The Graybeards
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THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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14th Annual KWVA Reunion Armistice Day
Ceremony at National Korean War Memorial
The Graybeards

The Magazine for Members and Veterans of the Korean War.

The Graybeards is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210 (Phone: 302-227-1309) and is published six times per year for members of the Association.

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Armistice Day 1998

On the 45th Armistice Day of the ending of the Korean War over 1,000 veterans and families renewed our resolve to remember our war, those that served and those that did not come home. The ceremony on the mall at the National Korean War Memorial and at Arlington was very moving with words and music. Togo West, Ambassador Lee Hong-koo R.O.K., and KWVA President Harley Coon were the main speakers. Jack Eden was Master of Ceremonies.

Photo is Lead Color Guard from the Maryland Chapter, KWVA. Ray Glock Captain.

It was a great Ceremony, KWVA Reunion and The Gathering Reunion. Many thanks to all that made this event such a memorable one.

Togo West, Sec. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Park Ranger leading Harley Coon, Tom Clawson, Dick Adams and Jack Cloman to wreath laying ceremony where Bugler Robert Ericson (Played Taps at 2200 hours, 27 July 1953, Panmunjom, Korea) played Taps to end ceremony.

Togo West, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, poses with KWVA President, Harley Coon. Bugler Robert Ericson playing Taps - Ray Glock and Robert Donovan also shown. Photo by R. Cottle.
President’s Message

Thanks to all of you for allowing me the honor of serving as your National President.
We had a great reunion in Washington D.C. thanks to Nick Pappas, J. Norbert Reiner, Ray Donnelly Jr., Warren Weidhahn of the KWVA and Jack E. Cloman who represented the “KJV Gathering.”

I want to say “thank you” to Nancy Monson and friends for a fine job of handling the registration.

One of the things I enjoyed most was the ceremony at the National Korean War Memorial with the “KJV Gathering.” It was great having His Excellency, The Ambassador of South Korea, Lee Kong-koo, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Togo West, along with Jack Cloman, Dick Adams Tom Clawson and myself. After we left the National Korean War Memorial we had lunch. We attended the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The wreath was placed by Defense Attaché, Republic of Korea, the Honorable Jin Ha Hwang, Major General Robert R. Ivany and myself.

On Sunday, the 26th of July, Howard Camp, his wife Phyllis, George Bingham, Joe Shearer and I attended the KWV Buffet Dinner. They had a wonderful program with Korean student dances. Major Dean, Army Corps of Engineers had a great presentation on the construction of our National Korean War Memorial. Bob Hanson from the Battle Monuments Commission explained the design and dress of the statues. Most of all we enjoyed the comradeship of the Korean War Veterans at the KJV Gathering. This represented the unity of the two groups of Korean War Veterans.

Our KWVA National Organization is beginning to shape up from the financial standpoint. Nick Pappas hung in there when times were really tough. We were able to collect some of the lost funds from the insurance company. We still have a little more auditing to do and hopefully we will get additional insurance money. The Board of Directors have been criticized for having “secret meetings.” These were closed Executive Session Meetings so we would not interfere with the on-going investigation process. We will give a full report when the investigation is complete.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the KWVA should be given a big “Thank You.” They serve you, the membership, at their own expense. When a person spends $600.00 to $700.00 and some more, for food, transportation and lodging to attend a meeting of the KWVA out of their own pocket, they are dedicated. For the last two years they have received so much unnecessary criticism.

From this point on, everything we do in the KWVA is going to be positive.

Our financial picture looks good. However, we are going to be faced with additional increased costs. The postal rates will be increasing and the cost of the “Graybeards” will increase. The Membership voted to increase regular yearly dues to $20.00 a year. This is a $5.00 increase and the first ever. The Life Membership dues will remain the same until January 1, 1999 at which time they will increase to a flat $150.00. The Prisoners of War will still be Honorary Regular Members. If they wish to continue to receive “The Graybeards” there will be a subscription fee of $6.00 per year. We want to continue helping the Scholarship Fund as this will also help our “Tell America Program.” Anyone wishing to donate to “The Graybeards” or “Scholarship Program” please feel free to do so, but make sure you earmark your check as to which fund the donation should be directed.

In closing, I would like to mention a little town call “Fairborn, Ohio.” This little town has a population of about 30,000 citizens. Each year they hold a 4th of July parade and celebration. The entire parade route is about two miles long and people are lined up 2 to 4 deep. Young and old, they stand waving the small hand held American Flags, clapping and saluting as the Color Guard proceed. I have participated in this parade with the Greene County KWVA Chapter for the last few years and can tell you this degree of patriotism brings tears of joy. It signifies we are not “forgotten.” and the respect for the flag of our country is very evident. I realize there are cities all over America they conduct such events but I only hope that our citizens will continue to remember the veterans of all wars.

In the meantime if you have any questions please call me. Until the next “Graybeards,” I remain
Harley J. Coon
National President KWVA

Meet our President

Harley J. Coon of Beavercreek has been inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. The local businessman was notified of the honor by letter from Ohio Gov. George Voinovich, who established the Hall in 1992. Initial inductees were all the Ohio recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, plus Ohio’s six presidents.

Coon said it was probably the most outstanding honor he has so far received in his life.
Editor’s Pen

By Vincent A. Krepps
Korea, 2nd I.D., 82nd AAA AW (SP, D Battery 1950-1951)

My devotion and efforts to provide you, the membership and readers a magazine that remembers the Korean War, those that fought in that war, including those that still defend the freedoms enjoyed today in Korea and most all to those that paid the supreme sacrifice. My twin brother Richard who died as a POW June 21, 1951 BNR, will be my inspiration to remember Honor, Duty, Country and You.

Rules to follow:

We will only print signed letters. Folded newspaper articles with pictures can only be used to abstract information about an event. Original pictures are required if you want to see your event pictorially shown. No articles or pictures will be returned, except in special cases. I will avoid letters that are negative toward our association, board, members and the veterans that fought in the Korean War. If your story or photos do not appear in a current issue, then we will attempt to show it in the next issue. We must start on the next issue as soon as we finish the current issue. This requires us to use what we have and also using early mailings. The other rule we use is that there are several sections, we try to give each one ample pages in each issue and once we reach that goal the leftovers are held again for the next issue. Another problem is that some events may become very old and must be omitted from any issue. Minutes, by-laws, and other important announcements also dictate how much space we have for stories, chapter events and the mixed assortment that is mailed to me. I will always do my best to print your requests. Donations from members for The Graybeards printing and mailing costs is still needed. Remember our problems are minor and will be fixed. Just ask those that never returned.

Thanks for caring.
Vince Krepps

Graybeards Copies

The requests for extra Graybeards to support printing of same was such a success we will offer extra copies for every issue on a first-come first-serve basis. For future issues if you wish to make sure your orders are filled I must have advanced payment. The Graybeards will also be a great tool for the Chapters in New Membership and Tell America Programs.

Your order along with check or money order made out to KWVA National must be sent to the Editor by the first week of the first month of by-monthly issues, i.e. September-October issue, orders must be in first week of September. We request minimum orders of 5 at $1 donation per copy plus $3 postage. We can send up to 7 copies for $3 postage. For orders above 7 copies additional costs for postage is $3 for each increment of 7. — Editor.

The Graybeards

The Graybeards is the official newsletter of the Korean War Veterans Association Inc. It is scheduled to be published six times per year. Views expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the KWVA Executive Board nor does the KWVA Inc. assume any responsibility for errors of omission or commission. All articles, reports, and items except those clearly marked Official KWVA Notices and/or Announcements may be edited to conform to space, clarity, and format specifications without permission of the authors. Expressions of opinion as in editorials and letters to the editor if printed, may be edited only with the writer’s consent. Material used with permission from other sources will identify and credit that source. The use of copyrighted materials must have the permission of the copyright holder before being used.

Advertisements shown in this newsletter are not necessary KWVA Inc. associated unless otherwise stated. We do suggest our members support our advertisers through purchases, for the ads support the publication costs of this newsletter. KWVA Inc. and Editor are not responsible for purchases. All claims of dissatisfaction must be made directly to the distributor.

WWW.KWVA.ORG

Meet Charles Dearborn — our webmaster

A few months ago I asked Charlie to send me something about himself so that I could introduce him to the membership. The following is Charlie’s short Bio:

A little about myself. I am currently employed as an Electronics Technician at Fairchild Semiconductor in South Portland Maine. I have a wife, Kathleen, and 5 children, ages 4-20. I reside in Richmond, Maine.

I grew up as an “Army Brat.” My dad is retired from the US Army, and currently running for State of Maine Commander of the American Legion, and is also a member of the KWVA. (He won the election.—Ed)

I grew up in various parts of the country and world. I have 6 brothers and sisters (one deceased). To show you the amount of moving we did, I will list each of our names DOB and place of birth, oldest to youngest.

Larry Dearborn Jr. 2/56
Berlin, Germany
Rose Beckwith 5/58
Gardiner, Maine
Charlie Dearborn 3/60
Frankfort, Germany
Tom Dearborn 1/62
Fort Benning, GA
Christine Dearborn 63
Fort Benning, GA
(deceased shortly after birth)
Mark Dearborn 10/67
Frankfort, Germany
Ann Dearborn 6/71
Fort Lewis, WA

I am very proud of my family’s involvement in Military duty. My dad was in Korea for a year and Viet Nam for two years. My oldest Brother retired from the USAF in 1994. I was in the US Coast Guard Reserves for 6 years. Tom was in the USAF and Mark was in the USAF. Charlie

Editors Remarks: I have some comments on is our web page WWW.KWVA.ORG. Last April we started to look seriously into

Continued on page 29
SNOWBIRDS
Department of Florida Annual Elections

Election of department officers will take place at the annual department business meeting and convention at the Radisson Inn, North Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce, Florida on Saturday, 31 October 1998. Ballots may be cast in person at the business meeting by registered delegates or, alternatively, may be cast by U.S. mail using the following procedure: Florida Chapter or at-large members in good standing may request an official ballot from the department secretary, in writing. Members seeking a ballot shall send a stamped (55 cents), self-addressed, business size envelope with their request and KWVA membership number to: Peter Palmer, Secretary, 7704 Citrus Court, Largo, FL 33770-2756. One official ballot, instructions, and candidate information will be returned per request. Multiple ballots will not be sent. Names will be checked against the latest official KWVA state roster.

Follow the instructions carefully to prevent voiding your ballot!
Frederick L. Shear, President
Peter H. Palmer, Secretary

LONDON REUNION
BKVA International Reunion — London
17-24 July 1999

Official Program with optional Post tours to Paris, France or Ireland

Dear fellow KWVA members,

During our recent reunion in Washington DC, representatives of the British Korean Veterans Association (BKVA) presented their plans for a joint international reunion to be held in London, July 18-23, 1999. This is a very exciting “Pre Korea 2000” commemorative event that will draw thousands of veterans and their families from all 22 countries that participated in the Korean War.

As Chairman of the KWVA Revisit Committee I will be organizing and coordinating our representation at this very special event with our President Harley Coon. The plans are as follows:

- July 17 - Depart US for London
- July 18 AM - Arrive London early AM, transfer to hotel.
  PM - KWVA Welcome Dinner this evening.
- July 19 AM - Memorial Service in St Paul’s Cathedral
  PM - Reception and lunch at the Guildhall
- July 20 AM - Windsor Castle tour or optional sightseeing
  PM - Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
- July 21 - AM - Parade and Inspection, Horse Guards
  PM - US Embassy/High Commission Receptions
- July 22 - AM - Windsor Castle tour or optional sightseeing
  PM - Gala Dinner hosted by Korean Embassy
- July 23 - London sightseeing or at leisure - Imperial War Museum, National Army Museum, Churchill’s Cabinet War Rooms, HMS Belfast or other sites.
- July 24 - Depart London for home or post tour extensions to Paris, France or Ireland.

Since the main events will be subsidized in part by the BKVA, participation will be limited to one family member per KWVA member attending the Reunion.

We are working very closely with our comrades at BKVA in coordinating our hotel, air and other tour arrangements. More detailed information will be included in the next issue of “Graybeards” Watch for it! In the meantime, for more information please contact me at PO Box 1179 Alexandria VA 22313 -1179. Telephone 703 -739-8900 or Fax 703 -684-0193.

Warren H. Wiedhahn
Chairman, KWVA Revisit Committee
Korea 1950 - Pusan, Inchon, Seoul, Chosin Reservoir
Life Member - KWVA

KIA's and MIA's FORM FOR RELATIVES

U.S. Total Army Personnel Command
ATTN: TAPC-ALP-A
200 Stoval St.
Alexandria, VA 22332

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby make a request for the “Individual Deceased Personnel File” for my below listed family member who died or was killed-in-action while serving in the military:

Last Name: ____________________________
First Name: ____________________________
Service Number _________________________
Branch: ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Corps ☐ Marine Corps
☐ World War II ☐ Korean War ☐ Vietnam War
Date Of Birth: ________________________ Date Of Death: ________________________

Please be advised that I will be responsible for any costs incurred over the allowed limits.

Signed ____________________________
Name of Requestor ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State _______ Zip Code _______
Area Code/telephone Number ____________________________

Thank you Robert Rupert for the information.)

Graybeards for Sale

Back issues:
☐ May-June 1995 ☐ March-April 1996
☐ March-April 1997 ☐ March-April 1998

These issues are limited so get your order in early. $1 per copy plus $3 postage Make your check to KWVA National and state in message or note on check “For Back Issues.” I suggest minimum orders of 7 issues including July-August 1998. Mix your issues as you want. Orders of 50 of the above issues (except current) for gaining new members or just passing out at veteran hospitals can be obtained at a reduced rate of $25 including postage. Send your orders to Editor. See address on page 2.
Veterans Services

By J. Norbert “Skip” Reiner, National Service Director.

The Reunion is over, as Chairman, it is a relief. Our annual ceremony at the Memorial continues year after year. (It is conducted by the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee—a subsidiary of the Korean War Veterans Foundation.) We will comment in the next issue about the Reunion, and Ceremony plans in metro-Washington D.C. through 2004. Now it’s business. Going to capsize in order to cover many areas.

No deadline to seek benefits

We failed to research the internet message advising you must sign-up to receive VA benefits by 1 October 1998 or you will be ineligible. The information is “totally erroneous.” According to the VA, “Veterans can enroll any time.” “Veterans will be accepted for enrollment based on their legal entitlement whenever they need health care.” Take an hour or so and visit your VAMC, get yourself a photo ID card and be sure to smile. Sorry for error folks.

Hearing losses

Many time I was asked to repeat what I said in conversation with some who attended the Reunion and Ceremonies. If you have a hearing loss and can relate it to military service, begin to collect data and pursue your claim. You artillery guys and machine gunners in particular should visit a VA audiologist. It took Bert Zadoorian six year and some hard work. Bert a WWII heavy artillery man received a reward of a monthly pension and $ 80,000 in back pay for the benefits denied him. You will not get the back pay, but you can receive a pension. Remember the KWVA has a working agreement with the DAV to represent our members. One heck-of-a-lot of shells were fired in Korea; I read a statistic somewhere and we equaled or exceeded rounds fired in another War.

Tri-care in 50 VA Medical Centers

Some of you may witness pediatric care when you visit your VA medical Center. Obstetrics is another question. Military families need care. Military facilities are closing their doors. Department of Defense contractors and the Department of Veterans Affairs entered into an agreement to pro-vide certain care to military families. Some military families are unhappy with this, especially in areas where the VAMC’s have questionable reputations. The rule of thumb is veterans first. Veterans have full priority. Proponents of this arrangement exclaim the VA has both the diagnostic equipment and doctors on site. Further they stipulate VA is familiar with the military health concerns; unable to argue against that point. We will watch this and do request input from you.

Are you sleep deprived?

You may be the cause. For sure we know and our doctors tell us the brain (my wife sometimes questions if I have one) is unable to function properly without sleep. The study relates to the “90s phenomena.” You were part of it because of your coffee craze, your soda gulping, you shop after midnight, stay on the internet all night, many have become a couch potato staring at the boob tube, and so forth. 60% of adults allegedly get less than seven hours of sleep per night. [I generally get five or six. Woke up the rooster when I was on the farm.] We are suffering from “insufficient sleep syndrome” (ISS). Many accidents are attributed to ISS. Have a stomach disorder? Are you cranky a lot? How about forgetful? You name it, you are failing to get proper sleep. This is only one of the many syndromes we have. An article I recently reviewed place 89% of us with having dozens of these syndromes. We can blame these syndromes for our shortcoming can’t we? Especially when it comes time for those honey-do’s! Forgot to take the garbage out? Fill the gas tank? Change the washer in the spigot? Sorry dear I’ve got syndromes by the dozen; you must forgive me. We have a good excuse now.

Smoking

There is an old adage “don’t count your chickens before they are hatched.” The VA and many federal agencies, plus Congress/Senate, and the President did when the tobacco companies settled their claim with the government. They have now reaped and their is no money. All programs that were to benefit from this bonanza “are up in smoke.” I smile, even though we lost. Guess the old adage is true.

Arlington National Cemetery to be expanded

Yes it is true. Conditions for burial will remain the same. It will move into the area now occupied by the former Navy and now temporary Marine Corp. headquarters. Realtors say no; the KWVA and other veterans organizations say yes. More later.

Ceremony programs

Please send a self addressed stamped envelope to the Executive Director, D.C. up to three programs, Add additional postage for more copies.

Armistice and reunion messages

The White House
June 1998

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Tysons Corner, Virginia, for the 1998 national convention of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Around the world, democracy is on the rise. Former adversaries are now our partners. We stand on the threshold of a new millennium that holds the promise of unprecedented peace and prosperity, and the benefits the world enjoys today are due in no small measure to the service and sacrifice of America’s veterans.

Almost 42 million Americans have served in our Armed Forces over the history of our country. More than 25 million of them are still with us today. That in a remarkable gift for which we can all be grateful, and I extend my deepest thanks to the men and women who have defended our freedom and advanced American interests around the world. In a world of constant challenge and change, we know with certainty that today America is free, secure, and prosperous because of the gift of your service. It is now our solemn obligation to preserve the peace that those of you in the Korean War Veterans Association sacrificed so much to build.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive convention.

Bill Clinton

It has been forty-eight years since the outbreak of the Korean War. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt grati-
SERVICES from page 7

tude and respect to all soldiers and people of
our allied countries who participated in battles
for the cause of peace and freedom against
the brutal invasion of the communist North
Korea. Moreover, I would like to reflect upon
the noble sacrifices made by the participants
and extend my deepest condolences to their
families.

The Land of the Morning Calm, a name
synonymous with Korea, has accomplished
an economic miracle out of the ruins of the
Korean War through refusal to give up and
through concerted efforts by the people of
Korea.

Although Korea is currently experiencing
economic difficulties, our full-fledged demo-
cracy and economic prosperity was made pos-
sible through noble dedication and sacrifices,
as well as unwavering support and assistance
from our allied countries.

The people and the Armed Forces of Korea
will forever cherish the sacrifices made by the
participants from our allied countries for trav-
eling great distance to risk their lives.

The Republic of Korea Armed Forces
which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its
foundation this year, has developed into
strong forces with formidable combat capa-
bilities. Furthermore, in addition to detering
war on the Korean peninsula, we are actively
contributing our efforts to maintaining peace
and stability throughout the world as a mem-
ber of the United Nations Peace Keeping
Force.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea
will do its best to maintain peace and stability
on the Korean peninsula in order to guarantee
that the dedication and sacrifices rendered by
men and women from our allied countries
were not in vain.

I would like to close by conveying my
sincere appreciation and best wishes to all the
Participants and their families.

With warmest regards,

Chun, Yong Tack
Minister of National Defense
Republic of Korea

KWVA Members

Visit our web site at:
HTTP://www.kwva.org

Bureau of Engraving honors its Korean War
Veterans

Speaking at the dedication, left to right: Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.); Mary Ellen Withrow, Treasurer of the United States; General Raymond Davis, USMC (Ret.), MOH; Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, USN, (Ret.).

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing
dedicated a Korean War Memorial
honoring employees who served in the Ko-
orean War. The ceremony was held in the
Conference Center Hall of Honor in the
Annex Building of the Bureau of Engraving
and Printing in Washington, D.C. on
Friday, December 5, 1997.

The guest speakers at the dedication
ceremony were the Treasurer of the United
States, Mary Ellen Withrow; General Ray-
mond Davis USMC, (Retired), MOH, co-
chairman of Korea 2000; and Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, USN, (Retired). Col. War-
ren Wiedhahn, USMC, (Retired), partici-
pated as Master of Ceremonies. General
William Westmoreland, USA, (Retired),
cochairman of Korea 2000, was present.
Also included were other members of the
Korea 2000 - 50th anniversary committee.

Members of the embassies of the 21
nations who participated in the Korean War
represented their respective countries.
Members of the U.S. Department of De-
fense military services also participated.
(Thank you Bureau of Engraving and
Printing for remembering the Korean War
and its veterans. We also thank Milton J.
Seidel for the photos and write-up.)

Unveiling the memorial, left to right: Mitt Seidel, Associate Director, BEP; Larry Rolufs, Director, BEP;
Mary Ellen Withrow, Treasurer of the United States; General Raymond Davis,USMC, (Ret.) MOH; Gen-
eral William Westmoreland, USA (Ret.); and Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, USN, (Ret.).

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The Graybeards
Defense POW/MIA Weekly Update

May 20, 1998

DPMO Interviews Japanese POWs

Interviewers from DPMO's Moscow office, with the help of the Japanese Embassy, have interviewed former Japanese POWs living in Russia, seeking information about possible American POWs.

Two of the Japanese POWs had lived quietly in the Krasnoyarsk area of Siberia. They returned to Japan last month for short visits, and press reports reached the U.S. Each had been held in the Soviet gulag following WWII and after their release had married in Russia and raised families. Neither of the POWs had encountered any Americans in the gulag, but follow on interviews with other Japanese POWs are scheduled for later this month.

May 27, 1998

Jones to Lead POW/MIA Effort

Robert L. Jones has assumed the office of The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs. He was appointed by The Secretary of Defense to his new position earlier this month.

Jones is responsible for leading the Department of Defense worldwide commitment to the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from all conflicts. This mission includes the rescue of individuals who fall in harm's way as a result of combat. Prior to his appointment he was the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs. He came to the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1993 after serving as the national executive director of AMVETS, the nation's fourth largest congressionally chartered veterans service organization.

Mr. Jones is a combat veteran of the conflict in Vietnam, having served two tours there and earning numerous decorations and awards. He is a special disabled veteran, with duty in the Army as both an enlisted man and an officer including assignments in Infantry, Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces units. He was a ground liaison officer with the Air Force's 50th Tactical Fighter Wing and has flown approximately 200 hours in the F-4 Phantom aircraft. He has also earned the Black Belt designation in Tae Kwon Do.

He was born in Decatur, Ill., holds a bachelor's degree from Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C., and a master's degree from Troy State University in Alabama. He and his wife Nancy reside in Severn, Md. They have three children.

MIA Remains Repatriated From North Korea

After more than a week's delay, North Korea repatriated remains believed to be those of two U.S. soldiers across the demilitarized zone at Panmunjom. A joint U.S.-North Korean team had excavated the remains at a site about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, the capital city.

The operation began on April 21, with U.S. team members from the Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) and DPMO working with their counterparts at a battlefield site in Kujang County. It is the site of a November 1950 battle between the communist Chinese army and the U.S. 8th Army, 25th Infantry Division. The area was the site of fierce combat where approximately 50 U.S. soldiers fell. More than 8,100 American servicemen are unaccounted for from the Korean War. Specialists from CILHI spent about 25 days at the excavation site. These teams include experts in forensic anthropology; mortuary affairs; explosive ordnance disposal; logistics; photography; communications and medical support. Two members of the team remained in Pyongyang to maintain communications linkage between the site and the United States.

Five members of the archival research team are also completing a week's research at two sites which contained records which may relate to unaccounted-for U.S. servicemen. The team's entry into North Korea was delayed one week while U.S. and North Korean officials resolved the remains repatriation issue.

June 3, 1998

President Clinton Highlights Commitment to MIAs

In the annual ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery, President Clinton highlighted the debt this nation owes to its veterans. Just hours before the ceremony, North Korea released remains which had been recovered in a joint recovery operation which began on April 21.

As he spoke, the President noted that the nation stands in silence each Memorial Day to remember and to honor "the known and the unknown who gave their all for our nation."

"As spring turns to summer, Americans around the nation take this day to enjoy friends and family. But we come again to Arlington to remember how much was given so that we could enjoy this day and every day in freedom. We come to this sacred ground out of gratitude and profound respect for those who are not here but who gave all so that we might be here."

Speaking of a historic event which occurred earlier at that site, he said "Eleven days ago a Vietnam veteran was removed from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was the right course of action, because science has given us a chance to restore his remains."

National KWVA Fund Raiser Flower Rose of Sharon

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

☐ Sample order is 4 dozen @ $10 plus $3.00 S/H.
☐ Minimum order is 20 doz. @ $50 plus $5.00 S/H.

Order from:  Earl House
               1870 Yakona Rd
               Baltimore, MD 21234
               (Ph 410-661-8950).

Make checks payable to: Maryland Chapter – KWVA.

Please turn to POW/MIA on page 29
Basic Training in the Brown Shoe Army

By MAJ. Gen. Robert F. Enstlin, Jr. (Ret.)

Recent visits to Army basic training centers have left me extremely impressed by the soldierly qualities of today’s Drill Sergeants. starched, pressed and spit-shined, they are confident, intimidating and know the regulations by rote. Unfortunately, recent events have shown that some of them still have feet of clay. As that great Inspector General of the Army, Dick Treffry, explained to my “charm school” class, “There are three ways that Generals get in trouble and they’re the same three ways that your soldiers get in trouble, whiskey, women and bad judgment.” All of which proves that while some things change, other things never do.

It was June of 1950. The ink on my Bachelor’s degree was hardly dry when the North Koreans invaded South Korea. Having been classified as 1A since 1946, I knew that the Draft Board would soon be looking for me. Amazingly, it took them until November and I found myself getting off a bus at the Reception Center at Fort Meade, Maryland.

It was about ten PM and we were marched over to a nearby barracks, still in our civilian clothes. We were issued sheets and blankets and told to make up our bunks. The next request was for a show of hands of those who had received any college education. Those who raised their hands were each given a towel and told to tie it to the foot of their cots. I had the temerity to ask what this was for. “None of your goddamn business, just do it!” ended the questions.

I folded up my clothes and put them under my cot, right beneath the head, where I would be aware if they were disturbed. When the lights went out, I was sound asleep, immediately. It was still pitch black night when some one lifted the foot of my bunk about a foot and dropped it on the floor. “Get up soldier, you’re on KP!” It was four AM and I dressed in the dark, noting that my wallet was no longer in my trousers. We climbed into the back of a two and a half ton truck for the ride to the Consolidated Mess where about a thousand casual troops were fed each meal.

We didn’t finish KP until ten PM and when we finally got back to the barracks, I found that I was being assigned as a filler in a U.S. Army Reserve Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company with the rank of Recruit. The outfit was mobilized at about 50% strength and filled up with raw rookies for Platoon Sergeant Mahoney and his fellow NCOs to turn into soldiers. Mahoney was a big, bluff Irishman with a ruddy complexion and a somewhat rumpled look. He possessed the requisite big voice, but he probably exceeded the chart weight for his height. His irresistible credential was the Combat Infantry Badge that he wore above his left pocket. Most important of all, there was no question that he ran his platoon and he was comfortable doing it.

If Mahoney was appalled by his grab bag of draftees and volunteers, he gave no sign. The kid whose bunk was next to mine was an 18 year old RA from West Virginia who couldn’t read or write. He dictated his letters home to me. On the other side of me, the bunk belonged to a punch drunk professional boxer who had clearly taken too many poundings in a career that included few wins. Across the aisle was Recruit Grunewald, who had served with the German Wehrmacht on the Russian front and whose legs were scarred by the mortar fragments that had been his ticket back to Germany as the War drew to a close. He was an experienced and capable soldier whose expertise in weapons, camouflage, and first aid helped Mahoney teach us the skills of soldiering.

Giving Grunewald a wide berth was a Netherlander who had fought with the Dutch underground. He was sophisticated and well educated, a member of a wealthy family which emigrated to the States after the War. I never saw either acknowledge the other. A big, strong, one-eyed kid from Baltimore had enlisted with a couple of buddies. They had somehow survived the pitfalls of juvenile delinquency, but constituted an accident waiting to happen. Mahoney watched them like a hawk and kept a tight leash on them when they were in the company area. However, when they got a weekend pass to Washington, the first stop was Lafayette Park to “roll a few quers to finance the weekend.” Word got back to Mahoney and they didn’t see another pass until the end of Basic Training.

On our second day in the Army, Mahoney gathered the platoon on the first floor of our standard issue, wood frame, 44-man barracks. “There are some things that you people have got to understand about life in the Army. First, we all live here, together, and we’ve got to be able to trust each other. We don’t steal from each other. If you want to steal from somebody, go across the street. If you catch somebody stealing, bring him to me. Explain that he looks like he does because he fell down the stairs. I’ll take it from there.”

“Another thing that we do is that we take a shower every day.” He held up a GI brush and a huge bar of GI soap. The bristles on the brush looked as large and as sharp as pencils and the soap was pure Octagon. “If you have anybody who doesn’t take a shower every day, I want a group of you to take this brush and this soap and drag his ass into the shower room for a GI bath.” Our platoon had one soldier fall down the stairs and one soldier experience a GI bath. It went just as Mahoney said it would and both problems were solved.

As time passed, we developed some of our own unique fixes for what we considered to be other “problems.” Mahoney ruled the barracks from his private cadre room on the second floor. At 0530 each morning, Mahoney would throw open the door to his room, flip on the lights and produce a piercing blast on his whistle. We would then try to gather our thoughts, figure out how and where we were and slowly begin to stir. Except for one young recruit, whose name is lost in the fog of the years, but who would literally leap from his cot, eager to begin the day and fired up to learn more soldiering from Mahoney. The rest of us considered his behavior obnoxious. The more we gave him hell, the more enthusiastic he would become.

We scratched our heads repeatedly, asking ourselves how Mahoney would handle something like this. Finally, the great light dawned! That evening, after lights out, our
nemesis was always sound asleep within thirty seconds), our action team of four gently tied a tent rope to each corner of his cot, passed the ropes over the open rafters of the second floor and ever so carefully raised the cot until the mattress was about six feet above the floor. At 0530, the lights came on, the whistle shrieked, and our pigeon launched himself into thin air. He landed with a smack on his neighbor’s cot, which had been vacated for the occasion. His subsequent 0530 departure was dramatically improved and the hospital checkup said “no broken ribs.”

There were no “contract” K.P.s in the brown shoe Army and all of us were on the roster. Any training that we missed because of the duty roster was just training that we missed. Usually, K.P. in a company-size mess is not that big a deal, but when cooks use soft coal as their fuel and it’s a grade of bituminous that generates a volume of soot that is twice that of the original fuel, there is a problem that today’s environmentalists just wouldn’t tolerate. I pulled the duty once in December, on a very cold day. We had spaghetti for lunch and fish for supper, a very unpleasant pair of meals to scrub pots and pans behind. The K.P.’s final chore was to clean about three inches of accumulated soot from the fire boxes of the kitchen ranges. When we finished, we looked like chimney sweeps, covered with an enveloping crust of greasy soot.

We finished shortly after taps and crept back to the barracks in the dark, looking to repair to the latrine for a hot shower and then to collapse on our cots. Life’s darkest moment was reached when we discovered that the fire in the boiler had gone out and that there was no hot water and that there would be none for hours. The cold shower that followed served only to conceal the greasy soot on our shivering bodies.

Another detail that occasionally kept us from training was Prison Chaser. The prisoners in the stockade were kept gainfully employed by putting them on work details all over the post. Mowing lawns, policing, painting and other forms of common labor were included. All prisoners were under guard at all times. We reported to the stockade for Prison Chaser at the crack of dawn, with our weapons, and were issued a clip of ammunition and received a lecture by the stockade Sergeant Major, one of the most intimidating senior sergeants I’ve ever seen.

“You will lock and load and keep your safety on until you need to use your weapon. If your prisoner attempts to escape, you are expected to shoot him. If your prisoner succeeds in escaping, you will take his place in the stockade.” Fortunately, the guys I guarded had no thought of testing the judgement of a young recruit with a loaded .45 caliber pistol.

Payday was one of the few times that we would see our company commander. When our name was called, we would enter his office and report. He would be seated behind his blanket covered desk, a loaded, upholstered .45 caliber pistol lay on the desk. An armed guard stood at parade rest behind the commander. The pay at the time was $75 per month. After we were paid, the balance of the day was a holiday.

Mahoney and the senior NCOs would then repair to the NCO Club and most of the platoon would repair to the latrine and the dice would come out. The noisy, crowded latrine would gradually get quieter as soldier after soldier left with empty pockets. Finally, shortly before daylight the next morning, the last remaining recruit would appear with a broad grin on his face and most of the platoon’s payroll stuffed in his pockets.

Mahoney was Infantry, and more a member of the Roger Young school than of the Peter Hackworth school. He sought to prepare us to accomplish the mission and survive rather than to cover ourselves with glory. He taught us pragmatic things that worked rather than just what the field manual said was the solution. Mahoney was, above all, fair, and his soldiers believed in him. Over the next three years, I remembered my Platoon Sergeant many times, in many difficult situations, especially in Korean combat and I posed the question, many times, “What would Sergeant Mahoney do in this situation?” The answer to the question usually brought a successful solution to my dilemma.

My conclusion, almost fifty years after Sergeant Mahoney taught me to soldier, is that you learn from soldiers and not from systems. The highly polished, extremely efficient system of Basic Training Centers, Drill Sergeants and gender integrated training of today’s Army would probably reject the Sergeant Mahoneys of the world, or would try to mold them into something that they aren’t. Much of what he taught us would lead to courts martial today, but not the kind of courts martial that have been filling today’s headlines, He was a bit unconventional, but the bottom line is that it worked for us almost fifty years ago.

Mahoney! I wish I knew where you were, today, so I could say, “Thanks, soldier!”

(General, you sure brought back memories to all of us brown shoe soldiers. We also thank all the Sgt. Mahoney’s that were a major factor in bringing us home. I hope that Sgt. Mahoney will contact you through our Graybeards mail.)

Teasurer becomes National Secretary

Dear Members:

In the March/April issue of “The Graybeards” I wrote to you as your newly appointed Treasurer to cover the remaining six months until the new election of officers was held on July 2, 1998 at the 14th Annual Reunion in Virginia. Now I am writing to you as your newly appointed National Secretary as a result of a “switch” with Jim Martin who was appointed National Treasurer.

Jim Martin was acting Treasurer and had the accounting system in his computer prior to my appointment. At my request to your incoming President, Harley Coon, I suggested that Jim continue handling the Treasurer’s job and that I would be willing to serve as your Secretary. This request was approved by Harley and ratified by members of the Executive Council on July 25, 1998.

Hereafter, all monies should be sent to Jim Martin, Treasurer, KWVA, Inc., at P.O. Box 35406, Baltimore MD 21222.

I wish to thank all the members for their financial support in the buying and selling of raffle tickets and donations to The Graybeards. You are encouraged to continue your donations to the magazine.

My mailing address will remain the same except that I will have a separate telephone line to service your requests. Please note that this number (540-972-8306) will be for KWVA business purposes only.

Sincerely,

Ed Markart, Secretary
Monuments and Memories

Korea, The Forgotten War........... remembered

Korean War Memorial in Sterling Heights, Michigan


New Korean War Memorial Monument Dedicated, Memorial Day 1998 in Sterling Heights, MI. KWVA Life Member Mike Adragna USMC spearheaded the drive, designed the monument and along with his wife Grace handled all of the fund raising. The Black granite monument stands 5’-2” tall. Design was kept to balance with other memorial monuments in the courtyard. All of the donors names are engraved on the stones rear face. Assisting Mayor Richard Norton in the unveiling were members of the Korean American Women’s Association. All small children during the war and now proud American citizens. Their Organization contributed a very generous portion of the drive. A wreath ceremony followed with Mike Adragna along with Mrs. Jean Lapich, who’s husband Harry, KIA on 14 Aug 1952 with the 3rd Army Div., placed a wreath at the monument.

(Thank you Mike Adragna, Sterling Heights and all involved for remembering the Korean War and its Veterans by erecting this beautiful Memorial.)

National Korean War Veterans Memorial

On his first visit to Washington, DC as President of South Korea Kim Dae-jung laid this large beautiful wreath at our Korean War Memorial on the Mall.

(Photograph supplied by Jack Cloman, Secretary MD Chapter, KWVA. Thanks Jack and thank you President Kim Dae-jung, South Korea Remembers)

Korean War Memorial started by KWVA member

The Graybeards Cover Photo

The supply of May-June cover photo is running short. Price is $3.00 per photo plus $1.50 for postage. We can mail 3 photos in one mailing envelope. The color photo shows the soldier (Graybeard), boy on bench, logo, and The Graybeards across the top in bold black text. A great gift for a Korean Veteran or to sell in Quartermaster. When supply is exhausted no more will be printed. Make checks to KWVA National and send order to editor. Address is in The Graybeards. First come, first served.

Newcomerstown, Ohio is a village in Northeastern Ohio which is best known as the boyhood home of the tenacious coach Woody Hayes, but Coach Hayes is not the only resident known for his tenacity. Several years ago KWVA member John A. Gunn thought it would be
a good idea to do something to make the Korean War remembered for all time in his hometown. Almost singlehandedly this focused veteran went to work to make it happen.

On May 31, 1998 with Rep. Robert Ney (Ohio 18th district) and David Aldstadt, the director of Veterans Affairs and the governor's representative on the speakers stand with him, John Gunn saw his dream become a reality. The tribute is in Memorial Park in the center of town. John Gunn is the commander of VFW Post 3303 and sergeant-at-arms of American Legion Post 431 as well as KWVA member 20517. At present member Gunn is working with Robert Jones to create a KWVA chapter in nearby Coshocton. (A special Memorial, Village, Veteran and Officials.—Ed)

More Illinois events remembering Korean War

The State of Illinois is again remembering its Korean War Veterans, this time with Highway System Route 1 from the Northern part of the State to its Southern border along the Eastern border. It is now known as the "Illinois Korean War Memorial Veterans’ Memorial Highway." The Korean War Veterans of the State of Illinois have a Bridge, License Plates, a State Monument, and now a Highway. What a great tribute to the 206,500 who served and remembering the 1,741 KIA's, the 4,691 who were wounded and those listed still as MIA's and the POW's. I was glad to be a part of all these projects, working with Representative William B. Black on most of them, of my hometown in Danville, IL.

(Thanks Hershall Lee for the latest news from Illinois.)

Above is a picture of the war memorial that has been built in our town of Fairmount, IL, honoring our veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and The Gulf War. The bricks used to build this memorial were once the main street of Fairmount, IL. The bricks were taken up and dumped in the woods 25 to 30 years ago, when our new main street was paved. The bricks were brought back to town, cleaned and used to build this memorial. The pedestal you see in the picture honors our Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Carlos C. Ogden, who served during World War II. Mr. Ogden returned home 53 years after his deeds of heroic bravery to be honored on The Memorial's dedication day, the 24th of August, 1997. All of the labor, materials and money were donated by people who are veterans themselves, family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances to build this memorial. This project took about 6 months to complete. We are very proud of our memorial and feel strongly of it's historic background. We are proud to share this with the readers. Please contact Bert T. Kirby, 100 S. Park Street, Fairmount, IL 61841, (217) 733-2359 and I'll answer any and all questions you may have.

(Thank you Bert for the photo and history of your memorial. I am sure Fairmount and the veterans of your area are very proud of the beautiful memorial and Carlos C. Ogden, MOH. You are special also for telling us about the memorial.)

Proud Korean War Vets display their tags...

Louis Ross

TENAS

DW1ODY

KOREAN WAR VETERAN

James Broekemeir

2069

USA

ALWAYS A MARINE

Keith M. Larson

Bob Clinch (USAF 1951-55 & Chapter 1 KWVA) — Bob has 2 more
Chapter Affairs

Oklahoma Chapter

At their January meeting, Oklahoma Chapter members gave generously. Right to Left: Harold Heard, American Legion - President Harold Mulhausen - Vice President Robert Engler and Member Bill Cockrell.

The Oklahoma Chapter of Korean War Veterans took up a collection at their January meeting to sponsor a youngster to the American Legion boys and girls camp. In less than ten minutes the members present dug into their own pockets for the money. The money will sponsor the child for one week.

(A special program supported by a great Chapter and members)

Nassau County Chapter #1 of New York

Nassau County Chapter #1 began marching in it last year, and the enclosed photo shows what has happened since then. Last year we won the trophy for 1st place in Veterans Marching Units. This year we didn’t do as well. However, we did come home with the second place trophy (shown). The Chapter has been quite busy lately, placing flags in the Long Island National Cemetery, attending Memorial Day Services and parading. All in all a very busy season.

(Another Great Chapter and Members doing special events to “Tell America.”)

Greater Cincinnati Chapter of Ohio

Proud Members of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter at a Veterans Day Parade in 1997.

(Thank you Robert McGeorge for sending in the photo. We are proud of the Ohio Veterans. Please send in more current photos of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter so we can tell other members about your events.)

Central Massachusetts Chapter

Central Massachusetts Chapter color guard at the 1998 Worcester, MA, Water Ceremony. The ceremony is held each May in honor of those lost at sea in the service of our country. Left to right - George Montville, Earl Bellville, Jim Lazaro, Walter Heyes and Bob Rutter.

(A special ceremony. Thanks men and thanks Bob Rutter for the Photos. Will try to print others in future issues.)
Members of the South Chicago Chapter formed the Color Guard and are shown at Memorial Day Services on May 23rd, 1998. They are posed behind Korean War memorial in Chicago.

Members are from the Village of Tinley Park, IL and are very active in that community and in the Chicago area. I am proud to say that I am the Captain of the team. In the picture I am the last one on the right. (Paul Guerrero.)

Our Korean War Memorial in Chicago inscription reads: "The Veterans of the Greater Chicago Area present this memorial in memory of those men and women who served during the Korean War. So that those who sacrificed so much in the cause of freedom will never be forgotten."

(Thank you Paul Guerrero for the photos and the letter. A super Memorial and a great looking color Guard. We are proud of you and your chapter efforts and events)

Cpl. Richard A. Bell Chapter of Wisconsin

President Henry Waldeck (far left) and members of the color Guard, left to right, Arthur Homing, Harold Mapes Jr. Jerry Jung, and Larry Chase.

Members of the Cpl. Richard A. Bell Chapter, Inc. K.W.V.A. of West Bend, Wisconsin formed a color Guard for the dedication of the new Washington County Memorial on Memorial Day, 25 May, 1998. It was "Dedicated to Men and Women who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam..." On the left side of the Memorial are the names of those killed in the

West Bend, Wisconsin War memorial.

Korean War. Cpl. Richard A. Bell's name is the 2nd one on the list. Cpl. Bell was the First Service person KIA of Washington County

(A very nice Memorial and a sharp looking Color Guard. Many thanks to Henry C. Waldeck, President for providing the photos and story.)

Col. Alice Gritsavage Chapter of Florida

Members of the First KWVA Ladies Auxiliary stand proud at the newly erected plaques located in the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park which will be completed in about 3 years. It has been under construction for a little over one year. When completed the park will cover about 9 acres and will honor all veterans of all wars. Just dedicated was a Medal of Honor, Purple Heart and a MIA Monument. The park is located on a newly named Purple Heart Blvd in the City of Ocala.

(Thank you Dick Merrill for the Photos and the story. I hope to print the other photo of Chapter Members in a later issue. As they say Ladies First. It is an honor to give our ladies who do so much for our chapters some well deserved press. We are proud of you for being the First Auxiliary. I hope to write about those Chapter Auxiliaries that will follow.)
Eulogy given by Chaplain Frank Panetta at 7th Annual Memorial Service at Battery Park in Manhattan held on June 27, 1998:

Most gracious heavenly father, our supreme commander, we thank you for all our blessings. We thank you for this beautiful day that unites us, in your presence, on this hallowed ground. In Ecclesiastics you inspire us that there is an appointed time for everything. A time for every affair under the heavens, especially this one today. Everything that happens in this world happens at the time you, our heavenly father chooses.

A time for war and a time for peace.
A time to mourn and a time to mend.
A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to hate and a time for love.
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to weep and a time for joy.
A time for silence and a time for talk.

June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 was a time for war, a time to kill and a time to hate. It was a time to die, and for those family and friends of the deceased, it was a time to weep and a time to mourn.

Yes, it was a time for silence. We never talked about our military experiences. It became known as the “Forgotten War,” and now with your grace it is a time to talk.

A time to talk what this monument is all about, and pass it on to our children, and children’s children to perpetuate this annual dedication beyond our time to die, and our time to be born to new life with you, our heavenly father.

It’s a time to talk about the Korean American who suffered the pains of war.

A time to talk about the family and friends of the deceased and their agony.

A time to talk about the veterans that have departed, the veterans here and across this beautiful land America, the land of the free. They answered the call to serve you our god and country.

Most of all a time to talk about the wounded in body, mind and spirit, the MIA’s and POW’s still unaccounted for, and the 34,461 Americans that gave the supreme sacrifice, of which 35 names from Staten Island are inscribed in stone at our memorial.

It is now a time to trust in you. A time to let go so that we may experience a time to mend and a time to heal, a time to love and a time for joy knowing that they are with you, where there is no time for sorrow, no time for tears and no time for pain. They will experience a time for eternal peace and we a time for peace on earth. Amen

Frank Panetta, Chaplain, Cpl. Kivlehan Chapter
(What an ending to a ceremony. You are special also Frank.)

Department of New York

The Rensselaer County Korean War Memorial

The Rensselaer County Korean War Memorial was dedicated on May 30, 1996 in Troy, N.Y. The silhouette is an Associated Press photograph of Pfc. Richard Coate, 15th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, taken in early March 1951 near the south bank of the Han River opposite Seoul, Korea.

Richard Coate
I didn’t know him then but I know him now.
He is proud - He stands for something. It shows.
To many he is just a silhouette a stone image on another monument.
Look Closer - What the man and monument represent are the same.
Not only honoring those who fell but representing those who came home Unsung and soon Forgotten.
His silhouette represents the Soldier, Sailor, Marine, the proud “they” in:

“You Stand Free Because They Fought”

Susan Giesselmann (5/15/98)

(Sent in by Paul Cloutier. Our thanks to all.)
A plaque given to 22 Korean War Veterans living at nursing home by Osceola County Chapter. Part of the inscription on the plaque states:

"Thanks for your contribution to World Peace. First Defenders Against Communism. A Greatful Nation."

**Bennett, Emory L. (Posthumous Award)**

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company B, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Sohangsan, Korea, 24 June 1951. Entered service at: Cocoa, Fla. Born: 20 December 1929, New Smyrna Beach, Fla. G.O. No.: 11, 1 February 1952. Citation: Pfc. Bennett a member of Company B, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations. At approximately 0200 hours, 2 enemy battalions swarmed up the ridge line in a fanatical charge in an attempt to dislodge Pfc. Bennett's company from its defensive positions. Meeting the challenge, the gallant defenders delivered destructive retaliation, but the enemy pressed the assault with fanatical determination and the integrity of the perimeter was imperiled. Fully aware of the odds against him, Pfc. Bennett unhesitatingly left his foxhole, moved through withering fire, stood within full view of the enemy, and, employing his automatic rifle, poured crippling fire into the ranks of the onrushing assailants, inflicting numerous casualties. Although wounded, Pfc. Bennett gallantly maintained his 1-man defense and the attack was momentarily halted. During this lull in battle, the company reorganized for counterattack, but the numerically superior foe soon infiltrated into the position. Upon orders to move back, Pfc. Bennett voluntarily remained to provide covering fire for the withdrawing elements, and, defying the enemy, continued to sweep the charging foe with devastating fire until mortally wounded. His willing self-sacrifice and intrepid actions saved the position from being overrun and enabled the company to effect an orderly withdrawal. Pfc. Bennett's unflinching courage and consummate devotion to duty reflect lasting glory on himself and the military service. (A great deed by this Chapter and its members for Veterans, and a special Nursing Home. KWVA is proud of you.)
Department of Ohio Korean War Veterans Association held their state convention in Fairborn, Ohio. (Dayton) Over 150 men and women representing all 17 Ohio chapters were in attendance. We all wish Harley J. Coon, current Ohio State K.W.V.A. President, success in his new endeavor as National K.W.V.A. President. (All members of our association join you in wishing Harley much success. I am sure he is proud of all of you and thanks you for your support. Thank you Robert Bakalik for the photo and the letter.)

Yongdung-Po Chapter 14 of Pennsylvania

Officers of the Yongdung-Po Chapter 14 of Pennsylvania (l-r), 1st Vice President - Thomas McManamon; President - Andrew J. Lynch; Secretary - Joe Trucks; Sgt-at-Arms - Ed Papaycik.

The 3rd Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Service of St. Ephraim's Church, Bensalem, PA., after which President Andrew Lynch attended a parade and Memorial Service at Beverly National Cemetery, Beverly, N.J. Beverly National Cemetery is where Andrew's father (WWII) John T. Lynch and mother, Mary, along with his sister PFC Dorothy O'Hara (Korea) are buried in hallowed ground with full Military Honors. His brother Ed (Chick) Lynch (Korea), Recipient of Bronze Star Medal for Valor, is buried in the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown, NJ.

(What a military history. Andrew is also a Korean War Veteran and a past National Director. KWVA, Korean War Veterans, Pennsylvania and New Jersey are proud of this family also.)

Maryland Chapter, KWVA

The Maryland Chapter sponsored the above Little Loop Baseball team shown above with manager and coaches. Our Chapter name also was on their backs. What a great way to advertise, help children and Tell America.

Publish your events...
The KWVA has over 138 Chapters and Departments in the United States. We want to hear from all of them!

Editor, The Graybeards
Korean War Vets Are Not Forgotten

Join our nostalgic Steamboatin' Vacation when the entire boat shares in our memories!
Memphis to New Orleans      May 29 - June 5, 1999

America is finally remembering the Forgotten War. Soldiers and Marines who once fought bitter battles at places like Inchon, Bloody Ridge and the Chosin Reservoir are finally being honored on our nostalgic theme cruise aboard the Paddlewheeler Steamboat, the magnificent Mississippi Queen. Relive those poignant years with your buddies of long ago through the unforgettable music of the forties and early fifties, plus newsreels and documentaries of Korean War years.

This 7-day Korean War Theme Cruise features the Artie Shaw Orchestra on board for listening and slow dancing entertainment each night. Your spacious cabin and all meals are included in this one special price. There’s lots of activities for the Korean War vets, and don’t forget the exciting shore visits along the way from Memphis to New Orleans, exploring our American heritage.

Big Discounts and FREE AIRFARE are yours, so don’t miss the boat! This may be your last chance to get together with those friends that you haven’t seen in decades, on a relaxed yet thoroughly entertaining vacation. All Korean War veterans, families and friends are welcome to join us and take advantage of our special group rates, space permitting. (And ... part of each fare booked through Shoreline Travel will be donated to various Korean War Memorials across the country!)

It all takes place next May! Fares start as low as $1,350 per person. Free roundtrip airfare is available from most major U.S. cities, but will expire soon!! Don’t wait! Space will go fast.
Reserve your cabin now.......Let’s reminisce together. If you were there, you should be here!

In the Dining Room
...and out on deck.

Entertainment Lounge

The Mississippi Queen
Length: 382 feet
Passengers: 422
Crew: 156

Complete details are in our flyer. Call for it today   (800) 797-6707
All travel arrangements handled by Shoreline Travel; owner is Korean War vet and KWVA member.

California Seller of travel registration #1008633-40
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

2:00  Arrival and registration until 7 pm. Registration times may be adjusted based on final attendance.
8:00  Board of Trustee Meeting and Committee Meetings.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30  Registration continues until 8 pm.
9:30  Board bus for Ft. Bliss facilities and Museum.
9:45  Arrive at historic Ft. Bliss, dating back to 1893, for a self-guided driving tour of the post. Brochures with maps will highlight stops along the way. There will be time to visit both the Air Defense Museum and the Ft. Bliss Museum which replicates the post in the 1850's. The adobe buildings are reproductions of the approximate twenty structures of which Fort Bliss consisted from 1854 to 1868.
11:45  Enjoy lunch at the Officers Club. The buffet menu with all the fixin's for club sandwiches, soup, salad, dessert.
1:00  Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 1:15 pm. [$27/Person includes bus, guide and lunch.]
3:30  Board bus for Juarez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande River. Enjoy bargain hunting for treasures in the Old City Mercado. Look for great buys on baskets, pottery, silver, and other Mexican goods. US Citizens are not required to show papers when crossing between El Paso and Juarez. You may bring back, duty free, once every 31 days, articles for personal or household use up to $400 in retail value.
5:00  Reboard bus for Puebloito Mexican Cafe and a chance for some great "picture taking" in the center court of the mall laid out like a Mexican Village. A grocery store at the mall offers your best buys in liquor to take home.
6:00  Sample Mexico's finest at Ajuana Restaurant in the heart of Juarez. Enjoy a Margarita Cocktail before your Mexican Combo Plate with a chicken flauta, enchilada, chile reyno, rice, beans, guacamole, and dessert. Mariachis perform throughout the evening.
7:30  Reboard bus to return to the hotel by 8 pm. [$30/Person (bus-guide-dinner).]
8:30  Board of Trustees Meeting and Committee Meetings. — All meetings open to all as everyone needs to support.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00  Breakfast Buffet including juice, eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, and potatoes. [$13/Tickets]
7:45  Devotion Service.
8:45  Business Meeting.
9:30  Board of Trustees Meeting.
10:30  Board bus for a city tour of El Paso. Learn of this historic city's rich past and the part that it played in the development of the frontier. Located on the Rio Grande River, El Paso was named by conquistador Don Juan de Omate more than 300 years ago. Drive through the downtown district and by some of El Paso's old missions.
11:30  Lunch on your own at Luby's Cafeteria.
12:45  Reboard bus for War Eagles Air Museum, located in nearby Santa Teresa, NM. The museum features a collection of 28 fully restored, flyable historic aircraft of the WWII and Korean eras.
2:00  Reboard bus and continue the city tour of El Paso on your way back to the hotel.
4:00  Back at the hotel. [$24/Person includes bus, guide, and admittance. Lunch is not included.]
6:00  Welcoming Dinner. [$19/Tickets] Includes officer installation. After dinner enjoy a fund-raiser for the Wolfhound Orphanage with Bingo and games. Please remember to bring Bingo and Auction gifts ($25 or more).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30  Board bus for Benito Martinez School - Tour School.
9:00  Parade and Memorial Program.
10:45  Reboard buses for Ft. Bliss VA Memorial Cemetery and a Graveside Service and wreath laying.
12:00  Reboard for Ft. Hancock. Enjoy a box lunch while traveling along the scenic route that Bennie used.
2:00  Memorial Service at the school named in Bennie's honor in his home town of Ft. Hancock. An historic marker will be dedicated and a picture presented to the school.
3:00  Reboard buses, return to the hotel by 4:30 pm. [$30/Person includes bus, guide, bag lunch, and refreshments.]
6:00  Cash Bar.
6:30  Banquet is served. [$25/Tickets] Medal of Honor recipients and WW II & Hispanic Veterans honored.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:00  Farewell Breakfast Buffet. [$10 Including juice, pastries, yogurt, and cereal.]
9:00  Closing Services.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.
In honor of...

Col. Alice Gritsavage

KWVA Chapter named after Army nurse who advised MacArthur

On Sunday, June 25, 1950, North Korea sent its armed forces into South Korea in a lightning strike intended to solidify the peninsula under Communist control. That was 48 years ago next Thursday, and for most schoolchildren and many adults it is almost ancient history.

Many Floridians, including myself, would take part in the war, which some called a “police action” and others “a conflict.” The war is covered by only a few paragraphs in most modern history textbooks.

One of the most unusual people to take part in the war is a former Ocala resident, Col. Alice Gritsavage, now living in the Emory Bennett Nursing Home in Daytona Beach. The nursing home is named after a Floridian who won the Medal of Honor in Korea.

An Army nurse, Gritsavage was the only woman on the staff of General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur. She was his nursing consultant and, as such, supervised all nurses under the Far East Command. She was fighting her second war having served in WWII.

Gritsavage received her nurse’s training in King’s County Hospital in the 1920s. She also earned a degree in pharmacy and a master’s degree in nursing administration. She was asked to help recruit 150 nurses for Army medical units. She was successful at the task and the First Army headquarter at Fort Jay wanted to keep her. She declined, went into the inactive reserves and returned to nursing in civilian hospitals.

When World War II engulfed this country with the attack on Pearl Harbor, Gritsavage and her fellow nurses were drafted into mobile field hospitals. She served in Italy with such distinction that she was awarded the American Legion of Merit and the Italian Cross of Merit.

At the end of World War II, Gritsavage remained in the military. It was to be her life’s work.

When the North Koreans attacked, Gritsavage was promoted to lieutenant colonel and sent to supervise nurses and advise MacArthur.

She found the general, known for his flamboyance and ego, easy to get along with and solve problems. He was always willing to listen and to give advice. He also took advice when it made sense, she said.

That characteristic came in handy as Gritsavage learned more about the ways of the Army.

“I learned both male and female nurses were being drafted,” Gritsavage recalled. “The females were given commissions but the males were sent into regular units as enlisted men. I had worked with male nurses in civilian hospitals and knew their value. I thought it was wrong to waste them in ordinary duties which any other man could do.”

Gritsavage asked the reserve nurses still in the United States to join with her in her efforts to get commissions for male registered nurses.

Eventually, Gritsavage took her plea to MacArthur. “He took a puff on his pipe and said ‘You’ are right. I will support you.”

Gritsavage rallied reserve nurses, and they began petitioning Congress and protesting the sexist characterization of their profession. Eventually the message got through and the regulations were changed. By that time, Gritsavage had been promoted to full colonel, the fourth nurse to reach that rank in Army history.

(What a great lady. See photo on page 17. More Chapter namesakes next month.)

Cold War 24 Episode Series On CNN

Sunday, Sept 27, 1998 will be the start of 12 weekly programs on the Cold War. Episode five will cover Korea on Oct. 25th at 8-9 pm ET.
The remaining 12 will be aired starting Sunday, Jan. 3, 1999. Editor

National VA/VS Representative Report

All Chapter Presidents are reminded that chapter V.A.V.S. Representatives and deputies that were certified before April 1997 are requested to submit their names and complete addresses as well as name of Medical center serving in, they will be re-certified. If information is not submitted it will be a interpretation that former members are no longer active in the V.A.V.S. program and will be replaced with new volunteers supplied in writing by the chapter.

Every department should appoint a V.A.V.S. representative.

On July 15th telephone conversation with Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC brought about the formal recognition of the Korean War Veterans Association Auxiliary. Rules are that an Auxiliary must be issued a National charter by K.W.V.A. and in writing submit a list of names, addresses and names of Medical center to volunteer at, be sure to indicate person acting as leader. Certification will be issued both to the Medical center as well as to chapter auxiliary. Bear in mind that chapters and auxiliaries do not have the same Veterans Affairs identification numbers.

If every department would appoint a department V.A.V.S. representative closer contacts between national V.A.V.S. and the departments along with chapters could be obtained, submit names and address if your dept. appoints one, certification form will be issued.

Looking ahead for the Holiday seasons the Federated Wholesale Inc. has come out with new items which chapters could hand out to the hospitalized Veterans. Call 1-800-346-0859 ask for Mark, make sure to let him know you are from the Korean War Veterans, I have seen some of their products, by putting your chapters label on each bag is good public relations as well as maybe bringing a new member into your chapter.

In closing, congratulations reach out to all our newly elected and reelected officers of our association.

Norman S. Kantor
Our Lives Apart

44 years later, publication of couple’s letters offer glimpse of love and war.

By Susan Plese
Courant Correspondent

Dorothy Horwitz stepped off the plane that April in 1953 to see her husband, Mel, looking up at her, squinting into the sun, smiling. He was wearing his dress khaki uniform, and his hat was tilted at a jaunty angle. He opened his arms to enfold her, and she wept.

They had been young newlyweds, married for just a year, when he was called to serve as a surgeon in a Mobile Army Surgical unit in Korea in 1952. They were apart for almost 10 months. Her eyes brim even now as she recalls the reunion.

But their separation was physical only; during those 40 weeks, they each wrote letters every day—at least once. Some letters were a page, others more than 20 pages, handwritten, in more than 600 air-mail envelopes—about a million words total, she said.

They agreed to hold nothing back, Dorothy said, so they “would not be strangers” when they met again. Their reunion on that airport tarmac in Japan, where they would be stationed for a year, sealed that vow.

Now, 44 years later, Dorothy, 68, and Mel, 70, are sharing the passion, frustration, anguish and longing of a husband and wife separated by a war neither condoned.

“We Will Not Be Strangers,” a collection of the Manchester couple’s letters, has just been published by the University of Illinois Press. It will be available by July 30. The editor says the book is apparently the first of its kind: letters exchanged by a husband and wife during the Korean War.

For the Horwitzes, the letters were touch-stones.

“The hardest thing about being separated was being separated—the physical separation,” Dorothy said. “not being able to talk to each other or make love or look at each other or read a quote from a book. This was the only way we could be together, through the letters.”

The letters were, she wrote in the book’s introduction, an attempt to “re-create the reality of our lives apart...By examining the minutiae, we avoided exploring the emptiness like looking through a screen but seeing only the wire mesh.”

The letters cover nearly every detail of their lives. They illuminate the most mundane events—showering, turning on the radio, paying a bill—to the social and political climate of the time.

She wrote of dance and the arts in New York City, about her teaching job, a friend’s wedding, the 1952 Eisenhower election, anger over the war.

“I think history will recognize this war as an outrage,” she wrote in September 1952. “If it is some comfort to know you are ameliorating suffering.”

He wrote of the uselessness of war, the youthful, broken bodies, the kid he had to tell would lose both legs, a train trip over booby-trapped rails, a poker game. He wistfully expressed his love.

“Our life is made of dreams. Reality will have to wait,” he wrote, also in September 1952. “I stop writing and just think of you.”

Many times the letters also included photographs, some of which appear in the book. One is of him, crouching in the snow over large letters spelling I LOVE YOU.

She sent him “pin-ups.” In one taken in Central Park, she is dressed in a tailored suit and heels, leaning on a lamppost.

The letters took anywhere from four days to three weeks to arrive. The Horwitzes numbered each envelope so the letters could be read in sequence if several arrived on the same day.

Dorothy, who lived in New York City, with her widowed mother while Mel was in Korea, remembers once getting a stack of 11 letters.

The genesis of the book came back in the 1950s, when one of Mel’s cousins, a reporter who knew they were corresponding, asked for Mel’s letters.

Dorothy began typing and editing but shortly afterward decided that she would not let them go. The process was time-consuming. The letters were personal. But perhaps she would someday consider publishing them, herself.

She sent a few queries out in the ‘70s, but none of the commercial publishing houses expressed interest. She mothballed the project.

Then, four years ago, she again sent out queries, but this time to university presses. Within two weeks, out of 25 queries, she received six responses. She chose Illinois.

It was 1993, and Dorothy, a retired college professor and mother of four grown children, would spend the next four years editing the letters, culling passages, fine-tuning her choices.

The process was exacting. The book is nonfiction, and so she could not add anything to the content of the letters. She was permitted to delete, to spell out abbreviations, to correct misspellings and to add punctuation.

She could choose whole letters or just passages; if she added words for clarification, however, they had to be bracketed. In the end, the content represented just a 10th of what the two had written.

She wrote an introduction and chapter introductions, as well as an afterword. Mel wrote a postscript.

Karen M. Hewitt, senior editor at the University of Illinois Press, said she was originally drawn to the manuscript for its truth, its authenticity.

“There was this wonderful frank and honest encounter with two people who were very much in love,” she said. “It’s just a very interesting conversation that is really quite moving.”

But sharing such intimate exchanges was not easy.

“There’s always a hesitation at opening yourself,” said Mel, a former surgeon who is now a lawyer working as a consultant in health law. “But we felt what we said was worth sharing.”

“It does help us to recollect, to keep it, to share it,” Dorothy said.

Readers, she hopes, will be reminded of two universal themes: “the horror of war and the sadness of separation.”

A letter from Mel Horwitz to his wife, Dorothy, dated Saturday, Nov. 29, 1952, 9 a.m.:

My Beloved,

It is a cold morning. Fog shrouds the mountains and the smell of snow is in the air.

Please turn to LETTERS on page 31
Looking for...

Lost brother Sgt. Harold F. Adkison and would like to have contact with former members of First Ranger Company or anyone that knew Harold. Contact: Jack Adkison, P.O. Box 732, Bath, SC 29816, Tel: 803-593-3749. For more details see May-June issue of The Graybeards on page 20.

Anyone who served with the 7th ORD (DS) Co. Hwachon, Korea Dec. 1952 to May 1954 Contact: Rocco Marcarelli, 12 Getty Rd. Stony Point, NY 10980

Former members of Hq & Hq Co., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th I.D., if you have any detail of the loss of SFC Louis C. Johnson on or about 27 Nov., 1950 near Hagaru, N. Korea, please contact: Benito C. Sterne, 2004 Hillcrest Rd., Mobile, AL 36695-3804

Would like to have communications with anyone that knew Pvt. Joseph S. Veverka, who was KIA July 8, 1950. Contact: Bill Liell, 112 Quintard Street, Staten Island, NY 10305-2552, Tel: 718-351-5385

KMag Members, Korea, June 25, 1950. I would like to communicate with anyone that knows me or were there during that time. Contact: Elvin A. Yarbrough, Jr., P.O. Box 363, Terry, MS 39170

My brother, Private Alfred R. Buie, was listed as missing in action on Dec. 3, 1950, while his company was involved in the fighting withdrawal toward Hamhung and Hungnam. On the day he was lost, they were falling back from the village of Hukur-ri toward the town of Tokhung-ni. Although there was one reference made to Private Buie by a returning prisoner of war, my family has never been able to find out anything about what really happened to him.

I am writing with the hope that there is some Korean veteran out there somewhere who might have known my brother or was a member of his company who could help me find out more about his fate. My surviving brother and I have given DNA samples recently to be used in identifying any remains that might be found by one of the teams that are working this year on finding and identifying our lost servicemen.

My brother’s service number is RA14346743, and he was, at the time of his loss, assigned to G Company, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. If any veteran has information, please contact me by writing to me at 21 Kylewood Road, Lawrenceburg, Tn. 38464, or by phone at 931-762-6488 (days) or 931-762-5772 (evenings).

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan L. Buie

Would like to hear from former Pvt. Grey, Hq. Co. 32nd Regt., 7th I.D., Korean Summer 1951. Contact: Robert G. Shanta, 312 Campbell St., Mc Kees Rocks, PA 15136-2728

I was with the 1169th Combat Engineers. So far I have never seen anything about them in the magazine and have lost contact with the few who corresponded in the past. I was with the 1169th from April 1952 to April 1953. It would be nice to know if there is anyone to contact. To the best of my knowledge this was an Indiana National Guard unit that had been activated. The location was Tong Du Chon. Contact: Tony Kondysar, 33 Fuller Lane, Hyde Park, N.Y. 12536 E-mail marto4@juno.com

Looking for B-29 Combat Crew members who left Randolph AFB in 1953-54 for Korean duty. Paul Schlachter, 7 Voss Dr., Fairview Hts. IL 62208, Tel: 618-394-0515

Life member Jerry Keohane is looking to buy your old US military shoulder patch. He prefers whole or partial collections. For a post display. His address is: 16 St. Margaret’s Ct., Buffalo, NY 14216.

Looking for Korean War POWs who were held at Camp 1, or family members who had loved ones held at Camp 1. We need to speak with you. Contact: Dolores Alford 425-881-1499 or e-mail us at pgkg944@prodigy.com

I would like to have information on Sgt. Albert Wayne Haggart AF 17296130. His date of enlistment was approximately 1950. We were stationed together at McClellan AFB in Sacramento, CA. He went to Johnson AFB in Japan around 1955. I would like to ask him for some information. I would also like to know if he is deceased. Joyce Souza, 16017 Via Alamitos, San Lorenzo, CA 94580

I am the son of a Korean War Veteran. My dad Tony Sobieski, is alive and well, and I am currently researching his unit, 213th Field Artillery Battalion (IX CORP). I and others, some of which are former 213th members, are searching for anyone who served with the 213th between 1950 and 1954, for the purpose of adding their names to a master list for an upcoming reunion in the year 2000. Contact: Anthony J. Sobieski 4432 Ernie Davis Circle Philadelphia, Pa 19154-1751 e-mail -sobieski@gateway. net Tel: 215-281-3382

I am seeking you assistance in searching for information on a Korean veteran by the name of Ronald Lee. I am gathering information for a family relative who would like to get replacement medals for the family. E-mail arnold@wkkpowerlink.com

I am looking for my father, Samuel Arrell Anderson, Jr. who served in Korea as a Military Police officer in Seoul. He was married to Marie Steng in 1950 and had a daughter named Linda. His birthday is in July of 1925 and he was from Polaski, VA. If you have any information please e-mail me at behrens@webster.com

July/August, 1998
My name is James M. English III. Anyone that was in the Hq. & Hq. Co., 10 Corp Arty between Jan. 51 and Sept. 51 may contact me at E-mail jmenglish3@worldnet.att.net or P.O. Box 1224 Tallahassee, FL 32302. I have Robert (Bob) Cigrands Address. I was raised in Williston, FL.

I am trying to contact my comrades that were assigned to CIU, AGRSG, 8174 AU and 8204 AU APO #3 during the Korean War. Below is a list of names of the original members that formed our organization in Ft. Lee, VA in the fall of 1950.

Contact: Ken Parsons, 110 Lake Shore Drive, Pembroke Park, FL 33009-5003 Tel: 954-981-7767

Bailey
Balog
Barfield
Brand
Brunner
Cox-Davis
DE Munbrun
Giard
Hastings
Middleton
Morrison
Murphy
Papa
Richard Trask (XO)
Robert Berry (CC)
Spilman
Springer
Sullivan
Van Noy (Moy?)

Joe E. Allen, ex-pow Korea, captured Unsan, Nov 2, 1950 and repatriated August, 1953, passed away February 5, 1998. His unit was E Co., 8th Ranger, 1st Calvary Div. We believe he spent his time in Camp 5. His family would appreciate hearing from anyone who may remember Joe from those days. Please e-mail Ernest L. Allen, brother, at ernest@allengreenca.com. Thanks for any assist you might give.

My father's trying to locate 2 superiors that he served with. Fr. Rusnock, Chaplain, 17th Infantry, 7th Division and Lt. Walter Russell, Co. G, 17th Infantry, 7th Division. Time period is April 1953. His name: Matthew Judge. Also, if you have any contacts for a 17th Infantry or 7th Division association, he would appreciate that information...Contact: Matt Judge, MFJudge@aol.com or editor Krepps.

My father served in Korea from 52-53. He was in the infantry, but served as a truck driver. I remember him talking about the "Red Ball Express." Any information you can give me on where to look for some history on this would be appreciated. Thank you for your assistance. Interested Daughter, Celinda. E-Mail address: roofer20@swbell.net or contact editor Krepps.

Looking for any information from former buddies of PFC Donald McNaughton, KIA, Korea Dec. 2, 1950, BNR. Donald was a member of 31st Inf. Regt., 7th I.D. Please contact brother John McNaughton, 316 S. Lombard St. Uniontown, PA 15401 or editor Krepps.


196th F.A. Bn., Hq Battery, Communications Platoon. Need former members for a reunion in Sturgeon Bay, WI, Sept. 10-13. Contact: Wayne Sonntag, P.O. Box 585, Green Lake, WI 54941, Tel: 920-294-6932

Looking for anyone who was stationed with the 8054th Med. Unit from July 1950, to August 1951 in Pusan, Korea. Would like to correspond with all people who was stationed with this unit. I am also looking for Mr. Paul Hill who lived in Alabama at that time. Please contact Douglas C. Ellis, 10930 Double D Rd. Fountain, CO 80817, Tel: 719-382-7538

Looking for old buddies who served with me in the 557th Signal Radio Relay Co., at Sokcho, Korea (East Coast) between Jan. 1952 and Jan. 1953. Contact: Eugene Piltaver, 9613 Richard Ave., Franklin Park, IL 60131


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45th Div., 180 Regt., Hq Co.

The above men were in the 45th Div., 180 Regt., Hq. Co. If anyone recognizes himself or any of the above (I am 2nd from right) please contact: Al Ratner, 156-46 86th St., Howard Beach, NY 11414, Tel: 718-641-2049

Trying to find William H. Timberman, Col. Artillery. Contact: Andrew M. Barr, Capt., 2nd Chem. Mortar Bn., 1837 N. Hartford St., Arlington, VA 22201-5206, Tel: 703-525-3440

Looking for anyone who was with "A" Co., 150 AAA Gun Bn., Camp Stewart, GA in 1951. Also anyone that was in Korea in 1952 with "A" Co., 74th Combat Engineers Bn. I was with both units. Contact: Leroy G. Neuenfeld, 1476 Pinon Ave., Anderson, CA 96007-4041, Tel: 530-365-5102

I would like to locate George W. Scott from the 538th Ord. M.A.M. Co. from Ft. Bragg in 1949 & 50. He was from some-
where in Central IL. Contact: Eugene R. Baker, 817 N. Charles St. Shelbyville, IL. 62565

I need you to help me to find a Korean war veteran who served in Korea 780th AFA Battalion, which was part of the 8th army, who might remember me. I served in Korea from March 1954 to March 1955. My rank was PFC. I was in the 780th AFA BAT. Baker Co., on the Kansas line, until the 780th AFA was sent back to the USA in 1954. I was transferred to the 49th AFA service Co., 7th division. Send the information to me at my E-mail address, which is: jecazella@hotmail.com or contact editor Krepps.

(Dear readers and veterans: Being a Korean War Veteran and a family member who lost a twin brother in Korea, 2nd Inf. Div. MIA 12-1-50, then POW, then BNR. I know how important it is for those in this column to receive any bit of information about a lost loved one, just a friend, or a buddy that shared your experiences. Our time is running out to get that special letter, so please if you can reply to any request no matter how important your information is. We cherish your response and usually a few words can lead to another missing link and believe me your letters give some closure to those still waiting for answers. Editor)

Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards

Many members have responded to the suggestion to temporarily help underwrite the cost of publication of The Graybeards by making voluntary contributions. This issue is still being printed considering cost restraints and due to change of printer and mailer we have been able to continue to reduce the cost per issue and also try to upgrade your newsletter. Your heartening response has made this step possible. Hopefully we will be able to restore our newsletter to a higher quality with other desired changes in subsequent issues.

Members, please continue to respond by sending your contribution to KWVA, P.O. Box 15406, Baltimore, MA marked: “Support of Graybeards.” Every donation will be recognized in the magazine. Those that do not respond for any reason are still valued members for your dues also contribute to the printing of our newsletter.

Names listed came from those wishing to support KWVA by donations for The Graybeards, Searching For, Reunions, and In Memory Of.

An early response to 1998-1999 dues will also help your association get through our current problems and also expedite our return to a stronger organization for deserving Korean War Veterans.

At the time of publication the following names of donors and "Memorials" have been reported to The Graybeards:

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**Organizations:**
- CLI Chapter, KWVA  
- Kivlehan Chapter, KWVA  
- Co. A, 279th Inf. 45th I.D.  
- 987th A.F.A.

In Memory of:
- Lt. D. Reitsma, USAF-MIA/POW 22 Dec Korea
Letters

They Were Heroes Too . . . .

The Battle of the Walled City of Kasan, in Korea, on 4 and 5 September 1950 is an important part of our nation's historical record. For example, Roy E. Appleman in his book—South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu published by the United States Army Center of Military History, devotes twelve pages to the Battle. It has been recognized world wide as an unusual instance where combat engineers were employed in an offensive infantry role. For example the Defense Forces Magazine, of Dublin, Ireland, featured the battle in one of their issues. However, the wrong sergeant has received much of the credit.

When the 8th Engineer Battalion Commander learned that Company "D" was to engage in an offensive infantry mission, he re-assigned M/Sgt Louis M. Gonzalez from Company "B" to Company "D" because of his combat experience. Gonzalez was assigned as Platoon Sergeant of the 2nd Platoon. His platoon leader was Lt. Walter H. Radschlag. His assistant platoon sergeant was SFC James N. Vandygriff. Lt. Radschlag became ill on the march to the battle and was evacuated. Gonzalez became acting platoon leader and continued in this position throughout the battle. PFC Melvin Brown, Medal of Honor, was in Gonzalez platoon when he battled North Koreans with his entrenching shovel after exhausting his ammunition and grenades. After the battle Gonzalez returned to "B" Company where his services were needed on another mission. An incoming officer was assigned as 2nd platoon leader. Vandygriff became platoon sergeant, and replacements arrived. Vandygriff and a few survivors met with the Press. Somehow, M/Sgt Gonzalez' role was omitted from their accounts. M/Sgt Gonzalez did receive the Silver Star where the citation clearly states his role was acting platoon leader.

Numerous books, based on the Press accounts, erroneously cite Vandygriff as having been the heroic acting platoon leader. In The 1st Cavalry Division and Their 8th Engineers in Korea published by Bull Run of Vermont Inc. in 1997, I was editor and had not established communication with Gonzalez since 1951. I quoted other reports, including Appleman's book, not realizing they were incorrect. Possibly such errors are resultant when an outsider is thrust into another unit for one specific action. All of our men and officers who were in the Battle performed in an outstanding manner. They were and are a credit to the United States of America. Thank you Frank Armstrong for giving credit to those that were overlooked.—Ed

He Said It Like It Was

Editor.

I'd like to share with the KWVA readership the following article that was a part of a column in the local Rocky Mountain News titled "Comfortable '50s also had pain". This column was written by a Mr. Gene Amole, who is a world war II combat veteran and a war correspondent in Korea.

"The Korean War ranks near the top of 1950s events to be remembered. What a nasty, filthy, rotten war that was. Some people today like to think of it as a civil war, but it wasn't. Korea was the dagger that pointed to the heart of Japan and the communists wanted it badly.

Damn, it was cold over there. The terrain was impossible. Roads were nonexistent. We sang. The swivelchair colonel said, "Pardon me please, but you got blood on your jacket and mud on your knees." Pork Chop Hill became an awful killing field, even after armistice negotiations had started.

Out of it though, came an army that for the first time integrated black and white soldiers in the same units. Harry Truman ordered it. Douglas MacArthur was finally deposed, and as he told Congress 'Old soldiers never die. They just fade away.'

To the melody of China Nights, we sang, 'I ain't got no yo-yo.' There was R and R (rest and recuperation) and S and S (sex and sake). God, it was an awful time for those who were there. And the sad part of it was that no one at home gave much of a damn.'

Richard K. Jenkins, 2nd Inf. Div. 2nd Engr. (C) Bn.
email: kjenks@annix.com

Richard, you brought back many memories—Ed

A Proper Response

My heart goes out to the poet who wrote "I Went When They Called, Is All I Can Say" (March-April 1998, The Graybeards, page 40). Of course, we all recognize the sacrifices of our comrades-in-arms, but almost none of us had a choice of our destiny in the conflict. Some were thrust into the battle hell, others were not. It was my destiny to be assigned to the Glider Infantry during WWII and to the Engineers in Korea in 1951. I want to assure you, the Poet, that I do not resent the fact that you served stateside. In fact, I salute you. If it wasn't for you, things may have gotten worse. Decisions had to be made that some troops had to go to the front lines, others to remain at the rear, and still others, in Japan or in the states, or even in Europe. The important thing was that you stood ready, should the decisions have been different. The ones I look down upon are those who, through cowardice, refused to serve when called. To you, and others whom you may represent, I say, don't put yourself down. We all know people who had it much worse than we did. I'm grateful to God that I came through unscathed and I'm delighted that you did, too. Hold your head high. You served!!! You carried out your assignment to the best of your ability. It was what your country asked you to do. Please accept my thanks for what you did.

Sincerely,

John R. Williams

Thank you John, for I did get a few letters that indicated that not serving in Korea during the war was wrong, and I may get a few letters that disagree with your feelings also. I agree with what you said and I know I couldn't have expressed it as well. We all did our duty no matter where we served and that is why the 54,246 KIA's etched on our National Memorial are from all over the world and not just from within Korea and the surrounding waters. Everyone helped the cause then just as they are doing today during peacetime. To take it one step further I have no problem with those that were not in the military either.—Ed
The Graybeards Did Its Job

Dear Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the “Graybeards” for having been the initial link in my finally having found one particular soldier of the Korean war, Joe Perreault, for the first time in 46 years. I’ve been wanting to find him, and stated so in my recent autobiography, “Chesil’s Story: One Boy’s Long Journey From War to Peace.” (It’s published by Father & Son Publishing, ISBN 0-942407-318). I wanted to find him, so that I could thank him in person for having looked after me when I was a little boy during one of the darkest days of my life during the war.

Couple years ago your publication did a fine review of my book. It was read by a certain Everett Demeritt of Craftsbury, Vermont, who also served in South Korea in 1960 with the First Cavalry Division. He called and bought a copy of my book from me. After having read it, he called back to tell me how much he enjoyed reading my autobiography. I then reiterated my strong desire to find Joe Perreault, since I recalled Joe told me back in 1952 he came from Vermont. Mr. Demeritt relentlessly searched for Joe, and about a year later, he found Joe Perreault for me.

To arrange for my first reunion with Joe, Mr. Demeritt invited me as a keynote speaker for the Memorial Day ceremony in his hometown and his neighboring town of Albany, where I also participated in the town’s dedication of its first World War II memorial. The latter was highlighted by the hovering jet fighters of the state’s National Guard.

My reunion with Joe was covered by the local media, including its television station, which prominently mentioned it in its early and late evening news for two straight days, thus, to my delight, giving more exposure to the Korean war veterans.

Thanks to your coalescent and informative Korean War Veterans Association newspaper and another epitome of sincere and thoughtful veteran like Everett Demeritt, I am now in a better situation than ever in my effort to find another wonderful soldier of the Korean war, a Negro staff sergeant whose name unfortunately I have forgotten, so that I could thank him for getting me my first “citvies” during the war. Joe believes his name is a certain “Robinson,” but is fairly certain that if I can locate another Korean war veteran by Sergeant Vernarelli from Ohio, I could find the black sergeant. Joe said Vernarelli was a very close friend of the sergeant I have been looking for.

Gratefully

Link White, Author

Your “Chesil’s Story” has done much for the Korean War Veteran and the KWVA. We are glad the Graybeards was able to help you find Joe Perreault. We hope this article will help you communicate with Sgt. Vernarelli and lead you to the person that gave you your first civvies.—Ed

A Little Humor

When faced with overseas duty, I tried to soften the blow of my departure by telling my children we’d be able to buy special things with the extra money I’d earn for the assignment, such as a new car or a vacation.

After I’d been in Asia for about six months, I received a recording from my children. When my oldest son spoke, he recounted the promise I’d made and then added, “Dad, can you stay a little longer so we can get a new television set too?” By Lowell C. Mullins

Thank you Ernie Eldredge for the nice note, donation and the humor.—Ed

Remembering Veterans

A Time To Honor

Every year, annually on the last Monday in May, the United States celebrates Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a time when America honors the people who fought and died for their country, during a war. We celebrate this sentimental yet proud day by holding parades, having parties and decorating the graves, with flowers and American flags, of those who gave up their life to help his country.

I know a Veteran very well. In fact, he is my grandfather. He is one of the lucky ones who survived the Korean War. I love it when my grandpa tells me stories about the war, like what the soldiers ate and what the passwords at night were. Yet, when he’s speaking, I can see the sad glimpse in his eyes between every blink. My grandfather lost many friends in that war. I guess that’s why I personally honor Memorial Day, because anyone who was a friend of my grandpa, was my friend, too.

I think Americans know that they should respect Memorial Day. It’s because of the Veterans, and people who died during the war, who kept America strong.

Memorial Day is a reserved holiday, meaning schools, banks, and many offices are closed. In my opinion, everyone should take at least five minutes out of this day, and say a prayer for all of those who died. As for myself, I cheer my grandfather on at the Memorial Day Parade in the Catskill mountains!

In conclusion, Memorial Day is a very important and respected day in most of the United States. I hope that this essay made you remember all the people who fought and died for your country. Next Memorial Day, don’t only think of it as a day to get extra sleep, but instead make some time to honor those who gave of themselves to protect our country.

Dina Lynn Farriella

This beautiful award winning essay was sent in by a proud Grandmother and VFW Post 9217 Liberty, NY Auxiliary President Anna Farriella. Granddaughter Dina is 14 years old and we are just as proud of a youngster that has expressed so much wisdom in just a few words. Dina, for those veterans that are no longer with us, we speak for them, Thank you.—Ed

Ed Note: I have many more great letters outside from Joseph Dick, John Ridesin, Irvin Braun, James Day, Peter Muller, John Pieniofski, Robert Alper, Louis Wright and T.O. Perry. I do not have room in this issue to do some of them justice. I have others that are un-typed or are newspaper articles that will take many hours to even make publishable. Please do what you can to help by giving me typed articles. If that is not possible then print clearly so that I can type it. Good photos and good copies are also important. I will do what I can to print all in upcoming issues so please be patient. We all love to read your stories so please continue to send them in. Anything sent in that will degrade our magazine, our war, those that fought in that war and also prevent youngsters from reading our magazine will not be printed by this editor. I even hate the words Conflict and Police Action but will print that in order to tell a story. I hope you understand and will back me.—Editor.

July/August, 1998
Gulf War Stirs Memories for Former POW

The modest houses along the street in South Columbus displayed big yellow ribbons and patriotic signs. American flags waved in the early spring breeze welcoming the troops home from their triumph in the Middle East. Inside his house, Kenneth L. Reese watched the POWs of that conflict stepping off the plane to a hero’s reception on the evening news. Although he was overjoyed to see so many return home safely, he can’t help but think back to that late summer in 1953 when he came home after surviving in a North Korean prisoner of war camp for more than two years. When Reese returned to his native Pike County, Kentucky, he was given a $25 savings bond and two free passes to a local theater. “There were no ticker tape parades for us,” he said. Although he still feels forgotten, Reese is not bitter. After years of trying to put that time firmly in the back of his mind, Reese has found some relief in discussing his life of hell in Korea. The stories come slowly at first, as if he is reluctant to allow them to be heard in the same room where a spirited puppy plays innocently about his feet. Then more details, building on each other as each memory prompts other memories.

Seventeen-year-old Reese had joined the Army in December of 1948, and after a year in Tokyo (1st Calvary Division, 8th Regiment), he transferred to the Army Reserve in March of 1950 and returned Stateside to get on with his life. He was working for General Motors in Danville, Illinois, when the Korean Conflict broke out and he was called back to active duty. After further training in Fort Hood, Texas, where he learned to drive a tank, Reese quickly found himself back in Japan. Tokyo was not, however, his final destination on this journey. As member of the 2nd Infantry Division 38th Regiment 2nd Battalion, Reese boarded a troop transport ship bound for Incheon, Korea, where he took part in an amphibious landing under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. But just being in the presence of the great general was not enough to prepare these men for what was to come. As an infantry soldier, Reese fought in three battles. Then came the infamous Massacre of the Chosin Reservoir in May of 1951. Reese and his regiment of 1,000 to 1,200 men fought alongside U.N. troops against 40,000 Communist Chinese soldiers. Despite the bravery of many, the number of Chinese troops was simply too great to overcome. First, Reese’s battalion headquarters were overrun by Chinese, then from midnight May 17 until dawn May 18, the Chinese troops hit the front line where Reese was fighting. “My group of six or seven men retreated to the bottom of the hill,” Reese said. There they had no choice but to surrender. In an attempt to rescue his men, Reese’s squad leader killed one or two Chinese soldiers, but Reese and others saw this hero killed by Chinese troops returning fire. Captured, Reese and approximately 500 other prisoners were assembled that morning on the levies of a rice paddy. “A Chinese officer there placed his service revolver against my head and cursed me,” Reese recalled. “I could do nothing but simply stare back at the man.” It was Kenneth Reese’s 20th birthday. The prisoners were split into groups of about 100 and were forced to march, usually at night, across rough terrain and through villages. Reese, who grew up in the Appalachian foothills of Kentucky and West Virginia, was more able to handle the rugged ground than others. “I was used to mountains, but in Korea, it seemed like you could never get to the top,” he said. “You’d think you were at the top, and then you’d look around and see other ridges.” Memorial Day of that year is one that Reese said he’ll never forget because, in a way, he did get over the top. “We were forced to cross a mountain that night. It took us all night because we had to hold hands as we walked to keep from falling into the ravine because it was so dark,” he said. The next morning, Reese’s captors received word that American troops were nearby, and the prisoners had to march back over the mountain. In the light of day, the walk took only an hour. Despite the misery of the daily trek, Reese’s memory is full of details about those strenuous days on the trail. “We were fed grains that had been ground together,” he remembered. “Soy beans, millet, sugar can seed. Everything was dry and you had to use your imagination about how to eat it.” Some people would fix it like porridge or roll it up into balls. The prisoners also grabbed grasses and greens along their journey. “Early in the captivity, I came down with diarrhea from eating red hot peppers,” Reese said. “It was one of the only things we could snatch as we went through the villages.” The Chinese soldiers survived on the same diet, except when the group would pass through a village. There, they would confiscate anything they could—rice, turnips, radishes, daikons.

“A Chinese officer there placed his service revolver against my head and cursed me,” Reese recalled. “I could do nothing but simply stare back at the man.” — Kenneth Reese

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The Graybeards
vision, because they simply tipped their wings as they flew over in recognition that we were prisoners. Then off they went.” Reese said hearing the jets overhead was frightening at times, but somehow comforting at the same time to know they were “ours.”

As hard as life was for the prisoners, setting down was not necessarily better. “We prisoners called our first semi-permanent camp ‘the Mining Camp.’ It was a disaster area,” he said. Reese and the other arriving prisoners saw their first glimpse of a hell they could not have imagined. Many prisoners were already incarcerated at the Mining Camp—some were dead; many were dying from dysentery and battle injuries. Reese, who himself was very weak from dysentery, was spared the agony of carrying the dead soldiers to a hillside barely 25 feet from the end of the barracks where they were buried, one on top of another. “One dog tag was taken and the other left on the body,” Reese said, quiet with the remembrance. “Four or five men died each day from lack of food, medical treatment, and proper sanitary conditions. It was so hard and ugly to look at your buddies lying there, a rack of bones with green fly eggs hatching in their eyes.” Reese stayed at the Mining Camp a month or two before marching further north to the camp that would be his prison for nearly two more years.

Upon reaching the other camp on November 11, 1951, the prisoners were issued padded cotton Chinese uniforms consisting of pants, jacket, and overcoat as well as shoes. Then the sick and injured were separated and marched about a mile further away. Reese was among this group. “When I finally stopped, the door of a hut was pointed out to me,” Reese said. “I was so weak, I could not walk over the threshold and had to crawl through the door.”

Once inside, Reese saw that his existence, as well as that of the three other men in the room, could very well depend upon something as simple as the big cast iron pot that provided food as well as heat from the flue that ran under the stone floor to warm it. Reese laid in that hut with his fellow prisoners for more than four months. Unable to walk, his only medicine was ground charcoal and his stubborn refusal to become one of the dead men the Chinese soldiers pulled nightly out of huts by their heels to be buried. Weighing less than 100 pounds, his miracle turned out to be two bottles of glucose, administered to him intravenously, that had been given to China in World War II. Pulling through “by the grace of God,” he improved enough to move to another section of the camp, away from the death huts that passed for a hospital.

Reese was transferred to a mud hut with a thatched roof in Camp 1 that he would share with ten other men for the next two years. “A little creek ran along side the prison camp village, which was fortunate,” Reese recalled, explaining that he suffered from amoebic dysentery. Reese also noted that the main road linking two villages ran right through the middle of the camp. Every night, he said, American pilot “Bed Check Charlie” flew over the camp. “One night, he dropped a bomb on his way back that hit a building across the street from the prisoner’s area and killed several sleeping Chinese army officials,” Reese said.

Of course, Reese has many other memories of his life in Camp 1. He recalls fellow prisoner Richard Montanaro using the Shanghai News as rolling paper for the marijuana the prisoners got by trading toothbrushes and soap with the villagers. Soon the Chinese realized that the weed, which grew wild on the hillsides, was a hallucinogen and confiscated it from the prisoners, even though the men were using it to improve their poor night vision. “All that we had left were the seeds,” said Reese, who had kept some of the seeds, planning to bring them back to the States.

“Every morning, we had to awaken to announcements on the loud speaker, or some Russian singing something like ‘You Take the High Road,’” Reese said. Fortunately, Russian singers weren’t their only means of recreation. “One guy from Tennessee was given a guitar, and he would entertain us,” he said. The men even shared some games of volleyball. “We sometimes had a competition between the GIs and the Chinese staff,” Reese recalled. “Needless to say, we wanted to beat them badly.”

Reese hasn’t forgotten the food they ate in the camps either. “They realized we were suffering from night blindness, so they brought in truckloads of carrots.” Then, the prisoners would eat nothing but carrots. Then it was a truckload of potatoes. “Then, there was 101 consecutive days with nothing but daikons,” he said. Reese said he has seen daikons in a local Columbus grocery store, but he’s felt no desire to buy one.

He added that the men in his camp were fortunate to have very creative cooks from Hawaii among their ranks of prisoners who could do amazing things with the minimal rations they were given. “They made something out of nothing,” Reese said. “They would steam what bread we got, mix daikons and garlic into a filling and make ravioli.” Their Chinese captors would sometimes complain that all they got was rice, Reese said. “We never even got rice; that would have been a treat.”

Other memories about Camp 1 that fill Reese’s head include the daily quota of 100 flies that the men had to catch and turn in during the summer. He recalls wood gathering detail for the healthy men. “I never had to go,” he said. “I was too puny and sickly.”

He also sadly remembers the 21 men in the camp who became psychological as well as physical prisoners of the Chinese. The prisoners were sent to communist indoctrination sessions where they were forced to write various things. “Most of us took it lightly and made up stories,” he said. Others were not so fortunate. He remembers the man who fell prey to the indoctrination of the Chinese officers and was given special duties and privileges in the camp. He remembers another young man who was brainwashed and chose to stay in Korea when the conflict was over. “Years later, I visited his parents in Minnesota and assured them that their son had been a victim of the Chinese propaganda,” Reese said.

The men in the camp had their own ways of handling the uncertainty, pain, and suffering they encountered every day. “You mostly had to carry your own weight and get by on whatever physical and mental strength you had,” Reese said, adding that, as an only child, he had learned at a young age to rely on himself. It was lucky for Reese that he did have that inner strength. Unlike most of today’s soldiers, the men incarcerated at the camp had no formal training in how to deal with being a prisoner of war. “It wasn’t even considered a war,” Reese said. “That bothers me. There was shooting and bombing and soldiers dying in a foreign land. It was a war to me.”
Thankfully, the hostilities in this police action eventually did come to a conclusion. Reese remembers that one day, the Chinese officers assembled the men in the camp and, through an interpreter, gave them the great news: Peace talks had been successful and there would be an exchange of prisoners for all who wanted to go back —soon they would be free! “There was sort of a lingering doubt until you actually saw the trucks,” Reese said. But it was indeed for real. The prisoners were issued Red Cross toothbrushes and toothpaste, chocolate bars, cigarettes, and combs.

Shortly after the announcement, two years, three months, three days, and three hours after he was captured, Reese, along with the other prisoners, was loaded onto trucks and taken to Panmunjom, where he stayed two or three nights before being taken to the point of exchange. In the excitement at Panmunjom, Reese discarded everything he had, “including the marigold seeds I had saved,” he said.

Back in American hands, Reese and the other former POWs underwent medical examinations. Reese and his buddy Richard Montanaro, the tests revealed, suffered from tuberculosis. Both men traveled to a Tokyo hospital on stretchers for treatment before coming back to the States. In Honolulu, ambulatory GI’s were given leave, but Reese remained in the hospital. “One of the doctors there gave us a little shotglass of brandy,” he recalled. “And I drank it down eagerly. But simply being free made us feel good.”

Reese, unfortunately, did not have a lot to come home to, however. During his captivity, his wife had written him a “Dear John” letter, his father was in a VA hospital in Florida. But he did successfully make a life for himself. He remarried and now has six children and six grandchildren. He retired from Federal Glass in 1974 and is a member of AMVETS, the American Legion, DAV, VFW, and AM-EX-POWS. His awards include a POW Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct, WWII Occupation, National Defense, Korean Service with three Battle Stars, U.N. Service, Army Commendation Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Army Presidential Unit Citation, and Korean Presidential Unit Citation. Despite all of the evidence that Reese and his fellow soldiers did a fine job in service to their country, Reese, like many former POWs of the Korean Conflict, suffers from various afflictions associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. But just as he endured the hell of prison camp, Reese is dealing with his problems.

“I like to go fishing when the streams aren’t flooded and the turtles aren’t biting,” said Reese. He also enjoys hunting and has an eleven-point buck to his credit. “I guess my combat training stuck with me,” said Reese. I shoot from the hip. “Reese can’t help but remember his life as a POW. Everyday, he sees something that reminds him of Korea. Maybe it’s the daikons in the grocery store, or a picture of an old army buddy in a magazine. Or perhaps, it’s seeing the soldiers from the Gulf on television. But the thing that Kenneth Reese tries to remember the most is how lucky he is. “We have to count our blessings that we live in a country where we can freely speak our mind,” he said. “We need to be thankful that we wake up every day in a land of plenty. We must hold on to the freedoms and liberties that we have.” That is what Kenneth Reese does not want us to forget.

Thanks to the office of State Representative Richard A. Cordray for their assistance.

Epilog

Kenneth L. Reese Sr., born May 18, 1931, died May 18, 1998. Preceded in death by Myrtle Bentley Reese and Roy Reese. Born in Meade, Ky., formerly from Freeburn, Ky. Served in U.S. Army Infantry, Former ex-POW of the Korean War. Life member of V.F.W. Post #3424. Life member of D.A.V. Life member of Ex-POW’s. Member of the KWVA. Survived by wife of 43 years, Thelma (Bennett); children, Kenneth Jr. (Mary) Reese, Wanda (Gary) Lowe, Grant (Emily) Reese, Clifford (Jerri) Reese, Jeffrey Reese and Pamela Reese; grandchildren, Michael and Kenny Lowe, Grant Jr. and Jessica Reese, Dylun and Brandon Reese and Jessica Rodgers; great-grandchild, Little Mike Lowe Jr.; half-brother, Donald Reese of W.Va.; and many cousins.

In the letter it was stated that Kenneth Reese, Sr. was Born on 5-18-31. Captured on 5-18-49 and died on 5-18-98. The connection is remarkable but the capture year is inaccurate. The capture date was probably 5-18-51 for that is the year the May Massacre took place. I also noticed in the story this was called the “Infamous Massacre of the Chosin Reservoir, in May 1951.” I am not a true historian but I do know the battle of the Chosin Reservoir was in November-December 1950 with the 1st Marine Div. and Regts of the 7th I.D. only involved. The 2nd I.D. was on the West Coast at Kaneohe Jap during that time. He also was not involved in the Inchon Invasion with the 2nd Div for they were at the Pusan Perimeter on September 15th when the Inchon Invasion took place. I do believe he could have landed at Inchon from Japan, for that was a replacement and return Port after September 15th.

Most stories printed has inaccuracies due to poor memories or unknown time of events by writers. I know most of the history of the 2nd Div. in Korea, for my brother and I were in that Division from Ft. Lewis, USA to Korea and beyond. The main reason for printing this story is to remember Kenneth L. Reese and to note the coincidence of the dates: birth, capture and death. God Bless You Kenneth and we will remember. I thank the family for sending this hero’s story in.—Ed

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Commemorating the dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, this book contains a vivid, complete history of the Korean War, from the invasion of South Korea by the North Korean People's Army on June 25, 1950 to the intervention by the Chinese Red Army. The book also contains 26 unit histories detailing combat actions in the Korean War, biographical sketches of Medal of Honor recipients, and a published roster of more than 34,000 of those killed in action or missing in action during the "Forgotten War." Also included is a comprehensive description of all aspects of the design, development, and completion of the Korean War Veterans Memorial.
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This historical account was written by Ed Daily, a Korean War Garry Owen veteran and former POW. It is the story of an ordeal sustained by the flesh and blood of United Nations, American, and Republic of Korea soldiers, not to mention the innocent and defenseless refugees. Superior photos, maps, casualty list, military symbols, weapons glossary, and the roster of the 7th U.S. Cavalry Association.
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WEBMASTER from page 5

establishing a web site for KWVA. We have registered our address for two years as a first step. Then we found a server and a webmaster with help from Chapters in NY and Maine that have their own web page.

Charles Dearborn from Maine is our Webmaster. Charles at first said he would stay on for 90 days and then set a fee. Charlie has generously decided to stay on and update our web page for free as long as we want. I would hope that when you visit our site and the many other great sites attached, you would take the time to send him a message. Just double click on Webmaster and type out your message, then click on send. It is that simple. We also want your suggestions. At this time I am also in the loop to review all requests.

POW/MIA from page 9

name and bring comfort to his family, and we had to seize it. But whatever happens, we must always remember that the stone represents the many unknown soldiers still in Vietnam and Korea, in other theaters where Americans lie far away from home, missing in action, still with us in spirit. They may be unaccounted for, but we must all be accountable for their memories as well.

“We take comfort in something Chaplain Leo Joseph O’Keefe reminded us of at the ceremony on May 14th, that if some names are unknown to us on earth, all names are known to God in heaven.

“And, ladies and gentlemen ... we can give special thanks on this Memorial Day. Last December we negotiated an agreement with North Korea that entitled us to send five teams to their country to search for Americans. Early this morning at 2:00 a.m., the remains of two soldiers believed to be Americans were repatriated to the UN Command Honor Guard at Panmunjom on the DMZ. They are coming home this Memorial Day.”

June 12, 1998

Archival Team Returns From North Korea

A five-member archival research team, consisting of four DPMO personnel and one CILHI staff member, visited Pyongyang, North Korea, the last week in May. The team toured the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, the People’s Grand Study House, and the Joint Recovery Operation site at Kujang. The museum staff permitted the team to photograph identification papers of 13 U.S. service men, including two who are listed as missing in action and one who was a prisoner of war whose remains have not been recovered. The team requested additional information on all three cases. The team also reviewed over 3,100 pages of the personnel accounts of North Korean servicemen who participated in the Korean War. DPMO analysts are correlating this information to specific losses and will seek further information on promising leads.

Remaining 1998 Family Update Schedule
[Note: Family Updates are conducted in cities around the U.S. to reach families in their local areas and update them on the government’s work to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our missing service personnel. This is to ensure that no family member is denied an opportunity to learn more about the accounting effort, and to discuss, privately, the details of their own case. 1998 is the third year this program has been led by DPMO. These monthly briefings include presentations about work in Southeast Asia, North Korea, Russia, as well as information on archival research, joint field excavations and forensic identification procedures.]

August: TBD Denver, CO
September: TBD Memphis, TN
October: TBD Philadelphia, PA
November: TBD Las Vegas, NV

Korean War MIA’s

Recent contacts with North Korea have given some hope that the fate of some Korean War MIAs may become known. The services need to reestablish contact with existing family members. Army families may call 800-892-2490, Navy families (also Coast Guard) 800-443-9298, Marine families 800-847-1597 and USAF families 800-531-5501. There is also a need for Maternal DNA of MIA’s. Contact: DNA Registry 1413 Research Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850 Tel: 301-295-5540/5453.

Our web page for the first month opened with a welcome and fireworks bursting in air including sound. We also had a song called “Brothers” and one other that has since been removed. You can still visit to original opening page. All Officers are listed on our current opening page. We also have links to State Chapters, VA, Memorials, Government, Korean War Web Sites and many other super sites. We also have a Sign In Page, Membership Forms and even our Reunion Application and Agenda was available to print.

Please send in your Chapter Web Sites or select an E-mail address which you can use to connect with Korean War Veterans for membership or questions.

We have at my last viewing over 1200 hits on our site and it is growing. A great start for such a short time. I believe this is a major step forward for KWVA and will bring in many more members. The monthly fee is just under $20 and I think it was a great investment and I hope you will agree.

Please send in your Chapter Web Sites or select an E-mail address which you can use to connect with Korean War Veterans for membership or questions. We also want to display the state Memorials, so send or e-mail a photo to the Webmaster or myself. Our page size is small at this present time, so please send something that you would like to see on the web page must be kept to a minimum and also must be typed in .18 pt and double-spaced text. Remember we have over 140 Chapters and State Departments. I also plan on listing your addresses in The Graybeards.

In closing I wish to thank a super person that was not even born when we went to war in Korea. Charlie has expressed to me more than once that he has great respect for veterans and that is understandable since he has been around them all his life.

Charlie, you have provided the Korean War Veterans and KWVA a Web Page second to none. We all thank you from the bottoms of our hearts and appreciate your efforts to keep Korea unforgettable.

Vince Krepps
"Graybeards" History

Cover of May – June issue brings reader response

When trying to determine how we got the name "The Graybeards" I admit I had no clue other than a little common sense. Well I came close but did draw some response from those that know more than I. The following is their opinions. — Ed

Subject: Graybeards Name
Date: Sat, 13 Jun 1998
From: Frederick L. Shear
       (Kvetfred@mc.seflin.org)
       F Co., 2nd Bn, 5th Mar,
       Korea 1951-52
To: Vincent Krepps

Dear Vince:

Cannot believe you have not heard the true story of the name "Graybeards." This has nothing to do with unshaven faces or old age but is a reference to the frost that froze to our faces in the Korean winters. Every GI or Marine who was out on patrol or just stuck in a foxhole for long periods in the Siberian winters of Korea, without the luxury of a warming tent, had a beard of frost covering the lower part of his face as well as a permanent coating of frozen mucous (snot) on both arms of his parka. It was a good indication of how long he had been in Korea. Believe me, I and all the others in my rifle platoon had those beards for days at a time, and not one of us was twenty one years old, yet. The moisture in our breath was what gave us our Graybeards! Keep up the good work.

Dear Vincent:

I am enclosing some material about the term "Graybeards" originated with regard to the Korean War Veterans Assn. Back in April of 1985 (3 months before our first Korean War Veterans Reunion) Peter Lucas of the Boston Herald wrote an article about our upcoming reunion in Washington and referred us as "Graybeards" noting that 32 years had passed since the end of fighting in Korea. (1953 to 1985) and we were not the young soldiers of 32 years earlier. I worked with Bill Norris and introduced him to Peter Lucas in Boston on June 25, 1985. Bill liked the term Graybeards and after our reunion in Washington in 1985 Bill had presented Peter Lucas with a "Graybeards" hat and coffee mug in appreciation for his article that resulted in several Korean war Veterans calling me in Wakefield and many of them attended our first reunion. Enclosed you will find some other reference material about how Bill Norris and I worked together on the first reunion in 1985 and how the association got started. I worked with Bill and attended the reunions. Bill was a great guy and I feel honored to have spent time with him. I hope this material is helpful to you and I am looking forward to seeing your comments in the upcoming issues of "Graybeards". Sincerely,

Joseph P. McCallion
Life Charter Member #0002

---

Time to honor the vets from ‘Forgotten War’
By Peter Lucas

It may come as a surprise to some veterans of the Vietnam War but there are some other people around who have been shot at in battle. These are the graybeards of the Forgotten War, Korea, in which almost as many Americans died in a shorter period of time than were killed in Vietnam. And unlike Vietnam, Korea, if not a clear cut victory for the United States and its allies, was at least a tie, the war ending where it first began, on the 38th Parallel of the Korean Peninsula. For 10 years since the fall of Saigon, it has all been Vietnam, with the drama of the returning veteran of Vietnam played out on page one of the country’s newspapers and on television, his image slowly changing from one of being the detested killer of women and children to what it is now something of a hero, complete with an organization, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and a dramatic memorial and statue in Washington.

The Vietnam veteran is now honored, and that is the way it should be. Veterans of the Korean War have watched this, and have read the 10th anniversary stories of the fall of Saigon, stories that inevitably compare the Vietnam War with World War II, and inevitably forget about the Korean War. Korean War veterans have no similar organization like the VVA, nor do they have a memorial in Washington, or anywhere else for that matter. It was a different war then, and it was a different time.

The North Koreans invaded South Korea with 60,000 troops on June 25, 1950, rolling over the South Korean Army and untrained U.S. occupation troops, taking the capital of Seoul. In a counterattack led by Gen Douglas MacArthur, the North Koreans were checked at the Pusan perimeter, and put on the defensive by MacArthur’s brilliantly executed invasion by U.S. Marines at Inchon. The North Korean capital was taken and U.S. troops pushed on to the Yalu River on the border of China. Then the “Red Chinese,” as they were called, attacked with some 200,000 “volunteers” and the allies were pushed back into South Korea, back beyond the 38th Parallel. Ultimately, an army of 600,000 Chinese was stopped and an armistice signed on July 27, 1953, with both sides back where they started, on the 38th Parallel.

They are still there today. Compared to Vietnam it was a short war, but the fighting was fierce, mostly in set piece battles, and the losses were heavy. Americans killed in that war came to 54,236, compared to the 57,702 in the war in Southeast Asia, the longest war in American history. Some 1,620 Massachusetts men were killed in Korea compared to 1,286 in Vietnam. Korean War veterans, in many ways, were the silent generation. It was a different time. Perhaps because of the influence of World War II and victory, young men volunteered or were drafted to fight in Korea without complaint. Running off to Canada to beat
the draft was unheard of, although some young men, less than enthusiastic about being shipped off to Korea to fight, flocked into the U.S. Coast Guard. No one burned the American flag, tore up their draft cards or demonstrated against the war. To many it was simply a continuation of World War II, only this time the enemy was the Communists instead of the Nazis or the Japanese.

Things were more clear cut then. There were battle lines and a visible enemy. There were no Viet Cong in the rear. MacArthur was a genius while Gen. William Westmoreland was an accountant. Unlike the Vietnam War, the Korean War was not in the living room every night. There were no agonizing television pictures of young men dying in battle because there was no television then. The Korean War was more removed because people could not see it. Like Vietnam, there were no parades down Main Street for returning Korean War veterans. No one paid much attention to them. They fought the war, quietly came back and returned to their jobs or went on to college.

No one returning from Korea had "post traumatic stress disorder," or if they did they did not know it. The phrase had not been invented. And if any of them murdered someone they could not blame it on a flashback to the war. Veterans of the Korean War do not begrudge any of the longawaited gains and honors won by the veteran of the Vietnam War. What they do want is a little recognition for themselves and their historic accomplishments, accomplishments made at the frozen Chosin Reservoir, where 15,000 Marines fought off 120,000 Chinese in a historic retreat, a retreat that Gen. Oliver P. Smith described as "an attack in another direction," (since Marines don't retreat) or atop Pork Chop Hill or at Inchon, the last major amphibious landing, or at Seoul or at the Pusan Perimeter.

Finally they may be getting it. Four Korean War Veterans, including Joseph McCullon of Wakefield, an employee of Raytheon, are coordinating a three-day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery this summer that, hopefully, will lead to the erection of a national monument. It has been 32 years since the end of that war, and it is long over due. The graybeards were once shot at too.

Subject: "Graybeards"
37th Iowa Regiment Civil War
Date: Mon, 29 Jun 1998
From: Robert K Wegge
(Wegge@compuserve.com)
Korea 1952-1953
KWVA #1932.
To: Vincent A. Krepps
Dear Editor Krepps:

I read with great interest your article (May-Jun 98) on the History of the "Graybeards." Recently I had the opportunity to tour the Rock Island (ILL) Arsenal museum where I chanced to discover the use of the term "Graybeards" as used in the Civil War. Although not flattering here it is: In 1862 a fifty year old "tall rawboned, gray haired farmer named George W. Kinkaid was authorized to raise a special regiment of men over the age of 45". The "Graybeards" served as guards at Rock Island Barracks from January '64 through June '64. This regiment was known as the 37th Iowa Graybeards commanded by Col. Geo. W. Kincaid. Inspector Lt. Col. John Marsh described them as "a regiment of decrepit old men and the most unpromising subjects for soldiers I ever saw." I suggest that our term "Graybeards" connotes no such impression as we were the soldiers (sailors, navy & marines included) who stopped communism in southeast Asia. I am proud to be a "Graybeard." Thank You, Bob Wegge.

(Well now you can see we have many opinions and I believe all to be true or at least very creditable. Whatever version you choose, the fact remains is that we are all brothers that did our duty when asked. It took every one of us, no matter what branch, rank, year, location, color or creed to get the job done. Call us "Graybeards" or any name you wish but the name we are most proud of is "Korean War Veteran" Thanks to all that responded and I will print more of what was sent later.—Ed)

LETTERS from page 20

Up north only a few miles away, the mountain tops are white and the vehicles clank about with chains. Thanksgiving is over. Winter is here. The snow is wet, damp, and clinging, in keeping with the atmosphere of war, dirt, poverty, and disease.

I hope our children will know what love really means—tenderness and understanding, companionship and closeness. We will give them our love as freely as we give it to each other. They will enjoy the beauty of the seasons, music, color, light, rhythm, melody—that the best in life is giving of themselves and sharing what they have. If I could be convinced that this is what we were fighting for, if these are the things at stake, if the cold, tired young soldier 15 miles from me were sure that these were his reasons for being here, then he would be willing, and I would be willing, to be here. But I'm not sure, and I know he is not. The world is not ready to do with less so that others can have more. I'm skeptical of people's reasons for fighting. Secret documents, memoirs, and letters published years later never show that good had conquered evil.

So we fight a war that no one really believes in. Pain and death, for what? There is no glory here unless it be when a man dies trying to save his fellow man. There must be another way of going about living together. Life is precious and while it is of no value without our being able to live as free people, we throw it away too easily. I wonder if the families of the 100,000 casualties of this Korean "police action" feel any different.

Excerpt from "We Will Not Be Strangers," edited by Dorothy Horwitz, University of Illinois Press.

"We Will Not Be Strangers" is in the bookstores. Copies may be ordered from the University of Illinois Press by calling (800) 545-4703. The cost is $26.95 Plus shipping.
achievements in all fields of endeavor. Veterans nominated have made a significant contribution at local, state, or national level by achieving excellence through actions above and beyond the required level in their selected field or profession. Also, they should have made a significant contribution in voluntary work for veteran and/or the military.

Some of the Boards and Commissions Coon now belongs to, and the positions he holds, include National Director, Mid-Central Region American EX-Prisoners of War Association, Inc.; State President, Department of Ohio Korean War Veterans Association; President National Korean War EX-Prisoner of War Association, Inc.; President Greene County Veterans Service Commission; National Director Korean War Veterans Association; National POW/MIA Chairman Korean War Veterans Association; Treasurer Korean Veterans Memorial Board; Member AMVETS, American Legion; and Life Member M.O.P.H. D.A.V., 25th Infantry Division, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8312.

Coon, who has owned and managed Harco Tool on Industrial Lane in Beaver Creek for over 40 years, was the guiding force in starting the Eagle, Beaver football program in Beaver Creek, and has been a staunch backer of Beaver Creek school athletics.

He has traveled all over the United States and to many parts of the world representing the offices he holds in veterans organizations. He attended Wilbur Wright High School, and after service attended the University of Dayton, and was awarded his Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1958.

In her nominating letter, Rep. Reid pointed out that Coon was president of the Northridge Optimist Club in 1971-72; received the Sertoma Club Service to Mankind Award in 1981; was named Honorary Mayor of Beaver Creek in 1990, and Honorary Member of the Beaver Creek Police Department, 1977; served as Beaver Creek Township Trustee from 1974-1978 (during which time he donated all of his salary to youth organizations in the community); was instrumental, in establishing a full-time police department in Beaver Creek; was instrumental obtaining, full-time medical and emergency services; helped to establish the Beaver Creek Health Advisory Board and established the Beaver Creek Neighborhood Watch Program.

He and his wife, Sylvia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on March 13, 1994. They have three children, Debi, Sandy, and Chris and four grandchildren.

He entered the U.S. Army in September, 1948, and served in Japan from January, 1949, until July 5, 1950, serving with “B” Company, 35th Infantry, 25th Division from March 1949, until taken captive. He was captured by Chinese enemy forces on November 27, 1950 after serving five months on front line duty. He was held prisoner of war for 33 months and four days, serving a total of 38 months in Korea.

He is one of the few Ohio Korean War veterans awarded all 10 battle stars. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge. Prisoner of War medal, two Presidential Unit Citations, and the Korean Presidential Citation.

(After reading all of the above if you were not impressed before to have Harley Coon as President of our Association you should certainly be now. What a history of devotion to family, country, state, community and last but not least, to all veterans. I hope we can unite and renew our dedication to our war, our veterans and their families. We have a new start, rebuilt finances, new board and a great leader. Heed his message, contribute in whatever way you can. As Harley said we thank our past officers of our conception to today. We thank them for their dedication to keep our special veterans together. All of us are unique for we belong to a time in History called “The Korean War Era.” I include special to all, wherever you were during that period, including those that are in Korea now or had a loved one that was in the service at that time. We must remember those that did not come home and the families that lost loved ones. These next four years will be major for our association and its members. We ask each of you to seek out a new member or form a new chapter.—Ed)

---

### Action Book

**A Platoon Sergeant’s Diary**

During the Korean War (Sept. 1950-Sept. 1951), by B.R. Spiroff, 1stSgt-E8, USA (Ret). A realistic and detailed account of an infantry platoon’s front line action.

Send $12.95 plus $1.50 (s&h) to:

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524 Old Annapolis Rd.,
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Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation

Winners Announced for 1998-1999 College Grant Awards

Five (5) winners were selected on the 15th of July by the Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting. They are listed in order of selection:

- Ms. Lora Dawn Kishel of East Aurora, NY., granddaughter of Paul J. Kishel, Jr., also of East Aurora, NY.
- Ms. Kori L. Winchell of Stillwater, NY., granddaughter of Arthur C. Patterson, also of Stillwater, NY.
- Mr. Benjamin Kaiser of Montezuma, IA, grandson of David H. Holtzer of Pleasant Hill, CA.
- Ms. Jenna Mary Tsukichi of Thief River Falls, MN, granddaughter of Elmer McIntyre of St. Francis, MN.
- Kristy M. Watzlawick of Merrill, WI., granddaughter of Einar H. Ingman (MOH) of Irma, WI.


The Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation is proud to announce that applications for college grants will be available 1 December 1998 for the 1999-2000 school term. Eligibility for these grants must be consistent with our Bylaws.

Applicants or sponsors must send in a request for the application to: Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation, 8968 Thomas Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125-7602. Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope ($3.22 for each application, $5.55 for 2 applications in one envelope), and the application will be returned by U. S. Mail. Completed applications returned after 1 May 1999 will not be considered.

The Story of Ray Davis book still available

General Ray Davis has allowed the Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation to promote and sell his book. It is still available for a short time only. Gen. Davis will personally inscribe and autograph a copy for you. This is a beautiful book, 304 pages, 8-1/2" x 11". For a minimum donation of $25.00, he will send his book to you. Checks or money orders made payable to KWVEGC. Please allow time for inscribing and shipping. Include with your order, instructions on what the inscription should read. Send to: Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation, Lt. Col. Hansel C. Hall, USAF (ret), Treasurer & CFO, P. O. Box 14648, University Station, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Appointment announced

Mr. Donald G. Baker, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus from the University of Minnesota has been appointed to the Board of Directors in the KWVEGC to replace Comdr. "Pete" Cole, who has taken the position of Secretary. Don's area of expertise is Agriculture Climatology/Meteorology. Don served in the Army Air Corps in England and France during WWII. He was recalled into the Air Force in 1951, serving in Japan & Korea through 1953 as a weather forecaster at K-2 & K-8. Welcome aboard Don.

Students of Korean War Veterans Deserve an Equal Chance to Attend College Too!

Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation
P.O. Box 14648, University Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

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The term "Honorary Sponsor" shall apply to each member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

Honor Chairs

Honor Chairs within the Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corporation provide an opportunity for individuals, Chapters and Corporations to honor Korean Veterans, both men and women, who served our country. All proceeds received will be used to support candidates on a yearly basis. For further information, please contact Lt. Col. Hansel C. Hall, USAF (ret), Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer @ 612-332-2685 or Director, Richard L. "Dick" Adams @ 209-864-3196 before sending a tax-deductible contribution of $1,000.00 or more.

Remembering our POWs and MIA

Flag raising at Oreana, IL Post Office by (Left-Right) Margaret Niccum - Postmaster, Jack Marques - Mayor, Billy Smith - WM KWWA and Audrey Lewis - Postal Clerk.

(Thanks to Oreana and those named above. All Veterans are proud of you especially those that were left behind. We are their voices. We must remember them.)

Belated Credit

May-June 1998 issue of The Graybeards failed to give credit to LCDR Roberto J. Prinselaar U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.) The poem was sent in with the authors name omitted.

We are sorry for the omission. We have received many letters stating what a great and moving poem. Many wanted to know if they could reprint the poem. Now that I know, please write or call and I will instruct you on how to contact LCDR Prinselaar. — Editor
Korean War Museum and Library — Progress Report

UPDATE - August 7, 1998
Tuscola, Illinois

More exciting news for Korean War veterans and the museum!! The Aileen Andrew Corporation and its employees of Orland Park, Illinois donated $10,000 to the museum project on August 5. The money will be added to other donations and used to exercise the first of two 11-acre options on land at the east edge of Tuscola. Andrew Corporation is a global supplier of communications equipment and services.

On July 19, the museum received its tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service as an organization described in section 501(c)3. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to our organization are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the determination letter is available upon request from our headquarters in Tuscola.

The first annual election of board members took place in June.

Elected were: Robert Kenney (ph. 217-877-7091), president, Decatur, IL; Clyde Fruth, first vice president, Freeport, IL; Bill O'Brien, second vice president, Home-town, IL; Merle Sims, treasurer, Decatur, IL; Lynnita Sommer, secretary, Tuscola, IL; Richard Teike, trustee, Decatur, IL; Billy Gray, trustee, Okawville, IL; Walter Ade, trustee, Springfield, IL; Warren Thomas, trustee, Linton, IN; Joseph Cho, trustee, Chicago, IL; Morlin Zimmerman, trustee, Monroe, WI; Jae Won Lee, trustee, Chicago, IL; Jim Luthe, trustee, Chicago, IL; Billy R. Smith, trustee, Oreana, IL; Yang Ho Song, trustee, Chicago, IL; Joseph Matthews, trustee, Mattoon, IL; and Richard Willoughby, trustee, Tuscola, IL. Of necessity due to monthly board meetings, most of the trustees are from Illinois. That will change when trustees are no longer expected to attend twelve month meetings each year in order to organize and fundraise for the national museum. The board of trustees has requested that Harley Coon appoint a new liaison between the KWVA and the trustees of the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library.

Both local and non-Illinois Korean War veterans are encouraged to give input into what they would like to see (and not see) in the national museum. Share your ideas and concepts with our board of trustees. We will listen seriously to your comments and suggestions, and, whenever possible, act on them.

The board of trustees continues to market the national museum through the distribution of a Case for Support and brochures. Board member Jae Won Lee (ph. 773-286-0533) is arranging a translation of the brochure into the Korean language. Three quarterly newsletters have been distributed to our growing roster of over 450 charter members. Caps and tee shirts with the national museum logo are rapidly being distributed by board member Morey Zimmerman (ph. 608-325-6226). Doug Fargo of Charles Town, WV (ph. 800-451-9501) has details for those interested in funding a $300, $500, or $1,000 section of the museum's memorial wall.

Some artifacts have been received into the museum's collection, but active solicitation for artifacts will not start until a collections care storage facility is up and running. Trustee Billy Smith of Oreana (ph. 217-468-2049) serves as chairman of the Collections Committee. He and area museum professionals are currently preparing drafts of collections guidelines for board approval. Veterans who have items they would like to donate to the museum should give Bill a preliminary call to discuss the donation procedure.

Foremost on the minds of the board of trustees is to raise $88,000 by January 1st to exercise the first of two options on a 22-acre tract of land near Interstate 57 east of Tuscola, currently held in option by the Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library. Money is accruing interest in a building account at First State Bank of Tuscola.

The veterans of the 44th Broken Heart Engineer Battalion Association are sponsoring a white elephant auction at the Tuscola Community Building on September 19 to raise funds for the building campaign. Veterans of the 84th and 62nd ECB gave $1,000 early on to the Memorial Wall as their association's contribution to the cause. Like our charter members, the 84th/62nd and 44th will forever be recognized for stepping forth to build the national museum that Korean War veterans need and deserve. We are also pleased to announce official endorsement of the museum by the Chosin Few Association. Other veterans' groups are encouraged to officially endorse the national museum in Tuscola, too.

Have you taken out a membership yet? If not, the trustees encourage you to join as a charter member. We could use your help. If everybody sits around to wait and see what happens with this national museum project nothing's going to happen. Join us and we can do it! The Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library is about you - for you - and for those who died to secure freedom. Never let Korea be forgotten. For more information, call or write Korean War Museum, c/o 700 S. Main, Tuscola, IL 61953 (ph. 217-253-2535).

This ad paid by a City of Tuscola marketing grant.

Membership dues
- Individual veteran or spouse $25
- Veteran family membership $30
- General public (individual) $35
- General public (family) $40
- Corporate or Civic $50
- Sponsor $100
- Life member (1 person only) $1,000*

*This membership is paid one time only. All other memberships are renewable one year from the date of application.

If applying member is a veteran (regardless of time period), please indicate years of service, division or unit, and other information you wish to have on file. Make dues payable to: Korean War Veterans National Museum & Library.

Mail dues or donations to:
Merle Sims, Treasurer
2441 Longwood Drive
Decatur, IL 62526.
Korean War Veterans Association — Financial Statement

Income Statement
For the six Months Ending June 30, 1998

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<td>NET INCOME</td>
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Balance Sheet
June 30, 1998

| ASSETS |
| CURRENT ASSETS |
| CHECKING - 1ST UNION | $ 80,688.77 |
| CHECKING - MAGNA | 621.98 |
| L/R CD #140811170030933 | 100,000.00 |
| L/R M-M #4370286577 | 116,512.18 |
| INVENTORY - QM | 72,084.49 |

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE | 50.00 |
BAD CHECKS | 361.00 |
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 370,318.42 |
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT | 0.00 |
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT | 0.00 |
OTHER ASSETS |
| WEAPONS | 8,050.00 |
| GRANITE | 3,668.15 |
| COINS, COMMEMORATIVE | 8,596.00 |
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS | 20,514.15 |
TOTAL ASSETS | $390,832.57 |
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES |
| ACCOUNTS PAYABLE | 2,510.13 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 2,510.13 |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES |
| RESV - REGULAR LIFE MEMBERS | 214,792.25 |
| RESV - LIFE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS | 1,225.00 |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 216,017.25 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 218,527.38 |
| CAPITAL |
| CLAIMS RECEIVABLE | 131,879.19 |
| RETAINED EARNINGS | <52,164.99> |
| NET INCOME | 92,520.99 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL | 172,235.19 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL | $390,832.57 |

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July/August, 1998

Page 35
Into The Fray

Taegu, South Korea, July, 1950

Part I: False Start

On 16 July, 1950, while our “Dallas” crews were flying combat missions out of Taegu airstrip with the nine remaining “South Korean” Mustangs. The 40th Fighter Squadron from Johnson Field, Japan’s 35th Fighter Group, was being re-equipped with other hurriedly refurbished F-51s, brought out of storage; they were promptly deployed to Korea at the old Japanese airstrip at Pohang, directly east of Taegu on the shores of the Sea of Japan. With the 40th’s arrival, we then had two under-strength USAF F-51 Mustang squadrons based on Korean soil.

Initially the 40th had their hands full trying to slow the advance of the North Koreans racing down the coastal highway on the eastern side of the Korean peninsula, while we at Taegu directed our primary efforts against the fast-moving enemy thrusts on the central and western side of the peninsula.

By the 19th of July my Squadron Intelligence operation was organized well enough that I could finally consider doing some flying.

The telephone hook-up with 5th Air Force Advance headquarters in Taegu city was working, most of the time, enabling us to relay strike results and receive word on which areas were most in need of air support. Sergeant Thornton knew what to look for during pilot’s post-mission interrogations, and how to plot heavy flak areas on our makeshift situation maps.

It was time for me to “get my feet wet”; to start flying some combat missions. I asked Moreland to put me on the mission schedule whenever he had an opening; which he soon did. He wasted no time in setting me up for early the next morning... 20 July, 1950.

It had been over six months since I had last flown the F-51 Mustang, an airplane which requires a pilot’s undivided attention even under the best of circumstances. With the change back to the “tail-dragger” (tail-wheel) configuration, following the ease and good visibility of the F-80 Jet’s nose-wheel set-up, plus the challenge of Taegu’s dusty, bumpy dirt strip and the Mustang’s grossly changed handling characteristics with a full fuel and bomb load ...I was somewhat apprehensive about my first “refresher” flight.

My thoughts and concerns with just getting the old bird up and down safely were such that I didn’t have time to think about the fact that I was going into a combat area where people on the ground would be trying to shoot me down!

The morning of the 20th dawned warm and clear, but ‘way high we could see a layer of thin clouds forming... indicating the approach of the outer fringes of Typhoon “Gloria”, which had passed the southern Philippine Islands on the previous day and was now headed for Japan. Our weather was forecast to remain reasonably clear for at least one more day.

On my first combat flight I was scheduled to fly as wingman for Captain Howard “Scrappy” Johnson, who had by then completed two or three missions into the Suwon-Taejon area during the past couple of days. We were limited to use of two-ships...flight leader and wingman, rather than the standard four-ship formation simply because we didn’t have enough airplanes to concentrate four at a time onto any one target area. On the other hand, two planes were minimum for mutual protection and area location, in case one should be knocked down.

After my very thorough preflight check of the dusty, old WWII vintage Mustang, I climbed onto the left wing, pulled my backpack parachute on over my “Mae West” life preserver jacket and over my pistol belt and holster, snapped the buckles and cinched the straps to the point where they were “just uncomfortable” if I tried to straighten up.

I then climbed awkwardly over the left cockpit lipedge and sat on the one-man life raft which had previously been placed in the seat “pan” by the Crew Chief. Thick aluminum snap fasteners on each side of the life raft pressed into my thighs as I attached the “dinghy” pack to the metal rings sewn onto the side straps of my parachute harness.

After reaching over and behind the seat back to pull the pair of shoulder straps across to my midsection, I carefully positioned the lap-belt and snapped the lever to fasting all four ends of the shoulder and lap harness together. With the added protrusion of the .45 caliber automatic pistol and holster on my right hip, I had to squirm my buttocks around until the holster hung outside of the seat bucket and, with the large, uncomfortable snaps of the dinghy harness pressing into each side of my posterior, I continued to squirm in the seat to get each check into it’s least uncomfortable position while I pulled the lap belt to a snug tension.

Finally, after plugging the radio cords into the wires from my hard-hat helmet, fastening the oxygen hose connection and clamping it to the shoulder harness, I placed my helmet astride the top of the windscrean. With all of the necessary prelimi-

Unsung Heroes of the Korean Air War

by

Duane E. "Bud" Biteman,
Lt Col, USAF, Ret

The Graybeards
naries completed, I could at last get about the business of starting the Mustang’s big Rolls Royce Merlin, 1650 hp engine.

But first, there was the all-important cockpit check. With “hot” guns...six .50 caliber machine guns in the wings, each loaded with several hundred rounds of ammunition, six 5” high velocity rockets loaded under the wings, and a 500 pound demolition bomb slung under each wing, I was very careful to ensure that none of the armament switches in the cockpit had inadvertently been left in the “on” position, where accidental touching of the control stick trigger or bomb release could cause them to release.

I turned the fuel selector handle, located between my ankles, to the Fuselage tank position for starting, so that I could use up some of the 80 gallons of fuel stored behind the pilot’s seat, to reduce some of the Aft CG weight which made the little ship extremely tail-heavy until the tank’s level got down to about 20 gallons.

Then, calling “CLEAR” to no one in particular...just the usual warning that the prop was about to start rotating, I raised my feet a couple inches off of the floor to depress the toe brakes on each rudder pedal, held the control stick back tightly against my middle...in case the engine were to catch and surge too quickly, turned on the Master Switch, then the Magneto switch and pushed the Starter button.

The big four-bladed propeller started turning, slowly at first, then, as the big twelve cylinder engine started to fire, a few cylinders at a time, I quickly moved the mixture control from it’s Idle-Cut-Off position over to Full Rich, and adjusted the throttle for a smooth, steady idle. The belch of power from the exhaust stacks on each side of the nose was reassuring, and the familiar, distinctive Mustang sound made me feel at home once again.

Pushing the radio control button for our tactical channel, I pulled on my helmet as the set warmed up. I held the toe brakes as I signaled with an outward jerk of my right thumb for the crew-chief to pull out the wheel chocks. I then called Scrapy for a radio check, lifted the handle on the cockpit’s left console to raise the wing flaps, released my toe brakes and added a “tuch” of throttle to begin my zig-zag taxi course through the dusty haze toward the take-off end of the dirt runway.

“I could look for an uninhabited area somewhere in the vicinity, and jettison my bombs, hoping they wouldn’t go off and hit someone.”

For all of it’s power and grace in the air, there are few wheeled contraptions more awkward than a tailwheel aircraft on the ground. It was as if the engineers, after designing a superbly efficient flying machine...decided that their only concession to the fact that the ship must occasionally spend some time on the ground, very reluctantly agreed to hang on a set of three wheels. The main, front wheels, under the wings, had to raise the fuselage high enough to keep the big four-bladed propeller from striking the ground, and the small tailwheel had to be as compact and as light as possible in order to retract into the narrow aft section of the fuselage.

As a consequence, the resulting configuration meant that the pilot could not see over the nose while taxiing, and had to be continually turning the nose from side to side in order to see where he was going. Then too, the placement of the main gear, close to the center of gravity in the wing, made it very risky to apply brakes too quickly, or the weight of the heavy engine would have a tendency to shift the balance forward with embarrassing and costly results, as the tail would swing up, and the propeller blades would dig a furrow in the turf or pavement of the taxiway. The invention of nose gears meant a major and dramatic improvement in the ease of the Fighter pilot’s chores.

With due respect for the heavy load I was carrying, and the numerous soft, sandy spots in our taxi trail, I proceeded with extra caution to the end of the dirt strip behind Scrapy’s airplane. The great cloud of thick dust raised by his propeller made it necessary for me to fully close my canopy while taxiing, and to place my carburetor air filters in the “filter” position to keep at least part of the dust out of the vital internal parts of the engine. Unfortunately, this filtering reduces the volume of air to the coolant radiator and usually causes the engine temperature to rise above its normal range.

Upon arrival at the end of the runway the armament crews scurried under our wings to pull the safety pins from the rockets and bombs and, only when they had moved clear, did we make our engine run-up checks. My coolant temperature was still climbing toward the red-line on the coolant gage on the instrument panel, but I thought that it might be OK once I built up speed on take-off and had a lot of cooler air passing through the radiator.

I taxied to the upwind side of the strip as far as I could, hoping to stay out of Scrapy’s dust and, as he accelerated to the point where I could see his tail rise, I added full power to start my take-off roll. Because of the billowing cloud of dust ahead, I had to leave my filters ‘in’, still reducing the amount of cooling air reaching the radiator.

With one eye on the coolant needle and the other looking ahead for chuckholes in the runway, I lumbered down the runway with my heavily loaded bird. After a seeming eternity of rough bouncing, fearful that the shaking would dislodge the 500 pound bombs under my wings, I was finally able to raise the tail and, with heavy back-pressure on the control stick, managed to force it, semi-stalled, into the air.

I immediately retracted my landing gear and moved the air filter switch to the “unfiltered” position. But the unfiltered cooling air came too late; the steam was streaming out the right side of the nose, and I knew that I had “popped my coolant.”

The automatic pressure relief valve had opened from the excess heat of the over-
Landing the F-51 Mustang with an almost-full fuselage fuel tank is, by itself, a tricky maneuver...even on a long, paved runway, because the rearward center of gravity often causes the need for forward stick pressure to keep the tail from dropping out faster than the nose...apprehensively referred as "the tail tucking under."

heated engine coolant, and unknown quantities of the vital fluid had steamed out into the atmosphere. Even though I leveled off and reduced power immediately, the steam continued to pour out for several minutes.

My possible alternatives were quickly considered and discarded. But I could not dawdle too long, for my coolant temperature was still hovering on the redline, and I had no idea how long the engine would keep running with its minimum coolant level.

"I could look for an uninhabited area somewhere in the vicinity, and jetison my bombs, hoping they wouldn't go off and kill someone. But I wasn't familiar with the locale, and didn't want to test out all the remote areas...if there was one. I couldn't jetison my rockets, because the only way to get rid of them was to fire them off. With my luck, the prop would stop just about the time I got back to jetison my bombs...and I'd have to bail out.

I decided to take my chances with a heavy-weight landing on Taegu's bumpy dirt strip rather than risk continuing to fly without sufficient coolant, where the hot-running liquid-cooled engine could (and probably would) heat up to the point of stopping the engine, and I'd have to have that happen on my first mission over enemy territory.

Johnson was informed by radio of my predicament, and my decision to return to Base; he elected to circle the field, waiting, while I went back in to have the tank topped off with additional coolant fluid. I made a wide, sweeping turn to the left, so as to get to a very long, flat approach for landing.

Landing the F-51 Mustang with an almost-full fuselage fuel tank is, by itself, a tricky maneuver...even on a long, paved runway, because the rearward center of gravity often causes the need for forward stick pressure to keep the tail from dropping out faster than the nose...apprehensively referred as "the tail tucking under." But with full ammunition, plus armed rockets and bombs, as well, it would indeed have to be an extremely gentle landing or the live, armed bombs could be shaken loose and it could become my last touchdown!

Setting my final turn a good five miles out, I lowered landing gear and flaps, then coordinated my pitch angle and engine power to ease the nose down for a long, flat final approach. With airspeed stabilized at 125 mph, the controls felt extremely sensitive, but they continued to work in their proper directions: stick back, the nose came up, stick forward, the nose went down. At 125 I was about 15 mph over the Mustang's normal approach speed, but I knew I'd need the extra speed to keep control of the heavy load through flare-out and touchdown. I'd worry about slowing down once I had it on the ground.

I skimmed the tops of trees a mile from the end of the dirt runway and held my gradual, controlled descent constant with high power until just before touching down, when I eased the stick back and chopped the throttle for a gentle, tail high, "wheel" landing. As I slowed on the ground, I had to push the stick forward to keep the heavy tail from hanging down onto the ground too hard. Then, with heavy braking, while holding the stick hard back, the Mustang slowed to a stop with no further problems.

Our Line-Chief had been watching 'his' airplane like a mother hen from the time I had started the take-off roll, and knew exactly what I'd need when I came back in. He had picked up two five gallon cans of coolant and met me with the jeep as I turned off the runway. I shut off the engine and within five minutes he had me topped off and ready to go again.
me to “arm” my bombs and rockets, and I reached down to the console panel by my knee, lifted the switch guards and moved both the bomb and rocket switches to the “armed” positions. That transferred control of the bomb release to the switches on the control stick; the red button at the top of the stick would release the bombs, and the button on the left of the stick would fire the rockets. The trigger on the front of the handgrip would fire the six machine guns simultaneously.

For “bombsights” our ‘51s had a very simple, but effective system ... a series of one-inch red stripes painted on the leading edge of each wing, near the fuselage, radiating out at different angles from the pilot’s line of sight. Another was painted on the top center of the nose cowling, extending from the windscreen to the prop spinner. In use, the pilot would simply fly off to one side far enough to keep his target in view along the side of the nose, then, as the target passed under the red wing stripe for the altitude he was flying, he would roll over into a steep 60 or 70 degree dive, and line the target up with the nose stripe. Finally, when approaching 4000 feet in the high-speed dive, it was necessary only to check that the needle and ball instrument was “centered,” to be certain there was no skid or slipping of the aircraft, then press the bomb release button as the target passed out of sight under the nose. As soon as the bombs were released, usually at about 2000 feet, a very sharp pull-up was necessary to keep from flying through the bomb’s blast.

Johnson adjusted his heading slightly, then peeled off, rolling into a near vertical dive from 8000 feet, aiming for the first tank in the line and, after another couple of seconds, I rolled over into my dive bombing run. I fired a few short bursts of machine gun fire as I started down, checking to “clear” my guns, and also hoping to keep enemy gunners’ heads down, to discourage them from shooting back as we made our attack. We both had close ‘near misses’ on the first and second tanks, hitting within 40 to 60 feet of each. But after the dust and debris had settled, the tanks were still moving. Russian T-34 tanks usually needed a direct hit with a 500 pound bomb to knock them out of action.

Dropping down onto the deck, we swung around to come at them from the side with our rockets. Again Scrappy aimed at the lead tank and I opened up on the second. We savaged our six 5 inch HVAR rockets from about three hundred yards, and both got good hits against the tracks and wheels. Both tanks were badly damaged, but the crews quickly opened their hatches and started firing at us with their machine guns.

Discretion being the better part of valor, we then flew on north looking for other targets; we knew we couldn’t finish off the tanks with just our machine guns, and the chances of knocking out the crews inside the tanks’ steel armor plating were too slim for the risks involved; maybe we could catch them by surprise on our way back. We circled wide and came back down onto the road at about 200 feet, following it north, with Johnson on the west side of the road and me on the east.

Just south of Suwon we found a pair of south-bound trucks loaded with enemy troops. Scappy blew the first one in the engine, on our initial pass, but we had come upon them so suddenly that I didn’t have time to properly line up to take aim for a good shot. We swung around for another pass from the side, as the enemy troops were taking cover in the ditches and rice paddies alongside the road. I blasted the second truck with machine gun fire, while Scrappy spaced himself for a pass lengthwise with the road, strafing the ditches. The troops were all firing at us with their rifles, but their aim was off, and neither of our planes was hit. We made a third pass, strafing the ditches on both sides of the burning trucks, then continued north toward the airfield at Suwon. There was nothing moving there, and all we could see was the smoldering hulks of our two C-54s which had been damaged on the ground a few days before. Someone had finished the job with a good fire.

We retraced our route back toward Taegon, letting loose a short burst at a couple of soldiers standing near the burned trucks, then continued on to where we had attacked the tanks. We were starting to run low on ammunition and couldn’t waste it on one or two stray soldiers.

As soon as the bombs were released, usually at about 2000 feet, a very sharp pull-up was necessary to keep from flying through the bomb’s blast.

Two of the tanks were still where we’d left them, but the third was gone, hidden in the pall of heavy smoke which hung over the city of Taegon. We made one pass to look at a couple of troops standing by the side of the first tank, but pulled up sharply to get out of range of the rifle and machine gun fire which we knew would be coming up at us from the town. As we rejoined the road on the east side, we could see our Army troops fighting a holding action, while a long line of our trucks and jeeps retreated toward the east.

We climbed back up to 8000 feet, where the air was cooler and more clear, and followed the railroad east to the Nakdong River, our checkpoint for home base at Taegon. After crossing the river, we nosed down for a sweeping turn, in close formation, into a low, on-the-deck initial approach. Upon reaching the runway at about 350 mph, Scrappy pulled up into a steep chandelle as he chopped his power for landing. Two seconds later I pulled up to take spacing behind him on downwind leg. With speed down, after the steep pull-up, we dropped our gear and turned onto a tight base leg, and were still turning slightly on final as we touched down onto the dusty runway.

It felt good to fly a good “tactical approach” traffic pattern against the fighter pilot’s traffic pattern. It was developed during World War II to keep speeds high as long as possible, and to make the “vulnerability period” ... slow speed with gear and flaps down, as brief as possible, in case enemy aircraft were waiting to ambush the flights as they returned for landing... low on fuel and low on ammunition. However, there were occasional gross miscalculations and a number of pilots had been killed in ensuing stall-crash situations. The tactical landing approach was soon outlawed... unfortunately.

“...one of those OLD, Bold fighter pilots....”

Next issue: Kwanju Crossing
Sgt. Whitney writes about Korea

We have received the following letter from Sgt. Ernest Whitney, air mailed from the 38th parallel in Korea, October 1.

Sgt. Whitney had been stationed in Japan for a year prior to going to Korea in early July. Mrs. Whitney and her two daughters, who had been living in Japan, returned to Camden at the outbreak of the Korean War and are in residence at 111 Bay View Street. Sgt. Whitney is the son of Mrs. Elsia Whitney and the late Fred Whitney.—Ed

"Tonight we and the South Koreans are poised on the 38th parallel. We don't know whether or not we will go beyond that line as yet, and while many of us would just as soon get out of here now, we are all of the opinion that we should sweep on to the Chinese border and unite the whole country of Korea again for the first-time in nearly a hundred years and then set up a government of freely elected Koreans under the protection of the United Nations. If we don't do this, I am afraid that we will have fought another war for nothing and will have it all to-do over again in a few years. Only time and God can answer that question now so we'll have to wait and see.

Today we had to send some supplies up to one of our relays and as there was a chance to get some pictures I just had to go along. You should see the mess that war has made of the landscape. Just a few weeks ago I came through the same country on one of our withdrawal actions and then there were a lot of people living there, and houses surrounded with rice paddies and planted fields with cattle feeding on the hillsides. Today there was nothing. The houses are just a pile of dirt and burned timbers. The whole countryside is tore up with artillery fire and air bombs. Railroads are torn up for miles. The village of Waigwau is wiped out. Nothing remains but the marks of battle. All along the road are demolished tanks-both ours and Russian. They look like huge, wounded animals silenced forever. Added to natural stink of the country, one smells the sickening odor of burned and rotting bodies—animal and human.

The people who a few weeks ago were running out of the zone away from the Reds, are now filling the roads with their return-to what used to be their homes. One sees families consisting mostly of old men, women and children, digging among the desolation, seeking to salvage, what they can out of the mess against the coming winter. It is pitiful, especially the children,. for there are thousands who no longer have anyone to take care of them or feed them because their parents and relatives are dead or captured by the commies.

I saw one especially, hard sight about 10 miles up the road. The family had evidently just reached the place where their house used to be. There was an old man, very old, and an old woman being helped by two girls about twelve years old, and two women about thirty, and one little boy, all of whom had just reached the spot when we came along. They were sitting in the midst of a pile of rubble that once was their home. The house was completely gone. Under what was left of a sort of shed lay the rotting bodies of an ox and two pigs. Their rice fields were gone—ploughed up by the treads of the tanks which had passed that way. The people were sitting and crying amidst the ruin and the sound was of the most hideous and desolate and awful sorrow which I have ever seen. The relay which we went out to supply was attacked the night before by North Korean guerrilla troops. Our men had taken six prisoners. We brought them back to Taegu with us and saw that they were taken care of. One was 16 and claimed he was a medic. The others were older and harder looking customers. Their clothes were in rags and they hadn't eaten for five days, so they said. I guess it was true because we fed them and they went at it like a bunch of starving dogs. They fairly growled as they ate and kept looking out of the corners of their eyes at each other as if they were going to fight over the food.

Many people may wonder what conditions are over here. This is what the country looks like after the Armies have passed through. I know that this is Korea—but America would look the same after a storm like this. The people wouldn't look much different either—for war is a great leveler of humanity. We here are all thanking God for the privilege of stopping this Communist aggression here—if we have done so—before it happens to Camden or some other "Hometown," USA.

War is hideous but we have done what we had to do and will continue to do so without expecting or giving quarter. Many people write and ask what they can do for us. All they can do for us is to be the best Americans they know how-to believe in and back up the boys over here by stamping out Communists propaganda wherever they find it—for Communists are a menace to humanity and as such must be wiped out the same as a mad dog or small pox. If they persist in their dream of world Communism they will be wiped off the face of the earth. This I am convinced of after seeing our boys fight over here and listening to their thoughts on Communism.

(Yes, that's the article printed in newspaper called "The Camden Herald" which I assume is in Maine. I talked over the phone to Ernest and Virginia Whiteley. I will print some of the letter Virginia sent to me and you will see why our Graybeards means so much to all of us aging veterans. The words of Ernest's 1950 letter were that of a sage.)

Virginia's letter dated 1-31-98

He went into Korea the first part of July 1950 as a Tech Sgt., and returned in Dec. 1951 as a 1st Lt., receiving a Field Commission in Nov. 1950. January 29 this year.
he was 86 years old, retiring from the Army in 1965 at Fort Meade Md. as a Major. Legally blind now, he is unable to read or drive, so it means a lot to him to talk with people that have some of the memories and experiences that he can relate to. He does have the talking books and we have recently purchased a machine that works like a closed circuit TV and magnifies up to 80 times, and he can read some with that which is a big help. I read “The Graybeards” to him from cover to cover, and I must say it is a great magazine. I enjoy it almost as much as he does. We always check the articles from the Veterans, and the columns of who is looking for someone. We’ve kept in touch with quite a few of those who were in Japan with us, but there are a lot that we wonder what happened to them. I didn’t mention that his Company was the 8036th Sig. Serv. Co.

The children (11 and 4) and I returned to the States soon after the outbreak of the Korean War at my husbands request. We had been living in Kyoto Japan. He was afraid that there would be an earthquake, an epidemic, typhoon, and the children might be separated from me, and he felt strongly that we would be better off at home where we had family to be supportive no matter what happened. At the beginning of the “Police Action” I have to admit that I was petrified as to what might happen. None of us had any idea what might happen with the Russians or Chinese, and we weren’t all that sure of the Japanese, although I must say they couldn’t have done more for us than they did, and we lived at least a mile from any other Americans. Suddenly all of the U.S. Soldiers except a few basic necessary people were gone, and here we were 8000 miles from home and on very unfamiliar ground.

I was torn emotionally by wanting to be there if my husband was wounded and returned to Japan, and getting the children back to the good old U.S.A.

The Army personnel, that were left did all they could to put us at ease, and they did a terrific job of taking care of us “Dependents.” Needless to say their first priority had to be the fighting men at the front - just as it should be. Nobody wanted to panic the Japanese by pulling out the families of the soldiers suddenly, and on the other hand we were a terrific “headache” in many ways to the Army. They never said that, but my common sense tells me that is the way it was. Rumor was rampant as it always is. Some of the stories were horrific, and some were ridiculous. I think the Air Force Wives were tremendously. There were no airfields operational in Korea. So these girls watched their husbands fly out in the morning, and then had to count the planes returning at night. I’m not sure I would have been able to handle that kind of stress.

Once everyone got their feet under them and stopped reeling from the shock of such a sudden “police action,” things began to fall into place. At first everyone thought things would be over in a few weeks. The State Department had announced just a few days before that “Peace was never nearer.”

Continued on page 42
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.

California
* James B. Walker
Connecticut
* Cecil F. Pease
* James J. Whittaker, Sr.
Indiana
* Carl A. Connolly
* Louis H. Taylor
Massachusetts
* John J. Anthony
* Leonard J. Cleary
* Laurence C. Cristiano
* John H. Harney
* William C. Rimmer
Michigan
* Joseph E. Delay
* Eldridge "Ed" Farmer
* Joseph W. Flood
Minnesota
* Joseph C. Perrin, Jr.
New Hampshire
* Thomas Tuner
* Edward M. Breck
New Jersey
* Joseph Marigliano
New York
* Charles J. DePerno, Sr.
* Robert F. Gunn
* Thomas J. Kiely, Jr.
* Ken Robinson
Ohio
* B.J. Corbin
* Kenneth L. Reese
* Larry Rosen
Pennsylvania
* Stewart Carr
* Joseph J. Conforto
* Philip E. Coppola
* John W. Dawson
* John W. Diering
* Joseph J. Manion
* Robert L. Maxwell
* Thomas J. McDonough
* Joseph P. Sears
* Daniel J. Sullivan
* William E. Walters
Rhode Island
* Justin Smith
Tennessee
* John E. Piatt
Virginia
* H Theodore F. Prasak
* H Thomas E. Shealy, Sr.

Attention KWVA Members


Reprinted on coated paper including the dramatic picture of the Statues with the Lincoln Memorial shown in the background.

The Association is making these souvenir copies available to help support printing of The Graybeards.

Order as many as you wish—Chapter or individual orders. Perfect for recruiting new members and/or as a keepsake for friends and relatives. Valued at $2 each.

Send your request to: Amos Camp, 7828 Rebel Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. Suggested donation: $1.00 per copy, plus $2.00 shipping. Include check with order payable to KWVA.

WHITNEY from page 41

A great many of the soldiers wanted to get their families home. Especially those who had already been through WWII. We soon found that this was not something that was going to be settled in a few weeks, and the horror of war suddenly set in. I was torn emotionally by wanting to be there if my husband was wounded and returned to Japan, and getting the children back to the good old U.S.A. Fortunately, I didn't have to make that decision. He made it for me.

In retrospect, we were young, and in many ways it turned but to be a big adventure, as so many things in life are. We lost many young friends and we still grieve for them. I certainly wouldn't want to go through it again, but I'm glad that I experienced some of what I learned from it as an Army Wife. Certainly such a thing soon separates the boys from the men and the girls from the women. Ernest and I were among the very fortunate ones who lived to remember.

On February 19, we celebrate our 61st Anniversary. Of all the memories we have gathered through the years, certainly the Korean War, with all of its heartaches, and the joy of my husband and many of our dear friends surviving, the maturity we reached by experiencing all of it, plays a big part of our life together.

Well, I guess by now you have gotten tired of reading this letter which I did not intend to be so long. Please keep up the good work on the "Graybeards". It is a wonderful magazine and long overdue for these men and women who gave so much for a country most of us had never heard of and a people they never knew anything about. It was a remarkable thing that they did, and I believe history will in time regard it as such.

Sincerely,

Virginia (Ginny) Whitney

I did edit out some of the greetings and other personal remarks but what I left in tells a story of two special people whose children must be very proud of. Ernest and Virginia please stay in touch and I hope God will bless both of you with many more years of good health and happiness. I hope the Maine veterans will honor both of you in the near future. You are two special Americans and it is an honor for our association to have you as members.—Ed.
The strikingly beautiful lithograph that's displayed above is now available. It comes ready to frame at 24" x 36" on very high quality paper stock. Although large, it was designed to fit into a frame of the same dimensions found at any good frame store.

Titled "One Level", it is a composite of those men who answer our country's call during wartime. This illustration depicts the Korean War as an example, but the idea applies to all of this nation's wars. It portrays, in artwork and print, how men from all walks of life, rich and poor, came together in combat units. It shows how the shared experience of potential death forms a special bond and mutual respect that only those who have experienced it can understand. Men who would never meet or socialize in civilian life become equals in each other's eyes. And as reunions have proven years later this bonding is not diminished by time. They all still see each other on "One Level".

Please send the order form below with a check or money order for $39.95. Do not send cash. A lithograph will be shipped in a heavy duty roll tube. The shipping cost is included in the price of the artwork to the 48 continental United States. Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, and Mexico add $7.00 extra for shipping and handling. California residents only add $3.10 (7.75%) state sales tax.

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Order Form

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City ____________________________ State ________ Zip ________
Telephone No. ____________________________ Fax ____________________________
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Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico add $7.00 = ___________
Calif. residents only add $3.10 sales tax = ___________
Total amount of check sent = ___________

Make all checks or money orders payable to: Ponto Historic Society. Allow 4 weeks for delivery. Mail to: Ponto Historic Society, P.O. Box 7, Carlsbad, CA. 92018-0007.
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
GRANITE WALL MEMENTO

This beautiful commemorative is a tribute to you, as a Korean War Veteran, or your family member, who fought in the Korean War. The memento is an authentic piece of the "Academy Black" granite, quarried in California and fabricated in Minnesota, used to create the mural wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Each piece is numbered with a brass plate and includes a certificate of authenticity.

The granite piece is a full 3 1/2 x 6 x 1 1/4" thick. The front has a high polish finish with the text hand-screened in durable epoxy ink. It can be stood on edge as shown or placed flat on the 4 felt dots which are attached to the bottom. The wall plaque contains the same striking granite piece as above, recessed into a 7 x 9 x 1" deep piece of satin finished oak. The back is slotted for easy hanging. This plaque will add beauty to any home or office décor.

Each piece is gift boxed for a high quality presentation.

Net proceeds to fund KWVA projects and programs.

Have your local engraver add a personalized plate for your next awards presentation.

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Thats to over 7,000 members and friends of the K. W. V. A. the raffle generated in excess of $88,000.00. From the officers and directors of the K. W. V. A. to all of you, thank you so very much.

The winners, and their selected prize are:

1 - John Winter - Bloomington, MN - .45 Colt Pistol

2 - J. L. Krakovsky - Wildwood, IL - M-1 Garand rifle.

3 - A. Miramontes - Dallas, TX - $500.00 savings bond

Winners #1 and #2 are members of the K. W. V. A. and the 3rd winner is the son of member. Congratulations to all from Jim Martin, Chairperson.

Below is a continuation of the list from the May/June, 1998 issue of The Greybeards.
July 23, 1998
Dear fellow Korean War Veterans,

What is KOREA 2000? "KOREA 2000" is the recognition of the 50th year commemoration anniversaries, by the United States and the Republic of Korea governments, of the tremendous sacrifices made, in the name of freedom, between 1950 and 1953. There will be major events scheduled in the years 2000, 2001, and 2002, culminating in a big 50th Anniversary commemoration, in both the United States and Republic of Korea, in 2003.

The USA events will be coordinated by the US Department of Defense and the KOREA 2000 Association, Inc. at the state, and local level, with every town, city and hamlet being asked to do something during these years to recognize that "Freedom is not Free", and thank all Korean War Veterans for their great sacrifices. A gala commemoration, to include a parade down Constitution Avenue, will be held in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2003.

The ROK events are a little less clear at this time, primarily because Korea has just recently held national elections. The new government of President Kim Daejung has accepted full responsibility for the specific recognition ceremonies during the anniversary years. What we know thus far, is that the Republic of Korea is planning numerous and moving events to thank the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, of all the United Nations countries that participated in the Korean War! Note: The KOREA 2000 Association chaired jointly by General Raymond Davis, USMC (Ret) and General William Westmoreland, USA (Ret) will travel to Seoul in September 1998 to meet with the ROK government and the CG, U.S. Forces Korea (General John Tilelli) to determine the specific plans being developed in the Republic of Korea.

Special Note: Some of you have participated in a past Korea Revisit Tour, but because of the KOREA 2000 Anniversary tours, would like to go again. We have asked KVA (Seoul) to relax the eligibility requirements for both the big anniversary years of 2000 and 2003. My advice, "be honest!" and indicate on your form the year(s) you accepted an official KVA (Seoul) Revisit quota, and request an exception! We will continue to work on lifting the current restrictions of only one subsidized revisit tour per veteran. (If you are not a member or if your membership has expired, please be reminded that you must be a KWVA member in good standing to participate in an official "Korea Revisit" tour.)

In Conclusion: There is only one Korean Veterans Association (KVA) located in Seoul and there is only one Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) in the United States. These two prestigious veteran associations are working in concert on the "Official Korea Revisit" program. There are other travel agencies working on return tours to Korea but they are not recognized by KVA, Seoul as "officially" representing US Korean War Veterans. These tours, in the main, are strictly commercial/civilian tours with little or no appreciation of the veterans desire for tours of accurate, historical significance. I'm sorry to report that the 1999 Revisit tour schedule is already closed out and their is a "stand-by" list. Please do not request any more 1999 space!

My most sincere regards,

Warren H. Wiedehahn
Co-Chairman - KWVA Revisit Committee
Korea, 1950 - Pusan-Inchon-Seoul-Chosin and Life
Member - KWVA

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Background and Eligibility - Official Korean Veterans Association KVA (Seoul) Revisit Program

Background
The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Korean Veterans Association (KVA, Seoul) in 1975, the 25th Anniversary year of the outbreak of the Korean War, to express their gratitude to veterans of the Korean War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA Eligibility
A. Korean War veterans and/or war correspondents of the 21 nations which came to the assistance of the Republic of Korea between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953.
B. Immediate family member of those killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are eligible to take a spouse or one immediate descendant with you. (Not a sister, brother, companion or friend.)

The family member must be housed in the same hotel room with you in Seoul. (Descendants must be over 18.)

Privileges Extended Courtesy of KVA
A. Hotel accommodations (2 persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for 6 days and 5 nights.
B. Tour of Seoul and its vicinity; itinerary includes visits of Pannunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korean War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum, plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. (Other tours of battles sites and/or Inchon may be made through the local tour guide).
C. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korean War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran. (Who have not received it before!).

Miscellaneous
A. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
B. Participants are required to be in possession of a valid passport. (A visa is not required for visits to Korea of 15 days or less.)
C. KVA (Seoul) is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip insurance is available and recommended.
D. The cost of the airline ticket must be borne by each individual visitor who will fly with the group.
E. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, First-serve" basis.

Note: If you have previously accepted an official KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group) - you are not currently eligible to participate again. The reason for this is obvious; there are many veterans that have not gone before so, they get their "first right of return." KVA Seoul now has all former revisit returns in a computer database, so please don’t try and beat the system. We may not know it, and submit your name to KVA (Seoul), only to have it rejected. This could cause embarrassment for all of us, as well as, create a delay that could cause a bonafide Korean War veteran to miss the opportunity.

F. Those desiring to use frequent flier miles (or other means of "Free" air transportation) will be required to pay a $100.00 (per person) administrative processing fee. Caution: Not traveling with the KWVA group air contract, can result in much higher Post Tour costs to China and other Pacific locations!
APPLICATION FOR KWVA REVISIT TOURS

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose:
"To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans of the United States who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953." (Eligibility on facing page).

VETERAN'S PERSONAL HISTORY (Please print or type)

Veteran’s Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: __________ Sex: __________
KWVA Membership #: ___________________________ Expiration Date: __________
Name of family member and relationship: ___________________________
Date of Birth: __________ Sex: __________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: __________
Home Phone: __________ Work Phone: __________ Fax: __________
Veteran’s Passport Number: ___________________________
Date of Expiration: __________
Family member’s Passport Number: ___________________________
Date of Expiration: __________
Veteran’s Soc Sec #: ___________________________
Family member’s Soc Sec #: ___________________________

Have you previously received the Korean War Medal from the Korean Veterans Assn in Seoul, Korea? □ No □ Yes
Have you received the medal elsewhere? __________ If so, where? __________ Date __________

VETERAN'S MILITARY BIOGRAPHY

Branch of Service: ___________________________ Service Number: __________
Period of Service in Korean War, from: __________ to __________
(Month/Year Arrived) (Month/Year Departed)
Unit Assigned: ___________________________
Location of Unit: ___________________________
Rank Achieved in Korea: ___________________________
Highest Rank Achieved: ___________________________
Personal Military Decorations: ___________________________

□ I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour. OR
□ I have previously accepted and participated in an Official KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour in __________ Date __________

I am requesting my name be submitted for a waiver to participate in the 50th Anniversary Revisit Tours in the years 2000-2003.

Veteran’s Signature: ___________________________
Date: __________

Please complete and mail, with deposit of $250 per person, (check or money order), made out to Military Historical Tours. (This deposit is fully refundable at anytime and for any reason, since there are more applicants than the limited amount of Revisit space available.) KWVA Revisit Program, c/o Military Historical Tours, Inc., Attn: George Malone, 4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22304, 703-739-8900 - Fax 703-684-0193

This Was a Part of Our War - A Short Story
Requiem for a Ranger

by Dudley Gould

Two eyewitnesses told of a tough ranger captain, an old Army pro, who suffered eleven months of Communist torture and died rather then bend to the enemy.

"They kept him tied in a hole," said Sergeant Paul Urabel of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, when released from the North Korean prison camp. "They would question him until late at night and get him out at dawn and make him climb a nearby mountain with a bag of rice on his back. We would slip down to his hole late at night and put cigarettes in his mouth and he would tell us not to give in to them."

"He was a wonderful guy," said Sergeant Charles Rollings of Greensboro, North Carolina, who served with the captain in the first Ranger Company and was captured with him in May, 1951. "The Chinese were trying to find out why the Rangers were in Korea and how they operated. The captain swore he would never tell them. They had a special way of tying him up with ropes that would almost pinch his arms off. Then they would run the line around his throat and put the end over a beam so that if he moved an inch he would choke himself. But he never gave in.

"He would say over and over again, 'you got my name, rank and serial number and that's all.' And that was all they ever got."

When Rollings was transferred to another camp, Sergeant Urabel kept track of their captain. "They would lead him to the latrine and you could see he was black and blue and swollen all over. But we never heard him scream. They would keep him in that hole like a hog and the rain would fall on him until he was lying in several inches of human mess and mud. But when they brought him out for another torture session he would be holding his head high and proud like, 'He knew we were all pulling for him and he didn't want to let us down.'"

The last Urabel heard about the captain through the grapevine he was being taken to Pyongyang for more sophisticated questioning. "He was beaten and very haggard. He looked like a walking corpse, they told me. But he still wouldn't tell them anything and he never did get out of that camp of death. In a little while they heard he was dead. They said he had been executed as a war criminal. "We all had got to sort of love the captain. He was like a symbol, something to hold on to."

July/August, 1998
Book Reviews

Fighting on the Brink

Turner Pub. Co.,

by Brig. Gen. Uzal W. Ent (Ret)

If there has been any obvious fact that has emerged from the conduct and direction of the Korean War it is that had the forces comprising the Pusan perimeter defenses not gotten into position along the Nakdong River, and defended as tenaciously as they did, there would have been no breakout and Inchon landing, or expulsion of the Communists invaders, or the establishment of the free and independent South Korean country that has lasted almost a half century until today. To invade the peninsula once lost would not have been feasible either militarily or politically.

Equally obvious is that these forces would not have had time to get into position had not the 24th Division fought, at such a ghastly price, its gallant and successful delaying actions from Osan south of Seoul, Chungju, Taejon, and other towns along the way, back to the Pusan perimeter positions.

Finally, it seems equally clear that even the 24th Division might well not have had a chance to get forward into its blocking positions and slow the onrushing North Korean Army but for Lt. Col. Charles "Brad" Smith with his Task Force Smith. The Force was almost obliterated but held firm for precious hours at its road block just north of Osan on July 4th, 5th and 6th even as a column of enemy tanks passed to the rear through the position and sealed off the escape route.

It is through these engagements, in mind boggling, scholarly and historically professional detail, that General Ent concentrates in great depth in his new book Fighting on the Brink.

The author lays his ground work with opening background chapters on Korean occupational duty in the post World War II period and on the development of the North and South Korean Armed Forces. He then launches into a description of the communist crossing of the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950, the formation and emplacement of Task Force Smith and the ordeal of the 24th Division in its delaying actions at the Kum River and Taejon. He then treats graphically and precisely the first battles of the 25th and 1st Cavalry Divisions with a masterful degree of realism that makes the reader feel as though he is present on the battlefield.

Most of the authors attention, as might be expected, is focused on the arrival and engagements of these other units that comprised the perimeter defense force; the Marines, the Army 2nd and 7th Divisions, the 5th RCT, the British Brigade, the ROK units, and supporting, ground, air and naval forces.

General Ent covers the endless days of terror by forces stretched frightfully thin often with miles between units that were understaffed, under equipped, and with troops that were poorly trained, disoriented and uncertain why they were called on to defend a land they never knew and a people they never met.

General Ent has drawn generously from the records of the National Archives, the Army Center for Military History, unit histories, countless personal interviews with war veterans, from other renowned writers such as Clay Blair, (The Forgotten War), and Roy Appleman (South to the Naktong).

Of particular interest to this reviewer is the added insight the author gives to the long known controversial relationship between Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur, and Eighth Army Commander Walton Walker who died during the war. It is well recorded that there was tension between these two generals and the matter has been the subject of extensive analysis by many writers over the years. General Ent is generous in his criticism of MacArthur, and in his praise for Walker.

Among many other comments, Ent writes that, despite MacArthur's well known disenchantment with Walker, "Gen Walker brilliantly led the successful defense of the Pusan perimeter ... providing time for MacArthur to stage his 'spectacular' Inchon landing", and "...Walker led the Eighth Army with uncommon ferocity, meeting every enemy thrust with an iron-willed determination to win. He skillfully utilized his meager reserves...".

Ent writes that MacArthur was "ill-advised" to create a divided command in Korea and to land on the east coast of North Korea", and was "aloof, remote and never a hands on commander". He said Walker was never able to "establish a personal relationship with MacArthur", and that his calls and messages were always filtered through his Chief of Staff General Ned Almond.

Fighting on the Brink is not just another memoir or hasty and scanty overview of the war. It is unique and unparalleled in its thoroughness, accuracy, professional and skillful treatment and captivating interest. It's filled with photos, maps, and annotations. No serious military history student or veteran of the Korean War should be without this work. It is sure to become authoritative, exemplary, classic, credible and extensively relied upon.

At $49.95 some may feel the General's account to be a bit pricey. But word by word it is not. It is, in fact, probably the greatest bargain of its type on the market today. For example, The Forgotten War, as a leader in this field, has 234, 6x9, one column pages of 180 words each, or 42,000 words devoted to the Pusan perimeter. This account has 390, three column, 19x11 pages of 1,800 words per page, or 702,000 words all devoted to the Pusan fighting. The book should be snapped up—quickly while supplies last. Turner Pub. Co. Box 3101, Paducah KY 42002 (See Turner ad, this issue.)

Sherman Pratt, KWVA

Shortchanged

by John H. Harding, Jr.

This is a story about a deprived and poorly educated Virginia rural teenager who suddenly finds himself in the army during the Korean War, on the front lines, and assigned isolated and advanced outpost duty with his platoon leader and sergeant. When he is wounded during an enemy shelling he bleeds steadily but cannot be evacuated before the critical and secret mission is completed.

The author, although himself not a veteran of the Korean or any other combat operations, undertakes to realistically create with continuing flashbacks, the physical pain, mental anguish, fear, misery, and other mind boggling hardships experienced by soldiers in those circumstances in that cruel and generally thankless struggle. Veterans of the fighting there in 1950-53 should find it fascinating and challenging to judge for themselves just to what extent
the author has succeeded by comparing the trooper’s graphic experiences with their own.

As the trooper lies nearly freezing in his foxhole throughout long hours of frightening darkness, pressing his bandage to his bleeding side, he wonders over the hours whether he will survive. So does the suspenseful reader. The soldier’s mind goes back to his pro-service days on the Virginia Northern Neck on the west banks of the Chesapeake Bay and he reminisces on many of his growing up experiences. The reader thus meets his folksy friends and relatives and learns much about the rural life in that part of the State.

To add to the interest, the author builds a suspense within a suspense by recreating the arrest, confinement and trial of the teenager stemming from a house burglary. An ambitious sheriff seeking re-election takes the boy to court with only a confession as evidence which the accused testifies he did not understand because he could not read and signed only because he was given no food for days, was starving, and would be given food if he signed the paper.

One of the uncertainties is resolved in the final pages, but the reader must decide whether the other is also answered.

This is the kind of book that would grace any book shelf, but should be especially meaningful and poignant to Korean War veterans. It is a story that will hold the reader’s attention throughout and once picked up is not likely to be put down until finished. Nor, at 135 pages, is it unnecessarily lengthy or burdensome to coast through. It is well written and sculptured, easy and enjoyable to read and not likely to be soon forgotten. It is definitely not recommended for the insomniac trying to drop off to sleep.

Brandywine Publishers, P.O. Box 261
While Stone VA 22578, $13.95. Tel: 1-800-553-6922

Sherm Pratt, KVWVA

Welcome to “The Graybeard”

Readers are welcome to submit letters, poems, articles and stories to “The Graybeard” for publication. The editor publishes on the basis of suitability, length, and timeliness. Opinions and comments published are the sole responsibility of the author. All official positions of the Korean War Veterans Association are stated under the heading Official Announcements.

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Reviewing the history textbooks on the Korean War

By Irwin Z. Braun with Robert McCullough

Mention the Korean War to most educators, journalists and authors and a negative view comes to mind. In fact, a recently published book called the “Soldiers Tale” by Samuel Hynes, completely omitted the Korean War (while including every other war in this century) because “it came and went without glory and left no mark on American imaginations.” In addition, The New York Times Magazine published a 100th anniversary issue and left out the Korean War while including articles and photos about every other war. These are not isolated incidents; they are typical.

What is it about the Korean War that has attracted such negativity? Why is it called, “The Forgotten War” or “The Unknown War.” Why do writers refer to it as a stalemate or a lost war? Why is it continuously treated as a pariah?

This researcher discovered part of the answer visiting middle schools and high schools on Long Island making presentations on the Cold War and the Korean War. I found that most of the textbooks left out important information like casualties, the Cold War, the role of the Soviet Union, MIAs, the situation along the Demilitarized Zone and the importance of the War.

I obtained eleven history textbooks, grades 7 through 12, from high schools on Long Island (New York) and from the libraries at Hofstra University and C.W. Post College. The average textbook devoted 49 lines of text to the War and 1.8 pages. The most lines of text were 92 and the least were 17. The vast majority (82%) of the books contained a map of Korea and the War.

It is to the credit of all of the textbooks, that 100% mentioned that North Korea invaded South Korea. The North Koreans have always claimed that they were attacked by South Korea and this line was promulgated by communist sympathizers like J.F. Stone.

Nearly two out of three textbooks (63%) failed to include the war deaths and casualties. The Korean War was one of the bloodiest wars fought in American history with 54,246 killed and 103,284 wounded in 37 months of fighting.

More than half the textbooks (55%) left out the major battles of the Korean War.

When you consider that the Korean War was a direct result of the Cold War and 63% of the books failed to mention this, it is disgraceful. With the demise of the Soviet Union in 1989, historians now recognize that the Korean War was the major factor in bringing the Cold War to an end.

The role of the Soviet Union in this war was always known. We knew about it in Korea. They supplied arms, support troops, MIG jets and pilots. However, with access to the Soviet State Archives in Moscow, a number of books have been published recently that give additional information on the Korean War that has not been known before. We now know that Joseph Stalin would give Kim IIL Sung the green light to invade South Korea and supplied the military planners and advisors. Unfortunately, this information has not reached historians who write textbooks.

More than half the textbooks (55%) left out the major battles of the Korean War. This includes the battle to stop the North Korean drive, the Pusan perimeter campaign, the Inchon landing, the advance to the Yalu River, and the two years of hard fighting over hills and outposts in central Korea.

The firing of General Douglas MacArthur for insubordination was covered in a great deal of detail in 63% of the books. MacArthur wanted to widen the war by bombing bases in China and President Harry Truman would not tolerate extending the war into China.

When South Korea was invaded, their poorly trained and equipped army collapsed. Truman acted immediately and sent the airforce and ground troops to save South Korea. He never consulted with Congress —because only Congress can declare war. Not one textbook mentioned the sending of American GIs to war without the approval of Congress.

There were 8,177 Americans missing in action in the War. Yet, not one textbook
included this information or that over one thousand of our prisoners were taken to the Soviet Union after the war and have never been heard from since.

The fledgling United Nations called upon its members to come to the aid of South Korea and 15 nations would send combat troops to Korea. The vast majority of the textbooks (91%) included the active role of the United Nations.

In 1948, President Truman ordered the Secretary of Defense to integrate the armed forces. It would take place two years later, in the early days of the Korean War, with the Army integrating Blacks into combat units. Not one textbook mentioned this important fact that has changed American military history.

While a truce was signed on July 27th, 1953—a peace agreement has never been reached. There are 37,000 American troops today along the DMZ as our commitment to the South Korean people. Almost two thirds (63%) of the textbooks left out the current situation on the Korean peninsula.

The vast majority (83%) of the textbooks left out the importance of the Korean War. The distinguished historian, Samuel Eliot Morison summed it up this way in 1964: “The Korean War was a clean-cut victory for the United States and the United Nations. It stopped a major communist lunge southward, and may well have saved Japan from being engulfed in the Red tide. It proved that the UN was no paper tiger—that it would and could fight if necessary. After the lapse of over a decade, it is clear that the Korean War was worth its cost in lives and money; but a major political party (Republican) in the United States took up the cry that it was a miserable failure.” (Oxford History of the American People, 1965)

More recently, historian John Tolland would write: “The forgotten war may eventually turn out to have been the decisive conflict that started the collapse of communism. In any case, those who fought and died in that war did not fight and die in vain.” (In Mortal Combat, 1993)

Irwin Braun, an author, served as an intelligence sergeant with the 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in Korea in 1952 and 53.

Robert McCullough, an author, served with the 1st Cavalry Division and is a columnist for the Anton newspaper chain.

The sources for the article include:

About Irwin Braun:
Irwin Braun has served on the continuing education staffs of Hofstra University, Molloy College and Queensborough Community College.


He has written over thirty articles for professional journals like the National Law Journal, Legal Economics, Marketing News, Physician Management, Dental Economics, etc.

He also served in the Korean War as an intelligence sergeant with the 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Division.

I do not think I can come up with enough proper words to describe the efforts and dedication put forth by Irwin Braun and Robert McCullough to give the veterans and America the facts of how the Korean War has been overlooked in our History Textbooks. We have all at one time or another said we were forgotten in every way but these great authors and veterans proved it with many hours of research.

Thank you from all Korean War Veterans.—Editor

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May 18, 1998
Nicholas J. Pappas
THE GREYBEARDS
209 Country Club Drive
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Re: Letter of Demand

Re: Contract to Publish A Korean Twilight by M.E. Cohane
Dear Mr. Pappas:

Your firm has been retained by Mr. M.E. Cohane regarding your contractual agreement to publish his interrelated short stories entitled, A Korean Twilight, in its entirety, in The Greybeards.

Your organization is in breach of contract for refusing to publish the last two segments of A Korean Twilight, entitled “The Boys Soldiers” and the “Epilogue.” The contractual obligations are set forth in Volume 9, No. 4, of the Greybeards, issue May-June, 1995. Therein, it clearly states:

[M.E. Cohane] has graciously permitted his work to be published in “Greybeards” in serial form beginning with this issue. Permission was granted to publish with the following two stipulations: 1. The serialization is to follow the same numerical sequence as the manuscript; 2. The manuscript must be published in its entirety, irrespective of any perceived sensitivity. Acceptance of these conditions is acknowledged with the preface and first story beginning above. (Emphasis added.)

Your refusal to fulfill your obligations is inexcusable and will not be tolerated. This letter shall serve as M.E. Cohane’s formal Letter of Demand that the remaining two installments of A Korean Twilight, entitled “The Boys Soldiers” and the “Epilogue” be immediately published in the next issue of The Greybeards. Additionally, Mr. Cohane demands an apology be published along with these two installments, directed at the readers, explaining the delay in publishing.

Mr. Cohane has completely honored his obligations under the contract by allowing you to publish his work without any monetary consideration. Eleven installments of A Korean Twilight have already been published in The Greybeards pursuant to the agreement.

M.E. Cohane allowed you to publish his manuscript under the express condition that it be published in its entirety. As a result of your unreasonable and groundless refusal to honor your agreement, he has suffered unwarranted stress and emotional distress. Please be advised Mr. Cohane suffers from a medical affliction which requires him to receive oxygen twenty-four hours each day. Your intentional conduct is further aggravating his condition.

At this time, Mr. Cohane is willing to forgo any and all claims for your breach of contract, the resulting distress he has endured and any attorney fees, if you immediately comply with the above stated demand. To avoid further legal action, your acceptance of these terms must be received by my office, in writing, no later than June 1, 1998. This letter is offered for settlement purposes only and is inadmissible in any subsequent court proceeding.

Although it is unlikely that any words could repair the deep hurt you have intentionally inflicted upon Mr. Cohane, your immediate adherence to the terms of your contractual agreement and your apology would help to alleviate the continuing distress you cause. I await your response.

Sincerely yours,

Norman M. Katz
Attorney at Law
cc: M.E. Cohane

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KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Nicholas J. Pappas
209 Country Club Drive
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Ref (a) Your letter of 18 May 1998 to KWVA

This is in response to reference (a). For your information, KWVA Bylaws read, “All documents which shall be legally binding on the Association shall be signed by the President.” I did not sign or approve a contract with Mr. Cohane to publish the subject series nor do I owe him an apology. Former Editor Camp assumed that responsibility/obligation when he published the footnote, referenced in your letter, in the May-June 95 Greybeards. This is further reinforced by the below quote from the 97 Mid-Winter Council Meeting minutes: “A Korean Twilight” Series - Discussion of membership complaints about the controversial articles. Only 1 story left in the series. Editor Camp advised that it be published, “gave his word to author the entire series would be published as is in the Greybeards’ Motion: [Coon -Lynch] move to discontinue printing A Korean Twilight in the Greybeards. Roll Call yes -3, no -7, excused -2 and abstain -1. Failed.”

Action to terminate the series was taken by the Executive Council at its 98 Mid-Winter Meeting. Vote reads yes -10, Excused -4.

However, based upon the advice of the KWVA Judge Advocate, we will honor Mr. Cohane’s request, and print the last 2 installments of the subject matter in the July-August 98 Greybeards. The May-June issue has gone to press.

Very respectfully,

Nicholas J. Pappas
President, KWVA
cc: Executive Council
Krepp
First Class Walter Arbussen loved, in his order of importance, the army, democracy, and women. He understood none of them.

Then there was Lenett, a young man who had known the horrors of war perhaps more than most; yet, it was his unpretentious warmth that permitted a friend to walk under that special sun of comradeship. He learned to understand, to follow the wonders of life. Hard-faced, good-looking, Sergeant First Class James Lenett's personal pennance at having being allowed to survive the wounds of war, dictated that he would remain a wanderer for the remainder of his lifetime. He was one of the leaders in the regiment.

Libbey was the oddball of the group. He was a liar, a swindler, and an outright thief; but he was exceptionally funny, his lips ever screwed up in a mischievous, occasionally malevolent grin. If there were other reasons for allowing Sergeant John Libbey to remain a member of the group, his standing, no one could come up with one that made any sense. Simply keeping Libbey around for sorely needed laughs, was akin to any port in a storm, they had rationalized.

Corella was the weird defeated of the group; a rapid-fire, high-chatter type who could talk like he could from an army of awareness of his existence. Corella served as the battalion’s communications sergeant, and he was a good one. He held few illusions, was uncomplicated with self grandeur, and his three-hoss-and-a-cow was satisfaction enough. Sergeant Anthony Corella was a borderline alcoholic, with a preference for cheap wine. Corella, when drinking, was extremely dangerous, a man who neither asked nor gave quarter to the enemy.

Baard was a man, building scrawny, whose roots were in Appalachian’s land of perpetual poverty. Baard was a man of coward, whose never-ending quest for the whining of life’s injustices was perhaps his most memorable feature. But he was also an excellent cook, with that lone asset of dispelling lifetime membership in the group.

Finally, there was Bleeker, a happy-go-lucky Texan who was, despite the theme of the works of the human heart. Bleeker was a simple man who loved life for its own sake. He was joyous when the sun would rise, and calmly reflective when it set. Unencumbered by undue sensitivity, Bleeker loved life and all the things that made us wake us up. Did you tell us that that Marant’s girl is coming here?

“Those kids are coming to the group. I think we need to be prepared for them to arrive. What do you think?”

Corella looked at him in surprise. “Hey, ain’t you the same bird who carries messages into the barracks and wakes us up? Didn’t you tell us that Marant’s girl is coming here?”

“Yeah, I guess I did. Sure, said Corella. The magnificent six decided to bring him the message in the group. I’m here to pick up our passports, Cutler.”

The CQ quickly shook his head. “No can do, Corella. Regulations say that passes can’t be given out until 1200 hours. He eyed the smoke curving from the mess hall chimney, wondering if breakfast was being served. “Screw you and your regulations to keep me from saying, said Corella. “Lemme have our passes Cutler.”

Corella slowly shook his head. “Don’t I always sign?” said wearily. “How do I have to go through the same crap anymore?”

Peering through the window, Cutler saw that the mess hall had opened. With out turning his head, he told Cutler to help himself to the pass box, reminding him to sign for each pass individually. Then, without another word, he opened the door and stepped out into the deep snow. Since it was Saturday, it was unlikely that he would meet any officers coming down from the hill, he knew, catching his first whiff of bacon and eggs from the mess hall.

Sleepy eyed, growing irritable and even pushing one another, the fearless six piled into Arbussen’s dilapidated Ford. It was an absurdly hour to be up and about on a Saturday morning, but they had made the trip to town shouting and cursing all the way.

Fifteen minutes later, they trudged noisily across the lobby of the Ivory Terrace Hotel, heading straight for the bar. Despite local and state laws, the long bar, always a haven for the ex-soldier, was open.

With his eyes finally adjusting to the dimly lighted interior, Bleeker nodded his head and smiled. “Our search is over,” he advised the others, pointing to a distant booth. “Hiltr and thither is Marant, boys — I think he’s been drinking.”

Turning to follow Bleeker’s finger, Corella stared at a row of empty glasses and began wetting his lips. “What say you, men?” he said to the group. “How’s about us lining up at the bar for a few?”

Arbussen turned hopefully to Corella. “You got any money, pal?” “Jesus, I thought you did?” Corella cried indignantly, turning to the others. When it was determined that each was without funds, they turned as one and made a beeline for Marant’s booth.

Nicholas Marant, gaunt and dishelved, drunkenly eyed their approach. “Tis the fearless six!” he cried, belching loudly and shouting at the harried waiter to bring drinks for the new arrivals. Happily realizing that Marant had money, the group clambered into an adjoining booth and loudly joined the clamor for service.

Two hours later, Lenett suddenly raised his head from the table and peered around the room. “Jesus, I remember now,” he muttered, struggling to bring his eyes in focus. “Hey Nick!” he called across the table to Marant. “Your girl called you last night.”

“I don’t have a girl,” Sergeant Nicholas Marant said, thinking about it. “Go play games with somebody else.”

“We’re not playing games, you jerk,” Libbey said. “She called you last night. Marant was on CQ and he took the message.”

Marant shook his head with annoyance. “If I have a girl, then she would have to have a name,” he said suspiciously. “If you’re so smart, tell me her name!”

“Her name is Betty Ann,” Lenett said, grinning proudly.

“Jesus,” Marant said slowly. “How did you find out?”

A bleary eyed Arbussen looked up and managed to stare above the liqueur fog. “Listen, you damn bastard,” he told Marant. “Didn’t we just tell you she called? Hey, and that reminds me! She’s flying down this morning to see you!”

Marant, trying hard now to function, kept shaking his head. “Time to get sober,” he said, quickly, staring at the empty glasses. “Coffee—tell the girl to bring coffee.”

They took turns, forcing steaming black coffee into Marant. No sooner had he finished one cup, they would promptly order another. Only Corella ignored his
duty by continuing a lone assault on the remaining wine.

After a while, Lenett glanced up at the wall clock and made a face. "We've just about run out of morning, pal," he advised Marant, who was idly coming around. "It's 11:00 hours and it's time for you to go. We're taking you back to camp."

They filed out as noisily as when first they came, walking with goose-step cadence through the deep mounds of snow. Occasionally, they would turn to keep a wary eye on Marant who limped slowly behind them.

Upon the group's arrival at the Headquarters Company orderly room, Bleeker handed Marant his cane and smiled.

"Here's your extra legs," he said softly. "Y'all be careful how you walk now." He turned and hurried after the others who were goose-stepping toward the barracks.

Marant, feeling terribly alone, briefly eyed their departure. Then, uneasily clearing his throat, he slowly mounted the three steps leading to the orderly room.

The moment Marant entered, the new CQ headed straight for the mess hall, grateful for the opportunity to get fresh coffee.

Trying hard not to stare at the beautiful, heart-shaped face, Marant muttered a greeting and began fumbling through his pockets for cigarettes.

Betty Ann Nielsen smiled, opened her purse and produced a Tareyton. She lighted it, placed it between his lips and stepped back to regard him closely. His face was much thinner, she thought critically, still starred by the angular, good-looking face. He wore no hat and the blond, curling locks still glinted from wind-driven snow.

Despite his stubborn, continuing silence, Betty Ann's uncertainties had vanished the moment he hobbled into the room. Closing her handbag with a decisive snap, she smiled at the way he was fidgeting and said calmly.

"You haven't changed one bit, Nicky. You're the same insconsiderate bore. You could have called me at any time of the day or night. Just one call, Nicky-one single call to relieve my anxiety. Oh, and before I forget, my mother and father send you their very best." She had cleverly offered her family's regards to inform him that they were aware of her visit to Fort Devens.

The monkey in the next room suddenly wailed mournfully. Startled at the piercing cry, Betty Ann turned slowly to the closed door.

"What on earth was that?" she said finally.

Marant shook his head and shrugged.

"That was Rang," he told her. "I don't understand. Rang?"

"Rang, he said, spelling it out for her. "It's short for Rang Tang-assistant intelligence officer."

Betty Ann again turned to the closed door. "Are you saying that noise was made by a man, Nicky?"

"Well, if a monkey." And this monkey is an intelligence officer?"

"Now you've got it."

There was an uncomfortable silence now and the cluttered room was hot and very dark, heated by a potbellied stove from the Second World War. Suddenly, Betty Ann took a step towards him, able now to smell the liquor. Truly surprised, she pointed an accusing finger at him.

"No wonder you've nothing to say! You're drunk?"

"Only a little."

"But you don't drink?"

"Only a little."

The monkey, annoyed at being alone, began snapping his head against the cage in a steady tattoo.

"I think I'm starting to believe you," she said weakly. "But I'd still like to see for myself, if you don't mind."

Marant shrugged, opened the door and stepped back quickly. "It's best to take up a defensive position," he instructed her. "When the bombardment starts, it's usually without warning."

Betty Ann entered the room and was assailed by the unpleasant odor.

Startling at the cage, she flashed at what the monkey was doing. Passing briefly with nature's call, the beast stared back angrily. Slowly shaking her head, Betty Ann backed out and closed the door behind her. Standing there in a strained silence, they could clearly hear the ticking of the clock on the First Sergeant's desk.

"Well, Nicky," she said suddenly. "Aren't you going to ask why I flew down here in this awful weather?"

"I figure you'll get around to it when you're ready," he said.

"We're still engaged to be married, Nicky," she said in a low voice. "Or have you forgotten that as well?" Whatever he had finished long ago.

" Couldn't you have at least answered my letter?"

"What had to tell you?"

"Didn't you, Nicky?" she said huskily. Peering through the window, she saw that it was snowing again. She turned to him, her voice barely more than a whisper.

"Do you love me, Nicky?"

His eyes moved reluctantly over chestnut hair which framed the perfect oval of her face. She was even lovelier than he remembered, he thought numbly, striking a contrast with the deformity that would be his for the remainder of his lifetime.

"I haven't loved you for a long time," he said finally. "I'm not even sure that I ever loved you."

"You goddamned liar!"

"Only a little."

She turned from the window, her eyes anxiously searching his face. "I understand that you're going back into the hospital on Tuesday," she said.

"That goddamned CQ!" he cried, angered at what he believed to be a breach of confidence. "Goddamned jackass!"

"Please don't talk like this, Nicky."

"He should have kept his mouth shut. It's none of his business!"

"My, how sorry you are for yourself?" she cried. "But you're not one bit sorry for me, are you? Even with knowing how I feel about you, you couldn't care less!"

"I didn't ask you to come here!" he retorted angrily. "Why don't you just turn around and go home!"

Starting irritably at him, she slowly shook her head.

"I can't do that," she said finally. "I came up here to spend the night with you."

"What the hell do you mean?"

"You're not deaf, Nicky. Blind and stupid, maybe-but not deaf."

"That's not the way it's going to be," he said, trying not to look at her. "You're getting out of here right now, Betty Ann."

"You can't make me go!" she cried. "I don't intend to fly in this weather and I detest trains and buses. I expect you to get a room for us in a hotel. Ayer doesn't have one."

"Yeah, but the Iony Terrace isn't quite what you have in mind."

"You're not qualified to read my mind," she said hotly. "You and me in a single room, Nicky. I want to get laid by a man who no longer wants me.

He shrugged, finally nodding his head.

"I'll have to phone for a cab," he said weakly.

"Will they send one in this weather?"

"This is Ayer-they'll send one in any weather."

It was late in the evening when the sleet turned into Mario's place with blood in their eyes. Several hours earlier, the weekend had started innocently enough. Resplendent in their freshly pressed class "A" uniforms, with each wearing the egg robin blue scarves of the infantry, they had decided to dine as country gentlemen.

At 1945 hours, the sleet trooped into an exclusive restaurant located at Wescrest's northern end. Blithely ignoring the head waiter's sneer, they permitted themselves to be led to a table directly opposite the kitchen. For a time, they managed to behave themselves, seated stiff and ill-at-ease while two waiters hovered at a produnt distance. The menu was difficult to interpret, and to be on the safe side, they all ordered steaks, with the exception of Libbey. Peering up at the menu, he told him of his desire to have some of "them fify miggins."

The waiter, unable to comprehend, followed Libbey's finger across the menu. "That's filet mignon," he said finally.

"Yeah-that's what I told you!" cried Libbey. "Gimme some of that!"

The trouble didn't start until after dinner. They had behaved with dignified restraint throughout the sumptuous meal. While waiting for the waiter to arrive, they turned politely to a group of young men and women dining at an adjoining table. The young men were offering toasts to a variety of ivy league colleges. Arbussen, fascinated by the show, watched in silence as a young man climbed slowly to his chair.

"Cornell, fifty-two!" cried the young man. Draining his glass, he pitched it into the roaring fireplace, while the women tittered admiringly.

A truly obese youth was on his feet now, and Arbussen's fascination with the ritual was replaced with cold annoyance. As far as Arbussen was concerned, the young had no right to be that fat, not even students who were legally deferred from the draft.

The young man had just cried out with "Penn State, fifty-three!" when Arbussen jumped to feet, cursing angrily.

"State pen!" Arbussen bellowed. "Forty-nine, fifty, and fifty-one! He overthrew his chair and made a bedine for the youth as the young women began to scream. In moments, the entire area was a shambles, with the hapless young man lying unconscious under the table.

Due to the increasingly heavy snowfall which severely hampered vehicular traffic, the six made good their escape minutes before the arrival of the police.

One hour later, Arbussen parked his dilapidated sedan in front of a thriving package store. Libbey rushed in, then rushed out, a large paper bag tucked securely under his arm. The boys greeted him with appreciative howls and pulled him into the car.

As was his right by seniority, it was Corella who removed the first bottle from the bag. Pulling the cork and swigging deeply in a single motion, he cried, "May I never get sober," and happily passed the bottle.

When they finally made it to Mario's place, they were high and mellow. Bulling their way past the slow-stuffling dancers, they managed to commandeering a rear table. They were short one chair. Lenett shrugged and turned to a civilian who was haggling with a prostitute.

"Hey busker," Lenett said coldly. "I want your chair. And I want it without a word from you."

Balling his fists as he studied the hard-faced sergeant, the man climbed slowly to his feet. He waited his lips tumbling his chances before deciding it wasn't worth it. He shook his head, mumbled something inaudible and crossed the room without once looking back. Glaring up at Lenett, the young woman shook her head angrily and glided off, seeking a more fertile environment.

"Beer?" yelled the sis. "Bring the fucking beer at once!" Even before the last of their cries died out, there heads swiveled in all directions, hoping for a fight. There were no takers.

With the approach of closing time, the noise in Mario's place became deaf-
“It’s finished,” he repeated softly, fighting the sudden impulse to reach out to her. “Whatever we had was from another side of time.” He leaned against a rickety dresser, listening to her soft sobs.

“Yesterday was summer for both of us, Betty Ann. We had easy times and easy words, and we knew that winter would never come. But it did come, and it’s here in this room with us, right now.”

She slipped from the bed and slumped his face as hard as she could. “You goddamned lying bastard!” she blazed contemptuously. “It’s time for a little hard truth, Nicky! How dare you pretend that you’re doing this for the two of us! You’re doing it for yourself! You’re doing it because you’re afraid that I’ll become annoyed with you being a cripple! You’re afraid that sooner or later, I’ll simply walk away from you. If that’s how little you think of me, Nicky, then what we had was worthless from the very beginning!”

“The soldiers who serve with you—they see you as a cripple. And why shouldn’t they? That’s exactly how you see yourself! Do you think I’m blind? Did you think I wouldn’t notice how you keep walking just behind me? Well, even with your Purple Heart and the Bronze Star they gave you, you’re nothing but a goddamned coward!” Continuing to glare angrily at him, she placed her hands on her hips, challenging him.

“My, my,” she scoffed, “will you just look at the anger in the man’s face. You look like you’re getting ready to hit me, Nicky. Well, you just go right ahead and do it—I won’t even make a sound.”

“I won’t hit you,” Betty Ann, he said quietly, starting at her.

“Oh, who the hell cares what you do?” she cried. “Are you waiting for me to thank you?” She turned away bitterly and pointed at the window.

“There’s tons of snow coming down by the minute, Nicky dear,” she told him, praying that her voice would not break.

“The way that my leg is twisted, it’s the way that I make scraping sounds when I walk and how I drag along after me.

“I won’t listen to any more!” she cried, cupping her hands over her ears. “I’ll hear no more until you make love to me! Do you understand what I’m telling you? I want you to make love to me now!”

“But we’ll have to take our clothes off,” he said slowly.

“Yes.”

“The light do you want me to shut the light?”

“No! I want it to stay on, Nicky. I want to look at you—I want you to look at me.”

He nodded his head slowly, his voice a strangled whisper. “It’s important that you look at me—that you really look at me. Will you do that?”

“I’ll look at you in the way that you mean,” she said softly. “I’ll see whatever you want me to see, Nicky.”

She stood naked before him, neatly gathering her things and placing them on the scarred dresser. She turned to him, then, managing to smile at the swollen, misshapen limb. “Is this all that’s been bothering you, Nicky?” she whispered, slowly approaching the bed.

And he was lying very still, trying to read what was truly in her face, when suddenly she knelt to brush her lips across the gnarled and twisted flesh; and it was then that he moved, his breathing no longer shallow as he realized that he was a soldier come home. Aware of his magnificent good fortune, he drew her up slowly and gently pressed his lips over hers. Then he began to cry.

**EPILOGUE**

Wars begin, wars end. The Korean Police Action (it was never a declared war) officially ended hostilities at 2200 hours on the 27th day of July, 1953. There were sporadic pockets of fire still heard throughout the valleys, but in the main, a startling silence had fallen over the battlefront.

The dead were everywhere, their rifles lying beside them where they fell. And on this fateful day telegrams from the War Department were being composed themselves.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEPEST REGRETS THAT YOUR SON WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON THE 27th DAY OF JULY, 1953.

Whereas the events herein are of no value to a military historian, they should be viewed in context. The police action was engendered to curtail the alarming expansion of communism at a time when the United States was the lone lighthouse for the struggling new world following the Second world war.

More than forty years has passed since the cessation of hostilities. Reflecting the natural erosion of soil spanning two generations, the Korean terrain has changed some, but not the weather. To this day, the weather is substantially the same as it was then; with the same winds blowing across the deserted summits of Badly, and Workshop, and Sniper. Still, amongst the perennial cycling of the seasons, the rains continue to unearth tons of assault rations across the slopes of Heartbreak Ridge. And beyond the deepening distance of that time long past, the bloom of spring has replaced the stench of death over the mighty Papasan.

The stories you have read are true. They are simple vignettes about fools and men and the end of innocence. There was no historic D-Day during the Korean campaign, Oh, there were assault landings to be sure, but no mighty armada-no gigantic army moving up history’s beach.

Korea is a beautiful country, alive with the spectrum of God’s colors. But there was a time when the colors were man-made, and they darkened the skies and blackened the earth where things once grew.

The baby boomer of that generation has at last come of age. Most will not even recall that war, let alone have an awareness of the tens of thousands who died in battle. There are enough of us still around who know the flag on the fourth and twenty-seventh days of July. For some, the past few years ago, and we paused for a moment as it was when the troops came home. If you can’t remember, let me help you.

They came back across the vast Pacific during the fall of 1953. They jammed the rails as the huge transport was eased into high-speed, and they were jubilant when they heard the band on the pier strike-up America The Beautiful, and yet, those same young men, so soon grown old, found that as they listened to the anthem’s stirring strains, they listened as well for the sounds of artillery and machinegun fire.

The ship slipped in alongside the pier, nudged insistently by hard-puffing tugs while dockhands secured the briny hawser with rusted steel bolts. Scarcely an hour earlier, this same ship had passed under the Golden Gate Bridge. It was at that very moment, when the transport departed the Golden Gate’s shadow to again enter the light of the sun, that the men truly saw that they had returned from FECON DESTINATION EVIL. *Finish

FECON (Far East Command) DESTINATION EVIL (military code words for Korea)
Korean War Veterans Certificate

Makes a Great Christmas Present!

The beautiful, full color 11" x 17" certificate pictured on the right is now available. It is produced on parchment-like stock.

A special certificate is available to family members of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Korean War or who died of wounds received. The individual request should have the date of death and place and be certified by the requester.

Veterans who want to have a certificate made up for the spouse or descendant of a fallen buddy and can certify to the event, may do so. Multiple copies of the same certificate can be ordered if you have a number of children/grandchildren. You may order certificates to give to members of your unit or provide them with an order form.

Please be sure all information is printed clearly or typed and include your serial number and unit designation while in Korea. In some instances, it may be necessary to abbreviate. Begin your unit designation with the smallest designation and list to the largest.

The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube and total cost is $20.00 paid in advance. This beautiful certificate can be framed in a 16" x 20" frame with appropriate matting, mounted on a 12" x 18" placard or a walnut plaque.

Certificate Order Blank


☐ I certify that I served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea (9/3/45 to present – if not during above period.)

☐ I served in: ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Navy ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Other

I would like the following information on the certificate:

Rank (Optional) First Name MI Last Name Serial Number

______________________________
Spell out full unit starting with the smallest group (i.e., Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, Division)

☐ Killed in action: Date & Place ____________________________  ☐ Died of Wounds Received: Date & Place __________________________

Mailing Information:

Name ____________________________ Telephone Number ____________

Street Address ____________________________ Apt No. ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ______ Zip + 4 Code ____________________________

Signature and date ____________________________

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Send cash or make checks/money orders in the amount of $20.00 for each certificate payable to N. C. Monson. Mail to: N. C. Monson, 5911 North 2nd Street, Arlington, VA 22203.
“DEDICATION”
Korean War Memorial

We have left before our time,
But do not weep for us.
Remember us with thoughts
And prayers,
Give comfort to one another
Hold hands and touch and spirits,
As you walk along the path.
Trace our faces carved in stone,
Stand tall, beside our courage.
Walk to the wall of honor,
Where the minds of war are still,
Trace our images etched forever
In time.
Among the hills of Korea.
Pause, by the clear, cool water,
To reflect on members past,
Sing songs, and tell our stories,
Now is the time to heal.
Look to the spirit within,
Where love can set you free.

By Audrey J. Reid

Dear members, I have so many beautiful poems sent in by our veterans and families. It would take years to print one at a time on the back page. In the next issue I will set aside a page to print several each issue. I will continue to attempt to pick that special one that ties in with the front cover for the back page. Please continue to send in your poems and I promise all will be printed.—Editor