and I had the two ROKs load them into the jeep. I collected my belongings and secured a tarp to cover the foxhole (or trench) in case it rained and a second sleeping bag as it was getting really cold at night. I had a mummy type bag that I slipped into a standard full-size sleeping bag. I had the ROKs ferry me by jeep to the hill and they helped me fetch all the items to the foxhole.

The position had not changed and things looked very much as I had left them two weeks before. The First Cavalry Second Lt. was glad to see me and did not express anything about being replaced by a sergeant. He said he was really looking forward to cleaning up and having some decent food for a change. He told me that nothing was happening and he had suspended the harassing rounds I had been shooting to keep the enemy off guard. The Marines had also suspended the night patrols.

I reacquainted myself with the Marine First Lt. who was in charge of the left side of the line. He said things were really quiet and he did not like it. He advised me to really keep my eye open for any activity. I called the First Lt. of the First Cavalry infantry and asked him for inputs. He expressed the same thing, as he had a bad feeling about things. That really made the hair—I still had some at that time—stand up on the back of my neck.

I glued myself to the BC scope for about six hours the first day and did not see a thing. There was no smoke that would signal a cooking fire or heating fire. In fact, there was no movement of any kind. Again, the peace talks were in full swing and we were still stationed on the Kansas Line.

I opened the case of food I was given. It contained only six one-gallon cans of hash. I opened the second case; it was the same. Apparently, I picked up the wrong cases. Actually, I had

I opened the case of food I was given. It contained only six one-gallon cans of hash. I opened the second case; it was the same. Apparently, I picked up the wrong cases. Actually, I had pointed to the cases and the two ROKs loaded them. I cannot blame them as they were just following instructions and, of course, they did not read English.

pointed to the cases and the two ROKs loaded them. I cannot blame them as they were just following instructions and, of course, they did not read English.

That meant I had nothing but hash for two weeks. I was able to trade some with the Marines and First Cavalry soldiers as they were tired of C and K rations. By the end of the two weeks on the hill, I was sure tired of hash.

The Marine First Lt. decided to send out two patrols that first night to see if they could detect anything. About midnight we heard some small arms fire but not much else. When the patrols returned they had one person hurt but no one killed. They said there appeared to be considerable activity on the backside of the opposing hill.

The patrols were questioned heavily and at length. It was decided between the two groups of the Marines and the First Cavalry that the enemy was staging a large force just over the top of the mountain. We surmised they were getting ready for a large push if the peace talks broke off. The next night the Marines sent out three patrols to scout, not just over the mountain, but around both sides. When they returned the next morning they stated that there were at least 24 large tanks, some light artillery that looked like they would be hand drawn, and a lot of campfires, which could not be seen by our side of our mountain, which meant a lot of soldiers.

I called battalion and reported the findings. It was decided to hold off any activity to see what developed. Both infantry groups agreed and the thing was put on hold, but we were told to keep our eyes glued to the situation. The next two days were quieter than ever. No shooting, no cannon fire from either side, or no smoke or fires could be seen.

Day five was colder than any so far, and there was frost on everything. The tarp over the foxhole, my side, kept the frost off of my sleeping bags and everything above and around the hole looked white. At night I would take off my boots and socks and put them under my shirt against my skin to dry them out. I changed socks every night with that routine. That meant I had one dry pair to put on and one pair drying. I slept with my clothes on inside the mummy bag, but left my boots outside the sleeping bags.

Around day seven the patrols reported that there was extensive activity on the other side of the mountain and it looked like they were packing up to either charge over the hill or withdraw. From that moment on I stayed glued to the BC scope. I again filled battalion in on the situation and they ordered me to return to the battery. After showering and changing into a clean uniform (fatigues), I took over my assigned responsibility.

Time passed and I never heard a word about the promotion. When I brought it up to the First Sergeant he said there was a problem, as I was a National Guard replacement and not Regular Army, so they could not authorize it.

If I knew then what I know today I would have gone to battalion and insisted on talking with the General there at Battalion to state my case. A promise is a promise, no matter what branch of the military or what organization you represent.

William C. Goss, Veterans Home of CA, 260 California Dr., Yountville, CA 94599

Operation Timber – Korea 1952

By Roger E. Galliher

INTRO: At the end of his account Col. Galliher mentions an account of Operation Timber in The Official USMC History of the Korean War, Volume 5. Let's present that first and then move on to Galliher's account:

"Two logistical operations, both of an engineering nature, took place between May and July in 1952, in western Korea. One was Operation Timber, undertaken to provide the timber required to complete the bunker construction on the JAMESTOWN, WYOMING, and KANSAS lines. The division had estimated that three million linear feet of 4x8-inch timbers would be needed. Since lumber in this amount was not available through supply channels or standing timber in the division sector, Corps assigned the Marines a wooded area fifty miles to the east in the U.S. 45th Infantry Division sector.

"On May 12th a reinforced engineer platoon, under Second Lieutenant Roger E. Galliher, a truck platoon, and 500 Korean Service Corps (KSC) laborers, began the cutting, processing, and hauling of timbers which were then trucked to the railhead. Between 500 and 1,000 logs were cut daily. When the operation ended in July a total of 35,194 sections of timber had been cut. This was still not enough lumber to finish the required construction.

"Eighth Army then made up the difference, mostly by 12 x 12-inch timbers, 30 feet long; these the Marine engineers cut to 4 x 8s for standard bunker construction."

Now for Col. Galliher's story:

The May Replacement Draft took two officers home and brought in three new Second Lieutenants. It made me the senior officer in the Company except for our Skipper, Captain Hill. I felt a very critical part of WHIZ ABLE.

On May 8, the Skipper and I made an evening trip back to Battalion Headquarters and the CO, Colonel Clarke, told me I had been selected for "Operation Timber." The Division desperately needed large timbers for bunker construction and Eighth Army could not supply the need so the Marines would attempt to help themselves.

I was put in charge of the operation that included my expanded Engineer Platoon, a Truck Platoon from Motor Transport Battalion, under Second Lieutenant Al Mose, with six trucks, plus a small D-6 bulldozer, a water point crew, radio operators, medical crew, a three-man crew of cooks with a "chuck wagon" truck, and three companies of KSC - in total, over 630 men and three Korean interpreters.

None of the Koreans spoke or understood English, at least none ever let on that he did. All of our interpreters had been with the Marines for a while and were familiar with Marine jargon. My favorite, Pak, had been with the Commonwealth Division previously, and his English was with a Scottish brogue.



Roger Galliher in his later years

I also had an assistant, Harry Cotesworth, a just-arrived Engineer MOS Second Lieutenant from my class of 1951 at RPI, who I had not known at school. I felt very proud of my vast empire. Never before had I been in charge of so many or so much equipment.

My chore was to relocate to central Korea where good sized timber was available. The site was seven miles from the closest railhead, which was at the north end of a rail line from Seoul. It was also an ammo supply depot for two Army Divisions. Both the ammo depot and our timber activities were located just below both the 38th parallel and the "Stay-back Line" so that Korean civilians were permitted.

The terrain and the very poor civilians reminded me of the beautiful Appalachia countryside. There were no civilian cars, horses, cattle or oxen. We cleared a hill slope above a stream for our camp, named "Camp Vagabond," built a bridge over the small stream at the bottom, installed the water point, leveled a helicopter pad, and set up shop.

The KSC camp was on a level ground across the stream. They did their own cooking and were not in our camp except for special details. The civilians in the area were old men, young and old women, and children. There were no men of military age. We felt very safe but maintained Marines on guard duty 24 hours a day.

Our task was to supply the Division with 30,000 logs for bunker construction and as many telephone poles as possible in about two months. Colonel Clarke joked about the "Legion of Merit" for me if I was successful.

The KSCs were divided into platoons with one of my engineer Marines in charge of each platoon. We had PFCs as platoon leaders! All work was by axes and two-man saws. The dozer was used to clear and cut a path from the road along the creek, up the hills as far as possible to pick up the felled logs.

We used our manpower for everything. It took eight KSCs to load a log on the trucks. We worked from 0700 to 1800 except when the rains in May through July made the work and roads impossible. The work was hard, but the troops could see and feel the results of their labors and the overall feelings were excellent. One great thing - there were no minefields in the area. We didn't anticipate any casualties, but still had a three-person medical team.

Being away from the Division, I dropped some rules and requirements. The troops didn't have to wear leggings, could strip to the waist, and didn't have to keep their rifles with them in the field. Many now wore a wide brim straw hat and carried a long walking stick—the "new Marine look!"

We adopted three Korean houseboys for minor chores. They were sent three miles down the road to a Korean school every day. They rode in the first trucks going to the railhead and would catch

a truck ride back in the afternoon. The troops paid their tuition and bought them clothes and supplies.

Cotesworth and I shared a tent, but Al Mose, the Truck Platoon Leader, bunked with his troops. {I think they spoke a different language.} In the beginning we lost a truck every day for the 50-mile roundtrip to Division for preventative maintenance (PM). Even though it was a chance to pick up mail, etc., the drivers hated the trip. Few truck and jeep trips were comfortable, relaxing times in Korea.

About a week after our start, a complete set of tools and gear necessary for PM work appeared at camp - "courtesy of the Army" I was told. We cut out a spot on the hillside, built a strong, rigid frame to give access to the underside of the trucks, and started our own PM work. I never learned how many cases of beer it cost us.

The camp obtained 500 sandbags and we dammed the brook, creating a swimming pool about 30 x 150 feet and 2 to 4 feet deep. Some of the troops had air mattresses and the pool was a huge hit.

We seemed to have everything under control, with a good solid format for logging in place, but I felt that we could increase our production. The weakest link was our trucks. Initially, Mose would only allow twenty logs as the maximum load for his trucks. Logs were cut and stacked, waiting for loading and then shipment.

After the first month we started making bigger loads and our daily shipment climbed above 500. At about 750 per day cut and stacked, I decided an additional inducement might pay off if, when a minimum number were cut, work could stop for the day. The KSC had a difficult time believing this was true, but when work stopped at the selected number they believed us.

One day work was progressing very well and the troops thought we might hit 1,000 logs. Everyone worked the lunch hour and hit the 1,000 figure at 1500 in mid-afternoon. A Colonel from Division was inspecting our operation that day and was being shown around the camp when all of a sudden there was loud singing coming from the other side of the valley as the Marines and 600 KSC, all singing the Marine Corps Hymn, marched into camp.

"Lieutenant, what's going on? Is work stopping for the day? You remember there is a war going on?"

"Colonel, I'm not certain, but I'll find out, Sir."

Upon checking, I learned what happened. I was very pleased upon hearing the 1,000 figure and surprised by the Marine Hymn, the first time it had occurred.

I reported to the Colonel with a smile on my face.

"Sir, our best day and the required number will be raised tomorrow."

"Well, I would hope so, Lieutenant!"

It turned out the troops had been teaching the Marine Hymn to the KSC for a week.

Another inspector was an S-4 Major that came by jeep from Division, a long, hard ride. I was always pleased to show Camp Vagabond to visitors and was especially proud of our PM facility. The Major questioned where we had obtained everything and was upset when told the hardworking drivers were responsible - bargaining and trading, etc.

"Lieutenant, I was on Johnston Island in the Pacific in WWII and we lived without anything. We were known by everyone as ragged-ass Marines. I hated that, and that's what you have here. The Marines can obtain their own supplies and we don't have to depend on the Army now!"

"I want you to return all this stolen material at once, Lieutenant!"

"But Sir, without this facility we lose a truck every day to Division. It's critical to our operation."

"Lieutenant, I was on Johnston Island in the Pacific in WWII and we lived without anything. We were known by everyone as ragged-ass Marines. I hated that, and that's what you have here. The Marines can obtain their own supplies and we don't have to depend on the Army now!"

"Yes Sir, Major. I'll have Motor Transport take care of it."

Mose laughed when I told him about the incident. We kept the gear and continued with our own PM work.

A highlight of our operation was a steel cable high line system for sending as many logs as possible down the steep hills attached to a turning block and tackle in lieu of four or six KSC carrying them down. A Sergeant in the Engineer Platoon had been in the Merchant Marine in WWII and was responsible for this wizard operation. Seeing logs tied together and sailing airborne down the hill was a joyful sight. The highline was moved as necessary and greatly speeded up our operation.

We had a generator that was used for electricity. Lights were on until 2100 each night, with one light in each tent. After the first month we obtained a movie projector from Division and shaped an outdoor seating bowl with a large canvas screen down by the stream. Wood logs were split for seating and the movie was an attraction for the Marines and local civilians.

We would have over 200 people, including Marines, KSC, civilians and even Army troops at times. Our truck drivers would pick up movies from the Army for showings twice or three times a week. I'm certain they were the first movies the civilians had ever seen.

One evening two of the interpreters reported their blankets had been stolen. Upon quizzing two of the Marines, we knew where the blankets were and thought we could get them back. Cotesworth and I went two miles with the Marines to a cardboard shelter in the woods with an attractive young Korean girl who spoke some English.

She had three Marine blankets in her possession and we took two. We learned her Korean pimp was a one-legged war veteran who had passed our camp frequently. The blankets were payment for sex.

On a beautiful June day, Cotesworth, Pak and I attended a local funeral held on a mountainside not far from camp. Two old women had died and a group of two dozen men of all ages had dug a joint grave about four feet deep. The bodies were wrapped in white cloth and placed in the hole. The men sat and smoked their long stemmed Korean pipes. I had a pocket can of Prince Albert tobacco that was passed around to the group and warmly welcomed.

After an hour of conversation, the men took turns shoveling dirt into the grave. Pak said they were all Confucians and this was a typical poor Confucian ceremony. When the grave was almost filled, two young men specially dressed in ragged clothes keened and wailed while tamping the earth. Everyone else, including Cotesworth, Pak, and I, took turns at stomping on the grave when it was completely filled.

The pipe tobacco was passed around again and more smoking and discussion followed. Women and girls who had been gathering at the bottom of the hill were finally signaled to come up and join the men. They brought food and drink for everyone. I sampled a milk-like drink and thanked everyone for letting us attend and take photographs of the event. There were no tombstone or marker. I think the people were too poor to afford anything more elaborate.

My other main experience with the Koreans was assisting a rice planting session at the end of May. Rice is started in special beds, and when it reaches about eight inches in height it is transplanted into the paddies. Men, women and kids all work together. Neighbors help each other. A movable chord is stretched across the water-filled paddy and the planters work on a line a time, moving the chord for each row. It is barefoot, stooped labor, shoving the plants into the mud about six inches apart.

My effort lasted a half an hour, enough to receive giggles from the Koreans and have my picture taken by Pak. Korean farmers work from sun-up to sunset. They eat five times a day - five, nine, noon, three and seven thirty in the evening. I didn't see even an ox while in the timber area. It was all hand labor.

As we closed in on 30,000 logs, we were running out of trees to cut. At this point, we had a radio connection with the Engineer Battalion and tried to receive orders on what to do - stop or continue. Trips back to Engineer Battalion were little help.

BATTLE OF THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR

November 27 - December 24, 1950

Whatever we were in that frozen long-ago and whatever we are now, we are bound as one for life in an exclusive fraternity of honor. The only way into our ranks is to have paid the dues of duty, sacrifice and valor by being there. The cost of joining, in short, is beyond all earthly wealth.

On the east side of the mountains, U.N. troops advanced north to the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir, some 78 miles of twisting narrow dirt road from the coastal city of Hungnam. There, about 30 miles below the Yalu River, the U.S. First Marine Division (Reinforced), two battalions of the U.S. Army's 7th Division, and a force of British Royal Marine Commandos, comprising in all about 15,000 men of the Tenth Corps, were surrounded by 120,000 Chinese troops.

The CCF had isolated the trapped forces into four main groups and set up roadblocks all along the road. The battle was fought in minus 30-degree weather beginning November 27, 1950, until the U.N. forces had fought their way through one roadblock after another, reaching Hungnam on December 11.

The Marines continued to fight, as platoons were reduced to squads. The tents used for sick bay were not nearly large enough to hold the wounded. The less critical were heaped outside in

The final red light came from the Division Commander, WIZARD SIX, on July ninth. It took almost a week to close up Vagabond. Cotesworth and I paid the KSCs. It took two days to disperse 700,000 Won (\$7,000). Each KSC had to sign a receipt by stamping his inked right thumb to his name on the roster.

My final written report to the Battalion Commander included the following breakdown:

34,211	.....	12' logs for bunker roofs
125	.....	16' logs for tank bunkers
110	.....	9' poles for clotheslines
125	.....	8" logs for cribbing
613	.....	25' telephone poles

We were at Vagabond slightly longer than originally planned, but we operated with only one truck platoon—half the number of trucks originally programmed. We all thought we had done an outstanding job, but Second Lieutenants do not receive the Legion of Merit. That goodie is reserved for Colonels and above.

Fortunately, four of my NCOs from the first platoon received Letters of Commendation. My only reward was being named in Volume 5 of the *Official USMC History of the Korean War*. An article on "Operation Timber" also appeared in the August 1952 issue of *Marine Leatherneck* and in the Army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*.

NOTE: This article was submitted by (LtCol) Harry A. Cotesworth, 63 Myrtle Island Rd., Bluffton, SC 29910.

Col. Roger E. Galliher died peacefully on June 9, 2017 in Mystic, CT. After graduating high school in Ashland, Kentucky, Roger attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Following his service in Korea with the U. S. Marine Corps, he moved to Connecticut.

piles and covered with canvas and straw. Doctors and surgeons worked in a frenzy over the wounded. Blood plasma was frozen and could not be used. Surgeons and Navy Hospital Corpsmen were burdened by having to wear gloves and the morphine syrettes could not be used unless held in their mouths.

As impossible as it may seem, the Division managed to fight its way to the sea, bringing its dead, wounded, and equipment. In this epic battle, the 15,000 allies suffered 12,000 casualties, including more than 3,000 KIA and 6,000 WIA, plus thousands of severe frostbite cases, while the enemy sustained more than 45,000 casualties.

A total of 17 Medals of Honor, 70 Navy Crosses, and many Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded for the campaign, the most for a single battle in U.S. military history. Survival of the ground troops was due in great part to the gallant air strikes by the U.S. Navy, Marine, and Air Force fliers under the most adverse weather conditions.

By December 24, the Tenth Corps was successfully evacuated to South Korea by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, along with nearly 100,000 North Korean civilian refugees.

Excerpted from The Chosin Few News Digest magazine

I am glad I did my part

June 25, 1950, I was 20 years old and working on my father's dairy farm in central Wisconsin. When the news came about the invasion of South Korea it did not change much in my life. Like me, no one knew what to expect. Would the U.S. be involved? How long would the war be?

I had been a member of the Wisconsin National Guard since the age of 17. When the Korean War broke out, we had no idea if or when we would be called up. Since I wanted some control over my assignment, I enlisted in the Army in January 1952, rather than waiting to be drafted.

My great grandfather died in the Civil War and my uncle was a battalion commander of the infantry in WWII. I chose the infantry. I was assigned to the 40th Division, 160th Infantry Regiment.

I spent a significant amount of my time in Korea on Hill 851, better known as Heartbreak Ridge. Before I arrived in Korea, the 160th was already on Hill 851. When I arrived, I was part of a group that went directly up the hill.

There have been many testimonials about the hardships we endured, i.e. extreme weather conditions, the lack of proper winter gear, and the sheer numbers of the enemy. I will not dispute any of these because they are all true.

Temperatures could be as cold as 40 degrees below zero. Sleeping bags were not adequate. Sometimes soldiers would be caught in their bags because the zippers would freeze shut. Mickey Mouse boots were issued to the troops. The boots caused our feet to sweat, then to freeze, because they were wet.

I bunked with the medics, so I would see wounded soldiers come into our bunker on a regular basis. We were bombarded with music and speeches from the enemy at all hours of the day. They sent propaganda, trying to convince us that we should just give up.

I lost a good friend from my hometown who I had known for years. He went over before me and lost his life within weeks of entering the country. I keep his memory close every day.

The Korean War was a United Nations (UN) war. In fact, our country did not call it a war. It was considered a "Police Action." The UN forces helped the Republic of Korea for three years. At the end of those three years, the boundary line

A war forgotten in progress

I was on my second hitch at Camp Drake, Japan on June 25, 1950. This was occupation duty, so there was a lot of drill and inspection.

We started to locate stored WWII equipment for use. We left Yokohama on ships and made an amphibious landing named "Operation Bluehearts" on July 7, 1950 at Pohangdong. We advanced to the Taegu-Taejon area to relieve the 24th Division.

The first days in Korea were tough. Then came the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter and the drive to Seoul. On October 9,



A bunker on Heartbreak Ridge in the winter

between the North and South was very close to where it was in the beginning. I think we should have been allowed to advance as far as possible into North Korea. I would have liked to have seen the UN troops put Korea back together as one country.

I recently had the opportunity to revisit Korea on a Military Tour as a guest of the South Korean government. It was apparent that after 70 years the people of South Korea appreciate everything the UN troops did for their country. So many of them were not even born yet, but they have been taught the significance of what we did.

The South Koreans have not forgotten the sacrifices the UN troops made to keep them free and democratic. If we had not helped them, they would be under communist rule and would probably be starving and as oppressed as are their North Korean relatives.

Being a part of this war will be forever meaningful to me. Lives were changed and protected because of us. South Korea went from poverty to prosperity. It went from needing aid to giving aid. The UN forces saved South Korea and I am proud to have been a part of that.

Rae Kohn, Medford WI, ljk.floyd@gmail.com

1950 the 1st Cav entered North Korea on its way to its capital, Pyongyang,

While at Unsan, North Korea the Chinese attacked the 1st Cav's 5th and 8th Regiments. This action started the second war in Korea. I left Korea in December of 1951 and was discharged at Fort Drum, NY in October 1952. I was surprised at how forgotten the war was then—while it was still going on.

John (Jack) Hanlin, 39440 Ringwood Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

War is sometimes less than pleasant

By: *Richard Friebe* (Edited by *Karli Ingle*)

I was drafted into the Army on December 10, 1952 and went to Fort Hood, Texas. I had eight weeks of Army training and eight weeks of infantry training. I had a two-week leave but I did not tell anyone that I took an extra week's leave.

When I got to Tacoma, Washington, I found myself drinking beer and wine with another Government Issue (G.I.). The bartender gave us a glass of wine with every beer. We ended up drinking until the wee hours of the morning. The next day, I woke up in a hotel. My clothes were on, the door was open, and thankfully my billfold was still in my pocket.

I left the hotel and went to the base to report. When I got there, I saluted the officer in charge. He looked at me and said, "You are a little late, aren't you, soldier?"

I replied "Yes, sir."

Standing right beside me was a young Military Police (M.P.). He leaned over and said something to the officer. The officer looked at me, gave me my papers, and said "Next."

I realized that the M.P. who spoke to the officer was the man I had been drinking with the night before. That M.P. had to be some kind of an angel because I never was court-martialed for being late. I also do not know how I paid for the hotel room and was fortunate enough to still have my billfold and money.

I waited in Tacoma for two weeks until I was shipped out to Korea. For one day, the journey was beautiful. For the next twenty days I was seasick. I slept in the back of the ship and I was throwing up most of the time. The journey was a little rough. Sometimes, it got so bad that we could hear screws from the back of the ship come out in the water. They made a rumbling sound.

Every day we had to go up on deck for Physical Training (P.T.). They would use this time to clean up our sleeping quarters. The sleeping quarters were four or five bunk beds high. They hosed the quarters down every day for sanitation.

We all had to take a turn at Kitchen Patrol (K.P.). I remember throwing garbage over the back end of the ship. The fish would follow the ship and eat the waste that we threw out. Three times a day, every day, it did not matter if you were seasick or not, you had to go through the chow line.

Sometimes, while we were eating, the ship would slide from side to side. It was sickening. Once in the chow line, I showed the guy behind me little black specks on my chest. He said, "Don't let anyone on board know that you have lice. They will throw you overboard." I listened and kept it to myself.

After 21 days on board, we came to Tokyo, Japan. After stepping on land, we boarded a train that went through Hiroshima where the U.S. had dropped the "A" Bomb in 1945. It was eight years after that had happened and there were still no buildings. Only rubble and train tracks remained. We went across Japan to Sasebo Harbor and boarded another ship.

This journey was two days and it took me to Inchon

Harbor, which was north of Seoul. They loaded us into trucks that carried us to the front lines. Above the 38th Parallel, they unloaded us by an ammo dump and told us to stay there until someone came for us. We waited for hours.

As we were waiting, a truck came to pick up bodies stacked like wood that were near where we were. I can still see those bodies in the truck. The truck left after it was full. Finally, a soldier came and got us. I think there were about 15-20 of us. The soldier said that they did not have armored vests to give us. He also told us that if we wanted one, then we had to take one off a dead G.I. I did just that. I wore it for a couple of days and then decided to throw it away because it was too heavy to wear.

They put us right on the front line in the trenches. There were bullets and shells going over us at every moment. In the trench with me, there was a G.I. from Texas. He told me not to worry because there was only one bullet with my name on it. He said that it was all the other ones you had to look out for because they said "to whom it may concern."

We took turns in the trenches. The typical shift was 12 hours on and then 12 hours off. We slept in pop-up tents behind the line. Each tent held two men. I shared a tent with a man named Marshall from Arkansas. He became my close buddy.

It wasn't very long until Marshall started complaining of itching. I knew that it was the lice that I had on the ship. I went to the M*A*S*H* the next day and they said I only had lice on my chest. They gave me some ointment that I used every couple of days until they finally died. I never told Marshall that I had been the one to give him lice. I wanted to tell him in person that it was me who gave it to him, but I never saw him again. He became a high school principal and died in 2011.

Marshall and I enjoyed sharing a tent. We slept together, but we never took our clothes or boots off, because we never knew when we would be called. Sometimes in the middle of the night, we would hear a loud noise from another G.I. who had just gotten killed. The Koreans would use bayonets, come into our tents, and try to kill one of us. That is why we kept our rifles loaded and our clothes on. We always had to be ready to go.

I do not know what Marshall thought of sharing a tent with me. The last shower I took was on the ship after we went up to the line. I went 33 days without one, so you can imagine that I smelled great. Some of the other guys decided to go behind lines and bathe in the streams. As nice as that sounds, they would get shot at while they were trying to bathe. I decided I would just stink.

The next day we went back on the line. I was told to check the field because they thought there may have been mines. I took my shovel and started swinging it sloppily at the weeds. All of a sudden I heard a "CLING!" I unsheathed my bayonet and probed the ground like we were taught in infantry training. Sure enough, there was a "Bouncing Betty" mine! I put a

As we got closer to our line, we were challenged by our own men. There was a password that our men had to know to prove where their loyalties were. If you did not know the password, you were shot by your own men. Thankfully, we knew the password. On the way back, we gave the prisoners a break while we took our smoke break. The other G.I. was from New York. He said "Let's shoot all twelve of them."

white cloth around it and reported it. I knew those mines could blow up a man's entire body. I was lucky.

We did not always get hot meals on the line. One evening we were eating when I saw a white flag. A girl in a white dress and a child came out of a valley. In an instant a G.I. near me suddenly got up and shot the woman and child. I thought to myself, "What kind of Army am I in that we kill a surrendering woman and child?"

It was not until later that I found out she had a machine gun strapped on her back and the child could shoot the machine gun. A few days before this, the man who shot her had lost a buddy this way so he knew what she was up to. I will never forget that. I can still see the woman holding the child's hand and the white flag on a stick.

When we would eat behind the lines, we had to remain five feet apart. This was a safety precaution. In case a bomb came it would not kill too many of us at once.

The Koreans, who were supposedly South Koreans, began singing in their native tongue. We would hear the song and the bombs would get closer and closer. We always thought it was the North Koreans that were directing the bombs. We could not tell a North Korean from a South Korean.

The enemy would drop propaganda sheets down on us from a plane. The propaganda sheets would tell us that while we were fighting, our neighbors were taking advantage of our wives and girlfriends. They wanted us to give up so they used any tool they could.

One day while I was in the trenches, I saw a cross on an officer's helmet. That cross meant that he was a chaplain. I walked the other way to get away from him. I was taught in Catholic school that if I made the first nine Friday's masses and Holy Communion then I would not die without a priest by my side. I moved away from him because I had made the nine first Sundays several times and I was not taking any chances of it being my last day.

One day, the Captain wanted two volunteers to go out and capture twelve North Korean prisoners. I and another G.I. volunteered for the task. We went out at nighttime so we would not be seen. We came back with twelve prisoners, just as we were told. We encountered more than twelve prisoners and they all wanted us to take them. They knew that they would be treated better with us than where they were. We had to be careful when we returned with the twelve prisoners at day-break.

As we got closer to our line, we were challenged by our own men. There was a password that our men had to know to

prove where their loyalties were. If you did not know the password, you were shot by your own men. Thankfully, we knew the password. On the way back, we gave the prisoners a break while we took our smoke break. The other G.I. was from New York. He said "Let's shoot all twelve of them."

I was in charge and I did not want anything to do with that. I just could not bring myself to do it. To make sure I could keep my eye on him, I had him lead the prisoners and I was the last man behind them all. I did not trust him to be in the back. Years later after I was discharged, I received a Bronze Star. It was either for capturing those twelve prisoners or for finding that mine in the field. To this day, I still do not know for which action I was rewarded.

After some time, the Captain came to me and said, "Friebel, you are now the gunner of a 57 Recoilless Rifle (R.R.)." It's a big gun, about 5' long and shoots a large bullet, about 2.5" around. The gunner who preceded me got killed the day before.

As I was checking the gun out, I noticed that the firing pin was not there. The gun could not fire without the firing pin. On that same day, my assistant and I went down into the trenches and we saw another guy who had a 57 R.R. We stopped and talked with him and his assistant for a while.

We took the firing pin off their gun. They had no idea that we took it. We thought we were "bad asses." That is one thing I did that I still regret to this day. We could not get parts for weapons and it was a dog-eat-dog environment.

We would move from time to time to various places. They moved us on a different hill called Sandbag Castle. We had sandbag rooms behind the lines that we slept in. It was kind of neat! We were on the line one evening and the Captain came down and said "Fix Bayonets!"

I can still hear the "click, click" of the bayonets. We all knew what his words meant; we were going to be in close contact with the enemy. It was not quite dark, but we could smell them coming. They ate a lot of garlic, which gave them away even in the darkness. The Captain came back and in his authoritative voice said, "There is to be no God damn prisoners. I mean none."

They would send women and children first with white flags to signal a surrender. They used them as bait as the North Koreans would kill the G.I.s. I saw the women and children approaching us. We were just instructed that we were to take no prisoners.

I can still see a little child looking up at me saying, "No kill, G.I. No kill." I did not remember this moment in my life for 63 years. I was never wounded, I just could not remember and I did not want to remember. I had forgotten about the child until two years ago. Why remember now? I can see his face and hear his voice; "No kill, G.I. No kill."

We went on patrol once to see what the North Koreans were doing. We had to be quiet in everything we did because we were walking beside a river. Every movement we made was heard so we tried to reduce the noise to the best of our ability. We knew that there was a patrol on the other side of the river. We heard them holler at us "Hey G.I.s!" but no shots

were fired. We went on our way and they went on theirs.

On patrol once, I saw a horrific sight. One of the other guys on patrol pointed out one of our officers hanging in a tree. His penis and testicles were hanging from his mouth. The sight of what they did to our officer really made me hate them. I hated them more and more and the desire to kill them increased. Kill. Kill. Kill.

There were rumors that told us we were supposed to keep continuing on, but on July 26, 1953 we were pulled back from the lines. We were brought to a new hill and told at 11 a.m. on July 27 that a ceasefire would happen. That morning we threw all our hand grenades and shot all of our ammo at the North Koreans.

A major case of one-upsmanship

Here's a classic case one-upsmanship on a major by a young lieutenant.

On about my 50th combat mission in Korea as a brand new second lieutenant, I was flying on the wing of the squadron leader, a rather disliked major. We peeled in on our dive bomb run and I got a bit lower than I wanted to. I toggled off my bombs on the target, but instead of pulling up I stayed low in the valley to avoid anti-aircraft fire from the hills on both sides.

After about a half mile, I started a sharp turn into a side canyon. Halfway through the turn I got hit by two 40mm shells. They both ricocheted off the bottom of my F-80. The plane still handled well, so I returned to base without further incident.

During debriefing, the intelligence officer asked who had

What Did We Get Into?

At age 17 and fresh out of high school, four Belfast, Maine hometown boys decided to join the Air Force together. Determined to serve, some of us had to have our parents sign for the permission to enlist.

It was June 21, 1950 and we found ourselves on a long train ride from Portland, Maine to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The four boys were me, Joe Allen, Francis Jenness, and Jack Grinnell.

Somewhere along the way on the train ride, or it may have been shortly after we arrived at basic training, we were informed that the United States of America was now at war with North Korea. With no knowledge of a war when we left our home in Belfast, we were shocked by the news. We all wondered, "What did we get ourselves into?"

I recall thinking, "I don't remember hearing anything about Korea. Where is it?"

In basic training, after going through medical and orientation, we were issued summer and winter brown Army uniforms with the Army Air Corps patch, which later turned into the Air Force patch. Going through training we pondered where we all would be going. As it turned out, we were separated and all went to different bases.

I was sent to Chanute Field and was assigned to the Air Police Squad at my request. I was then transferred to Mountain Home A.F.B. in Idaho. It was there that I met and married a beautiful lady from Boise. I then got transferred to West Palm Beach, Florida.

On that very morning, I almost got hit by shrapnel. It was three feet from me. At 11 a.m. all fighting stopped. We all lined up and waved to the North Koreans. They waved back to us. It was over just like that. The rest of my tour of duty was training, training, training for a long time.

It gave me time to think about everything I had just gone through. I arrived back in the states in October of 1954. I was able to resume my life but not without the memories of the war consuming my mind. I had not realized while I was there that I would have these stories to tell to add to people's knowledge about the Korean War.

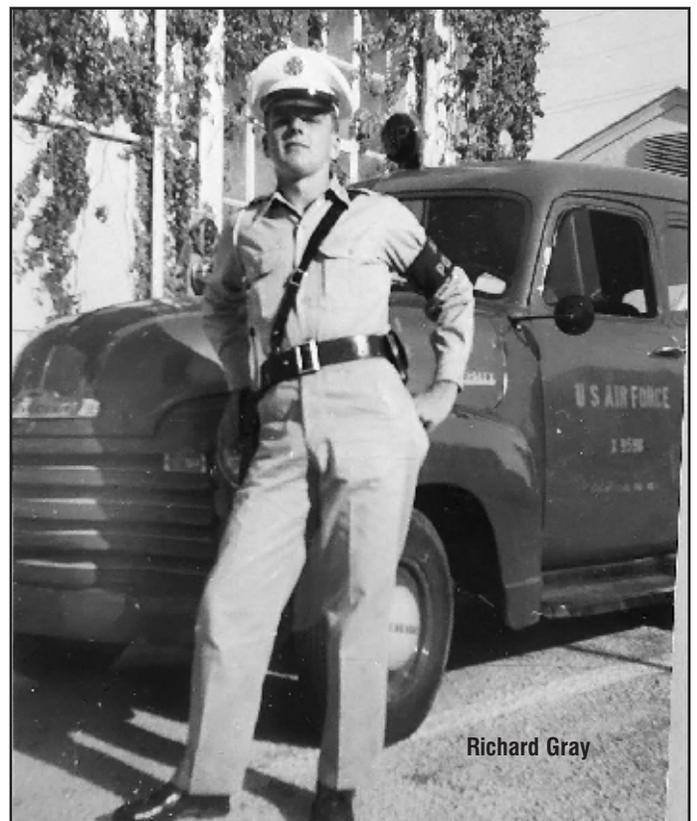
(Cpl) Richard Friebe, 41 Riverview Dr., Shelby, OH 44875

been hit. I said that I had taken two 40 mms in the bottom of the plane. The major leading the flight interrupted saying, "That wasn't flak. You got bomb damage."

I responded, "Major, sir, I know where I got hit (as I was pointing to the location on an aerial photo). It was about a half mile past the target. If I got bomb damage, it was from the plane ahead of me. Sir, that was you. Did you miss the target by a half mile?"

Needless to say, that was the last we heard from the major that day.

*(Lt.Col.) Alfred J. D'Amario, USAF (Ret.),
15201 Beeler Ave., Hudson, FL 34667, 727-457-9206*



Richard Gray

After going through the base program at West Palm Beach, FL I was assigned duties as town patrolman. My wife and I had a baby girl. We were fortunate to get a hotel apartment only one block away from the local police station. I worked out of that station as an Air Force Air Policeman for the last two years of my four-year hitch.

This was a fun job patrolling downtown West Palm Beach. As a sergeant in charge of the town patrol I occasionally worked alone, or with an A.P. from the base, or sometimes with a Navy Shore Patrolman.

At 87 years of age now, I have recently become a member of the Local Post 19 American Legion, where I enjoy the camaraderie

of fellow veterans. I had a heartwarming experience recently when I took my denim vest to the local dry cleaners to have a Korean War patch sewed on it by the tailor there. I didn't know it ahead of time, but that tailor was Korean. When he saw the patch he gushed with gratitude while thanking me for my service.

When I went to pick up the finished vest the tailor insisted "NO CHARGE!" and thanked me again for my service.

Although I enjoyed my time in the Air Force, and was never sent overseas to combat, I tried to do my very best at the place where I was stationed. I am forever grateful to my fellow service personnel who did go to Korea and fought or died for our country!

Richard Gray, chrisgrayscott@gmail.com

The Chinese build a golf course near the MLR

First Night On Line, 38th Parallel Kumsong, NK

By William Bakalyan

From Japan, following months of heavy training, Co. G 244th RCT 40th Inf. Div. moved by air after amphibs training. I was a Communications Radio Operator at HQ. We arrived in Inchon Harbor, Korea on February 3, 1952. The troops disembarked after dark. We were told the enemy was only eight miles away at that point.

The regiment was moved by truck to a train; it was a bitter cold night aboard this "Tooneyville Trolley" transport. It was noisy, shaky, and without light. The men were shivering. Even in our Class Bs, overcoats, and drop leggings it was impossible to get any semblance of warmth.

Since I was from the Boston area, I was a little more acclimated to cold conditions. I also had squirreled away two cigarette lighter fluid pocket heaters. One of the guys was almost crying due to the pain of the cold, so I wedged my way through the other men to this fellow. I handed him one of my heaters.

The next morning found us in a tented area waiting to move onto Hill 770 near the MLR, which was located on the upper edge of the 38th Parallel at Kumsong, North Korea. Regimental HQ was perched on a lower volcanic type hill that was slightly westerly and behind us and separated by the narrow Kumsong River. The river snaked around the strange terrain in what was a strategic blocking position.

On line our sleeping quarters were squad tents sunk down about four feet into the frozen rice paddies. The earth had been excavated and piled up around the tents with a couple Gerry cans of diesel fuel for the pot belly stoves. We were allowed daytime heat ONLY, as "Bed Check Charlie" would always be flying over after dark attempting to locate any spark of life.

The forward Medical Aid station was in tight against the hill securely, safe from incoming. Also at the HQ site were two Howitzers that were always on fire missions. I remember waking up in the unbelievable cold and pulling my nose into the sleeping bag to warm it up and hearing and feeling the shock from the guns' outgoing rounds. It was comforting knowing it was friendly.

My first night I was assigned by my Major to be in touch with our 4 or 5 patrols. The men I trained with were out there in No

Man's Land-Enemy Territory. My calls were quick and to the point. Then I would hang up. For example, "Red Fox, check point Baker."

My response would be, "Got it." Another call from BellyButton1 or Chicken Little, "Check point Dog," or "Charlie" etc. The same thing.

One night at about two a.m. a patrol called in. "3 155 HE's. Three CCFs digging!" (Chinese Communist Forces). Now, if all units were moving to their individual check points then all were safe, so my immediate response was "Confirmed." In the interest of brevity I didn't ask what they were digging.

As I picked up our artillery phone, a voice chimed in, "On the way!" Before I could hang up, "outgoing" was zipping over my head. Within seconds, a whistle erupted from the sound power phone.

I picked it up and heard, "Three CCFs dug a little deeper." That's it; no chit chat or chatter. Apparently, the Forward Observer for the artillery was listening on the landline and had called in the coordinates before I could make the call, saving precious seconds. This happened several seconds faster than I was able to process anything.

A day or two later I was assigned to HQ section in the daytime. I picked up a phone. I don't remember the caller identifying himself, but he wanted to know what the CCFs were digging. I hollered the question to my buddy in intelligence. In his low Sicilian voice he hollered, "Tell 'em it's a golf course."

My eyes popped, but I put the phone back to my ear and said, "They were digging a golf course!" and I slammed the phone down.

The next day the classified secret document reporting front line activity arrived. There, in black and white, it stated that the Chinese Communist forces were digging a golf course north of Hill 770, 38th Parallel, Kumsong, North Korea. Some wise guys, either to get me in trouble or they really didn't know better, thought it was a good idea to put that in the report.

Either way we all had a good laugh.

William S. Bakalyan, 878 Cherokee Valley Rd., Ringgold, GA 30736, 706-965-8530 (home), 570-423-1922 (cell), Billdeebak@gmail.com

70th anniversary of an audacious forgotten battle

by Dr Steven Paget

Military operations specialist, University of Portsmouth

Tuesday, 15 September 2020, marked the 70th anniversary of an audacious amphibious landing that helped turn the tide of the Korean War (1950-1953). Korea has been labeled a “forgotten” war, and while the Inchon landings – known as Operation Chromite – achieved fame, the Royal Navy’s contribution often gets overlooked.

It was also a battle in which the USA-UK “special relationship” was evident. The Royal Navy played an important supporting role in the face of significant risks during General Douglas MacArthur’s masterstroke at Inchon, a port in South Korea’s northwest. Although not likely to ever receive the recognition of famous battles such as Gravelines, Trafalgar, or Jutland, the proud traditions of the Royal Navy were maintained at Inchon. With the “special relationship’ under scrutiny”, the operation also serves as a reminder of the UK’s enduring close military relationship with the United States.

The Korean War had been raging since the North’s invasion of the South on 25 June 1950. The rapid progress of North Korean forces saw the fall of Seoul, the South Korean capital, and United Nations (UN) forces being pushed back to the “Pusan Perimeter.” The situation seemed dire, but in conjunction with the resilience of UN forces at the Pusan Perimeter, Operation Chromite initiated the “second phase” of the war, leading to North Korean forces being driven back above the 38th Parallel.

Before the four-day battle involving 75,000 troops and 261 naval vessels on the UN side, which led to the recapture of Seoul, General Douglas MacArthur asserted: “The history of war proves that nine out of ten times an army has been destroyed because its supply lines have been cut off... We shall land at Inch’on, and I shall crush them [the North Koreans].”

The process of getting ashore required an invaluable contribution from the UN naval force. The Royal Navy provided Britain’s first military response to the Korean War. Royal Navy ships under the command of Rear Admiral William Andrewes, a veteran of two World Wars, including the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and the Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943, were placed at the disposal of Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, Commander, US Naval Forces, Far East (COMNAVFE) in late June 1950 and were soon conducting operations.

The United States Navy was predominant when it came to operations at sea, but they operated alongside a range of navies from the UN coalition, including those from the Commonwealth and less traditional partners such as Colombia and Thailand. Anglo-American naval relations, in particular, were generally close throughout the Korean War, as demonstrated by the Inchon landings.

British input into planning for a potential amphibious operation began at an early stage, with the UK Naval Adviser in Japan providing advice on British and Commonwealth capabilities. Rear Admiral Andrewes was also involved in the planning

process during August and September as he was to command the Blockade and Covering Force (Task Force 91). British involvement in planning was important given the intended Royal Navy contribution. In addition to Task Force 91, Commonwealth naval forces were to contribute to the Screening and Protective Group, Task Group 90.7 (part of Task Force 90), and Task Group 90.6, the Gunfire Support/Advance Group.

British forces were also involved in supporting diversionary operations in the run up to Operation Chromite, including HMS Whitesand Bay landing a combined Royal Marines, United States Marine Corps and naval force at a beach in the vicinity of Kunsan. Nine Americans were missing following a firefight during the raid and, despite the approach of daybreak and the resultant threat to the ship, her commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander J.V. Brothers, refused to leave until the men had been accounted for. Seven eventually returned, with one having been killed and another remaining ashore wounded. It has been observed that it was only the “cool courage” of Lieutenant Commander Brothers that prevented the remaining seven Americans from being killed or captured.

Two days of preparatory naval bombardments and air strikes were specifically conducted prior to the landings. When six destroyers were tasked to draw fire from the North Korean artillery pieces on Wolmi-do on 13 September so that they could be identified and destroyed, HM Ships *Jamaica* and *Kenya* were part of a four cruiser force, alongside United States Ships *Rochester* and *Toledo*, that were responsible for delivering long-range bombardments to prepare the area for the amphibious operation.

Air strikes were also conducted by carrier-borne aircraft. The same force returned on the following day to continue the preparation. Triumph also provided air cover during this period.

Following air attacks on 15 September, the Naval Gunfire Support Group bombarded a range of pre-planned targets, with observation being provided for *Jamaica* and *Kenya* by three pairs of British Firefly aircraft. The cruisers targeted Wolmi-do, before adjusting their focus on to Inchon as the landing force approached the beaches. Wolmi-do was subsequently captured.

The success was quickly followed by disappointment for *Kenya*’s crew and her commanding officer, Captain Patrick Brock, who was later awarded the Bronze Star by the Americans for distinguished service in Korean waters, as the ship was ordered to depart prior to the main landings at Inchon to ensure there was sufficient space for the amphibious ships.

Jamaica continued to support the main landings, with fire being increased to weaken defenses and restrict the reinforcement of Inchon. The role was a dangerous one, and *Jamaica* and *Rochester* were attacked by two Yak aircraft on 17 September. A bomb bounced off *Rochester*, but did not explode. *Jamaica* managed to shoot down one aircraft, but was strafed and one sailor was tragically killed.

Jamaica continued to provide support until 19 September and was once again joined by Kenya on 17 September, with the ships providing bombardments to break enemy resistance ashore. Collectively, the ships fired 2,532 6" and 598 4" rounds in support of the Inchon landings. Operation Chromite was subsequently described in the House of Commons as "an audacious amphibious operation, executed most brilliantly."

General MacArthur himself heralded "the clockwork coordination and cooperation between the services involved." The Royal Navy could be proud of its contribution to Operation Chromite and the role it played in supporting the success of the invasion.

While Chromite was a predominately American endeavor,

Observations from a 6X6

By David Tamplin

On June 25, 1950, I was a passenger in the back of a West Virginia Air National Guard (ANG) 6x6 truck on a return to Charleston, WV from Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio. Our unit, the 167th Squadron of the WV ANG, had just completed a two-week summer encampment, which was standard procedure for National Guard units, either National Guard or Air National Guard.

Why was I in the back of a 6x6 on June 25, 1950?

The ANG unit was formed in 1947, shortly after WWII. The unit used equipment from that war, including a complement of aircraft that included 16 P-51 fighter planes, 1 C-47 Cargo plane, 1 C-45, 1 T-6 Texan, 1 Link Trainer, and officer pilots, also enlisted from WWII.

When I was a young man growing up in the Kanawha Valley, near Charleston, the pilots would, on training flights, zip around the sky. And, since I already had an itch to be around planes, the only thing for me to do was scratch that itch, so I enlisted in the WVANG in April 1950.

The next thing, after being sworn in, was issuance of uniforms, surplus olive drab and brown shoes. I was now part of the Brown Shoe Air Force.

Two weeks of summer camp were scheduled in the middle of June 1950. Camp concluded and we were being trucked back to Charleston, close to 300 miles away. We were at a rest stop, one of many along the way, when we learned what had happened in Korea.

Our first reaction was, "Where in the hell is Korea?" It didn't sink in at the time, but just what would this mean to a bunch of "weekend warriors?"

It didn't take long to figure it out. The first thing was, early in July, the Air Force reclaimed half of our 16 P-51s and called up a group of our pilots (retreads). The planes had been flown and the maintenance was excellent. All the Air Force had to do was ship them (with the pilots) to Korea, wherever it was.

In August 1950 we received our orders activating our unit. By the end of August we were all at Godman AFB, Fort Knox, KY.

Three months after activation, my Mom sent me a postcard in my name from the Selective Service Board bearing a request for me to report for examination. Just for the hell of it, I wrote a note on it that said, "Sorry I can't spare the time," and mailed it back to them. Let

British involvement was noteworthy, not least as a demonstration of the close military relationship between the two countries.

NOTE: The University of Portsmouth is a progressive and dynamic British university with an outstanding reputation for innovative teaching and globally significant research and innovation. It was rated 'Gold' in the UK government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and is ranked in the top 150 under 50 in the world according to the Times Higher Education rankings.

The University's research and innovation culture is impacting lives today and in the future and addressing local, national and global challenges across science, technology, humanities, business and creative industries. <http://www.port.ac.uk/>

them figure it out.

Since all this happened so fast, there was no time to listen to public opinion or record it. None of us had any idea how long the war would last. Who knew?

My experience during the war was very limited. Our unit worked with Fort Knox and the Armor School in training their recruits and also training new Air Force pilots how to fly and fight using the P-51 Mustang.

In July 1951, I received orders to go to Fort Sam Houston. There were plans for a joint Army-Air Force maneuver named "Operation Longhorn." Then, in December 1951, we were all transferred to Fort Hood, Texas, where the maneuver concluded.

I was sent back to Godman AFB, where I was discharged in May 1952.

Looking back, what was my contribution to the war? My response would be, "Not nearly as much as a lot of others." But, as anyone who has been in service, you learn several things, including if it moves, salute it, and go and do what you are ordered to do.

Our 167th Fighter Squadron pilots who enlisted did not escape the damages of war. Several of our pilots were killed in action, several became POWs, and one is still missing in action.

We experienced one memorable incident on April 8, 1951 when a C-47 cargo plane carrying 22 officers and enlisted men crashed and burned within sight of the airport in Charleston, killing all on board. Ironically, the men on board were to be an honor guard at the funeral of another of our pilots who had been killed in a flying accident.

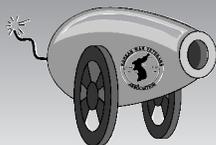
What did the war accomplish? I know we use the term, "We halted Communism from taking over all of Korea." If that is all the U.N. set out to do, was it worth the lives we lost?

Korea and then Vietnam were wars we didn't lose. Nor did we win them.

Letting Washington politicians, many of whom have never been in service, make decisions on how the wars should be fought should never happen again.

After my Air Force time, I rejoined the WV Air National Guard and finished 20 years of service, the last 8 years as a Load Master on the C-119.

David Tamplin, P. O. Box 245, Boomer, WV 25031



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of *The Graybeards* is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

Cover story

I was honored and humbled to receive my Korea Veterans magazine and find myself on the cover at a special Barre, VT, Veterans Memorial Day held on Saturday, May 30, instead of the federally mandated Monday, May 25 (politicians' day off). After all the adversities most vets had been through in several wars, there was a strong feeling that their honor should not be set aside!

With the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging our country and most activities under quarantine, the Barre Veterans Council decided to have a normal honor to all veterans at the Veterans monument located in Barre City Central Park, with the national anthem, Taps, and the laying of the wreath by a Gold Star Mother. You will notice in the photo three church steeples of the five surrounding the park. There is also a Civil War monument in the park listing the volunteers and those lost.

Barre and Barre Town, with a combined population of 12,000+, has for over 80 years had a parade and ceremony to honor its veterans and I had marched for 65 years (until I reached 85). Then I hitched a ride with a 93-year-old WW2 veteran. On the mile from the auditorium located on hill down and then up Main Street the sidewalk was crowded with spectators. The small kids waving their flags always gave me a lift.

Interestingly enough, my friend Maurice Fortier was there. He and I were drafted on Nov. 11, 1952 (then Armistice Day) and rode on a bus by that same monument, wondering if it was to be our last view. We went through sixteen weeks of Advanced Infantry training at Ft. Jackson, SC, after which we were shipped to Korea. He was assigned to 5th RCT and I went to the 45th Infantry Div. We both served at Christmas Hill's bloody trenches.

The special day ceremony and the taps gave all of us a feeling of "God Bless America!"

Wayne Pelkey (Mud Dog),

Personalizing Paik

Kudos on the July-August 2020 *Graybeards* issue. Lots of interesting articles. I am particularly pleased with the article on General Paik Sun Yup, p. 54, "General Paik Sun Yup, First ROK Army 4-Star General and Strong Supporter of ROK-U.S. Alliance, Dies."

General Paik was a dear friend of mine and I was incensed by the actions of Korean President Moon and his Socialist associates who hated Paik Sun Yup and denied him burial in the Seoul

National Cemetery because he was a conservative.

Some background. As a youngster I was determined to have an Army career. Having grown up in WWII and knowing many WWI and WWII veterans I decided early on that it was to be the Army for me. Two weeks following my graduation with Winchester HS Class of 1950, the North Koreans invaded South Korea.

In the spring of 1951 I joined the Army Reserve. A neighbor was CO of the USAR 301st Infantry Regiment Tank Company. The 301st Infantry Regiment was part of the 94th Division. Through the Reserves I went on active duty in June 1952 as a candidate for OCS. I took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, served as a squad leader, and was accepted for OCS in November and sent to Division Headquarters and its Honor Guard to await an OCS slot. I favored Armor or Infantry.

However by January, 1953 I was sent back to my training company as training cadre and after a month received orders for Korea as an infantry replacement. I later determined that with casualties down and a very large 1952 ROTC contingent, the Army preferred college graduate officers rather than high school graduates. I arrived in Korea in late April and was assigned to C Company of the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division, as a rifleman.

The division was located in the Heartbreak Ridge sector. I became a BAR man almost immediately. After a month I became squad leader as a Private E-2. The 45th Division ended the war fighting in the Christmas Hill battle, part of the Kumsong Salient, which saw ROK Divisions pushed back almost ten miles, and rescued by the US 3rd Division.

My regiment replaced a ROK Regiment overrun by the Chinese and we were replaced by the 5th RCT, having suffered 50 percent casualties after two weeks of fighting. I was in the 1st Battalion/180 and Wayne Pelkey, in the 2nd Battalion/180, who was featured on the front cover of the July-August *Graybeards*, was wounded when his company was almost wiped out. I was fortunate. I was pulled off line and sent to the Division Leadership School for a month. The Armistice was signed just a week before graduation and I was promoted to E-5 and returned to my company as Platoon Sergeant.

I knew who General Paik was from very favorable American reports in 1950 and 1951. In September 1953 the 45th Division gave General Paik, then ROKA Chief of Staff, a review that I marched in with my platoon.

I didn't stay in the Army. One of my company officers advised me that the Peacetime Army would require officers to have a col-

lege education, so it would better to go to university, go through ROTC, and then see if I wanted a military career. I took his advice and went to university under the GI Bill. But, I stayed in the Army Reserves.

In 1958, after finishing my BA, I applied for and received a Direct Reserve commission. 1958 was a recession year. Not knowing what to do with myself, I almost went back on active duty but was persuaded by a very sympathetic professor to go for a Master's Degree in Public Administration with the aim of becoming a City Manager. During that time I also took a variety of government job tests including the CIA and the Civil Service, as well as the Foreign Service.

I passed the FS exam and was offered a FS Commission in 1960. Thirty-two years later, with 22 years overseas in 10 countries and 10 years in the State Department, I finally retired in 1992. My last job was U.S. Consul General in Montreal. One my most satisfying assignments was to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul as Consul General in February 1984.

Early on I recognized General Paik at a diplomatic reception. I introduced myself and we became fast friends. South Korea at this time was stressed out. It had a military government. The North Koreans in 1983 tried to assassinate members of the cabinet at a ceremony in Burma. The Russians shot down Korean Air KAL 007 north of Japan. There was a world-wide recession and people were trying to get out of Korea.

As Consul General in Korea I was treated as a VIP, not only because I was a Korean War veteran, but because I controlled what everyone wanted: visas to the U.S. I served for 4-1/2 years in Seoul because I wanted my son to finish the DOD-sponsored high school.

I spent a lot of time with General Paik. At my request we toured the battlefields he had served in. We drove in my car and discussed a multitude of topics, not only the battle campaigns. I taped all of those conversations and gave him copies of the tapes encouraging him to write his memoirs. He did.

At my request he would accompany me with newly arrived Embassy personnel for trips to Pan Mun Jom and descriptions of the Korean War. Paik was an excellent lecturer. At my request in 1985 he went to Boston for the ceremony declaring July 27th, Korean War Memorial Day. (I liked the article on the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial which is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard along with the Frigate USS Constitution. See "Massachusetts KWVA chapters receive 56,880 masks," *The Graybeards*, July-August 2020, p. 42.)

I was the overseas committee member and at the ceremony at the State House. I introduced the General. I had already mentioned arranging his attendance at the launching of the first Arleigh Burke Destroyer class ship in Bath, Maine. This came about because the U.S. Navy Commander, who was the prospective CO, came to Montreal to testify before the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO) over the shoot down of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf. The Commander had been the ship's weapons officer.

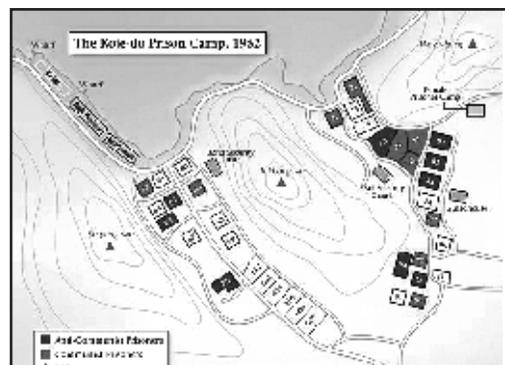
As the U.S. Consul General, the U.S. Representative to ICAO welcomed my political advice. The Navy Commander invited me to the launching of his ship and I told him about General Paik

Sun Yup and his close relationship with Admiral Burke. The Commander arranged to have Paik and his family invited, allowing him to spend some time with his friend Arleigh Burke.

Andy Antippas

Koje-do

The article on Koje-do in the last issue caught my eye. I observed my 21st birthday, plus Christmas and New Year's, there in 1952-53. (I was with Medical Company, 17th Inf Regt, 7th Inf Div. Our motor pool was directly across the road from a prisoner compound.) The tour was pretty quiet; the riots took place the previous summer.



A map of Koje-do

You asked about women prisoners on Koje, so I'm attaching a map of the camp layout which shows the location of a female prisoner camp (upper-right margin). After a preliminary Google search, I've yet to find any definitive information on female POWs.

I'll keep looking and perhaps other readers will offer further word.

Byron Sims,

They were prepared to fight to the end

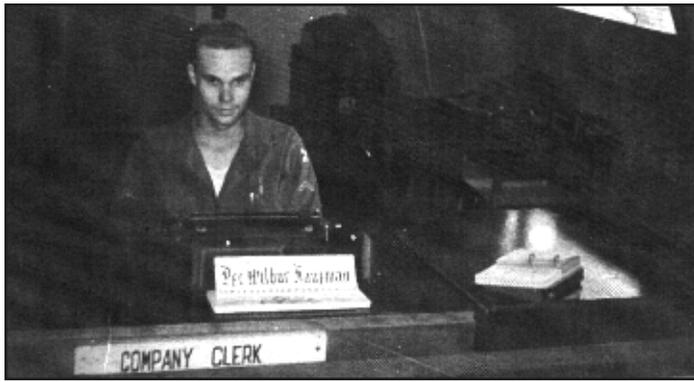
I was stationed at the 64th Army Field Hospital for ten months. During this time, I was privileged to witness the famous battle that occurred in Compound #76. My Quonset hut was stationed near the compound.

The night before the battle, I could hear gun shots and screaming. The radical North Korean Communists were holding a Kangaroo Court. They were inflicting punishment on the non-Communist prisoners who were not revolting.

I arrived at Koje-Do a few days prior to the battle in Compound #76. I was sent to replace the company clerk, who was due for rotation. Soon after my arrival, there was concern that the prisoners could overtake the island. I was told if this would occur I would take the company records and leave the hospital area in a tank to escape.

The battle was intense and lasted about 2-1/2 hours. I took the nearby photos while the debris was still smoldering. Later I walked through the compound and saw the dead who were still lying on the battlefield. I found gas masks that were made from the cans stuffed with cotton or rags. The POWs were prepared to fight to the end.

*Wilbur E. Kaufman, 13036 North 36th St.,
Phoenix, AZ, 85032, 480-845-8833*



Wilbur Kaufman at his desk at Kojé



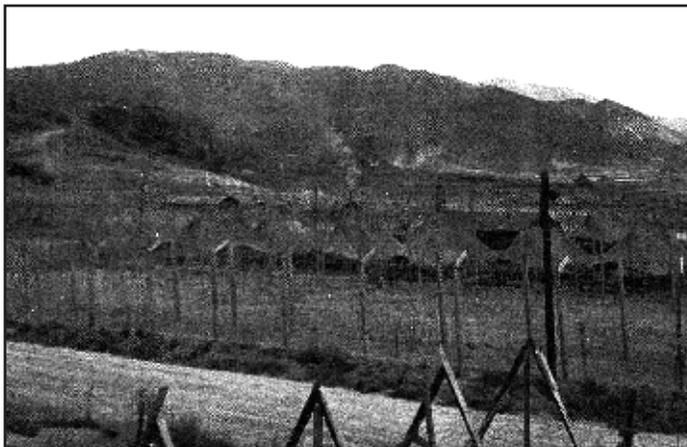
Wilbur Kaufman took this picture while fires were still smoking in Compound 76 near his barracks after the riot



Wilbur Kaufman and Herman Montgomery, who were drafted together in Phoenix, AZ on April 15, 1951. Their barracks at Kojé was located just a short distance from the company clerk.



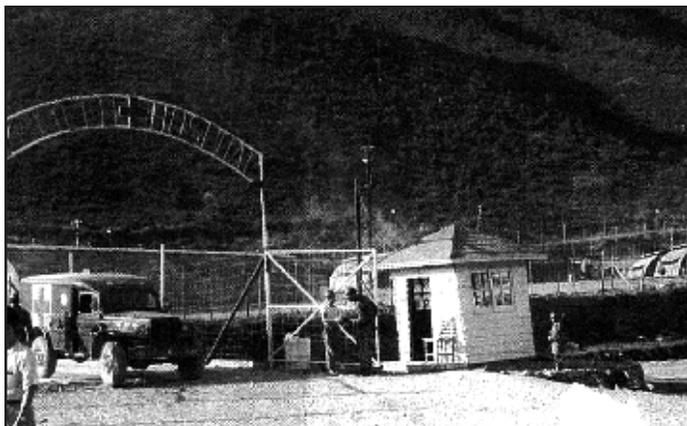
Another view of the smoking Compound 76



View of one compound at Kojé



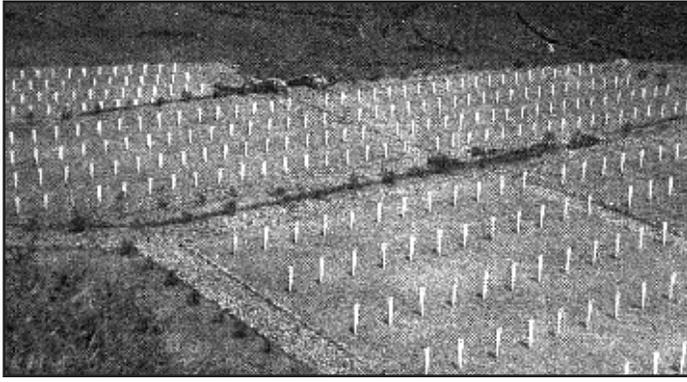
A rare view of Compound 68 at Kojé, where about 600 women, who were more violent than the male POWs, were housed. The compound was very much off limits. Some of the women can be seen working on their farm, with their Quonset huts in the rear.



The main gate into the 64th Field Hospital



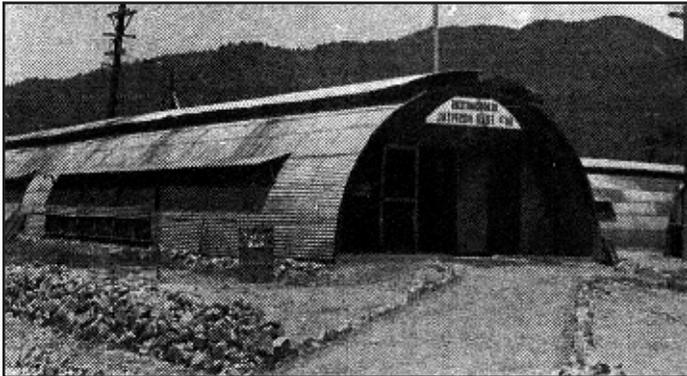
Surrendered POWs at Compound 76



An overview of the POW cemetery at Koje



Another view of the POW cemetery at Koje



A Quonset hut at Koje



Cross erected at Koje: inscription reads, "A few bodies removed from ditch."



Prisoners digging new graves at Koje for future use

Parts carried out in honey buckets

That is an interesting story of the POW camp on Koje on pages 62-66 of the July-August 2020 issue of "The Greybeards." I was a member of the 2nd Divisions 23rd Inf. Regiment's First Battalion that spent the month of December of 1951 guarding the POWs on Koje-do. When we arrived there were a battalion of ROK soldiers and some MPs who were doing the job. They needed help.

Our first project was to count all the prisoners by their names, which was a real job, as it required a lot of cooperation from the POWs. We were told, if I remember correctly, that there were 170,000 POWs. I think there were 20 compounds.

There were kangaroo courts held in the compounds and the "guilty" were never found, as they were chopped up and hauled out in the honey buckets. This was usually when an anti-communist was in a communist compound or vice versa. There were South Koreans who were captured by the North and made to fight for them. They surrendered the first chance to the UN. We left Koje on New Year's Day, 1952 and returned to the front lines.

In Monica Stoy's article in the "Graybeards" March April 2019 issue she tells of North Korean Donald Han, who was a POW on Koje. He now lives in Henderson, Nevada. I contacted Donald while I was in Las Vegas last year in May. We had a conversation and discussed the treatment of the prisoners.

Incidentally, I don't remember ever seeing any females in the compounds. I did see several males who wanted to be females. Even had rouge and lipstick.

During 2007 I returned to South Korea on a battlefield tour and we visited Koje-do. There was no sign of a former POW camp.

Grant Birmingham, Carson City, NV,

Comfort women

We asked about comfort women at Koje-do. Several people responded. William Russell, editor of Ch. 173, Mid-Florida's newsletter, "The Morning Calm," said that, although he was in the Koje-do area writing stories, he had not heard of any comfort women being held there. Dwight Thomas, a Forward Observer with USA 7 ID 32nd R 48 FA B Btry, said he heard more than once that some ROK troops had comfort women with them, although he

never saw any direct proof. But, the fact that he heard it more than once...the mystery deepens. Who were those women at Koje-do?

You got the pretty one

In the summer of 1952 the 224th Regiment of the 40th Division replaced the 187th RCT on Koje-do Island. The female prisoners were "comfort girls!" There were just under 500 women in the female compound, which was next to the hospital. They were having babies and had all sorts of diseases.

When we went back on line on 10-01-1952 at Sandbag Castle, our forward position overheard the enemy's forward position arguing over who was going to get the pretty girl, as the other one got the ugly girl the previous time.

William Beatty, 116 Laurel Trail North, Terrell, TX 75160

A theory about comfort women

After thinking about your question, "Why didn't the U.S. publicize the Comfort Women?"...

We know the Soviet-trained guerrillas wanted to be captured and sent to Koje to infiltrate the camp. (They captured Koje's commander, Dodd). I believe the plan for the females was some "do gooder" American group would learn of the females and demand they be taken out of Koje and sent to the safe USA, where they could infiltrate, sabotage, and become the FBI's worst nightmare.

Intelligence got wise to them in Koje, and kept the whole matter as quiet as they could. You will recall that we brought POWs to the USA in WWII. The Soviets knew that. But, we did not do that in the Korean War.

That's my theory, and I am sticking to it!!

Tom Moore, Tm103ps@yahoo.com

Trees

The article about trees in the May-June 2020 issue asked how many trees were left in the combat areas. The answer is simple: very few.

Near the end of October 1953 I was returning to my company in the 1st Cav. Div. I had been in the hospital for three weeks because of wounds I had sustained. A jeep brought me to the bottom of a large hill that my company had just taken. The hill had no vegetation: just dirt, holes, and debris. There were no trees because of the pounding the hill had taken from artillery and mortar rounds. I guess what I observed answers the tree question.

Also, this hill was near the one on which 1st Lt. James Stone of E Co., 8th Regt. was located, and where he would later earn the Medal of Honor for his actions late in November 1951. That same night was one of the worst nights for me while I was in Korea.

James Haw, 11065 Colton Dr., Reno, NV 89521

Thanks to all Korea veterans

I'm happy to be accepted as a life member in the KWVA. I have been a lifelong supporter of veterans. Until my service related disability, I was a registered attorney with the Board of Veterans Appeals, a member of the bar of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Affairs (I still am, actually), and a speaker on veterans benefits at VFW meetings and anybody else who would have me. I never charged a veteran a dime for my help.

I'm going to say this as diplomatically as possible, as there is no

way we can ever fully thank the people who fought in the "Shooting War" in Korea. However, we do need to recognize the service of those who came after, e.g., guys in my outfit like SSG James Grissinger, Sp4 Charles Taylor, Jr., Sp4 Jack Morris, and PFC William Grimes, who were killed in a North Korean ambush October 18, 1969, just a few months before I got there. They are just as much heroes as the warriors of 1950-1955.

I've always maintained that any time a person puts on a military uniform they are putting a target on their chest, whether they are stationed in the military band at Arlington, the deployment line at Fort Hood, or on a mission with SSG Grissinger.

So, with that background, I am delighted that the KWVA is beginning to focus on Korean Defenders as well. A lot of us are "Graybeards" now.

By the way, that war isn't forgotten; just the soldiers are.

God Bless,

Douglas Drake, capndrakevfw@konacondo.biz

In general, the wrong caption

You probably don't need another comment about *The Graybeards*, but I thought I'd mention the caption for the photo on pages 52-53 of the July-August issue---the "South Korean general" is obviously a U.S. general.

Excellent publication and I enjoy reading and sharing each issue!

Mike Thomason, Secretary, Ch. 9, Dutch Nelsen [CO],

Thanks for Susan Kee

Please accept my sincere gratitude for publishing the article "Everlasting Gratitude" by Susan Kee in the July-August 2020 edition of *The Graybeards*, p. 28. Susan's words are what our Arizona Korean War veterans hear whenever we are honored to see her.

Susan has interviewed a number of us with the intent to publish a book of our stories. She is also active in the Veterans Heritage Project, in which high school students interview veterans for their stories and publish a book annually titled "Since You Asked." This book ends up in the Library of Congress.

Our Department of Arizona Secretary recently passed away. Susan has already committed to taking on his responsibilities. Her first task is creating a roster of all Chapter Commanders.

Every Korean War veteran I know in Arizona has very deep affection for Susan and her devotion to us.

Lew Bradley, Ch. 122, Arden A. Rowley,

A book by Harold L. Gamble?

I was looking through *The Greybeards* recently and saw a book review of "Korea: Land of Morning Calm," by Harold L. Gamble. Mr. Gamble was stationed on Okinawa with the Army of Occupation and was assigned to the 29th Infantry Regiment when the war broke out. My husband also served on Okinawa with the 29th's Ryukus Command at that time. He was with the artillery battalion. He had told me the story of "Christmas in July," which occurred on July 25 and 26, 1950 in Hadong. I know several hundred men died on those two days, and scores were wounded. Many other survivors became POWs.

I am trying to find a copy of that book to purchase as I want to

learn more about that battle. My husband said that the military commanders did not want to believe the intel given to them and sent these young men to their deaths. He also told me that because of poor planning the artillery was unable to get to Hadong to offer reinforcement. Because of this I believe my husband suffered from what I think would now be diagnosed as PTSD.

Every year on the anniversary of this battle he would get depressed and sullen and begin to cry over the people who died because the artillery couldn't get to them. He never gave me all the details, because it was too painful for him to relive. I found a lot of information in a VFW magazine he received.

Apparently, after this battle those who survived were taken back to Okinawa and transferred into other units. In 1951, what was left of the 29th was returned to Fort Benning, GA, my husband included.

I am trying to find out more about what happened. It is important to me; especially since my husband died this past February.

Mrs. John F. Gaughran (Georgina), GGaughran1@comcast.net

Scrapple: Nectar to the Amish

Scrapple to any Pennsylvanian is the foundation of a breakfast on any Saturday morning in the cold days of winter. (See the reference to scrapple in *The Graybeards*, March-April 2020, p. 58.) I grew up in scrapple country, and although I relocated to Massachusetts in 1964 we always enjoyed Saturday morning as a time for a family breakfast.

In days past, scrapple was never found in our New England markets, so my dear mom would bring it to us on her holiday trips from "Philly" to Boston. One year her butcher froze a large container with this delicacy, which she carried on a bus—a seven-hour ride—"just for us." She cut it into 3x8 squares and we added the leftovers to our freezer.

Daughter Pat was enrolled at Villanova. During orientation week she went out to breakfast with newly made friends. She ordered scrapple, but it came flattened in long slices. She called the waitress, who declared "Scrapple is scrapple—so eat it."

This tale has plagued Patricia at reunions for years. Incidentally, I always have a loaf of scrapple in my fridge.

*Joan Arcand, 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33708*

For the uninitiated: Scrapple, also known by the Pennsylvania Dutch name Pannhaas or "pan rabbit," is traditionally a mush of pork scraps and trimmings combined with cornmeal and wheat flour, often buckwheat flour, and spices. The mush is formed into a semi-solid congealed loaf, and slices of the scrapple are then pan-fried before serving. Scraps of meat left over from butchering, not used or sold elsewhere, were made into scrapple to avoid waste.

Scrapple is best known as an American food of the Mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia). Scrapple and panhaas are commonly considered an ethnic food of the Pennsylvania Dutch, including the Mennonites and Amish. Scrapple is found in supermarkets throughout the region in both fresh and frozen refrigerated cases. In Delaware, it is sometimes described as containing "everything but the oink." (Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wicku/Scrapple>)

Thanks for the memories

Your article in the May-June 2020 issue regarding the B-29 Superfortress turned my thoughts back 67 years. I was a member of a B-29 crew stationed on Okinawa, 19th Bomb Wing, 30th Bomb Squadron from December 1952 until July 1953. Our crew flew our last of 28 missions on 30 June 1953.

The members of the crew were Aircraft Commander Capt. Marlin Howard (TX), Pilot Adrian Schmoll (MO), Navigator Neil Schroder (WA), Bombardier Ben Hathaway (MA), Radar Operator Fred Breamer (WA), Flight Engineer Glenn Pennick (?), Radio Operator Dick Miller (PA), Gunners Dick Deitz (MD), Harold Brush (NY), Levi Ramsey (NJ), and me, Don Lally (MA).

Fred Breamer was an Air Force celebrity, as he was the bombardier on the Doolittle crew that bombed Tokyo in April 1942. We had a large number of people who flew missions with us because of Fred's status. In all cases they stood in the crew lineup and answered "Here, Sir" when their names were called.

Your article mentioned non-combat losses. We used another term, ROYAL---UP. I had a recollection when I looked at the area above the wings. We almost became another casualty to that classification. A Brigadier General flew with us on a mission. He was a non-rated (non-pilot) General and I believe he used the event for publicity reasons. He didn't bother showing up for crew lineup, but did show up with his staff car just as we were ready for engine start.

I never saw the General, being in the rear of the plane. I did see the flash bulbs going off. I would guess he was going to have this experience published in his local newspaper.

On a mission, when we reached the IP to start the bomb run, the bomb bay doors were opened. A number of times the doors didn't open due to frozen door problems. The solution was simple. "T" handles were located on the FLOOR outside the bomb bay doors located inside the plane. The handles were released and the doors opened. The bombs caused no damage to the doors and they closed without issues.

On this mission the doors didn't open and the call went out to pull the "T" handles. The General said he would make his contribution and pulled the handles. GUESS WHAT! There were also "T" handles at the top of the bomb bay doors in the front compartment. You guessed it! The General pulled the top ones.

These released two six-6 man life rafts located above the wings. I heard a thump as the rafts hit the tail and thought we had been hit by flack, even though none was visible. If the rafts had come in contact with control surfaces the result could have been catastrophic if the flight control surfaces were damaged. We finished the mission and the General had his staff car waiting—and he disappeared. I and the rest of the crew are thankful that he got to have the good portion his B-29 mission experience published in his local newspaper.

We left Okinawa in early July and were assigned to the 9th Bomb Wing at Mt. Home AFB in Idaho. In early 1954 the B-29s were replaced by B-47s and the crew split up after two years together. I transferred to the 9th Refueling Sqd and became a KC-97 Boom Operator. I was discharged in September 1955 and entered Boston University.

*Don Lally, Ch. 193, Reno, NV,
5700 Falcon Ridge Ct., Sparks, NV 89436*

The admiral's name was Vice Adm. H. M. Martin

Reference the July-August 2020 issue, Page 61, "Lyman K. Swenson (DD-729)..." The end of the 3rd column reads "The crews took special pride in their ability to disrupt railroad and high-way transportation and twice earned the praise of Vice..."

This is where the article ends and I could not find the continuation of the article. I was looking for the name of a Vice Admiral, but no luck.

Bud Mitnick, (301) 557-9760, Bud.mitnick1@gmail.com

NOTE: The Vice Admiral's name was H. M. Martin.

What about those who served in support?

Quick note - one of these days "The Greybeards" will recognize all those 'forgotten' KW veterans who served in support of the war

(6/50 - 2/54), but apparently never get mentioned, i.e., Far East Command - from Alaska to Japan.

Richard Aronson, USAF - 1952-55,

EDITORIAL RESPONSE: *We print Korean War-themed material that is sent to us. We are an "over the transom" operation. We do not solicit material. We select from whatever members "throw" over the transom.*

If we receive stories from Air Force veterans we print them. If we receive stories from Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Canadian, Ethiopian, etc. sources we print them. To paraphrase Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams's play A Streetcar Named Desire, "We have always relied on the kindness of strangers."

We rarely, if ever, receive stories from or about Korean War-era support troops. If we did they would receive the same consideration as do those from other Korean War veterans.

Held every national position but president

Roy Aldridge Passes



Roy Aldridge

Longtime KWVA National Officer Roy Aldridge passed away on 9-15-2020. Roy, a former POW, held every National office in the KWVA except National President. He was also KWVA Department of Texas Commander and KWVA Chapter # 249 Commander.

Roy served with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and made a combat jump into Korea. He will be missed by all his comrades.

Korean War veterans advocate Sunny Lee passes

Sunny Lee, who worked tirelessly on behalf of Korean War veterans in Utah, died on August 7, 2020. Lew Bradley of Ch. 122, Arden A. Rowley, Arizona, recalled that "She was a great lady committed to honoring Korean War veterans. I spent a Revisit Korea tour with her and she did an outstanding job as a shepherd herding us around."

This article from *The Korean War Veteran, Internet Journal for the World's Veterans of the Korean War*, sums up her remarkable accomplishments:

"For the past 21 years she had worked selflessly, without seeking personal recognition to see that all veterans in the state were recognized – and thanked – for their Korean War service.

One of the projects she initiated and managed was the 2009 visit to Korea by veterans who had served in the April, 1951 Battle of Kapyong, with Utah's 213th Field Artillery Battalion. She escorted 150 veterans and family members to a memorial service at Gapyeong.

"A National Guard unit, familiarly called "the Utah Battalion," the 213th had been firing support for units of the ROK 6th Division

when its strung-out units were attacked and fell back under enormous pressure. The Utah Battalion's supporting battery was written off as lost in action. However, its commander led the self-propelled armored howitzers across country, fighting off enemy soldiers as needed, and set up again near Gapyeong.

"It fired its huge 8-inch guns for both the besieged Australian and Canadian infantry units that were defending the Gapyeong River Valley. The year before that, she had persuaded the ROK Government to provide \$40,000 in funding to rescue the failing Utah Korean War Memorial fundraising campaign. Her achievements for veterans over the past 21 years are indeed impressive, and say much for the character and the spirit of the appreciative Korean people."

This excerpt from Nate Carlisle's article, "Sunny Lee, who ensured Utah remembered the Korean War, dies at 67," in the August 13, 2020 Salt Lake City, UT, Tribune, provides an idea of her accomplishment:

"In the 21 years Lee lived in Utah, the state's Korean War veterans received more recognition than they had in any of the other decades since the battles ended in 1953. Working through the South Korean Consulate in San Francisco, which would become Lee's primary contact with her birth country's leaders, Lee persuaded the South Korean government to contribute \$40,000 to a Korean War memorial in Cedar City at a time when organizers were having trouble fundraising. The memorial was dedicated in 2008.

"The next year, Lee organized a delegation of 150 Cedar City residents, including veterans, who visited Gapyeong, South Korea, to see the battlefield where the 213th Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the Utah National Guard fought. Later in 2009, the Cedar City and Gapyeong signed pacts becoming sister cities.

"The travel to South Korea continued. She persuaded that country's government to finance trips for American veterans, their spouses, children and grandchildren to visit the country and see what it has become in the decades since the war.

"Without America," Lee told The Salt Lake Tribune in 2015, "Korea wouldn't be what country it is."

And without tireless advocates like Sunny Lee, the Korean War might truly be forgotten.

Korean War Essay

In the July-August 2020 issue we referenced two essays written by winners of the an essay contest co-sponsored by Ch. 14, Suncoast [FL] and the city of Pinellas Park, FL. Here is the second winning essay.

By James Stephen Bodolay

“Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met”- Korean War Memorial, Washington DC

My grandfather, John Stephen Bodolay, served as a Lieutenant Junior Grade on the USS Remy during the Korean War. This essay is written in his honor.

The Korean War was a war fought between North Korea and South Korea from the years 1950 to 1953. It is often titled ‘The Forgotten War,’ most likely as a result of its placement in history. It took place shortly after World War II, the largest and bloodiest war in history, and the Vietnam War, one of the most controversial wars in American history.

There are no popular Korean War movies or action heroes associated with the war. There were no major protests in America to end the war like with the Vietnam War, and the involvement of the United States was not catalyzed by a military attack on American soil as in World War II. Despite all this, the sacrifices made by those involved remain significant and deserve remembrance.

The Korean War was fought in defense of a defenseless people. It began in June of 1950 when the communist Korean People’s Army (KPA) crossed over the 38th Parallel into South Korea. It sought to conquer the democratic nation and unite the Korean Peninsula under the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The communists easily

overtook much of South Korea and were well on their way to victory until the intervention of the United States military alongside United Nations peacekeeping forces and the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA).

The soldiers in these armies fought to protect the people of South Korea against the communist invaders who, if victorious, would force their oppressive ideology upon the people of South Korea. Over the course of the subsequent three years, the American military would suffer over 54,000 deaths, equating over 13,000 deaths per year and making the Korean War the fourth bloodiest conflict in American military history. What makes this number even more significant is the reason for their deaths.

These soldiers fought not for their own freedom or in defense of their home country, but to protect the citizens of a foreign nation from authoritarianism. Their lives were risked not out of self-defense or desperation, but out of altruism. They fought to quell the flow of communism and maintain freedom and democracy in a nation that could not accomplish these goals itself.

China and the Soviet Union sought to spread communism just as Hitler and Mussolini had sought to spread fascism a decade prior. While fascism and communism lay on opposite ends of the political spectrum, their end results are so often the same: bloody war as well as the deaths and oppression of thousands, if not millions. Had the American soldiers not intervened and made the ultimate sacrifice to stop communism in South Korea, it is entirely likely that the nation would lie under the control of the DPRK this very day.

The deaths of the 54,000 courageous American soldiers secured the everlasting freedom of the millions of inhabitants of South Korea today. They shall not be forgotten.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

ALABAMA

R049715 GARY BILKE

ALASKA

LR49710 DONALD L. LITTLE

ARIZONA

A049701 MAUREEN B. DONOVAN

R049698 RAYMOND F. FABIAN

A049700 NEIL O. HADDEN

LR49705 JEROME L. KENDRICK

A049697 MARVIN MUELLER

R049699 THOMAS W. RAYCRAFT

A049702 EUGENE ROBBINS

CALIFORNIA

A049696 SUNG CHUN CHO

LR49716 DOUGLAS L. FENWICK

A049688 SALLY A. LOPEZ

R049683 WESLEY MORRIS

LR49693 STEVEN R. WILLIAMS

FLORIDA

R049679 RONALD B. BAILEY

LR49692 CARLOS HALCOMB

R049695 DALE OSBORNE

A049687 SHAMSHER SINGH

R049703 HENRY J. ‘BURLEY’ SMITH

HAWAII

LR49686 DOUGLAS H. DRAKE

ILLINOIS

LR49681 RAUL CARDONA

R049717 MICHAEL W. CASEY

INDIANA

R049714 JAMES O. TITUS

LOUISIANA

R049690 ERMAN H. SIMPSON

MASSACHUSETTS

LR49713 DANIEL M. BARBOZA

R049689 JOSEPH B. GLYNN

LR49680 JEFFREY C. HOLLETT

MINNESOTA

R049711 ARNOLD L. BEYER

MISSOURI

R049678 ELBERT A. BEARD

R049676 JEFFREY S. TERRY

NEW JERSEY

R049682 JOHN P. PEARSON

NORTH CAROLINA

R049707 RONALD K. ARNOLD

LR49704 ROBERT C. ‘ROBIN’ MICHAEL

OREGON

R049709 CHARLES E. HENRY

PENNSYLVANIA

R049691 WAYNE L. CLEMENS

TEXAS

R049685 RIAKOS L. ADAMS

R049677 FELIPE CABRALES

R049684 I V JONES

VIRGINIA

R049712 CHARLES T. MITCHELL

R049708 RODERICK YONKERS

WISCONSIN

A049706 SCOTT C. CREASER

R049694 JEFFERY L. TOLSMAN

USS Indianapolis Crew Receives Congressional Gold Medal

As you know I served as National KWVA president, 2016-2018. During the latter six months of my term I received a request to provide Congress with a letter of support on behalf of KWVA for awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the crew of the USS Indianapolis (CA-35). My recollection is that the KWVA Board approved writing the letter as requested.

After more than two years the very impressive award ceremony actually happened, on July 30, 2020, 75 years after the event. There are still eight survivors



USS Indianapolis (CA-35),
27 Sept. 1939

alive. The ceremony and related interviews were shown on C-Span3.

The letter of support from KWVA is attached. I thought our members would be interested, as our letter played at least

a small part in the rightful outcome.

Sincerely,

Tom Stevens
stevens@swbell.net

USS Indianapolis (CL/CA-35)... was a Portland-class heavy cruiser of the United States Navy, named for the city of Indianapolis, Indiana. Launched in 1931, the vessel served as the flagship for the commander of Scouting Force 1 for eight years, then as flagship for Admiral Raymond Spruance in 1943 and 1944 while he commanded the Fifth Fleet in battles across the Central Pacific during World War II.

In July 1945, Indianapolis completed a top-secret high-speed trip to deliver parts of Little Boy, the first nuclear weapon ever used in combat, to the United States Army Air Force Base on the island of Tinian, and subsequently departed for the Philippines on training duty. At 0015 on 30 July, the ship was torpedoed by the Imperial Japanese Navy submarine I-58, and sank in 12 minutes.

Of 1,195 crewmen aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship. The remaining 890 faced exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning, and shark attacks while stranded in the open ocean with few lifeboats and almost no food or water. The Navy only learned of the sinking four days later, when survivors were spotted by the crew of a PV-1 Ventura on routine patrol. Only 316 survived.

The sinking of Indianapolis resulted in the greatest single loss of life at sea from a single ship in the history of the US Navy.

On 19 August 2017, a search team financed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen located the wreckage of the sunken cruiser in the Philippine Sea lying at a depth of approximately 18,000 ft. (5,500 m). On 20 December 2018, the crew of the Indianapolis was collectively awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Indianapolis_\(CA-35\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Indianapolis_(CA-35)))



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS
ASSOCIATION**
Office of the President
Thomas W. Stevens
stevens@swbell.net
913 449-7990



April 9, 2018

Honorable Members of the United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. is pleased to provide its endorsement for awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the crew of the USS Indianapolis as contained in H.R. 4107 and S.2101

The crew members of heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA-35) are richly deserving of this recognition for their incredible bravery, sacrifice and service to our Country during WWII. Although the vast majority of the proud sailors who served so honorably on, the Indy have passed on to their final resting place, it is never too late for the Nation to salute them by passage of the USS Indianapolis Gold Medal Act. The crew has earned your respect and gratitude and the respect of a grateful Nation.

Please consider favorably the awarding of this highly respected & well deserved medal (Congressional Gold Medal) to the crew of the USS Indianapolis.
Thank you.

Respectfully,



Thomas W. Stevens, President, Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

The KWVA Mission is to :

- Defend our Nation
- Care for our Veterans
- Perpetuate our Legacy
- Remember our Missing and Fallen
- Maintain our Memorial
- Support a free Korea

CHRONOLOGY from page 10

Nations (UN) forces other than U.S. units, there still was a considerable loss of life among the U.S. participants.

A number of regiments across the front and concentrated near the points of initial thrust sustained relatively heavy KIA casualty rates during the week that encompassed the attack. In the first few days the 5th Regimental Combat Team lost 81 men killed in fighting around Ukkolgye and Undam-Jang, which were part of 'Death Valley,' aptly named for the consequences of the powerful attack.

Fighting alongside the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Death Valley, the 555th Field Artillery Battalion lost 17 men KIA. The 19th Infantry Regiment was also hit hard, with 72 men KIA, mostly around Chipo-ri, during the first week of the initial attack. Thirty-three men from the 3rd Battalion of the 19th were killed on April 23rd alone. The 19th's sister regiment, the 21st Infantry Regiment, lost 46 men that week, also fighting around Chipo-ri and then Mugok.

A number of the U.S. regiments lost men in daily bunches, sometimes 4 or 5 a day, other times by the dozens. Some men who were KIA are still today considered 'Died While Missing – Remains Not Recovered.' And a good portion of those men were actually captured alive, but subsequently died in captivity during the ensuing months. They, too, are considered 'Died While Captured, Remains Not Recovered.' All of this reflects the confusion that reigned during the initial days of the CCF onslaught.

From April 23-25 units of the 3rd Infantry Division were hit hard. The 7th Infantry Regiment lost 64 men along the Uijongbu-Tongduchon Main Supply Route, 52 of whom were killed on April 25th. And the 65th Infantry Regiment lost 32 men KIA while defending positions along the Imjin River.

In the 25th Infantry Division sector, the 35th Infantry Regiment lost 42 men in three days of hard fighting along the Yongpyong River, while the 24th Infantry Regiment lost 32 men killed in establishing Line Golden, which was north of Seoul, to help stem the Chinese wave. The 7th Infantry Division's 32nd

The month came to an inauspicious close with 9 of the 21 men killed on April 30th coming from flying units. Three F-51s, one F4U, and one C-47 on a leaflet dropping mission crashed in North Korea.

Infantry Regiment took the brunt of that division's losses, with 45 men KIA while fighting in the Chongson-ni area, again along the Yongpyong River.

In the Marine sector, the 1st Marine Regiment lost 43 men on Hill 902, which was a part of Horseshoe Ridge, while the 5th and 7th Regiments lost a combined 41 men killed fighting around the Hwachon-Chunchon area. The 5th Cavalry Regiment lost 31 men killed while doing its part in staving off the CCF attack, 19 of whom died on April 29th. That was the last large group of men to be KIA in a single battle in April due to the Spring Offensive.

The month came to an inauspicious close with 9 of the 21 men killed on April 30th coming from flying units. Three F-51s, one F4U, and one C-47 on a leaflet dropping mission crashed in North Korea. All nine 9 bodies never recovered.

May 1951 – 1,296

There was an almost audible pause heard and felt across Korea during the first two weeks of May as both sides took stock of April's operations and offensives. But, as what always seems to occur when combat becomes light, men still have the unfortunate ability to find ways to die. Even with that 'light' combat operations, 1,296 men died throughout the month.

May 1st was odd simply because, of the 9 men who died in Korea that day, only 1 was killed in combat. One of the DOCs was the 27th Fighter Escort Wing commander, killed along with his copilot when his T-33 crashed on an administrative flight after takeoff from Itazuki Air Force Base in Japan. In fact, of 141 men who died in the first sixteen days of the month, an astounding 43 were DOC.

Drowning, accidental weapons discharges, electrocution, accidental hand grenade explosions, truck accidents—and murder. On May 8th a member of the

2nd Base Post Office was fatally struck on the head by 'persons unknown' at Pusan.

Air operations slackened during the beginning of May, with U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force losses being in single numbers per day. There were exceptions. Two pilots were shot down in a 24-hour period. One deviation from low numbers occurred on May 7th. Of the 17 men killed that day, 13 were USAF and USN air crewmen.

With combat actions being relatively light, some regiments were off the front lines in the beginning of the month as they convalesced. A good example of this was the 9th Infantry Regiment, whose first KIA in over a month and a half occurred on May 9th as it recovered from March's Operations Killer and Ripper. Of the 10 men who were killed on May 10th, 5 were seamen who died from a fire on the small escort carrier USS Bairoko.

This light combat phase soon came to an end. May 17th saw the beginning of the Battle of Soyang River, where units of the 2nd Infantry Division were defending the No-Name Line. This battle tied right in with the CCF Second Spring Offensive, which brought about the most combat deaths for the month.

Commonly referred to as the 'May Massacre,' the 38th Infantry Regiment lost 27 men killed on the first day of the Soyang River engagement. May 18th turned out to be the deadliest day of May 1951, with 321 men KIA, followed by another 114 KIA the next day. One-third of all deaths in the month of May occurred on these two days.

The 2nd Infantry Division continued to bear the brunt of this, with its 38th Infantry Regiment absorbing another 201 men dead as they battled the enemy on and around the Bunker Hill 1051 area. The 23rd Infantry Regiment lost 125 men dead as they fought around Chaun-ni.

The 1st Ranger Company, fighting alongside the 23rd Infantry Regiment, also lost 26 men around Chaun-ni.

After May 19th, there appeared to be a return of the daily 'grind' of combat and death levels seen in previous months in Korea. Every day left in the month brought death totals higher by an average of 55 men a day killed for the last twelve days of the month. Almost all of these deaths can be attributed to Operation Detonate, a new major 8th Army offensive to retake and reestablish Line Kansas after it was pushed back by the CCF Second Spring Offensive.

These last days of May during this 'grind' period were punctuated by some days where blocks of men from individual units were killed. Multiple tasks forces were created and used to re-establish multiple smaller 'lines' on the way to solidify Line Kansas. Task Forces Yoke, Hazel, Gerhardt, along with Task Forces Able, Baker and Charlie, were combined with revolving units and divisions to hit the benchmarks of Line Topeka, Line Waco, and Line Georgia, respectively.

On May 20th, the 15th Infantry Regiment's 3rd Battalion lost 14 men. On May 25th, still reeling from the large losses of only a week before at the start of the Battle of Soyang River, the 38th Infantry Regiment lost another 19 men while still fighting around the Bunker Hill area. Twenty-seven men from the 17th Infantry Regiment died in two days of hard fighting around small hamlets in the Hwachon, Wonchon- ni, Kason-ni, and Chango-ni areas on May 28-29th. The 7th Marine Regiment lost 27 KIA in two days, May 29th and 31st, respectively, as they made the drive to Yanggu on the Soyang River.

During the last week of the month, while fighting to regain Line Kansas, the 187th Regimental Combat Team suffered the steadiest stream of men killed during this phase of the operation. In nine days of fighting around the town and area of Inje, 100 members of the 187th were KIA. Unfortunately their losses around Inje continued into June.

With the Soyang River battle and the Second CCF Spring Offense, and then Operation Detonate kicking off, the daily grind applied to those fighting in the air. While air losses were down from the pre-

vious month, there were one or two pilots a day being shot down or crashing. Those deaths contributed to a steady increase in the number of air crew members KIA. And, with these losses, the enemy was indiscriminate about who they shot at and killed.

Operation Strangle, a massive air interdiction campaign, started on May 20th. Two days before that, on May 18th, five F4Us and one AD-4 Skyraider were shot down, all by anti-aircraft fire, while conducting close-in support. The AD-4 pilot killed was the commander of Carrier Group 19 (CVG-19), taking his turn in the flying rotation.

U.S. Air Force F-80 pilots ended up being the most shot-down group for the month, with fifteen planes being downed. All fifteen pilots died. Another 12 Navy and Marine pilots died in their F4U Corsairs. Air-to-air combat was still not a prevalent thing as of yet in Korea, and most, if not all of these deaths were due to anti-aircraft fire.

May also had a few deaths that stood out. On May 21st, the USS New Jersey sustained its only combat death of the war when the #1 turret received a hit from an enemy shore battery, killing one sailor. On May 24th a colonel who was serving as the Deputy Commanding General of X Corps died of a heart attack after planning an upcoming attack as part of Operation Detonate.

As the fights and battles to re-establish the phase lines continued, one thing became apparent: the ability to recover KIAs had improved. There were relatively few KIAs recorded as 'Body Not Recovered.' The majority of those not recovered were pilots shot down behind enemy lines.

June 1951 – 947

947 men died in Korea during the month of June 1951. Operation Strangle slowly came to an end, and then Operation Piledriver began. While Strangle was an operation to retake Line Kansas, Operation Piledriver was designed to solidify the gains of Strangle, secure Line Kansas, and then establish a new defensive line, Line Wyoming. Operation Piledriver was the main cause of death for U.S. forces in June, with the majority of combat deaths occurring in

the first two weeks. These deaths, as they usually do, occurred in bunches.

Twenty-three men from the 9th Infantry Regiment were KIA on June 2nd while attacking Hills 579 and 451 around Um-Yang-ni. The 65th Infantry Regiment suffered 51 KIAs in four hard days of fighting from June 3-6 in the Chorwon Valley. However, the 7th Infantry Division took the brunt of those killed during Piledriver, with the 31st Infantry Regiment suffering 79 KIA and its fellow 32nd Infantry Regiment losing 47 men KIA during the two weeks of the operation.

June was also a poignant month for air operations. June 3rd saw yet another tragedy during the war when two C-119 Boxcars flew into the path of friendly artillery rounds that had just been fired. Both planes crashed northeast of Inje, killing all 11 men on board the planes. This was not be the last aerial tragedy of the month.

The second aerial tragedy occurred on June 15th, when 12 men from VP-40 Patrol Squadron died when their PBM Catalina patrol bomber crashed into a mountain shortly after takeoff from Iwakuni Naval Air Station, Japan. June was also the first month that an F-86 Sabre and pilot were lost in the Korean War. On June 5th, a pilot from the 336th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, having just taken off from Suwon Airfield K-13, suddenly jettisoned the aircraft's external fuel tanks and crashed five miles from the runway.

The air war in Korea, up until this point, had been mostly various aircraft supporting ground operations with subsequent pilots being killed by anti-aircraft fire. But that was changing. The first F-86 to be shot down during the war occurred on June 18th when a flight of F-86s from the 334th Fighter Interceptor Squadron was attacked by a flight of Mig-15s over what was to become 'Mig-Alley.' One F-86 pilot did not return from this mission.

After many stops and starts, objections and guarded agreements, June 10th was the first day of official peace talks. The Battle for the Punchbowl was in full swing by then. The struggle for the Punchbowl began in the beginning of June as the NKPA attacked the 1st

On June 12th the U.S. Navy experienced its single largest loss of life for the year (and second largest of the war) when the destroyer USS Walke hit a mine sixty miles off the coast of Korea while with Task Force 77.

Marine Division area of operations in the Haean-Myon Valley.

Some historical references have the Battle for the Punchbowl occurring much later, in the August and September time-frames, but the KIA records for the USMC show a much different timeline. The ongoing Punchbowl engagement unofficially started on June 2nd and became a long drawn-out daily slog that caused 171 KIA in nineteen days of combat for the 1st Marine Division. This phase of the Punchbowl fighting finally petered out, going out in one last burst of combat on June 19th when the 7th Marine Regiment's 3rd Battalion and 1st Engineer Battalion lost 21 men killed.

June was somewhat of a mixed month for the year, with men dying in groups or 'clumps,' not just on land, but also on the sea. On June 12th the U.S. Navy experienced its single largest loss of life for the year (and second largest of the war) when the destroyer *USS Walke* hit a mine sixty miles off the coast of Korea while with Task Force 77. A floating mine was the suspect, killing 26 men of the *Walke*'s crew.

On land, men started to die under a relatively new locale name to be used in Korea. Thirteen men of 'B' Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment were KIA fighting on Hill 717 near Sobang-san in the 'Iron Triangle' on June 23-24. As with previous months, when aggressive combat actions became light, men still 'Died of Other Causes..'

From June 16th through the end of the month, out of the 227 men who died in Korea, 50 men, or over 22% of deaths, were due to 'other causes,' e.g., river drownings and vehicle accidents being the primary causes. The remainder of June appeared to be another noticeable pause which everyone hoped would continue with relatively few combat deaths. That did not mean that 'dust-ups' didn't occur.

During the last week, in three days of

fighting from June 26-28, the 19th Infantry Regiment lost 29 men killed around Huddang-ni and Sindong-ni. But this was the last offensive action of any sort for June. On the last day of the month, three men died on the Korean front: 1 by combat, 1 by 'other causes', and 1 by fratricide. Just another day on the Korean peninsula.

July 1951 - 439

Can July 1951 be considered the true beginning of the so-called 'stalemate' portion of the year and eventually the war? Despite a few hiccups (September and October of 1951), many were glad to see this so-called stalemate portion of the war begin. The term 'stalemate' can be misleading, though, as combat still took place and men still died. July became the second least KIA/DOC per month of the year, with only 439 men dying in Korea—'only' being a subjective term.

With offensive operations put on hold and the lines solidifying, much of the front line deaths were due to minor skirmishes and patrol actions, which claimed small groups of men ranging from 8 to 10 dead from each event. The one area where death actually took an upswing was the air war.

While ground combat actions lessened, air operations for the Air Force, Navy, and Marines increased, giving July the second most aircraft and air crew losses for the year. (April was the first). With the majority of these men still listed as 'Remains Not Recovered' to this day, 55 men died in 51 different aircraft losses. Thirteen F4U Corsairs led the lists—once again—as the number one type aircraft to be shot down during the month.

These air operations were poignant from the start, as on July 1st the commander of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing was shot down and killed in his F-51 by a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire. Along with air crew loss numbers, July is interesting to look at for where deaths occurred.

A resounding 275 men were from front line infantry units. They comprised the overwhelming majority of deaths. Twenty-four artillerymen died from various artillery battalions supporting those infantry units. And, 83 men were from a plethora of different support units in Korea at the time, such as the 8th Food Service Squadron, 136th Maintenance Supply Group, the frigate *USS Everett*, HU-2 Helicopter Utility Detachment, 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 1st Signal Battalion, 526th Engineer Bridge Panel Company, and the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). No unit serving in Korea, it seemed, was safe from accident, disease, or combat.

One bright spot of note from July's lack of aggressive combat operations was that some front line units were given a well-deserved reprieve from death. The 65th and 31st Infantry Regiments each lost only 1 man dead during the entire month. And the 15th and 17th Infantry Regiments were right behind them with only two men lost in each regiment for the month. The 32nd Infantry Regiment suffered only 3 men killed. Over all this was not the normal course of events.

Even in the other units getting somewhat of a reprieve, patrolling and skirmishes continued. Consequently, men were still dying daily, although at a slower pace of 1 to 3 per day. Four-day increments seemed to be the constant with most units. During the first four days of July, the 7th Infantry Regiment lost 23 men fighting on and around Hill 717 in the Iron Triangle area of Sobang-san. These were the last death casualties the regiment suffered for the remainder of the month however.

July 3rd tied with July 27th for the most deaths on a particular day with 27 men dead, 10 coming from the 7th Infantry Regiment on that day alone. The 21st Infantry Regiment lost 22 men from July 12-15 around Chochiwon and Chunchon. The 8th Cavalry Regiment lost 13 men killed from July 11-14. The 27th Infantry Regiment lost 9 men from July 18-21, and the 35th Infantry Regiment had 8 men killed from July 21-24. Those who 'Died Other Causes' during this period still happened in surprising ways. For example, on July 15th, a 41-year-old medic and World War II vet-

eran serving with the 17th Infantry Regiment passed away in his sleep from acute myocardial insufficiency, more commonly known as heart failure.

The last week of July was not quiet for those in the air or on the ground. On July 27th a VP-772 Patrol Squadron PB4Y Privateer patrol bomber crashed five miles after takeoff from Atsugi, Japan. All 9 crewmen were killed. Tragic stories like this continued for those in the air arms.

On July 30th a Marine Corsair pilot was hit by anti-aircraft fire. His plane careened into his wingman's Corsair, bringing both planes down near Pyongyang, North Korea. Both pilots survived the crashes. In their ensuing evasion of the enemy, one pilot killed four would-be captors. He was summarily executed on the spot once captured. His wingman was taken prisoner and died as a POW later.

Finally there was the Battle of Tausan, more specifically Hill 1179, which was the largest single action that took place during the month. It involved units of the 38th Infantry Regiment. The regiment was tasked with capturing a hill on the western edge of the Punchbowl to solidify the lines. This 'dust up' occurred from July 26-31. The 38th Infantry Regiment incurred 44 KIAs while securing the hill.

August 1951 - 605

The month started out inauspiciously. On August 1st as 4 men died, 1 in combat, the 3 others from a drowning, a truck roll-over, and jaundice. With a total of 605 men killed in August, small clashes and unexpected happenings occurred during the first three weeks which brought about more limited groupings of deaths to some units. These read like snapshots in time.

From August 7-10 the 7th Cavalry Regiment lost 19 men killed while fighting along the Wyoming Line northwest of Yongchon. On August 13th there were 5 deaths in Korea, none of which were from combat. All were vehicular related, 1 by a truck roll-over, 1 struck by a tractor, and 3 men in a truck being hit by the wheel undercarriage of a C-54 as it landed.

On August 14th, 4 of the 8 men KIA

On June 12th the U.S. Navy experienced its single largest loss of life for the year (and second largest of the war) when the destroyer *USS Walke* hit a mine sixty miles off the coast of Korea while with Task Force 77.

were F-51D pilots, 1 of whom was the commander of the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. When two of his pilots did not return from their combat runs he flew a search and rescue mission. He died in the process died when he crashed into a hillside. ‘

F’ Company 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment lost 10 men killed on August 19th when they were attacked by a CCF force during mop-up operations between Chorwon and Pyongyang. That same day, ‘L’ Company 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment lost 11 KIAs while they were conducting a patrol from their positions along the Wyoming Line. And, in three days of skirmishes from August 19-21, the 27th Infantry Regiment lost 13 men killed. Another sad tragedy occurred on August 22nd as 10 members of the 58th Field Artillery Battalion were on their way to some well-earned R&R. Their truck ran off a cliff near Uijongbu, killing all 10 men.

In the last week of August, the 2nd and 7th Infantry Divisions experienced the largest percentage of deaths for the month. The divisions’ regiments saw the most action across the front, especially the 2nd Infantry Division’s 9th and 38th Infantry Regiments as they became involved with the Bloody Ridge battle.

The American involvement in the Battle of Bloody Ridge started in earnest on August 26th and lasted roughly twelve days going into September. The ongoing battle added substantially to September’s death totals as well.

The 2nd Infantry Division was tasked with assaulting and capturing this valuable high ground, a ridgeline comprising three hill masses, Hills 983, 940 and 773, respectively. The combined CCF and NKPA force defending the ridge was deeply entrenched and this battle foreshadowed the type of warfare into which the Korean War evolved. The 2nd Infantry Division bore the brunt of this assault up the slopes, as the 9th Infantry Regiment lost 111 KIAs. The 38th

Infantry Regiment lost 87 KIA during the last six days of the month.

Starting on August 26th and continuing into September units of the 7th Infantry Division conducted a series of limited scale attacks to establish patrol bases in front of Line Wyoming. These attacks were designed to break up a Chinese build-up along the Pukhan River. Some of these limited actions took place in the Chorwon area of Hills 266 (eventually called ‘Old Baldy’ of 1952 and ‘53 fame) and 461 near Chugu-dong.

The 32nd Infantry Regiment suffered 34 KIA in the last six days of the month, the majority coming from its 1st Battalion. The 17th Infantry Regiment lost another 31 KIA during the same period, the majority of whom were with the 2nd Battalion. During this last week August 27th became the unofficial starting point of what could be referred to as the beginning of a ‘long, slow, slog of war.’ It was a time period which began an extended period of a slow steady grind of combat deaths.

From the last week of August through the first week of November there was a daily tally of anywhere from 20 to 80 deaths. August 27th was an auspicious beginning to this steady grind with the 9th, 32nd and 38th Infantry Regiments losing 126 KIA out of the total 133 deaths for that day. Along with this ‘slow, slog of war’ and marked increase in combat deaths, the last week of August encompassed half of all deaths that occurred during the month/Sadly, that was a sign for things to come for those in Korea during the summer and fall.

To close out the month, on August 29th the first soldier from the newly arrived 14th Infantry Regiment died. He was a private who stepped on a land mine while his unit was practicing tactical problems around Chipori.

...to be continued

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
PO Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues - \$25.00 | Associate Membership - \$25.00 | MOH, Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00
Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)
 Ages up to and through 35 years of age: **\$600** Ages 36 through 50 years of age: **\$450**
 Ages 51 through 65 years of age: **\$300** Ages 66 years of age and older: **\$150**

Please Check One: New Member Renewal Member # _____

<i>Please Check One:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Medal Of Honor
<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-POW	<input type="checkbox"/> (KATUSA?)	<input type="checkbox"/> (KATUSA?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Star Spouse/Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary

(Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apartment or Unit #(if any) _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Year of Birth _____

Email _____

Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

-All applicants for Regular Membership please provide the following information-

Unit(s) to which Assigned	Service Branch	Dates of service:
Division _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Army	WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below)
Regiment _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	From: _____ To: _____
Battalion _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	Without Korea were: (See criteria below)
Company _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	From: _____ To: _____
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	

How did you hear about the KWVA? KWVA member, Internet, Google, KWVA Website, Facebook, Email, Magazine, Newspaper, YouTube, Twitter, Other: _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me is true and correct."
[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA - Mail to: KWVA Membership Office - PO Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407.

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)
 Credit Card # _____ VISA MASTER CARD Discover AMEX

Expiration Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____ Signature _____

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1 above, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, sign in the space provided below and attach this page to the completed Membership Application Form on page 1.

Check Only
One Category

- KATUSA: I served in the Korean War as a member of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Forces. I have since relocated to the United States and became a United States Citizen on: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____. (Verification will be required)
Medal of Honor: I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.
Ex-POW: I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present, From: Month ___ Day ___ Year ___ To: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.
Gold Star Parent: I am the parent of: Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War on: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.
Gold Star Spouse: I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War during the Korean War on: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.
Associate: I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
Honorary: I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the NATIONAL Board of Directors on: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ___ Day ___ Year ____

Check HERE If GIFT Membership

- GIFT Membership: I certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of my knowledge, ALL of the information I have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. I have included the required payment with this application.

Signature: _____ Month ___ Day ___ Year ____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

1. **Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, is eligible for membership if:
 - a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
 - b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
4. **Gold Star Parents.** Any parent whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
5. **Gold Star Spouses.** Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this Association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for Regular Membership; and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R4 Approved 10/27/2012

The Graybeards Submission Guidelines

Ongoing Series

Remember that we have ongoing series for which we are always looking for submissions. Among them are:

- Where I was on July 27, 1953
- Humor in Korea
- How I joined the KWVA

We will continue the series as long as we receive your stories. Please send your submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Editor's Office Hours

Bear in mind that the editor is not a full-time employee of the KWVA. He maintains approximate office hours. They are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

Photo Captions

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc. And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

Photo Limits

From time to time we have to limit the number of photos we include with Chapter or Tell America news. We receive a lot of submissions in both categories, and we have a limited number of pages. So, in the interest of fairness, we try to spread the coverage.

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

KWVA Member, # _____ Expiration Date (Exp date) _____

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert "applied for."

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes

1. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

2. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-Mail* _____

*- CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# _____ Exp Date _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ DOB _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Exp Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert "Applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____ Unit _____

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Veterans / Family Member Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with the nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining \$400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining \$400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a **\$50.00** Deposit Per Person,

The nonrefundable amount of **\$50.00** Per Person Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Website: www.miltours.com**

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK's) government's gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion." Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility

1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule

1. Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

- Day 1: Fly to Korea.
Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.
Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.
4. Medical and Evacuation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.
7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in The Graybeards should be sent to:

**Art Sharp, Editor
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
or emailed to:
sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net**



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

RAYMOND DANIEL
GEORGE LEE KRUSE
JOSEPH T. MOSELEY

ALASKA

MORRIS M. BREED
BERKELEY J. IDE
MERLE D. MEISINGER
W. D. POLLARD

ARIZONA

EDWIN E. KUNTZ
ORVILLE S. LONG
WARREN T. LYNCH
LOREN MERLE MYERS
PETE R. PALOMINO

CALIFORNIA

ROCQUE L. BORJON
EMO LOUIS COPPOLA
WILLIAM RAYMOND CORDOVA
DONALD J. CORNISH
ROBERT E. CREWS
ROBERT L. CRUZ
ROBERT L. CRUZ
BILLY C. CURETON
ARTHUR M. DAVIDSON
JOHN R. DUBOIS
SILVERIANO FERNANDEZ
WILLIAM L. GATES
WILLIAM D. GILARDI JR.
L. CARL HEESCH
FRANK C. LUNA
HAMILTON A. MACHADO
WALLACE F. MACLEOD
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ROBERT R. MARTINEZ
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JOHN R. ORTEGA
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JOSE L. SUAREZ
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EARL O. VARNEY
JOSEPH LLOYD VIERRA
DAVID M. WILLIAMS
ELLSWORTH 'AL' WYOSNICK
KATHLEEN WYOSNICK

COLORADO

GEORGE H. ANDERSON
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DELMER B. MOSS
ROBERT D. WHITE

CONNECTICUT

JOHN F. BENNETT JR.
FRANCIS W. MCMAHON
RAYMOND H. RUSSENBERGER

THOMAS P. SHEA

DELAWARE

DOROTHY C. GIANGERUSO
JOHN A. HILL
EDWARD F. MCGUIRE
G. L. MILLER
EUGENE WILLIAMS JR.
BOBBY L. WINGATE SR.

FLORIDA

CAROL M. BECKER
WILLIAM C. BLOOD
EILEEN A. BURKE
JOHN G. BUSH
ROBERT W. 'BOB' CHESTER SR.
JAMES R. CLOUGH
LUCIANO A. CREMASCO
SANDRA DAREFF
ROBERT M. DAVIE
NEIL H. DECIMA
HAROLD B. DOMINY
WOODROW L. EDINGER
S. RAY ELLINGTON
ROBERT W. FLOWER
HOWARD L. FOLDEN
JOHN R. FORTON
WILMON D. FRIERSON
HARRY GECHT
CLARENCE GEORGE
MARTIN T. GOLOB
MYRON 'MIKE' GRANIUS
HARRY F. GWYNNE
F. PATRICK HEFFERNAN
KARL HLAVAC
HARRY W. HOGAN
JACK V. HURST
WALTER JASIEWICZ
EUGENE A. KACZMARCZYK SR.
JAMES W. KEIRNAN
JACK J. LAMANNA
GEORGE T. LAMBERT
ROBERT L. LAMPHERE
JAMES W. LOOSE JR.
GEORGE J. MACLAUGHLIN
THOMAS A. MADDEN
GEORGE G. MALSAM
WILLIAM MCGONIGLE
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GLEN E. NELSON
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MASON E. 'ED' WIGGINS
WILLIAM L. 'LARRY' WILLIAMS
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SOS

I got curious about the origin of "May Day" as a distress call, looked it up and found this:

In the early 20th century there were a lot of airplane mishaps over the English Channel and no good way to call for help. SOS, used for ships in distress on the telegraph, was impractical. So in 1923 the French suggested using "M'aidez" ("Help me" In French), pronounced (slightly corruptly) "May Day" in English. This proved very practical and spread around the English-speaking world, then became the international distress call.

Birney Dibble



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At April 2018 Korean War Historical Seminar, Arlington National Cemetery: ROK BG Pyo, John Insani, George Rosser, MOH recipient MSG Ron Rosser (Front, Center) GEN Mark Milley, and Monika Stoy (L-R)