

America's Forgotten Victory!

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

May - June 2007



Vol. 21, No. 3

2007 KWVA Election Results
Page 15

The Graybeards

Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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



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From the President

Louis T. Dechert



On January 1, 2006, New Year's Day, I prepared a state of the organization report to our membership and it was inserted in *The Graybeards* magazine. This had never happened before in our Association's history. One might have expected that veterans working together for the good of our Order—and for its future—would have been glad to get such a report. Sadly, our experience was that your officers and directors were loudly castigated by a small number of bitter members for making the report.

All manner of insults were directed at your President for giving you a truthful report. The President was castigated by one critic for "politicking"—whatever that is—and "publishing his resume!" The situation reminded some of us of the old saying, "Don't confuse me with facts; my mind is made up!"

Be that as it may, as I began my final term of office after a large majority victory last June, I resolved that we would continue to follow the principles by which we have been proceeding—and by which Bill Norris founded this association many years ago.

This report is up front, in the open, frank and truthful to the best of our ability to make it so.

2004-2005 Objectives

Three years ago, as we were campaigning for office, the following objectives were announced—some later called them "campaign promises." If that is what they were, then they were our only campaign promises.

- 100% legal audit
- Restoration of legal Bylaws
- Redress of grievances
- *The Graybeards* improvement
- Increasing efforts to obtain Federal Charter
- Bylaws reform, to include management procedures reform

By the end of 2005, every one of those objectives had been attained or was under way to completion. The only debatable exception was the matter of an audit, which was—and still is—the responsibility

Because of years of neglect and plain mismanagement of membership affairs—including some sixty (60) phantom chapters and departments—we have been forced during all of 2006 and this year so far into deleting thousands of members.

ty of the Budget and Finance Committee.

As most members know, we found few if any records when we came into office. This meant that an inordinate amount of time was required to attempt the first audit. The good news is that the investment of time and effort in the initial audit made the accomplishment of subsequent audits faster and timely.

It is a great pleasure to announce that the first two annual audits are completed and will be presented to the Board of Directors at the scheduled meeting in July 2007. And, the third year's audit is well underway and may be completed shortly thereafter. Our financial affairs have never been in better order, which we will demonstrate later in this report.

2006 Objectives

The 2005 Review and Resolution Report concluded with the following objectives announced for 2006 and following:

- Increase national respect
- Obtain a Federal Charter
- Increase Accountability at every level
- Concentrate attention on Good for the Order
- Renew our focus on the 56 years of sacrifice in Korea
- Remember those who did not return home alive
- Honor our Korean allies

THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA

DEFEND our Nation
CARE for our Veterans
PERPETUATE our Legacy
REMEMBER our Missing and Fallen
MAINTAIN our Memorial
SUPPORT a free Korea

- Restore, maintain, and honor our National Memorial

These became the focus of all our efforts and will continue to be through 2007 and 2008.

Summary Overview (As of June 14, 2007)

The Board approved a new investment strategy at Bossier City, October 2005. This was near the same time that the markets started falling. The fact is that nearly two years later we have realized significantly increased value and we thank and commend Treasurer Richard Hare, Accountant Boyle Henderson, and our AG Edwards agents. This team had done exceedingly well for us even before the last few weeks of stock market record gains.

We also had a very successful and unique fund raiser, authorized by the membership at Bossier City, October 2005. Sadly, for doing so we (the membership, since you authorized it) have been virtually assaulted by a small number of troublemakers and outside "wannabes" who have subsequently attacked the members for authorizing, conducting, and successfully completing the fund-raiser. Their aim was to destroy the favorable financial condition and outlook of the organization. They even engaged in the despicable act, as members, of writing congressional representatives to smear the organization and to stifle the consideration of a federal charter for our deserving members.

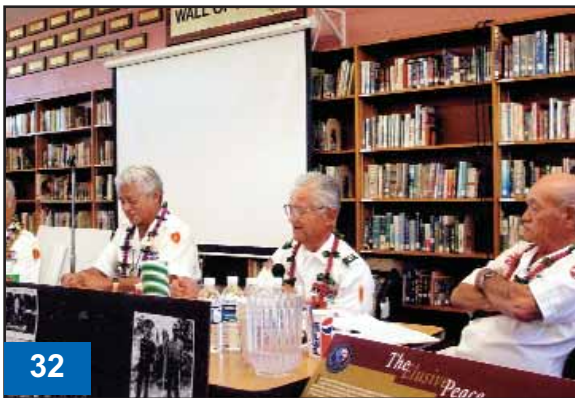
Their efforts cost every member money as increased accounting, corresponding, telephoning, and legal expenses resulted. Nevertheless, our financial condition has significantly increased. We can remember that when we assumed office—and for the first ninety days or so thereafter—our bal-

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COVER: Radioman: Korean War Memorial, Washington DC.
Photo by George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Cir., Fond du Lac, WI 54937



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PRESIDENT from page 3

ance was around \$76,000. As of April 28, 2007, our balance was \$524,128.33! The conclusion—the facts—is obvious.

We plan on additional fund-raisers for the next two years, as directed by the membership, and look forward to continually improving our financial “bottom line.”

Now, let’s take a closer look at what has happened in recent years.

Basically, there were 3 or 4 men spending all the money and doing all the travel when we took office—and doing what little administration was being done. We now have a full volunteer staff of some forty individuals. (You may view the list at any time on the website, www.kwva.org. Click on ‘Directory Of Officials’ at the top menus bar. A shorter list appears inside the front cover of each issue of *The Graybeards*.) The KWVA has a world class website and a Management Information System (MIS) without equal—there was neither when we came in.

The KWVA has seen a steady increase in the quality, content, and coverage of *The Graybeards*—simply and superlatively the best.

The KWVA enlisted significant increases in first-time members in each of the years 2005 and 2006. The increases continue due to the efforts of Director Jeff Brodeur, the Membership Committee, Webmaster Jim Doppelhammer, Mrs. William Weber (Annelie), and our formal office operation in Alexandria, VA (authorized by the Executive Council, February 2004 and implemented by this administration in November 2006).

The KWVA’s transformation into a veterans service organization made significant steps as JD Randolph’s outstanding

organization and management of the VAVS programs increased our hours up to almost the million hours mark. The National Service Officer, Art Hills, completed the VSO training course, which was equivalent to continuing education credits for attorneys and paralegals. He became the first formal KWVA graduate—and at no cost at all to the KWVA. Thank you, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), which paid for his mileage, hotel costs, and training!

Gathering Of Eagles

I completed the arrangements for Art Hills’ training while in DC on the freezing day of March 17, as a former SF comrade Henry Cook, MOPH Senior Vice Commander, and I were shivering around each other guarding our Memorials as screeching and wailing people were booming away from the anti-war protestors rally area at the Lincoln Memorial. KWVA members B. J. Scott and Joe Genduso, and Special Forces veteran Gayle “Beau” Bovee and his wife, Vicki Lee Bovee—Gathering of Eagles Marshals—stood the cold watch with us all that day. John Penman, from South Carolina, was en route to take part when airport closures turned him around. Colonel Bill Weber also planned to attend, but the bitter cold made it unwise for him to do so.

A member of Bill’s KWV Memorial Foundation Board, Edward Borchardt, was also in the area. Like Penman, Director Jeff Brodeur was en route until a terrorist blew up his son Vincent in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Special Mentions

I cannot adequately describe the significant impact that Annelie Weber, Jim Doppelhammer, Jeff Brodeur, Jake Feaster, and Warren Wiedhahn have had on our

improved membership receipts (our major source of cash-flow)—especially Jim. His fervent brainpower resulted in the contacting of the old drop-outs and “in-actives” with significant impact on revenues (this year). That program, along with sending welcome letters and kits, were things which I directed the then membership office to do over two years ago.

Jeff’s efforts in membership have accounted for the input of about 100 new members a month for going on two years now. One might ask (as some critics have tried to do), “Then, with all the positive (though not yet maximum) impact that Jeff, Jim, *et al*, have had, why did our membership not increase more steeply?” The answer to that lies mainly in Jake Feaster’s area of operations.

Because of years of neglect and plain mismanagement of membership affairs—including some sixty (60) phantom chapters and departments—we have been forced during all of 2006 and this year so far into deleting thousands of members. Some of the members involved died as long ago as 1994! Many deceased members also came to light during the fundraising campaign.

Without the combined and parallel efforts of the members and/or employees receiving this special mention, all going on at the same time as we were forced to update the membership lists, we would be in a BIG MESS! The fact is, right now our real membership count of actual living veterans is the largest it has been in the past six years—hundreds of unrecorded (and thus un-honored) deaths have been properly recorded as such on the rolls. That situation was a disgrace.

There is another aspect of membership which I need to note, and to which I must alert all of the membership. For the better part of three years everyone paying attention has heard Jake Feaster and me talking about “accreditation.” In simplest terms, accreditation means that all of the Bylaw and Standard Procedure Manual requirements for membership have been met: [1] every chapter member is a national member (exceptions were made for “members” pre-October 5, 2005), [2] every chapter has at least 12 regular members in good

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *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

standing, [3] every chapter and department is conducting and reporting required elections. Additional supporting documentation that the accreditation requirements are satisfied are copies of charters, petitions, bylaws, and state incorporations on file at the National Office.

Again, in simplest terms, any unaccredited chapter and department, and all non-national members, will be excluded from the KWVA when it is awarded a federal charter. Why is this so? Because the federal charter is awarded to an organization, after federal audit, and not to a collection of “hangers on” who are not legally a valid part of the organization receiving the federal charter.

After almost three years we still have departments with hundreds of members claimed who in actuality can document only sixty or so members in three or maybe four actual chapters of the many chapters claimed. Even the Treasurers handling the funds are not KWVA members in some chapters. This situation will not be allowed to accompany this organization into federal recognition status.

I also need to relate that we have been in a bitter, unnecessary struggle and the good guys—the **great majority of our members**—have not completely won yet. But thank you for what we have done—and remember to thank those who went above and beyond who I have mentioned. I think it not insignificant that several of these men—Jim, Jeff, Jake—received the President’s Outstanding Member of the Year Award last year (along with Charley Price and Martin O’Brien). I got that—and a lot of other things—right!

We thank and praise the 2005-2006 Fund Raising Team, comprising Charley Price, Jim Ferris, Bill Mac Swain, Boyle Henderson, and Dick Hare, who have been so unfairly wracked by some bitter critics.

We also experienced some of the costs of war as the son of one of our directors suffered critical traumatic brain injury and other wounds in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We pray for his complete healing and that of the others carrying on in the victory tradition which our oldest members established in Korea, 1950-1953. **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!**

Louis T Dechert
National President
and Chairman of the Board

KWVA Standard Procedure Manual Available At KWVA Website

Prepared by the Bylaws Committee, William F. Mac Swain, Chairman

Adopted by the Board of Directors on October 10, 2006

Revised and Approved by the Board of Directors May 5, 2007

The SPM is now available at www.KWVA.org. Here are the instructions once you get there. (Note: For PDF files or Word documents, click the link to open, OR Right-Click and select “Save Target As” to download to your local machine)

File sizes will be indicated on LARGE files over 1 Meg... Click [HERE](#) for download time guide
To view PDF Files, you will need the FREE PDF viewer... Click [HERE](#) for more PDF information
[Webmaster note: sometimes Word documents when opened will bring up a Logon/Password box... just click “Cancel”... this is normal due to what I call a “quirk” with Word and security settings on Windows Web servers - Word “thinks” it needs to log into the website to edit the document. Canceling does not affect the viewing.]

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. 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.

Make checks out to KWVA, Support of *The Graybeards*, or to KWVA with a note in the memo (Or “for”) section at the bottom of the check “Support of *The Graybeards*.” Every donation will be acknowledged in *The Graybeards*.

Send checks to KWVA Treasurer Richard E. Hare, 1260 Southampton Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303.

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Bob Boucart	Belgium	2d Bn serving with honor	
Donald W. Bourg	PA	during Sept. 1950- Aug. 1951	
Abel S. Cravalho	HI	Ted L. Maloy	TX
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Special Report: KWVA Management Information System

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR KWVA MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Here's how to determine when your dues expire and how much to pay.

Look at the mailing label on the back of this issue of *The Graybeards*. The date that your dues will or has expired appears on the label on the first line to the right of your member number.

Sample of dues expiration dates: "01/01/2008"—this means your dues will expire on January 1, 2008. If the date is "06/30/2007," your dues expired or will expire on June 30, 2007.

Your membership number is just above your first name. If the first letter is "R" or "C," you are a Regular Member who pays annual dues and this is currently \$25.00.

Some of you have your dues expiring, other than at the beginning of the calendar year. Our KWVA Bylaws states that after the first year of membership, dues are prorated so that dues expire at the first of the year. To show this, they are prorated by the quarter of a year, such that:

- If your renewal date is January thru March, your dues are\$25.00
- If your renewal date is April thru June, your dues are\$18.75
- If your renewal date is July thru September, your dues are \$12.50
- If your renewal date is October thru December, your dues are ..\$6.25

If the first letter is "A" you are an "Associate" member who pays dues annually and currently annual dues are \$12.00. Therefore:

- If your renewal date is January thru March, your dues are\$12.00
- If your renewal date is April thru June, your dues are.....\$9.00
- If your renewal date is July thru September, your dues are\$6.00
- If your renewal date is October thru December, your dues are ..\$3.00

All other beginning member number prefixes are either Life Members, who paid the required amount or they are members that are exempt from dues payment, according to the Bylaws.

Life Membership:

Life membership for a dues-paying "Regular Member" is based on age and the schedule is found on page 12 of this *Graybeards* magazine. This schedule can also be located on the Membership application form, found on a link of the KWVA website homepage on the left-hand side at the bottom of the membership section.

Special Notice: If your chapter collects your national dues for transmission to the KWVA membership office, please send your dues to your chapter. This will assist your chapter in processing your dues payment.

Dues are to be paid PRIOR to the expiration date, if possible, in order to reduce the administrative cost of notification of unpaid dues.

Be sure to include your membership number on the lower left corner of your check. If you do not belong to a chapter or if your chapter does not collect your national dues, send your dues payment directly to:

KWVA Membership Office
PO Box 22859
Alexandria, VA 22304-9285

Incidentally, if you move or are away during the winter or summer for any length of time, notify the Membership Office of your address change at least three weeks ahead of each move. This will

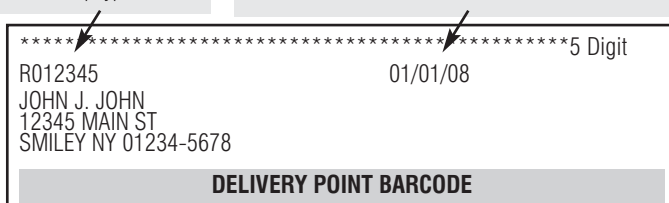
help to assure that there is not an interruption in the delivery of your *Graybeards* magazine. You may make this notification by: (1) Email: Membership@kwva.org; (2) Phone: 703-461-0061; or (3) FAX: 703-461-0062

Jake Feaster, LR13771, Supervisor
Management Information System
JFeaster@kwva.org HPh: 352-466-3493
Cell Ph: 352-262-1845, FAX: 775-242-8113

Check Your mailing label

Check your name and address (Apt./Bldg/Lot No.). Notify the

Membership Number First two characters reflect membership type
Membership Dues Expiration Date. The example shows a dues date of January 1st, 2008



Membership Office if you find an error. If your zip code does not contain 9 digits (zip+4), your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Important: If barcode does not extend across full label, your zip code does not have 9 digits and your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.

Mini Recruiting and Membership Report

(Data current as of 5/21/2007)

Recruited New Members*

This Month (May)	Year To Date
51	444
Last Year (5/19/2006)	92
	651

*2006 Average: 123 New Members per Month

Total Membership Count

Active Voting Members	Active Members
16321	16814
Last Year (5/19/2006)	17103
	17551

ANNUAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS GATHERING

DATE:24 – 28 July 2007

PLACE:Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, MD

24 July: Registration Begins at 1 p.m.

27 July: Ceremony on the Mall at 10 a.m.

27 July: Memorial Service at Arlington Cemetery: 2 p.m.

For information, registration form, call Chairman Jack Cloman at (410) 676-1388 or email connienjack@msn.com



Museums Of The Mind©

Betsy and I have a penchant for visiting military museums. Some are good, some are “so so,” and some, like the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA, are great. Only one, however, has ever sent a literal shiver up my spine or made me want to applaud. It’s in the Korean War exhibit at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA (near Quantico).

We stopped at the museum en route to Connecticut from Beaufort, South Carolina in April. We intended to stay for a short while just to get a feel for its layout. After all, we had a lot of ground to cover that day. But, as is our wont when we visit museums, we stayed a lot longer than we planned. I daresay we will return.

Of particular interest to us was the Korean War exhibit. It is one of three major exhibits. (There are numerous others.) The other two cover the WWII and Vietnam eras. There is one room in the Korean War exhibit that depicts the conditions at Chosin Reservoir. We could not help but feel a chill in there. That’s not by accident.

The room is kept cool deliberately to give visitors some sort of

an idea of the cold conditions at the reservoir. Granted, no one needs a parka, boots, etc, to stay warm. But, the cold is only part of the drama of the exhibit.

The sound and lighting effects in the room are deafening and blinding. Until we stepped into that room, we had experienced only one similar cacophony. That was at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. (Incidentally, that is another museum everyone should put on their list of places to visit. It is right off I-95, about ten miles north of Savannah, GA.) There is an exhibit there that allows visitors to get a feel for an actual bombing run over Europe in WWII.

The noise, the lights of exploding “ack ack” fire, the roar of the plane’s engines (all simulated, of course), the screaming back and forth of the plane’s crew over the intercom, and the rest of the experience are exhilarating. One docent, who had actually been an Eighth Air Force member during WWII, told us it was the closest thing to a real bombing mission he could remember, and he had made several of them while in combat. The “Chosin” experience surpasses that exhibit, however.

The voices of the life-sized Marines and Corpsmen in the exhibit convey the

tension and downright panic that they must have felt as bombs and bullets fell around them. We could almost feel the frigid conditions under which they were operating as day changed to night in the room. So could the other people in the room, judging by their comments.

Granted, Betsy and I had a bit of an advantage over some of the visitors based on our work with the KWVA and our past conversations with many Marines, Corpsmen, and soldiers who were at Chosin. (The exhibit does not go into great detail about the Army’s participation in the battle, but it is mentioned in some of the descriptions. Remember, though, this is the National Museum of the Marine Corps.) We understood why the room was so cold, and we had to stifle a chuckle when one visitor said to her companions, “I have to get out of here; it’s too chilly.” I am betting a lot of the participants in the battle said the same thing, but did not have the luxury of just walking away.

We stood there in silent tribute to the troops who struggled to survive in the cold, harsh conditions of the Chosin Reservoir. We tried to put ourselves in

RIGHT: A rare glimpse inside the main atrium of the National Museum of the Marine Corps shows the 210-foot spire rising toward the top of the museum, surrounded by construction scaffolding and a visitors’ viewing platform.

Photo by: Lawrence Giberson

FAR RIGHT: The National Museum of the Marine Corps’ spire is modeled after the famous flag-raising on Iwo Jima. This architectural rendering with the flag-raising superimposed is used to illustrate the design of the spire.

Photo by: Fentress Bradburn Architects



their places. Understandably, we could not. There is no way that pumping cold air into a museum exhibit or simulating artillery fire and depicting destroyed equipment and wounded warriors can give visitors a true picture of what the combatants truly went through. What the exhibit does do—and does well—is provide visitors with the knowledge that there was a Korean War, and that Americans and their allies paid a heavy price for their participation in it.

I overheard one young man ask his parents, “When was the Korean War?”

“Not sure,” said his father. “I’m not even sure who we were fighting whenever it was.”

Well, that is understandable. After all, it is the “Forgotten War.” But, it may not be forgotten for long if enough people visit the Korean War exhibit at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. And, if visitors go through the other exhibits as well, they might learn that many of their predecessors fought and died for their freedom—that very same freedom that allows them to stroll through a military museum in relative safety to learn something about their past and hopefully their future, without paying a cent.

There is no cost for anyone to enter the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The United States Marines—and their counterparts in the other armed forces—have already paid the price. Many of them have paid the ultimate price: their lives.

The museums I have mentioned in this column tell the story of when and where U.S. military personnel have fought and sometimes died. Hopefully, folks will leave them—and other military museums elsewhere—with the stories of their sacrifices embedded firmly in their minds and pass them on.

After all, it doesn’t matter where those memories of the museums reside. Museums of the Marine Corps and museums of the minds are one and the same—as long as the memories contained in both are passed on to provide current and future generations with the real story of how their freedom has been bought and paid for.

Contents of this editorial copyrighted by Arthur G. Sharp©. Photos courtesy of the USMC

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

A Tip Regarding Photos

Look at the “Before and After” photos nearby. (They are slightly exaggerated to make a point.) Are you able to identify the subject as Tommy Tourist at the WWII

Sometimes the removal process of the post-it or masking tape or whatever is used results in severe facial disfigurement of the photo. So, the photo editor’s request is simple: if you attach captions to photos submitted for publication, please do not attach them to the fronts of them. The key word there is “attach.”

Again, we have to pull these notes off the photos. These adhesives do leave residue on the photos sometimes, no matter how careful we are.



ABOVE: Tommy Tourist with caption on front (email)

RIGHT: Tommy Tourist after caption is removed



Memorial in Washington DC? In the “Before” photo, you can. There is a “Post it” on his face that identifies him and where he is. That is sometimes the way photos arrive here at Graybeards Central. They have post-its, masking tape, staples....all kinds of foreign objects on them to apply captions.

Okay, you are asking, “What is the problem? All you have to do is remove the post-it, masking tape, staples, nails, brads, glue, fish oil....” Therein lies the problem.

In some cases we inadvertently remove various subjects’ appendages, provide GI haircuts, and otherwise mar the photos. Unfortunately, we do not have a “Photo MASH” unit available to repair the damage. And, the older the photo, the more likely we are to damage it.

Please: if you are going to attach notes to the photos, place them on the backs. That way we will only damage the backs of the subjects’ heads when we remove the notes, and you will never see what went wrong.

PASSPORT REMINDER

Pay attention to the dates on your passports. Remember, you need them for all international travel, including for our own “Revisit Program” to Korea. Check to make sure yours has not expired. If you don’t have a valid passport, you won’t be able to board that plane or ship.

Passports issued prior to February of 2007 were for 10 years. So, if your passports are dated 1997 or earlier, they have expired, or are about to expire. Furthermore, if you are just now applying for a new passport, be prepared to wait. Partly because of the new anti-terrorism measures, and partly because of sheer volume, it takes a long time.

The passport offices are taking at least 3-4 months to renew or issue new passports through conventional sources such as the US Post Office. There are expedited services, but they can be very expensive.

You may have heard of special exceptions for the summer, and yes, a valid driver’s license will be workable for re-entry into the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean—but only **IF YOU CAN PROVE you have applied for a passport**. But this will not work for Korea or any other foreign destination.



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.

ALASKA

- ★ WILLIAM S. CORDRY
- ★ HARRY R. LEE
- ★ WILLIAM D. DEVINE

ALABAMA

- ★ CHARLES T. GIBSON
- ★ HAROLD L. GAMBLE
- ★ BOBBY N. BRAY

ARKANSAS

- ★ ANTHONY D. PARASHIS

ARIZONA

- ★ JAY J. NEYENHOUSE, SR.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- ★ SAM URQUHART

CALIFORNIA

- ★ BILLY WOODS
- ★ MANUEL MIRELES
- ★ FRANK E. HICKS, JR.
- ★ CHARLES N. GARABEDIAN
- ★ TED LERMA
- ★ S. A. KOPP
- ★ BOB HARPER
- ★ GORDON V. WEIS
- ★ ROBERT W. MILDENBERGER
- ★ JOHN V. FIRPO
- ★ FRED H. AULWURM
- ★ SEFERINO E. GARCIA
- ★ RICHARD E. BJORLING
- ★ CARLOS GASTELUM, JR.
- ★ WARREN W. FERRIER

COLORADO

- ★ FORREST L. PHILLIS
- ★ LARRY SAIONTZ

CONNECTICUT

- ★ FREDERICK LORD, JR.
- ★ KENNETH W. HISCOCK

FLORIDA

- ★ EVERETT MARSHALL GARRETT
- ★ RICHARD KEARNS
- ★ RICHARD W. BERTRAND
- ★ JOSEPH F. BRUCE
- ★ FREMAN S. REVELS
- ★ J. E. TIBUS
- ★ JOSEPH R. REACH
- ★ JOSEPH W. WIRTHMAN, SR.

- ★ ROBERT L. MILLS

GEORGIA

- ★ OTTO H. BENSON
- ★ DONAL R. MILLER
- ★ ROBERT L. MCCRAE
- ★ ROY W. JOHNSON

HAWAII

- ★ GARY K. FUKUMITSU

IOWA

- ★ GERALD L. THOMPSON

- ★ ROBERT J. PRATT

ILLINOIS

- ★ BOYD G. FRICKE
- ★ ROBERT E. HEATH
- ★ JAMES T. PURCELL
- ★ WILLIAM LEE WILLIAMS
- ★ WALTER J. KASTNER
- ★ THOMAS A. CANTELE
- ★ MELVIN D. GIBSON
- ★ CECIL L. SYLVESTER
- ★ ALVIN J. HOOGSTRAAT
- ★ JOSEPH J. GATZ
- ★ MARION F. ROBINSON

INDIANA

- ★ WILLIAM L. HOLMES

KANSAS

- ★ JERRY T. JOLLY
- ★ LAWRENCE D. PUVOGEL

KENTUCKY

- ★ EWELL FRYMAN

MASSACHUSETTS

- ★ THADDEUS J. JANKOWSKI
- ★ DONALD A. HARDING
- ★ GEORGE K. SAWYER
- ★ ALBERT P. ARPIN

MARYLAND

- ★ ROBERT S. BROWN
- ★ HENRY W. GITTINGS
- ★ EUGENE L. WISNER
- ★ ALAN V. MACDONALD, JR.
- ★ HARRY B. BAKER

MICHIGAN

- ★ RICHARD L. BEDRA
- ★ GORDON E. MACKENZIE

MINNESOTA

- ★ LYLE WENHOLZ

MISSOURI

- ★ JIM C. POGUE
- ★ CHARLES F. BAILEY
- ★ PAUL G. JOHNSON

MONTANA

- ★ CHARLES D. MAJERUS

NORTH CAROLINA

- ★ BOBBY T. CARTER
- ★ A. V. YARBRO
- ★ KENNETH E. REIGHT

NEW JERSEY

- ★ JAMES W. NEILSON
- ★ WALTER STUBBS
- ★ O. V. GIUSTO
- ★ WILLIAM J. CAMLET
- ★ JOHN HARRIGAN
- ★ RICHARD L. FODOR
- ★ MICHAEL J. LORO

NEW MEXICO

- ★ RAYMOND G. MURPHY
- ★ MELITON A. CHAVEZ

NEVADA

- ★ DONALD BENTSON

NEW YORK

- ★ LEE E. AIKEY
- ★ EDMUND W. ORZEL
- ★ JOHN P. KIERNAN
- ★ GEORGE GALAGOTIS
- ★ ROGER W. PREMO
- ★ STEPHEN W. BULL
- ★ JAMES W. KOCH
- ★ WALTER NOTARI
- ★ WILLIAM F. TROISIO
- ★ ANGELO J. LICARI
- ★ BERNARD F. KLOEK
- ★ FRANK A. VALVO

OHIO

- ★ RICHARD TIDWELL
- ★ GERALD HUSTON
- ★ BARBARA L. LOCKERY
- ★ EDWARD T. HILL
- ★ ROBERT E. BARTON
- ★ RICHARD G. BARAN

- ★ RICHARD N. GREEN

- ★ EARL R. HUFFORD

- ★ GERALD S. PEREUS

- ★ ROBERT L. RICKMAN

- ★ HERBERT E. LUCY

- ★ PAUL R. ENOCHS

ONTARIO

- ★ LEONARD BRADFORD

- ★ GEORGE PESKLEWAY

OREGON

- ★ BLAIR ECKERT

- ★ WILSON T. SCOTT

- ★ RAYMOND A. NICKLIN

PENNSYLVANIA

- ★ LOUIS S. GRANESE, Sr.

- ★ SYLVESTER A. TIMBERLAKE

- ★ ARTHUR J. HARVEY, JR.

- ★ JESSE M. SNYDER

- ★ JAMES W. KISSINGER

- ★ GEORGE TAYLOR

- ★ CHARLES E. JAMES

RHODE ISLAND

- ★ ELEANOR W. DAILEY

SOUTH CAROLINA

- ★ WILLIAM J. RODGERS

- ★ BRADFORD WILLS

TENNESSEE

- ★ BOBBY C. BREWER

- ★ DAVID W. BESSIRE

TEXAS

- ★ CALVIN MCLEAN

- ★ DAVID E. FRAZIER

- ★ JACK O. HAZLERIG

VIRGINIA

- ★ IRA A. JETT

- ★ CHARLIE A. HARWARD, SR.

WISCONSIN

- ★ MAX FARNING

- ★ OLAF E. LARSON

WEST VIRGINIA

- ★ DONALD E. MILLS

WYOMING

- ★ MILTON J. LARSON

UNKNOWN

- ★ MG G. N. TACK

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304 (Telephone: 703-461-0061)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

**KWVA Regular Annual Dues = \$25.00 ♦ Associate Membership = \$12.00
Ex-POW, Gold Star Parent or Spouse & Honorary - \$0.00**

Regular Life Membership: (May be paid in lump sum or 6 equal payments by check over a 12 month period.)

**Ages up to and through 35 years of age:\$600 Ages 36 through 50 years of age:\$450
Ages 51 through 65 years of age:\$300 Ages 66 years of age and older:\$150**

Please Check One: New Member Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One: Ex-POW Regular Member Life Member Associate Member
 Honorary Gold Star Spouse Gold Star Parent

(Please Print)
Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle/Maiden Name _____
Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: (_____) _____ Email _____
Name of Chapter (if applicable) _____

All Regular members please provide the following information if applicable

Unit(s) to which Assigned

Branch of Service

Division _____
Regiment _____
Battalion _____
Company _____
Other _____

Army
 Air Force
 Navy
 Marines
 Coast Guard

Dates of service:

Within Korea were: *(See criteria below)*
From _____ To _____

Without Korea were: *(See criteria below)*
From _____ To _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes as indicated, is true and correct."

[If you are applying for membership in a category other than Section 1, par A.1., of the "Criteria for Membership," complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" form on next page.]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA

Mail to: Korean War Veterans Association Inc., P. O. Box 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304

Credit Card # _____ VISA MASTER CARD

Expiration Date _____ Your Signature _____

Adopted 10/10/2006

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA membership application form on page 1 above, persons who make application for membership and qualify under one of the categories listed below, are required to fill in the appropriate blanks, sign in the space provided below and attach this page to the completed membership application form on previous page.

Check One

- Medal of Honor: I am a recipient of the Medal of Honor for service during the Korean War and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- Ex-POW: I was held as a Prisoner of War at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present, From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- UN Command/Korean Armed Forces: I served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United Nations Command or in the Republic of Korea Armed Forces during the Korean War era (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955): From: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____ To: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- Gold Star Parent: I am the parent of : Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- Gold Star Spouse: I am the spouse of: Name [print] _____, who was () killed in action, () missing in action or () died as a Prisoner of War on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.
- Associate: I have a legitimate interest in the affairs of the Korean War Veterans Association and agree to accept the terms and conditions set forth in its charter and bylaws.
- Honorary: I was elected as an honorary member of KWVA by a vote of the Board of Directors on: Month ____ Day ____ Year ____.

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me for the purposes indicated is true and correct."

Signature: _____ Month ____ Day ____ Year ____

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Section 1. Qualifications of Members. Membership in this Association shall consist of Regular, Associate and Honorary Members. No person shall be excluded from membership because of race, color, creed, sex, national or ethnic origin, or physical or mental disability, as long as the individual meets the criteria of service requirements as stipulated below. Only Regular Members as defined in A. below have a vote in National or Department matters.

A. Regular Members.

- 1. Service in the United States Armed Forces.** Any person who has seen honorable service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States, defined as Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, said service being within Korea including territorial waters and airspace (September 3, 1945 – June 25, 1950) within and without (June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955), or who served honorably in Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time is eligible for Membership.
- 2. Medal of Honor.** Any Medal of Honor recipient, so honored for service during the Korean War is 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 hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for life membership.
- 4. United Nations Command and Korean Armed Forces.** 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 is eligible for membership. However, UN/Korean membership of the Association may not exceed 10% of the total membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 5. Gold Star Parents.** Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
- 6. Gold Star Spouses.** Any person whose spouse was killed in action, missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War is eligible for life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

B. 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.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors.

D. Ineligible. Any person who has been separated from the service of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the United Nations Command, or the Republic of Korea under conditions other than honorable shall be ineligible for membership in this Association.

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/10/2006

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)

2007 National Convention ♦♦ 22–26 October

345 North Virginia St., Reno, NV, 89505 ♦ (800) 648 4597



Reunion News: It may seem premature to some people, but you might as well start thinking now about the upcoming KWVA Convention. Here is a registration form to get you started. We will be providing a lot more detailed information in the next issue. And remember, everything listed here is tentative—except the location and the dates.

REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: 8 October 2007

Name _____ Nickname: _____

Spouse/Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Service: Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force

Major Unit Assigned in Service: _____ Years in Korea: _____ Ex-POW? _____

Personal Awards: Army DSC Navy/Marine Cross Silver Star Bronze Star AF Cross Purple Heart
Other _____

Nat'l Paid Up KWVA Member? _____ (Required to attend meetings) KWVA Chap. No. _____ Nat'l Member No _____

Korean Service, MOH Recipient, Registration lunch and banquet fees waived

REGISTRATION & EVENTS

		# of People	Price/Person	Total
Registration Fee:	For Member (No registration fee for spouse/guests).....	1	\$25	\$25
October 22	Registration (1300-2000) Mini Conventions, Meetings, Free Time Opening Ceremony (2000-2200)			
October 23	By Laws Committee, Hearings (0900) Board Of Directors Meeting (1300) Ladies Activity (1400-1600) Mini-Conventions, Reunions Membership Committee (1800) Budget & Finance (2000)			
October 24	Committee Meetings, Hearings (1000-2200) For those not on committees or attending special functions, free time!			
October 25	Annual Membership Meeting (0900-1200) Follow-Up National Directors Meeting Ladies Activity (1:30 pm-4:00 pm) A local Florist will provide flowers ribbon, and instruction so each participant can create a corsage for the evening event. Mini Conventions Conclude (1300-1700) Closing Ceremonies, Banquet, Entertainment Select choice of Chicken _____ or Beef _____		\$15 =	\$ _____
			\$30 =	\$ _____
		TOTAL		_____

October 26 Have A Safe Trip Home!

To Register For Convention: Compute your fee; registration, banquet, spouse event if attending, send check (only) payable to KWVA 07. Make a copy of form, mail with check to Richard Hare, Treasurer, KWVA, 1260 South Hampton Dr., Alexandria, LA, 71303; (317) 487-9716

Hotel Reservations: call the hotel direct at (800) 648-5966 and ask for Conventions. Make sure that you mention you are with the Korean War Veterans Association-# NKW 1021. The price is \$80.00 per night. Free Parking, Free shuttle airport to hotel!

Business Without A Meeting

TO: President Lou Dechert, Board of Directors,
Korean War Veterans Association

SUBJECT: "Business without a Meeting"

PURPOSE: To vote on updates to the revised Standard Procedures Manual, as required by a motion at the Oct. 2006 KWVA Directors Meeting

DATE: May 6, 2007 (Meeting called on April 11, 2007 by President Dechert)

ATTENDING: (Those voting officers returning ballots)
President Lou Dechert (Ballot not counted), First VP Byron Dickerson, and Second VP Jim Ferris

Directors:

Jeff Brodeur	James Fountain
Robert Banker	Bill Mac Swain
Lee Dauster	Dean McClain
Mike Doyle	Warren Wiedhahn
Marvin Dunn	Chris Yanacos
Jake Feaster	

NOT ATTENDING (NO BALLOT RETURNED)

Bob Morga

RESULTS:

The results of the voting were an overwhelming approval of the changes in the SPM Manual, as presented by Director Mac Swain. There are some minor editorial or error corrections. The item on the ballot, which had the closest margin, was still approved, 10-3.

The results of the voting spread sheet in Excel format are available from the National Secretary.

Respectfully Submitted

William E Hutton, National Secretary

Election Results – June 10, 2007 Korean War Veterans Association

I am pleased to inform you of the election results for the Office of Director for the 2007-2010 term as provided by D.J. Burrows, CPA. Directors Ayers, Edwards, Dauster, and McHugh will be sworn in at a Board Meeting set tentatively for July 25, 2007. Their terms start June 25, 2007 and end June 25, 2010.

Name	Mem. #	#Votes
*Charlotte M. Ayers	R028336	1,623
*Thomas S. Edwards, Md	LR33145	1,477
*Lee Dauster	R005657	1,374
*Thomas M. Mchugh	LR07169	1,229
C. Clyde Hooks	LR29987	1,049
Joseph Pirrello	LR07979	1,003
Michael J. Glazzy	LR05656	924
George "Don" Ellwood	LR27904	738

* = winner

Robert S. Banker
Chairman
Nominating And Elections Committee



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall & Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



Mr. Louis T. Dechert
President, Korean War Veterans Association, USA Inc. 163
Deerbrook Trail
Pineville, LA 71360

Dear Mr. Dechert:

Thank you for inquiry and the on-going interest of the Korean War Veterans Association, USA, Inc. in the maintenance of the Korean War Veterans Memorial located within the National Mall & Memorial Parks, a park unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS is committed to preserving and maintaining the Korean War Veterans Memorial at the highest level and we recognize that the lighting system of this memorial is not currently meeting the standards appropriate for this nationally symbolic site.

As you know, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was initially designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers using a state-of-the-art fiber optic lighting system. However, it is not uncommon for cutting edge and untested designs, such as that of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, to face unanticipated operational challenges. Despite the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ameliorate the design problems of the existing system and regular maintenance by the NPS, the current fiber optic design is not sufficiently robust and is plagued by the damp environment associated with the water features of the memorial.

Given these operational deficiencies, the NPS had developed preliminary estimates for the design, purchase and installation of a new, high-quality system to meet the difficult design requirements of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. During the design stage of the project the NPS will try to develop more cost-effective solutions; however, preliminary estimates for the design, procurement and retrofitted installation of a memorial-specific system, is approximately \$1.1 million. The NPS has begun the process of requesting Federal funds for this project.

I appreciate your continued interest and valuable insight on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association, USA, Inc. If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or contact Karen Cucurullo, Special Assistant for Partnerships for the National Mall & Memorial Parks, at (202) 245-4670.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lorenzetti
Acting Superintendent
National Mall & Memorial Parks

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

Non Compliance Status**Have Any Of You Received A Letter Like This?**

We still receive news from Chapters that are not in compliance with KWVA membership and reporting requirements. In fact, the list is growing longer. In such cases, we put their submissions in a pending file until their compliance is verified. So, if you have sent in your Chapter's news and complementary photos, but you haven't seen them in print, it might have to do with your "noncompliant status." This applies to all sections of *The Graybeards*, e.g., "Monuments," "Tell America," etc.

If you are not sure about your Chapter's status, check with Jake Feaster. He might send you a letter like the sample below, in which the names and Chapter numbers have been changed. Then, once your Chapter has been restored to the "compliant" side, we will print your delayed news.

Xerxes,

The email below from Missing News, your 2nd Vice President, inquired as to why some of your Chapter's activities were not published in the last *Graybeards*. There have been a number of notices concerning "Publishing Preferences" of articles in previous issues of *The Graybeards*. The last of these notices appears on pg 17 of the Nov/Dec 2006 issue.

It appears that your article/pictures may be on "hold," due to non-receipt of your officer election report. Have you or some of your staff submitted the required report since your last election? If so, it has not reached me for updating your folder that we maintain for each chapter and record in the database. Note below that the last report I have on file for your chapter shows your last election/installation as being 1/1/05, submitted by Phil Photos, 5/31/2006.

The information required is: [a] the date of the election, [b] the officers and titles and [c] any corrections to the data shown below in your current chapter summary, to include the [d] email address for contacting the chapter president. Please send this election report to me via email at your earliest opportunity so that we can update your records and bring your chapter into compliance with the reporting requirements.

I am also including a listing of your current assigned membership for you and your staff to review for accuracy and completeness. Check this chapter listing of members and report any errors of address, ph #, name; etc, missing KWVA members, members on list that are not one of your valid chapter members, deceased members not shown as deceased and give the date of death. Send this information by email to: Membership@kwva.org at your earliest opportunity AFTER you send the Election Report.

Please contact me by phone, fax or email, if you have questions concerning the above. I hope this will resolve the problem Ares described in his email, below, and enable your chapter's accomplishments to be visible beyond your chapter area!

Yours for a better KWVA,

Jake Feaster, LR13771 - Supervisor
 Management Information System
 JFeaster@kwva.org Ph: 352-466-3493
 Cell: 352-262-1845, FAX: 775-242-8113

Easy enough. So, if you think your Chapter might be in the "Noncompliant Pending" file, and you want to get it out, check with Jake Feaster. Some Chapters have done that and been cleared. In fact, several have had their news and photos published here as a result. That makes the editorial staff happy. After all, we want to get your news and photos in *The Graybeards* as much as you do.

Mistakes Were Made (Nee Errata)

We are renaming this section of *The Graybeards*. Our editorial staff has noted recently that when people go astray in today's society they don't really apologize. They simply say, "Mistakes were made." That way no one—leastwise the people who made the mistakes—is blamed. Well, we are adopting that same philosophy.

From now on, we will simply say "Mistakes were made" in response to an error that appears in *The Graybeards*. Of course, you will still know who to blame.

We Wish Chapters Would Stop Moving Around

In the March/April 2007 issue we identified Chapter 259 as being in Charles County, MO. We were unaware that it had moved from its real location in Indianapolis, Indiana.

We apologize for relocating Chapter 259. But, that explains why we are editors and not movers.

We Couldn't Miss The Hat, But We Missed The Name

The names of one of the wives in the group picture of the 8221st Army Unit Association veterans on page 29 in the March/April issue was omitted. In the front row, the seventh lady from the left is Jeanette Bayouth. She is the lady with the big hat.

MOH List Is Incomplete

C. J. Greenwood sent a few comments to Hershall E. Lee regarding the number of Medal of Honor Recipients addressed on p. 71 of the March/April 2007 issue. (Lee requested the number.) He wrote:

Enclosed is the complete list of MOH recipients. *The Graybeards* are a bit off. They list 8 from Illinois, but state 7. There are 8 from Illinois.

On the original list they have 131 but only list 6 from Illinois. They left out Dean and Poynter. This makes 133. Then add the latest, Tibor Rubin.

Note: Mr. Greenwood did furnish a list, which contains 130 names—including Dean's and Poynter's—and excluding Rubin's. That still brings the number to 131.

As a point of interest, Stanley Christian and Walter Monegan were in my outfit and I was with them when they were killed.

Greenwood is correct about the number from Illinois. There are eight. Just for the record, Carl Greenwood is the president of the Korean Memorial Association (IL) and served with the U.S. Marines in the early part of the Korean War.

UN Memorial Cemetery Website In English

The United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea unveiled its English language website on May 1, making it possible for veterans, families of the “Fallen,” students and interested others to make a “virtual visit” to the cemetery and pay tribute to one of the Fallen resting there. You can call up the new site on www.unmck.or.kr

Couples interred at the UNMCK

At present, there are three cases of couples who share tombs at the UNMCK: Mr. Sheppard and Mrs. from Australia, Mr. Heron and Mrs. from UK, and Mr. Hong, Ok Bong and Mrs. from Korea. The husbands died during the Korean War and were buried here first. The wives lived alone for the rest of their lives and left wills asking to be buried beside their husbands.

The latest case was of Mrs. Sheppard who died at the age of 87 in 2004. Her only daughter Monica brought the ashes from home and buried her mother beside her father in the symbolic area at the UNMCK in 2005. Mr. Sheppard had been lying alone since 1951 for 53 years and I believe that he might be happy being together with his wife again. Fifty-three years is a long time in a sense but may be not that long in comparison to eternity.

I have been encouraged by some commitments of the wives of the heroes who are buried here, when they visited the UNMCK recently.

One of them, an American lady whose husband is buried at the UNMCK, came here to bring back (repatriate the remains of) her husband, believing that she may not have many chances to visit this place due to old age.

Being here she was overwhelmed by the cozy environment and atmosphere of the UNMCK. She promptly decided not to take her husband away. Instead, she asked me about the possibility of being buried beside her beloved husband. Happily, she decided to be buried here when the time comes.

As the Custodian of the UNMCK, I am happy to mention such beautiful stories.

I wish God bless them!

Lee Suk-jo, Custodian

Book Review

Revealed By Fire

Bill Ahnen and Pearl Kastran Ahnen

357 pp. Legna Press, ISBN 978-0-615-13519-9

By *Kris Barnett*

While many authors have provided descriptions of the Korean War that aptly illustrate the personal effects of war, *Revealed by Fire*, by U.S. Army Corporal Bill Ahnen and his wife Pearl Kastran Ahnen, is more personal than most. This book is composed of 349 previously unpublished letters written by Kastran and sent to his friends and family in Pontiac, Michigan during the Korean War. The book also includes a number of entries made in a personal journal maintained by Ahnen.

Like most chronicles of war experiences, Ahnen’s military odyssey begins with basic training. While at Camp Chafee in Arkansas, Ahnen endures what most enlisted men experience: hard work, endless training and drills, homesickness, and bad food. However, during basic training, Ahnen meets Anita, with whom he begins a relationship that is meant to last a lifetime. As we see Ahnen develop as a soldier, so too do we see the development of his love story with Anita.

After basic training, Ahnen travels to Japan, and then to Korea. Stationed there from March, 1952 to February, 1953, Ahnen served in a Fire Direction Center. The job entailed plotting enemy locations. While located a few miles behind enemy lines, the job did merit a few trips to the front lines, which caused Ahnen to have lasting Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Ahnen’s letters offer a running commentary on his job and his love life. The letters depict both the pressure and the dullness of work in the Fire Direction Center, and describe the monotony of military duty. Ahnen sounds like most young men his age, as he chronicles the movies he watches while off duty, and as he “argues” via mail with his parents about the seriousness of his deepening relationship with Anita. However, the letters consistently convey Ahnen’s light side, as he scoffs at guard duty and is incredulous at being ordered to spread white sand around the military camp to give it the beach feeling his superiors desire.

While the letters cover the day-to-day happenings of a young man in the military, Ahnen’s journal entries more accurately convey his true feelings for his situation.

Despite the positive, upbeat quality of the letters, in which Ahnen repeatedly assures his family that he is safely behind the front lines, the journal entries are perhaps more realistic:

“August 28, 1952

How safe is it here? Well, I aint telling. That is I’m not revealing any information to my folks. Can’t tell them the hell that is going on here. Can’t tell them about the reports we get from the front, the bloody reports and the men wounded and dead. Can’t tell them. Can’t tell them about the nightmares when I wake up in a cold sweat, and imagine the gooks in our tent.”

Readers of *Revealed By Fire* can’t help but curiously follow the rise and fall of Ahnen and Anita’s long-distance romance. However, the context of the book – set in the middle of a war – is not lost thanks to editor’s comments attesting to the historical facts of the Korean War as they correspond to Ahnen’s letters and journal entries.

For example, on August 29, 1952, the U. S. military engaged in the war’s largest air raid. This information is juxtaposed with Ahnen’s letter to his parents and sister, which note that on the same day that the U. S. was pounding the Pyongyang area with 1,403 planes, Ahnen was attending a lecture on the importance of security. Not knowing of the destruction occurring so near him, Ahnen notes the key point of the lecture about military strategy that he attended: “Keep your yap shut!”

As Ahnen’s military experiences draw to an end and he prepares to return to the U. S. and to the civilian life he missed so much, a much-longed-for reunion with Anita is expected. Were the book not based on genuine correspondence, the surprise ending would simply not be believable. Readers who have an interest in the Korean War, and in human nature in the midst of war, will find *Revealed By Fire* to be an engaging read.

In fact, reading the book is the only way to reveal the fate of Anita and Ahnen.



POW/MIA Update

With this issue we welcome our new POW/MIA correspondent, Bruce Cabana. We'll let him introduce himself:

My name is Bruce Cabana and I am attempting to fill the large void left by Marty O'Brien regarding Korean War POW/MIA issues. I am humbled, honored, and privileged to be able to serve in this role for the short term. I look forward to meeting, speaking, and working with so many of you in future endeavors.

Please feel free to contact me regarding issues or news surrounding Korean War POW/MIAs. This is a long journey, and I have large shoes to fill. We can't rest until all the Korean War (and all other wars) POW/MIAs are accounted for.

Until They All Come Home,

Respectfully,

/s/ Bruce A. Cabana

10 Lincoln Ave., Glens Falls, NY 12801

(518) 812-0138, bruce.cabana@gmail.com

Fallen Heroes

In recent months, there have been a number of remains identified and returned to the United States. On April 11th there was a ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base to honor remains believed to be those of six U.S. service members lost during the Korean War. The remains were turned over by North Korean officials to a U.S. delegation earlier in the week. Following the ceremony, the remains [were] transported to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam to undergo forensic identification.

On April 12th the United Nations Command hosted a Repatriation Ceremony for the servicemen. Full military honors were given to them. This came from an invitation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and former Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Anthony Principi headed the delegation and accompanied the Fallen Heroes back to Seoul. Their primary mission to North Korea is to facilitate the return of a still undetermined number of Fallen Heroes.

Cpl. Clarence R. Becker

On April 26th the Department of Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office announced the identification and return of Cpl. Clarence R. Becker of Lancaster, PA. Cpl. Becker was buried in Indiantown Gap, PA on April 25th.

On Dec. 1, 1950, Becker went missing in action when the convoy of trucks in which he was riding was ambushed south of Kunuri, North Korea. He was captured and taken prisoner. U.S. servicemen who were held in captivity with Becker said he died in the North Korean Pyoktong POW Camp 5 around May 1951 from malnutrition and disease. He was buried near the camp.

Following the Armistice, the Chinese Army exhumed remains from several POW camp cemeteries and repatriated them in 1954 to the United Nations forces during Operation Glory. Becker's remains could not be identified at the time and were subsequently buried as unknown remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of

the Pacific—the Punch Bowl—in Hawaii.

In 2005, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) reexamined Korean War-era documents relating to unknowns buried at the Punch Bowl, which suggested that some of these remains might be identifiable. Later that year, JPAC exhumed a grave there believed to be associated with Becker.

Cpl. Pastor Balanon, Jr.

On April 30th the Department of Defense POW/MIA Personnel Office announced the identification and return of Cpl. Pastor Balanon, Jr., U.S. Army, of San Francisco, Calif. Representatives from the Army met with Balanon's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In late October 1950, Balanon was assigned to L Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, then engaging enemy forces south of Unsan, North Korea, near a bend in the Kuryong River known as the Camel's Head. Chinese communist forces attacked the 8th Regiment's positions on Nov. 1, 1950, forcing a withdrawal to the south, where they were surrounded by the enemy. The remaining survivors in the 3rd Battalion attempted to escape a few days later, but Balanon was declared missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950 in the vicinity of Unsan County.

In 2001, a joint U.S.-North Korean team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a burial site in Kujang County, south of Unsan County. A North Korean citizen living near the site told the team that the remains were relocated to Kujang after they were discovered elsewhere during a construction project. The battle area was about one kilometer north of the secondary burial site.

Cpl. Balanon was buried on May 3rd in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Sgt. Frank Bunchuk

Rose Waters' brother, Sgt. Frank Bunchuk, was just 19 years old when he was deployed overseas to battle in North Korea. Only months later, in November 1950, Bunchuk was listed as Missing in Action.

In March, Waters received a phone call that her brother's remains had been found, complete with a DNA match. Rose and her daughter, Jeanette, had taken part in the military's DNA databank years earlier, in hopes that this day would come.

On April 20th, military personnel presented the family with full documentation of their findings.

Bunchuk's remains were actually found back in 2002 by a Korean farmer. The farmer discovered a mass grave with the remains of three bodies on his property. U.S. teams recovered the remains along with other items and sent them to be identified at a lab in Hawaii.

It was a day Rose Waters never imagined would happen. Now she can finally have closure for the mystery surrounding her only sibling.

"It just seems impossible. I keep saying after 57 years I can't

believe it,” says Waters.

Sgt. Bunchuk will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. The ceremony could take place sometime in August or September.

POW/MIA Initiatives

SEOUL – South Korea – YON – Yonhap News Agency of Korea

April 18, 2007

The Defense Ministry is considering sending a fact-finding mission to Russia to confirm reports that thousands of South Korean prisoners of war (POWs) were taken to the Soviet Union during the 1950-53 Korean War, a ministry official said Tuesday. Several media outlets reported last Friday, citing recently declassified U.S. Defense Department documents drawn up in 1993 that the POWs were taken to 300-400 concentration camps in the Soviet Union and were not repatriated after the end of the Korean War in 1953. The Defense Ministry initially dismissed the reports, citing no evidence. “The government decided to thoroughly examine whether the U.S. document is true and work out aggressive countermeasures, if so,” the official said, requesting anonymity. He said the government will convene a working-level meeting of officials with related government offices, including the ministries of defense, unification, foreign affairs as well as the prime minister’s office, on Tuesday to discuss ways to confirm the report.

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) teams departed Hawaii late March for missions in the Republic of Korea to investigate cases of unaccounted -for service members from the Korean War.

Two JPAC teams, consisting of nine personnel, investigated multiple sites in hopes to find evidence that could assist in the future recovery of missing Americans.

During the 32 day deployment, the teams investigated 23 aircraft losses and one ground loss. One team investigated 13 sites in northern Korea and Seoul, while the other team investigated 11 sites in the south of the country.

This was the first of three JPAC missions to the Republic of Korea scheduled for 2007.

2007 Family Update/Government Briefing Schedules

Family members of missing-in-action service personnel are invited to attend informational meetings held nearly every month in major metropolitan areas across the country. These sessions provide specific information to family members about their loved one’s cases. The dates and locations for this year’s family updates are:

- Jan. 20—Fort Worth, Texas
- Feb. 24—Tampa, Fla.
- March 24—Sacramento, Calif.
- Apr. 21—Boston, Mass.
- May 19—Cheyenne, Wyo.
- July 21—Cincinnati, Ohio
- Aug. 18—Kansas City, Mo.

- Nov. 17—Phoenix, Ariz.

In addition to family updates, annual government briefings are held in the Washington D.C. area for Vietnam War, and Korean and Cold War family members.

The dates for this year’s annual government briefings are:

Oct. 18-20—Korean and Cold War – Washington, DC

For more information on the family updates and government briefings, call your respective Service Casualty Office. The contact information is:

U.S. Air Force	1-800-531-5501
U.S. Army	1-800-892-2490
U.S. Marine Corps	1-800-847-1597
U.S. Navy	1-800-443-9298
U.S. Department of State	202-647-5470

Letters From Korea

You will notice that the book review in this issue (see p. 17) deals with letters between a husband and wife during the Korean War. Coincidentally, we begin a new serialization this time that deals with the same subject, on a broader scale.

Some readers might find portions of the text disturbing. But, the author’s analyses provide us with a keen insight into why soldiers wrote...

In the “Recon Missions” section of the May/June 2005 *The Graybeards* (p. 63), Luke Macauley asked for input from KWVA members re letters written/ received by American service-men/women in Korea. He was writing his Master’s thesis in American Studies at the University of Glasgow [Scotland] at the time. KWVA members were generous in their response. He has been equally so in his response to us.

Mr. Macauley completed his thesis in September 2005. He has consented graciously to share it with us in *The Graybeards*. It is far too long to include in one issue. So, we will spread it out over the next few issues. It begins on page 64.

Bear in mind that this is an academic work. Therefore, it includes footnotes, bibliography, etc. I have kept them in our version to give readers an idea of who contributed to Mr. Macauley’s work, what sources he used in his research, etc. I have included the bibliography for the same reason. Readers have the option of skipping right by them.

Some readers might find portions of the text disturbing. But, the author’s analyses provide us with a keen insight into why soldiers wrote (and received) letters while in Korea, what was on their minds, how they perceived their missions and reasons for being in Korea in the first place...in short, the report is replete with ideas that get right to the heart of letter writing in wartime.

One final note: I have left the text pretty much untouched, except for a few cosmetic changes.

Enjoy it.

Ambush on

U.S. Armed Forces Hostile Official Studies Report Post 27 July 1953 Armistice Agreement

Action Report Details:

Title: Ambush on "Mortar Hill"

Author Name: Dale A Patton

Service Branch: Army

Unit Assigned: C Co. (3rd Plt) 3/23/Inf 2nd ID

Date of Incident: 30 July 1968

Time of Incident: 00:48 hrs

Location of Incident: Korean DMZ, , Southwest of GP Gladys

Casualty Count: 1 American KIA, 2 American WIA. Unknown NK casualties (numerous blood trails found)

Names of Commanders other members involved: 1st Lt James Krsnak (XO). Sgt R. Sparks Pfc Goff, Sp4 Clarkson, Pfc Gilliam & Pfc Norton

Description of incident:

On 30 July 1968 I was a member of a 25 Man Ambush Patrol that was operating in the Korean DMZ from a forward Guard Post (GP Gladys).

Our assignment was to intercept, kill or capture, any North Korean Army soldiers that attempted to infiltrate through the DMZ (our sector) to South Korea.

We normally broke up into 5 man teams (Rays) and set both daylight and night ambushes on infiltration routes. On this particular night, there were two 5 man teams set up on Mortar Hill. I was a member of a 5 man team that was operating/set up southeast of the Mortar Hill location. Two more 5 man teams were set up in routes of escape from my teams ambush location.

Shortly after Midnight, the Teams on Mortar Hill initiated an ambush. We could see (tracers) and hear the weapons fire and explosions. Within minutes the Teams on the hill were requesting reinforcements. It appeared that they already had wounded and the NKs were not disengaging but being reinforced.

My team broke our ambush and contacted the other teams near us by radio. We set up a rendezvous location near Mortar Hill. I took point.

We had to move about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to meet with the other two teams and then proceed to the in progress firefight.

The teams that were engaged on the hill, indicated that the NKs were trying to flank them and that the reinforcements were needed "ASAP".

We finally arrived to the rear of the teams engaged, set up security to stop any flanking action.

A Pfc Goff met my element and led us in. The intensity of the incoming fire increased.

Large explosions were detonating in the ambush perimeter. I was knocked off my feet on two occasions and my hearing was blown out in the right ear.

At first it was thought that the. explosions were NK mortar fire. It was later found that the NKs were using a large anti-tank grenade that deploys a parachute so that it lands on its nose. Several of these were found the next day that had not detonated.

Not All The Fighting In Korea Was In The 1950s

Ask military historians to think of what major battle U.S. forces were engaged in in 1968, and they will most likely say "The Tet Offensive." True, that was significant. But 1968 was also a very active year in Korea. During that year, 17 Americans were killed in action and 54 more were wounded. Those numbers pale in comparison to statistics from Vietnam. But, they illustrate the dangers U.S. service members faced in Korea, which was the scene of the "Forgotten War" in 1950-53—and still face today.

One of the most memorable battles that took place south of the DMZ in Korea in 1968 took place on July 30. One soldier from C Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Inf., 2nd Division was killed in the fighting; three more were wounded. One participant, Dale Patton, remembers that day clearly.

In the ambush on Mortar Hill I lost a close friend, SP/4 Michael Rymarczuk (Riggs), who was KIA that night. Riggs had a daughter who had been born while he was in Korea, and he had not seen her.

Riggs was a very proud Dad and readily showed us photos of his "baby girl." To most of us, Riggs was an old married man. I mean we were all "kids" compared to Riggs, who I believe was 24 at the time of his death.

We all pitched in what we could for Riggs' widow and gave it to PFC Robert Ross (from PA), who would accompany Riggs home to Philadelphia.

In the early 1990s, with the help of another DMZ vet, David Benbow, I was able to contact Riggs' daughter Micki. We spoke several times over the following years.

We made arrangements to meet in Washington DC on Nov 11, 2006 at the Tour of Duty Reunion (DMZ Vets).

My wife Connie accompanied me to DC. At approximately 11 a.m. that day, I met Micki and her husband Greg at the Korean War Memorial. What a wonderful and beautiful woman she is. She and her husband have two children, ages 14 & 16 (Riggs' grandchildren). It was the high point of the reunion for me and Benbow, who knew Riggs and Lloyd King, who was with Riggs when he was KIA.

We were able to fill in a lot of blanks for Micki about her dad, what kind of person he was to us, the good soldier he was and, above all, how proud he had been of his "baby girl" who was now 38 years old.

We spent the afternoon looking at old photos and talking about her Dad, our friend ... Riggs.

It came time for Micki and her husband to leave. In a private ceremony we presented her with a shadow box containing the cherished items of an infantryman serving on the DMZ. It contained the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, 2nd ID patch, the Imjin Scout (DMZ) patch, and the 23rd Infantry crest. It was an emotional point of the meeting for all of us.

We said our good byes. As I watched her walk away, I thought, "I hope you can see this Riggs. Rest easy, Imjin Scout. .. the circle is complete."

It is hard to put into words the feelings and emotions that rushed over me. We all shed tears that afternoon while sharing memories of a place that is forgotten—but a man who is not: my friend and fellow Imjin Scout, Riggs.

'Mortar Hill'

We were able to put down a large volume of suppressing fire that countered the incoming fire.

It appeared that the NKs possibly had wounded and dead of their own, because they were not disengaging at all and that was unusual.

The decision was made to extract our wounded and dead and move to a more secure perimeter to treat the wounded.

I and two others moved forward of the initial ambush perimeter approximately 10yds, in an attempt to push the NKs back and allow the extraction of our casualties.

This seemed to surprise the NKs.

We were throwing grenades and laying down heavy automatic fire to our front, left and right flanks.

It is really hard to judge time during combat what is minutes sometimes seems like hours.

Myself and the two other men (Pfc Gilliam And Pfc Norton) felt that we could now move back and make sure the initial ambush site was clear of casualties.

In doing so, we had to move and shoot to make sure that the NKs would not advance on us. The volume of incoming fire had somewhat decreased and wasn't accurate.

As we moved back through the initial ambush site, I saw someone lying in the grass just to the rear of the ambush site.

I moved to the person, it was a KIA (Sp4 Rymarczuk), a member of the original ambush team on the hill.

Riggs was a buddy of mine and he was tore up pretty bad. I yelled at Norton and we began to drag "Riggs" down the south side of the hill.

During this, "Riggs" pants came down to his knees.

For an unknown reason I stopped and told Norton to cover me, as it did not seem dignified that "Riggs" pants were down. Norton was yelling at me to hurry up.

I managed to get his pants up and belt buckled when automatic weapons fire was directed at us from our front.

The NKs had apparently moved through the initial ambush site and were pursuing us. Norton got behind a tree and I lay down behind "Riggs".

Rounds were snapping all around us and I could hear and feel rounds striking "Riggs' body.

We were returning fire.

Suddenly as if by magic, a Sgt Royse Sparks from GP Gladys and several other men came from: our rear and laid down suppressing fire so the we could get up and move with "Riggs".

We all managed to get to the relative safety GP Gladys.

When inspecting the ambush site at first light, numerous blood trails were found traveling in a northerly direction toward the MOL.

They had hurt us but I believe we hurt them worse.

We policed up all the discarded equipment and moved out of the DMZ to a pick up point and debriefing.

Norton questioned me later as to why I had stopped to pull up "Riggs" pants and in no uncertain terms told me it was nuts.

I simply replied that it seemed like the right thing to do at the time.

Army Commendation Medal Criteria:



The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than General Officers who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

Award may be made to a member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, after 1 June 1962, distinguishes himself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service which has been of mutual benefit to a friendly nation and the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters 2d Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96244

GENERAL ORDERS

3 August 1968

TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

PATTON, DALE A RA16939091 (SSAN) PFC E3 United States Army

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

Action date: 30 July 1968

Reason: For heroism. On the morning at 30 July 1968, at approximately 0030 hours, Private First Class Patton was a member of a fourteen-man relief patrol organized and dispatched to assist a friendly ambush patrol operating within the Korean Demilitarized Zone that was in danger of being overpowered by a superior enemy force. Their mission was to retrieve the dead and wounded and attempt to reestablish contact with the enemy. Within ten minutes after arriving at the scene of the action, Private First Class Patton, along with the other members of his patrol, came under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. While the rest of the patrol evacuated the wounded, Private First Class Patton, along with two other members of the patrol, provided covering fire. Though under heavy automatic fire, the small force was able to contain the enemy and make possible the evacuation of the wounded to safety. The complete disregard for his personal safety and the staunch courage displayed by Private First Class Patton in the face of an armed aggressor was in keeping with the most cherished traditions of the military service. His courage and devotion to duty throughout the action reflect great credit upon himself, the 2d Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Authority: By order of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of AR 672.5.1

CLARKSON, CHARLES US51592137 (SSAN) SP4 E4 United States Army

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

Action date: 30 July 1968

Reason: For heroism. On the morning of 30 July 1968, at

Continued on page 72

A Medal Of Honor For ‘Woody’ Keeble?

By Arthur G. Sharp©
Special To The Graybeards

A while ago Art Lajeunesse forwarded a copy of an article written by David Melmer for the June 26, 2006 edition of *Indian Country Today* entitled “Finally, a Medal of Honor.” Melmer may have jumped the proverbial gun a bit with the lead paragraphs:

WHAPETON, N.D. - Woodrow Wilson (Woody) Keeble has finally been given his rightful place among the heroes of World War II and the Korean War.

Keeble, a Dakota Sioux from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, died in 1982 never knowing he would receive a Medal of Honor.

As the old saying goes, “Wishes don’t make it so.” (If that is not an old saying, it should be.) Keeble has not been awarded the MOH—at least not yet—and there is no evidence that he will receive one any time soon. But, there is support for the push to award the MOH to Keeble. In fact, as Lajeunesse noted in his message to us, it is richly deserved.

Keeble, a veteran of WWII who had survived the Battle of Guadalcanal, was a member of the U.S. Army’s “G” Co., 19th Inf., 24th Div. in Korea. For his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Distinguished Service Cross. The last decoration was awarded for his actions in October 1951.

On October 20, 1951, his unit engaged in a fierce battle near Kumsong, North Korea with North Korean troops during Operation Nomad. At one point in the battle, Keeble faced six enemy soldiers alone in what his stepson Russell Hawkins described as a “real wild west battle.”

Although wounded five times, once in the chest, he managed to destroy three enemy machine guns single-handedly. The members of his company were so impressed that they all signed the paperwork for the Medal of Honor, even though only two eyewitnesses were required to do so at the time. Unfortunately, the paperwork was lost twice, once in November 1951 and again in December 1951.

But, his family and friends remained dedicated to the quest for the Medal of Honor for Master Sergeant Keeble, even after he died in 1982. It wasn’t until almost 51 years after Operation Nomad—and well after the three-year “statute of limitations” for the medal had expired—that the U.S. Senate members from North and South Dakota began advocating for the award to Keeble. (The Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribe resides in both states.)



Master Sergeant Woodrow Keeble

office, for example. (The emphasis in the last paragraph is inserted by the author.)

Thune Comments on Army Recommendation for Keeble Medal of Honor

June 2nd, 2006 - Washington, DC - Senator John Thune (R-SD) today issued the following statement regarding the recommendation from Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey that Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble be posthumously awarded the nation’s highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, for his brave service during the Korean War. Keeble, who was a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, would be the first Dakota Sioux to receive the Medal of Honor if it is approved.

“This past weekend, Americans paused to commemorate the lives and legacies of our nation’s bravest—the men and women who have fought and sacrificed for our

freedoms from the first days of our Revolution to the front lines of the War on Terror,” Thune said. “It is only fitting that during this Memorial week, after many years of delay, one of our nation’s most heroic soldiers has finally been officially recommended to receive the Medal of Honor for his efforts in the Korean War.

“Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble served with bravery and dignity, going beyond the call of duty not for notoriety or recognition—but for the mission he believed in and the country he loved. Keeble’s legacy is a great source of pride for his family, his fellow Dakota Sioux, and all Americans. The Secretary of the Army’s recommendation is wonderful and long-awaited news. I began working with Master Sergeant Keeble’s family and tribal officials on resolving this long overdue issue in the spring of 2002, and I will continue to work with Defense officials to ensure that this legendary soldier receives the final and most distinguished honor he deserves.”

Then-Representative Thune first requested Master Sergeant Keeble’s Distinguished Service Cross be upgraded to the Medal of Honor in a letter to the Secretary of the Army on May 17, 2002. This week’s recommendation by Secretary Harvey must be approved by the Secretary of Defense and the President. Senator Thune is sending letters of support to both Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and President Bush this week.

So who was “Woody” Keeble? And what did he do to earn a nomination for the Medal of Honor? (If anyone wants to hear the story as told by Russell Hawkins, access www.sdpb.org/Archives/ProgramDetail.asp?ProgID=6119.) How did his paperwork get lost twice? Why is the nomination stalled in a mass of bureaucracy? After all, little has happened

The effort continues.

Consider this press release from U.S. Senator John Thune’s

in the year since the story appeared in *Indian Country Today*. That is explained in part by this March 27, 2007 press release from U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's (D-SD) office, which he issued four days after introducing S 978 IS in the U.S. Senate, "a bill to authorize the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor during the Korean conflict." (See the sidebar.)

Johnson Pushes to Have Keeble Considered for Medal of Honor Award

Washington, DC— After working on the issue for nearly five years, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) joined with Senators from North and South Dakota on the latest effort to have Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and President George W. Bush consider Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble for the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts during the Korean War.

"I first started working on this case back in 2002. Now the Pentagon tells us they need Congressional action to have the time limits waived in order to have Master Sergeant Keeble considered for the Medal of Honor. This is another hurdle to cross, but a worthy fight for Woodrow Keeble, who valiantly fought for this nation. It is my hope that once this time limit is waived, that the Department of Defense and eventually the President will give Keeble his fair consideration," Johnson said.

Johnson has been active on this case over the past five years, has been briefed on the most recent development and asked to join the effort as an original cosponsor on stand alone legislation and an amendment to the Emergency Supplemental bill being debated on the Senate floor this week. Johnson's staff remains in constant contact with the Pentagon on this issue.

Based on an affidavit from a member of the company that the original recommendations for the Medal of Honor had been lost, Johnson originally asked the Secretary of the Army to waive the normal three year statute of limitations requirement for consideration of the Medal of Honor. Last year, the Secretary of Army recommended Keeble for the Medal of Honor, but the file has remained with the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of Defense must still approve the award before it can be sent to the President.

The recommendation to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Keeble had already been reviewed by a Senior Army Decorations Board.

In a letter to Johnson dated, May 31, 2006, Secretary Harvey said, "After giving this request my careful and personal consideration, it is my recommendation that the award of the Medal of Honor is the appropriate award to recognize Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble's gallant acts. This brave soldier clearly distinguished himself through his courageous actions."

There is some encouraging news in the quest for Keeble's MOH according to an April 23, 2007, press release from Senator Byron Dorgan's office:

To authorize the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor during the Korean conflict. (Introduced in Senate)

S 978 IS

110th CONGRESS
1st Session
S. 978

To authorize the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor during the Korean conflict.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 23, 2007

Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. CONRAD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor during the Korean conflict.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR TO WOODROW W. KEEBLE FOR VALOR DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT.

Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the military, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Woodrow W. Keeble for his acts of valor as an acting platoon leader on October 20, 1951 during the Korean conflict.

Dorgan And Johnson Announce Legislation To Honor Woodrow Wilson Keeble Clears Key Hurdle In Congress

(Washington, D.C.) — U.S. Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced Monday a House-Senate conference committee has approved legislation that would clear the way for the President to award a long-overdue Medal of Honor to Woodrow Wilson Keeble, a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe who fought in World War II and the Korean War.

Dorgan and Johnson are members of the House-Senate conference committee that negotiated the final version of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

"Woodrow Wilson Keeble displayed uncommon valor in battle, and our nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his service," Dorgan said. "It's not for me to decide who gets a Medal of Honor, but a technicality should not prevent the President from giving this award to one of our heroes."

"I first started working on Woodrow Keeble's case back in 2002. Getting this provision signed into law would be a

Continued on page 31

Col. Ralph Parr Fought Valiantly In Three Wars

by Robert F. Dorr

EDITOR'S NOTE: As Mr. Dorr points out, Ralph Parr is unique: He is the only person who will ever hold both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross.

On July 6, 1960, the Air Force Cross was created to give the nation's air arm its own award for bravery, ranking second only to the Medal of Honor. Previously, the second highest award for airmen was the Distinguished Service Cross.

"I was told by the Pentagon that I am the only person to hold both awards," said retired Col. Ralph Parr of New Braunfels, Tex. in a telephone interview. Air Force historians confirm that Parr is the only airman to be awarded both.

Parr did much more. He flew every Air Force fighter from the P-38 Lightning to the F-4 Phantom. He served five combat tours in three wars. In the final weeks of the Korean War, he shot down ten enemy aircraft in just 30 missions.

Sadly, all of Parr's personal possessions, including documents relating to his achievements, disappeared on October 17, 1998, when flash floods with walls of water 50 feet high came crashing down on New Braunfels. Parr and his wife Margaret watched their house float away.

"I lost the equivalent of three footlockers full of photos," he recalled. "That was all of the things we'd saved over the years."

"I got hooked on aviation because my Dad was a Navy squadron commander in the Philippines, and took me for a flight. When I graduated from high school in 1942, the war was on. I got sworn in, lined up as an aviation cadet, and graduated in Flying Class 44-B in February 1944."

Initially, Parr was a flight instructor in the twin-engined AT-9 and AT-10 trainers. But in July 1945, he joined the 49th Fighter Group in the South Pacific, and subsequently on Okinawa, flying the P-38.

"I got out in the summer of 1946. I went to American University. I flew with the Reserve and Guard at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., in P-47 Thunderbolts. I applied for active duty before the Korean War." Parr flew his first Korean combat tour in the F-80C Shooting Star with the 49th Fighter Bomber Wing.

In the cockpit of his F-86, Parr scored the remarkable achievement of shooting down ten enemy aircraft in just 30 missions... He shot down the last enemy plane to be destroyed during the Korean War, an Ilyushin Il-12 twin-engined transport carrying Soviet officials.

He returned in 1953 as an F-86 Sabre pilot with the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing. On June 30, 1953, outnumbered by enemy MiG-15 fighters, Parr shot down two MiGs, then proceeded under fire to assist his wing commander, Col., James Johnson, whose plane had been damaged in the fight. By risking himself, Parr gave Johnson time to restart a damaged engine. Parr then accompanied Johnson and his damaged F-86 back to Kimpo Air Base, near Seoul. That action earned Parr his Distinguished Service Cross.

In the cockpit of his F-86, Parr scored the remarkable achievement of shooting down ten enemy aircraft in just 30 missions. "I flew some of those missions even though I had strep throat, but with my boss's permission." He shot down the last enemy plane to be destroyed during the Korean War, an Ilyushin Il-12 twin-engined transport carrying Soviet officials. Though Moscow protested, the U.S. determined the Il-12 was a valid military target—and Parr was a double air ace.

During the Cold War, Parr flew the Air Force's first supersonic fighters. His first tour in Vietnam was in the F-4C Phantom on the

staff of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing from September 1967 to September 1968. On March 16, 1968, during the siege of Marines at Khe Sanh, he made two low-level passes to drop napalm on a North Vietnamese gun position. Though his aircraft came under heavy fire and was severely damaged, Parr remained on the scene and served as a forward air controller for a second F-4C. For this action, he was awarded the Air Force Cross.

Parr returned to Vietnam for a second tour from February 1970 to February 1971, as commander of the 12th wing, now flying F-4D Phantoms.

Altogether, Parr logged 8,000 flying hours and flew 642 combat missions in his career. He holds 60 U.S. and foreign decorations.

Robert F. Dorr, 3411 Valewood Drive, Oakton, VA 22124, (703) 264-8950, robert.f.dorr@cox.net Robert F. Dorr is the author of "Chopper: A History of American Helicopter Operations From WW II to the War on Terror." This article is reprinted with his permission.

1-1-76 Eng. Const. Bn.

I took this photo of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, 76th Eng. Const. Bn. in Korea in 1952. The men in the squad are Davenport, Artis, Johnson, Helm, Beechcroft, Kyechedoll, Bevens, Paulson, Panich, Clark, Compsten, McNew, Rupkey, Piskey, Knaus, and Azevedo.

I am not in the picture.

Anyone who is in the photo or who knows anyone in it can contact me. If you use email, put Korea in the subject line. I am a lifetime member of Charles Parlier Chapter #24 in Illinois.

James D. Peterson, 51 Percy Street, Fort Myers FL 33908, (239) 466-3079 or (217) 422-9427, jd51p@aol.com



US/Korea Commitment Still There



ABOARD UTILITY LANDING CRAFT 1631 — Carrying Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines, LCU 1631 approaches *USS Essex's* well deck through heavy seas during Exercise Foal Eagle 07.

Exercise Foal Eagle 07 is a combined joint exercise conducted annually joining forces from both the United States and the Republic of Korea.

The exercise demonstrates the

United States' commitment to the ROK/U.S. alliance and enhances combat readiness of both forces through combined and joint training. *USS Essex* is the only forward-deployed

As this photo taken from official USMC sources indicates, U.S. and Korean forces are still committed to working together, although more than fifty years have passed since the armistice was signed in 1953.

amphibious assault ship and serves Task Force 76, the Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious force. Task Force 76 headquartered at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, Japan, with an operating detachment in Sasebo, Japan. (Official U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Joshua J. Wahl)

Source: www.usmc.mil

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MOH Recipient James L. Stone Honored

Korean War veterans expressed their high regard for Medal of Honor recipient Colonel James L. Stone at a special luncheon on April 16, 2007. Attendees included members of two Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) chapters, Chapter 215 and Chapter 270, and KWVA President Lou Dechert.

Other attendees were Dick Agnew, Distinguished Service Cross recipient and Purple Heart recipient from the Korean War, spouses of several KWVA members, and representatives from the Korean Community. This gesture of respect for Medal of Honor recipient Colonel James L. Stone occurred at Paul's Porterhouse in Dallas.

Colonel Stone received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions while defending a vital outpost against an overwhelming horde of Chinese Communists near Sökkogae, Korea on November 21-22, 1951. He then spent the next twenty-two months in a POW camp.

Miles Brown and Ed Buckman, two members of KWVA Sam Johnson Chapter 270, arranged and put the program together. About 47 attendees listened respectfully to remarks from Keynote Speaker Dick Agnew.

In his unpretentious speech, honoree Col. Stone noted that many others had fought bravely and had made great sacrifices in Korea, yet had never received any recognition. As an example, he mentioned KWVA Director Marvin Dunn, who lost an eye and a leg in Korea. Colonel Stone's down-to-earth speech enhanced his image as a true national hero.

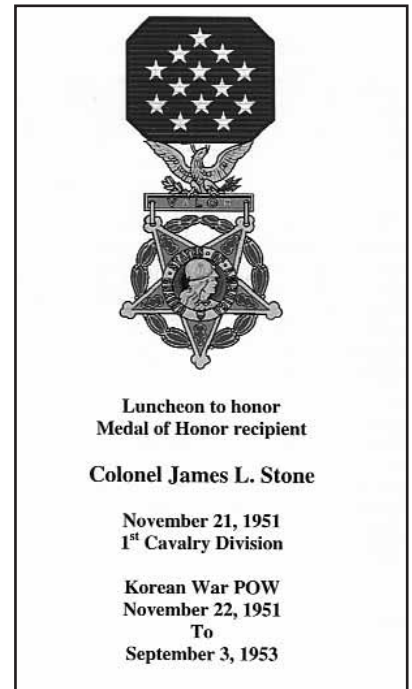
On behalf of KWVA, President Lou Dechert presented Col Stone with a framed, one-of-a-kind certificate. President Dechert also presented him with a large framed picture of our National Memorial on the Mall in DC.



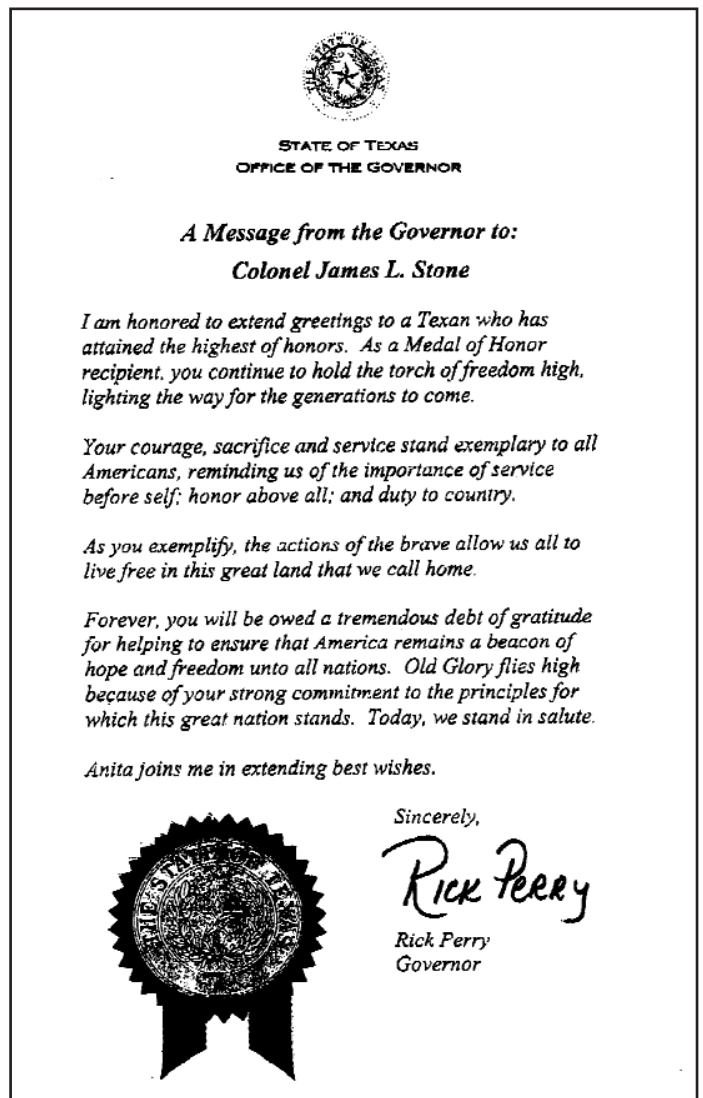
CID 270 Co-founder Ed Buckman making his presentation of a picture of the Korean War Freedom Plaque to Col. Stone. Also standing is CID 270 President J. D. Randolph. This wide view shows two large murals behind the head table. The Chosin Reservoir Breakout (left) and the Iowa Jima Flag Raising (right). (Photo by Charles Buckley)

Ed Buckman presented Col. Stone with a picture of the Korean War Freedom Plaque. Representatives of the South Korean government had given the Freedom Plaque to two Sam Johnson Chapter members who made a special trip to Seoul to represent US forces.

Representatives from each of the 22 nations that had fought in Korea received the Korean War



The invitation



Freedom Plaque. The Freedom Plaque now resides in the Pentagon's DOD Museum.

Then, Ken Borchers, who had served under Col. Stone in Korea, played a congratulatory video by Colonel Hillman. Colonel Hillman was the officer who wrote Colonel Stone's citation. Next, Ken told of the events leading up to that fateful day when then Lt. Stone held off hordes of Chinese in a hopeless attempt to hold on to his outpost.

KWVA Director Bill Mac Swain gave a moving Table of MIA's presentation for the attendees.

Miles Brown read a congratulatory message from Texas Governor Rick Perry to Colonel James L. Stone. CID 270 President Randolph gave both the Welcome and Closing remarks. Jerry Kasten of CID 270 gave both the Invocation and the Benediction.

It is noteworthy that on the day of this luncheon, local newspapers announced Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy, another Medal of Honor recipient, had died on April 6. Jerry Murphy and Colonel Stone had received their medals from President Eisenhower in the same ceremony. During his speech, Colonel Stone said he had felt closer to Jerry Murphy than many of the other recipients.

With Jerry Murphy's death, only fourteen (14) Medal of Honor recipients from the Korean War and only 110 Medal of Honor recipients from all wars are still living.



KWVA Director Bill Mac Swain conducting his memorial ceremony for MIA's



KWVA President Lou Dechert with Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Stone at luncheon. Mural in background shows a scene from the Chosin Reservoir Breakout.

Ken Borchers playing a congratulatory video by Colonel Hillman. Colonel Hillman was the officer who wrote Colonel Stone's Medal of Honor citation. (Photo by Bill Carman)



Have a Mini-Reunion?

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

Korean War Veterans' Mini-Reunions

40th Infantry Division

40th Inf. Div. Korean War veterans from all over the USA attended a reunion in July, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pennsylvania. Attendees were offered sightseeing trips to The Hershey Chocolate World and The Civil War Museum. A daily complimentary hospitality room and a business meeting at which lunch was provided was available to all attendees.

There were guest speakers and Korean entertainment at a well-attended banquet on Saturday evening,

Organizers for this event were Charles and Judith Egresitz. Charles Egresitz is a former POW and veteran of the Korean War. A second reunion is planned for September 12-16, 2007 at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA.

Anybody seeking more information about this event can contact Charles Egresitz at (717) 652-4088 or e-mail him at toapebble@aol.com



Some of the large group that attended the July 2006 40th Inf. Div. mini-reunion in Grantville, PA

45th Infantry Division

45th Inf. veterans got together with CID 30 members in Indianapolis in September 2006, as they do every year.



CID 30 President Bernard "Ski" Wisniewski (left) and 45th Inf. spokesman Jim Martino talk at 2006 45th Inf. gathering



CID 30 and 45th Inf. Div. members enjoy camaraderie at 2006 get-together

398th AAA AW Bn. – Korea

Members of the 398th AAA AW Bn (Korea) got together in Branson, MO last year. They will repeat their reunion in November this year (see details on p. 71).

398th AAA AW members at their 2006 Branson, MO reunion (Back, L-R) Chuck Irvin, Don Dougherty, Bill Hendrix, Reenlee Kotas, Lawrence Lockard. (Front, L-R) Arlie Schemmer, John Edmonson, Bill Brassfield



B. Btry., 865th AAA AW SP Bn



A fairly large group of members gathered in Branson, MO on April 28, 2007.

George Kaprelian, W6900 Shadybrook Cir, Fond du Lac, WI 54937-8631

B Battery, 865th AAA AW SP Bn., Kimpo, Korea veterans: (1st Row) Bill McClintock, Jack Groegan, Gene Gilmore, Albert Barnes, Herman Rupp, Bill Drieling, Rich Burch, Tine Martin, Bob Allen, George Kaprelian (2nd Row) Don Cook, Chuck Oates, Doc Yeley, Ray Miller, Grady Smith, Joe Whitcomb, Don McBrian, Walter Hearting, Richard Frey (Standing) David Gandy, Howard Antrobus, Ward Buffkin, Hugh Means, Ray Osbon, Davaine Shurbshall, Ed McCrea, Jim Simpson, Royce Raven

C Co. 29th Inf/L Co. 35th Inf

Members held a get-together recently in Allen, Texas. Everyone who attended was a Korean War veteran.

David M. Williams, via email



Hill 717 survivors, Sept. 7, 1951, at Allen, TX gathering (L-R) John Patterson, Roger Spindler, J. D. Randolph



(L-R) Neal Vance, David M. Williams, Freeman Dunlap, John Frost, Edward Robertson, Jim Weaver at the Allen, TX get-together. All are original members of the 29th Inf from Okinawa.



Members of L Co., 35th Inf. in Allen, TX

Chiles and Sikorski



John Chiles (L), Erna Dziewit (C), and Leroy Sikorski (R) in Waco, TX

After joining the Korean War Veterans Association and getting my issue of *The Greybeards*, I saw a few of my old buddies I knew while I was in Korea.

I was with the 7th Division, 31st Regiment, I Co. After 54 years I came across John "Waco Chile" Chiles and went to Waco, TX to pay him a visit. (See the photo above) We had a great time and talked all about Korea.

Leroy Sikorski, 27235 Bunert Road, Warren, MI 48088-4840, (586) 776-9392. Reach Chiles at (254) 714-0320

A Couple Essays

It is always a pleasure to see young people take an interest in the Korean War. We thought you might like to see a couple essays written by the CID 209 scholarship recipients. We have done very little editing to give you a flavor for the students' presentations and an idea of how today's young people view the events of the Korean War. Mainly, we have broken the essays into shorter paragraphs to enhance readability.

It is obvious that these students did a bit of research into their topics. We commend them for their efforts, and wish more students would follow their example. And we have to remember as we read these essays that it is not their quality upon which we base our impressions. What matters is that the students learned something from their research—which is something we wish more people would do regarding the Korean War.

The Korean War

(Author unknown)

The Cold War had started in 1946, after World War II, and lasted all the way until the collapse of the USSR (Soviet Union) in 1991. During the cold war the United States had been involved in a number of conflicts and wars during this period; one of them being The Korean Conflict or The Korean War. The fight against aggression and communism had begun.

Occurring between June 25, 1950 and a ceasefire on July 27, 1953 was a civil war occurred between the states of North Korea and South Korea, which were both created out of the post World War II Soviet and American occupation zones in Korea. The main supporters of the North Korean communist, was the peoples republic of China and limited assistance of Soviet advisors, military pilots, and armaments.

South Korea was supported by the United Nations, mainly the United States but also other countries that contributed personnel to South Korea. The North Korean crossed the 38th parallel in the early hours of Sunday on June 25, 1950. The communists were armed with 150 Soviet T-34/85 tanks, 180 aircraft including, 40 YAK fighters and 70 attack bombers. Bombing was conducted at Kimpo airbase near Seoul, which was occupied by the communists on June 28.

The same day that the civil war began, the United Nations drafted a resolution to take immediate action by the U.S and other members. President Harry S. Truman sent occupation units in from Japan under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. On July 5 an American combat unit called task Force Smith engaged North Korean forces at Osan and was the first significant combat force to engage.

In this conflict, technology was starting to rise and change warfare. The Soviet Union lent limited assistance to the Chinese instead of full-scale air support. The Soviets had given the new MIG-15 air superiority fighter to the conflict, and posted a new threat. The Soviet built MIG-15 was a challenge to UN forces equipped with the American made F-80's, and F-83's. Until the newer F-89 Sabre jets proved worthy adversaries against the Soviet MIG-15. This was an air superiority fighter that was American made, and was able to shoot down Soviet MIGs.

Two of the world's best fighter jets came and did battle against each other, representing either Communism or

Capitalism in Korea. This war had a number of casualty rates involving the Chinese, Koreans, Australians, Americans, Soviets, and other UN participants. This war involved with many Soviet and American equipment that was used against each other during the war, like the American M46 Patton tanks, and the Soviet's T-34/85 tanks. This war happened because Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union wanted Communism to spread over Asia, in doing so caused civil war, uprisings, and overthrows in Asia.

A ceasefire was said on July 27, 1953 that stopped the fighting in Korea. But even till this day North Korea has been becoming more hostile to the United States over the past few years, and has even conducted nuclear test on warheads. This war demonstrated fighting of the two super powers of east and west in the Korean Peninsula, with the people right in the middle of two kinds of governments. Ultimately after the Cold war Korea is still divided between communism and capitalism.

The Korean war is sometimes referred to as "The Forgotten War", because of other more popular wars like World War II, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. This war was part of the cold war and the battle of Communism and Capitalism. For all the American's who served during the Cold war, being any branch and conflict participated, you are not forgotten and are a part of history today.

The Battle of Heartbreak Ridge

Roel Esparza

The battle of Heartbreak: Ridge was a month long battle that took place during the Korean War. It was fought between September 13 and October 15, 1951, in the hills of North Korea, a few miles north of the 38th parallel.

It began shortly after the battle of Bloody Ridge when the Korean People's Army fled to the seven mile long hill mass which would soon be known as Heartbreak: Ridge. They set up new positions, making their defenses more formidable than on Bloody Ridge. Underestimation the strength of the North Korean's position, the 23rd infantry regiment and its attached French battalion were ordered to assault the enemy up the heavily fortified slopes.

The attack began on September 13th. The heavy assault

quickly dissolved to a familiar pattern. First, American aircraft, tanks, and artillery would attack the ridge repeatedly for hours on end, scarring the already barren hillside. Then the infantry men would climb up the mountain's rocky slopes, taking out one enemy bunker after the other by direct assault. Those who survived the assault were too exhausted and low on ammunition to hold their positions, thus having to pull back when the inevitable North Korean counter attack came.

Numerous counter attacks were conducted at night by fresh troops that were being sheltered in the neighboring hills. The intense battles that took place would involve bombs, bullets, and artillery shells, would be finished with the use of grenades, trench knives, and hand to hand combat.

The continuous crawling up the hill only to stumble back down day after day continued for two weeks, but the 23rd infantry regiments determination to take the hill was still strong. Many men were lost in the continuous attacks and counterattacks, some units of up to company size were wiped out.

The American employed massive artillery barrages, air strikes, and tanks in attempts to drive the North Koreans off the ridge, but the Koreans Peoples Army were extremely hard to remove from the territory. Finally, on September 27th, the 2nd divisions new commander, Major General Robert N. Young, called a halt to the attack on Heartbreak Ridge as American planners reconsidered their strategy.

There were many dramatic events where some died so that many others would live, as one was recalled when a Hawaiian man Pfc. Herbert K. Pililauu faced off against a North Korean Battalion with this Browning Automatic Rifle so that his fellow soldiers may retreat to safety. His rifle proved very effective but he eventually ran out of ammunition and began to throw grenades, and then when he exhausted all of those, he pulled out his bayonet and fought till he was shot and killed by the North Koreans.

The spared soldiers were determined to avenge his death and recaptured the position. They reached the soldier's body only to see 40 dead North Koreans around him. He sacrificed his life to save his comrades, and for that he was awarded the Medal of

Honor. Although this did not change the situation on Heartbreak Ridge.

As long as the North Koreans were able to resupply and reinforce their garrison on the Ridge, it would be nearly impossible for the Americans to take the mountain. Thus, the 2nd division created a new plan to call a full division assault on the valleys and hills adjacent to Heartbreak to cut the ridge off from further reinforcement.

They called the 72nd Tank Battalion to push up the Mundung-ni Valley west of Heartbreak to destroy enemy supply dumps near the town of Mundung-ri. But to accomplish this task, they had to go through a road that could not bear the weight of a Sherman, and was heavily mined and blocked by a six foot high rock barricade built by the North Koreans.

So the 2nd divisions Engineer Combat Battalion endured

enemy fire to clear the obstacles and build an improved roadway using only shovels and explosives. By October 10th, everything was ready for a raid.

The sudden onslaught of a battalion of tanks took the enemy by surprise. At this coincidence, the Chinese 204th division was moving up to relieve the North Koreans on Heartbreak. The Chinese suffered heavy casualties and for the next five days, the Sherman tanks roared up and down the hills, destroying fuel dumps, supply dumps, and destroying troop concentrations and about 350 bunkers. Therefore, the Americans were able to surround the area, cutting off any supplies and reinforcements to the enemy.

Finally, the Americans were able to capture Heartbreak Ridge, thus ending the battle on October 13. The Americans and the French suffered greatly, losing 3,700 soldiers and the North Korean and Chinese armies with over 25,000 soldiers. In order to prevent such a tragic battle which would lead to heavy losses for just a small amount of land, Heartbreak Ridge was the last major offensive conducted by U.N. forces in the war.

KEEBLE from page 23

hurdle cleared in the worthy fight for Woodrow Keeble, who valiantly fought for this nation. It is my hope that once this time limit is waived, that the Department of Defense and eventually the President will give Keeble the consideration he is due," Johnson has said.

Dorgan and Johnson, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, pushed to include the provision in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which was approved today by a House-Senate conference committee appointed to negotiate a final version of the legislation.

The Pentagon has told the lawmakers that a statute of limitation prevents the President from awarding the medal to Keeble, unless he is specifically authorized by Congress. Their legislation would make clear that the President has the authority to give final approval for Keeble's Medal of Honor, which has already received the endorsement of the Secretary of the Army and is now due for consideration by the Defense Secretary. Once passed, the legislation would clear the way for the Secretary of Defense to send Keeble's nomination to the President for approval.

.....
Note that Johnson began working on this case in 2002, as did his colleague John Thune.

Do any of our members remember "Woody" Keeble or the circumstances that have prompted the call for the MOH to be awarded to him? We would welcome any information, thoughts, etc., that you might have. Please send them to our office. In exchange, we will keep you apprised of any progress in the effort to award Keeble the MOH.

As Hawkins said in his conversation on South Dakota Public Radio, "I think it would be a great honor for our community, our tribe, the State of South Dakota, and for all of America to see him get the honor due him." In fact, it would be a great honor for all Korean War veterans!

Tell America

20 – HAWAII #1 [HI]

A call to Aiea High School in Aiea, on the island of O’ahu, in Hawaii, started things rolling for five members of our “Tell America” team. History teacher Lorrain Loui was really excited about having us come in to do our presentation, not on one day, ut four days in a row.

I thought, “Wow, from a slow response from other schools to an instant four-day presentation!”

A few days before we were to start, Lorrain called and rescheduled for three days, which was fine with us. Thankfully, all members agreed,

“Let’s do it!”

On our first day, February 26, only four members could do the three-day program: James “Ace” Kaleohano, Lucio Sanico, Micheal Inouye, and I. We had about 151 students divided into 3 groups. The second day, we had about 82 in 2 groups. The third day, our last group had about fifty. In those three days, we told some sad stories, but we also had some happy experiences about the war to share.

There were stories like Lucio “Sada” Sanico’s story of a guy falling into a fertilizer pit, hurrying out—and then having to

jump back into it to retrieve his rifle. The students laughed when we told them what kind of fertilizer it was!

My story was about C-rations.

“What’s a C-ration?” a student asked.

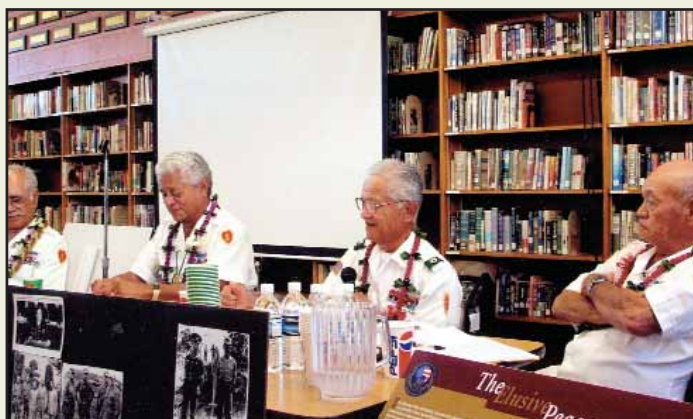
After explaining what it was, I told my story.

“In the beginning of the war, we were on the move a lot, so the kitchen couldn’t keep up to give us a hot meal. So us locals would pick up vegetables and rice along the way and cook it with whatever the main meal was in the C-ration package,” I told them.

On watching the video, “Bloody Korea,” we noticed one group in particular taking notes. So James “Ace” Kaleohano decided to test them using our test sheet. Sure enough, they raised their hands and gave the correct answers. Responses like that made us realize that students and teachers out there want to know and hear about that “Forgotten War.”

A question was asked about post traumatic stress. Reluctantly, two of our members gave their own experiences that still affect them today.

Finally, we thanked all the students and teachers for having us,



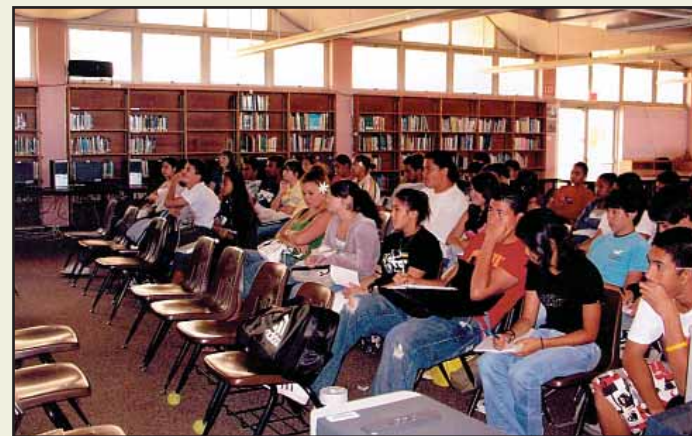
CID 20 members (L-R) Moses M. Pakaki, James Kaleohano, Lucio Senico, Michael Inouye lead Hawaii Tell America presentation



Hawaiian students listen intently to CID 20 members’ Tell America presentation



(L-R) Lorrain Loui, James (“Ace”) Kaleohano, Moses M. Pakaki, Randy Russ at Hawaii Tell America program



Different group of students, same high level of attention at CID 20’s Tell America presentation

for the delicious free lunch that was offered, and we asked them to call us back next year.

Moses M. Pakaki
85-1301 Ko'olina Street
Waianae, HI 96792

108 - WESTERN OHIO [OH]

The Western Ohio Chapter is one of the most active Chapters in the Tell America Program, as the nearby letters attest. These vets are doing a wonderful job

and making a real difference in the schools in their area.

Larry Kinard
2108 Westchester
Mansfield TX 76063



Sergio Yanez (L), a student from Cucta, Colombia and Fred Shively of CID 108 at a Tell America presentation



CID 108 members (L-R) Eugene Hoening, Fred Shively, James Faller, and Ken Williamson at a Tell America presentation

Dear Sirs,

I would like to apologize on behalf of my country for forgetting about all the tragedies you had to face. Regardless of the reasons you fought, you deserve thanks and gratefulness from those you protected. A soldier, no matter where he or she fights, is doing his/her duties to America. Having to fight in the horrible conditions you did, having to survive the elements and enemy fire, is incredible. Trench warfare is horrible enough, and then to add few supplies on top of that, it's very impressive that you made it through. I want to thank you for what you've done for me, my parents, and my grandparents. I can't imagine living with the fear of death every day. So, thank you, so much, for risking your life for me and all the other Americans alive today.


Sincerely,

Courtney Cotts

Feb. 03, 2006
Westerville North High School

Letters thanking CID 108 members for their Tell America presentations

WESTERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
950 County Line Road, Westerville OH 43081-1000
614/797-6200 FAX 614/797-6201



George E. Tombaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
614/797-5700 FAX 614/797-5701

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Curt Jackowski, Principal
Matt Lutz, Assistant Principal
Carl Svagerko, Assistant Principal
Amy Tankovich, Dean of Students
Chad Williams, Dean of Students

I am writing this letter in behalf of the presentation of Fred Shively and Ken Williamson. These fine veterans come to Columbus twice a year to talk on the Korean War. Both, Fred and Ken, come fully prepared with maps, tapes, flags, overheads, and other artifacts. Their speech is full on insightful information about how the Korean War was instrumental in containing communism in the Far East.

During their presentation, both speakers alternate in their dialogue with the class. Fred and Ken often discuss their personal experiences from this event. In a typical class (50 minutes), Fred and Ken will keep the pace of the class moving by fielding 30 to 40 questions per class. In addition to addressing questions from students, both speakers will display various historical artifacts from this period (helmets, letters, canteen item, etc). Overall, I am pleased with their enthusiastic manner in teaching my class. It is an honor and privilege to have members of the Korean War Veterans Association (Western Association) speak in my U.S. History classes. Ultimately, their training and experience supply a powerful component for enhancing the education experience for Westerville North students.

Sincerely,
Scott J Gray
Scott Gray
Social Studies Instructor

191 - TIDEWATER [VA]

Leo Ruffing, a member of CID 191, Tidewater [VA], gave a presentation on February 14th, 2007, at Western Branch Middle School. The topic was "Veterans and why they should be honored." He discussed the origin of Veterans Day and reviewed some of the decorations that are awarded to military personnel.

The focus was the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart. Ruffing gave examples for each award. His presentation com-

ments included information about 1st Lt. Richard Shea. Lt. Shea, who was from Portsmouth, Virginia, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service with the 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in Korea.

Ruffing also reviewed the history of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and discussed its position in our military tradition.

Reach Leo Ruffing at lruffing1@cox.net

137 – MAHONING VALLEY [OH]

Seven veterans from the Chapter #137 of the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown Ohio, participated in a Tell America presentation recently. There were a total of 166 students in the 5 classes. This was an all-day event; we even ate lunch with the students.

At the closing of the program, Joe Vrable and Bob Bakalik

showed the students how to fold the flag, then told them what happens to the flag at a military funeral by presenting the flag to Joann Onstott as an example. Ms. Onstott also explained the meaning and symbolism of the POW-MIA Table to the student and teachers.

Joann Onstott



CID 137 members at Tell America presentation (L-R) Leo Taillon, Joe Vrable, John Pariza, who is Chairman of the program, Joann Onstott, Chapter Historian, Ken Murphy, Dominic Lentini, Bob Bakalik, 2nd Vice President



Bob Bakalik and Joann Onstott demonstrate the presentation of the flag at CID 137's presentation



CID 137 member Leo Taillon reads the history of the Korean War to students at the Chapter's Tell America program



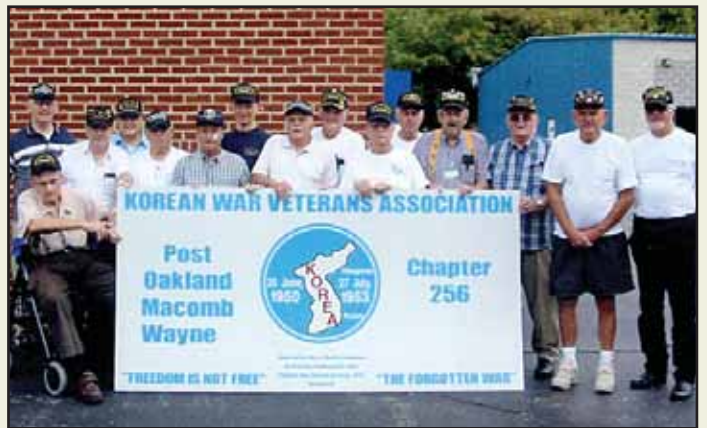
The "future of America" listens to CID 137 members stories about the Korean War

256 – NORVILLE B. FINNEY [MI]

The Chapter has a flourishing Tell America program, which started in 2001. Of its 60 members, 15 participate. Chapter President Richard Charbonneau estimates that they have contact with about 5,000 students per

year at the 24 schools with which they work.

Charbonneau is a firm believer in the value of the program. In fact, he strongly advises other Chapters to start their own Tell America programs



CID 256 members gather at renaming ceremony for Chapter, which was formerly known as Oakland/Macomb/Wayne



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&

Phone: 208-762-4481
Fax: 208-762-3931

Randy Sweet LPN,
MM3 USN Ret. DAV

Email: macpatch@mcgrogans.com
Randy@mcgrogans.com



Monuments and Medals

Korea: the Forgotten War, Remembered

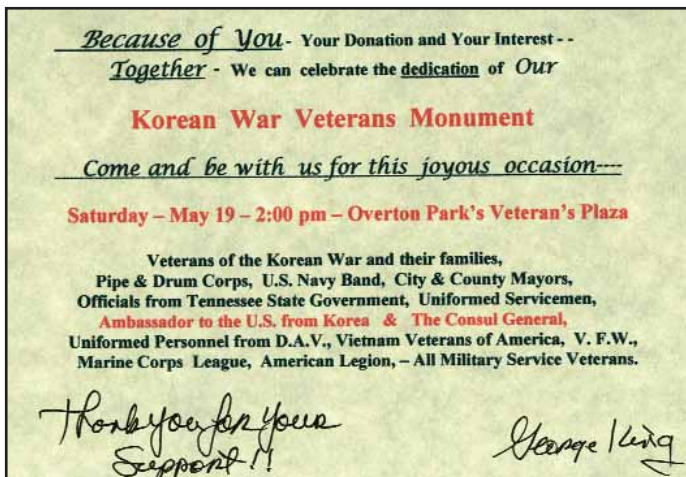
Germantown, TN Memorial Dedicated

Although I am a member of the California-based Chapter 264, I was pleased to contribute to the Korean War Memorial in Germantown, TN.

I believe that similar support can be given to future Korean War memorials if the activity regarding fund raising receives appropriate publicity in *The Graybeards*.



Invitation to the Memphis Korean War Veteran's Memorial Monument



Thanks for your donation to the Memphis Monument

We need to stand together in the spirit of the time to keep the memory of the Korean War alive.

Incidentally, the nearby copies of material I received describe in detail the dedication of the Tennessee memorial.

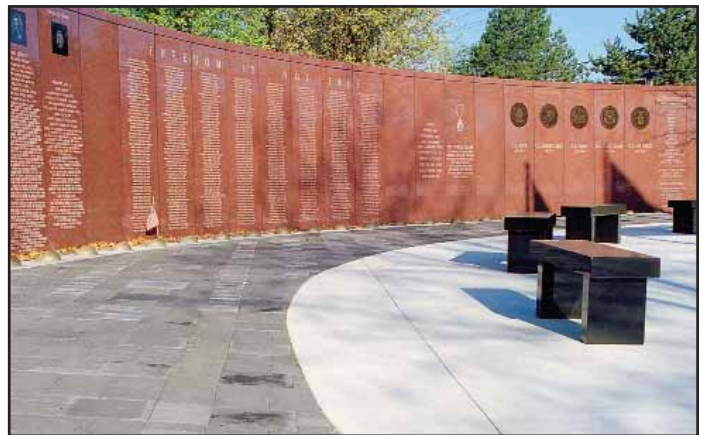
Stanley Grogan,
2585 Moraga Drive
Pinole CA 94564

Kansas City Honors Korean War Vets

The beautiful curved wall of the KWVA Memorial pictured nearby honors the fallen and missing warriors of the Korean War. Between the black marble benches and the memorial wall, privately-subscribed memorial paving stones, available through the Chapter, are set in the path to honor individual U.S. military veterans of all services and all eras.

The Memorial is located in the greater Kansas City area at 119th Street and Lowell in Overland Park, KS. It was dedicated last fall amid a gathering of well over one thousand people. The rock piles on the site were erected to represent Korea's battlefields. In time, a heroic bronze statue of a soldier mourning a fallen comrade will command the mound.

Continued on page 63



The Korean War Monument in Overland Park, KS



The Korean American Choir sings at the Overland Park, KS monument ceremony

13 BILL CARR [DE]

Members attended the Department of Delaware convention.
*Russell Cunningham, 33161 Woodland Court, S,
 Lewes, DE 19958-5226*



President Dechert presents Plaque of Appreciation to CID 13 President Walt Koopman



CID 13 President Walt Koopman and Reverend Kim wait patiently for lunch at the Department of Delaware convention

19 GEN RAYMOND G. DAVIS [GA]

At a luncheon and book signing at the National Museum of Patriotism in Atlanta, three members of the Chapter were photographed with Captain Jack H. Jacobs, U.S. Army, who received the nation's highest honor for his service in Vietnam.

Fifteen members of the Chapter were invited to a grand luncheon on Sunday, 11 March 2007 with the Korean Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Tae Sik Lee. Speeches and gift exchanging were the highlights of the luncheon at the Silk Asian restaurant in midtown Atlanta.

*James Conway, 1184 Fourteenth Place
 Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3505, conatlanta@aol.com*



James Conway, Jane Jones, Edwin Murray, Capt. Jack H. Jacobs, MOH recipient, Carol and Urban Rump at National Museum of Patriotism



CID 19 members and assembled guests at the luncheon for Ambassador Lee (Top row, L-R) Robert Balfour, three Korean Marines, Thomas Woods, Dae Yong Mun, President, Korean Veterans Regional Chapter, Urban Rump, Henry Taylor

(Middle row, L-R) Hae Hon Pyun, Robert Moore, Che Min Rim, Robert Hendershott, Ronald Clark, Robert McCubbins, Jack Robinson

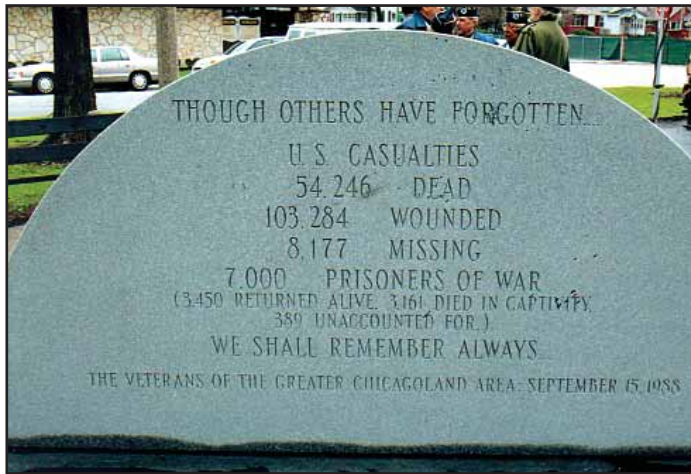
(Bottom row, L-R) Gen. (Ret.) Warren Johnson, John Kahle, Gen. (Ret.) William Livsey, Ambassador Tae Sik Lee, Gen. (Ret.) Harold Dye, Thaddeus Sobieski, Thomas Harris, President of Gen. Davis Chapter.

23 SOUTH SUBURBAN [IL]

Members attended an April 12, 2007 ceremony at the first Korean War monument in the U.S. in Kennedy Park in Chicago. In attendance were the U.S. Ambassador to Korea, A. Vershbon, and the Korean Ambassador to the U.S., Tae-Sik Lee.

The monument was dedicated on September 15, 1988.

*Arnold P. Feinberg, 8916 Leslie Drive
 Orland Hills, IL 60487-5996.*



The first Korean War monument in the U.S., in Chicago, IL

99 TALL CORN [IA]

We held our annual spring meeting at the American Legion Post in Malcolm, IA. As we always do at that meeting, we elected our officers. This year, we re-elected our incumbents:

- President – Bill Hartsock
- 1st VP – Sid Morris
- 2nd VP – LeLand Staker
- Sec. & Treasurer – Tom Pratt

We also set the date for our annual picnic/meeting, which will be held July 21, 2007 at the American Legion Post in Malcolm.

We had a guest speaker, Carl Martin, who is a Veterans Affairs Director. He provided us with some interesting news about certain veterans benefits and answered a load of questions from our members.

*Bill Hartsock, 2301 Agency Street, Apt. 29
Burlington, IA 52601-1986*



(L-R) A. Vershbon, CID 23 Commander Arnold Feinberg, Tae-Sik Lee, Dept. of Illinois Commander Paul Sutphin at Chicago ceremony



CID 99's re-elected officers (L-R) LeLand Staker, Sid Morris, Tom Pratt, Bill Hartsock



CID 23 members at Chicago monument ceremony, with Paul Sutphin holding sign



Speaker Carl Martin addresses CID 99 members and guests



Carl Martin emphasizes a point in his presentation to CID 99 members and guests



Members and guests pay rapt attention at CID 99's recent meeting in Malcolm, IA

129 SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA #4 [IN]

We recognized three of our charter members, Archie Abner, Clarence Batchelor, and Clarence Vogelgesang, for outstanding service to the Chapter, which was chartered by the National KWVA organization during March 1996.

Abner, Batchelor, and Vogelgesang have served continuously in various chapter offices for a number of years. Abner is currently serving as the Treasurer, Batchelor is Sergeant-at-Arms, and Vogelgesang is the POW-MIA officer.

"Their loyalty and dedication to the organization are truly commendable" said Chapter Commander Luther Rice.

All three were presented plaques in appreciation for their years of service to the chapter. Abner served with the Army, while Batchelor and Vogelgesang served with the Air Force during the Korean War.

*Luther Rice, 414 Water Street
Aurora, IN 47001-0432, (812) 926 2790*



CID 129 officers (Front L-R) Commander Luther Rice, Sr Vice Cdr. Bob Karp Jr., Vice Cdr. Dick Fussnecker, POW-MIA Clarence Vogelgesang, PR Howard Cleeter (Back L-R) Sgt-at-Arms Clarence Batchelor, Adjutant Lynn Weber, Acting Chaplain J. D. Largent (Treasurer Archie Abner and Judge Advocate Bill Kyle were absent when the photo was taken)



(L-R) CID 129 Commander Luther, Archie Abner, Clarence Vogelgesang, Bob Karp at the Chapter's award ceremony

142 KOREAN WAR VETERANS [MD]

Chapter members provided the Color and Honor Guard for the National Park Service Korean War Commemoration at the Eisenhower National Historic Site, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 23, 2005.



CID 142 Color Guard members presenting symbols at Gettysburg: Robert Mount, Robert Eader and Reggie Kephart. Also attending were Ken Davis, Gene Rinehart, Leroy Hansberger, Tony Malevenda, Creed Parker, Charlie Kopelman, Tony Marra, Marty Goge and Chip Chipley (not pictured)



Fallen Comrade Ceremony Salute at Gettysburg by CID 142 Color Guard
 Commander Marty Goge

They conducted the Fallen Comrade Ceremony as well.

*Richard L. Martin, 8113 Glendale Drive
 Frederick, MD 21702, (301) 663-6360
 RLMAEM@adelphia.net*

153 CENTRAL FLORIDA [FL]

CID 153's Ladies Auxiliary was chartered in 1998. The members continue to do a great job.

They recently had an Easter Bonnet contest. All we can say is "Hats Off" to the ladies.

*Charles & Amelia Carafano, 1885 Van Allen Circle
 Deltona, FL 32738*



CID 153's Ladies Auxiliary members at the Easter Bonnet contest (L-R)
 Mary Gaffney, Marge Burns, Mrs. Hubbard Warner, Helen Saccente,
 Barbara Fass, Lorraine Recuperero, President Mary Horroches, 1st VP Flo
 Smith, and Chaplain Liz Vegara

170 TAEJON [NJ]

Sixteen Chapter members marched in the New York City Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2006. New York City's is one of the largest Veterans Day parades in the country. Sr. Vice Commander Alexander Atheras led the members in the parade, which took hours to finish.



CID 170 Sr. Commander Alexander Atheras set to lead Chapter members in
 the New York City Veterans Day Parade



CID 170 members Pasquale Candela, Gerald Van Brunt, and Dominick DiPaolo with South Korean Korean War veterans at New York City Veterans Day Parade



WWII and Korean War veteran 90-year-old Harold Dinzes and Sr. Vice
 Commander Alexander Atheras of CID 170 at NY City Veterans Day Parade

Numerous South Korean Korean War veterans also marched with the Chapter. Many of the South Koreans threw their arms around CID 170 members and said, "Thank You."

The Chapter's oldest participant was WWII and Korean War veteran Captain Harold Dinges. Dinges turned 90 years old recently. Even though we had an impressive turnout, many Chapter members did not march; they were on a Chapter-sponsored cruise.



Donald Rista and Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini of CID 170 at New York City Veterans Day Parade



A few CID 170 members who participated in the New York City parade (L-R) Raymond Cohen, Erwin Burkert, Robert Domanowski, Louis DeStefano, Louis Quagliero



Recipients of the Passaic County military medallions (L-R) Joseph Botto, Thomas Miller, Louis Quagliero, Raymond Cohen, and Louis DeStefano

The Color Guard once again looked sharp as Jr. Vice commander Henry Ferrarini called cadence as they sang in marching rhythm. The crowds responded with a loud sound of clapping as the members marched by.

It was a long day for the members. It started at 8:30 a.m. when they boarded a bus to New York City. They did not arrive back in New Jersey until 4 pm. Members who marched then enjoyed dinner at a nearby restaurant, compliments of the chapter.

Chapter members from Passaic County, New Jersey were honored for their military service to their country and county of New Jersey on November 10, 2006. This special veterans day ceremony was sponsored by the County Board of Freeholders.

Korean War veteran and member of Taejon Chapter Thomas Miller served as Master of Ceremony. Mr. Miller is also Passaic County Veteran Services' Interment Officer.

Chapter members who received the medallions were Thomas Miller, Joseph Botto, Raymond Cohen, Louis Destefano and Louis Quagliero. Men and women receiving the medallions served in the military during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other wars.

The print on the front of the medallion reads "Distinguished Military Service." On the reverse side it reads "Passaic County Freeholders."

Louis Quagliero's 10-year-old granddaughter Samantha was asked to lead the veterans and county executives in the Pledge of Allegiance. Samantha received a military medallion in proxy for her aunt Ruth Ann Quagliero, who served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Freeholder Director Elease Evans stated that, "Freedom is not free, and we pause to thank our heroes for protecting our God-given freedom. God bless the veterans and our county."

Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

*Louis Quagliero, 142 Illinois Avenue
Paterson, NJ 07503*

188 SOUTH LAKE COUNTY [FL]

The Chapter's Honor Guard participated in the opening ceremony for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life," which was held at East Ridge High School in Clermont, FL.



CID 188's Honor Guard (L-R) Bill Shabler, Tommie Ritten, President Carl Hogue, Rube Morehouse, Charlie First

Members participated in a Medal Ceremony at the American Legion Post on April 10th with Ginny Brown-Waite, a member of Congress.

We also began planning for our primary fund raiser, a car show, which is scheduled for November 4 (Veterans Day weekend).

Finally, our Chapter donated new flags to the city of Groveland, FL. Several members participated in the flag raising.

*Carol M. Becker, 17741 W. Apshawa Road
Clermont, FL 34715-9299*



Members of CID 188 at the Medal Ceremony with Congressman Ginny Brown-Waite



Members of CID at the Groveland flag raising event

209 LAREDO KWVA 1950 [TX]

On April 25, 2007, the Chapter held its annual Scholarship Recognition Night. One of the requirements was that the students write an essay on the Korean War and turn it in with their application. (Two of the essays appear on pages 30 and 31.)

The recipients are Roel Esparza, J.W. Nixon High School, Clarissa Castaneda, J. B. Alexander High School, Erika Lozano, South High School, and Mark Rosell, United High School.

*Pedro Trevino, 3219 Lyon Street
Laredo, TX 78043-1908*



CID 188's Honor Guard practices for the upcoming car show



CID 209 members and scholarship recipients (L-R) Chapter President J. L. Munoz, Roel Esparza, Clarissa Castaneda, Erika Lozano, Mark Rosell, Scholarship Chairman David Leyendecker



CID 188 members gather at March 2007 meeting prior to Groveland's flag raising

259 CENTRAL INDIANA [IN]

There are two new wide-screen TVs in the Indianapolis VA Hospital for patient entertainment. The TVs were purchased with \$2,500 donated by a Chapter 259 member's relative.

Indianapolis VA Medical Center recognized the good works of its volunteers at a recent luncheon. The affair was held at the



Chapter 259 Commander Don Seib displays the clear picture on a new TV at the R.L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis as Bill Carr (L), Chapter Ways and Means Chair, and Michael Wright, Chief of Voluntary Services at the hospital, observe



Tom Shepherd (right), CID 259's Treasurer, presents a check to W. A. "Bill" Ensign (left), Veterans Coalition treasurer and Chapter 259 member, as Jack Beaty (standing, also a member of CID 259), observes



CID 259 members attending the Indianapolis VA Medical Center volunteer luncheon (L-R) Tine Martin, Terry McDaniel, Melvin Butler, Catherine Carr and husband Bill, Dorothy Sanders, Commander Don Seib and Vice Commander Jack Beaty

former Fort Benjamin Harrison Officers Club. Over 100 people, representing various veterans and community groups, were in attendance. The attendees included members of our Chapter.

Special recognition was given to the efforts of Ex-POWs Melvin Butler and Terry McDaniel, who contribute to the care of patients at the hospital.

Helping active duty military as well as veterans in Indiana is the Military/Veterans Coalition. Members of Central Indiana KWA Chapter 259 contributed \$200 to support the Coalition's efforts and work with state and federal legislators to gain proper recognition for those who serve their country.



CID 259 Commander Don Seib serves with the Hendricks County [IN] Honor Guard



CID 259 Honor Guard member Keith Roberts



A Rifle Team performing its assignment at a military funeral

Coalition members are from several veteran organizations around the state. As a result of their efforts, they have recently seen military-friendly legislation passed into law.

Across our country there are veterans and others who volunteer their time to act as Honor Guards at the funerals of veterans. Some groups provide a "Twenty-One Gun" salute with a rifle team of seven men firing three volleys. Often the team may include a trumpet player for "Taps." Many of us have seen these ceremonies in person and realize that we might be so honored one day.

We may see these 'Old Soldiers' in their uniforms at the burial of veterans. Some are in their 70s or older. They have to be out to the cemetery at all times of day, whether it is cold, rainy or hot, to add dignity to the ceremony. Those with rifles have to be safety conscious, making sure the piece is in good condition and there are no chances of injuries to them or those in attendance. Another of their functions is to coordinate with funeral directors and cemetery offices to insure they get to the right place on time.

Two members of Central Indiana Chapter 259 are active Honor Guard members. Commander Don Seib and Keith Roberts both volunteer for this duty. Keith just returned from 'wintering' in Florida, where he participated in 260 burials in a

few months. He told us of a ninety-year-old trumpeter who plays "Taps" there. He also performs duty with teams in Indiana.

Don is on a team that covers Central Indiana area funerals. These men get a thank you and salute for the service they provide every time the families and friends of the deceased witness their performance. It assures them that the service of their relative or friend is respected and appreciated by their Country.

The Honor Guards make the burial more than just some prayers said next to the grave or vault. The "Presentation of the Flag" and the Salute give great dignity to the memory of one person's contribution to his or her country.

John M. Quinn, via email

272 GREATER ROCKFORD [IL]

On Friday May 4, 2007, U. S. Congressman Donald Manzullo welcomed Ambassador Lee Tae-sik of South Korea to a reception he hosted for the Ambassador at Memorial Hall in Rockford, Illinois. Ambassador Lee spoke to the over 120 veterans, wives and friends in attendance, thanking the veterans for their service.

CID 272 Commander Jack Philbrick served as the Master of Ceremonies. Members of Chapters 150 and 272 attended as well.

After a short talk, Ambassador Lee presented each veteran



Ambassador Lee presents cell phone to Dr. Herbert Jackson of CID 272



Congressman Donald Manzullo (left) with South Korean Ambassador Lee Tae-sik (middle) and Chapter 272 Commander Jack Philbrick

with a new cell phone—which included three months complimentary cell phone service.

Refreshments were provided after the reception.

*Jack F. Philbrick, (815) 226-1601, felbriggs@insightbb.com
(Photographs compliments of Myrl Fisher of Chapter 272)*

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Annual Changing of Command Convention

National President Lou Dechert came to Dover, Delaware on March 25, 2007 to attend the Delaware Department's annual changing of command program. He drew a crowd of over 100 veterans and guests, the largest in the history of the Department of this tiny state.

Dechert administered the oath of office of commander to Russell W. Cunningham of Lewes, Delaware. Cunningham replaces Gene Rose as commander. Cunningham served as an Army aviator with the 45th Infantry Division and the 45 Engineer Maintenance and Supply group in 1953. He was



Department of Delaware members at state convention (L-R) Frank Davidson, Tom Duncan, William Russell, Francis Daney, Sam Riebel, Nancy Russell



President Dechert swears in new Department of Delaware Commander Russ Cunningham

awarded the Bronze Star and the Air Medal with 2 clusters. He flew the famous L-19 Bird Dog in 106 combat missions in the skies of North Korea. He is a former president of Sussex County Chapter #1.

Dechert delivered a passionate and informative speech to the Korean veterans, who responded with a thunderous ovation. After the ceremony, he visited with the men and women and answered questions about the working of the national organization, much to the delight and respect of the audience.

Also speaking was Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper, who came to welcome Dechert to Delaware and to thank the Korean veterans for their service. Also participating was Major General Frank Vavala, Delaware Adjutant General and head of the Delaware National Guard. Vavala presented Cunningham with his state commander's cap. He also doffed his own general's cap and put on a KWVA cap, which had been presented to him when he was made an honorary member of the KWVA.

Outgoing Commander Rose made General Vavala an honorary "commander" of the Department. In a short, moving talk, General Vavala told the member of the value of their service in defeating Communism during the Cold War.

The Reverend Kim, Pastor of Dover First Baptist Church,



Color Guard at the Department of Delaware convention (L-R) Jim Baker, Ed Pickover, Dick Schald, Ron Shoup



President Dechert swears in George Courtney, new 1st Vice Commander of Department of Delaware



Incoming Department of Delaware Commander Russ Cunningham awards his predecessor, Gene Rose



U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware addresses the Department of Delaware convention

made an appearance as well. Reverend Kim and his Korean church members have a warm and affectionate relationship with the Department's members, sharing church services and social gatherings. The KWVA members are proud to be friends of Reverend Kim and his church.

In a few brief remarks, Cunningham expressed his thanks to Dechert for coming to the meeting in Delaware. "It is a true honor to me and the membership," he said. Cunningham noted that the KWVA is the biggest secret in Delaware, just as it is in other states. He vowed that the department would wage an all-out publicity campaign aimed at his goal of a 20% increase in membership.

"We will be aiming at those who served in Korea after 1953," he noted.

*Russell Cunningham, 33161 Woodland Court, S
Lewes, DE 19958-5226*

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.KWVA.org

Members in the NEWS

24th Inf. Div. To Get Memorial in Hawaii



Two members of Chapter 63, Western New York, Ken Fentner and Sal Schillaci, were instrumental in getting a monument to the 24th Infantry Division placed at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

Rickert and Schillaci worked hard to find sponsors for the monument which was unveiled in Buffalo, NY, in January 2007. They wanted to get stone from Korea for it, but that was not possible. Eventually, Stone Art, based in Lackawanna, NY, and its supplier, Rock of Ages Quarry in Barre, VT, agreed to split the \$3,500 cost of the granite for the stone. Rickert's granddaughter, Danielle

Rickert, designed the plaque.

Soon, the monument will rest on Memorial Walk at the cemetery in Hawaii, thanks to the efforts of two dedicated Korean War veterans and KWVA members.

For a more detailed story, find a copy of the story "First in Fight" forgotten no longer," by John F. Bonfatti, staff reporter for the Buffalo [NY] Daily News, 1/27/07. He can be reached at jbonfatti@buffnews.com

*Submitted by Bill Hook
3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217*

the life-and-death desperation dubbed by others safely afar as only a conflict—little more—ignoring the devastation of mano a mano total war.

Nor label that bloodshed an action, but call that morass a wholesale hell: the where, the when, and the way legions of our finest young disappeared — or bled — or fell.

Sal Parlato Jr
USMC 1954 - 56

His Letter:

This letter appeared in the June 28, 2006 edition of the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

Honor lives given in Korean War

With its 53rd anniversary this past Sunday, the Korean War is still a forgotten war. As a Marine Corps veteran of that era, I continue to face mistaken questions like, "Korea didn't last as long as WWII, did it?" or "Korea wasn't as bad as Vietnam, was it?"

Two factors account for such inaccuracies. One is the scant coverage of that war in our history books; the other, the passive reaction of a population still battle-weary after the worst global massacre of all time.

To correct the quoted fallacies, here are some numbers: Korea (June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, or 37 months) lasted almost as long as WWII (Dec. 7, 1941, to Aug. 8, 1945, or 44 months)—a difference of only 7 months.

The body count in Korea (33,609) amounted to about 900 deaths per month; Vietnam (58,000), approximately 480 per month.

These are horrible human measurements, compared only to give equal credit to all who gave their lives for America.

Salvatore Parlato
Irondequoit

*Reach Salvatore J. Parlato at
248 Seville Dr., Rochester, NY 14617
(585) 544-3689.*

Bob Simon Named Grand Marshal

Chapter 251 Commander Bob Simon was Grand Marshal for the Heritage High School Homecoming Parade on October 13, 2006. The parade comprised 72 floats and several bands.



(L-R) Ken Fentner, Gene Spicer, Dan Rickert, and Dan Schillaci highlight the 24th Infantry Division monument that will be at the Punchbowl Cemetery

Salvatore Parlato Wins Award

Salvatore Parlato won a 2002-2005 Rochester [NY] Democrat and Chronicle Golden Pen Award. One of his featured publications was a poem; another was a letter. Both are reprinted below with permission.

KOREA—GETTING IT RIGHT

Many too many to measure
are the lives of Americans lost

to China's and North Korea's fiercest fighting and frost—

East and West competing,
neither heeding the cost,
a cruel ordeal some crudely gave
the name of the work of police,
nightmares the very most brave
still seek to this day for release—

I was watching the news on television when there was a report that the day before, on October 12, 2000, there had been an attack on one of our destroyers, *USS Cole*, in the Port Of Aden in Yemen. In the attack, 17 sailors were killed and 39 injured by the action of two Muslim suicide bombers in a small boat. The rules of engagement had prevented the *Cole* from firing first at the suspicious small boat.

I had been in Aden years before, and a multitude of memories flooded into my consciousness. It had been the last eastern hemisphere stop for our squadron before we were to move on through the Suez Canal for a final set of liberties in the Mediterranean and the crossing back to Norfolk, Virginia as we rotated out of the Korean War Zone. The stop in Aden had been one scheduled for our Destroyer Squadron Two as part of our circumnavigation of the globe when the four ships were deployed - we had traversed half the globe to the war and would travel the second half on our return.

My ship was *USS Barton* (DD722). The other three in the squadron were *John R. Pierce*, *Strong*, and *Soley*, all 2100 ton, Sumner Class Destroyers, each with six 5-inch, 38 caliber guns in three mounts of the main battery, six torpedo tubes; supporting 40 millimeter mounts, and depth-charge racks on the stern.

I was a reserve officer 'plucked' from an embryonic business career and recent marriage to the love of my life. I had been certain the Navy had lost all trace of me except my reserve pay record. I had graduated with a license in the merchant marine and a Navy commission from New York State Maritime Academy, one of six such schools established in 1875 to train mariners after the Civil War, during which five Confederate 'raiders', built by the British for the South, had sailed the world and decimated the U.S. Merchant Fleet and its sailors.

Barton had received my orders aboard ship in the same mail as those discharging their chief engineer, and Barton's Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Denniston, assumed I was a seasoned mariner and was to be the chief's relief. So, he kept the chief's cabin vacant for three months; he did not permit the Damage Control Officer, the chief's logical replacement, to move up.

THE FEZ

By Jack Hayes

When I reported aboard to the Exec, his first question to me was, "What ships have you served aboard, sir?" His face dropped when I reported *Barton* was my first. When I graduated there were few at-sea billets available, since the merchant fleet was severely shrunken at the end of WWII.

Many of the reserves aboard resented being taken from new positions ashore to serve, but I figured I was to be aboard for a while, so I might as well dig in. Besides, when the damage control officer didn't move up as he should have, he had spent



Jack Hayes in Korea

the entire quarterly allotment of the engineering department on the Shipfitters' Shop, the base of the Damage Control Department. Thus, I inherited this well-equipped facility as my fiefdom. As it turned out, it was an important job, preparing the ship to be ready for repair in case of battle damage.

As I was getting acclimated with my new life, I met one of my classmates, Bob Hoffman, who had just returned from service in Korea on a tanker. He suggested that I "get as much shoring aboard as possible," and I had metal brackets mounted under all the weather deck over-hangs to hold it. (Shoring is 4 by 4 inch and larger boards which are used to brace damaged areas against collapse.) This suggestion from Bob became life-saving for us later in action overseas.

We left Norfolk in spring. Our theme was the then-popular 'September Song' - lyrics, "Oh, it's a long, long time from May to December" - the term of our overseas tour. We transited the Canal and refueled in Pearl Harbor and Midway while crossing the Pacific, landing in Yokusuka, Japan in June.

On the way I was asked to look over the plant to find the source of lubricating oil that was showing up in the bilges. I localized the trouble to the main reduction gears and requested a repair ship inspection to find and repair the leak. When we arrived in Japan, we moored alongside the tender, *USS Yellowstone*. A crew came aboard under the command of another of my classmates, Steve Long. Steve and I had a few good liberties together in Yokusuka, but Barton only had a few days to taste the wonders of Japan—ironically, our enemy only a few short years earlier.

The Navy, like all the military services, takes time to train, and we were first sent to sea with a small carrier and two submarines to practice action against submarine attack. After two days of this, we moved into the harbor of Hakodate in Hokkaido, the Japanese northern-most island. The complement of our ships was three times the population of this small town. With men from many other ships, I spent the time on shore patrol to help keep the peace. We returned to Yokusuka. After we spent a few days during the next week topping off ammunition and provisions, the squadron was off to the 'bomb line' - the war!

Barton and *Pierce* were assigned to spend 45 days inside Wonsan Harbor on the Eastern coast of North Korea. Since we were always within range of enemy units on the shore there, we never stopped moving in the harbor. Only the 'covered' general quarters stations - the main battery, bridge, engine rooms, etc. - were manned so the men would not provide easy targets. But we regularly provided bombardment for Marines somewhere ashore, and I learned to sleep while the two five inch guns in the after mount, 30 feet from my bed, fired every night answering 'call fire' missions from them.

As senior ship in the squadron, we had a commodore and staff aboard, displacing everyone from our captain down from their normal quarters. He was assigned as Commander, Eastern Coast Blockade, directing *Soley* and *Pierce* in offshore work, and operating spies sent out from Yodo, an island we owned in the harbor.

The spies came aboard every afternoon at 5 p.m. from an LCM, dubbed 'the bar-room express', to report to the commodore. This led to my meeting another school mate, John Intorcica, who had not finished at The Maritime Academy. Rather, he went to Fordham University, where he joined ROTC and received a commission in the Air Force.

John had been on Yodo for a year, attending to spies and captured North Korean prisoners. I met him one afternoon as we slowed off the island - as we did every day to take spies aboard. John had a handlebar mustache, but we somehow recognized one another when he passed by on the way to report to the commodore.

He lived in a tent on the island in primitive conditions, and he requested that he be able to take a shower when he came aboard every day. I told him he was welcome to shower so long as I could hold the sidearm he carried with one in the chamber because of the prisoners on Yodo. We had a deal. In repayment, some time later I went ashore to his quarters and enjoyed espresso laced with Rye whiskey, which wasn't available aboard ship.

The carriers of Task Force 77, operating off the coast, sent planes every day to bomb the city of Wonsan. One afternoon the Battleship *Iowa* fired on the town from a position a few miles off the coast. Three-round sets of 16 inch projectiles from



Jack Hayes (L) and his ultimate relief, Dave Schmulbach, a professor at the University of Chicago

Iowa's main battery could be easily seen flying overhead - they were only a bit smaller than a Buick and reported to each cost as much.

Then, one afternoon our action really began. I was on the way to use the head when the 'gong-gong-gong' of general quarters sounded. I was determined to 'hold it' until the action was over so I could avoid the obvious thought my crew

would have that I had panicked. Grabbing my helmet and life jacket, I ran to convert the midships Purser's Office to Damage Control Central, and we set up the reporting stations around the ship.

The North Koreans had mounted some captured 105 millimeter howitzers in caves around the harbor, and had opened fire on Yodo Island. *USS Pierce* was deep in the harbor, unable to bring her guns to bear. We recognized that if she moved up she would be a hazard to us as we made figure eights at 27 knots, avoiding the splashes of rounds when the enemy shifted fire from Yodo to us!

Half an hour into the action the bridge reported seeing a hit aft on the 01 level; it was my turn to go into action. I had to inspect the damage and report to the captain. All I could see when I stepped out onto the weather deck were the splashes of enemy shells close aboard.

I climbed the ladder to the '01 level,' and I could hear the rattle of shrapnel as it skittered off the deckhouse. Reaching the deck, I saw that the blast had been against the base of the forward stack; it was made of thin sheet metal, and the blast had dissipated itself in minor damage.

But there was a small hole in the deck where the shell had burst. When I climbed back down and opened the hatch to the Torpedo Shack below, I found BM2 Gray,



A helicopter transfer silhouetted against the Korean sky

acting Torpedoman, dead from a piece of shrapnel which had hit him in the back of the neck as he slept on his bench during the action. His general quarters station, at the tubes in the open on the upper deck, was not to be manned in the harbor, so he went where he thought he would be safe. I notified the forward battle dressing station about the body and climbed to the bridge area.

I reported to Captain Seim and found him on the open bridge, seemingly nonchalant as he leaned his back against the pilot house while calling out rudder changes at 27 knots. He was a great, natural ship handler.

We fired 600 rounds of 5-inch ammunition during the action and silenced the enemy guns in 3 hours. When it was over, I went to the wardroom to relax with a cup of coffee. Our South Korean translator, Che, was there and asked me, "Where is

I told him the body had been prepared and was in the refrigerated compartment to send home to his family. I could have decked him when Che burst out laughing, "What good dead sailor?" he asked. "In Korean Navy we throw overboard!"

dead sailor?"

I told him the body had been prepared and was in the refrigerated compartment to send home to his family. I could have decked him when Che burst out laughing, "What good dead sailor?" he asked. "In Korean Navy we throw overboard!" Indeed, we had seen many bodies floating in the harbor. Both North and South Korea felt the same way about death in the ranks.

We were relieved from Wonsan and returned to Japan. After another short stay and refitting, the squadron was assigned to Task Force 77. This force, composed of the Battleship *USS Iowa*, four carriers and some cruisers, was protected from subma-

rine and surface attack by a 'screen' of 32 destroyers. Barton was senior in this screen, and our commodore was in charge of them.

I was now main propulsion assistant, in charge of the engines. We had two screws driven by engines in two separate engine rooms, each of which was fed steam from a separate fire room. Each space was separate and 'waterproof, except for the piping to each engine room from its boiler room. These were major compartments, extending from keel to main deck. The construction was designed to minimize flooding in case of battle damage.

We had joined the task force on





A collage of "Ships at Sea" on Jack Hayes "Round the World" trip

Five minutes into the second reel of the movie, Crawford had a bum in an alley, meaning to kill him. Just as he pulled back his fist to belt the guy, all hell broke loose - a floating mine had come through the entire fleet and struck us on the starboard side at frame 88, in the center of the forward fire room hull.

September 16, 1952 at 1700 hrs. Movies were scheduled at 2000 hrs in the crew's mess (an oater) and wardroom (Scandal Sheet, with Broderick Crawford). The first reel was over and we received word that the admiral had called for a course change into the wind to launch planes, and for an increase in speed to 25 knots. All department heads reported to stations to be certain the changes were properly carried out.

I had my chief boiler tender in the control fire room aft, and I reported to the forward fire room to oversee the conversion there to superheated steam and the opening of all burners to get maximum steam flow

to make the increased speed. By the time I went back to the movie, the circular screen of destroyers had shifted due to the fleet course change. We were now 'tail-end-Charlie' in the formation of ships.

Five minutes into the second reel of the movie, Crawford had a bum in an alley, meaning to kill him. Just as he pulled back his fist to belt the guy, all hell broke loose - a floating mine had come through the entire fleet and struck us on the starboard side at frame 88, in the center of the forward fire room hull. I would have been there 30 minutes later on my way to bed after the movie.

It is not possible to adequately describe the chaos which followed - lights out, superheated steam, 650 pounds pressure and 750 degrees, screaming out of holes in the piping below, people stumbling and yelling. We headed for the doors. The passageway aft was full of steam, so everyone moved toward the bow. The commodore transferred to Pierce and the fleet left us, thinking we had been torpedoed by an enemy sub.



The driver and the Fez

I went down the port side weather deck to midships and entered the passage to the engine room hatch. It was scalding hot from steam impinging on the underside, so I didn't open it! We connected a headset and made contact with the engine room talker to find that several of the engine room crew had been scalded. One, John Walton, had been badly injured. He had been cut—as if by a knife—by the superheated steam streaking from a gap in the pipe when he tried to climb the ladder out of the engine room hatch. My forward fire room crew, Graf, Savoie, Thierfelder and Sherry, were all killed and now probably part of the boilers in the fire room, which was fully flooded.

There were no further problems with the engines, since the valves on the steam lines in these spaces (now full of sea water) had been secured and my Chief Boiler Tender, on watch in the after fire room, had been sharp enough to close the main steam stop on his boilers. So, we still had 350 pounds of steam available to get underway on the one operable engine, aft. We fired up the after generator for lighting and got underway again at five knots on one screw.

Now was when the extra shoring I had brought aboard in Norfolk came into play. The forward fire room was completely flooded, and we had to brace the bulkhead between it and the engine room to the machinery to keep it from bucking. There was leakage into the compartments forward of the fire room, too, and an eductor had to be set up to dewater those spaces.

In the morning, a salvage tug came alongside. Her divers went down next to us to examine the hull. We had a twenty-by-thirty foot hole in the center of the fire room compartment hull which extended to within six inches of breaking the keel. They approved of our shoring job. It took us four days to steam slowly back to Sasebo, Japan, where we were ushered into a dry dock.

I was on the bow as we entered the drydock. There was a chalked message on the concrete wall: "*USS Walke (DD723)*." We were DD722, and I asked the "talker" to ask the bridge if it was possible to warn the DD721, whoever she was, to be careful!

I telephoned Fran, my new bride, from the town to let her know I was alive after

the action and how much I missed being with her. The battle had been reported in the newspapers, and we bawled together for most of the call; it was important relief for both of us, even at 5 dollars a minute.

Barton spent a month in dry dock in Sasebo. The Japanese welded a hull over the mine damage and cleaned the double bottoms, steam lines and forward turbine of saltwater to make us 'good to go' on what remained of the 'round the world' trip planned to rotate the squadron out of action when relieved by another as the war continued. The other three destroyers in our squadron had seen no direct action and Soley was selected to stand by us in Sasebo until we were ready in all respects to join them on the trip. Pierce and Strong went on with the trip as originally planned, stopping in Hong Kong and Shanghai, Singapore, and Bahrain while we were in for repairs.

We stopped with *USS Soley* in Singapore for a delightful two days. The Raffles Hotel on the hill was famous and served as our daily haunt. We found out there that miniscule British cucumber sandwiches didn't really go with a beer party.

We rendezvoused with Pierce and Strong off the entrance to Aden harbor. When we had a chance to meet with their crew, we learned of the fantastic stop-over we had missed in Bahrain.

When they told us their stories about that visit, it made the mine hit even more of a problem to us: we had missed a wild experience! Their ship's officers had been invited to a gala affair in Bahrain, where they sat around a feast in a tent with the Emir. The meal was roast lamb (the whole lamb, head, legs and all) and rice. They were instructed in the proper way to prepare (wash both hands but reserve the right hand for eating, the left for wiping your bottom after defecating.), and to eat (tear the lamb flesh off to eat and then grasp a handful of rice with the thumb tucked under it and pop the rice plug into the mouth.).

One of the lamb's eyes was for the Emir; the other was offered to the commodore who, thinking fast, turned to Commander Arbogast, his First Lieutenant and a reserve officer lawyer from Pittsburgh, as if "Arbo" were his taster. The commodore told Arbo to eat

it—and he did! I would love to have seen Arbo gagging down that mouthful.

As we approached Aden from the sea, the landscape looked like one large cinder - no sand visible, but no vegetation whatsoever either. As we moved into the harbor, the benefits of the oasis in which Aden stood were apparent - lush vegetation everywhere.

The British were in charge here, and they had a bash set up for our crews, and a party and a dance arranged for the officers. They loaned us their wives to dance with.

It was a gay evening, just like you see in the British movies: some officers in short-pants white uniforms, others in formal dress with medals; wives attired in ball gowns - frilly '50s vintage; waiters shuffling around with drinks and canapés.

The band was military but managed everything from Lester Lanin to the oilpaper waltzes. I never was much for dancing and so had wonderful conversations with participants ... "Jolly good, you know?"

I was invited to one home and was surprised by the simple structure and decorations, much like the bungalow community in which I had grown up in its summer appearance. I had imagined the Raj living to be much more sumptuous.

You had to appreciate the lengths to which the Brits went to make us comfortable, though an ulterior motive might have been to take the opportunity of our arrival to relieve the boredom which surely settled over this kind of duty...stuck in an oasis in the desert for years.

The next day, after the party with the Brits, I had taken a donkey cab ride with a guide who wore a fez. Inadvertently, now as I sat in my office in South Carolina, I turned and glanced at the old fez which had been one of the saved treasures from my excursion into the Korean War. Its black tassel and red felt material were much the worse for the fifty years since I had bought it, cooties and all, from the head of the donkey-cart driver.

As I look back, I believe my stay in Aden was much more enjoyable than was that of the crew of the *USS Cole*, although we all shared one thing in common: we had come under fire serving our country—and preserving our freedom.

The Planes Of Uijongbu

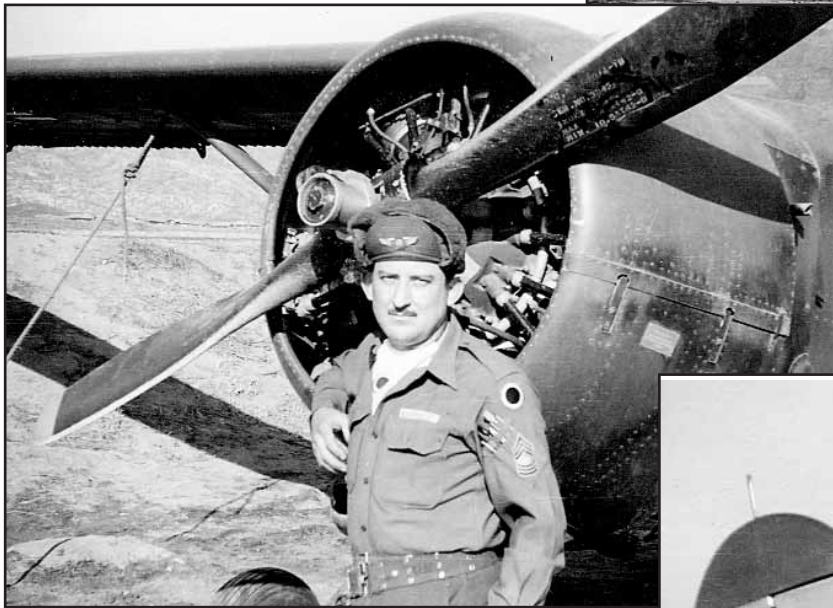
These photos were taken at Uijongbu, Korea. The 3rd Light Aviation Section (3rd LAS), supporting I Corp, operated from the airfield.

I was the airfield operation sergeant at the time these photos were taken, some time between the first week of May 1952 and the middle of May in 1953.

*Stanley M. Bachmurski
843 Cascade Drive
Newport News, VA 23608-3232,
smbachmurski@aol.com*



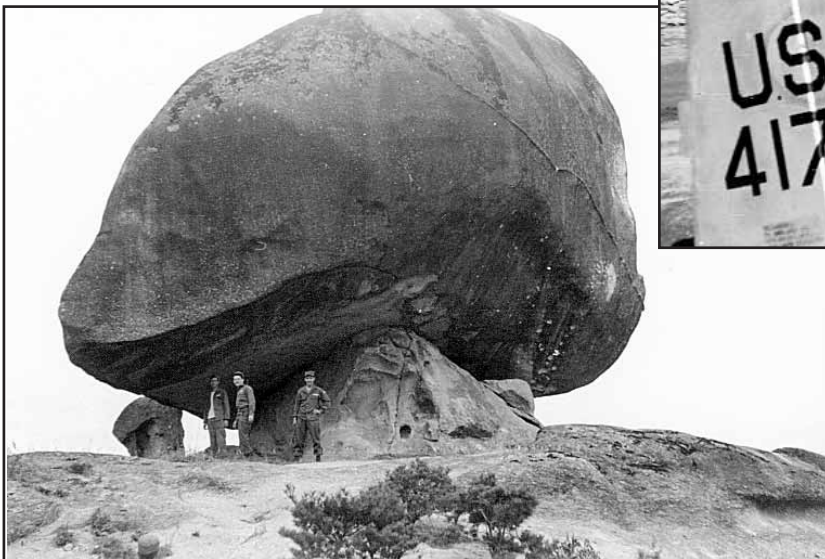
A North American L-17 Navion aircraft taking off (or landing) at the 3rd LAS Army Airfield



MSG Stanley M. Bachmurski, Uijongbu airfield operations sergeant, leaning against the engine cowling of a DeHavilland L-20 Beaver aircraft



SSG Donald Betz, 3rd LAS line chief, standing next to an Air Force L-5 liaison aircraft



On the side of the mountain there is a balanced rock seen easily from Uijongbu Airfield. (L-R) Donald Betz, Stanley Bachmurski, SFC Loncar visiting the phenomenon

Ambassador Tae Sik Lee's Tour

We frequently mention South Korean Ambassador to the United States Tae Sik Lee in our magazine. That is only fitting, since he shows up in a lot of places. (Just thumb through this issue to get an idea of how many cities he has visited.)

As time permits, he and the South Korean consul general Chanho Kwon make an effort to visit Korean War memorials in cities that they visit while they conduct business and strengthen ties between the United States and South Korea.

The Korean Economic Institute (KEI) assists the ambassador in that effort.

Here is the story of the men's April 14, 2007 visit to the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, OR. On that day, members and guests of the Korean War Veterans, including Korean members of their own Korean War Veterans group, met at the Memorial to greet Ambassador Tae Sik Lee and Consul General Chanho Kwon and their retinues.

According to Loren Mitchell of CID 72, Oregon Trail Chapter, who provided this story and photos, "A first impression on meeting the ambassador is that he is much taller than one would expect—over six feet! We also discovered that both he and his wife are very friendly, open, and personable."

In his speech at the memorial the ambassador repeated several times that, "American military personnel were sent to assist a country that they knew very little about, and if they had not helped, the Republic of Korea would not have become what it is today."

Loren Mitchell, 11940 SW King James, Place, Portland, OR 97224, (503) 670-1382, mitchell103@earthlink.net



Ambassador Lee and Charles Lusardi move a wreath to the memorial wall



Arlene Loble, City Manager of Wilsonville, addresses the crowd



Charles Lusardi, Ambassador Lee, and Chanho Kwon pay homage to those Oregonians who lost their lives in Korea



Charles Lusardi (R) presents the ambassador (L) with a gift that documents 100 years of Koreans living in Oregon



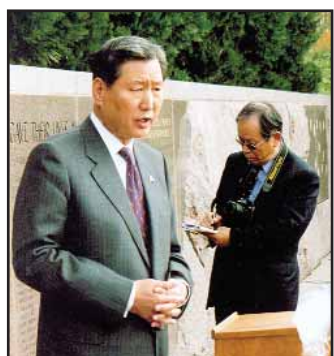
At a planning session the day before the visit (L-R) James Lister, VP of the Korean Economic Institute (KEI); Howard Myers, Past President of the Oregon Trail Chapter; James Alvis, Director of Public Affairs of KEI; Charles Lusardi, Commander of the Department of Oregon



By the memorial: Consul Gen. Kwon, Jim Arling, Sen. Urn, Ambassador Lee, Don Cohen & Chuck Lusardi



Ambassador Lee addresses those assembled



Ambassador Tae Sik Lee, Republic of Korea



James Arling (R), current Oregon Trail President, meets Ambassador Lee



Sam Kwak, Jim Arling, Ambassador Lee, Chuck Lusardi, Chanhon Kwon



Dot Mitchell (L) meets the Ambassador's wife (R)



Sam Kwak, Dr. Joseph Ha of Nike, Chuck Lusardi, Arlene Loble, Ambassador Lee, Jim Arling, Chanhon Gen. Kwon



Ambassador Lee surrounded by members of the Portland-area KVA, KWVA, and Howard Myers



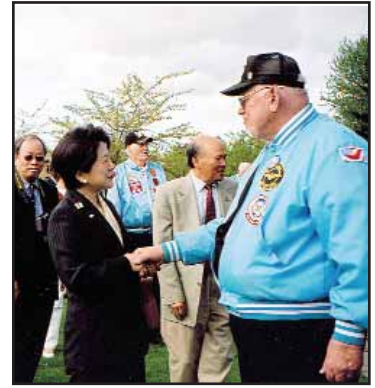
Ambassador Tae-Sik Lee and his wife at luncheon he hosted for Korean vets



Ambassador Lee and his wife, with Consul General Kwon, pose with Korean members of the Korean War veterans



Sam Kwak, Jim Arling, and Ambassador Lee on the left, and Consul General Kwon and Chuck Lusardi on right.



Loren Mitchell shaking hands with Ambassador Lee's wife



Dick and Phyllis Riley with Gil Arendt at Ambassador Lee's luncheon



Dorothy Mitchell, Ambassador Lee and his wife, Jim and Mary Burt



Charles Pritchard, President of KEI, addresses the group

REFUGEES IN KOREA

Refugees can create problems on a battlefield. Yet, their presence is rarely discussed in soldiers' stories. Why is that?

Granted, we publish occasional photos of refugees—especially children—and limited references, but we have not addressed in any great detail how their presence affected the conduct of the war.

We would like to publish stories about refugees, how they affected combatants in Korea, whether they influenced strategies, etc. If you have any stories regarding refugees, please send them in to us at:

Editor
152 Sky View Drive
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Okay, you ask: what prompted this request? The answer is simple. We received this article from Dennis A. Alba, 3503 Likini Street, Honolulu, HI 96818-2106. It sparked our interest. And, as luck would have it, a short article about refugees, which appears below, was included in "Memories of the 58th, (Vol. 38)" the 58th Engineers' newsletter. So, let's hear from you.

War Refugees In Korea

There has been a lot of talk in the media lately about why we should send our men and women to far off places like Iraq and Afghanistan, where countless refugees clutter the battlefields. I know something about refugees because I served in the Korean War.

I enlisted in 1950 at Schofield Barracks, and one of the first things I learned was that refugees were a big problem in the battle zone. An Hawaiian sergeant who had just returned from Korea told us recruits in a loud voice that he had joined the Army "to protect the United States and the people of this Hawaiian Territory" He also said that he was glad to fight overseas because he didn't want to see his wife and children, family and friends, running away from an enemy who might have invaded our Territory.

"Do you know what refugees are?" the sergeant asked. "Anyone who runs away or flees from home is a refugee. I saw old men and women, children and mothers carrying small babies, all running away from the North Koreans. Some had little food or none at all. They were cold and walked miles to find shelter.

We saw the North Koreans stop, question and even shoot the refugees. Do you want to see your family and friends as refugees? Try to remember this. You join the Army to protect the United States and the people of Hawaii. Engage and destroy our enemies—*Away From Home!*"

As a retired platoon sergeant, I have told this story fre-

quently to current protectors of the United States and its way of life.

War Is Hell: Collateral Damage

In Jan. 1951, Lt. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, commanding general, 8th US Army, ordered all US/UN and ROK forces to pull back across the Han River. (Seoul would again be captured by communist troops.) Ridgway's orders included instructions to Brig. Gen. Charles Palmer to instruct his Military Police (M.P.s) to keep civilians clear of two pontoon bridges, a redecked railway bridge, and five floating footbridges, the only reliable means of escape across the frozen Han.

Cpl. Leonard Korgies, a Nebraska farm boy, was then serving in the headquarters company, 2nd Battalion, 21st Infantry Div. Here is what he remembers:

"Frenzied, hysterical refugees broke through the cordons and flooded onto the bridge. They were alongside our vehicles, in front of them and behind them. The trucks stopped. An officer on the roadway in front of us made a decision.

"Then, and now, I don't know what alternative he had. 'Bring 'em through!' he ordered. 'Move! Move! Get going!'

God! The trucks began rolling. The civilians couldn't get out of the way, pressed tightly as they were on the roadway.

"I still hear the smashing of bodies."

We also received the below poem from Robert V. Echelbarger, which focused on one child in a great war. He experienced the Korean War firsthand, as this brief "memoir" he furnished demonstrates.

I am submitting four articles concerning the Korean War. Each article is a replay of various events I experienced while in Korea.

I served with Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, of the First Marine Division during most of 1951. The morning after I landed in Korea I was assigned as an assistant BAR man as we jumped off climbing hills and finally went into reserve after 74 straight days on the line.

I took part in Operation Killer and Operation Ripper, helped take the Punch Bowl, the spring Chinese Offensive, and Hill 812. During the fight for Hill 812 in September my oldest was born.

In November I took part in the first relief of a regiment on the line by the use of helicopters. It is recorded in the history books.

*Reach Robert Echelbarger
16231 245th Street
Mason City, IA 50401*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The three remaining "articles" to which Mr. Echelbarger refers will be published in ensuing issues of The Graybeards.

Little Porcelain Doll

By Robert V. Echelbarger

The little porcelain doll
stood by the side of the road

that early spring day in 1951.

Her dark almond eyes
registered the hopelessness
within her soul.

Fear shown within her eyes
like that of an innocent fawn,
cornered by wolves
with no place to hide.

She watched with tear stained cheeks
as we dealers of death slogged by.

Her silent lips and staring eyes
seemed to ask the question, "Why?"

The little porcelain doll
slumped with her shoulders pulled back,
by a cumbersome pack.

Her once white gown was streaked
by dirt and grime.

Her delicate bare feet were bruised
and flecked with blood.

I asked myself, "Why do you cry,
little porcelain doll?

Is it because your childhood innocence
has been destroyed?

I know you are weary

little porcelain doll,
and carry you I would - if I could."

"Like you, I have no place to lay my head
or a house to call my own.

Both of us are victims of war,
over which we have no control.

Your future lies in flight,
and perhaps survive.

My destiny is to fight,
and possibly die."

"Yes, little porcelain doll,
I will never see you again

as you disappear from sight.

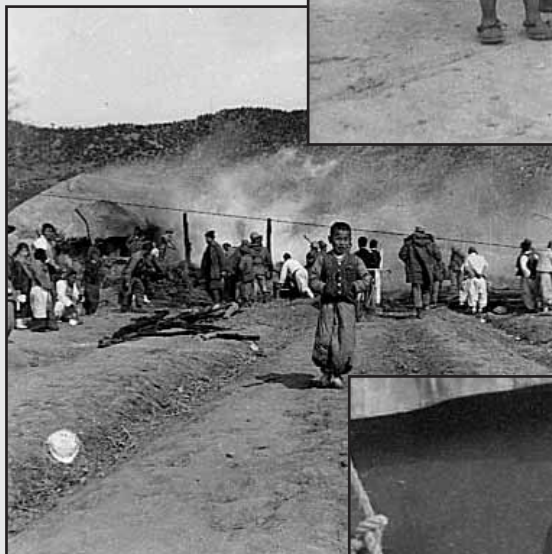
Your haunting face will return to my mind,
during the quiet hours of night.

You will always have a special place
in my heart.

Little porcelain doll.

Oh, little porcelain doll."

These young people represent the victims of war



Tragic Day at K-13[©]



By Kenneth L. Moll

It was bright, clear and 69° with a six-knot breeze that afternoon of October 1, 1952. The day's flying had passed uneventfully at K-13 airfield in Suwon, Korea. I had "Runway Control" duty in 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing's radio-equipped trailer at the landing end of the runway. My main job was to warn away any F80 pilot approaching to land with landing gear still up, but that never occurred when I had Runway Control.

Still, the duty was interesting. It offered a ringside seat for airfield activities and sometimes the radio chatter was riveting. But now it was after 5:30, and F-80 operations had slowed.

Then I noticed two distant F-86 Sabrejets approaching from the south. Their sooty exhaust trails signaled a straight-in landing approach, often used for a precautionary landing. Ordinarily, jet fighters would approach overhead at 1,000 feet and "break" left to circle and land. F-86s belonged to the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing across the runway from the 8th Wing; they had their own radio frequencies, so I heard nothing on my F-80 channel.

The two F-86s circled once, then one flew aside and the other continued its descent toward the runway. Everything looked fine until he was down to about 300 feet altitude and nearing the paved runway overrun. Suddenly he slowed, nosed over into a slanting dive and, to my shock and horror, crashed into the overrun less than a quarter mile away. The aircraft blew up like a napalm bomb.

Boiling flames mushroomed over a wide area, while black smoke spiraled to hundreds of feet. The F-86 was demolished; clearly, the pilot could not possibly have survived.

Quickly, fire trucks and emergency vehicles rushed to the scene and, with difficulty, slowly put out the fire. Operations were suspended for the day and I left the scene, knowing I could be of no help.

The next day I learned more details, which were as startling as what I'd seen. The F-86 pilot who'd crashed turned out to be a close friend, 1st Lt. Tom Casserly. We'd graduated from West Point together in 1950. He was a "star man" (top 5%),

F-80s taking off at K-13, 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing, Suwon, Korea

handsome, highly capable and personable. I'd seen him frequently at the K-13 Officers Club. But I'd never suspected he was the one killed. There were about 100 pilots in the 51st Wing, and I only knew two of them: Tom and another classmate, Charlie Gabriel (later USAF Chief of Staff).

Rumors circulated that Tom had experienced "runaway forward trim," meaning the control stick's elevator trim button was stuck in the full nose-down position. When this happened, the pilot had to pull back heavily on the control stick to keep the nose up.

Lowering flaps for landing induced still more nose-down forces. This was fairly easy to overcome with the F-80's control stick because the trim button controlled only a small "trim tab" on the horizontal elevator.

But the trim button on Tom's new F-86E moved the entire horizontal "flying tail," which was an innovation for better elevator control when pushing through the sonic barrier. This made the pilot more dependent on a functioning trim system. The rumors guessed that Tom, with runaway forward trim in the F-86E, could



51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing pilots, K-13 Air Base, Korea, 1952 (Tom Casserly, lower right)

pull hard enough on the stick to keep the nose up until he lowered the flaps. That increased the nose-down forces and pushed his F-86 over into its irresistible fatal dive.

Fifty years later I obtained a copy of the official Accident Report. It confirmed early assumptions but added details. The trim button failed after Tom, "Iceage Red" Flight Leader, had returned from a combat mission into North Korea. As I'd observed, Tom directed his wingman to break off and land separately while he made a straight-in approach. The Accident Investigation Board concluded "when he felt he had the runway made, he placed flaps down and chopped power

causing a sudden nose down position which he was unable to overcome from that altitude."

The Board recommended that Flying Safety publications describe the accident for all pilots and instruct them, before landing with trim failure, to first simulate a landing at safe altitude. Such recommendations were predictable from a board of busy officers anxious to get back to their combat jobs. Certainly they knew there were far too many accidents to bring each "to the attention of all." And, of course, any pilot will troubleshoot a serious malfunction insofar as practicable. Yet, climbing back up to 10,000 feet or more is not always an obvious, logical or easy thing to do, especially if one is at low altitude after a combat mission with fuel running low and sunset near.

Accident Investigation Boards are notorious for blaming the pilot. Boards usually have neither the time nor technical expertise to seek more fundamental causes such as inadequate training or faulty design. The Board found the primary cause of Tom Casserly's accident to be "Errors of Air Crew, Improper Use of Flight Controls in Air." A secondary factor was "Materiel Failure - Air Frame, Flight Control System."

An attached Engineering Officer's Report blamed the pilot for not "first determining the controllability of the aircraft" before attempting to land. Yet, it also recommended reducing the control



51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing F-86E "checkerboard tail"

stick's "artificial feel system" resistance so "a pilot may overpower a run-away trim with somewhat less force (than) the strength of both hands...."

No wonder Tom crashed! He wasn't able to use "both hands" to hold the stick. He held the control stick with his right hand, but needed his left hand to adjust throttle, gear, and flaps. It should have been obvious to F-86E designers that a pilot needed to be able to overcome run-away forward trim with his right hand alone. Thus, since it was a design fault, placing principal blame on "pilot error" seems unrealistic.

In any case, it was another cost of combat. The official 8th Fighter-Bomber Wing history for the second half of 1952 recorded many F-80 and F-86 accidents at K-13. Its terse account of Tom's accident said only, "On 1 October, an F-86 crashed just south of the field; major damage to aircraft, fatal to pilot." Soon the F-86E design error was corrected and there were no more such accidents.

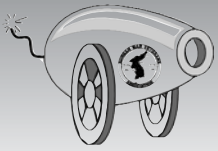
I wrote a sympathy letter immediately to Tom's widow Libby, left with a four-month old daughter Tom had never seen. In it I referred to Tom's crash six months earlier in a propeller-driven F51.

That incident, which occurred behind enemy lines while Tom was returning from a combat mission, had become almost legendary amongst pilots in Korea.



Lt. Thomas F. Casserly, III was killed when trim button failed on new F-86 causing him to crash on landing.

Continued on page 79



Feedback/Return Fire

This section of *The 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—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.

Let's Honor David Halberstam

It is important that we honor the memory of David Halberstam, the Pulitzer Prize winning correspondent and author who was killed on 23 April in an auto accident in California. Halberstam is a legend in American journalism, a kind giant of a guy who sought and wrote about the facts that he saw without submitting himself to whatever the politics of the moment dictated to others.

David Halberstam, for the last five years, had been working on a book about the Korean War, to be entitled *The Coldest Winter*. I had the privilege of assisting him in locating veterans who were involved in the actions he wrote about. He and I became good friends in the process.



David Halberstam (L) Lavon "Terry" McDaniel (R) at a meeting in Mississippi of the survivors of Company C, 23rd Infantry Regt (Photo taken by LCol Emil "Joe" Stryker, USA (Ret), and printed here with his permission)

Halberstam attended a meeting in Mississippi of the survivors of Company C, 23rd Infantry Regiment at which he interviewed the veterans who had survived the massive attack by the North Koreans of the Company on the Naktong River, 31 August to 1 September 1950. As a result, he wrote a cover article for *Parade Magazine* entitled "Only a Few Came Home"; it was published in the November 7, 2004 edition of *Parade*.

David Halberstam was a unique human being. I believe that this book, which is bound to be a bestseller due to David's prominence, will bring the facts of the Korean War into the conscience of the American people. After that, the reference to the "Forgotten War" will certainly be past history. I also believe that it had lost its meaning since the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Washington in 1995.

Ralph M. Hockley,
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A Very Grateful People

Yesterday I told my daughter about my first day in Korea and how the youngsters, who were about seven years old, offered to carry my duffel bag. It made me ashamed of my childhood.

A few days later I saw a "Pappa San," who was dressed in white, put his hand in the G.I. "trash" can and pull out a handful of mashed potatoes. I was a cook in Yonchon and Chorwon. Every a.m. young Korean children would wait for the cooks to come and prepare breakfast. They wanted the carrot tops that we would throw away.

The night before I was to leave Chorwon we had a meeting. I took a short cut, fell into a deep foxhole, and scraped my back. A few Koreans pulled me out. When I got to Seoul to board a train, a Korean policeman offered to carry my duffel bag on his bike. I thanked him and offered him a couple dollars. He said, "No thanks. My job."

The Korean people are a very grateful people. Oh, by the way, the Korean house boys did a wonderful job keeping our stoves working.

Orlando Maffucci
7 Churchill Place
Pueblo, CO 81001

Right Photo, Wrong Credit

I am writing in regards to an article under Chapter News in the May-June 2006 issue. Chapter 58- Monroe County (NY) refers to the famous photo taken by Al Chang.

In April of 2002, while attending the Sea Services Commemoration at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, I took note of the above-mentioned photo in the post newspaper. The caption beneath the photo stated it was an "Official USMC Photo." I wrote the paper to inquire about the meaning of the caption. Not surprisingly, I am still waiting for an answer.

This same picture was used by Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Slater, USMC, as the inside page of his book, "Hills of Sacrifice, The 5th RCT in Korea." The book was published by Turner Publishing Company and copyrighted in 2000. It is the history of the U. S. Army's Fifth Regimental Combat Team in Korea. The caption for the picture is as follows:

Master Sergeant Frank Chandler comforts a grief-stricken Infantryman from the 1st Battalion 5th RCT, whose buddy was KIA on 18 August 50. Corporal Joseph Villaflor, a medic from Eleele, Kauai, is filling out casualty tags in the background

This Al Chang photo was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

(source: Chang)

There are many other photos in the book that were also provided to LTC Slater by Al Chang.

The Al Chang exhibit at the “Tropic Lighting Museum,” Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, identifies the photo as having been taken by Al Chang. This caption read as follows:

Perhaps the most famous photograph Al took occurred during the early days of the Korean War. During the Defense of the Pusan Perimeter, Al photographed Master Sergeant Frank L. Chandler of the 5th RCT comforting a soldier who just identified a dead GI as his best friend. The photo was circulated and later nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. The photo captures sorrow and pain few words or images could describe.

The exhibit states that Al Chang was born on the island of Maui, and he witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the Army as a rifleman and switched to Photographer after a recruiting drive for cameramen. After covering the signing of the Japanese Surrender, he stayed in Japan and served with the 25th ID. When the Korean War erupted, he went to Korea with the 5th RCT. As stated, the “local boys” were his favorite subjects.

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Pre-War Korea

Veterans who served in Korea during the period September 1945 to June 1950 are eligible to join the Korean War Veterans Association. However, none of these veterans ever receive recognition in *The Graybeards* for their service.

The first American troops, part of the 7th Infantry Division, arrived at the Port of Inch'on September 8, 1945. These troops took over Seoul and occupied key areas south of the 38th parallel to ensure Soviet troops did not enter the American zone. The 7th also provided troops to walk the 38th parallel coast to coast, many times through heavy snow, ever on the watch for North Korean spies. Even then rifle fire was exchanged occasionally.

In early 1947, “C” Company of the 13th Combat Engineer Battalion was stationed at SuSaik, a few miles south of the 38th Parallel, to act as a stop gap in case of invasion.

If you are interested in this pre-war period in Korea, I recommend reading the book *Korea Between the Wars*, by Fred Ottoboni, who served in Korea 1947/1948.

I admire The KWVA Korea War And Korea Service Veterans decal. However, I believe the date 1950 should in all fairness be changed to 1945 to include those who served from the beginning of the occupation.

Donald F. Bohrer
13th Engineer Combat Battalion,
Company- C 1946/1947

EDITOR'S NOTE: I may have mentioned this before. But, anybody who wants the exploits of their branches of the armed forces or specific units within those branches mentioned is invited to send information regarding them. We, i.e., the one-man edi-

torial staff, do not have the resources, financial, personnel, or otherwise, to go out and dig up material on individuals, branches of the service, or specific units.

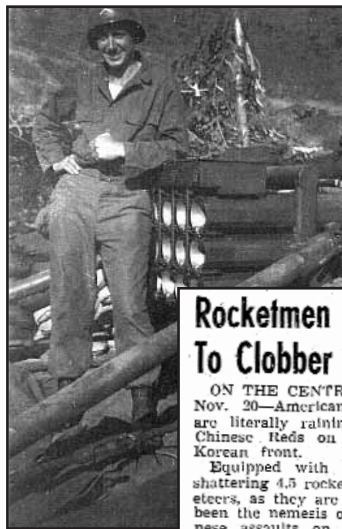
Raining Rockets

I enjoyed reading the article about the 4.5 Rocket Launchers from the 11th Marines in Korea.

I was in the Army 2nd Rocket Field Artillery Battery while serving in Korea in 1952 and 1953. The nearby picture was taken while I was standing in back of a rocket launcher, along with an article that was in the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* about my unit.

We received the Distinguished Unit Citation for our part in this battle.

Maurice B. Collins
711 Rural Avenue
Decorah, IA 52101-2308



Maurice R. Collins and The Rocketmen

Rocketmen Depend On Maneuverability To Clobber Enemy With Raining Death

ON THE CENTRAL FRONT, Nov. 20—American rocketmen are literally raining death on Chinese Reds on the central Korean front.

Equipped with their nerve-shattering 4.5 rockets, the rocketeers, as they are called, have been the nemesis of many Chinese assaults on and around such recent hot spots as White Horse mountain, Triangle hill, and Sniper ridge.

THE LAUNCHERS, which closely resemble an assortment of chopped-off stove pipes, comprise 24 tubes mounted on a trailer. According to Capt. Ralph F. Homan, a battery commander from Orlando, Fla., they are capable of putting more rounds on the target than several battalions of light artillery.

When the rocketeers receive a mission, the launchers are hitched to vehicles and moved out to the appointed positions. The “stovepipes” produce such a terrific backblast that the men can not afford “to fool around,” as one rocketeer put it. Lightning-like action is required on the part of the crews to get their rockets off and move out.

“TO GIVE YOU an example of our mobility,” remarked a

platoon sergeant, “we can haul into place, send out two fast ripples, and be far from that area within 20 minutes.”

One rocket battery played an important role in the bitter struggle for White Horse. In the midst of a terrific enemy artillery and mortar bombardment, the rocketeers stayed and slammed their deadly missiles into Chinese infantry battling for that key hill position.

SFC Harold Lelin, Louisville, vividly recalled one morning during the hectic sea-sawing fight when the Reds pushed the battered but valiant 9th Republic of Korea Division infantry to the base of White Horse.

LEHN SAID they trained their rocket fire directly on the swarming Chinese and, with mortar and tank fire from the left and right flanks, repulsed the attacking Communists until friendly infantry could regroup and counterattack.

“They were just across the valley from us and we fired like madmen, because,” as the sergeant pointed out, “there wasn’t much between us!”

Pacific Stars & Stripes
Thursday, Nov. 20, 1952

What Counter Mortar Radar Was

I was a radar repairman in Korea during the period Jan 1956-April 1957. I was assigned to the 51st Sig. Detachment out of the 181st Sig Co. (Depot) in Seoul. We were TDY to the 7th I.D. in Tongduchon, and serviced the counter mortar F.A. units of the 7th & 24th I.D.

My unit comprised CWO Manuel Rodriguez, our C.O., SFC Robert Spurlock, Sgt. Haskell Thomas and me. We had a jeep, 3/4 ton van, and a 2 1/2 ton repair van with a towed generator to support our activities. We were constantly “on the road” in sup-



At left, The counter mortar radar and, below, the installation at "Charlie Block" near Munsan-Ni



port of these radar units doing preventive and corrective maintenance.

The counter mortar radar was the AN/MPQ-10, manufactured by Sperry Gyroscope Co. of Lake Success N.Y. It was an X band radar that would track the enemy mortar shell in flight and extrapolate its flight path back to its origin using a hyperbolic plastic overlay on an area topographic map. The origin coordinates were then given to a mortar team if the origin was on the reverse slope of a hill, or to the Field Artillery Battalion, if not, for suppressive counter fire.

Rich Little, via email
doolang@yahoo.com

Belgian Commandos At Rest

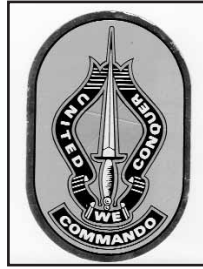
I fought in Korea in 1953-54. I was a qualified parachutist in the famous "Brown Berets," the Belgian Commandos. I jumped 18 times as a civilian after that.

Then, in 1965 I stopped and rested, but not until I and another Belgian Korean War veteran, Emile Crevecoeur, made a jump together.

Claude Billiet, Rue Du Doyard 44,
4990 Lierneux, Belgium



Four Belgian parachutists in 1965, including two Korean War veterans, Claude Billiet in helmet and Emile Crevecoeur in black



Belgian Commando sticker

Inch By Inch, Millimeter By Millimeter

I read Bob Ondrish's "Korea: My Story - 1950-51" and enjoyed it very much. It brought back some memories (some good and some not so good). The narrative was well written, but a couple points stuck out. As an old infantry man they glared at me as I read them, even though I realize that they were more than likely "typos."

I refer to the mention (page 67) of the 3.5 mm and 2.36 mm rocket launchers. Having used both weapons, I think it was meant to be written 3.5 inch and 2.36 inch rocket launchers. Also, on page 68 there was a mention of a 4.2 mm mortar, but I'm sure it was meant to read 4.2 inch mortar (chemical).

It might seem to be nit picking, but not all those that read his fine narrative would be familiar with the weaponry of our war.

You've probably received many letters about this minor point, but I had to put in my "two cents" also.

Terrence FitzPatrick
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EDITOR'S NOTE: There is no such thing as "nit picking" when it comes to finding errors in The Graybeards. We do not always catch minor errors—or major errors, for that matter. We do, however, strive to be as accurate as possible.

One of the things that helps us maintain our high level of accuracy, which a recent independent study determined to be almost 43.725%, is reader feedback. So, to everyone who detects an error, let us know. We welcome corrections of all points, minor or major.

With your help we will get to the 44% accuracy rate to which we aspire. (Just kidding about those percentages, but we do encourage you to let us know when we make a mistake.)

Is Camp Coiner Still There?

In the Sept/Oct 2006 issue there was a letter written by Morris E. Hinken, "Thanks for the Post War Coverage." His was the first mention of the area where I was stationed in 1954-55.

"Camp Coiner" was set up in Seoul in March 1954 by the 304th Signal Group & Co. B., 26th Signal Bn. (Construction). The members of the 26th had to clean up the compound and establish livable conditions. We also built the NCO Club on the hill in the south end of the compound.

I am curious if Camp Coiner is still there, because Mr. Hinken did not mention when he was there.

Richard L. Tieben
1549 Quail Lane
Carson City, NV 89701

Integration In Name Only

I read your article in the March-April *The Graybeards*, p. 60, entitled “Clarification...Or Correction?” I cannot argue about when the US Congress abandoned discrimination in the military. The law may have been passed in 1947, but I know for a fact that several supply groups were all Afro-American while I was in Korea during 1950 and 1951.

I was attached to the First Field Artillery Battalion. We had 105 Howitzers for a period of time. During one Chinese offensive—I can’t remember if it was January, February, March or April 1951—one First Rocket Battalion, which was an all Afro-American Battalion, was hit so hard that they were almost completely wiped out. The remainder of the Battalion was assigned to our Battalion and became our Battery D.

My point here is that even though the law was passed in 1947, it sure wasn’t enforced—at least not through 1951.

Arthur E. Berzon (via email)

Real Integration Came Years Later

The letter on page 60 of the March-April issue disagreeing with the statement that “the end of racial segregation in the Armed Forces of the United States ... resulted from the Korean War” is an interesting example of how our view of significant things that happened in our time is influenced by our sometimes limited experience of those events.

I enlisted in the Army in June 1947. During basic training at Fort Dix I saw only one black soldier - a Puerto Rican officer who led our PT exercises for 13 weeks. All units there were segregated.

During 8 weeks of supply school at Camp Lee – segregated. Fourteen months at Fort Lewis in 1948 and 49 – all units segregated. (I saw one black soldier, a patient, at Madigan General Hospital, during all that time). The same at Fort Sill, OK. And, on arrival in Japan, in September 1949, I found the 24th Inf Div on Kyushu and I Corps Hq in Kyoto segregated.

The 25th Inf Div on Honshu had the only black infantry regiment in Japan at that time, and I suspect it was the only black infantry unit in the Army then.

In April 1950 I was assigned to Yokohama Motor Command, a transportation unit composed of two truck battalions and Command Headquarters. The truck battalions were all black (commanded by white officers), with the exception of one Car Company in each battalion – one drove the staff cars for 8th Army Headquarters and the other drove the buses for transporting the Occupation Forces and their dependents around Yokohama.

I was assigned to the all-white Command Hq Detachment and as an E5 was assigned as Personnel Sgt Maj, notwithstanding the fact that there were 3 black E6s assigned to the personnel office from the truck battalions. Neither of them, though better qualified than I, could be the SgtMaj because, being black, they could not be assigned to the Hq Detachment.

When Korea broke out on June 25, 1950 we received orders to separate the truck battalions, less the two Car companies, and prepare them for movement to Korea. Two of the E6s from my office were assigned as Personnel Sgts Maj for their respective

battalions and the third was assigned to maintain officer personnel records in one of the battalion personnel offices.

The transportation responsibilities of Yokohama Motor Command, within Yokohama, continued so it now became necessary to pull all the black NCOs and soldiers who ran the Motor Pool, Repair Facilities and the like (on detached service) from the truck battalions, and finally assign them to the Hq Detachment without regard to their race.

Integration had arrived, and it continued to happen in units throughout Japan and especially, through attrition, in the combat units in Korea. Yet, it wasn’t until I returned from Korea in May 1952 and was assigned as Receiving Officer to a mostly white 101st Airborne Div at Camp Breckinridge, KY that I had my first experience of living in the same BOQ as another officer who happened to be black. (The 101st was then a Basic Training Division.) That was six years after President Truman ordered desegregation.

So, yes President Truman did sign his Executive Order in 1947, but it seems reasonable, in my experience, to say that integration of the United States Army resulted from the Korean War, from which it eventually spread throughout the rest of the Army and the other Military Services.

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They Are Both Right

Jack Kime is correct and the statement on the Korean War Memorial is also correct. While segregation in the military officially ended in 1947, the Korean War provided the impetus to speed up the process.

Integration of the 839th Engineer Aviation Bn. (EAB) on Okinawa started during the early phase of the Korean War when personnel were transferred to the 839th from the 808th EAB; both units served in Korea.

There were other units faced with the same situation.

Don Tomajan, via email

KATUSA At KWVA Convention

I would like to see all KATUSA personal who served in the U.S. units during the Korean War at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. I do not think there are many to come, but I would like to see some.

I would even like to see Korean houseboys who served during the Korean War.

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Tooting Our Horn

I enjoyed your March-April 2007 item regarding the submission of material. You spurred me to send you some pictures, including one with me and John Chalk, combat artist. We were both with PIA (Public Information Office) First Marine Division



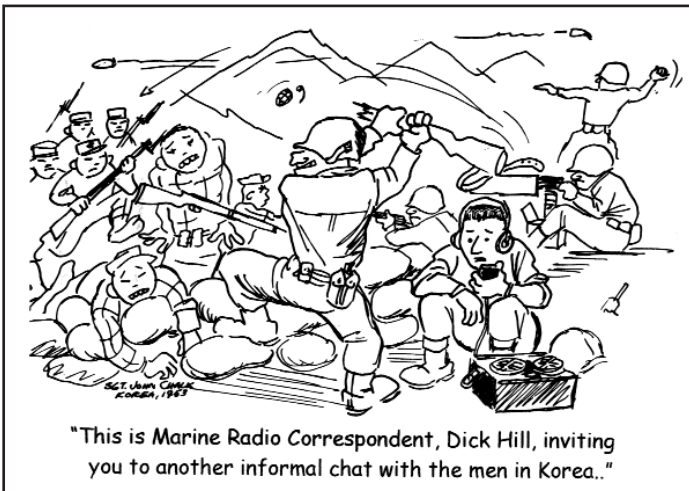
LEFT: Sgt. John Chalk (L) and Cpl Dick Hill (R), PIO Hdq., 1st Marine Division, 1953.

BELOW: Sgt Dick Hill interviewing a 7th Regiment, 1st MarDiv rifleman for The Marine Corps Show aired from Hollywood, CA on NBC



in Korea during the “Forgotten War.” I was a Marine Radio Correspondent and recorded hundreds of everyday heroes who deserve to be remembered.

John, while on one of his visits to the front lines, did a cartoon of me with Able Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. (They earned their combat pay as they were in lots of skirmishes against the Chinese on the MLR by “The Hook.”)



“This is Marine Radio Correspondent, Dick Hill, inviting you to another informal chat with the men in Korea..”

Cartoon by John Chalk of Sgt Dick Hill “...broadcasting from Korea”



USMC PIO Team in Korea: Sgt Dick Hill (lower left), SSgt Stan Dunlap (lower right), back row (L-R) SSgt D. Martin, TSgt R. Kiser, MSgt H. B. Wells



Dick Hill's correspondent badge

Regarding the plug about the Marines having the world's greatest PR machine, it is true. In one month alone, we had over one hundred reporters at our PIA tent to cover the Korean War, including VIPs like Walter Cronkite, Edward R. Murrow, and James A. Michener.

Dick Hill
6913 Gleason Circle
Edina, MN 55439

Request Bears Fruit

Editor's Note: Happy Returns

From time to time people whose requests appear in the “Recon” section report back to us on the results of their quests. Here is one such report. The requester did not get quite what he was looking for, but the results were positive in some sense—if that makes sense.

By the way, we do appreciate hearing from people regarding the outcomes of their searches, whether they were positive or not.

Your publication of my search for my friend has borne fruit. (See “ Searching for ID of Marine in photograph taken at Chosin Reservoir,” p. 75, March-April 2007 issue.) I received a phone call from him, in Kingsport, TN, after a friend of his saw the article and phoned him with my information. Since he has not yet seen the photo, and doesn't remember being photographed, or seeing the *Life Magazine* article, the mystery of who is in the picture is still unsolved. It turns out that Bill Seaver was in the Army, not the Marine Corps, and was in a different fighting sector when the battle was being fought.

Now that Bill and I are again in contact, the question of the photo is moot. You may be interested to know that I got three other calls from Korean War vets who think they knew the person in the picture, but were not sure.

One call was from a person who sent me an article from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* dated Thursday, June 16, 1983 (including the picture) about a Cpl. Vince Simonetti, USMC, who was cap-

tured by the Chinese, and held as a POW after the battle.

Cpl. Simonetti was released, and later had a dispute over his veteran's benefits. Naturally, I have no way of contacting Cpl. Simonetti, and would never challenge his claim to being the person in the Life article out of respect for his heroic service to our country. I just think you might be interested in the story.

Everyone who contacted me remembers that now famous photo. Thanks for your help, and to all the gallant men and women, past and present, who still proudly call themselves U.S. Marines.

Bob Moore, via email

One Of My Korean Memories

I served aboard the USS WASHBURN (AKA-108), where I was the engineer on one of my ship's LCVPs. We dropped troops on beaches at several places on both coasts of Korea.

One day we dropped anchor off the coast where we were going to land Marines on the beach the next day. During the day, the Marines were sitting topside cleaning their rifles in preparation for their landing on the following morning. That evening a firefight was in progress in the hills where these Marines would be going.

Tracers were highly visible and the Marines were topside rubbing down their already cleaned rifles and staring at those tracers. I could do nothing but watch, knowing that those Marines had to be wondering in their own minds if they would be alive at this time tomorrow.

I have often wondered how many of those Marines made it back.

Daniel W. Moore
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Gibbstown, NJ 08027
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Aren't We Supposed To Be Apolitical?

In explaining the Feedback/Return Fire section of *The Graybeards* it states all letters should be "tasteful and non-political." I hope my letter meets these standards.

I read the remarks by Rep. Sam Johnson that were reprinted in *The Graybeards*. Rep. Johnson surely served honorably and courageously in two wars. And he eloquently expressed his position on the current situation in Iraq. I believe, however, there are others (both in and out of government) who served honorably and do not share his views.

This is not to suggest that you provide dissenting views in *The Graybeards*, but rather that you present neither view.

For some reason I assumed our organization was apolitical. Maybe that is not so. The last thing I would want to see is a Crossfire debate develop in our KWVA publication. We should stress what we have in common and not try to instigate controversy.

If I am the only KWVA member who feels this way, please let me know.

Charlie Amato
102 Hillside Drive
Locust Grove, VA 22508

EDITOR'S NOTE: Whether Rep. Johnson's remarks can be construed as supportive of his position on Iraq is a matter of individual interpretation. Iraq just happens to be the "War of the Moment." He was stating his opinion that Congress has to support

troops wherever they happen to be at any given time. At this moment that can be Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Germany, Japan...the list goes on. The KWVA as an organization does not necessarily support or reject his views. Individual members, however, are free to do so.

Representative Johnson made his remarks as a U.S. Congressman, not as a KWVA representative. If we have another U.S. Congressman who is also a KWVA member we'll be happy to print his/her views as well.

Rest assured that the last thing anybody will see in The Graybeards—at least as long as I am its editor—is a "Crossfire debate" develop over political issues, even when people try to goad me into starting one.

MONUMENTS from page 35

The thirty-eight steles at the entrance to the Memorial represent the 38th parallel, which still divides the Korean peninsula.

The Korean-American community of Kansas City has generously supported the building effort. Members wore traditional Korean finery to sing at the dedication ceremony.

General Richard B. Meyer (Ret), former chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, officiated at the dedication and delivered the eulogy. Along with Congressman Dennis Moore, he credited the many organizations and individuals who worked and donated to make the monument a reality: it is a fitting tribute to those who gave everything in our defense. The site is well worth a visit.

Don Dye
7913 Westgate Drive
Lenexa, KS 66215

New Mexico Korean War Monument A "Done Deal"

According to an article in CID 82's (Albuquerque #1 [NM] newsletter, there will soon be a Korean War monument in Albuquerque. As the item reports:

Good News: Good friend John M. Garcia, cabinet secretary, State Department of Veterans' Services, disclosed that the state legislature's funding of a Korean War monument for the Veterans' Memorial (park) is a done deal. Gov. Richardson, he said, has signed off on the appropriation, which was part of an \$8.1 million veterans benefits package passed by the legislature. We owe a debt of thanks to a number of people, including John, sponsors Rep. Janice E. Arnold-Jones and Rep. Larry Larranaga, Gov. Bill and members of the legislature who voted for the appropriation.

The sum of \$34,285 was appropriated, giving us the option to embellish the design of our monument. (The City of ABQ gets a 10% cut.) Instead of a miniature version of the Washington monument as originally conceived, configuration of the Korean peninsula has been proposed. It would give the monument distinctive identity to the geography of the place where so many Americans were combat casualties. Our in-house designer, Louis Fernandez, is working on new visual concepts for membership review and consideration.

Passing From Memory

An Analysis Of American Servicemen's Letters

Korea 1950-1953

LUKE MACAULEY

University Of Glasgow
American Studies

PART I

INTRODUCTION

"I know they have called this just a Korean Police Action, but I am over here and I say this is in no way just a Military Police Action, this is war and before it is over it may dam well prove to be one hell of a war."¹

"...a letter arrived at my parents home addressed to me...Someone told me it was from my Uncle Sam. Now I don't have an Uncle Sam. I do have uncles Pat, Mickey, Larry, George, Glen, and two Howard's, but no Uncle Sam...After my first joy had subsided I finished the letter – 'You have been drafted.' With that the smile left my face."²

Thousands of drafted Americans were introduced to the Korean War by an innocuous letter from Uncle Sam. It was a letter that initiated their involvement in the Twentieth Century's third most costly war in terms of casualties, after World Wars One and Two. From 25 June 1950, when well-trained and equipped North Korean troops attacked South Korea across the 38th Parallel, until 27 July 1953, when the armistice was signed at Panmunjom, the Korean peninsula raged. Under United Nations auspices, the United States was to lose some 36,576³ men in those three years, a figure narrowly outstripped by the nation's losses in Vietnam over a period of more than a decade. The US troops were engaged against North Korean and Chinese forces in a "justified and necessary" war; defending a country that clearly wanted to be defended.⁴

James Webb has declared that during those three years, the Korean War consumed America's emotional and intellectual ener-

gies as well as the blood and sacrifice of its citizens.⁵ Only the latter part of his observation rings true. The American reliance upon 'all or nothing' Jacksonianism, and the 'insistence that what really makes wars memorable is their lasting impact upon national domestic development'⁶ have marginalised the Korean War. Henry Pruitt summarises this – "You know, there wasn't any reaction one way or the other over my return. Nobody was particularly upset about the Korean War".⁷

The letters written by the American men that served in the Korean War are valuable historical documents. They offer insights into personal experiences that have been forgotten, marginalised or ignored by American society. Deeply moving, they are the truly felt history of the Korean War. This study of Korean War letters has been mainly based upon contact made with surviving veterans. Any general conclusions are applicable to this source and must not necessarily be applied to Korean War letters as a whole. The most frequently occurring themes in the letters studied for this dissertation will be analysed – combat, the Korean people, weather and 'home'. Alongside this will be an analysis of the letter-writing process in Korea and brief mention of themes less frequently addressed – pay and "Police Action." Certainly, other subjects were written of; love letters were common, though their value is obviously mainly personal.

The letters written by the American men that served in the Korean War are valuable historical documents. They offer insights into personal experiences that have been forgotten, marginalised or ignored by American society.

Spelling and grammar have been left in their irregular glory. Just as the soldiers' handwriting and the letter's folds and stains add lively authenticity, so too do the idiosyncrasies of the author bring him closer to us.

CHAPTER 1 – LETTER-WRITING PROCESS

"Letters make a big difference to the fellow or gal on the ground. I doubt that you can quantify the value but it is there."⁸

"Most of my spare time was spent writing letters."⁹

In an analysis of Korean War letters, of equal importance with the letters' contents is an illumination of the letter-writing process itself. It is wrong to ignore this aspect, which upon first reflection appears staid and dry. This includes identification of the letters' recipients, the time lapse between sending and receiving, the writing materials employed, and the frequency with which the letters were sent. These elements are rich and varied, woven from a skein of personal circumstance.

1.1– RECIPIENTS

Upon analysis, a hierarchy of recipients becomes evident, the template of which can be transposed onto almost all correspondence from soldiers who wrote home. For the married serviceman, letters to his wife are always paramount, then letters to his parents, and finally letters to family and friends – "I wrote to my wife usually every day or two; to parents every week to 10 days...to sisters, other relatives and a few friends occasionally."¹⁰ For the unmarried soldier, parents were in the ascendancy, usually above a girlfriend if there was one, then family and friends. For many other soldiers, parents or wives were the only recipients – "I usually wrote only to my father."¹¹

The above generalisation identifies a trend rather than a rule. Recipients could be as varied as the personal world the soldier had left behind. An example of this is the letters sent by Franklin Lyon. His address in Korea had been placed in his local newspaper in Missouri. The result was a deluge of mail both to and from Lyon – "Many people

wrote to me...and I tried to answer all. Some people I knew and some I didn't."¹² On occasion, even total strangers could receive letters from Korea.

This hierarchy of recipients possessed a dual purpose. Not only was the author's wish of contacting his recipient fulfilled, but also in many cases a wider audience was reached. The author was often aware of his recipient's ability to percolate important information down his chain of contacts. From just one letter, a whole network of correspondents could be informed and the soldier would be saved the task of repeating himself to more people in more letters –

"My wife stayed about a half mile from my folks so she could stop and tell them if anything was important."¹³

"My wife was living with my mother so she read my letters to my wife too."¹⁴

1.2 – TIME LAPSE

Correspondence during the Korean War did not possess the immediacy that is possible with contemporary war correspondence. An email can be sent from Bosnia or Iraq one moment and be read by its recipient the next. Although such immediacy was not available during the Korean War, its participant's contact with America was efficient and effective – "mail thru the Army Postal Service was speedy and no snags [were] encountered in either direction."¹⁵ (One should note however that letters from Korea enjoy a form of intimacy that emails struggle to reach. Beyond the content of the letters, personalities are intimated in the handwriting, and the cold and phlegmatic monitor or printout has none of the 'life' and authenticity of the irregular damage, rips, dirt or stains of real letters). Most servicemen could expect their letter to arrive at its destination approximately one week after they posted it – "The fastest a letter would travel in either direction was 7 days."¹⁶ Indeed, the assiduous mother of Robert Graham noted a 'received on' date on every letter she received from her son, the average lag being seven days. Interestingly therefore, the cultural and spatial dislodgement experienced by American servicemen in Korea was not replicated in the time it took for them to contact home.

1.3 – MATERIALS

The soldier is silent without the materials necessary to write home. Where possible,

the U.S. Armed Services employ a precise methodology, and letter writing is no exception. Generally, letters from Korea were written on "standard paper" and placed in "standard envelopes."¹⁷ It was the soldier himself who produced the deviation from the anonymous and regulated. The vast majority of mail, coming and going, was written on air letters, sheets of blue paper with tabs that were glued shut by licking.¹⁸ In many cases, the writer had ready access to all the materials required for writing home. Marvin Myers was especially fortunate, for in his work of typing correspondence for the Division Adjutant, he "always had paper, pencil and most of the time a typewriter at [his] disposal."¹⁹ However, there were other servicemen, usually on the front line, much less able to contact home so easily and frequently. Korea was a war of unpredictable fluctuations, and like the soldiers themselves, writing materials were at their mercy. One soldier could write "only if envelopes were available, which was not always the case."²⁰ A shortage of stationery was a problem on the front lines but could be solved through resourcefulness – "In a letter on 7 April [1952] I wrote that we had been able to beg 300 sheets of paper and envelopes from the Chaplain for a company of 310 men."²¹ An even more ingenious solution was found when this supply was exhausted – "Several men used a panel from a C-ration box; they wrote their message on one side, put the address on the other side with "free" for postage and sent it off as a type of postcard."²² Such ingenuity suggests the importance contacting home held in the lives of these men.

1.4 - FREQUENCY

A lack of materials was just one of many factors affecting the frequency with which contact was made with home. Other external factors could render the letter writer unable to write as often as he may have liked. The most frequent of these was combat. The daily dangers of war meant contacting home was simply not possible. Harold Mulhausen was in Korea forty-five days before he wrote even his first letter because he was "at the 'Chosin' and there was no way to get letters out."²³ Letter frequency often directly correlated with the 'temperature' of the war – "I wrote in spurts when able, depending on mission priorities."²⁴ Periods of inactivity had to be rapaciously seized upon, for writing could soon

be impossible – "I wrote more often when in reserve, and less often when on the line and in action."²⁵ Nonetheless, even combat could not stop the most assiduous and determined of writers all the time. Dug in and awaiting the approaching Chinese, Bob Spiroff wrote – "I don't know when I'll be able to mail this letter. I won't hardly have time to write it. I'll have to hurry."²⁶ A further external factor is revealed in the letters of Dudley J. Hughes. His almost daily ritual of writing to his wife could not be interrupted by combat or lack of material, but only by an officious and zealous superior – "I missed writing you yesterday because the colonel doesn't like to catch anyone writing letters!"²⁷

Despite the pressure exerted by these factors, it was the letter writer himself who was the prime determinant of the pace of contact with home. Many made a "conscious decision to write as often as possible."²⁸ Officially, keeping a diary was frowned upon because of concern that its secrets might fall into enemy hands. However, regular correspondence could act as a substitute for the memorialising diary. Furthermore, the letter home is a proof-of-life statement and the more frequently it arrives, the less worry will accumulate at home. The severing of this link, if only for a week, could trigger frantic letters from concerned loved ones. The mother of Marvin "Jimmy" Myers employed a cunning emotional blackmail to ensure her son would write frequently. Before he left for Korea, Myers had to promise "Even if it's just a postcard, Jimmy, write me at least once a week to let me know you are all right."²⁹ Myers was to write more than 200 pages of letters to his parents during his time in Korea! "I continued writing, almost every day, even when there was nothing to report, in keeping with the promise to my mother."³⁰ A promise is a promise.³¹

Such frequent writing – "I wrote to my wife usually every day or two"³² - was certainly not invariable. A more steady and regular pace was also adopted. This was not always a premeditated decision, but rather can be explained by the personal experiences of the letter writer – "My time was boring, [there was] not too much to write."³³ The attitudes toward writing home were also vital – "I was lazy. I was a terrible letter writer."³⁴

Finally there are those servicemen who

never wrote home, or only on extremely rare occasions. Crucially, this concerns the recipient as much as the sender. A letter needs a reader. The soldier who received a lot of mail was usually the soldier who wrote an equal amount. The reverse of this is also true – “I wrote home only when I received a letter.”³⁵ It would be folly indeed to write home if there was nobody willing or able to write back. “I received only 2 letters and 1 package from home and responded only to one letter writer and the package sender (same person) during my year in combat in Korea.”³⁶

CHAPTER 2 - COMBAT

“You asked for color – if most of it happened to be hemoglobin red, it wasn’t because I wanted it that way.”³⁷

Korea marked a watershed in the writing of war letters in that letters home were free from the censor’s critical eye that had been present during World War Two. On the whole letters were more graphic than those of World War Two as the GI was given carte blanche on his content – a decision that could blanch the face of his readers. Nonetheless, the overwhelming majority of letters still simply ignored the dangers of war – “My letters sounded like I was on a Boy Scout camping trip, having fun.”³⁸ There is a correlation between the detail and embellishment of descriptions of combat and death, and their intended recipients. Almost always, the recipient was someone who could empathise with these harrowing and stressful accounts. When writing to friends, Bill Burns’ letters adopted a “more macho”³⁹ posture, and Bud Farrell would mention “some detail regarding losses to friends but not family.”⁴⁰ Only family members who could understand what the author was going through were privy to this information – usually a father or brother who had experience in the services. Jack Parchen gave “relatively detailed descriptions of where I was, what my command was like (including company and platoon positions)” to his father, himself a soldier in World War One and “somewhat of an armchair adventurer.”⁴¹ John Harper also detailed small unit actions and casualty information, including his own, to his father – a World War Two Lieutenant Colonel.

The style of the Korean War is reflected in a phrase that has become a mainstay in letters describing combat. The bugle charges, ebbs and flows, profligate loss of life and

Korea marked a watershed in the writing of war letters in that letters home were free from the censor’s critical eye that had been present during World War Two..

sporadic zeniths and nadirs of combat action – “the attack seemed to end as quickly as it started”⁴² – combined to cause its prolific use: “All hell broke loose.” When the serviceman chose to elaborate upon this assessment, compelling and graphic accounts could rise to the surface of this bloodied pool. In a letter written to his mother in August 1950, a woman one must assume of great composure, Donald Luedtke composed a relentless and graphic report of the battle of Taejon. His scope in recounting this dramatic event is impressive and harrowing as Luedtke bounds from trauma to trauma; drivers are shot through the head and graphic detail is given of a wounded GI – “blood coming out of both sides of his head, nose and mouth.”⁴³ Luedtke even stresses to his mother just how close he came to perishing himself. Bob Hammond adopts a similar literary style in a letter to his father recounting the brutal fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. Here, Hammond informs his father tersely “we were masecured”, before providing a graphic illustration of it – “Machine gun slugs tore thru the ambulance killing a GI. and a Captain sitting across from me...My pants leg was ripped wide open and I saw my leg was a mass of dried blood.”⁴⁴

A stylistic detail, present in both letters, is the placatory note at the end of each. After divulging information that could cause nothing but consternation, both letters end similarly. Luedtke’s “Never worry about me, they can’t get the best of a man from Nebraska”⁴⁵ is replicated by Hammond’s almost jaunty finale – “But, I’m okay now and I feel great. Don’t worry about me.”⁴⁶ The reasoning for this could be that in the process of writing these letters, both men have been absorbed in a cathartic outpouring of emotion – “GIs that lost their friends probably wrote about it to share and help overcome their sorrow.”⁴⁷ Following Freudian doctrine, they have relived the trauma in an attempt to exorcise it.⁴⁸ Once this necessary process has finished, the authors are snapped back to reality with an apologetic shrug of the shoulders and continue in a style more expected in letters to parents.

Thomas O’Connell’s letter to a friend reporting an intense battle along the 17th

Parallel in July 1953 gives these graphic accounts added purpose. Its cathartic function is evident, yet O’Connell includes such gory information primarily to warn. The carnage of the scene and O’Connell’s genuine revulsion at it is encapsulated succinctly, yet perfectly – “Boy that was really slaughter here, I never saw anything like it...I stepped on something soft, & I felt, & it was a man’s stomach...That whole hill stinks something terrible all over with dead bodies. I never hope to see anything like this again.”⁴⁹ First hand experience of the carnage, and his response to it, means that one is forced to heed, and respect, the authority of O’Connell’s heartfelt commination – “Write, & what ever you do, don’t come up here, you might get to see some action, but it’s not worth it...Boy, I can’t get out of this hell hole over here fast enough.”⁵⁰ Jack Train Jr., advising a friend’s younger brother against enlisting, picks up O’Connell’s baton with similar urgency – “...it’s no fun dodging bullets and artillery shells, never knowing from day to day whether you’ll ever see your home, family or parents again – no, it’s a Hell on earth, and you’d be a lot wiser to spare yourself from it.”⁵¹ Paradoxically therefore, just as those who omitted accounts of combat and death did so primarily to protect loved ones, often those who included such traumas did so for the same reason.

To be sure, however, most of the letters that dwell on combat or death do so sparingly and with much less fervour than the examples cited above. When reported at all, traumatic incidents are usually compressed into concise aloof statements, for “it was hard to tell them what I was experiencing – they would not understand – nor should they.”⁵² This conscious refusal to divulge upsetting information did not always equate to its complete absence in letters home. Rather, universal techniques were employed to convey the horrors of war in a manner palatable to the reader. The most frequent of these were white lies, understatement, and a mere recognition of disturbing situations without any further embroidery. In a letter to his father on 30 May 1951, Marvin Myers informed his father of “A couple of the boys who were hit...One boy had gotten it through the back but was doing all right.”⁵³

In subsequent reminiscence, Myers admits, “Even though I told my dad the marine was doing all right my gut feeling at the time was that the wound was inoperable.”⁵⁴ Myers consciously straddles the boundary of veracity, truthfully reporting the incidence of the casualty, yet withholding its true impact to protect his father. Bob Spiroff, writing to his wife on 11 December 1950 adopts a different technique to achieve the same end – “The past two weeks have been nightmares – simply hell. I could never begin to explain just what happened.”⁵⁵ Although Spiroff does not, or can not, embellish beyond simply accepting that he has been through hell, this is still a deviation from the usual line adopted in the overwhelming majority of letters home – “I never talked about the bad things, blood and guts. . . I never talked about the war.”⁵⁶ Spiroff may not be illuminating upon the “bad things, blood and guts”, but he is certainly ‘talking about the war’ in a manner that forces the reader to accept their existence. Joe Sammarco achieves a similar outcome, using the same technique, when reporting the battle of Chipyeong-ni to his wife. When the Chinese broke into the house and killed his Buddy he “got over being scared.” After that “I don’t know what happened. . . except that as the sun started to come up there were several hundred dead & wounded Chinese all over the place.”⁵⁷ Sammarco’s memory of the incident may well have been incomplete, or he may have been intentionally sparing his wife. Either way, the outcome is the same – Bobbie Sammarco has been informed of the battle, yet in a sanitised monochromic manner, precisely the way her husband intended.

2.1 – MORTALITY

Passages concerning combat are often accompanied by an assessment of the soldier’s own mortality. Allan Galfund considers his mortality, and its precarious nature, after being “banzaied” on just his first night on the line – “. . . it sure makes you sweat when you feel that it may be over any day and you have to risk your life needlessly.”⁵⁸ Others regarded their existence with an austere reliance upon an uncomplicated logic. Charles Morrow simply and coolly declares, “. . . it is kill or be killed.”⁵⁹ This rational and calculated assessment of mortality is reiterated in the following close escape for John Wheeler – “Good thing it didn’t go all of the way in or I would have come home sooner

than anticipated, in a pine box.”⁶⁰ These soldiers have not been blasé in blindly welcoming the inevitability of their death, but rather have accepted the possibility of it. Clarence Schuster, in a letter to his parents, illuminates this theme further – “. . . it was his first patrol, he got killed last night, he was just 1 day up here on lines as they say, when a guy’s time is up it’s up.”⁶¹ (underline added). They have become soldiers of fortune at the whim of a greater, intangible force. Certainly however, they do not embrace their impotence, as Schuster continues – “Guess that’s no way to look at it tho.”⁶² Crucially, Schuster does not dwell or expand upon the death of the soldier. No deeper emotional response is offered and just one line later he is frivolously (in comparison) lamenting not owning a car. One can assume that Schuster almost felt guilty for divulging the information of the soldier’s death and quickly attempted to rectify the situation with more light-hearted, generic content. This reluctance to divulge emotional insights is a prominent theme in many letters home concerning death and combat. When an emotional response is volunteered, the soldier is revealed as a human and a personality, contrary to widely perceived qualities of an efficient soldier. Bob Hammond felt impotent and useless – “I watched a good buddy of mine die of wounds and lack of medicine. I cried, I felt so utterly helpless.”⁶³ Hammond’s tears were not only for the death of his friend but also one suspects because of his frustration at being wholly unable to prevent it. The acceptance of fate that pervades the previous letters is replaced with anger. Just as Hammond was rudely reminded of his powerlessness, so too was the anonymous author of the following passage. Again tears flow for the death of a GI, yet this soldier cries for the loss of innocence – “Gosh he could have been anyone of the gang from home. Anyway, he was some mother’s son.”⁶⁴

In war letters, the most explicit manifestation of a soldier’s recognition of his own mortality comes in the form of the letter he has written “In Case of Accident”. Bob Spiroff wrote such a letter to his wife in October 1950, whilst resting during a dangerous mission. Spiroff’s letter is not self-indulgent, nor does he display resentment for his service in Korea. Rather, it is an emotionally rousing letter that thanks his wife for her love and implores her not to pine her life

away, but to find love with another man. Spiroff’s faith offers him solace and explanation for his imagined demise, again revealing subordination to a higher power outwith the soldiers control; simple honest acceptance – “Just think of me as someone that you knew long ago – and remember that it’s God’s will that we had to part.”⁶⁵

2.2 - KILLING

“There is no greater love than a man who is willing to lay down his life for others, I am willing to do this but in doing so I will be fighting back.”⁶⁶

The emotional response expressed in the previous letters following the deaths of American servicemen is not replicated when Communist deaths are described. Enemy deaths are alluded to in a more succinct and cold manner, and there is an almost uniform denial of an emotional response to them. John Wheeler deviates from this impersonal style in his quasi-fanatical zeal for killing Communists – “I could see nothing more fitting for a young man to do than to devote his entire life to killing everyone of them.”⁶⁷ However, when Wheeler actually describes the death of “the [enemy soldier] that got him”, he simply states that he is now with his honourable ancestors. This laconic description of killing the enemy is prevalent throughout the majority of letters home. David Hughes’ description of his killing an enemy soldier at close quarters – a traumatic and dramatic event – is equally economical – “I shot him with my submachine gun after he jumped into the hole with me.”⁶⁸ This is the only illumination Hughes provides of the event. Bob Hammond, who “cried and felt utterly helpless” after the death of a GI, displays no such emotional capacity after his shooting of an enemy soldier. Rather, he writes only of the dry physical facts of the incident – “I jumped to my feet, fired once and killed one and then ran back to ‘B’ Battery.”⁶⁹

The soldiers did not write this way because of a boyish misinterpretation of duty, nor out of bravado, but because they were aware that killing the enemy was the fundamental obligation of their job – “we got a job to do, and we will get the job done.”⁷⁰ Jack Parchen highlights this rule of employment – “I was impressed by the thoroughly professional – almost stoic – attitude of the enlisted Marines. They were fighting not for ‘mom and apple pie’ but because they

In adopting humour specifically regarding combat, the GI could include details of dangerous engagement while at the same time easing any worry.

were in Korea to do a job.⁷⁷¹ An emotional reaction, and the embellishment of it in letters home, would compromise their ability to perform their job and therefore their existence – “He was my enemy and he would kill me if he had a chance so that is how I could go on being a soldier even though I had no hatred for him.”⁷⁷²

2.3 - HUMOUR

When recounting episodes of combat or casualties in letters home, the author often felt himself able to adopt ground that fell between the attitudes already illustrated. Indeed, humour is evident in certain passages concerning front-line combat – often stemming from the near farcical situations the soldiers could find themselves in. One cannot fail to concede a smile at the following passages, despite, or perhaps because of, their combat context.

On 21 July 1952, Lawrence Towne wrote to his wife of an incident involving US tanks and a group of Chinese defenders. Towne “didn’t see anyone hurt in the whole battle”, which resulted in soldiers from an immobilised tank diving into the hatch of another – “These men would have scored a 10 in their dives if they had been on the Olympic Diving

Team... If any act of war could be called funny, this act was.”⁷⁷³ Even John Harper, whose letter to his father described not only air strikes, mortars, and close combat, but also his being shot, finds time to intersperse such details with comedy. The first instance that reveals a lighter nature of his personality concerns an amusing telephone call between a Platoon Sergeant and a soldier on the line. The comic denouement is reached only after frantic panic caused by “sounds like somebody chokin’ a pheasant!!” –

“Phone: They’re blowin’ a bugle!!

Plt. Sgt.: Oh? – Well – What are they playing?

Phone: I dunno – I can’t make it out. I tell you they’re blowin’ bugles!!

Plt. Sgt.: Who’s blowing bugles?

Phone: The [ENEMY]!!

Plt. Sgt.: Well – can’t you tell what tune they’re playing? Listen close and see if it’s on the hit parade.”⁷⁷⁴

This passage is followed by another amusing anecdote. Startled by a gang of noisy squirrels, a rifleman in attempting to throw a grenade at these attackers contrived to knock out his buddy’s teeth and render him unconscious. “This threw his aim off and the

grenade flew out, hit a tree, and bounced back and exploded just a few feet from the bunker.”⁷⁷⁵ Fearing the grenade had been tossed back, the grenadier “threw another half dozen grenades in all directions to defend himself. When his panic subsided...he helped his buddy look for his teeth in the dark.”⁷⁷⁶

Humour was employed as a tool to convey instances of combat for a variety of reasons. “There was always something unusual or funny stuff going on”⁷⁷⁷ and it is natural that the soldier saw fit to include these instances in his letters. In adopting humour specifically regarding combat, the GI could include details of dangerous engagement while at the same time easing any worry. Despite the obvious dangers one can laugh at the above passages and imagine combat as a playful game rather than what it is. A crucial explanation for humour is provided by the demographic of the American presence in Korea – “...we were just kids thrown into a mans situation and the ‘kid’ traits would keep coming out even in the most trying times.”⁷⁷⁸ Furthermore, when surrounded by death and destruction on a daily and de-humanising basis, humour allowed the GI to retain his grip on reality – “I believe that if a man could not find a humorous incident nearly every day that he wasn’t long on the front line; he would probably crack up.”⁷⁷⁹

To be continued...

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Free from prison and certain death

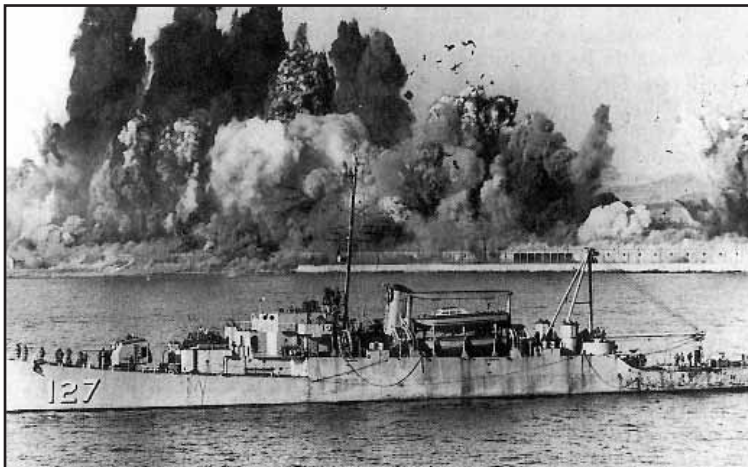
■ **Hungnam, Korea. 0500 hours. October 14, 1950**

In the small hours before dawn, the industrial city of Hungnam on the east coast of North Korea was eerily quiet. The aerial bombardments which had been systematically destroying bridges, factories and other key military targets for weeks was suddenly over. US and ROK troops, spirits buoyed by the triumph of the September 15 Inchon campaign, were advancing up the Eastern coast toward the Yalu River and the Chinese border.

But in the Hungnam Special Labor prison camp, the 152 surviving prisoners didn't think they would get to see the sun rise even one last time. Over the previous nights, North Korean guards had been systematically executing the men, with the idea of leaving no one alive. The only reason the executions had not already been completed the night before was that as ROK and US/UN forces entered the city, the guards had begun to desert, afraid for their families' safety. Later that very day, the prisoners were suddenly set free to return home. The 'shock and awe' of such bombardments spared countless lives.

However, the dramatic story of the prisoners freed from Hungnam and forced labor camps like it, and their reprieve from certain death, might have remained largely unknown. But among the men liberated that cold October morning was a young Korean who was later destined to become known around the world: the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Unification Church, *The Washington Times* and many other humanitarian and philanthropic enterprises. And he was determined that the story should be told.

Moon had been sent to Hungnam on May 20, 1948, after having been arrested for preaching the gospel in Pyongyang and thus 'creating public disorder.' Many of the inmates were imprisoned on similarly politicized charges as the North Korean communists extended their grip on society. The camp's goals were simple: work the prisoners to death in Hungnam's huge industrial complexes,



The USS Begor standing by during the final demolition of Hungnam industrial facilities in December 1950, after the successful evacuation of US/UN forces following the Chinese communist counteroffensive.

After being freed from Hungnam, Sun Myung Moon went as a refugee to Busan. He is pictured here with some of his early followers outside his first church, a cardboard shack made from US Army ration boxes



the largest in all of East Asia and crucial to Kim Il Sung's war effort.

Each ten-man team had to load 700 40-kilo sacks a day of ammonium sulphate fertilizer, later raised to 1300 sacks. Failure to meet the quota meant half-rations the following day. During the three years Moon was imprisoned, more than half of the original 1500 inmates had succumbed to disease, brutal treatment and starvation. Moon knew that he had been sent to die and that his only chance of survival was to fight a spiritual battle by loving everyone—his fellow inmates, the communist guards and even God.

"I realized very clearly how God

loved me and that He knew how much I was suffering," he later recalled, "Therefore, I could not ask Him to remove or relieve the suffering. I did not ask for help but told God to worry about others, about the nation and the world." With this resolve, he threw himself into the work, determined to make it fulfilling. Other prisoners noted that he hardly ever seemed to sleep but was often seen in prayer during the early morning hours. Finally even the guards came to respect him. He won an award as an outstanding prisoner.

Throughout his life, the Reverend Moon has often spoken of his gratitude to

Continued on page 71

Reunion Calendar 2007

To post your Reunion Dates, send your information to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT, or by email to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. The preferred format is: Unit, Date, Place, Point of Contact (POC). Provide as much POC info as possible, e.g., name, address, phone #, email address. Many of our readers do not use email, so contact information is important. Entries are posted on a "first come, first served basis" as space allows. The KWVA is not responsible for the accuracy of the entries.

JULY

L Co., 31st Inf. Regt., 7th Div., 9-11 July, Richmond, KY. POC: John R. Jarvis, 607 Shady Court, Arnold, MO 63010-2333, (636) 282-2861

35th Inf. Regt. (CACTI) Assn., 26-29 July, Philadelphia, PA, Crowne Plaza Center City, POC: Richard Lopez, (760) 246-2184. Call toll free (866) 618-0410 or direct at (215) 561-7500 for reservations, or access www.cacti35th.org.

The Korean War Ex-POW Association, 29 July-5 Aug., Charleston, WV, Charleston Marriott Town Center Hotel. POC: F Jack Chapman, (505)-523-2298, fjchap@aol.com

AUGUST

6147th Tac Con Gp., Mosquito Assn and all units thereof, 14-19 Aug., Kansas City, MO. POC: Dick Souza, 79 Bradstreet Ave., Lowell, MA (978) 453-3887, Skeeterloc@aol.com, or Jack Fischer, 274 Bellman's Church Rd., Dauberville, PA 19533, (610) 926 3588, deeandjack@comcast.net

5th Marine Division Association, 21-26 Aug., Raleigh, NC, Hilton North Raleigh. POC: George Cattelona, P.O. Box 58206, Raleigh, NC 27658-8206.

307th Bomb Group/Wing (1946-54), 26-30 Aug., Savannah, GA, Savannah Marriott Riverfront, POC, Tom Stevens, 5310 W. 122nd Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66209, (913) 696-0447, stevenst@swbell.net

U.S. Seagoing Marine Association, 30 Aug.-4 Sept., Arlington, VA. POC: www.seagoingmarines.com

SEPTEMBER

USS Repose (AH-16), Korea and Vietnam, 5-9 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Dave Lara, (415) 648-3576, davegun2@gmail.com

USS Lewis Hancock (DD675), 6-9 Sept., Dayton, OH. POC: Patsy Iapalucci, 323 W. Third Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, (724) 834-0370, iapal@everizon.net

75th Air Depot Wing, Korea, Japan and Europe (1952-1955), 6-9 Sept., Portland, OR. POC: Walt Walko, 13616 Paradise Villas Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, (719) 488-1196, wawlaw2@juno.com

USS CAMP (DER-251/FFR-251), 6-9 Sept., Cherry Hill, NJ. POC: Larry Fitzgerald, 117 Bierskill Road, Montague, NJ 07827, (201) 216-2366, lfitzgerald@panynj.gov

630th Engineers Light Equipment Co., 9-12 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Oscar Viehland, 9587 Woodland Rd., Robertsville, MO 63072-2300, (636) 285-4402, ogvccv@ruralnet.com

40th Inf. Div., 160th Regt., Co. A (Korea), 10-12 Sept., Rapid City, SD., Quality Inn. POC: Roger Lueckenhoff, 208 Steeplechase Rd., Rolla, MO. 65401-3784, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com

USS Sphinx (ARL-24), 10-13 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Frank Ironi, 954 Lilac Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378, (612) 352-3271.

538th Ordnance M.A.M. Co., (Korea 1950-55), 10-13 Sept., Philadelphia, PA/South Jersey area. POC: Dom Carrero, 525 Westminster Rd., Wenonah, NJ 08090-1444, (856) 468-1097 or Bob Bruns, (609) 607-9681.

91st MP Battalion (289, 560, 563 MP COs, Pusan, Korea, 1951-1955, plus all other Pusan area MPs), 11-14 Sept., Branson, MO. POC: Bob Simon, (989) 792-3718, robsimoncondo@charter.net; Don Hart, (989) 732-8102, donchart@yahoo.com

D-2-7 (Korea), 12-15 Sept., Valley Forge, PA. POC: Ric Barron, P. O.

Box 96, Hamburg, NJ 07419, RicBD27@cs.com

40th Inf. Div. (All Units, Korean War) 12-16 Sept., Lancaster, PA, Eden Resort. POC: Charles Egresitz, 6 Rosewood Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5536, (717) 652-4088, apebble@aol.com

38th Ordnance Co Association, 14-16 Sept., Dayton, OH, Holiday Inn North. POC: Bill Smith, (260) 485-6369, hurst468@aol.com, or Joe Hanel, (402) 986-1511

USS Essex (CV/CVA/CVS-9/LHD-2), 17-22 Sept., San Diego, CA, Crowne Plaza of San Diego, POC: Bruce Sims, 581 Conkle Rd., Hampton, GA 30288, (770) 707-1812, Hangerbay@aol.com

44th Engineer Battalion Association ("Broken Heart Battalion"), 18 - 21 Sept., Springfield, IL. POC: LT COL [Ret] Ken Jobe, (757) 428 0328, kejo425@AOL.com, or Bernie Resnick, (603) 434 6406, BigBMR@AOL.com. (Open to all Korean War, post Korean War, Vietnam and Iraqi War members of the Broken Heart Battalion Association as well as supporting and associated units.)

Hdqtrs 10th Corps and Attached Services (1950-53), 20-23 Sept., College Station, TX. POC: Gordon R. Kennedy, (979) 778-2563.

USS Henderson (DD-785), 20-23 Sept., San Francisco, Ca. 94080. POC: Richard Sierra, 505 Park Way So., San Francisco, CA 94080, (650) 952-7440, Dixera@yahoo.com

1st & 86th Ordnance Company, 26-28 Sept., Dayton, OH. POC: George Kvet, 812 Beverly Ave., Canal Fulton, OH 44614, (330) 854-9754, or Elaine Laketa, (630) 739-5008

USS Fletcher (DD/DDE 445, DD 992), 23-26 Sept., Oklahoma City, OK. POC: Earl Faubion, 6908 S. Villa Ave., Oklahoma, City OK 73159, (405) 833-7372, efaubion@ussfletcher.org

Johnson Air Base (Japan Reunion Group), 27-30 Sept., Wright Patterson AFB, Fairborn, Ohio. POC: Keith Swinehart, (303) 814-0800, hrnet@comcast.net (NOTE) Johnson Air base was flying missions and providing supplies during the Korean War.

Marine Corps Tankers Assn., 30 Sept.-5 Oct., York, PA. POC: G. D. Rose, (619) 579-7848, gdroseusmcr@yahoo.com

OCTOBER

L Co., 279th Inf., 45th Div., 1-4 Oct., Laughlin, NV. POC: Paul Elkins, PO Box 348, Kasilof, AK 99610, (907)260-6612, pselks@gmail.com

194th Combat Engineer Bn., All Companies, Korea '51-'54, 1-4 Oct., Laughlin, NV. POC: Bob(Sandy) Sanford, 432 Walnut Hill Rd, Woonsocket, RI 02895-2727 (401)766-8262, boblorsan2@aol.com.

67th TRW V 1 1, 3-6 Oct., Norfolk/Williamsburg, VA area. POC: Ronnie Krakovsky, 115 Texas Street, Elkin, NC 28621, ladyplanter@yahoo.com, or Joe Krakovsky, joerene2@earthlink.net, (336) 835 5553

1st Bn., 7th Marine Association (Korea), 3-6 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK, Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center. If you were a Corpsman, chaplain or doctor, in or attached, to 1st Bn., 7th Marines, in Korea between 1950 and 1953, you are welcome! POC: H. L. Mulhausen, 6405 S. Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73139, (405) 632-7351, hmuleym@aol.com

USS Meredith Association (DDs 165, 434, 726, 890), 3-8 Oct., Washington DC. POC: Harry Wrede, 377 Conkintown Rd., Ringwood, NJ 07456, (973) 839-0332, hlwcaw@aol.com

96th Field Artillery Bn., Korea, 1950-58. 4-6 Oct., Shreveport, LA. POC: Bill Rutledge, (318) 247-8163, rutledgw181@bellsouth.net

Army Security Agency (Korea Veterans), 4-7 Oct., Lincolnshire, IL,

Marriott Resort (Suburban Chicago). POC: Ed Collins, PO Box 7182, Deerfield, IL 60015,

B Company, 15th Regiment, 3rd US. Army Division, 7-13 October, Lafayette, LA. POC: Verlin Abbott, (337-896-3663), verlin&marie@aol.com

712th TROB - Korean War, annual national reunion, 10-13 Oct., Newport News, VA. POC: Robert G Shannon, (910) 949-3920, rgshannon@earthlink.net.

U.S. Army 28th Gen. Hosp. Association, 10-13 Oct., Branson, MO, Grand Plaza Hotel. POC: Joe Lott, 2210 Chidester Rd., Camden, AR 71701-3012, (870) 836-3725, wayx@seark.net

841st Engineer Aviation Battalion, WW II and KOREA, 10-14 Oct., Surfside Beach Holiday Inn, SC. POC: Ed McManus, 8703 Curtis Ave., Alexandria VA 22309, (202) 557-9407, Colsapper@aol.com

6th Medical Depot (A) Korea, 11-14 Oct., Kissimmee/St. Cloud/Orlando, FL. POC: John Rallis, 430 Florida Ave., St. Cloud, FL 34769, (407) 892-2411, (321) 231-3771 (cell), JRALLIS1@CFL.R.R.com

15th Radio Sq. Mobile/6922 (USAF) 1950-58 USAF Security Service, 14-17 Oct., Charleston, SC. POC: Jim Bramwell, 108 President Ave., Rutledge, PA 19070-2111, (610) 544-5143, M.JBRAMPRES3@verizon.net

G-3-1 KOREA Association (open to any who served with George

Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv in Korea 1950-1955), 16-18 Oct., Quantico, VA. POC: J. R. "Bob" Camarillo, (805) 647-9319, retiredx2@sbcglobal.net

Veterans of the Korean War (all branches welcomed), 17-20 Oct., Virginia Beach, VA, Surfside Inn. POC: Floyd D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk@cox.net, Gerald Brown, (757) 237-4541, PGKpfn12117@aol.com, or Richard Stacy, P2vradio@verizon.net. Website is www.VKWR.org.

USS McNair (DD679), 18-21 Oct., Norfolk, VA. POC: Arthur Underwood, 215 E 8th St., Vinton, IA 52349-1829, (319) 472-2724, und121230@msn.com

Photo Section, Signal Corps, 25th Inf. Div. ("Tropic Lightning"), Oct.?, Tampa, FL. POC: Rollie Berens, 18400 Brookfield Lake Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 797-8897.

NOVEMBER

Fox-2-7 (Korea), 1-5 Nov., Orlando, FL, Hawthorne Suites. POC: Dick Bonelli, 10 Stone Mtn Blvd., Englewood, FL 34223, (941) 460-1755, B027Fox@verizon.net

398th AAA AW Bn. (Korea), 4-7 Nov., Branson, MO. POC: Arlie Schemmer, 4195 Cappeln-Osage Rd., Marthasville, MO 63357-2039, (636) 228-4474

92nd AFA Bn., 4-7 Nov., Savannah, GA, Savannah Hilton DeSoto Hotel. POC: Guy McMenemy, bravecannons@sbcglobal.net

Featured Reunion

USS Ozbourn (DD-846) Association, 12-16 Sept., Seattle, WA. POC: Warren Zschach, 1311 Ponderosa Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954-4393, (707) 762-0469, hwz@comcast.net

The *USS Ozbourn* had a storied career, which included a very impressive record during the Korean War. Here is part of it.

In 1950, upon the opening of the Korean hostilities, the *Ozbourn* joined TASK Force 77. She participated in the invasion of Inchon and conducted air operations off the Korean coast where she twice won the Korean Presidential Citation. On 19 September 1950 Commander *Freeman* was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Charles O. Akers.

In February 1951 the *Ozbourn* received two direct hits and several near hits while under Communist shore battery fire off the Northern coast. On the same day the *Ozbourn* sent out a motor whale boat to rescue a downed pilot from the carrier *USS Valley Forge*. The downed pilot, while fourteen miles from the *Ozbourn*, was floating in an enemy mine field. The boat officer received a Bronze Star and the crew members received Letters of Commendation with combat distinguishing devices for their parts in the rescue.

The *Ozbourn* remained on the firing line until March 1951. *Ozbourn* returned to San Diego in April 1951, and after undergoing repairs and overhaul, she left again for Korea. During this time Commander Akers was relieved as commanding officer by Commander William B. Fargo. Upon arrival at the Wonsan area the *Ozbourn* was assigned to Task Force 77. Entering Wonsan Harbor she blasted the Communists with her guns, destroying railroad cars, trucks, sampans and coastal gun emplacements.

Returning to Task Force 77 in July 1952, the *Ozbourn* rescued 18 men from the carrier *USS Boxer* who had jumped from the ship to avoid a menacing fire. On the following day the *Ozbourn* rescued three downed airmen from the carrier *USS Essex*.

In early October 1952 the *Ozbourn* steamed south to Formosa to train Chinese Nationalist Naval Officers in operation and upkeep of shipboard equipment. Later in October the ship returned to Task Force 77 and conducted a special firing mission on Wonsan and Suwon Don, Korea, The *Ozbourn* then returned to San Diego.

MOON from page 69

the US and United Nations servicemen who saved him on that October morning and rescued his country from slavery and despair under the communist system, and for the United States' ongoing efforts to defend freedom throughout the world. But he always saw it as more than just a human effort.

"Victory came because God had chosen and raised the United States of America, in accordance with His providential program, and had raised the American people," he said in a recent speech in Hawaii. Even today, "the future of humankind lies in the preservation of peace in the Pacific Rim region, centering on the United States."

In 2003, Moon founded the United Nations Peace Forces of the Korean War Memorial Federation (UPKMF) to mark the 50th anniversary of ceasefire. The foundation has two goals. First, to enable veterans from the United States and the other fifteen nations supporting the UN effort to visit Korea, retrace their footsteps, meet with each other, and even visit the final resting places of former colleagues. More recently, the UPKMF has enabled ROK veterans to make return visits to the veterans' associations in each of these sixteen nations and pay respect to the spirit of sacrifice and honor that was the mark of those who

Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash! Flash!

We have just learned that the Korea Veterans Association (KVA) Seoul, Korea, has substantially expanded the eligibility for veterans and their families to visit Korea on the official ROK government "Revisit Korea" subsidized tours. The following has been added to the eligibility:

- Effective immediately, widows and children of Korean War veterans killed during the war are eligible to participate in the Revisit Korea program.

- IN ADDITION: Widows and children of Korean War veterans who have died since the war OR of veterans who because of health reasons cannot travel, are also eligible to participate in the name of their veteran husband/father.

Specific instructions will be forthcoming, but the name, unit and dates of service OF THE VETERAN will be required to register for an official Revisit Korea Tour under this revised eligibility criteria.

For more specific information call the Revisit Korea Tours coordinator: Military Historical Tours, Alexandria, Virginia, 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695. Email: MHT@miltours.com.

2007 Revisit Korea tour quotas remain for the following:

Korea	China Option
10 - 16 Sept *	16 - 21 Sept
14 - 20 Oct	20 - 25 Oct
7 - 13 Nov **	13 - 18 Nov

* This tour is over the Anniversary of the Inchon Landing.
** This tour is over the Anniversary of the "Chosin Reservoir" Campaign.

The eligibility for participating in an "Official" KWVA Revisit Korea Tour contains the requirements of serving "in, over or around Korea" from 25 June 1950 to 15 October 1954. It further states that the veteran is permitted to take "a spouse or one immediate descendent with you, to be lodged in the same hotel room in Korea".

On a recent visit to the KVA headquarters in Seoul, we expressed our concern that as the veterans age, some don't have a living spouse and some are incapacitated and unable to travel. We further voiced our concern that some don't have "direct descendents" or they also, are unable to travel. This restricts the veteran, in our opinion, from receiving the gratitude of the Korean people.

KVA saw the logic of our concern and hence forth, the eligibility requirements will contain the statement: "If a spouse or direct descendent is not available, the veteran is allowed to be accompanied by a friend or companion". All other requirements will remain the same.

KWVA President Colonel Lou Dechert is still trying to get the dates of eligibility extended to include the "Cold War Years" during the time that "Combat Pay" was still being paid for soldiers stationed in Korea. KVA, Seoul is giving this a good look and we could receive a favorable decision as early as this summer. Korean War Veterans would still receive "First Priority". However, if the Revisit quotas were not filled, "Cold War Veterans" would be allowed to participate.

Please note: We still have a few spaces on the June, September, October and November "Revisit" tours. Call Military Historical Tours at: 800-722-9501 or 703-212-0695 in Alexandria, Virginia, for details.

REMINDER: You must have a valid passport to participate in a Revisit Korea tour!

Sincere and fraternal regards,
Warren Wiedhahn
Korea 1950
KWVA Revisit Korea Coordinator

AMBUSH from page 21

approximately 0030 hours, Specialist Clarkson was assigned as the medical aid man to a fourteen-man relief patrol operating with the Korean Demilitarized Zone whose mission was to evacuate the dead and wounded members of a five-man patrol which was engaged in a fire fight with a force of twelve to fifteen North Korean infiltrators. Upon arrival at the scene of the fire fight Specialist Clarkson's patrol came under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Disregarding the enemy fire, he unhesitatingly provided first aid to the wounded. His outstanding professional ability and calm conduct made possible the rapid evacuation of the injured personnel to safety. The actions of Specialist Clarkson throughout the fire fight were characterized by his superior self-control, unflinching discipline and exceptional attention to duty. Once the element had reached safety, Specialist Clarkson immediately continued to cover for the wounded until they were evacuated. The complete disregard for personal safety and the remarkable courage displayed by Specialist Clarkson in the face of an armed aggressor was in keeping with the most cherished tradition of the military service. His courage and devotion to duty throughout the action reflect great credit upon himself, the 2d Infantry Division and the United States Army.


Authority: By order of the Secretary of the Army under the provisions of AR 672.5.1

**National KWVA Fund Raiser
Flower Rose of Sharon**

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

Sample order is 4 dozen @ \$12 plus \$3.00 S/H.
 Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$60 plus \$5.00 S/H.

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



Make Checks payable to: **Maryland Chapter – KWVA**

Thanks!

As we have noted in past issues, there is no shortage of thanks extended from Koreans to the veterans who fought for theirs and their own and their predecessors' freedom over fifty years ago. Here are more results.

Korean Church Honors Taejon Chapter Veterans At Annual Fellowship Dinner

Commander Thomas Falato led 24 members and 13 guests to a night of comradeship with members of "The Roman Catholic Church of Martyrs," Saddle Brook, NJ. He presented the pastor of the church with a beautiful memento in appreciation of the many years of gathering together.

In turn, the pastor presented Commander Falato with a 16x20 framed picture of members who attended the 2005 fellowship. A DVD was shown of "Korea Today," an unbelievable transformation of a country torn by war from 1950-1953.

Korean church women performed two ancient dances for the veterans and their guests. A great Korean-American buffet was served by the church.

At the end of the evening, church members gave each person two gifts. It was a great night and everyone enjoyed the close friendship.

*Louis Quagliero
142 Illinois Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07503*



Church of Martyrs pastor presents framed photo to CID 170 Commander Falato



CID 170 Jr. Vice Commander Henry Ferrarini and Sr. Vice Commander Alexander Atheras present the colors at the church dinner as Commander Thomas Falato salutes



CID 170 Commander Falato presents a memento of the church event to pastor



South Korean Korean War veterans and Taejon Chapter officers at church event



CID 170 members, South Korean Korean War veterans, and church members compose a sizable group at the Church of Martyrs gathering

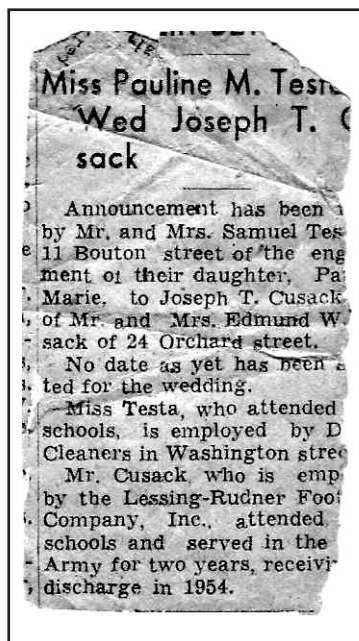


Recon Missions

Joseph T. Cusack

I am helping my dad locate some kind of military record information on his service time during the Korean War. My dad has submitted paperwork to NARA, but they keep saying that information cannot be found due to the fire in 1973 that destroyed a lot of records.

My dad is trying to get his records for me, since I am his only child, and I am doing our family genealogy. He also knows that I want to put together and honor my dad with a certificate and any medals that he may be entitled to. I want to compile a clear case that includes his picture, medals and certificates earned, and an American flag.



Joseph T. Cusack's wedding announcement



Joseph T. Cusack in his Army days

My dad did not serve in Korea. He was stationed at a place called Breckenridge, Kentucky. This is the only information that I have, and I am hoping that your members will be able to help in obtaining some of his military service records.

Here is the information I assembled about my dad:

- Name: Joseph T. Cusack
- State address at that time: Connecticut
- Birth date: 11/06/1931
- Stationed: at Breckenridge, Kentucky (1952-1954)
- Service: Army

I would like to see my dad's casket draped/honored with the American flag, if possible, but I do not have any other proof of his service other than a picture and a small wedding announcement that appeared in the newspaper years ago. It states that my dad was discharged from the Army after serving two years in 1954. So his dates of service would have been 1952-1954.

Thanks for any help you and your readers can provide.

Joseph T. Cusack, Jr., 257 Indian Field Road,
Bridgeport, CT 06606, dough147@gmail.com

Falco and Gallmeyer

PFC Claud (Bill) Wilkins is looking for news of two buddies, Sam Falco and Richard Gallmeyer. Both were medics in the 1st Battalion Aid Station of the 179th Infantry, 45th Division.

Sam's last known address was 271 Meadow View, Aurora, IL, 60504-6904. Richard's old address was 4814 Tun Law Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

If anyone knows of these two men, please contact either Bill Wilkins, 7577 El Paso St., La Mesa, CA 91942, (619) 469 9096, nabunch@cox.net, or Hank Nicol, 2160 Albee St., Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 445 8825, donicol@northcoast.com

Jim (James) O'Shea

My name is Michael O'Shea, retired colonel of the Irish Defense Forces. I have recently returned from Australia, where I met a first cousin of mine named Jim O'Shea. Jim served in the Australian Forces in Korea. During his tour he met another cousin of his, also named Jim O'Shea, who was at that time serving with the U.S. forces in Korea. They managed one "good night" together, ending in a pretty inebriated state.

They never met except on this one occasion. Jim (Aus) did learn subsequently that Jim (U.S.), on returning to the U.S., worked at the Bronx City Council in New York. Unfortunately, I do not know the rank which Jim (U.S.) had. Likewise there is an element of doubt as to the exact unit, other than that it was a Combat Engineers unit. The 155 Combat Engineers has been mentioned.

In another document Jim (U.S.) has been referred to as James O'Shea, U.S. Army 1951, 50th Combat Engineers—if no result, try "150th Combat Engineers." That is the summation of all the information I have.

As I have gone a long way in compiling a "Family Tree" with definite information as far back as 1811, I am most anxious to make contact with Jim (U.S.) if he is still alive or failing that some of his relatives. I approached, indirectly, your Military Attaché in Dublin but made no progress.

I really hope that contact may be made with the said Jim O'Shea or some of his relatives. My branch of the O'Sheas were from Kildimo, Co. Limerick. Some members of the family born, between 1814 and 1830, are unaccounted for. They would have been in their prime years during and after the famine. It is now suspected that some of them went to the U.S.A. and made little or no contact with the home base subsequently. It is in the hope of making contact that I initiate this request.

I am presently in South Africa with my wife. We are here until Oct 26th. My phone # here in S.A. is 00/27/44/3841162 or mobile 00/27/76/8625474. Mailing address is 17 Forest Gardens; Knysna 6570; Western Province; South Africa; P.O. Box 144.

My Irish Address is; 2,Treacy Meadows; Green Rd; Newbridge; Co. Kildare. Phone # is 353/431830.

I have recently been searching the “web” and came across your organization. I am hoping that you might be able to help me in my research and efforts to locate Jim O’Shea (or James) of the U.S. Forces that served in Korea in the 1950s. If you are unable to assist then you might be able to suggest a person or organization that might be able to help. Michael O’Shea, osheaadrienne@hotmail.com

Schemblecher and Coulter

I recently learned about this great organization and joined it immediately. Hopefully, members will be able to help me find two soldiers of my unit in Korea. I was there from 1951 – 1953, north of Seoul on the 38th Parallel, with 7th Inf. Div., 32nd Inf. Regt., 51 Sig Co. H.

The two soldiers I would like to locate are Jim Schemblecher (sp?), who was from Evansville, IN, and Norm Coulter (sp?), from Corpus Christi, TX.

Hobert Krouse, 302 S. East Ave.
Montpelier, OH 43543-1506

Hwan Chi Soo

I am trying to find a friend of my husband, John Calvin Davis, from the 1950s. My husband was stationed in Korea in 1952-53 and came home in October 1954.

I have a portion of a newspaper story that says Choi Jung-suk, 62, a retired air force colonel in South Korea, was now an executive with the Korean Veterans Association. (I do not know what year this was written, but I think it was within the last 10 years.) My husband had a good Korean friend while there, named Hwan Chi Soo. John has mentioned quite often that he wondered what ever happened to him. I thought this retired Colonel might know how to find him, if he is still alive, and if he is associated with the KVA.

My husband was in the 378th Engineer Combat Battalion.

I would appreciate any help you might offer with this search.

Nell Davis, nellncal@sbcglobal.net

Colleagues From Able Med

I was with the 1st Marine Division from November 1952 to December 1953. Much of this time was spent at Able Med working in the OR & minor surgery. I would enjoy hearing from any of my previous colleagues.

Some names I remember are Boyer (worked in x-ray), Carl Vann (from Anniston, AL), Boudreaux (Lake Charles, LA), and Barry Williams (Bottineau, ND). To aid your memories, Boudreaux and I used to bootleg beer initially, and later scotch and rum using a jeep ambulance.

Also, if anyone knows about the availability of a pre-1953 Jeep ambulance, please let me know.

Frank Shaughnessy, HM2, 600 Enterprise Blvd #157,
Rockport, TX, (361) 729-1895

EDITOR’S NOTE: You did not hear about the bootlegging from anyone here.

840th Engineer Aviation Bn.

I am trying to track down Korean War veterans from the 840th Engineer Aviation Battalion. I was at Osan Air Base (K-55) from 1952-53.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was stationed there during those years. I have many photographs of the construction of the base.

Curtis S. Allin, Jr., 1309 Lodwick Drive, Louisville,
TN 37777, CSAJR@juno.com

8221st Army Unit Association

We are looking for or information about former members of the 8221st Army Unit, Field Artillery, Topographic & Meteorological Detachment [a detachment assigned to X Corps] who served with the unit in Korea at any time from November 1950 through October 1954.

The soldiers listed below were in the group of X Corps personnel in and around the airstrip Koto-ri, NK in Nov-Dec 1950 and came back with the Army and Marine units to Hamhung. This request is being made in hopes of adding to the story of those who assisted in loading out the wounded and unloading the supplies and replacements coming into the Koto-ri perimeter.

Two of our own unit members (Cpl David E. Klepsig and Cpl Edgar L. Ring) were inside the Koto-ri perimeter at the time. Cpl Klepsig was on duty at the airstrip and Cpl Ring was on perimeter duty.

Captain James G. Franzen – May have been from International Falls, MN

Captain Earnest A. Staples, Jr. – Lawton, OK

Captain C. S. Warman – 2nd Engr. Special Brigade

First Lieutenant Claude Roberts – 2nd Engr. Special Brigade (Deceased)

Cpl W. T. Eppe – 2nd Engr. Special Brigade

Cpl H. N. Weyand – Hq Btry 57th FA Bn

Cpl A. D. Ishan – Hq Btry 57th FA Bn

Cpl J. A. Fleck – Hq Btry 57th FA Bn

Cpl M. R. Bradley – Hq Btry 57th FA Bn

Cpl L. Morton – Hq Btry 31st FA Bn

Pfc L. A. Glass – Hq Btry 31st FA Bn

[Any Members of the 96th FA Bn that were in the area and assisted at the airstrip]

Contact Michael C. J. Kaminski, 2912 South 10th
Avenue, Broadview, IL 60155-4830, (708) 345-8244,
FAX: (708) 345-8263, mcjk.8152@worldnet.att.net

Peace Talks At Kaesong

Can you provide any source(s) concerning the selection of Kaesong as the place for the first Korean War peace talks? Charley Collins, kwvet@bellsouth.net

Maps Of Military Camps In Korea

My son and I are planning on taking the Korean Revisit in 2008. Do you know where I can get a map of the military camps in Korea?

I was in Korea in June 1954 to April 1955. I was in Easy Co., 2nd Bn. 1st Marine Regt., 1st Marine Div. I would sure like to see our old company area again. I think our company's camp was north of Monson, across Freedom Bridge somewhere.

I have written to many government organizations with no luck. Any help would be appreciated.

Darrell E. Jensen, 2325 Pheasant Ave., Hamlin, IA 50117, dj59@gliddenwildblue.com

Picture Purchased at Knoxville Convention

John Balla is looking for a photo to purchase like the one he bought at the Knoxville convention a few years ago. As he remembers it, it had the KWVA logo, crossed swords "...the whole bit."

John would like to know where he can get another one.

Reach John Balla at (732) 961-1331.

4th Signal Battalion

I am looking for information on the 4th Sig. Bn., but I can't seem to find a source to contact. I know that a book was printed that mainly discussed the 4th Sig. Bn. during WWII.

I was a member of R & M Co., 4th Sig. Bn., during part of 1952 and 1953. I served in R&M Co. I came home in April of 1953.

I'm mainly interested in the 4th. Sig. Bn. in Korea, but I would welcome a book with the entire history.

Dennis Tate, 317 Westview Dr., Missoula, MT 59803, (406) 549-2855, (406) 544-6529 (cell), dennytate@aol.com

VMA/VMR-234

I am with VMGR-234, a USMC KC-130 Squadron located at NAS Ft. Worth, TX. Holding the collateral duty as command historian, I make what time I can to research the squadron history as well as locate unit memorabilia, collect stories from fellow members (WWII through present day), and present these items of

interest to our current members.

Unfortunately, our data from late 1945 through the late 1950s is minimal at best. Like most of our nation's history from the post-WWII draw-down to the Korean War, VMGR-234's records are sorely lacking. We were known as VMA-234 from 1946 (F4U Corsair), 1955 (F9F Pantherjet), 1958 (AD5N Skyraider) and then to the C-119 in 1961. Here is a brief version of our history:

VMF-234 1947-1955.....F4U Corsair Minneapolis

VMA-234 1955 F9F Pantherjet and AD-5N Skyraider

VMR-234 1962 C-119

Currently, we are known as VMGR-234, and we are located at Bldg 1050, NAS Ft Worth JRB, Ft Worth, TX 76127

Is it possible to work through the KWVA as part of a research tool in order to reach out to those who may have served with or been a part of "234" during their careers? We will respect the privacy concerns of your members and will only ask for information if they are willing to volunteer it. This applies for their family members and descendants as well. Since the Korean War was such a pivotal event during this time line, the KWVA seems the most appropriate avenue.

The end result, of course, is to gather images, patches, stories, old rosters, memorabilia (on loan if directed) and place those Marines that served on our master list of "234" veterans. Copies of items listed above are just as good.

(817) 782-2915 squadron duty phone

(817) 697-5662 home phone: please limit calls to between 0900-2030

Doug Stumpf, LtCol USMCR, ddstumpf@yahoo.com

Pasqually Vasconcellos/Lyle McCain

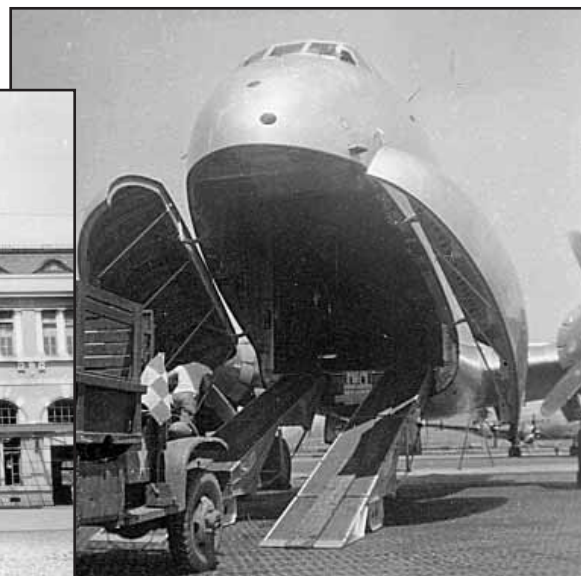
I am looking for Pasqually Vasconcellos, 560th MP Co., 91st Military Police Bn, Pusan, Korea, 1952-54, and Lyle McCain.

Bob Simon, 7286 Spring Lake Trail, Saginaw, MI 48603-1684, (989)792-3718

Mystery Photos

Can anyone identify either of the two objects in these photos? If you can identify the make or model of the plane or the building, please advise our crack staff.

Hint: the building is in Korea and the plane is delivering mail. That's about all we know.



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(A ring size guide will be sent to you to assure proper fit. Or, you may check with your jeweler.)

I Need Send No Money Now.

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* Price guaranteed for only 30 days, because of increasing cost of silver and gold.
* Plus \$9.95 for engraving, shipping, and handling. PA residents add 6% state sales tax

Shipping Address: (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: (_____) _____

Signature: _____

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APPLICATION FOR KVA SEOUL REVISIT TOUR

KVA (Seoul) Revisit Purpose: "To express the gratitude of the Korean Government towards Korean War Veterans who took part in the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to October 15, 1954."

Veteran's Personal History (Please type or print)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Date of Birth _____

KWVA Members# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Veteran's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Expiration Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a current valid passport or have just applied to KVA, write "applied for" on # line

Veteran's Military Biography

Branch of Service _____ Service Number _____

Period of Service in Korean War (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Unit Assignment _____ Location of Unit _____

Rank Achieved in Korea _____ Highest Rank Achieved while in Service _____

Personal Military Decorations for Valor _____

Veterans' Certification

I hereby certify that I have never previously accepted a KVA (Seoul) Revisit tour and that I am a member in good standing (or have applied) with the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Veteran's Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with a \$300 deposit per person (check, money order or Visa/MasterCard only) to Military Historical Tours. Payment in full is required for all applications submitted sixty days or less prior to departure.

Credit Card Authorization

I, _____ hereby authorize Military Historical Tours to make charges to my _____ credit card, Account#: _____ Expiration date: _____

in consideration for airline tickets and any other travel or transportation services or products as requested by me or authorized users of this credit card. Signature: _____

Mail To:

KWVA Revisit Korea Program Phone: 703-212-0695
c/o MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS Fax: 703-212-8567
4600 Duke Street, Suite 420 E-mail: mht@miltours.com
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517 www.miltours.com

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 War and to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

KVA's Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible if you are:

1. A veteran of the Korean War and /or a war correspondent of any of the 21 nations which came to assistance of the Republic of Korea between 25 June 1950 and 15 October 1954.

2. An immediate family member of one who was killed in action in the Korean War.

Note: You are permitted to take a spouse or one immediate descendent with you to Korea. The family member must be lodged in the same hotel room with you in Korea.

Privileges Accorded Veterans by the KVA, Seoul

1. Hotel accommodations (two persons per room), meals, tours, and transportation, while in Korea for six days and five nights.

2. Tours of Seoul and vicinity. The visits are to Panmunjom, North Korean Invasion Tunnels, Korea 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 battle sites and/or Incheon may be made through the local tour guide.

3. A special reception and dinner hosted by the President of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) during which the Korea War Medal and Certificate of Ambassador for Peace will be awarded to each veteran who has not received it before.

Sundry Notes

1. The KVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.

2. Participants are required to have a valid passport: a visa is not required for visits of 15 days or fewer in Korea.

3. KVA/Seoul is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, personal or other items, medical expenses, injuries, or loss of like due to any accident of whatever nature during the revisits. Trip cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended.

4. Transportation costs to and from Korea will be borne by each person who participates in the program.

5. Applications will be received/accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Note: *If you have previously accepted an official KVA/Seoul Revisit tour from any sponsoring association or group, you are NOT eligible to participate again. The reason is that so many veterans have not gone before so they get the "first right of return."*

Because former Revisit Program participants have their name in the KVA/Seoul's computer database, please do not try to beat the system. If your name is rejected because of prior participation, all of us will be embarrassed and an eligible Korea War veteran might miss the opportunity to participate.

6. If you want to use your frequent flier miles-or other "free" transportation, you will be charged an administrative service fee of \$300 per person.

Caution: Not traveling with KWVA group air contract can result in much higher post-tour costs to China and other Pacific location.

Note: Should you desire to have a single room or take additional family or friends with you, this can be arranged for an additional cost. Any such requests must be made in writing.

TRAGIC from page 57

The F-51 Accident Report observed that the aircraft loss should not even have been classed as an accident. It "was a deliberate expenditure of the aircraft and was in no way accidental."

The Report explained:

Lt. Casserly was a member of a flight of 3 F-51s who were escorting the #4 man back into friendly territory. The pilot of the #4 aircraft [Lt. Harry Rushing, another West Point classmate] had to abandon his ship 8000 feet over enemy territory due to a fire in the engine compartment. This pilot was last seen drifting down in his parachute and landing in [river] water. The 3 remaining aircraft circled where the pilot landed but the Parachute was the only thing visible.

After thoroughly [spelling in such documents is not always precise] scanning the area for the pilot Lt Casserly elected to crash-land on a nearby sandbar in an attempt to reach the downed pilot and apply artificial resParation [sic] if needed. Lt Casserly landed wheels up

on the sandbar. Contact was made with the remaining 2 F-51s in the air by means of the bailout radio but the parachute had disappeared beneath the surface and all efforts to locate the down pilot were unsuccessful.

Lt Casserly was picked up by helicopter approximately 30 minutes later. It is believed by the investigating officer that Lt Casserly should be commended on his heroic effort to save his fellow pilots life and at the same time endangering his own.

For this much-admired feat, Tom was recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star. But his fatal F-86 accident occurred before these could be awarded. The Korean War, a key Cold War chapter that saved South Korea, ended ten months later.

*Kenneth L. Moll, Colonel, USAF (Ret),
3815 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, VA 22305
(703) 548-3386, MollKL@aol.com*

The General

Tom was in his early 50s when he retired and started a second career. However, he just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, he was five, 10, 15 minutes late. But, he was a good worker and real sharp, so the boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it. Finally, one day he called Tom into his office for a talk.

"Tom," he said, "I have to tell you that I like your work ethic. You do a bang-up job, but you are late so often that it's quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know I am, boss, and I am working on it," Tom replied.

"Well, good, you are a team player," the boss answered. "That's what I like to hear. It's odd, though, your coming in late. After all, I know you're retired from the military. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, General,'" Tom said.

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 22857, Alexandria, VA 22304-9285



PAPA SANS

Photo courtesy of James L. Palsgrove, 641 Carriage Dr., Troy, Ohio 45373-1911

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