

The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

43 – KANSAS CITY MISSOURI #2 [MO]

Paul Wolfgeher and Bob Jones made their annual 1st Quarter of the school year trip to Lawson [MO] High School. This year Mr. Boswell had three history classes, so they had to be there for the second-hour class. After that, they ate lunch with the school teachers and finished the day with the third- and fourth-hour classes.

It was a long day for both veterans, but as usual they enjoyed the experience.

They are already looking forward to next year's session.

Robert R. Jones, Apt. 28, 13975 E 35th St., Independence, MO 64055, 816-836-0969 (H) 816-809-0123 (C), bobjones73rdtkbn@yahoo.com



Paul Wolfgeher, Kelsey Boswell, and Bob Jones (L-R) at Lawson High School

Paul Wolfgeher (L) and Bob Jones of Ch 43 speak to class at Lawson High School



49 – OCEAN COUNTY [NJ]

On May 16, 2013, three members spoke to two separate groups of seniors at Toms River High School South, Ocean County, NJ, with the help of history teacher Jeff Schenker.

Students heard from Nick Troici and his experience as an Army Medic in Korea, the many wounded Soldiers to whom he attended, and the men he lost in his outfit.

Roy Hendra, an Army Corps engineer, spoke about the extreme

cold weather and how brutal the North Korean and Chinese soldiers were. As he explained, many young Chinese soldiers did not have proper winter shoes or gear.

Norm Persing, a Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant, told students he joined the Marines after 33 Soldiers from his small town in Wilkes-Barre PA were killed in a train wreck. They were headed to California to be shipped off to Korea. Thirty-three men he knew

died without firing a shot.

Commander Tony Grace, a Navy radioman, set up a small practice telegraph key and explained to students the Morse Code and the dots and dashes used in communication (now called texting.)

Commander Tony Grace, 34 Cabrillo Blvd., Toms River NJ 08757

NOTE: Here is a brief account of the train accident GySgt Persing mentioned:

109th FA Battalion Train Wreck: Thirty-three members of two batteries of 109th Field Artillery Battalion were killed and about two score others were seriously

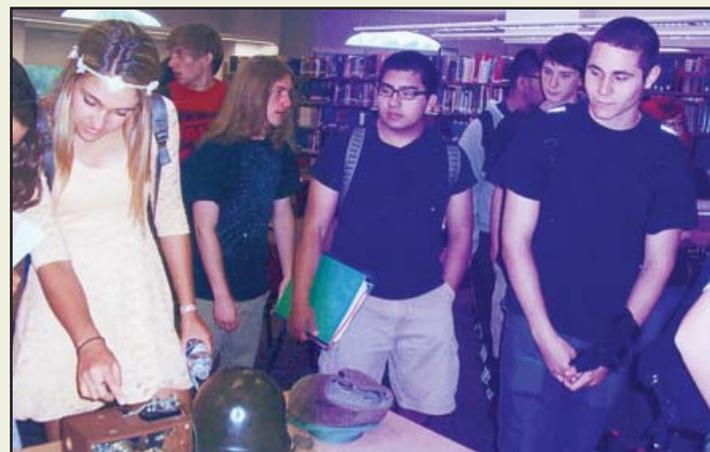
injured early on the morning of September 11, 1950, when the rear of their troop train was rammed by a crack Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train near West Lafayette, O. In addition, many soldiers of 109th Infantry from Lackawanna and Wayne Counties and other 109th Artillery men suffered injuries in the crash, a total of 278, the ICC reported.

For the total story, go to <http://coshoctonfire.org/troop-train-accident/>

If anyone remembers that accident, please share your memories with *The Graybeards* editor at 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.



Students at Toms River High School listen to presenters from Ch 49



Toms River High students view artifacts displayed by Ch 49 members



Nick Troici, Tony Grace, history teacher Jeff Schenker, Roy Hendra, Norm Persing, Mike Simkovich (L-R) at Ch 49's presentation

54 – THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

We held a presentation at Williamstown High School, in Williamstown NJ on April 11th for the JR ROTC AIR FORCE. To our surprise, one of the cadets was a relative of General Douglas MacArthur. Her name is Ashley MacCarter. She is Great Great Granddaughter of the General.

Andy Jackson, captjack71@com-cast.net

Fred Connolly of Ch 54, dressed in the fatigue uniform of the 1950s, and Ashley MacCarter



60 – ADIRONDACK [NY]

Members Visit Fort Edward New York High School

On May 30, 2013, seven members visited Fort Edward [NY] High School, where they were warmly welcomed by Mr. Peter Prindle of the History Department and other staff members. Introduced by Robert Garland, chairman of the chapter's program, the veterans stood and saluted the students, then spoke to them in turn about the war in Korea and their personal experiences while serving there.

Each of the veterans, many of whom wore Combat Infantry Badges, had interesting stories to tell. Paul Garcia emphasized the extremely high casualties borne by the forces of the United States particularly, but also by the many other countries involved under the United

Nations. Ed Bushey, a recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor, was applauded by the audience when he stood.

The audience of about 30 students was very respectful and attentive, and graciously applauded each veteran when he spoke. The students examined with great interest artifacts which the veterans brought. They engaged many of the veterans in conversation when the program concluded.

The school staff was particularly cooperative. Mr. Prindle went out of his way in extending utmost courtesy to the members and helped in the planning with Mr. Garland. This visit was a very positive experience for all concerned.

Robert Garland, 35 A Cass Ct., Ballston Lake NY 12019



Presenters from Ch 60 talk to students at Ft. Edward High School



Students at Ft. Edward High School listen attentively to Ch 60 presenters

131 - NORTHWEST OHIO [OH]

Tell America Program Scholarship Award

We awarded our annual \$1,000 college scholarship to Anthony Wayne High School graduating senior Spencer King. To be eligible in our Tell America program, applicants are required to participate in the Korean War research

project and complete a 250~word essay explaining their lasting impression of the veteran, the Korean War's role in American history, and its impact on global democracy.

Mr. King's essay:

As many people today know, North Korea is a very hostile and controversial country. Since it is under a communist government there are very few, if any, freedoms and they strongly resist the United Nations. This resentment and harsh attitude can be traced back to the 1950's and the Korean War; which many people see as a failure. Although overall North Korea remained a communist threat, the Korean War was ultimately a success due to moral and political views obtained in Korea.

Before the Korean War the UN used very little jurisdiction or power rendering it almost useless, but after Korea things changed. The act of the UN joining the side of South Korea showed that they were not just going to let communism and its oppression take over the world; the UN decided to stand up for its beliefs. This gave other countries the hope that they were not alone in the struggle for freedom. Even during the war the UN Forces greatly enhanced their fighting skills giving them more military power in the future. By the end of the conflict the UN and North Korea were at a bloody stalemate, but out of the stalemate came

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a free and democratic South Korea. North Korea may have remained communist but the UN protected its ally and ultimately achieved its goal. The United Nations came out of the Korean War with more power and a better foundation therefore it can be considered a successful military venture.

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138 – AKRON REGIONAL [OH]

We have visited five high schools in the region this year: Barberton, Northridge, Chippewa, Springfield, and Manchester. We have presented the Tell America Program to approximately 650 students in these five high schools, and had three more schools scheduled for April and May.

We have been to these schools in previous years and the program has been well received and they have asked us to return next year. The students are really interested in learning about the Korean War.

Carl L. Canon, 4512 Conestoga Trl., Copley, OH 44321



Ch138 presenters at Barberton High School: Rob Walker (history teacher, seated); (Standing, L-R) Carl Thornton, Don George, Ken Cheatem (Barberton, Ohio Police Department), Harvey Thorla, Carl Canon



Presenters from Ch 138 at Northridge High School (L-R) Arnon Cool, Carl Canon, Jeramey Maxa (history teacher), Harvey Thorla



Team from Ch 138 at Chippewa High School (L-R) Carl Canon, Don George, Steve Lipak (history teacher), Arnon Cool, Harvey Thorla



Group of Ch 138 presenters at Springfield High School (L-R) Bill Niebuhr, Carl Canon, Matt Graves (history teacher), Carl Thornton

183 – NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

On March 26, 2013, three members presented a program on the Korean War to three history classes as Omaha's Westside High School. About 250 students were in the auditorium.

Our three presenters were Dale Griffiths, who served with KMAG, chapter president Bill Christensen, who served with the 25th Inf. Div PIO as a combat correspondent,

and Dennis Pavlik, a former POW who served with the Triple Nickel FA Bn (555).

The commentator was Nate Brimely, a Vietnam vet who is a history teacher at Westside High.

William L. Christensen, 23520 Cheyenne Cir., Gretna, NE 68028, 402-332-4841, chri-wl@msn.com



Moderators Dale Griffiths, Dennis Pavlik, and Bill Christensen of Ch 183 at Tell America presentation



Attentive students at Ch 183's presentation

195 – QUEEN CITY [CO]

On April 18, 2013, Bob Brockish and I participated in the annual “Oral History Day” at Thornton High School, Thornton, CO. On this day Thornton High School invites veterans to come in and share with the students their experiences of being in the military service. Their accounts provide a great opportunity to “Tell America” about Korea, especially with the current events in Korea.

Bob and I have prepared “Power Point” presentations separately and we covered five sessions. The sessions were back to back in selected classrooms for fifty minutes each.

Our presentations are similar. They began with the geographical location of Korea and some early

history of the people and culture. That was followed by the roots of the war, beginning with events in the early 20th Century, especially in the aftermath of WWII. That flowed naturally into the creation of the two governments on the Korean Peninsula and the war.

The presentation concluded with the human cost of the war and the contrasts of South Korea then and now.

This “Oral History Day” has been a very successful school event for sixteen years, and has been highly regarded by the participating students.

Bill Baldaccini, 6 Manzanita, Littleton, CO 80127, 303-904-2318



Bob Brockish (L) and Bill Baldaccini of Ch 195 at Thornton (CO) High School

251 – SAGINAW/FRANKENMUTH [MI]

At the Michigan Association of Broadcasters 2013 Awards Ceremony recently held in Lansing, MI., Delta College’s Q-TV received a Broadcast Excellence Award for its locally produced documentary, *The Korean War—Voices From The 38th Parallel*, which tells stories of local Korean War veterans.

Twenty-three veterans from throughout the Great Lakes Region in Michigan were interviewed for the documentary, which premiered in September 2013 and was aired again on May 14th. Twelve members from Ch 251 participated on this documentary.



Lois Simon, Ch 251 historian

The Pentagon Channel will broadcast “Voices from the 38th Parallel” to 2.6 million members

of the U.S. armed forces and 34 million homes via cable and satellite. The members of Ch 251 are proud of a job well done—and may God bless our troops!

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Tr., Saginaw, MI. 48603, (989) 792-3718

313 - SHENANDOAH VALLEY [VA]

Members participated in two “Living History” days at schools in Loudoun County, VA in April. The first was at Harper Park Middle School on April 9th; the second was on April 17th, at Mercer Middle School.

The format for the day was the same in both schools. Veterans from several wars were invited and there was a good crowd at both events. Each veteran was assigned a student guide who led him to the classroom where he would be seated at a table along with another veteran from another war. Each of us would tell our story and open the session for questions.

The students were very perceptive in their inquiries, which made

for a lively discussion. The program lasted the whole school day, with an exchange of students every 25 minutes. At noon a delicious meal was served and pictures were taken with our guide for the school web page. Local businesses support the program with contributions of various kinds.

This is the second year we have participated in this “Living History Day.” We always make a hit with our blue jackets. Several of us bring small picture albums and pass them around in the sessions to help encourage questions about our service.

Jack Keep, 3416 Mountain Rd., Front Royal, VA 22630, 540-631-9213



Ch 313 members at Mercer Middle School (L-R) Commander Chuck Bachman, Narce Caliva, Leonard Laconia, Edgar Tufts, Jack Keep, Billy Scott

Have a Mini-Reunion? Dedicating a Memorial? Attending a Banquet

Send your photos and a short write-up to *The Graybeards* editor for publication!

Mail to Art Sharp, Editor, Korean War Veterans Association, 152 Sky View Drive., Rocky Hill, CT 06067