

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS

May-June 2020
Vol. 34, No. 3

The Graybeards



Official Publication of
THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



BERNARD
GAMBER
PORT
SEPT
WORLD WAR II
SEPTEMBER 22 1920
MAY 1 1957
B.M.

GERTRUDE
FEB 11 1903
SEP 27 1992
WIFE OF
SGT
DENISE W
HEYER
USA

ARCHER SALE
JACKSON
1910
1978
1978
OCTOBER 28 1978

DONALD
WILLIAMS

THOMAS E
WHITE
DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
PFC 366 INF
WORLD WAR II

STAFFORD
WINCHESTER
WHEELER
MASSACHUSETTS
TENANT (MC)
USNR
WORLD WAR II
JULY 31 1910
MAY 13 1982

DENISE W
HEYER
TROOPER
R. HARDIN
MARIO REGIMENT
1944 AGE 25
1951

America's Forgotten Victory!

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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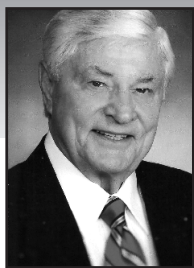
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See detailed list of committees at WWW.KWVA.US



From the President

Paul Cunningham

My last message was written as we were just entering the COVID-10 pandemic. We were optimistic the shutdown would not be long-lasting and forged ahead with bold plans for observing the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. When it became apparent that things would not be back to normal by June 25th, everything had to be put on hold and we observed all protocols for staying safe.

Assisting us in our endeavor to stay safe are our good Korean friends, both here and in South Korea. You will read elsewhere in this issue of two instances of their providing Korean veterans with protective masks. In the words of Paula Park, President of the Korean American Community Association of Greater Washington, "They love us and they want us to stay healthy."

The ROK Embassy was every bit as disappointed as we were in having to delay the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the start of the war. However, not wishing to delay this any longer, the Embassy announced plans for this observance on October 1st through 3rd of this year. Plans call for the conduct of all activities as outlined in my column in the last issue.

Our Board of Directors has not, as yet, set a date for the KWVA Board and Annual Membership meeting. It seems to me that it would behoove us to conduct our meeting at this same time. Details should be made known by the July/Aug issue of *The Graybeards*.

Since you have no way of accessing KWVA membership data, I thought I'd share a few of these vital statistics with you at this time. I know this to be a topic on everyone's mind. The year began with a membership enrollment around 10,750. By mid-May we lost, through death, 929 members, or about 206 per month. If this trend holds we are on a pace of losing about 2,500 members this year.

Unfortunately, this loss could not be offset by enrolling new members. In the same four and a half months we have only been able to recruit 196 new members, for an average of 44 new members per month. Unless there is a drastic uptick, we are on track to gain only 528 new members this year. At present, the number of active regular members stands at 9,898. It would seem that the Corona Virus pandemic has had an effect on both sets of statistics.

In my initial message to you upon assuming the office of president, I reminded you that KWVA was your

organization. During my tenure, I have endeavored to reach out to you to plumb your feelings as to how you wished to see KWVA conduct business. This was accomplished by conducting surveys; two by electronic means and the third by mail. The responses from 110 chapters of the 175 active chapters yielded conclusive results. A tally of the results revealed you want to see the following:

- Have the Board go to one face to face meeting a year.
- Eliminate the office of 2nd Vice President.
- Eliminate the provision for naming the outgoing president as an advisor to the President and the Board.
- Limit the number of directors from any one chapter.
- Limit the number of the three elected officers to no more than one from any chapter.
- Don't remove the word "WAR" from the name of the association.

And, by the overwhelming majority, seek a replacement for our Executive Director position.

At the January meeting of the Board, they refused to honor any of your wishes. As we move forward I would exhort you to exert pressure on the Board to adopt some of these measures.

In closing, I express my thanks for electing me as a Director. In that capacity, I shall continue to seek your thoughts on important issues and keep you informed of Board actions. I hope you will reciprocate by sending letters, or email, to me and all members of the Board. As previously expressed, KWVA is your organization. I charge that you will treat it as such.

Regards to all,

Paul

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be received by 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 | July 15 |
| Sept-Oct | Sept 15 |
| Nov-Dec | Nov 15 |



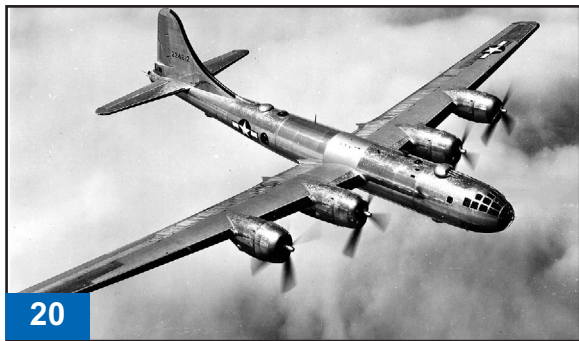
Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



COVER: Rite of Respect

A soldier assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as “The Old Guard,” places flags at headstones as part of Flags-In at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., May 21, 2020. For more than 50 years, soldiers assigned to the unit have honored the nation’s fallen military heroes by placing U.S. flags at grave sites of every service member buried at Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., just before Memorial Day weekend.



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40

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70TH ANNIVERSARIES KOREAN WAR REVISIT KOREA TOURS REGISTER FOR 2020/21 REVISITS OR PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH (PCFY)



**CONTACT MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS FOR DETAILS
FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREA VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE**



Frank (U.S.Army) & Janice Hokenson & George (U.S.Army) & June Johnson on a KR Tour. KWVA is waiting for the program's resumption.

**THE ROK GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF PATRIOT & VETERAN
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* - The Service Charge is \$450 once you select an actual revisit date.

LAST CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE!!!

The Graybeards 70th Anniversary Special

June 25, 2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. We are compiling a special issue to observe the milestone. In order to fill it we want stories, comments, observations, etc. from our members.

If you would like to contribute please send your material to 70th Anniversary Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. There are no length requirements.

DEADLINE

We now have a deadline. Please get your stories in no later than July 22, 2020.

What we are looking for

We are not looking for anything in particular. Here are a few suggestions. You can pick and choose among them.

- Where you were on June 25, 1950 when you heard about the North Korean invasion of South Korea
- What your reaction was to hearing the news about the invasion
- Your thoughts about how it would affect you and about getting involved in the war via the military, voluntarily or otherwise
- Society's general reaction to the invasion and the U.S.'s involvement in another war so soon after WWII
- Your predictions about the duration of the war
- Your experiences during the war
- Your opinion of the outcome of the war and your role in it, e.g., would you do it again?
- Opinions on military and political leadership on both sides during the war
- Stories about unknown or underreported actions/events during the war that influenced its outcome
- Your feelings today about the need for and outcome of the war, i.e., "In retrospect..."
- What you would have done differently if you were in a political or military leadership role

Yeah, the parameters are broad. That is deliberate. Seventy years is a long time to analyze the Korean War and its aftermath through the eyes of the participants in the 1950-53 timeframe and the men and women who have maintained the peace since. Hopefully we can get enough material from our members to fill this special issue—or at least come close.

Oh, if you have photos, charts, maps, or other artwork to supplement your material, send them too. Our crack staff looks forward to getting started on this issue. We don't have much time to put it together, so please submit your material as soon as possible.

We have set up an observation post by our mail box and posted an unfortunate staffer there to pick up your submissions. We look forward to gathering and processing them.

Thanks for your help.

Reunion Calendar: 2020

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, The Graybeards, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141 or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobe.com. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." The Graybeards is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published. NOTE: Submissions may be edited for space considerations.

NOTE: Some people are submitting reunion notices barely a few days or weeks before the actual gatherings. Please allow at least four months—six or more is better—if you want your reunion notices printed in more than one issue and in enough time to give potential attendees adequate notice to make plans to be there.

NOTE #2: All dates are subject to change due to Coronavirus considerations. Check with contacts listed re changes, cancellations, postponements, etc. The Graybeards is not responsible for the content or accuracy of reunion notices.

AUGUST

First Marine Division Assn., Aug. 14-23, Hilton Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Rd., Herndon, Virginia 20171, 703-478-2900

USS Rochester (CA-124), Aug. 17-23, Rapid City, SD. Joe Hill, 931-432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net

76th Engineers, Aug. 27-29, Lebanon, TN, Comfort Inn and Suites, 904 Murfreesboro Rd., 615- 443-0027. Richard Cerone, P.O. Box 742, Bridgton ME 04009, rfcerone@gmail.com/Bruce Fonnest, 1745 Baldwin Dr., Las Cruces NM 88001, brucefonnest@hotmail.com

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12), Sept. 16-20, Buffalo, NY, Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., 866-866-8086. (Must be a member to receive the room block rate). Sandy Burket, Secretary, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, cell (814) 312-4976 or hornetcva@aol.com. Website: <https://usshornetassn.com/>. USS Hornet Museum: <https://www.uss-hornet.org/>. All Ship's Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and Families Welcomed. Families are invited to take a more active role in running of the Association.

OCTOBER

11th Engineers Bn. Assn., Oct. 1-4, Myrtle Beach, SC. Roger Sweet, 315-768-7205, SeSeet71147@yahoo.com

25th Infantry Division Assn., Oct. 11-18, San Diego, CA. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax: 215-366-5707, TropicLtn@aol.com; website at www.25thida.org

The Chosin Few, Oct. 14-18, 70th Anniversary, Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, 2799 N Jefferson St, Arlington, VA 22207, (703) 418-1234. For details, contact the business manager by phone at 843-379-1011 or email TheChosinFewInc@aol.com

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 5 doz. @ \$15 plus \$7.90 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$55 plus \$14.35 S/H.
- Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$2.75/doz. plus \$19.95 S/H
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Write or call: Sheila Fritts, PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Phone: 217-345-4414
Email: membership@kwva.us
Make Checks payable to: **KWVA**





From the Secretary



Alves J. "AJ" Key

I have been honored to serve the KWVA as Secretary since October 2017. My only guidance was from outgoing Secretary Lewis Ewing, the interim Secretary appointed after resignation of the incumbent after a short tenure. I reviewed Bylaws/SPM and examples of previous office holders. I found the Bylaws clear, concise and sufficient. The SPM was a much different challenge—long (100 pages) and filled with detailed central business administrative procedures and forms. All were necessary to properly administer and comply with Charter and governmental regulations of not for profit organizations and building capacity to support organizational Mission objectives.

Recommendations:

1. Appoint a select committee to review, reorganize, and simplify SPM as needed to ensure that procedures meet the following standards;
 - a) Sufficiency to meet organizational needs
 - b) Written in plain language
 - c) Grouped in sections relevant to central, department, and chapter activities for quick reference by leaders and members in those organizational levels.

d) Set a goal to cut the number of pages by one-third without impacting sufficiency standard

2. Conduct training for new and incumbent Board members at every Board meeting regarding conduct of Board business, i.e.

a) Duties of elected officers, appointed officers, and Directors as specified in Bylaws/SPM

b) General fiduciary duties of Board Members

c) Submission of Agenda items

d) Rules of Debate and Decorum (Boardroom defined as any place where KWVA business is discussed, including internet and voice communication outside the Boardroom)

3. Immediately fill the part-time position of Executive Director.

4. Reinstate third-party ballot processing and certification of election results. Cost differences likely negligible and members perception of fairness ensured.

5. New Board Composition by Chapters

- 299 (3) President -First VP-Director
 - 100 (2) Directors
 - 213 (1) Second VP
 - 222 (1) Director
 - 314 (1) Director
 - 191 (1) Director
 - 327 (1) Director
 - 298 (1) Director
 - 169 (1) Director
 - 299 (1) Treasurer (non-voting)
 - 215 (1) Secretary (non-voting) vacant on June 25, 2020
- To be determined
- (0) Executive Director (non-voting) Vacant To be determined

Unless members speak up, none of what needs to change will change. Five members from two chapters and two other chapters have effectively controlled the Board and obstructed needed organizational change. One example is their refusal to adopt internet-based electronic meeting technology for urgent Board business and to supplement two required meetings annually. The foolishness of that is self-evident in the current Covid-19 crisis.

I regret that I and others in the recent election did not more effectively communicate these issues. The election process effectively blocks use of membership contact information except for those whose positions are posted on the Website. *Graybeards* allows only the one application resume.

I addressed in very general terms structural and leadership issues. Speaking up for change within the Board even in the most respectful manner resulted in retaliation. It is your KWVA—Carpe Diem!

We are pleased to inform you of the OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS as certified by Sager Financial Services.

NOTE:
THIS COUNT POSTED BY HIGHEST VOTE COUNT
President (One)
1st Vice President (One)
2nd Vice President (One)
Directors (Three)

| OFFICE OF PRESIDENT | | Votes | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|
| Jeffrey J. "Jeff" Brodeur | LR35528 | 811 | Elected President, 2020-2022 |
| Alves J. Key, Jr | LR41320 | 732 | |

| OFFICE OF 1st VICE PRESIDENT | | Votes | |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Albert H. McCarthy | LR36750 | 794 | Elected 1st Vice Pres, 2020-2022 |
| L. I. Whitmore | LR40158 | 740 | |

| OFFICE OF 2nd VICE PRESIDENT | | Votes | |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Thomas M. McHugh | LR07169 | 796 | Elected 2nd Vice Pres, 2020-2022 |
| Narce Caliva | LR42769 | 733 | |

| OFFICE OF DIRECTOR | | Votes | |
|------------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Eddie J. Bell Sr. | LR46743 | 977 | Elected Director, 2020-2023 |
| Pau H. Cunningham | LR46220 | 923 | Elected Director, 2020-2023 |
| Michelle M. Brock | R047856 | 916 | Elected Director, 2020-2023 |
| Wilfred E. "Bill" Lack | LR43370 | 788 | |
| Douglas W. Voss | R047081 | 722 | |

I thank candidates that ran for office for their interest in working for the betterment of the KWVA. I congratulate all the successful candidates. I look forward to working with them on the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
KWVA Elections Committee
Thomas E. Cacy, Chairman
Tina Martin Sr., Assist. Chairman
W. Bradford Chase Jr.
Markes Tarbasian
Lewis R. Vaughn

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- 16 – 30 Aug Germany Third Reich — Munich, Eagle's Nest, Nuremberg, Prague, Dresden & Berlin
- 27 Aug – 5 Sep Notre Dame-Navy Football—Dublin, Belfast & Derry
- 24 Aug – 3 Sep Vietnam I-Corps— 19 – 26 Aug Pre-Tour Rescheduled VHPA Saigon, Delta, III & IV Corp
- 8 – 20 Sep VN 50th Anniversary 1970 – I-Corps & Op Jefferson Glenn
- Highlighted Tour: 29 Sep – 10 Oct Southern Italy & Sicily — Salerno & Rome
- 28 Nov – 9 Dec Vietnam Special Delta to the DMZ Post Tour 9-14 Dec Laos & Cambodia
- NEW 4 – 10 Nov Civil War "Lee Moves North" Gettysburg & Antietam
- 28 Nov – 9 Dec Viet Nam War – "Delta To the DMZ"
- 20 Feb – 5 Mar VN War: Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue City – I-Corps

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Rome Gelato

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Members are invited to help underwrite the publication costs of *The Graybeards*. All contributions in any amount are welcome. Mail your donations to KWVA Treasurer, 430 W. Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920. All contributions will be acknowledged, unless the donor specifically requests to remain anonymous. And, if you have an "In memory of" (IMO) request, include that as well. We thank you for your generous support.

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Tonto, Lash LaRue, and toilet paper[©]

I never thought I would see the day when toilet paper and masks would be the currency of the realm in the United States. People nowadays would rather have them than money. But here we are.

We have two stories about masks in this edition, which is two more than in my previous 94 editions combined. The whole mask matter is confusing to me. The one thing I can't mask is our shortage of submissions to the *Graybeards*.

COVID-19 has reduced the amount of mail coming over our transom. Chapters aren't meeting and members' activities have been curtailed. That reduces the amount of material available. The good news is that we have a backlog from which we can draw stories. The bad news is that I have more time to let my mind wander. As a DI told me, "Don't let your mind wander. It's too little to be out by itself." But you can put yours to work and help us refill our larder.

The leaders of almost every state in the U.S. have sent their citizens to their rooms without supper until this pandemic disappears, whenever that might be. Why not use the time to write your memoirs or stories for our ongoing series like "Humor in Korea," "Where I was on July 27th," or holiday stories? Perhaps you can gather the photos, letters, etc. you have delayed sending for *The Graybeards*. Now's the time to do it.

It will be only a few years before your rulers permit you to leave your dungeons and roam around the country again—just in time for the next pandemic. Meanwhile, I'll address some of the topics that have nagged at me since I gave my mind permission to wander. Let's start with COVID-19.

Whatever happened to COVID-1 through 18? Did I sleep through them? Who starts numbering things at 19? The masks part is especially perplexing. They are the new norm. The only people I remember wearing masks when I was younger were the Lone Ranger and train

Did you know that "Kemo Sabe" actually meant "Can I wear the mask for a while?" I looked that up in the Dictionary of Native American Languages.

robbers in Lash LaRue movies. They didn't have problems getting masks. Why do we?

I often wondered why Mr. Ranger wore a mask. (Was Lone really his first name?) Now I know. He apparently realized that COVID-1/18 were present in Wyoming or Rhode Island or wherever he was looking for a silver bullet. The man was prescient and well ahead of his time, although he was a bit selfish. I have it on good authority that he never shared his masks with Tonto, although Tonto asked him more than once to do so.

Did you know that "Kemo Sabe" actually meant "Can I wear the mask for a while?" I looked that up in the Dictionary of Native American Languages. I never would have had time to do that before the pandemic settled in and *Graybeards* mail levels fell off. There's a silver cloud in everything, I guess. And I am glad I can share the results of my research with you.

But, who was wearing the mask didn't matter in the long run. Mr. Ranger and Tonto kept the proper social distance between them and their respective horses. Silver and Scout never contracted the disease either. Neither one of them suffered from COVID, whatever its number was. Whatever they did worked. We could learn from them. (By the way, what was Tonto's first name? Or his last name? If a person has only one name is it his/her first or last name?)

I admit that I am not big on masks. The only place I have worn one, other than on Halloween, is at my doctor's office where,

incidentally, I have never seen a doctor. I am blessed with a learned PA (physician's assistant). She says that when I am breathing I am well. But, she warns, if that changes it may not be a good thing. No wonder I have great confidence in her.

Here's the irony. The doctor and his staff demand that I wear a mask in the office. Then I have to take it off so my PA can tickle my tonsils with a stick and check my teeth. She told me she checks my teeth so she can guess my age. Should I be worried about that procedure or the fact that she has the letters D.V.D. after her name?

Anyway, I looked in a mirror the other day at the office while I was wearing my mask. I didn't recognize myself, so I removed my mask to see if it was me. It was, but then I got yelled at by a member of the medical staff for not wearing my mask. I can't win.

And, to add to my confusion, a former three-star general got unmasked in Washington D.C. at a time when virtually everyone else in the country is being encouraged to be masked and all heck broke loose. And you wonder why I'm confused? "To mask or not to mask," that is the question. But what is the answer?

See what my DI meant about not letting my mind go wandering? Meanwhile, as you start preparing your submissions for *The Graybeards* I will continue my search for toilet paper and masks. Maybe I can get some from my nearest ATM. They're as good as money nowadays.

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Hopefully, our readers will buy their products so we can retain our current advertisers, attract new advertisers, and use the revenues to underwrite the costs of producing *The Graybeards*.

Masks donated to KWVA



Paul Cunningham (C) accepts masks from Paula Park of KACA (L) as unidentified KWVA member stands guard

member of the Board of Directors of the KWVA for distribution to Korean veterans in their respective areas.

The presentation was made at Woodcrest Villas Retirement community, where several members of the Gen. John H. Michaelis chapter (CID 327) reside. Photos were taken by Ernie Svetic and Don Stollenwerk. Chapter President Bill Kelley, Treasurer, Jay Wolgemuth and Associate member, Kwang Suh were also in attendance.

Paul H. Cunningham, Ed.D, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, PH 108, Lancaster, PA 17601,
717-606-5610,
pcunningham1841@verizon.net

As national president of the KWVA I accepted a donation of 2,000 face masks from the Korean American Community Association (KACA) of Greater Washington DC. This organization has an enviable record of supporting the veterans of the Korean War. They never miss an opportunity to show their gratitude for the sacrifices made for them by these veterans. In making the presentation they “stressed their love for we veterans and they want to keep us healthy.”

On April 28th, Ms. Paula Park, President of the KACA, and two associates drove from Annandale, VA to Lancaster, PA to make the presentation. By mid-afternoon 100 masks had been sent to each



Group gathers in Lancaster, PA for mask presentation from KACA to KWVA

All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 or emailed to: Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2020

Is it too early to say “Bah, humbug?”

We are soliciting holiday stories for the 2020 November/December issue of *The Graybeards* and for our standard ongoing series. Let’s start building our holiday inventory now.

Please send your stories, photos, and art work describing anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred in Korea, Japan, stateside, en route or returning...anywhere you might have been...involving you, your unit, your friends...on the year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year’s Day, Boxing Day... The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

Hey, it’s never too early to get a start on our holiday issue. Send your stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, *The Graybeards* Holiday Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net.

We are also looking for stories in our continuing “Where was I on July 27th?” and “Humor in Korea” series. You can use the same addresses as above.



‘A Veteran Died Today’

He was getting old and paunchy
and his hair was falling fast,
and he sat around the Legion,
telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he had fought in
and the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies;
they were heroes, everyone.

And ‘tho sometimes, to his neighbors,
his tales became a joke,
all his buddies listened,
for they knew whereof he spoke.

But we’ll hear his tales no longer,
for ol’ Bob has passed away,
and the world’s a little poorer,
for a Veteran died today.

No, he won’t be mourned by many,
just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
quietly going on his way;
and the world won’t note his passing;
‘tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
their bodies lie in state,
while thousands note their passing
and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories,
from the time that they were young,
but the passing of a Veteran,
goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution,
to the welfare of our land,
some jerk who breaks his promise
and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow,
who in times of war and strife,
goes off to serve his Country
and offers up his life?

The politician’s stipend
and the style in which he lives,
are sometimes disproportionate,
to the service he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
who offered up his all,
is paid off with a medal
and perhaps a pension, small.

It’s so easy to forget them,
for it is so long ago,
that our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
went to battle, but we know.

It was not the politicians,
with their compromise and ploys,
who won for us the freedom
that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
with your enemies at hand,
would you really want some cop-out,
with his every waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran,
who has sworn to defend,
his home, his kin, and Country,
and would fight until the end?

He was just a common Veteran
and his ranks are growing thin,
but his presence should remind us,
we may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
then we find the Military’s part,
is to clean up all the troubles,
that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor,
while he’s here to hear the praise,
then at least let’s give him homage,
at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline,
in the paper that might say:
OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
FOR A VETERAN DIED TODAY.

© 1987 A. Lawrence Vaincourt

We need infantrymen, not artillerymen

After I was given an M-1, next in line was Robert Rogers, of Grafton, WV. When offered an M-1, he asked what it was; when told he said, “I never saw one of those; I had artillery training with a carbine.”

Then the supply clerk asked what my MOS was. I said 4745; he instructed me to show Robert how to load his weapon before going into combat!!!!!! That is the Army I served in.

The supply clerk also said we don’t need artillery people; we need infantrymen.

Leroy Rogers

Trees

One thing missing from most Korean War photos in *The Graybeards* is trees in significant numbers, especially in the combat zones. Was the country denuded during the war?

Several years ago we published a story by Fred McKewen about an incident involving trees in Korea. (See July/Aug 2013, pp. 12-13.) We never received any comments about the article. So we are re-running it here.

The story raises several questions about trees in the Korean War and after. For instance:

1. Why were the trees in the story so significant?
2. Did the story actually revolve around the trees?
3. How many trees were left standing in the combat areas of Korea as the war progressed?
4. How long did it take for the tree supply to grow back in Korea after the July 27, 1953 cease fire?
5. Did trees play a significant role in the average Korean's life in the early 1950s?

6. If so, how did they cope without them?

7. Were troops able to use trees for beneficial purposes during the war?

Just wondering.

We are going out on a limb here and hoping our readers can give us a little insight about trees and their role in the Korean War. Send your comments to us at *The Graybeards*, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Thanks.

NOTE: The photos below were taken at unidentified places in Korea. They are used here to illustrate the point that trees fell in great numbers during the war—or did they?



Remembering Flip Wilson

Richard Gray recalled that former comedian-an Clerow "Flip" Wilson was in his basic training group at Lackland Air Force Base. As Richard remembers it, there was a very friendly and naturally funny young black man there three bunks down from him in his barrack. The guys knew him at first as Clerow Wilson. Later they nicknamed him "Flip" because he kept the barracks alive with his great sense of humor.

"I heard that at the time I snapped the nearby photo of him outside our barrack he was only 16 and a half years old," Gray said. "His mother signed for him to enlist."

"I recall that he had a shoe shine bracket that he was allowed to affix to a

wall in the barrack. It was a neat thing that held the shoe to make shining easy. Sometimes he was generous and would shine shoes for us."

Gray added, "I do not recall any race problems or issues whatsoever. To my knowledge that did not exist for us. Even if somebody had had an issue, Flip was so personable, funny, and friendly that his manner quickly made him a friend."

Gray lost track of Wilson after basic training. "I don't know where he got stationed after that." According to his obituary, Wilson served four years in the Air Force.

Anyone else remember him?

*Richard Gray,
chrisgrayscott@gmail.com*



Bill Fletcher, "Flip" Wilson, and George Ryder (L-R) at Lackland Air Force Base in 1952 (Photo taken by Dick Gray)

Seattle Post-Intelligencer • Thursday, November 26, 1998

Comedian Flip Wilson dies at age 64

By JEFF WONG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Flip Wilson, who became the first successful black host of a TV variety show with his turns as sassy Geraldine, the Rev. Leroy and other characters he mined for ethnic humor, died last night. He was 64.

Wilson died of liver cancer, said Angie Hill, the comedian's assistant. He had undergone surgery Oct. 2 for a malignant tumor that was close to his liver.

NBC's hit "The Flip Wilson Show" showcased the comedian's talents and brought a rare black voice, if sometimes stereotypical one, to TV during his 1970-74 run.

While breakthrough actors like Bill Cosby on "I Spy" and Diahann Carroll in "Julia" had roles that downplayed their racial identity, Wilson reveled in such characters as Leroy, pastor of the "Church of What's Happening Now," who Wilson said was based on a preacher he listened to as a child.

"I was very impressed with him,

and I was always amazed that he wasn't well educated," he said in a 1971 New York Daily News interview.

"But in his simple way, he was dynamic and exciting."

Geraldine, with Wilson wearing a wig, high heels and a colorful minidress, was perhaps his most famous character.

Her spunky catch phrases — "The devil made me do it" and "What you see is what you get!" — became part of the national language.

"The secret of my success with Geraldine is that she's not a putdown of women," he once said. "She's smart, she's trustful, she's loyal, she's sassy."

"Most drag impersonations are a drag. But women can like Geraldine, men can like Geraldine, everyone can like Geraldine."



AP/1993

His humor was rarely political, but in interviews he frequently spoke of his admiration for black politicians such as former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes and Georgia legislator Julian Bond.

As for racism in television, he said in 1971, "It would be ridiculous for me to say anything negative regarding blacks having an equal opportunity on TV. After all, I was number one in the ratings four times last year and twice this season."

Clerow Wilson was born into poverty on Dec. 8, 1933, in Jersey City, N.J., and raised in foster homes, quitting school at 16.

He served four years in the Air Force, and earned the nickname "Flip" for his irreverent humor when he began entertaining the troops.

Discharged in 1954, Wilson spent more than a decade working at odd jobs and developing a comedy act in small clubs. When Hollywood began to seek out black entertainers in the '60s, his career took up an upward turn.

Wilson made his TV debut on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny

Carson" in 1965.

That successful appearance led to frequent appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "Laugh-In" and on comedy series including "Love, American Style."

A variety special in which he starred in September 1968 led to his own series, which earned him an Emmy for performing and one for writing in 1971.

It took competition from a new drama, "The Waltons," to knock Wilson's show down in the ratings and off the air.

The comedian was divorced about the time his show ended and he won custody of his children.

"I wanted to devote the same amount of time to my kids as I had to the show," he said in a 1985 interview with The Associated Press.

He ended his absence from TV with guest appearances and then with two series: the 1984 quiz show "People Are Funny," on which he was host, and the 1985 CBS' sitcom "Charlie & Company," which co-starred singer Gladys Knight. Both shows were short-lived.

"Flip" Wilson's 1998 obituary

My tour of duty in Korea

By Neil Sanders

I believe that there are combat tours and there are combat tours. The second one is when military personnel are directly involved with sending or receiving bullets or bombs or other means of warfare. For some, this can lead to death or serious injury and disability. God bless them all.

For the others, considerable physical effort and strain are often encountered. This sometimes includes extreme emotions: pain, fear, loss, anger, stress. Oddly, joy and laughter are sometimes mixed in with those feelings.

The first type of tour includes personnel providing the support needed to complete missions. They are also in "harm's way," but not as directly as the others. I was in that support group. I am not ashamed. I volunteered for my tour and was willing to do whatever the Air Force required of me. They wanted me to be a personnel records clerk.

I enlisted in the USAF December 1950, at age 19, and was sent to Lackland AFB, TX for basic training. Because enlistment numbers were high, Lackland and other training bases became overpopulated. The Air Force's quick solution to that problem was to just send some of us on to our first assignment.

I had 3 or 4 weeks of basic training. I don't remember much about it, except that I completed the marksmanship course. Had I graduated from a normal period of training (about 90 days) I would have been promoted to E-2. Instead, I remained an E-1 Private for five months.

I had visions of being part of an aircrew: radio operator, gunner, whatever. I unintentionally wiped out that goal when I told them I knew how to type. I was placed in the personnel field.

By the time I completed my first twelve months, I was an E-3 corporal. That made me an NCO, which I had no business being. Even then, young naive me realized they were moving us up way too fast. With eighteen months in the Air Force I made E-4 and I was looking forward to being called Sergeant. However, that's when the title of our ranks was changed from Army to USAF terminology. I became an Airman First Class. I gained a third stripe and a little more money, but lost my NCO status.

I did some research around my base and it seemed that people in my field were not being sent to Korea. So, Donalee and I married June 1952. Three months later I drove my wife, then about five weeks pregnant, back home to stay with her parents. I was soon on my way to the Far East.

Some readers will identify with my next experience. I was processed at Camp Stoneman, California, then boarded the troop ship USNS General Nelson M. Walker. Crossing the Pacific became a leisurely trip for me. We remained at a San Francisco dock for 2 or 3 days. I was assigned to a detail. While working in the officer's mess I became very sick. I realized we were under-way.

The supervisor told me to go back to my compartment. Because he was overmanned, he advised me to ask the compartment commander to assign me to a different detail. I was seasick

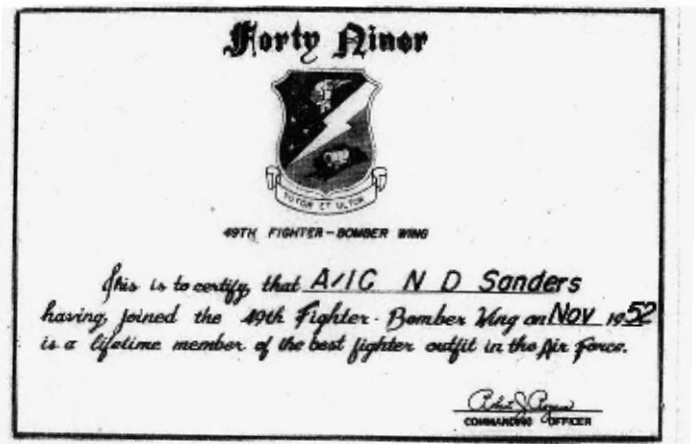
all that day. Later I noticed that half of us were on a detail one day and the others the next day. So, I purposefully forgot to say anything to the compartment commander. From then on no one realized I was not on detail on any day.

In the head (a.k.a. latrine) there was a row of toilets back to back. One of the many times I vomited on my seasick day, I sensed someone across from me was doing the same. We both finished and looked up at each other. It was Jerry Tubbs, a high school friend. There were probably at least 4,000 of us on the ship. Among all of them my barfing partner was an old friend. Jerry was in the Army infantry.

He told me he thought his combat tour would probably end with his death. We were both aware of the high casualty rate in Korea. However, he made it back. We met again at a school reunion about 30 years later.

We docked in Japan and several of us were boarded on a train. Then there was a long trip to an installation, rumored to be a prior Japanese army base. I was processed for a few days, after which some of us were flown in a C-119 to K-2 Air Base, Taegu, Korea. I was assigned to the 49th Fighter-Bomber Wing in a personnel records section and issued an M1 carbine. I never had to use that weapon, but it reminded me that I was in a less-than-safe environment.

We were also issued a Forty Niner card that said we were members of "the best fighter outfit in the Air Force." My officer in charge was Lt. Shively. I liked him. He paid attention, but avoided detailed management if we accomplished our work.



Neil Sanders' forty-niner card

The condition of my first barracks building was less than desirable: it was too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. There were gaps in the windows which allowed flies and other critters to visit us, but the roof didn't leak. That winter, when I first noticed snowflakes on my blanket, I did a favor for a friend in the supply section and was rewarded with a sleeping bag.

I slept on a canvas folding cot. I was issued a mess kit and there was a place for me to clean it after meals. The food was usually at least okay. The latrine, in a separate building, included an outhouse-like 6-hole bench. Water from a steel drum would peri-

We managed to circumvent the policy that no alcohol beverages were allowed in our barracks. An exception to that policy was that cases of beer could be obtained for managed squadron parties. Lt. Shively would sign the paper work, and no one questioned why we had so many squadron parties.

odically flow along a V-shaped channel under the bench into a nearby underground cesspool. A Korean would stop there with a container on a wagon pulled by a donkey.

Using a pole with a scoop, he would remove solids from the cesspool and transfer this to his container on the wagon. Later he would sell his "honey bucket" supply to a farmer. My situation wasn't ideal, but I knew there were many others north of me who would consider our living conditions at K-2 to be at the five-star level.

I often went to the Airman's Club. We could drink beer and the cans were opened by the bartender. Groups of friends would buy the opened beers by the case and party until all cans were empty. Unlike the officer and NCO clubs, no mixed drinks with liquor were available at the Airman's club. We managed to circumvent the policy that no alcohol beverages were allowed in our barracks. An exception to that policy was that cases of beer could be obtained for managed squadron parties. Lt. Shively would sign the paper work, and no one questioned why we had so many squadron parties.

Consumption in the barracks tended to be moderate. There were no incidents that might have revealed our unauthorized "happy hours." We had to adapt to drinking beer at room temperature. War is hell.

The primary mission at K-2 was conducting fighter-bomber missions using the F-84 Thunderjet. An exceptional aircraft at that time, the F-84 was the first jet flown by the Air Force Thunderbirds. These fighter-bombers were very effective. I think there were three F-84 units in Korea. Reportedly, those pilots were responsible for 60% of ground targets destroyed. I greatly admired the pilots. I decided I wanted to be one of them but later learned that my poor eyesight cancelled that plan.

Their main job was to bomb and strafe. Although they managed to also destroy a few Soviet MiG-15s, the F-86 Sabre fighter-interceptor pilots did the

best job of doing that. Serious business. Sometimes the bombs would contain napalm. It was rumored that if a pilot dropping napalm was captured, he would likely be burned at the stake.

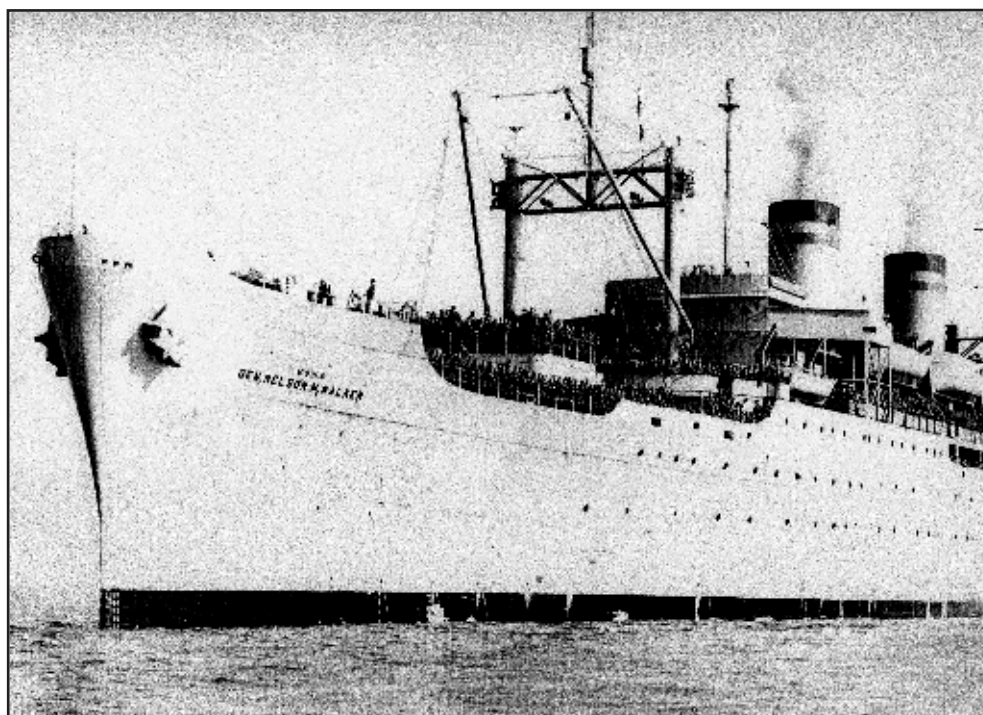
Maintaining their records, I got to know some of the pilots. Sadly, some of them did not return from their mission. In one KIA case, after the parents had been notified, the Air Force learned that a wife was involved. The pilot had married just before leaving for Korea and failed to update his records. Everything was quickly corrected: a new commander's condolence letter, wife's benefits processed, etc. From then on, each payday I and other records clerks would be positioned at a table upstream from the pay officers. I would ask each person to review his emergency data record and initial/date on the back that the information was correct.

I had to redo a pilot's damaged DD Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record). The 66 was a four-page form and the commander wanted a small headshot photo of the officer affixed to his record. This lieutenant would acknowledge, then forget, my many requests that he have the photo done at the base photo lab. Finally, he promised he would obtain the photo as soon as he returned from an R&R.

About ten days later, he brought me the photo. It was a good headshot of him, but it had been done in a Tokyo photo booth and there was a cute, smiling josei (Japanese girl) sitting on his lap. We both laughed and he returned later with the photo lab version of what I needed.

There were no days off at K-2 and I think the hardest working group were the aircraft maintenance personnel. They had to keep the F-84s in operational condition. Some of the planes required considerable repair/replacement work after a mission. On hot days I would see the maintenance crews shirtless and wearing coolie hats.

Many uniform regulations were ignored at K-2. For example, one time my laundry needs were lax, and I had to wear fatigue



The USNS General Nelson Walker

I was discharged December 1954 as a staff sergeant. Because the job waiting for me wasn't there, I reenlisted two months later. I then completed a 35-year career in the USAF.

pants with a khaki shirt. No problem with that trivial offense. Just get to work and do the job.

I had some good friends there. One of them was Paul Cohen. He and I spent a few R&R days in Tokyo where we met Bing, an Australian major. Bing was a very interesting, unusual person. A complete story about Bing would be too long. I'll just mention when he decided to visit us by hitching a ride in a C-47.

The pilot radioed K-2 that he had an Australian officer on board, but didn't know the major's purpose. Bing was met with a staff car and they had arranged guest quarters for him. He said he just wanted to see Paul and me. He spent the evening with us at the Airman's Club and stayed the night in our barracks.

When the Armistice was signed, 27 July 1953, the bloodshed ended but, unfortunately, not the war. There was a notice asking for people with railroad experience. I assumed this meant that rail traffic would be hauling U.S. people and equipment to ports for shipment. I responded that I had been a UPRR freight train brakeman just before enlisting. It was OK with me that they didn't ask for my help. I had a bride and a baby daughter to get back to.

About five weeks later my one-year tour ended. I was assigned to Hamilton AFB, located a few miles beyond the other end of the Golden Gate Bridge. As soon as we settled into our apartment near Hamilton, Donalee wanted to see San Francisco. I knew that one place we must visit would be the Top of the Mark. For readers not familiar with the Mark, it's a rotating restaurant/lounge on the 19th floor at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco.

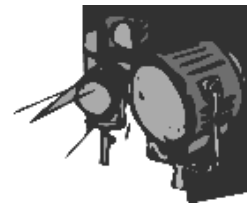
I must go back to my comments about the Forty Niner card and this next event will be the end of my Korean tour story. One tale about the card is when a 49er pilot was at the Top of the Mark. He bought a bottle (of scotch or bourbon I suppose) and asked that it be labeled and kept at the bar. Anyone displaying a Forty Niner card was entitled to one free drink from that bottle. There was a caveat: the person consuming the last shot must buy the next bottle.

When Donalee and I arrived at the Mark, I asked about the card. To my surprise, the waiter said a 49er bottle was indeed at the bar. But observing our young age and assumed limited financial status, he advised me to not risk taking the last shot from the bottle and recommended that he serve Donalee a coke and me a beer.

I was discharged December 1954 as a staff sergeant. Because the job waiting for me wasn't there, I reenlisted two months later. I then completed a 35-year career in the USAF. But that leads to another story and another war.

Neil Sanders, 10100 Hillview Dr., Apt 58, Pensacola, FL 32514, 850-912-6131, gmapa@cox.net

Members in the News



Hal Seitz goes on Honor Flight

Hal Seitz of Coral Gables, FL went on an Honor Flight with guardian Steve Rue, a U.S. Air Force veteran, on October 27, 2018. The flight left Ft. Lauderdale, FL en route to Washington D.C.

Hal served on active duty with the Atlantic Fleet from June 1951 to October 30, 1953.

Reach Hal Seitz at 8500 Royal Palm Blvd, Apt B423, Coral Springs, FL 33065, 954-749-1090, hal423B@gmail.com.

Michele Bretz salutes 8-year-old Female veteran

Newly elected KWVA Director Michele Bretz had the honor on May 21, 2020 of participating in a "car parade" for a 98-year-old woman who is a WWII veteran. Michele invited members of her chapter, 314, Western North Carolina/Gen Frank Blazey, to participate and wish this lady a happy birthday.

As the 1st Vice of Ch. 314 says, "We need to remember that all veterans should be honored as heroes by the next generation of veterans, since from those individuals we learn our craft and pass it on so we don't forget."

Michel adds, "History is doomed to repeat itself if we don't remember those lessons learned. I'm a firm believer in this philosophy."

She wrote:

"Just got back from visiting Rosie. She was sitting in her wheelchair with the staff around her as our dozen plus vehicles passed her with signs, waving flags and honking horns. We made two passes around to make her feel special.

"One gentleman stopped, got out of his truck, and gave her a salute. Nick DiYorio stated, "We can't stop paying tributes to our fellow veterans as they have paved the way for us, so shall we pave the way for the next generation."

"He is trying to get the facility to notify us whenever there is a veteran who has a birthday so we can do the same for them."

Reach Michele Bretz at 828-989-8286, paintedneedle@aol.com

Editor's office hours:

Editor Sharp's office hours, such as they are, are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday. He is not an employee of the KWVA, so his hours vary.

Visit the Korean War Veterans Association Website:

www.kwva.org

Korean War books are not in high demand[©]

By Paige Turner

So you want to write a book about the Korean War? That may not be a good idea if your goal is to sell a few copies. As one publisher told me a couple years ago when I pitched a book to him unsuccessfully, “Books about the Korean War just don’t sell.” But, hope springs eternal.

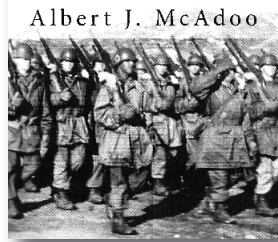
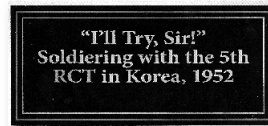
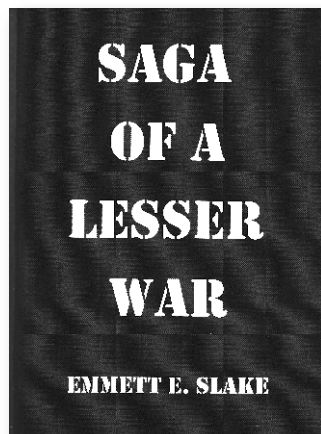
There is a saying that “There is a book in all of us.” Whoever said that wasn’t thinking about the Korean War. The history of the Korean War simply is not as “romantic” as that of WWII or Vietnam. Yeah, there are occasional “best sellers” about the Korean War, but generally they are written by people who have an inside track on getting books published, e.g., James Brady and Hampton Sides. Otherwise, as my literary agent told me, anyone without celebrity status or access to free publicity such as cable TV talk show analysts is pretty much out of luck.

Don’t get me wrong. Plenty of people have written books about the Korean War. (See the covers pictured nearby.) Over the years I have received hundreds of books for review or questions about how to go about publishing and marketing one from KWVA members and non-members alike. In fact, one of the more pleasant facets of my editorship has been dealing with authors of Korean War-related books. I have read and learned from virtually all of those submitted to our office. We have reviewed many of them in *The Graybeards*. One thing we have never done is discourage anyone from going ahead with a book project.

Getting a book published by a traditional publisher nowadays in almost any genre is not easy. Fortunately there are options, such as self-publishing. There are even options within that option. The good news is that getting a book published by that route is fairly simple—as long as you are willing to pay for it. And, it’s not particularly expensive...unless...

Before we get to the “unless” part I will reveal a secret for aspiring writers: writing a book is the easy part of the publishing process. The hard part is marketing one. A writer can spend countless hours trying to reach the right people who can get a book into the public relations channel with little or nothing to show for it. Or, that writer can pay beaucoup bucks to a PR or marketing firm to promote the book, again with little or nothing to show for it. That’s where the “unless” part comes in.

As I mentioned earlier, self-publishing is not particularly expensive. Where the publishers make their money is on additional options. (The word “options” is significant. You don’t have to purchase them.) The publishers charge sometimes lofty sums for marketing and PR services. That means a writer has to consider a return on investment (ROI) when considering whether to go the self-publishing route, especially if



the goal is to make a profit on a book.

Some people believe—mistakenly—that writers make a lot of money from their books. NOT—unless you are Stephen King, Danielle Steel, James Patterson, or someone in that category. Most writers who self-publish don’t earn a lot in royalties. That may not be a problem for writers who are more interested in getting a story out to the public than they are in making

money. I doubt if there are many people who fall into that category. Most writers want a significant ROI for their hard work in writing and publishing a book. That is getting harder and harder to do.

Some people believe—mistakenly—that writers make a lot of money from their books.

NOT—unless you are Stephen King,

Danielle Steel, James Patterson, or someone in that category. Most writers who self-publish don't earn a lot in royalties.

As beneficial as self-publishing can be for people who are not best-selling authors, it can also be a drawback. There are literally millions of books produced by self-publishers every year. The number is astronomical—and growing. “In 2018, there was a total of over 1.68 million print and e-books self-published in the U.S., out of which 1.55 million were print books and 130 thousand were e-books (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/249036/number-of-self-published-books-in-the-us-by-format/>). Do you want to jump into that pool?

Of course, people who are not afraid of competition are not going to be deterred by the numbers cited above. Why write a book if you don’t have faith in its marketability? But, prospective writers have to analyze carefully what their goals are before investing their time, effort, and money in the project. And they have to have a marketing plan to supplement their goals. No one can determine reliably how a book will fare in the marketplace if they are not willing to get it there. After all, whether to publish or not publish is an individual choice.

I am not trying to discourage anyone from publishing a book about the Korean War. Some KWVA member may be the next James Brady or Hampton Sides. More power to him or her. I look forward to receiving an advance copy for possible review in *The Graybeards*. As I said earlier, hope springs eternal. Nothing ventured, nothing gained and all that.

Someone has to successfully produce the next best seller about the Korean War. Let’s hope it is someone in the KWVA.

A vicarious revisit to Korea

In 2018 Bob Banker, Past 2nd Vice President and Past National Director of the KWVA, participated in a revisit to South Korea. Many Korean War veterans have made similar trips over the years. They often report back on the state of the country today compared to when they left in the 1950s. And, their reviews have encouraged other veterans to make their own trips to see South Korea for themselves. Unfortunately, revisits may have come to an end, at least temporarily.

The coronavirus has put a hold on revisits for the time being. So, we will present a few remembrances from Mr. Banker's trip to whet veterans' appetites should the opportunity arise for them to return—and if the revisits are resumed. If you can't get there yourself, a vicarious visit is a close second to a real one.

The excerpts here have been edited a bit for brevity. Mr. Banker took exhaustive notes during his trip, starting with the lead-up to it, and printed them in a spiral-bound diary. (If anyone would like a copy of the entire book contact him. His address appears below.)

Meanwhile, enjoy a revisit through the eyes of a veteran who took the time to document his own return.

Foreword

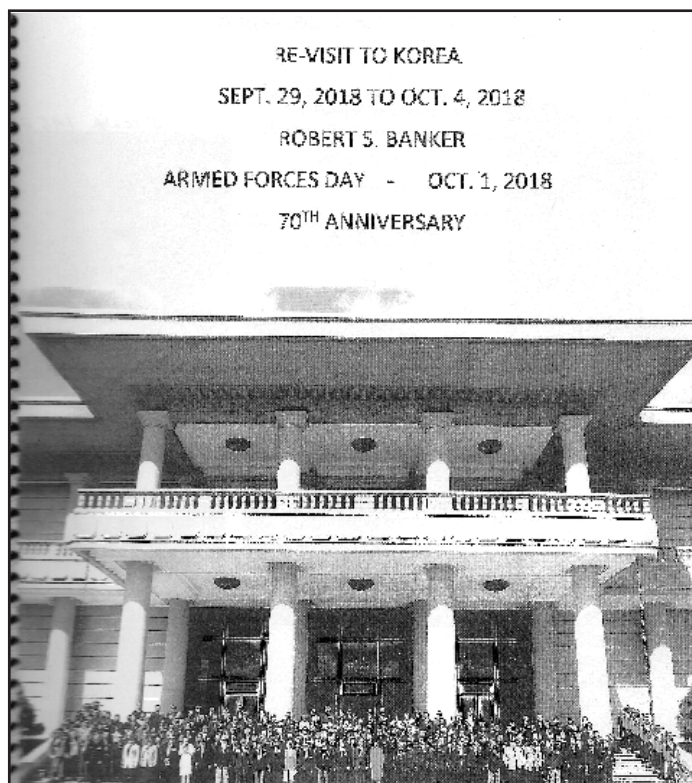
I sit here at my dining room table having finished dinner and now I am serenaded by songs and music from a CD I received in Seoul, Korea on Oct. 3, 2018 from a young girl escorted by her parents boarding our bus, then stopped at a security check point on our way to the Blue House to have a luncheon with President Moon and the First Lady alone—with scores of other esteemed guests celebrating their 70th Armed Forces Day.

I was on a re-visit program sponsored by the Ministry of National Defense as one of twenty-four veterans world-wide to participate on the occasion. The CD is absolutely remarkable and the first song sets the tone and says it all. The title—"Thank you, soldiers."

The invitation was extended to those who served in Korea during the war period at some point from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. We were all honored guests. Yet, my post-war connection did not happen until I became a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 133, for the Greater Baltimore Region in July of 2000.

From that time forward, I became acquainted with the Korean populace and their immense gratitude and thanks to all who came to defend their country. One may say that our war is the so-called "Forgotten War," but I assure everyone that the Korean people do not forget the sacrifices inflicted on all military personnel to preserve their country and they never will. Wherever I go and meet Koreans from the age of 5 to the age of 105, the thanks are totally genuine, an expression of their love to all wherever we may be. It is fully humbling!

Yet, how does one explain the resurgence of their country from that of a wasted land through the war years to a highly successful economic force across the world. When my comments are read and digested in thought there is another fascinating side of their life as will be revealed in my writings. I do think that I am very close to exactitude.



The cover of Bob Banker's diary

I, and I do believe all veterans, truly value the association that fate placed on our shoulders. I consider them my surrogate family; as I am received with such love and gratitude always. What is there not to like? Nothing. So, at age 87 now, I still cannot believe my grand fortune for this most recent revisit of Sept. 29th to Oct. 4th, 2018.

I add that I received a previous invitation to return to Korea in July 2003—the 50th anniversary of the ceasefire—and spent a week there at that time. My heartfelt thanks are completely conveyed to all. Our efforts were so worthwhile. And to paraphrase President Lincoln with his Gettysburg address in November of 1862, our dead have not died in vain!

The generosity and the care given to the veterans during our stay by the Hana Tour Group, led by Ms. Sharon Choi, was absolutely exceptional. The slightest need was attended to and I extend my most sincere gratitude and thanks to each and every person.

Also, my thanks to the Ministry of National Defense extending the invitation to be their honored guests. Sitting with President Moon, the First Lady, and esteemed personnel will not be forgotten. It was an honor to visit the Seoul National Cemetery to walk among the gravesites of those heroes of long ago. We are all comrades.

Bob Banker

Day 1 – Sept. 27th, Thursday

My daughter, Alison, came to see me today and to wish me well on the forthcoming trip to Seoul, Korea. We had a fine breakfast,

KOREA REVISIT 2018

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ARMED FORCES DAY



Bob Banker's tour group at Gyeongbokgung Palace

and later we said our goodbyes. Always a joy to see her.

The journey begins today. An unexpected sojourn to Seoul that began a month ago when James Fisher, Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association, forwarded an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to participate in their celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day on Oct. 1, 2018. My response was immediate - a resounding YES - I will accept the offer. A once in a lifetime arrangement.

Day 2 - Sept. 28th - Friday

Another hour to wait, as the Korean Air counter opens at 10 a.m. to accept passengers. Thankfully, I was at the front of the line and I was processed rapidly. Now, through Security and finally arriving at the Departure Terminal. I had a tuna sandwich there. While waiting, I met Fred Honaman and his son, Andy. Fred was with the 25th Infantry Division and assigned to the 27th Regiment, known as the Wolfhounds - a young officer at that time, as we all were. Ah, youth!

He was in Korea from January to June 1953 and then wounded and sent home. My unit, 8th Field Artillery, Battery B, comprising six 105 Howitzers, supported the Wolfhounds with firepower whenever called upon. We were about a mile or so away from his unit. What a small world.

My function in the Battery was as a switchboard operator. (Think of Radar in the TV series M*A*S*H*). When he called in for artillery, it would be received by our switchboard and then routed to the appropriate person to fulfill his request. Now, 65 or so years later, he and I agreed that it was 100% possible that I would have been the person to route his call. So, our voices from that long time ago—and now we meet in person! When he was wounded he was sent to Japan and then to the U.S. He has a 70% disability.

Time passes and now I am on board a Boeing 777. Sitting next to me was James (Jimmy) Argires and his lovely lady, Tasia. They are both of Greek descent, living in the area of Lancaster, PA. Jimmy is a retired neurosurgeon. At the time of his service in the Marines he became known as one of the Frozen Chosin. The weather was bitterly cold, about -40F or so, with a continuous wind of 30 to 40 MPH.

I have met a number of Marines who were there and I have seen many documentaries over the years. It is absolutely amazing that they not only endured the harsh winter weather but they managed to alter their course and exit North Korea at Wonsan or Hungnam.

The plane has now taken off at 1:45 pm and on each seat back there is a TV-type viewing screen with one screen showing the course our plane would take for the 14-hour flight to Incheon International, which is located about 20 miles to the southwest of Seoul.

We flew north, just west of Toronto, Canada, then across Hudson Bay on its west side and into the Arctic Ocean, followed by a left to the west and then south over the eastern tip of Russia and the eastern part of China, followed by crossing to the west of North Korea and then we landed at Incheon.

During the flight we were served dinner at 3 p.m., consisting of beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, succotash, a roll with butter, a salad and Caesar dressing, cantaloupe, and a nice refreshing small portion of a red wine. AH!

We cruised at 30,000 feet, with speeds of 580 to 600 mph. The screen had a view from the cockpit: clouds below and blue sky above.

Day 3 – Sept. 29, 2018 - Saturday

Today, the world went a little topsy-turvy. We arrived at Incheon at 3:25 my time, which was 4:25 p.m. Korea time, so where did half of my day go? Just vanished so to speak. It will be made up upon my return to the United States in the opposite direction.

After the 14-hour flight, almost to the minute, we walked what seemed as endless distance to the luggage area, but I survived... Remarkably the lines to the counters moved quite rapidly. After clearing Korean Customs I exited into the public area and there was a banner commemorating the 70th anniversary of Armed Forces Day, so I knew I was with my tour group.

After a relatively short time all veterans in the tour were accounted for and then we were escorted to the buses, which had two seats on the left side and one seat on the right side, so I sat in the single seat. Now off to the Millennium Seoul Hilton Hotel.

Along the way I am still at 5 a.m. and yet I saw the setting sun—a fully round, red ball. The time in Korea was now a little past 6 p.m. My day was gone, but I was still tired from the lengthy flight, yet I was happy to arrive at the hotel. Very splendid and it included a very posh casino—but not for me!!

We were given an information folder, including a key card for my room. The room is very pleasant. I needed sleep, so about 9 p.m. Korean time I hit the sack.

Robert S. Banker, 516 Millwood Dr., Fallston, MD 21047, 410-877-1935, robertbanker@comcast.net

Excerpts from ‘B-29 Superfortress Units of the Korean War’

By Robert F. Dorr

1951

On January 10, 1951 General Emmitt ‘Rosie’ O’Donnell was replaced by Brig. Gen. James E. Biggs as commander of FEAF Bomber Command. Biggs ordered the three B-29 groups, the 19th, 98th and 307th, to bomb Sinuiju’s massive railway bridge again.

On April 12, 1951, with Sabres as top cover and Thunderjets as direct escorts the Superfortresses went after the bridge. Things got off to a shaky start when nine of the 48 B-29s aborted with mechanical problems. Three minutes out from the target, eight B-29s of the 19th BG came under attack from 30+ MiG-15s. They managed to break through the escorts and immediately downed a bomber, which caught fire and crashed near the target. Gunfire from the MiGs damaged six more B-29s.

Navigator 1Lt Ralph Livengood of the 30th BS/19th BG recalled that his bomb group had 12 Superfortresses from three squadrons in the air. ‘Six of our airplanes managed to get back to Okinawa,’ said Livengood. ‘One diverted to Itazuke where, wounded after battle damage, it was repaired. The pilot and bombardier were killed in another aero plane as a result of air-to-air action by MiGs, forcing the co-pilot to fly back to Taegu and crash-land – it never flew again.’

A third B-29 ditched in the Yellow Sea with no survivors. A MiG shot yet another down over land. No chutes were seen. A fifth bomber crash-landed in Seoul. After that horrendous mission—a precursor to one that would be called ‘Black Tuesday’ later in the year—Livengood remembered that ‘The strategy changed a bit. We would take off early at night or late in the day so we hit targets at first light or at dusk.’

The mission on October 23, dubbed ‘Black Tuesday,’ lives in the memory of B-29 crews as their darkest day of the Korean War. Eight B-29s from the

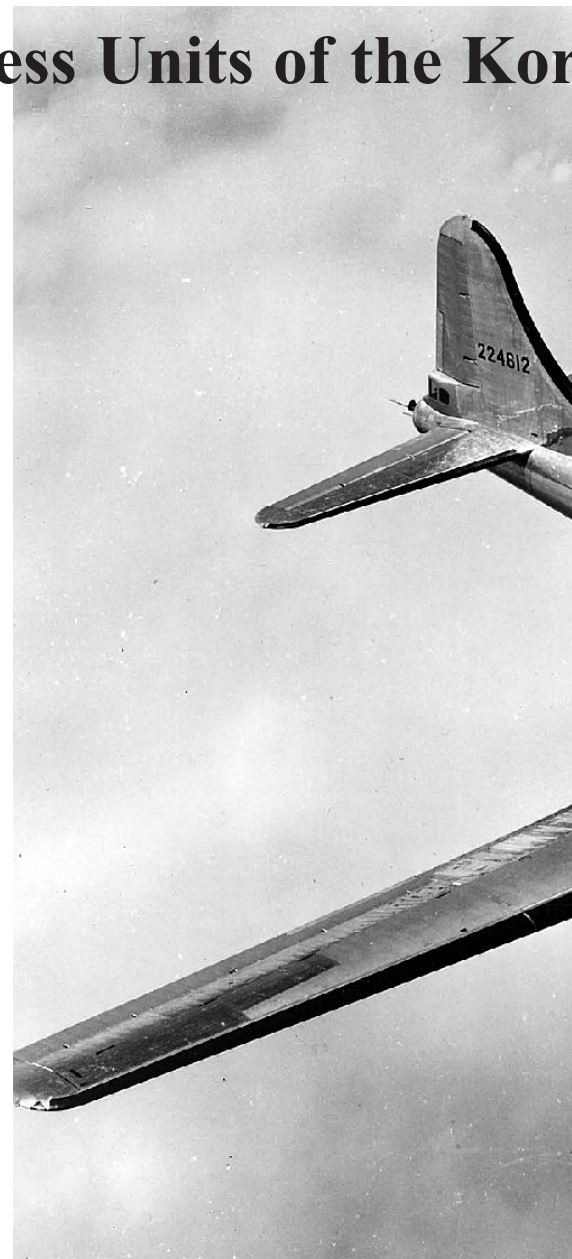
307th (of nine that began the mission) went forth to bomb Namsi airfield at Sinuiju, along the Yalu. The weather was supposed to be clear and, sadly, it was.

The day began when Sabres downed two MiGs near the Yalu, but subsequently withdrew before an escort of Thunderjets proved unable to protect their bomber charges. MiGs caught the B-29s over their target. The size of the communist fighter force having been variously estimated at somewhere between 55 (Futrell) and 150 (research by B-29 veteran E.J. McGill).

Three B-29s were shot down, and all but one of the surviving bombers received major damage. A number of these were carrying dead and wounded crewmen aboard when they made emergency landings in Japan and Korea. Only one B-29 (44-87760) returned safely to Kadena.

The first trio of Superfortresses over the target was ‘A’ Flight of the 371st BS/307th BG, consisting of B-29s piloted by Capt. Clarence I. Fogler (44-61816), Capt. James R. Lewis (44-87750), and Capt. Robert M. Krumm (44-94045). Krumm’s aircraft was among those shot down in the first minutes of the battle. The second trio of Superfortresses consisted of ‘B’ Flight of the 372nd BS/307th BG, comprising B-29s piloted by Capt. James A. Foulks, Jr. (44-71940), 1Lt William Fleeter, (44-27347) and a third pilot whose name is not on record (44-86295).

Foulks, too, was shot down in the first minutes of the MiG attack. The third and final brace of B-29s on the Namsi raid – ‘C’ Flight – was a formation of two B-29s (or three, according to the McGill account, which puts nine bombers on the raid rather than eight). The names of the other pilot, or pilots, are not on record, but the number one aircraft in the formation was flown by Capt. Thomas L. Shields of the 370th BS/307th BG. In his account for U.S. Govt. historians, Futrell recounted Shield’s fate.



‘Between their initial point and the target, all of the ships in “Charlie” Flight were under attack, and as the bombers dropped their loads and broke left, some confusion on the part of escorting Thunderjets left them inadequately protected. Actually, however, the Thunderjets were so badly out-classed that they could not offer much protection.’

Most of the attacking MiGs flew normal pursuit curves, but some of them dived downward through the bomber formation so as to deny the Thunderjet pilots or the Superfortress gunners much opportunity to fire. One flight of MiGs came straight up under the B-29s with all guns blazing. Capt. Shields

rean War'



A USAAF B-29 Superfortress

Air War.' Subsequently USAF chief of staff Hoyt S. Vandenberg had personally ordered a halt to daylight bomber operations over North Korea. October 28 was the final day of sustained daytime B-29 operations in the face of the MiG threat.

1952

The Superfortress continued to suffer about half of its aircraft losses due to non-combat causes. For example, on Feb. 7, 1952 45-21721, Tail Wind, hit a 475-ft hill northeast of Yakota and killed everyone on board. The pilot, Col. John Grabel, who was the 98th BG's operations officer, had relatively little B-29 time, and was apparently flying the aircraft when it crashed – not Maj. Dan Smith, the instructor pilot, who was in the right seat.

By war's end B-29s had flown 21,000 sorties and dropped 167,000 tons of bombs. Thirty-four had been lost in combat (16 to fighters, four to flak and 14 to other causes). B-29 gunners were credited with destroying 27 enemy fighters. Post-war statistics reveal that B-29 losses worked out at less than one per 1,000 sorties.

A critical question was why the obsolete B-29 was brought out of storage and used in the Korean War when the B-36, B-47 and B-50 were all available. Speculation was that General Curtis LeMay made the decision for the simple reason that a potential war with the Soviet Union enjoyed a higher priority than a very real war in Korea.

So there you have it. If you went through that and you are reading this today, consider yourself fortunate.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was in our archive and we have no idea of who submitted it. And, although there are several books by Robert Dorr listed on amazon.com we could not find any record of this one. Can anyone help us identify either the author of this submission or the book mentioned? In either case, we have learned that B-29 crews went through hell during the Korean War.

A critical question was why the obsolete B-29 was brought out of storage and used in the Korean War when the B-36, B-47 and B-50 were all available.

coaxed his B-29 back to the coast, where his crew bailed out, but Shields did not get free from the stricken ship in time to save his own life.'

McGill, who was a B-29 co-pilot in Korea, but was not on the Namsi strike, summed up the results of 'Black Tuesday' as follows: "Three B-29s were shot down "within a matter of minutes." Three heavily damaged B-29s landed at

Kimpo. Two badly damaged B-29s (44-27347 and 44-86295) were transferred to the depot for disposition. Of the three B-29s that eventually made it back to Kadena, two were badly shot up. Thirty-four crew members were declared missing in action.

The *Pacific Stars and Stripes* ran the headline the next day, "'Superforts' Tangle with MiGs in Toughest Week of

A Soldier's Reflection on Koje-do Island

By *Icle Davis*

My Korean War experience was different from that of most American soldiers. I was sent to Koje-do Island, located about 20 miles south of the city of Pusan or the mainland of Korea. I arrived in mid-November, 1951. It took about four hours by boat.

I was assigned to the 165th Military Police Company, 94th MP Battalion. I served as company clerk for about three weeks. In mid-December I asked for a transfer to the motor pool, which was granted. I drove a truck until late May 1952.

The area housed about 170,000 POWs. The land area was split by a large mountain. The east valley had about 40,000 North Korean POWs and about 50,000 civilian internees, citizens who were forced to join the North Korean Army as it was driving south. Our company was located in the central valley, which housed about 70,000 North Korean POWs and 20,000 Chinese POWs.

There was a total of 30 compounds. Each compound held about 6,000 POWs. It took about 150 soldiers to operate each compound. The duties ranged from serving in guard towers, walking the fences, escorting POWs on work details, and distributing items that the POWs needed. We worked seven days a week, with time off to attend church.

The POWs had the opportunity to leave the compound on work details, and they were provided with recreational activities. Church services were allowed in the compounds as well. A well-equipped hospital was located to serve their medical needs on the island. Serious medical problems were treated near Pusan.

The peace talks started in July, 1951. In mid-summer that year, several POWs expressed an interest in not returning to their homeland. Riots began to occur in several compounds in July. The North Korean and Chinese delegates at the Peace Table demanded that all POWs be returned at war's end. President Truman instructed the United Nations Command (UNC) delegate that all POWs held by our command would have the opportunity to choose whether he or she (there were about 800 female POWs) wanted to return home or be assigned to another

country.

The island commander asked for additional troops. In early December, a battalion of the U.S. 23rd Infantry Regiment arrived. Also, the ROK Army sent additional soldiers. In late December the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Regiment, 25th Division arrived.

On February 18th the 27th (Wolfhounds) was called to help the screening of POWs in compound #62. The North Korean POWs were in control at the time. The 27th entered the compound and positioned themselves in a circle. A group of about 1,000 North Koreans charged toward them with rocks and homemade spears. The troops fired back. Several POWs were injured and a few died. A few 27th soldiers were wounded and one died. General Dodd became commander of the island on February 20th.

The screening continued in non-communist compounds throughout the month of April. Several thousand POWs were moved to other islands through "Operation Scatter." (The remaining POWs were loyal to their country.) We truckers were kept busy hauling POWs to the holding compounds and later to the landing crafts to haul them to their new home.

On April 20th the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division arrived. What a welcome sight it was. Most of them were stationed in the central valley, where the majority of the North Koreans were housed, in compounds # 76, 77, 78, 85, 92 and 95. We truckers and other guards were ordered to stay out of compounds #76, 77 and 78 until further notice.

On April 28th the peace talks were called off until further notice. Our command was hoping the hostile atmosphere on the island would settle down. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

On May 7th I reported to Compound #76 to pick up a load of empty containers.

Lt. Colonel Raven was standing at the outer gates. The Company Security Officer, Captain Hunter, was on his left. Three guards, who operated the compound, were present. Two 38th Infantry soldiers were near the gate.

I stepped from my truck and walked to the edge of the road. I was about 20 feet from the gate. About 30 minutes later General Dodd

and his jeep driver arrived. General Dodd conducted the conversation with POW spokesmen. Several minutes later, I saw a "Honey Bucket" detail approaching the front gate. It stopped behind the POW spokesman and squatted.

A guard opened the left side of the gate. The detail stood up and advanced through the gate. A whistle blew and half the detail, plus the POWs near General Dodd and Colonel Raven, grabbed them. Colonel Raven managed to break loose. Captain Hunter and we guards helped him escape.

As I stood there, I saw POWs carrying blankets which read: "We captured General Dodd. If our problems are resolved, his security is guaranteed. If there is brutal act or shooting, his life is in danger." I returned hurriedly to the motor pool.

Between May 7th and June 10, 1952 several changes and events took place. On May 8th, Brigadier General Charles Colson replaced General Dodd. On May 10th, General Dodd was released from Compound 76. On May 12th, General Mark Clark replaced General Matthew Ridgway as supreme commander of the Far East. Brigadier General Haydon Boatner replaced General Colson as island commander on May 17th, and the UNC placed all troops on the island on high alert.

ROK Navy gun boats patrolled the shores. Additional Army troops were sent to help secure the island. They included the 83rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry, 2nd Division; 81st Battalion of the 15th Infantry; a battalion from the Netherlands, a British Rifle Co., a Canadian Rifle Co., and a Greek Company.

The 430 Engineer Construction Battalion was sent to help construct the smaller compounds ordered by General Boatner. During this period, empty compounds were torn down and replaced by smaller ones that would hold 500 POWs. The villages were torn down and the refugees were relocated farther from the compounds. We guards helped with clean up.

Since we were not allowed in the compounds to remove wastes, our routine changed. For example, we had to haul the human waste by truck. We truckers shared the duty.

The POWs came at the troops with spears and began throwing rocks. The battle lasted for about 2-1/2 hours. Finally, the POWs had enough. Colonel Lee was found in a ditch, and they escorted him by his hair to the front gate.

Day by day, the POWs in the compounds 76, 77, 78, 8S, 92, and 95 ran through their drills, sparring with swords and spears in an effort to show our command they were going to resist being screened and relocated. On June 7, General Boatner asked his Staff Officers, "Are you ready?"

They said, "Yes."

General Boatner ordered the troops on June 7th to practice mob control formations outside Compound # 76, which held the toughest group of prisoners. He wanted the arrogant North Korean officers to see what was in store.

The General positioned the 187th Regimental Combat Team on the left side of the front entrance. Flame throwers would back up tanks. Tear gas and concussion grenades would be used by the paratroopers, who were ordered not to fire a shot. They were to rely on the bayonets and their rifle butts.

On the opposite side of the one selected for entrance, he posted troops from the 38th and 9th Infantry Regiments and other units with mortars and machine guns. On June 10th, he sent word to Colonel Lee Hak Koo and told him to assemble the POWs in groups of 100. They were going to be moved to the new, smaller compounds in 30 minutes.

There was no word from North Korean Commander Colonel Lee. Boatner waited another 15 minutes. Still there was no word from Colonel Lee.

General Boatner phoned Brigadier Thomas Trapnell, the Commander of the 187th, and said, "Carry out the plan."

The tanks moved forward. Troops threw tear gas bombs and concussion grenades. The flame throwers set fire to a few buildings. The POWs came at the troops with spears and began throwing rocks. The battle lasted for about 2-1/2 hours. Finally, the POWs had enough. Colonel Lee was found in a ditch, and they escorted him by his hair to the front gate.

When the smoke and tear gas lifted from the smoking ruins of Compound #76, the bodies of 41 POWs lay sprawled in the trenches and in the dust. A hundred or more

POWS were wounded.

One U.S. paratrooper died of wounds and 13 others were wounded. I injured my back while unloading 100 pound rice bags and was sent to Pusan hospital. Consequently, I missed the breakup on June 10th. The other POWs went peacefully to the new compounds.

On behalf of the military personnel who served on Koje, we extend our thanks to all members of the units who came to our aid and defense.

*Icle Davis, 820 Circle Drive,
London, OH 43140*

.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the interesting comments in Mr. Davis' article relates to female prisoners, i.e., "... to choose whether he or she (there were about 800 female POWs)...." My question is this: how did 800 female POWs end up in the Koje-do facility? Were there female communist soldiers in combat against UN troops? If not, what was their role in the war, and why were they imprisoned with the males? Or were they? Please let our editorial staff know.

.....

My Return to Koje-do Island

As part of my trip to South Korea in early October 2005, I made arrangements for my wife and me to stay an extra three days to travel to the southernmost part of the country to visit Koje-do Island. We hired a person who was familiar with the trip to Koje-do Island to accompany us.

The expressway Route 1 took us to Taegon. Then, we changed to Route 35 to Munsan, and later to Route 33. At about 2:30 p.m., we arrived at the bridge that crosses the body of water to the island.

During my tour of duty (November 1951 to March 1953), I never went north of Pusan. So, traveling through the part of the country more than 50 years later, I got to see the scenery for the first time; it was breathtaking.

We passed through tunnels. The rice fields were ready to be harvested, and we could see greenhouses along the highway. The residents use them to produce vegetables

and flowers. We could also see small patches of tea vines; ginseng tea is a popular drink here.

Toward the end of the trip, we crossed the new bridge to the main part of Koje-do that originally contained the compounds that housed the prisoners of war. As we drove down the blacktop road (it was dirt when I was there), we noticed tall apartment buildings. The thatched huts and rice paddies (fields) were almost gone.

I heard from several sources that a museum had been erected to hold the artifacts or remnants of the compounds. Finally, we reached the site where the museum was located. It was built along the side of the mountain. As I walked past the displays, I was pleased that they were about as authentic as they could be.

Before I went inside the buildings, I met several South Korean veterans. We exchanged greetings and took pictures. A battle monument stood in front of the museum.

Two American soldiers were killed on Koje-do during two riots during the war. I stood in front of the monument and offered a few moments of silence in their memory.

We went to the Hotel Koje, where we were staying. It was the first hotel built after the war. The island has become a tourists' paradise. It has beautiful beaches, and the weather is delightful most of the year. The valleys are full of small businesses, and a huge shipbuilding complex is located on the back side of the island. It provides many jobs for the people. Commercial fishing continues to be another source of income.

The island has another connection to the war. In December 1950, several thousand civilians were transferred from Hungnam to the back side of the island. The U.S. Navy conducted the transfer. A new statue was dedicated this past May to honor the Navy for their service. It is located adjacent to the museum buildings.

It was a delightful experience and very rewarding for me and my wife, Jean, to have been able to revisit the island where I spent 16 months.

.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: We here at *The Graybeards* office would like more stories on Koje-Do. Send them to us and we will share them with Mr. Davis and our readers.



Recon Missions

Where were these photos taken?

I have several pictures that my dad (John H. King, or “Big John”) took while in the Korean war. They are of a flight line. Dad worked on the helicopters and L-19 Bird Dog planes. I have no idea where this was and as I write his story it would help if I could identify the place these were taken.

Part of the reason for this is dad was awarded the Bronze Star while in Korea. I have requested his service records and until the virus becomes less of an issue they are not filling any requests. Even so, they could not tell me where these photos were taken.

Dad worked on the helicopter pictured nearby. He was known as “Big John.” As you can see according to one of the photos he is much taller than the rest.

Please let me know if you could help me with this search. Thank you.

Chester (Chet) King, chetfking@gmail.com



Receiving orders, Korean War



Dad under attack during the Korean War



John H. King in combat gear during Korean War



Helicopter engine, Korean War: John H. King on right



Senior Staff, Korean War

Photos Submitted for Publication in The Graybeards

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc.

And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

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Front



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PETERAN
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOC. INC.
 25 JUNE 1995



New Oval Shape

Items not shown actual size

Announcing KWVA's 2020 Fundraiser

Lend a hand to your association by buying \$20 fundraising tickets. Each \$20 ticket gives you a chance to win one of six super prizes:

- First prize is \$1,500 in cash
- Second prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Third prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Fourth prize is \$1,000 in cash
- Fifth prize is \$500 in cash
- Sixth prize is \$500 in cash

Tickets have been mailed to all active members. If you didn't get the mail-out or want to purchase more tickets, **IT'S NOT TOO LATE!** The form is located on the adjacent page 27. **The deadline for ticket donations is October 15, 2020.**

The drawing will be held at a board meeting after October 15. Winners will be announced here on the KWVA.us website and in The Graybeards.

The KWVA Fundraising Committee THANKS YOU for your support!

A Word from the National Chaplain...

Reverend Paul Kim



FIRST-PERSON: What are you waiting for?

This excerpt from an article written by National Assistant Chaplain Paul Kim appeared in the Baptist Press. It was posted on March 5, 2020.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (BP) — At his father's deathbed, Bob Sparks made a promise to his father that he would find the remains of his father's dear brother, Army Corporal Ron Sparks, who died in a POW camp in North Korea during the Korean War. The good news came one day when the DNA sample he had given came back from an army lab with a 100 percent match.

On August 16, 2016, a military procession brought the remains of Corporal Ronald Sparks to Cambridge (Mass.) City Hall. Family, friends, veterans, local government officials, fire fighters, police officers, a sizable contingent of the Korean community, and a throng of patriotic supporters had gathered to honor the memory of

the city's native son and long-lost fallen soldier.

It came to be a significant event, with the local media giving it wide coverage. The mayor of Cambridge spoke poignantly of how Sparks, who had sacrificed his life for our freedom, was finally home. The Korean Consul General of Boston presented the Ambassador of Peace Medal to Sparks' sister. As a clergyman and national assistant chaplain of the Korean War Veterans Association, I was privileged with the opportunity to offer my remarks of gratitude.

A banner hung over the street in Cambridge, Mass., as the city welcomed home the remains of Army Corporal Ron Sparks, a POW of the Korean War.



The next day Cpl. Sparks was given a full military funeral and was laid to rest next to his parents, who never got to see their son after sending him off to war. The surviving family members had waited 65 long years for this unforgettable moment.

Waiting is a way of life. In our day-to-day existence we wait for so many things. In Samuel Beckett's well-known existential play "Waiting for Godot," two characters wait for the mysterious Godot, who never shows up. The play makes us ask ourselves, what are we waiting for in this life? Are you waiting for graduation, career, marriage, house, children, retirement, etc.?

All these things will eventually fade away. Doesn't it make sense then to wait for something that is eternal? At the return of the Lord Jesus, He will take His church, the family of God, to be with Him in a loving relationship forever. Since our Lord and His angels promised that this will happen, it is worth waiting in faith for its fulfillment....

For the rest of the article go to <http://www.bpnews.net/54419/firstperson-what-are-you-waiting-for>

A Grateful Nation

A thank you from South Korea,
American veterans they hold dear.
As you wear this mask each day,
Remember they came from a land far away.

We were young when we went there,
And when we left it was in despair.
The good news a story to tell,
To hear them ring their freedom bell.

Thank you South Korea,
We too hold you dear.

John T. (Sonny) Edwards, Korea Veteran, Army Grunt, "Got Your 6," kvetedwards@yahoo.com



2020 FUNDRAISER

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

KOREAN WAR / KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS



Winners to be drawn after October 15, 2020 at a board meeting. Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser, complete the attached forms. Winners will be posted on www.KWVA.org. Winners notified by phone.

Members only / must put members number and phone number. Deadline for submission October 15th, 2020.

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KWVA.ORG is for Korea War and Korea Defense Veterans. For applications click "HOW TO JOIN"
 Thomas Mc Hugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : tmmchugh@msn.com

Make check payable to: KWVA or Pay by Credit Card | | Visa | | Master Card
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You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets with your payment to: KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407

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The Where, When, and Why of the Korean War

Tell America

The (Un)Forgotten War – a Tell America Story

By Mark D. Carey

Calling the Korean War the “Forgotten War” is not unfounded. Shamefully, only three out of ten 18-24 year-old Americans can find North Korea on the map according to a National Geographic-Roper Report.

University of North Carolina professor Bruce VanSledright found that 88 percent of elementary school teachers considered teaching history a low priority because students aren’t tested on it at the state level. With teacher pay aligned with test performance, it seems that the Korean War is not only the Forgotten War, it was never taught in the first place! This is where Tell America comes in.

The objective of the Tell America program is to give high school students and the community a better understanding of the history of the Korean Peninsula, how and why Korea was divided after WWII, and the effects of the Korean War and how it impacts global events to this day and into the future.

Chapter 169, The Villages, FL, under the leadership of Major General John McWaters, has made presentations in 2019-2020 to six high schools in central Florida, for a total of twenty-eight classes and 564 JROTC cadets and students. MG McWaters also made Tell America presentations to many other local organizations, such as the Asian/America Club, at its annual convention in December, The Band of Brothers, a large organization of over 620 local, Canadian, UK and FRG members, and the Organization of Vietnam Veterans.

In front of rapt audiences, Major General McWaters and his staff weave a story about how the Korean government and society fell victim first to Japanese expansion and then Cold War interests as the U.S. and the Soviet Union split the country at the 38th parallel, separating North Korea and South Korea. The students were particularly interested in the Korean War section. General McWaters’ personal stories of the war as a Combat Engineer added to the experience.

LTC Charles M. Minyard (Ret) is the JROTC coordinator at Umatilla High School in FL. He shared, “The Umatilla High School Army JROTC program really appreciates MG McWaters and his staff taking the time to present an often forgotten part of American military history. The presentation was well received by both the cadets of our program and the students of many of our history classes on campus. What really impressed the students and cadets were the personal stories; it made this part of history a little more real. We look forward to scheduling next year’s presentation.”

The most interesting result of the Tell America presentations are the “aha” moments by the students:

- First, that the Korean War is NOT over and only resulted in an armistice, not a treaty.
- Second, that U.S. foreign policy decisions dating back to 1904 have directly impacted the Korean Peninsula and our current state of affairs, creating what is now the most heavily defended border in the world.
- Finally, an understanding and deep appreciation for those who fought or paid the ultimate sacrifice in the most hellish of conditions.



Students at Umatilla High School surround MGen McWaters



MGen John McWaters (L) and LTC Charles M. Minyard, USA (Ret), JROTC coordinator at Umatilla, FL, High School



Amber Shaw, a student at Eustis High School, salutes MGen McWaters

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders

Part of the success KWVA Chapter 169 has had with the Tell America program has been the establishment of a \$500 annual scholarship award to one student at each of the six participating schools. The scholarship recognizes achievement in grade point average, dedication to military subjects, and leadership. Three of the 2020 awards have been presented so far, recognizing Reese Climo (Mt Dora H.S.), Amber Shaw (Eustis H.S.), and Lindsay Sigler (Umatilla H.S.).

Reese is attending Fire Academy in the fall. Amber is studying at Stetson University while applying to both the Naval and Air Force Academy, and Lindsay plans on continuing her military studies at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, FL.

Tell America has an important story to share. As Korean Service Members pass, it's up to Korean Defense Veterans to keep the legacy alive. It's essential for future leaders to appreciate the complexity of geopolitical events. Let's give students their "aha" moment with Tell America and make the Korean War the (Un)Forgotten War.

Winston Churchill said, "The farther back you look, the farther forward you are likely to see." If Churchill is right, learning about the Korean War just might prevent a future one.

About the Author

Mark D. Carey was commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in June 1977 and served in Korea from 1977-1978 in the 1/15 Field Artillery, 2nd Inf Division. After attending flight school, CPT Carey flew in the 3/5 CAV and 214th Attack Helicopter BN in the 9th Inf Division at Ft Lewis, WA. He left military service in 1983.

His first daughter was born in 1985 and in 1988 he and his wife adopted an infant daughter, named SooMee, from Korea. Mark is on the KWVA Chapter 169 Board as Director of Communications/Webmaster. The website is www.kwva169.org.

MIAs ID'd

Below is the up-to-date list of the remains of U.S. Korean War MIAs/KIAs identified by the DPAA as of 05/18/2020. All the warfighters listed were members of the U.S. Army.

Sgt. Lloyd A. Alumbaugh, Ambulance Co., 7th Medical Bn. 7th Inf. Div. 11/28/1950 NK

Cpl. Benjamin R. Bazzell, HQ Battery, 57th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div. 11/30/1950 NK

Cpl. Eldert J. Beek, HQ Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/1/1950 NK

Cpl. Ralph S. Boughman, Co. B, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Pfc. Glenn E. Collins, Heavy Mortar Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Pfc. Louis N. Crosby, Co. A, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/1/1950 NK

Cpl. Henry L. Helms, Co. D, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Cpl. Charles E. Hiltibran, HQ Co., 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Pfc. Bill F. Hobbs, Heavy Mortar Co., 31st Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 11/30/1950 NK

Cpl. Clifford S. Johnson, HQ Battery, 57th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div. 12/6/1950 NK

Sgt. David B. Milano, Co. D, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Cpl. Burl Mullins, Heavy Mortar Co., 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 11/30/1950 NK

1st Lt. Thomas J. Redgate, Battery A, 48th Field Artillery Bn., 7th Inf. Div. 12/11/1950 NK

Sgt. Billy V. Rodgers, Co. A, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 31st RCT, 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

Sgt. 1st Class Frank G. Vejar, Heavy Mortar Co., 31st Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 11/30/1950 NK

Cpl. Dale W. Wright, Co. C, 1st Bn., 32nd Inf. Rgmt., 7th Inf. Div. 12/2/1950 NK

LEGEND: NK = North Korea; SK = South Korea; SFC = Sgt. 1st Class; ANC = Arlington National Cemetery

Hannah Kim to unveil website

Hannah Y Kim, a Korean American woman with a mission, will unveil a website (www.KoreanWarMemorials.com) that will feature photos of almost 180 Korean War Memorials she has personally visited across 6 continents in 30 countries that participated in the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as all 50 states in the United States and 4 U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. The online portal will present 400 videos with stories of nearly 1,200 veterans she has met altogether in her journeys, including her 90-day tour across America in 2018.

Originally scheduled for a launch in time for the 70th anniversary

The website will feature a virtual Wall of Remembrance with the names of nearly 41,000 killed worldwide in the Korean War, including more than 36,000 Americans from each U.S. State and Territory. Visitors will be able to pay tribute by leaving comments behind.

sary of the Korean War on June 25th, 2020, the website was made available sooner for Americans to visit over the Memorial Day weekend. The U.S. content includes more than 1,000 photos of nearly 100 memorials Kim visited, with a video of her interviewing local veterans and supporters at each site.

“It breaks my heart that most of the Memorial Day commemorations across the nation were canceled due to COVID-19. I want to ensure that those who died fighting for our freedoms will be remembered and honored, albeit remotely. I hope people will viscerally see that freedom is not free,” says Kim.

The website will feature a virtual Wall of Remembrance with the names of nearly 41,000 killed worldwide in the Korean War, including more than 36,000 Americans from each U.S. State and Territory. Visitors will be able to pay tribute by leaving comments behind.

“I wouldn’t be here without the sacrifices of the veterans and I wish to convey the gratitude of the Korean people. Ultimately this website is our collective gift to the veterans, their fallen comrades, and families,” adds Kim, who was able to develop the website through the support of Naeil Foundation, an organization



Hannah Y. Kim

established by successful 2nd generation Korean Americans. Most of her travels were funded with donations from her Korean American family and friends who pitched in to express their thanks.

A former chief of staff to Congressman Charles B. Rangel (retired), and founder of Remember727, Kim has made it her lifelong mission to honor the Korean War veterans and promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. Her devoted activism began in 2008 at the age of 24, when she lobbied Congress to enact legislation, signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, which established July 27 as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day in the United States.

Kim is also the official Ambassador of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation USA (KWVMF), which is currently raising funds to add a physical Wall of Remembrance to the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. She will direct a link to the KWVMF’s donation page for anyone who wishes to support their efforts to memorialize the names of 36,000+ Americans who died in Korea.

If you didn't have time to read the paper that day...

Radio Cites Troops Put 'at Disposition' Of North Koreans

By the Associated Press

PARIS, June 29.—The French news agency yesterday quoted a North Korean communique which referred to forces “placed at the disposition” of the North Koreans There was no elaboration.

The phrase might imply that some of the forces in the North Korean Army were not Korean. The agency gave the substance, not the full text, of the communique which it said was broadcast by the Chinese Communist radio. The communique claimed that North Korean units had destroyed more than 6,000 South Korean soldiers Tuesday.

Humor in Korea



This is one of a continuing series. It can only continue if members contribute their stories. Please send your "Humor in Korea" submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City, FL 33573. We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.

My Introduction to Korea

While I was just finishing school at Ft. Devens, MA (Radio Intercept Op), the Korean War was just about over. Soon after that I was aboard the General Daniel Sultan troopship headed for the Far East. Being aboard a vessel that seemed to bob with every wave was not my first choice. However, it was my only choice.

After fourteen days we arrived in Japan and were transported to the "repo depo," where we were to learn our fate. The next afternoon we learned that most of us would be heading to Korea. That was all we needed to justify our need that night for alcoholic beverages and self-pity conversation.

We (I) must have felt the need for a lot of pity and abuse "medicine," because I slept with my head in a "butt can" that evening, trying to lower my body's alcohol content. The butt can left a large circle imprinted on my face. With the position of my nose, it looked like a large bullseye.

The following morning was no better. My legs did not want to work well; neither did my brain. Neither was getting or giving helpful signals. Apparently, the NCO watching over us was used to seeing such displays of "STUPID" in the past. In morning formation he asked for volunteers to move some lightweight furniture. I thought that this may be my salvation, since we could slide lightweight furniture. So I, along with several other "zombies," volunteered. We should have known better. The lightweight furniture turned out to be sections of the ballfield stands.

We took turns carrying one section at a time. The stands weren't that heavy alone, but we had bodies draped over the wood plank seats. Back and forth we went. It looked like a funeral taking place. It was probably the best thing for us, since we also learned that we would be flying out that night for Korea.

That evening we were transported to the air base to catch our plane. The Air Force was "waiting" for us. They had a ball with this group of young "new guys." They gave us a parachute, life jacket, and a one-man life raft that strapped to our leg. One of our guys, a tall, skinny boy from North Carolina, asked the crew chief, "Sarge, y'all fly this often?" That was "Sarge's" cue to really prepare us.

He replied, "We have to take you spy guys in at night; we don't want to get shot down again."

There was one large gasp and gulp.

"Shot down again?" Sarge, sensing the weak knees beginning to sag, then said, "Don't worry. The co-pilot is a chaplain."

The aircraft was a C-119. It looked stout enough, but that was the first time I was on a plane that I felt had to use four miles of runway to get up to take-off speed. The group sat in silence, faking smiles at

each other. Finally, Sarge passed out box lunches...fried chicken ... cold.

Sarge wiped his out in about two minutes. The rest of us fumbled with greasy fingers, dropping most of it. Soon I became aware that my kidneys needed some relief. Since the class of service we were using did not offer a lavatory option, I had to ask Sarge, "How do I..."

Sarge again came to the rescue.

"See that pillar back there. There is a plastic nozzle attached to a drain line."

Sure enough, the nozzle was there. Inserting any body appendage into an ice-cold device has a mind-crushing effect. After business was taken care of, it was 24 hours before that appendage was able to be used again. No one else had dared use it after they saw my results.

We soon landed in Korea (Seoul) and began to breathe again. The "fly-guys" wished us well and we were off in a jeep. Our 2-1/2-ton taxi soon picked us up and we were off for more adventures!

Thank you, Air Force.

Don Giles, don26@twc.com

KOREAN CHILDREN'S SPANISH STARTLES 65th ENGINEERS

Men of Company C, 65th Engineer Battalion, were a surprised group of soldiers when they moved into a new area and came across Spanish-speaking Korean children.

Several of them suspected the talkative group of youngsters were speaking somewhat of a different brand of Korean than they had previously been accustomed to in their former area. However, none of them knew Korean or were capable of speaking the "different" language.

As they later learned, the 65th Regimental Combat Team from Puerto Rico had been located in that area for a considerable length of time and had done much in teaching the children the Spanish language.

"The children 11 to 15 years of age speak very fine Spanish," verifies PFC Jose Sanchez, a cook in Company C. "I was also in the 65th RCT for a while and know that these are not the only Korean children who learned my native language."

Sanchez goes on to explain how men of the Puerto Rican unit taught thousands of children up and down the peninsula to speak English.

"Perhaps to them it is easier to learn than English," says PFC Sanchez, "for they seem to pick it up very readily and remember it well."

(This article appeared in the August 22, 1953 Tropic Lightning News, p. 4.)

Chapter & Department News

106 TREASURE COAST [FL]

Several members raised funds for the Fisher House recently.

Louis DeBlasio, 352 NW Shoreview Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986, 772-344-8628, LouDi@bellsouth.net



Thomas O'Connor, Charles LaMonaco, and Joseph Wilcox (L-R) of Ch. 106 raise funds for Fisher House



Jay O'Brien, Harold Trieber, and Valentino Macor (L-R) of Ch. 106 at Fisher House fundraiser

181 NEBRASKA #1 [NE]

On January 12, 2020 we held our annual holiday party at the Ralston Senior Center in Ralston, Nebraska. Lunch, entertainment, and games were provided by the Omaha area Korean-American Friends of KWVA. Many KWVA members from the Omaha, Lincoln, and nearby Council Bluffs, IA areas joined to share a wonderful meal and fellowship.

Nebraska Congressman and KWVA member Don Bacon addressed the crowd.

James S. Lane, 3318 S. 159th St., Omaha, NE 68130



Ch. 181 members and families pledge allegiance to "Old Glory" to start their annual holiday party



Chow line for hungry Ch. 181 troops

Below, members, families, and guests socialize over a great meal at Ch. 181 party





Nebraska Congressman and KWVA member Don Bacon addresses Ch. 181 party attendees



Korean-Americans perform for Ch. 181 crowd

192 CITRUS COUNTY [FL]

Commander Hank Butler and Director Richard Kwocienski attended the dedication of the Korean War/Korean Defense Memorial at the VA National Cemetery at Bushnell, FL on 9 November 2019. We were shown 3rd and 4th from right in the top right picture on page 47 in the Jan/Feb 2020 Graybeards. Hank Butler has been a member of the Joint Veterans Support Committee at the National Cemetery for the last 6/7 years.

*Hank Butler;
hankrita32@gmail.com*

Hank Butler (L) and Richard Kwocienski of Ch. 192 at the VA National Cemetery at Bushnell, FL



202 ORANGE COUNTY [NY]

A tribute to Task Force Smith

Korean War veterans around the world must bear in mind why they shed blood and gave valuable lives in the Korean peninsula 70 years ago. I vividly remember the time twenty years ago when we honored those young American soldiers who sacrificed their valuable lives for the supreme cause of freedom and democracy. They arrived in Korea with Task Force Smith, dispatched from Japan by General Douglas MacArthur on July 4, 1950. The next day more than 200 American soldiers were killed in battle.

In 2002, Dr. Hubert Lee, President of the Korean American Foundation USA (www.kafusany.com), KWVA member Henry Sosa, who was a unit commander with Task Force Smith, and Sam Tucker, president of KWVA Chapter 202 and a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, visited and paid a tribute to the those brave soldiers whose names are engraved on the



The Korean War Memorial to the 1st Battle of the UN forces under the leadership of Lt. General Charles Bradford Smith of 24th Infantry Div. 21st Regiment, in Osan City, Hwaseong, Korea.



Dr. Hubert Lee, president of Korean American Foundation USA, Sam Tucker, former president of KWVA Chapter 202 and a member of 82nd Airborne Unit, Henry Sosa, former commander of Smith Task Force unit (L-R) pay tribute to task force members

West Coast of Korea, where North Korean soldiers and spies penetrated into South Korea during the Korean War



Helping orphaned children in Hwa Seong City, 1n 2002 and thereafter in different cities in Korea including Yang Pyeong City: Sam Tucker, an orphan, Henry Sosa, Dr. Hubert Lee (L-R) at the battle site of seashore of west coast.



wall of the memorial monument in the Osan City, Hwaseong, Korea.

Hubert Hojae Lee, VP of KWVA, Ch. 202, Orange County, May 5, 2020



Photo of KWVA Dept. of New York members at Saratoga, NY



Dr. Hubert Lee at the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C.

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

We had a guest speaker, Col. Robert Germani, Jr. (Ret.), who is running the Gateway to Independence Program (Nickerson House), which provides transitional housing for homeless veterans, helping them to reintegrate into society. The Nickerson House is one of the many community programs that our chapter supports. We bring them turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts donated by our members at our annual Christmas party, all which are greatly appreciated.

On February 12 some of our members attended the state house in Providence, where the Speaker of the House Proclaimed February 12 as Korea Day. The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea spoke and Korean entertainment and a meal followed, which everyone enjoyed.

Junior Vice Robert Jaworski and I dropped off Valentine cards to the Bristol Veterans Home to give to our Korean veterans. The cards were made by the second and third grade students of Cedar Hill School in Warwick, where my daughter is a teacher. We were told they would be put into baskets that they make up for the veterans.



Col Robert Germani, Jr. (ret) speaks to Ch. 258 audience



Consulate General speaks at Korea Day at the Rhode Island State House



Korean entertainers at Rhode Island state capitol



Classical dance performed by Eun Joo Kang at Ch 258 event

Korea Day program for Ch. 258



Guest speaker Michael Alves at Ch. 258 meeting

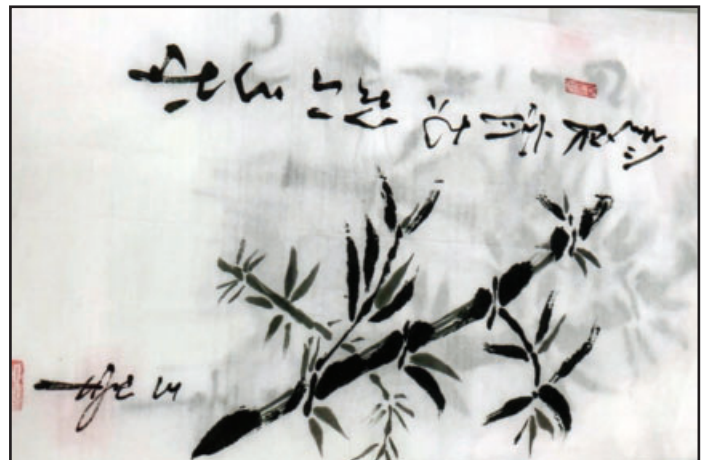
Below, Kevin McDonnell addresses Ch. 258 group



Below, Chul Oh and wife, who presented calligraphy to Ch. 258



Ch. 258 members at March meeting



The calligraphy presented to Ch. 258 by Chul Oh and his wife

At our March meeting speakers were Kevin McDonnell and Michael Alves. Kevin represented the Rhode Island National Guard Family Assistance Center at the Warwick Armory. This program was started in 2004 when the National Guard units were heavily deployed and soldiers coming home faced financial difficulties, as they do now. Our unit presented them with Stop & Shop Grocery store cards, which their families appreciate.

Michael Alves was introduced next. Michael is with the survivor outreach program to help provide financial counseling and support coordinators to help the survivors of the fallen receive their necessary services. Michael is also a professional photographer (U.S. Patriot Photography). A question and answer period followed.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this may be the last report for a while. God bless this country, our veterans, and the world during this period. May we all return to health, peace, and normalcy.

*Margaret Walsh, Secretary/Photographer,
311 Hardig Rd., B205, Warwick, RI 02886*

264 MT. DIABLO [CA]

Members have enjoyed several social events over the years prior to the current pandemic. Unfortunately, many of our members have passed on.

Stanley J. Grogan, 2585 Moraga Dr.,
Pinole, CA 94564



Ch. 264 members at 2019 summer picnic

297 PLATEAU [TN]

The Corona situation has not dampened the thoughts of the Korean War vets giving. We were forced to allow school officials to choose the winners of our scholarship this year. They obviously did an outstanding job, choosing two students with 4.0 cumulative graduation scores!



Emma Norrod, Holly Kay Shaw (Back, L-R). Ch. 297 Senior Vice Cmdr Jim Morris and Public Information Officer Dick Malsack (Front, L-R)

Emma Norrod, of Stone Memorial, will attend Middle Tennessee State University this fall, studying Biochemistry. Holly Kay Shaw, of Cumberland County High School, will attend UT, Knoxville, studying PreMed Podiatry & Biomedical Sciences.

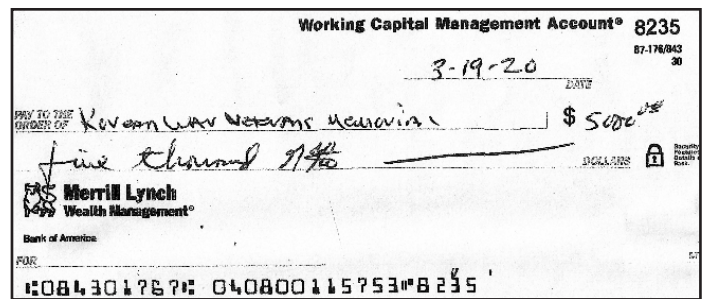
Dick Malsack, PIO, 931-707-7292,
kaslam2001@yahoo.com

321 RICHARD L. QUATIER [WA]

We forwarded a check for \$5,000.00 from an anonymous donor to the Wall of Remembrance Fund. The money will help fund construction of the Wall that will honor the 36,574 men and women who lost their lives for South Korean freedom.

Due to the Corona virus we could not get together with the person who donated money and offer our thanks for his/her generosity.

Edward L Barnes, 13816 NE Laurin Rd., Vancouver, WA 98662,
360-695-2180, MelLloyd59@yahoo.com



A copy of the anonymous WOR donation made through Ch. 321

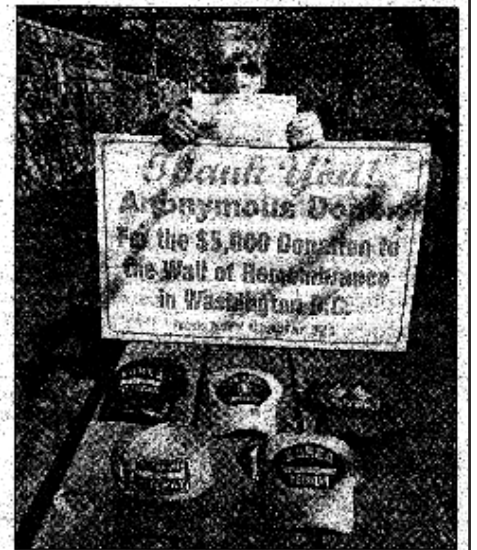
War memorial wall closer to start

Rodney UBEW Local 48 business manager Ed Barnes reports that the Clark County chapter of the National Korean War Veterans Association received an anonymous \$5,000 donation last month toward a Korean War "Wall of Remembrance" in Washington, D.C. Barnes, second vice president of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, has helped the chapter raise nearly \$77,000.

"That's tops in the county," said Michel AuBuchon, treasury officer for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., which has been tasked with raising the funds necessary to build the Wall.

In 2016, President Barack Obama signed a law authorizing a Wall of Remembrance to be incorporated into the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The Wall will list the names of 36,574 American military personnel and over 8,000 Korean Augmentees to the United States Army (KATUSA) who gave their lives defending the people of South Korea.

Unfortunately, Congress didn't attach any money to the legislation, which at the time was estimated to cost \$15 million. Today the price tag is \$22 million. All money to build the Wall has to be collected through private dona-



tion. To date, only \$13 million is in the bank.

But help could be on the way: AuBuchon says the Foundation has been in contact with a delegation from the Republic of Korea and there is a very good chance that South Korea will appropriate "a good portion" of the money needed to build the Wall.

The concept and design of the Wall have cleared several commissions, and general con-

tractor Whiting-Turner of Washington, D.C., has been awarded the contract. AuBuchon said the National Capital Planning Commission is slated to vote on final approval May 7.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Checks payable to the Korean War Veterans Memorial can be sent to the NW Oregon Labor Council, 9425 SE Washington, Suite 205, Portland, OR 97213.

The article in a newsletter acknowledging the check to Ch. 321

Comfort and Mercy

By Tom Moore

NOTE: This article was written before Comfort and Mercy left for their duty stations to assist in COVID-19 operations.

U.S. Navy hospital ships will be used to treat non-covid-19 patients, to free up hospitals for COVID patients, so hospitals can focus on the American pandemic.

The *USNS Comfort* (T-AH-20) is the largest hospital ship in the world. It has 1,000 beds, 12 operating rooms, weighs about 70,000 tons, and is 894 feet in length. The ship was built as a San Clemente class oil tanker in 1976 by the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company. It was launched from San Diego, CA. Its original name was *SS Rose City*. The ship ended its tanker career in December 1987 when it was delivered to the U.S. Navy.

Comfort's departments and facilities are: casualty reception, intensive care unit, radiological services, a main and satellite laboratory, sterile receiving, medical supply/pharmacy, physical therapy and burn care, dental services, optometry/lens lab, morgue, medical photography, two oxygen producing plants, medical laundry, and four distilling plants to make drinking water from sea water (1,250,000 imp. gal. per day).

The hospital ships in the Korean War were of the Haven Class. *USS Haven* (AH-12) was the former *SS Marine Hawk*, a troop transport ship. It earned 9 Korean Service Stars. *USS Consolation* (AH-15) was the former *SS Marine Walrus*, also a troop transport ship. Consolation was the first hospital ship to have a helicopter landing pad. It earned 10 Korean Service. *USS Repose* (AH-16) was the former *SS Marine Beaver*, a troop transport ship. It earned 9 Korean Service Stars.

To compare these three Korean War hospital ships to today's *USNS Comfort*, the three Haven Class ships were 15,000 tons, 520 feet in length, and had around 800 beds.



The hospital ship *USNS Mercy* departs Naval Base San Diego in support of Pacific Partnership 2018, Feb. 23, 2018.

USNS Comfort is the third USN ship to bear the name. The USNS prefix identifies *Comfort* as a non-commissioned ship owned by the U.S. Navy and operationally crewed by civilians from the Military Sealift Command. Uniformed naval hospital and naval support staffs are embarked when *Comfort* is deployed.

The staffs consist of naval officers from the Navy's Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Service Corps, Nurse Corps, Chaplain Corps, naval enlisted personnel from the Hospital Corpsman rating, and various administrative and technical support ratings. After spending a quarter-century in Baltimore, MD, *Comfort* changed its home port to Naval Station Norfolk, VA, in March 2013.

Comfort served in the Persian Gulf War (1990-91), Operation Sea Signal (1994), Operation Uphold Democracy (1994), Operation Noble Eagle (2001), Iraq War (2002-03), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Partnership for the Americas (2007), Operation Unified Response (2010), Operation Continuing Promise (2011), Hurricane Maria (2017), and Enduring Promise (2018).

The ship's awards and decorations include The Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation w/ 1 star, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation w/ 1 star, Navy E Ribbon 2nd Award, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/ 3 campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/ 3 service stars, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

In 2008, the master and crew of *Comfort* were awarded at the Admiral of the Ocean Sea Awards (AOTOS) event. They received the Humanitarian Service Recognition Mariner's Plaque, for its humanitarian deployments to Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific in 2008.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com



The *USNS Comfort* arriving in New York City, on Monday, March 30. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Zachary Hupp)

THE TV M*A*S*H AND THE

By George Bjotvedt

The outstanding success of the TV program M*A*S*H had everything to do with its creators, Larry Gelbart and Gene Reynolds, and the superb cast. Their pilot was eagerly picked up by CBS network. But Gene Reynolds, the executive producer, wanted to make sure the series respected the contributions of the men who actually fought the war. Their stories needed to be included in future episodes.



Gene Reynolds

He had recorded telephone conversations with many doctors who had been drafted and served in M*A*S*H* facilities in Korea. Their experiences, with some embellishments, contributed to many of the episodes. But, in time, Gene and the writers had exhausted the resources. It became essential to expand the vistas of the series.



Larry Gelbart

At the time, these early episodes aired while the Vietnam War was still ongoing. Gelbart and Reynolds did not want to distract from its serious nature and produce another silly portrayal of war like McHale's Navy. Also, Reynolds and Alan Alda were philosophically against the wastefulness, futility, and folly of war. They desired to express a genre of drama that had comedy mixed with the stark medical realities of healing brutal wounds. By early 1975, Reynolds

expanded the direction of the episodes to include more interaction with the hospital doctors and the fighting men.

It was at this juncture, on a cold windy night back in January, 1975, that my teenage daughter came to me and said, "Dad, I think M*A*S*H is running out of stories. Why don't you write your stories?"

The thought of writing down my experiences was the farthest thing on my mind. I hadn't related any of my war experiences to my family. I had some bad times in the war, but nothing like the men who stormed the beaches in the Pacific and Normandy. Maybe my daughter was on to something. There were solid reasons to record the stories for posterity. Finally, it could be therapeutic.

After I consumed an excellent bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon, the deed was done. I produced several neat-looking double-spaced stories that were realistic but possessed some comical aspects. Now came the hard part: getting the stories into the right hands.

The suggestion was made to forward them to Larry Gelbart, who had left the series but was working in New York with the CBS network. The stories reached Mr. Gelbart. He read and forwarded them to Gene Reynolds. Unbeknownst to me, Larry had scribbled notes to Gene on the margins of some of the stories.

How it finally came about remains a mystery but there was a phone call from a Mr. Jay Folb, the story consultant for the series. He informed me that 20th Century Fox television was buying my line stories for the 1975 season. Also, he said, that soon I would be receiving a contract and check in the mail. In the meantime, he wanted permission to record our telephone conversation.

"Yes, of course!" I said, without hesitation.

Unfortunately, the recorder malfunctioned. After some potent expletives there was a long pause. That unintentional silence presented an opportunity. And in the spirit of one writer to another, I told Mr. Folb that I would be happy to come over to the Fox studios as a consultant. Still distressed at his dysfunctional tape recorder, he quickly replied that he would have to speak with Mr. Reynolds and he paused the conversation.

It didn't take long. Mr. Folb was back on the line stating that Mr. Reynolds had agreed to have me come over on a weekend as a consultant. Hotel accommodations and my stipend were handled over the phone. I was to spend a Saturday morning with Mr. Folb and the writers at the studio.

My wife and I drove over to the Fox studios in our station wagon. While she stayed at the hotel, I drove over to the studio and was escorted to a second-floor conference room which had as its front a facade of a street in New York City. There I met the writers, plus Gene Reynolds and his associate producer, Burt Metcalfe. I had brought a carousel of Kodak 35mm slides showing the front line, the enemy positions, and Camp Casey, with its surrounding topography. The slide show evoked a unanimous response from the group for the similarity of the Korean landscape and their outdoor set at the ranch.

What came next was a well-executed exploration of my war stories by the writers to extract any small whiffs (subtle remarks that could be embedded and expanded upon in their written scripts). For example, I told them I was shocked to see trails lined with white



Col. Potter leads the exodus in the famous "Bugout" episode on M*A*S*H*

NEOPHYTE

painted river rocks at the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment Headquarters. That didn't seem to stir their receptive and creative minds. That all changed when I informed them that the upright and enclosed latrines were segregated. That got their attention.

I toyed with their arousal by suggesting that a scene could be incorporated in an episode where Major Burns has an armed guard posted to insure that unauthorized personnel didn't venture into the male officer latrines. I don't know if the suggestion made it into an episode, but writers liked the idea.

Gene Reynolds wanted me to elaborate on the story about the scout dog and his handler. There wasn't much more I could add. He knew about the scout dogs and their valuable service rendered to patrol members on their nightly ambushes in no-man's land. I summed up my experience with my scout dog named "Stark" by stating I owed my life to his safe guidance on numerous patrols. The whiff was that "I owed my life to the dog." The whiff became "he saved my life."

The scout dog episode opens with a helicopter landing at the 4077th hospital pad with the wounded scout dog in one pod and his wounded handler in the other. The handler tells Hawkeye to treat the dog first "He saved my life!" Hawkeye moves to the other pod to see the dog and Hunnicutt says to Hawkeye, "This soldier is wearing a fur coat!"

Another whiff was when I told Gene about our three young boys saying when the show was on the TV, "Its Daddy's war." That whiff became an episode entitled, "Mulcahy's War." The story line surrounds the self-inflicted wound by a soldier who could not take the repetitive nature of nightly ambush patrols. Father Mulcahy offers the soldier comforting words about his act of shooting himself in the foot. The soldier's response was simply that Mulcahy had no concept of what it was like on the line.

The remark moves Father Mulcahy to gets Radar to take him up to the front line and a battalion aid station. There, Father Mulcahy performs an emergency tracheotomy on a soldier, allowing him to breathe. Radar, manning a radio, relays the surgical procedure steps from Hawkeye to Father Mulcahy. Radar admires Father Mulcahy's successful surgery.

One story managed to get into an episode without any whiffs. It dealt with a senior Puerto Rican sergeant who goes ballistic after shaving half his mustache off. The new regimental commander of the reorganized 65th wanted all his personnel clean shaven. The order was specifically aimed at any remain-



Col. Potter and Major Houlihan lead 4077th in "Bugout"

ing Puerto Rican soldiers who valued the importance of their mustaches. Mustaches were initiated at puberty and were worn and maintained throughout the soldiers' adulthoods. They were a cultural symbol of their manhood.

Another story is where Colonel Potter prevents his old friend from their cavalry days from returning to command his battalion at the front. He had sustained minor shrapnel wounds to his buttocks. Colonel Potter had heard of his friend's idea of capturing Chinese prisoners by cutting out a large section of a main trench in the battalion's sector. The Chinese would be subdued as they infiltrated through the void.

The friend pleads with Potter to send him back to the line. He states he needs only another week up there to earn his combat Infantryman badge (CIB). Potter says, "Your hair-brained scheme could get men killed. My decision is final." Then he leaves the ward.

It was about the time when the assembled group would break for lunch. Mr. Folb approached me and said, "You talk about your war experiences as if they just occurred yesterday."

I smiled.

"It was an experience that made a vivid and lasting impression," I responded.

Still being the inquisitive writer, he continued.

"Weren't you bored at the front?" he asked.

Not wanting to lose my composure, I said, "Not at all. I spent all my time trying to stay alive."

George Bjotvedt, V.M.D., 7345 E Cozy Camp Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ



Republic of Korea plane lands at Joint Base Andrews



500,000 masks can't be disguised

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (May 12, 2020) – A Republic of Korea military transport aircraft landed at Joint Base Andrews this morning with 500,000 protective masks for donation to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use in its response to COVID-19.

South Korea donated the masks in honor of Korean War veterans and the long-standing alliance between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.

This gift of protective masks “is a sign that the deep and ongoing respect our two nations have for each other that we cemented nearly

70 years ago in a time of war and great crisis,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie, according to a VA statement. “So many years later, we are joined in another just and noble cause of containing a pandemic that threatens our citizens’ lives and livelihoods and poses a grave threat to the Veterans we have both pledged to protect.”

“This gift from the Republic of Korea is possible thanks to the noble sacrifice made 70 years ago by the American veterans of the Korean War,” said South Korea’s Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Sam-duck Park, according to a statement sent from South Korea. “These masks symbolize our countries’ alliance and the appreciation of the Korean people who have never forgotten the



The ROK plane with a precious load of 500,000 masks on the tarmac



Offloading the masks at Andrews Air Force Base

ews with 500,000 protective masks



Letting the masks down gently

The Korean Government sends face masks to Korean War Veterans across Canada

May 20, 2020 - Ottawa, Canada - As an expression of deep gratitude for their collective service and sacrifice, the Government of the Republic of Korea is sending face masks to Korean War Veterans across Canada, in the hope that the protective equipment will help in the fight against Covid-19.

The Korean War was fought from 1950 to 1953. More than 26,000 Canadians served, and sadly, 516 Canadians lost their lives in the conflict.

American veterans' service and sacrifice. We are always grateful for them.”

Officials from the Republic of Korea embassy, including the Defense Attaché Maj. Gen. Se Woo Pyo, the Air Attaché and the Marine Corps Attaché, greeted the arriving Korean military air crew when the C-130 aircraft landed on base. Additionally, VA officials attended to thank the Republic of Korea representatives and to transport away the face masks for use nationally in VA medical facilities.

The materials were offloaded by Airmen assigned to the 89th Airlift Wing.

NOTE: South Korea will provide face masks to Korean War veterans in 22 countries to help them prevent the spread of COVID-19, an act of gratitude for their sacrifice for and contribution to the nation, according to the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, Thursday.

One of those countries was our neighbor and staunch ally Canada, as evidenced in this press release:

.....

Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Mask Donation Ceremony on Thursday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) of the Republic of Korea has announced that over one million protective face masks will be distributed across 22 countries to veterans of the Korean War.

In honour of the occasion, the Korean embassy in Ottawa will be holding an intimate receiving ceremony on Thursday, May 21st at 11 a.m. General (retired) Walt Natynczyk, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, as well as Mr. Bill Black, President of Unit 7 of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada, will be in attendance to welcome Korea's gift.

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, MPVA Korea is hosting various appreciation events under the overarching theme of 'Memory, Together, and Peace,' to pay tribute to all those who fought for Korea.

Maeng-ho Shin, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Canada, also echoed its message, noting that “as our two nations did 70 years ago in the war, Korea and Canada shall overcome the COVID-19 crisis together standing side-by-side.”

The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to find additional measures in support of the Korean War Veterans in Canada, to help them better cope with COVID-19.

.....

The provision comes as 2020 marks the 70th year since the war broke out in 1950. In the three-year war, more than 1.9 million service members from 22 countries belonging to U.N. forces took part, and 37,902 of them died.

Hard to identify these folks because they are wearing masks. Defense Attaché Maj. Gen. Se Woo Pyo, the Air Attaché and the Marine Corps Attaché, is in the center.



Tomb of the Korean War Unknown Soldier

Did you know that...the remains of the Korean War Unknown Soldier would always be unidentifiable? The exhumation group gathered together all local records concerning the cases and executed a certificate of destruction.

The remains of an American Korean War MIA are buried as Unknown inside the Tomb at Arlington National Cemetery. This is someone's missing loved one.

Four different Unknowns were disinterred from the hundreds who were buried at the Punchbowl cemetery in Hawaii. They were all remains with a low prospect for identification.

The caskets were presented during the interment ceremony at Arlington Cemetery.

The responsibility to select the set of remains to represent all Korean War unknowns was given to a single serviceman. He stood in front of the four caskets, holding a wreath of carnations, made his selection, then placed the wreath upon the casket and saluted. The Korean War Unknown Soldier had been chosen.

■ 2019 – During a Q&A at last summer's DPAA/DC update, a family member asked if the Korean War Unknown's remains would be disinterred. DPAA responded: "The remains are not included in the current disinterment plan but that from a forensic standpoint, after all seven phases have been completed, there is no reason not to."

It was added that getting the necessary permissions to do so would be a lengthy process.

■ 2020 - The Coalition decided to begin the lengthy process now, so that it will be underway when the time comes to look at whose loved one lies inside.

From initial inquiries, it appears that multiple executive offices, several nongovernmental organizations, and more than one branch of government will have to weigh in. There will surely be different ideas and opinions about whether the Tomb of the Korean War Unknown Soldier should be disturbed. It promises to be a lively conversation.

Source: Spring 2020 Newsletter! - Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs



History of the Unknown Korean War Soldier

In 1955, at the urgent request of the American Veterans of WWII (AMVETS), the U.S. Army was asked to proceed with the

selection and burial of an unknown to represent the Korean War. A bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress, under which an unknown soldier from the Korean War would be returned to ANC. A House subcommittee amended the bill to provide that the burial of an unknown from the Korean War should take place on Memorial Day 1958 in conjunction with the burial of an unknown from WWII. This amended bill was passed as Public Law 975, 84th Congress.



The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific was the setting for the selection ceremony, since all of the unknown war dead from the Korean War had been assembled and buried there. Four unknown candidates were selected from various locations in the cemetery for the final ceremony, and placed in identical U.S. flag-draped caskets. The remains were then escorted by the Hawaii Armed Services Police to the U.S. Army's Mortuary at Kapalama Basin to be inspected and re-casketed.

Since no clues to possible identity were discovered with any of the remains, it was not necessary to exhume alternate remains. The four sets of remains were each wrapped in new burial sheets and blankets and placed in four new identical caskets. To further ensure that the remains would always be unidentifiable, the exhumation group gathered together all local records concerning the cases and executed a certificate of destruction.

Once the remains had been re-casketed for the final selection ceremony, they were placed in a special room at the mortuary, with a military police guard on constant duty. With one exception, no one was allowed to enter the room unless accompanied and observed by the guard; on this one occasion a U.S. Army colonel entered the room alone for the sole purpose of arranging the caskets.

Early on the morning of May 15, 1958, the four caskets were placed in funeral coaches at the mortuary and transported to the cemetery under the escort of the Armed Services Police. The ceremony, which was attended by nearly 1,200 spectators, began with the invocation by Chaplain Colonel F.B. Henry. Lieutenant General Robert M. Cannon followed with a brief address to the audience, along with an introduction of Master Sergeant Ned Lyle,

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific was the setting for the selection ceremony, since all of the unknown war dead from the Korean War had been assembled and buried there.

who was designated to select the Korean War unknown.

MSG Lyle, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for heroic action during the Korean War, took a wreath of blue and white carnations and stood for approximately one minute facing the four caskets, deliberating and looking at each one. He then walked smartly to the end casket at his left, and placed the wreath. After taking one step backward, he rendered the hand salute.

A benediction concluded the formal ceremony, but everyone remained in place while U.S. Navy pallbearers carried the Korean War Unknown to a bier at the foot of the flagpole to lie in repose. Later that afternoon, the casket was placed in a funeral coach and returned to the mortuary, where a guard of honor watched over it.

The Funeral

The U.S. Navy was given the responsibility of transporting the Korean Unknown home. The bodies of the Korean War Unknown and the Trans-Pacific unknown candidate were taken to the U.S. Naval Air Station at Barber's Point, not too far distant from historic Pearl Harbor. On May, 17, 1958 they were placed onto a U.S. Navy cargo plane and departed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



On May 23rd, the remains of the Korean War Unknown and the Trans-Pacific unknown candidate were placed aboard the

USS BOSTON, the world's first combat guided-missile ship. The ship then departed for its rendezvous with the USS BLANDY, which carried the Trans-Atlantic unknown candidate, off the Virginia Capes.

On the early morning of May 26th, the remains of the Trans-Atlantic unknown candidate was transferred from the USS BLANDY by high-line to join the other remains aboard the USS BOSTON. As the casket reached a mid-point between the two ships, honors were rendered. The USS BOSTON, now carrying all three remains, headed toward the final transfer and final selection ceremony. The USS CANBERRA, a guided-missile cruiser, accepted the three caskets by high-line. The crews of both ships, dressed in white ceremonial uniforms, stood at attention during the transfer.

The final selection ceremony of the WWII unknown began promptly at noon aboard the USS CANBERRA.

MSG Lyle, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for heroic action during the Korean War, took a wreath of blue and white carnations and stood for approximately one minute facing the four caskets, deliberating and looking at each one.

Following the ceremony, the WWII Unknown and the Korean War Unknown were transferred back aboard the USS BLANDY for transportation up the Potomac to begin their journey to ANC. In a rather poignant moment in the journey toward Washington, D.C., the crew manned the rail as the ship passed Mount Vernon and the tomb of President George Washington. A bell tolled, the ensign was lowered, and Taps was rendered as the sailors stood at attention. On May 27th, the USS BLANDY arrived at the U.S. Naval Gun Factory. The caskets, accompanied by a joint honor guard, were brought from below in preparation for the reception ceremony the next day.

In preparation for the lying in state ceremony, the U.S. Capitol architect had provided the Lincoln Catafalque, and a second catafalque identical in dimensions. The two crypts at the Tomb had also been completed. The ceremonies had been completed in early May 1958, and between May 12th and 23rd, every ceremony and every administrative function had been rehearsed at least twice.



On May 28, 1958 troops and officials began to take stations for the ceremony. Aboard the USS BLANDY, the sailors and officers manned the rail. As the U.S. Navy Band concluded the hymns, the two groups of body bearers boarded the USS BLANDY to remove the caskets. The WWII Unknown was taken ashore first, followed by the Korean War Unknown. The caskets were carried to funeral coaches at the end of the pier and placed inside simultaneously. Following another salute, the procession departed to the east plaza of the U.S. Capitol.

A joint honor cordon formed a corridor up the east steps to the U.S. Capitol rotunda. Inside the rotunda, standing six deep in a semicircle around the south end, were many distinguished guests. The two catafalques were in the center of the rotunda. As a hymn was played, the pallbearers removed the caskets from the funeral coaches and formed a column led by the clergy, with the WWII Unknown in front.

The procession passed through the joint honor cordon at a slow cadence, and when it entered the rotunda, divided to the right and left. The pallbearers then made a semicircle to the rotunda's far side then turned back to the catafalques in the center of the rotunda. The caskets were then placed on the biers and the bearers were dismissed. A Joint Guard of Honor (death watch) was then posted.



Vice-President Richard Nixon, as President of the U.S. Senate, placed a wreath at the head of the biers. Then the Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Dr. Guillermo Sevilla-Sacasa of Nicaragua, placed wreaths in honor of the Unknowns. Shortly after the wreath ceremonies, the public was admit-

ted into the rotunda.

The Unknowns lay in state from midmorning on May 28th to 1:00 P.M. on May 30th. Tributes of flowers were accepted and arranged in the rotunda throughout during this period. On May 29th, the caskets were switched so that the Korean War Unknown rested on the Lincoln Catafalque. At the same time, the catafalques were moved so that the WWII Unknown kept the senior position on the right.

On May 30th, some 250 officers and enlisted men were to occupy fifty-one posts along the route to ANC. Men from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) manned rope and security cordons. Part of them formed a cordon around the Memorial Amphitheater to keep the ceremony area clear and later to direct movement from the Memorial Amphitheater to the Tomb. The rest manned a rope cordon along Roosevelt Drive, the route of the procession. In all, troops manned about six miles of rope.

Medical aid was also available during all phases of the ceremonies due to the extreme heat. Four aid stations were set up, each staffed by a medical officer, nurse, and an attendant, equipped with supplies and an ambulance. Medics, in sedans, were to follow the procession to ANC to pick up and treat anyone who became ill in the ranks.

At 12:59 P.M. the U.S. Naval School of Music Band sounded attention. The pallbearers, with the WWII Unknown leading, moved the caskets out of the rotunda. At the same moment, the saluting battery on the grounds of the Washington Monument began firing minute guns (a discharge of a cannon repeated at intervals of a minute, usually in connection with the funeral of a general or flag officer). The firing continued until the close of the ceremonies at ANC except for a pausing during two minutes of silence observed at the Memorial Amphitheater. The cease-fire signal for the minute guns would be the firing of the 21-gun salute at ANC.

During a hymn by the U.S. Navy Band, the procession descended the steps and the caskets were secured to the caissons. The Joint Armed Forces Color Guard took post ten paces ahead of the clergy while the pallbearers stationed themselves three on each side of each caisson. The cortege then moved north from the plaza to join the escort of the procession on Constitution Avenue.

The full procession started toward ANC a few minutes after 1:00 P.M. Along the route was a joint honor cordon. When the procession arrived at the ANC, the caissons, which had been moving abreast, shifted into a column led by the caisson bearing the WWII Unknown. As the caissons entered ANC through Memorial Gate, twenty jet fighters and twenty bombers passed overhead with one plane missing from each formation.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon had arrived from the White House, but remained outside the Memorial Amphitheater until dignitaries in the cortege had taken their seats. The pallbearers removed the caskets from the caissons and, led as before with clergy and colors, carried them inside.

On May 30th, some 250 officers and enlisted men were to occupy fifty-one posts along the route to ANC. Men from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (Old Guard) manned rope and security cordons. Part of them formed a cordon around the Memorial Amphitheater to keep the ceremony area clear and later to direct movement from the Memorial Amphitheater to the Tomb.

The WWII Unknown was borne through the south entrance and the Korean War Unknown through the entrance on the north. Just inside the Memorial Amphitheater, each casket was set on a moveable bier and wheeled around the colonnade to the apse where the WWII Unknown was placed in front of President Eisenhower and the Korean War Unknown in front of Vice President Nixon.

After the caskets were situated, the U.S. Marine Band played the National Anthem. After the invocation, a two-minute period of silence was observed. President Eisenhower then rose and placed a Medal of Honor on each casket. As the funeral was brought to a close, the Unknowns were taken into the Memorial Amphitheater's Trophy Room.

The Unknowns were taken from the Trophy Room, in a procession that included the Presidential party, to the head of the Plaza steps where the procession halted. After a salute by the U.S. Army Band, the procession descended the steps and the pallbearers placed the caskets over the crypts. They then took hold of the U.S. flags that had draped each casket and held them taut above the caskets. The salute battery, from the Old Guard, then fired a 21-gun salute. After the salute, a firing squad from the Old Guard fired the traditional three volleys, followed by the rendering of Taps. The pallbearers then folded the U.S. flags and presented them to the President and Vice President, who in turn gave them to ANC officials for safekeeping.

The presentation of the U.S. flags completed the interment. After the participants had departed the Plaza, the public was allowed to file by the crypts and pay their respects. Later in the evening, ANC Superintendent John C. "Jack" Metzler and his assistant, Frank A. Lockwood, lowered the caskets. The pallbearers stood behind a guide chain and saluted as the caskets were lowered into their respective crypts. This was the last rite that throughout the day had involved some 4,800 members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Source: <https://tombguard.org/tomb-of-the-unknown-soldier/korean-war-unknown/>

Proper planning prevents poor performance

By Therese Park

The worldwide Coronavirus emergency shows how important it is for government leaders to possess well-honed leadership skills, the ability to look ahead, and the talent to plan properly for future crises. Look, for example, at what happened to Syngman Rhee as the Korean War approached. He may have been prepared and he tried to warn the Americans, but they were not prepared to act. The long-term results for everyone involved were devastating.

Rhee was the first president of the Republic of Korea, founded in 1948, three years after WWII ended and Korea was liberated from Japan's 40 years (1905-1945) of colonial ruling. He had known Kim Il-sung (Kim Jong-Un's grandfather) was preparing for a war against the Republic of Korea for some time. Every Korean adult knew that, but the American military advisers stationed in the country apparently did not. When it happened they were unprepared.

Whenever the (Korean) secret agents reported suspicious activities on the northern side of the 38th Parallel, such as shooting exercises or tanks rolling in and lining-up, the Americans didn't take them seriously, mostly due to the incomprehensible English spoken by the Korean agents. Then it happened.

In the early hours of June 25th, after hearing the news of North Korea's invasion of the south with 95,000 troops trained under Russian military codes and equipped with 150 Russian tanks and an unknown number of Russian MiG-15s, Rhee called General MacArthur in Tokyo, awakening him at dawn. Rhee demanded to know what the general would do now, arguing with him for not having taken his warnings seriously.

"You must save Korea!" he said.

It was too early for General MacArthur to think about Korea, which had been a colony of Japan until it surrendered to the allied forces five years earlier. He told Rhee not to worry, because he could send "help" immediately. Rhee then told his people over the radio not to fret or agitate, but to stay calm, because "Americans are on their way to save us."

Whenever the (Korean) secret agents reported suspicious activities on the northern side of the 38th Parallel, such as shooting exercises or tanks rolling in and lining-up, the Americans didn't take them seriously, mostly due to the incomprehensible English spoken by the Korean agents.

On the third day of North Korea's invasion, when the enemy tanks entered the capital, President Syngman Rhee escaped in an unmarked vehicle, along with some members of his cabinet. He ordered the military demolition squad to blow up the Han Bridge after they crossed it. Thousands of soldiers on military trucks, desperate refugees running for their lives, and merchants carrying their goods landed in the fast-moving current below and perished.

After reaching safety, Rhee and his Austrian wife Francesca took shelter at the U.S. naval base in the port city of Jinhae and remained there, while many citizens trapped in the now enemy-occupied capital were methodically murdered or captured and taken to the north as prisoners. Yet, Rhee was never impeached for what he had done, and he returned to the capital, thanks to MacArthur's Inchon amphibian landing that reversed the tide of the war and allowed the UN troops to cross the 38th Parallel and advance beyond it until the Chinese Volunteer troops, that far outnumbered the UN troops, met them and mauled them mercilessly.

Two years later, in late spring 1953, while the world leaders began the peace talks to end the war after Joseph's Stalin's death in March, Rhee protested defiantly to botch them. He hoped that by doing so he could reunite and rule the two reunited Koreas, after the communists were

expelled from the peninsula.

When the peace talks continued despite his protests, Rhee changed the Korean currency "won" to "hwan," either to distract the world's attention from the talks or to get his hands on his citizens' money hidden in their private "safe boxes" so his administration could supply the military to fight on. (In those uncertain days in Korea, most Koreans kept currency at home, rather than trusting banks.)

On the day the "Change of Currency" hit the news, our neighborhood market became impenetrable as people rushed in and grabbed whatever they could get their hands on. Nonperishable food such as rice, wheat, corn, barley, and rye vanished quickly, like toilet-paper in the U.S. during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Some greedy vendors charged more than the original price. Worse, some refused to sell, knowing their items might be worth more in "hwan" than in "won." Not finding food anywhere, many became beggars and homeless people starved to death. When the peace talks were about to be finalized, Syngman Rhee pulled his last string: he released 25,000 Korean and Chinese prisoners who didn't want to be repatriated.

The war ended on July 27th, 1953 without a peace treaty and Rhee was back to the Blue House (Korea's White House.) He was never held accountable for his poor judgments at the time of national crises that cost countless innocent lives. Rhee tightened his hands against anyone accused as potential communists but rewarded anyone who escaped from North Korea for humanitarian reasons.

One such anti-communist patriot was Kim Chang-Ryong, a former North Korean army officer in his mid-30s who had escaped death sentences twice before running to the south.

When the news revealed Kim's exile in the south, Rhee met Kim, who vowed to Rhee that he'd "clean up the mess" and "protect" him with all his might. Kim was immediately installed into the South Korean military as a Brigadier General and

Please turn to **PLANNING** on page 65

ROK Minister of National Defense dines with KWVA



Participants at February dinner: Fred Honaman, Charles Zerphey, Paul Cunningham, Jeong Kyeongdoo (standing), and Jim Shuman (L-R)

Shortly after I had dinner with the Minister for Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the ROK issued an invitation for a few KWVA members to dine with the ROK Minister of Defense (MINDEF), JEONG Kyeong-doo. The dinner was held on Sunday evening, February 23, 2020.

The minister and his party were most cordial and there was lively repartee.

Minister Jeong expressed his pleasure of the meeting in a letter to me on March 9th. He has a message for all Korean veterans. It is that message I would like to have shared with all members of KWVA.

The following day, the Minister had a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. He sent me the letter below two weeks later.

During my tenure as president of KWVA, I have always tried to include an article by a Korean national. I believe the warmth and sincerity of Minister Jeong's letter would mean much to our readers.

Paul Cunningham, President

March 9, 2020

Mr. Paul Cunningham, President
Korean War Veterans Association United States of America
Dear Mr. Cunningham,

My visit to the US was a very successful one in reaffirming the steadfastness of the ROK-US Alliance through an unprecedented range of events including not only my meeting with Secretary Esper, but also the visit and speech to the National Defense University, conversations with congressmen, and commemorative events for Korean War veterans on both coasts.

In particular, I am again deeply thankful for your participation in our commemorative dinner event for the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War with your comrades-in-arms, all born in the great year of 1930, driving the long distance on your own at that. We all were deeply touched by your comments that many veterans have found much meaning and sense of achievement from their participation in the Korean War, and that the veterans who have passed would regard their sacrifices as "worth it" for the demo-

VA veterans



Attendees at Veterans Appreciation Dinner

cratic development and economic prosperity of the ROK.

The ROK has become the only nation in the world to develop from an assisted nation to an assisting nation, all based on the sacrifice and dedication of the veterans who have come to the aid of the ROK 70 years ago for a nation and people they have never known nor met. Furthermore, the ROK-US Alliance that was founded upon your sacrifices is developing into the linchpin of peace, not only on the Korean Peninsula, but also in Northeast Asia and the world.

I hope that the Alliance and its future-oriented development and progress can be a just compensation for the achievements and dedication of the veterans. I pledge that the ROK people and its Armed Forces will always remember the sacrifice and dedication of the Korean War veterans.

I hope that there will be another opportunity with you and other Korean War veterans to express the undying gratitude of our people and Armed Forces. Please accept my wishes for your health, and also do send my very best regards to the esteemed veterans of KWVA.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jeong Kyeongdoo
Minister of National Defense Republic of Korea

Jeong Kyeong-doo Bio

Jeong Kyeong-doo was born 13 September 1960. He is the 46th Minister of National Defense of South Korea. He was a

former fighter pilot and general officer of the Republic of Korea Air Force, serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Early life and education

Jeong was born on September 13, 1960, in Jinju, South Korea. He graduated from Daea High School in 1978. Jeong graduated from the Korea Air Force Academy in 1982. He studied at the Air Command and Staff Course (in 1995) and the Air War Course (in 2005) of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF). Jeong also has a MA in Management of the Graduate School of Business, Hannam University, in 2002.

Career

Jeong received his commission from the Air Force Academy in 1982. In 2004, he was promoted to Colonel, serving as Chief of the Force Requirement Division at the Air Force HQ from 2006 to 2008, and Cadets Group Commander, Air Force Academy from 2008 to 2009.

After his promotion to Brigadier General in 2009, he was made Commander of the 1st Fighter Wing in Gwangju Air Base (2009-2011). Other major assignments include Commander, Force Service Support Group-Gyeryongdae (2011), Deputy Chief of Staff (A-5) of the Air Force HQ (2011-2013), Commander of the Southern Combat Command (2013-2014), Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force (2014-2015), and Chief Director (J-5) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2015). He was promoted to four-star rank to serve as the Air Force Chief of Staff in 2015.

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeong_Kyeong-doo)

Guard dogs at Kimpo



An airman who settled in Alaska



An airman from Connecticut



Mearl Challenger, who served with 543rd Ammo Supply Sq. (Air Police) at Kimpo, and his fellow Airmen did not perform night guard duty over ammo alone. They had dedicated canine companions to help cover the shifts.

Nearby photos show a few of the men and their canine companions, their preparations for night duty, and their time out on "post" at dusk.

In the first photo, some of the ammo that we guarded can be seen on the hillside in the background. In fact on both hillsides, the areas cleared, temporary roads, etc. were all part of the ammo dump.

In the final photo, taken from within the dump, there is a plane coming into K-9 Airbase.

Mearl Challenger, mr.mrc32@gmail.com



Merle Challenger with his dog at Kimpo



A Ring of TP

This happened while I was training for Korea, but it took place at the home of the 101st Airborne Division, Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky.

After going on sick call with a twisted knee, I was told to go by a supply house and pick up some rolls of toilet paper. [At least the timing is right for this type of story] The supply sergeant handed me a strong steel wire, one that could be used for a clothesline, and started to thread rolls of toilet paper on to it. When he finished I had a ring of toilet paper from 5 to 6 feet in diameter.

As I was going back to the company area I saw an olive drab car approaching with a plate on the front showing two or three stars. I recognized it immediately as the 101st Division commander's car.

Now, get this picture in your mind. Here is a 6-foot tall draftee, weighing about 125 pounds, surrounded by toilet paper rolls, wondering what in the world to do when the division commander

I faced the street, hardly visible through the toilet paper rolls. Since my right hand was holding fast to the wire, I saluted with my left hand as the command car passed.

passed. I faced the street, hardly visible through the toilet paper rolls. Since my right hand was holding fast to the wire, I saluted with my left hand as the command car passed. The driver slowed down [I would run over him today if I knew who he was and could catch him in the middle of a parking lot] in the back seat. The general pulled up close to the rear window and with a grin from ear to ear, returned my salute!

The story doesn't end here. I made the mistake of telling my best buddy how all of this happened and it was all through the barracks before nightfall! We cannot print the remarks I heard about the incident.

One of the mild ones was, "The general must've thought you were full of----.!"

Infantry humor always seems to be more ragged and heartless!

Dave Newman, flomo22@verizon.net



Can we solve the ROK PUC mystery?

In the July/Aug 2019 issue you mentioned the improved relationship with the ROK Attaché and solicited members' input to improving matters. At the end of active hostilities the ROK awarded its Presidential Unit Citation to all U.S. units that served during the war. It was only recently that they realized that they had not awarded it to the 7th ID since it had continued to serve after the armistice and awarded it for their entire period of service in country. DOD has gone out of its way to suppress information of the award of the PUC after the armistice.

If you could get a list of units with the period of award and publish it in *The Greybeards* it would serve two purposes. One would be to show defense veterans that the KWVA includes their interests and the second would demonstrate that defense veterans did noteworthy things after the war was suspended officially.

Having done so, perhaps you could obtain and publish the citations in future editions, neither of which would require a lot of time and effort but would help make the magazine useful as a recruiting tool.

Sadly, and I believe inappropriately, many awards were accepted during ceremonies in Korea and members of these units were not allowed to wear the ribbon permanently or have it entered in their records. In some cases the opposite was true.

In one case, apparently, acceptance was denied by PACAF headquarters without higher headquarters' approval. As I said, little information about these awards is available. In some cases the award was announced in the *Stars & Stripes* and never heard about again.

John Gavel, Melbourne, FL, thegavel@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone has insights into Mr. Gavel's comments, or has information about which units received the ROK PUCs, please let us know. Perhaps we can compile the lists he suggests, find out what the recipients did with awards, how they trickled down to the members of the units, etc.

We have done some preliminary research and uncovered interesting facts. We present a couple examples below. Let's hope our readers can add to what we have learned.

Here is the list as presented on one website:

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

Awarded by the President of South Korea

Type: Unit award

Eligibility: South Korea and foreign military units including units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War.

Awarded for: Exceptional meritorious service to South Korea.

Status: Currently awarded streamer

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation streamer

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be

presented to South Korean military units and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea. In recognition of allied military service to South Korea during the Korean War, all United States military departments were authorized the unit award for that period.

Appearance and wear

When the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is worn on the South Korea military uniform (right side) it is as a ribbon 1 3/8 inches (35 mm) wide surrounded by a gold frame. The ribbon is white, with a 15/64 inch (6 mm) red above blue Taeguk in the center. At the edge of the ribbon, on each side, are the following stripes: 13/64 inch (5 mm) Hunter Green; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) White; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) white; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) white; 1/64 inch (0.4 mm) Hunter Green. No ribbon devices are authorized for wear with this award.

Smaller version

Foreign military unit members who are authorized to wear the award, either wear the award on the right side of the uniform (e.g. U.S. Army) with any other same size unit award emblems or wear the slightly smaller size version of the award on the left side of the uniform (e.g. U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force) with their other service ribbons.

Notable recipients

Post-Korean War

- U.S. Marine Corps for service in South Korea between 9 December 1999 to 24 April 2002.
- 2nd Infantry Division was recognized in 2011, for their support of South Korea over the preceding 60 years.
- Seventh Air Force was recognized in October 2013 for longstanding achievements in operational readiness and force employment in South Korea.
- U.S. Eighth Army was recognized on October 1, 2014, for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea.
- U.S. Naval Forces Korea was recognized in September 2017 "outstanding contribution to the defense of the Republic of Korea."

Korean War

- First Marine Division, Reinforced for operations from 26 October 1950 to 27 July 1953, including the Inchon landing and the battle for Seoul.
- 58th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company for their bridge building efforts with the X Corps at the Chosin Reservoir and the Inchon landing in 1950.
- 7th Infantry Division three times. The first was for service at Inchon, the second for service during the period of 1950-1953, and finally for deployment to the Korean Peninsula from 1945-1948 and 1953-1971.
- The French Battalion of the UNO under the operational

Sadly, and I believe inappropriately, many awards were accepted during ceremonies in Korea and members of these units were not allowed to wear the ribbon permanently or have it entered in their records. In some cases the opposite was true.

control of the 23rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, 2nd U.S. Infantry Division, received two times the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

- One Italian unit, the “Ospedale da Campo n° 68” (Field Hospital no. 68) of “Corpo Militare della Croce Rossa Italiana” (Military Corp of Italian Red Cross), was awarded this battle honor twice: October 6, 1952 and December 30, 1954.

- One Turkish unit, Turkish Brigade, which repulsed a Chinese force three times its size during the battle of Kumyangjang-Ni (25–26 January) of the Korean War, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation from the President of Korea on July 11, 1951.

- One unit of the U.S. Army’s 3rd Infantry Division, the 65th Infantry Regiment, was awarded this battle honor twice during the Korean War. The first was for service in the Uijongbu Corridor in June 1951. The second was for service in the Iron Triangle at Hill 717 in July 1951.

- One South African unit, the 2 Squadron SAAF, was also awarded this battle honor. It was presented on November 1, 1951. It reads “This unit was dispatched from South Africa in support of the United Nations Forces in Korea. It was equipped with P-51 aircraft and has functioned continually in support of operations of the Eighth Army. Through all gallantry and devotion to duty of its personnel it has earned high praise and its losses in pilots have been heavy. It continued to meet cheerfully all tasks allotted to it, and gives a higher performance than is normally expected.”

- 16 Field Regiment of the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

- A Dutch battalion (Van Heutsz) embedded into the US 2nd Infantry Division was awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation in February 1951, for the capture of Hill 325, north of Manjong Station. The under-strength A Company, reinforced by personnel from B and heavy weapons companies, was ordered to recapture Hill 325 on the 15th of February 1951.

At 0230 hrs the next morning, the Dutch were beaten back by heavy machinegun fire; at 0345 hrs they tried again and this time advanced to within 300 meters of the crest before again being repulsed. Just before dawn the exhausted Dutch, their ammunition almost expended, fixed bayonets and, shouting their battle cry, gained their objective. For these actions the Van Heutsz received its first U.S. Presidential Unit Citation. This came at a cost, however, as the battalion had suffered over a hundred casualties.

- 17th Bombardment Wing, Light [14]

- 13th Hellenic Air Transport Squadron was part of the Greek Expeditionary Corps and as part of the United Nations multinational forces. The 13th Air Transport Squadron was stationed out of airfield K-16 (Seoul) and used C 47 Dakotas to resupply ground forces, airlift wounded and prisoners out of the war zone, conduct psychological warfare through the

dissemination of aerial propaganda and airdrop paratroopers.https://stratistoria.wordpress.com/1901-1950/19500625-korea/1950_korea-ekse/

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Korea_Presidential_Unit_Citation

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

All five branches of the Armed Forces of the United States authorize their personnel to receive the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (RoK PUC), but regulations regarding wear and eligibility vary between them. The award has been stricken from the latest update Volume 3 of the Department of Defense’s Manual of Military Decorations and Awards; previously, the manual specified that the decoration was authorized for all military departments for service in Korea from June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

In AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, temporary wear of the RoK PUC is permitted only while assigned to units in Korea. Furthermore, a note on the medal appended to Table E-1, Foreign Decorations, states that the award may be accepted and retained, but is not allowed to be worn on the U.S. Army uniform (except as noted above). No member of the Army is allowed to wear more than one RoK PUC, and no devices such as oak-leaf cluster or service stars are authorized to indicate more than one instance of the award.

For the Navy and Marine Corps, only members of units designated by the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant Marine Corps that took part in certain operations are eligible to wear the award. Like the Army, the Navy doesn’t authorize service stars for additional instances of earning the award, but is silent on wearing more than one (the Air Force allows only one to be worn regardless of how many a unit might have received). The RoK PUC is one of just seven non-U.S. unit awards authorized for U.S. Coast Guard wear.

The RoK PUC is understandably associated with the actions in Korea between 1950 and 1953, but it has been awarded to units at various points since that time. Air Force regulations, for example, refer to the award being issued to “certain units of the Armed Forces of the United States participating in disaster relief operations in 1972.” The Commander, U.S. Marine Corps received the honor for service performed between December 9, 1999 and April 24, 2002.

Other units that were awarded the medal for service not related to the Korean War include the 7th Infantry Division in 2011, the 7th Air Force in 2013, and the 8th Army in 2014. The latter received the honor in recognition of service performed over the previous year in the defense of the country. (<http://www.uniforms-4u.com/p-korean-presidential-unit-citation-3851.aspx>)



SEOUL AIR BASE, Republic of Korea - Republic of Korea President Park Geun-Hye presents the Korean Presidential Unit Citation to Lt. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, 7 Air Force commander, during the ROK Armed Forces Day celebration at Seoul Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 1. Seventh Air Force received the award for longstanding achievements in operational readiness and force employment. The award was last issued to a U.S. unit in 2011 when the Army's 2nd Infantry Division was recognized for their support for Korea over the preceding 60 years. (ROK Ministry of National Defense photo) (<https://media.defense.gov/2013/Oct/03/2000907330/-1/-1/0/131001-A-ZZ000-001.JPG>)

ROK President awards 7th AF Presidential Unit Citation

By Tech. Sgt. Thomas J. Doscher | 7th Air Force Public Affairs | Oct. 3, 2013



OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea — Lt. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, Seventh Air Force commander, accepted from Republic of Korea President Park Geun-Hye the Presidential Unit Citation to Seventh Air Force on Oct. 1 as part of the Korean Armed Forces Day celebration at Seoul Air Force Base, Republic of Korea.

Seventh Air Force received the award for longstanding achievements in operational readiness and force employment.

Standing at the end of a long line of Korean military leaders receiving the same citation on behalf of their units, Jouas' presence as the sole American in that line highlighted 7 AF's contribution to the defense of the Republic of Korea and the strength of the ROK-U.S. alliance.

"It was an honor to accept this award from President Park on behalf of all Airmen in Seventh Air Force," Jouas said. "They, along with all the members of our combined and joint Airpower

Team, made this recognition possible. Together we continue to strengthen our alliance and enhance its ability to deter aggression, defend the Republic of Korea, and if necessary, defeat any attack against this nation."

The award was last issued to a U.S. unit in 2011 when the Army's 2nd Infantry Division was recognized for their support for Korea over the preceding 60 years.

As this award is outside of normal Department of Defense channels 7 AF officials are working with the Air Force Personnel Center to determine the criteria for the proper wear of the award. Regardless of whether they can wear it or not, 7 AF Airmen were touched by the gesture.

"I feel very appreciative of the ROK President's gesture with this recognition," said Staff Sgt. Justin Bernal, 604th Air Support Operations Squadron Commander's Support Staff NCOIC at Camp Red Cloud. "It truly exemplifies the unique partnership between the American military and the South Korean military. The award says a great deal about my contributions here on the Peninsula, and the receipt of the ROK Presidential Unit Citation lets me know my role here is recognized and appreciated." (<https://www.usfk.mil/Media/News/Article/600963/rok-presidential-awards-7-af-presidential-unit-citation/>)

Children fighting at Nakdong River close association

Former KWVA Executive Director Jim Fisher sent us this story. It addresses a facet of the Korean War that is not often discussed: the role of children as soldiers in it. We welcome any comments readers might have about the topic, e.g., if they were aware of it, if they fought alongside the children, who organized and armed them, whether they were officially part of the ROK armed forces, etc.

Yoon Han-soo takes the sign down to close the office on April 29, 2020

Yoon Han-soo, 87, chairman of the National Boy and Girl Veterans of Korean War Association, said in a recent interview, “We had no choice but to give up our hopes held for the past 16 years.” The office in Taepyeong-ro, Jung District, Daegu City, closed at the end of last month, and the group ended its activities. Founded in 2004, it was operated to fulfill one hope—“for the child veterans of the Korean War to be treated as national meritorious persons,” but in the end, it remains a sorrow of old soldiers.



Chairman Yoon said, “The legislation to grant the National Merit for the child veterans has been proposed to the National Defense Committee of the 16th to 20th National Assembly, but it has not been passed.” Despite the tireless efforts, we could not complete the task, and all I have left is to wait until I join my dead fellow soldiers. Due to the coronavirus, the Boy and Girl Veterans Association could not even hold its final meeting. Notice of the suspension of activities was also given only in text messages.

The 140 members of the Boy and Girl Veterans Association did not receive outside assistance, but covered the rent and operational expenses with the membership fee of \$41 per person per year. They tried hard, asking the government and the National Assembly for recognition of the sacrifices of these child veterans. Thanks to this, the fact of the existence of the child veterans was recognized, and these child veterans receive war pensions slightly under \$245 per month. But that was it.

They sent petitions to the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs requesting the honor of national merit, but were rejected. The reason given was “there is a problem of equity giving people national merit status just for participating in a war as youths, when other national meritorious persons earned merit based on individual achievements.”

The members of the Boy and Girl Veteran Association are heroes who defended their homeland by participating in the battle of the Nakdong River at a young age during the Korean War. These teen veterans are soldiers, who fought at the age of 14-17. The Ministry of National Defense estimates 29,616 boys and girls fought during the Korean War. Included are 462 girl soldiers. Of these young soldiers, 2,573 died.

The first battle they fought was known as the Battle of Dabu-dong on the Nakdong River Defense Line on August 4, 1950. The 55-day bloody battle protected the Nakdong River defense line and laid the groundwork for the Incheon Landing operation.

Chairman Yoon said, “No matter which administration, they were the same in being quiet about the sacrifices of the child soldiers... I’m so frustrated... who will honor the spirits of these child soldiers?”

As the Boys and Girls Veteran Association took down its sign-board, the “Remembrance Ceremony in Honor of the Child Soldiers for Sacrificing Their Lives for Their Country,” held in June every year at the Nakdong River Victory Memorial Hall in Nam-gu, Daegu, also cannot be held this year.

KOREAN WAR POLITICS

Big Business Blamed for Korean War

Third Party Nominee For President Speaks To Audience of 400

Big business was blamed for the Korean War Saturday night by Vincent Hallinan, the Progressive Party's presidential candidate, who spoke before a crowd of about 400 at the Weaver High School auditorium.

Hallinan charged that the "20 billion dollars big business has made since the Korean War started is only a drop in the bucket when compared to plans for the future. They have a blueprint for the next 100 years, eventually hoping to build an American Empire."

Hallinan claimed that during the time he spent in Europe two years ago, he couldn't find a single person who feared the "Red Menace." Nor do the leaders of this country fear the Soviet Union. The Russians are not coming over the horizon to capture this nation.

“Back in 1945 Gen. Eisenhower said that he believed the Russians seek the 'friendship of the United States,” Hallinan said.

And you wonder why he didn't win?

Mrs. Paul Robeson, who spoke on the same topic, called for a speedy ending of the Korean War and offered the Progressive Party's solution: cease firing while the peace negotiations are underway.

She said that ninety percent of the people in the United States were in favor of such a proposal. All the combatants had to do to end the war was hold a Big Power Conference between nations, stop the armaments race, provide a solid civil rights program, and convert America's resources from a war to a peace economy.

Easier said than done.

BRIEF HISTORY OF 41 INDEPENDENT COMM

Submitted by Gordon J. Payne, Chosin Reservoir, 41 Indep. Cdo., Royal Marines

In August 1950, shortly after the outbreak of the war between the communist North Korea and South Korea, 41 Independent Commando was formed in Plymouth for service with the United Nations, which had gone to the aid of South Korea. Under command of Lt.Col. D. B. Drysdale, RM 41 Commando, with a strength of just over 200, was composed of three separate groups: a few Royal Marines and sailors from ships of the Royal Navy Pacific Fleet, approximately 100 from the UK, who were flown to Japan in civilian aircraft of BOAC, and another 90 from a reinforcement draft who had left Plymouth for 3 Commando Brigade in Malaya and were diverted at Singapore.

EARLY RAIDS

During the Commando's short history it was under operational command of the United States Navy and was equipped with U.S. weapons and clothing. As each group arrived in Japan it trained in U.S. weapons and procedures, then dispatched to raid the extended communist-held Korean coastline.

At that time, September 1950, hard pressed U.N. troops were confined in a small bridgehead around Pusan in the southeast corner of Korea. The group from the Pacific Fleet and a few who had flown out from the UK made a diversionary raid in support of the large amphibious landing at Inchon. This group, named 'Poundforce,' was commanded by Lt. E.G.D. Pounds RM (later Major General Royal Marines Plymouth).

Another group mounted a raid against the railway on the northeast coast from the U.S. submarine *Perch*. Two similar raids were carried out by a third group from Assault Personnel Destroyers *USS Wantuck* and *USS Bass*.

CHOSIN RESERVOIR CAMPAIGN

The rapid advance of the UN forces after the Inchon operation reduced the opportunities to raid the North Korean coast. The commander of the First Division, United States Marine Corps, asked that 41 Commando become part of his division, which was operating in northeastern Korea.



When the 41 Commando joined the 1st Division at a rear base near the port of Hungnam, some winter clothing and equipment was issued. It was needed to operate and survive in the mountains of North Korea. The winter weather was atrocious with the temperature falling to 40 degrees below zero and the Siberian winds making the chill factor greatly lower.

The three Marine regiments of the division, with their own Engineer, Tank and Artillery Regiments supported by aircraft of the Marine Air Wing, were operating in the mountainous terrain surrounding the Chosin reservoir. Two regiments were at Yudam-ni, close to the border with China. The other regiment was 22 miles south, at Koto-ri. Between the two positions was the Division's advance headquarters at Hagaru-ri. 41 Commando was ordered to join the regiment farthest north, as a reconnaissance unit.

The drive into the mountains was along a single rough track, which in places had been hewn out of the hillside. When the Commando reached Koto-ri they were informed that the road ahead had been blocked by Chinese Communist Forces who had just entered the war in support of the North Koreans. This was the start, for the 1st Marine Division, of what has been described as the most savage battle of modern warfare.

On the 29 November 1950, Lt.Col. D.B. Drysdale RM was given command of a task force comprising 41 Commando, George Co., U.S. Marines, Baker Co., 32nd Infantry U.S. Army and elements of division headquarters. 'Task Force Drysdale' was ordered

to fight its way through to Hagaru-ri, which was in danger of being overrun. The order stated get through at all cost.

The task force, which started out with 900 men, was opposed by three Chinese regiments and was continually under rifle, machine gun, and mortar fire. Less than 400, many injured, got through to Hagaru-ri. 41 Commando suffered over 50% casualties by the following morning. The element of Task Force Drysdale that did make it to Hagaru-ri became involved in defending the small town and surrounding area, which had become a vital link in saving the 1st Marine Division.

The entry of the Chinese into the war had thrown most of the U.N. forces to the west and east of Chosin into disarray and they rapidly retreated. This isolated the 1st Marine Division and it became encircled by twelve Chinese divisions that had been ordered to annihilate them. The order given by the Chinese general was "Kill these marines as you would snakes in your home."

Despite the weather, and being completely surrounded by an enemy outnumbering them by more than ten to one, the 1st Marine Division decided to fight its way out of the mountains along the only existing road. During the next week 41 Commando was occupied in defending Hagaru-ri, which had to be held while the two regiments fought their way back from Yudam-ni.

Then, on the morning of 6th December, the combined force began the fight to reach Koto-ri. With the Commando helping to bring up the rear, the whole marching column was engaged in heavy fighting. Even with air support during daylight hours, progress over the ten miles was slow, but Koto-ri was reached by the following evening.

The next stage was for the whole division to fight its way to Hungnam. This was delayed while the engineers constructed and replaced a bridge that had been destroyed by the Chinese. Eventually the column started to cross the bridge. For 72 hours, without food or sleep and no respite from the remorseless winter weather, they marched the 23 miles, bringing with them their dead, wounded, and much of their

LANDO ROYAL MARINES

At the time of the award U.S. Navy Department regulations did not allow unit citations to be awarded to a foreign unit. The U.S. Marines would not accept that and lobbied the U.S. Congress to have the regulation changed so that 41 Independent Commando could be presented with the award.

equipment.

Also with them came over 90,000 North Korean civilians, desperate to escape communist rule. All were shipped to South Korea in the largest evacuation by sea since Dunkirk. Later, due to the large number of casualties, 41 Independent Commando moved to Japan to await reinforcements, which brought the strength of the unit to over 300.

LATER OPERATIONS

After the UN forces recovered from the initial Chinese onslaught, the land battle see-sawed back and forth across the 38th Parallel dividing North and South Korea. 41 Independent Commando resumed its amphibious role with a daylight raid in April 1951 on the northeast coastal railway. Subsequently it was decided to garrison the islands inside the communist-held Wonsan harbor for use as a raiding base and to maintain a UN presence behind the communist lines.

WONSAN HARBOR

41 Independent Commando occupied the largest island, Yodo, in July 1951, and later, jointly with Republic of Korea Marines, took over smaller islands. Throughout the period of occupation the islands were subject to shelling from the communist shore batteries. Fire was returned by UN ships and aircraft operating in the area. An additional 12 raids were made against communist shipping and shore installations, both inside the harbor and along the coast.

In October 1951 Lt.Col. F.N. Grant RM (later Major General Royal Marines Plymouth) assumed command of 41 Independent Commando. The result of

these seaborne operations was to force the communists to divert significant resources from the main battle area to coastal defense. Consequently it became more difficult to land without incurring unacceptable casualties.

WITHDRAWAL AND DISBANDMENT

Having succeeded in its aim, the Commando was withdrawn from North Korea on 23 December 1951. Recent arrivals joined 3 Commando Brigade in Malaya; original members of the unit returned to Plymouth to be officially welcomed by the Lord Mayor. On 22 February 1952 in the Royal Marines Barracks, 41 Independent Commando was disbanded, but the Prisoners of War were not released by their North Korean and Chinese captors until well after hostilities ended in July 1953.

COST

31 members of 41 Independent Commando, whose names are recorded on a roll of honor in St. Mary's Church, Bickleigh, were killed in action or died in captivity. There were numerous battle casualties, caused by enemy action and atrocious sub-zero weather. Another 31 were prisoners of war, some spending 3 years in the grimmest conditions, both physical and psychological, during which 12 died or were killed.

AWARDS

For service in Korea members of 41 Independent Commando were awarded the first United Nations Medal, British Korea Medal, 30 British and 14 United States combat decorations, including 2 Silver Stars

to Lt.Col. Drysdale (for a foreigner to receive one Silver Star is noteworthy; for the same person to be awarded two is very exceptional). One Queen's Commendation and two Admiralty Commendations for outstanding conduct were presented to three prisoners of war.

During the operations of Task Force Drysdale two members of George Co., Capt. Carl Sitter (USMC) and PFC William Baugh (USMC), were awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest decoration for gallantry awarded by the United States of America. The First Marine Division, United States Marine Corps and attached units were awarded the Chosin reservoir campaign the United States Presidential Unit Citation* for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance.

At the time of the award U.S. Navy Department regulations did not allow unit citations to be awarded to a foreign unit. The U.S. Marines would not accept that and lobbied the U.S. Congress to have the regulation changed so that 41 Independent Commando could be presented with the award. Although recommended in 1952 for the honor, it was not until 1957 that the citation was presented to the Commandant General Royal Marines, at a ceremony in the American Embassy in London in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen gave her permission for the Citation Battle Streamer to be displayed on the Regiment Color of 41 Commando. Members of the Commando were however refused the privilege of wearing the ribbon on their uniform because it was received after the 1955 deadline set by the British Government for Korean War decorations.

** The Presidential Unit Citation is a very distinguished award for action against an armed enemy of the United States. The unit must have displayed such gallantry and determination in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions to have set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign and action.*

The degree of heroism required must be comparable to that for which a 'Navy Cross would be awarded to an individual. This is the second highest decoration for gallantry awarded by the United States Marines and

Where were you on July 27th, 1953?

This is part of a continuing series—or it will be as long as members keep sending their stories about where they were that historic day. Please send your stories and/or photos to us at Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Driving the General

William (Bill) Klatt of Hartley, Iowa was drafted into the United States Army in September 1952. Basic training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the 3rd Armor Division, as a tank driver. He also was trained for driving vehicles from jeeps up to semi-trailers.

Bill sailed on *USS General W.A. Mann* from San Francisco, CA, going under the Golden Gate Bridge on February 18, 1953. Due to a storm all personnel were kept below deck. There were 3,500 men on board, of whom 400 were crew members.



William Klatt in uniform

Mann docked in Honolulu, Hawaii at 10:30 a.m. on February 23rd, and left port at 6 p.m. the same day. Next stop was Japan, on March 4, 1953, where he disembarked on the 5th to board a train for Camp Drake, Japan. From there he left for Korea on March 8, 1953 for his 18-month tour of duty.

Bill was stationed first in Seoul with the 21st Transportation Car Company, a division of the Eighth Army. The car company was moved to Munsan, South Korea on April 12, 1953, where Bill drove a jeep into North Korea to the peace talks at Panmunjon—three miles



Cpl William Klatt in Seoul with a new sedan

Bill was also responsible for keeping the General's Jeep, 1950 Chevrolet Sedan, and a 1950 Buick Sedan spic and span, polishing them every day. One day, while Bill was cleaning the vehicles, a Korean boy saw him and asked if he needed help. Bill said yes and asked the boy what it would cost him for his help.

behind enemy lines. He had 20 feet on each side of the road, which was neutral territory, and he could see the fighting taking place on each side of the road.

At the peace signing on July 27, 1953, Bill drove the two-star General to sign the peace papers. On this trip Bill was driving a 1950 Chevy Sedan and he had to follow a tank on the muddy road due to the rain coming down. That covered his sedan with lots of mud.

After the cease fire signing Bill was transferred to Seoul to join the Chief of Staff Section- Headquarters of the Eighth Army. Approximately 50 guys went with him to wait for their orders. A Lieutenant Colonel asked if there was a Corporal William Klatt present. Bill saluted him and said, "I am Corporal William Klatt." The LtCol asked Bill if he wanted to drive for the four-star General Maxwell Taylor. Bill said "Yes."

One day while Bill was driving for the General he had 12 Stars (3 four-star Generals) in his car. He drove them all around for the day. Then one day the General assigned Bill to drive then Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife around South Korea for a week.

Bill also drove General Taylor to the prisoner exchange, where he saw a for-



Mud-splattered sedan driven by Bill Klatt to peace talks



VP Richard M. Nixon and wife Pat arriving in Korea



Prisoner exchange at Panmunjom

mer Hartley resident being exchanged among the prisoners.

Bill was also responsible for keeping the General's Jeep, 1950 Chevrolet Sedan, and a 1950 Buick Sedan spic and span, polishing them every day. One day, while Bill was cleaning the vehicles, a Korean boy saw him and asked if he needed help. Bill said yes and asked the boy what it would cost him for his help. The boy said he only wanted a state-side candy bar every day. Bill said okay, and the boy showed up daily to help clean the vehicles.

On May 31, 1954 Bill received his Sergeant stripes. He also received his Staff Sergeant commission before being shipped out of Pusan, Korea on July 26, 1954. He left aboard USS General Mitchell, arriving in Seattle, Washington on August 7, 1954. Bill proceeded to Camp Carson, Colorado, where he was processed out of active duty to inactive duty until August 1960.

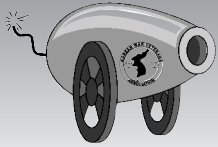
William E. Klatt,
2555 Warbler Ave.,
Hartley, IA 51346,
712-229-6300



Bill Klatt at Munsan, Korea in front of the base sign



Korean boy washing Army vehicles



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 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141; E-mail it to: sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

Sock it to me

I was in my local supermarket the other day replenishing my supply of scrapple. You know, the breakfast, lunch, supper or any-other-time-of day food that is made from the parts of a pig that no one else wants, such as the snout, ears, oink, and toenails, all held together with a filler of some kind. You can enhance it with any topping to improve its taste, such as maple syrup, catsup, or motor oil. It's a delicacy.

Surprisingly there is no shortage of scrapple in stores. I wonder why.

Anyway, I was standing in the aisle when a gentleman wearing a Korea Veteran hat strolled by. He had on a strange-looking mask. I looked closely: it was a white sock with two holes punched in it through which was woven a band to attach it to his ears.

"Did you wear one of those in Korea?" I asked.

"No," he replied. "I wore a gas mask."

Then he looked at me with a twinkle in his eye.

"Do you want the other sock?" he asked.

I was laughing so hard I didn't get a chance to ask him for his name—or buy the scrapple.

Art Sharp

Where did this come from?

Robert Fitts wrote the eloquent letter below regarding the dropping of the word "War" from the KWVA's name. And, he sent it to National Director Bruce (Rocky) Harder, rather than to the editor. That, he explained...well, here's what he wrote:

"I understand the decision to no longer accept letters to the editor of *The Graybeards* on the subject of the KWVA's name, but I had already written one. So, I'm sharing it with you, for your information, and I am also mailing it, individually, to the other Board members and candidates on my own. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Following is the text of my letter that I intended for the Editor's Desk."

.....

Let's take a quick break here for an EDITOR'S RESPONSE. Before we get to the letter let me respond, as I did to Mr. Harder:

The issue of changing *The Graybeards* name was settled long ago. It will stay as is.

We never had a "Letters to the Editor" section, at least not in the 16 years I have been editing the magazine. We have Feedback, which

is much broader in scope. And, we have not stopped accepting submissions to that section. There are few topics that are taboo. We cannot print overly political material or unpaid advertisements due to postal regulations and charter concerns, though. And, just for the record, we are limited to the number of advertising pages in the magazine. That, too, is due to U.S. Postal Service regulations—not that it's ever a problem.

I do not know where Mr. Fitts got that impression, but he—and everyone else—is free to submit anything he so desires. Now, back to the letter:

"Words have no power of their own. But, if we could listen to the voices of those now silent: 36,000 Dead, 8,000 Missing in Action, and hear the voices of these who returned home with us: 103,000 Wounded, 7,000 POW's, and those who have gone on to their reward, I am sure they would tell us that the Korean War was, indeed, a war. For us to consider removing the word "War" from our title diminishes those voices, those individuals, and their survivors.

"Those who wish to remove "War" from our title diminish those voices, perhaps out of some good and valid intention, but it is a diminishment nonetheless. Further, while it may seem a means for increasing inclusion to veterans who did not serve during the years of actual armed conflict, it diminishes those 36,000 killed, 103,000 wounded, 8,000 missing in action, and 7,000 POWs.

"Because in the end, we might as well pretend we could remove "War," the real, grinding, crushing, blunt force that is war. If we were to strike "War" from our vocabulary, would it simply cease? Would this most destructive of human behavior come to an end? Would we also strike the word from the American Revolutionary War, the American Civil War, the Spanish American War, the First World War, or the Second? The War in Vietnam? The Korean War, the namesake of our organization, by which we remember what we did in helping bring the South Korean miracle into reality?

"I do not advocate that war is anything but the last act, the last human stand against violence visited upon innocents, brought by those without scruple or hesitation, who would take away those personal desires for the opportunity to live in peace with their families, their neighbors, and their communities. Those soldiers and others who lent their efforts and their very lives, whose boots waded through mud and blood, have earned at least this: that they were veterans of a war. They were the individuals who showed up, did their awful duty, cared for each other, and provided the space and the opportunity for those of our brothers and sisters, far from our shore, who only wanted the chance to live peacefully, and fulfill meaningful human lives.

“Those soldiers, who were veterans of the Korean War, should continue to see that full, awful description of their service embedded in the name of their organization. I think that can be done without slighting those who showed up in the years that followed, to help maintain that peace, and although under a truce, with their lives still at risk.

“I think that all those soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, medical and support personnel who followed the combat veterans of that war will understand.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Fitts, Staff Sergeant, 7th Infantry Division,
H Company, Retired Recipient of the Combat
Infantryman Badge, National Board of Directors Office
Holder, 3 Years, 2511 22nd Ave., Rock Island, IL, 61201,
309-793-1292”

Pusan to Busan

Just wondering: when did Pusan get changed to Busan?

*Edward Kelly, 59 Westborough St.,
Worcester, MA 01604*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here are a couple entries from previous issues of The Graybeards that addressed that question:

Busan vs. Pusan Ref: Pg. 24, July/Aug 2008 issue, “BUSAN vs. PUSAN”), Graybeards, 1/2/2009, p. 61

“You were correct in that the translation was based on pronunciation. However, that’s the only thing that was correct. Some time ago—way back—an English speaking person, possibly an American, advised the Koreans how to write Korean names in English. Remember, the Koreans use characters that are different from our alphabet. They have NOT changed their spelling. They are only attempting to correct the English misrepresentation of it.

“I have long commented on how Korean is misrepresented in English. I know of one town whose name phonetically in Korean is Bub Wun; however, the English spelling is Po Wahn. Therefore, it is pronounced that way—incorrectly—in English. Now, finally, they are doing something about it.

“Busan has always been the proper pronunciation. One example: some American told a Korean scholar that the Korean representation for “B” sounded like “d.” Therefore, “Pusan” should always have been “Busan,” Taegue is properly Daegue, etc. The proper phonetic pronunciation of SEOUL” is “Suh-oo,” or Suool.

“I have lived in Korea 33 years and have studied this subject. Finally, Ref: Pg#59 of that same issue: Pyeong Taeg (for a long time misspelled and mispronounced Pyeong Taek) is a city about 40 miles south of Seoul.

*James M. Jackson, MSGT USAF (Ret.),
USMC Korean War (1950-51)”*

Busan vs. Pusan, The Korean people (Han Gook or First People) use Hangool. Who was this officer? (The First Language) Graybeards. 9/10/2008, p. 65)

Osan in Hangool is an “O” over an upside down “T.” When they pronounce these two symbols together, it sounds like “O-san.” Unfortunately, to a Korean ear, P-B, T-D, L-R and K-G, as we pronounce them, either sound the same or not quite like their Hangool

equivalent. So, you have Pusan-Busan, Taegu-Daegu, Lee-Rhee, and Kunsan-Gunsan. You will see Hangool spelled Hangul also.

Do you say “Arkansas” as “R-Can-Saw” or “R-Can-Sass”? There are a ton of words we use in the U.S. that people say differently. Non-English speakers find our language very difficult: for example, loon, tune, bruin, and prune are spelled different, but sound alike. We have words that are spelled the same but spoken differently.

As CENTCOM briefers, we caught hell over the proper pronunciation of Arabic names. I asked a Saudi general if “Jeddah” was said “Jed-ah” or “Jid-ah,” and he said it was like “Arkansas:” some say it one way, and some say it the other. Personally, I have a hard time with French names - Chevrolet should be Chevrolay to me.

The Hawaiians have words with just vowels like “Aiea.” You could tell a Brit wrote a NATO document if it said “whilst” or “colour.” “Mockba” is how the Russians spell Moscow. At an outdoor stand in Ohio, the guy in front of me told the girl behind the counter that he wanted “free jollys”(frijoles). She told him that it was pronounced “free-hole-as,” and that he was going to have to pay if he expected to get any jollys.

Shakespeare said: “a rose by any other name it would smell as sweet.” I found that “Kim Che” was that way also.... John Gavel, via email, THEGAVEL@aol.com

Recommending a researcher

I requested a copy of my military records (Army 201 file) from the National Personnel Records Center but found that they were destroyed in the fire of 1973; there were no records of my service in Korea. My own copies of the records were lost in one of my two moves since the Army days.

I located a researcher who worked on my case for several months but was unable to find any info. She referred me to another researcher who, in a short while, was able to establish almost all the dates and locations of my service.

If anyone is in the same situation, I recommend contacting Redbird Research (<https://redbirdresearch.com/> or lori@redbirdresearch.com)

With documentation in hand, I applied for and took the Korean War Revisit Tour in October 2019 and was astounded at the country’s transition since the 1950s. By the way, I am in the tour group photo in the ad on page 8 of the Nov-Dec 2019 issue of Graybeards.

Ronald Lai, ronlai@aol.com

Remembering “Hoot” Gibson

I am very emotionally touched by the photo on the back cover of the March-April 2020 issue. The photo of the Korean War ace standing in the middle is “Hoot” Gibson from Tucson, Arizona. He is the ACE with striped shirt and white shoes. He was also the Colonel commanding The Thunderbirds.

I can’t say enough about Hoot being a great American hero! He sponsored my membership in the Business Development Club. I was his guest at the Thunderbirds Air Show at Davis Mountain AFB. Hoot was the ultimate community leader and volunteer.

As the founder and charter president of the 772 Military Police Veterans Association, I have been active in preserving the legacy of our military during the Korean War. When we celebrated our 10th Anniversary in Tucson, Hoot Gibson was our banquet speaker. He

was a thrilling speaker of his war experience.

Tragically, Hoot passed away during a real estate showing, when he tripped, fell, and hit his head on a rock.

God Bless Hoot Gibson! We shall honor you always and thank you for your incredible contribution to America.

Don Edwards, donemkt@aol.com

U. S. Air Force Aces

I add my congratulations to the aces who were featured on the back page of the March-April 2020 issue of "The Graybeards." In 1953, those aces or their fellow comrades provided the 8th Army with excellent aerial reconnaissance photos for American's infantry front line units as well as the enemy's front.

I can say confidently that the resolution of the aerial photos was very satisfactory for intelligence gathering for infantry nightly patrols into no-man's land. Also, they were an acceptable substitute for prisoners of war. The latter saved many lives, negating the need for mounting combat patrols for POWs.

Finally, I extend my thanks to their brother aces out of Kimpo airfield for their courtesies to me and my driver at their magnificent Officer's Club with its carved mahogany bar. That was in January 1953, after we finished a long cold drive down from the front on our way to General Maxwell Taylor's headquarters in Seoul.

As we entered the club, we were startled when one pilot loudly said, "Make room for two fighting men!" And the best, "Lt., your money is no good here!"

George Bjotvedt, viking6588@gmail.com

I would do it all again

I went to Korea in 1952. I was a Sgt. E-5 in the Illinois National Guard. After four months in Korea with the 2D Inf, Div, I received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lt. Four months later I was promoted again, to 1st Lt. After thirteen months in Korea I was sent home for thirty days.

Following that I went back on active duty for seven months. I retired from active duty and joined an IL reserve unit for a total active and reserve career of 31 years. I attained the rank of LtCol.

After all the things I went through I would do it all over again if I needed to.

*Willard Shields, 62 S. Valley Rd.,
Kansas City, KS 66102*

If only the Army gave frequent flyer miles

After finishing basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ in December 1955 I was sent to Ft. Chaffee, AR for advanced training with the artillery. In March 1956, upon graduating in a class of 186 men, 180 of us received orders to be sent to Korea. We were privates with special skills.

We were flown to Ft. Lewis, WA (2,138 miles) to board a troopship. Orders changed; we were going to be flown to Korea. They needed us in a hurry.

At that time there were no passenger jets, so we boarded 4-engine prop TWA Constellation planes. We were then flown to Travis Air Force Base in CA (722 miles). From Travis to Hickam Field in Hawaii was another (2,431 miles).

We continued from Hawaii to Wake Island for refueling (2,284

miles). From Wake to Tokyo, Japan consumed 1,983 miles. We were not quite done. We added another 719 miles from Japan to an air base in Korea. That's a total of 10,277 miles.

The military sure can spend a lot of money when it wants something.

Incidentally, thanks to my son for compiling these numbers.

Edward R. Uboldi, 227 Pleasant St., Unit 202, Concord, NH 03301

South Koreans unmasked

It is very heartwarming that ROK would donate those masks to our vets. I only wish Americans appreciated our Korean War and Defense vets as much as the Korean people.

God Bless our vets!

Sherri Steward, ssteward99@gmail.com

No, they do not forget

The Korean War memorial tree pictured below is at a Korean Church along busy route 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ. It is always well maintained and cared for by the church administration.

George Cook, 17th Infantry, 1952-1953,
cookgeor@aol.com



**The Korean War tree
in Cherry Hill, NJ**

"Where are your grandparents?"

We Marines stopped in Japan en route to Korea. While we were on liberty we spent a little time with some of the natives. We were puzzled when many of the women asked us questions like, "Where are your parents?" or "Where do your grandparents live?" We could not figure out why they would ask such a question, and we didn't even know if we should answer it.

Later we learned why they were asking. The Japanese military was not exactly enthralled with fighting Marines in WWII. The Japanese had some serious misconceptions about Marines. One of them accounted for the questions.

There was a belief among the Japanese that in order to join the United States Marine Corps you had to kill your parents or your grandparents first. We were a bit taken aback when we realized that was why the Japanese we encountered asked us those questions. The belief that we had to kill our parents and/or grandparents to become Marines was news to us.

To our knowledge known of us had done that.

*Tom Tyskiewicz, 504 Leon St.,
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Update on the Planes of Fame Museum

Here's an update on your Nov–Dec 2019 *Graybeards* article, “Planes of Fame Museum opening new Korean War Memorial—maybe,” p. 52, in which you listed an article to help my family have the Sabrejet on display painted in my father's and pilot's paint scheme. This will be at the new Korean Memorial at the Planes of Fame museum opening this year.

Our families raised the necessary funds and progress has begun! It will be exciting to see that paint scheme up later this year.

In other news, my family helped sponsor a ‘virtual’ car at ‘virtual Dover Downs International Speedway’ on May 2 and our driver won. This paint scheme replicated my father's Sabrejet paint scheme in 1954. Again, the neat thing was the paint scheme as it closely replicated his F-86 Sabrejet.

Our local Delaware State News published an article about the vir-



NASCAR Infinity Series #33 car with special paint scheme

An adventure-filled tour

I was at Fort Lee, Virginia waiting for shipment to the South Pacific for participation in Operation Greenhouse for the atomic energy commission. I was on maneuvers with the 82nd Airborne Division assigned to the 108 Bakery Company when some officer asked for volunteers to go to Eniwetok Atoll Island somewhere in the Marshall Islands. I was only seventeen years old at the time.

The day we learned about the beginning of the Korean War I was five days away from my 18th birthday. But, having six brothers who served in WW2, one of whom spent time in South Korea, I was familiar with the name and location. I and everyone else was awaiting approval of a secret clearance. J Edgar Hoover approved our clearance in August of 1950. We left Fort Lee on a train in mid-September headed to Camp Stoneman,

California to wait for the troopship for our voyage to the Pacific.

After Operation Greenhouse ended we were sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for training (again) for shipment to Korea. Upon arrival in South Korea I was with a buddy, Paul Hemphil, a friend since basic training. We were assigned to the 27th Regiment of the 25th Division. We were separated after arriving to the third battalion. I went to I Company; he was assigned to M Company.

After a brief stay on line we went into reserve before Christmas. I became the company baker and we shipped out to Koje-Do Island near Pusan to segregate die-hard communists from some who weren't. The die-hards were holding Kangaroo Court at midnight, executing the “defendants,” cutting them up, and dumping their bodies by flushing them

into the ocean. That resulted in the incident at Compound 62 which was investigated by the U.S. government and covered by the Army Times in February 1952.

It was included in the May 9, 2020 edition. The title was “Virtual race brings real emotion: Dover Korean War veteran goes to victory lane at Monster Mile.” You can access the article at <http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/images/2020alfredo/images/delawarestatenews/dsn.htm>.

I also made a webpage for the driver of the car, Anthony Alfredo. My website for him is at: <http://yocumusa.com/sweetrose/images/2020alfredo/33alfredo.htm>

Thanks for the advice

After retrieving my *Graybeards* from the mail box, I immediately turned to see what the editor had to say. After being confined to my widow's hut for over a month, only escaping for a few brief moments for a quick run to the local grocery, I needed some advice to survive. Sure enough, I received a dose of good humor to get me through this day. Thanks!

Last September I had the opportunity to go on the re-visit program again (September 2019). While I was there, Col David A. Gigliotti, the Chief of the Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group-Korea, honored me with a Certificate of Appreciation for my service as a Korean Advisor during the Korean War. In 1953, after the truce was signed, I received a Letter of Appreciation from General Sun Yup Paik, the Chief of Staff of the Republic of Korea Army.

In September of 1948, at the age of 14, I joined the Ohio National Guard. In the fall of 1951 (my senior year of high school) I reenlisted, knowing that in January the Ohio National Guard was to be federalized. That January (1952), I was the senior non-com, a SFC (the First Sgt was already at Camp Polk) and marched the company from the armory to the train depot on our way to Camp Polk, LA.

I believe that I am one of the youngest Korean War veterans, as I was just 19 when I arrived back home.

Well, that is enough about me. Thanks again for making my day.

John G. Medaugh, jmedaugh@watchtv.net

We were sent back to the front to relieve some foreign battalion near Heartbreak Ridge. Then we were sent to the Punch Bowl in late September, where my replacement relieved me. By this time I had been promoted three times from PFC to CPL, SGT E5, and Mess SGT FC E6.

I had a lot of pictures at one time, but after discharge in 1961 the mobile home we were living in was destroyed in a fire. I received all my papers and ribbons about six years ago.

I received all my papers and ribbons about six years ago.

Bob Hill, Emmetsburg, IA, formerly of Raymond, Georgia, Coweta County, 712-852-3250 or 712-298-2158,

Some Remembrances and Reflections about

By Edward L. King

NOTE: Even though this was written on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War the story is still fresh. The photos do not related directly to this story. They are included to complement it and to depict Korea as it was in 1950-53.

Part 2

A truce and a sad aftermath

Finally, on July 27, 1953, a truce agreement was signed which stopped the bloodshed. The United Nations had won the first hot battle in an ensuing Cold War that would take 40 years to win. The victory in defense of freedom for the South Korean people came at a high cost. U.S. losses alone in the 36 months of fighting had been 54,246 killed, 103,284 wounded, 8,177 missing in action and 7,500 prisoners of war. And these were in addition to the thousands of soldiers from South Korea and 20 other UN countries who were killed, wounded, missing or captured in this defeat of communist aggression.

By January 1954 the last of the surviving prisoners of war had been repatriated. In a significant propaganda defeat for world communism, 21,805 Chinese and North Korean POW's refused to return to their communist homelands, while 23 of the American POW's refused to return home. Except for those who had served and their families, most Americans caught up in the euphoria of a booming economy and pent-up desire to buy consumer goods quickly forgot about Korea and the sacrifices that had been made there.

And for those of us blessed to survive the carnage, it meant we had to once more start looking for a job or getting back into school to start over, trying—as some had been since 1946—to get lives and new families together. Most stored away their uniforms and medals, quietly resumed a normal life picking up where they had left off and tried to forget the war, just as the rest of the country had already done.

While unlike the veterans of Vietnam, some of whom were our sons or younger relatives, we didn't band together and march to protest our fellow American's

disregard of our sacrifices. We were nonetheless equally hurt and emotionally resentful of the lack of recognition given to our service. The war was not something one could forget.

Over the years, among many of the survivors that resentment grew into a sad resignation that our service would forever be "forgotten". And it was not until July 1995, when the Korean War Memorial was finally dedicated, that the once young warriors, now aged, grayed veterans, would gather and feel that a modicum of proper recognition and tribute was at last being given to their service and to the memory of their many lost friends, who so bravely gave their lives in the fight for freedom of the South Korean people.

Korea was never in my rearview mirror

After my return in 1952, I was award-

ed a Regular Army commission and assigned to an infantry basic training center to try to teach young draftees how to survive when they got to Korea. For my ensuing Army career I would not again be involved in activity related to Korea.

That wouldn't happen until after my Army retirement, when I went to work on Capitol Hill.

In the early 1970s I had the opportunity to meet briefly with President Kim Dae Jung, while he was living in exile in Washington, D.C. At the time, I was working with members of then Governor Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign staff concerning U.S. worldwide military deployments, and I was interested in his thoughts about the presence of U.S. troops in Korea.

In 1973, based on a military manpower and combat productivity analysis I had prepared, I recommended that one division and some of our then excessive headquarter and support troops be withdrawn from Korea. When that recommendation became public, the resulting firestorm of protest which it brought, in both Korea and Washington, got me quickly removed



at Korea: Before, During and After the War

from further work in the campaign!

After that experience, I figured I had been mighty lucky to just survive the war and had better not press my luck any farther on issues pertaining to Korea! It would not be until the 1980s, during my subsequent work on the staff of the U.S. Senate, that I again got involved in matters concerning Korea.

Why help North Korea?

Then I served as a senior foreign policy advisor to the Democratic Leader and Korea was one of the many international areas that I was responsible for keeping him currently informed about. In performing my staff advisor duties, I regularly monitored the intelligence and media reports about events in Korea and other world areas for which I had primary staff responsibility. I usually sat in on meetings that the Senate Democratic Leader had with visiting dignitaries and ambassadors, including those from Korea.

As other countries did, the South Korean Embassy would, over the years, occasionally invite me for ceremonial celebrations and parties. Through such sources and contacts, I maintained a general awareness of the transpiring of events in Korea, as its economy boomed and its government turned from authoritarian to elected democratic rule. My more direct involvement came when the Clinton administration became actively involved in contacts with North Korea.

As a staff member of the Democratic Policy Committee I worked on some of the issues surrounding KEDO and the furnishing of food relief to North Korea. My role was to be supportive of these new administration initiatives toward North Korea. But I had personal mental reservations and concerns about the efficacy of providing relatively unsupervised shipments of food and fuel to the communist North Korean regime.

How did we know whether we were feeding a starving, submissive population, or a brutal army? Some said it didn't matter. Yet, when I would be reviewing a staff paper on the issue, through my mind



would flash the long-ago image of 26 young American soldiers lying crumpled with their hands tied behind them and their bodies riddled with North Korean machine gun bullets.

I believe in the spirit of forgiveness. But forgiveness should come after there has been a demonstrated, sincere effort to change the actions or behavior that originally caused the anger, distrust and recrimination. Except for allowing us to pay ransom for the bones of our murdered, missing soldiers, and as yet unverified promises not to continue to develop nuclear-armed missiles in exchange for diesel fuel, I have seen no validated, credible evidence of such a change toward the American people on the part of the North Korean government or its Army.

I continue to have grave doubts about the wiseness of furnishing large amounts of food relief, or fuel, to North Korea without being able to be absolutely certain it is not being diverted, or largely siphoned off, to feed, and fuel, the North Korean Army. The current policy toward North Korea needs a great deal more

intensive investigative analysis, discussion and debate in the Congress and among the American public than it has received to date.

An analysis of North Korea, South Korea, China, and U.S. relationships in the Peninsula

EDITOR'S NOTE: This analysis was written in 2010. It still presents some salient points regarding this situation that has festered for years.

Now that I'm elderly, benign and retired from government service, I want to once more risk touching upon the third rail of the U.S.-South Korean bilateral relationship and express some long-standing personal concerns regarding the now nearly 55 year presence of U.S. troops in South Korea. Only the continued presence of U.S. troops which battled their way into Germany in 1944 has a longer overseas lifespan. And, having been in Korea somewhat near the beginning of this creation, I feel a particular personal interest and concern about this long time deployment of our armed forces.

I'm relatively familiar with the long-standing principal reasons and justifications for this commitment of American troops to assist in protecting South Korea from the threat of attack by the "million man" North Korean Army, backed-up by its "111 tubes of artillery trained on Seoul," as well as North Korea's oft-repeated threat to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire" through the launch of its growing number of missiles. And I'm aware of the threat that those same missiles project for Japan and Alaska. However, now being both an old soldier and old politician, I tend to want to periodically, pragmatically examine and evaluate such threats and our response to them.

Such is the case with the role and mission of our 37,000 troops currently still present in Korea. The 2d Infantry Division, which comprises nearly 15,000 men and women, is the combat heart of this U.S. defensive force. They, along with roughly 500,000 well trained and logistically-supplied South Korean soldiers (backed-up by a trained reserve of nearly 600,000), supported by tanks and around 26 battalions of medium and heavy artillery, with overwhelming numbers of South Korean and U.S. fighters and bombers available, provide the ground defense against any possible attack from the North. South Korea maintains a very robust defense force.

This combined force faces a well-publicized "million man" North Korean Army of actually around 400,000 to 600,000 regular troops backed-up by an estimated reserve of from 500,000 to 650,000 malnourished, part-time soldiers. Their aircraft are for the most part obsolete. And while the North Koreans reportedly have large numbers of older model Soviet and Chinese tanks and artillery pieces, these are severely restricted for any type of sustained offensive use by the extremely limited logistical capability to resupply vital ammunition, fuel and replacement parts.

Short of an open supply line from China, they must rely on food, ammunition and fuel supplies stockpiled in North Korea. These essentially non-replaceable stockpiles would not only be rapidly diminished in any type of offensive operation, but the storage sites and transport facilities would immediately be extreme-

While I strongly support President Kim's efforts to open a dialogue with the North, I do not believe that either China or Japan truly desire in the foreseeable future to see reunification of North and South.

ly vulnerable to attack and destruction by the overwhelming air superiority that the U.S. and South Korean forces enjoy. Even if China agreed to logistically resupply the North Koreans, they would still have the same problem they had during the Korean War, of how to safely transport the material south from the Chinese border in the face of the relentless U.S. and South Korean air attacks they would be subjected to.

Given these military factors, it seems highly unlikely that unless the North Korean High Command is bent on state suicide, it is going to attack South Korea, or try to turn Seoul into a "111 sea of fire." Even if Kim Jong Il should decide that state suicide is the way to go out, the presence of the U.S. infantry division is decisive only as a tripwire force which by the probable early loss of American lives guarantees immediate U.S. entry into the fighting.

The operative article of the 1953 bilateral mutual defense treaty is not specific on this point. It states only: "Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area on either of the parties...would be dangerous to its own safety and each Party would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes." It is this lack of treaty specificity of the degree of commitment, alongside the continuing presence of U.S. ground forces that raises questions in my mind regarding such presence.

Fundamentally, I cannot believe North Korea would actually attack South Korea unless assured in advance of China's support and active assistance. I do not believe China's present leaders want military conflict on the Korean Peninsula and therefore would not willingly give such assurance.

While I strongly support President Kim's efforts to open a dialogue with the North, I do not believe that either China or Japan truly desire in the foreseeable future to see reunification of North and

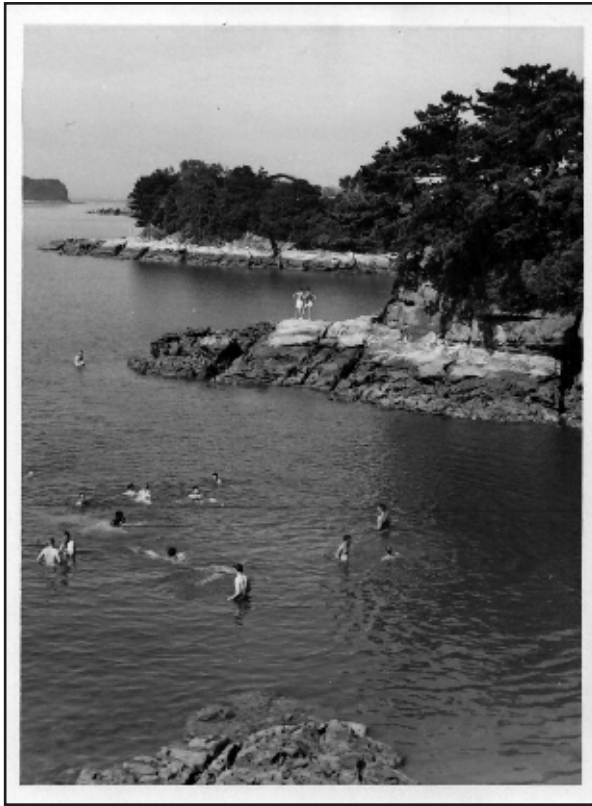
South. For that reason, I believe both of these countries are, for the present at least, unlikely to do much to encourage reunification and are quite willing for the U.S. to continue to assume the risk, expense and the international diplomatic liability of maintaining a troop presence in South Korea.

Nor do I doubt that if North Korea, for some crazy, fanatical reason, launched a unilateral suicide attack, that the U.S. should stand with South Korea. But I harbor grave doubts about what China's reaction would be to such a supportive U.S. military response. More importantly, I harbor even more troubling doubts about the degree and duration of American public reaction and support for such a U.S. stand.

I believe U.S. political and military leaders should make a more cognizant review and analysis of what U.S. public reaction and support would most likely be for the immediate involvement and loss of substantial numbers of American soldiers in any sudden fighting in Korea, particularly if, because of such American participation, China felt compelled to support some fanatical North Korean action. I recognize that officially the presence of the American infantry division in Korea represents a 47 year blood guarantee of U.S. support. Understood.

However, my concern focuses on whether present-day America has been adequately informed, or even understands, the serious implications of our commitment and presence in South Korea. Is today's American electorate prepared to willingly honor that long-standing commitment if the occasion should arise? I would hope so. But, I think the conceptual assumption needs to be more realistically reviewed and examined.

The main question in my mind is whether, in our national post Korean-Vietnam War era, the American public is, for whatever given reason, really prepared to support yet another substantial



combat commitment of U.S. ground troops on the periphery of the Asiatic mainland.

General Matthew B. Ridgway, our successful battlefield commander in Korea, and later successor to General MacArthur as Supreme Commander of the Far East Command, advised against such a deployment before the major commitment of U.S. troops into Vietnam. Unfortunately, neither Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, nor Nixon took his advice. We need to be certain that we don't let repetitive boilerplate military, political, and media jargon ultimately place American troops in the hazard of a possible combat situation that a majority of their fellow citizens wouldn't fully support. That uncertainty is what continues to trouble me about our sizeable troop presence in South Korea.

Final thoughts

Perhaps now, during the three-year 50th Anniversary celebration, is an appropriate time for a new U.S. administration, the Congress and, most importantly, the American public, to become better informed, discuss and debate our current policies toward North Korea, the serious ramifications of the presence of our troops in South Korea, the tactical

need for the 37,000 troops, and the positive, or negative, consequences of that presence on the possibility of a future peaceful settlement of the state of conflict that continues to exist on the Korean Peninsula.

For me, Korea has played a profound role in the formation and ultimate course of my life. I am proud of my service there and of any help I may have been able to provide in protecting the freedom and liberty of the patriotic, dedicated, hard-working South Korean people. I can never forget the experiences I shared there, or the important life lessons I learned there.

It is my sincere hope that this 50th Anniversary Commemorative Conference will mark the beginning of an awakening by the American

people to an appropriate, lasting remembrance of the for too-long forgotten thousands of lives lost and sacrifices made, by so many of their fellow citizens, who successfully fought so bravely 50 years ago to defend and preserve for the people of South Korea and the world community, the cherished democratic freedoms that we as a nation historically hold so dear, but that too many in today's secure, prosperous nation so casually take for granted.

We must never forget the hard-learned lesson of the Korean War that "Freedom is not Free."

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PLANNING from page 45

The president ordered the military to shoot the "possible communists" revolting against him. They did, killing about 200 students and wounding more than a thousand

became the director of CIC (Korean CIA) the following year.

Highly committed to performing his anti-communist duty, Kim methodically labeled hundreds of military officers "communists" or "potential communists" and arrested, tortured, and even killed them. In 1956, Kim was assassinated by a gunman who had been waiting for him on the road he often traveled.

Rhee's last days in power were in late April 1960, after he won the election for the fourth time by rigged votes, and students nationwide protested. The event is known as "The April Student Revolution," in which young people's accumulated mistrust and anger against Rhee's dishonesty and his corrupt administration exploded like volcanic ashes released from the crater.

The president ordered the military to shoot the "possible communists" revolting against him. They did, killing about 200 students and wounding more than a thousand. A gruesome photo of a corpse of a student whose skull was split, showing an unexploded tear gas-grenade, served as undeniable evidence of the police brutality. It fueled the protesters' anger further.

Rhee resigned. On April 28th, the 85-year-old Rhee and his wife flew to Hawaii due to the generosity of the CIA, never to return.

Would any of this have happened if American military and political leaders had been prepared—and did they learn enough from the experience to help them deal with future crises? Only time will tell.

Therese Park, tspark63@tahoo.com

Therese Park is the author of "A Gift of the Emperor," "When a Rooster Crows at Night," "The Northern Wind," & "Returned and Reborn?"

A Winter Day to remember

The accident at Ch'ung Ju, Korea, K-41

By John O. Thompson

8 JANUARY 1951

We were back at Tachikawa Air Base (AB) in Japan after being run out of Kimpo AB (K-14) Korea by the very rapid Chinese advance southward. We, 1st Combat Cargo, or as we were officially called, 47th Troop Carrier Squadron, 1st Provisional Group (M), had only been back from Kimpo AB in Korea to Tachikawa AB, Japan for a couple of weeks or so at this time. We were still trying to sort things out and get ready for a permanent move to a base in southern Japan. In the meantime the heavy transport commitment in and out of the Korean battle front areas had to be maintained on a 24-hour schedule.

(Just for the record, in the early years places where U.S. military planes landed were called airfields. Later the military referred to them as air bases. Later yet they were, and still are, called air force bases.)

Ashiya AB, Japan was the major logistics support and supply area for the fighting front. It was the air base where most loads of war fighting equipment were picked up for delivery into Korea. The Chinese advance was furious and had proceeded south to the Han River near the small town of Ch'ung Ju, where a small airstrip had been scratched out of the frozen terrain and given a number, K-41.

The Army had tried to improve the

length and composition of the strip, but the nearby fighting, the weather, the lack of the proper grading equipment, and the difficult terrain made it almost too hard. The strip had a hill on one end and trees and the river on the other end. It was 2,000+ feet of mud, grass, snow, and slush, surrounded on the south side by empty snow-covered rice paddies, and on the north side by the Han River.

The U.S. Army's support needs were so great at that moment that the choice was made to try and deliver gasoline, signal wire, ammunition, rations, and whatever else the fighting units needed to this airstrip, regardless of the risks. 1st Combat Cargo, with its C-46s, was given the job.

During the night of 7 January 1951 the C-46s started leaving Tachikawa AB, heading south, and began arriving at Ashiya AB, where they were promptly loaded with a variety of supplies for the infantry and tanks units. I don't recall the early awakening on the morning of 8 January 1951. If I slept at all the night of the 7th, it would have been in the aircraft, but most likely, being the Flight Engineer, I was engrossed in the loading exercise and assisting the load crews to be sure the airplane was loaded correctly.

My aircraft, a C-46D, 44-78270, was carrying a full load of 10,000 + pound of artillery rounds and a full load of fuel. It was a cool 8th January morning at Ashiya AB in southern Japan.

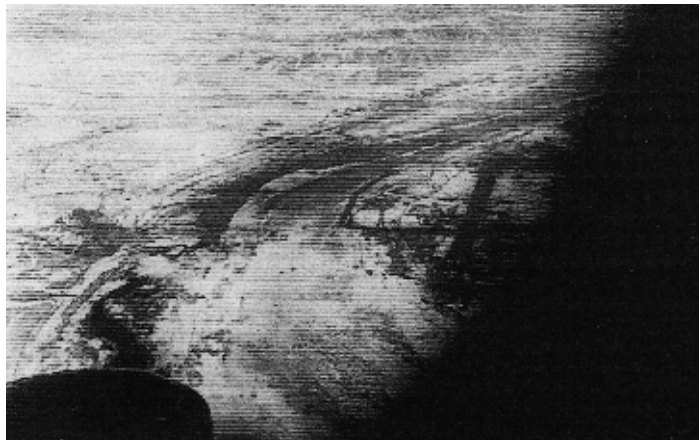
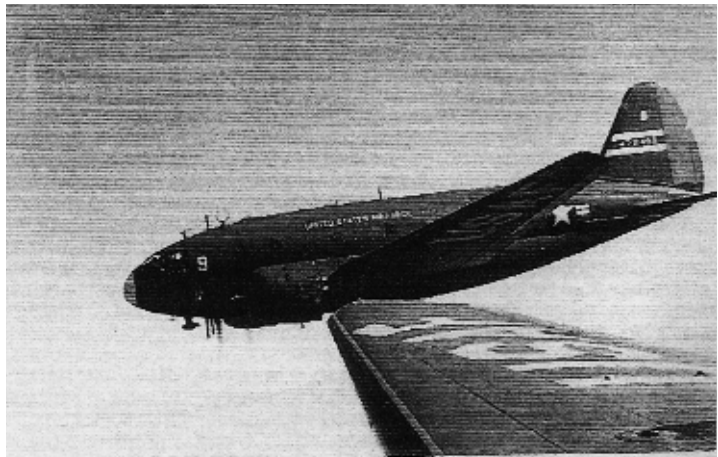
By first light a long line of loaded C-46s was taxiing east toward the end of the runway, with the early morning sunlight flashing off their slowly turning propellers. I have that picture on file and in my mind. It was a beautiful sight.

When the C-46s took the runway and went to full power, the condensation trailed off their propeller tips in streams as they accelerated down the runway at 15-second intervals. It was a nice day to be flying, with only puffy scattered clouds over the Korean Straits and onto the Korea peninsula, and north to Chung' ju, 300+ miles. It was such a nice day to turn out so badly.

Most of the C-46 aircrews were making their own way and only a few were making the extra effort to stay in formation. We were in formation with 44-78462 off our left wing and another, whose number I don't remember, bouncing off our right wing tip. That plane had our co-pilot terrified as he watched the wing tips overlap at times.

The pilot of 44-78462 was looking over at our co-pilot and laughing; he was enjoying it. We ignored our co-pilot's outbursts of profanity and settled in for the 2+ hour trip to an air strip that we had not used before, and as it would turn out, we would not use again!

The first look at Ch'ung ju, sometimes spelled Chong ju, from the air made an instant impression. It was a 2,000-foot strip of thawing mud in a sea of white snow near a curve in the Han River. Some



8 Jan, 1951: Approaching Ch'ung airstrip, K-41, from West; 2000+ feet of slush and mud

patches of water were showing through the snow and ice in the river. At least three C-46 aircraft were already on the ground, one parked and two back-taxiing from landing roll-out, towards parking. Another parked aircraft, an unpainted C-47, was the control tower for that day.

After touchdown on runway 090 we quickly realized there was no braking. The runway was frozen dirt with several inches of thawed snow and mud that sprayed off the main landing gear out past the wing tips. We used most of the runway and then taxied back and parked at an angle alongside the runway, about 1,500 feet from the approach end, on the south side, and very close to the runway. Aircraft were arriving rapidly, several in the pattern at the same time.

U.S. Army loadmasters were on the scene quickly with 6 X 6s and Korean civilian workers. They began unloading the aircraft shortly after we parked. During all of this congestion, P-51s were passing through the landing pattern from south to north at high altitude on strafing runs against enemy positions on the north side of the river to keep the artillery off our operation.

Not long after we parked I noticed a T-6 parked a couple of airplanes away. Before long a tall 1st Lt. approached me and asked if I could loan him some gas. I said yes. I had plenty, having departed from Ashiya AB early that morning with a full load of 100/130.

He had one or two 5-gallon jerry cans and I decided to give him fuel from the right engine nacelle fuel drain. After he began to drain fuel I went up in the cockpit, turned on the batteries, and put the right boost pump on high, which sped up the process considerably. Because the arriving C-46s were parking on both sides of the narrow runway it left only about 25 feet of clearance for each wing tip of landing C-46—much too close for comfort!

I was kneeling down under the belly of my airplane and watching this hazardous landing process with considerable concern. As the landing aircraft passed our position their brakes were locked and slush was flying in a great swath out past their wing tips. Wow!

The lieutenant was busily filling his jerry cans. He had made more than one trip

Almost overhead the village of Ch'ung Ju

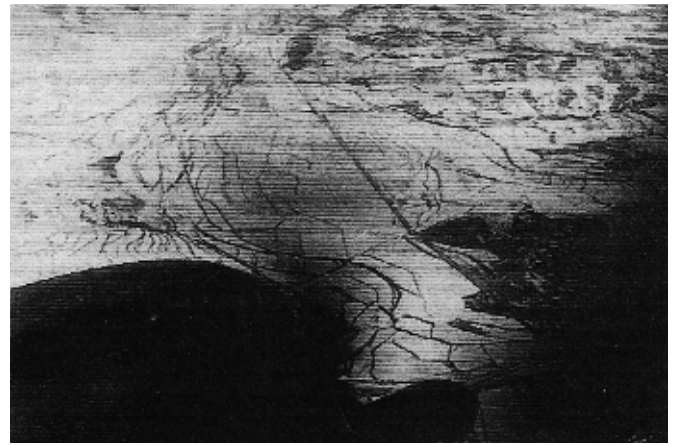
to his AT-6, and came back with two cans. I do not recall how many he had filled or carried to his airplane before the accident. Fortunately for both of us, I was watching the landing traffic.

A C-46 on final, 44-78505, loaded with more than 9,000 lb. of signal wire, touched down short of the runway, contacting an embankment with his right main landing gear. I watched the right MLG depart the aircraft like it was shot out of a cannon, at a much higher speed than the airplane, and cut across the cleared rice paddies on the south side of the runway, dangling its attaching parts from it.

The pilot of 44-78505 recognized his problem too late and tried to pick up the right wing with full power on the right engine, but the airplane was too heavy, and it was too late! The right engine propeller tore into the ground and streamlined the propeller as it came to a quick stop, pouring smoke. Then the wing contacted the ground and swung 44-78505 at 100+ mph in a quick arc to the right, in our direction.

I shouted at the Lieutenant to run, probably two or three times, before he recognized the urgency. He came down with his jerry can, took one look, and departed as fast as I have ever seen anyone depart. He was gone in a flash! I was right on his heels, though I must say, not as quick. I never saw him again!

I was running between the fuselage and the right engine when the nose cone of 44-78505 hit the trailing edge of the left wing of my aircraft, just at the aileron position. 44-78270 spun so quickly that the right engine was ripped from the wing and the right main landing gear collapsed as my airplane spun 90 degrees to the right. The accident aircraft continued into 44-78462, spinning it around, and both aircraft stopped on top of 6 x 6's of working unload teams. I did not see or hear the impact!



I came to lying in the snow in a nearby rice paddy. I must have been unconscious for only a minute or two. Something had hit me in the back. I was young, excited, and at the moment I didn't even think about it. (Later, I was amazed by how far I had been thrown into the rice paddy, nearly fifty yards, and I wondered what could have possibly thrown me so far.)

When I stood up and looked around I was aghast at the sight of three smashed C-46s, two of them on top of 6 X 6s, with their work crews scattered, some severely injured. Fuel was pouring in a gusher from the smashed left wing of my airplane.

A badly injured Korean worker had landed farther into the field than me. His face was smashed into a bloody pulp and he was crying. I turned him towards some help that was coming our way and I ran toward the accident aircraft, 44-78505, with its whole nose section smashed in.

An Army colonel offered me a hand-lift to get up into the cargo door. I was so excited that when I raised my foot to put it in his cupped hands I kicked his glasses off, which he did not appreciate!

When I got into the airplane I saw the navigator, Lt. James Pace, against the forward bulkhead. He was seriously injured. He had been unprepared for the accident and on impact his seat was tom loose. He had been hurled into the back of the forward bulkhead and been battered by radio equipment that had broken loose. The flight engineer, M/Sgt. Odist Heard, was in the very aft end of the fuselage, and he was only slightly injured. He had seen what was coming and had ran out of the cockpit heading for the rear cargo door, where he was pinned by the sudden shifting load of signal wire.

I couldn't get into the cockpit or even open its door because the nose of the aircraft, including the cockpit, was smashed flush with the forward bulkhead. I helped the navigator out of the aircraft and others took him from the door. I helped the flight engineer to the door, though he was much shaken, and others helped him out.

Fuel was pouring out of broken wings onto the ground. Miraculously there was no fire! An alert flight engineer, Sgt. Clemmons, from another C-46, parked across the runway, had immediately run over with his fire extinguisher and used it on the smoking right engine of the accident aircraft.

I went out the escape hatch onto the left wing, climbed on top of the fuselage, and walked forward to see into the cockpit area. The cockpit was totally destroyed down to its floor and I saw nothing but tangled debris. It was some time before the bodies of the two pilots were cut loose from the smashed cockpit. They were taken to the nearby hospital tent.

Tanks were later employed to pull the wreckage off the runway and landing/take-off operations resumed. In the meantime, I went back to what remained of my aircraft, turned off the batteries and boost pump, and picked up my camera and a Russian carbine that I kept behind the radio equipment. I took a few pictures of the wreckage and went over to the first C-46 that would be leaving.

We made a stop at Itazuke AB about dark, the nearest air base, for me to go to the hospital and get my back X-rayed. The pilot went with me. The X-ray technician took several pictures and we sat and waited. After a long wait the technician advised us that there would be no one to read the X-rays until the morning!

We could not hold up the aircraft and its crew, and I could still walk. We went back to the aircraft and proceeded to Tachikawa AB that night. It was probably after midnight when we landed. We were beat! I don't think I ate a meal that entire day.

The next day the flight engineer of 44-78505, M/Sgt. Heard, pleaded with our Line Chief for a few days off. Perhaps he just needed to get drunk and sleep it off. He was turned down flat after a very loud and noisy argument. At the time we were so busy and short of flying personnel that I

had not even thought of asking for anything. After that loud argument I was sure not to ask. I was airborne again that night heading south to pick up another load at Ashiya AB for somewhere in Korea.

At that time, January 1951, 1st Combat Cargo, 1st Troop Carrier Group (Med. Provisional), which soon turned into the 437th TC Wing, was located at Tachikawa AB. In February we would proceed to Brady AB near Fukuoka, Japan and join a National Guard wing of C-46s, "Chicago's Own," for the rest of my time in the theater. They were from O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois. I would be assigned one of their aircraft for the remainder of my time with Combat Cargo.

I missed 44-78270. It had been my airplane for nearly two years. I knew it from end to end and I trusted it completely. It was the only airplane that I would ever remember the tail number of except, that is, for my own two home-built airplanes, one of which I still enjoy flying today.

I had always wondered what happened to the 1st Lt T-6 pilot and his airplane. I hoped he survived the war. I knew for sure that he had one close call.

More of the Story

One day in January 2001 I left a note on the Internet site of the "Mosquitos of Korea," a Korean War organization, the 6147th TCS, that flew the AT-6 as Forward Air Controllers (FACs) to pilots. My note concerned the accident and the AT-6 involved. My question was, "Did the Lt. survive the accident and the war?"

Quite to my surprise, a few weeks later



Two men on top of cockpit of 44-78505; how to get the pilots bodies out



A clear view of the smashed cockpit of 78505; 78462 in the background. My right engine in the foreground

Dick Souza, a historian for the organization, contacted me. He wanted to know more about the accident and the AT-6 involved. He pursued the information that I gave him like a homicide detective on a political murder. (As a bonus they sent me a copy of their book, *Mosquitos in Korea*, by W. M. Cleveland, and a 6147th Squadron Patch.)

With a Mosquito Reunion coming up, Dick took the information with him and continued his search. Dick found a man who was in the AT-6 that day. His name is John C. Collins. John lives in New Hampshire, on an island in the summer, and in Ft. Myers, Florida during the winter.

John was in the US. Air Force during late World War II and finished up flying B-29s. He stayed in the reserves and was recalled for the Korean War and entered as an Army Artillery Officer.

After a few months of combat in Korea



My airplane, 44-78270, a C-46D of the 374th Troop Carrier Gp. Clemmons with the fire bottle

he was chosen to be an Observer with Mosquito Squadron, 6147th TCS, where he had the job of sitting in the back seat of an AT-6 calling in air strikes against the North Korean and the Chinese. It was a very dangerous job and many of the AT-6 crews were lost to enemy ground fire.

Fortunately, John survived the war, and then transferred back into the Air Force, finished his career, and retired as a Lt. Colonel, another lengthy story in itself. Staying busy, he wrote articles for the Atlantic Flyer magazine for a few years, had a heart attack, survived it like a true fighter, then decided to retire and enjoy life and family.

On the day of the accident John and his pilot, Lt. Paul Robertson, were doing FAC work just north of the river. They had been using fuel out of their left tank and were saving the right tank to get back home to Taegu, K-2. Just as Paul was ready to

switch to the right fuel tank the airplane took a hit in the right wing and they watched as their get home fuel streamed out behind the airplane. So, they needed an airport quick and landed at Ch'ung Ju (K-41).

John details his story of that day very well in an article that he wrote for the Atlantic Flyer magazine. His story is titled, "Flying Story Number 22," in the May 1988 edition. After the accident, fuel from the broken C-46 wing and its gushing fuel tanks became his handy gas station. He went back and forth filling his jerry can until he had his required 35 gallons to get home. He and his pilot, Paul Robertson, departed for Taegu, (K-2).

John Collins reports the death toll for the accident was 22. Two of our Squadrons' deaths that day were C-46 members, 1st Lt. Arthur D. Yaich, A0778644, and 1st Lt. Charles F. Mulebach, A01908464, pilot and co-pilot of C-46D 44-78505. The remainder were Korean civilian workers and their U.S. Army loadmasters. I never heard how many were injured.

The next day three more C-46s were

lost on the Ch'ung Ju airstrip. On take-off one hit an Army tank that was crossing the runway, killing the tank commander, who was standing in the turret. The other two C-46s ran off the end of the runway while trying to stop due to the slick runway conditions.

Thus ended the use of Ch'ung Ju, K-41, by the C-46s of Combat Cargo. However, Combat Cargo had come through with the needed materials for the Army at the right moment and the U.S. Army was soon on the offensive heading north.

The AT-6 pilot that I was looking for was Lt. Paul Robertson. He retired at Eglin AFB, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida and passed away there in 1989. Though I was assigned three times at Eglin during the late 60s and early 70s, I had no idea that Paul was also in the area. I would have been delighted to see him again and compare notes of that day!

Through Dick's efforts I was soon to learn of and talk to Paul's observer for, that day, Lt. John Collins, who filled in the missing pilot's name to complete this story. I plan to stay in contact with John in the years to come. (Sadly, Lt. John Collins passed away on 26 April 2008 in Laconia, NH.)

John O. Thompson, 1872 W. Claridge Way, Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 583-9269

NOTE: We thank Richard L. Souza, TSgt. USAF (ret) for submitting this story. Reach him at 79 Bradstreet Ave., Lowell, MA 01851, skeeterloc@aol.com.

A Chance Encounter with a MOH Recipient

NOTE: In our Jan/Feb 2019 issue we reported on the launching of the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116). By all accounts Mr. Hudner was a fine gentleman and easy to get along with. Recently we found this article in our vault that attests to that fact. We apologize to Mr. Lacki for our lateness in publishing his remembrance.

I served with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division during the Korean War. While attending a reunion in Atlantic City in 2007, I had an unusual experience.

When we arrived at the hotel, the back of the parking lot was roped off and the

Marines from Willow Grove, PA flew in two helicopters for our inspection. One was an older "HUEY," the other was a "CH53-E." There was also another reunion at the hotel. They had many displays in the lobby, comprising mainly



model ships and naval aircraft.

My wife and I explored the helicopters one morning while there weren't too many people there. We encountered two gentlemen from the other reunion and started a conversation and exchanged information about each other's reunions.

One of the men was Tom Hudner, a naval aviator. On Dec. 4, 1950, while flying the F4U Corsairs and assigned to Fighter Squadron 32 (VF 32) aboard USS Leyte (CV 32), he earned the Medal of Honor while providing support to the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the Korean War Veterans Association

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ARIZONA | | INDIANA | | MISSOURI | | OHIO | |
| A049575 | RAY JOHNSON | R049596 | AARON E. CURTIS | A049589 | CATHERINE M. O'DELL | R049607 | HAROLD W. WARD |
| A049576 | MARIO LOPEZ | IOWA | | MONTANA | | OREGON | |
| A049577 | GARY D. TOMLINSON | R049597 | JAMES HANSEN | LR49590 | ROBERT A. WALSH | R049608 | JOHN RENDON |
| A049578 | NORMA J. TOMLINSON | KANSAS | | NEVADA | | SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| R049572 | JAMES L. WYMER | LR49618 | CHRISTOPHER M. MANDIC | A049571 | JUDY A. REED | R049599 | ALTON A. GOHL |
| CALIFORNIA | | A049609 | DALE E. MORROW | NEW HAMPSHIRE | | TENNESSEE | |
| A049574 | CLYDENE BUCHANAN | LOUISIANA | | R049603 | AAREAL A. GALLIEN | R049598 | JIM BROWN |
| R049573 | LAWRENCE BUCHANAN | R049616 | GORDON MASSICOT SR. | NEW JERSEY | | R049570 | JERRY R. KAPALIN |
| R049600 | DAVID L. PINEDA | R049615 | PERRY L. SUMNER | R049595 | JOSEPH F. DUNPHY | TEXAS | |
| R049583 | DAVID K. ROGERS | MAINE | | R049585 | JOSEPH E. HOWARD | R049612 | CHARLES HARRELL |
| R049601 | JAMES C. TRIPP | LR49610 | DENNIS A. PINKHAM SR. | NEW YORK | | LR49588 | PAUL T. KURAS |
| FLORIDA | | MASSACHUSETTS | | A049605 | ALVIN GONZALEZ | R049592 | DOUGLAS M. SMITH |
| R049581 | EDWARD J. CRANSTON | R049611 | ROBERT CLARK | R049586 | ED B. HOMSEY | VIRGINIA | |
| R049584 | RALPH R. GILMAN | MICHIGAN | | R049602 | STEVE PECHACEK | R049594 | URSON S. BACLE |
| R049580 | GRANT P. GRAVER | R049569 | RALPH JOSLIN | LR49591 | JOHN C. SPARRER JR. | R049582 | DOUGLASS R. HALL |
| LR49606 | JOHN L. HIGHSMITH | MINNESOTA | | NORTH CAROLINA | | WISCONSIN | |
| LR49587 | ROBERT L. LOSSIUS | R049593 | JAMES A. JOHNSON | A049617 | EILEEN NUNEZ | R049613 | JOHN M. BROOKS |
| ILLINOIS | | MISSISSIPPI | | NORTH DAKOTA | | LR49568 | GREGORY A. CHILLE |
| LR49604 | WILLIAM M. BLACK | LR49614 | RONALD E. CROTWELL | A049579 | AARON M. WEST | | |

A sad farewell to USS General William Mitchell

I served in Korea during 1952-53 in the United States Army; KCOMZ, 89th Ord. In those days we were transported from Ft. Lewis, WA to Korea via troopship—a long trip!

Going over we were assigned to the General William Mitchell (APA-114). I returned to the United States aboard General Breckenridge (APA-176). After debarking at Ft. Lewis, WA, we traveled the rest of the way via troop train. We were sent to Ft. Meade, MD before we were actually allowed to go home.

Since I was and still am from Delaware, I wasn't far from my home at that point, but I still had to wait.

The interesting part of my story is that when my wife and I and son and daughter-in-law were participating in a bill-fish tournament off the coast of Palm Beach, FL, we saw an old ship coming down from the north under tow. As it got closer, I couldn't believe my eyes! It was the old General Mitchell! She was obviously going someplace to "die," as it was stripped, with ropes dangling, etc.

It was an interesting and bittersweet time for me to see this ship, especially in this condition. I later learned that she was being towed to Louisiana to be scrapped. She looked so sad with all the cables and life boats gone.

I was at Aberdeen, MD two years ago and found a military vendor there selling Korean War items. What did I buy? A printer's plate of; YES, the 'General Mitchell.'

Thomas W. Murray, 89th ORD KCOMZ, 309 Lotus St., Dover, DE 19901, 302-674-1866, shulade@aol.com

NOTE: General William Mitchell received four service stars for Korean War service. The ship entered the National Defense Reserve Fleet and was berthed in Suisun Bay, California. She was sold for scrapping on 29 June 1987 for \$1,270,000, and scrapped in Taiwan in 1988.



USS General William Mitchell (AP-114) embarking units of the 1st Marine Division at Pavuvu, Russell Islands, November 1944

Official Membership Application Form

The Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.
PO Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407 (Telephone: 217-345-4414)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE Assigned Membership Number: _____

KWVA Regular Annual Dues - \$25.00 | Associate Membership - \$25.00 | MOH, 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 # _____

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <i>Please Check One:</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member (<input type="checkbox"/> KATUSA?) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Life Member (<input type="checkbox"/> KATUSA?) | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Medal Of Honor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-POW | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Star Spouse/Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary |

(Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apartment or Unit #(if any) _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Year of Birth _____

Email _____

Chapter Number/Name (if applicable) # _____

-All applicants for Regular Membership please provide the following information-

| Unit(s) to which Assigned | Service Branch | Dates of service: |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Division _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Army | WithIN Korea were: (See criteria below) |
| Regiment _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force | From: _____ To: _____ |
| Battalion _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Navy | Without Korea were: (See criteria below) |
| Company _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Marines | From: _____ To: _____ |
| Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard | |

How did you hear about the KWVA? KWVA member, Internet, Google, KWVA Website, Facebook, Email, Magazine, Newspaper, YouTube, Twitter, Other: _____

"I certify, under penalty of law, that the above information provided by me 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" listed below, complete the "Certification of Eligibility for KWVA Membership" Form on page 2.]

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: KWVA - Mail to: KWVA Membership Office - PO Box 407 - Charleston, IL 61920-0407.

(Or you may pay by Credit Card)

Credit Card # _____ VISA MASTER CARD Discover AMEX

Expiration Date ____/____/____ V-Code _____ Signature _____

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR KWVA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to completing the KWVA Membership Application Form on page 1 above, persons applying for, and qualifying for, membership under one of the categories listed below, are also required to fill in the appropriate blanks, sign in the space provided below and attach this page to the completed Membership Application Form on page 1.

Check Only
One Category

- KATUSA: I served in the Korean War as a member of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Forces. I have since relocated to the United States and became a United States Citizen on: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____. (Verification will be required)
Medal of Honor: I am a Medal of Honor recipient and the date on which it was awarded was: Month ___ Day ___ Year _____.
Ex-POW: I was held as a Prisoner of War by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces at some time during the period June 25, 1950 to the present, 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 during the Korean 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 during the Korean 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. I do not qualify to be a Regular member.
Honorary: I was elected as an Honorary Member of the KWVA by a vote of the NATIONAL 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."

Applicant Signature: _____ Month ___ Day ___ Year ____

Check HERE If GIFT Membership

- GIFT Membership: I certify, under penalty of law, that to the best of my knowledge, ALL of the information I have provided about the Applicant is true and correct. I have included the required payment with this application.

Signature: _____ Month ___ Day ___ Year ____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

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, is eligible for membership if:
 - a. Said service was within Korea including territorial waters and airspace at any time, September 3, 1945 to Present, or
 - b. Said service was outside of Korea, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any KWVA Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person held as a prisoner of war by the North Koreans, Chinese, or Russian forces during and after the period of hostilities from June 25, 1950 forward is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
4. **Gold Star Parents.** Any parent whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.
5. **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 (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

B. Associate Members.

1. Must not be eligible for Regular membership.
2. 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 KWVA Charter and its Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual, shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

C. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

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

WEB SITE: www.kwva.org

Adopted 10/26/2009, R4 Approved 10/27/2012

The Graybeards Submission Guidelines

Ongoing Series

Remember that we have ongoing series for which we are always looking for submissions. Among them are:

- Where I was on July 27, 1953
- Humor in Korea
- How I joined the KWVA

We will continue the series as long as we receive your stories. Please send your submissions to Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Editor's Office Hours

Bear in mind that the editor is not a full-time employee of the KWVA. He maintains approximate office hours. They are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

Photo Captions

Whenever possible, please identify the subjects in photos you submit. We realize that is not always possible, especially in group photos. But, when you can, identify them, use designations such as (R-L), (L-R), (Standing, L-R), (Seated, L-R), etc. And, please write subjects' names as legibly as possible. We can usually figure out who the KWVA members are, but we cannot guess at non-members' identities.

Photo Limits

From time to time we have to limit the number of photos we include with Chapter or Tell America news. We receive a lot of submissions in both categories, and we have a limited number of pages. So, in the interest of fairness, we try to spread the coverage.

APPLICATION FOR KOREA REVISIT & PCFY TOURS

(UPDATE 01/05/16)

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

KWVA Member, # _____ Expiration Date (Exp date) _____

NOTE: If you have not yet received your membership # from KWVA please insert "applied for."

List all your addresses, (seasonal/if more than one per year) and dates of residence, no P.O. Boxes

1. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

2. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dates _____

Phone # _____ Fax _____ E-Mail* _____

*- CRUCIAL FOR IMMEDIATE TOUR UPDATES

Korea Revisit Only

Veterans Passport# _____ Exp Date _____ Date of Birth (DOB) _____

Companion Name/Relationship _____ DOB _____

Companion's Passport# _____ Exp Date _____

NOTE: If you do not have a passport with 6 months validity after last date of return to USA and have applied for a new one, please insert "Applied for" in the space provided and contact MHT when you receive it.

Veteran's Korean Service Information

Branch of Service _____ Unit _____

Period of Service in the Korean Theater (month/year) from _____ thru _____

Veterans / Family Member Signature _____ Date _____

Complete and mail this form along with the nonrefundable \$50.00 deposit per person (check, money order or Credit Card) to Military Historical Tours. Payment of the remaining \$400 service fee is required for participants once a tour departure date is selected and submitted. The remaining \$400 service fee will be nonrefundable but a continuation into the following year is allowed if an emergency precludes the participants from attending the revisit that they have selected and been scheduled for.

Credit Card Authorization

I authorize **Military Historical Tours** by my signature above to charge my Visa, Discover, Master Card or Amex a **\$50.00** Deposit Per Person,

The nonrefundable amount of **\$50.00** Per Person Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ please include the 3-Digit code on back of card _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card _____

Korea Revisit related material please send to:

**KWVA Revisit Korea Program
C/O MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS
13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY STE #202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

**Phone: 703-590-1295 or 800-722-9501
Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: mhtours@miltours.com
Website: www.miltours.com**

Background

The Korea Revisit program was begun by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA/Seoul) in 1975 for the 25th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War to express the Republic of Korea (ROK's) government's gratitude to Korean War veterans and their families also to show them the bountiful results of their sacrifices and devotion.

MPVA's Eligibility Requirements

Korean War Veterans who served in or supported ground, naval, or air operations in the Korean Theater between June 25, 1950 and October 15, 1954. Family members of deceased or disabled Veterans are eligible to participate in the "Korea Revisit Program." An eligible applicant is allowed to bring a family member or friend as a "travel companion." Korea Defense Veterans (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to go when Korean War Veterans are not available.

Expanded Eligibility

1. For the 65th anniversaries (2015-19) there will be more quotas available. In addition, those who have been on a Revisit prior to 2011 can apply to return again. (Call MHT for more details)
2. Widows and family members of deceased veterans or those unable to travel are also eligible for the Revisit as Veteran Representatives.
3. Korea Defense Veterans who served in Korea during these periods (1945 – Jun 24, 1950 and Oct 16, 1954 – present) are eligible to return on a space available basis TBD by the MPVA and the ROK criteria.

Benefits & Schedule

1. Free hotel accommodations for the veteran their companion or veteran representatives, meals for 5 nights and 6 days in Seoul for 2 people. If you want to bring more people you may at your expense.
2. Accommodations are based on (2) persons per room, if you want a single hotel room you may at your own expense. All of the above items need to be requested in writing.
3. Tours of Seoul and its vicinity, banquet hosted by the MPVA and KVA with presentation of the "Ambassador for Peace" medal, tours of the DMZ, Pan-Mun-Jom, War Memorial Museum, and National Cemetery.

Typical Korea Revisit Itinerary

- Day 1: Fly to Korea.
Day 2: Arrival day Incheon Airport, ROK check into Seoul Hotel.
Day 3 - Tribute Ceremony at the "Korean National Cemetery", visit to the Korean War Memorial.

Day 4 - Visit Panmunjom, DMZ, Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas & wreath laying.

Day 5 - Ceremony for Korean War Veterans & Display/Show.

Day 6 - Visit tour of "Korean Folk Village" and shopping opportunity. Banquet hosted by MPVA and KVA.

Day 7 - Depart Korea or begin post-tour extensions.

Sundry Tour Requirements

1. The MPVA Revisit Program privileges are provided for scheduled groups only.
2. Participants are required to have a valid passport that does not expire until 6 months after return to the USA.
3. Neither MPVA Seoul nor MHT Virginia U.S.A is responsible for any loss of or damage to personal or other items; medical expenses, injuries or loss of life due to any accident of whatever nature during the Revisit tours.
4. Medical and Evacuation Insurance is required by MPVA for all veterans, companions or veteran representatives. Insurance costs are included in the admin service charge for Korea only.
5. Roundtrip transportation costs to Korea are not included and will be borne by each person who participates in the program. The participants must purchase roundtrip airfare, the ROK government will subsidize air costs (approximately 50% Veterans and 30% Companions.) The refunded airfare reimbursement will be calculated by the ROK after all the revisits. The reimbursement will be sent in a lump sum to be distributed by MHT for the entire year's groups.
6. Applications will be received/accepted on a "First-come, first-served" basis.
7. Use of frequent flyer miles or other "free" transportation is allowed, but the administrative nonrefundable service fee of \$450.00 per person is still required for the insurance, tour leaders and administration costs.
8. The initial \$50 per person registration fee that is required for postage, printing, phone charges, file maintenance and personnel staffing to manage the Korea Revisit Programs is not refundable. The remainder of the nonrefundable Service Fee (\$400) will not be charged until the participant has selected his Korea Revisit (KR) dates on the KR Preference Sheet that will be mailed in March-April as part of the KR Handbook.

Death Notice of a Member of KWVA

The following notice is submitted for publication:

Name of deceased _____

Date of death _____ Year of Birth _____

Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard

Primary Unit of service during Korean War _____

Submitted by _____

Relationship to deceased _____

Send to: **Membership, P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407**

Now Hear This:

All comments concerning, or contributions for publication in The Graybeards should be sent to:

**Art Sharp, Editor
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
or emailed to:
sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net**

The story of Charles McGee

Brigadier General Charles Edward McGee, Pilot/Pioneer

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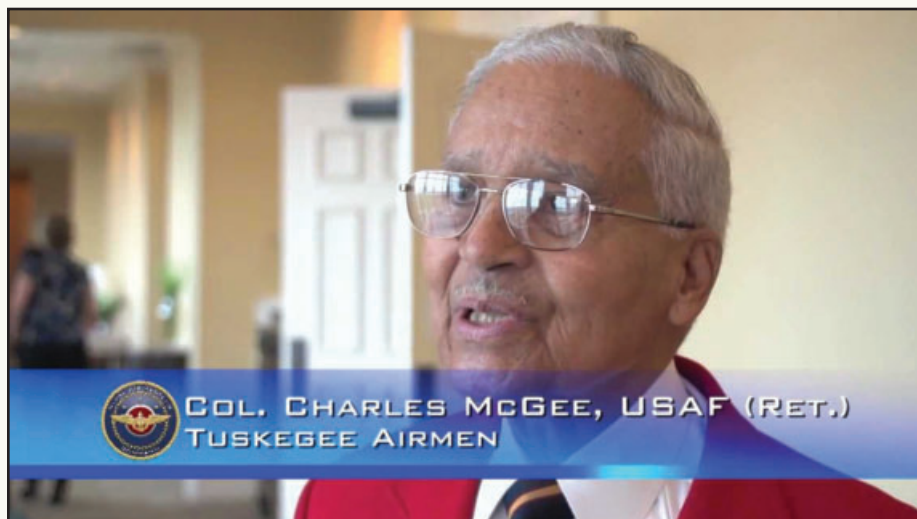
His Life and Military Service

Charles McGee entered this world in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 7, 1919, the second of three children born to Lewis McGee, Sr. and Ruth McGee. With Charles' father being a minister, teacher and social worker, the McGee family moved often, living in Ohio, Florida, West Virginia, Illinois and Iowa.

After graduating from Chicago's Dusable High School in 1938, he earned money for college by working in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Attending the University of Illinois in 1939, he joined the ROTC and was a member of the Pershing Rifles. It was there that Charles met the love of his life, Frances Nelson. Later, in 1978, at the age of 58, he completed the college degree at Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri—over thirty years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, attaining a college degree had been a lifelong goal.

With war declared after Pearl Harbor, Charles heard the army was recruiting to train colored soldiers as mechanics at nearby Chanute Field for the expected colored soldiers' flight program. He applied for a pilot's slot in this experimental squadron and passed the examination. With his call to service inevitable and college completion doubtful, that fall Charles worked at a steel mill. He and Frances were married on October 17, 1942. Two days later he received his orders and soon was at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama to begin rigorous flight training with his fellow black cadets.

On June 30, 1943, Charles graduated from flight school in Class 43-F. By the beginning of 1944, Second Lieutenant McGee had joined the pioneering all-black 332nd Fighter Group, 12th Air Force – flying P-39 Airacobras from a base near Naples, Italy. By May of 1944, the 332nd was with the 15th Air Force, flying P-47 Thunderbolts – and later, P-51 Mustangs – on fighter sweeps and long-range bomber escort missions out of Ramatelli.



After seeing Colonel Charles McGee's picture on the cover of The March/April 2020 Graybeards, I looked at his biography published on the National Aviation Hall of Fame website (<https://www.nationalaviation.org/>). I think our members would like reading about newly promoted Brigadier General McGee. I've copied his biography found on The National Aviation Hall of Fame Web-page.

On 4/24/20, I contacted Meagan Geeting, Executive Administrator, who gave permission to reprint the biography of BG McGee in The Graybeards as long as we say the material came from National Aviation Hall of Fame with their permission. There are dozens of pictures of McGee, so I took three of them to put in the article.

I was delighted to see that McGee and I had been to some of the same places. When I recruited medical professionals for the Missouri Army National Guard, I stayed many a night at Richards-Gebauer Air Base, south of Kansas City. Our MASH unit had been moved there and my job was to fill it with surgeons.

Like McGee, I was an Eagle Scout, but never received the award of Distinguished Eagle Scout. After living several years in Columbia, Missouri, I'm quite familiar with Columbia College. I knew a past president and one of the instructors.

Joe Seiling, Ch. 270, KWVA, joeseiling.debbie@gmail.com

The 332nd, also known as the "Red Tails," soon earned the respect of their Luftwaffe counterparts and of the white bomber crews they protected. By November of 1944, with 136 missions and a Focke Wulf 190 to his credit, Charles was heading home. He returned to Tuskegee as a twin engine instructor. Upon war's end, the Tuskegee Army Air Field was closed, and Charles joined the 477th Composite Group at Lockbourne Air Base, near Columbus, Ohio, in 1946. After several stateside assignments, May 1950 found Charles in the Philippines at Clark Field, as Base Operations Officer.

In June, 1950 another war broke out – in Korea. Charles soon found himself back in a Mustang and in combat, with the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron based out of Pusan. Over

his tour, Charles flew 100 low-level bombing and strafing missions. Returning to Clark, Charles took command of the 44th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, eagerly transitioning into the F-80 jet fighter. In 1953, Charles graduated from the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, and later flew F-89 Scorpions with the Air Defense Command.

Charles was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1959. The McGee's and their three children spent the next few years on assignments in Italy, North Dakota, and Missouri. By 1967, another war – Vietnam – called Charles into combat. Leading the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron out of Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon, he flew RF-4C Phantoms on 173 more dangerous missions.

The Air Force next sent Charles to Germany, promoting him to Colonel in 1969. In June 1972 he took command of the 1840th Air Base Wing at Richards-Gebauer, near Kansas City, Missouri. On January 31, 1973, after 30 years of military service and three wars, Charles retired from the Air Force. His 409 aerial fighter combat missions over three wars is a record that still stands.

On February 4, 2020, McGee was promoted from colonel to brigadier general. It was authorized in legislation introduced in December 2019 shortly after his 100th birthday, by Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative Anthony Brown. McGee was a special guest at the 2020 State of the Union Address, where President Donald Trump pinned the stars to his uniform in the Oval Office before delivering the address that day.

Charles' military honors include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with Two Clusters, two Presidential Unit Citations, and many others. Charles then went back to school, finally earning that long delayed degree. His civilian career included serving as Vice President of a real estate holding company and manager of the Kansas City Downtown Airport.

He was instrumental to the growth of the Tuskegee Airmen Association, and his many additional honors include the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the National Aeronautics Association Elder Statesman of Aviation induction, the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and, on March 27, 2007, as a Tuskegee Airman, the Congressional Gold Medal. Charles remains a highly sought after speaker and with his motto of "Do while you can," continues to inspire young and old alike.

The National Aviation Hall of Fame proudly honors Brigadier General Charles Edward McGee for his pioneering aviation career and exemplary service to his country.

Adapted from an article that appeared on the National Aviation Hall of Fame Website. Used with its permission.



This is your Memorial

I am a Viet vet, but after my tour in Nam ('67-'68) my whole unit was deployed to Osan in Korea in 1969 for a six-month TDY (temporary duty). This past January I was in Washington D.C. for a funeral at Arlington for a cousin. The next morning my son and I walked the mall, specifically to view the Vietnam Wall and the WWII and the Korean War Memorials.

My son is 45 and was interested in my "history." I am an avid photographer and it just seemed that the light was right, so I'd like to share these pictures with you—especially since I know that not everyone has been able to travel to D.C. to see these memorials.

Clair Smith, mknsmitty@gmail.com





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.

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MOH from page 69

When another pilot from his squadron, Ensign Jesse Brown, was shot down behind Chinese lines, LT(JG) Thomas Hudner went to his aid. Tom could see Jesse moving in the cockpit but not getting out, so he belly landed his Corsair and went to assist him. He found that Jesse was hopelessly trapped in the crushed cockpit and could not free his legs. Brown was slowly bleeding to death.

A rescue helicopter (H03S-1) from VMO-6, piloted by 1st LT Charles Ward,

arrived while other Corsairs kept the enemy at bay. Both men tried without success to free Brown as he struggled for his life.

It was starting to get dark. At that time, helicopters did not have night navigational equipment. The nearest friendly territory was Koto-ri, which was under siege by the Chinese. We were waiting for the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments to break through from Hagaru in the fight to the sea. The two damaged planes were incinerated by

napalm.

Koto-ri was defended mainly by "Chesty" Puller's 1st Marines, including the 2nd Battalion. They landed their helicopter in this perimeter, where they spent the night and completed their journey the next morning.

It certainly was a coincidence that the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines and Thomas Rudner would be at a reunion at the same hotel and the same time almost 60 years later.



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A new memorial to be dedicated in Florida in June 2020.