

Dear hero of my nation,

How do you do? I'm very thrilled to be writing to you. I'm a 12 year old South Korean boy whose name is Moon Jiwon. As you know, your actions were incredible and were shockingly vital to the lives of the ancestors of the current South Korean citizens. I'm grateful to you for fighting for my country. I can hardly imagine warfare. The pain. The anxiety.

On children's day this year, I got scalded in an incident at a park. I was ready to eat some ramen, which my mom had just prepared. I moved my left leg to get more comfortable, accidentally tipping over a Styrofoam bowl containing boiling hot soup. I just buried my head in my hands in embarrassment, oblivious of the boiling hot soup which was making its way over to my foot. As you might guess, my foot



was badly scalded. It was extremely painful and my foot is healing even as I write.

My point is, it was very painful. I'm sure that you've gained an injury or two during the war, so I think you and other Korean War veterans have suffered from lots of pain. Certainly much more pain than my scalded foot by far. I shudder at the thought. Yet, mental illness has yet to be stated. I would like to tell you a story about my great uncle who related to it before passing away.

My great uncle was a Vietnam War veteran that was in the South Korean navy. What he saw during the brutal war was more than he could take. Innocent people were being tortured or killed. He had to kill his enemies, soldiers who he had never



even met before, much less had a grudge against. When the war ended, he came back home, lived a short, unhappy life, and died an unpleasant death. His family dealt with a lot of grief, for he had a wife and two children. I'm sure you were in the same shoes as my great uncle.

Korean War veterans like you had left their families, left their nations, gave up their dreams, to protect the souls of foreign soil halfway around the world. To go to war and get a mental illness is a very bad deal. However, your actions were not gone to waste. Look at me! I'm safe right now because of what you did more than half a century ago. I'm sorry if you are suffering from mental illnesses. I am grateful to you for your sacrifices, I really am! You are a great inspiration to me, therefore I will gladly fight for my country. Now I have some questions



for you. Please answer them in your mind.

What were your family's last words before you went off to war? Were you willing to go? What kind of injuries did you take during the war? What kind of army were you in? (US Army, the Navy, the Airforce, etc...)  
What came into your mind whenever you needed to shoot somebody? If you answer these questions, I would be much obliged. I wish you a fantastic day!

Yours faithfully, Moon Jiwon.





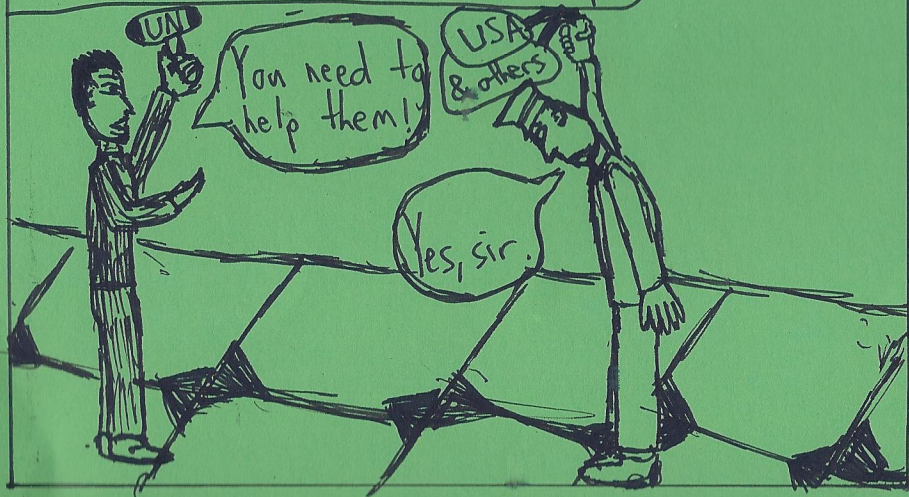
The N. Koreans invaded the South in 1950



South Korea is nearly defenceless. People run for their lives.



The United Nations send soldiers to South Korea to help.

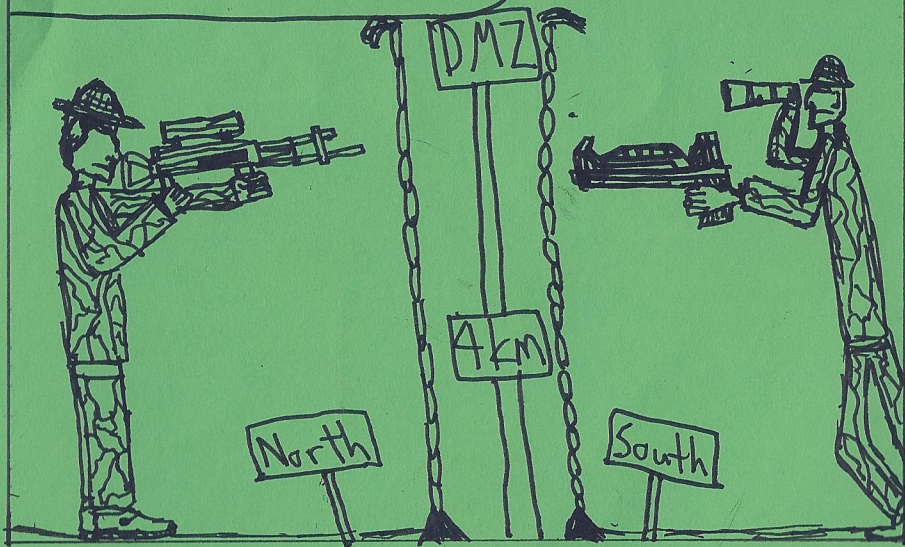


There were three years of fierce fighting.





The DMZ was established and peace came to both Koreas.



By then, South Korea was in ruins.



Many decades later, we can see now a great country much different from before.



Now I'm living, enjoying childhood. Think of all the lives you've helped create. I hope you've enjoyed that. I've done that to remind you how much you've helped me and other Koreans.



by Moon Jiwon