

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 19, No. 1

January - February 2005



**FULL FIELD LAYOUT
INJE, KOREA**

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



The Magazine for Veterans of the Korean War.

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 for members and friends of the Association.

We Honor Founder William Norris

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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



January 15, 2005

Friends, Members and all Veterans,

Thank all of you for your best wishes during my recent surgery. I appreciated it and want to urge that we all express concern for our members encountering various health problems.

The New Year is here and I hope that you are already having a great beginning. Here in our community the death of eight of our soldiers in two incidents in IRAQ, on consecutive days, has made most people much more aware of the **Price of Freedom**.

New Year's Day is customarily a time for taking stock—where have you been; where you are now and how did you get there; where do you want to go and how will you get there.

I will give you some answers to those questions on the website of our organization (<http://www.kwva.org>). In this space of this issue of the magazine, let me make a huge **correction to page 13** of the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of *The Graybeards*.

The bold banner at the top of the page says "KWVA AND KVA Propose Joint Organization." That banner is incorrect and misleading—and has riled up more than a member or two! The single article submitted to *The Graybeards* by Commander Jeff Brodeur and I was finalized as three separate articles by the editor and the publisher. The article that we wrote is reproduced as nearly as possible on the KWVA Website, <http://www.kwva.org>,

under the President's Update and a joint organization is not proposed anywhere!

What was proposed, and now is a reality, is a *federation* in which any organization dealing with matters concerning Korean veterans of all the 50+ years of that war—and still counting—can voluntarily merge their efforts when it is to their benefit to do so. *This includes the VFW, Legion, DAV, KWVA, MOPH – you name them!*

I am proud of *The Graybeards* and of what Art Sharp and Jerry Wadley have produced in the past two issues. Unfortunately lead-times, the US Postal Service, money, and other factors render the magazine as "behind the times" on what is going on with our organization by the time you read the magazine. So I will close this month's space taken up for the President by urging that every chapter check www.kwva.org daily or as often as possible—appoint a chapter member to do it from their own computer and report to the members. Copy the material and pass it out. You will be a member better up-to-date and involved in what is going on rather than talking about what went on when.

God bless America, our fighting forces, and our veterans.

Lou Dechert

President, KWVA (LR27194)

www.dechertsitreps.com

Thanks for Supporting The Graybeards

Many members have responded to the suggestion to help underwrite the cost of publication of *The Graybeards* by making voluntary contributions. Remarkably, *The Graybeards* is still being printed despite cost restraints. Happily, a change of printers and mailers has allowed us to reduce the cost per issue—and upgrade your magazine in the process. Your heartening response has made it possible to increase the quality of *The Graybeards*, and make desired changes in subsequent issues.

We greatly appreciate your help—and we invite you to continue your generous support.

Please send your contributions, marked Support of *Graybeards*, to:

Interim Treasurer KWVA
1260 Southhampton Dr.
Alexandria, VA 71303

Every donation will be acknowledged in *The Graybeards*.

Members & Friends

Astor, Raymond J.	Maryland
Baldovi, Louis	Hawaii
Batherson, Charles	Michigan
Baudat, Rene F.	Arizona
Bosch, Raymond C.	Ohio
Carrero, Domenick	New Jersey
Carroll, Richard L.	Maine
De Anda, Floyd	California
Farrell, William F. (for C-1-7 Reunion)	Connecticut
Gawlak, Edward G.	Florida
George, Verlon	
Gladeland, Edward, Jr.	
Jackson, Eugene F.	New York

Jerin, Louis V.
Johnson, Dolores
Julius, Ira M.
Johnson, Larry Ray
Krakovsky, Joseph L.
Lloyd, Terry
Mellon, William R.
Mount, Robert C.
Olazagasti, Milton R.
Ostler, Richard
Reynolds, Max R.
Ross, Ronald C.
Sherwood, Norman C.
Spring, William E.
Stitt, Lawrence L.

New Jersey
Michigan
New York
South Carolina
North Carolina
England
Pennsylvania
Maryland
Maryland
California
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Oklahoma
North Carolina
California

Torchio, Vincent	New Jersey
Troxel, Gary R.	Wyoming
Wern, Edgar B.	Connecticut
Whitteaker, Kenneth D.	Missouri

Chapters:

Chapter 23	Illinois
------------	----------

In Memory of:

Cassati, S.	
IMO: Jerry Guerrise (KIA)	
Knutstad, Odd	New Jersey
IMO: Those who didn't make it	
May, Richard J.	New York
IMO: Pfc. Marshall McCook	
Rump, Cynthia G.	Maine
IMO: Joseph C. Rump	

COVER: Full Field Layout: Co L, 279th Regt, 45th Div, Inje, Korea, Summer 1952

Photo courtesy of Glenn Ed White, 1005 Chase Way, Benton, LA 71006 (318) 965-0268



Mini Reunions 20



Bronze Star 24



Chapters 34

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Military Shop - 4 color

COLOR AD



The Editor's Desk

Art Sharp



One of the perks of editing *The Graybeards* is that I get to deal with a lot of fine people, KWVA members and non-members alike, via phone, snail mail, and e-mail. Unfortunately, I do not always get back to some of the people quickly—and sometimes not at all. For that, I apologize wholeheartedly.

I will address phone calls first. Numerous KWVA members and readers have phoned me for various reasons, and I have not returned their calls. It is not because I do not care: it is simply because of time constraints and subject matter.

First, the time constraints: editing *The Graybeards* consumes a lot of time. That job takes top priority. If I have time left over, I answer calls in order of priority. For the most part, that means answering calls related directly to the contents of the magazine. That brings us to subject matter.

I receive a lot of calls, e-mails, and mail regarding administrative matters that do not fall under my job description. (I actually don't have a job description, but saying I do lends credence to my argument here.) For example, I have nothing to do with membership, dues, members' deaths, or dues. Those fall under the purview of others within the organization. All I can do when I receive such calls is recommend that the callers or senders phone someone else. (Don't tell anyone I said to, but I would suggest you call our Recording Secretary with such calls.) And, while I am thinking of it, sending me checks is not a good idea, either. (Again, don't let on, but checks might be processed more expeditiously if they were sent to our interim treasurer.)

I receive a lot of checks—and sometimes cash—for membership dues, extra copies of *The Graybeards*, contributions to *The Graybeards*, etc. I certainly encourage such contributions. But, I "batch process" them. That simply means that I put them aside until I have a few moments to mail them to whomever I think they should go. That results in untimely delays. In fact, I have already incurred the wrath of more than one person who sent me a check which was not cashed immediately.

I do want to help you, even though it may seem to some people like my assistance may fall into the category of "I'm from the IRS and I'm here to help."

For instance, one member wrote, and I quote:

I am amazed at your lack of concern or even common courtesy in handling this matter. Your action is inconsistent with the article you wrote on page 6 of the September/October [2004] issue, outlining your qualifications as editor of *The Graybeards*. While I do not have a B.A. or M.A. degree, I have been around long enough to recognize BS.

I got a chuckle out of that—but I did not respond to him. I had forwarded his check in one of my "batches," and I had—and still do not have—a clue as to where it is or was. So, the bottom line is this: send your checks to the proper administrative person to begin with if you wish to avoid "Batch Limbo." I have to admit that even I am not sure who that is at times, but President Dechert and his staff are trying to streamline our administrative processes. Be patient with them and they will get the job done.

While I am thinking of it, I am no longer in the business of supplying extra copies of *The Graybeards* for interested parties, either. I have received checks for them, too. Guess what: they go into the "Batch Limbo" until I can forward them. I do not have extra copies of the magazine. Generally, I get my copy about the same time you do, via U.S. mail

Now, back to phone calls. There are some calls I will not return no matter what. For example, one gentleman from New Jersey called me in early January with a request for information. I guess I did not get back to him soon enough. The fact that I was out of the country at the time for a week's respite in a tropical clime had something to do with my failure to return the call.

(Permit me a brief digression to tell you that I travel frequently. For instance, between December 28th, 2004, and January 14th, 2005, I was out of the office for twelve days. Not the twelve days of Christmas, but twelve days nonetheless. I leave my answering machine to handle calls during my extended jaunts. You are better off e-mailing me if you can. It is more likely that I will get back to you semi-quickly. Now, back to our regular programming.)

Two days later he left this endearing message on my answering machine: "If you don't have the courtesy to return my phone call, and unless you are disabled, sick, or away, if you don't call me by the end of the day, don't bother to ever call me." Guess what: I haven't called him, even though I fell into one of his categories—and I am likely to follow his warning and never call him.

So, let me summarize. I welcome communications with **all** KWVA folks. I will be happy to do whatever I can for them. But, unless the content of the communications relates directly to GB matters, there might be a delay in responses. That doesn't help you much, and it makes me look like a discourteous person who does not care about your concerns. Nothing could be farther from the truth. I do want to help you, even though it may seem to some people like my assistance may fall into the category of "I'm from the IRS and I'm here to help."

Now, if you will excuse me, I have to end this column here. My phone is ringing, and I want to take the call. I wonder who it is and what it is about. Whoops, maybe I'd better let it ring. If I do, leave a message. I'll get back to you as soon as I can....yeah, and the IRS actually does want to help.

P.S. Some people are having a hard time getting through to me via e-mail. I believe the problem is this: some senders are inserting a – between sbc and global. Try it this way:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

CHARTER UPDATE

It may come as a surprise to some people that the KWVA does not have a federal charter. The current administration is seeking to address that situation. President Dechert has written letters to several U.S. senators and representatives to seek their support for such a charter. We will keep you apprised of the process as we go along.

As a first step, here is a copy of one letter Col. Dechert sent.

January 04, 2005

The Honorable Steve Buyer
US Representative
Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Representative Buyer,

First, congratulations on your distinguished record in the House and your assignment as Chairman of Veterans Affairs. I was extremely satisfied and certainly wish you the very best.

I am the National President of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), the Nation's oldest and largest organization of Korean War-related men and women. I am writing to request your immediate help on a very urgent matter—urgent in two respects. First, I urge your support of the Administration's Supplemental Budget Request for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. I know of your forthright support of our armed forces and veterans and know that you are not the type of man to change that commitment now.

Second, and on behalf the five million veterans of the Korean War and Korean Service, I request that you initiate an amendment to the Supplemental Budget Request to award a Federal Charter to The Korean War Veterans Association. This measure requires no outlay of funds by the Federal Government.

Much has been made—deservedly so—of the WW II generation, and the veterans from that war—many of whom went on to serve in Korea. Your website highlights the WWII Memorial. A diminishing number of WWII men belong to our organization today. The Korean War Veterans, 1950 through 2004, have received scant notice or special assistance from Congress.

Attempts have been made through normal legislative channels to obtain federal recognition, starting when the KWVA led the way as a major force in getting the Korean War Veterans Memorial built in 1995. Sadly, some of these attempts might have seemed inept on our part.

That was then, and this is now. We have also noted the seemingly "never!" philosophy of some Representatives when it came to supporting federal recognition for veterans organizations. That

attitude is wrong and is a disservice not only to the KWVA but to all of our Nation's veterans.

It appears entirely appropriate—and well past due—that as the Nation is passing the Supplemental Budget Request to support today's fighting men and women, that Supplemental ought to be amended to support—belatedly—the five million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who first defended freedom in the Cold War, and have now been doing so for some 54 years—the Korean War has never ended. It is past time that the Korean-related members of the armed forces and veteran population be recognized by the award of a federal charter to their organization, The Korean War Veterans Association.

While this may falsely appear to be not much of a veterans' issue in Washington, DC, let me assure you that it is a problem in virtually all of the states. Our 300 chapters and 15 Departments across the country are barred from most state veterans' councils because such councils only admit participation by members of federally chartered organizations.

As a class, our veterans are ascending to senior veterans status as our WWII forerunners move on. Hundreds and thousands of Korea service men and women veterans are dying now. In your very own Indiana, the founding, and still serving, President of the KWVA Department of Indiana, Frank Littleton of Lafayette, passed on to his final muster on December 31, two weeks ago, without ever being treated as a first class veteran! This is increasingly the case across our Nation.

Must we await recognition until nearly none are left living, as was the case of most WWII veterans? I trust that you will urge your colleagues to introduce and carry an Amendment to the Supplemental through to a deservedly appropriate answer of NO MORE DELAY!

I have contacted all of my Louisiana Congressional delegation about this matter and requested Senators Landrieu and Vitters and Representatives Alexander and Jindal to introduce the Amendment. Please add your own good offices to our cause.

With sincere appreciation and support, I am,

Cordially,

/s/Louis T Dechert, President

LOOKING FOR NATIONAL PROPERTY

The National Flag and Colors of the KWVA are missing, along with other property. Also missing is the Corporate Seal. These items are national property and assistance in obtaining their return is requested. Please provide me with any information which you might have on these items.

Thank you,

Lou Dechert

President

louis.dechert@earthlink.net

**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org**

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.

Call For Election

SUBJECT: 2005 - Call For Election
TO: Members - Korean War Veterans Association, Inc

Dear Members:

The By-Laws state that a call for nominees for election at the annual meeting shall be stated in *The Graybeards* each year. This call is for any qualified member who seeks one of the positions available in the 2005 elections to submit their request.

Four Director positions are open for the 2005-2008 three-year term. Those desiring to apply will be required to meet the following requirements as stated in our By-Laws:

(Reference Paragraph C, Section 3, Article III of the By-Laws amended July 27, 2000.)

"1. Requirements:

a. Must present proof of service by submitting a copy of a DD-214 or other document notarized as a true copy showing eligible service and a statement releasing such document for verification by the Nominating Committee.

b. Must present a current photograph suitable for publication in *The Graybeards*.

c. Must submit a letter with the following:

- (1) Their intent to run for an office and the office sought.
- (2) A resume of their qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the association.
- (3) Their current mailing address, home telephone number, or other contact information and KWVA membership number.
- (4) This letter will be limited to approximately one typed page.

d. A statement that they will attend all called meetings of the Executive Council and that they understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for their removal from office.

e. They must sign a statement that their dues are current through the whole of the term of the office they are seeking. Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office within the association.

Send the above items by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Nominating Committee Chair to arrive **not later than February 15** of that year."

Nominees are requested to contact the Nominating Committee for a check-list to assist them in completing their application.

Applications will be addressed to:

Nominating Committee
 % Maurice R "Dick" Wainwright
 Wainwright's, Inc
 2045 E 15th St
 Tucson, AZ 85719-6315

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 *Graybeards* for publication.

The March-April issue of *The Graybeards* will list each certified nominee and the Official Ballot. Those members in "Good Standing," those whose dues are current when the *The Graybeards* is mailed, are 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 to the selected CPA by July 10, 2005.

Nominating Committee Chairman
 Dick Adams
 P.O. Box 334
 Caruthers, CA 93609

Submitted by: /s/ Don Duquette
 Secretary, KWVA

ERRATA

The longest continuously published column in *The Graybeards*

Corrections On Last Call Entries

In the "Last Call" section of the Nov/Dec 2004 issue, there was a listing for Everett Holland. That should have read Robert Everett and James Holland. The names have been included individually in this issue's "Last Call."

Putting Chapter 17 Where It Belongs

Herb Dareff points out that Chapter 17 is based in Palm Beach, Florida, not Deerfield Beach. The Chapter holds its meetings in Delray Beach, and the Veterans Day ceremonies referred to in the Nov/Dec 2004 were held in Boca Raton, not Delray.

Two names were misspelled in the Chapter 17 photos: Herb Doreff is really Herb Dareff, and the Herbert Stone listed is really Herbert Shore.

It Was The South Dakota Korean War Memorial

There was a photo of a Korean War Memorial on the back page of the Nov/Dec issue that was not identified. It is, in fact, the South Dakota Korean War Memorial, which was dedicated on September 18, 2004, as the governor's invitation reveals.

Dear Friends:

Please join me in Pierre on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004, to honor South Dakota Korean War veterans and their families with the Korean War Memorial dedication.

This memorial will be a lasting monument to more than 26,000 South Dakotans who fought in the Korean War and more than 170 who never returned from combat. These men and women will always be remembered for their bravery and dedication to South Dakota and the United States.

I look forward to seeing you on Sept. 18 to celebrate these outstanding individuals with a parade, dedication ceremony, military flyover, fireworks and more.

Sincerely,
 Mike Rounds

There is an impressive website you can visit to get a more complete description of this impressive memorial: <http://koreanwarmemorial.sd.gov/>



POW/MIA Update

by Marty O'Brien

We all have read books, articles, etc., including a number of articles right here in past issues of The Graybeards that have incorrectly stated or over-exaggerated the Korean War casualty statistics. For example, there is one common misunderstanding that "over 54,000" men died in Korea during the war. That is simply not true!

What is known today is that there were 36,574 deaths in the Korean Theater [33,741 hostile deaths and 2,833 non-hostile deaths], plus 17,672 deaths out of the theater, worldwide, for the three-year period of the war beginning on June 25, 1950 and ending on July 27, 1953, for a total of 54,246 deaths worldwide, according to Department of Defense records.

Casualty Accounting

In an attempt to more accurately present a breakdown of the statistics to the public in their periodic Korean War Casualty Report, the DOD has in recent years, in collaboration with the Armed Services and the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, conducted a number of intensive "scrubs" of all their known casualty data to update their records.

The DOD is very interested in hearing from anyone who has information about a casualty whose name is not in their database or for whom the information is incorrect.

Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, is the DOD office responsible for maintaining the DOD casualty database and preparing the periodic Korean War Casualty Summary. The last update was compiled as of June 15, 2004.

A copy of the summary is included in this issue for our readers.

It can also be accessed at <http://www.kwva.org>: just click on the casualties link.

Crunching of the Numbers

The WHS DIOR compilation is based on years of thorough research to get the numbers right, insofar as is possible, from all sources both in and out of the military.

In recent years, the summary has been constructed to reflect ONLY the total of in-theater deaths and out-of-theater deaths incurred between the June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953 dates. Each number published in the summary is backed up with a person's name in the DOD database.

Casualty Breakdown

As noted above, according to DOD, there were 36,574 in-theater deaths and 17,672 out-of-theater deaths, for a total of 54,246 worldwide during the three-year period of the war.

The in-theater breakdown is as follows:

• Killed in Action	23,615
• Died of Wounds	2,460
• Missing in Action - Declared Dead	4,817
• Captured - Declared Dead	2,849
Total	33,741

- Deaths from other causes 2,833.

Of the hostile deaths, the remains of 8,126 men who were KIA, DOW, MIA, and/or POW have not been recovered to date - despite years of concentrated recovery operations in North Korea and subsequent forensic work in Japan, Hawaii and elsewhere.

You may recall that way back in 1954, the number of remains not recovered stood at 8,177.

More Work Needs to be done

We know that the DOD maintains a roster of the Korean Theater deaths, but to the best of my knowledge DOD has yet to put together a complete roster of the out-of-theater deaths.

Thus, the number 54,246 that is engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in DC remains unsubstantiated.

And what about our post-July 27, 1953 warrior dead?

Although many of the names are known to the Department of Defense, to the best of my knowledge no complete post-Armistice Korea Service/DMZ casualty summary exists today.

Will we ever know ALL of the names of our brothers who gave their all in the cause of Freedom?

Obviously, more work needs to be done!

Martin J. O'Brien
27 Meadow Road #202
Augusta, Maine 04330

LOOKING FOR COMBAT BUDDIES?



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NATIONAL 10th REUNION 4-7 OCT, 2004**

KOREAN WAR CASUALTY SUMMARY

As of June 15,2004

CASUALTY TYPE	TOTAL	ARMY	AIR FORCE	MARINES	NAVY
Killed in Action	23,615	19,715	209	3,320,	371
Died of Wounds	2,460	1,887	14	532	27
Missing in Action - Declared Dead	4,817	3,337	991	386	103
Captured - Declared Dead	2,849	2,792	24	29	4
TOTAL HOSTILE DEATHS	33,741	27,731	1,238	4,267	505
Missing - Presumed Dead	8	4	4		
Other Deaths	2,825	2,121	310	242	152
TOTAL NON-HOSTILE DEATHS	2,833	2,125	314	242	152
TOTAL IN-THEATER DEATHS*	36,574	29,856	1,552	4,509	657
TOTAL NON-THEATER DEATHS	17,672	7,277	5,532	1,019	3,844
TOTAL DEATHS	54,246	37,133,	7,084	5,528	4,501
Killed in Action - No Remains	1,533	1,081	49	255	148
Died of Wounds - No Remains	22	22			
Missing in Action - Declared Dead - No Remains	4,578	3,302	809	373	94
Captured - Declared Dead - No Remains	1,901	1,860	13	25	3
Non-hostile Missing - Presumed Dead - No Remains	8	4	4		
Non-hostile Other Deaths - No Remains	84	5	37	6	36
TOTAL - NO REMAINS	8,126	6,274	912	659	281
WOUNDED - NOT MORTAL	103,284	77,596	368	23,744	1,576
NUMBER SERVING WORLDWIDE**	5,720,000	2,834,000	1,285,000	424,000	1,177,000
NUMBER SERVING IN-THEATER**	1,789,000	1,153,000	241,000	130,000	265,000

*Inclusive dates are June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Casualty dates after the end date represent service members who were wounded during the period and subsequently died as a result of those wounds and those service members who where involved in an incident during the period and were later declared dead.

**Estimated Figures

Prepared by: Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports

CASUALTY OFFICE ADDRESSES

Department of the Army

(800) 892-2490
Total Army Personnel Command (TAPC-PER)
2161 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22331-0482

Headquarters, US Marine Corps

(800) 847-1597
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MRC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-5103

Department of the Navy

(800) 443-9298
Navy Personnel Command, POW/MIA Section (PERS-621P)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6210
<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62/POW-MIA/62P.htm>

USAF Missing Persons Branch

(800) 531-5501
HQ AFPC/DPWCM
550 C Street West, Suite 15
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716

Department of State

(202) 647-6769
Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management
CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
2201 C Street, Northwest, Room 4811
Washington, DC 20520

**Visit the Korean War Veterans Association
Website: www.KWVA.org**

Changing *The Graybeards* Name

As some of you may recall, we included in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue a request for opinions on changing the name of *The Graybeards*. Well, as the old saying goes, ask and ye shall receive. We asked: we received. Responses flooded in via phone, e-mail, and snail mail. Here is a representative sample of the responses, pro and con. These are the ones that are fit to print. Quite a few are not (they are invariably con).

Let us remind you, though, that we are not committed fully to changing the name. We are simply considering it. And, we do not plan to change it unilaterally—or at a pre-determined time. So, for those of you who have responded, thanks. For those who haven't, feel free to do so.

Thanks for your comments so far.

Gentlemen:

Per Art Sharp's article in the current issue of *The Graybeards*, I agree that the magazine's name does not accurately reflect the entire membership of the KWVA. Choosing a new name, however, involves more than just picking one out of a hat. It requires establishing objectives and criteria which will lead to choosing the right name. It is essentially a marketing project, one with which many are familiar, but it doesn't have to be complicated. This is how I would approach it:

1. Establish these objectives for the new name:
 - a. The new name must directly relate to the KWVA membership of young and old veterans, both male and female, of all services (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard), as well as UK, Canadian, ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand) and other UN Forces, and ROK forces. It should also appeal to potential new KWVA members;
 - b. The new name must instantly identify the magazine with the Korean War, the KWVA, and the KWVA membership. A great number of military and veterans publications are in circulation; the new name for ours must stand out from the clutter;
 - c. The new name should instill a sense of pride among KWVA members;
2. Specify these criteria for the new name:
 - a. It should be short;
 - b. It should be simple;
 - c. It should be clear;
 - d. It should be positive;
 - e. It should be contemporary;
 - f. It should be easy to remember;

After going through the above exercise myself, I recommend the following as the new name for the KWVA magazine:
KOREA VET

There are variations, of course, but I believe KOREA VET meets all of the necessary objectives and criteria. It is short, simple, clear, positive, contemporary and easy to remember. And it speaks to the entire membership of the Korean War Veterans of America.

Thanks for your consideration.

Don C. Hart, RO32436

I'm greatly disappointed at the decision to change the name of *Graybeards* magazine. While I respect your views on this matter, I disagree with the interpretation that seems to prompt this proposed change. I trust this decision is not set in stone until the voice of the members has been heard. Please consider the following explanation of *Graybeards*.

For those who know interaction with the Korean people, the unique gray-wired hat worn by the elders of the country is a symbol of respect and wisdom. It is a measure of a culture that honors those who have long endured the hardship of Korean life, and the will to survive, no matter the sacrifices necessary. It is, in my judgment, akin to the *Graybeards*.

For those who know the severity of a Korean winter, gray is the eventual color that comes with frost-bite before the extremity is lost.

For those who have seen the face of war, whether in combat in the early 1950's, or the now torturous posting along the DMZ where the NKPA is symbolic with enslavement and death, know that face is the gray pallor accompanying loss of hope and eventual death.

Among veterans everywhere, the Korean Service Ribbon is a valued award. For those who have earned it, the ribbon is synonymous with *Graybeards*. Shattering that identity now is, in my judgment, a break with those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice. That identity has been an inherent part of the KWVA from its very beginning. I'm deeply troubled that our leadership would do this for what appears to be politically correct reasons. Our nation, and therefore our military, receives its strength from the many ethnic groups who have fought fearlessly for independence and identity the world over. The Korean War Veterans honor that struggle, and should continue to do so, by maintaining the *Graybeards* magazine. I urge you and the KWVA members to welcome the new, the young, the old, whether male or female, as the new standard-bearers of a proud tradition: Korean War Veterans - - - - *Graybeards*!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert D. Charlesworth, Vice – Cmdr

H. Edward Reeves Chapter, Prescott, AZ.

I agree that *The Graybeards* needs a “shave.” I have never liked the name. I would like to submit a name for the magazine: *The Forgotten War Magazine*. I believe that applies to all the criteria.

Carl Moore, 3009 Kingsley Drive, Decatur, IL, 62521-5647

I suggest “Arirang,” the name of the old Korean folk song that we tried to sing or hum during those gentle moments when the war seemed to have stopped for a minute or two.

Bob Love, 135 Tanglewood, Morganville, NJ 07751

Since we Korean War veterans are the first to fight in a war under the United Nations' banner or flag of the United Nations, please heed the name Soldiers of the World for the magazine.

P.S. The name “*Graybeards*” refers to the frost that collected on the beards of the men who were in Korea during the cold winters.

Warren H. Thomas, RR2 Box 718, Linton, IN 47441

Please record the following suggested name changes:

- Korea...Remembered
- Korean Reporter
- Korean Reviewer
- Korean Cannon
- Revisiter
- Kim Chee News (spelling?)
- The Morning Calm (Korea: The land of the morning calm)
- Korean Report (or Reporter)
- Remembrance
- Korea Recalled
- Forgotten Few
- The (KWVA) Banner
- The Korean Sentry
- Brotherhood Band

Lee Dauster, 15444 Camino del Parque, N, Sonora, CA 95370
.....

Back in 1986, when KWVA was first started, a lot of thought went into the name Graybeards. Remember that at that time 36 years had passed. Most of the guys were "Graybeards." No one was slighted by the name.

The name was chosen due to the amount of time that had passed. I bet there are not too many of us still alive who were part of the character.

We have in Connecticut started Chapter One. We moved around from town to town trying to get interested people to join us. It is strange that when a newcomer like you comes along you want to change things. You turn guys like me off. Can't you find something else to work on? Let the name be.

W. H. Yodr, 6 Sackett Point Road, North Haven, CT 06473
.....

What do you mean the name doesn't fit the membership? I venture to say that over 75% of our members are males over the age of 70—a majority. If I am wrong, please give me the membership of our Association.

Who is this "we" you are talking about? What right do you have to change our name? If we do it the American way, we should get to vote on the name change. The majority should rule.

Rubie R. Tindall, 49 Eastmoreland Court, Decatur, IL 62521-3817
.....

I am pleased to hear of the "shave" and believe that a more descriptive title for the publication is in order, one that describes our distinctive role in that war to save South Korea and its people. My only suggestion is two-word name that dramatically tells why we served and why we are proud of that liberating service. That title is "Freedom Fighters."

You will find that title in a couple chapters from a family book I wrote years ago. Of all the titles I have enjoyed in my life, none comes close to being called a freedom fighter.

I believe the new title suggested also ties into the central theme of the Korean War Memorial in Washington DC., i.e., "Freedom is not free." It must be fought for to protect and preserve.

Bill Ramsey, 4913 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68132
.....

Editor's Note: Mr. Ramsey, who was a member of A-1-5, First Marine Division – Reinf., included a couple passages from his "familyography," entitled *The Times I've Seen*, to emphasize his points. For example, here is one from a 1978 trip back to South Korea:

The memories stopped as the train jerked into the tiny station at Chunchon...My last time near this town, it was in flames. Now, it was somewhat modernized and had more than 100,000 people living in the city.

Editor's Note: Here is a poem that may or may not have been intended to convey a subtle message that the name should remain unchanged. After all, it does contain the words "Dinosaurs" and "gray."

The Regiment of Retired Marines

Here's to the Dinosaurs, gray though they may be
Who carried the fight to keep the world free
They gave of their youth and never looked back
Nor paused to reflect when the word was "Attack."
They pushed through the snow and clawed through the mud
And painted the world with their patriot blood.
They're The Proud and The Few from battles of old
Where they carried the colors of Scarlet and Gold.
They've faced every trial and passed every test
And taken their place among the world's best
The honors they've won are readily seen
But their greatest pride is the title, "Marine."
The passing of time has put them ashore
But never diminished their love of the Corps.
And if freedom should call these remarkable men,
Without hesitation they'd fight once again.
R. A. GANNON

After visiting at the store, we headed south for a look at Chunchon's impressive U.N. monument, a tribute to those who served in the Korean conflict. Ho Moon translated the verse etched in stone. It said in part: "We never forget the days when the freedom fighters came to our land and helped save our country from communism. They suffered and died, gave their blood to help us. We are grateful and we never forget the days.

In another passage, he wrote:

My final memory was of the night we sat around a rest area campfire and asked some of the new replacements what the popular Hit Parade songs were. They said the biggest hit was "Too Young." It almost seemed a commentary on those who carry so much of the burden of wars.

And yet, to me, it was a privilege to have served my country in that far corner of the world called "Korea." I feel good every day that I had a small part as one of the Freedom Fighters the monument in Chinchon recognizes. They will "Never Forget the Days" and neither will I.

How about *Never Forgotten* or *Forgotten Never*?

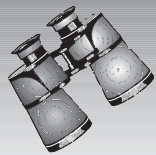
Gordon F. Snyder, 342 Holyoke Road, Westfield, MA 01085
.....

I don't believe that the name pertains to "old geezers." I'm sure it was explained several years ago that the magazine name was derived from the fact that many troops had frozen white or gray beards during the bitter cold Korean winters.

Thomas G. "Skip" Hannon, 4721 Mt. Vernon D., Bradenton, FL 34210
.....

I agree wholeheartedly about a new name for the magazine. I submit the name The Young Warriors as its new title.

Eugene L. Wisner, 314 Adam Road Frederick, MD 21701-6328



Recon Missions

Were You With The 936th Field Artillery?

The 936th Field Artillery is seeking former members who served with the battalion, especially during the Korean War. For information, contact Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324.

Has Moses Come Down From The Wing?

Curtis J. Farley Jr. is wondering about the whereabouts of some of his buddies from the 51st Fighter Interceptor Squadron. He was stationed at Tsuiki Air Force Base in 1953-54. If anyone knows the folks in these photos, kindly contact Mr. Farley at 2947 Gran Lin Drive, Saint Charles, MO 63303-6042.



ABOVE: Rex (or "Lex") Moses



RIGHT: Rex (or "Lex") Moses (left) and Jim Farley



"Tex"



LEFT: Earl Oaks



BELOW: The "Remco" offices at Tsuiki; who remembers it?



The Armament office at Tsuiki, where Tex, Rex Oaks, and Farley worked

SAFBVAI

SAFBVAI reads like something off an eye doctor's chart. But, it actually stands for Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association, Inc. The Association is looking for prospective attendees and members of the 3650th Basic Military Training Wing, i.e., Permanent Party, Women's Air Force (WAFS), Basic trainees, Special Training School Personnel, from 1950 through 1956 for a reunion in 1005. For those of you who may not recall the base, it was approximately twelve miles south of Geneva,

NY, on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake.

Anyone interested can contact Chip Williams, P. O. Box 331, Williamsville, NY 14231-0331, (716) 633-1119 or (716) 633-9118 (Fax). <chip34@aol.com>

44th MASH

Jules Kurtz, 16 Cherokee Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866-1114, would like to hear from any members of the 44th MASH Unit in Korea, July 1953 – August 1954

The Cacti Regiment Calls

Bill Lomax is looking for members of Company B, 1st Bn., 35th Cacti Regiment, 25th Division who were with him in the Iron Triangle and Kumhwa Valley area June 1951-1952. "Hopefully," he wrote, "someone will see these photos and contact me."



Billy Rose, Machine Gunner, Calif.



Pelfrey



ABOVE: (L-R) Pickern, Pelfrey, Lomax



RIGHT: Walter Morgan moving out



LEFT: Pendergrass, High Point, NC

Lomax can be reached at Box 541, Sand Pit Road, Aberdeen, NC 28315, (910) 944-2457



RIGHT: Charles Price takes his morning shave



RIGHT: Back Row (L-R) Nanek, Lomax, Swartz, Connor; Front Row (L-R) Pickern, McCowen, Pelfrey

A New Day for O'Day Would Be Welcome

My name is Robert "Walter" O'Neill. I am the nephew of Cpl. Walter G. O'Day, 2nd Platoon – Able Company - 1st Battalion - 7th Regiment - USMC. On November 26th, 1950, Able Company, 1st Platoon (under Lt. Eugenous Hovatter) was on patrol southwest of Yudam-ni, when it was ambushed by the Chinese near a village known as Hangsan-ni.

From the account of a Charles T. Anger, the 1st Platoon was running low on ammo, when Cpl. O'Day and a few others from 2nd Platoon brought up a re-supply. In the midst of this action, fire team leader Cpl. Jewel Coquat was hit, along with his BAR man and a South Korean interpreter. Instead of returning to his platoon, Cpl. O'Day acquired a BAR rifle and stayed to assist those under fire in 1st Platoon.

Lt. Frank Mitchell (along with 8 to 10 men, including Cpl. O'Day) went out in an attempt to rescue Cpl. Coquat and the others. Mr. Anger recalled that Cpl. O'Day was on the "extreme left flank" of that group. As Lt. Mitchell approached Cpl. Coquat, he was hit and apparently killed by enemy fire. The rest of the group tried to pull back, but Cpl. O'Day never returned.

Due to the massive Chinese offensive, Baker Company executive officer Lt. Joseph Kurcaba ordered an immediate withdrawal of forces from the Yudam-ni sector. The situation was so dire that they were unable to retrieve Able Company's dead and missing, which included Lt. Frank Mitchell, Cpl. Jewel Coquat

and Cpl. Walter O'Day.

When my grandfather (George O'Day) moved away from River Forest, Illinois, in the mid-1960s, the USMC "Missing Persons Office" lost all contact with the family of Cpl. O'Day. Although his parents are deceased, both of his twin sisters and younger brother are alive and well. In helping my 11-year-old daughter do research on the Korean War, we came across the Korean War Project website and went to a link titled "The Search for Korean War MIA/POW Family DNA" and pulled up the information on my uncle, Walter O'Day.

Through the generous help of Art Lajeunesse and others, I have since made contact with Hattie Johnson - USMC, who is in charge of helping families in search of those Marines missing in action. She was ecstatic to finally re-establish contact with Cpl. O'Day's family, and immediately sent DNA kits to Walter's brother and sisters for samples. She said that they have recovered remains in recent years from the area where Walter was lost, and they will test for a match.

In the interim, I request that any Marines who served with (or knew) my uncle Walter, contact me by return e-mail or by regular mail, giving any insight or recollections of our loved one who never returned home. The effort would be greatly appreciated.

God bless you all...our heroes!! Bob O'Neill, PO Box 111, Twin Lakes, WI 53181, (312) 388-9070 cell: boboneill@charter.net

Who Are These Folks?

Can anyone identify the G.I.s in the photo below? It was taken in South Korea sometime in the spring of 1954 by S/Sgt. Ed Rincon, 10th FA, HQ Battery, 3rd Div. If anyone can help, please call, write, or e-mail Ed Rincon, 6625 Deering Circle, Sarasota, FL 34240, (941) 371-3459, (941) 378-5853 (Fax), or e-mail him at EARS@aol.com



A friendly group—if we only knew who they are

Looking to Shed Some Light on 18th Heavy Boats' Crew Members

I joined the Army at the tender age of 17. I enlisted to further my job as a carpenter. Little did I know that the Army had a Navy!

I was assigned after boot camp to Ft. Eustis, VA, for boat training. Coming from Long Island, and growing up on the water, I was not concerned about that kind of assignment. Had I known there was such a unit in the Army, though, I might even have asked for it. But, what happened to being a carpenter?

Beginning in March 1954, we were assigned to go to Sasabo, Japan. After we got there, we were reassigned to Inchon, Korea, where we lived aboard the boats, known as LCU's (Landing Craft Utilities). The company was the 18th Heavy Boat Company.

We were assigned to pick up troops from the incoming troop ships and ferry them ashore. The tides were so low that troop ships could not make it into the tidal basin. We did this operation for sixteen months. We also delivered supplies to the far-out islands on which there were American troops stationed. Heck, we thought the war had ended, but the other side did not get the message.

What I'm looking for are any members who were assigned to that company. I would like to hear from them. My e-mail address is Jeridam69@aol.com

Jerry Damico, 5534 Fox Fire Road, Milton FL 32570, (850) 626-4095

Mail for—or from—Lester M. White

Stan Hadden sent us this postcard mailed October 23, 1952, from Japan by a soldier named Cpl. Lester M. White to his grandmother in Kearneysville, WV (R.F.D. #1, to be exact). White was leaving Japan for Korea. Hadden asked if anyone knows White. If so, maybe the post card can be returned to him or a member of his family. Please let us know here at The Graybeards Central so our crack "Postcard Return" team can go into action.



A postcard for Lester M. White

Korean War Veterans Of 40th Division, 160th Infantry Regiment

Korean War veterans of the 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, are invited to attend a Regimental Reunion in Branson, MO, sometime late in the fall of 2005. Contact M/Sgt Duane E. Whaley at 27515 Bunker Hill Drive, Corona, CA 92883-8999, (951) 245-9726.

Who Returned on the A. W. Greeley in October 1951?

I was in Korea from July 1950 until September 1951. After returning to the United States on October 20, 1951, on the troop ship A. W. Greeley, I was hospitalized for 33 days in the Fort Lewis,

Attention Korean War Veterans:

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Army
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USMC
Item #G53



Air Force
Item #G54



Washington, Army Hospital with malaria and yellow jaundice.

I am looking for anyone with any information about the troop ship or anyone who returned on that date. I am having some medical problems, and I need more information in order to get some help.

Leonard Troy Hammons, 1800 East 176th Street North, Skiatook, OK 74070-3154

He Would Like To Find Out What Happened To Him

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm looking for any information about my husband, Walter Owen Stacey. He became severely disabled on December 13, 1952, at Luke's Castle in North Korea. He was with the 82nd Airborne, assigned to the 45th Infantry Division with the 4.2 Mortars. He was serving in the frontline as a Radioman.

He would like to know what really happened and how he got hurt. He was in a coma for few months, and woke up at Walter Reed Hospital without any knowledge or memory of the past.

Anyone with information can call (518) 643-2822 or e-mail us at stacy73477@aol.com. We deeply appreciate your help.

Virgie N. Stacey, 257 Davis Pond Road, Box 37, Schuyler Falls, NY 12985

William Harrell, 6167th OPS Squadron?

John H. Terrell, 5432 E. Nithsdale Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801, is looking for William "Billy" Harrell or any other members of the 6167th OPS Squadron, the PHYS War Squadron, K-16 Seoul Air Base, during 1953.

Help Regarding The Hook Witch

I have not read any stories of the Hook Witch. The 38th Inf. Regt., 2nd Division, was there in 1952 and 1953. I would like to know of anyone who remembers some of the action.

Claude N. Bradley, 1102 Winona Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

Who Actually Marked the DMZ?

I am researching the DMZ from the Korean War. Specifically, I am searching for information and veterans who actually marked the Military Demarcation Line during August of 1953. I realize that this is a rather specific inquiry with possibly no answers.

For the last year or so, I have been researching the Korean Armistice Agreement, the DMZ and the MDL. I have made two trips to National Archives (NARA), and I have found a great deal of information. However, what I do not know is exactly which units actually marked the MDL, or the type of units. None of the information that I found at NARA indicated who actually did the marking. This is the information I seek.

I would like to talk to Korean veterans who marked the MDL, see their pictures if they have any, or see the maps they brought home or sketches made during the marking. Of course, those who contribute would be mentioned as sources and I will talk to my Thesis Chair about exactly how to do that. I would provide a copy of the finished product to those who contributed, too.

In my thesis, I intend to cover the Nov 1951, though never ratified Armistice negotiations, the 1953 negotiations and the planning to create the DMZ in 1953, then the marking in August to the verification by the Joint Observer Teams in September and October [1953], and then do a geospatial analysis of the maps that depict the DMZ and MDL and compare them to modern portrayals of the DMZ/MDL.

Those with information can call me at work (314) 263.4356) or send an e-mail to my house: radoj@mindspring.com, which ever is easiest.

Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

John Rado

P. E. Mitchell: Are You Out There?

On page 82 of the May/June 2004 issue, there was a request from Dennis Mueller for anyone who was stationed in A Battery, 38th Artillery, 3rd Gun Battalion (280 mm) Unit in Korea outside Munsani on the DMZ. Apparently, one person, P. E. Mitchell, from somewhere in the Orlando, FL, area, got in touch with Mr. Mueller via letter. He remembered Mueller "as the jeep escort driver for one of the guns. (Mitchell was the Survey Sergeant who did layout for the gun sight.)

Unfortunately, a series of obstacles arose in their attempts to communicate. For one thing, Mueller reports, part of Mitchell's return address label was torn off by the postal service's sorting machine. For another, his town name was spelled wrong in the original request. The address should be 210 3rd Avenue, Yoder, WY 82244, not Yodec. And, his phone number was not included. It is (307) 532-7069—and he does have an answering machine.

Finally, his dates of service were December 1958 to April 1960. So, now that we have all that straight, maybe Mueller and Mitchell can finally get together.

A SOLDIER'S STORY

I've often been told that grown men don't cry
But walk the hallowed path where body bags lie
To wipe out this sight took a long, long time
For one of those bodies could well have been mine
So I've gone on through life, my heart filled with sorrow
Telling myself "It'll be better tomorrow"
Time marches on and death takes my friends
Each day that goes by brings me closer to the end
When that end is near, what I've sown I will reap
My greatest reward is that I die in my sleep
In the funeral home they'll cherish my name
As the pastor relates my ten minutes of fame
Then off to a burial in a four by eight plot
Taps and a flag in a triangular box
Soon after the service all memories fade
No call to duty for all debts are paid
No more sacrifices, no earthly home
Like all veterans before me, just a name on a stone.

*SFC Jack D. Ross
Korean War veteran*

Book Review



By Art Sharp, Editor

They Came Home: Korean War POWs Tell Their Stories.

Pat McGrath Avery.

Branson Creek Press, Kimberly City, MO.
2004, 141 pp. ISBN 0-9743758-6-1, \$14.95

This readable little book (it's only 132 pp. of actual text) recounts the POW experiences of three POWs from Missouri, Billy Joe Harris, Ed Slater, and Carey Weinel. The book is easy to read, but the men's experiences are not easy to read about. Avery tells their stories in graphic detail, just as they told them to her. Avery uses an interesting technique to complement the stories: a series of sidebars in the early stages of the book that are not necessarily relevant to the POWs' stories, but they do provide some informational insights into the Korean War.

More importantly, the book raises some interesting questions about allied prisoners of war in Korea. The principal one is this: How did any of them manage to survive? Another is why American pilots continually strafed columns of prisoners? A third is what role did the Russians play in Korea? Unfortunately, it doesn't answer any of these questions. (If any of you have thoughts about these questions, please forward them to me.)

Avery's stories about the prisoners are riveting. For example, the author points out a dichotomy in the way villagers treated the POWs. In one narrative, Ed Slater mentioned on a couple occasions that as the prisoners were being escorted through villages, some would ridicule them, while others would try to give them food at personal risk.

Slater noted also that the guards and villagers were not the prisoners' only worry. Sometimes, they had to worry about being killed by their own side. In one paragraph (p. 77), Avery writes:

One morning, people started yelling 'airplanes, airplanes.' Navy Corsairs were diving right at the column of prisoners. There were about ten-fourteen badly wounded prisoners on ox carts. The planes killed all of them. Many others were killed before the American pilots recognized the prisoners. The last time over, they tipped their wings to acknowledge that they knew they were Americans. Another day, a jet circled around them, then dived straight at them with guns shooting. A pilot prisoner saw someone in the plane taking pictures as they flew over. Ed and the other prisoners were seriously frightened. Ed sat down and wrapped his arms around a concrete post. He remembers how badly the planes scared him.

On the other hand, one of the men interviewed, Carey Weinel, recalled a few times when North Koreans actually treated him with kindness. As Avery wrote:

One time a North Korean soldier with some English-speaking skills came over to talk to him. He sat down next to Carey and tried to engage him in conversation. Carey answered his questions, surprised at his captor's tone and interest. They shared the time without any taunting by the soldier. When it was time to resume the march, the soldier shook his hand and gave him a whole pack of cigarettes. Carey was always amazed by such individual acts in the midst of North Korea's complete disre-

gard for the Geneva Convention. An act of kindness amidst months of cruelty can play tricks on the mind. He never forgot those incidences.

All in all, this book is worthwhile reading for anyone who wants to gain a better appreciation of what Korean War prisoners of war endured in order to survive their travails and return home. As we pointed out in our previous review of Lewis H. Carlson's *Remembered Prisoners of a Forgotten War* (see the Sept/Oct 2004 issue), coming home was a problem in itself. Carlson explained that the POWs had a most difficult time adjusting to civilian life after returning home. For some, the nightmares never ended. That was the case for Harris, Slater, and Weinel. It is entirely possible that readers of *They Came Home* may develop nightmares themselves after finishing the book. That, however, is a small price to pay to learn what some people went through to keep us free. So is the \$14.95 cost of the book.

TO ORDER: Anyone who wishes to order a copy of the book can do so through River Road Press, P.O. Box 1214, Kimberling City, MO 65586, (417) 739-3452, (417) 739-3452 (Fax), or at www.riverroadpress.net

Urgent Help Requested For Medical Treatment

Seeking Marine medevac pilot Richard Earl Reeves from the Korean War for medical and family history reasons for his daughter.

Reeves was most likely unaware of Rhea Mae Wilcox's pregnancy when he left for combat. Daughter Tony Lynn (or Maria Lynn) was born July 21, 1953 in Oakland, CA, when Reeves was 28 years old. She was placed in adoption and now faces medical problems for which a genetic history would be invaluable in the determination of treatment.

Anyone with information can contact Rick Ostler, former 40th ID combat sergeant, at POB 4743, Clearlake, CA 95422, (707) 312-8230, or rickostler@netzero.com

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First two letters reflect membership type

Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2005

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Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

C-1-7



C-1-7, aka "Suicide Charley," members congregate in Albuquerque

C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, held its 10th reunion October 24 – 27, 2004, in Albuquerque, NM. Eighty-five members and guests attended. One of the highlights of the gathering was a special memorial service for all their fallen comrades.

5th Marines, Anti-Tank Co

The Anti Tank Co., 5th Marines, held its 4th annual reunion in Nashville, TN, in September 2004. There were thirty members in attendance, along with their wives. Some of the attendees had not been in touch with one another since leaving Korea over 50 years ago.

The members spent the first day of the reunion getting reacquainted over a few beverages. On Friday night, they went by bus to the Grand Old Opry. They concluded their meeting the next night with a dinner.

Charles Batherson reminds people that the group will be getting together this year in St. Louis, MO. Anyone who is interested in attending is invited to contact him at (231) 839-5476 or chuckandbarbat5@voyager.net, or CJ and George Barrette at (715) 582-3835, [<grinandbarrette@cybrzn.com>](mailto:grinandbarrette@cybrzn.com)

1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion Association

The 1st Field Artillery Observation Battalion held its 24th Annual Reunion October 7-10, 2004, at the Best Western Midway Hotel in Milwaukee, WI. The unit was an active Observation Battalion in WWII and Korea. Its mission was threefold: 1) locate the enemy artillery by flash, sound, and radar; 2) register allied artillery fire; 3) report battlefield information.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the presentation of a plaque to Wisconsin Congressman Mark Green for his efforts to secure passage of bill HR1127 to authorize the issue of the Combat Artillery Badge. Wisconsin residents Raymond and Marie Motiff accepted the plaque on Green's behalf.

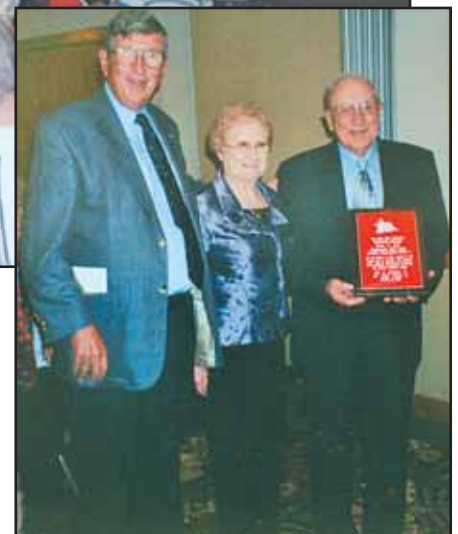
1st FOB members enjoying the "high life" at Miller Brewery in Milwaukee



Have a Mini-Reunion?

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication! Mail to 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

President John Barnes presenting a plaque to honor Wisconsin Congressman Mark Green





AT-5th Marines in Nashville TOP L-R: P. French, W. Boyd, N. D'Ambra, J. Little, D. Ketchum, R. Bennett, E. Witcraft, A. Fondrick, E. Crom, L. Deden, G. Cowley, K. Schmidt, J. Cronin; MIDDLE L-R: R. G. Barrette, C. Fuqua, G. Fuguay, G. Wagoner, P. Caudillo, B. Cormier, C. Batherson, W. White; BOTTOM L-R A. Anderson, E. Small, D. Menzies, J. D. Guamere, P. Hammersley, N. Bodway



AT-5th Marines' wives TOP L-R The Mss Wagoner, French, Fuquay, Caudello, Barrette, Small, Menzies, Guarmere, Schmidt, Fuqua MIDDLE L-R Batherson, Hammersley, Bennett, Bodway, Deden, Witcraft, Ketchem, Fondrich BOTTOM L-R Cowley, White, Cormier



1st FOB dinner diners (L-R) Don and Carol Dust, Senator John S. Barnes Jr., President 1st FOB Association, John and Nancy Palla

Men who served in A Btry., 1st FOB (L-R standing) John Palla, Don Dust, John Hynek, Verlon Weaver, Frank O'Connor, Warren Rehfeldt (L-R seated) George Hintzche, Larry Towne, Bill Van Hulzen, Jack Shepler



40th Infantry Division, Division Headquarters



40th Infantry Headquarters members (L-R) Al Franco (San Antonio TX), Tom Harris (New York NY), Norm Brust (Cocoa Beach FL), John Jaffe (Beverly Hills CA), John Marquis (Universal City TX)

Several members of the unit got together on November 13, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas. They all served in Korea with Division Headquarters.

Anyone who wants more information about them can e-mail Norm Brust at NormB1928@aol.com. He advises e-mailers to use Korean War Veterans as the subject lest their messages get deleted as spam.

FORGOTTEN HEROES

The 65th Infantry Regiment



SFC Carlos Ruiz (Ret.) while a corporal with the 65th Inf. Regt. in Waegwan, Korea, 9 Oct 1950.

"We are proud to be part of the United States Forces, and we are proud of our country. We feel that too many people do not know anything about Puerto Rico; they think we are all natives who climb trees. We are glad for the chance to fight the Communists and also for the chance to put Puerto Rico on the map. It will be a great accomplishment if we can raise the prestige of our country in the eyes of the world.".... SFC CARLOS RUIZ (Ret)

By Noemi Figueroa Soulet

SFC Carlos Ruiz (Ret.) said the words above in 1951 while stationed in Korea with the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division. It reflected how many of the men felt while serving with the Army's only Hispanic-segregated unit. They felt it was an honor and a duty to serve not only in the U.S. Army, but also in a unit which represented the courage and spirit of their island, Puerto Rico.

In fact, several hundred thousands of Puerto Ricans have served in the U.S. armed forces since 1899, when Puerto Rico became a part of the U.S. As part of a commonwealth, Puerto Rican U.S. citizens who reside on the island have no vote in Congress and cannot vote for the President of the United States. But, they are obligated to participate in wartime drafts. Whether drafted or willing volunteers, historically, Puerto Ricans, who are from a small island of a few million residents, have been disproportionately overrepresented in military service and casualties as compared to the rest of the U.S. population. Puerto Rico is considered one of the top recruiting stations for the armed forces. Over 150,000 veterans live on the island of Puerto Rico, and there are an additional 100,000 in active duty and civilian community.

One of the 65th's most important missions involved clearing a retreat path for the 1st Marine Division and 7th Regiment, which were trapped and surrounded by hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers near the Chosin Reservoir.

when Puerto Rican soldiers had their greatest visibility, earned their highest awards, and suffered the most casualties. A total of about 61,000 Puerto Ricans served in that war - 43,434 from the island and 18,000 residing on the U.S. mainland. A large percentage of them were volunteers. Yet, few people are aware of these statistics. Nor are

they aware of the dedicated service and historical importance contributed by these veterans.

A documentary film currently in production hopes to change that. *The Puerto Rican Soldier* is the first major documentary film which chronicles the unknown history of the 65th Infantry



Battle weary soldiers return to safety behind the lines after two days of being trapped north of the Han River. June 1951, Korea

But it was during the Korean War

Regiment. The film has been in production for several years. The producers have conducted exhaustive research, interviewed more than 200 65th veterans and officers, and compiled archival footage and photographs. This film is intended to be broadcast nationally on public television and distributed extensively to schools, veterans groups and community organizations. Produced by El Pozo Productions, based in New York, the small independent production company has taken on this overwhelming task with little financial resources. To date, it has raised over \$125,000 through grants, benefits and private donations.

But the story of the 65th may never get told. Ninety percent of documentary projects are not completed because of innumerable obstacles and lack of money. Undaunted by these obstacles, the producers, Noemi Figueroa Soulet and Raquel Ortiz (producer of the acclaimed documentary “Mi Puerto Rico”), have received extremely supportive responses from the 65th veterans themselves who have shared their stories and photographs. As 65th veteran Wendell Vega says, “We want the American public to know that we did our share in the Korean War.”

Nicknamed “The Borinqueneers,” after the Taino Indian name (Borikén) for the island of Puerto Rico, this unit began as a volunteer regiment in 1899 and participated in the two World Wars, primarily protecting the Panama Canal. Initially referred to as a “rum and Coca-Cola outfit” by the Pentagon brass, and not trusted in battle, it was in the Korean War where they demonstrated their military prowess. Upon their arrival in Korea on September, 1950, the 65th established a reputation as one of the 3rd Infantry Division’s best and most dependable units. Its men were well led, well trained, and highly motivated. Their meteoric ascent was even praised by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who said the unit was “writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle.”

Most of these soldiers, with little formal education and limited English skills, were thrown into a foreign culture and language replete with prejudice and discrimination. Accustomed to a semi-



Rifle crew of M Company, 3rd Battalion, with a 75mm recoilless rifle, guarding a valley north of Chorwan, Korea. 15 June 1951. U.S. Army Photo.

tropical climate, the bitter cold winters of Korea did not deter them from fighting. Despite these impediments, Puerto Ricans served with distinction and made valuable contributions to the war effort. The overwhelming casualty figures confirm the heavy price Puerto Ricans paid in Korea for their loyalty. No other allied nation and only twelve states of the Union had more deaths.

One of the 65th’s most important missions involved clearing a retreat path for the 1st Marine Division and 7th Regiment, which were trapped and surrounded by hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers near the Chosin Reservoir.

Although great interest has been generated for the release of this film, it is still not finished. In order to complete this film, an additional \$50,000 is needed to pay for editing and post-produc-

tion expenses. Many people and groups have been generous in helping the producers underwrite the costs of the documentary. Some of the groups that have financially supported this documentary film in the past include local chapters of the Korean War Veterans Association, the Marine Corps League, the American Legion and the American Veterans Committee for Puerto Rico Self-Determination, amongst others.

If you are interested in supporting this project which documents an important, but relatively unknown, part of our American military history, please send your tax-deductible contributions made payable to “Women Make Movies” to El Pozo Productions, P.O. Box 302, Crompond, NY 10517. For more information about this film and how you can help, you can call (914) 739-3989 or visit www.prsoldier.com.

GRAYBEARDS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

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

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

As you may recall, we included in the Sept/Oct 2004 issue an update on Bruce Cabana's attempt to get the Bronze Star awarded to Korean War vets awarded the Combat Infantryman's or Combat Medic's Badge (p. 25). Here is an update on his effort.

Let's start with his letter to *The Graybeards*.

First, I want to thank *The Graybeards* for graciously running my letter. I have received an overwhelming amount of supportive telephone calls and letters. Thank you everyone who has taken the time and effort to speak to me or write letters of support, or were forwarding documentation for this grand effort. Your support has given me the energy to strive forward. I can't thank you enough.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have sent to the Secretary of the Army. This letter has the information originally sent to Congressman McNulty, as well as additional attachments

Now for the update: I have been in contact with Congressman McNulty's Washington Office. It is anticipated that Congressman McNulty will bring this up in the next session of Congress. Some of the original information has been forwarded to staffers on the Armed Services Committee who stated that they had heard a movement is afoot concerning the Bronze Stars for Korean War veterans. The liaison in Mr. McNulty's office also recommended that I forward letters and packets to the Legislative Offices of various veterans groups. I have done so and have sent packets to the legislative Offices of the VFW, American Legion, and AMVETS.

I had planned to send a package to the KWVA Legislative Office, but I could not find an address. I have received several inquiries from a few veterans of sending the packets of information to them, so they could contact their congressional representative. I like that idea and would urge everyone to do so! I have sent out packages to my congressional representatives, too.

In closing, all I can say is thank you for all your support and together we will get this accomplished. I look forward to speaking with you all soon.

Bruce Cabana
10 Lincoln Avenue
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Here is a copy of his letter to Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey. He included a plethora of attachments in his

UPDATE

THE AWARDING OF THE BRONZE STAR



letter, which we have omitted here for the sake of brevity.

Dear Secretary Harvey,

Congratulations on being appointed the 19th Secretary of the Army.

I want to present information to you in hopes of having the Bronze Star awarded to the recipients of the Combat Infantryman's or the Combat Medic's Badge from the Korean War. I feel that there is a strong precedence for this award for the veterans of what is now considered the "Forgotten War." I have enclosed the following information as evidence:

- In 1947, a policy was implemented that authorized the retroactive award of the Bronze Star to soldiers who were recipients of either the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II.

- In 1962, Executive Order 11046 was signed by President Kennedy to expand the authorization of the Bronze Star to include personnel serving with friendly forces. This has been awarded three (3) times.

- In the 102nd Congress, H.J. RES.367 and S.2015, "urge and request the award of the Bronze Star to Navy and Marine Corps personnel who served in the defense of Corregidor Island, the Philippines, under General Wainwright."

- In the 103rd, 104th, 105th, and 106th Congress, H.R. 4459, 895, 543 and 552 respectively, request, "to provide for award of the Navy Combat Action Ribbon based upon participation in ground or surface combat as a member of the Navy or Marine Corps during the period between July 4, 1943 and March 1, 1961.

- According to AR (Army Regulation) 600-8-22 Section 3-13 Bronze Star-section 3:

Upon letter of application, award of the Bronze Star Medal may be made to eligible soldiers who participated in the Philippine Islands Campaign between 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942. Performance of duty must have been on the island of Luzon or the Harbor Defenses of Corregidor and Bataan. Only soldiers who were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation (Presidential Unit Citation) may be awarded this decoration.

- I have enclosed documentation, provided to me from a Korean War veteran, concerning the awarding of the Bronze Star comparatively between past conflicts and what has been awarded in Iraq as of November of 2003.

- I have also included a time line of the Korean War in 1950, where it is highlighted how the 2nd Infantry Division was relieved by the

111th Infantry Division after 103 days of continuous combat on Heartbreak Ridge, the 2 Infantry Division's account of the battle, as well as a narrative of how the 23rd Infantry Regiment survived the siege at Chipyeong-Ni, a personal review by Colonel Paul Freeman of Chipyeong-Ni, and how it was analyzed and reviewed almost fifty (50) years later.

- An account of the "May Massacre" by the 2 Infantry Division, where according to the accounts I have had with veterans of the battle, "the rivers and streams turned red with blood."

- A copy of a Freedom of Information Act request from the National Archives in College Park, Maryland that shows a discussion, as far back as 1951, concerning awarding the Bronze Star to Korean War veterans.

- A copy of the June 22, 2004 Wall Street Journal about a story of an Army Reserve Colonel who was awarded the Bronze Star for saving the "distressed animals" at the Baghdad Zoo.

- A discussion of the proliferation of Bronze Stars written by Jon R. Anderson of the European Stars and Stripes.

I have forwarded this information to several members of Congress, as well as the Legislative Offices of veterans' organizations.

I feel compelled to forward this information to you so that it will be presented in a manner that is befitting of such an outstanding group of veterans. If you have any questions or need any other information please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to working with you on this issue, in hopes that the veterans of the "Forgotten War" are no longer forgotten and are finally honored for their sacrifices.

Sincerely,

Bruce Cabana

THE DEFINITION OF A SOLDIER

Walter D. Hinrichs of Ormond Beach, FL, sent us this tribute to a soldier, which was written by 11-year-old Shaun Casey, a student at Ormond Beach Middle School.

Safety for our country

Our freedom to be kept in our country

Liberty and justice saved from being lost

Deadly consequences to which you overcame

Invested time, effort and lives into war

Even though times were tough and life was hard,
you stuck through it

Rights you fought for and saved

ORPHAN REPAYS KOREAN VETS

By Ed Ziegler

In 1996, after 44 years, Mr Sung Hak Baik finally was able to thank the soldiers who served in Korea for their kindness to a little orphaned boy. In 1952, 1st Sgt Robert Davis and the members of the 300th F.A. Battalion adopted Sung Hak Baik, who showed up at the unit position. One day the unit sustained an artillery barrage and one of the shells caused some severe burns to their new charge. He was picked up by helicopter and treated at a M*A*S*H. He made a complete recovery.



Sung Hak Baik

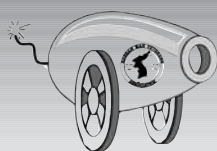
As he grew into manhood, Mr Baik became a multi-millionaire. In 1996, he donated \$5,000.00 to 1st Sgt Davis to be used for the erection of a monument honoring those who had served in Korea during the period 1950-1953. Mr Baik's life story is one all by itself.

During a regular meeting of the Dutch Nelsen Chapter, one of the wives stood up and suggested that the Chapter sponsor the erection of such a monument. I was president of the

Chapter at that time, and I'm here to tell you that woman's brief comment caused us to have the most rewarding two years of our history. (A caution to other Chapters: you may want to restrict wives from making suggestions.)

It became my responsibility to select a committee to begin collecting the funds for this project. Since I had served with the Second Division, I named two members of our Chapter who had also served the Second Division, Charlie Snow and Lloyd Payne. Charlie was awarded two Purple Hearts while with M company in the Chipyeong-Ni offensive, followed by the May Massacre and Heartbreak Ridge. Lloyd distinguished himself by earning two Silver Stars on Heartbreak Ridge as a company commander—of not one, but two companies, K and L—after all the officers in L company had been killed. His previous campaigns in the Punch Bowl and Bloody Ridge apparently had prepared him well for his task on Heartbreak. Both belonged to the 23rd Infantry Regiment.

Charlie and Lloyd showed great initiative in selecting the configuration of our memorial stone. They ordered it from India and had it shipped to Colorado Springs, where it was carved by Spence Memorial Company. Charlie and several of the Chapter members laid out and dug the excavation for the stone placement to include a time capsule. Total cost was \$18,000.00, with enough left over for a sizable CD. One of our sister Chapters has since requested and been granted approval to use our design as model for their memorial.



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of Graybeards is designed to provide feedback—and generate more feedback. It gives readers the opportunity to respond to printed stories, letters, points of view, etc., without having to write long-winded replies. Feel free to respond to whatever you see in the magazine. As long as it's tasteful and non-political, we will be happy to include it. If you want to submit ideas, criticisms, etc. that you prefer not to see in print—at least with your name attached to it—then we will honor that. Make sure to let us know, though.

Mail your "Return Fire" to the "Feedback Editor" at 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2859. E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (860) 563-6149. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

Mal de Mer Aboard the Meigs

In the September/October 2004 issue you had a letter from a Marine who had been on the General M.C. Meigs. He was stationed at K-6, Pyongtaek, Korea. I would like to be in touch with him to share some experiences. Perhaps we had mutual acquaintances.

I left Korea in December 1953. The two letters you have had about this ship were also the first that I had ever seen in all of my years. I would love to have a copy of the picture of the ship.

My embarkation point was San Diego in December 1952. Debarkation was Yokohama, Japan, January 1953. Then I went by train to Itami, and from there by transport to K-6, MABS-12 MAG-12. As a young Marine, the trip would never be forgotten.

Sleeping racks were stacked to the overheads. We ran into one terrific storm on the way. Almost everyone was seasick. There was a stench everywhere. The ship was wallowing in the swells, and when it came to riding down a wave sometime the screw would come out of the water and the noise and vibration were enough to frighten anyone—especially the first time you heard it. The only good thing about the storm was that for those of us who did not get seasick there were no chow lines. Not quite the way you want to spend Christmas, as we did.

I would like to hear from anyone who was at K-6 during 1953.

*Lawrence A. Whalen, 26 Church St,
Marshfield, MA 02050,
alwhalen@cape.com*

A Dog's Life in Korea

We had two mascots on Heartbreak Ridge in 1953, "Commo" and his sister "Kim." We were with the 179th Infantry



Sam Gann with
"Kim," Korea
1953

"Commo,"
Korea 1953



Regiment, 45th Division. After we left for Christmas Hill and Queen's Outpost, we left them with the next company on Heartbreak Ridge.

*Samuel F. Gann, 2201 E. 65th Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220, (317) 253-1141
Sgann@worldnet.att.net*

Did "Justice In Fatigues" Do An Injustice To Draftees?

I enjoyed the very educational article by Daniel J. Meader in the Nov-Dec 2004 issue of Graybeards (p. 66). I also noted that the Army did indeed work like that, i.e., no rhyme or reason to decisions. I was trained as an X-ray technician, but was sent to Korea in January 1953 to the 618th Medical Clearing Company (part of I Corp) somewhere around Chun'chong, where I was assigned to drive a deuce-and-a-half.

The only thing I

would take exception to is Mr. Meador's statement that "Conscription was then in effect, pulling into the army all segments of society, including its dregs and misfits." I was a draftee, as were many of my buds in my outfit. Yet, they were all were my friends, as were my R.A. friends. In addition, they were guys you could trust. We did our jobs as we were supposed to do, even though we were PFCs, corporals, and sergeants.

Everyone should be thankful that many of these "dregs and misfits" saved us REMF'S from getting our butts shot up. I know that I am.

*Wayne A. Doenges, 932 W. Circle Dr.,
New Haven, IN*

There Are Still Korean Vets in Belgium and the Netherlands

I went to visit Belgium and the Netherlands in late 2004 and met with Korean veterans from both countries. The Belgians were attached to my regiment, the 7th Regiment of the 3rd Division, in Korea. The Dutch troops were attached to the 2nd Division.

My friend Raymond Behr of the Belgian veterans invited us to visit. I was amazed at how well all the veterans spoke



Belgian Korean vets in the 3rd Paratroop Battalion barracks



Above, Netherlands Korean vets gather near Magraaten American Cemetery

At right, Belgian veteran Claude Billiet, of Liermeux, in the Pan Gori sector, June 1953



English. All in all, it was a great trip. My wife and I were treated like royalty.

We went to Omaha Beach (Normandy) for the 60th anniversary. We also went to Bastogne, and saw where the Americans were dug in. We also visited the spot where the Germans mowed down the American prisoners. It was a trip we will never forget.

*Patrick Filidoro, 255-11 87th Drive
Floral Park, NY 11001*

Are The Soldiers Wearing The Wrong Helmets?

This is in reference to the article, "The Building of our National Memorial in Washington, D.C." *The Graybeards*, Nov-Dec 2004, pp. 58-64. While I have never been to DC to observe the Korean War Memorial, I noted from the first photo I saw of it, after its dedication, that the helmets worn by the patrol were incorrectly designed. The helmets are reminiscent of those worn by the Japanese military during WW II. In fact, they look like a perfect copy.

Over the years I have never seen or heard any comment from anyone in reference to this discrepancy. Therefore, my assessment could be wrong, or no one else seems to care.

If one looks closely at the picture of the sculptor's clay models on p. 58, it will be noted the helmets are of the correct M-1

design formally adopted by the US military on 9 JUNE 41. That helmet stayed in service until after the Viet Nam War, when the new Kevlar helmets came into use.

Please look at the photos of the helmets on the "finished sections" of the statues on p.64, whereby even a cursory glance will show very clearly the helmets definitely are not the American M-1, but are, instead, a dead ringer for the previously mentioned Japanese helmet.

In the last paragraph on p. 59 is the statement...."the client wanted....something....realistic and militarily accurate...." Obviously, the client lost that argument. It is almost impossible to comprehend how the sculptor, Frank C. Gaylord II, himself a WW II combat veteran, could have erred so radically. To me, this is an embarrassment and an injustice to all who served wearing the American GI helmet. If we are to have national monuments, they must, without question, be completely accurate or their true representations will be lost to future generations.

Your attention is called to mid-column, 1st paragraph, p.59. "The original....called for thirty-eight troopers symbolizing the 38th parallel and the thirty-eight-month duration of the war." Your attention is further called to the Korean War logo at the top of the inside of the front page, which gives the dates of the Korean War as 25 June 50 to 27 July 53, just a tad more than 37 months. I probably shouldn't quibble over 23 days, but I am.

I firmly believe the wholly inaccurate

helmets displayed upon the heads of the nineteen statues of *The Patrol* should be replaced with replicas of the M-1 helmet, which served so honorably for so long a period of time.

Perhaps Mr. Gaylord can contact the McCord Radiator and Manufacturing Company, (if it is still in business), for a copy of the specs necessary to fabricate the proper headgear for the troops.

*Tom Alexander, 3539 W. Mission Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85051*

Well, well, well....There Was Something Humorous After All

I read the heading over a letter in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of the GB (p. 28) saying "there wasn't anything funny in Korea." While that was very true, I can remember that even in the middle of a battle some of us had to laugh.

This incident took place just after the battle of 22 April 1951, when my unit, the 5th RCT, was on a motor patrol. In the column were deuce-and-a-half trucks loaded with troops, and jeeps carrying the officers. Running up ahead were about three small recon tanks. I no longer remember the name given to them, but they had whip antennas, hand holders on their turrets, and small cannon. Also, they could travel very fast.

These tanks were running ahead of us, churning up Korean dirt into our faces, when they came to a left turn in the road. We heard a tremendous sound of metal against metal, followed by the loud sound of a tank engine being over run. As that took place, word came that we were to dismount (I was with the 81 mm mortars) and set up the tubes.

The radios were blaring with calls for a fire mission and an air strike just up ahead of us. As to the first tank, as it turned the corner, it ran head on into a T-34 tank, leading other tanks, as well as a large group of troops. Our tank had just about run up onto the body of the T-34 coming towards us. Then, the T-34 crew woke up as to what happened. It tried to depress its

Now Hear This:

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

gun to fire, except it was kept from moving by our tank. Our tank was just about all the way up the front of the T-34. But, with effort, it broke loose and backed up around the curve and out of sight.

We now had the 81 mm tubes, some with base plates and some just holding the tubes at a slant. We were firing over the top of the hill and hitting the surprised enemy non-stop. One of our men had been running to the deuce-and-a-half to get ammo, three rounds at a time, returning, and leaving them at the tube. He had made a few trips. Then, he disappeared from our sight after I had seen him pick up three more rounds. We called out his name, but we did not get any response. Shortly, the word came to pack up, load up, and be ready to get moving back to the MLR. The Air Force was on its way to finish up the tanks that were trying to make it around the curve to our position.

While loading the truck, we heard someone calling for help, but we were unable to locate the person—until one of the gunners looked down at the ground. Our “missing man” had fallen into a “Honey Well” after the boards gave way from the combination of his weight and that of the ammo. We were on the edge of what had been a village. He was up to his neck in the slop, and a decision had to be made as to how we could haul him out without actually having to touch him. One man took off his cartridge belt; the “missing man” grabbed hold and we yanked him out.

He was able to jump on to the rear of the truck, but no one would let him sit with the rest of the men due to the odor and slop running off him. We made it back and our “missing man” was sent to the medic for a cleaning, checkup, then back to the unit for some clean clothes.

All’s well that ends well—even if it’s a “honey well.”

How Did The Service Help You?

Editor’s Question: How many of our readers pursued professions or launched careers as a result of their military service? Would you have gone to college, pursued a vocation, etc., if you had not benefited from U.S. government programs such as the G.I. Bill? In short, did your military service contribute to your success (or failure) directly or indirectly? That

question was raised based on former S/Sgt. Carl Moore’s letter regarding the impact of his military “career” on his career. The part below was included with his comments regarding a name change for *The Graybeards*.

Please let us know if you benefited similarly.

[I was] a member of the Air Force, stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base from 1951-54 as a surgical tech. I used my G.I. Bill and became an RN (Registered Nurse), so my military career helped in what my future was to be. Several of us in my 2750th Medical Group became medical MDs after our tour. Others, who are now retired, pursued other allied medical field jobs.

*Carl Moore, 3009 Kingsley Drive
Decatur, IL 62521-5647*

A Christmas Card in February

In December 1950 I was in the United States Air Force, stationed at K9 base in Pusan, Korea, with 730th Bomb Squadron, 52nd Bomb Wing. I sent a Christmas card to my cousin, James D. Cole, U.S. Army, 838th EAB, attached to the 5th Air Force, who was stationed at K13, Suwon. Korea.



One of the Suwon gates

In 2003, Jim was going through some old photographs when he found this 53-year-old Christmas card that I had signed with the names of my wife and me. He had sent it back to me. Then, we both forgot completely about the card.



A Christmas card from Thomas Largent to James Denton Cole

The card looks like a watercolor painting of an old fortress gate. Jim thought it looked like a painting of one of the Suwon gates that they used where he was stationed. He told me that Suwon was a walled fortress in the old days.

*Thomas H. Largent, 10478 U.S. 50
Aurora, IN 47001*

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REMEMBERING THE “QUEEN’S OWN” REGIMENT

Arthur J. Manzy (USN) pondered the history of the regiment recently. So, he contacted Eugene Dorman of the 7th Infantry Division's 32nd “Queen’s Own” to learn more about this uniquely named regiment. Here is what he learned.

At the time the regiment was first organized, it was known as the “Queen’s Own Regiment,” a title given it by the last queen of Hawaii. During World Wars I and II, the 32nd Infantry Regiment was involved in many battles. The last campaign for the regiment came in April 1945, when the regiment was moved ashore in Okinawa. During that bloody battle the 32nd won the name “Spearhead” for its continuous spearhead attacks against the enemy line until the battle ended on June 21, 1945.

Three days after the Japanese surrendered, on September 5, 1945, the 32nd sailed for Korea, where it assumed occupation duty and established defensive positions along the 38th Parallel. Subsequently, it was transferred to Japan in the early part of 1949 to replace the 11th Airborne Division. Then, it was back to Korea.

In September 1950, the 32nd began its action in Korea by participating in the Inchon invasion. The unit fought its way over rugged terrain toward Seoul. It captured the important town of Angyang-ni to the south, and finally entered Seoul by capturing South Mountain, which the

■ The “Queen’s Own” sounds like a unit of the British Army. But, it is not, as some Korean veterans may recall.



The “Queen’s Own” crest

communists defended strongly. Following these victories, the 32nd traveled to Pusan. Later, it landed at Iwon, in North Korea.

During this time, the regiment fought many battles at the 38th Parallel and in the Inje area. The long-awaited communist spring offensive hit the allies at this point, but the 32nd held against overwhelming odds. The unit received commendations for this action; the 3rd Battalion was

awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

The regimental crest, in many ways, is symbolic of the regiment’s Hawaiian origin. The centerpiece was taken from a Royal Hawaiian banner. This symbol has the Hawaiian name, Puela. In accordance with custom, Hawaiian chiefs placed a group of spears in front of their huts. These spears, or Puela, were taboo symbols for protection.

The helmet at the top of the crest is the ancient Hawaiian war helmet known as Mahiloe. The red and gold lion in the upper left corner indicates that the parent organizations, the 1st and 2nd Infantry, took part in the War of 1812, during which time the lion was a familiar symbol. The blue background on the shield is the infantry color.

Mr. Dorman, a son of Midlothian, Illinois, volunteered for the Army in 1950. He was sent to Korea, where he earned the Purple Heart and the Korean Service Ribbon with three campaign stars for his heroic and honorable services.

Late Delivery of ‘The Graybeards’

Mr. Robert Snyder tells us:

I am unhappy with the date I’m receiving *The Graybeards*. The last one (Nov/Dec 2004) was received mid-January. (Most magazines are received the first month of issue.)

So many things are already past. The magazine gets later and later each time. If I had known the magazine was going to be this irregular, I would never have paid my life membership.

Mr. Snyder has a point. We are not happy with the delivery schedule, either. Without making excuses for the late delivery of the Nov/Dec issue in some cases, we ran into a few unanticipated problems, e.g., a last minute correction at the printer’s that resulted in a delay, the conflict with Christmas mail volume, etc. However, we are taking steps to deliver the magazine in a more timely fashion from now on. We will try to make sure that the magazine does not “get later and later each time.”



Arthur Manzy, 1951



Eugene Dorman, 1950

In The Spotlight

TELL AMERICA



From time to time we like to spotlight specific KWVA Chapters' "Tell America" programs. This issue we take an in-depth look at the program run by Chapter 173, based in Sanford, Florida. Here is how Victor J. Haas describes the program.

I appreciate this opportunity to bring you up to date on exactly what our Chapter has been doing in our "Tell America" program, in which several of us have been very active for many years.

Several years ago, Mr. Thomas Roberts, Marian Roberts and I began to speak to students attending grades K-12 to tell them about the Korean War. It has been so successful that we have continued the program to the point where a large number of schools welcome the "Tell America" Program. We have learned that the primary months to visit schools to give programs are October and November.

Here are the procedures we follow in sequence:

We start with the letter below to give the students some background:

"THE KOREAN WAR (AKA "THE FORGOTTEN WAR"):

There is an old adage that states it is better to light a candle than sit and curse the darkness. And, in the darkness surrounding the Korean War, we surviving veterans have sat back and cursed educators, historians and the media for ignoring the war.

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950, when the North Korean Democratic People's Republic invaded the Republic of South Korea and ended July 27, 1953. Some of the bloodiest fighting took place in 1950.

By the end of the war, 54,246 had made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives; 103,284 were wounded; 7,140 were POWs, 4,418 returned to military control, 2,701 died while in captivity.

The men and women endured many hardships and setbacks throughout the war, but never gave up. That is remarkable, considering the conditions under which they had to engage in combat in order to survive. Consider these extreme conditions, for example: Korea, which juts into the Sea of Japan, is roughly 600 miles long by 150 miles wide, comprising an area of approximately 85,228 square miles. The climate is extreme, ranging from 42 degrees Celsius (110 degrees Fahrenheit) in the summer to minus 40 degrees Celsius (40 degrees Fahrenheit) in the winter. Along the east coast, the mountains rise abruptly to a height of more than 9,000 feet from the ocean. In the western area, the land slopes in a gentle manner more suited to farming. As is very clear to see, these extreme conditions made this war very difficult. Not only did they make survival difficult for us, but we were engaged in combat knowing that we were subject to being ambushed at any time as the enemy lay in wait for our fighting men and women.

We must never forget the price of freedom we enjoy because of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy

our freedom today and in the future! The time has come for us to exercise our duty to pass on the cost of freedom to our younger generations.

We must educate the younger generations to the reality of war and what previous generations have done to assure that they have continual access to the freedoms they enjoy today.

We, the surviving veterans, can show by example our pride in our country by recognizing those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We do so by becoming involved in veterans' affairs and ceremonies, and by teaching our young the truth about, not only the Korean War, but those who made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars—and what the wars were really all about.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!!!

We then cover:

- ♦ the temperature extremes, which really excites the students
- ♦ the size of Korea
- ♦ differences in terrain
- ♦ the first three paragraphs of the letter above (which are most important)

It is amazing that we find some of the teachers have visited Korea, and that some students are Korean. I find it extremely enlightening to see their faces light up as we discuss the various topics.

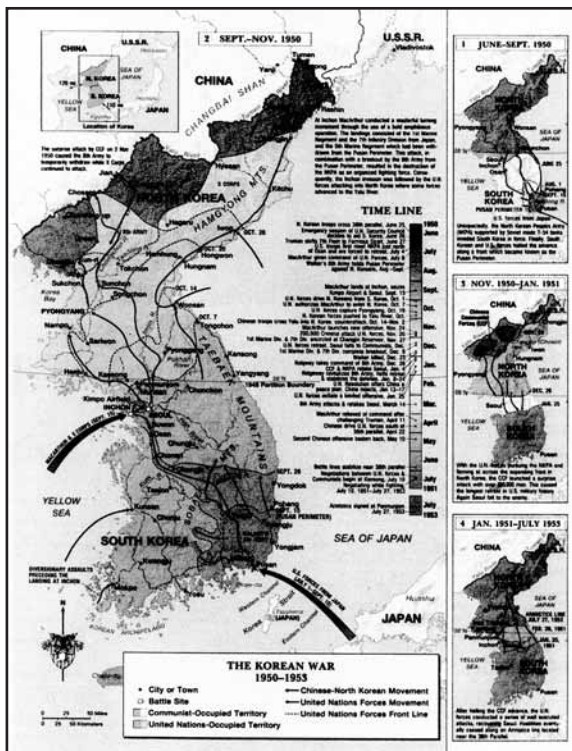
We give every student and teacher a copy of pictures of the Korean War as they show the country extremes. We also show the L-5 Reconnaissance Aircraft in mountainous country with the troops in the lower area. We explain what our troops had to endure if wounded and captured by the Chinese or North Koreans, and what type of clothes we had to wear.

We also present pictures of the Korean Memorials in Washington, D.C. and in Tallahassee, Florida.

We explain the reflecting wall in Washington, which really fas-



Victor Haas and "students" at a school in Seminole County, FL, in 2004



Map of Korea



The Korean Memorial Monument in Tallahassee, FL



The Korean Memorial Monument in Washington DC

cinates them and makes them want to see it if they go to Washington.

The next thing we show them is pictures of the aircraft that were used during the Korean War. They have never seen these aircraft, and the fact that they were propeller driven is particularly intriguing to them. (The F-86, of course, was the exception). We also show pictures of C-54, L-5, and B-29 bombers. As we show the pictures, we also explain what they were used

for and the many services they performed. For example, we say, the C-54 was a troop carrier and a litter carrier, bringing wounded back to Japan from Korea, etc.

The last picture we show is the man standing when the flag passes by, while everyone else remains sitting. We use this to teach them about the need for respect for the U.S. flag at all times.

We think the program is great. As soon

as I received the "Tell America" Program, I went to the Seminole County School Community Resource Specialist and gave her a copy of it. In turn, she entered it into the computer system and made it available to all the Middle School history teachers. This county is very helpful and enthusiastic about military programs.

The results of my labors are rewarded by both the children and the teachers. I received a high rating from the Milwee Middle School Teacher and all the children of all the classes I spoke with. I was also assisted by our Chapter President, Ed Posada, and our Secretary Tom Campbell.

I feel the success of this program will depend on our members being a part of this great opportunity to tell our future generations about the "FORGOTTEN WAR."

We basically teach in two Central Florida Counties. Seminole County has a program to work with us and Orange County is slowly realizing they need to get involved as well.

Unfortunately, the hurricanes did not help with scheduling this year.

It is a privilege for me to teach to these future generations, and I will continue to do so. I might also add that, at the end of each class, I give the teacher a copy of the Tell America pamphlet.

Planes of the Korean War



C-54



L-5



F-86

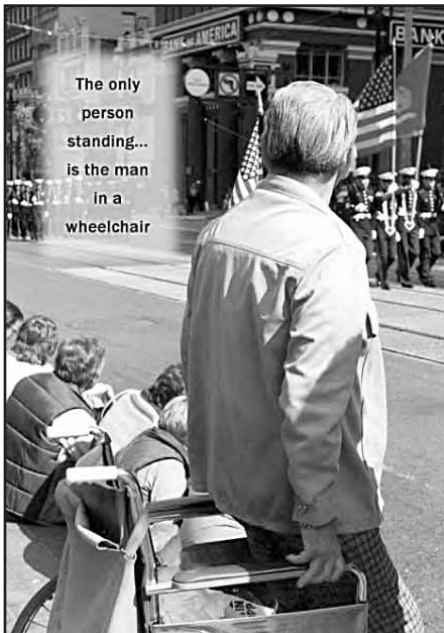


B-29

Mr. Haas,

It was great to have your wonderful visit. I am suprisingly fascinated by your speech. It might not seem like it most times but many of us have learned a lot. Thank you so much. You are great at what you do so again Thank You.

Love,
Elizabeth Yu



Showing respect for the flag

Late in November [2004], I had lunch in Winter Park [Florida] with Mike Galyean, President of Central Florida Chapter of the 1st Marine Corps Division. Mike served as a 2nd platoon leader with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division in Vietnam in the late sixties. I served with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division as a fire team leader with the 2nd platoon in 1950-1951 in Korea.

During lunch Mike confirmed that he retired from his lifetime occupation as teacher in the local grade school system, but he was asked to return to Lake Orienta Elementary School in Altamonte Springs to talk to 150 fifth-grade students about the Vietnam War. Mike asked me to join him, and we could cover both wars at the same time. I had never done anything like this before, but good Marines do not know how to say no.

We arrived at this very modern school about 2:30. The students were sitting on the gym floor; we were standing on a stage ready for action. Mike started the talk about Vietnam, and the style and the elements of that war. I followed by giving my rendition of what it was like to serve on the front lines with a Marine rifle company in combat in Korea, and Mike gave the Vietnam version.

When I talked about my deep fox holes, Mike interrupted me and told the kids what a fox hole was all about. I had dug so many that I thought everybody knew about fox holes, but that was not the case. Afterwards, the children asked many very pertinent questions, and the experience was extremely beneficial for two Marine veterans. The children seemed to appreciate our efforts, and they applauded us for our contribution to their class. We were both given Honorary Teacher citations from the Seminole County Public Schools Teach-In 2004.

Several days later, I received a complimentary note from Kim Purall, the teacher, and 10 notes from the students, personally thanking me for my service. Mike also received personal messages from the students. My favorite message came from Audrey Asfoor. She said, "We have an Amazing Man on our hands!! Dear Mr. Kennedy, Wow you are so amazing to have fought in a war and live to tell about it. I'm glad you did because I barely know you but I already like having you at our school. Thank you."

Another note from Kayla Cummings got my attention: "Thank you for telling me about the war. Thank you for telling me about the fox hole. It was fun."

This experience was without preparation, but it was extremely rewarding. I would recommend that all veterans share their experiences with the youth of our country. Freedom is Not Free!

Semper Fi,
Rick [Kennedy]

If you would like to see your Chapter featured in The Graybeards for its "Tell America" efforts, send us your relevant material. We'll be glad to consider it.

Incidentally, if anyone wants to know what it is like to participate in a "Tell America" program, the answer is simple. It is very rewarding, as evidenced by Haas' experiences and the letter above written by Rick Kennedy in January 2005 after he participated in a session. [The letter has been edited slightly]

Joan M. Arcand
Tell America
5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33708

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EDITOR'S REQUEST: To avoid confusion in this section, we will use Chapters' national IDs, rather than state Chapter numbers. For example, Kansas Chapter 1 will appear as Chapter 181, which is its national chapter designation. Similarly, Missouri Chapter 2 will appear as Chapter 43, etc.

4 Tucson, AZ

First Woman Commander For Tucson Chapter

Tucsonan Grace O'Neill Hyback was nominated, elected, and installed as Commander of the Edward W. Rhoads Chapter at the April 6, 2002 Chapter meeting.



Commander Grace O'Neill Hyback, first woman Commander of Chapter 4

She graduated from Batavia High School in New York State at age 17 and went to work at the telephone company, becoming a supervisor at age 19. She joined the Air Force at age 21 and was in Basic Training when the Korean War started. She became a wx observer and plotted wx maps for pilots. While stationed at McChord AFB in the State of Washington, and en route to Connecticut for recruiting duty, she married a hometown boy at Keesler AFB in Mississippi.

After discharge, she joined her husband and traveled for the next ten years, being stationed at Perrin AFB Texas, Foster Field Texas, Niagara Falls AFB NY, Minot AFB ND, and Hill AFB Utah. At Hill AFB she trained at the base hospital to be a nursing assistant just before her husband retired. They went back to New York State to a 40-acre farm, and she started working as a Narcotic Correction Officer for the State of New York, becoming a supervisor. After her husband died of cancer, she moved to Tucson and worked 20 years at EI Dorado Hospital.

All of her family has served our country. Rick, her oldest son, served with the Seabees in Antarctica and is still in the active reserves. Her second son, Kim, served on the USS Blue Ridge in the Persian Gulf War. His wife Susan has worked with the Navy

at Memphis, TN for 18 years. Her daughter Kathy served with the Air Force in England, Germany, and Italy. Her husband is a major in Air Force intelligence, having served 21 years. Their son plans on joining the Coast Guard upon graduation from high school.

Grace belongs to several organizations, including the Society Of Military Widows, Desert Rose Chapter 14 Davis-Monthan AFB and is a Life Member of KWVA national and the Rhoads Chapter.

17 Delray Beach, FL

Al Ratner

Chapter members had a great time at a recent Korean Senior Citizens Night.



Three Korean Army veterans stand with Chapter 17 Commander Al Ratner



(L-R) British Korean War veteran Robert Green with a Korean Marine Oh, Doohwan, Al Ratner, Herb Dareff, and two unidentified Korean Army veterans.

19 Atlanta, GA

James R. Conway

On 10 November, 2004, James Conway was honored at the Marine Corps luncheon in D.C. for a photograph he took last fall at the funeral of General Davis. He called it "Final Salute." Conway sent it to the Marine Corps, which entered it in a national contest. He received second place and a monetary award.

At the luncheon, LtGen James N. Mattis, commander of the 1st Marine Division, and the keynote speaker, presented the certificate.

On 4 December there was a Korean War Memorial Dedication in Augusta, Georgia. Seven members of our chapter were in attendance. Memorial photograph is of rear side with names of those killed in action from the Augusta, Georgia/Aiken, South Carolina area.

On Saturday, January 8, 2005, the Republic of China Veterans Association in Atlanta hosted a Veterans Memorial Ceremony for veterans of all wars. The evening included medals and recognition plaques, dinner, entertainment, and dancing.



The Lion Dances at the Atlanta dinner—and its not even a Lions Club event



The Lion changes color—or does a chameleon do that?

Thomas C. Harris, Chapter 19 President, thanks the ROC for the evening's events



Retired General Harold Dye, a member of Chapter 19, speaks of his experiences in China during WWII



ROC Chairman Louis S. Liu presents display plaque to General Dye after his speech

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in "The Graybeards" should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net



Seated at the Chapter 20 installation banquet, (L-R) John Prichard and Louis Baldovi; Standing (L-R) Joan Prichard and Valerie Baldovi



TOP: Veterans on stage to receive their award pins and medals

BELOW: Chapter 19 members on stage after receiving recognition (L-R) William O'Morrissey, Henry Taylor, Thomas Harris, Edwin Murray, James Conway



Chapter 20 riders in the Christmas Parade are Shoji Kuroda, Robert Gushiken, Seigin Inafuku, and Bernie Alama

20 Kaneohe, HI

Louis Baldovi

Wrapping up 2004 with KWVA HI Ch. #1 (CID #20)

Despite arthritis, heart, prostate and general health problems associated with the elderly, Hawaii's Korean War veterans participated in numerous veterans and community events in 2004. At the installation of officers for the year 2005, past president



Brigadier General (Ret.) Irwin Cockett installs officers of Chapter 20 for 2005 (R-L) Gen. Cockett, Charles Aresta; Herbert Schreiner; Harry Kumabe, Richard Higa



For the last 10 years, several members of the Chapter 20 have met for breakfast every Monday morning at the Koa Pan Cake House in Kaneohe, Oahu. They have yet to miss a breakfast. They are given discount prices by the Korean owner, Mr. Il Man Chung. Left row: Taro Goya, Fred Ito, Clayton Murakami, Eugene Miura, Melvin Tamashiro, Robert Hu. Right row: Harry Kumabe, Lucio "Sada" Sanico, Daniel Morris, Louis Baldovi, Harrison Lee & Calvin Hiraoka



ABOVE: How many remember this particular item from the Korean War? The A-frame or Korean back pack, or "Chige." Louis Baldovi demonstrates its use in Korea two years ago at the Korean Folk Village



RIGHT: Another view of the back pack



The Hawaii Korean War Memorial, which was dedicated in 1994. It is a unique memorial in that each KIA has its own little niche.

Jack Hirai reviewed the accomplishments of the Chapters and thanked the membership for a year of positive support. Most notable of the events were:

- Month of April & July Korean-Vietnam War Memorial clean up
- April 9- POW/MIAS Recognition Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)- Chaired by former POW Nick Nishimoto.
- April 10-POW/MIA Banquet, Hale Koa Hotel. Chaired by Nick Nishimoto, former POW.
- April 1 7-Hawaii Food Bank Drive. Members collected contributions at three different checkpoints throughout Honolulu.
- June 25-Attended the Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

- Month of July-Korean/Vietnam War Memorial clean up
- July 1-50 members participated in July 4 Parade in Kailua, HI.
- July 16-18- Attended Annual Korean War Veterans Reunion on Kauai, HI
- July 27-Hosted 51st Anniversary of the Korean Armistice at the National Cemetery of the Pacific.
- Nov. 11-Attended Massing of the Colors at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kaneohe Veterans Cemetery
- November 16-Year End and Installation Banquet
- December 4-Fifty members participated in Christmas Day Parade in Kaneohe, HI

At the installation banquet held on November 16th, the following members were installed by BG (Ret.) Irwin Cockett as officers for the year 2005:

- ♦ President:Charles Aresta
- ♦ Vice-President:Herbert Schreiner
- ♦ Secretary:Harry Kumabe
- ♦ Treasurer:Richard Higa, who will be serving his sixth term as treasurer.

Also recognized was Francis Yasutake, for both his humanitarian efforts in assisting handicapped members and regular appearances at the memorial clean up every Thursday

We were treated with special guests from the British Korean War Veterans Association (BKWVA). Highbury Vale Chapter. John and Joan Prichard from Nottingham, England, were guests of Louis and Valerie Baldovi when the Prichards visited Hawaii for a week. Louis is an Honorary Member of the BKWVA.

23 Tinley Park, IL

Paul Guerrero

Our Color Guard participated recently in the POW-MIA Table Ceremony as part of the Tell America program. We do about four Tell America programs a year in schools that ask us to talk to the students about the Korean War. We also do the program in the Village Public Library when they have history programs.



Chapter 23 Color Guard members approach the table at the POW-MIA ceremony



Chapter 23 Color Guard members salute their POW and missing comrades

Paul Guerrero of Chapter 23 prepares the memorial for services



25 Chicago, IL

Niels Larsen

The Greater Chicago and South Suburban Chapters were honored to participate in the 2nd Annual Turkish Festival held at Daley Plaza in Chicago September 11 – 13, 2004. The Turkish Consulate set up a booth for us.



Color Guard members of Chapter 23 (L-R) Al Schaffendberg, Rich Witte, Paul Guerrero, Art Schultz, Bill Minnick



Chapter 25 members at the Turkish Festival (L-R) Bill Stenberg, Leo Baranowicz, Ron Bayers, Stephen Thomas



Chapter 23's Color Guard (Seated, L-R) Ron Grafstrom, Jim Rovano, Jay Pritchett, Chester Poda, Walter Kastner (Standing L-R) Rick Witte, Bill Minnick, Al Schaffendberg, Art Schultz, Paul Guerrero



Chapter 25 members model new uniforms at Turkish Festival? Not really! Chapter members (L-R) Bill Stenberg, Stephen Thomas, Commander Niels Larsen

30 Fort Wayne, IN

Mary Anna Roemke

Chapter members visit nursing centers periodically throughout the year, where we present residents with American flags and patriotic programs. We consider it a joy to make these visits, and the patients and staff members appreciate them as well.



Chapter 30 members visit a nursing center. (L-R) Ken Roemke, Harold Schick, Carl Fowler, Jim Yaney, Jim Leslie, Lynn Shady, Al Clendenen: Seated (L-R) Bob Myers, Garry Sink, Mel Franke. A proud veteran and patient sits in the wheelchair

We also participate in an annual Thanksgiving dinner with people in our local Korean community, with whom we have a wonderful relationship. They appreciate all that the Korean veterans did for them.



Chapter 30 members and local Koreans get together for their annual Thanksgiving dinner

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in *The Graybeards* should be sent to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT06067 or emailed to:

sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

56 Ventura County, CA

David Lopez

The Chapter's Color Guard stays busy.



Chapter 56 Color Guard on duty (L-R) John S. Mora, Henry Marin, Tony Vasquez, Gilbert Cabrera, Will Duarte, Richard Ruiz



Chapter 56's Folding Squad (L-R) Commander David Lopez, Benjamin Espinoza, Rudy Arellano, Frank Torrez, Vice Commander Mike Hidalgo



Chapter 56's All-Life Member Rifle Squad (L-R) Henry Aquilar, Everett Baca, Robert Bermudez, John Campos, William Cobos, Manuel Adame, Manuel Mendez, David Garcia

115 Lima, OH

Roy R. Miller

On November 3rd, 2004, Roy Miller, a member of Chapter 115, planted a red oak "Freedom Tree" in Lima. A large plaque made out of tombstone material was planted in front of the red oak.



TOP: Veterans wish the Lima "Freedom Tree" great growth

RIGHT: The message on the plaque is as strong as the Lima "Freedom Tree" will grow some day



Miller invited area veterans, the public, and members of a Korean church to attend the ceremony. The Reverend Steve Blum blessed the tree and wished it a long life. The VFW Post from Elida, Ohio, provided the Color Guard.

Lima's mayor, David Berger, delivered an accurate summation of the Korean War. Following that, the president of the local KWVA Chapter, aka The Jonnie Johnson Chapter, gave a history of the Chapter 115.

A number of students from the St. Charles School were there to witness a bit of history. Miller would like to see every veterans' group go out and plant a "Freedom Tree" for every war in which this country ever participated. As he asked, "How many people in the world today owe their freedom to the American service people?"

121 Cincinnati, OH

Bob McGeorge

Chapter members presented a copy of the book *Faces of War* to the VA Hospital.

Chapter 121 members present book (L-R) Pat Dilonardo, Dr. Bae Suk Lee, Sandra Mason of the VA, Chapter President Bob McGeorge



126 Leetonia, OH

George Piggott

Alexis Gingerella, the granddaughter of Chapter member Mike and Barb Gingerella, of Industry, PA, won a \$500 grant through the KWVA. Mike served as an MP during the Korean War.



Mike Gingerella of Chapter 126



Alexis Gingerella

Alexis is currently a junior at Penn State-Erie, where she is majoring in Marketing. She hopes to work someday for a record label to promote new and up-and-coming artists. She attended Hopewell Senior High School, where she played volleyball, played in the band, and served as Drum Major for two years.

"Angel Face," as her grandfather nicknamed her, says he is the biggest inspiration in her life. The Chapter members wish them both all the luck in the world.

129 Aurora, IN

Luther Rice

A Family and U.S. Air Force Tradition

Airman Hannah Largent Terrill is a recent graduate of the seven-week basic training course at Lackland (Texas) Air Force Base. Hannah, a 2004 high school graduate, enlisted in the Air Force on October 19, 2004, for a period of four years.



Hannah Terrill flanked by her grandfather Tom Largent and great uncle J. D. Largent, both Air Force veterans of the Korean War and members of Chapter 129

While undergoing basic training, she was a member of the Basic Military Training Drum and Bugle Corps, which provided, among other events, music for graduation ceremonies for graduates of basic training.

Following her holiday leave at home, Hannah returned to Lackland for fourteen weeks of additional training in preparation for becoming a member of the Air Force Security Forces.

137 Mahoning Valley, PA/OH

Joan Onstott

The Korean Association of Greater Youngstown, OH, held its New Years Gala Ball on Saturday, January 8, 2005, at the Radisson Hotel in West Middlesex, PA. Both Korean and American food were served. Attendees played games and danced to round out the evening after dinner.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sung, Joan Arnott's hosts, toast one another



Mrs. Heather Sung and Joan Onstott of Chapter 137 stand in front of the Christmas tree



Korean Association of Greater Youngstown outgoing President Jehong Kim (Center) sits between Past President Dr. Charles Sung (R) and incoming President Duk Ho Kim.

142 Frederick, MD

Charles Wisner

Chapter 142 dedicated two highway signs on I-70 East and West. One is at the Washington County line; the other is at the Carroll County line.

Meanwhile, the Chapter's Color Guard won first prize for marching units at the Taneytown, MD, Parade.



Chapter 142 sign at the Carroll County, MD, line on I-70



Chapter 142 Color Guard marches on to victory. (L-R) Tony Mara, Bob Mount, Leroy Hansberger, Shellar Garlock, Chapter President Bob Eader, Jim Miller, Tony Malavenda, Color Guard Captain Marty Goge

150 Freeport, IL

Curtis Pilgrim

Chapter 150, founded in 1997, comprises 102 members. It manages to keep "a float" for its numerous activities. For example, between April and October 2004, members participated in thirteen parades in Illinois and southern Wisconsin.



Chapter 150 members prepare to participate in the Thomson, Illinois, "Melon Days Festival" Parade on Labor Day Weekend 2004. Chapter Commander and founder Clyde G. Fruth (standing at right) views the Color Guard (L-R) Curtis Pilgrim, Wayne Derrer, Fred Richmond, Melvin Colberg, Verla Bicker, and Roger DeRoche. Chapter members built the float, which seats 24 veterans and/or spouses. (Photo taken by Chapter member Walter Steffes.)

170 Paterson, NJ

Louis Quagliero

Chapter members remained extremely busy. They participated in several events in November and December 2004. They included:

- Sussex County, NJ, Veterans Recognition Day, November 6th



Chapter 170 Sr. Vice Commander George Bruzgis at the Veterans Appreciation Day event

Many veterans organizations from Essex County attended this event. They displayed many military vehicles and arms from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

Sr. Vice Commander George Bruzgis and KWVA State Commander Tom McHugh led Chapter 170. There was a special roll call for the KIA, and Taps was played.



Chapter 170 members at the Essex County event (L-R) Louis DeStefano, Raymond Cohen, George Bruzgis, New Jersey State Commander Tom McHugh, and Louis Quagliero



Chapter 170 family members participate in the Clifton Park Memorial Day Parade (L-R) George Bruzgis, his grandson Alex, Raymond Cohen and his granddaughter Rachel, Lou Quagliero, daughter Janet, granddaughter Samantha



Chapter 170 Color Guard in Clifton Park (Front L-R) John DiLonardo, Captain Henry Ferrarini, Alex Atheras, William Burns, Raymond Cohen; In back on left is Louis DeStefano

- Clifton, NJ, Veterans Day Parade, November 7th
 - New York City Veterans Day Parade, November 11th
 - Saddle Brook, NJ, Honors Ceremony at the Church of Korean Martyrs, November 18th
 - Hackensack, NJ, Pearl Harbor Day, December 5th
- The Chapter has an ambitious goal of raising its current membership from the current 92 to over 100 by the end of 2005.

Chapter 170
Commander John
Meuser and Deacon
Joseph Kim in a
spirit of camaraderie



Chapter 170 members in New York City Parade (Front L-R) Harold Dinzes, Murray Cohen, Past Commander Richard Onorevole, William Burns; In back (L-r) Henry Ferrarini, Alexander Atheras



Chapter 170 members who attended Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies in Hackensack, NJ



Holding banner in New York City (L-R) Gerald Van Brunt, Pat Rooney



Raymond Cohen (L) and Louis DeStefano (R) inside submarine USS Ling at Hackensack



Chapter 170 members honored by Church of Korean Martyrs

180 Leesville, LA

Louis Dechert

On Friday, November 19th, Crossroads Chapter 205 hosted the official ceremony designating Louisiana Highway 28E in Rapides Parish as The Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. The ceremony was the culmination of almost a year's work by the Chapter with the State Legislature to carry out the honor. It was also a high point for 205, which intends to erect a Korean

War Veterans Memorial near the Kees Park intersection on 28E, in Pineville.

In another Pineville-KWVA related topic, the National KWVA President has been assured by General Hunt Downer that a headquarters office for the National Office will also be a reality in the near future. The office will be located at Camp Beauregard, also in Pineville.

Several dignitaries were present at the dedication service: State Senator Joe McPherson, US Representative Rodney Alexander's local director, Mayor Clarence Fields, and National KWVA President Louis Dechert (of Alexandria).

Rich Dupree, Executive Assistant to Mayor Fields, performed as Master of Ceremonies. Members of the Buckeye Band performed selections. The Alexandria/Pineville Veterans Honor Guard provided appropriate honors. A film presentation by the Louisiana Department of Highways honored the Korean War Veterans with a video production.

After the new highways signs were unveiled. Senator McPherson and National President Dechert spoke. After the presentation of TAPS by the band, the Reverend Lonnie Weidner, Assistant Pastor of the Ball Church of Pentecost delivered the benediction.



Chapter 184 members set up a Korean War display at the local library. (L-R) Joe Padilla, Louis Espinoza, Mel O'Campo, John Davis.



Members of A Co., 73rd Tank Bn., 7th Inf. Div. at a 2003 reunion in Independence, MO—after 50 years. (L-R) Donald Tobias (NM), Joe Padilla (CA), George Bruzgis (NJ), Richard Darnell (OK). Padilla was the commander on the same tank on which Bruzgis was the gunner.

184 Santa Maria, CA

Joe R. Padilla

Joe Padilla in Washington D.C.



Chapter 184 members at their annual picnic. (L-R) Robert Christensen (Treasurer), Joe Padilla, Alex Bravo, Jack Calderon, Louie Espinoza (Commander), Walter Schramk, Mel O'Campo (Secretary)

Active Chapter members involved themselves in a variety of events in recent months. For example, Chapter Commander Joe Padilla, a member of A Co., 73rd Tank Bn., 7th Infantry Division in Korea, attended the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War in Washington D.C. in 2003. He was also the keynote speaker during a dedication honoring five local veterans who were killed during the Korean War.

'B' Btry - 49 EA BN - 7th Inf Div

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199 Bradenton, FL

George Staudt

Veterans in west-central Florida were honored in week-long ceremonies in Bradenton. WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans each were given a special day to present graphics and war memorabilia to area residents at the local American Legion Post 24.

Chapter 199 members Raphael Ramos (L) and George Staudt (R) man the 5th Air Force display in Bradenton. Ramos served as a bombardier-navigator on a B-26 light bomber and completed 50 missions. Staudt completed 15 missions as a dorsal gunner. Ramos is holding a picture of two B-26s, while Staudt has a model of the twin-engine bomber.



Chapter 199 volunteers who manned the Korean War display and provided information and stories to citizens who visited the booth.



Chapter 199 member Jim Roberts (L) and Chapter commander Gene Gillette at the Korean War exhibit.

209 Laredo, TX

Pete Trevino

Chapter members have been engaged in a variety of activities recently, e.g., speaking at ceremonies, making presentations, and providing firing squad honors.



Chapter 209 1st Vice President Jose Luis Munoz presents a certificate of appreciation to the ladies of the Lucy Meriwether Chapter of the Ladies of the American Revolution. The Laredo Military Museum made the certificate available. (L-R) Chapter president Dave Leyendecker, LAR president Joy Vasquez, Mary Freeman, Jose L. Munoz, Annabelle Hall, Rosemary J. Contreras, Nancy Brice, Shiela Glassford, Carolyn Jordan, Julia Ruhlman



Leyendecker addresses the audience on Veterans Day



The Webb County Firing Squad, comprising Chapter 209 members, provides firing squad honors

210 Brevard County, FL



Chapter 210 members at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. FRONT ROW (L-R) C. Kim, M. Tutolo 2nd ROW (L-R) W. Lovitt, N. Ruiz, P. Dicioccio, Mrs. Farago, President J. Farago, G. Harter, M. Meisner 3rd ROW (L-R) C. Hackney, N. Beninate, J. Christianson, J. Appleton, S. Stapleton, P. Spescia, W. Thompson 4th ROW (L-R) T. Trousdale, G. Rosenfield, H. Harner, D. Rathbun, R. Williamson



Chapter 210 Color Guard Carries the Flag at Titusville (L-R) President Julius Farago, Ted Trousdale, Color Guard Commander Paul Spescia, Maurice Meisner, William Lovitt



Chapter 210 members at the Department of Florida State KWVA Convention (L-R) Historian Nelson Ruiz, Quartermaster Ted Trousdale, Julius Farago



Chapter 210 Color Guard presentation at Kennedy Space Center (L-R) George Rosenfeld, Ted Trousdale, Paul Spescia, unknown, Julius Farago, Maurice Meisner

250 Norton, VA

Ray Wells

Seventeen members of The Charles B. Thacker Chapter 250 of Norton, Virginia, visited the Korean War Veterans Museum in Whitesburg, Kentucky, with a donation gift of \$300.00.

The museum has a collection of artifacts from every branch of service that served from the United States in the war zone. Uniforms, pictures, rifles, pistols etc., are on display, including letters and "Medal of Honor" winners from Kentucky.



Members of Chapter 250 gather in front of the Korean War Veterans Museum. Seated in front is KWVA Department of Virginia Secretary Ray Wells. 2nd from left in first row is Chapter President Milford Thacker. 4th from left is Chaplain Tom Wright. Standing in the rear in the blue-checked shirt is Sr. M/Sgt. Ben Taylor

The museum is one of the finest you could expect to find anywhere in the country. Many hours of labor, donations and hard work have gone into this facility. Practically every offensive and defensive battle during the war is on display, including maps and dates. The originator and organizer of the museum, retired Sr. Master Sergeant Ben Taylor, with the assistance of KWVA Chapter 250, Chaplain Tom Wright, was successful in getting the town to loan the organization a building where the history could be stored. A new and larger building in a more convenient location is now underway in Whitesburg, Ky. Local and area residents say this is the pride of eastern Kentucky. If you're in the area, stop by and visit.

Also, plans are underway to establish a new KWVA Chapter in Eastern Kentucky.

267 Gainesville, FL

Don Sherry

The Chapter had a busy Veterans Week 2004. The Color Guard participated in the "Bikers on Parade" Red Cross fund raiser on November 7th, and at the local Veterans Park on November 11th, with a special formation unveiling the new POW/MIA Memorial. Fifteen members of the unit also marched in the November 12th University of Florida Homecoming Parade. Korean War Medal of Honor winner Duane Dewey rode on a float with other members.



Chapter 267 members: Standing (L-R) Charles Woodward, Frank Murphy, Grady Ross, Bob White, Duane Dewey (MOH), Jake Feaster, Charles Mikell, Paul Bennett, Sam Means, Dick Garfield: Sitting (L-R) Don Sherry, Gene Isom, James Peak, Dick Love, Bob Tartaglione



Chapter 267 members coming at you (L-R) Frank Murphy, Jake Feaster, Dick Love, Charles Woodward, Don Sherry, Paul Bennett



(L-R) Medal of Honor recipient Duane Dewey, Gene Isom, Grady Ross, Bob Tartaglione

That evening, the Color Guard took part in a special event at the Gator Growl Pep Rally, which 42,000 fans attended. The event included the "Passing of the Colors" from the Old Guard to the New Guard, i.e., the university's ROTC cadets, at the 50-yard line. Chapter 267 Color Guard participants included Jake Feaster, Paul Bennett, Sam Means, Charles Woodward, Dick Garfield, Frank Murphy, Gene Isom, Don Sherry, NCOIC Doug Tanner, and MOH recipient Duane Dewey.

281 Rolla, MO

Roger Lueckenhoff

Members of our Chapter recently received the Missouri Korean War Medallion in June 2004. Missouri Senator Sarah Steelman presented the medallion to approximately 30 of our members at the National Guard Armory. Missouri Rep. Bob May, who is a Rolla resident and a Korean War Vet, was present at the ceremony. Also attending were family members and friends of those receiving the award.

Of significance to those of us who served in Korea is the fact that the 38th Parallel passes through the northern city limits of Rolla and the neighboring community of St. James, Missouri.



The St. James, MO, Tourist Center



Chapter 281 members at the Tourist Center sign (L-R) Austin Vogeler, Don Spencer, Forrest O'Neal, Harrison Meaux, Leslie Burris, Erwin Jones, Ollie Gulley, Fred W. Krueger, Lowell Wynn, and Roger Lueckehoff.



Above left, (L-R) Bob May, Sarah Steelman, and Les Burris, Chapter 281 President, as he receives his award. **Above right**, Chapter 281 member Val Boehmer receives his Medallion from Sen. Steelman as Rep. May looks on



Chapter 283 and DAR members work together to benefit military personnel in the Middle East. (L-R) DAR Treasurer Ruth Hill, DAR Ex-Regent Libby McKee, Edward Hawks, Everett Wachtel, Commander Jack Hallenback, 2nd Vice Commander Roger Bradley, DAR Vice President Jeane La Porta, 1st Vice Commander John Neary, DAR Ex-Regent Mary Murphy, DAR member Larra Agate

Roger Bradley and Jack Hallenbeck for attending the ceremony at the chapter house on November 5 [2004]. We will be packing an additional 30 boxes to send to soldiers from Columbia County on December 3rd [2004]. Your monies helped us to help so many more soldiers.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

The Department of Virginia KWVA met in Roanoke, Virginia, and elected their first set of officers for 2004-2005. The Department is now chartered by the National Korean War Veterans Association, chartered by articles of incorporation by the State of Virginia, and approved as a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service to do business in the State of Virginia. Plans are now underway for our first annual department meeting sometime in early 2005. Every KWVA member in the state will be notified by mail of the time and place of our meeting.



Department of Virginia officers (L-R) President Robert Journall, 1st VP John Edwards, 2nd VP John Dozier, Secretary Ray Wells, Chaplain Claude Newman



Some of the members of Chapter 281 who received the Missouri Korean War Medallions

One of the recent activities of our Chapter was to arrange for the making and installation of a Korean War Memorial sign at the Tourist Information Center in St. James. The center is located approximately a half-mile north of the 38th Parallel.

We are active in numerous other projects in this area, including visiting schools in our area and sharing Korean War history and our military experiences with students in elementary and high school. We are proud of the accomplishments of our Chapter, which was chartered in 2002.

283 Columbia County, NY

Roger Bradley

Chapter members donated \$500 to the Hendrick Hudson Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to help with its "Adopt a Soldier From Our Home Town" Program. The purpose of the program is to collect, package, and send personal items to U.S. military personnel in the Middle East. Chapter 283 Commander Jack Hallenbeck received a letter of appreciation from the DAR chapter's Corresponding Secretary Mary Lou Zimmerman, which he gladly accepted on behalf of the Chapter's members. The letter read:

We, the daughters of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR, wish to extend our thanks to Edward Hawks, Everett Wachtel,

288 Haverhill, MA

William H. Rogers

Chapter members participated in the 2004 Veterans Day Parade in Haverhill and dedicated a stone to the Commanders of the Chapter, which will be installed at its memorial in the GAR Park in downtown Haverhill



The stone dedicated to the Commanders of Chapter 288



Chapter 288's Commanders, Kenneth Bilodeau and Fiorino F. Brienza, and Memorial Chairman Russell Chaput (L-R) Chaput, Brienza, and Bilodeau



Chapter 288's Color Guard that participated in the Haverhill Parade L-R Vice Commander/Treasurer Richard Broadnax Jr., Raymond J. DeRoche, Myles Marcus, Vice Commander Fred G. Brienza Sr., Richard Bilodeau, Commander Kenneth J. Bilodeau

The Propaganda Place

Peter Orphanos ran across a few propaganda pictures from Korea circa 1951. Does anyone have any information about who produced them, what the wording is, who they are aimed at, etc? Please advise *The Graybeards* "Department of Propaganda Editor" if you have any information.



Not Everything Goes “Accordion” To Hoyle for USO Troupes

Samuel Fire of Hq. Btry. 52 F A Btn recalls vividly one meeting at a USO show in Korea at which he met a friendly accordion player, Joseph Soprani, from his home city of Philadelphia. In fact, he mentioned the meeting to his parents in a letter written on Wednesday, September 23, 1953. In that same letter, he made a startling prediction, no doubt half in jest that came true for Soprani. (See letter below)

Here is Fire’s story:



Joe Soprani entertains troops in Korea

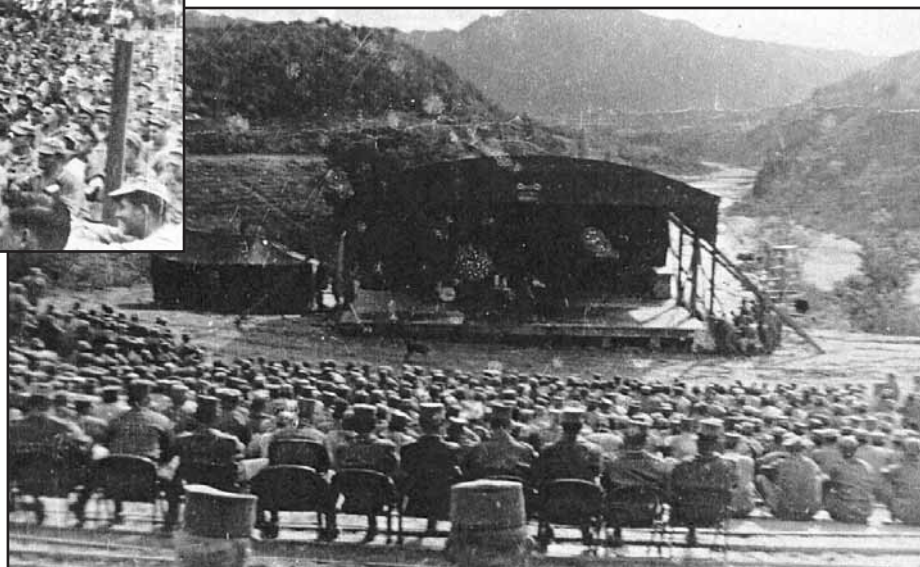


While working on a riot squad as a young private at a Pusan prison camp for over a month, assisting MPs with prisoner exchange, I had the good luck of seeing a USO show in which all the performers did a great job. One young entertainer (an 18-year-old accordionist) looked very familiar to me. I made it a point to speak with him. He was Joe Soprani, who I had watched on television in Philadelphia on the weekly Horn & Hardart Children’s Hour. He was great then, and he is still one of the great accordionists and musicians.

A while ago I was reading some of my letters to Mom & Dad (written in late September 1953), and I found one describing the USO show I had seen. I mentioned in the letter that Joe had told me he was on the Arthur Godfrey Talent Show and a winner. (Incidentally I’m also an accordionist, but not anywhere in the category of Joe Soprani).

After re-reading the letter, I made it a point to contact Joe. I had not spoken with him since Pusan. He was to play accordion at the new Kimmel Center here in Philadelphia for the Luciano Pavarotti show the next night. His story of his USO show tour is really unbelievable.

After Joe and the show left Pusan in late September, the troupe traveled extensively through the Korean Peninsula performing dozens of shows. They also did many more



Fire’s original letter to his parents:

Dear Mom & Dad,

I wrote this morning & said I was leaving this week-end. Well, they told me today I was leaving in the morning at 6. Myself & about 10 others that is. We’re the advance party. We go up & we’ll just look the situation over. Ha! I’m a big shot. Should be okay cause we’ll have plenty of room in the 3 trucks.

Well I went to the U.S.O. show tonight & there was an accordionist there. He looked real familiar. I looked again & yep! It was Joseph Soprani from the Horn & Hardart Children’s Hour. He was great.

I talked to him & he was real friendly. The whole band was from Philly. We had a great time. Did you know he was on the Arthur Godfrey show and won? He’ll probably be over here in a year in the service. He’s a hell of a nice guy.

shows in Japan.

On Nov. 26, 1953 (Thanksgiving Day) the troupe and additional passengers left Iwakuni, Japan, to fly to Miho, Japan. During the routine flight in a C-46—which had replaced a C-47 that had engine trouble—the heavily loaded plane, flying in dark and rainy conditions, approached Miho Air Base and overshot the runway. The C-46

could not get enough altitude, and hit the water at 140 MPH 3+ miles from shore. By some miracle, the 25 passengers and crew of 5 escaped the crashed plane, which sank in fewer than 5 minutes. Wardrobe, music, Joe’s accordion, and all the other instruments were lost. An Air Force Rescue Team was able to save everyone, but not until they had spent an hour in the icy waters.

As I had mentioned earlier, I had not spoken with Joe all these years, but I did note his very professional career. Following is a partial biography.

Joe Soprani

Joe Soprani is a noted accordionist, educator, arranger-composer whose reputation among professionals places him in the first ranks of contemporary accordionist. He has dominated the accordion scene in Philadelphia for over forty years playing in major concert halls, theaters, TV Shows and Hotels. He holds the distinction of being the only accordionist in the history of the Philadelphia Orchestra to appear as a featured soloist under Eugene Ormandy.

While accordion soloist with the USAF Band in Washington, DC under Col. George S. Howard, he won the "The Air Force Roger", the most prestigious entertainment award in the US Air Force. He also was the first accordion soloist with the PA Army National Guard Band "The Adjutant General's Own" for over eight years

Ironically, a couple years after the crash, he enlisted in the Air Force—just as Fire predicted—and traveled the globe with the Air Force Band for four years.

Strangely enough, The Philadelphia Inquirer carried two wire service stories about the plane crash in its Friday morning, November 27, 1953, edition. Neither one mentioned the local angle. Even the December 1, 1953, Tokyo-Yokohama edition of the Stars and Stripes listed only the names of the entertainers, who were members of "Broadway Ballyhoo," but not their home towns. (Just for the record, they were William S. Roberts, manager; Evan E. Evans, Helen E. Evans, Lester E. Evans, Maryetta E. Evans, Joe Wong, Norma Krieger, Joseph Soprani, Myron Zelman, and Edward Hause.) It wasn't until December 1, 1953, that Philadelphians learned through another local newspaper, The Evening Bulletin, that there was a city resident involved.

Fire concluded his story by saying, "I plan to meet with Joe soon. I still play accordion as a hobby. I know we will have a lot to talk about. Somehow, our conversation may turn to that 1953 Pusan USO show—which seems like only yesterday."

For more information about Soprani, visit his website at <http://www.joesoprani.com/>

Snakes, Shots in the Dark, and Cantankerous Cots

By D. J. Harrington

In the fall of 1952, a platoon of the 120th Combat Engineers, attached to the 45th Infantry Division, was assigned to pave the area used by the 145th Tankers. The "paving" consisted of gathering head-size rounded stones from the nearby creek bed and spreading them into a 12" or thicker layer to keep the tanks from getting mired in the mud. As the battalion surveyor, my job was to measure and direct the placement of the rocks into a fairly level and uniform layer.

We had 2 or 3 Pan operators, but only one who was proficient at using the machines. Generally, he was able to gouge 5 or 6 cubic yards of stones out of the creek bed on each pass. The other operators, after much roaring of the diesel engine and straining of the machine, would come out of the creek bed with about a bushel basket full of stones.

The day we arrived on site we had to cut a bench in the hillside big enough for a squad tent. We barely made it by dark, and everyone, including the lieutenant who helped with the digging, was pretty tired. So, we went to bed early. Soon, we were all fast asleep.

About midnight, I thought I heard a shot. I am a pretty light sleeper, so I was the only one who woke up. Sure enough, a drunken sergeant who had received his whiskey allotment that day had been playing with his personal .38 pistol, which had gone off.

The round hit his drinking buddy, first through the wrist and then in his abdomen. A call went out for medics and an ambulance. After some delay, an ambulance showed up, sloshing through cold mud on the yet unpaved road. Not being of much help in the situation, I went back to bed. A while later, there was much shouting, cussing, and consternation. The brakes on

We heard later that when the tankers were ordered back on line, one of them sat down in the belly of a tank with a .45 and blew his brains out.

the ambulance had frozen, and it would not move! Someone finally "unfroze" the brakes (I suspect with a blow torch), and the ambulance headed off for a MASH.

I think the victim survived. (Thank God it wasn't a .45 caliber weapon.) At any rate, none of the others in the Engineer Platoon woke up. The next morning I had a hard time convincing them about what had actually happened.

This was not the only accidental discharge of a weapon that I recall. I can remember at least two others that produced injuries, and two other near misses. In one instance, I was the "misse."

There was also a time in a tent elsewhere when a GO woke up with a snake wrapped around his neck, trying to get warm. He unwrapped the critter, hollered "Snake," and threw it down the length of the tent. The next sound was a dozen sleeping bag zippers being drawn shut over the heads of the rest of us cowards!

We stayed on site for a couple weeks doing the paving job. We heard later that when the tankers were ordered back on line, one of them sat down in the belly of a tank with a .45 and blew his brains out.

Later on, one of our troops sleeping on the "fill" side of the bench felt the legs of his cot sink into the soft soil, and gently roll him under the side of the tent and down the hillside.

Harrington can be reached at P. O. Box 791, Kimberling City, MO 65686, (417) 230-0092, <harrington1981@yahoo.com>

Skoal, Prosit, I'll Drink To That...

Harrington's reference to a whiskey allotment raises many questions. Who received one, e.g., were whiskey allotments restricted to certain ranks and above? How often were they distributed? In what quantity? Were whiskey allotments available in combat situations? When were whiskey allotments discontinued? Please send the editor and stories or information you have about whiskey, beer, rum, etc., allotments provided to military personnel in Korea for inclusion in a future issue.

Images of Korea

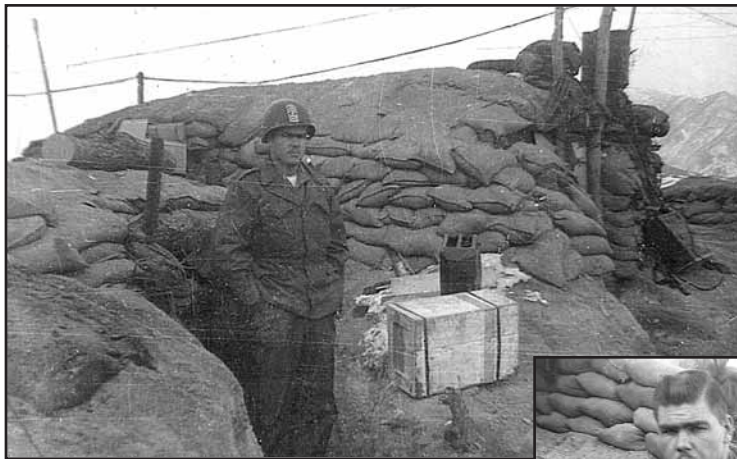
Photos courtesy of Chester Rackley, 23464
County Road 4118, Lindale, TX 75771



◀ 1st Sgt. Chester Rackley –Heartbreak Ridge – Winter 1951, 25th Inf. Div.



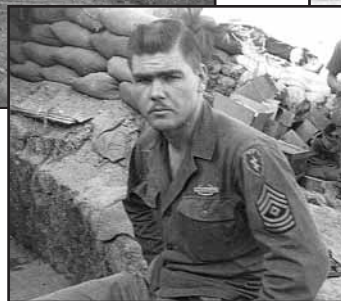
1stSgt. Chester Rackley –Kumwha Valley – 1952 – 25th Inf. Div ➤



C. R. Rackley today – Korean War Veteran Association of East Texas Chapter #286. ▼

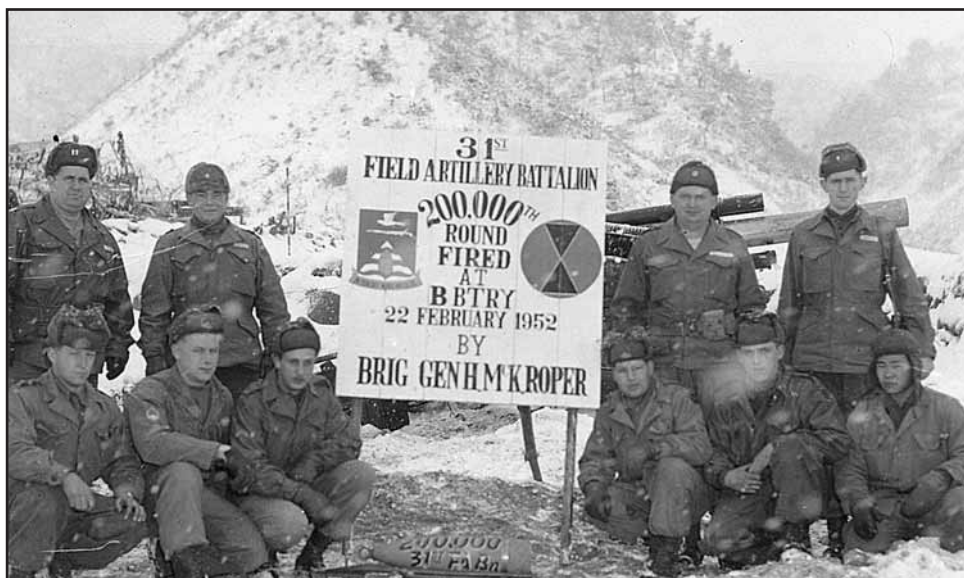


▲ 1stSgt. Chester Rackley – Heartbreak Ridge – Command Post Bunker – Winter 1951 –25th Inf. Div. ➤



Texas Congressman Ralph Hall presents Korean Service Medal to C. R. Rackley ▼





Brig Gen. H. MCK. Roper and gun crew to fire 200,000th round (22 Feb '52): L to R Back row; Capt. Harold G. Strong, Baker Btry., 31st F.A. Brig. Gen. Roper, 7th Div. Artillery; Maj. Charles C. Branyan Bn. C.O. 31st F.A.; Maj. Lt. John R. Shealy, Command Gun Crew. Front Row L to R: Cpl. Joseph A. Simcoe; Pfc. Leo F. Keith, Sfc. Donald M. Daffron, Pvt-2 Robert O. Streeter; Pfc. Chug Duk Soo. ROK. US Army photo by Cpl. R. Fuller, 7th Signal Co., Photo Section.



This is Brig. Gen. Roper, our Division Artillery Commander. He is also commanding the 7th Division for a while until we get a new Div. C.G., Summer 1952.

**Photos courtesy of Harold E. Strong, LTC USAR,
1300 Eagle Eye Ct., Fuquay Varina, NC 27526**



L to R 1st Lts. Remi F. Morin, Brinkley, Miske, Summer 1952, B-Btry 31st Fa-Bn



This is my old jeep, and "Archie," one of our houseboys.



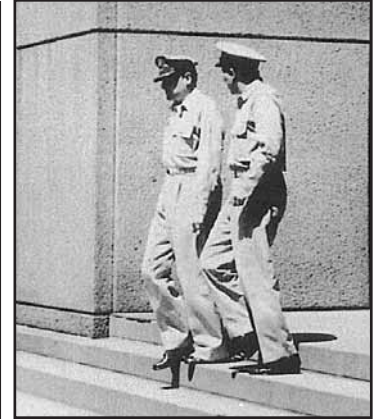
1st Lts Morin, Shealy and Brinkley. (Korean graveyard marker in background.)



L to R, Sgt. Major ?, Lt. Col Branyon, Gen Roper, Capt. Shealy (Bronze Star "V"), Lt. Jorgensen (2nd Air-Medal)



Headquarters Camp



Left and Above: Hiroshima June 1950, one week before Korean War started. The destruction from World II

Below: McArthur leaving his Tokyo HQ 1950. (Far East Air Force HQ (FEAF) was two blocks away

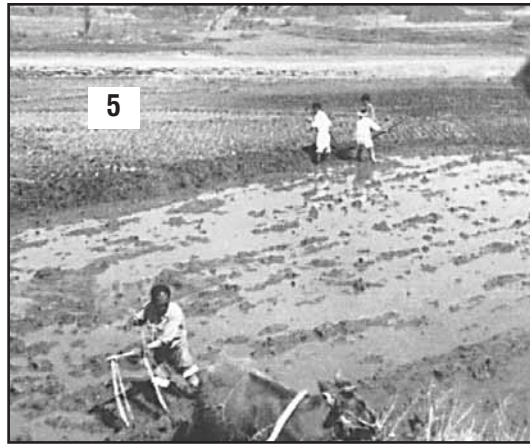
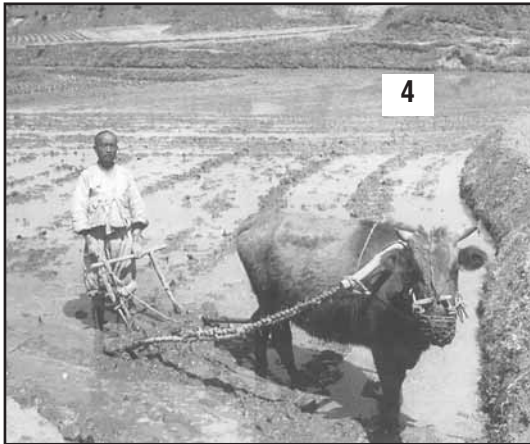
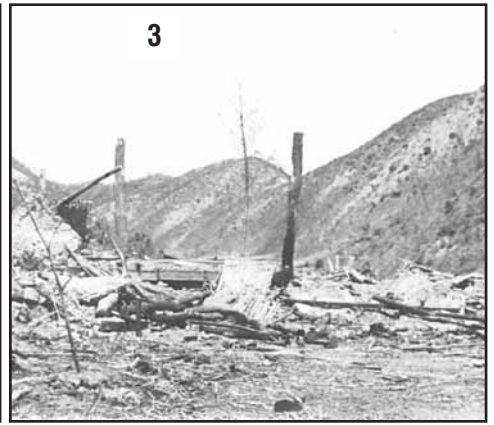


**Photos courtesy of John Sailors,
841 Chaeer Way, Livermore, Ca. 94551.**

Below: North Korea (date and location unknown) –From Far East Air Forces HQ files 1950

Above: R&R – Japan 1951, Kamakura, Air Force & 40th Division, All from Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, Ca.





54 years have passed since the last of our X Corps left Hungnam. A week before there were still thousands of North Koreans at the Hungnam harbor waiting to escape the Communists.

Some 90,000 eventually made it to Pusan after waiting for days outdoors in freezing weather. The three-day voyage on an LST or in the hold of a freighter was no picnic either. Those memories made me thumb through my albums to dig out pictures of the hardy folk of Korea

**Photos courtesy of George B. Pakkala
10401 Wystone Ave.,
Northridge, CA 91326**

- 1: Hungnam harbor the week before Christmas 1950. On the oil barrels are some members of the 8221 A.U.
- 2: A Korean woman on the "steps" of what used to be her home.
- 3: Her home
- 4: "Life goes on." The woman's husband working farm.
- 5: Husband and family working in field. (Rice Paddy.)
- 6: Roadblock to check refugee groups that often included Communist infiltrators.
- 7: The refugee lines were endless regardless of weather.
- 8: Young ROK Soldiers.

Dying Son Honors his Hero: Dad

By Richard Bedard

My son Michael Simpson is dying from cancer. He is 41 years old. He may have weeks, maybe a few months, to live. Yet he is still valiantly and heroically fighting his cancer.

Michael is no longer married and has no children. Michael was born in Hartford and moved to West Springfield when he was 3. He attended St. Thomas School in West Springfield and later moved to Wilbraham, where he attended local schools and graduated from Wilbraham Academy, where he excelled not only in studies but also in soccer, class of 1982.

He then completed the dream of his life of being accepted at Hartwick College, going there and graduating in 1987 (as an) English major.

On Sept. 16, the Korean War Veterans, Chapter 1, Connecticut Division, honored Michael by giving him an honorary membership. My reason for writing is to honor my son. When he turned 3, I had the privilege of becoming his parent and raising him. His letter and speech to the 40 or 50 members who attended the meeting Thursday drew applause after applause.

From his heart, it was from a dying stepson to his father, that in this present world of ours should not go unnoticed! Here is the text of Michael Simpson's speech to the Korean War veterans:

Thank you Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 2, Connecticut. Thanks also to my family for showing up to support me. (While this is a tremendous honor for me, I will admit that it is also a mystery to me and my friends. I am so proud of this honor that I, naturally, told all my friends about it. The most common response was, "You? Why you? You didn't fight in any war. You weren't even alive yet." And some of my less enlightened friends said, "You're not Korean.")

Well, all their questioning got me to thinking about the true meaning behind this hon-



Richard Bedard, left, and Marilyn Bedard, right, stand beside their son, Michael Simpson following his speech to Korean War Veterans.

Honor Thy Father... Honor Thy Son

By Art Sharp

I met Dick Bedard and Bill Carrington on a wintry day in December 2004 to talk to them about a story that appeared in the *Springfield [Massachusetts] Republican*. Both men, members of KWVA Connecticut Chapter #1, better known to the rest of us as Chapter 10, mentioned an instance in which their East Hartford, CT-based Chapter granted Bedard's stepson, Michael Simpson, an honorary membership. The reason was clear, as the reprint of the story demonstrates. *(The article is reprinted with the permission of the newspaper.)*

As we parted, I could not help but reflect on the sacrifices and camaraderie that exist between a father and a son (in this case a stepson), and veterans of the Korean War—indeed all wars. Bedard shared the first with me via a request to reprint the article in *The Graybeards*. He and Carrington showed the second via their activity that day: they were off to provide Color Guard services for the funeral of a fellow veteran. That, said Bedard, is an all-too-increasing job for him and his comrades. But, it is a job that must be done, and one that Bedard and Carrington are willing to do.

orary membership. For you, the association membership, your motivations seem self-evident. You wanted to support one of your own. By honoring me, you honor Pfc. Richard Bedard, and I thank you for that. For you, I imagine it runs deeper than support of Pfc. Bedard. It is your sympathetic and empathetic understanding of my fight against cancer.

Certainly, I will never pretend to know what it is like to overcome the true life-threatening situations you all faced on the battlefield. And I would never dream of comparing all that you have been

through with my current battle. However, there are some comparisons in the way we handle our battles similarly...and that is with constant hope and courage. Win or lose... the fight goes on. By making me an honorary member, I feel this is your way of acknowledging my battle and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This nomination means even more to me than you could imagine. This honor is also an acknowledgment of the bond between a father and his son. You are all heroes to me for answering the call. My dad is my hero for the same reason, but for also so many other reasons.

My dad demonstrated tremendous courage as he marched off daily for long hours of often menial and more often back-breaking work. He serves as an example of perseverance, dedication and love for his family through some very tough times and against tremendous odds.

It saddens me to hear him today questioning his ability as a father. Like the Navy, he took on the job and faced some pretty treacherous situations with limited training, and always did the best he could. For that, I have always admired my dad.

Tonight you recognize my fight against cancer. But tonight I recognize the man who nominated me and who remains my inspiration throughout all of life's battles...my hero, my dad.

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A Tribute To Lewis L. Millett, MOH



By Martin J. O'Brien

On October 1, 2004, members of the CPL Clair Goodblood [MOH] Chapter 79, Augusta, Maine, traveled to Waterville, Maine, for the dedication of a new 11,130-square-foot brick emergency response building named in honor of a great American hero, Colonel Lewis L. Millett, a Maine native, who received our nation's highest award for valor in Korea in 1951, the Medal of Honor. Attending were Chapter Commander Phil Tiemann, Ken Cyphers, Marty O'Brien, Dick Chick, Ed Hoyt and Cliff Hebert.

"The Colonel Lewis L. Millett Civil Support Team Ready Building," located next to the Waterville Armory, will support the 11th Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction. The WMD unit is made up of 22 active-duty Air and Army National Guard personnel who have been trained to detect nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and their vehicles and equipment.

Colonel Millett traveled from his home in Idyllwild, California, for the ceremony. Maine Adjutant General BG John W. Libby and his staff put on an outstanding program of events.

Prior to the ceremony, General Libby arranged to have our group meet with Colonel Millett in a private room in the new building, where we had a chance to chat for a while. It was an honor and a privilege for us to have this quiet time with the colonel.

We met Colonel Millett once before, when he came to Maine in 1996 for the Medal of Honor ceremony at the State House. Although he now uses a cane to get around, he still looks great in his uniform and brown beret. The bushy mustache is a

A hero surrounded by heroes at the Millett ceremony (L-R) Ken Cyphers (2nd Inf. Div), Ed Hoyt (1st Mar Div), Chapter 79 Commander Phil Tiemann (25th Inf. Div), Col. Lew Millett (25th Inf. Div), Marty O'Brien (1st Cav. Div), Dick Chick (1st Mar Div), Cliff Hebert (8th Army)



The Millett Dedication Plaque

little bit grayer, but he can still give a speech in a strong voice—without having to read notes—a speech that will tug at your heart and bring tears to your eyes.

Colonel Lewis Lee Millett was born on December 15, 1920, in Mechanic Falls, Maine, destined to make a mark on his family's distinguished record of military service dating back to the Revolutionary War. His own military career spanned from World War II through the Vietnam War. During that period, he went from being a private to a colonel, all while serving in three wars, on three continents, in both the Canadian Army and the American Army.

Colonel Millett has served in combat as an antiaircraft machine gunner, a tank commander, a forward observer, an artillery gunner, a reconnaissance sergeant, an infantryman, an intelligence operations officer and a paratrooper, with eleven jumps in Vietnam and five jumps in Laos to his credit.

He was the first man to rappel from a helicopter in Vietnam and the first man since the Civil War to lead a company (in Korea) in a bayonet charge against an enemy—and the last!

Medal of Honor Citation

MILLETT, LEWIS L.

RANK AND ORGANIZATION: Captain, U.S. Army, Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment.

BORN: 15 December 1920, Mechanic Falls, Maine.

ENTERED SERVICE AT: Mechanic Falls, Maine.

PLACE AND DATE: Vicinity of Soam-Ni, Korea, 7 February 1951.

CITATION:

Capt. Millett, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. While personally leading his company in an attack against a strongly held position he noted that the 1st Platoon was pinned down by small-arms, automatic, and antitank fire. Capt. Millett ordered the 3d Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the 2 platoons, and, with fixed bayonet, led the assault up the fire swept hill.

In the fierce charge Capt. Millett bayoneted 2 enemy soldiers and boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement. Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill.

His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder. During this fierce onslaught Capt. Millett was wounded by grenade fragments but refused evacuation until the objective was taken and firmly secured.

The superb leadership, conspicuous courage, and consummate devotion to duty demonstrated by Capt. Millett were directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of a hazardous mission and reflect the highest credit on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.

Millett Was as Sharp as His Bayonets

By Dell G. Evans

About 19 years ago, both the Defense Department and the U. S. Army selected a group of us Korean War Veterans to return to Korea to help commemorate a couple significant battles in which we participated. These ceremonies were in conjunction with joint U. S. and South Korean maneuvers and for the purpose of enhancing the morale and esprit of our troops. The leader of this distinguished group of veterans was my former rifle company commander, Lewis L. Millett. Also included were my former radio operator, Arthur Patterson, and another platoon leader, Don Wilson. What a wonderful and exciting group to be returning to Korea with, and for a very meaningful cause.

It has been a long while since we helped fight the Chinese Communist Forces and the North Koreans. We also fought another fierce enemy, the bitter 1950 winter weather that inflicted so many casualties. Until the night of 26-27 November, 1950, I was a green 2nd Lt about to have my “first close combat” experience. It was a miserable night—my first time to see such carnage. My CO, Captain Reginald Desiderio, was killed. My platoon sergeant, M/Sgt Lopez, was also killed.

Things were happening so fast I could hardly understand what was going on, until my ROK soldier (interpreter) dropped down beside me and said, “Lt Evans! Lt Evans! These are not North Koreans! No. No! These are Chinese—tocksan Chinese.” The thought that flashed across my mind immediately was that I knew there were six hundred million Chinese, and I was thinking they all might be coming across that ridgeline at once. Thank goodness I survived that encounter and a number of others as the Chinese followed up their attacks and forcefully pushed us south for several weeks.

When then Capt Millett arrived to assume command of our “Easy” Company, we were holding up and trying to recoup from our many losses of personnel and combat power. Morale was at “rock bottom.” After Desiderio was killed, we were without a genuine LEADER

Then he gave another command to “Fix bayonets,” followed by specific instructions “that our bayonets were designed for one purpose—to kill your enemy. You are now ordered not to ever remove that bayonet from your rifle unless you remove it to sharpen or to clean it.”

except for a 1st lieutenant for whom I had little regard. He acted scared, and this had a negative reflection on each of us. It didn’t take long before Millett made a very strong impression that he was a genuine leader and a true warrior.

The first thing he did was assemble the officers and the 1st Sgt. We met in a tiny room where we all gathered around a bit of a charcoal fire. The door opened abruptly, and Millett stepped in, followed by his interpreter, who we called Chung. (He was a ROK soldier; about half of our company was composed of Republic Of Korea soldiers at that time).

Millett was carrying an M1 Rifle with bayonet attached. He placed it in a corner and turned toward us with searching eyes as he looked us over very carefully. I have imagined many times that he must have thought we were a miserable looking bunch—and we were. Forced marches in bitter winter can do that. And, you can imagine what our meals were like, frozen pancakes and etc. He must have also been thinking, “What can I say, or do, to turn things around in this unit?”

His introduction went much like this: “I’m Lewis L. Millett, your new CO. It doesn’t make any difference with me how you got here, or what your source of commission is, but the only reason you are here is to fight, and (expletive) I’m here to make sure you do just that.”

“Howdy,” I thought to myself. “This guy is my kind of CO and leader, if he can demonstrate that kind of leadership.”

He was lean and mean looking. His red mustache was about 8 or 10 inches long. He was a 6’2” tall, strong-looking Irishman. I just knew he was going to be great for the whole company.

As he ended the meeting, he announced, “Company formation to follow.” Then, he removed his bayonet from his rifle and threw it to Chung, with a well-heard remark: “BRING MY BAYONET BACK WHEN I CAN SHAVE

WITH IT.’ You can believe that certainly got everyone’s attention.

His agenda for his first company formation was unknown, but more for me than anyone else. I was very much shaken when Millett gave the command, “Lt. Dell G. Evans: front and center!” Immediately I thought I was in serious trouble with this guy. But, to everyone’s surprise, I was about to be decorated for actions performed the first night the CCF entered the war.

Millett pinned on my first Silver Star. He shook my hand and announced, “I hope to be awarding more awards in the near future.” You could tell he really meant that.

Still in the same formation, Millett gave the command “Fix bayonets.” A good number of our troops were missing their bayonets for different reasons. He wanted an exact count. So, he called for the company supply sergeant to make a count.

When the sergeant finished the count, Millett ordered him to take his company jeep and go to our 25th Infantry Division Rear Supply and bring back enough bayonets for everyone. When he returned with the bayonets, we had another formation to pass them out. Then he gave another command to “Fix bayonets,” followed by specific instructions “that our bayonets were designed for one purpose—to kill your enemy. You are now ordered not to ever remove that bayonet from your rifle unless you remove it to sharpen or to clean it.” Then, we had our first Millett-conducted bayonet class.

I think we all learned that bayonet training is the best training for building confidence in your ability to survive close combat. And *brother*, we had plenty of training. And, until we got used to it, we had a few minor bayonet accidents—like when we double-timed in the snow, and when going through the chow line. But, the training made his troops more con-

Continued on page 71



Monumental Moments

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

Augusta, GA

Korean War veterans from the Central Savannah River Area dedicated a memorial to the men from the region who served in Korea from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, especially those who made the supreme sacrifice and the POWs and MIAs. The memorial is also dedicated to all who have served in Korea since the war, and to members of the armed forces who served around the world during the Korean War era.



Chapter 19 members at the dedication in Augusta, GA (L-R) James Conway, Lawrence Peck, John Kahle, Oscar Holmes



KWVA President Dechert speaks at the Georgia Monument dedication

Cincinnati, OH

Chapter 121 dedicated a new Korean War monument in Reading, Ohio, on October 17th, 2004.



ABOVE: Cincinnati Chapter 121 members at the monument dedication ceremony.

RIGHT: KWVA Chapter 121's Memorial in Reading, Ohio



Covington, KY

William E. Kerns, who was in the 21st Regt., Co. D., 24th Infantry Div., from 1948 to December 1951, noted that there is a WWII-Korea-Vietnam Memorial in Covington, KY, surrounded by imprinted bricks purchased by sponsors. One of the bricks contains his name.

The Memorial was put in place by VFW Post 6095.



The Georgia Monument



ABOVE: The Covington, KY, Memorial

RIGHT: The Bill Kerns "Memorial Brick" at the Covington Memorial



Chapter 137 members gather at the memorial (L-R) John Pariza, Harold Baringer, Jack Cooper, Harold Sloat, Richard Schulz, Pete Pizzulo, John Klamut, Ray Reber, Dominic Lentini, Walton Tully, Bud Allgren, Harry Ponkivar



More Chapter 137 members (L-R) Walton Tully, Harry Ponkivar, Rocky Anobile, Bob Brothers, Zeno Foley, Herb Lucy, Bob Bakalik, Bob Donelson, Chuck Stepan, Roger Gardner, Fritz Freisen.



Chapter 137's new statue at Austintown Veterans Park

On Sunday, November 7, 2004, at 3 p.m., a beautiful day, Chapter 137 unveiled a statue at its monument in Austintown Veterans Park with 27 members in attendance. Bob Brothers acted as the master of ceremonies. Harry Ponkivar directed the posting of the colors. Commander Zeno Foley offered opening remarks, after which guest speaker Lt. Col. Daryl Hartman from the Vienna Air Force Base delivered comments. Roger Gardner directed a 21-gun salute, followed by Gary Watson's rendition of Taps. Chaplain Walton Tully gave the benediction, after which Ben Martin played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.



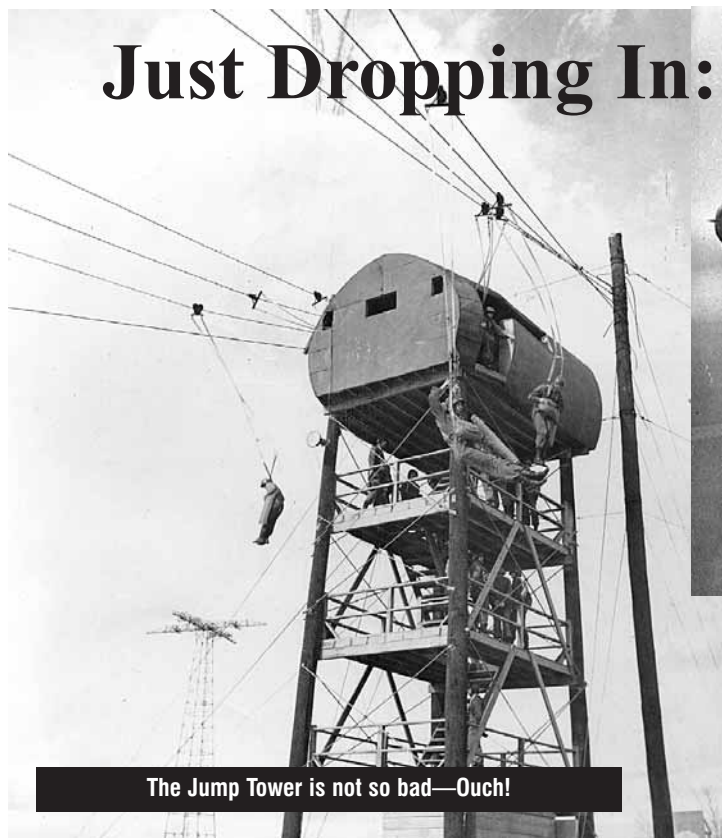
(L-R) Pauline DeLauder, Sheryl Baringer, Chapter 137 Associate Captain Joan Onstott, and Pat Foley, the Chapter Commander's wife, stand in front of the new statue

Continued on page 64

What Role Did The Russians Really Play In Korea?

We hear frequent references to Russian equipment, Russian influence, Russians on the fringe of the combat zone in Korea...just what role did the Russians play in Korea, if any? Please let the editor know for background purposes and possible discussion in a future issue.

Just Dropping In: Adventures In Korea



The Jump Tower is not so bad—Ouch!

When the Korean War started, a friend and I decided to enlist. But, our parents would not give their permission because we were only 17. The following year we tried again. I was accepted, but my friend was rejected for bad teeth. He was later drafted bad teeth and all. He served 20 years as a cook.

I did my basic in Fort Dix, NJ. and then went to Fort Benning for Airborne training. From there I got a short leave, went home, and became engaged to a wonderful girl. (We have been married more than 50 years.)

I shipped out of Seattle in 1952 aboard the Marine Lynx. I happened to return to Seattle on the same ship. We had very bad weather, and I remember a guy speaking to one of the sailors asking, "Are we going to make it?" The sailor shook his head sadly and said "No." Those of us within hearing had a good laugh at this guy's expense.

Some of the guys made the trip by "rail." We got to Camp Drake,

Japan without assignments, but a call went out for qualified paratroopers. I volunteered immediately for the 187 R.C. T.

We went by train south to Beppu. When we arrived we were told that the unit was sent to Koji-Do Island to help put down a prisoner of war riot. When we replacements got there, it was all over. A couple weeks of guard duty later, we left for Taegu. We made a practice jump there, and I tore a cartilage behind my right knee. We went on a ten-mile march that afternoon, and the knee swelled up like a balloon. I was assigned to Co. "M" in the mortar squad. I stayed behind for a couple of days while everyone else went forward to the front.

After catching up to the unit, we spent a couple months on the line and returned to Japan. It was good duty, but at one point a month towards rotation I could have spent a couple of years there. So, I volunteered to go to a line company to get my points faster. I ended up with the Heavy Mortar Company of the 15th Reg. of the 3rd Div.



The jump

Because of my previous experience I was sent to NCO. School, so I missed some of the action. After graduating, I returned to my company. A couple months later the war was over.

On the last day of the war I needed a latrine, which was nothing more than a hole with ammo boxes side by side. It was in the open. The Chinese were hitting us with "air bursts," but my "need" outweighed my safety. I put my flak vest on and ran.

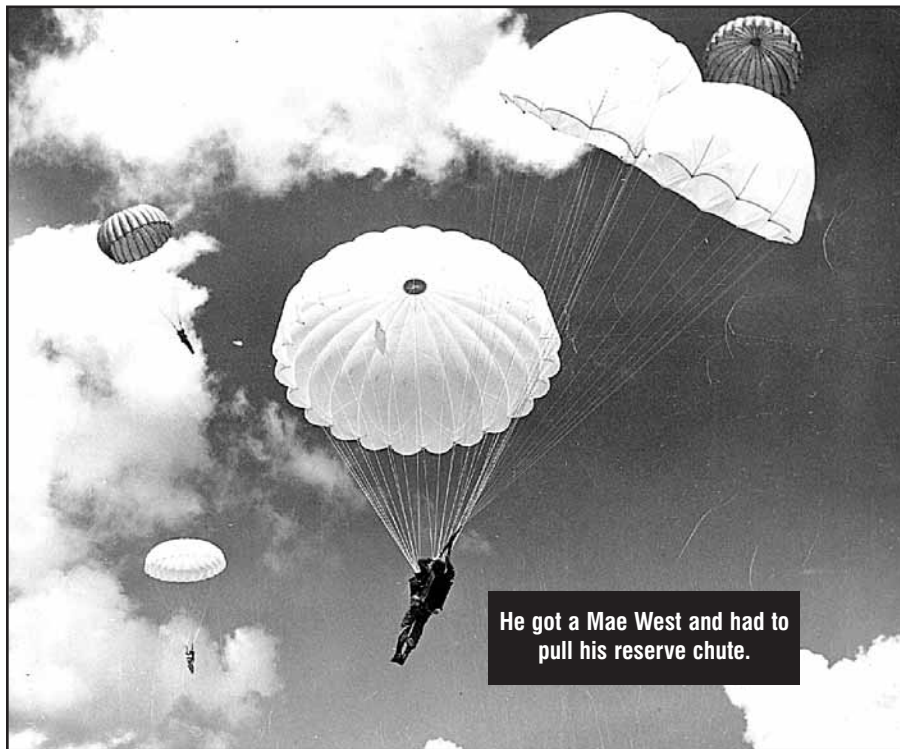
Getting to the "latrine," I tucked my arms and legs under the vest and shortened my neck as much as possible into my helmet. I could hear shell fragments hitting the ground all around me. When I got to a safe spot I took off the vest and saw that I took a hit in the back of the vest over my right lung. We all had a good laugh about me "squatting" in front of the whole company. But I thanked God I made it that day and made it home to marry my fiancé. We now have 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

I was born and raised in Long Island City Queens, N.Y.C., and we lived for 30 years in Patchogue, L.I. We have been living in Port St. Lucie, Florida since 2000.

DICK CURRY, 1126 S.W. Sarto Lane, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953



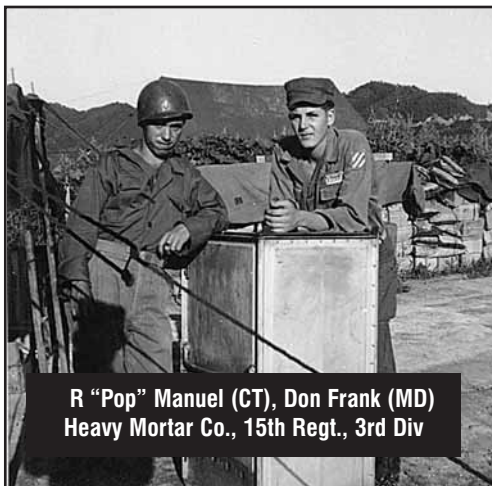
The 250-foot tower: 250 feet in a free fall to the ground



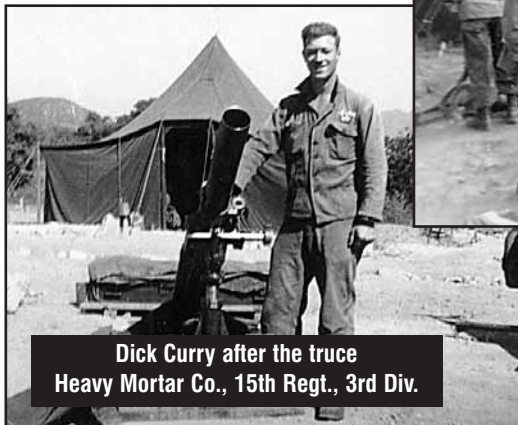
He got a Mae West and had to pull his reserve chute.



Co. M, 187th Airborne, Japan 1952



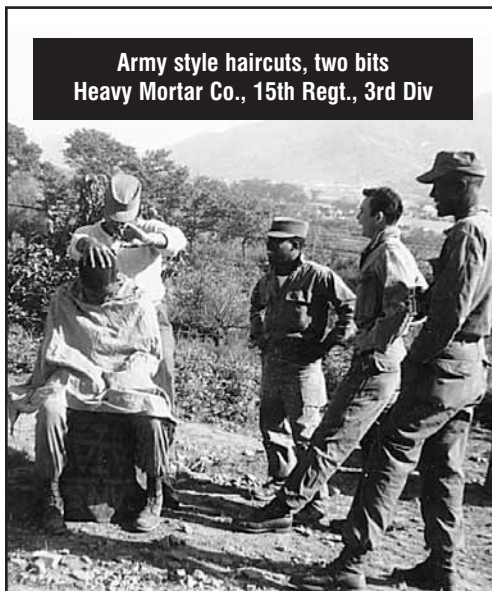
R "Pop" Manuel (CT), Don Frank (MD)
Heavy Mortar Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div



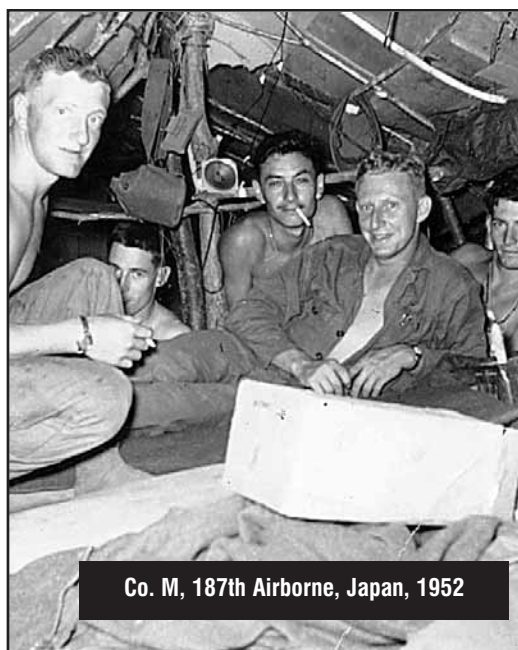
Dick Curry after the truce
Heavy Mortar Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div.



Co. M, 187th Airborne. The man in the middle facing the camera was given the Bronze Star for volunteering for the Airborne—even though he did not know how to put on a parachute! He was found out after a while, but he got the medal anyway.



Army style haircuts, two bits
Heavy Mortar Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div



Co. M, 187th Airborne, Japan, 1952

L-R Chuck McFall (NY), Hackett, Presby (NH), Gilley (IL), O'Regan (NYC), medic
Heavy Mortar Co., 15th Regt., 3rd Div.



Rockland County, NY

The Eagle Chapter's (#90) Korean Monument features the names of the 27 local men who were killed in action in Korea. Chapter Past President William Laufenberg, currently its Secretary and head of its Honor Guard, stands next to the monument.



The Monument in Rockland County, NY

Tucson, AZ

The monument was dedicated on Saturday, June 24, 2000 as Americans marked the 50th anniversary of the Korean War's beginning. The memorial honors the 83 Pima County men whose names are engraved on the memorial. Four men read the names during the ceremony, one each for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marines. A bugler played taps.

The three-sided, granite obelisk was built at a cost of about \$25,000 through the efforts of Tucson's Edward W. Rhoads Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association. The inscription, "The Soldier's Lament," comes from a poem thought to be from the Civil War and found on a World War II memorial in Mississippi. It reads: "We were those whom others did not want to be. We went where others feared to go and did what others feared to do."

This Korean War Memorial sings of 83 unsung heroes.



Korean War Veteran shares short stories from his life

plus some weird stuff!

Strange Experiences
Military and otherwise

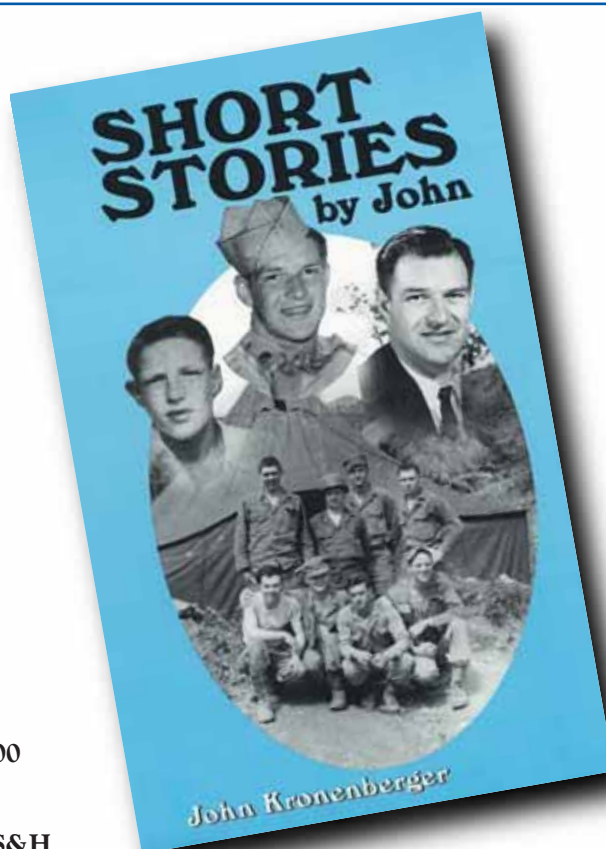
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Korean Battlefield Tour for 2005

Return to the "Land of the Morning Calm": April 13 - 23, 2005

During the 2000 - 2003 "50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration", California Pacific Tours has operated specialized, guided battlefield tours in Korea for Veterans of the Korean War (itineraries from previous years can be viewed on our website, www.cptours.com). It has been an honor and a privilege to operate these tours, which have allowed our Veterans to re-visit long-forgotten battlesites in remote areas of Korea.

While the Commemoration has passed, there remains an interest for many in re-visiting Korean Battlefields. This is understandable - with the passage of enough time, soldiers from all Wars develop an interest in returning to the battlefields of their youth. However, for Veterans of the Korean War, this has never been easy.

DIFFICULTIES IN VISITING KOREAN BATTLEFIELDS

Unlike Europe and some other battle areas, Korean Battlefields are not usually marked, and can be very difficult to find. Road nets and cities often bear little resemblance to the 1950's, and Korea - where little English is spoken outside the largest cities - does not use the Roman alphabet, making roadway signage all but useless for Westerners. Local residents, normally re-settled in combat areas well after the War, often have no memory of American actions that occurred in their own backyards. For these and many other reasons, an organized tour, in the company of other Veterans and their families, guiding you to remote areas of Korea to visit long-forgotten battlesites, may well be your best answer.

KOREAN BATTLEFIELD TOUR FOR 2005

We hope that you will consider our Battlefield Tour for 2005, scheduled for April 13 - 23, 2005. Organized for the Korean War Veterans Alliance of the 2nd Infantry Division, this tour is open to all - Korean War Veterans of all units and services, their families and friends, Cold War Veterans of Korea as well as history buffs.

The Tour will begin at what, for us, is the beginning - the Task Force Smith battlesite. We then continue to Taegu to explore the Naktong River front, including Hill 209, Obong-ni Ridge and the Cloverleaf, and the area north of Taegu, which includes Tabudong and the Bowling Alley. Then Wonju area battlesites, including the Twin Tunnels, Chipyeong-ni, "Massacre Valley" north of Hoengsoeng, and Hill 1051. Basing ourselves at Inje, we then explore the Punchbowl and, escorted by the ROK Army, we will enter the DMZ to visit Hill 931, the crest of Heartbreak Ridge. In the Chorwon Valley, we will visit ROKA DMZ positions to view American OP's now in North Korean hands, including the T-Bone, Alligator Jaws, Pork Chop Hill and Old Baldy (Hill 266). We will also visit with young American soldiers serving in Korea, both at Panmunjom and with the US 2nd Infantry Division.

TO REQUEST A BROCHURE

If you are interested in joining our tour, please contact us to receive a detailed tour brochure and registration form (you may also download these from our website at www.cptours.com). We can answer any questions you might have, and help you arrange your entire trip, including domestic travel. We hope to see you in Korea!



California Pacific Tours

1475 Huntington Avenue, Suite 101
South San Francisco CA 94080

Toll-Free Telephone: (800) 505-1678 ✧ E-Mail: info@cptours.com ✧ Website: www.cptours.com

THEY ANSWERED THE CALL

"H" Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division In Korea

By Gerald O. Boyd

Now, some fifty odd years later, as I look back, I really wonder if it was a bad dream or a nightmare. But, all the time I remember that it was real. It did happen—and I was there.

It all began for "H" Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC, on 3 May 1950. As part of the Sixth Fleet, we were embarked aboard the *USS Worchester* (CL-144) at Norfolk, VA, for temporary duty in the Mediterranean area. We were known at that point as the Third Battalion, Sixth Marines Reinforced. The company visited numerous ships of the Sixth Fleet and participated in MEDLANDEX XII and MEDLANDEXXIII, which were training exercises conducted on the islands of Malta and Crete respectively.

We made a number of ports of call during our scheduled four months tour of duty. We visited places like Lisbon, Portugal; Gibraltar; Cannes and Nice, France (the Riviera); Rome and Naples, Italy, and several other ports, all of which we enjoyed. It was just like an ocean cruise, except we were in uniform. We not only enjoyed the scenery, but the girls along the way as well. Of course, we were aware that there was a war going on somewhere, but that was far

away as far as we were concerned. The war was occurring in the First Division's domain, not ours.

We had heard about things happening in Korea, but we did not give any serious thought towards our being involved. Most of us had no idea where Korea was, or had ever heard of the place. There was saber rattling going on in and around Syria, and we figured that we were going to be needed here. But, on 14 August 1950, at 0300, we were notified that our company was to be prepared to disembark at 0500. We then embarked aboard the *USS Bexar* (APA 237), and departed Suda Bay, Crete, on 15 August 1950.

On August 18, our temporary duty in the Mediterranean was completed as we traveled through the Suez Canal. Our ship stopped on the way to refuel at a port in India, arriving at Kobe, Japan. We disembarked on 9 September 1950. Meanwhile, en route to Kobe, Japan, our company's designation was changed to "H" Company (H "for How"), 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. We were held in Kobe, Japan, as a reserve back-up until 17 September. We waited to get some replacements to bring our company strength up to 185 men. (Even at that number we were still an under-strength company.)

We embarked once again aboard the *USS Bexar* (AP-237) on 17 September, arriving and disembarking on 21 September at Inchon, Korea. Then, our company participated in the capturing and liberation of Seoul, South Korea. Our first real taste of what it was like to come under artillery fire was when we disembarked from our trucks on a ridge on the way to Seoul. Just as we disembarked, a round of artillery hit the cliff in front of us. The enemy, as we discovered, was trying to hit a convoy of Army trucks traveling on the road below with their lights on. It sure scared the hell out of us. You grow up very quickly.

As I stated earlier, when we were in Kobe, Japan, we received some replacements, mostly reservists. On our way to Seoul, our company had to travel through a small wooded area. En route, a single shot from a sniper's rifle rang out and a Marine, the third man in front of me, fell to the ground. As we gave him medical treatment, he said to me, "I don't believe this! When they called our unit up they told us that we would have at least six weeks of intensive training, and that we may not even have to go. That was just two weeks ago." His reserve unit was from Oklahoma. He had been shot in the stomach. (I can not remember his name).

As we progressed closer to Seoul, the fighting grew more intense. A number of times we had to cross dry streambeds where unexploded shells, grenades, and rockets were strewn throughout the rocks and stones. We had to pick our lines of movement very carefully. One time, as we rounded a corner of the road, the word came down to be careful. There was an unexploded, i.e., live, rocket protruding out about 4 to 5 feet from the bank overhanging the road. With just a



small jolt it might explode.

Just south of Seoul we were pinned down by anti-tank shelling. Our company was halted on the road in a small pass that had been cut in the hills. There also had been a large enough area cut into the hill for a building about 20ft x 30ft x 12 - 14ft high. In taking cover from the shelling, another Marine and I moved around the corner of the building. We heard a noise and checked it out. We came upon a cave in the hill behind the building and found three North Koreans hiding. Upon their capture it was discovered that they were wired with explosives and were left behind to explode the building and kill as many of us as they could in order to close the pass and slow our advancement. Upon further search of the area it was found that the building was filled to the roof with explosives.

This wasn't the only time we came under an attack from anti-tank fire. South of Seoul, in the rice bed area, as we were hitching a ride on the tank, the enemy opened fire and we all dove for cover. After the firing subsided, we heard someone call for help. After searching for a little while, we discovered a Marine on his back (turtled) in the rice paddy. We asked him where he was hit. His reply was, "No place." But, he asked, "Would you just quit asking questions and help me get up and out of here?" We told him to get himself out.

"No way," he replied. He pointed between his legs. During the firefight he had dived into the rice paddy and landed on his back. An unexploded (live) anti-tank shell had landed in the mud between his legs! Two Marines crawled into the muddy rice paddy. By having him hold his M-1 over his head and not moving his legs, they slowly pulled him to safety.

The capture of Seoul had been a struggle. It was house-to-house fighting.

A sergeant was wounded. A bullet had creased across the stomach area, cutting the skin like a surgeon might do, exposing his insides. Resisting all assistance and help, he pulled himself together with one arm, and took off over the hill to the Battalion Aid Station.

Once we proceeded to the north of Seoul, orders came that we were to pull out. We thought we were going for R & R (Rest and Recuperation). Surprise! On 10 October 1950, our company embarked on the *USS Henrico* (APA-45) at Inchon, South Korea, and sailed from there on 16 October. We arrived at Wonsan, North Korea, on 28 October 1950 and disembarked. From here we were ordered to proceed north to the Yalu River.

As we moved north we came under several small enemy encounters, but nothing major. However, as we moved, our company commander, Captain Nicholas L. Shields, led us into a gully at double column, route step, with our weapons slung over our shoulders. We came under a cross fire from the enemy (both sides and in the front). We managed to fight our way clear onto the ridge to our right. We had a number of wounded; but no dead that I remember.

During the skirmish, as we reached the top, one of the men in the machine gun squad, believing he had been shot, reached his hand to an area where he felt something running down his side. He discovered that a can of peaches he was carrying in his clothing had been hit, and the peach juice was what he felt. It made him so mad that he picked up a machine gun and started firing in the direction of the enemy, cussing them for killing his peaches. (Peaches, pears, fruit cocktail and such were prize goodies.)

It was starting to get cold by now, and in an endeavor to have our food ("C" rations, "K" rations) thawed out so that it could be eaten, we would place can(s) that we wanted to eat in our clothing next to our skin. This was sure

a chilling effect when you replaced what you had eaten with a new, rather cool (downright cold) can.

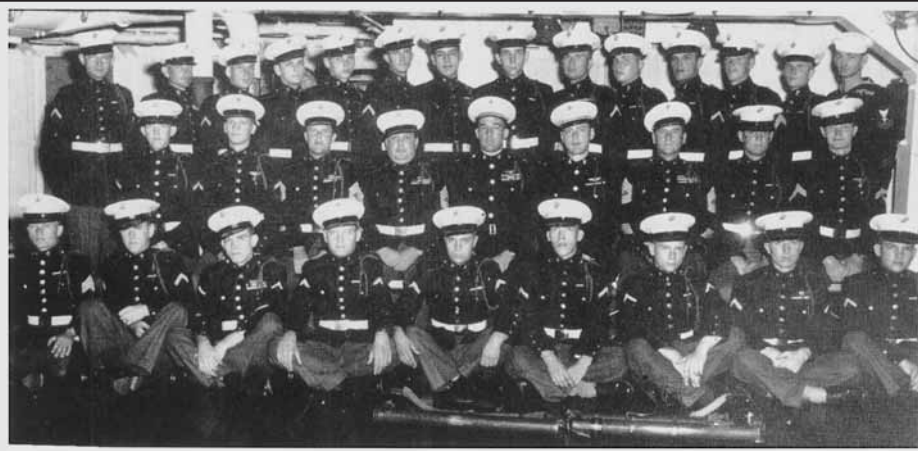
A sergeant was wounded. A bullet had creased across the stomach area, cutting the skin like a surgeon might do, exposing his insides. Resisting all assistance and help, he pulled himself together with one arm, and took off over the hill to the Battalion Aid Station. We don't know what happened to him, for we never saw him again. It was soon after this snafu that Captain Shields conveniently sprained his ankle and was taken out of action and sent to Japan. Lucky us.

We received another commander who had experience from World War II. He had been awarded the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars during that war. Unfortunately, I do not remember his name. That is one of the problems in war: new people in the outfit don't seem to be around long enough for anyone to really get to know them.

One of our engagements took place in an unknown, long-forgotten village. A patrol was sent in to check it out. They determined that, in their opinion, the village was clear. They pulled back. As they got to the outer perimeter, just shy of a dry streambed, the "assumed" villagers fell to their knees and started firing on the patrol. The patrol took cover in the dry stream bed. The seemingly friendly villagers were really enemy soldiers with machine guns strapped to their bodies under their clothing. We learned that just because someone smiles and waves a flag, that doesn't mean they are friendly. There was just no way to tell.

In an endeavor to get ammunition and support to the pinned-down patrol, M/Sgt Raymond W. Wolford, who was passing ammunition to the patrol, ordered the artillery to provide support. One of the shells fell short and hit him. He lost his life to friendly fire. The village was later secured. M/Sgt Wolford had fewer than three months left before





FIRST ROW: Billy G. Mangham, Sgt.; James F. Barnum, Pfc.; William C. Halcott, Pfc.; Wilham R. Dry, Pfc.; Willard D. Hegwood, Pfc.; Robert Lewis, Pfc.; E.L. Tibets, Pfc.; Duain Wardlow, Pfc.; Gerald L. Smith, Pfc.;
SECOND ROW: Robert A. Hood, Pfc.; George Novak, Pfc.; William R. Morris, T/Sgt.; Raymond W. Wolford, M/Sgt.; Nicholas L. Shields, Capt.; Robert E. Hill, 1st Lt.; Ernest Roessner, M/Sgt.; Paul F. Juneau, Pfc.; John D. Mills, Pfc.;
THIRD ROW: Frederick E. Sprecher, Pfc.; Emery S. Whipple, Pfc.; John T. Margie, Pfc.; Edward J. Bialas, Pfc.; Philip R. Farmer, Pfc.; Allen G. Nealy, Pfc.; Manuel Bustamante, Pfc.; Charles D. McCall, Pfc.; Philip G. Richardson, Pfc.; Lawrence N. Strainie, Pfc.; Albert F. Osmanski, Pfc.; Jack M. Allen, Cpl.; John W. Collins, Cpl.; Frank M. Thompson, HM2.

Some of the Marines of H-3-7; note T/Sgt. Raymond W. Wolford in middle row



FIRST ROW: Roy G. Jordan, Pfc.; Robert R. Winship, Pfc.; Albert C. Frost, Pfc.; Fred L. Mirakovits, Pfc.; Lloyd A. Walker, Pfc.; Earl Jones, Pfc.;
SECOND ROW: Robert S. Kaczala, Pfc.; Stefano Colucci, Pfc.; Alan C. Taylor, Pfc.; Mack M. Park, Pfc.; Charlie Foster, Sgt.; Paul E. Denny, 2nd Lt.; N.J. Shannon, Cpl.; Daniel Steffy, Pfc.; William L. Potter, Pfc.;
THIRD ROW: Jesse J. Aranda, Pfc.; Joseph J. Bernwinkler, Pfc.; Vernon A. Callahan, Pfc.; Gilbert R. Wells, Pfc.; John K. Homan, Pfc.; Charles Sparks, Pfc.; Edward L. Gieryk, Pvt.; John C. Kirkland, Pfc.

H-3-7's mortar section—including author Gerald O. Boyd

his retirement after 30 years

Yet another firefight took place some days later. A patrol was sent out after dark to recon a hill. They never came back. The next morning, fearing the worst, the remainder of the company took the hill, and found the patrol. Twelve men, led by 2nd Lt. Paul E. Denny and Sgt. Charles Foster, were dead. As one other Marine stated, the entire patrol was all facing up the hill toward the enemy. None ran!

What happened? The patrol was ambushed and pinned down. They tried to fight their way to the top, firing and

throwing grenades. The problem was that the enemy was well dug in above them. As the men of the patrol tossed grenades up into the trenches, the enemy just kicked them back down on the patrol. That morning, our company fought for the hill. When we got to the top, we couldn't figure out why there weren't many enemy bodies around, considering the size of the fight. We knew that we had killed quite a few.

The next day, when we withdrew from the hill (one way up, same way down), as we came around the back side of the hill on the road, our question was

answered. The hill's back side was a cliff. The enemy just tossed their dead over and stacked the bodies up like cord wood. They had stacked the bodies about 6 ft. high and about 100 yards long in an endeavor to conceal their losses.

About this time a halt was called, and a rest period was given. It was time to "smoke if you had them" or eat. Since there wasn't any place else we could sit, we just sat on a dead enemy and ate our "C" rations or smoked. We become quite callous after a while.

As our company proceeded up the road, we approached a building, where we halted. Another Marine and I were dispatched to scout out the place. There was quite a pungent odor coming from the building, but we just couldn't place what it was. As we approached and kicked open the door, we quickly saw what was creating the odor. The entire inside—walls, ceiling, and floor—was covered with fresh blood. In the middle of the room were the white bones and carcass of a horse which had been butchered not too long before we arrived. The enemy had cut it up for food, leaving nothing but the bones. At least there was no enemy.

Once we approached the upper plateau, the winds increased and the temperature was dropping quite fast. By the time we reached the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir, the temperature was reaching close to -60 and falling. We had been issued winter clothing that consisted of rubber overshoes (four-buckle arctics), winter parkas, and gloves—the same that we would have received for cold weather back in the USA, which was very inadequate. The Army/Navy Stores back in the U.S. were selling the type of gear that was really needed.

The one thing that was true was that you could spot a Marine from afar in the snow, for we were the ones with the green uniforms outlining the ridges and in the snow. By contrast, the enemy had on white and blended in. During this extreme cold it was hard on every one, including the enemy. One of our patrols found six North Korean soldiers who had frozen to death with just a handful of rice in their pockets. But, for the most part, they seem to have had heavier clothing than us. Their clothing was

quilted and somewhat insulated

We encountered token resistance, until we reached the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir. Here “How, Baker and Fox Company” secured the high ground from what was reported to be three divisions of North Koreans. We had dug in the best we could in the frozen ground for a long stay. This was 26 November 1950. Just three days earlier we had had a warm Thanksgiving dinner.

The temperature was slowly turning colder (-60), and the wind at times was gale force. With the wind chill added in, the temperature was approaching -116. Then, on 27 November, the night was pitch black. During the early evening we had built fires, trying to keep warm. The enemy was just out of range of our mortars. And, since the hills were too high for our big guns to fire over, they were reorganizing.

Little did we know just how the enemy was growing in strength. Undetected, some 200,000+ Chinese troops had come across the Yalu River and were about to join in the fighting. Our company's front line consisted of the entire company being strung out across the hilltop in almost a straight line. The C.P. (Command Post), mortars and all, really did not know what was to come.

Some of us drew straws to see who would pull the duty of 4 hours on and 4 hours off. That meant that with any luck one would get to sleep eight hours. We had scraped the snow and the ground as well as we could to remove the rocks and stones to make smoother places to put up the pup tents. The ground was so hard we couldn't dig or drive a stake into it. We just placed our tent stakes at each end and used some of the heavier rocks and stones as anchors on the sides and tried not to turn over too much.

I was the (lucky?) one who was getting to sleep all night. It didn't seem to be very long after I had gone to sleep that one of my buddies kicked my feet and hollered that if I wanted to live I had better get the hell out of there. The enemy had counter attacked. They hit our lines before anyone knew they were there. They had several things going in their favor:

1) The night was very dark and they knew exactly where every one of us



FIRST ROW: James E. Snuffer, Pfc.; Joseph Skli, Pfc.; Gerald O. Boyd, Pfc.; Donald P. Webb, Sgt.; John J. Hess, 2nd Lt.; Thomas G. Fields, Pfc.; Alfred J. Collet, Pfc.; Albert C. Wright, Pfc.; Thomas A. Werner, Pfc.; Charles L. Hassenauer, Pfc.;
SECOND ROW: Louis L. Lindsey, Pfc.; Harold M. Neeley, Pfc.; Charles R. Wingate, Pfc.; Michael C. Ross, Pfc.; Norman G. Vezina, Pfc.; John J. Obrenski, Pfc.; Wilford K. Ohmit Jr., Pfc.; Karl Lawson, Pfc.; Peter Lasques, Pvt.; Richard Ellsworth, Pfc.;

A few more members of H-3-7: how young they all seem

Once I was placed in a warm tent, I started to lose my eyesight. I was thawing out. My wounds started to show and my face was swelling.

was because of the fires we had built earlier

2) There was snow on the ground and they wore white clothing and blended in

3) They were quiet until they were right on top of us, at which time they started blowing horns and whistles, banging drums, and yelling.

Since they were coming out of the dark, and we did not know they were there, they scared the hell out of us. As I got out of the tent, trying to put my boots on (we always took them off when we slept if we could, to try to warm our feet and dry the perspiration), a concussion grenade exploded in my face and I was blown down the hill. I realized I had lost my M-1 rifle. About that time I heard someone calling for help, and saying that our company commander had been hit. I groped in the dark and managed to find the commander. Four of us carried him in a shelter half and started down the hill to Battalion Aid. About half way down, the shelter half split and we had to carry him the rest of the way down the hill by his clothing. Once at the bottom, we managed to get a dump truck. We climbed on board and took off. Just as we started, bullets began to bounce off the sides of the truck. Each of us tried to

make the commander as comfortable as possible. He had taken a Burp-gun shot to the head.

I had his head in my lap. As we went over a bridge into the Aid Station, the Commander opened his eyes, smiled, and died. When we got to the Aid Station, we took the commander in and placed him on a table. A doctor looked him over and pronounced him dead. As I was leaving the tent, the doctor asked me where I was going.

“Back to my outfit,” I said.

“No you're not,” he said. “You have been wounded.”

As I said before, the temperature was so cold that I didn't realize I had been wounded, because the sting, burning or pain did not continue and the blood would coagulate. The sub-zero temperature did save several of the wounded from dying. If it had been hot, they would have bled to death.

Once I was placed in a warm tent, I started to lose my eyesight. I was thawing out. My wounds started to show and my face was swelling. The next morning, when I asked about the fighting, I was told that furious fighting had taken place throughout the night. The enemy had stormed the hill in waves. There had been a lot of hand-to-hand combat—and

some 26 or so of my company had held the hill all night. I was also told that some of our company members were bayoneted in their sleeping bags. They had sweat, the zippers of the sleeping bag had frozen, and they couldn't get out.

Meanwhile, I had been, along with other wounded, transferred to tents with the artillery. What happened the next few days has been lost to history, for I do not remember or I wasn't told at the time what was happening. I do remember that one of our sergeants managed to place me on a utility trailer and gave me an M1 Carbine for defense for the ride out. (Little good it would have been, for it was frozen with a shell half way in, and I couldn't remove it.).

From the 28th of Nov. till Dec. 3rd,

our men fought day and night toward the south, a different direction, for our lives. I can remember the thoughts that the convoy could be overtaken and we would be prisoners. Being wounded, I knew that death or worse would happen. We would receive no help, and it was up to what was left of us to get to Hagaru-ri (approximately ten miles), where we were to regroup for the final push out of the trap. At Hagaru-ri, our forces had scraped out a runway for air transports to bring in supplies and ammunition and take out the wounded.

One of our lieutenants saw me. He noticed that I couldn't see, and he got me in the last seat on the last plane out to Japan. To this day, I have no idea who or how many of the original H"ow company made it out. All I know is that some

of the men in the "Reservoir Trap" made it out alive—with their wounded and approximately 150,000 refugees to the amazement of the big shots in Washington and Japan, who had written off the 1st Marine Division.

Today, some 54 years later, I am still very proud of what we did, and I am especially honored to have served with these Marines. The country should never forget the sacrifices made by not only the men of the Chosin Reservoir, but the men and women who are willing to put their lives on the line for some one's freedom.

.....

Gerald O. Boyd can be reached at 1601 E. Sparrow Cove, Columbia City, IN 46725

Reunion Calendar

March 2005

USS Renville (APA - 227), Ship's Company and troops, March 30 - April 2, at Norfolk, VA. Contact Charles (Don) Wright, 4289 Alex Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211, (513) 481-8317 jdwrightstuff@cs.com

April 2005

151st Engineer Combat Battalion, April 21-24, at St. Louis, MO, Wingate Inn. Contact Mary or Jerry Standley, (314) 277-4221, marybear1937@aol.com

USS Soley (DD707) Association, April 21-25, at Plymouth Meeting, PA. Contact Eugene Blum, 6749 San Benito Way, Buena Park, CA 90620-3741, (714) 527-4925. eblum3@juno.com, or www.usssoley.org

United States Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, April 21-26, at Mobile, AL, Crown Plaza Adams Mark Hotel. Contact Ronald J. Maciejowski, 55 Donna Terrace, Taunton, MA 02780-2824, (508) 824-0789, (508) 824-0789, clcanavy@aol.com

772nd MP Bn. Veterans Association, April 28-May 1, at Tucson, AZ. Contact Bill McDonald (708) 422-3892, wlmac@comcast.net

VMF/VMA 1946 - 1954, April 30, at Des Plaines, IL. Contact Bill Eck, 38172 N. Holdridge Avenue, Beach Park, IL 60087, bleck@sissna.com

May 2005

84th & 62nd Army Engineers (USA/Korea) May 2-6, at Pigeon Forge, TN, Contact Ted Anbuhl, (251) 666-5521.

H-3-7 (USMC) May 5-8, at Albuquerque, NM, Marriott Hotel, 2101 Louisiana Blvd.. (800) 334-2086/(505) 881-6860. Contact Bob Nichols, 5517 Williamsdale Court, Seminole, FL 33772, (727) 392-2886 (same number for fax), jarhead37@ij.net. H-3-7 will be represented at the 1st Marine Division Reunion, August 3-7, 2005, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Kansas City, Missouri.

USS Noble (APA - 218), May 5-8, at Philadelphia, PA. Contact Bill Murphy, 98 West Albion Street, Holley, NY 14470, (585) 638-6060.

67th Tac Recon Wing, 5th Reunion, May 11-15, Dayton, OH. Contact hosts Pat & Paul Graves, 6515 Alum Creek Drive, Groveport, OH 43125-9490, (614) 491-4432

USS Washburn (AKA-108), May 19-21, at St. Louis, MO. Contact: Bill Oller, (314) 487-9528, <billoller@yahoo.com>

USS Buck (DD-761) Association, May 29-June 2. Contact John Connolly, 7 Tenerife Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909, (501) 922-3969. <joncon@cox-internet.com>

June 2005

73rd Tank Battalion and 73rd Armor, U.S. Army, June 5-8, at Lake Placid, NY. Group size estimated at 100 people. Contact Curtis Banker, 44 Westcott Road, Schuyler Falls, NY 12895-1940, (518) 643-2302, dmbanker-curtis@northnet.org

July 2005

Second Battalion Fourth Marines Association (2/4), July 13-16, at San Diego, CA. (All or any attached personnel are also invited.) Contact Becky Valdez, 8221 E. Birch Tree Lane, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808, (714) 281-2846, fxaia@hotmail.com

August 2005

96th Field Artillery Association, U.S. Army, August, at Green Bay WI. Contact Arnold Anderson, HC 83, Box 116A, Custer, SD 57730, (605) 673-6313.

936th Field Artillery, U.S. Army, August 20, Fayetteville, AR, Clarion Inn, 1255 South Shiloh, 72701. Contact Wayne Bohannon, 10617 East First Street, Tulsa, OK 74128-1403, (918) 437-5324.

September 2005

14th Combat Engineer Battalion Association (U.S. Army), Sept. 8-11, Des Moines, IA. Contact Stanley H. Schwartz, 313 Hollow Creek Road, Mount Sterling, KY 40353, (859) 498-4567, shs313@bellsouth.net

18th FWA, Sept. 8-11, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact George Banasky, 423 So. 105th Place E, Tulsa, OK 74128, (918) 437-5425.

Society of the Third Infantry Division (and attached units in war and peace time), Sept. 15-18, San Diego, CA, Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108, (619) 297-1101 or (800) 882-0858. Room Rates are \$99 per night plus tax. Contact: Bruce Monkman (818) 343-3370, bruce-monkman@earthlink.net, or Linda Irvine (360) 663-2521, info@TheReunionBRAT.com

72nd Engineer Combat Company (U.S. Army), Sept. 19-23, Cleveland, OH, Baymont Airport Inn, (216) 251-8500. (Mention 72nd Engineers to get group rate). POC Bob Mount, (301) 898-7952 (Phone), (301) 898-5549 (Fax), tax-preper@aol.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association (Broken Heart Battalion), Sept. 20-24, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA. Contact LTC Ken Jobe, (Ret) (757) 428-0328, kejo425@aol.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434-6406, BigBMR@aol.com, for registration and hotel information.

45th Infantry Division (U.S. Army), Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Oklahoma City, OK. POC Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street. Oklahoma City, OK 73111, (210) 681-9134.

October 2005

1st Field Artillery Observation Bn. Assn., Oct. 6-9, at Double Tree Club Hotel, St. Louis Airport, 9600 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63134. Contact Don Dust, (352) 799-2426 or Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359.

USS Cogswell (DD-651), Oct. 20-22, at Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. POC George Overman, (760) 721-5730, USS-COGSWELL@DESTROYERS.ORG

scious of how violently useful bayonets could be.

While in a defensive mode, there is hardly a situation that lends itself to launching a bayonet attack. This all changed with the arrival of General Mathew Ridgeway. He stopped 8th Army's retrograde movement south that was caused by his predecessor, General McArthur. Had McArthur not disregarded his own military intelligence that the CCF were marshalling along the Manchurian border and preparing for an attack on 8th Army and other United Nations forces, he could have saved not only his long and illustrious career, but thousands of good American soldiers' lives as well. I was once a strong admirer of McArthur—but no more!

As we moved north this second time, we were much better prepared. Our forces had learned a lot from their earlier mistakes. More and better use was made of infantry/tank task forces. In fact, it was during the Task Force Bartlett operation that Millet was cited for his Congressional Medal of Honor.

Easy Company ran into heavy resistance while protecting the task force's right flank. Millet called for his 1st Platoon to help with the assault. The platoon leader, Lt Schultz, announced over his SCR-300 radio words to the effect that he couldn't maneuver his platoon; he was "pinned down." Our standard operating procedure did not permit the use of the term "pinned down." Consequently, Millet relieved Schultz on the spot with orders to turn his platoon over to our Field 1st Sgt, who would be up there shortly. I was monitoring these calls on our company net. I also heard Millet tell Schultz to meet him at the company CP later. From the strong language, I could tell Millet was fighting mad, which is something that may have played a role in his aggressive bayonet attack that occurred very shortly after that.

It was my purpose to be present and witness the expected "ass chewing" Schultz was about to get. Sure enough, as soon as the two met, the situation became super-critical. Millet had a hard time retaining his composure. He ran Schultz down the road, screaming to him, "Don't you ever come back or I'll kill you, you

SOB!!" Well, between the two subjects, Bayonet Hill and Schultz, we had plenty of conversation that evening.

Even with my poor memory I can still remember the names of two other troopers who played a "blood curdling" role in that attack. Sergeants Casar and Brockington, both of whom had nerves of steel. Courage was a natural quality of these two, and it was apparent both in garrison as well as on the battlefield.

Something else that I also think may have helped—or influenced—the decision to recommend Millet for the MOH was this: he was a great "showman and a great talker." One example: he tagged an unusually long barrel machine-gun that was captured on Bayonet Hill and sent it to the Commanding General with "compliments of Easy Co." Of course, this could not do anything but help bring attention to him.

He knew everybody at Division Headquarters. He was General's Aide to the Division Artillery Commander prior to coming to Easy Co. In fact, I think Millet learned later that it was administratively easier for him to receive the MOH than it was for him to qualify for the COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE (CIB). Sounds silly? Yes, it does—until you understand that Millet's basic branch was artillery, and the CIM was not designed or meant to be awarded to artillerymen. Understand?

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FOOTNOTE: The author, LTC Dell G. Evans, U. S. Army (Ret), assumed command of Easy Company at one point. When Millett was asked by his regimental CO who he would recommend as CO after he left, he said something to the effect that, "There is only one SOB I'd like to have the job. That is Dell Evans."

What an honor! Unlike Millet and Desiderio, I didn't earn the MOH. Besides, two MOHs within the same rifle company in less than six months made it difficult for subsequent actions to receive similar recognition. This is another story. However, I did earn three Silver Stars and the Bronze Star w/VN device.

The author can be reached at 9621 Miller Road, Sherwood, AR 72120, (501) 835-541 7 Dell_Evans@msn.com

The Broken Bag Project

Class Act Group members and others have been working toward restoration of earned WWII/Korea era military retiree, spouse, and widow medical care since 1996. Col George "Bud" Day, Medal of Honor recipient, former POW in Hanoi, and attorney, filed a lawsuit against the US Government challenging the 1995 government policy of kicking military retirees, spouses, and widows who reached 65 years of age out of military treatment facilities.

The lawsuit ended in 2003 at the US Supreme Court, as they would not hear Col Day's case. However, the Federal Appeals Court language clearly indicated the US Government (Congress) has a "moral obligation" to do what it said it would do ("if you give us 20 or more years of military service, we'll provide government funded lifetime medical care for you and your dependents") for military retirees. The case was instrumental in bringing pressure on Congress, resulting in TRICARE for Life in the 2000 National Defense Authorization Act Bill, which Class Act believes was the catalyst for raising awareness of general retiree and veteran benefit issues such as disability compensation, pharmacy, Survivor Benefit Plan, widows issues, etc.

After the Supreme Court decision, Class Act Group has focused total attention toward educating the US Congress that denying, ignoring, or delaying earned medical care benefits for WWII/Korea era military retirees is reflective of a "use and abuse" or "used bag" attitude and sends mixed signals to current and future warriors.

The goal of the Brown Bag Project is to continue educating Congress in a unique communication method - tear a piece of paper from a Brown Paper Bag, write a personal message on it, insert in an envelope, mail to your Rep or Senator. The objective is to cause all Congressmen/women to take a fresh look at our new Bill, "Keep Our Promise To America's Military Retirees Act" that will be introduced in the new 109th Congress. Rep Chris Van Hollen, MD, and Senator Tim Johnson, SD, will introduce the Bills, which will include the language of our old bills HR3474/S2065 that had 257 House and 11 Senate Co-sponsors.

A Korean War Veterans Association member with whom I am acquainted sent me a copy of *The Graybeards* in which my name appeared. It was a story by Dick Coate about a silhouette photo I'd made of him when I was in Korea as an Associated Press cameraman.

I contacted Dick and learned then how that photo had been used to support the effort to remove the strange "forgotten war" stigma attached to the Korean conflict.

I had known it was picked up by the USO. It began appearing on billboards and it got to the point where I couldn't drive very far in any direction without spotting a billboard with the silhouette of Coate standing in a doorway.

The photo was made in early March, 1951. It was about the same time that I learned, during a trip to Taegu, that the American public was losing interest in the war. It makes an interesting sidebar to the main story of the "forgotten" war.

The AP had sent in its "first team" early in the war. Photographers Max Desfor and Frank Noel were among the crew. Noel was a Pulitzer Prize winner for 1943, from WWII. Max got his Pulitzer in 1951 for a Korean War photo. I replaced Noel after he was captured by the Chinese in late 1950.

AP columnist Hal Boyle, a veteran correspondent in the "big" war, was also sent to Korea. Hal was a foot soldier's writer, somewhat like the better-known Ernie Pyle. He didn't concoct his copy from the safety of a cushy office in a rear echelon. (In fairness, most writers followed the fighting.)

Sometime in the spring of 1951, the AP tried to order Boyle home, Boyle paid no attention to the telephone messages, and would not return the calls he was getting from the Bureau Chief in Tokyo.

One day, in Taegu, he received a letter from the AP's general manager in New York. It is necessary to digress briefly to put things in focus:

The major news operations were based

at that time in Taegu. Press HQ was in an old girl's school building. The second floor classrooms had rows of cots around the walls and an Army stove for heat. AP writers and cameramen, plus competitors, radio reporters, foreign news services, major American newspapers—all drifted through this press headquarters on their way to or from fighting units or to and from Tokyo.

One night Boyle read the letter he'd

stunned. Most of us were long-time professionals and it was just something else to digest and bear in mind. I was 31 years old. Shortly afterward, Boyle did leave for the States.

You can't make war pictures from a rear echelon. So that's why Noel was captured. And I found how large a knot forms in your stomach when you know you are going in harm's way. I learned the same lessons any GI or Marine would learn.

How to deal with fear—how to handle it. And I discovered that being around a war was frequently boring, often frustrating, occasionally exciting and there were also moments of terror. You have to learn how to handle it. And I know I don't have to explain that.

I went up on the line often enough to get

good photos. I once saw a Chinese soldier aim a rifle at me and shoot. I later found special meaning in Winston Churchill's famed comment that "Nothing in life is so exhilarating as being shot at without result..." (From his first book, *The Malakand Field Force*, after serving a hitch in India at the turn of the century.)

The wildest adventure came on St. Patrick's Day in 1951. We'd heard the night before that the Chinese were pulling out of Seoul. Three correspondents piled into my jeep and I headed down a dirt road paralleling the Han River—headlights on full. We were halted at every checkpoint, and chewed out for driving with blazing headlights. I made contrite noises and as soon as we were a hundred yards away the lights went on again.

It was a wild ride back to a point on the river opposite Seoul. We gathered at an I&R platoon CP the next morning. The lieutenant asked for the senior correspondent—it was Bob Vermilion, a feisty redhead who'd broken an ankle jumping with the paratroops months before.

He warned us we were on our own. He assigned five men to go with us. And he pointed out that if we got caught or into trouble no one could help us. So far, he

When They Forgot the Korean War

By Jim Martenhoff

just received to a group of us who happened to be in Taegu that evening. I can't recall it word for word, but the gist of it was that Boyle was ordered, in writing, to come back to New York. The reason, said the GM, was that the public was losing interest in the war. Editors of newspapers around the country were aware of this.

You aren't much of a local editor if you don't have your finger on the pulse of the community. War stories and photos that once ran at the top of the front page were now going "below the fold" (as we called it) or even starting on page two. The AP naturally was aware of this, and was cutting back. The order to Boyle was part of the process. Boyle was too popular as a columnist to be risked in a war zone.

He didn't like it. Boyle felt, as we all did, that what we were doing was important. It wasn't something we talked about, or even thought about, very much. But the feeling was there. We were all "volunteers," since the AP would not flatly order someone into peril. We were "asked" if we'd like to volunteer. That's the way the executive news photo editor in New York put it to me when Frank Noel was captured.

There was, of course, silence when he finished reading the letter. We weren't

said, it was only a rumor the Chinese had pulled out.

The next day we paddled across the river in three rubber boats. There were five GI's from an I&R Platoon, and 13 correspondents. I was the only cameraman.

When we landed I followed a big sergeant from Texas, who had a flare pistol stuck in his belt. The other soldiers threw an occasional grenade—lousy pictures, not enough dirt and stuff flying. I stayed right behind the sergeant, pistol in one hand, camera in the other, dashing across streets when he waved me on. The other correspondents stayed well back. It was “snoop and poop” through strangely empty streets. We never fired a shot.

Ultimately we neared the center of the city. Suddenly people, mostly old women, began pouring into the streets. One old crone grabbed my hand and wept with joy, and wouldn't let go. Children danced in the streets. We were mobbed. It was a scene I'll never forget. Thirteen newsmen and five GIs: we “liberated” a city.

The official records never showed it, nor did the stories. But it is an oddity I have never forgotten. A bunch of newsmen, few of who had any experience, “liberating” a large city.

Vermillion's experience came in handy the next day. I'd gotten a ride across the river in an amphibious vehicle (a DUK?). A truck nearby hit a land mine—which makes a driver cautious. But, I got downtown, carrying Jim Becker of the AP and Vermillion, who was United Press. The American Embassy and Vermillion, who'd been in the big war—and made a parachute drop in Europe—warned us about booby traps. We didn't even open the gate. We climbed over a break in the wall. And we touched nothing. The next day we heard that two GIs were killed when they tried to open the Embassy Gate.

There was an American-style bar nearby, which we explored curiously, and I did something utterly foolish. Maybe I was relieving accumulated tensions. But I pulled my .45 and shot up the back bar. I think it stunned everyone but Vermillion. I smashed the mirror, broke a bunch of empty bottles, and had a ball. Vermillion thought it was funny.

“Sorry, fellas,” I told the others. “I've

You can't make war pictures from a rear echelon. So that's why Noel was captured. And I found how large a knot forms in your stomach when you know you are going in harm's way.

seen too many westerns, and always wanted to do that.”

I don't recall any cameramen being killed in Korea, although I personally was told by General MacArthur that we—meaning the correspondents—should “take better care of yourselves—we're losing too many of you...” I can't find out, but I think some newsmen from other countries were casualties.

Yes, I once found myself face to face with MacArthur. I'd just encountered him in the airport building at Taegu, as he was leaving and I was just arriving. He was walking with the American ambassador to South Korea. I don't recall his name. But there were no other newsmen or photographers nearby.

MacArthur sneaked into town and out again. I had an exclusive photo—which was meaningless to me. And MacArthur was in a strange mood. He actually walked to me, put an arm around my shoulder, pulled me along for a few steps, and told me we should be more “careful.”

But I caught hell from Max Desfor, who by now was photo editor in Tokyo, for not shipping the film pack immediately. Seemed MacArthur had just been fired (I didn't know it—no one did yet) and had personally flown to Korea to tell the ambassador. I had no idea how I could have shipped the film pack immediately anyway, unless I had the gall to ask the General (or his pilot) to take it. And THAT thought never occurred to me. It was just another shot of MacArthur walking toward a camera—there have been thousands of them, I guess.

That one still sits in the AP's Wide World Photos files. I don't think it was ever used. I did get some good photos, some great action, and nearly got killed a dozen times. I would like to mention the fact that 135 photojournalists were killed in the Vietnam War. I knew at least one of

them. Among them were Robert Capa (I'd met him once; he did a lot for Life Magazine and became famous for his coverage of the Spanish Civil War.) and Sean Flynn. He was Errol Flynn's son, and he disappeared, along with another cameraman, near the Cambodia border.

War changes you. We all know that. It's not a natural way to live. It changed me, changed my sense of values, and eventually I tired of what I called “international fire engine chasing” and I quit the AP. That was in spite of a pending promotion. The AP took good care of those who risked their necks for a story or picture.

One of the writers I worked with, Stan Swinton, went on to become general manager of the AP. Desfor headed up a Wide World Photos. I was told I'd make Bureau Chief. But I didn't want to become a “boss,” and I didn't want to leave Florida. I wanted to spend more time at home with my wife—especially after I came home one winter, from a lengthy trip outside the U.S., and she greeted me at the door with “Who are you?” Suddenly it wasn't fun any more. So, I became a newspaper columnist, magazine freelancer and book author until I retired.

I never wrote about the war. This is the first and last time. It wasn't easy. This is my fourth try. But I would like to offer a personal comment: Those who served in Korea should take great pride in the fact that they were the first to draw a line in the sand against communism.

Korea wasn't just another war. It was a very important statement. It was the opening battle in what became a 40-year war against totalitarianism and an evil system.

Much of this 20th Century was devoted to a basic battle with dark forces that threatened everything the common man held dear. Like personal freedoms. The United Nations put an end to fascism, but we should have realized we couldn't exist

with communism. Under Stalin, it was no better than Hitler's wicked empire.

Winston Churchill spent the last half of the 1920s and all of the 1930s trying to warn Britain (and the rest of the world) about Hitler and the war he viewed as inevitable. Unhappily, too many people wanted to forget the "Great War" (which later became World War I) It was no help when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, the Japanese invaded Manchuria, and Hitler marched into the Rhineland—while the infant League of Nations sat on its behind and did nothing.

No stand was taken, no line drawn, no one stood up and told the totalitarian governments to stop—or else. Maybe the American people were similarly tired after World War II. It's easy to understand why they didn't want to read about another war every day.

But someone once said that those who don't learn from the past will have no future. And, the Korean conflict, in a larger sense, was the future. It may have been called a "cold war." It's as good a term as any for a war that did not bring down Armageddon and an appalling nuclear disaster.

But you better believe one thing: those who fought there have been shortchanged by a public that simply cannot understand what the world faced, e.g., the unhappy, foreboding, dismal alternatives.

The United Nations and the U.S. warriors who faced Communism in Korea are the people who turned down the hot war tap and cooled it to a cold war! Without them, there just might have been a world wide disaster. But they told the communists—stop here. Go no farther. And they got the message.

There was another nasty war, and many confrontations in later years, but the communists had learned their lesson. They tried to keep their involvement concealed. They even backed away in 1962—because they hadn't forgotten Korea. They knew they faced disaster if they continued.

No one—no one—should forget that Korea was the first step toward total victory.

*Jim Martenhoff
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Port Charlotte FL 33952*

The DPRK

This article originally appeared in Tiger Flight.

TWO YEARS AGO, NORTH KOREA opened its Mount Kumgong Area for tourism to attract hundreds of thousands of people. Actually, the South Korean Tour Company that we used got permission for our trip a year ago.

Thus, on Sunday, September 5th, the first Hawaii Korean War Veterans group of eight, accompanied by their spouses, left Honolulu on KAL 052 en route to the International Airport in Incheon.

The plan was to visit North Korea for three days and two nights and return to Honolulu on Sunday September 12th. Special passports were issued by the North Korean government, which we prominently displayed the entire time we were in the country.

Hyundai Merchant Marine Co, Ltd., of Seoul, South Korea, is actively developing the Mount Kumgang Area into a world-class tourist spot. It's on the east seaside-across the DMZ (demilitarized zone) and beyond the CIQ [customs, immigration and quarantine] facilities. [Only the DMS is mined; other areas are farmed.]

The northern narrow road at the CIQ was double fenced on both sides. Most of the people we saw were either riding or walking bikes. Young North Korean soldiers stood at attention at various locations. They're required to serve seven years.

We also saw large bags of rice that had been shipped from the south, and we were not surprised to find they were mostly for the military.

by Al Streck, Col (Ret)

Bus trips only started a year ago. Before then, [beginning in November of 1998] the only authorized visitor travel was by cruise ships.

Our group, which was the first American veteran group authorized to visit Mount Kumgang, stayed two nights at a floating hotel, Hotel Haegeumgang. The hotel had been built in Australia and is anchored in Jangjeon Harbor. It offers 160 rooms and multiple restaurants.

Interestingly, the hotel employees are South Koreans and ethnic Koreans from China.

The food was good and there really was no drinking water problem, although most of our group bought plastic bottle water.

Of course, we enjoyed lots of kimchee, which allegedly is not buried in the ground over the winter anymore. [That's not a proven fact, though!]

Included in the north is the 620-seat Geumgangsan Cultural Center, where we saw an outstanding acrobatic performance of the famous Pyongyang Moran bong Circus Troupe.

Coming back through the CIQ was a piece of cake—no sweat. We were relieved and pleased to be walking on South Korean soil again.

The flight home was uneventful and we marveled at our trip, which was truly memorable.

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For further information, check www.hotel-online.com/news/PR2003_2nd/Apr03_Kumgang and www.abc.net.au/ra/newstories/RANnewstories_676052.htm

DD-214 Problems?

One of the most important service-related documents is the DD-214. Many veterans report problems trying to get erroneous information changed, new information added, etc. There is a way to change the DD-214. Simply get DD Form 149, May 2003 and complete it.

One place to start is via the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. All requests must be in writing.

Incidentally, if any of our readers have stories to share about DD-214 SNAFUS, please send them to us. We will be glad to include them in *The Graybeards*.

APPLICATION FOR KWVA REVISIT TOURS

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: *"To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans of the United States who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to Oct 15 1954."* (Eligibility below).

VETERAN'S PERSONAL HISTORY (Please print or type)

Veteran's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

KWVA Membership # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name of family member and relationship: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: Fax: _____

Passport # _____ Date of Expiration # _____

Companion Passport# _____ Date of Expiration # _____

If you do not have a current passport, insert: "Passport applied for"

Have you previously received the Korean War Medal from the Korean Veterans Assn in Seoul, Korea? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Have you received the medal elsewhere? If so, where? _____ Date _____

VETERAN'S MILITARY BIOGRAPHY

Branch of Service: _____

Period of Service in Korean War, from: _____ (Month/Year Arrived) to _____ (Month/Year Departed)

Unit Assigned: _____ Location of Unit: _____

Rank Achieved in Korea: _____ Highest Rank Achieved: _____

Personal Military Decorations: _____

☐ I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit Tour.

Veteran's Signature: _____ Date _____

Please complete and mail, with deposit of \$300 per person, (check or money order), made out to Military Historical Tours. (This deposit is fully refundable at anytime and for any reason, since there are more applicants than the limited amount of Revisit space available.) KWVA Revisit Program, c/o Military Historical Tours, Inc., 4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 Alexandria, VA 22304, Tel: 703-212-0695 Fax: 703-212-8567.

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

Background

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

KVA Eligibility

A. Korean War veterans and/or war correspondents of the 21 nations which came to the assistant of the Republic of Korea between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954.

B. Immediate family member of those killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are eligible to take a spouse or one immediate descendant with you.

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

Privileges Extended Courtesy of KVA

A. Hotel accommodations (2 persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation while in Korea for 6 days and 5 nights.

B. Tour of Seoul and its vicinity: itinerary includes visits of Panmunjom, North Korean

Invasion Tunnels, Korean War Memorial Monument, National Cemetery, National Museum, Korean Folk Village, Korean War Museum, plus other cultural/industrial facilities and activities in the Seoul area. (Other tours of battles sites and/or Inchon may be made through the local tour guide).

C. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korean War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran. (Who have not received it before!).

Miscellaneous

A. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

B. Participants are required to be in possession of a valid passport. (A visa is not required for visits to Korea of 15 days or less.)

C. KVA (Seoul) is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip insurance is available and recommended.

D. The cost of the airline ticket must be

borne by each individual visitor who will fly with the group.

E. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, First-serve" basis.

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

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

Mini-Reunions

Continued from page 21

14th Combat Eng Bn Association

Our President, Stanley Schwartz, of Mt Sterling, KY, a WWII and Korea vet, started this organization in 2000. We had our first reunion of 26 members in September of that year in St Louis, at which time our membership roster stood at 89 members, mostly Korea vets. Those attending insisted that the membership had to include veterans of all wars and peace periods in which the battalion was involved to insure a long life for the Association. They also insisted that the spouses/companions of the vets were to be involved in the affairs of the Association. This has led to a 96% attendance by those spouses/companions at all our reunions.

Our subsequent reunions were Branson, MO, in 2001, and Kansas City in 2002. For 2003 we were scheduled to go to Ft. Lewis, WA, as guests of the active duty Battalion. We had everything set up—hotel, buses, dinner, meeting places, tours etc. However, in January 2003 the Battalion received deployment orders to Iraq. We had to scramble to get into Branson for our 2003 Reunion. Our 2004 Reunion was in Louisville, KY, with 125 vets in attendance. The group comprised well over 225 people, including spouses and guests.

Right now our roster membership stands at 852 and grows every month, mainly with Viet Nam vets. We Korea vets are pushing them to take over the reins. Currently, about 60% of our officers and committee chairmen are Nam vets.

Our future reunions are: 2005—Des Moines, IA, September 8-11; 2006—Branson, MO; 2007—Memphis, TN:

Our membership covers all fifty states—and one in Japan. We picked up our first female member this year. She is still on active



14th Combat Engineers Battalion members, old and new

duty in Alaska. We have as members 12 of our past Bn. COs, two of whom are now of General rank. Our dues go mainly to put out four newsletters each year.

We are in close contact with our active duty Battalion. The CO & CSM both have always attended the reunions, except for the year they were in Iraq. Even so, LTC Clarence Turner called us from Iraq at 0200 their time to talk with our members at our banquet that Saturday night. He stated that they were fighting an enemy that does not wear a uniform. Sounds like Korea and Viet Nam all over again.

At this year's reunion we had five members of the Battalion with us.

We are all very proud of our Association and our time with the Battalion. You would be amazed how the vets of the various wars mesh and enjoy each other. Our common bond is the Battalion!!!

Robert F. Balcerzak (K 52/53), Association Secretary



26th A.A.A

Thirteen members of the 26th A.A.A. of the 24th Infantry Division gathered recently for a photo. All of them were shipped from Japan to Korea about July 4th or 5th, 1950. They all saw combat about July 12th, 1950.

As Frank Goff, who submitted the photo, recalled, "Our unit suffered about 85% casualties the first few months of the war. Thirty-four of our men were killed in action during the first ninety days of the war. Many of the survivors have died, and this group comprises all but 5 or 6 of the original group that shipped to Korea in early July 1950."

26th A.A.A. members Front Row (L-R): Joe Tomsic, Charles Beal, Gail Lippincott, Ed Fesko. Back Row (L-R): Lt. Col. John Grimes, Beryl Smith, Bill Earley, Bob Bickford, Frank Goff, Vernon Bolen, Jim Hird, Curtis Henderson, Berry Hemphill

25th Division ("Tropic Lightning") Signal Corp "Photo Section," 1951 – 1954

After a hiatus of 47 years, the "Photo Section" held its first reunion in Washington D. C. Since that get-together in 1999, the unit has met every year: in Kauai, Hawaii (2000), Branson, Missouri (2001), Tucson, Arizona (2002), Korean Revisit Program (2003), and Brookfield, Wisconsin (2004).



ABOVE: It's Miller Time: "Tropic Lightning" reunion attendees at a brewery visit in Milwaukee: (Standing L-R) Dick Wawrzyniak, Roy Pinzke, Jay Brown, Carlton Sauder, Hank Babel, Bob Eifert; (Seated L-R) Howard Baker, Rollee Berens, George Flinn, Steve Uyehara **RIGHT:** Same group of 25th Signal Photo members at their reunion banquet



279th Regiment, 45th Division



279th Regiment medics assemble at their Oklahoma reunion (Front Row L-R) Jerry Hanson, Frank Hechimovich, George Hechimovich, Corbin Beach, Lacy DeWitt, Dick Holmberg, Doc Beyer, Doc Lundblad (Back Row L-R) Tom Lambert, Warren Meeks, Bill Finke, Lee Williams, Nolen Harper, Tom Brookman, Bob Anderson, Wilburn McAfee

Members attended a reunion October 22-24, 2004, at the Western Hills Guest Ranch, Fort Gibson, OK. Medics are putting together a reunion in Green Bay, WI for sometime in 2005. They have also had reunions in The Dells, WI, South Padre Island, TX, and Virginia Beach VA. They have been trying to put together one in Maine, but it has not happened yet.

72nd Engineer Combat Company



72nd Engineer Combat members (L-R) Standing: J. D. Bolt, Fred Lembke, George Gilcrest, Jim Murphy, Edward Salvador, Bob Mount, Jones Irons, Lunie Prim. Seated: Loren Koistinen, Vic Smart, Verge Doepke, Art Winn, Dick Early

Unit members attended their 2004 reunion in Branson, MO. As Bob Mount reported, "Considering that the company consisted of 127 men and four officers when we left Hawaii for Korea in July 1950, I think it is wonderful that we still get a group of this size out for a reunion."

Last Call



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

ALABAMA

★ Langan, Joseph N.

CALIFORNIA

★ Everett, Robert
★ Holland, James

CONNECTICUT

★ Landers, William

FLORIDA

★ Bimholz, Jack
★ Geisler, Jerry Weaver
★ Judge, Michael P.
★ Moore, Frank
★ Perkins, John Joseph, Jr.
★ Roberts, Eugene
★ Shear, Frederick

HAWAII

★ Seto, Hiroshi

INDIANA

★ Littleton, Frank
★ Miller, Harry J.
★ Moelaun, Robert J.
★ Sutton, John L.

KANSAS

★ Mitchell, John R.

MAINE

★ Haskell, Robert R.

MASSACHUSETTS

★ Hamilton, James F.
★ Picknelly, Peter
★ Smolinsky, John D.

★ Walton, Roger H.

MICHIGAN

★ Lukosik, Anthony J.

MINNESOTA

★ Banach, Bernard K.

MISSOURI

★ Arnsler, Robert J.
★ Clark, Edward F., Jr.
★ Kurtz, Joseph A.
★ Matlock, Clyde M.
★ Morton, George E.
★ O'Guinn, Sherman L.
★ Smothers, Everett

NEVADA

★ Small, Edward L.

NEW YORK

★ Alburnio, Joseph
★ Farrago, Richard J.
★ Robinson, Robert

OHIO

★ Bennett, Clarence E.
★ Charvat, Robert
★ Feters, Robert P.
★ Gregory, Thomas J.
★ Kaufman, Walter F.
★ Tom, Tommy

WISCONSIN

★ Woit, James

A Lot On Our Plates—License Plates, That Is



ABOVE: I have noticed all of the Korean license plates on vehicles displayed through the years in *The Graybeards*. However, the plates in Colorado, through my observation at least, are the only ones that have the image of the Korean peninsula.

I was at K-47, Chunchon, Korea, 6147th Tactical Control Group, 5th Air Force, from August 1952 through July 1953. I was discharged in October 1954 with a rank of S/Sgt, having served 3 years and 9 months.

LEFT: Since the State of Florida does not have a license place specifically for Korean veterans, I designed one. Our Chapter (17) is selling them to members and friends as a fundraiser. Anyone interested in acquiring one can contact Robert G. Green, c/o Lt. Richard E. Cronan Chapter #17, Delray Beach, FL 33484

Missing Persons, USAF Info

From time to time we receive requests for addresses regarding MIAs. Recently, one came in for missing U.S. Air Force personnel. Here is the information for the US Air Force Missing Persons Office: 550 C Street West, Suite 15, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716; 1-800-531-5501, M/Sgt.Cheryl.Wells at cheryl.wells@randolph.af.mil

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____

Department/Chapter _____

Address _____

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

Other _____
Primary Unit of service during Korean War

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: Membership, P.O. Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210

Membership Application

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 10806, Arlington, VA 22210 (Telephone: 703-522-9629)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Assigned Membership Number: _____

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☐ New Member

☐ Renewal Member #

☐ POW No Charge

Must submit DD-214

Please Check One:

☐ **POW**

☐ **REGULAR MEMBER**

☐ **LIFE MEMBER**

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

(Please Print)

Name _____ Birth date _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

-All new members. please provide the following information-

Unit(s) to which Assigned

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Regiment _____

Battalion _____

Company _____

Other _____

Branch of Service

☐ Army Other

☐ Air Force

☐ Navy

☐ Marines

☐ Coast Guard

Dates of service within/without Korea were: *(See criteria below)*

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Make checks payable to: KWVA

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Credit Card # _____ ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualification of Members. Membership in this 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 to membership. 90% of members must be United States Veterans, 10% can be others

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,

6. **Gold Star Wives.** Any woman whose husband 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.

C. **Associate Members.** Any person with a legitimate interest in the affairs of this association and who wishes to support its aims, and not being eligible for regular membership and who agrees to accept the terms and conditions set forth in the charter and bylaws shall be eligible for associate membership in the association.

WEB PAGE: WWW.KWVA.ORG

Road to the Front Line



Hills and rice paddies at the M.L.R. – Jamestown Line –June 1952

Photo courtesy of Glenn Ed White, 1005 Chase Way, Benton, LA 71006 (318) 965-0268

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