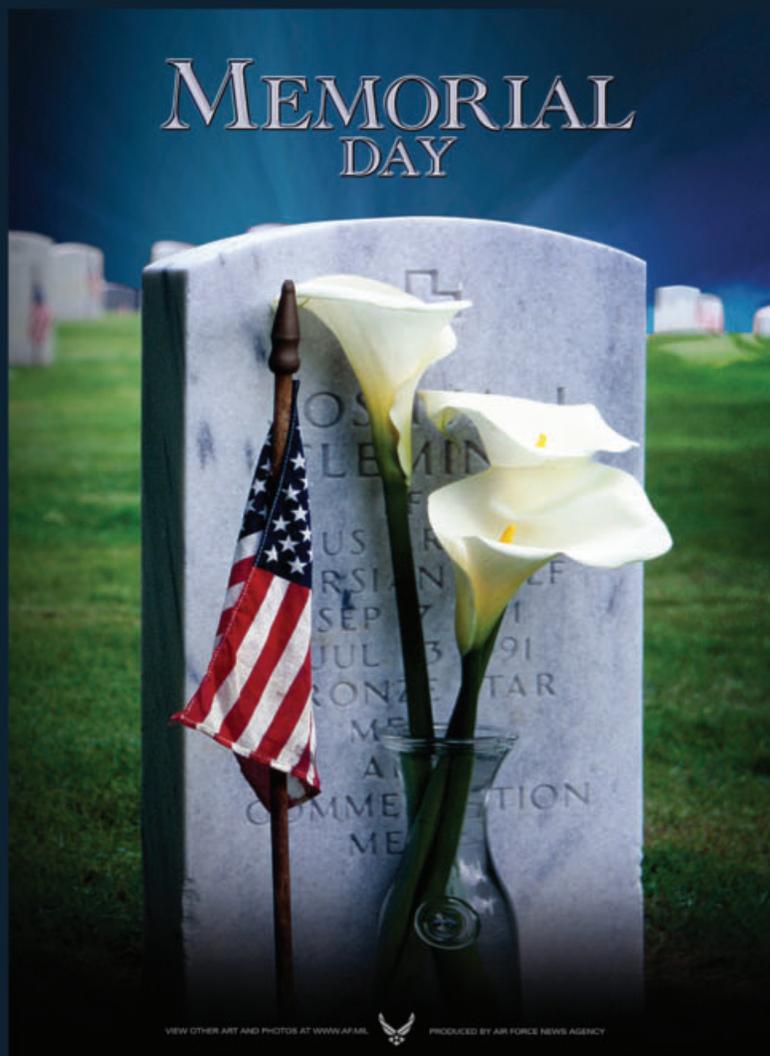


America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
May-June 2021 Vol. 35, No. 3



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Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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From the President

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

Greetings to all our KWVA Members!

We are preparing for our KWVA National Board Meeting in Boston. Some of our board members will be attending by Zoom. We will be paying our respects to our fallen at the Massachusetts Korean War Memorial in the Charlestown Navy Yard, home of the USS Constitution. I am looking forward to seeing our board members.

The next board meeting in Orlando will bring us new officers from this year's election. We are planning our KWVA National Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn at the Orlando Airport from October 25-29, 2021. We will have two guest speakers. One is LTG. (Ret.) Mike Linnington, who is the CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project and a Korea Defense Veteran who served with the 2ND Infantry Division. The other guest speaker will be our own USMC Colonel (Ret.) Warren Wiedhahn. Warren is a long-term KWVA National Officer and presently President of the Chosin Few Association.

I have asked KWVA National Director Narce Caliva and KWVA Past President Larry Kinard to represent the KWVA at The Wall of Remembrance ground breaking on May 21, 2021 in Washington D.C. Our KWVA DC

Representatives, Warren Wiedhahn and Rocky Harder, will be attending our National Board Meeting in Boston. Narce and Larry have been outstanding KWVA National Officers for well over a decade. They will represent the KWVA with honor.

We will be sponsoring two events in Korea, the 246th US Army Birthday Celebration from June 11 to 14th, and Celebrate Independence Event on July 3 through the MWR at Camp Humphreys, Korea. Each event will carry our KWVA logo on every item, such as flyers, banners and TV screens. We will have a table present with KWVA decals, magazines, and applications.

Our fundraiser has kicked off to an outstanding start. They are the highest figures we have had at this time in the history of the KWVA, thanks to KWVA National 2nd Vice President Tom McHugh. It is only May and we have almost \$60,000. Our goal is \$80,000, so please keep buying more tickets.

These figures speak volumes. The KWVA has a lot of supporters, including almost 56,000 likes on our Facebook page! Don't forget about our Rose of Sharon so your chapters can fund raise.

Many members and supporters are buying our products off our Facebook page and website. We are going to have to replenish the hats very soon again.

The members love our "Freedom is not Free" hats, and the dress caps that we just started to sell. Members are buying shirts, jackets, decals, pins, hats and KWVA Challenge coins every day. These products get our brand out to the public.

Our Las Vegas Tibor Rubin (MOH) Chapter is now back in business.

We have four memorials being erected honoring our Korea Veterans this year. There will be two in Florida, (Bradenton and Port St. Lucie) and one each in Michigan and Ohio.

We will be supporting the Purple Heart Passport Bill (Congressman Tim Ryan is the sponsor) and the Native American Federal Charter led by our own Don Loudner.

I encourage members to send me your Chapter activities so I can get them on the KWVA Facebook page—and hopefully get you some new members.

Please keep supporting the KWVA. We have some great officers working hard for you every day. Everyone is a recruiter for the KWVA. Don't waste an opportunity to sign up a future member. Finally, please honor our fallen brothers and sisters on this Memorial Day.

And remember, "Freedom is not Free!"

*KWVA National President
Jeff Brodeur*

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2021

Is it too early to say "Bah, humbug?"

We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2021 November/December issue of The Graybeards and for our standard ongoing series. Let's start building our holiday inventory now.

Please send your stories, photos, and art work describing anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred in Korea, Japan, stateside, en route or returning...anywhere you might have been...involving you, your unit, your friends...on the year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day, Kwanza... The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

Hey, it's never too early to get a start on our holiday issue. Send your stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, The Graybeards Holiday Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to sharp_arthur_g@sbc-global.net.

We are also looking for stories in our continuing "Where was I on July 27th?" and "Humor in Korea" series. You can use the same addresses as above.



COVER: As we pause this Memorial Day to honor those who have died in service of our great Nation, it is also useful to reflect on what this day of remembrance reveals about the character of our Nation and its people. History records that Major General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, formally designated May 30th, 1868 as a day to decorate the graves of the fallen. (U.S. Air Force Photo Illustration/Virginia Reyes)

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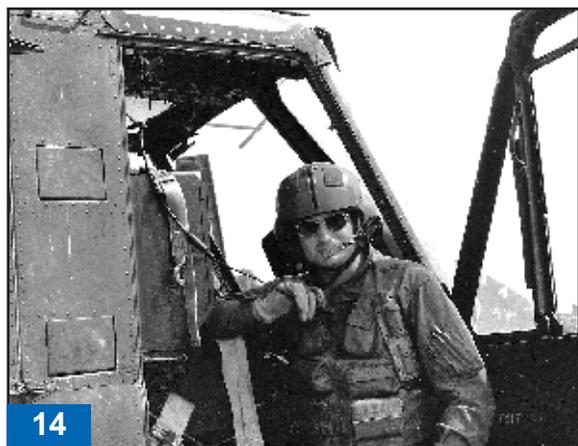
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Trudy & James Bedessen; Darci Cyr (daughter) of KWVA's Luther Dappen of the 25th ID; R. Scott, Tamara, Sage & Reece Livingston in July 2019.

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From the Secretary

Harold Trieber



The KWVA is the only Veterans Service Organization that sends out an 80-page magazine six times a year to every one of its members. I always look forward to perusing the *Graybeards* magazine and making it a point to read the "Chapter and Department News."

As a Chapter Commander, I find the articles very helpful. They give me the opportunity to see what is being accomplished by other chapters. It also gives me ideas as to what I can do to increase my chapter's membership. I believe the sharing of ideas with other chapters is an integral part of my duties as a Chapter Commander.

The KWVA has a total of 166 chapters, including 9 state departments. I realize some of the chapters have very few members. With that said the current *Graybeards* Magazine only had nine chapters that submitted articles for the "Chapter and Department News" section. In the July-August 2020 issue there were 20 chapters that submitted articles. We currently have 4 chapters with over 100 members and 16

chapters with over 50 members. I understand that the country is in a state of crisis with the COVID virus choking our economy and stifling our personal movements. But, this is all the more reason to continue to push your chapters to hold meetings and participate in veterans and community affairs.

Get involved in the "Chapel of the Four Chaplains," "Wreaths Across America," local "Senior Living Centers," "JROTC Programs," regional "Honor Flights," and set up a program to help our homeless and needy veterans. We have to focus on a recruiting effort on Defense Veterans to join our ranks.

This is your organization and as an individual member you each have a responsibility to maintain our identity as Korean War and Korea Defense Veterans and to continue the legacy of the Korean War veterans.

Respectfully,

Harold Trieber, KWVA National Secretary

2021 KWVA ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to inform you of the **OFFICIAL** election results

Note: This Count Posted By Highest Vote Count Directors (Three)

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

- **L. T. 'Tim' Whitmore** (LR40158) 612
Elected Director, 2021-2024
- **Bruce R. 'Rocky' Harder** (LR46746) 584
Elected Director, 2021-2024
- **Richard J. 'Rick' Daucunas** (LR40815)..... 520
Elected Director, 2021-2024

- **Alves J. Key Jr.** (LR41536) 484
- **Fred C. Lash** (LR46658) 357

I thank the candidates who ran for office for their interest in working for the betterment of the KWVA. I congratulate all the successful candidates. I look forward to working with them on the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

KWVA Elections Committee

- Michele M. Bretz, Co-Chairwoman
- Thomas E. Cacy, Co-Chairman
- Tine Martin Sr.
- W. Bradford Chase Jr.
- Vartkess Tarbassian

Arizona veterans gather

A group of veterans including (SGM ret) Jim Bockman and Lew Bradley of Ch. 122, Arden A. Rowley got together at the George T. Diehl Sr. VFW Post.

*James E. Bockman
2303 S Arizona Rd.
Apache Jct., AZ 85119*



Arizona veterans gather: Lew Winleel Mann, Bud Franz, Eddie Wielmon, Don Taylor, Art Kuhel, Lew Bradley, and Bob McLaughlin (Back, L-R); Herbert Cottrell, Wes Forgey, and Jim Bockman (Front, L-R)

The great ice cream caper

By Irwin Pool, Korea 1953: 'B' Company, 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Division

'B' company was moving to a new area. I was one of the ten guys detailed to help move the kitchen and mess equipment.

It was getting dark. We always moved after dark. We got everything loaded on our two trucks, then rode to the new area and set everything up. The Mess Sgt. said that when the rest of the company got here, we would have hot coffee and ice cream. They had to walk about two hours.

We found our squad tent and got into our sleeping bags, waiting to get our ice cream. After a while one of the guys said, "I'm going down and get my ice cream." He came back with a cupful. Then another guy went down and came back with a cupful. I ran down to get mine. All the rest followed. Then it became sort of a race passing each other as we ran back and forth.

We would eat as fast as we could, then run down to the mess tent, scoop up another cupful, and run back. There was a dim lantern hanging in the mess tent, so we had some light. Our tent was up on the side of a hill, back of the main area. Finally, one of the guys came back and said it was all gone.

There had been enough ice cream for the whole company. We were all scrunched down in our sleeping bags, when we heard the Mess Sgt. yell, "Damn! Who stole the ice cream? Damn, damn."

He stomped around for a while, yelling "Damn, damn." Then he yelled, "It must have been our Korean friends!!"

It seemed there were always "Korean friends" around the company areas to lay any blame on. I think he had forgotten we were even there—and no one was sure our "Korean friends" even liked ice cream.

(Pfc.) Irwin Pool, poolirvin@gmail.com

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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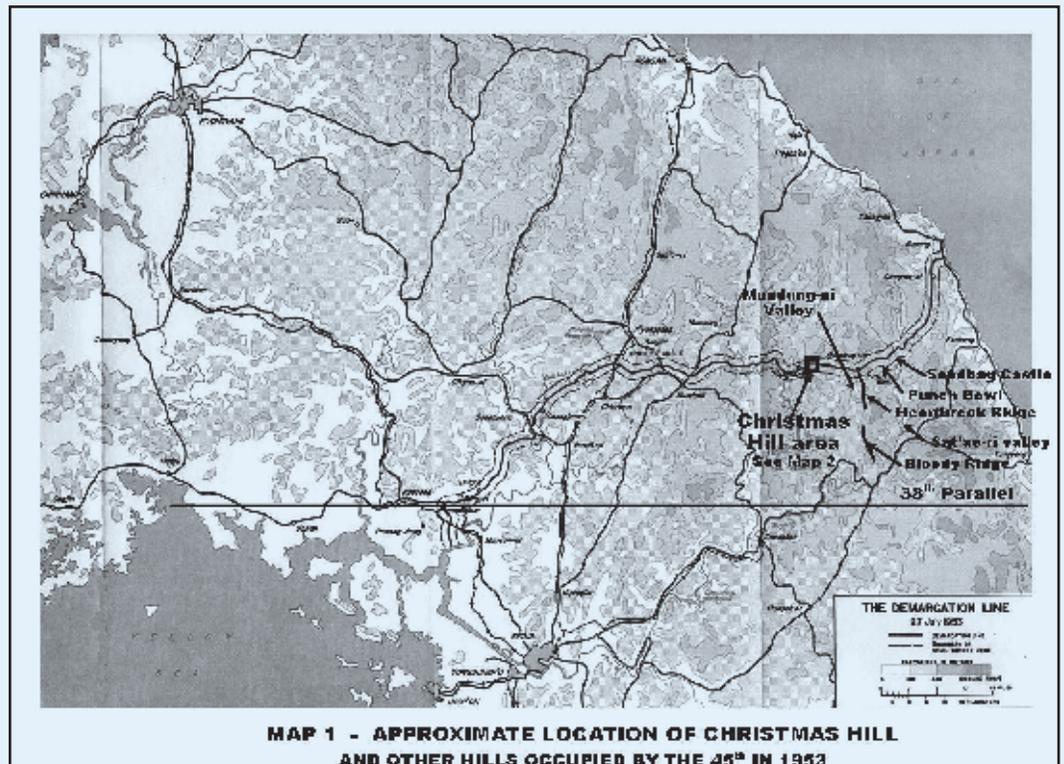


- 19 Feb – 3 Mar Tet Offensive &
Battle of Hue
- 21 – 28 Mar Iwo Jima—Guam 76th
Anniversary Reunion of Honor
- 3 – 13 Apr Philippines in WWII
- 4 – 14 Apr 5th ID "Red Devils"
Return to I-Corps Vietnam War
- 16 – 29 Apr Vietnam War
"Saigon to the DMZ"
- 30 Apr – 6 May MHT Civil War
Gettysburg, Bull Run & Antietam
- 8 – 15 May The Korean Experience

For reference sake...

We frequently mention places that played an important role in the Korean War but which we don't reference on a map. Here is a map that shows the locations of several prominent places that became well known in the later stages of the war, e.g., Christmas Hill, Sandbag Castle, Punch Bowl, Heartbreak Ridge, and Bloody Ridge and their relative positions in relationship to the 38th Parallel.

Thanks to Wayne Pelkey for submitting it.





Life is measured in scars

“There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. When I refer to hyphenated Americans, I do not refer to naturalized Americans. Some of the very best Americans I have ever known were naturalized Americans, Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all ...” (Theodore Roosevelt)

Remember the cigarette girl who used to stroll through the nightclubs calling “Scars, cigarettes...? Me neither. Oh, it was “Cigars, cigarettes...” My mistake.

But, it’s scars, not cigars, by which we measure our lives. The older we get the more scars, physical and emotional, we amass. Accidents, surgeries, participation in traumatic events such as wars...they all leave scars of both types. Now, our Asian-American friends are incurring new ones as the number of senseless physical attacks on them increase across America, possibly as an unintended consequence of the corona virus.

Such attacks and hate incidents have increased significantly in the last year or so, particularly against women. The advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate has noted that nearly 3,800 anti-Asian incidents have been reported since 2020. That is far too many. One is far too many!

The attackers don’t stop to ask what their victims’ ethnic backgrounds are. They just attack indiscriminately. “If it looks like an Asian, walks like an Asian, talks like an Asian, attack,” goes their mantra. That is a horrible way to think and act, especially in light of our country’s overall positive history with Asian-Americans.

Like so many people, Asians from various countries have immigrated to the U.S. to find a better life. Often it has been in response to direct U.S. intervention in their countries and the sometimes harmful positions certain groups are put in as a result. Examples include the Hmong from Vietnam, Afghanis, e.g., the interpreters who served our armed forces and are now in imminent danger as we withdraw, and

...attacks and hate incidents have increased significantly in the last year or so, particularly against women. The advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate has noted that nearly 3,800 anti-Asian incidents have been reported since 2020. That is far too many. One is far too many!

North and South Koreans who found sanctuary in the U.S. (Remember, about 100,000 North Koreans fled to safety during the Hamhung evacuation in 1950.)

Most of them earned the better life they sought, although historically they had to endure the same prejudices from Americans as did the members of every other ethnic group that arrived on our shores in great numbers before them. But history is irrelevant to their attackers. They certainly don’t read history books before they assail their victims. Despite the sometimes hostile receptions, the Asian immigrants succeeded—and thanked Americans for giving them a chance. I am thinking here in particular of the Koreans, since I have become so well versed in the history of “their” war since taking over as editor.

Americans responded in great numbers to South Korea’s pleas for help against the communists’ attacks on their country in 1950. They were joined by members of the armed forces from 21 other countries. The majority of the troops were American, however, and the Koreans have never stopped thanking them. Why would anyone in our country today want to attack randomly Koreans—or anyone of Asian descent—for no reason? They certainly aren’t going to thank America for that.

I have been editing *The Graybeards* for seventeen years. There has never been an issue in which some South Korean organization, individual, or group of individuals has not thanked Korean War veterans for what they did between 1950 and 1953—and have been doing in Korea ever since. We have reported constantly on the positive relationships among the people, governments and militaries of the United States and South Korea and their joint efforts to keep North Korea at bay. And

random attacks on Asian-Americans is the way some Americans choose to thank them?

Immigration into the United States creates new scars for people who choose to move here from half-way around the world. They bring with them memories of their old lives and cultures and fears about assimilating into our society, some of which they are expected to forget, while learning a new language and customs. That is psychologically damaging to many of them, and creates emotional scars that they have to overcome. Now they have to worry about incurring physical scars from a wee minority of their new countrymen as well because of their physical features. That is just not what true Americans do!

Let’s hope that henceforth Americans do everything in their power to curb these random attacks and punish the perpetrators severely when they are apprehended. The attackers certainly don’t do anything to improve our country’s image and standing in the world community. We are better known for aiding Asians than we are for attacking them. That is why so many Americans fought in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and other Asian countries over the years.

Let’s hope that the number of attacks on Asian-Americans abates as we get past the virus and that anyone caught carrying one out is apprehended and punished severely. And that goes for attacks on anyone in other ethnic groups as well.

Korean War veterans have earned the thanks offered in abundance by Korean-Americans. The last thing Americans need is to inflict more scars on Asian-Americans, who are, after all, Americans without a hyphen.

“No scars, cigarettes...”

Humor in Korea



This is one of a continuing series. It can only continue if members contribute their stories. Please send your "Humor in Korea" submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573. We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.

The lieutenant who got dragged through the mud Day 236 – Thursday, 15th February 1951

Another peaceful night in Yongdongpo, though the enemy could be heard in the hangers, and we had been hearing track-laying vehicles moving. The cold, still night air made them sound closer than they were.

Several men walked on the ice to see what was left of Seoul City Air Field. Visits to our Platoon CP highlighted our day as we enjoyed our fire in the courtyard, keeping one side warm and trading stories and jokes. The only negative part was that it had warmed up enough to thaw out a thin layer of mud several feet from the fire - but that even produced for us one positive effect.

At midafternoon our Platoon Leader, a lieutenant, had just walked out of his room and was walking past us. He was always clean shaven, clothes neat, and all had to be so, so. He always looked down on us with contempt, as sometimes we looked a bit like Willie and Joe of WWII in his eyes.

A new replacement who had entered the platoon a few

days ago was enamored with the sound of incoming artillery shells and was apt at mimicking the sounds of the incoming shells. The new replacement had just left one of the rooms and, as he approached the fire to join us, he mimicked an incoming shell. Our Platoon Leader thought it was for real.

He started to hit the dirt, before he realized it was not for real. He tried to stop in mid-air, but to no avail. He plowed into the thin layer of mud for a hard landing, sliding to a stop. He got up with mud plastered on his face from head to toe. As he arose he said, "There will be no more of that. There will be no more of that."

He did not know who had mimicked the sound of an incoming shell. We all had a good laugh and agreed that it could not have happened to a better person. We were still laughing when he hiked off to clean up. We congratulated the FO (Forward Observer) that he had estimated the correct distance for the Time on Target.

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Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:
www.KWVA.us

Reunion Calendar: 2021

NOTE: Some contributors are submitting reunion notices barely a few days or weeks before the actual gatherings. Please allow at least four months—six or more is better—if you want your reunion notices printed in more than one issue and in enough time to give potential attendees adequate notice to make plans to be there.

NOTE #2: All dates are subject to change due to Coronavirus considerations. Check with contacts listed re changes, cancellations, postponements, etc.

The Graybeards is not responsible for the content or accuracy of reunion notices.

AUGUST

76th Engineers, Aug. 26-28, Lebanon, TN, Comfort Inn and Suites, 904 Murfreesboro Rd., 615-443-0027. Richard Cerone, P.O. Box 742, Bridgton ME 04009, 207-647-3877, rfcerone@gmail.com or Bruce Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin Dr., Las Cruces NM 88001, 575-649-1145, brucefonnest@hotmail.com

Army Chapter, The Chosin Few, Aug. 29-31, Springfield, MO (Final reunion)

USS Rochester (CA-124), Aug.30-Sept. 3, Rapid City, SD. Joe Hill 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet & USS Essex Joint Reunion [CANCELLED]

USS Yellowstone (AD-27) Assn., Sept. 20-24, Branson, MO, Westgate

Branson Woods Resort. Karen A. Bowen, 30 Briar Dr., Rochester, NH 03867, 603-948-2821, pkbowen@atlanticbb.net

OCTOBER

25th Infantry Division Assn., Oct. 3-11, Honolulu, HI. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031. Fax: 215-366-5707; TropicLtn@aol.com; website at www.25thida.org

MCB-1 MCB-9 MCB-10, Gulfport, MS, Oct. 14-17. Peter Dowd, 617-688-2512, MCB1Reunion@verizon.net, website is MCB1-MCB9.org

KWVA, Oct. 25-29, Orlando, FL. Orlando Airport Holiday Inn. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER

84th and 62nd Combat Engineering Bn. (Korea), Nov. 2-5, Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. Mary Ellen (Butkus) Hart, 202-644-4665, maryellenhart@optimum.net

DECEMBER

The Chosin Few National Reunion, Dec. 1-4, Hilton Chrystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. Jerry Wadley, Chosin Few Hq., 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907; 843-379-1011; email-membership@chosin-few.org.

ONE DAY AWOL - A DAY WELL SPENT

My buddy Gilbert Dumais and I went to the Engineering School at Ft. Belvoir for map making in early 1950. We were both from New England and after graduation and a 30-day leave we were on similar orders to the 7th ID in Sendai, Japan. After our leave, we met again in Springfield, MA for our trip across country by train.

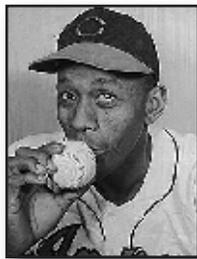
“Gilly” was a baseball nut who got a daily paper on the train to check all the scores and standings. One day he announced, “You won’t believe this, Satchel Page is pitching tomorrow in an exhibition in Chicago and we’ll be there!” I was no great fan but even I knew about Satchel Paige, the legendary black pitcher.

“We’ve got to see him!” Gilly insisted. I was not interested, but after hours of his prodding I gave in. We watched him pitch about four innings before he was relieved. After the game we high-tailed it to the train station, but we missed our train and had to wait for the next one to San Francisco. We reported into Camp Stoneman a day late. We tried excuses, but the clerk said, “One day AWOL.”

It wasn’t long before we were on a troopship puking our guts out as we sailed offshore. About a week later after the sea smoothed an announcement was made about the Communist invasion in Korea.

The prospect of getting into a war seemed unlikely until an announcement was made a few days later that U.S. troops were being sent into Korea. Even so, no one seemed to take it very seriously. Some troops even were joking that “It might be fun.” Soon we were in Japan in Yokohama Bay I still remember how awestruck I was when I went on deck and looked up to see Mt. Fuji bright in the morning sun bearing down on us.

From then on things happened very fast. First stop was to Camp Drake to get field gear. Next onto trains across Japan to Sasebo to the docks where we were loaded into the hull of an old Japanese ship. We had to leave our duf-



Leroy (Satchel) Paige

“You won’t believe this, Satchel Page is pitching tomorrow in an exhibition in Chicago and we’ll be there!”

fel bags on the dock. We couldn’t take anything that wouldn’t fit into our backpacks.

On July 23rd, my 19th birthday, we landed at Pusan where Gilly and I were separated. He was assigned to C Company, 19th Rgt. and I was assigned to 19th HQ. I caught up with my company at Chingu and was immediately sent to an outpost with another guy. We were never relieved and were lost for a couple days behind enemy lines.

It was more than a month later when we got close to C Company on the Nakdong River defense. I went looking for Gilly. I talked to more than a dozen C Company guys, but no one recognized his name. Finally, I located the company CP and asked the clerk. He didn’t know the name either and brought out a log book. I was thinking, I must have been mistaken about C Company when the clerk said, “Here he is. Sorry, but he was killed August 18.”

Over the years I have seen my DD-214 form many times and on every occasion I note near the bottom, “One day AWOL.” I always think, in memory of Gilly, a day well spent.

God bless you, Gilly, and the tens of thousands of young men whose lives ended there in Korea.

Note From Canada...

Les Peate, super advocate for Canada’s Veterans, passed away in Ottawa at age 92

Les Peate, a remarkable veteran activist who was primarily responsible for Canada adopting Australian rules for assessing various cancers caused by ingestion or exposure to carcinogens in Korea, passed away at the Ottawa General Hospital on February 25, at age 92. Les had many friends among U.S. Korean War veterans.

Korean War Veterans suffered to a significantly higher degree to various forms of cancer, compared to men of the same age who had not served in Korea.

Les personally intervened with Veterans Affairs Canada and other government-funded agencies to push for veterans rights and respect for the record of those who served in the Korean War.

He advocated for a Veterans Affairs Canada study of diseases and disabilities veterans were thought to have contracted in Korea, which never came to fruition. However, he did strongly influence VAC to use the Australian disability rating system to automatically award disability benefits for Korean War Veterans who were afflicted with eight different types of cancer.

The Australian study, adopted for assessment purposes by VAC, compared Korean War Veterans with citizens in the general population. It determined statistically that Korean War Veterans suffered to a significantly higher degree to various forms of cancer, compared to men of the same age who had not served in Korea.

Editor’s office hours:

Editor Sharp’s office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.

Lazy Journalism

By Barry N. Wright

World War II “Veterinarian” was honored and brought to his... And people say journalism is dead!

The above headline appeared in the Florida dailytampanews.com's coverage of the Wallace Taylor Anderson story recently. Anderson wasn't a veterinarian. He was a veteran of WWII—and the Korean War, depending on whatever source covered his story. Some reporters just didn't bother to find out which it was. Others treated it as an afterthought. In any event, media coverage of military events is often inconsistent at best, which is lazy journalism.

First, the story. Anderson, a native of Louisville, Kentucky and a resident of Zephyrhills, Florida, was 96 years old when he died in February 2021. He was unmarried and did not have any known relatives, so his body went unclaimed. He was perilously close to being buried with no recognition or honors. Fortunately, Rob Lynch, a Veterans Experience Officer at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Florida, stepped in.

Lynch contacted the nonprofit Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, which organizes “Final Mile” military burials for unclaimed veterans, about the situation. (Access <https://www.combatvet.us/> for more information.) Representatives, led by Tampa chapter treasurer Dave Allen, a Desert Storm veteran, organized Anderson's return to Louisville so he could be buried beside his mother. That wasn't easy. They had to include the remains of several of his pet dogs and a red-and-white blanket made by his mother in the bargain. (Even though he had several dogs that did not make him a veterinarian.)

The association set up a three-day, six-state funeral procession to transport Anderson to Kentucky. He left for home at dawn on Friday, April 16th, for a reunion with his mother, escorted by members of Tampa's Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and the Florida

Let's face it: journalists take advantage of readers who often don't read beyond the headlines. They use headlines as toys because they know readers get their “information” from one-liners.

Highway Patrol. The hearse carrying Anderson was headed for the Arch L. Heady Resthaven Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was buried with full military honors at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Police from each state along the 1,000-mile route met and escorted the cortege. They were joined at every stop along the way by representatives of veterans service organizations who offered farewell salutes.

The service, according to the Louisville, KY, Journal Courier, “featured full military honors, including a 21-gun salute, and a Masonic ceremony Taylor had requested. The hymns he'd picked to play, including “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder” and “How Great Thou Art,” echoed over the solemn crowd.” Amazingly, dozens of people showed up to honor Anderson. Certainly, based on his military background he deserved it.

Taylor enlisted at 17 years old in the Army Air Corps. He served as a mechanic during World War II and worked his way to the rank of Master Sergeant. He participated in the Korean War as well, serving around the 38th parallel. He was assigned to Armament Platoon, 38th Ordnance Co. He was a survivor of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

“He took pictures and kept notes of everything and put them in a photo album,” Lynch told a reporter for the Sarasota, FL, *Herald-Tribune*. “Captured Chinese soldiers, captured Russian weapons, everything.”

It was this part of his service that was often glossed over. For example, the headline in one article reported,

“Volunteers ask public to line streets for Sunday procession honoring Louisville WWII veteran with no family.” There was a mention of the Korean War in the third paragraph however.

On the other hand, one publication led its story with “PASCO COUNTY, Fla. (WWSB) - The body of a Korean War hero who died in Florida will be taken on a 1,000-mile journey from Zephyrhills, Florida, to Kentucky.” There was a passing reference to his WWII service in the second paragraph.

WKYT got the story right in its headline: “WWII and Korean War Veteran escorted from Florida to be laid to rest in his Old Kentucky Home.” That captured the essence of the story, which a headline is intended to do. Unfortunately, headline writers are all too often lax in doing that.

Let's face it: journalists take advantage of readers who often don't read beyond the headlines. They use headlines as toys because they know readers get their “information” from one-liners. In them they deliberately present incomplete facts, slant a story in a certain direction, obscure the content, deliberately mislead readers, meet the new rules of political correctness...

And, as the headline mentioned in the opening paragraph suggests, they sometimes do not fact check them. In any event, readers often don't get the gist of a story in the headline, fail to go beyond it, and then complain about omissions, real or perceived. For that, they must share part of the blame attributed to lazy journalism.

So how do any of the criticisms affect the story? Regarding Anderson, Korean War veterans who saw just

WWII in the headline might think that the story is irrelevant to “their” war and skip the article. The opposite is true about WWII veterans who see “Korean War” in the headline. They didn’t fight in Korea, so who cares? And if they saw that a veterinarian died, they wouldn’t care what war he served in and would disregard the story completely. In any case the veteran honored, in this case Wallace Taylor Anderson, is overlooked because of lazy journalism. That can be rectified with three simple journalistic steps as a start.

Journalists have to dig deeper for their facts instead of just repeating what appears in other publications and adapting it to fit a local angle. Headline writers have to be more precise in their wording. Reporters and headline writers have to proofread their work before releasing it for publication. Simple steps, positive results.

Diatribes aside, one fact stands out here. Journalists paid well-deserved honor to a war hero. That alone is laudable. They can improve their reporting in similar future stories. Our forgotten military veterans deserve that.

RIP, Wallace Taylor Anderson.

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\$ PAMPER YOURSELF \$

There’s still time!

Look at you! You’ve gotten your COVID shots, made it through a very trying year, you’re planning on getting out of the house, seeing friends, having a nice meal at your favorite restaurant, and all you need is money.

You could play your State lottery, but you haven’t bought a ticket. Why, because your chances of winning against hundreds of millions of others are infinitesimally small? But, if you read on, I’ll tell you of a way to win enough money to pamper yourself and benefit your brothers and sisters in the KWVA!

“What’s that,” you say? You’ve never met anyone who won in the KWVA Fundraiser? Well do you know Victor Sartoris Jr., Matthew Bridges, Don Duffy, and Robert Richmond? They each won a thousand dollars in last year’s Fundraiser.

Then there’s John Every and William Norwood, who won five hundred dollars each. They saw the merit and benefits of laying down their hard-earned cash for tickets in a Fundraiser limited to KWVA members!

So, here’s the deal: buy tickets (a lot of them) and improve your odds of winning. However, if you’re flush with cash and don’t need any more tax write-offs, then buy tickets in the name of your chapter. The tickets you buy will fund *The Graybeards* magazine, the Tell America Program, recruiting programs, advertising, and so much more!

The Fundraiser is all about pulling together for the benefit of everyone in the KWVA. Now fill out the ticket(s) in the accompanying form, write a big check, and mail it in right away so you’ll have time to buy more tickets next week.

Thanks for participating.

Albert McCarthy, 1st Vice President

U.S. GI defects to North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea: The United Nations Command said today it has asked North Korea for a face-to-face meeting with an American soldier now in the North, to determine whether he is there of his own free will. A command spokesman said the request was forwarded to North Korean army authorities shortly before midnight Monday, and the command was awaiting a response

The soldier, Pfc. Joseph T. White, 20, of St. Louis, Mo., was reported missing Saturday [Aug. 28, 1982] by the command in the demilitarized zone that divides South and North Korea. A few hours later, a North Korean broadcast monitored in Tokyo said he had sought political asylum and denounced the deployment of U.S. forces in South Korea. A report from St. Louis Monday quoted the soldier’s parents as saying their son is a prisoner, not a defector. They said they believe he was taken prisoner by the North Korea for propaganda purposes.

At the time the soldier was reported missing, the U.N. Command said a group of 10 North Korean soldiers was seen “apprehending” an individual in the demilitarized zone. The command said it

had not been confirmed that the individual was the missing soldier, and declined to elaborate on what was meant by the use of the term apprehending

The command spokesman, who declined to be identified, said today that the face-to-face meeting with White was requested in accordance with protocol established by the 1953 armistice agreement that ended three years of fighting in the Korean War. He said Rear Adm. James G. Storms III, senior U.N. Command delegate to the Armistice Commission, had made the request to his opposite number on the North Korean-Chinese side.

ADDENDUM: Sometime after his defection White suffered an epileptic seizure of some form and was left paralyzed. In February 1983, White’s parents received a letter from their son, stating that he was happy in North Korea and working as an English teacher. In November 1985, his parents received a letter penned by a North Korean contact of White, stating that their son had died by drowning in the Ch’ongch’on River in August 1985, and his body was not recovered. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_T._White)

My Time in Korea

By Charles P. Roe

I was Infantry, Commanding, 128th Aviation Assault Helicopter Company (Combat) Camp Page, South Korea. Historically, my family was military oriented. It was no surprise, then that I ended up in the Army.

I would fly nuclear assuredly missions, demilitarized zone (DMZ) missions, red catcher missions (to interdict North Korean sailors/infantry infiltrating into South Korea and firefight investigations along the DMZ. Then, as a Military Police escort, I would change from my flight suit to Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU's), under arms (with weapons).

As an escort I would go to the South Korean Army, U.S. Army, and UN security positions to investigate North Korean infiltrations along the DMZ, and/or weapons engagements along the DMZ—including cave tunneling missions. I was not only involved in going through North Korean tunnels as a DMZ MP escort, but I was also involved in the Imjin scout area 2nd Infantry Division, traveling with DMZ MP Captain Robert Radtkie, Signal Officer with the 555th.

We traveled the military demarcation line (MDL) of separation between the belligerent sides at the close of the Korean War forms North Korea's boundary with South Korea. A demilitarized zone (DMZ) extends for 2,000 meters (just over 1 mile) on either side of the MDL. Both the North and South Korean governments hold that the MDL is only a temporary administrative line, not a permanent border.

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is an area of land encompassing a 4-kilometer-wide strip of land straddling the 151-mile long Military Demarcation Line (MDL). On occasion it would be necessary for me to fly with the 128th Aviation Company on flight corridors inside the south side of the DMZ to transport staff like investigators, Civil Engineers, U.S. University Staff (Ph.Ds.), Mining Officials, and Military Engineers to investigate cases of either Front Line of Troops (FLOT) exchanges of fire power and/or underground infiltration tunnels under the DMZ to South Korea that the

North Koreans were digging.

When landing I would change from a flight suit to my Military DMZ MP gear; before takeoff I would change back into my flight suit. I would travel up to the 2nd Infantry Division Staging Area from Camp Coiner and then travel by jeep with Captain Radtkie up and down the IMJIN trail inside the U.S. sector of the DMZ. Then I would have to wear a DMZ Military Police Brassard with my Battle Dress Uniform and associated military gear while under arms. I would conduct myself as detailed to the Military Police observing North Korean movements that included "Red Catcher" Missions.

Red Catcher missions occurred when the North Koreans probed for weaknesses along the wire and, at times, infiltrate into South Korea for nefarious purposes. Incidents occurred all along the 151-mile border. During this time frame U.S. Army soldier Pvt. [Joseph T.] White defected to North Korea while assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. (See the story on page 13.)

I was assigned to the Eighth United States Army, a field army, the commanding formation of all United States Army forces in the south. The Republic of Korea (ROK) Army provided most of the front line military forces south of the DMZ, as well as the 1,024 DMZ Civil Police authorized by the Armistice who manned 114 guard posts on the southern side of the MDL.

A small number of American soldiers like



Charles P. Roe displays a photo honoring his father, Dallas H. Roe

me performed duties inside the DMZ. They were assigned to the United Nations Command (UNC) Security Force-Joint Security Area (JSA), which supported the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), either as security guards or in administrative, communications, and logistics missions. With broad U.S. force reductions in Korea, these numbers were reduced to only 40 US



Capt. Charles P. Roe

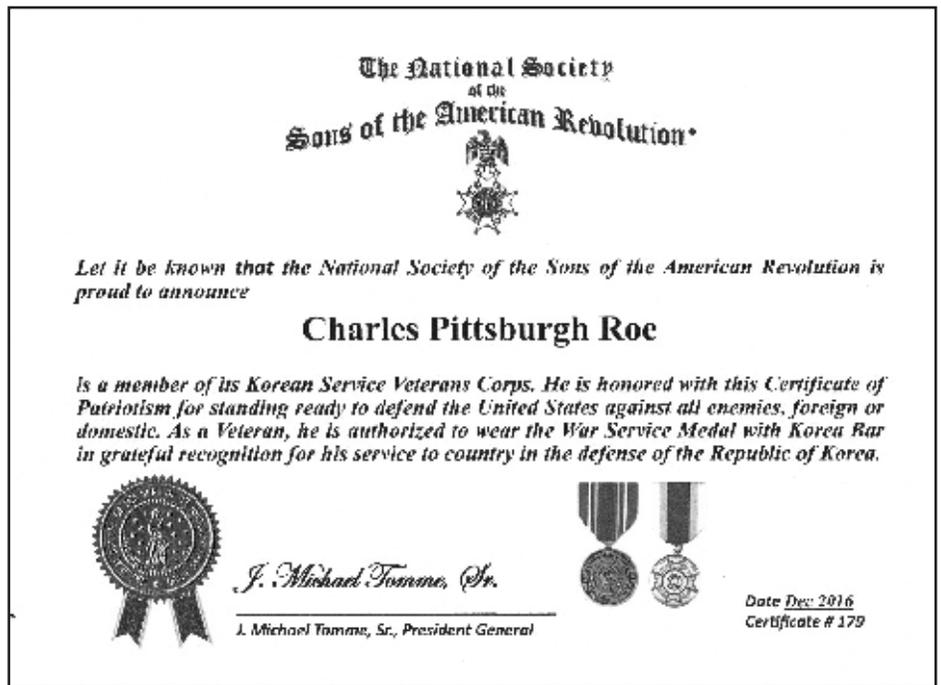


Cpl. Dallas H. Roe, USAF (Ret)

personnel when the administrative control of the Joint Security Area was passed to the Republic of Korea in 2004.

I was involved as the Aviation Battalion Staff Officer (S-4) for the 52nd Avn Battalion (Combat), transferring all Vietnam UH-1 helicopters to the ROK Aviation Units with the South Korean forces. As a 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion (CAB) S-4 and test pilot, I helped transfer by test flying over 30 Vietnam era helicopters to the ROC Aviation units. My duties included walking through the aircraft used for mine laying, spraying, smoke, heavy lift, and troop transport operations. The U.S. Army was fielding the UH-60 helicopters at this time for U.S. Forces Korea.

My decorations for Korea include: War Service Bar-Korea, 05/06/2014; War Service Medal, 05/06/2014; 125th SAR



A Certificate of Patriotism presented to Charles P. Roe by the SAR

Anniversary Medal, 05/02/2016; Fire Safety Commendation Medal, 05/02/2016; Service to Veterans Medal, 05/02/2016; Medal for Heroism, 05/02/2016.

My father, Army Cpl. Dallas H. Roe, served in Korea 1950-1953. He also served in Vietnam and retired as T/Sgt. Dallas H. Roe USAF), as a disabled veteran rated by VA at 100%.

I met my spouse, Major Barbara D. Roe, AG (disabled veteran rated by VA at 20%) at a Camp Coiner bus stop just across 8th PERSCOM Headquarters while I was en route conducting my company's inventory of equipment as the Commander of an Aviation Company. My Aviation Company received an Army Association of America Aviation Award.

My Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Pvt. John Roe, fought with the Third New Jersey Regiment, "Jersey Blues."

I am a member of the District of Columbia Sons of the American Revolution (DCSSAR).

His son James Roe, my Great, Great, Great Grandfather, fought in the War of 1812. There were eight Virginia-born Roe brothers who fought in the Civil War from present-day West Virginia. Four fought for the south and four for the north. After the War Between the States only the four Union brothers returned.

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All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbc-global.net

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 \$8.45 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$55 plus \$15.50 S/H.
- Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$2.75/doz. plus \$22.50 S/H
- Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$2.25/doz. plus Shipping

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



Where was I on July 27, 1953?

NOTE: This is the story of a Korean War veteran who has passed the century mark age wise. Happy 100th+ and Semper Fi.

70 missions—no mishaps

On July 27, 1953, as a Marine Corps Reserve Major, I was the operations officer of VMF-311, MAG 33, stationed at Airfield K3, Pohang, South Korea. With knowledge that an Armistice would go into effect at midnight, I was instructed to schedule every pilot to fly one more mission.

By 3 p.m., with the last mission airborne, I received instructions to immediately mount a four-plane, close air-support mission to support a South Korean battalion which was getting mauled. A regular major and two reserve captains volunteered to fly the mission with me.

We flew at 25,000 feet to the target area at the MLR to face a wall of AA fire. I turned east to avoid the AA and crossed over to come in from behind the target area. We made contact with the spotter aircraft, which put a white phosphorous shell on the target. We then each dropped four 500-lb GP bombs on the target area and headed for home.

Thus ended the Korean War for me, having completed 70 missions with no mishaps.

(Major) Jonathan Mendes, 1185 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10128, 212-452-1301, desmendes@aol.com

More to the Mendes story

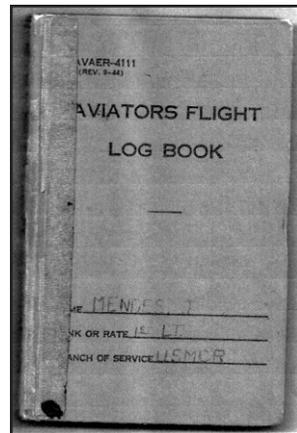
December 7, 1941: the radio blared that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. Listening in my dormitory room, a senior at Dartmouth College, I knew my college days were numbered. I immediately volunteered for naval flight training together with 30 other undergraduates.

On June 3, 1942, three weeks after graduation, the Dartmouth flight class training started at NAS (Naval Air Station), Squantum, Mass. On May 4, 1943, I received my Navy wings of gold at Pensacola, Florida, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

By September 1943, after operational flight training in SBD Douglas "Dauntless" dive bombers and carrier qualification, but with no formal Marine Corps training, I was flown overseas to join VMSB-151 on Wallis Island in the Central Pacific. After five months of daily anti-submarine patrols, the squadron flew 2,500 miles northwest to Eniwetok Atoll, Engebi Island, in the Marshall Islands, landing only a few days after the atoll had been secured by ground Marines. With death and destruction all around, the war became very real.



Col. Jonathan Mendes



Jonathan Mendes's flight book

Below, a page from Jonathan Mendes's flight book

MONTH: <u>JULY</u> YEAR: <u>1953</u>										
DAY	MISSESION #	MISSESION	TIME	TYPE	MILES	HOURS	MILES	MILES	TOTAL TIME	REMARKS
1	126073	151	1.5	1.5					1.5	RECON - DONG
2	126074	151	1.4	1.4					1.4	TID - BENNITE-DONG
3	126075	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	TID - HACHYON-DA
4	126076	151	1.4	1.4					1.4	KA - EAST - FANT
5	126077	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
6	126078	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
7	126079	151	1.6	1.6					1.6	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
8	126080	151	1.6	1.6					1.6	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
9	126081	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
10	126082	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
11	126083	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
12	126084	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
13	126085	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
14	126086	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
15	126087	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
16	126088	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
17	126089	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
18	126090	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
19	126091	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
20	126092	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
21	126093	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
22	126094	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
23	126095	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
24	126096	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
25	126097	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
26	126098	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
27	126099	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
28	126100	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
29	126101	151	1.7	1.7					1.7	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
30	126102	151	1.6	1.6					1.6	KA - 1799 - SIKHANG-DONG
TOTAL TIME									29.5	
CORRECTED TIME									29.5	

On March 8, 1944, the Japanese returned at night, bombing the ammunition and fuel dump. Everything went flying, causing a fire 100 feet in the air. Even though Engebi was crowded with three squadrons and a defense battalion, the casualties were fortunately light.

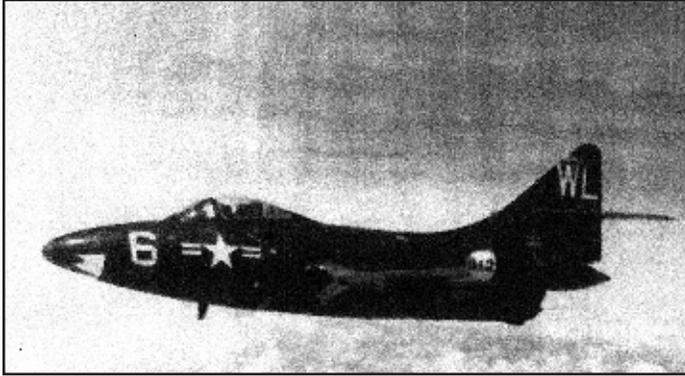
When the attack started, I jumped into my foxhole before a large bomb landed so close that the coconut logs and sand cover flew up into the air. I was unharmed, except for a ringing in my ears. The next morning I found a tremendous bomb crater nearby.

Except for occasional night bombing by the Japanese aircraft from Truk Atoll, I spent the next eight months flying uneventful antisubmarine patrols, convoys, and a few bombing missions over bypassed Japanese islands. However, there was an unusually large number of volunteers for one anti-submarine patrol which crossed the Bikini Atoll, where the native girls would take off their skirts and wave them as we circled slowly at 300 feet.

After 13 months in the Pacific, the final tally was more than 100 missions, for which I received two Air Medals.

Upon my return to the United States in 1944, I finally received some formal Marine Corps training by attending and graduating from Marine Air Infantry School at Quantico, Virginia. This was followed by flying with SB2C, TBF, and F7F squadrons before being released from active duty in the fall of 1945.

Enrolling at Harvard Business School in February 1946, I started flying F4U Corsairs on weekends with Marine Reserve Squadron 217 at the Naval Air Station (NAS) in Squantum. Upon graduation I transferred to VMF-132 at NAS in Brooklyn, NY, flying F6F Hellcats.



A VMF-311 F9F-6 Panther in Korea



VMF-311 ID, Pohang, Korea, 1953

In September 1951, VMF-132 was activated for the Korean War, and by then a major, I spent the next year as operations officer of VMFT-20, the fighter refresher training and jet check-out squadron at MCAS, Cherry Point. Major John Glenn and Captain Ted Williams both came through that squadron for training before going to Korea, and I gave Ted his first five rides in the jet trainer. In February 1953, I joined them in VMF-311, MAG-33, flying F9F Panther jets at K-3, Pohang, Korea.

This was a significant war with substantial operational losses for the squadron. Unlike World War II, we were subjected to anti-aircraft fire on most missions over North Korea. As Glenn frequently came home from missions with holes in his plane, he acquired the nickname, "Old Magnet Ass." While temporarily attached to the Air Force flying F-86 aircraft, he was credited with downing three MiGs.

When Ted Williams's aircraft was hit by small arms fire, which ignited his hydraulic fluid, he was advised to bail out. However, he continued on to the nearest field, landing wheels up. Ted flew six missions with me, including his last before going home with a medical problem.

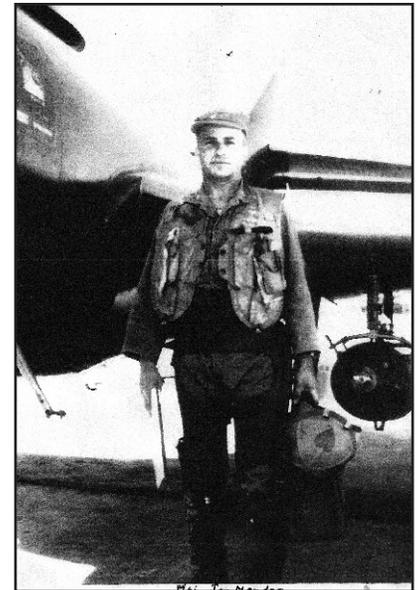


VMF-311 mag 33, K-3, Pohang, Korea, 1953

I flew 70 missions, including leading the last Marine Corps mission of the war. My only mishap was landing with my wheels up after a rough mission, which cost me a round of drinks for the entire Air Group that evening. I was awarded another seven Air Medals by the Navy/Marine Corps as well as one Air Medal by the Air Force.

As a senior pilot, I was called on to lead missions of the combined squadrons of MAG-33. For one such mission, leading 24 aircraft in which a North Korean airfield was put out of action, I received the Distinguished Flying Cross with the following citation:

§ § § § §



Major Jonathan Mendes, VMF 311, Korea, 1953

'For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as pilot of a plane in Marine Corps Squadron 311 during operations against enemy aggressor in Korea on 15 June 1953. Leading a massed flight of jet-fighter bombers on an aerial assault against a heavily defended enemy airfield deep in hostile

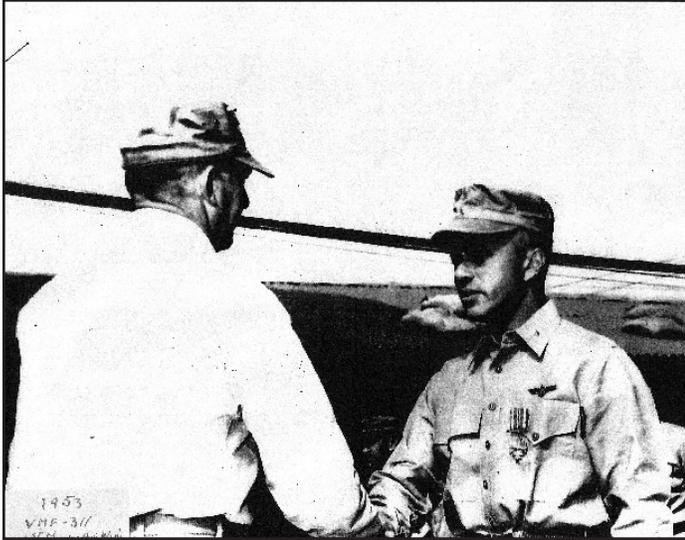
territory, Major Mendes skillfully navigated the flight strafing attack through intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire.

After scoring direct bomb hits the clearly marked the objective for the remainder of the flight, he directed a bombing and strafing assault that destroyed 14 buildings and left the airstrip unusable.

By his exemplary leadership and bombing accuracy, he was largely responsible for the success of a mission that inflicted extensive damage on the enemy. His courage, superb airmanship, and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Major Mendes and the United State Navy Air Service.

For the President,

[signed], C.S. Thomas Secretary of the Navy



Major Mendes receives DFC at Pohang in 1953



A happy VMF 311 crew in Korea

§ § § § §

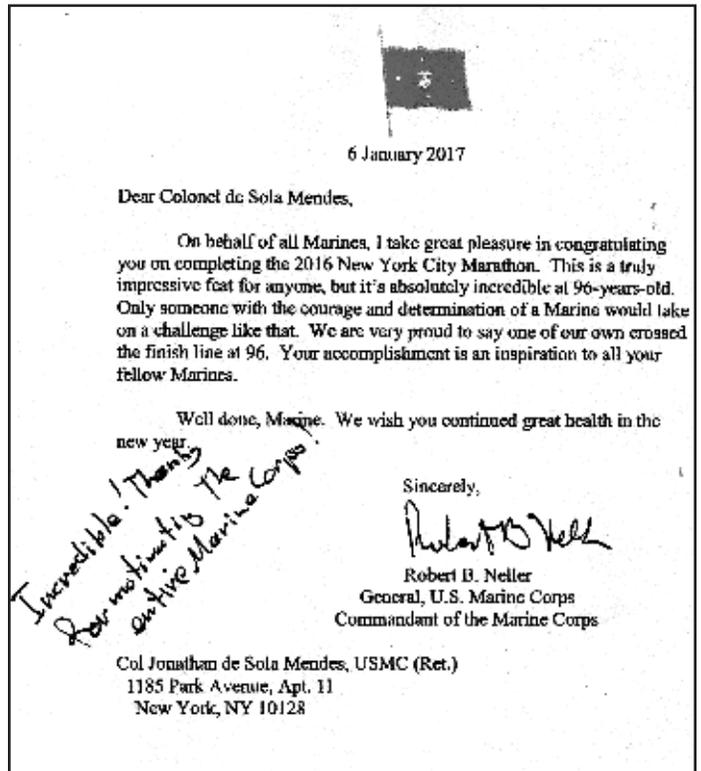
With the Korean War over, I requested and received orders to return to the United States through Asia and Europe rather than

through Guam and Hawaii. With 35 days before needing to report to the Marine barracks at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Major Robert McKinley and I hitchhiked military flights throughout the Far East, North Africa, and Europe, landing in 15 countries before landing back at the States at Westover (Massachusetts) Air Force Base. I proved that "Join the Marines and See the World" was not just a motto.



Last mission on Korea, July 27, 1953

I then rejoined my old Reserve squadron VMF-132 at NAS, Brooklyn, and in time became the commanding officer. Then, from 1958 to 1973, I served as a staff officer before retiring as a colonel with 30 years of continuous service.



Finishing a marathon at age 97 deserves congratulations



2021 FUNDRAISER UPDATE - URGENT NOTICE

This year the fundraiser response has been excellent. We have reached 75% of our goal of \$80,000. Well done, please make a special effort to help more. If you have not donated yet, we need your support.

Please remind all your Chapter members to please submit additional donations. This is the only substantial income for the KWVA.

NOTE: Due to a new set of Postal Regulations we have made a change in the printed Flyer. If you need additional tickets, all members can copy them from the KWVA.us website.

My personal thanks, along with all your National Officers for your generosity.

Tom McHugh, VP

Chairman Fundraiser Committee

2021 FUNDRAISER

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

KWVA IS FOR ALL KOREAN WAR / KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS - GO TO KWVA.US

Winners to be drawn after October 27, 2021 at a board meeting. Donation \$20 for each ticket.

To enter this fundraiser, complete the attached forms. Winners will be posted on www.KWVA.US. Winners notified by phone.

Members only / must put members number and phone number. Deadline for submission October 27th, 2021.

Super Cash Prizes!

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	4th Prize	5th Prize	6th Prize
\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500



SIX ALL CASH PRIZES will allow the winners to: Enjoy life. Go on vacation. Buy a raffle. Fix a car. Get an item of your choice.

Most importantly, SUPPORT THE KWVA

For more tickets make copies or go to WWW.KWVA.US

Thomas Mc Hugh, 2nd Vice President / Chairman Fundraiser Committee
Albert McCarthy, 1st Vice President / Co-Chairman Fundraiser Committee

Contact: tmmchugh@msn.com
Contact: mccarthyalbert@live.com

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____ V-Code _____

You need not tear the page out of the Graybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

Attached is an abridged copy of DPAA's notes from the Veterans Service Organizations and Family Groups quarterly update on the personnel accounting issue. I participated in the meeting and asked a couple questions during the question and answer session. If you have any questions about anything in the notes, please contact me. If I can't answer your question, I'll get an answer from DPAA.

*BRUCE R. (Rocky) HARDER,
540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com*

KWVA National Director & POW/MIA coordinator DPAA

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

The Department of Defense (DoD) FY2022 budget is not expected to be sent to the Congress until next month. Final details are being worked, but the overall topline assigned to the department is slightly above the notional budget formulated by the previous Administration. What it specifically means for DPAA is still to be determined.

COVID-19 Update

We are encouraged that several more countries are allowing both DPAA and partner team (s) entry to conduct operations. Our teams fulfill all health and safety protocols to include testing and quarantine. Close to 60% of DPAA personnel who have volunteered for the COVID vaccination have received both doses, with the first priority being those scheduled for operational missions. Also, with evolving CDC and DoD guidance, we will be updating our in-office and travel policies and plans.

Congressional Staff Briefings.

Republic of Korea (ROK) Engagements.

Last month, I spoke with the United Nations Command Chief of Staff, and the Director of the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI). And this month, I met with Consul General Hong Seok-in of the ROK Consulate here in Honolulu. We discussed the Joint Field Activity (JFA) currently underway near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), reaffirmed our shared commitment to recovering and identifying both American and Korean service members lost during the war and to re-invigorating information sharing and joint operations as COVID restrictions allow U.S. Ambassador Site Visit.

Planned Disinterments. We will continue disinterments at an average of 16 per month to. With regard to historical research, as mentioned in previous updates, we continue to make significant progress on 40 research projects, largely through our Hub & Spoke Program, which involves major military history programs around the country.

Currently, the program consists of Ohio State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, University of Southern Mississippi, George Mason University, University of Wisconsin, East Carolina University, Brigham Young University, University of Nebraska, Temple, University of Delaware, John Brown University, and the National WWII Museum.

The support from these efforts really span the gamut of Agency needs and include information and analysis that DPAA staff can then use in further developing cases from WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. As the "spoke" part of the name implies, there are many other institutions, groups, and individuals that also are involved in this effort.

In March, Drs. Byrd and Jin traveled to South Korea and performed a Joint Forensic Review with MAKRI, the first since 2019. Our team was able to get access to South Korea without quarantine, thanks to help from the Korean Consulate in Honolulu and MAKRI.

The team reviewed nine sets of remains and recommended three be repatriated for future analysis at the DPAA Lab. They also performed an archaeology site assessment in the DMZ at Arrowhead Hill.

Drs. Byrd and Jin were able to participate in the dedication ceremony for a new laboratory building at MAKRI that houses both their Identification and DNA Labs. The facility is state-of-the-art and beautiful, reflecting many design features seen in the DPAA Labs in HI and NE.

New Identifications

FY2021 Identifications Total IDs = 92 newly-accounted-for WWII = 81 newly-accounted-for Korean War = 10 Vietnam War = 1

Engagement of Note. Seventy years after renowned Army Chaplain (Capt) Emil Kapaun died as a prisoner in the Korean War, his remains have been identified by the DOD. His nephew, Ray Emil Kapaun, told CNN the family received a call from the U.S. Army with the news on Thursday.

"I almost started thinking it was a prank to begin with," Ray Kapaun said. "I would have been less surprised if somebody called and said, 'Hey, he's going to be a saint.'" <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/06/politics/emil-kapaun-us-army-priest-remains/index.html>

Q&A

• **Coalition of Families:** For Punchbowl Disinterments on the DPAA website, is it current? Would like to see an "as of" date for the posted information. Is Phase 2 still ongoing? What is the Administration's status/position on DPRK? Are sanctions going to be lifted, particularly the travel restrictions?

Answer: We are in Phase 3 and should be complete late fall. To see what Phase we are in, you can go to: https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Korean%20War%20Disinterment%20Project%20Phases%201220_1.pdf The National Security Council (NSC) is developing the DPRK policy and there is a review ongoing; we have contributed to the effort, but do not know the status.

• **Korean War Veterans Association:** It appears so far the Administration is still developing their position on DPRK; it appears there are no initiatives to talk to DPRK about resuming operations.

• Do we know or think the DPRK has remains to turn over like they did with the K-55?

• For disinterment of remains from Punchbowl, how many remains are left in the cemetery that still need to be excavated and how many Korean War remains are in the Lab in some form of identification?

Answer: Several overtures by the new Administration to talk with DPRK have gone unanswered. We continue to provide input to the NSC discussions how the POW/MIA issue can be a viable bridge.

Of the 866 Korean War Unknowns originally interred in the Punchbowl, DPAA has exhumed 448, or 52% thus far. When we complete Phase 3 later this calendar year, we will have disinterred 501 graves to reach 58% of total disinterments. Due to this effort, there are 294 remains of Unknowns in the lab; with nearly 2/3 of these being exhumed within the past 2 years.

A Word from the National Chaplain..

Dr. Paul Kim, National Chaplain



Walking With Patience

I have walked 500 miles over the last several months. To reach this milestone, I had to exercise patience in not giving up but continuing toward the goal. If we do not set goals to reach, we may never get anywhere. Thus, having goals in life is important and motivates us to strive for something, whether in our education, our career, our marriage, or even in our



journey of faith.

The Bible says, "...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The Lord Jesus walked through the journey of his life with much patience, setting the example for how we should live regardless of our culture, education, gender, or age. He lived in obedience to God, to the point of dying on the cross for our sin (Philippians 2:8-11).

The Bible says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). In the eyes of God, we are all lost in our sin and will die. Where do we go after our death? The Bible says that no one can escape from death: "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to

deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:27-28).

I have learned spiritual lessons from walking daily. It requires patience to keep walking toward the goal set before me. I confess it was not easy to walk regularly at the beginning, but with will power, I overcame my inner self and moved on. I gradually developed more confidence about reaching the next milestone, starting with the first 100 miles, then the next 100 miles, and so forth, bringing me to this 500-mile marker.

I encourage everyone to walk for good health with satisfaction. Everyone can do it if we make it our commitment to discipline ourselves to reach the goal. Once we reach our goal, we will be so pleased to have done it.

When I was a hospital chaplain intern

Please turn to **CHAPLAIN** on page 32

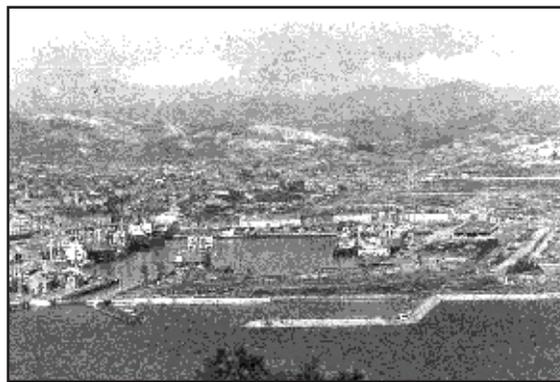
Much Ado About Nothing

It was on a lazy afternoon in the spring of 1953 at the Battery "B" headquarters of the 933rd AA AW Battalion. Our headquarters was located just off the MSR near Inchon's tidal basin where much of our POL was unloaded. The compound was secure—or so we thought.

A removable barrier sealed off the entrance, and it would be raised and lowered as needed by the 24/7 guard on duty in order to allow passage to our vehicles. Unauthorized personnel were not permitted to enter the compound, and the only Koreans allowed to enter were our hired dishwashers and other kitchen help.

I was a young lieutenant, serving as a platoon leader, and on this day, happened to be the only officer in the battery's orderly room. The quiet monotony of the afternoon came to a sudden end when an excited soldier burst through the door. He greeted me with: "Hey, Lootenant, Lootenant, you better come out quick, sir — there is an indigenous person out here."

The soldier followed me as I grabbed



my cap to see what was going on, but all I could see was the back of a couple of dozen soldiers standing around near the entrance to our compound. I made my way through the crowd and came upon an indigenous lady squatting on ground, relieving herself. Apparently, she had slipped by our guard.

She appeared to be extremely frightened. I will never forget the anguish in her face. Why did she sneak around our barrier? Did she come just to pee, or was there another reason? Was she so frightened

Battery "B" headquarters of the 933rd AA AW Battalion HQ site

when she found herself surrounded by so many strange men that she couldn't hold it any longer? We will never know.

The same soldier who had summoned me obviously wondered what would happen next.

"What are you going to do, lootenant, what are you going to do?"

I was asking myself the same question and found no answer. I suppose I should have paid more attention in the University of Delaware's ROTC class when this subject was taught; I did not remember the army's SOP for this sort of situation at all.

Fortunately, the decision was made for me. After a few seconds, the lady got up and scurried out through the gate the same way she got in.

*Ben Raphael, LTC, ret., Newark, DE,
benraphael@msn.com*



CONTINUING OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

This edition of *The Graybeards* continues our commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. There will be more of this commemoration. 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.

Papasan's Stew

By Jim Allison

In April, 1951 Able Company came off the lines (along with probably the entire Regiment) for several weeks. I have no idea where we were, other than somewhere in south central Korea. Although the snow was gone, it was still chilly at night and in the early morning. The Third Platoon, under Lt. Lubka, made camp by a creek. On the first morning he made us wash our helmet covers in the creek before we could go get our first taste of a hot breakfast. This made sense only to him, and there was much griping about it.

Another thing that didn't make sense was that we were camped in the back yard of a house inhabited by an old Papasan and his dog. The back of his house was maybe 100 yards from the creek. It was a typical one room "hooch" with mud walls and a straw-thatched roof.

As I recall, it had a front and back door made of rice paper glued to thin strips of wood. The back wall had a stove-fire place affair that allowed cooking outside and heated the inside through a hole in the rear.

We got along well with Papasan, and his dog was friendly, so we coexisted peacefully. He played a wooden flute, and must have been good at it, because young Korean boys came by periodically for lessons. We weren't there a lot, as Lt. Lubka made sure we were busy humping up and down hills chasing an imaginary enemy.

One night it rained some, and the next morning was cold and damp. While waiting to go to chow, some Third Platooners decided to build a fire in Papasan's stove to dry out and warm up. I'm not sure what was initially used, but the fire wasn't doing its job. A decision was made to pour gasoline on it for better ignition.

By that time a half dozen men were crowded around under the thatched roof that extended out over the fireplace. The gasoline

got the fire going, and more was added, producing a bigger blaze. Someone mentioned we'd better be careful because of the low roof. This was ignored when a cold NCO said "Not to worry, that straw's too wet to bum." We took him at his word and stoked the fire higher.

Pretty soon people outside began to yell, "The roof's on fire!" There was smoke coming from the roof above. Papasan heard the commotion and ran outside, jabbering in Korean, pointing at the smoke and then at us. The fire was still burning and we had nothing to put it out with. A bucket brigade, using helmets, formed from the creek up to the house, and we finally subdued the fire and smoke. A big hole was left in Papasan's roof and he was mad as hell, still pointing and yelling.

Then the officers got involved with the interpreters, trying to calm him down. A solution was reached after he met with the C.O., Lt. Lubka, and the NCOs. About eight members of the Third Platoon, including me, were ordered to help Papasan repair his roof. We split into four-man work parties and alternated days working as his slaves. We had to give him all the cigarettes and candy he wanted, plus he got a lot of C-rations from Battalion. He got some help from other Koreans, and we had to fork over to them too.

It took a week to complete the job. He told the officers he was satisfied, and we were released from his bondage. Several days later, the interpreter told us that Papasan wanted us to eat with him that night to thank us for our labors. We got permission and showed up early in the evening. I'd like to think we had a beer ration to share, but I can't remember.

He had a big pot of stew cooking on the same stove, and we stood around it, smoking and talking with Papasan. The stew smelled pretty good, and he stirred it with a stick, running his tongue down it to check the flavor. He let us do this too, and it tasted of garlic and unknown spices.

There were a lot of C-ration cans on the ground whose contents he must have put into the stew. When he was satisfied it was ready, Papasan had us bring the pot inside, where he spooned stew into our mess gear. Sure enough, we found beans and franks, sausage patties, chicken and vegetables, but also some chewy chunks of meat.

Papasan was smacking his lips, and we were carrying on about how good it was when someone asked, "Papasan, where's your dog?" He looked up and said, "Okay, dog in pot."

The rest of the meal was heavily censored.

*Jim Allison, 2875 Mallard Ln.
Germantown, TN 38138*

A sixteen-year-old tanker

By Stanley Shapiro

On June 25, 1950 I was with Co. C, 114th Bn., New Jersey National Guard. When I was age 15 I forged my mother's signature, said I was seventeen, and enlisted at the Bridgeton Armory. I turned sixteen on June 10, 1950. I told my mother that I had rejoined the Boy Scouts and had been given a scholarship to go to Boy Scout camp.

When I met Captain Brody he asked me if I could read a map. He tested me, but because I had been a Boy Scout I knew latitude and longitude. We traveled from Bridgeton to Pine Camp by half-track, and I was assigned as the co-driver. I knew how to drive a farm truck, but I did not have a driver's license.

At Pine Camp we were assigned various tasks, including KP. We were trained on the MK4 WWII Sherman tank. I became the tank gunner, the lead gunner in the company, and the lead battalion gunner.

When I returned home my mother had deduced what I had done and made plans to get me discharged. At age sixteen I really had no perspective on the war. Most of my friends thought it would end quickly. That changed when the Chinese entered the war.

Two weeks after I graduated from high school I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, on July 1, 1952. I was discharged on June 29, 1950 as AO2.

I think we should have gotten involved in the war to protect South Korea—and maybe we should have gone into China. Either way I'm glad I did my part.

Stanley Shapiro, 4 Fieldstone Ln., Ocean, NJ 07712

Thoughts on the Korean War

By Richard Sexton

I enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 for two years. I was still in it in 1950 when the North Koreans invaded South Korea. The government kindly extended my enlistment, and I didn't give much thought to the invasion when I first heard about it. Moreover, I didn't have a clue where Korea was.

We were for the most part a bunch of kids and we had no idea what we were in for. Society didn't give the war much thought. Things were good back home, so South Korea was placed on the back burner.

The only prediction I had about the war was that we would be home by Christmas. The North Koreans were whipped after we broke out of the Pusan Perimeter. Then the Chinese entered the war in October 1950 and my prediction proved wrong.

We landed in in Korea on 8 August 1950, so I was there in time for the break out of the Pusan Perimeter. We made it close to the Yalu River. But, when the Chinese made their presence known we were pushed back to South Korea. There were victories ahead.



Tanks on the move after taking village



Refugees moving in Korea



Knocked out T-34 Russian tank used by North Koreans and Chinese

Tank Co. Crew #43: (Standing, L-R) Cmdr. Richard Sexton and Rider, loader; Top Left, Weighman, gunner; Top middle, Kreger, driver; Top right, Kunson, Bow



I was there for the battle of Chipyong-ni, where we were surrounded by 25-30 thousand Chinese, They were pushed back, which was their first defeat. By all accounts it was the finest regimental action in the war. And I was there for the spring offensive in which the Chinese got beat up some more. Finally. I rotated home in June 1951.



Crew #43 cleaning weapons after coming off line

Richard Sexton by anti-tank gun knocked out on break-out from Naktong



Knocked out T-34s on underwater bridge

The war should have ended better than it did in my opinion. We gave the Chinese time to rebuild their depleted forces during the peace talks. When the action started again we lost a lot of troops.

Our political leadership was nothing to brag about during the war. Some of the generals were ineffective as leaders. Our regimental commander, Col. Paul Freeman, was a great one, however. A lot of us survived the war and returned home because of him.

In retrospect, I believe the war was needed. It changed a lot of things in the Far East, by stopping the spread of communism in particular.

*Richard Sexton, 25736 Packard Ln., Renner, SD 57055
2nd. Inf. Div., Tank Co., 23rd Regt., Tank Commander*

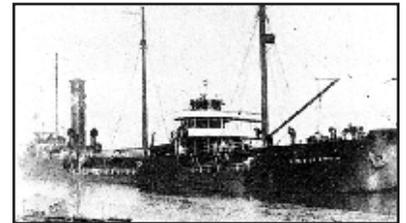
My Korea Experience

By Ray Huecker

In the winter of 2010 I was asked by my son Steven to tell of my experiences during the Korean War. He had been reading some books on that chapter of American history and wanted to hear it from a personal standpoint.

First, some family history: My dad, 41-year-old Chief Mate Raymond Edward, of Port Arthur, TX, was serving in the Merchant Marines early in World War II. On June 23, 1942, his ship, the *SS Raleigh Warner*, was torpedoed in the Gulf of Mexico by the German U-boat U-67. All souls were lost.

At 06.11 hours on 23 June 1942 the unescorted and unarmed *Rawleigh Warner* (Master Jewel Homer Livingston) was hit by two torpedoes from U-67 about 40 miles south of South Pass, Louisiana. The cargo immediately burst into flames and engulfed the entire length of the ship. The tanker sank in less than ten minutes, leaving no survivors among the eight officers and 25 crewmen on board.

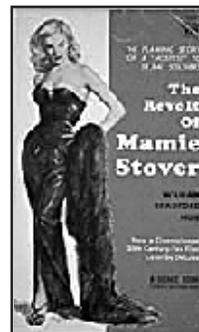


SS Rawleigh Warner, the ship on which Raymond Huecker's father was torpedoed

After a period of time, my mother, my sister Rita, my brother Wally, and I traveled to Hawaii (my mother's home) aboard the ship "Lurline," which had been converted from a pleasure ship. The ship was painted gray; there were hundreds of Army troops aboard, along with 130 civilians. (The soldiers did not know where they were going, but we did). There were enemy submarines in the water so the Lurline had to run a zig-zag course with no lights showing anywhere on board. It took four days to get to Hawaii.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Hawaii was the "jumping off" base for the war in the Pacific. There were thousands of Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force personnel there. I remember seeing a long line of men waiting on the sidewalk in downtown Honolulu. I thought they were waiting for food or maybe to get shots; actually they were waiting for their turn in the local bordello. (Prostitution was legal during the war. Read "The Revolt of Mamie Stover," the 1951 novel by William Bradford Huie.)

My mother's sister Louise lived on the Pearl City Peninsula with her husband, Wallace, and their three sons, Raymond, Walter and Donald. My mother was able to buy a house there with my dad's life insurance money; it cost \$6,500 in 1944. The war was very real in Hawaii; the newsreels shown at the movies were all about the bat-



The cover of "The Revolt of Mamie Stover"



Raymond A. Huecker, age 20

tles being fought both in the Pacific and the European theaters.

There were bomb shelters all over the island. Many things were rationed; food, gasoline, tires, liquor... For a fifth of liquor you could get a truckload of lumber from the Seabees. My Uncle Adam did this on more than one occasion. World War II ended in 1945; no more martial law or 10 p.m. curfew. Homes no

longer had to black out their windows, the shields on car headlights could be removed and the aerial searchlights no longer lit up the night sky.

We lived on the Pearl City peninsula for the next several years; I went to junior high at Stevenson and high school at Roosevelt High. I frequently rode the Oahu Railway to get there. All the high schools required male students to take Army R.O.T.C. I did this for two years; when I was 17, I joined the Marine Reserve. My main purpose was so I could go to Maui for two weeks of summer training.

When North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950, President Truman committed U.S. troops to the fight there. However, since the end of World War II in 1945, much of our armed forces had become an occupation army. They had done little training and were out of condition. The troops were ill equipped to fight the North Korean army and ultimately were pushed to Pusan at the southern tip of Korea.

General Douglas MacArthur wanted to mount an invasion at Inchon Harbor. The tide there is one of the worst in the world; at low tide the ships look like they are sitting in the mud. MacArthur called for a division of Marines for the invasion and was told they did not have a division. He said "call up the reserves." My fellow reservists and I got the message by radio to report to active duty at our unit in Pearl Harbor. I was nineteen years old. This was sometime in August, 1950.

At Pearl Harbor we were outfitted with uniforms and M-1 rifles. We were issued leather boots, summer socks, and leggings with metal hooks. The leggings were to be laced up with the hooks on the outside of the calf; occasionally a Marine would err and put the hooks on the inside. When he tried to walk the hooks would lock together and most of the time make the man fall to the ground.

After a week or so, we boarded a MATS sea-plane equipped with JATO bottles under the wings. Jet-Assisted-Take-Off was the extra power needed to get the plane into the air. We all sat on the floor, back to front, legs crossed, and leaning on the guy in front. The sound was deafening and scary. When the jet-packs activated, we all thought the engines had blown up. We landed after the 10-hour flight and were bused to Camp Pendleton, where the Lt. in charge of us was asked, "How many warm bodies do you have?"

We were at Pendleton for two weeks; there was no boot camp for us. I did not fire my rifle during those two weeks.

Then we boarded a ship in San Diego and headed for Korea. Most of the guys practiced firing their rifles over the fantail, shooting at garbage. But I was on KP the whole trip, so I didn't fire mine until I was in combat.

Our first stop was in Kobe, Japan to take on ammunition; there, a Japanese stevedore asked me how old I was. When I told him 19 he said, "I sorry." I could tell he was a former Japanese soldier by his worn-out military cap.

The dock was lined with troopships, and there were bars on three sides. I went on liberty with the rest of the guys and had the best meal you could get...a Kobe steak. Of course, the Marines had too much to drink and there were bar fights and street fights all over.

Some of my buddies and I were in a taxi; other guys from the unit jumped on the running boards. We were loaded down. Then I looked up and saw another Marine running toward us. He got one foot on the bumper and the other on the hood and he dove on top of the roof. The roof came down almost on our heads, but we got back to the ship and headed out of the harbor to Korea.

The 1st and 5th Marines had already made the Inchon landing. Our 7th Marine Reserve Unit was back-up. We arrived at Inchon harbor at night; it was pitch black, with no lights in the city. We went over the side of the ship on cargo nets into landing craft. When we pulled up to the dock we saw wounded Marines being loaded onto landing craft, heading out to the hospital ship. Then we knew this was a real war. No more playing Cowboys and Indians like we did when we were kids.

We were trucked to a holding location near Kimpo Airfield, where we noted several planes on the ground. They had been shot up by our Air Force and Marine Air Wing. The next day we were deployed outside Seoul, in the northwest sector. We were told to dig in along the trails, thinking the North Koreans would travel along that route.

This was my first foxhole, and the guys in my platoon laughed at me because there I was, sitting in the foxhole, ready to go...rifle on my lap, helmet on my head, like the war movies. But I soon learned to get comfortable and do what the other guys did, like lighting a cigarette under the poncho so the light wouldn't give away our position.

The first night was a little weird; as you looked out from the foxhole, you could see the moonlight dance between the leaves in the trees and in your mind, you just knew a North Korean was out there hiding. But it was just the eyes and the mind playing tricks; we did not fire our rifles because it would have given away our position.

The second night was quiet. There was very little rifle action, but we could hear "Big Mo," the battleship Missouri, firing its 16-inch guns and hear the "swooshing" as the giant shells passed overhead. The third day we were ordered into Seoul, the capital of South Korea. That meant house-to-house fighting.

Our progress was slow, because this was our first combat and we did not know much about this kind of a fight—or any kind of fighting. A group of us were gathered on the second floor of a house when one of the guys looked out the window

and saw a Korean on the road below. He said, "What should I do?"

The reply was a simple one: "Shoot him."

He did, and when a second Korean came out to help him, he too was shot. This was on-the-job training big time.

It was summer and Korea was hot; it seemed like you could not get enough liquids. Our meals were "C" rations, food in olive drab cans. Eating a cold sausage patty with white grease on it was hard to do at first, since we could not heat it. The best part of the rations was the fruit cocktail. I would hold the can in my hand and wonder if I should eat it first or save it for last.

We ate our meals sitting on the curb in the streets of Seoul with dead Koreans lying near us, their bodies covered with a woven mat-like material. The first dead Korean that I saw was an old man sitting in the street with his right hand on the wheel of a wagon. His eyes were open and he had a bullet hole in the center of his forehead. I reached into my shirt pocket and got a Lucky Strike cigarette that had been included in the "C" rations. I was now relaxed.

Soon we were ordered to pull out to the outskirts of Seoul because our artillery was going to drop shells on the city. On the fourth day our unit was to move out to a new location. There were Koreans on the road; a few of them had burp guns. The World War II Marines in the unit took the guns and turned the guys to the back of the column...after they kicked the Koreans' asses.

We moved with caution up Hill No. 168. All that day we were taking mortar fire. The foxhole was a safe place unless it took a direct hit. I got word that two men in our unit took a direct hit and both were blown in two.

During that time when we were taking such a beating, six Koreans in civilian clothes appeared. Our first sergeant (in frustration or maybe he thought they were spotters for the mortar fire) gave his M-1 carbine to our Korean interpreter and told him to take them behind the house and shoot them.

The interpreter asked, said "boom-boom?"

Sarge replied, "Yes."

Moments later we heard the men begging, then the carbine spitting out bullets and we knew they were dead.

I was in the open, directing mortar fire, when the enemy on a higher hill opened fire with small arms. I rolled over on my stomach and was hit in the right heel. My boot flared out at the heel; I made my way down the hill and a corpsman put a helmet cover on my foot. I was put into a jeep with another wounded Marine who was having trouble breathing. The corpsman asked me to hold a tongue depressor in place to help him breathe, but he died soon after that.

The Marines were taking a beating; the wounded were evacuated to a M*A*S*H* Unit. I could see the military doctor trying to save a Marine, but about five minutes later he covered the Marine with a white sheet. The wounded were flown from Korea to the Yokosuka Hospital in Japan. I was given a 'flying twenty dollar bill.' No more money was given out until your pay records caught up with you.

We stayed in the hospital in Japan. The badly wounded were

flown to the states. Then we were sent to Camp Otsu and stayed there for about thirty days. We had a helluva time drinking Suntory beverages. We did no hiking. We just rested and waited to be sent back to Korea, where we were placed with our old unit, which was now located in North Korea.

Earlier we had been told there was no need for winter boots or winter socks. "You will be back home for Christmas" was the official word. However, when we returned to Korea from Japan in November, winter was setting in and the ground was frozen. We were issued wind-breaker trousers and parka coats, but no socks or boots. Our gloves were so thick they were in three sections: one for the trigger finger, one for the thumb, and the third for the other three fingers.

We slept with our boots tucked into the bottom of the sleeping bag to keep them from freezing. Our M-1 rifles also went into the sleeping bags with us. The sleeping bag was zipped up half way. The parka covered the opening, and faces were covered by the hood of the parka.

As we advanced toward the Chosin Reservoir there were sporadic firefights and skirmishes with the enemy. We had been told that 140,000 Chinese troops were hiding during the day and would attack at night. They hit us on the night of November 27. They wanted to silence our 105mm cannons.

We could hear the enemy crawling in the grass and weeds. We threw our hand grenades toward the sounds; there would be silence and then we could hear them crawling again. We did not fire our rifles at this time; that would have given away our position.

After a couple days of strong firefights we were on patrol and had stopped for a break. Much of the time, when you stopped walking, ice would form between your toes (summer socks and boots). While we were stopped, up ahead I saw a person dressed in white running across our path toward a house. I heard a rifle shot and that person dropped on the doorstep of the house, in front of his mother.

Our sergeant was furious with "Red," the Marine who shot the young man. He screamed at him, "You ***, get your ass to the back of the column before I shoot you myself".

After a time, our platoon commander, Lt. Seaberger, and the other officers had us regroup at the bottom of the hill; we were lying down on our stomachs in a skirmish line. The Chinese were coming up on the other side of the hill; the moon was full and in back of them. As we began our advance up the hill, we could see them clearly in the moonlight. At one point I paused to reload my M-1 rifle and when I looked up there was a Chinese soldier coming at me. I yelled, "Get him Charles!" and Charles did. It was an all-night fight. The next morning the hill was covered with their dead and ours.

Many of us wondered what drove those Chinese soldiers to keep pouring over the hill into certain death. Were they on drugs, or just brainwashed into that kind of action? I have to say, that although they were our enemy, I have respect for them being the kind of soldiers they were.

It became obvious our troops would have to push their way south to the ships docked at Hungnam Harbor. ("RETREAT HELL...WE'RE JUST FIGHTING IN A DIFFERENT DIREC-

TION”) I saw our dead on trucks, their bodies frozen and laid in different positions, being delivered to the final location.

I was tagged as a casualty; I could hardly walk due to ulcers on both feet. At Hamhung I got on a plane with other wounded and flew to Japan. It was a wonderful feeling to have heat, a good night's sleep, and hot food.

God bless America.

*Raymond Huecker,
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Talk about hanging around

COL Peter W. Cuthbert, USA, Ret

In late October 1952 I was a tank platoon leader in “C” Co. of the 89th Tank Bn. of the 25th ID, supporting different infantry units on the MLR. Another platoon in our company was being relieved in darkness in the Punch Bowl. I had an M4E8 tank slide off a trail at night and it was dangling off a steep hill. The crew abandoned it and left it there hanging half over for the enemy to see in the morning. No one from that platoon volunteered to try to drive it back onto the trail.

Our company commander, Captain Bakewell, then called for a volunteer, and one of my drivers, Cpl. Sylvester Zernell, volunteered, and in daylight was able to get the old “double



Photo shows Cpl. Sylvester Zernell, who was awarded the Soldier's Medal, M/SGT Charles Pollack, who was activated with an Alabama National Guard Armor unit, whose members were used as replacements in Korea and was my excellent Plt. Sgt., a Pfc. who was slightly wounded by a sniper's ricochet, and another crewman who I think was Pfc. O'Brien (L-R). They are shown here during the few days between front line employments, with all their tank and equipment cleaned and laid out to be inspected by our Cpt. before we would go back up on the MLR to support another infantry unit.

NOTE: Yes, that is a tripod for a 30 Cal. Machine gun “borrowed” from the infantry and illegally welded on top of the turret so that when moving down a trail the tank commander can fire forward while seated inside in his open turret. Most of our tanks had such similar unauthorized machine guns, but before I rotated some higher-up noticed them and stupidly they were all removed. To fire the 50 Cal. Machine gun forward the tank commander would then have to stand up outside his hatch, making an easy target for the enemy. And, yes, our new tanks do allow the commander to fire a machine gun from inside.

clutching” Sherman (76mm) tank on the trail and brought it back to our base camp. We couldn't figure out why the enemy, who was always watching us, didn't fire some artillery at the tank, which might have caused it to fall off and roll over and over on the way to the bottom of that hill, injuring or killing him.

Captain Bakewell put Cpl. Zernell in for a Silver Star, which he would have received if the enemy had fired just one round of any caliber weapon at it while he was attempting to get it back on the trail. Cpl. Zernell was finally awarded a “Soldier's Medal.” This medal is given for the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy. It is the highest honor for an act of valor in a non-combat situation, and it ranks next to the Distinguished Service Medal; higher than a Bronze Star and/or at least equal to an Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross.

Cpl. Zernell was an outstanding example of a soldier in every way during his tour in Korean combat. It was a real pleasure for me to command such men in combat under fire almost every day, supporting different infantry units for our nine-month tours. We also supported the Turkish Brigade for two of those months, which was quite an experience.

COL Peter W. Cuthbert, USA, Ret., colpwc@optonline.net

And There Will Be No Celebration

By Robert B. Casbeer

On July 26, 1953, our Ord. H. M. Co. was assembled in company formation after noon chow. Our Company Commander informed us that hostilities were scheduled to cease in the near future. He then went into a very long explanation advising us that we would have absolutely NO celebrations of any kind.

The old Quonset hut where we gathered after hours to drink beer was to be padlocked, and there would be two guards with weapons and live ammo with orders to shoot anyone attempting to enter. No loud noises, no firecrackers, no weapons firing, push truck doors shut, no slamming, etc. He repeated the orders many times. Then he dismissed the company, only to call us back in formation about five seconds later.

All the items were again repeated numerous times. Oh, yes, if anyone had a “bottle” tucked away or anyone caught with the odor of alcohol on his breath would be automatically court-martialed. He then explained that if anything occurred in our company that would restart the war, he as our commander would be sent to Fort Leavenworth federal prison and he would take as many of us along with him as possible.

Everything was repeated numerous times before we were dismissed. That night he doubled the guard and later tripled the guards. We had guards guarding guards, who were guarding guards.

The next day was Korean War Armistice Day, July 27, 1953. We celebrated in silence!

Robert B. Casbeer, 8th Army, 59th Ord. Grp., 30th Ord. H. M. Bn., 568th Ord. H.M. Co., 3027 Lakefield Rd., York, PA 17402

First Encounter

By Jim Allison

Almost seventy years have passed since I was a young Marine in Korea, and I have forgotten much about my time there. Life in between has erased memories of daily life, but certain events occurred that remain in my mind, although I cannot recall the precise details. One is my first encounter with the enemy on a visual, shooting, basis. Actually, two things happened that day that are unforgettable.

In early spring of 1951, the Chinese Communists launched an offensive across middle Korea near the 38th Parallel. Their goal was to retake Seoul, but the fighting extended into mid-central Korea. The Allies responded with Operations Killer and Ripper, and were successful in stymieing the Chinese offensive. The day I'm about to describe was part of Ripper.

Very little information of our daily activities filtered down to my level, as I was at the bottom of my platoon's hierarchy of necessary knowledge. I followed orders and directions with no sense of right or wrong or purpose. My weapon, the Browning Automatic Rifle, or BAR, signified my status as a new man, but I liked it, and kept it when the opportunity to pass it along occurred. Good BAR men were important to the overall firepower of a Marine squad and platoon, and I wanted to be one.

The events of this day began in mid-morning as we started up a hill no different from others we'd been up and down many times. About one third of the way up, the smell started, warning that mortified flesh awaited, and soon we inhaled the scent of death coming from Army soldiers in their foxholes along one side of the ridgeline. My first glance at this scene shocked me, and I couldn't look anymore at what I was walking through. So I just looked down at my feet, not left or right.

All talking stopped, as there were no words to verbalize our thoughts. "Get me past this," I thought, hoping this unexpected scene would end. And it did, near the top of the hill, where we took a break after the rest of the company arrived. By then our voices had returned. Everybody had questions, thoughts, and opinions—but no answers. One thing was clear: those bodies had been there a while with no one coming to get them, a fact we didn't understand. The officers and sergeants were talking together, and we were told to move out, down the hill, back through the ugliness, stench, and grisly business we'd just endured.

I had just turned nineteen and had been in Korea for three months. From a distance I had seen a few dead enemy soldiers, but never any Americans, and only a few dead people at all. This scene resembled a Matthew Brady photograph of a Civil War battlefield. Although I didn't think it at the time, I later came to the realization that it is much easier to see the dead enemy than the dead us. These were Americans, and there was an identity that made a big difference.

I never learned the reason we went up and down that hill. Probably someone read the map incorrectly. That frequently happened. I think I knew the name of the dead soldiers' outfit, but it is long gone from my memory now.

It was determined the correct hill was across the way, because we walked across a long rice paddy to another hill like the one

we'd come from. My squad had the point, so I was one of the first to start the ascent. Suddenly, a Chinese soldier broke out of the bushes, coming towards us with his hands up. We got him on the ground and called for the interpreters, who came up with the CO. The prisoner talked with the interpreters, then pointed up the hill, saying, "Many, many."

I thought to myself, "The sensible thing is not to go up there and get into it with the 'many, many.'" But the Captain pointed up the hill and told us to "Move out." So off we went, up a barely-discernible path towards the top of the new hill (with some anxiety on my part since I was near the front of the column). I remember a steep climb, and kept thinking the "many, many" couldn't help but hear us scrambling and pulling up the slope.

Near the top, the column halted, and the point moved up quietly to the ridgeline, checking if it was safe for the rest of the company. It looked peaceful, both right and left, and we started left, spreading out, being vigilant for any sign of trouble. Suddenly, three Chinese soldiers came over the ridgeline maybe twenty yards from us. One had a canteen-laden stick across his shoulders, and the other two were carrying canteens. They had been on a water run.

I don't remember my thoughts, being so surprised. I envisioned the first real encounter under more hostile circumstances, but this quickly changed. We stared at each other in shocked silence for ten seconds. No one could believe their eyes.

They ducked behind the ridgeline, and we ran towards them, shooting at nothing because they were nowhere to be seen. We turned and started to our right, thinking that was the way they had gone. This led us to a rise maybe a hundred yards away from where we first saw them. We started for it, but when we got close they opened up with burp guns and rifle fire, causing us to jump down the opposite side of the ridge.

Now the Chinese had the high ground and we were scrambling around to find cover behind a tree or rock or bush—anything that would provide protection from the fire coming down on us. We were spread out on one side of the rise, with Chinese above, popping up over the ridgeline to shoot or throw a grenade. Things were chaotic, with explosions, gunshots, and shouts, no coordination of response among us since it's hard to fight and hide at the same time. Moving closer to the top to shoot back seemed impossible.

We were too far from the top of the rise to throw grenades, for fear they might not clear the height and come rolling back down. Enemy grenades came sailing over the rise, bouncing around after they landed. They were the "potato masher" type used by the Germans and Russians in WWI, i.e., a round canister on top of a stick, filled with a high explosive and steel balls, armed by pulling a string on the end of the handle.

The fight lasted maybe five minutes before the rest of the company came up on the Chinese side of the rise, charging their flank. They scattered in the face of our superior numbers and firepower.

There was a wide spot at the top of the rise where the C.P. was established, with personnel taking stock of the situation. Two men had shrapnel wounds sufficiently serious to be evacuated by helicopter, the kind that resembles a dragonfly, as seen in the

intro to M*A*S*H on TV. No one was killed on either side.

A perimeter was set up in case of a counter-attack, which everyone thought would come at night. A man named Maule had shrapnel wounds in his legs and butt. He was lying on a poncho, on his stomach, half naked, while a corpsman treated his wounds. Maule looked up and said, "Guess I'll be eating off the mantel piece for a while," meaning he'd be eating standing.

I've never forgotten this remark, because it was so different from most service humor, which is usually coarse and rough, full of sick jokes and blatantly sexual, to be expected from men with little refinement, living away from life's niceties. But Maule showed some wit towards his injuries, which could have traumatized the average wounded soldier.

The helicopter ride in those metal baskets, stuck helpless out there on each skid, worried me because of the height and the speed. I hoped he was doped up good, oblivious to the thousand feet between him and the ground. The copter lifted up and off they went.

We dug in for the night with a fifty-percent watch, meaning more people awake during the darkness. Sometime after 10 p.m. the Chinese started playing a noise machine that broadcast strange, laugh-like, repetitive noise, the purpose being to capture your attention, make you nervous. It went on for fifteen minutes, then stopped, and started again later from a different location. Word was passed from hole to hole to concentrate on the ground in front of you, not on the sound.

There were a lot of flares and illumination used that night, but nothing happened.

I never heard the noisemaker again. Later I wondered if it were my imagination, and asked about it at reunions. Other people in my company recalled the weird sounds that night, so it really happened.

We moved out the next day, marching and climbing up and down hills in pursuit of the enemy, following the directions of the officers with the maps. The memory of the dead soldiers stayed in my mind. They obviously had been ambushed and had never had a chance to get out of their holes.

A larger Chinese or North Korean force overwhelmed them, probably at night. Their watch must have been poor for that many men to have been killed in one place. Years later I read of a similar incident at about the same time, when the ROK 8th Division was overrun by superior Chinese forces, creating a big gap in the Allied lines. Massacres of Army and ROK troops occurred as a result. In May and June 1951 the ROK faltered again, causing a retreat that will be the subject of another remembrance.

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LSM 236

By Albert Bauer

LSM (Landing Ship Medium) 236 made more stops during the Korean War than a taxi makes in New York City on a busy New Year's Eve. Many of its stops were to deliver North Korean and Chinese prisoners and equipment between islands.

Albert Bauer provided a list of ports and islands the ship vis-

ited during his time as a crew member between July 1950 and November 1953. Here's an example of its busy days in Korea in 1952:

PLACEDATE

Pusan7-4-52

Chegumi7-5-52

Pongham7-5-52

Pusan7-6-52

Chegumi7-7-52

Pusan7-8-52

Cheju-do7-9-52

Pongnam7-11-52

Pusan7-12-52

Chogri7-23-52

Fox Beach7-23-52

Pongham7-23-52

Masan7-24-52

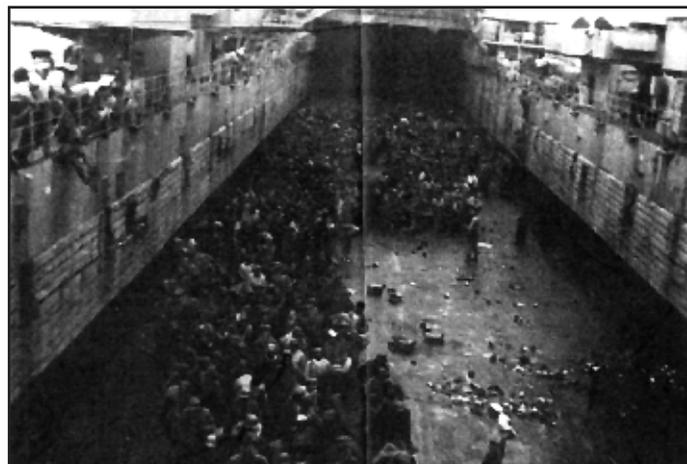
Pusan7-24-52

Cheju-do7-27-52

And so it went.

In all, the ship made three stops at Cheju-do, a POW camp established after the Koje-do riots. LSM transferred POWs from July 4, 1952 to August 14, 1952. On its first trip the ship delivered barbed wire and fencing. The other two trips, on 7-27-52 and 8-7-52 (not listed) were to deliver POWs.

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Prisoners being transferred from stern of an LSD to the bow of USS 236 to be beached on an island without a dock

ABOUT LSMs

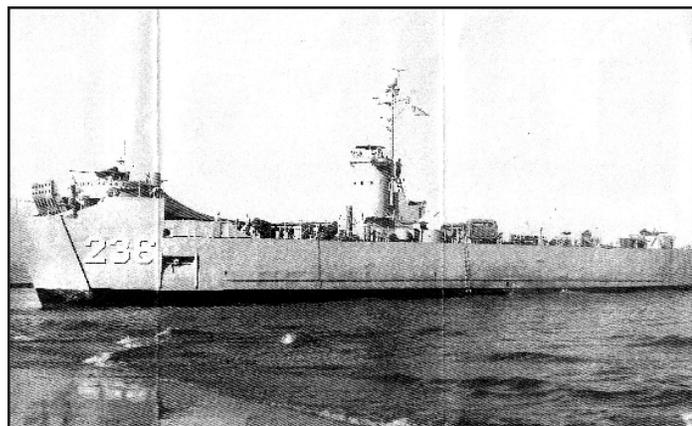
Landing Ship Mediums were amphibious assault ships of the United States Navy in World War II. Of comparable size to Landing Ship, Tank and the Landing Craft Infantry, there were 558 LSMs made for the USN between 1944 and 1945. The majority of vessels built on this versatile frame were regular transports. However, there were several dozen that were converted during construction for specialized roles. Most vessels of this type were scrapped during the Cold

War, but several were sold by the United States Department of Defense to foreign nations or private shipping companies.

One LSM, USS LSM-45, survived in its original configuration until around 2010. It was in storage at Marine Station Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. It was slated to become the centerpiece of the Museum of the Marine, but due to changed plans was scrapped between 2010 and 2014.

LSM-236

USS LSM-236 was a LSM-1-class ship that saw service in WWII and Korea. It was recommissioned on 8 September 1950 for service in the Korean War, and decommissioned on 17 October 1955 at Astoria, Oregon. Laid up in the Pacific Reserve Fleet, Astoria, Oregon, it was struck from the Naval Register and transferred to the Philippines on 15 September 1960, serving as RPS Batanes (L-65). Batanes ran aground and declared a total loss in June 1971, and was scrapped in 1972.



USN 236

And then the war began

By John Thompson

I was at Naha Air Base, Naha, Okinawa, in the 51st Air Base Group. We had a variety of aircraft, starting with the old reliable trainer, the AT-6. There were about ten of them. In addition we had 4 C-46Ds, 2 C-45s, 2 A-26s, and a couple P-51s.

Next door there had been a half dozen P-61 Black Widow night fighters, but they had been upgraded recently to new P-82s that took over the same job. A destructive typhoon in 1949 had destroyed both C-45s, a few of the AT-6s, and a P-51. However, the remainder were in flying condition and fulfilling their required schedules.

We had received arms and ammunition a month or so previous, and we had been playing like soldiers. But none of us at our level knew what it was all about. Suddenly, exactly one day before my 20th birthday, we turned in our bedding and foot lockers, packed our B-4 and barracks bags, and prepared to head north. We were at war on the Korean peninsula.

I was an MOS 2750 Flight Engineer on the C-46D at that time. We loaded up with 15,000 pounds of Army supplies and departed for the air base at Pusan, Korea. Though we flew up and down the Pacific, we had never been to Korea.

After unloading at Pusan we returned to Itazuke Air Base in southern Japan. Itazuke was prepared for our arrival and they had tents set up for us near the east end of the runway, between the runway and the parking ramps. We were exhausted and jumped into our sacks.

Itazuke is nestled in a valley with high hills, almost mountains, around three sides. Fog was often a minor to serious problem there. It was so one particularly eventful night and caused some serious accidents. The black A-26s were using Itazuke during their day and night missions into Korea.

One of them returning during the late night was setting down under the control of GCA, Ground Controlled Approach, and landed right in the A-26 parking area! The pilot traveled between two parked A-26s, taking a wing off each, and shedding both of his own wings. He slid out into the grass area. Almost unbelievably, the crew of the accident aircraft were not seriously hurt! We who were sound asleep only a short distance away never heard a thing as I recall!



The two damaged A-26s between which the landing A-26 passed



The fuselage of the A-26 that caused the accident

That same night a BOAC C-54 airliner was trying to land at Itazuke in the fog. He clipped some tree tops on one of the nearby hills during the landing. The aircraft belly was severely damaged and it carried some tree limbs down with it in the two inboard engine radiators. British DC-4s used Merlin engines.

Flying activity out of Itazuke was steady, mainly A-26s, P-80s, and P-51s. At that time the P-80s had the small wing tip fuel tanks and were only able to fly to Korea and stay in the combat areas for a few minutes before they had to head back home.

Meanwhile, the P-51s with drop tanks could stay in the combat area for a lengthy period.

Very soon all the available C-46s in the Pacific areas were collected at Tachikawa in Japan and formed into the 1st Provisional Group, Combat Cargo. We were then moved to K-14, Kimpo Air Base. That is another story.

John O. Thompson, 700 Michelbook Ln.,
Rio Vista, CA 94571, 707-378-3209

The Joy of Experience

By Don Hammond

After finishing at Ft. Ord, I received my first stripe as a PFC. As one of the top graduates I was given a choice of continuing further courses at Ft. Benning and receiving a commission to Lieutenant or remaining at Ft. Ord as a cadre instructor. I chose the latter to complete my two-year service. I liked the appointment, which involved teaching heavy weapons and bayonet—until suddenly an order came out that all leaves were canceled.

It was announced that all non-essential men were to report for orders to leave for Korea. South Korea had been invaded by North Korea, President Truman was ordering U.S support.

In no time, I was flown to Japan and then Inchon. I was soon told to board a truck carrying men to the 40th Division, 224th Infantry Regiment, Company M. After I inquired I learned that my promotion to staff sergeant had not been received.

It was early February 1951 and winter was already a fact. My position was machine gunner. I asked Captain Richardson why he put me in that slot. "Because we lose so many gunners," he replied.

Without going into great detail, our position was the Kumwha Valley area, eventually eastward to the Punch Bowl sector. We moved to different positions, participating with or supporting units at well-known areas such as Heart Break, Sniper's Ridge, Punch Bowl and many other engagement sites.

Soon winter passed and summer on line was better, but the good weather brought greater activities. Our mission then was to hold and defend our positions at all costs. July 1952 came and we were pulled off the front line. We were told to board a train at Chorwon to head south to Pusan. There was a large prisoner prison nearby called Koje-Do. However, small naval ships took us out to sea to an island called Cheju-Do.

There was a large POW camp on the island, comprising ten compounds of barbed wire enclosures, with machine gun towers on each corner. Each square enclosure contained about 500 prisoners. With ten compounds there could be 5,000 prisoners. Needless to say, there was potential danger. Guarding the prisoners was performed like clockwork.

The guards had intervals when they could go to town or swim in the ocean with beautiful white sand. It seemed almost like R&R—until August 21, 1952, when an alarm started sounding to alert the troops that a near riot was starting at compound 7. An order was issued that directed all our men on how to treat the prisoners. The order issued was printed in the division's newspaper, "The Grizzly."

HEADQUARTERS

UNITED NATIONS PRISONER OF WAR ENCLOSURE NUMBER 21

Cheju-Do, Korea

21 August 1952

Additional Special Orders to all Guard Personnel, and to all Prisoner Chasers

Enclosure # 21, Cheju-Do, Korea

1. In any incident where Prisoners of War are observed attacking or threatening to attack, United Nations personnel, by throwing any item such as rocks, metal pieces, boards, etc., which could injure or maim such United Nations person, the Prisoner(s) of War will be shot at that moment in order to protect the United Nations personnel concerned.

2. In any incident where Prisoners of War are observed hitting, striking, kicking, biting, or in any other way observed doing injury or raising or threatening to injure or maim United Nations personnel, such Prisoner(s) of War will be shot at that moment in order to protect United Nations personnel concerned.

Then, in October a major riot occurred, during which 56 POWs were killed and 120 were wounded. It was put down with tear gas and infantrymen entering the closure with fixed bayonets and anti-riot procedures, in an inverted "V" formation. This was the same formation used when guards entered the compound in a search and seizure of any homemade weapons for later use to escape or injure the guards.

The machine gunners on all four corners of the compound were ordered to not fire. The infantry guards were to be the main riot stoppers. From my position (elevated) in a gun tower it was

Please turn to 70th ANNIVERSARY on page 55

Full Probes Launched Of Cheju POW Riot

Death Toll of Chinese Red Prisoners Rises To 52; Only Rifles and Carbines Used

Cheju Island, Korea—(UP)—Allied officers said today the prisoner death toll in the latest uprising on Cheju Island by Communist war prisoners had risen to 52.

Two U.S. soldier guards were injured slightly.

Officers said 45 Chinese prisoners were killed in the compound and seven others died in a camp aid station en route to a hospital on the mainland.

Meanwhile, an Allied board of inquiry flew to Cheju for a full investigation of the riot, bloodiest outbreak the prison stockades had known since the Koje Island battles earlier this year.

The board is headed by Col. C. V. Cadwell, chief of the Allied Prisoner of War Command, and Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Herren, head of the new Korean Communications Zone Command.

They and the other officers on the board flew in four hours after two platoons of about 70 American troops smashed the rebellion before it was well started.

The guards' gunfire wounded 120 Red prisoners.

A prisoner command spokesman said only the rifles and carbines of the guard detail under attack by prisoners were fired into the mob. Machineguns in guard towers were silent. Tanks stood by outside the enclosure but did not take part. No tear gas or concussion grenades were used.

The Chinese broke the prison camp rules and defied flat Allied orders to end their riotous celebration of the third anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist regime.

Lodged in the stockades on the island, which is near Koje, were about 20,000 Chinese, some 5,000 of them the most rabid of all Communist captives.

A hot bath in a snowstorm

During the retreat the unit's H&SV Company happened upon the Korean resort at Tobanganee, which was used by Chinese and North Korean officers for R&R. It was built around hot springs.

The 84th Combat Engineering Battalion was activated at Ft. Riley, Kansas on May 20, 1949. On 7/19/1950 it traveled by train to Ft. Lewis, Washington, where members boarded a ship bound for Korea to support the UN forces there. The battalion arrived in Yokohama, Japan on August 28 and traveled on to Pusan, Korea, where it landed three days later as the first engineering unit to arrive in Korea.

The battalion participated in all ten campaigns of the war. It was there that the I Corps commander, LtGen John W. (Iron Mike) O'Daniel, gave the 84th the nickname "Conquerors of the Imjin." It was also in Korea that the words "Never Daunted" were adopted as the unit motto. This was a sobriquet used by South Korean President Syngman Rhee to characterize the battalion's performance as he presented the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit citation to the 84th for bridging the Imjin River.

The 84th began moving north at a very fast pace, building bridges along the way. The battalion made stops in Weagwan, Taegu, and Seoul. By November 1, 1950 the battalion had advanced 330 miles to Pyongyang and set up camp at the North Korea Military Academy.

The 84th was constructing a bridge from one shore of the Taedong River while the 62nd Combat Engineering Battalion was doing the same from the opposite shore. The plan was to meet in the middle of the river. By this time the Chinese had entered the war. Suddenly, orders came down directing an immediate retreat back to the 38th Parallel. The 84th was ordered to allow retreating units to cross back over the bridge and then blow it.

During the retreat the unit's H&SV Company happened upon the Korean resort at Tobanganee, which was used by Chinese and North Korean officers for R&R. It was built around hot springs. Ignoring the cold and falling snow, the soldiers stripped off their clothes and jumped into the springs to get their first hot bath in considerable time.

Sergeant Art Wigdahl, Carl Gielow, and Tony Neeley (who was KIA later in Korea) were part of this group. Wigdahl, a welder and machinist from New Iberia, Louisiana, said, "It was the damndest thing I ever saw. Sitting in the hot water and trying to stand up when getting out...guys falling down with the snow all over the place."

Incidentally, our reunion group had a "Final Passing" banner inspired by Art Wigdahl. Any member who had passed and who had attended at least one reunion had his name embroidered on the banner. Those so honored received special recognition at the memorial service at the following reunion.

*(1st Lt.) Vic Swanson, B Co., 84th ECB,
503-200-4555, vicswanson@comcast.net*

Let me count the ways...

The article below raises a couple questions: how does a bomber/jet fighter pilot count the number of dead enemy troops or destroyed vehicles resulting from a mission? Or does someone else do the counting? It would seem like the pilots are flying too high or too fast to count. And returning to count is fraught with peril. How accurate are such counts as "700 casualties" or "50 vehicles?"

Can anyone answer the questions?

Capt Torland Korean Hero

Capt. John P. Torland, son of a Seattle physician, was one of four F-84 jet pilots who received the Distinguished Flying Cross in Tokyo recently. The awards were made for inflicting 700 casualties on Communist forces and destroying 50 vehicles near Inje. East Central Korea.

Torland, 30, son of Dr. Torleif Torland, whose home is in Edmonds, is a veteran of the Second World War, and spent two years as a German prisoner of war. He has been in Korea about three months, his father said. The captain's wife, Mary, is living in New York.

Scandinavian American (Seattle, WA), June 4, 1951, p. 6

CHAPLAIN from page 21

at South Carolina (now Prisma Health) Baptist Hospital from 1977 to 1978, I learned how to reward myself as a form of positive reinforcement. On one occasion, I set a new, \$19 wristwatch from the local department store as a reward for accomplishing a task. Though over four decades have passed, I still remember the moment I earned that reward and how proud I felt. It seems like a small thing, but such inward motivation encourages us to do more. After you endure and achieve your goal, you can then set a new reward to be inspired to reach another goal.

In life in general, people recognize you when you achieve certain milestones. When you are promoted at work, it is accompanied by a pay raise; when achieving a higher rank in the military, you are given a new ribbon for your uniform; when you graduate at the top of your class, it is noted by a Latin honor with your degree. These recognitions that come with rewards will motivate you to do better and more in service or at work. It is so in ministry, as Apostle Paul says in Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

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-Feb	Jan 15
Mar-Apr	Mar 15
May-June	May 15
July-Aug	July 15
Sept-Oct	Sept 15
Nov-Dec	Nov 15

The 75th Ranger Regiment announces top officer Soldier for whom award is named receives MOG

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Noggle, 75th Ranger Regiment May 26, 2015

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, May 26, 2015) — The 75th Ranger Regiment announced the winners to the 2015 Col. Ralph Puckett Leadership Award, NCO of the Year, and Best Warrior of the Year, during a ceremony at Fort Benning, May 21 (Puckett recently received the Medal of Honor).

This year's Col. Ralph Puckett Leadership Award recipient was Capt. Michael Blanchard, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Blanchard, a native of Yakima, Wash., serves as an infantry officer and joined the unit in December 2013.

Blanchard competed against the top junior officers from across the Regiment for this annual award. The award is designed to recognize junior officers who have demonstrated leadership in demanding circumstances where their personal actions have clearly made a difference in the outcome of events. The competition tests core Ranger skills and the ability to think through tactical or complex problems in demanding circumstances and generate successful options.

Presenting the awards to this year's winners was retired Col. Ralph Puckett, former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. While retired Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Walker, 2nd and 3rd Ranger Battalions, served as the guest speaker.

This year's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year was Sgt. Robert Love, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the Best Warrior of the Year was Spc. Alexander Van Meter, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

The NCO and Best Warrior of the Year Competition is designed to select the Soldier and NCO who represents the best of the best, based on performance, potential and professional knowledge. These Rangers will represent the 75th Ranger Regiment in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Best Warrior competition being held at Fort Bragg, N.C. in June.



Capt. Michael Blanchard, 2015 Col. Ralph Puckett Leadership Award recipient; Sgt. Robert Love, 2015 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Spc. Alexander Van Meter, 2015 Soldier of the Year; and Sgt. 1st Class Adam Baig, recognized (L-R) (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)

Love, a native of Waco, Texas, joined the 75th Ranger Regiment in February 2009 as an infantryman. He has served with 2nd and 3rd Ranger Battalions, deploying seven times to Afghanistan.

Van Meter, a native of Lodi, Calif., completed the Ranger Assessment and Selection in February 2014. He is an infantryman and has deployed to Afghanistan this year.

"You are all great Americans and the best this country has to offer," Walker

said. "This is not the top of the mountain, this is a false hillside. Continue to push yourselves as the journey continues."

These competitors competed in an Army Physical Fitness Test, an M-4 Qualification and Stress Shoot, Common Task Testing and a day and night land navigation course on the first day. On the second day, the Rangers began with a Ranger First Responder that tests one of the Regiment's "Big Five" core compe-

Please turn to **LEADERSHIP** on page 77



Col. Ralph Puckett stands by vintage Jeep

Chapter & Department News

13 BILL CARR CHAPTER 1 [DE]

We recently received a great big ‘thank you’ from the Dover Air Force Base First Sergeants Association. Late last year we donated \$5,000 for ‘Operation Warm Heart,’ which was directed to the families of Air Force personnel living at the base. Gift cards that included food, clothing, toys and so forth were distributed to those families most in need. Overall, it was a good holiday season!



MSgt Anderson, Jack McGinley, President of Ch. 13, Msgt. McCall, Walt Koopman, Ch. 13 Programs Director, and MSgt Shannon (L-R) at “Thank You” presentation

The flag presented to us was flown over Iraq and Kuwait in Operation Inherent Resolve during the November/December 2020 period. A KC 130J Super Hercules and a MQ-9 Reaper (drone) carried the flag over both combat zones. The citation reads “KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF DELAWARE, SUSSEX COUNTY, CHAPTER 1,” for outstanding support to the nation, our veterans, and brothers and sisters in arms. The citation was signed by all Air Force personnel involved with the operation. It was a very proud day for our chapter.

For more information, please contact Jack McGinley at jom-egln@aol.com or 610-247-1207 (C)

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We held our first meeting of 2021 on April 10th, at the Springville American Legion Post 331. We did not have any meetings in 2020 due to COVID.

Our now former president, Herb Spencer, stepped down after eight years of service. We thanked Herb for his service by presenting him with a KWVA jacket.

Our new president and vice president are Curt Snitker and Dave Slaughter, respectively.

James Koenighain, Secretary/Treasurer,
319-364-3135, jkskoenighain@q.com

Former President Herb Spencer displays jacket presented to him in appreciation of his service



Jim Koenighain swears in new Ch. 99 officers President Curt Snitker (R) and Vice President Dave Slaughter (C)



Attendees at Ch. 99's first meeting in over a year



President Curt Snitker (R) and Vice President Dave Slaughter assume the leadership reins of Ch. 99

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

We attended the 55th Anniversary of the Florida Indian Heritage Association, POW WOW at the Saint Lucie County Fair Grounds. Members manned a booth and gave out Korean Gift Bags that contained masks, hand sanitizers, KWVA applications and other veteran benefits information. We also had back issues of The Graybeards to pass out to interested veterans. Three veterans expressed interested in joining our chapter.

Sculptor Eduardo Gomez explained the details of his Sculpture “38th Parallel” to our Board. Associate Member Donald Kenly donated a check for \$21,500 to Commander Harold Trieber for the purchase of the work.

We will provide the funds to build the base, install the sculpture, engrave the plaque, and purchase ceremonial coins for the dedication of the memorial, which occurred on June 12, 2021.

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



Mark Arnold, JoAnne Wilcox, Bill Arnold, Harold Trieber, Sandra Trieber, JoAnne Slater, Bob Dadiomoff, Robert Halleran, Lou DiBlasio, and Joe Wilcox of Ch. 106 (L-R) at Saint Lucie County, FL, Fair Ground



Exhibit at the Florida Indian Heritage Association, POW WOW at the Saint Lucie County Fair Grounds



Associate Member Donald Kenly of Ch 106 presents check for \$21,500 to Harold Trieber, Commander of Ch. 106, for the purchase of the “38th Parallel” sculpture

Below, sculptor Eduardo Gomez explains details of his work “38th Parallel” to Ch. 106 BOD: Joe Wilcox Vice Commander, Lou DeBlasio 2nd Vice and Bob Dadiomoff, Treasurer (L-R).



111 CPL. RICHARD A. BELL [WI]

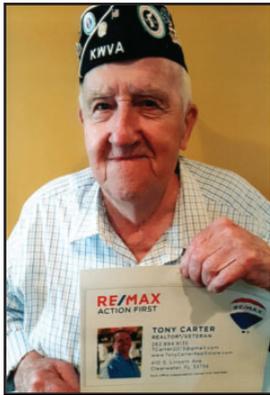
We held a May dinner meeting to celebrate the addition of two new members: Tony Carter and Chet Caine. Members also made a motion to send our annual contribution to the Honor Flight Project.



Members of Ch. 111 at May dinner meeting

Commander Norb Carter recruited his son Tony as a chapter member.

James A. Maersch, James A., 1829 Park Ave., West Bend, WI 53090, 262-338-0991



Commander Norb Carter of Ch. 111 displays son Tony's info

215 GEN. WALTON H. WALKER [TX]

The City of Arlington, Texas has announced the approval of funds for the construction of the Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans Memorial. This project, spearheaded by the Chapter 215 Memorial Committee, is expected to be completed near the end of this year. The architect's rendering illustrates the columns for the four services and the statue of the kneeling soldier.

Dave R. Moore, 2nd VP, dmoore.kwva15@outlook.com



Artist's rendering of Ch. 215's Korean War Memorial in Arlington, TX

256 NORVILLE B. FINNEY [MI]

Commander Hal Barber presented a plaque of appreciation to former commander Jim McCarthy as he recuperated in a local hospital (not from COVID).

James E. McCarthy, 2159 Parliament Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48310, 586-464-4223 jimsshop@comcast.net

Commander Hal Barber of Ch. 256 (L) presents plaque to his predecessor, Jim McCarthy



258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

During March we brought Easter cards to our Korean War veterans at the Bristol, RI, Veterans Home. Junior Vice Bob Jaworski and I attached to each card a package of the masks that were given to us from the Republic of South Korea, and we delivered them to the home the week before Easter.

In April things are finally starting to open up and we are slowly getting to be somewhat normal! We had our first breakfast board meeting in a restaurant instead of a parking lot. The meeting gave us a chance to plan for some collections and upcoming events. It was nice to be able to do something that we did before this pandemic started.



At Ch. 258's Breakfast Board Meeting: Jr. Vice Bob Jaworski, Commander Richard St. Louis, Quartermaster Charles Compton, Treasurer Al Golato, and Sr. Vice Dick Mende (L-R)



Secretary Margaret Walsh (L) with Ch. 258 Board members at breakfast meeting



Commander Richard St. Louis, Senior Vice Dick Mende, and Jr. Vice Bob Jaworski (L-R) lead long-awaited Ch. 258 meeting



Attendees at Ch. 258 April meeting



Mask-wearing members of Ch. 258 observe COVID protocols at April meeting

Our first chapter meeting was held in our home base at the Gloucester Senior Center. COVID safety protocols were followed and Commander St Louis, Dick Mende Sr. Vice and Bob Jaworski Jr. Vice led the meeting. Hopefully, this is just the first step to getting our lives back on track and more events can follow.

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

298 ALAMO [TX]

We held our first membership meeting in over a year on April 17th. This was held as a garden party at the home of chapter president and national director Tom Cacy. During the meeting seven new members signed up (three regular and four associate).

Thomas Cacy, pastorcacy8@gmail.com



Guests chow down at Ch. 298's party



Guests at Ch. 298's party

313 SHENANDOAH [VA]

Vietnam Veterans Day

On Sunday March 28, 2021, members participated in a ceremony held at the War Memorial in Middletown, VA to recognize and honor all veterans of the Vietnam War.

We were proud to have this opportunity to recognize our Vietnam War brothers who were not treated well upon their return from Vietnam. We are all pleased for them that they are finally receiving some recognition that has been long overdue.

In addition to the participants pictured nearby, other members who attended were Narce Caliva, Marshal DeHaven, Lew Ewing, Gary Fletcher, Jack Keep, Josh Morimoto, and Ron Wenger.



Members of Ch. 313 who participated in the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony were: **Bill Schwetke** – a member of the color guard, a speaker and wreath presenter; **Cathy Schwetke**, a wreath presenter; **Doug Hall**, SAR Chapter drummer; **Brett Osborn**, a member of the color guard; **Ed Ellis**, captain of the VFW Honor Guard



Members of the Winchester, VA SAR Chapter (Sons of the American Revolution) which included several chapter members, also participated in recognizing the Vietnam Veterans



We thank all of our members who attended the ceremony. Once again we were pleased to honor our Vietnam War brothers.

Paul Bombardier, pbombard@live.com

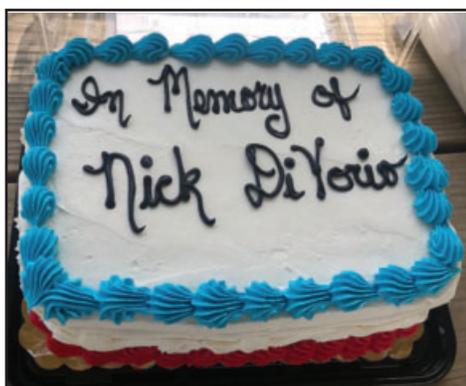
Winchester, VA SAR Chapter Drummer and Ch. 313 Secretary Doug Hall

314 WESTERN CAROLINA [NC]

On April 12 and April 14, 2021, BG Frank Blazey donated a framed 60th Anniversary poster to VFW Post 4309, Brevard, NC. Chapter Commander Michele Bretz presented it to Commander John Rogers in memory of 1st Vice Commander Nick DiYorio, who passed away January 16, 2021.



VFW Post 4309
Commander John Rogers, BG Frank Blazey Michele Bretz, and Charles Holden (L-R) attending the April 14, 2021 official presentation during the chapter meeting.



April 14, 2021: the cake donated in memory of Nick DiYorio for Ch. 314 meeting



Ch. 314 Commander Michele Bretz (L) and VFW Commander John Rogers at April 12, 2021 presentation inside VFW Post 4309. The poster displayed will be placed on the Korean Wall.

A small plaque attached read: "In memory of Nick DiYorio, USAF, Osan Jun 74 - Jun 75." On the back was attached a list of all members past to present with their dates and a copy of his memorial announcement. His memorial announcement was shared with everyone.

Nick loved his fellow veterans and asked that any donations be made to the chapter. Cake was served to all who attended. At the end of the ceremony, one member renewed with a life time membership and two members from the VFW pledged to send in theirs. Sue Myers donated handmade mug rugs, small bags, and lap quilts to those in attendance as well as to post members.

Michele Bretz, paintedneedle@aol.com

328 LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

Members attended The Association of the Republic Of Korea Army, U.S. West chapter's luncheon to congratulate their new president, Kim Bok Yoon. We received masks from our counterparts in their association.

*Joseph Wong, 2870 Gainsborough Dr.,
 San Marino, CA 91108,
 213-250-3818, joethe417@yahoo.com*



Los Angeles Korean Consul General Park Kyung Jae, KWVA Chapter 328 President Robert Son, Joseph Wong, Ch. 328 Secretary, and new president of Korean War Veterans Association of Western Region of USA President Kim Bok Yoon (L-R) at recent meeting



Joseph Wong of Ch. 328 giving a short talk about the KWVA at recent meeting



Joseph Wong of Ch. 328 displays his safety mask

Members in the NEWS



Mary Ingman, the daughter of Korean War Medal of Honor recipient Einar Ingman, volunteered to be the Location Coordinator for Wreaths Across America at the new National Veterans Cemetery, Northwoods National Cemetery, Harshaw, WI in 2020. She has re-upped for 2021.



Mary Ingman displays the insignia of Wreaths Across America



Mary Ingman “unmasked” at a 2018 Korean War History Conference



A wreath adorns the front gate of Northwoods National Cemetery, Harshaw, WI

Hugh Hickey, who was not a member of the KWVA, was featured in *Reminisce Magazine* in an article titled “Real * Life * MASH * Surgeon,” pp. 24-31. Copyright laws prevent us from reprinting more of the article here.

Thanks to John Rallis, 430 Florida Ave., Saint Cloud, FL 34769, 407-892-2411, JRallis1@cfl.rr.com, for sending us a copy of the article. He served with 8th Army, 6th Medical Depot, Young Don Po, South Korea, 1953-55.



A page from *Reminisce Magazine* re Hugh Hickey

Chinese Spring Offensive 1951: April 23-25, 1951

By (Corporal) Robert Harbula
George Company-3rd Battalion-1st Regiment (G/3/1)-1st
Marine Division

After the Chosin Reservoir battle in December 1950 the 1st Marine Division was put in reserve near Masan, South Korea to replace its numerous casualties and much of its shot-up and worn-out equipment. Only 29 of the original 220 men who landed at Inchon on 15 September answered the roll call. By the end of January 1951 it was refitted and ready for battle again.

Their division's first assignment would be to eliminate a large,



division-sized North Korean guerrilla force in the mountains around Pohang, South Korea. This turned out to be a tedious task, but it gave the Marines time to train their new replacements and get their combat legs in shape to meet the challenge of the rugged mountainous terrain in Korea.

By early March they had virtually eliminated the guerrilla threat and were ordered back into the central part of South Korea to again face the Chinese Army that was pushing deeper into South Korea. In one stretch the Marines were on the attack for 45 straight days. This meant that after humping the hills and mountains all day they

Forty-five foxholes in forty-five days is a lot of digging, but we needed this for protection against possible infantry, mortar, and/or artillery attacks. It also meant that we would have a steady diet of C-rations. There are no chow lines on the front lines of combat.

would then have to dig in for the night.

Forty-five foxholes in forty-five days is a lot of digging, but we needed this for protection against possible infantry, mortar, and/or artillery attacks. It also meant that we would have a steady diet of C-rations. There are no chow lines on the front lines of combat.

This was very dirty and exhausting work, with little time and no conditions for proper hygiene. Someone said that this had set a record for sustained combat in the Marine Corps. Record or not, we sure did stink from the perspiration and dirty uniforms, as hygiene had to take a back seat in this operation.

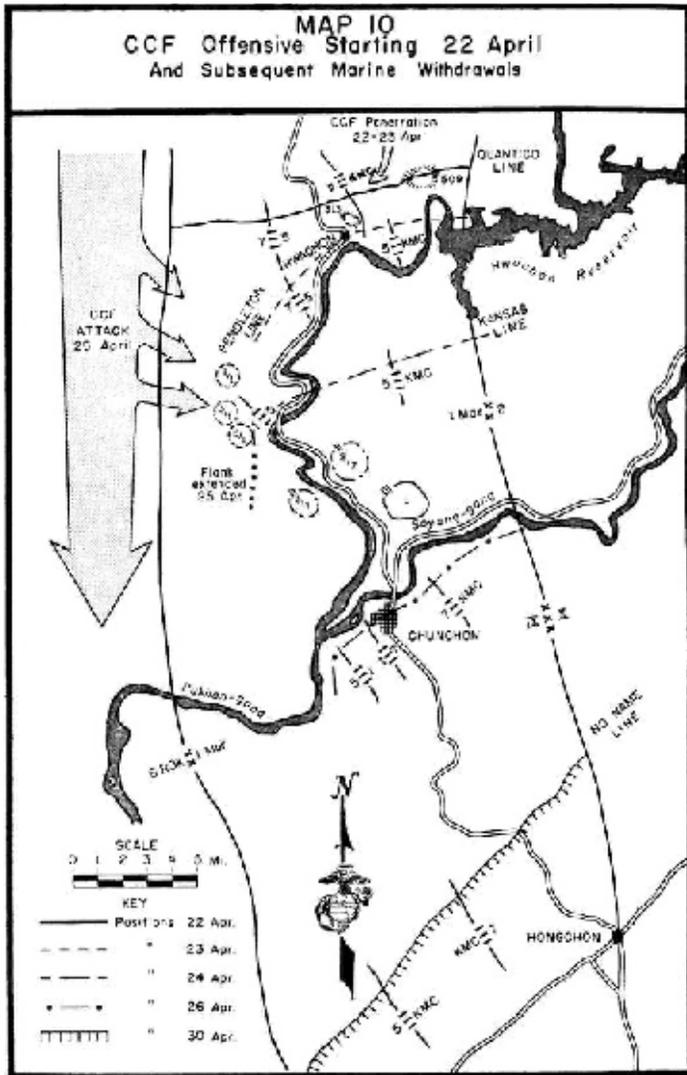
By April 1951, General Ridgway's Operations Killer and Ripper had put most of South Korea back in United Nation's hands, and we began pushing the Chinese back across the 38th Parallel. On 13 April 1951, heavy losses in officers and NCOs resulted in some unusual promotions. Sgt. Pete Dusanowski, our machine gun section leader, took command of the machine gun platoon. With my recent promotion to corporal I took over his section, a position normally led by a staff sergeant or higher.

The 5th and 7th Marines and a regiment of South Korean Marines were attacking abreast just above the Hwachon Reservoir, North Korea. The South Korean Marines were proven warfighters and patterned after the U.S. Marines. They were over-achievers and always tried to impress their counterparts. The 6th South Korean Division (ROK) was on their left flank and X Corps anchored their right.

Without warning the Chinese started their Spring Offensive on 22 April and 350,000 enemy troops hit the United Nations lines from Hwachon Reservoir in the east to Munsan-ni in the west. It stopped the UN advance in its tracks and sent some of the units reeling backward. One of the worst hit was the 6th ROK Division on the Marines' left flank. They just basically evaporated and the CCF 40th Army came pouring into the vacuum.

The Chinese probably realized that if they could get across the Pukhan River quickly there would be a good chance of encircling the 1st Marine Division that was north of it. (Map 10). It seems they didn't learn their lesson about surrounding a Marine Division as they did at the Chosin Reservoir five months earlier that resulted in their 9th Army Group getting destroyed.

Currently, the 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment was in division reserve near Chunchon. It was ordered to join the rest of the 1st Regiment to take up blocking positions to shore up the disintegrating left flank. This would enable the 5th and South Korean Marines to pull back below Chunchon and straighten out the new



defensive line.

The following fighting at locations known as Hill 902 and Horseshoe Ridge has been compared to the Marines' stand at Les Mares Farm in World War I and Bloody Ridge, Guadalcanal in World War II. (Map 11)

Hill 902 is located northwest of the city of Chunchon, South Korea. It is the dominating topography that controls all traffic across the Pukhan River via two ferries and the concrete Mojin Bridge. This is the only crossing for many miles, and whoever controls Hill 902 controls all movement in the area.

Just as G/3/1 had played a key role in the Chosin Reservoir campaign in North Korea that enabled the 5th and 7th Marines to pull back to Hagaru-ri and help preserve the Division, a similar scenario was occurring here. George Company's objective would be the key Hill 902. The Chinese also realized its importance and sent the 359th and 360th regiments against it and other 3rd Battalion positions. George Company became embroiled in a virtual foot race with the Chinese for control of this key location.

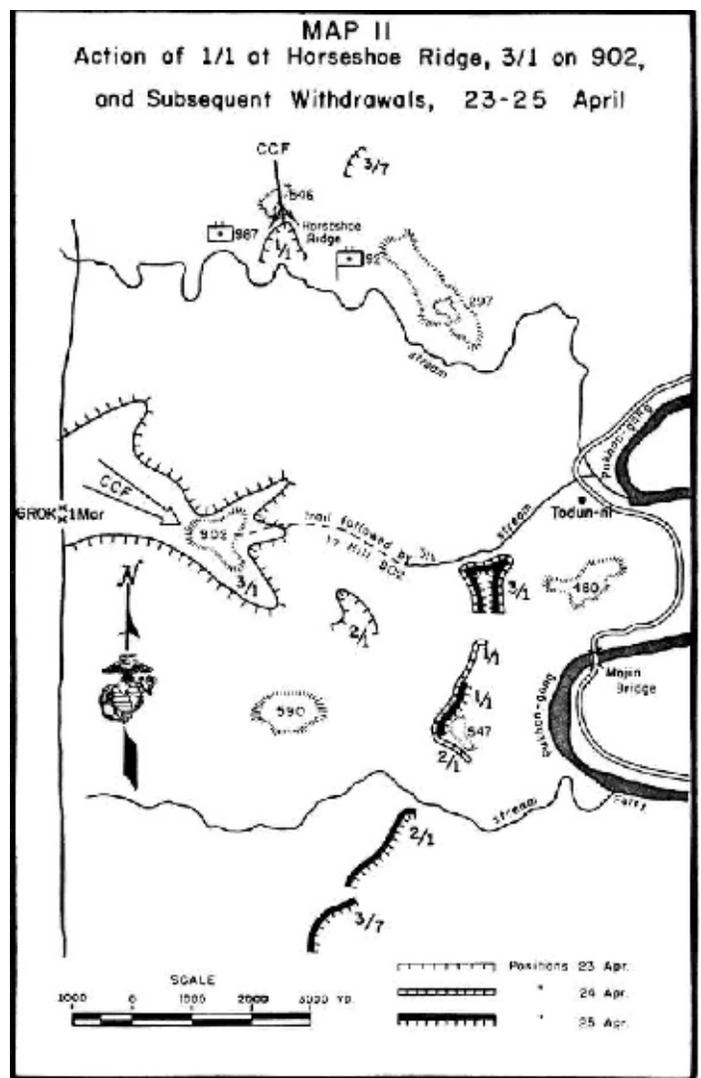
Everyone helped carry extra machine gun and mortar ammunition. The officers and NCOs prodded their men yelling, "Do you want to walk up this hill or fight your way up?" The men struggled with their heavy loads and many fell from the heat and exhaustion

trying to get to the top of this 4,000-foot mountain. George Company won the race but exhausted its water supply in doing so.

Stragglers from the arduous climb kept arriving for the next few hours. As they set up their defensive positions, they all knew that they were in for a hot time that evening. So extra care was taken and the foxholes were dug extra deep.

The 3rd platoon was assigned the crest of the hill. The 1st platoon would anchor the right flank and the 2nd platoon handled the left. A heavy 30-caliber machine gun was put in place on top of the hill along with two light 30s, while the 81mm and 60mm mortars and artillery were zeroed in for action.

A saddle ran northward from their positions to the adjoining Hill 1010. We could see and hear the Chinese starting to mass and knew this would be their main avenue of attack. Shortly after dark all hell broke loose as the Chinese regiment hit the Marine lines. They were determined to take control of the hill. Furious and frantic action took place for the next few hours all over the crest of the hill. Hand to hand fighting was occurring, and some of the Marines



used their entrenching tools, helmets and rifle butts to hold off the Chinese.

After heavy losses the Chinese broke off the attack to regroup. The Marines used this interval to remove the dead and wounded

and shore up their defenses. Dead Chinese bodies were all over the place and some had to be moved to give the machine guns a clear field of fire.

Around midnight Sgt. Dusanowski, the machine gun platoon leader, called me on the field radio. He wanted to know how many casualties we had and what our condition was. After being informed that the 1st platoon's lines had not been hit and we were out of position to participate in the battle, he gave instructions to pull one of the machine guns out of the line and reinforce the 3rd platoon on top of the hill.

After surveying the crowded crest of the hill, I spotted a small ledge directly above the heavy 30 that could hold three men and provide a good field of fire. This would put four machine guns in position for the next attack, which came about ninety minutes after the first one.

From our lofty perch we saw the enemy first and I ordered the machine gun to open fire.

The rest of the guns instantly followed suit and sent blistering fire into the enemy. With the previously sighted in 105s and mortars adding to it, the Chinese ran into a withering wall of steel that broke the back of their attack. Near daylight the Chinese again had to break off their attack to regroup.

The battle wasn't over, but George Company and the 3rd Battalion had stemmed the tide and the 5th and 7th Marines, along with the South Korean Marines, could now safely move southward across the Pukhan River and avoid any encirclement plans the Chinese may have had. They would then divert to straighten the lines and stop the Chinese main offensive.

The 3rd Platoon leader, Gunnery Sergeant Harold E. (Speedy) Wilson, was a key player in the defense of Hill 902. He was wounded five times. Two arm wounds made it impossible for him to fire a weapon. He constantly rallied and calmed his young Marines as he moved from foxhole to foxhole bringing them ammo and reassurance. He refused evacuation until the battle was well in hand. For his gallant actions that night he was awarded the Medal of Honor. No one deserved it more.

George Company was given orders to break off action and pull back across the Pukhan River. This was easier said than done. The Chinese would be breathing down their necks for the four miles to the bottom of Hill 902. In a retrograde movement the machine guns would cover each phase of the pullback. The approximately 100 dead and the wounded casualties who could not walk would be carried out first on ponchos. The hill was so steep that numerous times the Marines would lose their footing and grips and the bodies slipped off the ponchos.

The heat, the dust, and the aftermath of such a battle left an unbelievable dryness and thirst in our mouths. Most of the men had emptied their canteens on the backbreaking climb up. Seeing the cool running water of the Pukhan River in the distance only added to their thirst and misery. In previous combat engagements the Marines were able to use South Korean civilians to help supply them with water, ammo, and food. These South Koreans were older and smaller in stature than most of the Marines, but it was amazing what these people could carry on their A-frame carryall. On the race up Hill 902 they had to be left behind.

Marine air would also be on hand to help cover the withdrawal

In each of these battles they were outnumbered at least 10 to 1. George Company, along with the rest of the 1st Marine Division, received three Presidential Unit Citations in the first seven months of combat in the Korean War.

and hold back the Chinese. The ground Marines beloved blue corsairs made their strafing passes over the lines. The Chinese were so close that unfortunately a few of the planes' missiles hit the withdrawing Marines and caused some additional casualties. This, plus being showered by their extracted 50 caliber shell casings, only added to the Marines' problems.

George Company finally reached the cool refreshing waters of the Pukhan River, but at an additional price. Some Marines were later diagnosed with stomach parasites, which they believed came from foolishly drinking the water of the Pukhan.

This was the fourth time that G-3-1 had taken on the brunt of an attack by an enemy regiment during the Korean War, and they stood tall after each of these battles. Previously they were the point of the spear and led the attack up Ma Po Boulevard in Seoul. They held off a counterattack by a North Korean regiment and some tanks that first night. They also led Task Force Drysdale through thousands of Chinese in Hell Fire Valley to reinforce Hagaru-ri. The next night they held off a regiment of Chinese in the battle for East Hill at the Chosin Reservoir.

In each of these battles they were outnumbered at least 10 to 1. George Company, along with the rest of the 1st Marine Division, received three Presidential Unit Citations in the first seven months of combat in the Korean War. This battle was number three. The other two were for Inchon-Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir.

Why George Company wasn't cited for any of their heroic activities in these actions is a mystery. They certainly could have used a good PR man. Maybe the fact that they had six different company commanders in this time period is a clue?

Ironically, most Americans have never heard of these battles. For some reason they called this the forgotten war. It may be forgotten to most, but the men who fought in it will always remember. On every occasion the men of G/3/1 fought their battles with honor, dignity, and courage. One thing is for sure: the American people would have been proud of these warriors.

Some of the greatest compliments about the Marines in Korea were made by President Truman's personal observer, Major General Frank Lowe, USA. The President had lost faith in the accuracy of General MacArthur's reports, so he sent General Lowe to be his eyes and ears.

In one of Lowe's communiqués he said, "The safest place in Korea was behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight." In another he said, "The 1st Marine Division is the most efficient and courageous unit I have ever seen or heard about."

What praise—and how well earned.

(Cpl) Robert Harbula, 904 Commonwealth Ave., West Mifflin, PA 15122, 412-462-8537, bobbyjuly@yahoo.com

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Korean DMZ Veterans Filing Disability/Pension Claims

By David Rogers

Congress, Pentagon and the VA continue to disparage Korean DMZ Veterans filing legitimate disability and pension claims for exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic, tactical defoliants where Vietnam Veterans deservedly receive blanket coverage because of their 1984 Class Action lawsuit.

If you served in a hostile, combat zone during 1967 through 1992 in Korea, the Veteran must prove they served in one of the 28 “Presumptive” combat units stationed north of the Civilian Control Line (CCL) or Imjin River.

Anyone with a scintilla of military experience knows for every combat (Infantry/Armor) soldier online there are 10 or more support soldiers (Signal, Engineer, Artillery, Medical, drivers, etc.) that were armed and traveled back and forth from rear areas into combat zones and effectively became combat soldiers once they crossed the CCL.

Another dismissive fact is Congress, Pentagon and the VA, apparently out of ignorance or arrogance, ignore the nature of artillery support of infantry. In South Korea, nearly all the tactical, nuclear capable artillery and missile unit home bases were located south of the CCL within civilian populated areas; but they manned nearby operational launch/radar sites located on remote high ridges or mountain tops that were heavily defoliated with Agent Orange/Blue by U.S. Artillery, MP or ROKA forces.

A prime example is the 71st Artillery (HAWK), 38th Artillery Brigade that was home based at Camp Warner, Pobwo-ni but operated nearby at TAC 2, Site 36 (please see Google Pro imagery of the Pobwo-ni area. Another example is the 42nd Artillery (HONEST JOHN), 4th Missile Command home based out of Camp Page, Chuncheon that was operational at Maximum Security Area (MSA) 42, Camp McCullough (see recent imagery of MSA 42-Camp McCullough).

The same can be said for numerous radar technicians, Signal Corps, Engineers, Military Police, Medical evacuation heroes, and drivers of Intelligence Officers investigating the many ambushes and firefights within the DMZ or between the South Tape of the DMZ and the CCL. If you crossed the CCL, you were Infantry exposed to Agent Orange as well as North Korean infiltrators.

Between 1954-1992 approximately 3,700 hostile, armed North Korean agents have infiltrated into South Korea. Adding to this “limited warfare” is the fact that between 1955 to 1991, there were 900 tactical nuclear artillery/missile warheads in South Korea nearly every year.

All you need is common sense to understand what the capture of a “baseball to football” size nuclear artillery/missile warhead would have meant to North Korea at that time; hence, every MSA, artillery, radar, and communications facility was heavily defoliated with Agent Orange and any “support” soldier performing their security or operational jobs at these outposts were exposed to the highly toxic dioxin



Two tactical, nuclear capable missile sites near Pobwo-ni, Camp Warner

from Agent Orange or arsenic from Agent Blue. Regardless, their claims are routinely denied by the VA because they were “home based” in an urbanized rear area.

Unlike Vietnam, aerial spraying of a diluted Agent Orange (AO) was prohibited by the 1953 UN Armistice Agreement with North Korea. In Vietnam, the dilution rate was about one part AO to ten parts diesel or jet fuel to facilitate air dispersion and coverage from the C-123 spray planes.

In South Korea, there were no facilities for mixing and diluting AO for ground spraying and although 55-gallon drums of AO were readily available, diesel/jet fuel was scarce and un-obtainable. Hence, AO was applied full strength directly from the drums using “trash” pumps or back-pack “Mighty Mite” spray units.

The Agent Orange being used at that time in Korea, more likely than not, was not produced by Dow Chemical, which had lower levels of dioxin contaminants but was manufactured by Diamond Shamrock, Monsanto, or others which contained upwards to 25% more dioxin (Sills, 2014). Therefore, with the Korean DMZ Agent Orange applied at full strength, the dioxin concentration in the soils was extremely toxic in 1968-71 and still may be highly toxic.

After 50 years, similar, highly toxic conditions were recently found in Vietnam, but only where AO spilled or leaked full strength into the soil at staging and marshalling locations of U.S. air bases at Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Phu Cat, as reported by the Aspen Institute, Ford Foundation, and USAID (Son and Bailey, 2017). In addition to this recent report, the carcinogenic and highly toxic dioxin has a proven half-life in surface soils of 5 to 15 years and in shallow buried soils of 25 to 100 years as documented by a plethora of scientific studies.

In addition, any denial of Veteran’s claim because the VA is unable to document the use of Agent Orange at these rear area tactical, nuclear capable sites from the Joint Services Records Center (JSRRC) is equally questionable, in my experienced professional opinion. From numerous research efforts, particularly those relating to use of Agent Orange at tactical, nuclear capable artillery/radar sites and MSAs, I have found the records of the JSRRC woefully incom-



Heavily defoliated MSA 42-Camp McCullough near Camp Page, Chuncheon

plete and inaccurate which may be compounded by the sensitivity of the U.S. Army once having nuclear weapons in South Korea.

These records have either been destroyed or are unattainable, and to hold a Veteran's claim invalid because of this lack of information violates the intent of the governing legislation and the motto of the Veterans Administration from President Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address in 1865, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and

for his widow, and his orphan."

As a former U.S. Army Chemical Officer, an Alternative Nuclear Accident Incident Officer, and Classified Document Control Officer, who served in the Korean DMZ, the preceding statements are factual and easily documented. Any Korean DMZ Veteran facing the "delay, deny, until you die" mantra of the VA because their tactical unit was home based south of the CCL can contact me at col.lat.cavenough@gmail.com for assistance.

There is no charge for my help, but please do not waste your or my time with bogus claims. I know where many of the "nukes" were stored, maintained, and deployed as well as where tactical defoliants were or were not applied full strength in South Korea and can prove these facts.

References:

Sills, Peter, 2014, Toxic War-The Story of Agent Orange: Vanderbilt University Press, ISBN 9780826519627, 229 pgs.

Son, Le Ke, and Bailey, Charles R., 2017, From Enemies to Partners-Vietnam, the U.S. and Agent Orange: G. Anton Publishing, LLC, Chicago, IL, ISBN 9780999341308, 230 pgs.

Battle of Kapyong

A lot of thanks from a lot of people



The "United Nations 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong" ceremony at the Korean War monument in the Frank C. Gardener and Veterans Memorial at the City of Lake Alfred, Florida and the "Appreciation Dinner for the Korean War Veterans and Invited guests" at the Veterans Foreign Wars (VFW)

Post 4289 Winter Haven were held on April 23, 2021 to honor and remember Korean War veterans.

Over 100 people attended the ceremony, including Korean War veterans and their family members, other veterans, Consul General Kim Young-jun, Consulate General of Korea in Atlanta, GA, Mayor Nancy Daley, the City of Lake Alfred, FL Charlie Lake, City Commissioner, Ryan Leavenwood, City Manager, Judy Schelfo, Event Coordinator, Mayor Eugene Fultz of the City of Lake Wales, FL, Congressman Darren Soto, Mr. Taylor Sanchez, Director for Hon. Senator Rick Scott, Mr. Luis R. Laracuent, Director for Hon. Senator Rick Scott, members of the National Unification Advisory Council Miami, FL Chapter, members of the Tampa Bay Korean Cultural Association, Byron Hamilton, Vice Present of VFW Post 4289 in Winter Haven, FL, Stanley Carter, Past Post Commander of VFW Post 2420, Lake Wales, Brigadier General General (Retd) Richard Blunt, and Joseph McChristian, a grandson of General James Van Fleet.

Fox Channel 13 TV (Tampa Bay and Polk County) provided news coverage of the "United Nations 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong/Gapyeong." (<https://www.fox13news.com/news/on-anniversary-of-korean-war-battle-polk-honors-legacy-of-gen-van-fleet>)

HooJung Jones Kennedy and Major (Ret'd) Don Kennedy -Event Co-Chairs, Donald W. Kennedy, 125 Moller Way, Lakeland, FL 33813, don.kennedy008@sympatico.ca

Battle of Kapyong 70th commemoration ceremony

On Friday, April 21, ceremonies were held in Gapyeong, Korea, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong (Gapyeong) that took place over April 22-26. In that battle, troops of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, supported by American artillery and armored units fought against large enemy forces and prevented them from reaching the Chuncheon-Seoul crossroads. After the enemy was blocked American units of the U.S. 5th Regimental Combat Team attacked the enemy units and drove them northward again.

Because of Covid protocols, veterans from the overseas nations were unable to participate, except virtually, by watching the ceremony livestreamed from Gapyeong, courtesy the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and U.S. Armed Forces Television Korea, and the Mayor's Office of Gapyeong County. This report is made up of screenshots from that live broadcast.

Source: The Korean War Veteran, Internet journal for the world's Veterans of the Korean War, April 26, 2021

The Significance of the Battle of Kapyong, 22-25 April 1951

The battle was fought between UN forces—primarily Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand—and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA). It was significant not only for its outcome but for its implementation of an integrated force that set the standard for future battles in the war.

The fighting occurred during the Chinese Spring Offensive and saw the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade establish blocking positions in the Kapyong Valley, on a key route south to the capital, Seoul. The two forward battalions—the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) and 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI)—were supported by guns from the 16th Field Regiment (16 Fd Regt) of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery along with a company of US mortars and fifteen Sherman tanks.

These forces occupied positions astride the valley and hastily developed defenses. As thousands of soldiers from the Republic of Korea Army (ROK) began to withdraw through the valley, the PVA infiltrated the brigade position under the cover of darkness, and assault-

ed the Australians on Hill 504 during the evening and into the following day.

Although heavily outnumbered, the 27th Brigade held their positions into the afternoon before the Australians were finally withdrawn to positions in the rear of the brigade, with both sides having suffered heavy casualties. The PVA then turned their attention to the Canadians on Hill 677, but during a fierce night battle they were unable to dislodge them.

The fighting helped blunt the PVA offensive and the actions of the Australians and Canadians at Kapyong were important in assisting to prevent a breakthrough on the UN central front, and ultimately the capture of Seoul. The two battalions bore the brunt of the assault and stopped an entire PVA division during the hard-fought defensive battle.

The next day the PVA withdrew back up the valley, in order to regroup. Today, the battle is regarded as one of the most famous actions fought by the Australian and Canadian armies in Korea.

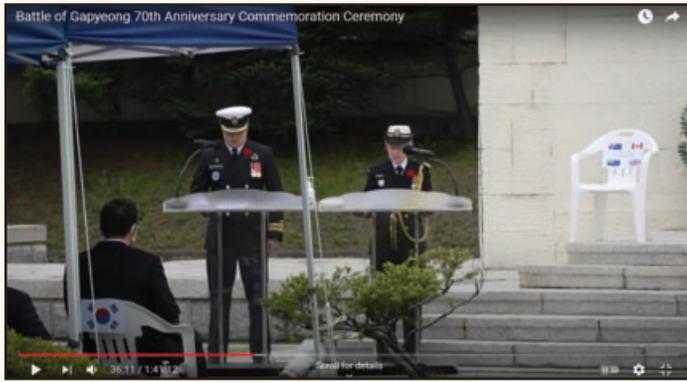


Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Hwang Ki-Chul, salutes after placing a memorial wreath at the Commonwealth Memorial Wall, commemorating the soldiers from all nations, including Korea, who fell during the battle of Kapyong 70 years ago. To the Minister Hwang's left is Vice Admiral Stuart Mayer of the Royal Australian Navy, who is serving as deputy commander of the United Nations Command. He replaced Canada's Lieutenant General Wayne Eyre, who was the first non-American to serve in that high position. General Eyre is now Canada's (acting) Chief of Defence Staff. (Yonhap News Service Photograph)



The Commonwealth Memorial Wall in the center of downtown Gapyeong honors and commemorates the armed forces from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom that served in the Battle of Kapyong in April, 1951, and blocked an enemy offensive from reaching the vital crossroads that led into Chuncheon in the West, and easterly down into Seoul, just 50 miles away. Erected in 1967, the wall is 12 meters high. A service has been held there every year in April, when Commonwealth veterans are invited to return to Korea under the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs veteran revisit program. In 2021, of course, with strict ant-Covid protocols in place, it was not possible for veterans from the overseas nations to participate.

emony held in Gapyeong, Korea



The Commonwealth Memorial Ceremony was emceed by Canadian Defense Attaché Captain Jill Marrack, who did much of the planning and coordinating for the hour-long remembrance event. She is shown, opening the ceremonies. Beside her is Lieutenant Commander Ji-Hwan Park, who is also an officer in the Royal Canadian Navy. He is serving in Korea with the United Nations Command. He interpreted the proceedings contemporaneously in Korean, for the benefit of the many Korean dignitaries who were present, and also the Korean news media. It should be noted that masks were worn at all times, and removed only when officials and special guests made official remarks that were part of the ceremony.

Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Hwang Ki-Chul, delivered a eulogy to the Commonwealth veterans who fell in the Battle of Kapyong, and appreciation for veterans from all foreign nations who came to the aid of the Republic of Korea during the war. Minister Hwang had a brilliant navy career. Prior to his ministerial appointment, he had been First Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations for the Republic of Korea Navy. The lady at the podium beside him as an official interpreter.



Vice Admiral Stuart Mayer of the Royal Australian Navy, who is the deputy commander of the United Nations Command, delivered a eulogy to the Commonwealth service personnel who had participated in the Battle of Kapyong, and expressed appreciation and condolences on behalf of the Command.

Dignitaries, including a high number of senior military officers, stand and salute for the playing of the Last Post, preceding a minute of silence in respect of those who fell in the Kapyong battle, and those who fell in all wars.



Memorial tribute wreaths were placed by Minister Hwang Ki-Chul, Gapyeong County Mayor Kim Sungki, Vice Admiral Stuart Mayer of the United Nations Command, and other dignitaries.

Colonel David A. Bolus of the United States Army, who is the Command Chaplain for the United Nations Command, delivered a brief sermon early in the proceedings, then offered a prayer before the ceremonies concluded. Behind him is Lieutenant Commander Ji-Hwan Park of Canada, who is also serving with the United Nations Command.



Canadian Defence Attache Captain Jill Marrack concludes the hour-long ceremony. Dignitaries and honored guests next went to the Australian and New Zealand memorials, located adjacent to the former positions held by the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, on the eastern side of the Gapyeong River Valley, and to the former Canadian positions that had been held by the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on the western side.



Ambassadors from five nations place wreaths at the Commonwealth Wall of Remembrance on behalf of the people of their respective countries: (L) United States Ambassador Robert J. Raptin; British Ambassador Simon Smith; New Zealand Ambassador Philip Turner; Canadian Ambassador Michael Danagher, and Australian Ambassador Catherine Raper.



Defense attaches from five nations place wreaths on behalf of the armed forces of their respective countries: (L) United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia.



Following the main ceremony, British Ambassador Simon Smith (R), and British Defence Attache Brigadier Michael Murdoch, placed wreaths at the Middlesex Regiment memorial. The 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, fought at Kapyong, alongside their sister infantry regiments in the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment, and 2nd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The Middlesex has sometimes been left out of popular accounts of the battle by fly weight would-be historians. The memorial is sited close to the Commonwealth Memorial Wall.





Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

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A049880GLYNN PETTWAY
A049899HEATHER M. REDDEN
A049920DOUGLAS A. RICE
A049887DENNIS SKAAR

A049886RICHARD THOMPSON
A049898MARIAN K. 'KAY' WALLACE
A049897RUSSELL A. WALLACE
A049879DENNIS M. WATKINS
A049884DAVE WRIGHT

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R049926KEITH B. DANIELS
LR49893WILLIAM H. LANG

FLORIDA

R049934HECTOR E. BUENO
A049915TONY L. CARTER
LR49932MARY M. FARR
R049940JOHN L. GARRETT
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A049892DONALD F. KENLY
R049914SAL MARSIGLIA
R049936GONZALEZ NELSON
R049939HENRY E. THOMPSON

GEORGIA

LR49913RONALD A. KNAUSS

ILLINOIS

A049882MICHAEL E. MANUEL
R049910RONALD J. WHITE

INDIANA

LR49928SHELBY R. HOBBS

KANSAS

R049891ASHLEE BARNHART

LOUISIANA

R049937ALVIN J. TURNER

NEVADA

R049930CHARLES W. HAYDEN
A049935AMILLIA SAUNDERS
R049938JOHNNY L. THOMAS

OREGON

A049888DALE VANDERZANDEN

PENNSYLVANIA

R049876LAWRENCE PUSZKO

TENNESSEE

LR49911FRED D. WILSON

TEXAS

R049929GARY D. BREWER
R049917EDWARD F. NICHOLS
R049924TODD M. POST
A049925HUICHONG RHOADES

UTAH

R049894MICHAEL WARTHEN

VIRGINIA

LR49912JOHN W. STEELE

WASHINGTON

A049904JESS W. SCHLOSS

WISCONSIN

R049927DONALD G. SIGMUND
A049901BARBARA J. UTKE
A049900JEFFREY L. UTKE

Evacuation from Korea in June 1950

In November 1949, my mother, myself, (Judi) age 11, sister Jere, age 9, and sister Jill, age 2, joined our father, then Lt. Col. L. H. Rockwell, in South Korea to begin a three-year tour of duty. I was so excited. We left there in the middle of a night in June 1950, and I was frightened and sad. What an amazing story.

My father had been stationed in Korea in 1945 as the Senior Advisor to the South Korean troops, and he trained and fought with them during the war. In June 1950, the North Korean planes were strafing the air field at Camp Sabingo, where we lived. We would hear sirens as we headed for the ditch that ran along the dirt road in front of our homes.

We put army blankets on all our windows and were careful not to use a lot of light at night. We were finally given a few hours notice to leave our home forever. We were allowed one suitcase per person. We layered our bodies with as many clothes as



The Rockwell family in Korea 1950

possible and used the suitcases for important papers. The base made sure that all of our animals were killed. They shot our German Shephard mix dog which made me cry all the way across Korea to the coast.

We left in the middle of the night on a Norwegian vessel holding fertilizer. It had been only partially emptied due to the time restraints. The ship was built to hold 74 people, but there were 860 American women and children aboard as we fled the country.

Water was rationed, none used for washing. My mother said one woman had to be put in a strait jacket. There were three cases of false labor pains from expecting mothers, and another woman attempted suicide. We were given a blanket and placed in one of three holds, with one spoon and one bowl.

We ate and slept there. The 600-mile trip to Japan took two 2 days and nights. When we arrived there were 400 American soldiers waiting for us. They had been standing in rain for fourteen long hours awaiting our arrival. It was quite an experience.

Incidentally, I loved Korea.

Judith Ann Rockwell McKay, 6817 Aviano Dr., Camarillo, CA 93012

My Story of Korean Service and the Spraying of

By Richard Pegg

I served with the U.S. Army Unit HQ, First Cavalry Division, A Company, 13th Signal Battalion, for 13 months from 1959–1960 on and near the DMZ. As a young soldier of 19, I had never been away from my home town.

I served from 1958 through 2000 and had several duty stations. I wore a brown uniform and brown boots, which were later dyed black. Soon I noticed that I was issued Mickey Mouse boots, a fur-hooded parka, wool trousers and top, an M-1 rifle, plus funny-looking money (it was called “MPC.”)

In 1959 I received orders to Korea. After 16 to 20 days on the troop ship USS Mann, I arrived at the Port of Incheon. We had taken the northern route past the Aleutian Islands on choppy seas. We stayed below deck in sleeping compartments on hammocks. Everyone was vomiting.

When we docked a 2-1/2 ton truck waited at the end of the gang plank. The driver took us on an hour-long ride in complete darkness to our compound. On the way I detected a peculiar smell and saw only a flicker of little fires and candlelight. Finally, I arrived at the Communications Center, A Company, 13th Signal Battalion, First Cavalry Division, Eighth Army. General Beauchamp was our commander.

The compound, surrounded by numerous hills and mountains, was located on Highway 1 near the village of Munsan. Highway 1 was the only so-called paved dirt road; the other roads were oxen paths that led past sparse villages consisting of thatched straw huts with no electricity, rice paddies, and very little vegetation to speak of.

We jumped off the trucks and were directed to a hooch “over there.” I started off into the darkness and began climbing a hill with my duffel bag and equipment in tow. I arrived covered in dirt and dust. After getting settled in my first thought was a nice shower to wash away the sweat and dirt I had endured on the hike to my quarters. I was warned to wear my boots and stay on the path of wood pallets to the showers because of spraying that had occurred earlier that day. I complied,

stripped down to my underwear, and headed to the showers.

The posted instructions were, “Turn Water On, Then Off. Soap Up. Rinse Off.” I splashed under a bit of water and lathered up. When I pulled the rope to rinse off, no water came out. (Later I found out that the water tank on the adjacent hill behind the latrine was empty, and that water was delivered only once per day.) I toweled off as best I could and walked back to my hooch, only marginally cleaner.

Showering on a cold Korean night was a challenge. You made a mad dash back to the hooch to put on clothes. As you entered the strong smell of kimchi greeted you. The KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army personnel — Republic of Korea Army) were cooking the kimchi on our pot-belly stove with our portable water. Then sometime during the night, someone would inevitably let the fire die out, so I slept with my parka on, as it sure got cold!

Eventually, I learned to like the smell and taste of kimchi, and I still try at least two or three times a year to eat some at home. They told me kimchi was made with cabbage, garlic, and peppers and other things, and put in a pot and buried in the ground ‘til it fermented.

I slept on one end of the hooch in what was called the NCO end, with a Sergeant Baldwin. The biggest part of the hooch, or hut, was occupied by nine U.S. soldiers and approximately 15 KATUSA.

Talking about food, the food was far from great, but in time, you started to like it because that was all you had. When you stood in the chow line, you could smell the grease trap hole, and you noticed that the KATUSA were always in the front of the line. I got smart and made a point of it to get to the mess area before the KATUSA. Believe me, that was hard to do, as they liked sweets and they left no sugar in the bowl.

Some of the food served included powdered eggs, usually turned green: thank God for ketchup! Then, there was always the powdered milk, but there were no fresh fruit or vegetables, although the Army did

see that we had a good meal for all the holidays, usually turkey, canned ham and fresh fruit and veggies, plus trimmings.

Slicky boys would crawl under the barbed wire fences to go through the garbage cans to get the left-over scraps and the rest would be given to Korean farmers. The problem was I couldn’t be sure that the slicky boys were not North Korean infiltrators.

When you got time off, you would venture off the compound to go in to the villages. For transportation, you either walked or got a ride; when you were lucky enough to get a jeep or any other vehicle, you had to perform motor stables in exchange, and there were no gasoline stations to pull into and say, “Fill ‘er up!”

All the gasoline and oil came in 55-gallon drums and you had to put a manual hand pump into the drum and start pumping. After we would empty the drums, we would stack them in the motor pool annex. Sometimes, during the night, some would disappear, and you would see a hole cut in the fence by slicky boys, or some locals. I was told that some drums were used to repair the body of the kimchi buses.

Slicky boys were plentiful, so you made sure everything was secured and guarded. They were scared of the 10th Turks, as the Turks were really quite mean. Guard duty was a very cold and lonely time. I made one BIG error while on guard duty one time — I had my mount detail prepared to raise the flag in the morning and everyone was tired. I went to my hooch. A short time later I was summoned by the Commander. We had raised the flag upside down, which meant distress, and I paid for that mistake!

Many times, while off duty, MPs came to the villages to order you to report back to camp or compound because of an alert. There were plenty of alerts, day and night. When you were on alert, you were trucked to your bunker and stayed there until the alert was over. Some alerts were very long and you were there rain or shine; it mostly seemed to rain all the time, and those monsoons were something else! During these alerts, I was often told that we might have to hold our positions for at least 24 hours

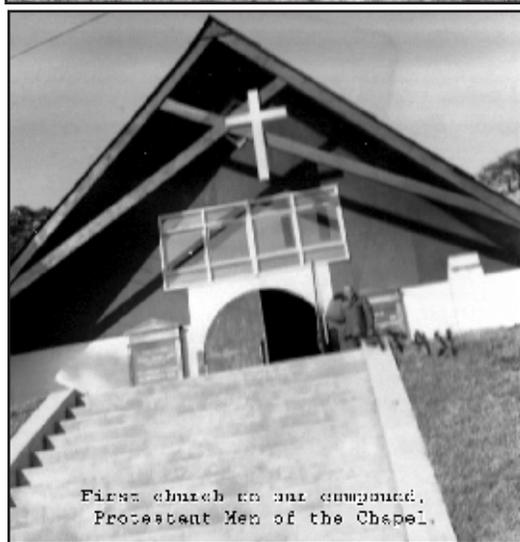
Troops



A Company 13th Signal Battalion



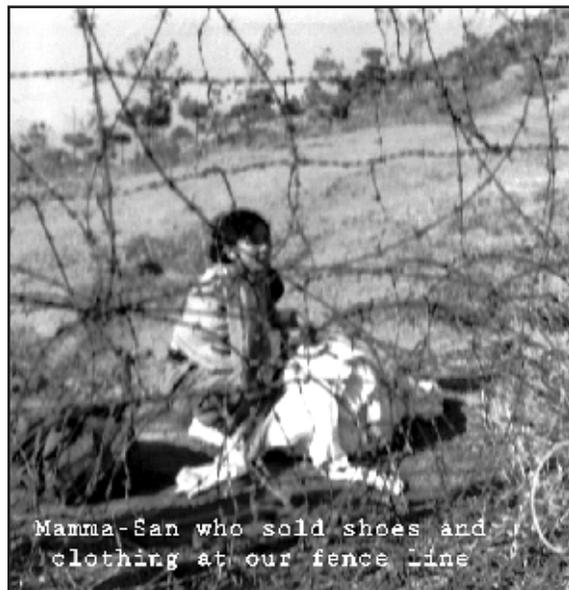
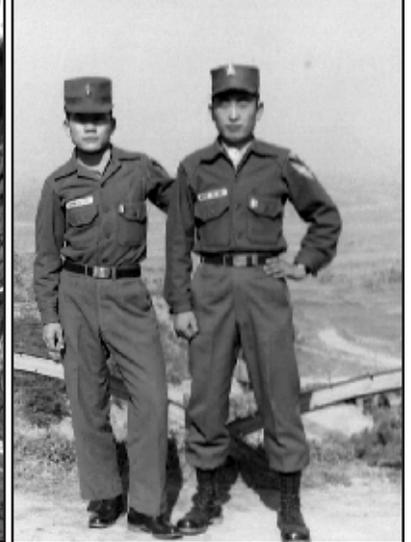
Holiday cocktails at the Kinchi stove. Bottom Row Jackson, Galls, Prull, Trauern. Middle row Mathar, Lee, Gant, Fagg, Stussler. Top row VanDyke and Bailey.



First church to our command. Protestant Men of the Chapel.



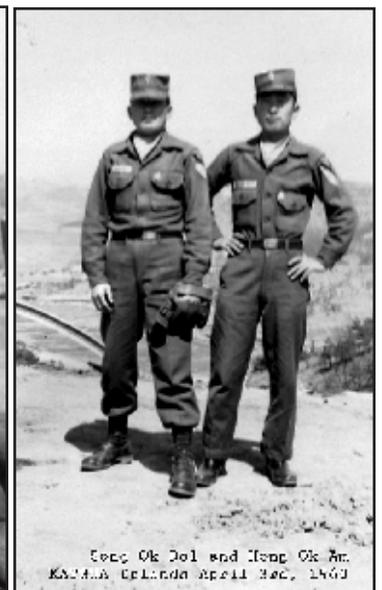
Our bunker coming off of alert



Mamma-San who sold shoes and clothing at our fence line



Korean soldiers filling sandbags



Sung Ok Jol and Jong Ok An. K.M.A. Epitaph April 26th, 1963

until reinforcements could relieve us.

Our commander, General Beauchamp, was gung-ho, and in our spare time, he had us filling sandbags, even in the rain. Finally, when the alert was over, you would start back off to one of the villages of either Musan-Ni, Pa Ju-Ri, Tae Gu, Yong Dong-Po, or Tong-Gu, which were the closest to us.

Whether walking or riding down those dirt roads, you noticed that there weren't too many trees, and very little vegetation — just hills and rice paddies — and you would see the Koreans carrying buckets on their shoulders. I later found out that they were called "Honey Buckets," which were filled with human and animal waste. These buckets would be emptied into the rice paddies for fertilizer. The waste was also used in vegetable gardens, providing nutrients for the soil.

As the sun went down, you would have to be ever so careful, because there were no lights, just a candle, or a small wood fire and smoke. The straw huts that lined both sides of the villages had dirt floors and little charcoal stoves that they put under their beds to keep warm, which were also very dangerous, as the fumes could cause death. These little stoves looked like hibachi grills. These huts had no glass in the window or door openings, just holes cut.

During the daylight hours, you would see something you knew looked sort of familiar hanging in the openings of the hooches, with bugs and flies all over it; then it would dawn on you, it was a skinned dog. I was told more than once, "Never hit a dog," while driving my jeep, because the Korean people eat dogs. It was part of their culture and way of life. I felt bad for the Korean people, because there was very little food for them to eat.

A source of amusement and challenge upon walking back to the compound in complete darkness was to avoid falling into a rice paddy or stumbling into a wall or dike surrounding a paddy. If you were unlucky enough to fall into a paddy, you wore the stench and suffered the laughter of your buddies all the way back to your hooch.

My 24-hour duty consisted of working in the communication center, using a teletype, radios, field phone and switchboard, sending and receiving messages of all pri-

orities — from Secret to Top Secret. I would encode and decode encrypted messages on a KW-9 rotor system. When not at the communication hut, you were either at the Alert bunker or communication truck/van, or kept busy with other tasks such as guard duty, filling sand bags, and running errands for the officers.

At the end of the day, Sergeant Baldwin and I had the responsibility of destroying all evidence of classified material. We emptied trash cans, retrieved teletype tape from the floor and behind the machines, and burned everything. Many files, including personnel records, were destroyed after we had forwarded the information to a higher Headquarters.

While on the compound you always kept an eye out for spraying of defoliants and mosquito repellent, trying to shelter yourself from the mist as best you could. When important messages came in — those addressed to DMZ/Panmunjom — I would place them in a pouch and drive my jeep to the 15th Aviation Company, where I would board a two-seat airplane (referred to as a Bird-dog observation plane) for a 15-minute flight to DMZ/Panmunjom. (By jeep, over dirt roads, the trip took about an hour.)

I always had to laugh when the pilot insisted that I wear a parachute; because we never flew much higher than the tree tops, I would not have been able to use it in an emergency.

"Why do I have to put on this parachute?" I asked.

"Regulations," he answered.

My stays at the DMZ lasted anywhere from a half hour to eight hours, and a few times all day and overnight.

I also delivered classified messages to the DMZ by jeep, passing by the following villages: Pujon, Tae-Song, Won-San, Mun San-Ai, Paju, Panmunjom JSA, Uijeon-Gu and Poge-Ri. In addition to villages, I traveled past all the artillery units and other types of units. The sergeant always made sure I had a loaded M-1 rifle, my .45 caliber pistol, water, and a full fuel tank.

Messages to the DMZ included reports of patrol ambushes, work party assaults, and North Korean infiltrations which often involved, in my area, tunneling by North Koreans and periodic weapon firings.

No matter where I traveled, I encoun-

tered spraying that I drove through. I washed my hands and eyes with the water I carried. Spraying usually occurred three to four times per month in any given area, but as I traveled widely delivering messages, I am sure I was sprayed more often. The spray came down as a mist from the helicopters (known as egg beaters). Every once in a while big planes conducted the spraying.

ROK soldiers participated in hand spraying, as well as scattering herbicide powder without gloves to protect their hands. The villagers would disappear into their straw huts because the rubber shoes that they wore didn't provide too much protection for their feet. You could smell the spray in the air and it would make your eyes and exposed skin burn and tingle, causing you to cough. The hotter the day, the worse the effects. Sometimes you would attempt to shield yourself with anything available, such as a poncho.

As soon as possible after the spraying stopped, people headed for the showers (assuming the water tanks weren't empty), making sure to wear their boots and stay on the path of wood pallets. We had a laundry boy, a Korean villager, wash our clothes. After experiencing the routine use of defoliants, I came to understand why there was so little vegetation. While doing some research I found out that the military had used five to six different types of herbicides during my tour of duty (1959–1960).

During my tour of Korea, two enjoyable events stand out in my mind. The first was a USO show that featured the beautiful Angie (the Legs) Dickinson. The second was my R&R trip to Tokyo, Japan. I went there during the Thanksgiving season via MAC Flights. While I was in Tokyo I called my family via radio phone. The Army operator patched through many locations to get the completed connection, which took about two hours while I waited in my room.

I remember getting lost in Ginza and stopping a beautiful geisha in her elegant colorful clothing. She spoke broken English and she invited me to stay at her family's home while I was in Japan. We enjoyed sightseeing, eating grapes, and watching a black and white very small television with snow on the screen.

When I rode public transportation I discovered that men sit while women stand.



Ok Dol and Williams
Keepling; Lee In Hi



Richard K. Pegg



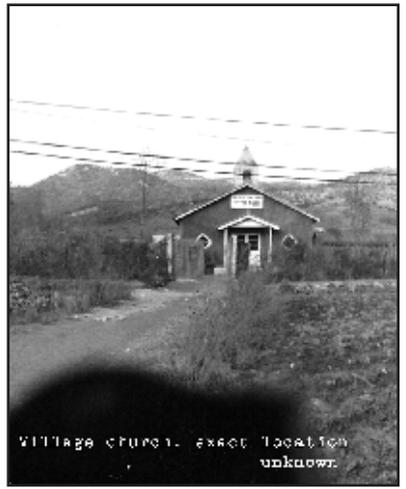
KATUSA soldier name and location
unknown



Two unknown Korean soldiers,
myself, and Sam Ok Dol



myself (Richard K. Pegg) with a
Korean family in the village of
Tong-Gu



Village church, exact location
unknown

This was against my principles. I usually offered my seat, but the women refused. Just as I was enjoying Tokyo, I had to face the reality of knowing that it was time to return to Korea.

Upon returning to Korea, I went about my duties. One day they called an alert that kept us in the bunkers for a day or so. When we arrived back at the hooches, Sergeant Baldwin came to me and said, "Pegg, you are going home." The Red Cross had received word that my father was very sick and possibly dying. All my buddies presented me with a traditional "short-timer's stick." I was loaded on a truck en route to Inchon.

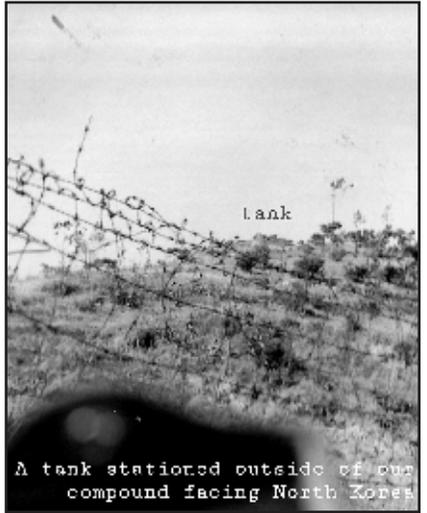
When traveling through the numerous villages, some of the Korean people were throwing stones and hitting our truck with sticks. When we got to the Seoul area, the civil disturbance got worse. We finally made it to Inchon, at which time we were informed that the



The village of Tong-Gu Kimchi
Bus

Korean people were starting the overthrow of Korean President Syngman Rhee.

At the point of debarkation, Port of Inchon Center, before I could be processed to come home we were dusted (including our duffel bags) with a white powder. Later I found out it was the



A tank stationed outside of our
compound facing North Korea

insecticide DDT. One last procedure in the process signing a paper that said I would not talk about my service in Korea.

The ship I boarded for home was none other than the USS Mann, the same troopship by which I had arrived months earlier. This time we took the southern

route home, stopping in Honolulu, Hawaii, for several days to resupply and refuel. In Hawaii I made arrangements for a long limousine to pick me up at the dock and drop me off to visit a girlfriend with whom I had corresponded while in Korea. (I had previously received a "Dear John" letter from a different girlfriend.)

The Navy food was excellent on board if you could keep the food from sliding back and forth on the counter. You stood to eat. The Marines on board guarding U.S. service men who were prisoners were tough.

"Don't look at prisoners," they warned. These servicemen had been arrested for just about anything — some went AWOL because they didn't want to serve in Korea; some even wanted to go to the North Korean side of the DMZ but were stopped.

We sunbathed on the deck and watched movies on a screen on deck. This time the ocean was calm, except when a wave three stories tall would drop down unexpectedly. The next thing I remember seeing was the Golden Gate Bridge! Then I boarded a train from California to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After several days I arrived in Pittsburgh, where my family greeted me. Thirty days later, I was reassigned to NORAD Control HQ, 18th Artillery Group, Oakdale, Pennsylvania, on a compassionate reassignment.

Being a cryptographer for the First Cavalry Division, 13th Signal Battalion, it was my duty not to talk about information contained in the classified messages and that is why I cannot reveal that portion of my tour of duty in Korea. As I explained earlier, each day after all messages were forwarded to a higher headquarters, they were destroyed in those burn barrels.

Even today I remember things, but I keep thinking of those forms I signed when processing to leave Korea. Under penalty of treason I am not authorized to disclose classified information.

One tangible fragment that remains from my service in Korea are photos taken by a soldier going through our area on April 3, 1960. Scenes in black and white captured with the 35mm Kodak feature the village and ROK soldier bud-

dies. I hope they are still living and in good shape. I have had a hard time locating them so that they can corroborate my claims. I have presented several in hopes someone will come forward and contact me.

I always wanted to return to South Korea as a civilian, but for decades the closest I got was watching the 1988 Summer Olympics via broadcast from Seoul. I finally fulfilled my desire in September 2019 when my daughter Tricia Pegg Robison and I embarked on a tour of South Korea with other U.S. veterans and their families.

I was amazed at what I saw — modern infrastructure and transportation, a thriving economy and a functional political system. It made me proud and happy to see Korean society flourishing. Everywhere we went, our hosts treated us with gratitude and honor.

I have or had several types of cancers, and I have also dealt with breathing problems, COPD, and diabetes. All those years ago, the spraying didn't concern us — we thought the Army (U.S. government) knew what they were doing, and that they would not do anything that would jeopardize our health. But, at the age of 19, I didn't give much thought to how my service in Korea would shape me into the future. Now, however, I recognize those growing experiences and I understand that adversity and challenge made me a bigger and better person.

I hope my memoir will help other veterans from South Korea, the United States, and the United Nations — especially First Sergeant Eum Do-nam of Yeoncheon County. I pray that the South Korean and United States governments realize their past errors, and grant these veterans due benefits.

It's a difficult process filing claims; I have been denied my benefits twice and I am awaiting response to this letter to file again. It is very difficult to obtain information from any government agency and harder still to find living eye witnesses from 1959-1960.

While conducting research I found out that our military had used five to six different types of herbicides during my tour of duty in Korea: DDT, arsenic, benzene, trichloroethylene (TCE), and tetrachloroethylene (PCE). Heavy metals included lead, zinc, nickel, copper, and cadmium.

YOU BE THE JUDGE

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richard.kpegg@yahoo.com

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Editor's office hours:

Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.

70th ANNIVERSARY from page 31

a perfect view.

We were informed later the purpose of the riot was to celebrate the third anniversary of the communist regime in China. The secondary purpose was to create an incident to enrage their U.N and U.S military personnel. Fortunately, no one took a picture of a cleverly made flagpole, which when raised, topped by a red-type flag, which was two feet higher than our own flagpole at the compound. Meanwhile, the "Peace Talks" continued.

With a settling down, or "normalizing," as it was called, all activities and routines were back to normal. Sometime later we were told we would be leaving; our replacements would soon be here. In about a month our group packed up and retraced our route back to the Kumwha Valley and east of the Punch Bowl. Not much had changed, except for one thing.

The Army, which integrated our personnel, had increased the number of Negro, as they were called at the time, troops with us per President Truman's 1948 executive order. Before, Negroes were not on line; they were driving trucks with supplies to us. Then three ROK troops were included in each squad. A Korean officer, who spoke English, relayed our orders. The new troops' addition only created problems if the Korean officer was gone and we needed assistance.

All in all, things seemed to work out and I found I had the necessary 21 credits to go home. In December I boarded the troopship



Don Hammond on a rest break aboard train at Pusan



West, Hammond, WO Kelly, Vereno (L-R) of the 40th Division, 224th Infantry Regiment, Company M



The train we were on before boarding a ship at Pusan



40th Division, 224th Infantry Regiment, Company M machine gun crew: Faye, Sukoloski, Libby, ? (L-R)

Marine Adder. When we arrived at Ft. Lewis our DD214s were checked for accuracy. I asked, "What happened to my promised staff sergeant promotion?"

The person I asked said, "All rank advances for units had been frozen in Korea and that is why we have a roomful of PFCs. Your promotion should have gone through, but I don't have the essential paperwork here." And, to add insult to injury, I was less than happy when I was informed I was still in the reserve for five years before final discharge.

My wife looked at me as we were leaving and said, "I sort of thought you would be happy coming home."

Enough said.

Donald Hammond, 22424 Birchwood Loop Rd. Apt 210, Chugiak, AK 99567, 907-222-4985, 909-224-9054 (Cell)



40th Division, 224th Infantry Regiment, Company M machine gun crew: Vereno, Faye, Hammond (L-R)

Memories of the Walker twins

By Dale Walker

My twin brother Doug and I were medics at Camp Casey in 1967, with Med. Co., HHC, 2nd Bn., 31st Inf., 7th Inf. Div. We, along with other medics, completed the Expert Field Medical Badge testing referred to in the nearby article, but we did not earn badges. This was a different testing.

We attended a retreat at the 8th Army Retreat Center in Seoul, March 20-24, 1967. That was the same year three of our battalion comrades from Bravo Company, PSG Phillip Boudreaux, PFC Jerry Skaggs, and PFC Donald Czaplicki, were killed by North Korean troops during an ambush on the DMZ. Seventeen other U.S. troops from Bravo Company were injured.

Dale Walker, 2430 Whitney Ave., Ontario, OH 44906



Med Co., HHC, 2nd Bn., 31st Inf., 7th Inf. Div., Camp Casey, "Needle Pushers Party:" (Front, L-R) Dale Walker, Sgt. "Pancho" Muniz, SP/4 Anderson, Capt. Haralson (with guitar), SP/4 Santos, SP/4 Manpin (Standing, L-R) Elizondo, Sgt. Toisson, SP Scharlb, Beres, Doug Walker (Center), and others



2nd Bn., 31st Inf. Camp Casey troops and Tongduchon Methodist Church Fellowship Group: Miss Cho, church and 2nd Bn, organist (Front, 3rd from left), with choir ladies. (2nd Row), 3rd from left, Bn. Chaplain Capt. Hunt, 10th from left, Bn. Commander LTC Frederick Best. (3rd Row) 4th from left, Dale Walker, 6th from left, Doug Walker



A four-man team of field medical officers from the 7th Medical Bn. evacuate a simulated casualty in the Expert Field Medical Badge testing. Of the 70 men taking the test, at Camp Casey, about one third passed the exam and received the award. (USA)

OCTOBER 1967 25 Gain Badges As Expert Medics

CAMP CASEY, Korea (IO)—The Expert Field Medical Badge was presented to 25 members of the 7th Medical Bn. as testing at Bayona Field came to an end Friday.

The badge, a silver medical caduceus engraved on a silver sashette, is awarded in a medic displaying superior knowledge in all phases of field medical care. The candidate must also possess a knowledge of basic military procedures in such fields as map reading, military courtesy, communications and military intelligence.

Of the 70 men taking the 20-hour test, 11 officers and 74 enlisted men scored at least 50 out of a possible 100 points on each of the 11 phases of the exam.

To qualify a candidate was required to possess an American Medical Service MOS, complete a 12-mile forced road march in three hours wearing full field gear, and obtain 250 or more points on a physical combat proficiency test.

The hand grenade throw, normally a part of the PCPT test, was replaced by a rugged litter obstacle course for the purpose of the EMB exam. A four-man team of medics had to carry a casualty through a barbed wire entanglement, up 32 steps, over ditches, and down a steep slope which was studded with two-foot drop-offs. The medic was tested on physical endurance and the methods he used in insuring the safety of the casualty.

At the transportation of the sick and wounded station, the candidates evacuated casualties by means of a helicopter. They were graded on the handling of the patient and how smoothly he was placed in the aircraft.

When asked about the purpose of the testing Malloy commented, "The purpose of the award is to examine the capability of a medic in field medical activities. The test also qualifies a man as an expert in his field."

The newspaper article explaining the testing the Walker brothers completed

Three Korean Folk Lore Writings



PFC Dale B. Walker
US 51873713
HHC 2nd Bn. 31st Inf.
APO San Francisco, 96207



1
Amid the mountain screen,
Against the wintry white,
Only two will remain evergreen,
You as the bamboo, I as the pine.
When the chilly winds sway
Other trees leafless and bare,
Who will not envy us and say
That we are an ideal pair?

2
High as the sky,
Wide as the earth,
My love will reach,
Time may dry the sea,
Or turn rocks into ashes,
But my love will never change.
Heaven, earth, and deity.
All unite and testify
This oath of mine.

3
The cloth lost by a lady fair
A lucky man did come to bless,
But only by heaven's help and care
Can eternal dream be actual bliss
From Ji Nonp Yong

4
Imperfect is the stream that has no rock,
So is she who has beauty but no devotion;
Choon Eyang, my dear shall I compare thee
To the charming harmony of nature's horn?

Folk lore presented to Dale Walker by a KATUSA friend at Camp Casey. The author is unknown.

Infinitely high and fathomlessly deep the ambition of a great man is recognized even by Heaven:

Ten thousand things are bred with mother's tender care, the compassionate Earth;

When the vernal breeze softly fans the drizzling rain, swallows from the south migrate with wings silver Grey;

Over the endless field of Gimze the autumn winds pass, making the rice stalks dance, their caps golden Yellow;

Parents above us, children below us, love between us—home, sweet Home;

Amid the space of ten thousand leagues lives of billion sorts originate, this mysterious Universe;

The blue waters of the north sea extend themselves and touch the sky, the immeasurable Wideness;

Trust not the pleasures of the world, because they all lead to vain Glory;

The contact of the lips, yours and mine, is indeed the heaven-Made Rule;

Wines held by golden cups
Are the blood of the poor;
Foods spread on jade tables
Are also their fat and flesh.

As the burning candle drips
Fear of the oppressed falls;
And where the sweet song sounds:
The curses of the people arise.



8th Army members at a 1967 retreat. Doug is in the center row, 3rd from left. Dale is in the same row, 5th from left.

The Korean War's fast fading lessons

By George Bjotvedt

By the end of 1951, the mobile Korean conflict had degenerated into fixed trench warfare which had its own peculiar dangers. The days could be filled with a blue sky and the nights could be filled with an impenetrable darkness. Then, there were some nights that were punctuated with the sound of incoming mortar rounds. If the mortar explosions failed to kill you, there

could be the quick and silent cut to the throat while you slept.

The long, thin trench line grew out of a temporary 30-day ceasefire signed in November which established what became known as the main line of resistance (MLR), now filled in by Mother Nature. But, in the past, America's Marines and Soldiers who held the line did so with solemn duty and resolute commitment to country. From that November on, frozen in dirt, the war became a stalemate for nearly two years. In that trench, which was free of segregation, there would be no markers for the men who served and died in it.

The reversion to trench warfare had its genesis after the terrific mauling of the communists due to their reliance on waves of mass troops and the strategic cutting of their supply line. The communists no longer could sustain the slaughter of their fighting soldiers and the lack of military logistics. Time was necessary to regroup.

The Chinese were gifted a proposal on 27 November, 1951, which was for all intents and purposes a breather. The proposal gave the communists a 30-day certainty that the UN would not mount a major offensive if they agreed to an armistice by 27 December. No agreement for an armistice was forthcoming. Was something lost in the translation?

Wasn't the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) commander Lin Piao a man of his word? The Washington-inspired document was a joke. The time and location gave the communists an opportunity to commence the digging and tunneling into the high mountains for what would become their defensive line. Those were the very mountains that the UN high command had abandoned as impossible to fortify and supply. As a result, opposing lines were very different. The Chinese had a deep and well-hidden line unseen from the air and ground, whereas the UN had an exposed and shallow frontal slope trench.

That December I had received my orders transferring me to the Far East Command, a euphemism for Korea. It was on 20 July 1952 that I experienced firsthand the egregious UN decision not to encompass and fortify the high mountains along the 155-mile contact line.

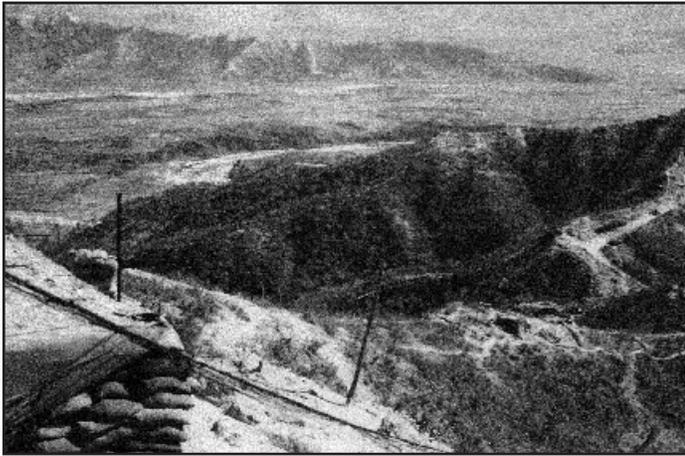
It happened as I was on my way to the front. My driver gunned the jeep's engine at a hill crest, sending the jeep airborne as we descended down a curved dirt road into a long narrow valley. At a distance was a dominant high mountain dubbed by the GIs "POP-a-SAN." At the bottom, the valley was littered with hundreds of wrecked and burnt out vehicles, attesting to the pinpoint accuracy of the Chinese artillery. On his return trip back to the regiment, the jeep took a direct hit, destroying the jeep and killing the driver. I don't recall his name. But he was scheduled to rotate home to Puerto Rico in two weeks.

Aside from the distinct advantage of their high ground, circumstances had drastically changed in favor of the Chinese. They had restored their depleted men and equipment and were not in the mood for a cease fire. But, their appearance at the peace talks gave the impression they were serious. They were showmen at play.

The North Korean and Chinese delegation in their immaculate uniforms would always occupy seats that faced south on high chairs across from the UN delegation, which sat in much lower



An abandoned gun emplacement during the mobile phase of the Korean War



From the MLR across "No Man's Land" to the Chinese defense line



4.2 mortar rounds striking the center portion of the Chinese front line in the Chorwon Valley

chairs. The combined communist peace representatives presented themselves as the victors.

The de facto cease fire caused the UN forces to lose their superior military prowess on the ground. At the time, the crucial lesson was apparently lost in negotiating with the communists. It was no secret that the key was to have military pressure at the ready to deploy if the UN terms were not met. The Chinese clearly understood military superiority.

Other lessons would surface during the "peace" talks, namely recriminations and prevarications of the submitted names of UN

prisoners of war. Their list was short, with over 53,000 names. The explanation was that the South Koreans were allowed to go home and that the missing UN personnel named had been killed by air raids. The response was absurd and lacked any semblance of credibility. But there arose a bigger problem for the communists: a large number of their soldiers did not want to be repatriated.

The question of repatriation recessed the talks in October 1952. Before the postponement the Chinese had acquired their favorite inherent mode of negotiating, the element of time. It had served them well in their Long March after being defeated by the Nationalists in China's civil war. They used that summer and fall to engage in a series of battles against outposts all along the MLR. In my sector, horrific battles took place, chiefly against outposts "Old Baldy" and "Kelley." The persistence of these attacks made good copy in America's newspapers. There were signs that the public was developing war-weariness amid a bit of psychological warfare.

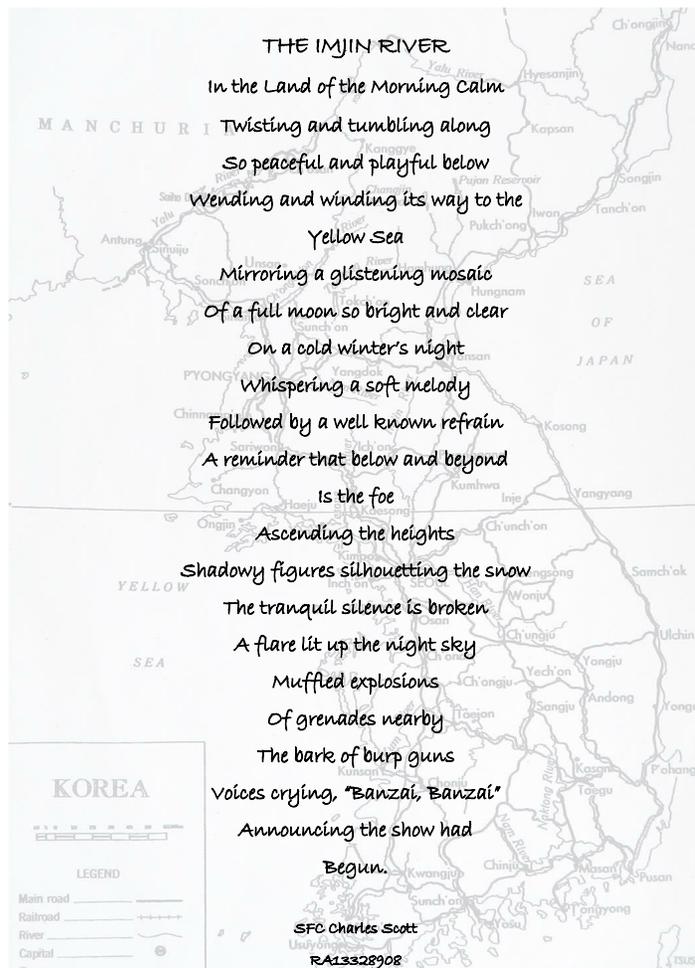
By the spring of 1953 our sector was still experiencing the winter fighting lull. Even our ambush patrols were returning without any casualties. General Eisenhower had been elected President that past November. President Eisenhower was no stranger to getting tough surrender terms. He reasoned, correctly, that the communists were using the talks as a propaganda ploy for world consumption. Also, he knew how to orchestrate his words into clear and no nonsense sentences.

In the case of the communist Chinese, he made it known that there would be no U.S. restraint on the Nationalist Chinese forces on Formosa from attacking mainland China. Even more devastating, he introduced the possibility of the employment of nuclear weapons. Facing his resolve, in combination with the death of Stalin in March, the communists reconsidered their options. They agreed to exchange sick and wounded prisoners. The swap took place from 20 April through 3 May.

Throughout the stalemate the Chinese, especially, were outstanding in playing the game of chicken. They were not interested in a cease fire unless they dictated the terms. The UN forces had ceded any meaningful repercussions for the failure of the communists to commit to a cease fire. The 30-day certainty gave the Chinese time to match and even surpass the military forces of the UN. They were experts in mounting lies to cover up unfavorable events, performed distractions to lessen the issue of repatriation, and finally refused to honor any armistice agreements. Even after the confluence of Eisenhower's military options and Stalin's death, the Chinese maintained aggressive attacks until the final armistice was signed on 27 July 1953.

They chipped away at the provisions and requirements of any proposed document agreement. They didn't hesitate to breach any signed document. Today, the need is to remember these lessons gleaned from the Korean War which resonate in our current negotiations with communist countries in many dispersed regions of the world. Surprisingly, their individual mantra is all the same.

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Surviving the 1951 Chinese Spring Offensive

Something BIG started 22 April 1951. It was the Chinese spring offensive

By William Edward Alli

Like nearly all their assaults, it was launched at night across much of the 175-mile Korean front line. The heaviest attacks were on our East-Central front. I remember a lot of noise from distant artillery and watching our Marine Corsairs with their unique, inverted gull wings swoop low to attack the Chinese. A lot of men were moving about from one hill to another, attacking or defending. The highlight for me would be the dramatic nighttime crossing of the Pukhan River.

Initially, our 2nd Battalion was in reserve position, while the regiment's 1st and 3rd Battalions were on the line, sometimes trying to repel enemy assaults, at other times attempting to seize positions. On 24 April some of us 2/1 men were sent along the ridgeline to help carry wounded 3/1 Marines back to the BAS on stretchers. I was with three other men carrying a stretcher and we looked back over our shoulders to see a Marine Corsair making a lazy, wide turn and then coming in our direction. It looked like the pilot was going to strafe us.

We got ready to scatter for protection and I rapidly told the

wounded man "We're going to set you down because that plane is coming in our direction. We'll come back for you as soon as we can."

We set him down about ten or twelve feet below the crest, ran a short distance away, and hit the ground. At the last-minute, the pilot must have spotted the bright-colored ground panels used to identify our forces' location because he suddenly veer ed off; we were safe!

We went back to the stretcher and carried the wounded man to the aid station. Until that incident, it had not occurred to my immature mind that my demise in this war might come at the hands of our own forces, so-called "friendly fire."

The near mistake by the Corsair pilot was quite understandable. The fighting was causing turmoil as the Chinese swarmed toward us, coming down the same ridge that we were on. They were attacking 3/1 all the way back; it was truly a fighting withdrawal by our Marines.

Unaware of the huge and complex drama that I was a part of, I was simply moving along without thinking what would happen next. True, there was more noise from artillery and small-arms fire, plus the usual chores, digging foxholes and serving on watch at night. But I didn't realize the full extent of the grave danger to the entire 1st Marine Division. Nor did I realize that a successful withdrawal is one of the most difficult of military operations.

Decades later, I read the official history of U.S. Marine operations in Korea and its calm and skimpy description of those dramatic spring days:

"It was decided that four infantry battalions—1/1, 2/1, 3/5, and 3/7—were to take positions on the west bank of the Pukhan to protect the Mojin Bridge and ferry sites while the other units crossed. The execution of the plan went smoothly, without enemy interference. After all other Marine troops were on the east side, 3/7 disengaged last of all and forwarded the chest-deep stream as a prelude to hiking to Chunchon."

No grand opera stage performance nor wide-screen movie can capture the drama and excitement of that river crossing, 26 April. It was nighttime and we were moving down a steep slope toward the river. We were quiet, tired, and tense. I must not slip going downhill, I thought. Yet all of us had to stay close enough to maintain contact with each other in the darkness and move in the right direction.

Downward we continued, until we reached the riverbank. Artillery was pounding in the distance. The engineers were setting off huge explosions of our ammo and fuel dumps to prevent their capture. The noises thundered through the hills and the fires lit up the sky. An airplane droned overhead, dropping parachute flares to light up the river-crossing area. Close by, amphibious vehicles ("ducks") were carrying our wounded, along with some light equipment and their crews, across the river.

Many men were gathering at the shore. I could see crossed poles near the river's edge; our column was streaming toward them. A cable had been stretched across the river, anchored on each side by those poles. Thank God for the work of the Marine engineers.

Word came down the line, "We're crossing the river, hang onto the cable, hold your equipment up out of the water, keep moving and help the other guys." Then we went down the steep bank, holding onto the cable with one hand. Somehow I was able to swing one

of the ammo cans over to the other side, next to the other ammo can, and lift both of them high up against my chest, close to my throat.

Like most mountain rivers in early spring, the Pukhan had a strong current and cold water. I stepped forward and quickly sank up to my crotch. My scrotum shrank immediately; most of it was pulled up into my torso, something that evolution had produced to protect males. Extreme fear causes the same reaction, as I would learn on Hill 676 in June.

The official account refers to “the chest-deep stream.” That was true for me (being five-foot ten inches tall) and most of the others; for the short guys it was disturbingly deeper. They had to bob along, especially midway, where the river was deepest. Men next to them had to grab them, lest they sink with their weighty and cumbersome loads.

We reached the other side, let go of the cable, and clambered up the bank to a road. Each of us stopped briefly to take off our boots and empty out water and then continue walking, soaked, at least from the chest downward. We would gradually dry out as we moved southward through the night, toward Ch’un ch’ôn.

We were not alone on the road. Korean refugees were also southbound, lugging their meager belongings on their backs. One of our ammo carriers, a sturdy man about 5'9" tall, deliberately bumped into a Korean man, knocking him down.

“What the hell did you do that for, Lester,” somebody called out.

Lester Thiwman (fictional name) answered, in his distinctive

Massachusetts dialect, “I’m just pist off!”

Another Marine reproached him: “That’s no damn reason to do that, Lester !”

We kept moving along; by now we were south of the Thirty-eighth Parallel. Nobody was talking much, yet all of us must have known that we would be going back north in just a few weeks. And how bloody would that be?

The best characterization of our Division’s accomplishments is found in a letter from our magnificent General, O. P. Smith. He wrote:

“The unit commanders and staff of the Division deserve great credit for the manner in which they planned and conducted the operations which resulted in blunting the Chinese counteroffensive in our area. In my opinion, it was the most professional job performed by the Division, while it was under my command.”

I read the General’s words some sixty years later, as I was doing research for my Korean War memoir. I blurted out, “I was there! God bless you, General Smith, and all the other Marines who I served with, wherever you may be!”

Amen.

Adapted from Too Young for a Forgettable War: Second Edition; Copyrighted 2012 by William Edward Alli; Published by Amazon (CreateSpace/Kindle).

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All in a day’s work

By Robert Young

I served with 7 InfDiv, 17 Inf, 1st Bn. B Co, 1950-51. In July 1950 we assembled at Mount Fuji Base Camp, Japan. Our ten-man squad included six new South Korean civilian recruits who did not speak English at all and were practically unarmed. Even by the time we arrived in Korea our Korean civilian recruit soldiers had not been issued any rifles or arms.

Two other squad members were U.S. Soldiers who spent time in the U.S. “Big Eight” Prison in Japan. I was ordered to be the leader of this squad, because my veteran squad leader went AWOL in Mount Fuji, Japan before we left for Korea.

We were shipped out from Mount Fuji, Japan to Korea. We spent over five weeks aboard a Navy troopship before arriving in time for the successful invasion landing at Inchon, Korea. We offered a lot of thanks to the U.S. Navy battleship USS Missouri (BB-63) for blasting Port Chongin in North Korea and for watching over us during the surprise invasion of Inchon. One night, during a patrol on the Han River, I tested the depth of the water and got a low back injury because of the wet rock.

During the winter of October, 1950, we moved up to Iwon, North Korea, traveling by tanks, trains, foot... We were hiking with lots of mortar rounds dropping on our squad daily. We never even had winter clothes or boots. Our first battle was supposed to be a 24-hour night patrol on one of the high-

est frost mountains in Cho-I-Won, North Korea. We were caught in a mortar round crossfire and ambushed by North Korean soldiers.

On the second day of my time as a squad leader in Korea, I rescued my assistant platoon sergeant, who was blinded in both eyes in an open fire area. At one point, I got hit on my left leg by a mortar round fired by North Korean soldiers. We had also

captured three Chinese soldiers that week while on patrol. On the fourth day, we were rescued by our own U.S. troops.

Then, in November 1950, I and other soldiers were flown out of North Korea by a U.S. Air Force cargo plane to the 35th Hospital in Kyoto, Japan. I had acquired Hepatitis Jaundice, an inflammation of the liver. I met a lot of fellow servicemen who caught Hepatitis while in combat.



Robert K. C. Young in Korea

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THE COST OF FREEDOM

By Curtis M. Pilgrim

Except for the American Civil War (War of the Rebellion), Korea was the bloodiest war in United States history in terms of percent of casualties of those engaged: 8.1% of those deployed died in Korea; 6.7% in WWII; 5.7% in WWI; and 3.1% in Vietnam.

During the 37 months and 2 days of continuous combat comprising the Korean War, the U.S. suffered a total of 54,246 deaths, of whom 33,651 were killed in action. 8,177 were declared Missing in Action; (Dead, plus 'missing and presumed dead,' totaled 62,423.) 103,284 Americans suffered wounds serious enough to require hospitalization. 7,140 Americans became Prisoners of War, of whom 51% (3,641) died in prison camps as a result of wounds, disease, starvation, exposure, and brutality.

The U.S. Army suffered a total of 37,133 deaths from all causes during the war, and 77,596 wounded; 8,196 of the total 33,651 U.S. Battlefield Deaths (27,728) were suffered by the Army. The U.S. Marine Corps lost 4,004 men killed in action. The U.S. Air Force suffered 7,084 deaths. The U. S. Navy had 4,501 deaths. The U.S. Air Force and Navy lost more than 2,000 planes. 82 U.S. Navy ships were hit: 5 were sunk, including 4 minesweepers.

Although 120,000 American women served on active duty during the Korean War, they were forbidden to serve within Korea (a combat zone/battlefield). However, 12 Navy nurses, 1 Army nurse, and 1 Air Force nurse were killed in action. Four other women died non-hostile deaths.

132 American service members were awarded Medals of Honor for extraordinary heroism in battles of the Korean War—95 of them posthumously.** Total United Nations Command casualties reached more than 550,000, including 95,000 dead. More than 53,000 Republic of Korea and other U.N. troops (including 8,195 Americans) are still classified as being "Missing In Action," the majority murdered by the North Korean Peoples Army after they surrendered (or were found wounded), or died in North Korean death camps for POWs without ever having been recorded.

** According to official figures there were 145 MOHs awarded during the Korean War: US Air Force – 4; US Army – 92; US Marine Corps – 42; US Navy – 7

South Korean casualties (both military and civilian) totaled 1,037,000. Twenty-two nations composed the first United Nations combined force. The other twenty United Nations countries suffered a composite total of 3,640 deaths, 1,662 missing, 1,115 captured by the enemy, and 11,096 wounded during the war.

North Korea and China incurred an estimated 1,500,000 troops killed in action (of whom 900,000 were Chinese) and 1,000,000 wounded in action. The war to stop communist aggression cost the United States over \$30 billion, more than the entire cost of World War One. (Source for cost: <https://www.thebal->

[ance.com/korean-war-facts-definition-costs-and-timeline-4153091](https://www.thebalance.com/korean-war-facts-definition-costs-and-timeline-4153091))

The Korean War was America's first "Limited War. That is, although we had the atomic bomb and atomic cannon, and could have used them, we chose not to. Also, if we had continued the war into Mongolia and China, it would have been World War Three, with the Soviet Union using its nuclear capability against the United States and the rest of the Free World. Again, we chose not to.

The Free World achieved its original stated aims by thwarting Communist attempts by force to unify the Republic of Korea and North Korea under a communist dictatorship, and to enslave the South Korean people. The Cease Fire Agreement of 27 July 1953 is still holding 70 years later!

Since the signing of that agreement and the cessation of battle in Korea at 2200 hours on 27 July 1953, no communist country has attacked another country again! We Americans, and the other free countries of NATO, taught them a lesson they have never forgotten!!!

Although the Korean War was unpopular at home, its economic and human costs were great, and it ended in the signing of a "Cease Fire"/"Armistice," and not a "Surrender Agreement/Peace Treaty." The proof of its value is easily seen after seventy years. South Korea emerged from the war to become the 10th-largest economy in the world. It is the United States' seventh largest trading partner, and the tenth greatest importer of agricultural products from the United States.

The South Korean people enjoy great personal freedom and prosperity, while across the world's most heavily armed border to the north, communist North Korea is a belligerent, militant, and miserable nation of deprivation and starvation at odds with the rest of the world. This is the result of President Harry S. Truman's quick reaction to the blatant aggression against a peaceful and weak nation on 25 June 1950.

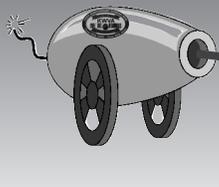
The steadfast defense of South Korea by 22 countries of the world, despite heavy losses and great costs, demonstrated to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and North Korea that communist aggression would not be tolerated by the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

Strong, unwavering resistance worked! And the grateful citizens of South Korea have been, and are, unceasingly thankful, especially to America's military veterans who bore the brunt of their defense.

Curtis M. Pilgrim, 15492 Argo Fay Rte., Thomson, IL 61285



Curtis Pilgrim



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.

Comments and clarifications re Fr. Kapaun article in the March/April issue

The article "Father Kapaun returns home" in the March/April issue, pp. 14-15, was excellent, except for a few imprecise comments in the section by Abbot Polan. Since I lived with Father in POW camps, I am providing a few more precise facts.

Father Kapaun's participation in a two-week death march after capture was to have ended at the planned POW Camp when his group arrived at Pyoktong. On arrival his entire group was placed on a hillside where they watched Pyoktong firebombed by American aircraft.

They were then marched about ten miles back to the valley of Sim Boc Tu, which later became known as "Happy Valley" or "Kapaun Valley." There, for almost two months, he began to steal and distribute desperately needed food, escaping past guards at the officer's compound at the end of the valley to do so.

It was the spirit of loyalty to his God, his country, and his fellow prisoners, as well as the resistance of the captors and commitment to survival, that he instilled by his visits to each GI hut along the valley trail that was so important to their survival. This directly compares with the death rate that was almost an order of magnitude higher during the same period under the same conditions in the two other valley prisons: Mining Camp and Death Valley.

This was one of the coldest Korean winters, with the temperatures nominally 20 to 40 degrees below zero, and most of the prisoners wore summer clothes. (We had won the war, defeating the North Korean Army, and were returning to Japan for Thanksgiving). A meager ration of 500 grams of millet (bird seed) occasionally including cracked corn, neither of which our systems were adapted to digest, was our food ration. Under these conditions, well over half of the some 2,500 POWs died; many of the thousand or so of us who survived owe our lives to Father Kapaun. And many of those who died, died a happier death because of him.

By the end of January 1951 the ChiComs had put Pyoktong back together enough to consolidate the POWs there. We marched back there from Kapaun Valley and were joined by the POWs from the other two valleys. Conditions showed little improvement there under the ChiCom administration, which took over from the North Koreans and the death rate continued. Father Kapaun would again sneak past the guards at the officers' compound at the top of the valley and pop into the GI huts along

the road down towards the Yalu River.

Indeed, he volunteered for the burial detail (a brutal march to an island in the frozen Yalu) where he would take the clothes of the dead before covering them in a grave scratched out in the ice by an entrenching tool. He would then wash the clothes and distribute them to the living in his dangerous, nightly rounds, along with any food he might have, a puff on his pipe using some weed he had dried, cheer them up, say a prayer, and pass on to the next hut.

Unlike in the abbot's article, there never was a shack or a grouping of "His boys" as the abbot describes. There was just a series of shacks in which the GIs were held, along the road down to the Yalu. Also, Father was never actually in a Camp 5. Pyoktong became Camp 5 after negotiations started in July of '51 and the officers and certain "difficult" prisoners were moved to other camps. Father had been killed/martyred by the ChiComs earlier that spring, well before negotiations started.

As a side note, Father Kapaun plays a role in our Armed Forces to this day. When I returned from Korea, I was hospitalized at Walter Reed and TDY to the Pentagon. One of my assignments was to serve as the Army's witness to the Eisenhower Commission to Formulate a Code of Conduct for our Armed Forces.

The Air Force position, based on the germ warfare confessions of Col Schwable and his associates, was that after thirty days a POW no longer has info of immediate tactical value and should be allowed to say and do whatever improves his situation. I presented the Army's position that the will to live in those circumstances is dependent on maintaining one's loyalty to his conscience, his country, and his fellow prisoners.

I used Kapaun Valley and the order of magnitude higher death rate in the other two valleys under the same conditions as the example. The Army position was chosen. Father Kapaun defined the basis for the Code of Conduct of our Armed Forces today, and I received a Letter of Commendation from Ike.

I wrote an article for the 16 January 1954 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* which describes in more detail some of the feats of Chaplain Kapaun when they were fresh in my mind.

Michael Dowe, Ph.D., mdowe@outlook.com

How the North Koreans ran out of gas

Concerning the "Where's a Tow Truck..." article (*The Graybeards*, March/April 2021, p. 54), my research looking for

my wife's uncle leads me to believe that the NKPA basically could not get gasoline to the front lines once the Pusan Perimeter was setup and the USAF bombers and fighters disrupted their logistics.

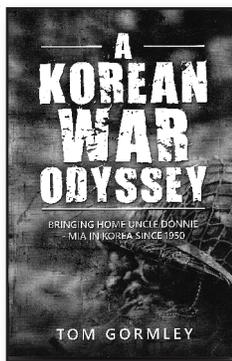
From August 1950 until the Inchon invasion, the NKPA gradually was strangled along the MLR due to lack of supplies and gasoline in particular. Control of the air meant their needed supplies were attacked continuously from NK to the front lines such that very little made it through. Once the landing occurred at Inchon, tanks and field artillery were abandoned as the NKPA fled north. They would not have survived had not the Chinese intervened.

The same thing happened later in the war once the lines were established back at the 38th parallel. Air power again made logistics for the NKPA troublesome.

Tom Gormley
www.TomGormley.com.

NOTE: Tom Gormley is the author of "A Korean War Odyssey," in which he relates the story of his and his wife's quest to reconstruct the short life of her uncle, U.S. Army Corporal Donald Matney, identify his remains, and get them returned home so he could rest by his mother's side.

Donald, of Seymour, Missouri, was only 18 when he was reported MIA. On July 20, 1950, Matney was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division when his unit attempted to delay enemy from



Tom Gormley's book



Pfc. Donald E. Matney

capturing a town near Taejon, South Korea. Enemy infantry and armor units forced the division out of the town and blocked withdrawal routes. Matney was reported missing in action following the attacks.

The announcement that his remains had been identified was made by the DPAA on November 10, 2016. He was buried nine days later in his hometown.

As Gormley explained, "The first six months of the Forgotten War (as the Korean War is often called) were the bloodiest and most deadly in known history. Soldiers, like Donald Matney on occupational duty in Japan were taken from playing sports to fighting an opponent who was better prepared, better armed and knew no rules.

"Simple farmers, like Woo Kyu-Chul, were torn from their farms and forced to flee for their lives in front of the vicious onslaught of the North Korean People's Army. In every early battle, the NKPA defeated its foes. Corporal Donald Matney disappeared.

"At the urging of my wife's aunts, we decided to research

what happened in those early weeks of the Korean War. We attended government updates, talked and emailed with veterans and others who lost loved ones, read many books, researched records and requested government documents. After many years, we petitioned the government to disinter a specific unknown burial. The result is A Korean War Odyssey."

The book is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and other outlets.

No mention of the Marines

Once again, after a considerable lapse of time, I feel compelled to correct an egregious error in an in the March-April 2001 issue. The usually reliable Theresa Park wrote that Truman fired MacArthur for sending UN troops across the 39th (typo?) parallel. I'm curious as well about why she never mentions the word "Marine" in her entire article. My bias regarding that omission will soon be evident.

The UN operation was primarily a Marine operation, as was the Chosin fighting. Of course, Truman and the Joint Chiefs were initially opposed to the UN advance, but "Mac" was a formidable opponent, especially after Inchon, where the Marines, with some Army support, delivered an overwhelming victory despite the skepticism of Mac's contemporaries.

The troops were moving rapidly and Mac was promising them they would be home by Christmas. Truman and the Joint Chiefs were seduced by the general's apparent success and authorized his advance toward the Yalu. This man must be infallible!

But MacArthur had sealed his fate by his past behavior. Truman had issued a directive earlier in which he specified that Mac was not to issue his grandiose statements with geopolitical implications without checking with the White House first. But Mac had been blatantly violating these instructions for some time.

A few examples of the above might be in order: Radioactive cobalt should be spread across Korea's northern border; two Marine divisions could handle any invading troops; we should bomb Chinese airports and cities near the border; we should unleash 500,000 of Chiang Kai Shek's troops against the Chinese mainland, which hadn't proved effective against the communists in the past.

Mac's insubordination was tolerated until Truman and the Joint Chiefs reached the breaking point and they unanimously agreed to his firing. The public, not interested in nuances, was outraged. It failed to see that Mac was bringing us closer to WW3.

Years earlier Mac's staged return to the Philippines was dutifully reported by the media, but Marines were not impressed. Instead he composed a little ditty that went, "With the help of God and a few Marines Mac Arthur returned to the Philippines."

Despite my negative comments about Mac I will concede that at the end of WW2 he concocted a new constitution for Japan that has proved to be a spectacular success.

At Chosin Mac and his sycophantic deputy, Almond, demanded that Marine Gen. O. P. Smith separate his two regiments, sending one north toward the border and the other west over a winding trail to hook up with the 8th Army. Almond suggested they

were opposed by a “few Chinese laundry men,” when the actual number was closer to 100,000-150,000. The Almond-Smith dispute became so virulent that Smith finally declared that he would never serve under Almond again.

Meanwhile in the west the 8th Army was in headlong retreat, called the “the great bugout,” after the Chinese staged an initial warning attack and then retired back into the mountains. The Army suffered enormous losses in men and materiel. It fled through Seoul, which changed hands for the third time and caused Truman and the Joint Chiefs to consider evacuating UN forces to Japan. But when Ridgway appeared he restored morale, the main problem, and the 8th Army soon resumed the offensive.

I must point out that Truman, an army artillery captain in WW1, was no friend of the Marines. He suggested that their “propaganda machine was second only to the Russians’.” He wrote a Congressman, “The Marine Corps is the Navy’s police force and as long as I am president that is what they will remain.” He was evidently ignoring their history, including such battles as Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu, and Iwo Jima. When the war ended he had actually recommended dissolution of the Corps.

I remember reading that MacArthur never spent a single night on the ground in Korea and that he was awarded the DFC for a 40-minute flight over North Korea. Also, that Almond spent most of his time far from the front in a luxurious trailer, having fresh meat and vegetables flown in every day. Of such behavior character is molded.

Finally I recall reading that when Eisenhower was asked his opinion of Mac, who was once his superior, he replied that he wouldn’t trade 50 MacArthurs for one Marshall.

Bob Hall, Bellingham, WA, WW2 and Korea vet,
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Dear Lord, Let us Laugh Again

A Soldier of the Korean War,
That’s who my Dad was.

There’s a saying beloved by the Veterans of the Korean War he always loved, went like this,
“Dear Lord, Teach us to laugh again,
But never let us forget that we cried.”

My Dad cried a lot of tears in 1995,
When the Korean War Memorial was
dedicated in Washington, D.C.

We were in D.C.
but sadly, only the big shots could go to the dedication,
So my Dad and all of us and many other Korean War
Veterans
went the day after and spent an afternoon at the Memorial.

19 statues with the faces of the soldiers just the way they
fought in Korea,
Wearing the Ponchos, carrying the radio and the full field
pack.

My Dad cried a lot of tears that day,
Talked with a lot of other fellow veterans,

Korea, the Forgotten War.

My Dad, Peter J. Mariotti
Never will be forgotten,
He will live on in our hearts forever,

Though he left this world on May 9, 2011,
He is with us always in spirit,
A Soldier, A Dad, a Husband, a Friend.

Celine Rose Mariotti, 136 Kyles Way,
Shelton, CT 06484, celinem@aol.com

Where Ted Williams really landed

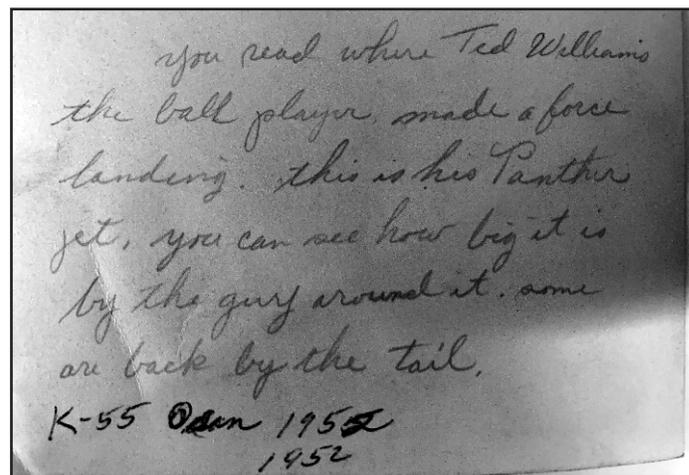
I believe a recent article about Ted Williams included incorrect information. The article states that that he made an emergency landing at K-14 Kimpo, but he actually landed at K-55 Osan.

In 1952 I was stationed at K-55 Osan, which was an Air Force base. It was unusual to see Ted’s Navy Panther jet and I took the nearby photo.

(Cpl) William J. Baux, U.S. Army,
839th Eng., bjbau408@comcast.com



Ted Williams' Panther jet at K-55



William Baux's note about Ted Williams' plane

Wrong chapter re photos

In the March/April 2021 *Graybeards* on p. 36, the pictures are of the wall that Ch. 136 is working on. They must have been sent in by Bob McCullough, our State Sec./Treas., since I am keeping up to date of what we are doing.

Bob is in Ch. 138. I will be sending some of the latest photos

when the artist gets closer to the finish. So, the five views are of the mural on Chapter 136's wall, NOT 138's. Thanks.

John R. Coats, jrcoats65@gmail.com

Wayne Pelkey remembers the Philippine 14th BCT

In an email to Andy Antippas, Wayne Pelkey wrote..."I remember your commentary about the 14th BCT and their leader Col. Jiminez. They were a great group and located at the right flank just east of our 2nd battalion of 45-180 at Christmas Hill.

"They took a pounding and strongly held their ground with their own offensive, providing us a feeling of assurance against many CCF attacks, with the strongest July 15, 1953.

"I met up with one of their patrols while leading my Fox Company recon patrol; I still remember one of them giving me a San Miguel beer and being thirsty I chugged it down- Wow what a kick!"

Wayne Pelkey, wppelkey@charter.net

Scratch one Gooney Bird...

This memory surfaced as I was reading the article "Air Search and Rescue" in the March-April issue, p. 50. I was walking on the road near the airfield at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi as an Albatross was landing with its wheels down. The pilot retracted the wheels and the plane climbed and circled. Then it approached again and landed on its keel—NO WHEELS.

Scratch one "Gooney Bird."

Jack Blackwell, s_jblackwell@hotmail.com

100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

This is information about the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (TUS) which is being celebrated this year. This is provided for your information and there is a lot of information and history of the TUS.

Don't forget that an unknown Korean War soldier rests in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, along with other unknowns from WWI and WWII. The Vietnam serviceman who was in the TUS was disinterred several years ago and identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). His remains were not replaced by another Vietnam unknown because, with today's technology, it is possible to identify remains which were once thought impossible to identify. After being placed into the tomb in 1984, the Unknown was exhumed in 1988.

Thanks to mitochondrial DNA testing, Department of Defense scientists were able to identify the remains as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie. Currently, there are three other soldiers buried at the tomb.

Bruce R. (Rocky) Harder, KWVA National Director,
540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com,

Doggone it...

I am headed to Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth this spring and would like to do my project on Veterinary Operations in Korea. I am looking for contact information on Korean War veterans who were veterinarians in the Army. Please contact me at MAJ Craig Calkins, (307) 899-3327, craig.m.calkins.mil@mail.mil

POSCO and Joe Timony

I have in my possession a medal that was given to me a few years ago by a friend of mine, now deceased, who was at the 60th Reunion of the KWVA, where he received it. It's gold plated, sunburst shaped and has a tiny bit of rusty barbed wire in the center from the DMZ, surrounded by a red circle. On the case lid it notes that the medal was sponsored by POSCO. Can anyone tell me what this medal stands for?

Also, in the March-April 2021 issue, "Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards*," p. 7, there is an entry "IMO of Joseph T. Timony." I wonder if it's the same Joe Timony I grew up with in Allentown, PA.

The last time I saw Joe was when we ran into each other at Fort Meade, MD in our first week in the Army. If anyone can tell me about Joe and what happened to him I would appreciate it.

Bob Porvaznik, 3500 Fairview St., Apt. 139,
Bethlehem, PA 18017, 610-264-4226

NOTE: It is fairly simple to locate the obituaries of most people whose names are listed as deceased and who you want to honor. One way is simply to enter the person's name in the search box in your browser with the word "Obituary." A second is to access genealogybank.com, a paid service, and access the Social Security Death Index, listed under "Collections." A third is to visit legacy.com and enter as much information as you have available. Of course, you won't always be successful, but the odds are pretty good that you will find what you are looking for.

As an example, Joseph Timony's obituary appeared through the use of the first method. He was indeed the Joe Timony Mr. Porvaznik was inquiring about. Here is a bit of the obituary.

"Former Washington Crossing, NJ resident Joseph T. Timony, 89, died on October 21 at the Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC...[He] was born in Allentown, PA...He attended Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. Upon graduation, Joseph enlisted in the US Army to serve abroad in the Korean War, for which he received several merit commendations and medals. After returning from military service, he attended Georgetown Law School, where he received his JD in 1957.

"He moved to New Jersey, where he worked as legal counsel for National State Bank and in private practice. After closing his practice, he retired to Rock Hill, South Carolina... He was an avid reader of history and biographies. He also enjoyed Notre Dame collegiate football and his home teams, the Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles.



Joseph T. Timony

"Condolences can be sent to the family C/O Tracy Timony, MD, 1665 Herlong Court, Suite A, Rock Hill, SC, 29732. Donations to honor Joseph can be made to the Korean War Veterans Association, online at www.KWVA.us or Korean War Veterans Association, PO Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920."

Ironically, Mr. Timony was not a member of the KWVA.

Opening the Door a Crack

American Cryptology During the Korean War

By Thomas R. Johnson

“With Korean war cryptology, we are still in the early stage of declassification fifty years after the outbreak of the war.”

Editor’s Note 1: The Korean peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel as part of war settlements decided at the Potsdam Conference in July 1945. Less than five years later, on 25 July 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. In response to a United Nations (UN) call for troops to restore peace, the United States committed ground, air, and naval forces to the conflict before the end of June.

Editor’s Note 2: The photos accompanying this article are unrelated to the actual story. They are general scenes from the Korean War supplied by Charles C. Rickett, and are used to break up the text.

Pushing northward, UN forces reached the China border on 20 November, triggering a Chinese assault across the Yalu River into Korea, fighting eventually stalemated near the original border between the two Koreas. An armistice, signed on July 1953, provided for the continued presence of US troops on Korean soil.

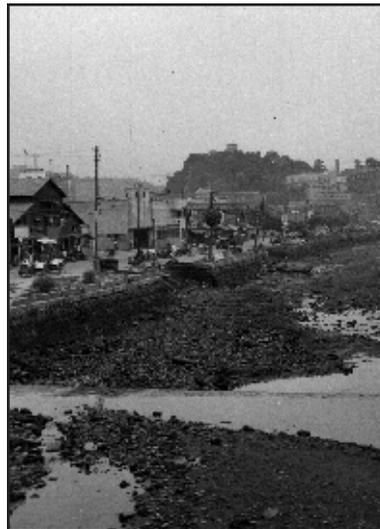
The United States suffered more than 140,000 casualties during the engagement. A peace treaty has never been signed.

Allied silence about the role of cryptology in World War II was broken in 1974 by the publication of Frederick Winterbotham’s *The Ultra Secret*.¹ The world had waited almost 30 years for the beginning of a declassification program for World War II communications intelligence (COMINT).

A few spare historical accounts written during and immediately after the war represented most of what the National Security Agency (NSA) and the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) had been willing to divulge until, at last, enough pressure was mounted for a more general declassification effort. Larger and larger volumes of World War II documents emerged into public view until by the end of the century virtually no bars remained to a complete release.

With Korean War cryptology, we are still in the early stage of declassification fifty years after the outbreak of the war. NSA has recently declassified a few historical summaries, but has not yet begun to release any reports from the war itself.² So what do we know about cryptology in Korea?

Some of our knowledge preceded the official declassification effort. When Clay Blair wrote his history of the Korean war in the 1980s, he incorporated some tantalizing bits and pieces about the role of exploited North Korean messages, especially as it related to the Pusan perimeter.³ More recently, researcher Matthew Aid has ferreted out a larger part of the story.⁴ When we put what they have published together



with the accounts recently released by NSA, we can assess what we know and, by implication, what we do not yet know.

Postwar Letdown

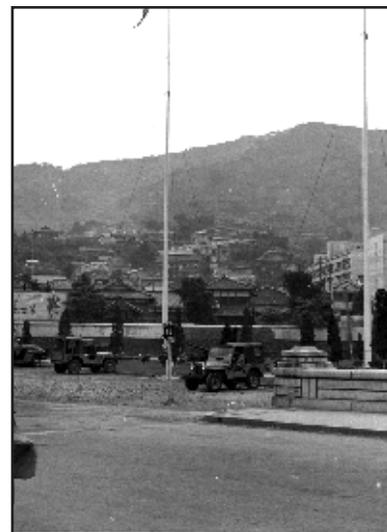
Korea can best be understood in terms of World War II, which has been described as a “SIGINT [signals intelligence] War.”⁵ By the end of the war, the Americans and British, with help from the Canadians and Australians, were able to read most of the impor-

tant cryptographic systems that the Axis nations employed.

Harry Hinsely, the British intelligence historian and direct participant in matters cryptologic, has written that the war was probably shortened by six months as a result of SIGINT successes. I would put the number at four to six months. Even if it were only four months, try running the numbers on likely additional Allied casualties over that period. Or, looking at the issue in another way, if the Russian troops were on the Elbe in May 1945, how far west might they have moved by September?

Among the generals and admirals who benefited from COMINT, expectations rose. Not knowing or understanding the black arts by which these things were done, they believed that the codebreakers could do anything they set their minds to and that their successes would continue into the trackless future. Within years of the end of World War II, however, American cryptology was a hollow shell of its former self.

When the soldiers and sailors went home in 1945, so did the cryptologists. Permanently lost to cryptology were William P. Bundy, Lewis F. Powell, Edwin O. Reischauer, Alfred Friendly, and Telford Taylor, as well as mathematicians Joe Eachus, Andrew Gleason, and a host of others. And this was just on the American side. The British lost, among others,



Alan Turing, credited by some as the inventor of the modern digital computer.

The loss of talent was accompanied by a catastrophic budgetary collapse. The lack of resources was compounded by bureaucratic infighting. A wartime feud between Army and Navy cryptologists continued into the post-war period. Then a new group, the Air Force Security Service (USAFSS), established on 20 October 1948, joined the fray.

Although the USAFSS began as a weak sister, it benefited from the Air Force's ability to get money from Congress and soon became the largest of the three service cryptologic agencies. It also became the most parochial, separating itself from the cryptologic community by physical as well as psychic distance by setting up its headquarters in San Antonio, Texas.

Amid all the bickering came signs of professional failure. Until 1948, the Army and Navy had been reading many of the codes of the new prime target, the Soviet Union. Then, in the space of less than a year, the lights went out. The USSR changed everything—its codes and ciphers, its communications procedures, and the very equipment that it used. The cryptologic community referred to what had happened as Black Friday. In fact, it didn't happen on a Friday, but evolved over several months. The bottom line was the same: the cornucopia of exploitable messages disappeared and Washington was caught short.

Woe piled upon woe. In 1949, Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan, and Mao and the Communists came to power on mainland China. Their communications were no more exploitable than those of the Soviet Union.

In 1949, the feuding cryptologic agencies attempted a union of sorts, called the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA). AFSA, however, lacked the authority to control its nominal subordinates. Instead of one umbrella agency overseeing three military service departments, four more-or-less coequal organizations competed for resources in a shrinking pool. Moreover, as a creation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), AFSA gave priority to military requirements, resulting in bitter complaints from civilian customers, especially the CIA and the State Department.

At AFSA's founding, the United States was already unable to exploit the communications of its two principal antagonists and it was just months short of its next major war.

Wake Up Call in Korea

When it came to COMINT on Korea, AFSA had no arrows in its quiver. Like the rest of the Intelligence Community, it had only the most tenuous and insubstantial requirements to work with—keeping a general eye on the Soviet posture on the peninsula and little else. No one in the US Government seemed worried about Korea, and AFSA, preoccupied with jurisdictional disputes, gave it little attention. It had plenty of other work to keep it busy. Even worse, AFSA had no technical expertise on Korea. It had only one self-taught Korean linguist, no Korean dictionaries, no Korean typewriters, and no books on Korea.

Until April 1950, it had no Korean communications collection of any kind. As it happened, late in 1949 one of its units



in the Far East had collected some traffic that looked like Soviet communications, but, when finally analyzed months later, turned out to be Korean. On 21 April 1950, AFSA tasked an Army Security Agency (ASA) unit near Kyoto, Japan, to collect more Korean traffic. By mid-June, however, Kyoto had collected virtually nothing.

Following World War II, Korea had been left outside the American defensive perimeter in the Far East. When the North Koreans invaded the South in June 1950, they met little opposition. Republic of Korea (ROK) armed forces numbered barely 100,000 poorly armed and inadequately trained infantry troops against a North Korean army of about 135,000 fully trained soldiers with tanks and artillery. The United States had only a 500-man Korean Military Aid group on the peninsula—it was designed to show the flag, not defend the country.

The US contingency plan for Korea was to evacuate posthaste to Japan. After initial hesitation, the United States responded to the UN call for troops and entered the fray. President Truman ordered Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Japan to scrape together a defensive force and send it to Korea. American forces began arriving at the South Korean port of Pusan in late June, and Gen. Walton Walker, commander of the US 8th Army, hastily assembled American forces and remnants of the ROK Army to try to hold a line.

ASA, the Army's cryptologic organization, was caught just as flatfooted as everyone else. Initially, Walker had little or no SIGINT support. The first ASA contingent did not arrive until 9 September, six days before the US landing behind enemy lines at Inchon. This contingent was an advance unit from Hawaii, with minimal capability. ASA's plan was to support 8th Army with one communications reconnaissance battalion at Army level, and a battalion assigned to each of the three subordinate corps; however, it took the first designated Army SIGINT unit—the 60th Signal Service Company at Fort Lewis, Washington—three and a half months to arrive on the scene.

Filling the Breach

The Air Force actually beat ASA to Korea. Its first repre-

sentative, 1st Lt. Edward Murray, arrived in Taegu on 19 July 1950, almost two months ahead of his Army counterparts. Using equipment borrowed from the USAFSS unit in Tokyo, he attempted to set up a tactical SIGTNT organization to support the 5th Air Force. Murray, however, found that the 5th Air Force already had SIGINT support, courtesy of one Donald Nichols.

A murky figure, Nichols lived in Seoul, had a reserve commission as an Air Force major, and headed the local Office of Special Investigations. Quite on his own, he had set up a hip-pocket SIGINT intercept and reporting service, using native Koreans. The most prominent of these were Cho Yong II, a former North Korean Army radio operator and cryptanalyst, and Kim Se Won, a captain in the ROK navy. Kim had served with the Japanese SIGINT service in World War II and, having been interned in Hawaii for a period of time, had a good grasp of English. Together, they had a going concern.

Nichols, in turn, reported the material as thinly disguised HUMINT. The 5th Air Force didn't want Murray. After taking possession of his badly needed equipment, they sent him back to Japan. This development did not accord with either the plans of MacArthur's intelligence chief (G2) or US cryptologic doctrine. Murray was sent back to Korea twice, finally managing to set up a direct support organization. In November, he repossessed his equipment and incorporated the unit established by Cho for language support. By this time, Kim and Cho had had a falling out, and Kim had hooked up with ASA to provide language support, while Cho remained with Nichols and the Air Force. With the appearance of a full-fledged USAFSS direct support unit, Nichols seems to have disappeared from the cryptologic scene.

Although the service cryptologic agencies were not yet on duty in Korea, AFSA was already hard at work on the problem. Within a few days of the North Korean invasion, AFSA analysts were working 24 hours a day. As many collection positions as could be spared from Soviet and Chinese intercept duty were diverted to Korean coverage—initially twelve positions, all located in Japan.

In those early days, North Korean communications were rudimentary and exploitable, and AFSA set about to attack them. After three weeks of work, AFSA had its first breakthrough against North Korean communications on 14 July, followed by a string of additional successes. The 16-31 July issue of the AFSA Semi-Monthly Report noted that North Korean communications matters were much improved.

The SICINT improvements came just in time for Gen. Walker's defense of the Pusan perimeter. Walker established his defensive perimeter on 31 July, as the last US troops fled across the Nakdong River near Taegu, north of Pusan. With interior lines but inferior forces, Walker frantically shuttled his troops to points of North Korean attack. He was able to hold the line largely due to knowing where the North

Koreans were going to attack, information coming primarily from SIGINT reports. The action from 31 July until the Inchon invasion in September relieved the pressure by North Korean forces, Walker continued to juggle his forces using information from North Korean messages. It was a classic illustration of the adage that intelligence is appreciated primarily by the defensive side.

The highlight of this early phase of the struggle was an offensive near Walker's headquarters at Taegu on 31 August. An AFSA report based on exploited North Korean messages contained much of the North Korean battle plan. We know little about how Walker got this support. ASKs units had not yet arrived and there appears to have been no mechanism for Walker to receive AFSA reports; the general may have been relying on ROK intelligence from the Kim and Cho unit. In any event, the information reached Walker two days before the attack, permitting him to shift his forces in time.

Predicting China's Intervention

The 8th Army rolled north after the 15 September landing of US forces at Inchon. By the end of the month, American and ROK troops stood poised at the 38th parallel. Syngman Rhee, the committed anti-Communist who headed South Korea's government, scarcely hesitated before ordering his troops across the postwar divide into North Korea. MacArthur, too, gave a green light, and the US Army streamed into the north.

The US objective was the Yalu River, which marked the Korean border with Manchuria. The JCS considered this risky in view of possible Chinese intervention in the war and questioned MacArthur closely. President Truman was so concerned that he flew to Wake Island to discuss the military situation with MacArthur in mid-October. The general contended that there was nothing to worry about from the Chinese. All the time, however, AFSA had been publishing reports pointing



to probable Chinese intervention.

The great bulk of the information came from Chinese civil communications, which carried large volumes of routine logistics and movement orders for Chinese military units. As early as July, AFSA had begun noting references to army units moving north. Rail hubs in central China were jammed with soldiers on their way to Manchuria. By September, AFSA had identified six of the nine field armies that were later involved in the fighting in North Korea and had located them in Manchuria, near the Korean border.

Ferries at Anshan (on the Yalu River) were being reserved for military use. Maps of Korea were being ordered in quantities large enough to equip 30 divisions. On 7 November, in a radiotelephone conversation intercepted and published by AFSA, an East European ambassador in Beijing stated, "We are already at war here." This was not news to the ROK Army.

On 25 October, a ROK division had been badly mauled by elements of the Chinese 40th Army, earlier reported by AFSA to be close to Korea. Five days later, MacArthur's chief of staff, Ned Almond, reported that he had seen Chinese prisoners being held by a ROK unit. On 1 November, a Chinese force attacked a US unit for the first time. But Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's G2, preferred to believe that these encounters represented isolated Chinese volunteers rather than division-strength regular Chinese Army units.

Throughout the fall of the year, there was great uneasiness in Washington about what the Chinese would do. Intelligence agencies started to pay closer attention. The Watch Committee of the Joint Intelligence Committee, which began noting Chinese troop movements as early as June, concluded by September (partly on the basis of AFSA reporting) that these troops were moving north rather than to the coastal provinces near Taiwan.

By mid-October, however, the Watch Committee had changed its opinion, saying that, although there was convincing evidence that startling numbers of Chinese forces were in Manchuria, the time for intervention had passed. They concluded that the Chinese would not intervene. This judgment was not supported by COMINT Encounters with Chinese ground and air forces in late October and early November eventually caused the Watch Committee to take another look.

Ignoring the SIGINT reports on Chinese troop movements was one of the most famous miscalculations in modern American military history. MacArthur was determined to press ahead with offensive operations to reach the Yalu and get the boys home by Christmas. On the snapping cold night of 25 November, thousands of Chinese soldiers fell on unsuspecting units of the 8th Army. The American offensive quickly turned into a defensive, and the defensive into a rout, with high casualties. Both Army and Air Force SIGINT units tarried too long and were nearly overrun before escaping to the south.

The Marines apparently had no SIGINT support throughout the war, at least at the tactical level. The most infamous incident was the retreat of the 1st Marine Division, which had been trapped at the Chosin reservoir in northeast Korea. A

Marine radio company, trained for COMINT support, was at Camp Pendleton in California, but did not deploy to Korea because it lacked the necessary equipment and was not considered combat ready.

The system of tactical intercept support to Marine units that had been established so laboriously in World War II had almost disappeared. It took the entire Korean War to reestablish a semblance of what had been available earlier.

SIGINT Challenges

As the situation settled into grim trench warfare in central Korea, the SIGINT organizations tried to shore up their capabilities. The most pressing problem was to find enough linguists. The requirement to translate three different languages severely stretched cryptologic resources throughout the war. ASA had only two Korean linguists, Dick Chun and Y. P. Kim, and both were assigned to the language school in Monterrey. The choice was to leave them in California to train future Korean linguists or transfer them to the front. Both found themselves with tickets to Korea.

Two linguists would hardly suffice, however. ASA acquired a translating service of its own, the so-called Kim unit, named after the Kim of the earlier Kim and Cho unit. Cho and his unit hooked up with USAFSS and provided stellar translating service throughout the war.

Another critical need was for Chinese linguists. The SIGINT services partially solved the problem by hiring Nationalist Chinese officers from Taiwan. This process was slow, however.

Finally, there was the Russian problem. Russian air forces had established a communications net in China to serve military and civilian aircraft at airfields in Korea and Manchuria by July 1950. Early the following year, COMINT intercepts showed Soviet control of fighter activity in the northernmost regions of Korea, and Soviet pilots were noted frequently in air-to-air and air-to-ground conversations.

Before the Chinese intervention, the Air Force had dreamed of setting up a cryptologic outpost in Sinanju, far to the north, for North Korean communications, with a rear detachment in Pyongyang to intercept Soviet and Chinese messages related to the war. As UN troops fled south in December 1950, even Pyongyang was out of the question, and the Air Force eventually set up its operations in Pyongtaek, well south of the 38th parallel. Here the Air Force attempted, with limited success, to support American ground controllers with SIGINT.

Once the UN forces had regained the initiative, Seoul was safe, and both Air Force and Army cryptologists moved their headquarters to the western suburbs of Seoul, the Air Force to Chosen Christian College and the Army to the campus of Ewha College. ASA units were flung along the wavering front north of Seoul. They were organized into small tactical support units, mostly with manual Morse positions. Morse communications proved difficult to exploit and were of little value in the tactical environment. ASA analysts did apply traffic analysis, however, to establish an order of battle for the North

Korean army.

Most of ASA's value in Korea stemmed from its intercept of Chinese and Korean voice communications. Much of that came from the detection of Chinese telephone conversations being carried through the ground and picked up by sensors originally designed to detect the tramp of advancing enemy troops. (Such ground-wave intercept techniques had been pioneered during World War I.)

This serendipitous discovery resulted in the formation of low-level voice intercept (LLVI) units. Later, ASA units also intercepted Korean voice communications, and many of the LLVI teams wound up having to provide translations in two languages. The program was limited only by the availability of good linguists. By war's end, there were 22 LLVI teams in Korea, a testament to success.

Success Stories

The dull trench warfare was occasionally punctuated by fierce battles where SIGINT played a crucial role. One such encounter, an attempt by the Chinese Communist troops to take Hill 395 in central Korea in 1952, came to be known as the "Battle of White Horse Mountain." Intercepted Chinese communications gave the Americans warning of the attack. ASA rushed an intercept unit to the spot, and it fed American commanders with hard intelligence as the battle progressed. The Chinese lost 10,000 troops out of the 23,000 they had committed.

In March 1953, COMINT also tipped off Chinese planning for offensives at Old Baldy and Pork Chop Hill. Air Force SIGINT operations benefited from Soviet air warfare doctrine, which called for fighter aircraft to be closely managed by ground controllers who were watching the battle on radar.

USAFSS discovered Russian voice communications in the early spring of 1951, and set up a mobile intercept hut at Pyongtaek in central Korea. As they listened to the Soviet pilots talking to the ground controllers in North Korea, their biggest concern was security. No one on the operations side was cleared for the information, so they had to disguise it as American radar plots.

They would call the information over a landline connected to the operations building. The American Air Force controller could then pass the information on to the pilots, mixing it with radar plots. On no occasion was anyone in USAFSS ever permitted to take the next obvious step and talk directly to the pilots in the air.

The SIGINT warning operation significantly expanded the range of coverage beyond American radars, and many believe that it was partly responsible for the enormous American kill ratio in the air war. As the front lines moved farther north, the USAFSS operation was transferred to Kimpo airport to remain collocated with the Tactical Air Control Center (TACC), which controlled the air war.

In August 1951, the TACC and its Security Service unit moved again, to PyongYong-Do (referred to by the GIs as P-Y-Do), a small island in the East China Sea north of the 38th parallel. Here they continued the warning operation, called

Yoke, in tandem with the TACC. The P-Y-Do operation was closed down a month later and TJSAFSS returned to Seoul. All Air Force SIGINT warning was collocated at Chosen Christian College, where analysts had available, for the first time in one geographic location, intercepts of North Korean, Chinese, and Soviet communications, both Morse and voice.

The VHF Complication

This idyllic situation began to change almost as soon as it began. The target refused to remain static. Intercept of tactical air voice communications began drying up. Air Force analysts suspected that the enemy was starting to use very high frequency (VHF) ranges for transmission. VHF can only be intercepted at locations within the line of sight of the transmitter. Suburban Seoul was just too far away.

VHF usage had first appeared during World War II, but had been in its infancy. In the five years following the end of the war, the world's military organizations had continued to use high frequency (HF) for communications. Use of frequencies above HF was still experimental. When USAFSS operators in Korea could no longer hear enemy pilots, however, they concluded that the reason had to be a change in transmission frequency.

This adverse development coincided with the arrival of Lt. Delmar Lang with the first batch of school-trained American Chinese linguists in mid-1952. Lang took stock of the situation. The voice communications that he and his people were trained to intercept were no longer hearable. Meanwhile, the TACC had moved from Kimpo to Cho-Do Island, off the east coast of Korea near the North Korean port of Wonsong. Tactical SIGINT support now involved the laborious process of intercepting at Chosen and relaying to Kimpo, with a further relay to the TACC at Cho-Do. The answer? Move the USAFSS intercept operation to Cho-Do.

Tests on Cho-Do in August confirmed that enemy pilots were now using VHF for communications and that those communications were hearable from the island. Lang and the USAFSS contingent headed for Cho-Do. They set up intercept operations about three-quarters of a mile from the TACC, and Lang placed a linguist in the TACC next to the tactical air controller. He had a field phone sitting on his desk, with the other end at the USAFSS intercept unit. Combined with the improved ability to hear, the new lash-up at Cho-Do Island provided the best support that LJSAFSS mustered during the entire war.

In one day, which Lang described as the great Korean turkey shoot, American F-86s downed fifteen MiGs without a loss, even though none of the MiGs was ever seen on American radar. The information came, of course, from the COMINT operation on Cho-Do. A visiting ASA colonel commented that "It was just like shooting ducks in a rain barrel."

Back in Washington

Meanwhile, AFSA was having a hard time of it. North Korean communications, so exploitable earlier in the war, dried up in the summer of 1951. The North Koreans adopted Soviet communications procedures, and the communications



nets that AFSA had been exploiting earlier no longer yielded useful intelligence. This development made Korean war SIGINT mostly a tactical problem—there was little strategic information available from AFSA in Washington.

At the same time, AFSA was losing the bureaucratic struggle to centralize American cryptology. The three service cryptologic organizations went their own way, ignoring or defying AFSA orders. AFSA, for example, had established a rule that it would control all resources that resided at “fixed” field sites, while the services would control those that were “mobile.” At the time, virtually all sites (except those with tactical Army units in Korea) were regarded as “fixed.”

USAFSS simply reversed “fixed” and “mobile.” An Air Force general commented wryly that the sites were “about as mobile as the Eiffel Tower.” With the stroke of a pen, however, the Air Force had removed its collection resources from AFSA control.

With AFSA powerless to intervene in jurisdictional fights, a nasty row broke out between ASA and USAFSS about which one would target air-related communications. The result was that both of them targeted the same communications, while leaving other targets unattended. This approach not only wasted resources, but also violated the sense of decorum that should have prevailed within the Intelligence Community. It had become an all-out food fight.

The Korean War spelled the demise of AFSA. American officers who had considered readable high-level enemy communications almost a birthright during World War II voiced their unhappiness at the turn of events. Two important customers, the CIA and the State Department, viewed AFSA’s organizational problems with alarm. Fragmented control and duplicated resources, they believed, were resulting in the JCS squeezing CIA and State SIGINT requirements out of the picture in favor of straight out military targets. To them, it was all part of a palpable decline in the effectiveness of American SIGINT.

In December 1951, Walter Bedell Smith, the crusty Director of Central Intelligence, wrote a memorandum to the National Security Council, recommending that a committee be established to “survey” American COMINT. The NSC forwarded the letter to President Truman. The events that ended

the life of AFSA and led to the establishment of the National Security Agency began to unfold.

In Conclusion

From what we can now glimpse, the bottom line on SIGINT in the Korean War paralleled the overall American experience during that war. There were successes and there were failures, but the failures tended to overshadow the successes. The war ended in a draw, a highly discomfiting outcome for the American public, the generals and admirals who led the fight, and the men and women who fought it.

SIGINT, too, ended in a draw. What tactical successes there were, were gained only after long delay and prodigious effort. Unready for Korea, American cryptologists rose unsteadily to the challenge and were knocked down several times by enemy haymakers. Resources were inadequate, organization was sometimes chaotic, and expertise had to be acquired laboriously.

Still, SIGINT did make a difference on a number of occasions. It was not quite what had been achieved in World War II, but it did establish the outlines of a successful tactical SIGINT support system.

The real tragedy of Korea was that the lessons learned the hard way, through battlefield experience, were promptly forgotten. They had to be re-learned in Vietnam a decade later. The Army was no more ready for tactical SIGINT support in Vietnam than it had been in Korea. Delmar Lang had to be sent to Saigon to show the Air Force how to do tactical warning. But that is a story for a future article.

NOTE: Dr. Thomas R. Johnson is a 35-year veteran of cryptology operations. Currently associated with CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence, he is the author of a classified four-volume history of American cryptology during the Cold War. This article is unclassified in its entirety.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Frederick W. Winterbotham, *The Ultra Secret*, (New York, Harper and Row, 1974)
2. As of July 2001, NSA’s website (www.nsa.gov) listed five papers related to Korea: Jill Frahm, “So Power Can be Brought into Play, SIGINT and the Pusan Perimeter;” David A. Hatch and Robert L. Benson, “The Korean War. The SIGINT Background;” Thomas W. Johnson, “General Essay on the Korean War,” originally published in *American Cryptology*; “During the Cold War 1945-1989, Book I The struggle for Centralization, 1945-1960 (Fort Meade, NSA, 1995), pp: 36-56; Patrick D. Weadon, *SIGINT and CON-SEC Help Save the Day at Pusan*,” and “Cryptologic Background to the Chinese Intervention,” by an anonymous retired NSA officer.
3. Clay Blair. *The Forgotten War America in Korea, 1950-1953* (New York, New York Times Books, 1987)
4. Matthew M. Aid, “U.S. Humint and Comint in the Korean War From the Approach of War to the Chinese Intervention,” *Intelligence and National Secrets Vol 14, No 4, Winter 1999*
5. Walter Laqueur. *A World of Secrets: The Uses and Limits of Intelligence* (New York Basic Books. 1985).



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

JOHN C. CLAUNCH
ALABAMA
WILLIAM J. JONES
NEALIE C. MCELHANY
HARRY V. PIPKIN
BERNARD A. WHITE

ARIZONA

RALPH E. CRAGO
SEYMOUR EVANS
JAMES T. JOHNSTON
RAY D. MASON SR.
FRANCISCO C. ROMERO
GUY C. WILLIS

CALIFORNIA

EDWARD A. ALVAREZ
RUDY ARELLANO
JAMES K. HOEY
GEORGE LEE KINNEY
BRANT C. RICH
KENNETH A. RYBUS
HAROLD A. SMITH
ROBERT J. UMPHRESS

COLORADO

BERNARD WALTERS

CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM R. KORNAHAAS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALMON J. ADAMS

FLORIDA

CHARLES A. AGNEW JR.
FRANK D. AIELLO
THOMAS E. CODDINGTON
RICHARD A. COE
JOSEPH DEFAZIO
FRANCIS J. DRYBALA
LEONARD F. DUBE
FELIX D. FUKES
HOWARD GARLIN
DAVID GOLDMAN
D. EUGENE 'GENE' GRAFFHAM
ALAN E. GREENFIELD
WILLIAM E. GREET
JOSEPH E. GUGLICH
JOHN D. HOWARD
HENRY LAMAR HUNT
WILLIAM F. KRIVDA
JOHN KURUCZ
DALE R. LONG

JAMES E. MADISON
CARL R. MALACHOWSKI
WALTER F. MCGUIRE
RUSSELL O. MYERS JR.
TED J. NICHOLAS
ULYSSES NICK
FRANK R. NICOLO
FRANK A. ODDO
JOSEPH J. PACHECO
JAMES V. PARRILLI
WILLIAM CARLTON POLLOCK
RONALD R. RECHTENBACH
JACK D. REYNOLDS
JACK B. RICHARDSON
VERLIN N. 'BUCK' ROGERS
LOUIS F. SCHNEIDER
KENNETH L. SMITH
ALAN M. SMITHLINE
JAMES E. STANTS
GLENN W. STEVIC
FLOYD A. THRASHER
JOHN B. TIERNEY
ROY TUN
ROBERT B. WATERFIELD
ROBERT A. YOUNG

GEORGIA

EDWARD J. GINTER
RONALD D. MILLER
JAMES R. MUSGRAVE
GEORGE F. PENNINGTON
JAMES R. PHILLIPS
BURRIS G. TEDDER

HAWAII

DANIEL G. CARVALHO
RICHARD Y. HIGA
RODGER M. JONES
CURTIS R. RODRIGUES

ILLINOIS

ROBERT E. BAKEN
BILL R. CUMMINS
WILLIAM E. HOGAN
ILLOYD E. JOHNSON
IGLEAN E. MCCLEARY
ILAURENCE D. MORRIS
JOHN G. PIETRASZEWSKI
DONALD E. SMART
WILLIAM E. SPARKS

INDIANA

GLENDEN D. CAMPBELL
IROBERT L. DUST
NELSON ELLIOTT

WARREN G. EUBANKS
WILLIAM HOWARD JR.
WILLIAM D. JENKINS

IOWA

WILLIAM E. KLATT

KANSAS

KENNETH L. BENDER
DUANE L. HUNDLEY
CHARLES F. MCBEE

KENTUCKY

WALTER LEE SETSER
CLAUDE TRAVIS JR.

LOUISIANA

DONALD D. BAMBURG
LLOYD DELAUNE
CHARLES E. KINGSTON JR.
HERMAN J. LEBLEU

MASSACHUSETTS

JOSEPH A. MEEHAN
CHARLES L. WADE

MICHIGAN

THOMAS G. CHILCOTT
CHARLES H. MERRINER
VON MONDAY
DOUGLAS W. MOREAU
DANIEL B. PFEIFFER
STANLEY K. SUMMERS

MINNESOTA

NORMAN C. JENSEN
ROBERT R. MOREAU

MISSOURI

RONALD L. MARK
JOHN MARZ
WILLIAM T. MCCREDIE

NEW JERSEY

WAYNE R. JOHNSON
EDWARD F. KUGLER
EDWIN G. MARSHMAN
WILLIAM R. 'BILL' MELVIN

NEW MEXICO

VERNON N. KERR

NEW YORK

HARVEY ABADINSKY
HAROLD D. DEGRANGE
JOHN P. 'JACK' GREITEN
MICHAEL KLEMENICH
CHARLES W. KREPLIN
NEAL P. MISHIK
MELVIN C. MORRIS
REGINALD H. MOTT
ANTHONY J. PINGITORE
ALDO J. POGGIO
PETE SARTORI
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NORTH CAROLINA

GENE F. SEARS

OHIO

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NORMAN O. FAILLA
STEPHEN HOPKINS
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RHODE ISLAND

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JAMES E. MONROE
PHILIP S. SABELLA

FRANK M. WUNDERLER

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PERRY COX

SOUTH DAKOTA

ALTON D. ROGEN
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TENNESSEE

CLATA W. FINN
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HENRY T. ALEX
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STEVE M. WRIGHT

WEST VIRGINIA

ROBERT E. STANLEY

WISCONSIN

WILLIAM J. DEBOCK
NORBERT A. MEYER
DENNIS SEMRAU

WYOMING

FRANK L. MOWERY

ONTARIO

LES PEATE

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

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

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 35 and Under: \$600 Ages 36 - 50: \$450 Ages 51 - 65: \$300
Ages 66 - 79: \$150 Ages 80 & up: \$75

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	

(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) From: _____ To: _____
Regiment _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	
Battalion _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	Without Korea were: (See criteria below) From: _____ To: _____
Company _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	
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.

"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: _____

Adopted 3/13/2019, R3 Approved 10/27/2020

[KWVA Membership Application Form Page 2]



Membership is Our Strength

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



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.

"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

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.

Dissenting South Korea

Two months before the armistice is signed...

NOTE: This editorial appeared in the May 30, 1953 Washington D.C. Evening Star. It highlights the difficulties UN negotiators faced that year in trying to reach a cease fire with the communists. They not only had to satisfy their enemy with the terms of an agreement, but they had to appease the participants who were probably the weakest link in the negotiation chain: their own ally, South Korea.

They also had to decide what their true goal was in Korea as they sought an end to the costly fighting. Was it to stop the North Korean aggression or end the partition of the country—or both? The UN negotiators were on the proverbial horns of a dilemma.

In the end, they really did none of the above. Here it is 68 years later: the South Koreans have still not accepted the terms of the cease fire, the communists' aggression persists sporadically, and Korea is still divided. How long will that impasse last?

Here is the editorial:

As the hour approaches for the enemy's reply to the United Nations prisoner-of-war proposals, the outlook at Panmunjom still seems to be full of grave uncertainties. Indeed, even if the Communists accept

(South Korea's delegate to the truce negotiations asserts that they have already rejected a key provision), the effectuation of an agreement may prove to be painfully difficult.

This is because officials of the free Republic of Korea have made clear that they bitterly dissent from what the American-

directed U. N. Command has proposed. Attacking the plan as a "sellout" and an "utter surrender" to the Communists, they have charged that it will permit forced repatriation and indefinite captivity. Further than that, by indirection at least, they have threatened to ignore any armistice based on it—a threat suggesting that the valiant and now-powerful ROK divisions will "go it alone," continuing to fight the Reds regardless of the United States and the other allied countries.

Since the U.N.'s proposals have not yet been officially revealed, this South Korean reaction must be viewed with a great deal of reserve, particularly so because of President Eisenhower's emphatic assurance that our allied terms adamantly adhere to principles guaranteeing that no prisoners will be coerced in any way, or forced to return home, or held in indefinite captivity.

As for the threat that ROK troops may keep on fighting even if the Communists

Dear Harry: Don't let the Russians fool you

Below is a "General" report from the U.S. Embassy Moscow, which the State Department presented to President Harry Truman. It is believed to have had an influence on the president entering the U.S. into the Korean War. It was made confidential, then the State Department approved it for release in March 1978.

Embassy Moscow's Views On The Korean Conflict

US Embassy Moscow, in assessing the implications of the present Korean Conflict, express the opinion that the North Korean offensive against the Republic of Korea constitutes a clear-cut Soviet challenge to the United States, which should be answered firmly and swiftly, because it constitutes a direct threat to U.S. leadership of the free

world against Soviet Communist imperialism.

The Embassy points out that the defeat of the Republic of Korea would have grave and unfavorable repercussions for the U.S. position in Japan, Southeast Asia, and in other areas as well, and expresses the view that the U.S. is obligated to make clear to the world without delay that the U.S. is prepared to assist the Republic of Korea, to maintain its independence by all means at the U.S. disposal, including military assistance and vigorous action in the UN Security Council.

The Embassy believes that any delay on the part of the U.S. "could suggest" to the USSR the possibility of precipitating with impunity immediate action against Indochina and other points along the bound-

ary of the Soviet sphere. The Embassy also believes that the USSR probably calculated that the U.S. will be inclined to accept "neutralization" of the Korean Civil War, which would lead to eventual victory by North Korea, thus expanding the Soviet empire without the use of Soviet military forces.

The Embassy reiterates its belief that the USSR is not yet ready to risk full-scale war with the West, and comments that the present Korean situation thus offers the U.S. an opportunity to show firmness and determination, and, at the same time, to unmask important Soviet weaknesses to the eyes of the world, and particularly in Asia, where popular ideas of Soviet power have been grossly exaggerated as a result of recent Soviet political and propaganda successes.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

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 05/20/2021.

Name	Unit	Date	Place Missing
Pfc. Philip T. Hoogacker	Co. D, 1st Bn., 29th Inf. Rgmt.	7/27/1950	SK
Cpl. Walter A. Smead	Btry A, 57th FAB, 7th Inf. Div.	12/6/1950	NK
Pfc. Raymond A. Smith	Co. A, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div.	12/2/1950	NK
SFC Nicholas J. Valentine	Btry. B, 57th FAB, 7th Inf. Div.	12/6/1950	NK

NOTE: All four warfighters listed were members of the U.S. Army.

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

accept the plan now before them, there seems to be little realism in that. After all, those troops are completely dependent on the United States for supplies. Accordingly, they could hardly “go it alone” for very long without our assent and material help, which of course would not be forthcoming if we ourselves were committed to an armistice.

With that said, however, the fact remains that the South Koreans seem profoundly agitated, and it is impossible not to sympathize with them. They have been enduring a terrible ordeal for the past three years. They have been fighting with great bravery and skill. They have been making a tremendous expenditure of blood and treasure to remain free and live in a whole country, with north and south united, not divided.

They have no patience with the argument that the U. N. went in there originally to repel aggression, without making any commitment to end the partition. That does not register with them. What they fear, to the exclusion of all other considerations, is that a truce and a political settlement will leave them with little more than what they have at present—a battered and truncated land unable to support itself and highly vulnerable to renewed Communist attack on a later day.

In such circumstances, considering the intensity of their emotions, it is not inconceivable that the South Koreans—refusing to be governed by the hard realities of the situation—will reject a truce if and when one is reached at Panmunjom. This is a possibility that could materialize into a tragic contretemps between them and the United Nations Command.

Presumably our government, together with that of the redoubtable President Rhee, is alert to the danger and taking steps to head it off by working out an understanding clearly guaranteeing that the U.N.’s proposals will not lead to a “sellout” or “surrender” of any kind.

All this, of course, will become academic if the Communists turn down the terms that have been offered them. In that case, the United States, South Korea, and other interested allies will be faced with a choice between a military impasse of indeterminate duration and decision-seeking action that could lead to a greatly enlarged war. Meanwhile, until the enemy is heard from, one can do little more than hope prayerfully for the best.

LEADERSHIP from page 33

tencies, followed by an Urban Land Navigation course on Fort Benning Main Post. The competition concluded with a board that featured a panel of senior non-commissioned officers.

“This is a great honor and I am looking forward to the next round,” said Love said.

“It was exciting to hear my name called,” Van Meter said. “I am even more excited for the additional training I am going to receive and the next challenge.”

So why is this story significant? Read on.

Army Ranger Ralph Puckett to receive MOH

Retired Col. Ralph Puckett will receive the Medal of Honor for his actions in November 1950 during the Korean War. The award makes him one of the most highly decorated soldiers in U.S. history.

On November 25, 1950, Puckett was



Ralph Puckett (Photo by U.S. Army/Markeith Horace)

commanding the Eighth Army Ranger Company, which had seized Hill 205 at the point of the 25th Infantry Division’s advance. The unit was cut off from friendly forces and surrounded by large numbers of Chinese soldiers who had recently entered the war.

Soon after the first Chinese attack on

the hill Puckett was wounded by a hand grenade. He was wounded twice before the battle ended. Wounds notwithstanding, Puckett more than once braved enemy fire to check on his soldiers. Ignoring his own safety he directed “danger close” artillery strikes near his own position as enemy troops tried to overwhelm his company.

The company repulsed the Chinese attacks for almost five hours. By that time Puckett was barely conscious and unable to stand. He ordered the company to retreat. Two of his Rangers, Pfc. David Pollock and Billy Walls, carried him to safety.

According to Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, “Colonel (R) Ralph Puckett is a true hero. His actions on Hill 205 at the start of the Battle of the Chongchon River, rushing through intense enemy fire to check on his Soldiers saved many lives. We should all be proud of his actions and strive to emulate his noble legacy.”

Puckett was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that night. He earned a second DSC and two Silver Stars for heroism during the Vietnam War. He also received five Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in combat and two Bronze Star Medals with V device for valor. He retired from the Army in 1971.

He spoke at the Army’s Best Ranger Competition on April 16, 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia. “Thank you for being who you are and doing what you’re doing,” Puckett told the soldiers competing in the three-day event. “You set the standard for the Army. ... I appreciate all you do for our Army and our country.”

Sources:

https://www.army.mil/article/149177/the_75th_ranger_regiment_announces_top_officer_nco_ranger

<https://www.ousa.org/news/legendary-army-ranger-receive-medal-honor>

The company repulsed the Chinese attacks for almost five hours. By that time Puckett was barely conscious and unable to stand.

Honoring Korean War Veterans From Louisiana

Bill Gillen, A/1/1, 2nd Ptl., 1st Mar. Div., as told to Sun Kim on August 10, 2019 (Gillen-1/7 ✓) ✓

Bill joined the Marine Corps Forces Reserve for two years from June 24, 1948 to June 4, 1950. He went home for two weeks, then the Korean War began. His dad had told him about Korea. Although Bill did not know much about Korea, he rejoined the Marine Corps Reserve and took a train to California. On August 16, 1950, the entire unit was activated and sent to Camp Pendleton.



Bill Gillen in 1950

Boot camp was usually 16 weeks, but they trained for only 24 days and were told they were combat ready. They boarded a ship for two weeks and arrived in Kobe, Japan. After a month, they were sent to Korea on November 24 1950, and were assigned to different companies.

Two of his friends from Louisiana, Daniel Dallier and John Fury, joined another company. On the way, their truck was ambushed and Dallier was killed on the first day of combat. His name is on the Korean War Memorial plaque. John Fury survived the war and passed away on November 23, 2018.

Bill and his company encountered one unit of Chinese and they had a firefight. "I thought everybody was shooting at me. That was the first time I was in combat! It was very scary," he recalled.

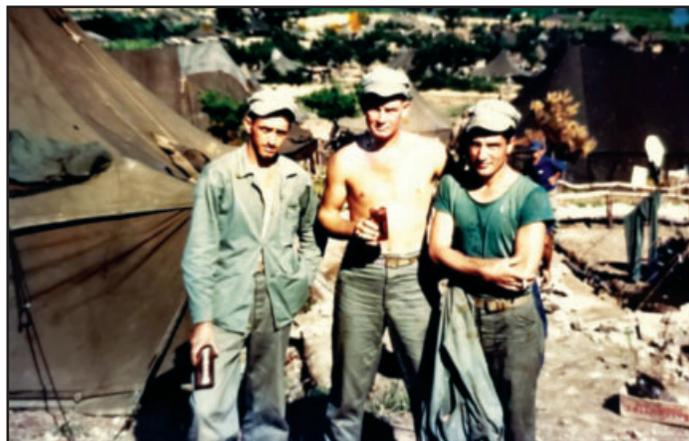
They were at Chinhung-ni, south of the Chosin Reservoir. Their mission was to climb Hill 1081, the most dangerous of these hills. It needed to be cleared before the Marines could get by it. They rode on a truck about a mile and half and walked to the base of the hill, which was about 4,000 feet high. There was continuous fighting every day and they had to climb different hills up and down. For 57 days, Bill went without washing hands, brushing teeth, or changing clothes, and water was scarce.

Bill carried his field transport pack of 80 pounds, plus a rifle, bandoliers, cartridge belt and hand grenades, which totaled over 100 pounds. "I was 165 pound—skinny when I went in," he said. "When I came out, I was 227 pounds. I was eating three meals a day, because some guys didn't like C-rations, like ham and buttered beans, but it was very good—almost as good as what my mother cooked."

He asked others to give him what they didn't want, so Bill carried lots of food. He was always hungry and would eat these extra rations. There was also a truck with a big tent that had a shoemaker. The men wore out their combat boots in 90 days—boots that should have lasted 10-12 years in normal wear. The shoemaker would rebuild them on the spot. Bill had his boots rebuilt three times and was getting ready for the fourth time when he was rotated home.

Hill 1081 was located about forty miles north of Hungnam. They had to climb to the top. Just before they started Bill received a care package from home. Since they had to climb the hill, he threw everything away except for some fruit, Vienna sausage, and gum.

The day began at 6 a.m. During the day, the temperature was 40 degrees below zero and went to 72 below zero at night. "We would climb 55 minutes then take five minutes to rest," he explained. It took



Bill Gillen in middle with two other Marines

twelve hours to climb to the top, which they reached at 6 p.m. There were no foxholes, so they hid behind snow mounds, which would not stop anything, but there was no other protection."

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. they were under attack by the Chinese, yet they secured the top of the hill. Bill thought the Chinese would counterattack since he saw red flares and heard sounds the Chinese were making to each other all around him. He could not understand what they were saying, but one buddy told him it meant they would counterattack.

Bill heard the Chinese about twenty feet from where he was. All of sudden, Bill looked around and there were no other Marines besides him. Bill started slowly to move back, and found his buddies who said, "I told you to move back." With all the wind howling and snow blowing, Bill did not hear them, but the Chinese did not counterattack.

One buddy, Paul Castiglione, asked Bill, "Gillen, do you have anything to eat?" Bill replied, "Yeah, I got some Vienna sausage." Bill says Vienna sausage is not any good cold or even cooked and hot. What he had was all frozen like ice cubes, but Bill gave him the Vienna sausage. It was Paul's last meal.

"He got killed the next day. They shot him in the chest, and his name is on the wall," Bill said.

The next morning, due to the previous evening's fighting, there were wounded Marines who needed care. "They could not bring in helicopters because we were not on commanding ground and the nearest knoll about 200 yards away," he said The captain called in for air support.



Bill was assigned as one of five men to take the wounded down the hill. Four guys would hold the sides of the stretcher, and one person was relief. Bill

Korea: Bill Gillen in middle

noted that, “We were walking towards the wounded to take them down the hill after all that fighting and climbing the day before and here come two Corsairs!” They were U.S. planes.

“The first one swooped down and you didn’t even hear them,” he remembered. “They swooped down and shot 50-caliber explosive shells which looked like big grapefruits flying all around us. You could not hear the plane coming in at you; you could only hear them when the planes were pulling out.”

The first guy was hit in the legs, which were severed. He lived about 30 seconds. His name was Cardenas. The second guy, Boyer, was hit in the legs. The explosion knocked his tendon out. They called the corpsman “who wrapped it up. It got red and froze in 30 seconds.” Bill told him how lucky he was because he was going to be home for Christmas. He wanted a cigarette and Bill gave him one.

Another man from his battalion, Earl Martin, also from Louisiana, who had come with Bill for the interview, did not get a scratch. “And Bill Gillen, he didn’t get a scratch either. The guy behind me got killed outright. His name was Tony Vella. The second plane did not fire. If it would have fired, you wouldn’t be taping this right now. So they got three out of five.”

“The Navy pilots came in because we called in for air support at Hill 1081,” Martin continued. “I don’t fault them at all. I could appreciate they did their job, and they thought we were Chinese.”

Bill continued, “We held the ground for five days and four nights. The Chinese were young kids, 12 to 16 years old. They were trying to kill us and we were trying to kill them.”

Several Chinese soldiers were captured. One of them told Bill that their order was to “kill every last man in the 1st Marine Division.”

After the battle they slid down the hill, going 15 miles an hour. A hill that took 12 hours to climb took only half an hour to slide down. The Chinese were coming out of the hills and they looked like ants coming at them, outnumbering them by twelve to one.

Bill was wounded on June 6, 1951. He was a squad leader of 12 men. Every night the military commanders tried to create a line across Korea. This particular night, Baker Company did not obtain their objective for the day. Foxholes were typically 20-foot apart, but that night they were 90-100 ft. apart. To get to the foxholes, they slid down a steep hill. Bill caught a small tree, about five inches in diameter, between his legs to stop his slide.

Fellow Marine Ron Manganiello held onto Bill’s left leg. They were in an open area. Bill looked around the left and right side of the tree to see if anyone was coming up to fight them. The U.S. Navy Corsairs flew all night, dropping white phosphorus from parachutes to light up the area since the foxholes were so far apart. They were dog tired after fighting all day and all night, but they had to stay awake since they had to fight the next morning.

Bill told Manganiello, “You lie down. I’m responsible for all these men. You get some rest.” Daybreak came and even though planes had been flying all night, they did not get hit. Bill woke Manganiello and told him he would rest until they had to move out. Bill lay back, and in that instant, a big mortar shell blew up eighty feet away.

“Boy, it felt like it blew my leg off!” he said. One metal part went into his leg. “It goes in hot and cools as it goes into the bone. It’s still in there. They thought if they took it out, I would limp.”

The tree between Bill’s legs was flattened and it had been close to

Ron Manganiello (L) and Bill Gillen in Virginia in 2002



his face. If he had not moved earlier, the tree and his face would have taken a direct hit. There were many instances of close calls where Bill could have gotten killed.

Bill’s leg was hurting so badly he could hardly walk. They put him on the hood of a jeep for a little while. He looked back at the mountain and saw Chinese men like ants on an ant hill coming at them shooting. At that point, he did not care if he was killed he was in such pain. He felt bad for the

Marines that were still fighting and taking heavy casualties.

“My platoon went up there with three squads, 39 men, and came down with 12,” he recalled.

They had to walk forty miles to Hungnam port to be evacuated by the Navy ships. There was no other way out since the Chinese surrounded them. About a mile from Hungnam, two guys had to carry Bill, who could no longer walk, because of frostbite.

Bill crossed the 38th Parallel five times in a series of going back and forth, climbing hills and attacking and such. “It was hell the whole year,” he concluded. He left Korea one year, three hours, and 35 minutes after arriving.



Bill Gillen in 2017 displaying Certificate of Recognition from State of Louisiana

Back home, a member of the Chosin Few Veterans Association, Bill flew airplanes and received his pilot’s license. Bill and his buddy Ron Manganiello, who lives in New Jersey, talk often.



Bill Gillen at home in 2019

Korean War Veterans Association, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920



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Falcon Flight

An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon takes off during a routine training event at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, March 24, 2021.