

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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November - December 2001



**Winter in the Mountains
and Hills of Korea**

**Happy Holidays to all from the
National Korean War Veterans Association**

The Graybeards

The Magazine for Members, Veterans of the Korean War, and service in Korea. *The Graybeards* is the official publication of the Korean War Veterans Association, PO Box, 10806, Arlington, VA 22210, (www.kwva.org) and is published six times per year.

EDITOR Vincent A. Krepps
24 Goucher Woods Ct. Towson, MD 21286-5655
PH: 410-828-8978 FAX: 410-828-7953
E-MAIL: vkrepps@erols.com

MEMBERSHIP Nancy Monson
PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210
PH: 703-522-9629

PUBLISHER Finisterre Publishing Incorporated
PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29902
E-MAIL: finisterre@islc.net

National KWVA Headquarters

PRESIDENT Harley J. Coon
4120 Industrial Lane, Beavercreek, OH 45430
PH: 937-426-5105 or FAX: 937-426-4551
E-MAIL: CoonKoreanExpow@aol.com
Office Hours: 9am to 5 pm (EST) Mon.-Fri.

National Officers

1st VICE PRESIDENT Edward L. Magill
433 Spring Lake Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940
PH: 407-255-6837

2nd VICE PRESIDENT Dorothy "Dot" Schilling
6205 Hwy V, Caledonia, WI 53108
PH: 262-835-4653 FAX 262-835-0557

TREASURER Thomas J. Gregory
4400 Silliman Pl., Kettering, OH 45440
PH: 937-299-4821

SECRETARY Howard W. Camp
430 S. Stadium Dr., Xenia, OH 45385
PH: 937-372-6403

PAST PRESIDENT Dick Adams
P.O. Box 334, Caruthers, CA 93609
PH: 559-864-3196 E-MAIL: damadams@juno.com
Gen. Raymond G. Davis USMC (Ret.) MOH

LIFE HONORARY PRESIDENT

FOUNDER William Norris

Board of Directors

1999-2002

George Bingham
1491 Fetter Rd., Lima, OH 45801 PH: 419-224-5200

James F. Jones, Jr.
1317 Asbury Rd., Richmond VA 23229 PH: 804-740-5534

P. G. "Bob" Morga
c/o KWVA Central L.I. Chapter, PO Box 835, Bayport, NY 11705
PH: 631-472-0052

Theodore "Ted" Trousdale
5180 Walton Ave, Titusville, FL 32780 PH: 321-267-5233
E-MAIL: trousdale@mpinet.net

2000 – 2003

Dick Adams
P.O. Box 334, Caruthers, CA 93609 PH: 559-864-3196
E-mail: damadams@juno.com

Kenneth B. Cook
1611 North Michigan Ave., Danville, IL 61834-6239 PH: 217-446-9829 or
PH/FAX: 612-457-1266

Larry McKinniss
31478 Harsh Rd., Logan Ohio 43138-9059 PH: 614-358-7148

Joseph Pirrello
70 Turf Road, Staton Island, NY 10314-6015 PH: 718-983-6803

2001-2004

Don Byers
3475 Lyon Park Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192 PH: 703-491-7120

Jack Edwards
P.O. Box 5298 Largo, FL 33779 PH: 727-582-9353

Jerry Lake
159 Hardwood Drive, Tappan, NY 10983 PH: 845-359-6540

John M. Settle
2236 Goshen Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 PH: 219-484-3339
(WORK) 219-486-1300 Ext 307, FAX: 219-486-9421

Staff Officers

Presidential Envoy to UN Forces: Kathleen Wyosnick
P.O. Box 3716, Saratoga, CA 95070
PH: 408-253-3068 FAX: 408-973-8449

Judge Advocate and Legal Advisor: Sherman Pratt
1512 S. 20th St., Arlington, VA 22202
PH: 703-521-7706

Washington, DC Affairs: Blair Cross
904B Martel Ct., Bel Air, MD 21014
PH: 410-893-8145

National Chaplain: Irvin L. Sharp,
16317 Ramond, Maple Hights, OH 44137
PH: 216-475-3121

Korean Ex-POW Association: Ernie Contreas, President
7931 Quitman Street, Westminster, CO 80030
PH: 303-428-3368

National VA/VS Representative: Michael Mahoney
582 Wiltshire Rd., Columbus, OH 43204
PH: 614-279-1901 FAX: 614-276-1628
E-MAIL: KWVADOH@msn.com

Liaison for Canada: Bill Coe
59 Lenox Ave., Cohoes, N.Y. 12047
PH: 518-235-0194

Korean Advisor to the President: Myong Chol Lee
1005 Arborely Court, Mt. Holly, N.J. 08060
PH: 609-877-4196

KVA Liaison (Western Region USA): Kim, Yong
258 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Legislative Affairs Advisors:
John Kenney
8602 Cyrus Place, Alexandria, VA 22308 PH: 703-780-7536
Thomas Maines
1801 Saw Mill Run Blvd., Pittsburg, PA 15210 PH: 412-881-5844

KVA Liaison (Mid-Western Region USA): Cho, Joseph
4120 West Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60630

KVA Liaison (Eastern Region USA): John Kwang-Nam Lee
140-10 Franklin Ave., Flushing, N.Y. 11355

Committees

Membership/Chapter Formation: Jerry Lake
159 Hardwood Dr., Tappan, NY 10983 PH: 845-359-6540

POW/MIA Co-Chairmen: Donald Barton
8316 North Lombard #449, Portland, OR 97203 PH: 503-289-7360
Vince Krepps (See Editor, The Graybeards)

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Warren Wiedhahn (See revisit chairman); Grover Kershner P.O. Box 67 Forest Hill, MD. 21001 PH: 410-751-1059

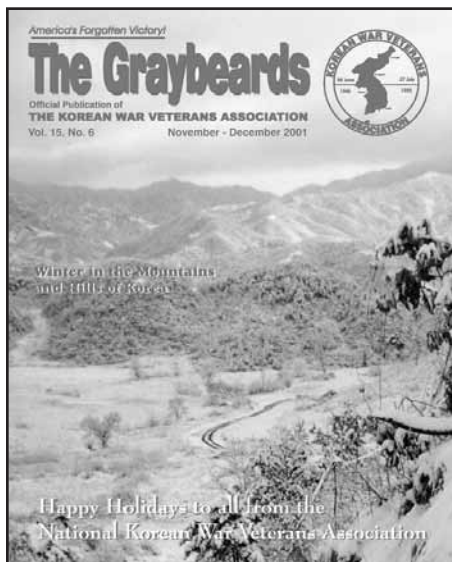
Revisit Chairman: Warren Wiedhahn, 4600 Duke St., #420, Alexandria, VA 22304
PH: 703-212-0695 FAX: 703-212-8567

Korean War Veterans Memorial Library/Museum Liaison: Ken Cook (See Director), John Kenney, 122 West North Central, P.O. Box 16, Tuscola, IL 61953
Tel: 217-253-5813

Nominations/Election Chairman: Kenneth B. Cook (See Director)

Liaison for Korean War Veterans Educational Grant Corp.: Dick Adams
(See Director)

On the cover...



North Central Front, December 1952
(Photo sent in by Donald E. Anderson)

My Christmas Story

There are several stories and poems inside covering Christmas from 1950 to 1952. I will share with you my memory of Christmas, 1950. It was the 1st week of December and I was returning from a hospital in Japan to join up with my unit and my twin brother Richard who just returned to Korea from a hospital in Japan about 30 plus days earlier. The last news I heard about the War was that we would be home by Christmas. When I joined my unit in the 2nd Div. I quickly learned that they were overrun by the Chinese just north of

Pyeongyang at Kunu-ri near the Chong chong River. My hope for a Merry Christmas ended quickly when I learned Richard and many of my friends were missing or killed trying to run the gauntlet. During the night I just laid there trying to remember my last Christmas with Richard. I remember clearly him helping mom and dad trim the Christmas Tree in 1949 when we came home from Basic Training. My Captain took me out of action by making me the mail clerk. I clearly remember the sadness in the eyes of our beaten men change to hope when those letters, Christmas Cards and packages of goodies started to come from home.

The saddest thing was to return mail back home to the families including my own for those that were MIA or KIA. Richard and many others never spent another Christmas home. A lot of people say to me every now and then to smile, well I was always a very serious person but Christmas 1950 and every Christmas thereafter I find it even harder to smile. I do enjoy seeing others enjoying Christmas and the Holidays so my wish for all is to have a MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS and have a GREAT NEW YEAR. America more then ever needs that from all of us after September 11 and I plan on trying to do my share. Remember our service men this and every holiday.

Vincent A. Krepps, Editor

First Christmas - The Forgotten War - Lest we forget.

Twas fifty years ago on a bleak Christmas Eve,
From the port of Hungnam, we took our leave,
Having guarded a withdrawal, all through the fight
As part of a fleet, DD703 stationed extreme right.

Huge armies of Chinese had become a new foe,
Forcing our troops to halt, it was no place to go,
Getting ensnared in a trap and overwhelmed by the horde
They turned back into bypassed enemy, a two edged sword

With mountains and icy winter square in their face,
They fought their way back at an agonizing pace,
Heading to safe haven, to our port near a cape,
We waited at the ready, to insure their escape.

Army tanks were dug in as a front-line on the beach,
The Lind was offshore, standing guard within reach,
As the enemy drew closer each day that went by,
The night was kept bright with star shells in the sky.

Continued on page 6

THIS ISSUE

Features

"It's Dirty Daddy"	7
A Christmas Memory	10
A story that should have been told years ago	20
A Phone Call From Seoul	31
A Day With Third Platoon - Korea, 1951	34
Ghostly Sounds and Uneasy Feelings	50
A Day We All Remember	55
Experiences of a POW	56
Mines and Booby Traps	60
Some call it courage	61

Departments

President's Message	4
D. C. Affairs	9
Book Review	9
National VA/VS Report	10
Update - Korean War Ex-POW	10
Listen Up	11
Defence POW/MIA Weekly Update	12
Monuments and Memories	14
Letters	24
The Poet's Place	28
Reunion Showplace	30
Chapter Affairs	36
Looking for...	52
Chaplain's Corner	62
Taps	63
Reunion Calendar	66

News & Notes

Commemorative lapel pin minted	4
A Christmas Message From Our Enemy	7
KWVA Financial Report..	13
Thanks for supporting <i>The Graybeards</i>	19
KWV 50th Commemorative Events	29
KWV 50th Commemorative Events	32
Proud Korean War Vets Display Tags	62
Update - Korean Revisit	63
Korean War National Museum and Library-Progress Report	64
Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary	69
Images of Korea, Co. L, 279th Regiment, 45th Infantry Division	70

President's Message



Harley Coon
President, KWVA

On September 11, 2001 a great tragedy occurred that changed our lives, as sad as it seems there is fear spread through the United States. There are people that are afraid to fly, some are stocking food and water wondering whom, when, and where will the terrorist hit next. The one good thing that resulted from these cowardly attacks is the unity it has brought to America.

We should applaud the President of our great country for the fast action he has taken. I firmly believe that justice will be done. Our prayers and thoughts are for the families that lost loved ones.

"Freedom of Speech" and "Freedom of the Press" are the most abused of our five (5) freedoms. Burning of the American Flag some say is an expression of speech. I think it is regrettable that the Supreme Court has ruled that laws banning the burning of the flag to be unconstitutional, Veterans groups widely are pushing for a constitutional amendment to overturn that court decision. We need some means of restraining people who engage in burning our flag. A person does not have the right to yell "fire" in a crowded theater, they may be punished. Today if you mention "Hijack" or "Terrorist" in an airport you take a chance of being arrested.

Freedom of Speech or Press or proper conduct by members of a veterans organization does not entitle one to write false and misleading information that is disruptive, negative, vindictive, malicious, divisive, and inappropriate designed to destroy any organization, or person.

The Editor of *The Graybeards* has control of what is printed and it is his intent to publish positive information about Department, Chapter, and individual activities. If there is something that is controversial then he will consult with the Executive Council.

We are increasing our membership on a daily basis. When I first took Office we were mailing about 13,600 *Graybeards*. This last

mailing was in excess of 18,000. Because of the precaution taken by our government it may take a little longer to get your mail.

I want to thank Editor Vincent Krepps for his hard work that he does on *The Graybeards*. We have increased the pages from 48 per issue to 72 pages with added color.

Travel

On the 14th of October my wife and I drove to Gallipolis, Ohio where I was asked to speak. It was the last day of a month long celebration of honoring the Korean War Veterans. It was a very emotional time for all.

On the 17th of October my wife and I were asked to attend the West Virginia State Convention. The key note speaker was Governor West and his message was the construction of a Korean War Memorial supported by the State and private sectors.

We departed for the Maryland Chapter fall conference held in Lancaster, PA. Col. William Weber (retired U.S. Army) was the Keynote Speaker.

On November 7, 8, 9, we attended the New York state fall conference at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York. We enjoyed the comrade with all the Korean War Veterans that we met at these state conferences.

We attended breakfast at the State Department building sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and later watched Vice President Cheney place a wreath at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier. V.P. Cheney was the Keynote Speaker at the Amphitheater.

On November 12th we attended a wreath laying ceremony at the National Korean War Memorial sponsored by the 50th Commemoration committee.

Our last stop on this trip was in Bellaire, Ohio where I spoke to over 1,000 students about the Korean War. There were 3 schools involved. The Veterans Day program was sponsored by the American Legion Post 0052.

It felt good to be home after three weeks on the road. My wife and I enjoyed seeing old Korean Veteran friends and meeting new

Commemorative lapel pin minted



Pentagon Lapel Pin

The call was a familiar one – a military client seeking help in creating a commemorative item. C. Forbes, Inc., a leading provider of gift, recognition, and award items, receives such calls every day. But this request was different. The Department of Defense asked Chip Forbes to help design a lapel pin for a Pentagon memorial service, to take place one month after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Forbes, president of the company that bears his name, takes pride in providing items which recognize and celebrate those engaged in America's service. Yet the memorial service, honoring the Americans who lost their lives in the Pentagon attack, was quite a different project.

In conjunction with the Secretary of Defense – Office of Protocol, Forbes supplied a commemorative lapel pin which was distributed to the over 30,000 persons who attended the October 11th event.

After considering several designs, they decided on a pewter lapel pin, bearing a likeness of the Pentagon, with the words "United In Memory – September 11, 2001." The piece includes the head of an eagle, blanketed in the American flag, watching over the Pentagon. C. Forbes, Inc. used red and blue enamel to add brilliant color to the waving flag.

The pin was well received. President George W. Bush wore it on his lapel as he

Please turn to **PRESIDENT** on page 6

See **PIN** on page 7

First, as a beacon of safety for our beleaguered men,
Then, as fair warning to their pursuers, for if when,
They were inclined to launch an eleventh hour attack,
Tons of shellfire would be heaped upon their backs.

For five days and nights, we kept the throngs at bay,
While thousands of GI's evacuated, sent safely on their way,
Yet, some 60,000 Reds assembled to strike from a valley,
A tactical blunder, as they were playing right down our alley.

Navy Corsairs dropped napalm, while strafing during light,
And Tin Cans shelled haphazardly, harassing through the night,
LSMR's slipped in unnoticed on the eve before last,
Blanketing the valley with rockets, a devastating blast.

A real coup-DE-grace, forcing survivors into scamper,
Scurrying to safety, the final exodus not to hamper.
Overnight, DD's laid down a barrage of no penetration,
The wall of fire gained total respect, without hesitation.

The final day saw uncanny calm, with the enemy in dismay,
With remaining troops departing from a quiet and tranquil bay,
Demolition crews set charges all along the precarious way,
We were front row seat center, for the fireworks display.

Operation over, some DD's remained as a flotilla of five,
In stinging defiance of the Chinese troops that arrived,
Mooring until dusk, menacing the belligerent throngs,
The port was now theirs, but the sea, to us belonged.

Still, it wasn't place for arrogance, we had suffered much defeat,
Rescuing men with no choice, but to leave dead in ice and sleet,
Bringing out those that they could, yet fate hadn't been too kind,
Cursing warriors with the scars of leaving lost buddies behind.

Oh Star of Bethlehem, on this very special time of the year,
Our reveries should be of home, and those we hold dear,
Yet, our thoughts mourned for the kin of those left behind,
Thankful that our own were spared greetings of this kind.

Known as the forgotten war, not enough seemed to care,
Surely, it wouldn't be for them, or for us who were there,
This was terrible war, as much hell as it could ever be,
Not much unlike the big one, a conflict to keep men free.

Sun setting, our Tin Cans circled, forming in parade to pass by,
In final salute to our fallen boys, in fields wherever they may lie.
In tribute, with voices hushed, the crew gathered on the deck,
This night, peace on earth, good will to men, sadly was in check,
From this port of Korea 1950, in deep sorrow, we took leave,
Heavy were Destroyersmen's hearts, on this solemn Christmas Eve.

Yours in the service to country,

Roland Pigeon ET1/c WW2—DMS16—PC487
Korea—USS Lind DD703 at e-mail <RoPigeonl@aol.com>

(Thanks Roland and Happy Holidays.—Editor)

ones.

Rumors

There have been rumors that the Tramonte law suit is costing the KWVA many, many dollars. This is not true. The insurance company we have is defending the KWVA and the 4 defendants. A motion has been presented to dismiss this case, and we hope this motion will be approved within the next month or so.

Business

The mid winter board meeting is set for January 13th through the 17th 2002 at the Imperial Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. This will give the West Coast Chapters an opportunity to see the Executive Council in session.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for the success we have had these past three years. No one person can do it all; it takes unity and working together. I thank the membership for their support, the committees, the Executive Council and members of the board. The KWVA is going in the right direction.

I wish everyone a happy Holiday and Prosperous New Year

Till Next Time

Harley

Beyond lucky...

A clean shot to the heart

PHILADELPHIA – When infantryman Donald Morehouse awoke at a military field hospital in 1953, surgeons told him a bullet had missed his heart by an inch.

On Tuesday, the 70-year-old Korean War veteran underwent bypass surgery and received a different diagnosis: the slug had passed directly through his heart.

“The surgical team had a collective jaw drop when we saw this,” said Dr. James McClurken, chief of thoracic surgery at Abington Memorial Hospital. He said the bullet must have passed through the heart so cleanly the wound closed itself. “Most people would have been dead within an hour.”

“I’m a little in shock,” Morehouse said. “I felt fine afterward.”

From wire reports

PIN from page 4

addressed those in attendance. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was seen wearing his throughout the day, as he greeted families of the loved ones and Pentagon employees.

United Technologies generously provided funding for the pins, distributed to each person in attendance. In addition to the pins, C. Forbes, Inc. donated custom-made American Flag medallions. The medallions, in a custom wooden presentation box were distributed to the family of each victim with an inscription bearing the name of their loved one.

The Department of Defense was inundated with requests for more pins, which were designed solely for the event. C. Forbes, Inc. has agreed to produce a limited number for those who were unable to attend the service or otherwise wish to have one. Notice has been given to all Pentagon employees and has been placed in military publications. The pin is available on C. Forbes, Inc.'s website, www.cforbesinc.com (select featured products icon).

"We never intended to do anything beyond the ceremony," Forbes said. "But

The Department of Defense was inundated with requests for more pins, which were designed solely for the event.

we received reports of so many people wanting to get the pins – family members of victims and Pentagon employees who were unable to attend. We received a call from one former military officer who used to work in the Pentagon. He told us that the plane hit the area where he used to work – if he had not retired, he would have been there."

(Veterans – What an honor we could pay to our fellow veterans and those that worked for our military by remembering them as we do our lost buddies in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. DoD is doing everything to remember our Korean War as they did for WWII and will do for the others when their 50th Anniversaries come to past.

We must remember them and the attack on America. Please order today or ask someone with a computer like your Chapter Quartermaster or newspaper editor to order in quantities. Please order from the web page listed.— Editor.)

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR ENEMY

front



Do you think you'll ever get home?
Probably not—if this war continues.
You can't win this war!
You can only get killed in it.
Remember, your loved ones want you
back home safe and sound.
It's no disgrace to quit fighting in
this unjust war.

back

Found under a rock on
"Old Baldy" April 1952 by
Glen White.

"It's Dirty Daddy"

By Lee B. Philmon, Major (retired) USA

Returning from a 23 month tour in Korea in April 1953, I was glad to be again with my wife after so long a time away from her and was eagerly anxious to become acquainted with a little girl, my daughter, Karen, who was only 6 weeks old when I left for the Korean Conflict. Arriving home, my wife hurried to the bedroom where a little girl was fast asleep. She began to awaken her although I objected some as it was 2 o'clock in the morning!

As Karen roused up, her mom said, "Daddy's home!" The little girl looked up at me then looked at an 8 x 10 photo of me on a nearby table, and started to cry real hard. Her mother tried to tell her I was "Daddy" but to no avail. She just cried and tried to hide under her covers! When I moved away, her tears subsided. I did understand somewhat. She had been told repeatedly, I was sure, that the man in the photo was her "Daddy" so who was this stranger coming so near? Understanding did not ease the ache to hold and comfort her. No one got a lot of sleep the rest of that night.

The next two days were a repeat of that night each time I came near. She would begin to cry and hide behind her mother or her grandparents who were visiting. Her mother kept telling her that I was her daddy and the man in the photo but Karen would just cry and shake her head "no". On the 3rd morning as I walked into the kitchen where the family was having breakfast, Karen immediately started to cry and ran to hide behind her mother who began to scold her. I said, "Don't do that" and moved forward and just picked Karen up. I turned and went straight to my car and put her inside. She moved away, crying her heart out. As I drove away, I could see all were standing on the back porch watching.

I drove out into the country and stopped at a small store. Karen was still crying and I wasn't sure what to do next. She just looked at me and cried. I got out and went inside and got two Cokes, went back to the car and tendered one toward her. Still crying, she took the Coke and backed away looking hard at me. I went back inside and

See **DADDY** on page 9

The *Glendale*, depicted in exquisite detail, is pictured leading the final convoy from Hungnam which is shown burning in the background. The original painting is in The National Korean War Museum and Library in Tuscola, Illinois.

This reproduction is printed on Fredrix canvas, mounted on a 3/8 " Medex museum quality panel, and is complete with a 2 3/4" frame. Because it is printed on actual artists' canvas it has the rich appearance and texture of an original oil painting. A Certificate of Authenticity signed by the artist is included which shows the number of the print in the limited 350 print edition. This stirring painting, done by an eyewitness to the historic event, was the cover illustration of the April 2001 *Graybeards* publication of The National Korean War Veterans Association. Gerald F. Doyle is



U.S.S. GLENDALE PF-36

THE HUNGNAM EVACUATION

a professional artist and teacher, and was on board *Glendale* during the evacuation. His story, and that of the painting, were featured in that same issue.

The image size is 12"x 16". The overall size including the frame is 17 1/2" x 21 1/2". The

handsome wooden frame is stained walnut with 2 lines of dark decorative beading and an inset of natural linen lining. The picture is ready to hang.

The cost of the framed print including shipping and handling is \$165.00, payable by check or

money order only. Maryland residents add 5% sales tax.

Reproductions of *Glendale* at Hungnam are also available as 4 1/4" x 6 " postcards. A pack of 10 postcards costs \$16.00.

A second reproduction, *Glendale* at Inchon, shows *Glendale* sinking a suspected mine-laying junk in a dramatic night engagement is in the Korean War Exhibit Hall, Baltimore War Memorial Building and will be released as a companion print in the near future. However reproductions of *Glendale* at Inchon are available now as postcards in packs of 10 for \$16.00.

Contact:

Gerald F. Doyle
730 Templecliff Road,
Baltimore, MD 21208
410-486-5277

Korean War Veteran shares short stories from his life...

plus some weird stuff!

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To Fellow Korean War Veterans:

With all the turmoil surrounding the country now that we have been forced into a war again and the realization that we not only face a foe that is not only out to destroy this Nation but to destroy civilization as we know it, the whole world is in disarray. Speaking for myself, I only pray that we see no let up in our retaliation against terrorism until all the terrorists are completely wiped from the face of the earth. We all have to realize that those who preach that form of destruction have been at war with some other Nation for over a million years, and it is time to end their reign of terror.

In the Sept./Oct. issue of the Graybeards there was a list of the co-sponsors of HB952 to grant a Charter to the Korean War Veterans Association. At that time we had

41 co-sponsors. Since the magazine has been out, I have only had one additional sign on. It is also very difficult for me to even make contact with Congressional leadership in view of all the turmoil of events and the scare of anthrax, to the point that Congress has been in alert mode, and offices have been closed more than they are open. However, I will make a concerted effort again to make the Charter a reality and I ask once again for some of you to get involved by urging your Congress person to sign on.

In closing as we approach the holidays, my wife, Jane, and I wish each of you the very best holiday season and may all your wishes be granted.

Yours in Comradeship,

Blair

DADDY from page 7

explained the situation to the elderly clerk, who was looking most concerned. Suddenly it got quiet. The clerk said, "She's quit crying" as I went out the door fast and hurried to the car. I could see her standing in the same position only now she was looking intently down the bottle neck of the Coke. She heard my footsteps, raised her head and looked at me with those beautiful blue eyes and said, "IT'S DIRTY, DADDY!" Those were the sweetest words I had ever heard.

I smiled at her and said, "Here, take mine." She smiled at me as we made the swap and I went back inside, told the clerk all was well, paid for the Cokes and returned to her. As I sat down, she scooted over next to me and said, "I like Coke, Daddy" and put her left arm around my neck! I kissed her on the cheek, told her "So I've heard" and we went home. Everyone heard us drive up and came outside as I took my daughter in my arms. As we walked toward them, Karen told her Mom, "Daddy got me a Coke". We were a misty-eyed bunch after that. As I ate my breakfast, Karen sat on my knee and talked a mile a minute. From that time on, she was my little girl and we were never far apart



LEFT: Karen, the day before I left for Korea.

BELOW: Karen, one week after I returned home.



again.

I lost her in 1983 to a cerebral aneurysm. By then she was the mother of two children but I always remember our first meeting. I still miss her every day and I always will.

I am aware there are other Korean veterans who had similar experiences when they returned to their homes and families.

Book Review



Quiet Heroes

by Frances Omori,
Commander U.S.N.

Author's Introduction

"We're not veterans; we weren't near the front lines. We didn't do much. We were just doing our job. We're not the heroes; we weren't really near the fighting. We just did what we had to do, that's all."

Navy nurse of the Korean War, Marilyn Ewing Affleck, received an invitation to attend the opening ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial. She did not attend because she thought the invitation was for her late husband. These are the kinds of responses that come from women veterans most of the time. Women have never been drafted in the United States; they have always chosen to volunteer because they wanted to.

While researching information for a speech I was delivering at the Women's Memorial's first Memorial Day observance, I was intrigued by the letters I found at the Naval Historical Center, where women described "what they did during the war." But I was appalled that there was almost nothing on the Korean War women veterans.

I volunteered at the Women's Memorial to collect oral histories of female Korean War vets. Most who responded to the memorial's query thought their contribution, "if any", was insignificant. It wasn't until I attended a luau (Hawaiian party) that I met Marilyn Ewing Affleck, a navy nurse of the Korean War. Through her, a whole new world has opened up for me. A world I never knew existed. Each person I spoke to referred me to someone else. As the network grew, a beautiful story evolved. And to think that if it weren't for a luau, this story might not have been told at all.

Throughout history women have served our country and have fought in America's quest for freedom individually and in all branches of service: army, navy, Marine Corps and air force. They have become invaluable in the fields of com-

Please turn to **BOOKS** on page 46

Korean War Ex-POW

Excerpts taken from Korean War Ex-POW Newsletter of September 2001

Ernie Contrearras takes over the Presidential reins.

I wish to thank all of you for allowing me to be your President for the coming year. I consider this a great honor, and I will do my best to represent all of you wherever I go. Phyllis and I plan to attend the National Ex-POW Convention in Tucson, AZ. Now my hope and prayers were that everyone arrived home safe and sound from our reunion. We had a great time and wish to thank all of the people that put it together. Most everything went smooth and next years reunion in Oklahoma City promises to be just as good. We hope to see all of you there. We have a good group there led by Joe and Lou Ann Gomez.

I hope to visit Oklahoma City in the near future. My main goal will be to make more people aware of the Korean War and what was accomplished there. We should all make an effort to speak at schools and other groups to remind everyone of who we are, what we did; and why. If anyone hears about one of our brothers or sisters that are ill or, have passed on please notify Chaplain Norman Hale or myself so that a card can be sent. My address and phone number is on the front of

this newsletter (Masthead on page 2). May God bless you and yours and keep you in good health. Hope to see all of you next year.

Ernie Contrearras, President
SHORTY SEZ'

Forty men who were POW's with the Tiger Survivors group were at the reunion and Chop-Chop. Two of them were civilian POW's. 140 chowed down. Many of them were Next of Kin to those who died as POW's, and many were family members and guests of the living. Fran Tallon and her daughter Faith also attended.

The Tiger Survivors Chop-Chop will be on August 2, 2002 at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City. A Chuck Wagon Buffet will be presented. Cost including everything is \$22.00 per person. (Children under 12 half price).

Already reserved are Jack & Violet Goodwin, Tim Casey and Shorty & Marti Estabrook. Please remit in advance to Shorty Estabrook, 23816 Matador Way, Murrieta, CA 82562

TAPS

Oliver Cline
Paul Laborde
Raymond McAuliff
Cecil Gable
Rex Dodge

Nyle T. Jones
William R. Pettit
Robert Cater
LTC Earl Kirkpatrick
George Barnett, Jr

National VA/Vs Representative Report

By Michael Mahoney

I have received the National Organization Report for the period April 2001 though September 2001, we show a slight increase over that period. The increase was 1,858 hours, this shows that we are still in a forward mode. Thanks for the effort.

The main problem item is the scheduled quarterly meetings at the facility that the Representatives and Deputies are assigned. You are required to attend these meetings. The facility has been instructed from the Department of Veterans Affairs to remove the organization from its roles after missing three meetings in a row. We have already lost 2 facilities, and reviewing the quarterly reports from all the VA Facilities are endanger of losing a few more. Please attend the meetings.

In the last report, I wrote the VHA 1620 is the guidelines for the VAVS program. It seems like a certain few do not want to follow it. I have notified one Department of the action which I am going to follow. With 61 plus two in that Department working in harmony, I will not put up with it. The reason for this program is to assist veterans in need, not feathers in one's cap. This will be taken up in Las Vegas.

Also, in January, I am going to assign a couple of National Deputy Representatives. The ones now in place will remain.

God Bless,

Mike

A Christmas Memory

By Rick Maier

The snow was about fifteen inches deep and we had been marching North for about six hours. Most of the men were just putting one foot in front of the other. I was walking with one foot on the snow packed down by a vehicle and one foot on the unpacked snow. I remember the noise of the snow crunching under foot broke some of the monotony.

We were slowly marching back North after having had an "orderly withdrawal" from the Yalu River in North Korea a month before. I was cold, afraid, and very, very homesick. This was my first Christmas away from home and I was miserable. All my men, except the point, were marching just one foot in front of the other, and it was very obvious from their eyes that their thoughts were 5000 miles away.

It was the most beautiful tree I had ever seen decorated with tin foil and beer cans.

My own thoughts traveled back to the Electric Train I received for Christmas in 1940, and the Flexible Flyer I had received from Santa Claus in 1938. No one smiled, no one talked, no one reacted. Some were sound asleep and still marching toward the enemy. Our thoughts, to a man, were on Mom and Dad, Girlfriends or Wives and Kids, and Christmas past.

As we marched, I thought I was dreaming as I heard a note or two of music coming very faintly from the rear. I tried to ignore it, as our minds sometimes played tricks on us, but several of my men had heard it, too. Then it became more audible coming at us from the rear getting ever louder. We all recognized "Silent Night" by Bing Crosby. Each man seemed to perk up and turn their heads to hear whatever was coming ever closer. We heard the clanking of the track before we saw the headlight slits. As they came slowly by us, we saw a Jeep with two officers followed by a tracked vehicle. Four G.I.'s in the back of the track had put a Christmas tree up on the back of the vehicle. It was the most beautiful tree I had ever seen decorated with tin foil and beer cans.

See **MEMORY** on page 51

Listen Up

Official KWVA Notices and Announcements



2002 -Election of Officers and Directors

The by-laws of the KWVA organization state that a call for nominees for election at the annual reunion be stated in the "Graybeards" each year. This call is for any qualified member who seeks one of the positions available in the 2002 elections to submit their request.

The positions open are for, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President for a two (2) year term beginning July 27, 2002 and ending July 27, 2004. There are four (4) Directors for three (3) year terms beginning July 27, 2002 ending July 27, 2005.

Reference: No later than-February 15 of each year where offices are to be filled, any person who is a member in good standing of The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. of New York seeking to run for President, for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President or Director shall make his or her intentions known to the Nominating Committee in writing using the following format:

Requirements:

- A. Must present proof of service by submitting a copy of your DD-214 or other document notarized a true copy showing eligible service and a statement releasing your document for verification by the Nominating Committee.
- B. Must present a current photograph suitable for publication in the association newsletter.
- C. Must submit a letter with the following:
 - (1). Your intent to run for an office and the office
 - (2). A resume of your qualifications for this office stating your experiences that will be of benefit to the association.
 - (3). Your current mailing address, home phone number and KWVA membership number.
 - (4). This letter will be limited to approximately one typed page.
- D. A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Executive Council and that you understand that two (2) excused absences could be used for your removal from office.
- E. Your dues must be current through the term of the office you are seeking. You will sign a statement to this effect. Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the association.

(Note: If dues are not paid in accordance to this paragraph, candidates will be automatically disqualified with no recourse to run for an office.)

- F. Send the above items by Certified mail Return Receipt Requested to the Nominating Committee Chairperson to arrive not later than February 15, 2002 of the current year.

Applications will be addressed to:

Nominating committee
Attn: Kenneth Cook
1611 North Michigan Ave.
Danville, IL 61834

It is the duty of the Nominating committee to receive, review and certify the nominees. The approved certified declarations will be forwarded to the Editor of "The Graybeards" for publication in the March-April issue. "The Graybeards" will list each certified nominee and the Official Ballot.

Each member in "Good Standing", whose dues are current when

the "The Graybeards" is mailed is eligible to cast their vote by mail. The instructions to cast your vote will be listed on your ballot. *It is imperative that you follow the instructions, complete your ballot and mail the ballot so it will arrive to the CPA on or before July 10, 2002.*

Nominees are requested to write to the Nominating Committee for a copy of the checklist and the required statements.

Mid Winter Board Meeting.

Due to the September 11, 2001 New York WTC terrorist attack and after a phone vote of the Board of Directors it was decided to change the date to January 13 through 17, 2002.

The meeting place will be The Imperial Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Arrive on January 13, 2002 and check out January 17, 2002. The agenda listed below.

We had originally contracted with Abbot Travel, however they closed their doors temporarily.

We have agreed to have Bobby Smith Travel to handle the arrangements. Her telephone number is (937)297-1623 Her e-mail address is BST@BobbieSmithTravel.com Her Web Site is WWW.BobbieSmithTravel.com. She will handle the Board Members arrangements, including air fares if requested. The room rates are Single or Double. \$239.80 for 4 nights.

YOU MUST MAKE ROOM ARRANGEMENTS WITH BOBBIE SMITH TRAVEL. This will insure the low room rates and we can keep a count of the rooms sold. The Imperial hotel will not accept individual reservations.

Agenda:

14 January 2002

- 8:30 amOpening Ceremonies.
- 8:45 amPresident Welcome.
- 9:00 amRoll call.
- 9:00 amSecretary reading minutes of July 26 and 28 meeting.
- 9:25 amTreasurer report.
- 10:00 am2001 Reunion report.

Committee Reports:

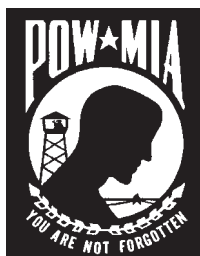
- 1. Resolution
- 2. Membership & Chapter
- 3. Reunion 2002
- 4. Election 2002
- 5. Break for lunch
- 6. By-Laws
- 7. Old Business
- 8. New Business
- 9. Good of the order
- 10. Benediction
- 11. Recess till 01-15-02

15 January

- 9:00 amResume Meeting
- 10:00 amHearing
- 1:00Membership Meeting

Harley Coon
November 14, 2001

Defense POW/MIA Weekly Update



KOREAN WAR/COLD
WAR DOCUMENT FAMI-
LY RESEARCH

October 01, 2001

Remains of U.S. Servicemen Recovered in North Korea

Remains believed to be those of 17 American soldiers, missing in action from the Korean War will be repatriated in formal ceremonies Tuesday, Korea time. This is the largest number of remains recovered in a single joint recovery operation since U.S. teams began their work in North Korea in 1996.

The remains will be flown on a U.S. Air Force aircraft from Pyongyang, North Korea, under escort of a uniformed U.S. honor guard to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where a United Nations Command repatriation ceremony will be held.

Operating near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, a joint U.S. - Korea team recovered 14 remains believed to be those of U.S. Army soldiers from the 7th Infantry Division who fought against Chinese forces Nov.-Dec., 1950.

Approximately 1,000 Americans are estimated to have been lost in battles of the Chosin campaign.

Additionally, a second team recovered three sets of remains in Unsan and Kujang counties and along the Chong Chon River, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950. The Defense

Department's POW/Missing Personnel Office negotiated an agreement with the North Koreans last year which led to the scheduling of this year's operations.

The 28-person U.S. teams are composed primarily of specialists from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI).

This year's schedule of operations in North Korea is the largest yet, with ten individual operations scheduled near the

Chosin Reservoir, as well as in the Unsan, Kujang and Kaechon City areas. Twenty-five individual operations have been conducted since 1996 in North Korea, recovering 144 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers. Eight have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Another 12 are in the final stages of the forensic identification process.

October 12, 2001

CILHI Teams Leave for Recovery Operation in North Korea

Members of a joint recovery operation deployed today from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii for North Korea, on a mission to account for American servicemen still unaccounted for as a result of the Korean War. There will be four investigative teams and two recovery teams working with their North Korean counterparts.

The recovery teams will focus their efforts around the Chosin Reservoir and areas in Unsan and Kujang counties near the Chong Chon River. The teams consist of about 28 personnel on a month long deployment.

The teams are made up of linguists, explosive ordnance technicians, mortuary affairs specialists, photographers, medics, anthropologists, team leaders and team sergeants.

This is the fifth and final joint recovery operation in North Korea for 2001. There are more than 8,100 service members still unaccounted for from the Korean War. While the recovery and identification process may take years, the CILHI remains committed to the fullest possible accounting of all service members killed in defense of their country.

October 16, 2001

New Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs visits Vietnam, Laos

A little more than a month after his appointment as the Director of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), The Honorable Jerry D. Jennings made a trip half way around the globe to meet with high-level leaders of

the Cambodian, Lao and Vietnam governments in hopes of further strengthening ties between the two countries and the United States. Stronger ties means more cooperation in continuing the mission of bringing home Americans who did not return from Southeast Asia as a result of the Vietnam War.

Jennings' visit began Sept. 30 in Laos where he co-hosted with Vice Foreign Minister Phongsavath the Lao provincial seminar. More than 60 provincial and district representatives attended the seminar held in Savannakhet. This was an opportunity for Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA), Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI), Stony Beach, [and] DPMO leaders and the Lao government to iron out details of upcoming investigation and recovery missions JTF-FA wants to execute in that country. Missions that JTF-FA hopes will bring answers to the families of Americans that never returned from Southeast Asia.

After departing Cambodia, Jennings then traveled to the Joint Task Force's Detachment Two in Hanoi, Vietnam. While meeting with key Vietnamese officials, Jennings visited a recovery site Oct. 5 near Haiphong where a recovery element is searching for remains of a naval aviator who perished in a RA-5C aircraft.

One reality remains in the full-accounting mission, time is the enemy. "Time truly is not on our side, but we deal with cases from all wars from the past 50 years and we're getting results. This mission is the heart and soul of America because we simply don't leave our servicemen behind. This mission is going to continue all over the world and will certainly continue in Southeast Asia," Jennings said.

Although his authority encompasses all wars throughout the world, the search for Americans in Southeast Asia is a personal commitment for him as he served as an intelligence officer in the region during his time in the Marine Corps. "A few weeks ago I met a man named Robert Apodaca whose father's remains were brought back. His father was flying

an F-4 Phantom like many of my friends did and I really identified with him. I was there (Southeast Asia) when he went down."

Photos available at the JTF-FA website. More information about the U.S. government's full accounting mission in Southeast Asia can be found on the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting website at www.pacom.mil/jtffa/index/index.htm or the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Office web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo JTF-FA point of contact is Capt. Gina Jackson (808) 477-5301. Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) point of contact is: Ginger Coudon at (808) 448-8903 ext. 109.

2002 Family Update Schedule

Date	Location:
Jan 12	San Diego, CA
Jan 15	Honolulu, HI
Feb 23	Amarillo, TX
Mar 23	Charlotte, NC
Apr 20	Portland, OR
May 18	Columbus, OH
Jun (TBD)	Washington, DC *
Jul 26	Washington, DC *
Aug 17	Kansas City, MO
Sep 21	Albany, NY
Oct 26	Salt Lake City, UT
Nov 16	Tampa, FL

* Family updates held in conjunction with the annual government briefings.

Graybeards Copies

The requests for extra *The 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 is a great tool for the chapters in New Membership and Tell America Programs. We request minimum orders of 5 at \$1 donation per copy plus \$3.95 postage.

We can send up to 7 copies for \$3.95 postage. For orders above 7 copies or future issues, additional costs for postage is \$3.95 for each increment of 7 plus \$1 per copy.

Example: if you wish to order a full year (7 copies each of 6 issues) then a check for \$65.70 and your request is needed.—Editor.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS September 30, 2001

ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
CASH IN BANK-BANK ONE-CKNG	1,558.50		
CASH-BANK ONE-SAVINGS	54,862.39		
BANK ONE -SVGS-1578460451	542,513.50		
ACCTS REC - GRAYBEARDS	1,800.00		
A/R - NEW CHAPTER	<u>100.00</u>		
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$ 600,834.39	
FIXED ASSETS			
COMMEMORATIVE ASSETS-WEAPONS	<u>3,000.00</u>		
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		3,000.00	
TOTAL ASSETS			<u>\$ 603,834.39</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
FUND BALANCES			
GENERAL FUND	473,513.39		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	94,139.60		
CURRENT EARNINGS	<u>36,181.40</u>		
TOTAL FUND BALANCES			603,834.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			<u>\$ 603,834.39</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - CASH BASIS FOR THE ONE MONTH AND NINE MONTHS ENDED September 30, 2001

	CURRENT PERIOD		YEAR TO DATE	
	AMOUNT	PERCENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT
INCOME				
MEMBERSHIP	31,216.50	49.5	178,936.90	64.0
DONATION	933.40	1.5	2,637.40	0.9
REUNION	12,913.78	20.5	24,054.28	8.6
MISCELLANEOUS	484.00	0.8	16,761.05	6.0
INTEREST	12,581.38	20.0	45,195.11	16.2
ADVERTISING	<u>4,898.57</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>11,799.87</u>	<u>4.2</u>
TOTAL INCOME	63,027.63	100.0	279,384.61	100.0
OPERATING EXPENSES				
TELEPHONE	1,675.80	2.7	9,102.84	3.3
OFFICE SUPPLIES	987.34	1.6	2,656.84	1.0
INSURANCE	0.00	0.0	9,683.00	3.5
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.0	94.99	0.0
GRAYBEARDS	37,111.87	58.9	84,074.66	30.1
ACCOUNTING-LEGAL	650.00	1.0	4,345.00	1.6
VA/VS REP	378.50	0.6	1,410.37	0.5
BOARD MEETINGS	8,095.74	12.8	15,155.62	5.4
REUNION	27,553.37	43.7	33,716.41	12.1
ELECTION	3,400.00	5.4	3,400.00	1.2
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	121.96	0.2	433.90	0.2
POSTAGE	679.65	1.1	3,179.67	1.1
MISCELLANEOUS-OFFICE	1,500.00	2.4	1,520.00	0.5
PRESIDENTS TRAVEL FUND	2,788.76	4.4	5,126.58	1.8
CHAPTER EXPENSE	1,212.46	1.9	3,689.42	1.3
WASHINGTON DC REP	260.87	0.4	985.37	0.4
MEMBERSHIP-NANCY MONSON	3,961.39	6.3	17,049.27	6.1
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	1,497.78	2.4	19,679.27	7.0
MISCELLANEOUS-GOODWILL	18,900.00	30.0	18,900.00	6.8
MISCELLANEOUS-SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>14.3</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>3.2</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	119,775.49	<u>190.0</u>	<u>243,203.21</u>	<u>87.0</u>
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES	<u>(\$ 56,747.86)</u>	<u>(90.0)</u>	<u>\$ 36,181.40</u>	<u>13.0</u>

Korea, The Forgotten War..... remembered

Illinois Remembers



Photo of the Korean War Veterans plaque presented to Menard County Illinois and placed inside the Courthouse in Petersburg on November 11, 1997 I took the responsibility of going through the county newspapers and created a list of all those who served in the Military during the Korean War. Rather going around soliciting money to buy the plaque I simply paid for it myself. Besides I did not have the time for solicitation. It only takes a committee of one to accomplish honoring your fellow veterans. During the Korean War. I served my time in the U.S. Air Force and being overseas in Germany from 1951-54. I was discharged in 1955. Eddie A. Dirks, RR1 Box 44, Athens, IL 62613-9706

(Thank you Eddie for the photo and letters. A great looking memorial thanks to you. Those in picture not named. I have more to print in a later issue.)

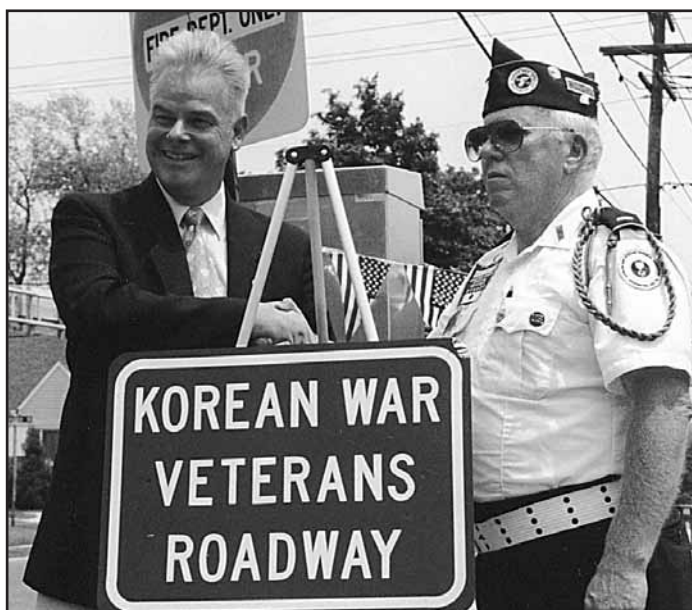
Nova Scotia Remembers



While traveling through Digby, NS, Korean war veteran Andy Osiacký saw the above memorial and took the photo.

(Thank you Rocky Marcarelli for photo and letter. I hope the memorials we see in "The Graybeards" will help those that still feel we are forgotten is a thing of the past. The only place I see that we are forgotten is in the media and some of our larger veteran magazines. Also the lack of not having a National Charter because a few failed to acknowledge the Korean War happened.)

New Jersey Remembers



Commander Dick Bozzone of Chorwon Chapter KWVA, is shown with Bergen County Executive William Schuber, with road sign designating Historic Kinderkamack Road as "Korean War Veterans Roadway". The road goes through nine county municipalities, and the county has put up 18 signs, two in each town.

(Thank you Dick for photo and letter. Great sign honoring great veterans)

Montana Remembers



We plan to have a brief ceremony on June 14, 2002 with MG Nels Running, USAF (ret) as our keynote guest and speaker. We also invited Ambassador Yang, South Korea, and have been assured that he will attend unless something unforeseen happens.

Gen. Running is from Frenchtown, Montana, a small community 15 miles west of Missoula. He had a distinguished Air Force career and retired 4 years ago and is currently serving as Executive Director of the DoD's 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee for the Korean War. We are honored that he will be here to speak at our event next summer.

Above is a current picture of our memorial. We have a website. Please visit: www.mtkoreanmemorial.com

(Thank you C. E. Crookshanks, Committee Chairman for photo and letter. We know Gen. Running and have heard his speeches. We can tell you that all your veterans will be very pleased that you selected Gen. Running. He is special and in his current position is adding high respect to his distinguished Air Force career.)

Indiana Remembers



Hoosier Vets Seek Donations for Funeral Chapel

Fort Wayne, Indiana - A veterans group plans to build an interdenominational chapel that families may use to conduct funeral rites for any veteran. Not far from the museum are several striking shrines to veterans of several U.S. wars. (See photos.)

For information contact Allen M. Clendenen at (219) 625-4944, (email: aclendened@tk7.net) or write: The War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History, Inc., 2122 O'Day Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818.

(Thank you Allen for photos and letter. I could not show all photos and text. I suggest veterans contact the above. They have a great plan and are also asking for donations.)



New York Remembers

On September 15th, the Adirondack Chapter dedicated a memorial at the Saratoga National Cemetery in upstate New York to the memory of our fallen Korean War Comrades. Elizabeth Green a junior from Saratoga Catholic High School sang an excellent rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and "On Eagles Wings" in remembrance of Sept 11. Prayer by Charles Kelly, Chapter Chaplain. David Wallingford, director of New York State Veteran services and Doctor Koock Jung representing the Korean Society, gave two very inspiring speeches. After the closing ceremonies, the crowd all held hands and sang "God Bless America". The Chapter represents seven counties in upstate New York.

Dedication Address By Dr. Koock Jung

Fifty years ago, in a far away place, one of the oldest civilizations was attacked by a Russian-backed communist army. The fate of 30-million peace-loving, democratic Koreans was on the brink of extinction.

We were terrified to death, with no place to go. We had lost all hope, ran like chickens with our heads cut off.

My father, who was a civil service man, was hiding from cellars to caves, fearing execution.



Doctor Koock Jung representing the Korean Society, gave a very inspiring speech.



The unveiling of the memorial was by Mrs. William Norris, and two of her grandchildren. Mrs. Norris is the widow of William Norris, founder of the KWVA.

It is at this critical junction where you came and fought for us. It was one of the cruelest, most destructive wars in the history of humankind. They dropped more bombs in that three years of the Korean War than they did in the whole world during WW II.

It was one of the harshest battles you have ever fought. You lost your arms and legs in frostbite and land mines. You lost your brothers and friends. Your family lost their beloved sons and brothers.

I was only 8 years old, and you were kids yourself. You gave your precious lives for the people you didn't know in one of the farthest away places from your home.

And you saved my life, my father's, my family and millions of freedom-loving Koreans. Because of you, 45 million children, men and women of Korea enjoy one of the most affluent democratic societies, because of the precious freedom you have given us by risking your lives.

It was one of the most honorable wars against the godless communist onslaught, and you prevailed. You were my heroes and saviors 50 years ago, and deep in my heart, you still are my best and bravest heroes and saviors.

As a representative of the Korean American Society of the Capital Region, I express our deepest heartfelt gratitude to you. May God bless you and your family.

(Thank Gene Slavin for photos and letter. I wanted so much to show all so I took the liberty to condense some of the text. A great ceremony and speech. Seeing a special lady like Mrs. Norris again will mean a lot to our members.)

Maryland Remembers

Representatives of The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Korean War Remembrance Committee during the National convention in Baltimore in August. Besides a workshop on a MIA-KIA with a representative of the Pentagon we went to the Maryland Korean War Memorial overlooking Baltimore Harbor on Saturday for a short prayer service. .

(Thank you Ainslee R. Ferdie for photo and letter. Your editor was asked to attend this event in Baltimore and talk about The



Chairman, Past National Commander Ainslee R. Ferdie of J.W.V. and Co-Chairman Martin Greenberg PDC stand on the Yalu River while other members of the committee from all parts of the USA stand on the 38th parallel. Photographer was Col. Burdnick, a member of the Maryland State Veterans Commission.

Graybeards, KWVA and a little of my history in Korea and today as editor. It was an honor to be among these super veterans and their association and hopefully we have gained a few new members.)

Pennsylvania Remembers



Western Pennsylvania finished memorial, fully landscaped.



Rededication and Remembrance Ceremony, July 27, 2001



Wall of Names of those KIA from counties in Western PA.



Plaques of history of war and memorial along walkway.



Chronology tablets.

Western Pennsylvania Korean War Memorial - *(This beautiful memorial was shown in "The Graybeards" back in 1999 when it was far from complete. I have more photos but can only print these. The landscaping is complete and as you can see it is located along the banks of the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh, PA. In one photo you can see the new football stadium for the Pittsburgh Steelers that was under construction the last time I saw this memorial. My twin brother Richard W. Krepps POW/MIA has his name on the wall of names for those that gave their all. Elsewhere I have purchased a plaque for my*



Waterfall

name so we will be joined again forever as we were for 19 years until we went to Korea with the 2nd Inf. Div in 1950. Thank you Edward Stevens, President and founder KWVA of Western PA and KWVA Memorial Fund, Korean War Veteran and those that made this beautiful memorial possible.)

Connecticut Remembers



Shelton River Walkway Veterans Plaza and Memorial Park.



On June 3, 2001 a new Veteran's Memorial Park was dedicated in the City of Shelton, Connecticut, adjacent to the river walkway. Included in this dedication was the first ever monument to the Korean War. It is part of a new plaza that includes four large monolith black graphite monuments to honor all men from the city

Korean War Memorial stone at Shelton River Walkway Plaza.

who gave their lives in the four major wars of the twentieth century. It was a project I have pursued for the last twelve to fifteen years. The city fathers finally approved it and placed me on the planning, design and building committee. I have been so impressed with our Washington, D.C., Memorial and wanted something along the lines for ours. We have gotten so many nice compliments about its local and appearance as you can see in the photos.



Al Sabetta, Korean War Veteran speaking at dedication

(Thank you Al Sabetta for photos and letter. I agree it is a beautiful memorial with a great scenic background including the bridge. Wish I could print all.)

Ohio Remembers



Photos of the flag raising ceremony held in Struthers, Ohio at the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge." Shown (l to r): Front Row: Lloyd Edwards, Steve Firment, Ray Reber, Back Row: Robert Bakalik, Richard Koker.

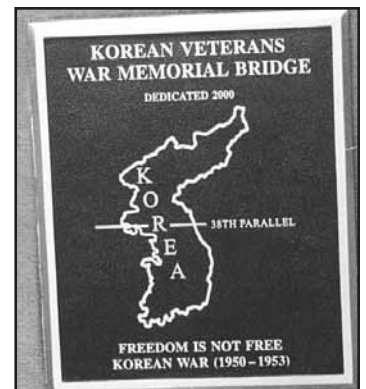


Holding our banner is: Richard Schulz, Fritz Freisen Honor Guard in back: l to r: Charles Tacy, Mark Crowbridge, William Roessler, Rocky Anobile.



Picture taken at the Dedication of the Korean War Monument in Warren, Ohio. Shown l to r: Harry Ponkivar, Don Locke, Allen Jenkins, Rocky Anobile, Glenn Snyder, President Bob Bakalik, Mark Crowbridge, Louis Filaccio, Don Brown, Ray Reber, Leo Taillon, Richard Koker and John Wire.

Memorial Bridge plaque.



(Thank you Joann Onstott for photos and letter. Great veterans & events.)

Missouri Remembers



Memorial Day wreath laying in St. Peters, Mo by St. Charles County Chapter #186 KWVA.



The USPS will not forward Standard mail (3rd class) so please be sure and notify *The Graybeards* of your new address so that you will get your next issue. Contact the KWVA, PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210, Attn: Membership Chairman or call Nancy Monson at (703) 522-9629.



Korean War Veterans of St. Charles County Chapter #186 shown saluting during opening ceremony.



Korean War Veterans of St. Charles County Chapter #186, front row await for ceremony to begin.

(Thank you Robert Peitz for photos and letter. I believe this is the first event that has been shown in The Graybeards for this chapter. We welcome all to the KWVA and we are proud to have such proud veterans as members.)

Korean War Veterans Association Website:
www.KWVA.org

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 Editor KWVA, or Treasurer KWVA 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*, "Looking For," "Reunions," and "In Memory of." At the time of publication the following names of donors and "Memorials" have been reported to *The Graybeards* and are listed as follows:

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Dear members and readers: Articles from newspapers take a lot of time to scan and most are too long to retype. Photos from newspapers also do not copy well. I tend to use original photos and articles that are typewritten in lower case. I must optically scan text in to the computer and it helps when articles are typed well and length kept to a minimum. . — Editor.



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I am sending you this story about Cpl. Robert O. Newville in the hopes that you will print it in The Graybeards Magazine. This story should have been told years ago.

Robert (Bob) joined the army on August 29, 1949. He was from a small upstate New York Village in Allegany County called Swain. Bob was 17 years old. Bob took basic training at Fort Dix and then was assigned to the 2nd Div. at Fort Lewis, Washington. Bob's division landed in Korea in July of 1950. He was 1st gunner and squad leader in heavy mortars.

Bob's company, the 23rd Regt., 2nd Div, went immediately into action on the Pusan Perimeter. When the break through at the Maktoe River occurred Bob's company was at Mason. Many of the soldiers in the division were killed. Bob and two others were surrounded and captured on September 1, 1950. Bob said the group that captured them were Chinese. There were about 70 of them. He said he knew that China was not in the war yet but that he knew they were Chinese. The captors took their socks, shoes, watches, rings, and even his false teeth. They were then forced to march many miles in their bare feet. He said the prisoners were all put through the same type of hell. They were beaten, clubbed, and hit on the hands with a pipe when they fell asleep at the wrong time. They were fed one rice ball a day. At the time of Bob's capture he weighed 183 pounds. When he was freed his weight was down to 132. On September 28, 1950 a 25th Div recon unit liberated the camp. The only time Bob thought that they actually may be killed was just before they were freed. Of the 24 prisoners, 23 were liberated. One had been shot.

Bob was sent to a hospital in Japan and then home on a 45 day leave. While visiting at Christmas time Bob was involved in a serious automobile accident which sent him to a hospital in Waltham Mass. for the next 6 months. Bob went back on active duty after his hospital stay at Fort Dix, where I saw him when I was finishing my Basic training. I shipped out to Korea and Bob was shipped to Fort Hamilton. Bob re-enlisted with the thought of being sent to Europe. Instead he was sent to Japan and from there back to Korea on the front line with his old outfit, the Heavy Mortars, 23 Regt., 2nd Div. I was with the 82nd AAAW Bn. when I received a letter from Bob telling me he was back in Korea. We tried to get together, but one of us

A story that should have been told years ago

By Charles K. May



Cpl. Robert O. Newville RA12349188

always seemed to be on the move. We finally managed to meet the week before I rotated home. I will never forget that meeting. When I walked into his bunker he was sitting on a wire spool reading Stars and Stripes. He had the radio on and was listening to Seoul City Sue. She was the broadcaster for the Reds that the GI's enjoyed hearing. We visited all day. This is time I like to remember Bob, because by the time I got home Bob had been hit.

Bob had an interview with war correspondent, Pat Higgins, from the Buffalo Evening News. Bob told Pat that he didn't think he should have been sent back to Korea after having been a POW there, but that he hoped he would get home again. Bob was severely wounded in a mortar attack at Arrowhead Ridge. While Bob was still in a mortar unit when I saw him there is some evidence that he was with a rifle company when he was hit. Bob was taken to a M.A.S.H. unit and then transferred to a hospital in Tokyo. At the Tokyo hospital Bob's left leg had been amputated. During the operation Bob's heart had stopped. The doctors massaged his heart and brought him back to life but the lack of oxygen to the brain caused Bob to suffer a loss of speech and coordination. He never regain either. Bob's cousin, Fred Ludwig was stationed in Japan and vis-

ited Bob often. The doctors told Fred that Bob had been clinically dead for over three minutes. Bob was sent from Japan to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco on December 9, 1952. Bob's mother, and 13 other mothers of injured servicemen were sent to San Francisco to see their sons. The trips were paid for by the San Francisco News. The mother of the most severely wounded boys were chosen to make the trip. When Mrs. Newville arrived at the hospital she was told that Bob's case was hopeless and that he was being sent home to die. There were 14 boys in Bob's ward, all were under 21, and all were amputees or partially paralyzed.

Even though Mrs. Newville had been told Bob's case was hopeless, she had even received a message of condolence from the American Red Cross, she returned home to Swain. On May 29, 1953 Bob returned home. Bob received 24 hour care, 7 days a week for the next 7 years. He was then taken to the VA hospital in Buffalo, New York where he under went 3 major kidney operations. He was sent from there to the VA Hospital in Brooklyn, New York where he was discharged from the Army. The rest of Bob's life was spent in various hospitals and convalescent homes. He never regained his speech or enough coordination to get along on his own. Robert O. Newville died on June 5, 1997 in Burlson, Texas. He was buried with full military honors in Nunda New York along side his parents.

Here is another hero from that (police action) war that gave his all (twice) that was soon forgotten, like countless others. Bob loved his God, country, flag, friends, and family. He never asked for much, he just did his job (twice in Korea) at places like Pusan Perimeter, Bloody Ridge, Old Baldy, Heart Break Ridge, and Arrowhead Ridge. Bob had two sisters who were wonderful to Bob throughout his difficult life. Mary was a (Lt.) Nurse in California when Bob was there. Mary along with Bob's other sister Jeanne have kept Bob close all these years.

A book could be written on this incredible man. I grew up in Swain with Bob. There were 5 or 6 servicemen from our tiny village who served in Korea. Another of these men, Omar Blowers who was 20 years old was captured and died in a POW camp. His remains have never been returned. I know both of these brave men are in a far better place now.

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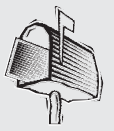
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A Silent Generation

Americans have a renewed interest in World War II. "Pearl Harbor" is a popular movie and each anniversary of the Normandy invasion brings well deserved praise, for the "greatest generation".

And we can never forget Vietnam - its stories continue to haunt our national psyche. The "Wall" in Washington remains our most poignant monument to the tragedy of war.

Remember June 25, 1950? Listening to a Lowell Thomas radio newscast, I heard something about "Reds" invading South Korea. Korea ? - it didn't mean a thing to me.

America at mid-20th century seemed the best of times. World War II had been over for five years. Back from the war, veterans were settling into the good life: completing college, having kids, and buying that \$17,500 ranch house in the suburbs.

Unless you were of draft age, the start of the Korean "conflict" wasn't heart stopping news like Pearl Harbor, or later the assassination of J.F.K. - yet it shattered the lives of a generation.

38th Parallel, Yalu River, Truman / MacArthur, germ warfare, brainwashing soon entered the lexicon of the time. Yet most people continued to enjoy the good life - only the younger guys had to sweat out the draft.

When induction notices came, we went without protest, possibly to die in an unknown place for an uncertain cause. Ours was the silent generation, accepting fate as, "the way the cookie crumbles." Life seemed dependent on a roll of the dice of happenstance - some of us were lucky.

January 2, 1952 we had been married for six weeks, when I said goodbye to Peggy in our attic flat, near Harvard Square. Walking out into the before dawn chill, I turned back to see her trying to be brave face, just visible above the window frost. A last wave and I walked away.

Seven of us met at Cambridge City Hall, the month's draft quota. Mayor Crane shook our hands, giving us each a jackknife - gift of the city.

During the bus ride from the Boston Army Base to Fort Devens our orders were lost. That was the first break. We couldn't leave for basic training without the papers.

While other men shipped out to Fort Dix or Indian Town Gap for infantry training, we shoveled snow- looking more like gulag prisoners than G.I.'s. When orders came for the artillery - it seemed a better deal.

After "basic" in Arkansas, we were sent to California. Leaving the troop train, we lined up in alphabetical order. Cadre strutted down the formation assigning men to firing batteries. Those of us, at the end of the line, were given headquarters duty. To fill an empty slot, on the company table of organization, I was listed as an ammunition specialist - another break.

Peggy came to California, where we shared an apartment in Santa Barbara with two other G.I. couples. With a weekend pass, we'd go to the beach -life was good, a real "honeymoon".

On payday we'd splurge, going to the Lei Lani Room in a Santa Barbara hotel. When the lounge closed, everyone stood at atten-

tion, as the dance band played the "Star Spangled Banner". We were so young and happy that for awhile we almost forgot about the war.

The troop ship waited in Inchon Harbor, for landing craft to ferry us ashore. The deck was packed with troops staring at the bleak Korean coast. The silence was eerie the nightmare had come true. Riding along a dirt road in a weapons carrier, between rice patties, we kept joking - it was gallows humor - we didn't know where we were going or why. That was the bad part - not; knowing.

Seeing a bright flash in the mountains against the darkening sky, we thought it was lightning. The driver laughed, "No way-that's artillery up there man."

The 630th was a forward Ammunition Supply Company. We worked twelve hour shifts, at, night huddling in tents close to a shove, sharing heat and candlelight to play cards, read or just talk. We were the first integrated wartime Army. Long before Martin Luther King's, "I have a dream", we lived as "black and white together" - brothers foreshadowing the dream.

That winter a frigid wind swept through the valley from Manchuria. During air raids, we'd curse "bed check Charlie", as we crawled out of warm sleeping bags to jump into icy fox holes. Once a bomb did hit Battalion Headquarters - forty miles south in Seoul. When fighting was heavy in the mountains, we'd watch "choppers" flying wounded back to a MASH unit - we knew we were lucky.

July 26, 1953 an armistice was signed in Panmunjom. I came home for Christmas - leaving behind a forever silent generation.

Richard M. Thomas, 388 Huron Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. Tel: 617- 864-1914

We were there too

A relatively small Army Unit, the 2348th AU (re-designated the 8081st AU in 1951), arrived in Japan in late August 1950. In connection with air-drops from C-119 aircraft from September 1950 thru the end of the war, this unit packed the cargo parachutes, prepared the supplies and equipment for air-drop, loaded the C-119 aircraft, rode in the cargo compartment and prepared for release and released the load over the drop area on signal from the pilot. Also, a Detachment from the 8081st AU, located at Yonpo Marine Airfield rigged, loaded and prepared for drop, the bridge sections that were air-dropped from the eight C-119 aircraft that were air dropped on 7 December 1951. Some of the men in our unit were Combat Infantry soldiers in WWII, so the members of our Company were kept well aware of the importance of our mission. Sincerely, Paul E. Smith, Seminole, Florida

My long time service friend was finally remembered

Last year, on Veterans Day in Punta Gorda, Florida I had the pleasure of attending an award ceremony where a long time service friend, after 47 years and some odd months, belatedly received

the Silver Star for actions at Pork Chop Hill, 11 July 1953. Also in attendance at the ceremony, and a fellow OCS graduate was Ray Kalil of Nashville, TN.

The three of us had all graduated from the AAA OCS at Ft. Bliss, TX and were sent to Korea in late 1952. Kalil wound up in the 45th Inf. Div. and Freedman and I in the 398th AAA Bn, Eighth Army, in air defense of K-55, an Air Force Base in Osan. Freedman and I wanted to get in action and found a way to be transferred.

Our orders came through in May 1953 and we were both sent to the 7th Inf. Div. Freedman wound up in the 48th Field Artillery Bn. and I was assigned to the 15th AAA Bn. This, by the way, continued a friendship and assignments to the same units that began meeting while on guard duty a day after being inducted at Camp Kilmer, N.J. in 1951 and lasted until we were discharged in November of 1953.

Even in the first assignments at the 7th, we were only about a mile apart. But then Pork Chop heated up and Freedman, an FO in the vicinity of the Alligator Jaws, was pulled off and sent to Hill 347, overlooking Pork Chop Hill. The rest, as they say, is history per the attached award. Years later, Freedman and the wounded comrade mentioned in the award were reunited via E-Mail. His name is Lt. Ray Barry (later retired full Colonel Ray Barry). Barry, knowing that Freedman had saved his life, asked Freedman if he had received a medal, as he, Barry had received the Silver Star. When Freedman (who had received the Purple Heart) said no, Barry went to bat for him and the award came through.

I am pleased to bring this event to the attention of the Association and fellow Korean veterans. Sincerely, Hugh "Bud" Gaynor, 530 Lake Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091. E-Mail <budgaynor@aol.com>.

**SILVER STAR – RONALD K. FREEDMAN
(SECOND LIEUTENANT, UNITED STATES ARMY)**

For gallantry in action on 11 July 1953, while assigned as an Artillery Forward Observer on Outpost 13 on Hill 347, while dug in with front-line troops of the 7th Infantry Division at the main line of resistance. Second Lieutenant Freedman's unit, the 48th Field Artillery Battalion, was inflicting massive firepower on the Chinese forces. At the same time the enemy's incoming barrages on his position was devastating. Amid the shellfire, obscuring smoke, flying shrapnel, confusion, chaos and disorder, Lieutenant Freedman, at grave danger to himself, remained steadfast in an exposed position as he skillfully adjusted the crucial barrages from division artillery - barrages that proved to be vital in turning back the enemy forces. Numerous times Lieutenant Freedman was knocked down by concussions from the incoming shells but was able to get back up and continue directing fire. Finally, Lieutenant Freedman's position received a direct hit that killed everyone in his outpost except himself and the Artillery Liaison Officer who was severely wounded. After examining and encouraging his severely wounded comrade, Lieutenant Freedman, although wounded himself, left the protection of the partially destroyed bunker, and with disregard for his own safety, ran out into the open trenches under an incoming artillery barrage to find medical aid for his severely wounded comrade. The gallant and courageous actions displayed by Lieutenant Freedman reflect the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit on himself, the 7th Infantry Regiment, and the United States Army.

My unit put up that sign

On Page 9, in the January/February 2001 issue of The Graybeards, there is a photo of a GI sitting in front of a survey control sign along the 38th Parallel in Korea. As indicated on the sign, survey control was established by the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion (note the Battalion's distinctive crest). The mission and operation of this Battalion was the location of enemy artillery and mortars by sound, flash, and radar ranging; the provision of survey control for friendly artillery; surveillance along the front for the purpose of collecting intelligence information; and the provision of meteorological data for friendly artillery.

The history of this unusual and little-known organization dates back to August 7, 1922, when the parent unit, the 1st Observation Battery was created at Fort Bragg, NC. The Battalion participated in seven campaigns during WWII (North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany) and ten in Korea. Battalion honors include two French Croix de Guerre awards in WWII, and the Meritorious Unit Citation and ROK Presidential Unit Citation in Korea.

In August 1950, the Battalion departed from Fort Sill, OK — destination Korea. Within four days after landing at Pusan on August 22, 1950, the Battalion was committed to action in support of the 1st Cavalry, the 24th, and the 25th Divisions. Throughout the Korean War, the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion (call sign "Nathan Hale") supported most United Nations divisions in major battles.

Assigned to Eighth Army, the 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion was the only battalion of its kind in Korea. This resulted in spreading the Battalion's services completely across the Korean front, and attaching each of the three other batteries to a Corps (I, IX, and X). The support of an Army Front by a battalion designed to support only one Corps was no mean accomplishment. The never-ending mountains of Korea posed certain technical problems for an observation battalion in addition to the logistical, tactical and communications problems, which were common to all units in Korea. Sincerely, Warren R Rehfeldt, Newsletter Editor, 1st F A Observation Bn. Association.

Our WWW.KWVA.ORG Webmaster Served in New York

Just got back from volunteering in Manhattan. Although I have not made my account graphic it still may bother some of you.

Left my home in Maine on 9-12-01 at about 6:30 am. Stopped in Whitinsville, MA to pick up 2 of my brothers-in-law. Arrived at the Triboro Bridge to get into Manhattan at about 1 pm and had to stop so they could look through the back of my truck. They asked where I was from and where I was going. I told the officer that I came from Maine to volunteer.....He was happy and thanked me and told me where to go for registration as a volunteer. It was on the corner of 34th and 11th at Jacob Javits Center.

We drove to the Jacob Javits Center but the lines were very long so we walked down to 14th street to see if they would let us in as volunteers.....No way you were going in directly.

I drove about 95 miles out and around to find a CG to stay in. We found one at Croton Point which is about 35 miles from

Manhattan. We got there around 9PM, nobody to check us in so we just went to the tent area and set up.

On 09-13-01 we got up about 7 am and went to register at the CG office (county park) and got paid up til 09-16-01. Headed into the city (wrong time to go at 8 am) didn't arrive in the city til noon or a little after. Got registered as a volunteer. This process was to fill out a paper with your name, address, phone no. and skills you have and on the back you could describe your skills in more detail. You then gave this paper to a member of the National Guard and they verified your ID and gave you a control # which in theory they would call if they needed you.

After hanging around on the sidewalk till about 3PM they called for all Iron Workers to meet on a specific location on the sidewalk and a bus was on the way. (I put down Iron Worker because I had worked for 11 years at Bath Iron Works as a ship-builder and had been trained to assemble, burn and weld large steel structures). After about an hour and a half of waiting, they said to go home, they didn't need anybody else today. We mullied around the sidewalk and helped load a truck to go into the people at the site. We then returned to the CG which took about 2-3 hours and it was around 9 pm again.

On 9-14-01 it had rained pretty hard all night. We got up at 4:30 am and the rain had stopped and the forecast was for clearing skies by 9 and then partly sunny. We were on our way into the city by 5:30 am. We arrived at Jacob Javits Center at about 6:45 am and it was raining like crazy. Of course I believed the weather man (why would I believe him ????)

The Salvation Army gave me a poncho to wear. At 7 am they asked for all Iron Workers to meet at the back of the building. When I got there they had two buses waiting. I got on the second bus and we started to go towards the site. This gave you quite the feeling inside of your stomach and the bus was real quiet. We arrived about 4 blocks away and had to walk the rest. There was a command center beginning to take shape in the "Financial Building?" I think it was called. While walking to the site you could see the magnitude of the devastation and the smoke that poured from several piles of rubble. This gives you a great sense of apprehension and you wonder if you will be able to do what you set out to do.

We went into the building and there were many lines of supplies which you walked thru. Get raingear, get gloves, get a hardhat, get a respirator, get goggles. There were so many items to get and put on that had been donated by companies and individuals, they even had many pairs of jeans so you could change when you got soaked and boxes and boxes of socks to change when your feet got wet, they even had many pairs of new boots if you didn't bring them or yours were soaked. After getting all ready it became obvious to me that the person in charge of the Firefighters had enough to do directing the Firefighters and the same with the Police.

It seemed that we (the volunteers) were left with little direction. I walked outside and my boot was struck with a piece of falling glass. I then realized some of the danger in the surroundings. I walked til I found a group of people in a "Bucket Brigade" and joined in with them. As long as you worked, your mind was on the task at hand, but when the buckets stopped for a few minutes you found yourself scanning the rubble looking for and hoping that you

would spot movement. Any item of personal nature took hold of your stomach and wrenched it because you are aware of the number of people in there and the feeling of helplessness because you can't move debris fast enough.

The magnitude of the debris was overwhelming and the absence of concrete chunks made you keenly aware that it had disintegrated on impact. The heap was mainly twisted metal, large and small. I worked on the site till about 3PM and they pulled us out because one of the buildings had shifted and they had made a discovery under one of the beams. I was totally soaked at this point. While I waited they were recovering a person from under the beam. When they walked by with the bag my heart dropped and I found myself staring at the pile just wondering if anybody could have survived this ordeal. The image that will stay in my mind forever is that of a single penny loafer shoe, that made me wonder about his children and/or family. The place is a total disaster area and looks like a war zone. It takes 2 hours to go thru a foot of debris. This process will take months to clean up and this reality hurts.

I was about 6 feet away from President Bush when he walked through the crowd, I saw little bits of the coverage of his visit. I didn't see in the TV coverage when he walked around shaking hands and hugging the firefighters. His presence and speech gave people on the site encouragement and got us fired up. That and the constant patrols by helicopter and jets made you feel a sense of pride and extreme patriotism.

I had to leave shortly after the President as they were using strictly heavy equipment and people had to stay out of the area. The four block walk back to the pickup point gave me time to reflect on the people I met in there, the sheer number of volunteers, the many thanks I received for driving down and the reaction of the American people in supporting this effort. As I was walking out, there were lines of people cheering and saying "Thank-you" Some of the people had posters of their missing loved ones and would yell and ask if you had seen them. First time in a while that I have felt tears on my face.

I can't tell you how much pride I felt when I saw all of the donations of food and drinks coming in. And I heard on the radio that the blood banks are getting overloaded and the many vigils and the donations of time.

Thank you all and you can be proud to be Americans !!! We are a great nation and now we are showing the world why. We need to all stick together for the long haul and not let this go unpunished nor allow the terrorists to continue with these actions anywhere in the world.

We returned to the Jacob Javits Center on 9-15 but the crowd was overwhelming and they had reached the saturation point with volunteers. This day we returned to the CG and just talked about it and rested.

We came home today the 16th. I am still tired as hell but I think it is from the emotions more than the physical work. Although my brothers-in-law did not go to the site, they spent the day loading trucks that were being delivered to the site and I am also proud of them (please don't tell them I said that)

(I hope all members will go to our web page www.kwva.org and thank this great American and friend of the Korean War Veterans.

His deeds in New York and serving us for free as the webmaster for over 4 years, including designing our web page deserves our response. Just click on webmaster and you will get his e-mail setup.. Thank You Charley Dearborn for everything. We are proud of just knowing you. Vince Krepps.)

.....

You are remembered

I have enclosed a letter that I would like to get out to as many veterans of the Korea War as possible to thank you and not only are you not forgotten, you are my angels.

Since September 11, we have been absorbing endless images and stories of tragedy, heroes, survivors, and now, our attack on Afghanistan. Last evening I saw a report about the food drops that the United States has been doing for the people of Afghanistan. I watched two soldiers pushing this precious cargo out the back of a plane, after the last crate they turned to each other and gave a high-five. This small gesture that others may dismiss or even criticize, brought back memories of when I was a child on the receiving end of such a mission.

In 1952 I was a seven year-old Korean girl who did not see much of the direct war and conflict in my country. I did, however, know that all the males, fathers and brothers, in our village were gone to help in the war. I also felt the hunger of not having anything to eat for days at a time. I lived in a little farming village that was surrounded by mountains and filled with beautiful flowers in the spring. The village has not changed much since then and would be missed traveling south from Seoul except for a little sign that reads: Oksan.

Children are the same no matter how big their town or which country they live. We were fearful yet we played, dreamed, and hoped. We did not know why our country was at war, who the players were, or what this event would mean in history. We just knew that our dad was gone and we were hungry. During the day we went to school and helped our mothers. At night we would seek protection in bunkers or foxholes. My first contact with Americans came in the form of fliers dropped from planes that read: You are safe, we are here.

I did not know of Americans or the United States but had heard of "Yankees" and how they were here to save us. One morning a few children ran through the village yelling that the "Yankees are here". Like most kids who let curiosity drive them, I ran with the others to the top of a hill and saw two men standing next to an open vehicle. Years later I recognized their vehicle as a jeep. These men seemed enormous. My head lifted as if I was scanning a mountain and my mouth opened with awe at how dirty the Yankees were. All I could tell my mother was that "Yankees are very dirty".

Looking back I do not know if the soldiers were black or if they wore camouflage on their faces. If you can imagine seeing a race for the first time and not understanding that they could be of different size and color, that is what I experienced. The soldiers must have been surveying the land. After they spoke to each other they left our small part of the world. I have imagined that they said that ours was a peaceful village.

The next most memorable experience I had with the USA had to do with food. In this country, most people are fortunate not to have to know what true hunger is. When I was young, like most of

my country's people, I felt the pangs and numbness of hunger. One morning when I went to school our teacher told us that food had been delivered from American soldiers. I never learned how the food got to our village or our school. The barrels were large enough to fit three of my classmates into. I still remember the stamp on the top of the drums, the first English letters I ever saw: USA.

We were all hoping for rice or barley and drooled at the thought of so much food. When the drums were opened we found that we had an endless supply of powdered milk. Our diets had not consisted of dairy products at all, but we drank until our bellies were satisfied. We even made the milk into thick pancakes that we all devoured at lunch. This foreign aide, being foreign to our systems, caused all who drank it to suffer for days with diarrhea. Though our bodies were purged of all that we had, we were grateful.

I write this memory, now as an U.S. citizen for over thirty years, to thank all the men who served in Korea. You changed lives. You and you families sacrificed much and gave even more. The veterans of Korea took care of human life in the midst of war, which takes it. We must do that for the children. We did not know who you were, where the U.S. was, or why you had to be there. We only knew you as our guardian angels. I know of the sacrifices that soldiers and their families make as I married a "Yankee" who served for over twenty years and have a son and son-in-law that serve now. War is a time of destruction and death but the United States is also preserving life. It does make sense and it does make a difference. Take it from one who knows. Thank you. Chong S. Dickman, 7855 Spring Dr., Boulder, Co. 80303 Tel: 303-499-7459 or e-mail <pfd6z@aol.com>.

❖ ❖

(To: Vkrepps@erols.com

Mr. Krepps,

"Thank you for the reply. I am very pleased that Korean veterans will get to read my writing, that is why I wrote it. My husband and I met in 1966 when he worked for the 58th Ord. Co. in Shee hung. I came to America in 1968. I had one child and another on the way. After my son was born, my husband was sent to Vietnam for one year. That was difficult having just moved to the States and having him leave such a young family.

Fortunately he returned and we have had a blessed life. I wonder if I might be able to get a copy of your Graybeard magazine to show my children and save for my grandchildren. Where can I find a copy? Again, Thank you for your reply.

All the best.

Chong Suk Dickman."

❖ ❖

Chong,

I will mail you this issue and some past ones.— Ed.)

.....

Koreans do remember

To Vince Krepps from Jack Cloman MD Chapter:

Our son Doug graduated from the FBI Academy on 7 September 2001 and there were 17 countries represented in the 206th Session. One of the countries, South Korea was represented

Continued on page 64

I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I am the flag of the United States of America.
 My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
 I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
 I fly majestically over institutions of learning.
 I stand guard with power in the world.
 Look up and see me.
 I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
 I stand for freedom.
 I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.
 When I am flown with my fellow banners,
 My head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.
 I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world.
 I am worshipped - I am saluted.
 I am loved - I am revered. I am respected — and I am feared.
 I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years.
 I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.
 I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the
 Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam,
 Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon, Vietnam.
 I was there.
 I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers
 Cheered me and I was proud.
 I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries
 I have helped set free.
 It does not hurt, for I am invincible.
 I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of
 my country.
 And when it's by those whom I've served in battle — it hurts.
 But I shall overcome — for I am strong.
 I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted
 frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.
 I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours.
 But my finest hours are yet to come.
 When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded
 comrades on the battlefield,
 When I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier,
 Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent
 At the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.
 My name is Old Glory, Long may I wave.

Author Unknown

SILENT MOUNTAINS

If the barren mountains of Korea could talk,
 what memorable tales they would tell;
 of men who fought in a forgotten war,
 which gave them a preview of hell.
 They would speak of things that tried men's souls,
 leaving the survivors to remember so well.
 The cold with its snow, mud from the rain,
 and underground holes where they dwelled.
 There would be stories of human endurance,
 brought on by the will to survive.
 Bravery and courage and unthinking sacrifice,
 for warfare demands some must die.
 They also would tell of the burial place,
 of soldiers now locked in eternal sleep,
 whose grey-white bones lie silent and still,
 though loved ones and comrades still weep.
 These voiceless mountains with their untold tales,
 have a far greater meaning than most.
 To the men who fought and existed thereon,
 they are a separate world full of ghosts.

Donald A. Chase

FIRST CHRISTMAS - THE FORGOTTEN WAR

*Tw*as fifty years ago on a bleak Christmas Eve,
 From the port of Hungnam, we took our leave,
 Having guarded a withdrawal, all through the fight,
 As part of a fleet, DD703 stationed extreme right.
 Huge armies of Chinese had become a new foe,
 Forcing our troops to halt, it was no place to go,
 Getting ensnared in a trap and overwhelmed by the horde,
 They turned back into bypassed enemy, a two edged sword.
 With mountains and icy winter square in their face,
 They fought their way back at an agonizing pace,
 Heading to safe haven, to our port near a cape,
 We waited at the ready, to insure their escape.
 Army tanks were dug in as a front-line on the beach,
 The Lind was offshore, standing guard within reach,
 As the enemy drew closer each day that went by,
 The night was kept bright with star shells in the sky.
 First, as a beacon of safety for our beleaguered men,
 Then, as fair warning to their pursuers, for if when,
 They were inclined to launch an eleventh hour attack,
 Tons of shellfire would be heaped upon their backs.
 For five days and nights, we kept the throngs at bay,
 While thousands of GI's evacuated, sent safely on their way,
 Yet, some 60,000 Reds assembled to strike from a valley,
 A tactical blunder, as they were playing right down our alley.
 Navy Corsairs dropped napalm, while strafing during light,
 And TinCans shelled haphazardly, harassing through the night,
 LSMR's slipped in unnoticed on the eve before last,
 Blanketing the valley with rockets, a devastating blast.
 A real coup-DE-grace, forcing survivors into scamper,
 Scurrying to safety, the final exodus not to hamper.
 Overnight, DD's laid down a barrage of no penetration,
 The wall of fire gained total respect, without hesitation.
 The final day saw uncanny calm, with the enemy in dismay,
 With remaining troops departing from a quiet and tranquil bay,
 Demolition crews set charges all along the precarious way,
 We were front row seat center, for the fireworks display.
 Operation over, some DD's remained as a flotilla of five,
 In stinging defiance of the Chinese troops that arrived,
 Mooring until dusk, menacing the belligerent throngs,
 The port was now theirs, but the sea, to us belonged.
 Still, it wasn't place for arrogance, we had suffered much defeat,
 Rescuing men with no choice, but to leave dead in ice and sleet,
 Bringing out those that they could, yet fate hadn't been too kind,
 Cursing warriors with the scars of leaving lost buddies behind.
 Oh Star of Bethlehem, oh this very special time of the year,
 Our reveries should be of home, and those we hold dear,
 Yet, our thoughts mourned for the kin of those left behind,
 Thankful that our own were spared greetings of this kind.
 Known as the forgotten war, not enough seemed to care,
 Surely, it wouldn't be for them, or for us who were there,
 This was terrible war, as much hell as it could ever be,
 Not much unlike the big one, a conflict to keep men free.
 Sun setting, our TinCans circled, forming in parade to pass by,
 In final salute to our fallen boys, in fields wherever they may lie,
 In tribute, with voices hushed, the crew had gathered on the deck,
 This night, peace on earth, good will to men, sadly was in check,
 From this port of Korea 1950, in deep sorrow, we took leave,
 Heavy were Destroyersmen's hearts, on this solemn Christmas Eve.

I dedicate this poem to all,

Roland Pigeon ET1/c
 WW2—DMS16—PC487 - Korea—USS Lind DD703

KWV 50th Commemorative Events

◆ ◆ British Ambassador and Lady Meyer hosts Korean War Veterans on October 23, 2001 ◆ ◆



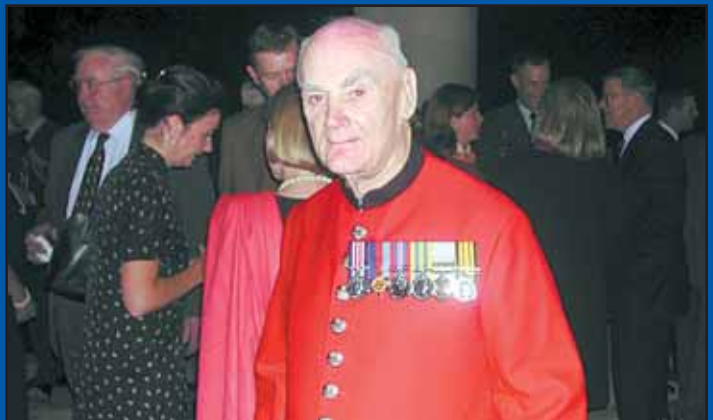
The British Ambassador (at lectern) and Lady Meyer (sitting) welcomes Korean War Veterans and other guests to his residence in Washington, D.C.



Shown and named (l to r) are BG Jens F. Autzen Defense Attaché Denmark, LTG Russell Davis and Brigadier H.S. Lidder Defense Attaché India.



Guests: Secretary Mineta Department of Transportation (left). Behind him is Ambassador Yang, Sung Chul of South Korea.



Did not get this mans name but I do know he is in full dress and is a Korean War Veteran.



Shown (l to r) are British Ambassador Meyer, unknown, unknown, and General Myers Chairman JCS.



The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines provided the music and both Anthems as well as drill marching. Lighting was poor.

Veterans - This event was attended by your editor and other American Korean War Veterans from nearby States. I took my camera and these are my photos. As you can tell I am not a reporter for many of those in photos are unnamed. The Embassies in D.C. that fought in the war have been inviting veterans over the past two years. They have honored all of us in many ways at these functions. I print this to show you that they remember. They asked me to spread the word and to thank you for your service in Korea. — V. Krepps.

Reunion Showplace.....

Army Security Agency Reunion

The ASA (Army Security Agency) KOREA Reunion 2001 held in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, September 13 - 16, 2001. Fifty-five members and many wives attended. The group met for three days and held two candlelight memorial services honoring America's losses on September 11.



Shown above are ASA Reunion attendees: Rev. C.F. Knappenberger, Vince Lawlor, George E. Kinsley, Jr., Richy Baum, Bill Nickel, John Bowers, Andrew Kavalecs, Fred Schell, Paul F. Bellet, Jr., Ray Mahalko, Chap Myers, Tom Flynn, Paul Cabnet, Bob Rudolph, Tony Sheehan, Ron Sheridan, Stanley Staples, Perry Clegg, Eugene Macusak, Bob Williams, Erwin Berry, Dick Simpson, Don Catlin, Don March, Jerry W. Scott, Rowland L. Thompson, Tel Gilroy, Rick Rovegno, Bill Pridham, Parker Lee, Dick Nelson, Ed Weber, Roland Neifeld, Alvin Garrett, Sam Wessler, Vernon Thalaker, Allen M. Koehler, Duane Hall, Fred Roth, John Garrah, Dalton Harper, A1 Kennedy, Richard Morgan, Frank Taft, Bill Howe, Sandy Helfand, Richard Vance, Malcolm Hall, and Bob Weymouth. Missing from photo: Ron Bayles, Thomas Crowley, Chris Ford, Don Lawton, Al Mrozek, and Allan Starr.

(Thank you Robert J. Rudolph for photos and letter. A great looking group of veterans. Next time, please send me an original photo that you do not want returned.)

780th F.A. Battalion Reunion

The 70th Field Artillery Battalion held its 19th reunion in Victoria, Texas, September 21-26. There were 126 attending. The 780th served in Korea from April 1951 till the cease fire. They earned seven campaign streamers. They served from Kumwha Valley to the Punch Bowl. The enemy was on the receiving end of our 8 inch rounds of 200 lbs of high explosive. Our self-propelled unit was an effective bunker-buster. The first use of an 8 inch howitzer on a 155 carriage in the Korean War.



50th AAA AW Bn. (SP) Reunion



Members of the 50th AAA AW Bn. (SP) and their wives at Lake Tahoe prior to embarking on a Lake Tahoe Cruise.

The 50th AAA landed with the 7th Inf. Div at Inchon in 1950 then were assigned to elements of the 1st Marine Div. during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

(Thank you Bob Matis for photo and letter. A proud and great looking group of veterans. I hope all of you have many more reunions. The KWVA is proud to have such heroic members, show your photos and to tell your stories in The Graybeards. I still have a story on my hard drive and I plan on printing it in a future issue. Sorry for taking so long but I want you to know I did not forget you.)

A Phone Call From Seoul

By Jack R. Hayne

It was August 24, 1995 when my wife answered the phone and announced "It's a Captain Lee from the Korean War Veterans". For the life of me, I couldn't remember any member of our chapter named Lee, much less Captain Lee. Maybe he's from that chapter in Suffolk County, NY. I picked up the phone and said, "Hello".

"Is this Jack Hayne?" "Yes. Who are you?" "This is Chaplain Rhee." [Aha—the elusive Captain Lee! "Rhee Young Chan?" "Yes" "What are you doing here?" "I'm not there," said Young Chan. "I'm in Seoul."]

This simple exchange transported me 44 years into the past—to the Summer of 1951, the 9th month of my tour in Korea. I had been moved from a line battery to take over as HQ Battery Commander of the 76th AAA AW Bn (SP) at K-2 Airbase. This was my 2nd time in K-2 at Taegu. (In August 1950 I was there with my platoon of D Battery in the days of the Pusan perimeter, Bowling Alley, Naktong River, etc.) This time I was to be 85 miles behind the MLR instead of 1-3 miles and of course, I met Rhee Young Chan, the HQ Battery Korean interpreter. He was a few years younger than I and proficient in English, Japanese and, of course, Korean. (I was a 27 1/2 year old Lieutenant.)

Every where I went, Rhee was sure to follow, except Friday nights when I would disappear to attend Jewish religious services in Taegu. However, every Sunday I would attend Protestant services conducted by our battalion chaplain, Capt. Beverly Ward.

One day Rhee asked about my Friday evening trips and when he found out I attended Jewish services he asked to join me. The following Friday I was prepared to impress him with a new language not quite as strange as Korean, Chinese or Japanese, but almost, having a completely different alphabet.

However, during the service I notice he was looking at the Hebrew passages of the prayer book and his lips were moving ...could he be reading?

"Hold on, Rhee," said I. "I know you read, write and speak fluent Korean Japanese and English, but that's Hebrew".

"Oh, I know," and he proceeded to read the Hebrew prayers with great proficiency.

He had attended the Presbyterian Seminary for 2 years before the war and Hebrew was a requirement. Although he didn't realize it that evening, but he was destined to lose his job in the 76th AAA as my interpreter.

Shortly thereafter I spoke to the Chaplain and the Battalion Commander LCol. Troy Barker and we created the Cherry Fund. My \$200 and what the Chaplain and I could squeeze out of the other officers was enough to send Young Chan back to the seminary located in Pusan with \$501.19 in his pocket. (In Young Chan's recent letter, he indicated it was \$600, but I know better. Time seems to magnify things. Who knows ...next year it might be \$700).

In September 51, I was transferred to the 865th AAA AW Bn at K-14, Kimp'o AB and Rhee Young Chan left for school. Although I didn't see him after that date, we did correspond for several years. He graduated from the Seminary in March of 1952, the same month I rotated back to US (after 19 months in Frozen Chosen).

Now back to the present... How come after 44 years did we make contact?

Well, thanks to the June 18, 1995 picnic sponsored by the Bible Korean United Methodist Church of Dix Hills, NY, I met some very nice and sociable Koreans.

The Pastor volunteered to check at the Seminary for my former interpreter to determine if he was still alive. As a result, in only 2 months and 4 days, I got the call from Seoul.

Rhee Young Chan had joined the ROK Army as a chaplain upon graduation serving with front line troops and artillery units. He spent 4 years in the Army, several years in Canada and also attended Boston University. Rhee didn't realize that one of the addresses I gave him in 1951 would serve to contact me no matter where I would be stationed in the army or in civilian life. We could have had a reunion in 1960. As a matter of fact, he was in New York December 1994 to visit his son who was attending Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute at the time.

I'm looking forward to the time I will be able to travel to Korea to renew old friendships and tour the country side as a tourist and not a soldier.



Banquet room and veterans with families who attended of 780th F.A. Bn. Reunion

(Thank you George Ellis for photos and letter. A super ceremony for proud veterans honoring your service in Korea. The KWVA is proud of all of you and I am sure many veterans remember your support.)



Members of the 288th Quartermaster Company serves as Color Guard at 19th reunion.

2nd Chemical, 461st Inf. Bn. Reunion



Reunion was held in Baltimore, MD on September 20 to 24. Members in photo left to right are Norm Derosier Past President of Ocean State Chapter, Louis De Luca, Bob McGeorge President Cincinnati Chapter 121, Paul Ciccariello and Bob Smith.

(Thank you Bob Mc George for photo and letter. For your next reunion please send a group photo of all members if more attended or more photos showing others.)

Department of Interior and 50th Commemoration hosts an Event for Korean War Veterans

Diego Cunno from Annapolis, Md., listens to Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on The Mall in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 8 before receiving his Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal. Cunno served with the U.S. Army's 34th Regiment.



Secretary of the Department of the Interior Gale Norton pins the Korean War Service Lapel Pin on Gilbert Lyons, at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Nov. 8. Lyons, a Park Service employee, was one of 17 veterans who received the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal he earned 50 years ago. Wounded while serving with the 2nd Infantry Division, the Washington, D.C., native often patrols the memorial

Members of the United States Army Band perform at the Korean War Veterans Memorial during a commemoration ceremony.



On Nov. 8, 2001, Korean War Veterans received their service medal they earned 50 years ago. On Nov. 8, 1950, the Korean Service Medal was authorized by Executive Order 10179 for some 1.7 million US service members who served in Korea and its contiguous waters between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1954. Veterans who received the medal were also associated with the DOI. The Korean War Memorial falls under the National Park Service, a division of the DOI.

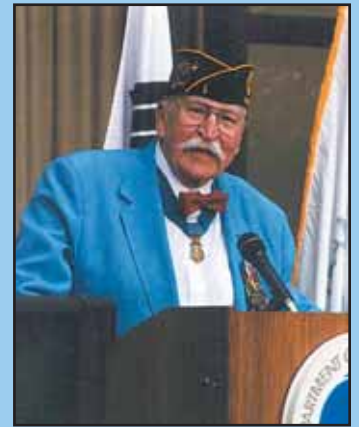
Department of Transportation became a Commemoration Partner Aug. 8, 2001



Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, addresses the crowd during the commemoration partner ceremony Aug. 8



Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta share the stage outside the Department of Transportation headquarters.



U.S. Army retired Col. Lewis Millett was the guest speaker at the DOT headquarters.

Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey.

Commemorative Events

With Commemorative Committee presented 125 ROK medals to Korean War Veterans in Chicago



Images of Chicago

The Committee presented 125 medals to Korean War vets in Chicago on Sept. 15, during the city's observance of POW/MIA day. The individuals laying the wreath during the ceremony at Kennedy Park (3rd row, center) are from left to right: Coast Guard Lt. Gary Jones, Army Lt. Col. Diane Waters, Marine Corps Col. Jeffrey Douglass. The luncheon was at the Martini Hotel.

Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

The squad is stretched over each side of the Korean Mountain ridge line. The high ground of Hill 1046 is in front of us, and “Joe” is in his trench systems waiting for our assault. He knows we are coming!

Who am I? I’m one of many! I’m Infantry, and I’m scared of what lies in front of us this day. I’m PFC Ken Sessions, Rifleman, 3rd Platoon, Co. B. 35th Infantry, 25th Division, United States Army.

The Korean mountainside sod is pungent to my senses, as I lay face down in its rotting leaves under the trees. With my M-1 rifle in hand, I first feel and then watch two large black ants crawl over and around my hand and fingers. In the stillness, the morning sun has started to filter through the tree-tops with fan-like beams. It’s very beautiful.

I roll my head to the right, and I make eye contact with PFC. Richard Payne. We grin at each other, but say nothing. We will simply depend upon one another, this day in this, the “Land of the Morning Calm”.

I notice the song-birds have started their wake-up calls. I’m also aware the Third Platoon will soon be singing it’s own wake-up call to “Joe” and all of his “Peoples’ Army” buddies.

This day won’t be easy, it never is for Infantry Grunts. Right now it is “Hurry up and wait—hurry up and wait!”

Looking left, I see Cpl. Coy Wright with his Browning Automatic Rifle almost dead center of the Razorback Ridge line. This “Kentucky” B.A.R. man, and his assistant PFC. Vanderpool are busy fussing with the B.A.R. bag and the extra B.A.R. magazine clips. The two of them will be the key to our squad’s firepower when we “jump off” to take the high ground of Hill 1046. (1046 Meters)

I turn, look backwards, and observe Dog Company of the 35th Infantry setting up their Heavy Water Cooled .30 caliber machine guns. I also know this means “Jump Off Time” is close, and that I should clear my mind, and get mentally ready for the trench and bunker frontal assault still in front of me.

Suddenly, with all the thunder of Doomsday, P-51 Mustang Fighter planes are right over our heads, and hit “Joe’s” trenches and bunkers with rockets, Napalm, and .50 caliber machine gun fire.

Their spent casings fall all over us like leaves off autumn trees, and some of them sting like heck if they hit just right. The Air Force practices a very exact science, and they are the very best at what they do!

Sgt. Walsh hollers “Fix Bayonets!” I don’t suppose anyone who has done this will ever forget the metallic click made in your ear as the Bayonet mates with the rifle. I think “Crap! What am I doing here? I should be home stuffing hot Ford Flat-head Engines into 32 Ford Roadster frames, and hanging out at the Drive-in Restaurants.” I affix my Bayonet as ordered.

Then the Sergeant hollers “Saddle up, move out, keep a tight ass, and I’ll see you at the top!” Someone hollers back something concerning the Sergeant’s family heritage.

A Day With Third Platoon Korea, 1951

By T. K. Sessions

We now move forward in a skirmish line, and the platoon leader is in contact with someone on the Platoon radio. Dog Company starts firing over our heads into “Joe’s” high ground trenches and

bunker systems. Suddenly, “Joe” pops up out of a covered spider hole, just to the left of Cpl. Coy Wright, and has his Burp Gun going at full automatic. It sounds like a model airplane engine winding up.

Cpl. Wright hits him in the head with a short burst from his B.A.R., which lifts him up and backwards out of his spider hole. His war is over!

Most of us now fire from the hip, hollering “Hey Joe, here Joe”, and wondering if Dog company can keep up their overhead fire for us until we can jump into their trench systems.

It’s strange to walk almost into Dog Company’s Fire Plan. Those Heavy .30’s sure plow up a lot of ground, but you think as the leaves are dancing and churning in front of you, that at least it keeps “Joe’s” head down, and gives you a small edge, for the time being.

My eye picks up movement of “Joe” trying to flank us. I pull my M-1 up from the Hip Firing Position to my shoulder. I sight-squeeze — just like I was taught at the Fort Ord Firing Range. His war is over, and I feel sick.

The Platoon Leader radios back to Dog Company, and requests them to lift their fire. By the time they cease fire, we are almost up the steep slope and about 15 yards from the trench line.

“Joe’s” small arms and Potato Masher Grenade attack on us has increased, but we have gained the first trench system, and have started to clear out their fighting bunkers.

One of “Joe’s” commanding bunkers has part of the platoon pinned down with heavy small arms fire. Cpl. Keith Bennett crawls around to the bunker’s blind side, blows the bunker, and takes title to it. The squad now moves up the trench-line unobstructed.

Pfc. Payne has his M-1 shot out of his hand. The bullet splinters his rifle stock, which makes his hand very numb for awhile. Other than that he is all right, and starts looking for a replacement rifle.



Sniper Ridge

I see a Series of Potato Masher Grenades rolling down the slope towards me. A "hunk" of one of these scores a light hit to my upper left leg, so I get to join the "Lucky Guys' Walking Wounded and Future White Sheets Club".

All of our objectives and check points are now secure, so we dig in "deep" on the military crest of a Commanding Ridge line knob. We wish the second platoon well, as they pass through us, heading up-hill to "Joe's" next trench and bunker defense system.

Sitting in the fog hole, I become aware of Able Company and Charlie Company firefights on nearby ridge line fingers. The First Battalion, 35th Infantry is about to focus it's might on the highest ground of 1046. It is ours!

The Turkish Brigade relieves us on 1046, and we head down-hill to some hot meals and the quiet time of Regimental Reserve. As we leave the hill, the Turks are already in the foxholes, sharpening their Bayonets. They love their Bayonets!

What I have written is a Rifleman's tunnel vision of a typical Korean War day with Co. B. 35th Infantry, 25th Division, 1951. This is how I remember it.

Cpl. Keith Bennett was later killed leading an assault on Sniper Ridge, Kumhwa N. Korea. Pfc. Payne made Squad Leader, and Cpl. Wright made Master Sergeant/ Platoon Sergeant of Third Platoon.

Note:

Company B. 35th Infantry was blessed with an outstanding officer and Non Commissioned Officer Corps. Especially our company Commander, Captain Frank Russell. To a man, we would have followed him into the Tiger's mouth, as we knew Captain Russell would be there to lead back out again. Regiment Motto:

"Take Arms" Catci

HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION APO 25

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 607

19 December 1951

Section I

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS).- By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul 43, 1918) and pursuant to authority in AR 600-45, the Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded posthumously to the following-named enlisted man:

Corporal KEITH E. BENNETT., RA17282728, Infantry, Company B, 35th Infantry, United States Army. On 11 October 1951, Corporal BENNETT was leading a combat patrol into hostile territory to secure a vital hill mass near Kumhwa, Korea. Repeatedly exposing himself to the intense small arms and automatic weapons barrage, he skillfully coordinated the movement and fire of his men up the slope to within ten feet of the enemy's main line of resistance. When nine members of the unit were painfully wounded, he continued moving throughout the impact area to employ his men and weapons at maximum efficiency to maintain a heavy volume of fire on the hostile troops. While performing his valorous actions, he was fatally wounded by enemy concentrations. Corporal BENNETT'S inspirational leadership, aggressive determination and selfless devotion to duty are worthy of emulation and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. Entered the military service from Missouri.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL SWIFT:

OFFICIAL: DONALD

DUNFORD

Colonel,
Chief of Staff

GSC

JAMES A. MILLER

Lt Col AGC

Adjutant General

The following is written by LaNell Apple in memory of her brother, Cpl. Keith E. Bennett, who was killed in action in Korea Oct. 11, 1951:

Dear trusting soul,

So hopeful of returning from a foreign land
Where there was only death and holocaust,
These lines I dedicate to thee,
Expressing my grief at thy departure.

We seek consolation,

Treading familiar paths, rereading letters,
Recalling things done and said;
Clinging to the tiniest memories of thee,
Which have become so dear.

Trying to visualize

Nights of utter loneliness-days of dread.
Forced to kill. Fearing not death,
But ever pushing on and onward,
Pursuing a deadly fanatical foe.

Thou art gone—

Nowhere on earth exists thy living form—
Yet I shall look for thee always,
Remembering thee when we said goodbye;
Waiting patiently for thy return.

We know now

That no matter how fiercely the battle rages,
It can never reach thee.
Thou art safe from all man's weapons.
God hath gathered thee into His fold.

(In a letter from Ken Sessions he stated that he was able to find the gravesite of his squad buddy Keith Bennett through another KWVA veteran Neil Van Dermeuler. (See Photos). His letter also said "At last I got to say Good bye the right way after all those years." We do not forget and Families never forget.)



Grave and marker near family farm in Eaglesville, MO.



Chapter Affairs

Robert Wurtsbaugh Chapter of Illinois

Our chapter held a drawing for a Garand M1 Commemorative Korean War Rifle on 27 July 2001 at the Vermilion County War Museum. The drawing was supervised by President Frank Hoskins and Vermilion County War Museum Curator Harold "Sparky" Songer. The Honorable Robert Jones, Mayor of Danville, IL drew the names of winners.



From the left, Beth Spencer, John Spencer, First Vice President Bill Couch, Sparky Songer, Mayor Robert Jones, & President Frank Hoskins.

1st Prize: Garand M1 Rifle: Arthur J. Dossman, Stoutsville, OH., 2nd Prize: \$1,000: John Spencer, Danville, IL., 3rd Prize: \$500: A. H Marquis, Lecanto, FL., 4th Prize: \$250 Dorothy Banker, Schuyler, NY., Spencer split the prize with Vermilion County War Museum.

(Thank you Milton Crippin and John Spencer for photos and letter. A super project.)



Winning ticket for M1



Mayor Robert Jones (left) congratulates John Spencer. Photos by Milton Crippin

Nebraska Chapter 1



In June of 2001 our chapter re-dedicated a 50th Anniversary Plaque of the Korean War. The plaque was donated by the Korean Full Gospel Church of Omaha, Nebraska.

Pictured above are (standing 1-4) Jim Anderson, Glenn Krabbenhoft, Jack Kirkwood, Sam Kellogg, Charles Hansen, John Bevins, Ted Seifert, Lyle Cave, Charles Wilsam, Jr., and Jesse Brown. Kneeling (1-r) Zeke Gandara, Sam Wall, John Fifer and Bill Ramsey.

(Thank James W. Anderson for photo and letter: A great looking plaque. Our Korean friends will always remember. We thank them also.)

Taejon Chapter #170 of New Jersey



Shown in photo is New Jersey State Senator Louis Kosco, 38th District of Bergen County receiving a framed plaque of our Korean War Monument. Senator Kosco is a Korean War Veteran and member of the Chapter. He was one of the main speakers during dedication of the memorial. Shown left to right are: Bill Zimmer, Sen Kosco, John Meuser Commander, Louis Quagliero, and John Di Lonardo.

(Thank you Louis Quagliero for the photo and the letter.)

Yong Dung Po Chapter 114 of Pennsylvania



Shown in picture are: Center front Tom Mc Manamon President, far right, Bill Meredith, 2nd front right Lou Shapiro, 3rd front right Jerry Polarsky, 2nd from left Ed Papycik, back row Fred, unnamed Korean War Vet, and Luke Maraska.

(Thank you Cay Burns for photos & letter. Sorry if I did not spell names correctly but your handwriting is hard to read. Also all but the above photo is too poor for printing. In the future please send in original photos you do not want returned and please print. We value your chapter and members and want to do them justice by having improved mailings.)

Manasota Chapter #199 of Florida



Proclamations were awarded recently to Manasota Chapter 199 (Bradenton-Sarasota) by the cities of Palmetto and Bradenton. The two events commemorated the fifty-first anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Palmetto Mayor Pat Whitesel (center) and the city council meet with chapter veterans following the ceremony.

(Thank you Chapter 199 for photo and letter. We are proud of your chapter and its members. I cannot print all of your photos in one issue. We have over 250 chapters and I try to give each some space. We will spread them out. Also photos cannot be returned. I will return old photos when given a self addressed stamped envelope. I will only print processed original photos developed from your negatives (film) so order two sets.)

Western Ohio Chapter #108



Nine members and associates of the Western Ohio Chapter #108 were in attendance at the Korean War Veterans National Museum & Library ceremony in Tuscola, IL, August 24th and 25th, 2001. After participating in the scheduled parade the group visited the museum in Tuscola, IL. T. Dale Snyder treasurer presented a check in the amount of one-thousand dollars to Jeremiah Crise, 1st Vice President, Building Chairman.

This donation will be directed to the building fund and a Gold Letter Wall Of Honor Tile text will read: Western Ohio Chapter, Korean War Veteran Association, Piqua, Ohio #108.

Another member, National KWVA President Harley Coon, is shaking hands with T. Dale Snyder and conversing with Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Burch, veterans and associate members.

(Thank you Gene L. Bowser for photo and letter. We hope all chapters will purchase a tile to help build our museum.)

F. Adkison Chapter #255 of South Carolina



Chapter President Jack Adkison (standing) President Harley Coon, KWVA to his left, Ken Badke - Ex-POW and camp mate of Harley, Mrs. Badke and Mrs. Spivey - widow of another ex-POW camp mate.

June 25th, 2001 was the date chosen by the 51 Charter Members of the Harold F. Adkison Chapter #255, Burnetown, SC. for their charter ceremony and commemoration.

KWVA National President, Harley Coon was the guest of honor and keynote speaker for the ceremony which honored Harold F. Adkison, the young Airborne Ranger for whom the post is named. Adkison is MIA in Korea. Jack Adkison brother is chapter president, which serves 16 counties in Georgia and 10 in



President Adkison (standing) President Harley Coon KWWA and Ex-POW, and Ken Badke Ex-POW.



Left to right Harley Coon, Ken Badke, Mrs. Badke and Mrs. Spivey

SC., known as the Central Savannah River Area. President Coon did the swearing in of the officers in addition to his other duties.

The ceremony was attended by 100 people including Rangers Emmett Fike, Robert Bayne, Ralph Baxter, Ed Dubreuel, Stan Webster, and Dick Treble. A special Ranger tribute was paid to the memory of Sgt. Adkison.

(Thank you Judith Knight for photos and letter. We are proud of your new chapter and all its members.)

Charles B. Thacker Chapter #250 of Virginia

On August 28, 2001, our Chapter 250, of Norton, Virginia, was presented the official Charter by Mayor Robert Raines of Norton. The chapter was named in honor of Charles B. Thacker, who was killed in Korea, just 23 days after the start of the war on July 20, 1950, while serving with the 34th Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div.

Family members and friends gathered at the Norton Community Center for this historical occasion. The Chapter is the only one in Southwest Virginia, Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee. Organizer and President Charles Rayburn Wells of Norton, grew up with Charles Thacker in Dorchester, and he attended Thacker's funeral when his body was returned home in 1951. The Chapter was organized, chartered, incorporated, in less than 60 days. Wells, "said it was the genuine and dedicated work of all the comrades that made this possible."



Charter members shown front row L to R: Milford Thacker, Mayor Robert Raines, Commander Charles Rayburn Wells, Kenneth Fannon, Carroll "Shag" Adams. Back row Lt to Rt: Tom Turner, Fred Baldwin, George Butler, Zane Carter, James Hall, Jack Harkleroad, Don King, Derek Long, Bruce Shell.



Mayor Robert Raines of Norton, VA who was in the Marine Corps, speaks to members during his presentation of the official charter.



President Charles Rayburn Wells presents an award naming the chapter in honor of Charles B. Thacker to Conley Lee Simpson, nephew of Thacker. Conley was wounded in the Chosen Valley in 1951, and was not aware his Uncle had been killed in action for several months after his death.

Notice

When calling an officer or the editor and you are leaving a message on an answering machine, speak slowly and leave your name and phone number twice. We are having problems responding because of not hearing your phone number clearly.

Mayor Robert Raines of Norton, VA presents the official charter to President Charles Rayburn Wells. Milford Thacker looks on



Chapter President Charles Rayburn Wells, displays the Medal of Appreciation. The medal was presented to Wells, by the Korean Government during a special meeting at Deland, FL in February 2001.



(Thank you Ray Wells for the photos, letters and the great layout which made my job easier and also helped in getting this page in the upcoming issue of The Graybeards. I wish I had the space to print the making of a chapter and maybe we will find room in another issue. A lot of work by special veterans to get the job done properly. For that reason alone it would be worth printing in another issue. I cannot return your photos. As you can see we have as much as 100 photos in every issue and I would spend too much time in trying to return photos to everyone. I will return old photos to those that marked them properly and sent a SASE. Editor.)

Gen. Walton H. Walker Chapter #215 and Sam Johnson Chapter #270 of Texas

National KWVA President Visits Texas Chapters

Harley Coon, National KWVA President, paid a brief but significant visit to a combined meeting of the two Dallas area local chapters. Chapter 215 and the newly formed, Chapter 270.

The Veterans Administration Medical Facility was an appropriate setting for the October 6th meeting as President Coon spoke to a number of issues of concern to both the two chapters and the national



From left to right, President Charles Smith, Publicity Chair Jerry Kasten, 1st VP Ed Buckman, Sect/Treasurer Glen Thompson, POW/MIA L.B. Wilmeth, 2nd VP Bob Fuoco, Web Master & Editor Jody Buckman and National President Harley Coon giving the oath of office. Mack Graham watching in front.

organization. He spoke of the importance of supporting the "Tell America" program and described how interest in it has been increasing. "The importance of America coming together after the September 11th terrorist attacks underscores the need for unity among all the chapters in our



Harley pinning a gold Korean War Pin on Mack Graham

organization." An excellent example of unity was the fine show of support by Chapters 215 under the leadership of Dick Predmore and 270 under Charles Smith, in attending the combined meeting. Chapter 270's new slate of officers were honored to be sworn in by their National President, Harley Coon, followed by the presentation of KWVA emblem pins by Harley to all members in attendance. A final presentation by the National President was the very positive news of the organization's financial solvency and the growing membership. One member summed up the meeting quite well by his simple statement, "It was a real good one."

(Thank you Chapter #250 & #270 for photos and e-mail. We are proud of both chapters and look forward to seeing more from our chapters in Texas. Great veterans and a great state.)

Chapter Affairs continued on page 42

Submissions to *The Graybeards*

Readers are welcome to submit letters, poems, articles, notes and stories to *The Graybeards*. Submissions are selected for publication on the basis of suitability, length, and timeliness. Opinions and comments published are the sole responsibility of the author. Official opinions of the Korean War Veterans Association appear under "Official Announcements."

50th Anniversary of the Korean War: Official Licensed Gifts



A. Official 50th Anniversary Custom Framed War Memorial: The cherrywood shadow box includes a vivid portrait of the Memorial, each side of the Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, & interpretive text. Available in Spring Scene **\$179.00 ea.**

B. Limited Edition Pen Box: To commemorate the signing of the Armistice, the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Committee has authorized the production of a limited edition replica of the Parker Pen used by General Clark to end the fighting in Korea. Each fountain pen is individually numbered, engraved with General Clark's signature, and decorated with the official seal of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

Only 2,003 of the Korean War Commemorative Pens will be produced. Each will be enclosed in a handsome cherrywood box. The Official 50th Anniversary of the

Korean War Commemorative Coin, in antique brass with brilliant color, will be embedded in the lid of the box, which bears the immortal phrase, "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE". **\$99.00 ea.**

C. Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin: Anniversary seal in brilliant color set in antique brass. Hand-sculpted and die-struck, the coin is preserved in a custom card package with interpretive text. **\$14.95 ea.**

D. Limited Edition Fine Silver Commemorative Coin: Struck in .999 pure fine silver, each coin is preserved in a custom card package with interpretive text. **\$39.95 ea.**

E. Official 50th Anniversary Leather Coaster/Paperweight: 50th Anniversary seal is presented in die-struck antique brass and recessed in rich burgundy leather. **\$12.95 ea.**

F. Official 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion: 3" medallion in antique brass with 50th Anniversary seal in color on 1 side and a marvelously hand-sculptured depiction of an American soldier on reverse. **\$24.99 ea.**

G. Official 50th Anniversary Lapel Pin: Gold-plated lapel pin bearing the 50th Anniversary color seal of the Korean War. **\$7.99 ea.**

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Continued from page 39

Dutch Nelson Chapter of Colorado Springs, Co

The chapter held ceremonies before their memorial in Memorial Park, 300 S. Union, Colorado Springs, June 25th and July 27th, 2000, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning and the ending of the Korean War. Pictured here, June 25th, is Captain William Riester USA (RET), G CO and Svc Co, 8th Cav, 1st Cav Div, the Chapter's President, giving the opening address.

The program included the singing of the national anthem, by Sgt.

Linda Sterling USA, Ft. Carson. Followed by the singing of the Korean National Anthem by Julie Kim, of the Korean/American Society of Colorado Springs. A speech was given by Dutch Nelsen, Taps was played, volleys were fired, a speech was given by Edward Kook, President, Korean/American Society. The audience was lead in a rendition of



"Arirang" and "America The Beautiful". The program was closed by the singing of "I'm proud to Be An American" by Sgt. William Sterling, US Army Ft. Carson. The Chapter also participated in Memorial Day Ceremonies, the Armed Forces Day Parade and Ceremonies where Dutch Nelson And Sid Nason, both Korean War Veterans were Honorary Parade Marshall's. Twenty One members participated in a program in Denver, where they received the Korean War Service Medal.

(Thank you Scott L. Defebaugh for the photo and the letter: This must have been a special event for all that attended.)

Indiana Chapter 1



On October 13th, 2001 our Chapter took part in the raising of one of the largest continuously flying American flags. The flag which inspired tears as it was raised slowly up the 208 foot flagpole will be flown twenty four hours a day at 100 Coliseum Blvd. here in Ft. Wayne. Several local dignitaries were present as well as State representatives. It was presented to our Community by the McGibben family who owns the Glenbrook Dodge dealership as a way of giving back to our community for being so good to them for so many years.

The 4,000 square foot flag will and must remind us daily that



Indiana Chapter 1 members: (back row – left to right) Marty Leslie, Jim Leslie, Jim Irey, Warren Wyneken, Carl Fowler, Harry Baumgartner, Mel Franke. (Kneeling – left to right) Lynn Shady, Ken Roemke, Virgil Morningstar, and Dan Votaw. Not shown is Mary Anna Roemke, photo taker.

we will win this war. Our Veterans were so very proud to have been a part of this wonderful event and touching ceremony.

At least once a year I organize a group of the guys and we meet at the Health Center in Ft. Wayne to visit the patients. I don't know who gets the most enjoyment out of it, us or the patients. It is truly a great thing to do.

(Thank you Mary Anna Roemke for photos and letter: Great Veterans, great deeds.)

Nature Coast Chapter #174 of Florida

Freedom Medallions sponsored by the American Korean Culture Society, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA and the KWVA. Above group photo of May 3 chapter meeting to show off the 50th Anniversary Freedom Medallions.

On Feb. 2, hundreds of Korean War veterans from the Tampa Bay area attended a ceremony at the Tampa Convention Center. Veterans and family members of those killed or missing in action received the medals.

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.

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Among the recipients were 22 members of the Spring Hill chapter, Steve Ackerman, Lee Apgar, John Camara, Thomas Caputo, Al Chuman, Larry Cohen, Ira Darling, John Dodson, Edward Hawley, Al Korringa, Skip Larimore, Tim McCarthy, Dan McDonough, John "Mac" McMillan, Art Nelson, Lou Schneider, Robert Sharkey, Joseph Smith, Dean Tanner, Lewis Thibodeau, Ed Valetic and Ron Webber.

(Thank you Ed Valetic for photo and letter. A great looking group of veterans. Congratulations to all.)

Mahoning Valley Chapter # 137 of Ohio



Chapter members prior to departure for "Korea Revisit" May 13-19 2001, Shown left to right are Robert Bakalik, Richard W. Koker and Charles Stepan.

(Thank you Richard Koker for photos & letter. Hope you had a great trip. All of us that made the return trip were not disappointed and again saw a Korea we never knew and most people we never met. It is an eye opener from the 50's. I hope all will try to return again. I believe the almost free trip will end after 2003, so if you are still trying to make up your mind you better do it quickly. I would guess getting on a 2003 trip would be very difficult so 2002 will be your best chance. Lists are being made now so you better get on one now.)

GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

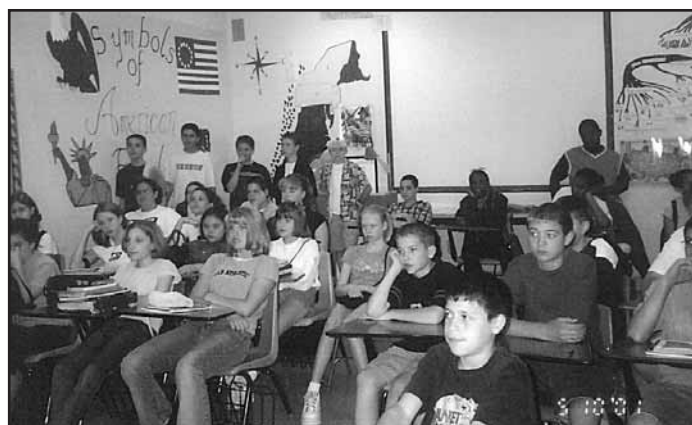
Articles to be published in the Graybeards must be sent to the editor no later than the second week of the first month of that issue. Example: September- October 2000 articles must be received by editor no later than September 14. We print on a first-come-first-served basis. We also have a backlog.— Editor.



Korean War Veterans were honored and presented the 50th Anniversary "Korean War Service Medal" on Monday, May 21, 2001, by Mr. Duk Lee and his wife and family. In photo Mr. Lee and his family presenting Ray Reber his medal.



Pictured left to right Allan Jenkins, Leo Taillon, President Zeno Foley, Rocky Anobile and Bob Brothers at Frank Ole Junior High School in Austintown, Ohio on May 10, 2001

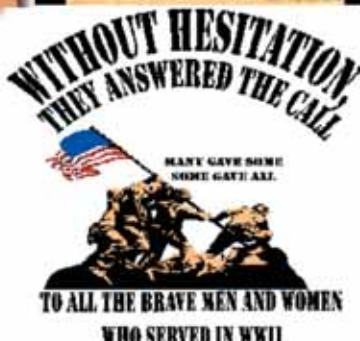


Shown are some of the 50 students at the "Tell America" program in Austintown, Ohio. Program committee was Bob Brothers, Allan Jenkins, Leo Taillon, Joann Onstott and Zeno Foley.

(Thank you Joann for photos and letter. We are proud of your members and very happy to see them get their medals. I also know you have a great "Tell America" program from this report and others we did in past issues. Keep up the great work.)

Chapter Affairs continued on page 45

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KWA is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to the education of the Korean War

Continued from page 42

S/Sgt Windrich M.O.H. Chapter 3 of Indiana



Float in Chicago Illinois Memorial Day Parade. Shown left to right, front row: Herb Verrill and Al Solis. Back row, left to right: Eliseo Castaneda, Luis Aguilera and Pete Chang.



July 4th Parade in Whiting, Indiana are left to right: Al Solis, Rich Zunica, Herb Verrill, Peter Chang and Eliseo Castaneda.

(Thank you Herbert Verrill for the photos and letter. A great looking group telling America & letting all know we remember.)

Graybeards for Sale

Back issues:

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These issues are limited so get your order in early. \$1 per copy plus \$3.95 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. Mix your issues as you want. Send your orders to Editor. See address on page 2. Response has been very good for back-issue orders and has necessitated revising this message. Please check above listing for availability before ordering.

Chapter #178 of York, Pennsylvania



Certificates of Appreciation were presented to members of Army Reserve Unit, 254th Quartermaster Company located on Arsenal Road. Their participation made the 50th Commemoration of the Korean War celebration in July a success. The 254th set up their field kitchen serving hot dogs and other goodies. Left to right, front row: Captain Richard Mease, Sgt. John Waltz, Sgt. Vincent Lopez, Pvt2. Terry Dolly, Spc. Beryl Bensinger, Spc Brian Jones, Pvt2. Bryan McMullen. Back row, Chapter members, Eugene Miller, Ronald Busser, William Frank. Tessa Cola missing during picture taking.

(Thank you Gene Miller for photo and letter. We are proud of all of you and your event. It is special when these Reserve and National Guard units take the time to support our programs. We value their service and they honor ours. Gob Bless all.)

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"Owned and operated by a Korean War Veteran"

BOOKS from page 9

munications, logistics, administration, and medical care. Army nurses worked in MASH units, air force nurses were stationed with air evacuation units and navy nurses served in navy hospitals and aboard ships. Some of their stories have been told. Only a few of these courageous, patriotic women have been recognized. To begin to widen this recognition, this book began as an oral history project for Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA). But then the need for a tighter focus was recognized.

During the Korean War there were about 3,000 navy nurses who served with uncommon valor at home and overseas. We focus here primarily on the navy nurses who served closest to the Korean front lines who were stationed on the hospital ships USS Consolation, USS Repose, and USS Haven, and at Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan.

For fifty years no one has heard of these nurses who worked so gallantly near the war zone. The nurses felt that they did nothing special; they were just doing their jobs. Yet, in the hearts and souls of their US Marine patients, they were heroes. The U.S. Marines of the First Division have wanted to thank their nurses for many years, but they could not locate the nurses after the war because, in most cases, they didn't know their names. They carried in their memories the nurses' soft touches, kind smiles, warm eyes, gentle voices, caring attention, healing laughter, strong presence, and maybe a nickname. Somehow, names didn't seem to be the most important consideration at that time.

For fifty years this has haunted the men. So when the marines were asked to assist in telling the story of the navy nurses of the Korean War, there was an overwhelming response. One of the men contacted responded with:

Your letter made me sit alone in a dark room to cry for names never remembered, but actions never forgotten.

Quiet Heroes is an account of the navy nurses who served during the Korean War told through personal observations from four points of view:

- their patients who remember them with gratitude,

- the corpsmen who worked with them,
- the nurses themselves,
- and the marines' memories, recounted from the depths of their hearts in words that bring tears to our eyes and a patriotic thrill to our hearts.

These stories describe quiet heroes and finally give them the recognition they earned. But also these stories serve to empower today's young women and bring pride to all female veterans who have served our country.

As I gathered this information, I made every attempt to use navy historical and official documents to preserve key historical dates and events. These documents, in the form of war diaries, command histories, and indoctrination manuals, served as the historical core of this book. But just as important, I made this a personal account with the stories gathered from the hearts and memories of the nurses, the hospital corpsmen, and the marines who were their patients at the Naval Hospital Yokosuka and aboard the hospital ships.

Since events are seen through individual perceptions, no two people will ever describe the same event in precisely the same way. Yet history's rich flow of events remain the same, only interpreted and personalized through the minds and emotions of individuals stationed in the Far East Command.

(About 200 pages dedicated to the Korean War and the Navy Nurses. After almost two months on the front line I found myself being lifted up to the deck of a ship in the Pusan Harbor. I was so full of morphine all I could remember was it was a very white ship. Later I learned it was the USS Repose. I was taken to the operating room and awoke in a lower bunk with those beautiful white sheets.

This book will allow all to understand the nurses side of the Korean War history while reading more great stories. I was also airlifted to a hospital in Japan on a plane with racked bunks and nurse care. After recovery I returned to Korea and the 2nd I.D. Since the USS Repose was in Pusan from 20 September to 24 October 1950, I guess many of those in this book were there when I was. Heavily leaning towards Marines but this is one Army man (and I am sure many others) that wish to thank all that gave us hope to see another day.

Book cost \$18.95. Mail: 2700 Rice Street,

St. Paul, MN 55113. Call 1-888-220-5402, Fax 1-651-490-1450 or E-Mail smith-seprs@aol.com)



Weekend Warriors

By Paul L. Cooper

Excerpts from Prologue

The Korean War is remembered primarily as a land war, and yet the importance of the dedicated and valiant role performed by ground troops can never be fully appreciated or properly recognized. However, that war also marked the advent of air-to-air jet fighter combat.

Some reports of actions by certain military units have been written, but few have focused on the contributions of the part-time (one weekend a month) "weekend warriors" who were called to active service. Far too little has been written, spoken, and thought about the many who served in this tragic war.

This book will mostly cite Navy ships and Air Reserve squadrons called to duty on the West Coast early in the war. At the outbreak of hostilities, only 15 aircraft carriers were in service and only one was readily available for support in Korean waters. Carrier-based air support of Allied ground operations was recognized early as vital, but the ultimate degree of importance was unforeseen. In order to meet war-zone demands for additional carriers and air groups, reactivation from mothball fleets and Reserve units was necessary. And although other vessels and squadrons are referenced, the primary focus is on the reactivated Essex-class carrier, the *USS Princeton* (CV 37), and Reserve fighter squadron VF-871 from Naval Air Station (NAS) Oakland, California.

The events depicted herein are not necessarily dramatic or startling not necessarily significant military events - but rather illustrate the typical experiences of some weekend Reservists called to war. Each effort, however, contributed to vital support of the troops on the ground. The state of our nation's readiness at the outset to carry on an evolving carrier-based air war is also explored. The events are generally noted chronologically and are principally taken from the author's personal diary and letters. Pertinent published accounts of background events during the cited peri-

ods were reviewed for descriptive augmentation.

The intent of this book is not to compare risks, efforts, or accomplishments with those who served in other wars, but to record certain events that should not be forgotten from a high-casualty war:

- to reflect on the unheralded, unspectacular, but important, contributions of Naval and Marine Air Reservists whose lives were disrupted by a call to duty in an undeclared war

- to reflect on what happened to the *US S Princeton*, NAS Oakland, and some of the officers and crew of VF-871 over the years

- and to comment on Korea, then and now, considering the conduct of further U.S. involvement should the unresolved war flare anew.

Although this account has been written from a citizen/sailor viewpoint, dates and times are referenced in standard military form. Many of the crew preferred to retain civilian terminology but the Navy dictated otherwise and required that its traditional system, including nautical references to walls, floors, and doors, be strictly followed. There was some resistance at first, but the Navy won out and the civilians ultimately became sailors. The text, therefore, conforms in most respects to the Navy way of doing things. Included are official Navy designations of ships and individual aircraft, where information was available and appropriate, for completeness of the work.

My observations, as a former Navy enlisted man, reflect a perspective from the ranks, but this does not in any way lessen my great respect for the commissioned men. Aboard ship, rank differences meant little - we were all one family.

(248 pages of history about weekend warriors that served with distinction on the home front and answered the call to active duty when asked. Great photos and stories covering the experiences of forgotten heroes. Book cost: \$23.95 paper. Contact Sunflower University Press, P.O. Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505-1009. Tel: 1-800-258-1232, Fax 785-539-2233 or Web Page www.sunflower-univ-press.org A great book for all veterans.)



Daughter Of Mercy

By Susie Lee

Foreword

War is hell! Old men speak of it with tears and remorse. Young men lament its futility. Some of the greatest dramas of life have been written in the jaws of war - the stories of Corrie ten Boom, Hansi and now of Susie Lee Beidel.

The major wars of our generation were fought in the Orient - China, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Indo-China and Korea. Never before have we heard the story of war from the quiet Oriental heart. Susie lived through the ravages of the Korean War to tell the story of bombs, broken families and the bitterness that leaves its toll on men, women and especially on the hearts of the little ones.

The story of Susie is not only the story of one lonely, handicapped girl alone in a war, but as she hobbles through the devastated cities of war-torn Korea, we see the story of a once serene, secluded, almost sacred Orient exploding culturally, economically and spiritually before our eyes and emotions.

Susie's search for her family is that of millions of orphans and refugees for the past three decades. Her struggles with prejudice, pride and passion are the struggles of teenagers of a hate-scarred generation. Her loneliness, rejection and eventual bitterness are the real hell of war.

The terrifying, yet tender story strikes every emotion of the human heart. You experience her childish delight, share her feelings of rejection, loneliness, agony, hunger and fear. You even savor her Oriental cuisine from rice to kimchi. Her search for peace with men and God becomes yours. She must survive! She must find her family! She must find that serenity now broken by bombs and bloodshed! She must find love and happiness! Most of all, she must find God!

As this Oriental odyssey unfolds, you begin to look more understandingly at American involvement in sorrowful wars of Indo-China and Korea - for you see through the grateful eyes of a daughter of the Orient. It was through the hearts and hands of American armed forces personnel, especially her husband, Don Beidel, through whom Susie found love, compassion and the forgiveness of God, which her

war-torn heart needed to find so desperately.

Susie's story and her present day mission of compassion to the disabled veterans in VA hospitals is really a long "Thank you" letter. Today Susie says, "Thank You, America!"

Reverend Dr. Daniel Mercaldo, Founder and Senior Pastor, Gateway Cathedral, 200 Boscome Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10309

About the Author

Susie Lee was born in Tientsin, China, and raised in Korea. In 1961, she immigrated to America, where she enrolled in college; her life-long dream. A year later, she married Don Beidel, a soldier she had met before leaving Korea. Soon, they had two children, Sophia and David.

In 1970, the Beidel family moved to Staten Island, NY where Susie returned to college and earned her B.A. in psychology as well as an M.S. in rehabilitation counseling.

Susie is an honorary member of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter, Koreans War Veterans Association of Staten Island. She was appointed by Borough President Guy V. Molinari as his representative to the Korean community, to the Anti-bias Taskforce, and has served as Vice President of the Korean-AmeriAssociation of Staten Island.

A frequent speaker at churches, schools, veterans and civic organizations, Susie shares her message of encouragement and hope with young and old alike. She now resides in Franklin, Tennessee with her daughter and family.

(318 pages of a youngster that was born crippled, teased and taunted daily. The family moved to South Korea in 1945 from China after WWII ended. Occupation troops from U.S.A. were still very visible in Susie's new country. An American hostesses named Charlotte Dee gave her the name of Susie because her original name Hyun Sook was hard to pronounce. It was now June 25th and the invaders from the North had arrived in Susie's village. I will stop here for the rest of Susie's story is breathtaking and very emotional. This book will show the courage of a young girl and her family plus many stories of dangerous days ahead.

This amazing book is a must read for all veterans especially those that saw the suf-

fering of civilians during war. I do not have the cost of book but it can be purchased through www.booksamillion.com or call 1-800-201-3550. If you need more information or want Susie to address your organization, you can contact her at:

Susie Lee, P.O. Box 256, Franklin, TN 37064 or e-mail <susie@susielee.org>.

Donations to support Susie's work can be sent to:

The Center Ministry, PO Box 158933, Nashville, TN 37215. Tel: 615-646-0911. Editor.)



Destination Korea

*by Dana Abbott Curtis
and Jennifer R. Willand Dillard*

Foreword Excerpts

For those who have served in our military "mail-call" became one of the most treasured moments during sometimes dangerous or boring and often lonely lives. Having served our country overseas during both World War II and during the Korea conflict, I have had some of the experiences which make this collection of letters written to an adored wife from January 1950 until April 1951 exceptionally moving and appealing. These reflect the wonderful idealism, oft-times mixed with practical concerns, of an American patriot and the human dimensions of the military service and its demands, so frequently passed over in the historical accounts which usually deal with the larger dimensions of the strategies and politics of the wars.

It is encouraging that the granddaughter of 1st Lieutenant Dana Abbott Curtis has shown the diligence and family pride to organize and reproduce these moving and at times somber letters to help us understand some of the realities of a conflict in Korea five decades ago. It is something which the Koreans themselves with their still-existing sense of family obligations and duty will understand and appreciate. Koreans' respect for grandparents is an overriding drive which keeps family concerns central.

There are many lessons to be learned from the reading of Lt. Curtis' communications to his wife and two small children from Okinawa and Korea. First, of course, is how truly dependent were our soldiers overseas on the communications, inspiration, and simple accounts of family and

friends at home. Then again the passage of time may have allowed many of us to forget just how ill-informed and unprepared our armed forces were for dealing with different cultures and how austere conditions could be in a land wrecked by the ravages of war as was Korea. Also these letters help explain some of the different branches of the United States Army. Lt. Curtis reminded his wife again and again that though his assignments with an engineering company were at times the most dangerous, the bulk of the burden rested with the infantry. At times his letters use slang terms which are, to be sure, politically incorrect, but were standard during both World War II and the Korean conflict. Chinese, for example, were usually called "chinks," a term obviously not presently acceptable, nor is the then used term "gooks."

A book published in 2001 described the battle of Wonju during two weeks in early February 1951 as "The Gettysburg of the Korean War." It was an almost indescribable period of killing during wave assaults of the Chinese "People's Volunteers." More than 5,000 Chinese were killed and even more wounded during one four-hour period of artillery fire which has become known as the "Wonju Shoot." Lieutenant Curtis, having endured the full agony of a bitter cold winter in the retreat from North Korea to an area south of the South Korean capital of Seoul, was involved in this battle which turned the tide in Korea. His comments on the other United Nations forces, especially those from the United Kingdom, make it an account of heroism to be remembered.

But in many respects the overriding message of these letters is to remind us of those values which count. They are the expression of concern from a loving and devoted husband and father. They reveal the constant balance which must be struck in the field between personal concerns and events at home and in the larger picture. At moments during the reading we are tempted to feel that we are hearing about the problems in the field—the slowness of the mail, the bitterness of being numbed by unbearable cold, or the hours and days without sleep—too often. But this is the real life story.

Of particular interest and concern for the military serving overseas during the

Korean War was how to manage finances for the family and those left behind dependent upon the relatively low pay which company grade officers were allotted. Many of the letters concentrate on practical concerns about loans which had to be repaid at home, about proper clothing for the family, and other matters which some of us might consider mundane. But these are items closely related to the morale of the forces abroad.

By the time we have finished these family letters of one of our heroes who displayed magnificent examples of courage, we can conclude that he is quite accurate when he informs us that his long experience has made him a more mature and balanced adult. Gradually if the reader of this book, so conscientiously put together by the daughter of one of those beautiful children Lt. Curtis loved so dearly, has followed the story, it will have brought some understanding of the family and friends involved, the small town concerns which persisted, and the values which have made service in national interest so frequently clothed in gallantry and honor.

This is a book which needs to be read because it helps us to understand how much our current strong position in the world owes to the Dana Curtises of the past. For the readers of this account Korea will not be "The Forgotten War!"

*Dr. Richard L. Walker,
Former United States Ambassador to
Korea.*

(214 pages about the experiences of a veteran that was there and the experiences his family at home had while waiting for his return. The fact that his granddaughter had the respect to remember a grandfather and to tell his story makes this book very special and should inspire all veterans to read this book. Cost is \$53.00. Contact University Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Maryland 20706. Tel: 301-459-3366 or contact Nancy Hoffmann at www.univpress.com)



Korea - The First War We Lost

by Bevin Anderson

Preface

The Korean War endured for three years, June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, as an official, international act of violence. It ended only after one and a half million

men, women and children had died and two and a half million persons had been wounded or injured. It was one of the most devastating wars in history, and its consequences of hate, distrust and division abide with us today. This book is an attempt to show that the war need not have been protracted for so long, nor to have demanded so much in lives and treasure, nor to have left behind such hostility between nations that had much to lose and little to gain by enmity.

This book is an effort to demonstrate that Western leaders, especially those from the United States, received ample signals that, had the leaders responded to them, could have prevented the entry of Red China into the war and, even after Communist China did enter, could have ended the war much sooner and at much less cost.

This book attempts to show that the United States - with the aid of South Korea and the support of some United Nations members - won one war against the North Koreans and lost another war against the Red Chinese. The causes of these two wars were essentially and totally different: the North Koreans were bent on overt aggression and were thwarted; the Red Chinese were trying to protect their homeland from the potential threat of invasion and were successful.

Finally, this book tries to show the Korean War as it actually was fought and

as the tactical and strategic decisions, good and bad, were made. In this, the dedication and devotion of men on both sides to what they believed to be their nations' needs were demonstrated in such full measure as to suggest the awesome powers of human sacrifice and endeavor that leaders everywhere hold in their hands, and what immense responsibility for the exercise of those powers they assume.

In the Korean War many men on both sides exhibited great heroism. Coming as Korea did so soon after the universal trauma of world war, this heroism was and has been little appreciated. Some men in the war showed cowardice, others displayed great cruelty and inhumanity, and nearly all showed fear of the dangers they faced.

The Korean War became the arena for fateful clashes of national wills, in which leaders at all levels made decisions ranging from remarkable sagacity to desolating error. Korea is thus a human story of mortals in high and low places acting in crisis as their individual lights directed them.

(572 pages. Cost \$19.95. Great stories and photos. The author, I am told was an officer and historian in Korea. No unit given or date. In summing up this great history book I must add most of us that fought the North Koreans and the Chinese would say, "We lost some battles and won many, but we did not lose the War." Purchase book from Hippocrene Books Inc. 171 Madison Ave New York, NY 10016 or your local book store.)

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by Paul M. Edwards

Orig. Ed. 1999 (Anvil)

162 pp. Paper

ISBN 0-89464-943-4

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In the narrative, the author balances political and military perspectives which deal with national and international implications, and he also describes the military actions that led to the armistice.

The varied contributions of all the nations involved are covered. For the documents section, the latest information is provided from newly opened primary and secondary sources.

"The author has obviously 'done his homework' and I for one, will find this book an excellent reference source."

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"A must read book for Korean War veterans."—

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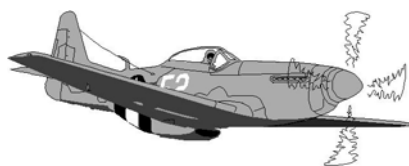
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GHOSTLY SOUNDS & UNEASY FEELINGS



Quad-Fifty Flak Traps and Eerie Sounds Korea, Early Fall, 1950

On the September 14th, 1950, we were set up in a four-ship flight, with Bill Slater leading, Bill Bridges on his wing, I was Element Lead and Major Ken Carlson brought up the rear on my wing. We each carried two napalm tanks, rockets and machine guns, and were in the Pohang-dong area within twenty minutes after take-off from our base at Pusan.

We contacted the local T-6 spotter ship, who told us he had pinpointed the location of a gun position which had shot the tail off of another control ship just thirty minutes before. He wanted us to go in and knock him out before the guy created some really serious problems for someone.

There is little in life that makes you feel more insecure than to know you're going to have to attack a known flak position ... 'knowing that the machine-gunnery can see you, but you don't know for sure where they are.

It always gives the flak gunner the first shot, and you're not much of a threat to him until after he starts firing at you ... at which time you hope you can see his muzzle blast and return his fire, quickly and accurately ... or else. When the machine gun position is known to include the highly-effective "Quad-Fifties" ... four fifty caliber machine guns bore-sighted to fire simultaneous-

ly at the same target ... well, it's not hard to understand the deep feeling of apprehension facing the attacking pilot ... who dives in without knowing exactly where his target is!!

The Mosquito spotter ship pilot fired a smoke flare into a creek bed between a group of low, bare ridges, then told us that Quad-Fifties were in a certain clump of bushes on a ridge two hundred yards east of the smoke flare.

Bill Slater dove in first, dropping his Napalm bombs just a little east of the smoke flare. It landed fifty feet short of the intended ridge. Bill Bridges went in next, from a different direction, and dropped his bombs nearby ... close to where we thought another set of machine guns were located. Carlson and I circled at about 3000 feet over the area, just out of the gunner's effective range, looking for muzzle flashes. We couldn't see any until Bridges had finished his attack, and started climbing out, when we could see the multiple tracer flashes coming out of a clump of trees about 75 yards behind where their bombs had been hitting.

During the time Ken and I had been circling, I was carefully planning my line of attack to place my flight within the enemy's line of sight for the briefest possible time. So, when Bridges pulled off, I knew just which way I was head-

ing. I signaled Ken, by hand, to 'fire-wall' his throttle, then dove onto the deck just behind a low ridge south of the target. We followed a little ravine, which ran toward the north, then popped up over a little covering ridge just in front of the tree clump. With Carlson following just a few hundred feet behind and to my side, I fired steadily at the trees with my machine guns as soon as we cleared the first ridge, then dropped my two Napalm bombs so they'd splash forward into the suspected clump. I got a beautiful hit, with the fan of flaming jelly bouncing and spreading out to penetrate deep into the trees. Ken Carlson dropped his bombs right next to mine, and they too penetrated deep into the forest.

We immediately hit the deck again, and I started kicking rudders vigorously to skid the airplane from side to side, turned north at the first little valley and continued to 'jinx' around for a couple of miles before pulling up into a steep, full-throttle climb, leveling off, finally, at about 2500 feet.

Carlson had seen another gun position firing at me, off to the side of where he had dropped his bombs, and, before he could turn out of the way, his airplane was hit in the engine by a 20mm shell. He immediately pulled up and headed toward the nearby airstrip at Pohang ... now deserted and in the middle of 'no-man's-land'. We weren't sure whether we or the North Koreans owned the real estate by that time, but Ken had to find a level spot to put it down, and quickly, for his engine had started to flame.

He managed to spike it onto the ground ... downwind, and get it stopped at the far end of the runway.

As he opened his canopy he heard the sharp "twang, twang" of rifle fire, which told him he we didn't really own the airfield. He jumped out and ran for a nearby drainage ditch, while we circled overhead, looking and ready to strafe any troops which didn't look friendly. A group of five Koreans in civilian attire moved toward him, and Ken wondered how far his seven rounds of .45 pistol fire would go towards stopping them ... but they stopped, and tried to signal that they were friends. About that time the Mosquito control ship came over to tell

Unsung Heroes of the Korean Air War

by

Duane E. 'Bud' Biteman,

Lt Col, USAF, Ret

us the field had not yet been taken by the Reds. But Ken didn't know that; and he didn't move from his huddled position in the drainage ditch ... until the T-6 spotter landed and taxied over to where he was hiding.

There wasn't room in the control ship to pick him up, but he was assured that there would be a helicopter along very shortly. We continued to fly top-cover until the chopper had safely picked him up and he was on his way back to our new strip at Pusan.

Ken Carlson had just survived his fourth knock-down. He had been shot down three times in Europe, and now once more during his first week of combat in Korea. Ken blamed himself for getting hit; 'said that he was too intent on taking accurate aim on the target and wasn't 'jinxing' his airplane around like I was. The gunfire that he heard on the ground at the airfield was a lone sniper in the hills north of the Pohang airfield perimeter.

On another memorable occasion, around the same August 1950 time frame, I was exposed to an eerie situation while flying on a mission about fifty miles behind enemy lines, along the railroad south of the then-captured city of Seoul, where I'd seen a locomotive race into a tunnel and stop.

Since it was a short tunnel, I figured I could block the entrance by bombing one end, then we could fire rockets into the other end, to catch the train inside. However, because there were known troop concentrations in the area, I was wary of how I made my bombing pass, and I wanted a good, high, steep and fast approach ... to get in and get out as quickly as possible.

'Rolling over from 8000 feet in a near-vertical dive, my airspeed soon reached 400 mph and, as it did, I heard a loud and most eerie "Whoooooooooo" sound resonating throughout the cockpit. Soon my speed was up over 450 mph and the strange sound kept increasing in pitch. I'd never heard anything like it before, in any kind of an airplane, and it was rather frightening ... especially under the otherwise, typically scary circumstances of a dive bombing attack.

"Cowardice being the better part of

Valor..." when I didn't know the source of the sound, I reduced power and broke off the dive-bombing run without dropping my bombs or firing my rockets. As I slowed the airplane during the climb out, the eerie sound stopped as I dropped below 400 mph, and all sounded normal again.

I climbed back up to 8000 feet once again, where rolled over into my steep dive bomb run again and, as I passed through 400 mph again, the same spooky, eerie sound came back again. This time though, I continued my attack even though the loud moaning grated against my tensile-taut nerves, and I scored a couple of direct hits against the mouth of the tunnel.

Throughout the rest of the mission, the deep moaning would resume whenever I made a high-speed attack, but would stay silent during slower speed flight. I knew that it had to have something to do with wind flow around the canopy, but I couldn't pinpoint the exact cause ... was it a bullet hole in the fuselage, a crack in the plexiglas canopy; was the skin of the airplane coming apart? I couldn't know. Finally, I passed my hand along the inside of the inch-thick bullet-proof glass panel of the windscreen, and found that by pushing, it would "give" slightly under my hand pressure.

I tried another high-speed dive to verify my findings and, sure enough, found that I could almost 'play a tune' with the ghostly moaning sounds when I pushed or eased the pressure on the windscreen. I felt better, knowing the cause of the eerie symphony, but got little sympathy from my wingman when I tried to explain the reason for my recent aerial gyrations.

He didn't believe my story; he said it was just the fact that I was so frightened, during the bomb-run, that the "Whoooooooooo" was just the sound of my 'asshole sucking wind'.... a very common phenomenon among attacking fighter pilots!

Duane E. 'Bud' Biteman, Lt Col, USAF, Ret "...one of those OLD, Bold Fighter Pilots..."

Next Issue: Nakdong at Night – Why Mustangs were not meant to be Night-fighters.

MEMORY from page 10

They either had a radio or record player playing Christmas Carols, and the smiles crept across our weary faces as our steps took on a new and lighter gait. As the track disappeared to the North, someone started singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Almost everyone joined in and "Merry Christmases" were passed around.

My mind was back in Akron. Mom would never let me see the Christmas tree and presents until Christmas morning. I always went to bed early, on Christmas Eve. I will always remember the smells of pine and fudge and other Christmas scents in the early morning.

A few men were openly crying. Not me, of course. I simply had blowing snow in my eyes. A little music bringing floods of memories and recalling the birth of our Lord as the reason for these memories sort of gave us a gentle nudge and our steps quickened. We were chatting quietly and laughing.

Suddenly, it got very quiet as we turned a bend in the road. We could hear the fire crackling and distinct smell of fumes. Ahead of us in the ditch lay the track. The Christmas tree was burning. I ordered my men off the road and sent a scouting patrol ahead and we slowly moved in on the track. We pulled five G.I.'s from the wreckage and covered them with ponchos.

The snowflakes seemed to get bigger and come down more intensely, as if to quickly cover the scene. It would soon cover the carnage of our fallen comrades. The snow could never cover the memories of what we had experienced. It was permanently etched in all of our hearts and minds. We found where the enemy had been waiting along the side of the road and the burns from the back blast and the spent cartridges.

As we resumed our march to the North, we couldn't help but look at the burning Christmas tree and the five mounds in the snow. Our pace returned to tile monotonous trudging. The smiles were gone, the music was gone, our buddies were gone, and I was sobbing softly, cold, whipped and afraid again.

My wife and my children still don't fully understand why Christmas is a strange combination of a happy and sad time of the year for me.

Looking for...



Tell us about your plans

There are many fine **veterans organizations** that are working on reunions and group trips to attend the commemoration events that will be held in Korea. Though we cannot organize reunions or group trips ourselves, we can help spread the word about your plans. Please let us know the “who, what, when, where” on your reunion or group trip and we can list the basics on our web site. Please provide a point of contact for the event, so that other veterans know who to contact. If your veterans group has a section on a web site involving a reunion or group trip, you can provide that information also. Since we are a government agency, we cannot recommend any commercial agencies, so we cannot list “Mary’s Military Tours of Korea, Incorporated,” etc. Please email the information to: <kw50ann@usfk.korea.army.mil.> Our regular mailing address is: 50th AKWC, PSC 303 Box 90, APO AP 96204.



96th Field Artillery Bn. Assn. is still looking for members that served in Korea from Sept. 1950 - July 1958. We have over 300 members located and our Assn. is active with reunions biannually. For information please contact Arnold Anderson, HC83 Box 116A, Custer, SD 57730. Tel: 605-673-6313



I am doing research for a book about **Artillery Forward Observers** in Korea from 1950 to 1954. I am looking for any Korean War Artillery F.O.s for interviews and collecting information for my project. Contact MSgt Anthony J. Sobieski, 514th Security Forces Squadron, 514th AMW Force Protection Manager, McGuire Air Force Base, NJ 08641. DSN 650-2178. Tel: 609-754-2178



2nd Chemical Mortar Bn. Assn. is looking for veterans who served in our Battalion before or during World War II (1935-46) and before or during the Korean War (1949-53). Our Association includes those who served with our Battalion’s successor unit - the 461th Inf. Bn. (Heavy Mortar). The next annual reunion will be held in Baltimore, MD, September 20-24, 2001. Enlist today by phone or mail, providing your full name, address, phone number, unit and dates of service. You will then receive a current roster and future newsletters. No dues. Contact: William R. Thomas, 7418 Overdale Drive, Dallas, TX 75240; Tel: 972-387-1247.



I am looking for the group “**Westeraires**” which was formed in Camp Chitosi, Hokkaido, Japan. We played in the Army USO shows in 1953 and 1954. We toured Korea, Japan, Phillipines and Okinawa. James W. Bevins, Co A, 5th Calvary Regiment from Fayetteville, Arkansas, Roy W. Adkins, Co A, 5th Calvary Regiment from Logan, West Virginia, Joseph Vincenzotti, Hq & Hq Co. 5th Calvary Regiment, Bronx, New York and Jack F. Woodbury, Co I, 5th Cavalry Regiment from Maine. If anyone knows of their whereabouts or if you were part of this group, contact Albert P. Viola, 310 Steeplechase Drive, Elverson, PA 19520 or E-Mail: <alnan.viola@gateway.net>, 610-286-8963

I am an active-duty infantry officer currently pursuing a Ph.D. in military history. I’m researching the training activities conducted by

Eighth Army in Japan from mid-1949 until the outbreak of war, and would like to hear from veterans of the Occupation and early weeks of the war regarding their opinion of training in Japan—was it realistic, did it prepare them individually or as a unit for combat, etc. My intent in writing is to correct the distortions that have arisen over the years regarding the American soldier in 1950. My research thus far indicates that the average soldier spent the majority of his time training on his wartime mission—a conclusion backed up by several veteran interviews. I would welcome information from any veteran who served in the Eighth Army at any time between 1948 and 1950. Contact Thomas Hanson, Captain, United States Army at e-mail address <renegade06@earthlink.net>



A relative of mine who served in Korea and is a retired **Ethiopian Army General** residing in Ethiopia is looking for someone to collaborate with in writing a book about the war. I am asking for your help in announcing this notice to Korean War Vets that might be interested in working with him on the project. My relative’s name is Maj. Gen. Mereid Gizaw (Ret.) of the Ethiopian Army he lives in Addis Abeba, the Ethiopian Capital. I can arrange for e-mail or phone communication with him. Contact Kebede Daniel Gashaw PO Box 221606, Sacramento CA. 95822-8606. Tel: 916-683-4873. E-mail address: <kdgashaw@home.com>



My uncle **Bobby Joe Jackson** was killed in the Korean War. This was way before my time, but it was a very devastating event in the life of my father. He was from Lake, Colorado and I am pretty sure he was a medic. He was also serving his second tour. I would very much like to locate someone who served with my uncle and may have known him at his time of death. I am also fairly certain he took shrapnel from a mortar round. I am trying to do this as a surprise to my father. Contact Robert P. Jackson at e-mail <Mtnbks1018@aol.com>.



Looking for information on my grandfather and his involvement in the Korean War. His name is **James P. Nicholson**. I’m not sure what company he was in but I believe it was an artillery unit. I would like to know about their history and maybe even locate a friend of his named Paul Tiger. Anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Richard Huff at e-mail address Huffology@aol.com



My name is Paul Hwanshik Kim, Ph.D. (Korean-American). I am looking for my elder brother’s information. **Kim, Hwan Chyun** (# K1107650) Co. K, 35th Inf. Regt. APO 25, US Army 25th Inf. Div. We don’t have any information for my brother since he joined US Army in 1950. Please advise whatsoever for my brother. Contact Hwan Shik Kim at e-mail <hwanshik_kim@yahoo.com>



We have received a letter from a Angel (Carter) Rodriguez located at 4841 Carol Dr., Troy, Michigan 48085. Telephone Number: 1-248-524-9734. She is trying to locate a **Raphael Gonzalez**, US 51205041 who was with her cousin when he was killed. He was with

Jimmy Bierwirth (I think her cousin) in Koji do in 1952 just before Jimmy was killed. Any information would be greatly appreciated that we could pass on to her. Contact Patti Slavin at e-mail <slav-inpg@localnet.com> or call/write Angel per address above.

★

Hi looking for Mr. **Billy W. Ashley**, 309 Glover Street, Albertsville, Ala. This address was good in 1952 & 1953. If anyone knows the whereabouts of Bill would like to see him again. Contact Joe at e-mail <KVetFamily@cs.com>.

★

My Uncle's name is **Howard A. Key, Jr.** His address is 9 South Leonardi St., St. Augustine, FL 32084. He is looking for information regarding his friends. This information is for Co E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cav. Regt, 1st Cav. Div., 8th Army - 1950 Contact "The Gribbles" <ltcid@leading.net>

★

I'm looking for any information on a **Richard Loren Doras**, he is my biological father. I have been unable to find anything related to him through web sources however, I have found his parents and sibling through the Social Security Death Index. Illinois was his home state which is where I came from as well. He apparently ran into some trouble after the war, which is when he married my mother, and thereafter, I was produced. I have been unable to locate anything on him and was just wondering if there is a way to trace him through war records. Contact Donna Jones at e-mail <ndjones@prodigy.net> or Adam Jones at e-mail <chs_tenor@hotmail.com>

★

I am trying to contact fellow veterans **Stephen Straka** and **David Menzin**. I do not know where to begin looking and I am hoping you could help me. I served on the 1st Cav., 7th Cav., Div. with Delta Co. The 1st Sergeant was Sgt. Nipper and the platoon Sergeant was Sgt. Cotter. The year was 1959-1960. My name is Thurman Lee Schrader. I would appreciate any help you can provide. Contact Thurman Schrader, 24481 Hwy TT, Republic, MO. 65738 Tel: 417-491-4931 or contact Melissa Anne at e-mail address <prissi26@msn.com>

★

I am currently conducting research into the role of **Turkish troops in the Korean War** and I am interested in contacting American soldiers who knew Turkish troops and served alongside them, particularly in the battles at Kunuri in November, 1950. Would you be able to tell me how I might contact American veterans who might have helpful information? Any assistance would be appreciated. Contact Gavin Douglas Brockett, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago at e-mail address <gdbrocke@midway.uchicago.edu>

★

I am writing the biography of **Hugh Ernest van Oppen** (1931-1966) who served with the British 1st Battalion of the Royal Tank Regiment in Korea in 1952-3. I want to hear from Veterans that may remember Hugh van Oppen. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated. Contact Professor Emeritus Colin Baker, University of Glamorgan, UK at e-mail address <cabaker@glam.ac.uk>

★

I would like locate my old foxhole buddy **Bobby J. Arnett** from Lee County, VA. when we were in Korea 1950-51 Contact Robert McKinney, RT. 1, Box 2, Matoaka, W.V. 24736 my e-mail address is <mck4832@webtv.net>.

★

I received my first copy of *Graybeards*. Thanks much for the looking for on Page 53 of the July-Aug issue. I was called by a fellow airman a couple of weeks ago. Although we were never in the same group, he did refresh my memory about a few numbers and names. So here are a few additions I'd appreciate listing in the next printing: **2143rd Air Weather Wing, Tokyo, Japan, 30th Air Weather Squadron, Pusan, Korea, 301st Field Maintenance Squadron, Shreveport, LA.** Also, I'd appreciate knowing if you have a data base of individual and group names from previous issues in "Looking for..." columns? Contact Howard Fagen, 555 John Muir Dr., Apt. 814, San Francisco, CA 94132 Tel: 415-586-2800.

(Sorry, I do not have the time or manpower to keep listings. Ed.)

★

A committee from **K Co., 169th Inf., 43rd Div.**, is trying to locate all of their comrades who served with them at Camp Pickett, Virginia during the Korean War, from June 1950 through the end of the conflict. We are looking for any of our comrades who went to Korea or Germany as well as their replacements. The committee is compiling a master roster of names, addresses and phone numbers for all that served with the above unit. The information will be available to any members of our unit so that you can locate a buddy you served with, but may have lost contact with. This information will also be helpful to us when planning future reunions and for planned newsletter mailings. Please take a minute to send us your name, address, and phone number on a post card. Also, if you know the identity and whereabouts of anyone else who served with us, please make us aware of this, as well as anyone that you know who is deceased. Send your card or letter to: Eugene Cordone, 597-A Main Street, Cromwell, CT 06416. Tel: 860-635-4719 or Paul A. Morello, Sr., 38 Elm Rd, Cromwell, CT 06416. Tel: 860-635-4138

★

Looking for men who served as **Chaplain's assistant**. Would love to hear about some of your experiences. Contact Guy Mahan, 4557 Howard Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558 or e-mail at <mahanguy@earthlink.net>.

★

I am trying to locate two Korean War vets and their families. They are **Sergeant Mickey Sinnot** and **Sergeant Bill Cassidy** both from Brooklyn, New York. They originally appeared on the first Today Show for NBC News that aired on January 14, 1952 in a film report that came from Korea while their families were live in the Today Show studio in New York. The Today Show will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on January 14th, 2002 and we would like if possible to locate these two gentlemen and their families. I can be reached at 1-800-NBC-NEWS ext. 4687 or 212-664-4687 Thank You. Ernie Angstadt.

★

Looking for **MSgt Donald D. Inks** of Co L, 3rd Bn., 27th Wolfhound Regt. from Uniontown, PA. Cpl. Don King wrote an article for Stars and Stripes about him. Contact Russell Buechler, 917

Hillcrest Drive, Columbia, IL 62236



Looking for members of the **7th Div., 31st F.A., C Btry., 1952-53**. Contact Ralph Mesing 7625 N 600 W, Decatur, IN 46733-7858. Tel: 219-547-4292



Looking for my friend **Stanley Rombon** (Robin). We joined the Air Force in April 1951. We both took basic at Sampson Air Force Base then he went into the Air Police and I lost track of him. Contact Alex Berger, 1787 166th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357-3345.



I am trying to locate KW Vets who may remember my father from his days with the **25th Infantry Division**. (no first name given). Is there a 25th Div. organization? Contact Richard Coben at e-mail <rcoben@yahoo.com>



My name is **Elias Maglinis** and I am writing from Greece. My father is a Korean War Vet (2nd Lt. of the Air Force, June 1951-August 1952) and I am working as a journalist. I intend to write a book about the Greek Army in Korea, not just the Air Force but the Greek Infantry as well. Is there any way to locate American vets who came in contact with the Greek Battalion or the Air Force, saw them how they fought, talked with them etc. (anything, even negative comments will do)? Also, reports and books which have references about the Greeks in Korea would be useful. I think that some of the "Chosin Few" Marines must remember some of the Greek pilots who participated in the whole operation of evacuation. Contact Elias at e-mail <elmaglin@otenet.gr>



My grandfather was a Korean War veteran who died in 1973. His name was **Col. John "Poopy" Connor**. He was a paratrooper in either the 82nd or 101st Airborne. He was a 1939 graduate of West Point who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I'm told that his experience in Korea changed him profoundly and I am very interested in putting together a record of his service for my family. I'd love to get a timeline of where he served and, even better, correspond with men he served with Can you give me any suggestions on how to proceed? I would greatly appreciate any help. Contact Brian Doak, 600 Washington Ave. Towson, Md. 21204. Tel: 410-821-7700. E-mail <BCDoak@LMUS.LeggMason.com>



My dad, **SGM Bill DeSoto** was in WWII, Korea - 7th Inf. Div., then UNPIK 8240th Partisan Force Wolf Pack One with Major Charlie Norton. I'm interested in finding out more about those units and any patches/medals associated with them. I have contacted Doug Dillard and bought White Tigers by Col. Ben Malcom. Dad was also in Laos with Beckwith under Bull Simons, (White Star). Later he served in the 5th SFG Det. B-52 Delta Force and MACV-SOG C&C. Contact Andy DeSoto Antonishak, at <adantoni@duke-energy.com>



Would like to locate **Ronald Bradbury** who served in the infantry in the Korean War, came from New Jersey and was married to Dorothea De Filipis in Baltimore in 1949. Contact George R. Berry, 510 N.W. 98th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607



Looking for **Raphael A. Gonzalez**, US51205041, PV2, from New York. Served in Korea 1952-1953, 7th Inf. Div., 17 Inf. Regt., 2nd Bn., Co E, 1st Platoon, wounded July 8, 1953 returned to duty some time in 1952 was in Koje do. We would love to talk to him again and let him know about the book that was recently written about his Company E. His name is in the book and I am sure he would know many of the men that are listed and talked about. I used to write to him while he was in the service so he would remember me as Susie Carter from 9011 Ashton St., Detroit, Michigan. Contact Angel (Carter) Rodriguez, at e-mail <edinoll@home.com> or Eugene & Patricia Slavin at e-mail <slavinpg@localnet.com>



64th F.A. Bn. Association looking for all "**Lancers**" desiring to join Assn. contact: K.H. Bailey, 701 Currituck Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609 or E-Mail <ABN@YAHOO.COM>. This was an Army unit that participated in WWII, the Occupation of Japan, and the Korean War as an organic unit of the 25th Division. Also contact C. O. Bell, 6000 River Rd. #315, Columbus, Ga. 31904.

Can you help those in this column to receive any bit of information about a lost loved one, just a friend, or a buddy. 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. Please attempt to type your letters, if not take the time to print or write clearly. Also add a land address or telephone number. Editor)

RENSSELAER COUNTY HEROES KOREAN WAR

This 230 page, hard cover book, contains the names and biographies of the 22 "American Heroes" from Rensselaer County New York, who made the Supreme Sacrifice during the Korean War.

Sections of the book that should be of interest to all veterans and the general public are:

- ★ A brief account of the Korean War;
- ★ a Chapter on Korean War Memorials;
- ★ a Chapter on Flag Etiquette; and
- ★ Maps of North and South Korea showing the location of major battles.

The appendix contains a historical narrative of some of the important dates relative to the Korean War, the Flag Code, copies of some news articles of the 1950s', statistics on battle casualties and other matters which may be useful as a reference

The price of the book is \$15.00 (including postage and handling) in the United States. Please send check or money order made payable to:

NENY Chapter KWVA

Mail to: Tom Flavin, 33 Paul Street, E. Greenbush NY 12061-1006.

June 16th 1952 is a day that all members of the 445th Ordnance Ammunition Company who were stationed at Haeundae, Korea remember. Our mission was to receive the ammunition coming off the ships at the beach in Haeundae, store it in the ammunition dump which was located in the hills several miles out of town and to ship the ammunition to the front as needed. There are many stories of what happened that day.

Section 8 the area of the dump I was in charge of which was where the mortar and howitzer ammunition was stored was located down in the valley at the furthest end of the 445th's part of the dump. This area was surrounded by small mountains on three sides with a hill on the left. On the other side of this hill was the "Renovation Area" where they reconditioned ammunition when necessary. Most of the ammunition in the dump came from Pacific Islands where it has been stored since World War II. Directly adjacent to Renovation was Section 4 of the dump where the 90 and 120 millimeter ammunition was stored in wooden boxes.

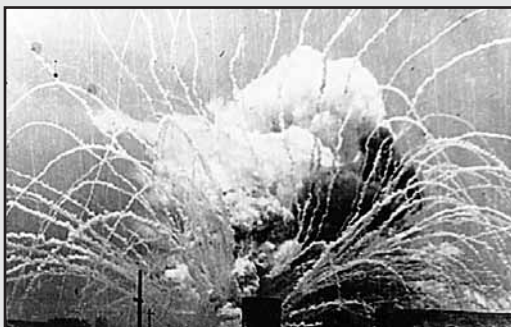
On the morning of June 16th myself, Cpl. Sao from Hawaii and another G.I. Irvin went out to Section 8 with forty Korean laborers and were receiving ammunition from the ship at the beach in Haeundae as usual. At about 11am I sent Cpl. Sao down to the other end of the section with one of the gangs to gather and bring back dunnage so we could use it to stack the ammunition on as it was unloaded from the trucks.

At this time we heard small arms being set off in "Renovation" which was not unusual as they often destroyed defective small arms ammunition there.

Then we heard loud "WHAM—WHAM—WHAM" sounds coming from the "Renovation Area" and I remarked to Irvin, "They had better be careful as it sounds like much more than usual." Suddenly at about 11:10am there was a tremendous explosion and 90mm and 120mm shells were going overhead with large pieces of shells coming down all around us. Every three or four minutes a new and larger blast was going off and the stacks in Section 4 were burning and exploding.

When we turned around the forty laborers were gone. We ran up to the other end of the section but we could not find Cpl. Sao. At this point we decided to go up over the mountain as our normal route to the dump entrance was blocked by the ongoing blasts. As we ran

A Day We All Remember



By Franklin R. Joseph

across the valley and up through the rocket area to the top of the mountain large pieces of shell and white phosphorus continued to come down after each blast.

As we neared to top of the mountain we noticed a small airplane flying over the exploding area which jumped several hundred feet with each new blast. We later learned that the civilian who was in charge of the overall operation of the dump was in the plane and was directing those below how to control the situation. They had brought up large tanks from Pusan and were pushing stacks which were burning toward the exploding area and those not burning away to make a big gap.

We went down the other side of the mountain to the British area. As we walked along hundreds of Koreans were fleeing with all their possessions and we were surprised to see steamer trunks loaded on ox carts going down the road. ROK soldiers were checking all the civilian passes. One of the Honchos (gang leaders) who worked in the dump was stopped because he didn't have his pass and I had to identify who he was before they would let him through.

Later we hitched a ride on a British truck and got back to Haeundae and the company area about 4 pm. All the shops had been looted and the windows were smashed. Cpl. Sao was in the company area when we got there and we explained how we had tried to find him. He said, "Joe you won't believe what happened—I don't believe what happened". "I've never driven a car or even a bicycle but I was so scared that somehow I drove a loaded ammunition truck up out of the dump."

That night they brought in the Airborne from Pusan and sealed off the dump. By the next day the situation was under control but because of the white phosphorus all around fires started in the dump everything it rained. For that reason fire engines were kept out in the dump 24 hours a day after that.

At the that time there were many rumors about the cause of the explosion such as sabotage, gorillas starting it by shooting of a mortar into the dump etc. However I recently learned from a friend who worked in Battalion Headquarters, it started when a Korean employee working in "Renovation" made a mistake while working with white phosphorous shells and it exploded starting a chain reaction. This makes sense as there was white phosphorus was all over the dump.

EXPERIENCES OF A POW

By Billy Rivers Penn, M.D.

March 1995

To: General Robert Barrow

At your suggestion, I am writing down my experiences as a prisoner of war during the Korean Conflict. Maybe it is something I should have done long ago, I don't know. I do hope that it will help the younger people in our country to appreciate the sacrifices made by so many to insure their future. The young ones I see appear to have no idea of what went on, or what is going on, in this world.

My tour of duty as a hospital corpsman attached to the Fleet Marine Force started off on a rather ominous date.

The fifty of us from Pendleton Marine Base arrived in Korea on Friday the 13th in February of 1953. Even though my tenure in Korea, North and South, was short, compared to some of the experiences of the Vietnam POW's, it seemed like a lifetime on occasion. I think maybe the Vietnam POW's were a little more prepared than we were then. As you know, the Chinese and North Koreans had never heard of the Geneva Convention. I believe that it was the senator from Massachusetts - Margaret Chase Smith who had gotten the law passed that you could not put fresh troops on the MLR until they had been in the country for several weeks. After landing in Seoul, they were transferring us at night to a rest area, which was approximately three miles behind our MLR. They gave each one of us an empty M1 to carry up there, however, I found one clip of ammunition and took it with me. On the way up with about three of us in a truck, many mortar fire was really getting close, and the truck driver told us to get out and get away from the truck. I started running; I guess I ran a hundred yards or so, and after the mortar shells stopped they started calling my name, and when the driver realized where I was, he told me not to move. It seems that I had run out in the middle of a mine field, and they had to get the engineers to come and get me. I was really starting off in good fashion.

Our main jobs for the first two to three weeks were patrols between the rest areas and our MLR's. There were a lot of artillery shells day and night. Finally, we moved up to our MLR to replace a com-

pany on the MLR when that company pulled a daylight raid on a hilltop called Oongot. They suffered a ninety percent

there as a machine gunner. On the way out, a lot of incoming mortar and big stuff were hitting close. How could they see us?

They had taught us that if you ever had a bayonet in somebody and you couldn't get it out, to fire the rifle, and the recoil would help pull it out. I knew I was about to lose a foot. He started to cock his rifle with the bolt action...

casualty rate. The first casualty that I took care of was Geronimo, an American Indian. It seemed like all American Indians were nick-named either Cochese or Geronimo. Our company had to go out that night after the daylight raid to pick up the dropped equipment that the Marines had left. We went out again the next night, further up the hill, and in a Chinese machine gun blinker, I found the Korean dolls that I now have. We stayed on the MLR because the other company had such a high casualty rate.

We made two patrols at night, and I was the only corpsman, so therefore, I had the honor of going on both patrols. On one patrol, we were ambushed on the way back. I had one bad casualty that I was trying to drag back when I ran into some Chinese. The casualty and I laid in a ditch that night for a long time. After the Chinese left, I heard Roscoe Woodard calling for me. He had come back for us. Thank God for Woody! Woody and I had long talks about home. He was from Lucedale, Mississippi. I was from McComb, Mississippi. We talked about home, families and the Corps. It seems that Woody already had a couple of Purple Hearts. He had been wounded twice before, was in the hospital for three months, and elected to stay in Korea rather than to go stateside.

Finally, I was attached to the 5th Marines, 3rd Battalion, "H" Company. One afternoon we got word that a corpsman was needed on Vegas. I volunteered to go. We had three outposts between our MLR and the Chinese MLR. Reno, Vegas, and Carson. They were so named because they felt it was such a gamble to be out there. I knew that Woody was already out

We were on the back side of a tall hill. Incoming was getting heavier when we got to the trenches on Vegas. I went straight to the command bunker when the artillery really intensified. I was in the bunker when I could hear somebody calling for a corpsman.

I was taking care of a Marine when two Chinese jumped on me in the trench. They were like ants, all over us. One stuck a bayonet through my left leg above the ankle, and I couldn't move; he couldn't get the bayonet out, and I saw his finger on the trigger and his gun clicked. They had taught us that if you ever had a bayonet in somebody and you couldn't get it out, to fire the rifle, and the recoil would help pull it out. I knew I was about to lose a foot. He started to cock his rifle with the bolt action when I got my 45 and shot him in the head, and it moved him about three feet down the trench. I was an expert with a 45. At boot camp they kept trying to get me to stay on with the Marine Pistol Team. Thoughts of that have gone through my mind since that time.

The Chinese are so small, they just look like ants with a 10" waist. They were all over us. They had run up on the hill with their own artillery still firing. I was able to remove the bayonet and rifle still in my leg and started pulling the Marine into the command bunker. I was hit in the left knee superficially with shrapnel, took a shot by burp gun in the right shoulder, a through and through wound. I didn't really know about the shoulder until later when I saw how much blood I had lost. A bayonet in the right lower back glanced off my flack jacket. It barely scratched my skin, but it scared the Devil out of me. As I turned, my elbow caught him in the

throat, he fell, and I jumped on him.

The adrenaline was flowing so I'm not really sure about him, but I hit him so many times he did not move after I got up. This is very difficult to write. They were all over us. I picked up an entrenchment tool and started swinging, and I hit one in the neck, and the way his body was shaking on the ground I thought I had decapitated him. I had a flashback of wringing a chicken's neck at home. Dead Chinese were all over. Our machine gunners and Marines had really done a job on the first wave of Chinese. I had been told that the first wave of Chinese had the weapons and that most of the second wave did not have weapons 'They were supposed to get their weapons from the fallen first wave. Everyone was in hand-to-hand combat. "In hand-to-hand combat"—(A Chinese and I were "involved". He had me on the ground with a bayonet over his head driving it toward me. I reached up and gouged out both of his eyes as we rolled over. I remember seeing him running around screaming. When I got back to the command bunker with another wounded Marine, one of the Chinaman's eyes was still in my hand.)

I saw Woody standing outside his machine gun bunker swinging his M2 like a baseball bat.

Trying to get another Marine back to the command bunker, I was jumped again by a Chinese and I beat him unconscious with a rock. When I started out of the command bunker again (the door was only about four feet tall), as I stooped to get out, I was hit by a rifle butt on my helmet. Reflexively, I raised my 45 and when it went off it was on the tip of his nose. I'll never forget the expression on his face as the 45 went off, or the feeling I had of seeing what power the 45 had at point blank range. I backed into the command bunker seeing what looked like a thousand Chinese over Vegas, however, the whole outpost probably wouldn't hold that many.

Just as I squatted behind a 12 x 12 support, a satchel charge came in the door and all I remember is a big flash of white light. I had put all of my eggs in one basket and they blew up my basket. I don't know how long we were buried. It was dusk when we were hit, and dark, I think, when the Chinese dug us out. I was blinded at the time and could only see blurs of light. I

could not move. The 12 x 12 was across my chest, and one was across my helmet. It was probably an hour after I woke up that the Chinese started digging us out.

I could feel arms and legs all around but no one was moving or crying out. When they did get me out of the bunker, what was left of it, they put a bandage around my eyes. I didn't know if it was a blindfold or a bandage, and they started pushing and shoving me. There was still lots of artillery all around. We went approximately 300 yards and went into a tunnel; then I realized they had probably tunneled up through our outwire. The tunnel was about four feet tall and three feet wide. I was tripping all over bodies in the tunnel. I don't know if they were Chinese or Americans. The tunnel was probably 1000 yards long. When we came out we were in a large trench. As I was sitting there resting, I could feel tank tracks in that trench. That was a big trench.

They put me in a truck with four or five wounded Marines or GI's and we were driven for a long way to a small area with several huts. We were put in this place for two to three days. No food or water. Cold as it could be. One Marine, Sammy Armstrong, probably 18 years old, had a bad arm wound. I thought he was really bleeding one night; I couldn't see. It was dark, I still had my bandage on. When I checked him; I could smell gangrene. I tried to rouse the guards and they hit me, but they took Sammy off, and when I saw him during the exchange of prisoners of

mine; I think they called it Camp #10, way up in the mountains. Another Geronimo gave me a bath and washed my clothes in a stream. About ten of us were in a small room.

My presence really confused the Chinese. I was in Marine clothes with Navy insignias on my shirt. I think they thought that I was a forward observer for the artillery or the big ships sitting out there shelling then all the time. "So, I was in isolation for a long time." My isolation domain was a hole in the ground 5-1/2' long, 3' wide and 4' deep with several 2"x 12" boards about 1" apart covering the opening. This turned out to be the camp's latrine. My uniform at that time was a T-shirt, fatigue pants, no shoes nor socks. This is where they retrieved me for the firing squads. It was cold. My feet, toes and fingers were black, but I never lost any toes, fingers, nose or ears. Even today, when my feet get cold, everything tingles and hurts. The song "Hand on my Shoulder" was so evident and alive then, long before it was written. The camp was high in the mountains, so no barbed wire could be used. They would hit our ankles with rifle butts, which caused so much swelling we could not walk very far. There was a young Marine with a bad wound in our camp, who had a tattoo of an American Flag over his right deltoid muscle. There was a tear on his shirt over the tattoo. He would unveil that flag to everyone—a beautiful site—we even said the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. The Chinese beat us every time they caught us

Trying to get another Marine back to the command bunker, I was jumped again by a Chinese and I beat him unconscious with a rock.

war, he was absent an arm but otherwise in good shape.

We were walked for approximately one day and came across a wounded Army man from West Virginia. He could not walk, I could not see, so we made a good pair. I carried him on my back and he told me where to walk. We came to what was later found to be an old abandoned gold

mine. Finally, they took him with me to the firing squad routine, tied his hands behind him, put him on his knees, put a gun to the base of his skull and killed him 3 feet from me. God, rest his soul!

Name, rank and serial number didn't seem to impress them. They had never heard of the Geneva Convention. For me, the brain washing really started then. After

a few rifle butts to the head and body, I told them I was from Mississippi, had a mother, father and two brothers.

I was accused of germ warfare. I didn't know what on earth they were talking about. Then the bad cop/good cop routine started. After about four days of no sleep, being kicked and hit with rifles, and so forth, you learn to fake unconsciousness after the first rifle butt to your head or ribs....like Pavlov's dogs. Food was a very small handful of rice daily. Then, I had 15 to 16 straight days of fake firing squads. They would go through "ready, aim, fire," then click. At that time, I was hoping that they would kill me. That takes a lot out of you. Once or twice they'd send a live round close to my head into the rock wall behind me to get my attention. We had an interrogator, Chinese, who graduated from the University of Illinois, or Chicago, and had a Masters in Sociology. Wow! We named him "blood on hands" because he kept reminding us we had Chinese blood on our hands. He informed us that we had killed 5,000 Chinese....the first indication that we had done well. He kept trying to get me to sign the germ warfare papers, inform him of our battle strength and so forth, plus, tell him which division we were from.

Once again, I think they thought I was a FO for the artillery strikes. One time after a firing squad, he told me that the International Red Cross had informed him that my mother, father and brother were killed in a car wreck. I was wondering how the IRC knew I was there. I asked him about my sister. He said that she was also killed. I had no sister. By that time, I was pretty mad. I informed him that he was lying....I had no sister. He hit me and called in some guards. They held me down and pulled my fingernail from the right ring finger with pliers. It had been injured earlier. It never grew back. It is a constant, daily, reminder to me of my captivity. Nothing can be done to correct the nail bed.

On what I suppose was Easter, they gave all of us a dyed egg. Later on, we learned from one of the cooks, an Australian, that Stalin had died. I guess we thought it was like the old wild West. If the Indian chief were killed, the Indians would stop fighting. We were so happy in a quiet way. We found out there were

some Cuban POW's there also. We had two Australians in our hut; one was a cook. By the grace of God, I had a tube of ophthalmic ointment in my top pocket which I kept putting in my right eye. Finally, the eyesight on the left returned. The wounds on my leg, knee and shoulder were healing. The Australian cook kept me with some boiled water. I kept pouring the boiled water on all of my wounds to remove the exudate. Thank God for the 23rd Psalm in my Bible....my mother had given me one with a steel case cover, inscribed with "May this keep you safe from harm."

One day, they loaded us on a truck and we headed out. There were no bombing runs by allied planes or artillery. We noticed in the morning that the sun was on our left, which meant we were headed south. Still no noise of war going on. Were we really headed south? We arrived in Kaesong, and were held in an old Buddhist temple, full of artillery and machine gun holes. I met other POW's. We were given clean bandages, Chinese clothing and tennis shoes, none of which fit. We were told we were part of Operation Little Switch, an exchange of sick and wounded POW's. Peace talks at Panmunjom were going on at that time. I was there for three or four days before my name was called. I guess they tried to soften us up a little bit. We saw a Korean opera one day, a Chinese opera the next day...a real culture shock. There was some exchange of experiences and stories among other POW's. Most were very dumbfounded, depressed, and there was not much talking. Most had very hollow looking faces. This is where I ran across Sammy Armstrong again. Glad he made it, but sorry he lost his arm - he was so young. Of course, I was an "old 20 year old" myself.

My name was finally called. I was loaded on the truck and headed for Panmunjom. The first Americans we saw in uniform, we all cheered and cried. We were taken to Freedom Village. The first nurse I saw was a lieutenant in the Army. I can't remember her name, but boy, was she beautiful. She took the bandage from my right eye and she almost passed out. I realized then that it must be pretty bad. A lot of pictures were taken. I ran into a corpsman, Bobby from Tennessee. I can't

remember his name, but we were in corps school together. He told me about the high casualty rate on Reno, Vegas and Carson. Woody and most others were killed. They had already had a memorial service for me

From that day until now, I still wonder, "why me?" The same question you had, General, when you, your lieutenant, and radioman were standing together and a mortar round dropped in and they were killed and you were not injured.

You know, three weeks after returning home, I was back at work in a Navy hospital in Pensacola. I had three surgeries on my right eye and a lot of "sand papering" done on my face trying to remove some of the superficial shrapnel. Even today, sometimes while shaving, I'll tear up a razor blade when it hits the shrapnel.

Nobody talked about their experiences then. My family never did. They were told not to bring it up, and maybe I would forget it. Other than my wife, Nancy, the only two people that I have ever discussed it with are you and Frank McLavy, combat men. I have all the symptoms of post traumatic stress syndrome. Especially nightmares I still have some every night. It's worse this time of year because 42 years ago this month, in March, is when my tour of duty in North Korea started.

Recently, a D-Day TV program convinced me that people should know about this. Like the holocaust, people, especially the young generation, should not forget what people have done to give us a world to live on, and a country to live in. A lot of people have given parts of their hearts, souls, and bodies all over the world for us to have the freedom and privileges we have. I began talking to my oldest son just the other day.

He was so thankful. Except for my wife, Nancy, I have never told my family anything. Walter Cronkite said that when he went over on the QE2 with all the veterans for the D-Day ceremonies that they discovered something together. The reason they never talked is that they all have guilty consciences. They came home and the others did not. I don't know if all of this will be therapeutic or not. I hope so, but mainly I owe a piece of my heart to all the men who left it all in Korea. They are, not were, but are, a great group of men who don't want to be forgotten. Korean police action has been called a forgotten

war. It's time for remembrance and respect.

God is good, and has a sense of humor. I promised myself I would never eat rice again and would never treat a Chinese patient. So what happens? After my B.S. at L.S.U., Medical School in Mississippi, internship and OB-GYN residency at Tennessee, I moved to Louisiana, where they put rice in, and on, everything. And, during my first year of practice, I delivered 10 Chinese babies.

Meeting and talking to you, General, was an enlightening and gratifying experience. Maybe when we get to heaven it will be written on the big blackboard the answer to "why me?" My experience with the Corps makes me very proud - proud to wear the poge rope that the 5th Marines gave us in World War I, and proud to be a part of the Semper Fi Society.

I have rambled and this is not always in exactly chronological order, but I hope that this will help the youth of our country to love, respect and honor, the legacy we have left them. When I see the problems in North Korea today, and the way the modern Americans believe in honoring the North Korean officials, it scares me.

Those people speak with forked tongues and do not tell the truth. Life is still the cheapest commodity on the market over there. Even today, if they called me, I'd go back to serve. In your memoirs, report, or papers that you are preparing, please feel free to use any portion of my story that you wish. I thank you for encouraging me to do this. Maybe my feelings have been selfish in the past in not wanting to talk about what happened to me, but now I feel I can't let my fallen comrades down.

I know God has forgiven me. I only wish that I could forgive myself. I have been close to death several times in my life, but my faith in God has always brought me through. Thank God for children and grandchildren. It is God's indication that He wants us and this world to continue. It is as though the circle of life is complete.

I have answered a lot of letters from all over the country asking if I knew anything about their sons, husbands, or brothers that were still listed as MIA's at the time of my return home. I pray for them all, and hold them in my heart.

Thank you again,

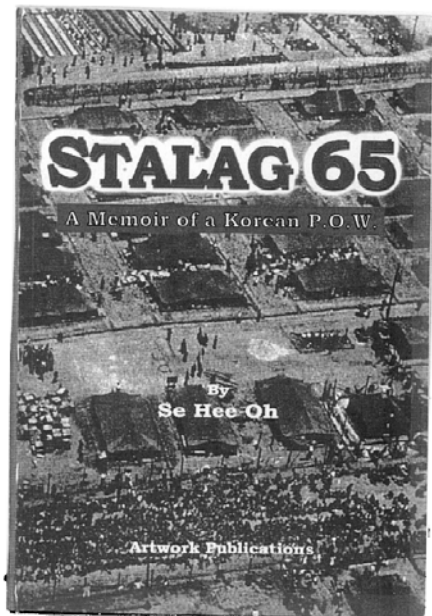
Billy Penn.

General Robert Barrow USMC, retired past commandant of USMC is one of the greatest Americans I have ever met. During World War II he parachuted into North China to teach gorilla warfare to the Chinese versus Japan. In Korea he helped lead the invasion into Inchon and in the "Frozen Chosin" he received the Navy Cross. In Vietnam he distinguished himself so many times.

(Thank You Michael Keenan, Sr. and Patrick Kane for sending me this information. Michael's brother Joe Keenan was killed in this battle described by Billy Penn. Michael states

Billy is now retired and was undergoing radiation treatments for throat cancer. The sight in his one good eye is also failing. I talked to Dr. Penn on the phone the other day and he said he was recovering very well and would like to hear from the veterans. Dr. Penn's address is: 3432 Old Quarter Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Michael Keenan [781-924-1005, e-mail <edgame19@mediaone.net>] and Patrick Kane [225-344-2048, e-mail <trubeau@aol.com>] are working on getting Billy a medal of valor to go with his honored Purple Heart.)



A PRISONER OF TWO ARMIES

THE AMAZING STORY OF A SOUTH KOREAN STUDENT DRAFTED BY THE PRESS GANGS OF NORTH KOREA'S 'PEOPLES ARMY' INTO THEIR "PEOPLES 'VOLUNTEER' ARMY." DESERTING THE NORTH KOREANS, HE WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY SOUTH KOREA. HE THEN SPENT TWO YEARS OF LIVING HELL IN A STRUGGLE TO STAY ALIVE IN POW CAGES DOMINATED BY CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS. THE RED POW REVOLT AT CHEJU-DO ISLAND AND ITS INEPT HANDLING IS COVERED IN DETAIL. HIS COMMENTS REFERRING TO U.S. ADHERENCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION PROTOCOLS GIVE PAUSE SHOULD THE U.S. EVER AGAIN BE INVOLVED IN AN ASIATIC WAR. THERE ARE LESSONS HERE TO BE LEARNED BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND HEEDED BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY COMMAND.

Edited by Arthur Wilson, a Korean War veteran

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I was with the 120th Engr. Combat Bn. (attached to the 45th Infantry Div.) in 1952-53. The Army description for my MOS was not complete. It only said Construction

Surveyor; nothing mentioned about being a human mine detector, and not a word about weather. The soil in Korea was not only full of magnetic ores, but in the fought-over areas there were a dozen pieces of shrapnel in every square yard, making magnetic detectors useless.

As for weather, do you remember those balmy winters when it seldom got colder than 30 below? We quit trying to use the surveying instruments when it got below zero.

We usually camped out in an insulated hex tent, which would have been comfortable, except the shoe box stove went out every single night. If I hadn't got up and re-lit in the morning, my buddy in the picture, Cpl. John Bradshaw, would have stayed in his sleeping bag until Spring!

My first encounter with deadly ordnance involved picking up a Chinese grenade. I was tempted to throw it, but had heard too many stories about "instantaneous" grenades. I managed to unscrew the fuze mechanism and throw it—it went off about 6 inches from my hand, and the handle gave me a good rap on the knuckles—a good reminder.

(The fuze train on grenades consists of 2 or 3 slow burning tablets, about the size of aspirin tablets. The instantaneous variety has holes through the center of the tablets.)

Our I & R section was responsible for identifying any new types of ordnance that the troops ran across; a new type of fuze was brought in for the specialist to examine. The phone rang so he set it down in a glass ashtray, unfortunately next to a lighted cigarette. The next thing he knew he was sitting in a corner minus part of one little finger. His face was sprayed with glass, but luckily he wore glasses that protected his eyes.

One of my projects was to lay out a tank trail so that a tank could be set up hull down atop Heartbreak Ridge. Later I heard

MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS

By D. J. Harrington

that the tank was a burned-out hulk halfway down the hill. Seems the crew went to lunch one day, leaving the hatch open. It didn't take a sharp Chinese mortarman too many rounds before he put one through the hatch. Scratch one tank.

I also found a discarded bazooka round and considered setting it off using a fence picket for a guide rail, but I didn't have any time fuse to manage it. I soon learned to carry a one lb. block of TNT and some time fuse to take care of any discarded ordnance that our dozers might run over. I ran across some parachuted pallets of mortar rounds, but as each pallet was an 8 x 8 x 8 ft. cube I didn't think: my 30 seconds of time fuse would let me get far enough away.

Getting back to mines, we found a case of 30 cal. ammunition and tried setting off a mine in a known mine field. Must have wasted 300 rounds and never set one off. One of our line companies took up a field of "bouncing Betties" and I vividly remember a helmet and liner with 17 shrapnel holes and much dried blood inside. We think that after the Engineers defused all these mines that the ordnance people who collected the dead mines got hazardous duty pay for handling them!

Another of my projects was to see that a road we were laying out met one that a X Corps Engineer outfit was building. Their corps surveyor came ambling up the path saying he sure was glad there were no

mines in the area. When we pointed out the one we had defused that morning and the body of a "line crosser" about 50 yards away (he had a terrible grimace, and one leg blown off) the surveyor turned a sickly, shade of green.

There was some thought given to the possible pulling back of the MLR in case the truce really went through (this was the Spring of '53.) We laid out a regiment size reserve area behind the lines, driving stakes all over the place. Within 15 minutes of the troops arrival some poor GI set off a trip flare, breaking his leg and giving him some burns. Right where we had been working.

My last experience with booby traps was about two weeks before I was due to rotate. We were checking out part of Bloody Ridge where the MLR might be relocated in case the truce became real. I always emphasized to my helpers that you NEVER stepped on a taut piece of commo wire. My helper that day must have been an ex-farm boy who wasn't too careful about where he walked. When he felt the wire go slack and heard a snapping sound he did have the presence of mind to holler "Mine!" We both went flat, cussing the shirt buttons that prevented us from getting lower. After about 60 seconds when nothing further occurred we went to investigate. Some GI had tied a frag mine to the base of a tree and hooked it to the trip wire. But he had neglected to straighten out one leg of the cotter pin. Unbelievably the other leg of the cotter pin had pulled through, and the pull ring pulled loose!

We wondered if a U.S. grenade would still function after laying out in the weather for a year or more, so we hooked it up properly and retired to a foxhole and pulled the commo wire. It worked perfectly—our grenades are really reliable!

Two weeks later I was in a "repo depo" waiting to leave when the announcement of the truce came through. What a strange feeling—not a thing to say. The replacements just coming in really let out the whoops and cheers.

I got on the troop ship the day the shooting stopped.



D. J. Harrington (left), freezing without parka, and John Bradshaw.

Some call it courage

by Robert Harper

A few days before the North Koreans attacked the Pusan Perimeter on 31 August 1950, their commander made a boast to his government in Pyongyang. Marshal Choe Yong Gun promised he could destroy the United Nations force and be in Pusan within 24 hours. The marshal was unable to keep his promise, but he did manage to lose 30,000 of his men during the following two weeks. Most were lost in mass attacks against important but heavily defended sectors of the front line. Also, there was a high rate of desertion; and courageous pilots of the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps flew almost continuous combat support sorties during daylight hours.

Still, the marshal's remaining 70,000 troops were occupying strong positions; we knew an attack against a fortified line is always a bloody slugging match. In the 2nd Infantry Division sector, 23rd Regiment led the attack on 16 September, supported by C Co. 72nd Tank Bn. The infantrymen overran the enemy outer defenses, but were stopped by heavy artillery and mortar fire. On our left flank an anti-tank gun decapitated a tank commander; his platoon leader, Lt Trinen, had already been killed.

Our tank column was ordered to hold its present position to allow a close air support mission. To our immediate front a low hill protected us from the anti-tank gun. When the artillery fire was no longer so intense I decided to climb the hill and search for the enemy weapon. From there I was confident that if the gun fired again I would be able to spot the muzzle flash; and I would still be within shouting distance of my tank when the order came to continue the attack.

The view from the hill surprised me. An expanse of farmland stretched north from my position to the base of a range of higher hills where the enemy had organized their main line of resistance. The North Korean anti-tank gunners had an unobstructed field of fire of at least 1,400 yards. Advancing through that open area along the road, as we had been ordered to do, we would have no cover from that deadly gun. All the Korean farmers had been evacuated several weeks before;

Suddenly, he leaped up and ran about 20 yards; in rapid succession he threw four hand grenades toward what appeared to be just another clump of rice plants. The grenades detonated almost simultaneously.

without regular irrigation the hot sun had dried up the rice paddies. Tracked vehicles and troops could maneuver throughout the area. Also, the un-harvested rice was almost waist high, which could provide concealment for hundreds of North Korean soldiers.

As I was scanning the fields searching for an enemy tank or a gun emplacement, I caught sight of movement about 400 yards away. I assumed that enemy survivors from the overrun outposts were trying to make their way back to the enemy defense line. I swept the area again, this time through binocular, but saw nothing. When I focused on the location of the movement, I saw a man jump up, run in a crouched position a few steps, fall to the ground and roll to the right. The rice stalks had partially concealed him from view; I had only seen him from the waist up. He was wearing a U.S. Army fatigue jacket.

I continued to search along the base of the enemy held hills to the north trying to locate the anti-tank weapon. But I kept track of the lone figure advancing toward the enemy forces. Sometimes he would take just a few steps before his feet became entangled in the rice plants. At first he would trip, fall, and remain on the ground just a few seconds; when he was about 800 yards out in the rice field he was showing signs of fatigue. The mid-September heat alone was enough to sap his strength. There was not the slightest breeze; then when he hit the hot, hard ground, gasping for breath, the thick rice plants cut off all the air that circulated just above the top of the rice crop. More often now, he would lie where he fell and remain on the ground longer in an effort to recover from the suffocating heat.

Suddenly, he leaped up and ran about 20 yards; in rapid succession he threw four hand grenades toward what appeared to be just another clump of rice plants. The grenades detonated almost simultaneously. Then I saw his target. The 76-mm anti-tank gun was barely visible through binoculars. The North Koreans had dug up large chunks of sod, with the growing rice stalks, and had placed them on all the sandbags protecting the weapon. The enemy troops had smeared dirt from the field all along the gun tube. He must have spotted the gun when it fired the round that killed the tank commander.

The man began to make his way back toward our lines; and, judging by his actions, he came under fire almost immediately. The soldier was much closer to the enemy force than to his own unit. Now, he would crawl several yards through the rice, run just a few steps before falling to the ground and rolling to the side. The order came to move out. The 23rd Infantry troops formed a skirmish line and began moving north through the rice paddies. We knocked out another anti-tank gun near the road; the U.S. Air Force destroyed others along our route of advance. In the late afternoon we broke through the enemy line and organized a defensive position on the Naktong River.

Occasionally, throughout the afternoon I had wondered about the fate of that brave soldier, whose initiative and courage may have saved my life. After dark I found the infantry company commander we had supported during the attack. I asked if he had seen his man knock out the crew of the North Korean anti-tank gun. "Yes, I saw him." The captain did not volunteer any additional information, so I asked if the soldier had returned safely to our lines. After a long pause he said, "He made it back." There was so much hostility in his tone of voice I hesitated to continue. Then I told him if he needed any documentation to support some type of recognition for his heroic act, I would be willing to prepare a statement for him. The company commander snarled, "Hell No! That was that damned Romero. He is always doing something stupid like that."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Rev. Irvin L. Sharp

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Most gracious and merciful GOD, we offer our sincere thanks and praise for your great mercies.

We confess that we are unworthy, for our lives have been unholy and our sins many and great. O God, we pray that you will be merciful to us sinners. We pray also that we do unto all men as we would have done to us. May we forgive one another, as we hope that you will forgive us. Teach us to guard against anger, malice, hatred, envy and all evil tempters.

We beseech you to bless the victims of the terrible disaster, their families and loved ones. May they know that you are unceasingly with them as they struggle to understand and heal, physically and mentally. Shower them with your loving kindness and mercy. Bless the president, congress, and the military of these United States; direct their decisions to the nation's best interests, and to Your glory.

Instill in world leaders the desire to cultivate their actions according to your will. We ask you also, to direct our enemies toward peaceful conduct and to teach us to exercise consideration and forbearance toward all men.

Sovereign God, accept these our humble and imperfect supplications. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

✠ ✠ ✠

Deliverance from Violent Men

Excerpts from Psalm 140

Verses 1-3

Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;
preserve me from violent men,
who plan evil things in their heart,
and stir up wars continually.
They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's,
and under their lips is the poison of vipers

Verses 12-13

I know that the LORD maintains the cause of the afflicted,
and executes justice for the needy.
Surely the righteous will give thanks to Thy name;
the upright shall dwell in Thy presence.

A Psalm of David

Notice

When calling an officer or the editor and you are leaving a message on an answering machine, speak slowly and leave your name and phone number twice. We are having problems responding because of not hearing your phone number clearly.

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Visit the KWVA web site at: [HTTP://www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)

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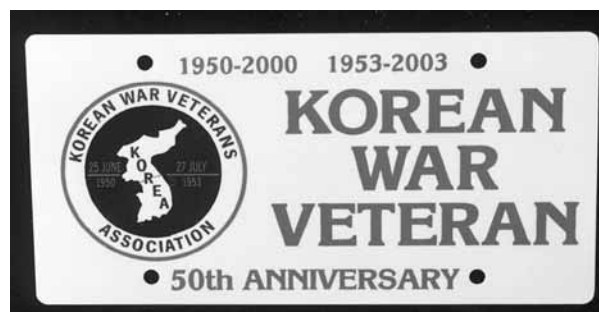


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All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

Alabama

★ Herbert D. Paul

Alaska

★ Robert S. Godfrey

California

★ Daniel J. Boehm

★ Allen William Crain

★ James S. Mc Henry

★ Jere J. O'Neill

Florida

★ Robert Blewitt

★ Marcel P. Kirwan, Jr.

★ Barry Ressler

★ Jesse Oliver Smith

Georgia

★ James T. Yarbrough

Illinois

★ Wilbur L. Cox

★ Fred R. Oeschler

★ Billy R. Smith

Indiana

★ George Fusselman

★ Don Kaylor

★ William T. LaCross

Maryland

★ Joseph Woody

Massachusetts

★ Kenneth Kohlstrom

★ Joseph F. Sena

Minnesota

★ Orville M. Nelson

New York

★ Valento Bandera

★ Robert Getzler

★ Leonard LaRue

★ William Joseph Mach

★ John Wheatfield

North Carolina

★ William Alexander Smith, Jr.

Ohio

★ David S. Smith, Jr.

Pennsylvania

★ William B. Morgan

Virginia

★ Lee H. Beville

Wisconsin

★ Thomas W. Kelner

No State Given

★ James S. Bullock

★ Mathew Oglesby

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Home of record _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard

Other _____

Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

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Update

Korea Revisit

By Warren Wiedhahn, Chairman

KWVA Revisit Program

Pusan - Inchon - Seoul - "Chosin" 1950

Dear friends and fellow veterans,

I am very pleased to report that The Korean Veterans Association, Seoul, (KVA) came through with the requested quotas for November. As a matter of fact, even as I write this report, the group is returning from a very successful Revisit to Korea. We were very fortunate to also get them invited to the US Forces Korea Compound in Seoul where they had the opportunity to visit the Korean War Heritage Center and see the various pictures and memorabilia contained there in.

We have gone on record as requesting a thousand quotas each in the years 2002 and 2003 which could be the end of the Revisit Korea as we now know it. Consequently, if you HAVE NOT submitted your application for these two years, please do so immediately using the form contained elsewhere in The Graybeards.

Since this will be the last issue that you will receive this year, may I take the opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Warren Wiedhahn, President/CEO
Military Historical Tours

Memorial Photos Needed

If we have not shown your memorial in the last 2 years please send in a photo. Please identify the memorial and all persons in it. Send us the best photo that does your memorial justice. Describe the memorial in detail and give us the location. I will also send that photo on to our webmaster to place on our KWVA web page. Please do not send photos you want returned and please no newspaper clippings. —Editor

Korean War Veterans National Museum and Library

Germany, India Japan, Korea, Austria, New Zealand, Scotland and England are the countries to have registered. All in all, we feel this shows the need for the museum and library.

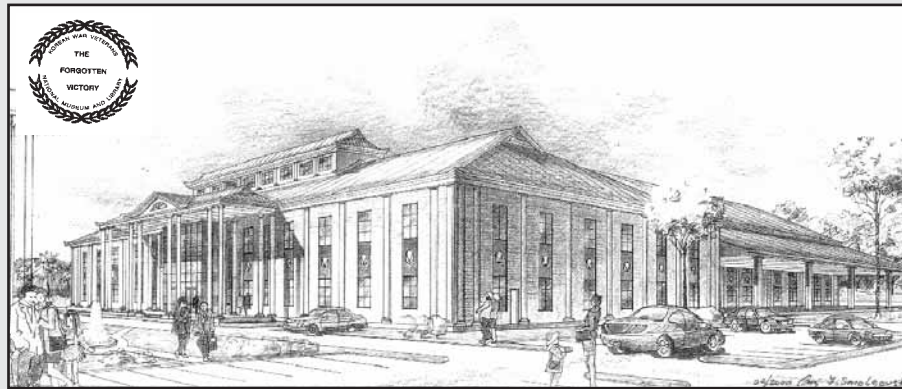
We received a shipment of 889 books and also a large amount of comic books from the estate of Walter Leahy in Florida. This increased our offering of books and the duplicates have been set up as a lending library.

Letters are being sent out to elementary, secondary schools and universities about the availability of our research materials and the possibilities of field trips. We had a journalism class from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL meet for their class at the museum and we had Korean veterans available to talk to them. Some of the students interviewed them after the class. Even if we receive duplicates of articles, they will be put to use. We hope to set up a

chest of articles (preferably a foot locker), that instructors can check out to use when teaching about the Korean War.

Bill O'Brien and I are working on revamping the District Representative program. We will be drafting a letter to be sent to the current list of district reps. If you are interested in being a district rep, please notify Sharon at the museum and library office. We are going to stress building up our membership. It is vital to build up the membership to help us receive grants.

Sharon E. Corum
Executive Secretary



KOREAN WAR VETERANS NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

P.O. Box 16, Tuscola, IL 61953

Ph: (217) 253-5813 ❖ Fax: (217) 253-9421 ❖

E-mail: kwmuseum@theforgottenvictory.org

Web-Site: www.theforgottenvictory.org

Progress Report – November-December 2001

KWVNM&L Board of Directors, along with Sharon Corum, Liz Black and Marilyn Matthers, office staff, would like to send you:

BEST WISHES AND SEASONS GREETINGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Time is sure flying by. It's hard to believe, five months has gone by, since we opened the museum and library. The office has been hard at work accessioning the artifacts being donated, so we can enlarge our display. We just acquired more display cases, so there is a need for more artifacts. We are needing larger items such as medical supplies, American guns, helmets, items the soldiers carried, gas masks, etc. Other items desired would be airplane and ship models. It would be nice to be able to hang airplane models from the ceiling.

The museum has brought in approximately 3,500 visitors since we have opened on June 1, 2001. We are sure there are some visitors who do not register. Every state but seven, have been registered. France,

LETTERS from page 27

by a Mr. Joo Jin Ha. He sent the following message by e-mail to him:

Subject: "Deep Sorrow"

Dear My American Friends:

I am Mr. JOO. Korean Government declared yesterday as the official day of mourning for terror victims. We hung flags at half-mast all over the country. At 10:00 we had one minute's silent tribute to their souls. I hope you earliest possible recovery.

Sincerely,
JOO JIN HA

This was sent on Friday, 14 September 2001

Marines of 1st Div., lets have a reunion

I would like to start a reunion for the 1st Marine Div., 11 Marine Regt., Korea 1950-53. Contact Jim Rusher, 346 Luther Lane, Gibsonburg, OH 43431. Tel: 419-637-2352

THE KOREAN WAR EDUCATOR

You are invited to visit our website at:

www.koreanwar-educator.org

Detailed accounts of the Korean War

Korean War-related links

Marty O'Brien's entire casualty book

POW/MIA & casualty information

Oral history project

Veterans' memoirs

KW vet reunion details

Editorials/PSAs

Reference materials

Locate a buddy

Poetry & V-mail

Hundreds of photos

Outpost wars

Much, much more!

Lynnita Sommer Brown, Text Editor

Julian Blagg, USMC veteran, Webmaster

Korean War Veterans Memorial—The Video



Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War — 2000–2003



Lead Scout

Every day, as many as ten thousand people flock to the KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL in Washington, D.C. to see this long-awaited national tribute to our Korean War veterans. The Memorial honors America's sons and daughters who were wounded and missing in action or captured and those who gave their lives protecting freedom in a land far away.



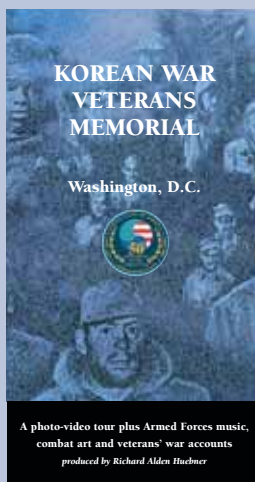
Now, with this one-of-a-kind, commemorative Video you will visit this awesome Memorial again and again in your own home. You will marvel at the magnificent steel sculptures and the monumental wall of 2400 images. And so that you never forget, casualties are imprinted over a background of combat artists' battle scenes from the Navy Art Gallery.

Hundreds of close-up and wide angle photo-video scenes record the breathtaking artistry of this extraordinary Memorial and bring back memories of the war years.

From the Architect's opening remarks to the segment about the Korean War Honor Roll, the Video leaves an incredibly unforgettable impression on those who watch it and hear its inspiring music and stories.

Three years in the making, this *ten-part* Video memento is dedicated to all Korean War veterans.

©1999 Richard Alden Huebner
©1995 KWVM Productions, Inc.



THE VIDEO

This video treasure comes with an attractive box, a six-page brochure, a guide to the memorial statues and mural wall, and an itemized program of the video segments, the veterans' accounts and the music.

TO ORDER THE VIDEO

1) Please print or type your full name and your complete return mailing address on a stamped #10 size envelope; 2) Place this envelope inside another envelope; and 3) Mail it to: RAH Publications & Video Productions, KWVM Video Request, 23871 Meadowlark Street, Oak Park, Michigan 48237-2266. (Do *not* send payment with request.)

After the videos are made, invoices will be sent to all those whose requests are on file. After the deadline for receipt of payments has passed, the videos will be shipped in the same sequence in which the payments were received.

For USA orders, the cost of the video is \$39.95 each plus \$5 shipping and handling.

THE MUSIC

Scenes of the Memorial are enhanced throughout the Video by the thrilling, high fidelity, stereo music of *nine* highly acclaimed U.S. Armed Forces bands and choruses.

VETERANS' ACCOUNTS

Veterans' memories include: "Busting through at Kunu-ri Pass," "Lost behind enemy lines," "What it's like to lose close friends," "Johnson's POW List," and many others

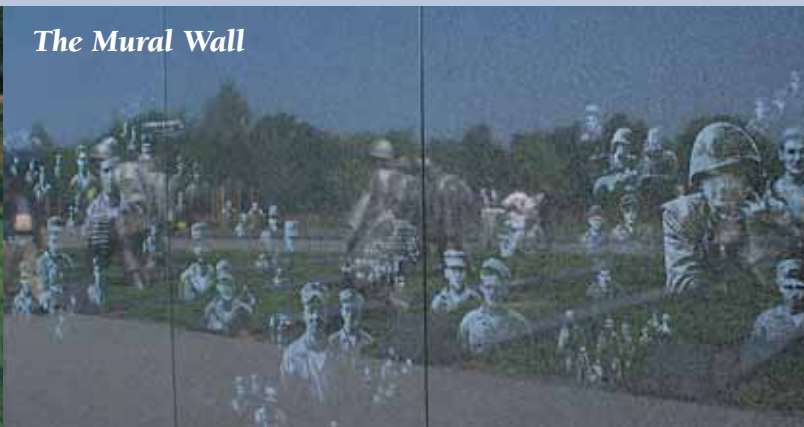


U.S. Army Chorus



The Advance Party

The Mural Wall



Reunion Calendar

January 2002

Technical Research ships - **AGTR/AGER: USS Oxford, Jamestown, Liberty, Belmont, Georgetown, Banner, Palm Beach, Pueblo; USNS PVT. J. T. Valdez & J. E. Muller**, Jan. 6-13 At sea aboard Holland American's ms MAASDAM in the western Caribbean. Contact George Cassidy. 127 Ann Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355. Tel: 860-536-6848. E-mail: <gcassidy@snet.net>. website: www.members.tripod.com/~USS-OXFORD.

March 2002

Looking for Members of the **71st Engineer Aviation Bn.** who served in 1952 & 1953 at Fort Huachuca, AZ. We are having a reunion at the Fort on March 1-3. Contact Larry Spaeth, 2029 N 40th St, Sheboygan, WI 53081 Tel: 920-452-5826 or Jim R Riesenbergt at e-mail <RIESEJRR@co.sheboygan.wi.us>

April 2002

USS Noble APA-218, April 10-13 in Fredericksburg, TX. Contact Bill Murphy, 98 W. Albion Street, Holley, NY 14770-1062. Tel: 716-638-6060

73rd Tank Battalion, April 25-28 in Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Curtis Banker, 44 Westcott Road, Schuyler Falls, NY 12985-1940. Tel/Fax: 518-643-2302 or e-mail dmbanker-curtis@northnet.org.

67th Tac Recon Wing April 26-28, in Nashville Tenn. Contact Edward C. Rice, 315 Gun Club Road, Nashville, TN 37205-3205 Tel: 615-352-8304 or E-mail <mildred03@juno.com>.

United States Navy Cruiser Sailors Assn. April 28 - May 3, at Raddisson Hotel in Annapolis, MD. Former crewmembers of USS Fresno CLAA-121 and USS Fall River CA-131, are cordially invited to join us. Contact Edward J. August, 21 Colonial Way, Rehoboth, MA 02769. Tel/Fax: 1-508-252-3524, email <usnca@aol.com>

May 2002

772nd MP Bn. Korea and all members May 2-5, at Marriott Grove Suites, Downers Grove, IL, Contact William McDonald 708-422-3892 or E-Mail BIL-MAC32@gateway.net or Joel C. Davis, PO Box 342 Luckey, OH 43443-0342. Tel: 419-833-1613 Fax: 419-833-1621

USS BUCK (DD-761) Assn. May 23-26 in Colorado Springs at Raddisson Inn and Suites, Colorado Springs Airport. Contact John Connolly, 7 Tenerife Way, Hot Springs, AR 71909 Tel 501-922-3969 or e-mail <joncon@ipa.net>.

June 2002

AP Transport Group- USS Generals Mitchell AP114; Radall AP115; Gordon AP117; Richardson AP118; Weigel AP119; Hodges AP144; Breckinridge AP176 and USS Admirals Benson AP120; Capps AP121; Eberle AP123; Hughes AP124 & Mayo AP125. All services, June 6-9. Contact Chuck Ulrich, 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY. Tel: 516-747-7426.

September 2002

Dear Fellow Korea War Veterans: Come one, come all, to the Greatest ever **Canadian Korea Veterans Assn's** 10th Biennial Convention and Reunion Hosted in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Sept. 5-8 year 2002. Plan yourselves a fantastic Canadian/Alberta holiday around this Reunion. Visit the Magnificent Canadian Rockies, the Columbia Ice Fields, visit the world famous Resorts of Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper. Plan a trip north to Alaska or a Pacific Coast Cruise up to Alaska, then please return to the City with The World's Largest Mall, The City of Champions, The Klondike City, The City Hosting the Greatest Reunion in the new millennium, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. All Veterans from the 21 Countries who

served in the Korean War or subsequent to the Cease-Fire are welcome to attend, as well as spouses, other family members and interested friends (KVA membership not required). It will be a great opportunity to meet old comrades and make new friends with whom we share a common Bond. Further information will be available soon. Contact Lee Power, Co-Chairman, 15803-129 Street, Edmonton AB. T6V 1A2, Tel: 780-457-3992 or Jean Pierre Van Eck, Chairman 2002 Convention, Tel: 780-488-5845 or Fax: 780-488-6490 or E-Mail: <jpve@ecn.ab.ca>

The United States Armed Forces Nuclear Energy Association Sept., 19-23 in Charleston, SC. We were Army, Navy and Air Force personnel that operated the military's nuclear power plants in the 50's and 60's. We are trying to find our lost comrades and would appreciate any help you may render. Contact Edward R. Fedol, 308 Upshur Court, Summerville, SC. 29485-8057 or e-mail <gully@knology.net>.

October 2002

New Zealand Korea Veterans Assn. We invite you and all other Korean Veterans to share in our Reunion in Oct. 11-13. Why not plan a holiday in New Zealand. See Hawke's Bay and Napier. Hawke's Bay is on the East Coast of the North Island. Napier is on the sea coast with a port and an airport with link lines to main international airports. Napier is a small city. It is Wine Country, an Art Deco World, the largest Gannet Colony in the world, the fruit Bowl of New Zealand, Timber Exports, a vast Processing Plant for fruit and vegetables, a National Aquarium in the making, and an Equable Climate. We would love to have you visit and share not only in our Korean celebrations, but in the beauty and vigor of our community. If there is any further information that you need, contact NZ Korea Veterans Assn. 55 Tanner Street, Havelock North, Hawkes Bay, NZ or call Ray Perry at (06) 878 6942 or Peter Grover at (06) 877 4060 Fax: (06) 877 0391 or e-mail at <petergrover@extra.co.nz>. See Website: www.rsanapi-er.co.nz.

(In reading other magazines I see that they charge for reunion notices. I hesitate to ask a member or a supporting organization of KWVA National to pay for reunion notices. Since we are in need of support at this time, I think it is appropriate to ask you to send a minimum donation of \$1.00 for each reunion notice. Again, this request is not mandatory. Please send notices directly to editor, make checks payable to KWVA National. Typed lower case reunions only requested. Editor)

NEW BOOK

Glenn M. Justice, author
488 pages, hardback,
167 photos.
Only \$29.95

Fighting "George" Light Infantry

Remember Korea, 1950-53

Read the true story of the Korea War, told from the viewpoint of an Army infantryman, like it has never been told before. Glenn Justice takes you, the reader, through day-by-day accounts of the battles and hardships of combat with the North Korean and Chinese armies.

137 Lynn-Justice Rd.
Bainbridge, GA 31717
Phone: 229-246-5828
justpub@surfsouth.com



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We are a highly regarded subsidy publishing house whose services parallel closer to those of a traditional publisher. Our impeccable reputation has been earned through the publication of high-quality books—forever preserving your historical account. Recognizing that each book requires individualized attention, we offer professional services—guiding and advising at every stage.

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Raleigh, NC 27612
or call 1-800-948-2786

Korea Battlefield Tours for Spring 2002

Southern Battlefield Tour: *The First Three Months*

March 8 -15, 2002

Task Force Smith to Taegu, and the Nakdong Perimeter: July to September, 1950

This 8-day tour will visit the battle areas of the first three desperate months of the Korean War. The tour will be particularly interesting to 1950 Veterans of the 24th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry, 2nd Infantry and 25th Infantry Divisions, as well as Vets of the several independent Regimental units - the 5th Marine Regiment, the 65th Regiment and the 5th Regimental Combat Team, who fought in the first desperate days of the War. Tour the National Highway from Seoul to Pusan, visiting key battlesites including TF Smith, Pyongtaek, the Kum River and Taejon, and exploring the "Pusan Perimeter" area.

Optional Post-tour: China

Northern Battlefield Tour: *Inchon and After*

April 12 - 20, 2002

Inchon, Seoul, Uijongbu, Chorwon Valley, the Punchbowl: September 15, 1950 - July 27, 1953

The Amphibious Landing at Inchon by the 1st and 5th Marine Regiments, the 1st Korean Marines and the 7th Infantry Division was the final blow for the North Korean attempt to seize the Korean peninsula. The War quickly moved north of Seoul, and from this point on, most Korea Vets were involved in the northern battle areas visited on this Program. This tour will interest those Veterans who served in Korea after the Inchon Landings, and visit Inchon, Seoul / TF Smith, the Chorwon Valley / Iron Triangle, the Hwachon Reservoir and the Punchbowl.

Optional Post-tour: China

"E-2-5 Korea": Reunion in Korea

May 5 - 13, 2001

Veterans of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment return to Korea to visit the OP's at Panmunjom, the Punchbowl and the Hwachon Reservoir. (E-2-5 Veterans may contact the E-2-5 Korea Association for information on membership).

Fall 2002 Divisional Association Programs:



Society of the 3rd infantry Division:

September, 2002



1st Marine division association:

October, 2002



7th infantry division association:

October, 2002



1st Cavalry division association:

November, 2002



24th infantry division association:

November, 2002

Post Tour Extension: Veterans Tour of China

Includes extended air Korea / Beijing / United States, round-trip airport transfers; 2 nights in Beijing (ex-Peking), including the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, etc., 2 nights in Qingdao (ex-Tsingtao) including - of course - the Tsingtao Brewery, 2 nights Shanghai, including night river tour, etc., etc. Accommodation in 4-star hotels (double-share basis), daily American breakfast (a special note: In 2002 the Yangtze River Cruise is still open through the Three Gorges - this is an excellent year to make this cruise).

California Pacific Tours

1475 Huntington Avenue, Suite 101

South San Francisco, CA 94080

Email: info@cptours.com

Website: www.cptours.com

Call Toll Free: 1-888-822-5258 - for information and brochures

Korean War Veterans Certificate

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 Form

- ☐ I certify that I served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces in combat/support of the Korean War: 6/25/50- 7/27/53.
☐ 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.



United States of America Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

Purpose

- Identify, thank and honor the veterans of the Korean War, their families, especially those that lost loved ones.
- Recognize and remember the Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA).— POWs: 7,140; Returned to Military Control: 4,418; Died in Captivity: 2,701; Refused to return: 21)
- Recognize the contributions of women and minorities to their Nation during the Korean War.
- Provide the American public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the lessons, history, and legacy of the Korean War and the military's contributions to the Nation in maintaining world peace and freedom through preparedness and engagement.
- Remember United Nations forces engaged in preserving the peace, freedom and prosperity of the Republic of Korea and strengthen the bonds of friendship and relationships throughout the world focusing on the 22 countries that fought as Allies.

Commemorative Partner Program

- States, Military and civilian communities, and civic and patriotic organizations will be requested to become Commemorative Partners to assist a Grateful Nation in thanking and honoring veterans in their home towns (to include hospitals, retirement centers, nursing homes, etc.), and supporting schools in teaching the history of this era.

*For ordering Program Details Contact: Department of Defense,
50th Anniversary of the Korean War, Commemoration Committee,
1213 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 702, Arlington, VA 22202-4303
Tel: 703-697-4664 — Fax: 703-697-3145)*

Web Site: KOREA50.MIL

Proposed Entitlements

- A certificate signed by the Secretary of Defense designating your state,



county, town, organization or group as an official “Korean War Commemorative Partner.”

- An official 50th Anniversary of the Korean War commemorative flag and leader lapel pin.
- Informational and educational materials pertaining to the Korean War, including maps, posters, fact sheets and a historical chronology.
- Authorization to use the 50th Anniversary logo on your letterhead, magazines, newsletters, and for other purposes.
- The “Korean War Dispatch,” a quarterly newsletter and a source of official information on Korean War Commemorative events.

Find a supporter or one that shows interest – then order.



Proposed Commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

1950 — 1953

2000 — 2003



Date	Event	Location	Lead
9 April	45th Infantry Division Commemoration	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma National Guard
26 May	National Memorial Day Concert	U.S. Capitol (West Lawn) Washington, DC	US Congress
27 May	Memorial Day Breakfast and Wreath Laying	White House, Arlington National Cemetery and Korean War Memorial, Washington, DC	Military District Washington (MDW)
25 June	Historic Symposium	Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA	POC: Col. Bill Davis, Director, (757) 441-2965
26 - 27 June	International Historical Symposium	The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation and Old Dominion University are pleased to announce a Call for Papers for the International Historical Symposium commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War. This symposium will be held on the campus of the Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.	
27 July	Korean War Armistice Day Commemoration	Korean War Memorial Washington, DC	Korean War Veterans Foundation/Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Committee (KWVF/KWVADCC)
27 July	United War Veterans Council Armistice Commemoration	Staten Island, NY	UWVA of NYC POC: Mr Vince McGowan (212) 693-1476
14 September	Air Power Commemoration	Osan AFB, Korea	7th Air Force
11 November	Veterans Day Memorial Service	Seoul, Korea	Eighth U.S. Army (EUSA)

(To be updated each issue as required)

Images of Korea

by Glenn Ed White



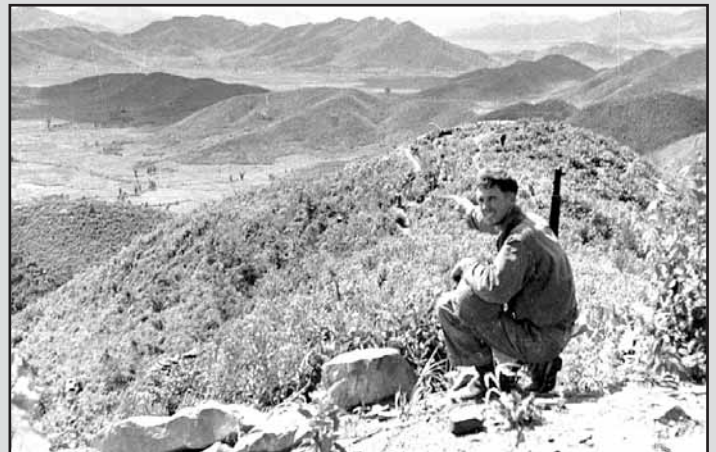
USO & the 45th Inf. Div. Thousands of men watch as Betty Hutton performs on a foggy morning on March 8, 1952.



Lieutenant up a tree. The men climbed trees to see Betty Hutton. Leave it to the GIs to find a way. March 8, 1952



Quad 50 and Gunner. Rear holding position. 45th Division. February 1952.



Glen Ed White pointing to T-Bone Hill in upper center. April 1952. And they think Afghanistan is bad.



Digging in. Rear holding position. 45th Inf. Div., 279th Regt., "L" Company. Sgt Yorks at top. Felix Theus at far right.



Papa-san and A-frame. Taken in front of main train depot in Seoul. 1st week of April 1952 after returning from R & R.

(Thank you Glenn Ed White for the great photos. Many more to be show in future issues. Our veterans really enjoy your photos. I have many photos from others that I hope to show also. I plan to have more pages of old photos in next issue in order to make the backlog smaller. Please be patient for I will print all. Also mark photos with your name if you wish them returned. New submissions should have a self addressed stamped envelope if you want photos returned. Also let me know if you do not want photos returned. I just need to find time to return photos.)

Membership Application (Effective January 1, 1999)

Do not write in this box

Assigned Membership Number:

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

K.W.V.A. Regular Annual Dues — \$20.00 Associate Membership — \$12.00 Life Membership: — \$150

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Member # _____ ☐ POW (\$6.00 fee for Graybeards)

Please Check One:

☐ POW ☐ REGULAR MEMBER ☐ LIFE MEMBER ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Please print

Name _____ Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All new members please provide the following information

Unit(s) to which Assigned:

Branch of Service

Division _____

☐ Army

Other _____

Regiment _____

☐ Air Force

Battalion _____

☐ Navy

Dates of service within or without Korea

Company _____

☐ Marines

(see criteria below)

Other _____

☐ Coast Guard

from _____ to _____

Make checks payable to:

KWVA
P.O. Box 10806
Arlington, VA 22210

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association, Inc., PO Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____

Your Signature _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

MAKE AS MANY COPIES OF THIS APPLICATION FORM AS YOU WISH!

Criteria for Membership in The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

Section 1. Qualification of Members. Membership in the association shall consist of honorary members, regular members, and associate members.

A. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as an honorary member by the vote of the Executive Council.

B. Regular Members.

1. Service in United States Armed Forces. Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, said service being within Korea (September 3, 1945 - June 25, 1950), within and without Korea (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955), or who, as a member of the armed forces of the United States as defined by U.S.C. Title 10, served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 shall be eligible for membership. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, so long as the individual meets the service requirements.

2. Medal of Honor. Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service in Korea during the Korean war era shall be eligible for life membership.

3. Prisoner of War. Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward shall be eligible for life membership.

4. United Nations Command and Korean Army. Any person who served honorably in the armed forces of the United Nations command or in the Republic of Korea armed forces during the Korean War era and thereafter shall be eligible for membership. Ninety percent (90%) of members must be United States Veterans, ten percent (10%) may be other.

5. Gold Star Mothers. Any woman whose son was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War shall be eligible for life membership.

Korean War Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas
and all thru the tent
was the odor of diesel
since the stovepipe was bent.

The stockings were hung
rather close to the fire
in hopes that by morning
they'd be somewhat drier.

The squad was asleep
bundled up in their sacks
and dreaming of goodies
like cookies and snacks.

Like crispy fried chicken
straight out of the South
and a Mid-Western steak
that would melt in your mouth.

When out on the hill
there arose such a clatter
a Commie machine gun
had started to chatter.

Then Sgt. Grabowski
appeared at the door
"People", he yelled,
"get your feet on the floor."

Grab rifles and flares
and bring me a BAR,
you're climbing that hill
but you ain't goin' far.

Let every man here
take along a grenade,
and when you get back
don't expect a parade.

I've had it to here
with this damn nightly riot,
so we're gonna make sure
that tomorrow it's quiet."

Then off we went hunting,
us seven through snow
on a night where the wind
made it twenty below.

Now, Allen and Russell
and Clyde McElroy
had the privilege of being
our only decoy.

They got some attention
with the Hell they did raise
I suppose I'll remember
for the rest of my days.

While Sutton and Smitt
and Conner and me
provided surprises
that was ugly to see.

It was over in minutes
and when it was done
there were four bloody bodies
and a busted up gun.

Grabowski was waiting
as 'ere we came in,
and that tough weathered face
had managed a grin.

"People," he said,
"I think you done good
by striking a blow
for our brotherhood.

So, let every man here
get back in his sack,
go back to his dreams,
and forget the attack.

It's now Christmas morning,
so be of good cheer.
Merry Xmas to all,
may you live till next year!"

An Original Poem by Bob Hammond A\57FA\7Div.

Korean War Veterans Association
PO Box 10806
Arlington, VA 22210

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