

America's Forgotten Victory!

KOREA VETERANS



The Graybeards

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KOREA WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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Memorial Day 2023

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

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.
In Honor of Colonel William Weber, Founder of Korean War Memorial Foundation.



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Graybeards Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

MAILING ADDRESS OF THE KWVA: P.O. Box 407, Charleston, IL 61920-0407. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.kwva.us>

We Honor Founder William T. Norris

Editor

Arthur G. Sharp
2473 New Haven Circle
Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141
Ph: 813-614-1326
sharparthur@aol.com

Publisher

Gerald W. Wadley, Ph.D.
Finisterre Publishing Inc.
3 Black Skimmer Ct
Beaufort, SC 29907
finisterre@isc.net

Membership Office

Address Changes, Corrections, & All Membership Questions

Sheila Fritts
Membership Administrative Assistant
PO Box 407
Charleston, IL 61920-0407
Ph: 217-345-4414
Membership@kwva.us

Webmaster

Jim Doppelhammer
Double Hammer Computer Services
430 W. Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920-7471
Ph: 217-512-9474
webmaster@kwva.us

National Headquarters

President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur
7472 Moorgate Point Way
Naples, FL 34113
Ph: 617-997-3148
Kvamane@aol.com

Executive Assistant to President

Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret)
8361 Queen Elizabeth Blvd.
Annandale, VA 22003-4457
Ph: 703-307-8959
jwiedhahn@aol.com

1st Vice President

Albert H. McCarthy
770 Salisbury St #203
Worcester, MA 0160-1166
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)
mccarthy.albert@live.com

2nd Vice President

Thomas M. McHugh
217 Seymour RD
Hackettstown, NJ 07840-1001
Ph: 908-852-1964
tmmchugh@msn.com

Secretary

Harold Trieber
573 NW Montevina Dr
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986 |
Ph: 561-568-9347
HaroldSki302@aol.com

Assistant Secretary

Bobbie L. Williams
11398 SW Fieldstone Way
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987
Ph: 540-429-2057
answerthecall4u@gmail.com

Treasurer

Joseph L. Harman LR36534
430 W Lincoln Ave
Charleston IL 61920-3021
Ph: 541-752-5588
treasurer@kwva.us

Assistant Treasurers

Donald R. Sherry
9511 SW 56TH PL
Gainesville, FL 32608-4333
Ph: 352-375-8355
DPSKWVA@yahoo.com

Roger E. Gulbransen

2603 NW 13TH ST # 230
Gainesville, FL 32609-2835
Ph: 352-327-1093
iamr06er@yahoo.com

Directors

Term 2020-2023

Director: 2020-2023
(VACANT)

Michele M. Bretz
81 Windy Park Way
Candler, NC 28715
Ph: 828-989-8286
paintedneedle@aol.com

Douglas W. Voss

503 Cummings Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534-3485
Ph: 616-735-4120
Cell: 616-250-2993
dww123@aol.com

Term 2021-2024

Richard J. Daucunas
36 Buttonwood Rd.
Voohees NJ 08043-2002
856-264-0960
ncdau@comcast.net

Bruce R. "Rocky" Harder
1047 Portugal Dr
Stafford VA 22554-2025
540-659-0252
Harderbr@aol.com

L.T. "Tim" Whitmore
5625 Canterbury Ln
Suffolk VA 23435-1605
757-619-8439
Twhit35@gmail.com

Term 2022-2025

John R. McWaters
2075 Callaway Dr
The Villages, FL 32162-4388
Ph: 352-445-9316
genjon@thevillages.net

David H. Pickett
2473 SW Galiano Rd
Port St Lucie FL 34987
Ph: (772) 201-9570
Davidpickett9570@gmail.com

Fred C. Lash
7020 Maple Tree Ln
Springfield VA 22152
Ph: (703) 644-5132
fredanddoonalash@verizon.net

Appointed/Assigned Staff

Judge Advocate

William (Bill) Labombarde
29 Shipyard Rd
Friendship ME 04547
(207) 703-3059
william_labombarde@usad40.org

National Sgt. at Arms

Richard L. Stalbaum
2612 NW 48th Pl
Gainesville, FL 32605-6200
Ph: 352-278-8462
fiblue05@aol.com

National Insurance Director

Albert H. McCarthy
1770 Salisbury St #203
Worcester, MA 0160-1166
Ph: 508-277-7300 (C)
mccarthy.albert@live.com

National Legislative Director

Michele M. Bretz (See Directors)

National Legislative Assistant

Douglas W. Voss (See Sgt at Arms)

National Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

Tom Cacy

National VAVS Director

(Vacant)

Delegate to VA VSO Committee

Albert H. McCarthy (See 1st VP)

POW/MIA Coordinator

Bruce "Rocky" Harder
1047 Portugal Dr.
Stafford, VA 22554-2025
Ph: 540-659-0252, harderbr@aol.com

KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA

Warren Wiedhahn

KWVA Liaison to KDVA

Rocky Harder (See Directors)

KWVA Co-Liaisons to Wash. DC

Bruce Harder (See Directors)
Warren Wiedhahn

National Chaplain Emeritus

John W. 'Jack' Keep
3416 Mountain Rd
Front Royal, VA 22630-8720
Ph: 540-631-9213
jkeepsr@centurylink.net

National Chaplain

Paul K. Kim
254 Concord Ave.
Cambridge MA 02138-1337
617 877-1930
paulkim.hope@gmail.com

KWVA Committees

Budget/Finance Committee

Bruce Harder; Chairman
Joe Harman
Bernard A. Smith
Tom McHugh
Albert H. McCarthy

Bylaws Committee

Rick Daucunas, Chairman
Michele M. Bretz
Albert H. McCarthy
Thomas M. McHugh

Membership/Recruiting Committee

Albert H McCarthy, Chairman
Harold Trieber
Joseph D. Rossi
Stephen Szekely
James Doppelhammer

Elections Committee

Thomas McHugh, Chairman
Michele Bretz
Thomas E. Cacy
Tine Martin

Resolutions Committee

L.T. "Tim" Whitmore, Chairman
5625 Canterbury Ln
Suffolk VA 23435-1605
757-483-9784
Twhit35@gmail.com

Tell America Committee

John R. McWaters, Chairman
Larry C. Kinard, Asst. Chairman
Thomas E. Cacy
Wilfred E. 'Bill' Lack
Douglas M. Voss

Ethics and Grievance Committee

Richard L. Stalbaum, Chairman
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Michele Bretz
Brendan Cullinan
Raymond H. Glock
Doug Voss

Awards Committee

Harold Trieber, Chairman

Scholarship Committee

David Pickett, Chairman
Mailing Address:
2473 SW Galiano Rd.
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987-2016

Public Relations

Fred Lash
Harold Trieber
James A. Doppleshammer
Arthur Sharp
Gerald W. Wadley, Ph.D.

Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee

Douglas W. Voss, Chairman
Jeffery J. Brodeur
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Membership Records Management

James A. Doppelhammer; Database Mgmt
Sheila Fritts; Admin Asst.

Events Committee

Albert H. McCarthy, Chairman
Harold Trieber
Donald E. Louder
Thomas M. McHugh

Public Affairs Coordinator

Fred Lash
fredanddonnalash@verizon.net



From the President

Jeffrey J. Brodeur, M.A./C.A.G.S.

To my fellow KWVA Members:

The KWVA National Board Meeting Arlington, Virginia on March 30th was successful. (See related photos on pp. 26.) We received a great briefing from DPAA Deputy Director Fern Winbush on the present state of our Korea War POW/MIA situation. Congressman Brian Mast welcomed us to D.C.

The board has condemned the sale of any U.S. land to companies with links to Communist China. We believe this is a national security issue.

Our fundraiser is very important; please support it. We have NOT raised dues in 18 years and everything has gone up dramatically, especially postage and paper. Tom McHugh has done a great job as Chairman.

Our KWVA National officers laid the KWVA wreath at the Korean War Memorial as the Franklin County, Kentucky Frankfort High School sang the national anthem. It was an unbelievable ceremony. We then headed to the American Legion and linked up with the Walter Reed Society, where we presented them a donation for their support of our wounded warriors.

We proceeded to Walter Reed at Bethesda and linked up with the Semper Fi/America's Fund Sue Wortman and the Wounded Warrior Project's Ryan Kules. We presented donations to them in front of the Corpsman Memorial. After that, we made our way to the 7th floor TBI Ward and received a briefing from Ward Director Dr. David Williamson on the functions of the ward. We presented KWVA challenge coins to the staff and wounded warriors.

We also visited KWVA member Colonel Brendan Cullinan at Davidson Airfield, where he briefed us on the unit. We made the most of our time in D.C.

Two longtime KWVA National Officers passed away, Judge Advocate Bill Burns and former National Director Tine Martin. Both were personal friends and greatly contributed to the KWVA. KWVA

Our fundraiser is very important; please support it. We have NOT raised dues in 18 years and everything has gone up dramatically, especially postage and paper.

member and former Assistant Judge Advocate Bill Labombarde has stepped into the breach.

Because of renovations at the Arlington, Virginia Hilton, we will be holding our KWVA National Meeting at the Orlando Airport Holiday Inn. The KWVA Department of Florida will be setting up the hospitality lounge. DPAA has been notified and will be giving the membership a briefing on our POW/MIA situation. I also asked the Busan Museum staff to come and brief the membership on the museum and the materials they need. Members need to register now.

On April 25, I, KWVA National Director Rocky Harder, KWVA National Director Fred Lash, KWVA National Chaplain Paul Kim, KWVA Alaska Chapter Commander Aves Thompson, and KWVA member Don Howell attended a reception set up by MPVA for South Korean President Yoon and the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War at the DC Hilton. It was an honor to link up with Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient U.S. Army Colonel Ralph Puckett, who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Colonel Puckett, USN Elmer Williams, and USMC Baldermo Lopez (posthumously) were awarded the Korean Military Order of Merit by President Yoon. It was an outstanding ceremony.

On April 26th, we attended the White House, where President Biden hosted a state ceremony for President Yoon. Hundreds of people were in attendance on the south lawn. It was impressive to see all our troops, including the Old Guard Fife and Drum Platoon, perform with precision.

The KWVA made a very visible presence and was escorted to an area near the president's podium. Several veterans were in the area, along with the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Sea Scouts, American Legion and MOPH.

On April 28, President Yoon made his way to Boston and Harvard University, where he was greeted by Vice President Al McCarthy and, unfortunately, many protesters. It was a great honor to have Vice President McCarthy personally greet President Yoon and present him a KWVA Challenge Coin.

Finally, I will put this in my column again. If you are over 80 years old you are eligible for Life Membership at \$75.00. The board voted on this three years ago! It has been in the *Graybeards* numerous times and it is on the KWVA Membership application.

Freedom is not Free.
Jeffrey J. Brodeur;
KWVA National President

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

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COVER: Bearing Flags: A soldier places American flags at headstones in Arlington National Cemetery, Va., May 25, 2023, during the 75th anniversary of the tradition, known as "Flags In," held around Memorial Day to honor the nation's fallen. (Photo By: Elizabeth Fraser, Army)



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KWVA active in Washington D.C. area

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea hosted a luncheon on April 25, 2023, which several KWVA members attended. The KWVA was also well represented at a meeting between U.S President Joseph Biden and his South Korean counterpart, Yoon Suk Yeol. (All photos by Fred Lash)



KWVA entourage and guests at White House: Paul Kim, Unidentified, Don Howell, Rocky Harder, Jeff Brodeur, Aves Thompson, and Fred Lash (L-R)

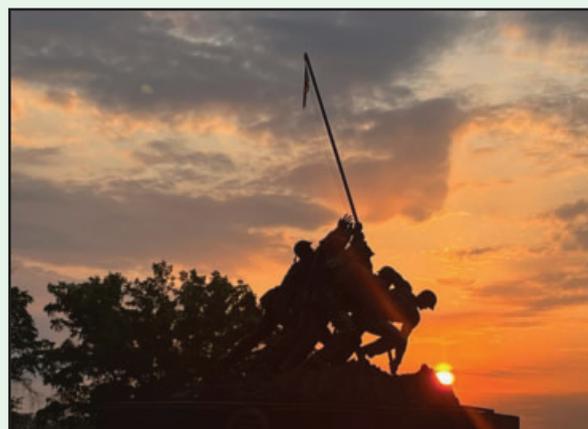


KWVA member Aves Thompson, Association Chaplain Paul Kim, National President Jeff Brodeur, National Director Bruce ('Rocky') Harder, KWVA member Don Howell, and National Director Fred ('Flash') Lash at the White House for an arrival ceremony in honor of the President of South Korea, Yoon Suk Yeol

KWVA member Don Howell, National Directors Bruce ('Rocky') Harder and Fred ('Flash') Lash, and KWVA National President Jeff Brodeur (L-R) behind Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), recipient of the Medal of Honor, at ROK Embassy luncheon



Presidents Biden (L) and Yoon 'trooping the line' at the Arrival Ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House on April 26th, 2023



A shot of the Iwo Jima Monument in Washington D.C.

KWVA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, March 30th, 2023

§ Meeting was held at the Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport

§ Meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Brodeur at 8:30 am.

§ Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance was led by 2nd Vice President Tom McHugh.

§ Opening Prayer was said by Chaplain Paul Kim. Paul expressed our best wishes and a speedy recovery to Jim Doppelhammer, who was unable to attend the meeting

§ Rules of Decorum was presented by President Brodeur and accepted by the membership.

§ President Brodeur stressed the need for funds to continue at a positive rate to meet the goals needed to succeed as a viable organization. Fund raising and donations are continuing to be positive.

§ President Brodeur presented a "Plaque of Achievement" to outgoing Directors Michele Bretz and Doug Voss. Jeff also noted that two of our members, Tine Martin (Election Committee), and Bill Burns (Judge Advocate) have recently passed away.

§ President Brodeur has appointed Don Sherry as Treasurer and Roger Gulbransen as Assistant Treasurer to replace Treasurer Joe Harman, who is retiring from his position.

§ Roll Call of Officers, Directors and Staff was conducted by Vice President Al McCarthy.

- All officers, directors, and staff were present and accounted for.
- A declaration of a quorum was achieved.
- Roger Gulbransen sat in for Treasurer Joe Harman.

§ Reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: October 25, 2022

• Secretary Harold Trieber requested the Board waive the reading of the minutes, as they were placed in the Graybeards and mailed to the BOD previously to review.

§ A motion was made and seconded with unanimous vote to wave the reading of the minutes.

§ Treasurer's Report was read by Rocky Harder, as Joe Harman was not present:

• KWVA's Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, were audited by Franklin & Vaughn LLC. They rendered an unqualified ("clean") opinion on our statements.

• These Statements need to be approved by board vote today for the record.

• A motion was made and seconded and approved by the board.

• KWVA's proposed budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 was presented to the Board for review and approval.

• A motion was made to approve the budget for June 30, 2024. It was seconded and approved by unanimous vote by the Board of Directors.

• All board officers, members, and staff must comply with Section 3.7 of the SPM when submitting expense reimbursements.

§ Rocky Harder; Budget/Finance Committee Report:

• In summary, everything is in financial order. However, we have

no information on how our investments are performing so far in the calendar year 2023.

• It is not wise to speculate on how our investments will do in this fiscal year. With all that is going on in the world and in our country this year, events may have a negative impact on our investments. Although our investments have done well in the past, there is no guarantee on how they will perform in the future.

§ Membership Report; Vice President Al McCarthy:

• Our total membership is 7,675 in 2022, down from 8,049 in 2021.

• Al went through the challenges to recruiting new members and the responsibilities of the membership.

• Each Chapter should have a Membership/Recruiting Chairman.

• He also detailed 50 effective ways to help the Chapters recruit new members and sent the information out to all the Chapter Commanders/Presidents.

§ Fund Raising Report; 2nd vice president; Tom McHugh;

• We should reach our \$100,000 goal if our Chapters do purchase some tickets. Let's all push that Message.

§ National Legislative Quarterly Report; Michele Bretz. H.R. 3967:

• Honoring our PACT Act of 2022. This bill addresses health care, presumption of service-connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service.

• The KWVA requests that any place and time defoliant agents were used, including the Korean DMZ Conflict time frame of defoliant use from 1 September, 1967 through 31 August 1971, should be included in this worthy bill. We need our members to contact our Congress members to include this in the bill.

§ Our Guest Speaker: Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Deputy Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, gave a complete review and detailed report of the past year of the Agency.

• Total Korean War personnel unaccounted-for stands at 7,508. It is estimated that approximately 5,200 of those unaccounted for remain in North Korea. This is a significant issue as the United States does not have access to North Korea to search for the remains.

As it was 12:30, a short Lunch Break was in order.

§ 1 PM. Congressman Brian Mast welcomed the KWVA Board of Directors to Washington and updated the BOD on the latest information pertinent to Veterans Affairs. The Congressman had a question-and-answer session with the Board Members.

§ Tell America; John McWaters;

• Thumb Drives of the new video for Tell America will be sent out to all the Board Members. It was noted that more emphasis has to be placed on a national level and not at a local level.

§ Scholarship Committee; David Pickett;

• Changes to the current year's application process have been confirmed and the criteria, along with the application, are currently being published in the Graybeards. Having a local based scholarship committee will streamline the application process.

§ Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee; Doug Voss;

• Recently, there are 3 Memorials dedicated in Florida, 1 in New

Jersey, 2 in California, 2 in Texas, and 1 in the works in Texas, 3 in Michigan with 1 that will be dedicated in the next couple of months.

§ Public Affairs Coordinator; Fred Lash;

- Fred updated the Board, and presented a brief look at the multitude of events he has covered in the past year.

§ The 2023 National Membership Meeting will be held at the Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport, in October 2023. The exact date to be determined. ***

§ Benediction, performed by Paul Kim

§ Final Salute to the Flag, President Brodeur

§ Motion to Adjourn, 2:30 pm

Submitted by Harold Trieber, National Secretary

*** It was later determined that, due to extensive remodeling, the hotel will not be ready for the meeting. It will be held instead in Orlando, Florida. See the information on p. 8.

South Korea transfers remains to U.S. for identification

*By Sgt 1st Class Corey Idleburg
Defense POW/MIA Accounting
Agency*

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA – The Ministry of National Defense Agency for Killed in Action Recovery Identification (MAKRI) conducted a repatriation ceremony to transfer remains to the United Nations Command for analysis in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory, February 22, 2023 in South Korea.

Republic of Korea Vice-Minister of National Defense Shin Boem Cul was the senior official in attendance on behalf of the Republic of Korea to repatriate the remains.

“We will make continued endeavor to recover and return ROK and allied forces’ fallen heroes to their homelands,” the minister said.

A joint forensic analysis between scientists from MAKRI and DPAA found conclusively the remains were of an American. The joint review process established in August 2008 between the two organizations serves to investigate, recover and review all evidence obtained.

“The sacrifices our nations shared during the war are the foundation of the values we have shared since the war’s end,” said DPAA Director Kelly McKeague at the ceremony. “Despite the significant numbers of missing and steep challenges, we persevere together because we cannot forget the supreme sacrifice made by our Servicemen nor the answers and closure owed to their families. On behalf of the United States, I thank the civilian and military professionals of MAKRI for recovering these remains of a believed-to-be American.”

The remains will travel to the DPAA laboratory in Hawaii and fall



Remains of U.S. soldier are transferred to hearse to start him on his journey home

under the DPAA’s Korean War Identification Project, which has identified more than 600 missing American service members.

“It is my fondest hope that this will result in the identification of another missing U.S. service member and bring solace to his family,” McKeague added.

Since 2000, there have been 26 sets of remains repatriated to the U.S. and 307 sets returned to the ROK. The accounting of missing military personnel from past conflicts is a shared mission for both the U.S. and South Korea with both allies together to achieve this goal through, trust, cooperation and diplomacy.

As the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice approaches, more than 7,500 American heroes remain unaccounted for from the war.

To see the most up-to-date statistics on DPAA recovery efforts for those unaccounted for from the Korean War, go to the Korean War Factsheet at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebKorean>

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.

2023 Korean War Veterans Association Annual Meeting



Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport
Orlando, Florida 32822



Agenda

Wednesday, October 25th 2023

12:00 PM - 9:00 PMRegistration
6:00 PM - 8:30 PMOn your own
8:00 PM - 10:00 PMHospitality Room Open

Thursday, October 26th 2023

8:00 AM - 5:00 PMRegistration/information
8:00 AM - 12:00 PMKWVA Board Meeting
1:00 PM - 4:00 PMOn your own
6:30 PM - 8:00 PMWelcome Reception - Hotel

Friday, October 27th 2023

8:30 PM - 5:00 PMRegistration/Information
9:00 AM - 1:00 PMKWVA Annual Membership Meeting
1:00 PM - 5:00 PMHospitality Room Open
5:30 PM - 9:00 PMOn your Own

Saturday, October 28th 2023

9:00 AM - 1:00 PMInformation Desk Open
10:00 AM - 5:00 PMFree time / Hospitality room Open
6:00 PM - 7:00 PMKWVA Reception - Lobby of Banquet
7:00 PM - 10:00 PMKWVA Banquet Hotel Ballroom

Sunday, October, 29th 2023

Travel Day

HOTEL

Holiday Inn Orlando-International Airport, 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822.

- You can start booking your rooms now by calling 1-800-465-4329 and referencing the group code KRW.
- The cutoff date for reservations is September 25, 2023.



WELCOME TO ORLANDO FLORIDA

Korean War Veterans Association Annual Meeting

October 25 — 29, 2023

Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

5750 T.G. Lee Blvd Orlando, Florida 32822

For Reservations, Please Call 1-800-465-4329

Ask for Group Rate (KRW): Korean War Veterans Association — October, 2023



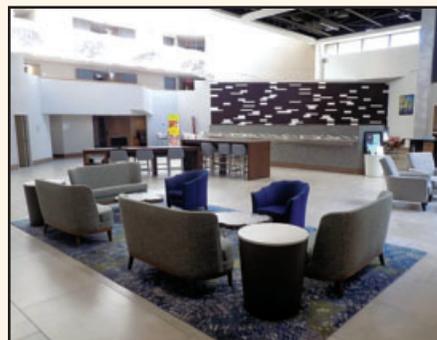
Complimentary Shuttle to Orlando International Airport / Complimentary Parking

Hotel near all Orlando Sports and Entertainment Centers / Universal Studios / Disney World

Room Rate is \$129.00 a night plus tax. Cut off date for reservations Monday Sept. 25, 2023

Annual Korean War Veterans Membership Meeting and Banquet

Guest Speakers: POW/MIA Accounting Agency Kelly McKeague



REGISTRATION FORM - KWVA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: OCTOBER 25 - 29, 2023

Print this registration form, fill in, and mail it with your check or money order made payable to KWVA, Inc., to The Korean War Veterans Association Inc. - PO BOX 407 - Charleston IL 61920-0407

Questions? Call Sheila at the KWVA Membership Office: 217-345-4414

Note: Mail-In registration is due by October 20, 2023. Walk-In registrations will be accepted during the convention, but we cannot guarantee availability at events or the banquet if capacity is reached.

Date	Activity	Cost/person	#people	Total
Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023				
Arrival: Registration: 12 p.m. - 9 pm: Full Week	\$15 each	_____	= \$ _____
All attendees (Members, Spouse): One Day	\$10 each	_____	= \$ _____

Guests must pay appropriate registration fee.

Hospitality Room8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023

Board of Directors Meeting8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration Desk8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Hotel)

Friday, Oct. 27, 2023

Annual Membership Meeting9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration Desk8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023

Registration Desk1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room10:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm

KWVA Reception6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Ballroom Lobby)

Banquet7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (Hotel Ballroom)

Chicken \$45 x # people _____ = \$ _____

Beef \$45 x # people _____ = \$ _____

Total** = \$ _____

NOTE: Meal price is for each Member and Guest

****TOTAL IS FOR REGISTRATION AND BANQUET.**

Disability/Dietary Restrictions: _____

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023

Return Home (Travel Day)

Please print your name as you want it on your badge.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ NICKNAME _____

KWVA MEMBER # _____ CHAPTER _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME (S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST/ ZIP _____

PH# _____ EMAIL _____

There will be a \$25 charge for returned checks.

(Note: Hotel reservations or cancellations are to be made direct with the hotel.)



“Kill the empire”[©]

Empires come and empires go. The average age of an empire is 250 years. The U.S. is now 247 years old. Do the math.

The question is why do empires fail? There are several reasons. For example, they become overextended and unable to protect themselves or their satellite countries. They may be at war constantly. Or, their citizens, out of boredom, out of work, out of power, out of sorts...out of whatever...turn to licentiousness and engage in revolting activities—including revolts. The sad thing is that they usually collapse from within. Witness the collapses of the Roman and Greek empires, for example.

The Romans were losing a grip on their satellites. The people, sensing an end, began indulging in orgies and attending circuses to bet on who would win the lion vs. gladiator contests. (Hint: when the U.S. reaches that stage, bet on the lions, unless you are from Detroit. They don't win often.) They preferred that to joining the centurions and fighting for their empire. Arrividerci, Roma.

The Greeks had a similar problem. Their empire comprised many city-states that could not get along. They were constantly at war with one another, which didn't give them much time to worry about non city-states. The people got into the habit of watching the Greek soldiers wrestle with one another instead of overseeing their government, which was more interested in finding new uses for hemlock than seeing to the needs of the people hanging around the agora. Ask Socrates. The Greek empire collapsed from within. Ya soo, Greece.

So what does this have to do with the United States, which isn't even an empire? It's more like a civilization, as was Greece. Think licentiousness.

I was watching the National Football League annual player draft. What a circus! Years ago representatives for the teams would have gathered at a local adult beverage dispensing emporium with a list of eligible draftees—as they do for other professional sports—and choose their players.

“I'll take Stone from Rockpile University,” the Giants' rep said.

Celebrating a football draft nowadays is getting closer and closer to the way the ancient Romans and Greeks flocked to their arenas to watch gladiators, lions, and soldiers fight for their lives.

“Okay, we'll grab Steel from Tinman Tech,” his counterpart from the Packers countered.

“Boozeman from Bourbon State is our choice,” Samson from Seattle announced.

So it went for ten days until all 243 league members had made their fifteen picks per team. Then they would go to the bar and consume orange juice, chocolate milk, and frappes into the wee hours of the night.

No more. Now the draft is a party. Thousands of fans gather in taverns and plazas to watch the draft on huge TVs that can be seen from the outer edges of our universe, drink copious amounts of adult beverages, and cheer lustily when their teams' picks are named. It doesn't matter that they have no clue who has been picked or that he has never done anything meaningful in his life outside of tackling, blocking, throwing or catching a pass, or kicking a football barefooted through the uprights from 106.7 yards away. Somebody has been picked, so it's party time.

The next logical step, of course, is to celebrate their draft picks, who they will never meet, by smashing windows, overturning cars, whether they are occupied or not, burning a couple buildings, and chasing bystanders who aren't even mildly interested in the draft around the block in exuberance. That's how Americans celebrate sports drafts nowadays. Not much different than turning thumbs up or thumbs down at an orgiastic gladiator competition, is it? Licentiousness!

Compare the football draft to a selective service draft. Well, we don't have to anymore. The military draft has been discontinued in favor of volunteers. But, when there was a draft, how many people showed up to watch the names being pulled? Even the people drafted didn't want to be named.

They didn't know they had been selected until the mail delivery technician dropped the bad news “greetings” in the mail box. How times have changed.

The services didn't care if their draftees could block, tackle, catch a pass, or kick a football 123 yards. All they cared was that their new additions were physically and mentally capable of doing something of value to the United States: protect it. There were no parties for the draftees. There was only the honor of protecting the lives and liberty of their fellow Americans. There is nothing more honorable than that.

There were even some athletes who did that during the Korean War: James A. Van Fleet, Eddie LeBaron, Ted Williams, Jerry Coleman, Curt Simmons, Frank Sullivan... They were called, they went. How many players from recent sports drafts have done that?

Celebrating a football draft nowadays is getting closer and closer to the way the ancient Romans and Greeks flocked to their arenas to watch gladiators, lions, and soldiers fight for their lives. It became licentiousness. The big difference now is that the numbers of people available—or willing—to protect the pseudo-fans' right to attend these orgiastic events in an allegedly free country is dropping precipitously.

Maybe the armed services should hold a huge draft to select some of these athletes for military duty. Televisе it and let the viewers celebrate each name picked in the manner to which they are growing accustomed—licentiously. Oh, and slip a few of the viewers' names into the draft bucket.

The United States needs to protect its empire. We'd better hurry, though. We only have three years left if the average holds up. Times a wastin.' Otherwise, it's Arrividerci, Roma, Ya soo, and Aloha, USA.

Mitchell Red Cloud

Twenty-six-year-old Corporal Red Cloud, a member of the Winnebago tribe from Merrilan, Jackson County, Wisconsin, was assigned to Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. (Red Cloud was born July 2, 1924, in Hatfield, Jackson County, Wisconsin.) He was KIA on November 5, 1950, near Chonghyon, North Korea.

General Omar N. Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acting for President Truman, presented the Medal of Honor to his mother, Mrs. Nellie Red Cloud, at the Pentagon on April 3, 1951. At the ceremony he presented MOHs to three mothers and one father of enlisted men. He told them that their sons had “the spirit of fearless patriots—the spirit which impels Americans to scale the heights of courage and strength when their country’s proper destiny, its liberty and its independence are threatened.”

According to a newspaper account, Mrs. Red Cloud, “her hair streaked with gray, listened attentively with her hands clasped in front of her as Maj. Gen. Edward F. Witsell, Army adjutant general, read her son’s citation telling how when first wounded, he refused treatment and instead wrapped his arm around a tree and continued his deadly automatic fire into the enemy until fatally wounded. His ‘dauntless courage and gallant sacrifice’ stopped the Reds from overturning his company’s position.”

The reporter noted that “Mrs. Red Cloud’s facial expression never changed as another son, Merlin Red Cloud, also a veteran, held her arm. She speaks some English, but prefers the Winnebago tongue.” Merlin was her lone surviving son. Her youngest son Randall was killed in an Army camp at Tacoma in 1948. The Red Cloud family certainly did its part for its country. (Milwaukee, WI, Journal, May 13, 1951, p. 54)

General Bradley handed Mrs. Red Cloud a box containing the medal, with its starry blue ribbon and its one-word inscription, “Valor.” (Washington D.C. Evening Star, Apr. 04, 1951, p. A-10)

Red Cloud, like so many Korean War soldiers, was a World War II veteran.



Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr.

Ironically, he had served in the Marine Corps as a member of the famed Carlson’s Raiders. He joined the Army in 1948.

At daybreak on November 5, 1950 near Hill 123 Red Cloud detected approaching Chinese troops. He alerted his comrades and opened fire immediately. (See his citation below.) One of his unit members, Edward Svach of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said later, “that acts of bravery were a daily passing habit to Red Cloud.” (Milwaukee, WI, Journal, Mar. 27, 1955, p. 30)

Service to his country was a family tradition. His father, Mitchell Red Cloud, Sr.

who died in 1946, had served as a guard at the White House. At home in Wisconsin he wrote columns for the Black River Falls newspaper, the Banner.

Originally, Mitchell was buried in North Korea. His remains were returned to the U.S. in 1955 following negotiations between the UN and North Korea and transported to Wisconsin for re-interment. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in his part of the state. Over 1,000 people attended, only 200 of whom could fit into the small church where the ceremony was held. All businesses in Black River Falls were closed for the funeral, which comprised a combination of “white man’s customs and the ancient rites of the Indians.”

Tributes poured in before the ceremony. President Eisenhower remarked that Red Cloud’s heroism “has reflected lasting honor on the country which he loved and the country for which he gave his life.” U.S. Senator Alexander Wiley (R-WI) called his sacrifice “too great and too long lasting for myself or any other man to attempt to praise.” And Representative Johnson (D-Black River Falls) stated, “The United States is free because young men like Mitchell Red Cloud bought our freedom with their lives.” (Milwaukee, WI, Journal, Mar. 27, 1955, p. 30)

At one point an honor guard of Winnebago Indian veterans fired a salute

Please turn to **RED CLOUD** on page 17

CITATION

Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post, he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him.

Springing up he delivered devastating point-blank automatic rifle into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire.

Refusing assistance, he pulled himself to his feet and, wrapping his arm around a tree, continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company’s position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded.

Cpl. Red Cloud’s dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.



From the Secretary



Harold Trieber

Praise to Indian Veterans

I attended the Florida Indian Heritage Association (FIHA) Powwow, the longest continuous running Powwow in the State of Florida. The association is dedicated to the preservation of the songs, dances, traditions and culture of the American Indian.

FIHA 56th Anniversary Powwow
March 24-26, 2023



Intertribal dancing, native vendors and activities!

Veterans Are Always Free and Honored at all Grand Entries

For up to date information visit www.fihainc.org

St. Lucie County Fairgrounds:
 15601 W. Midway Rd., Fort Pierce, FL 34945



The first FIHA powwow in Florida was held in 1965. It is a family friendly gathering, boasting a 3-day multinational event. This powwow features groups from the Seminole, Miccosukee, Lakota Sioux, Kiowa, Cherokee Ponca and other tribes.

As I entered the facility, the first thing I noticed were three 4X8 boards adorned with pictures of military veterans of Indian descent and a section with photos of Medal of Honor recipients. To the right

Welcome to the FIHA 56th Anniversary Powwow

of the side of the photo display was the MIA/POW table.

American Indians have served in our nation's military since colonial times. In recent times they have served at a higher rate in proportion to their population than any other ethnic group. Why? For many, military service is an extension of their warrior traditions.

During WWI over 12,000 Native Americans served, even



Native-Americans in full dress at FIHA Powwow



The entrance to the Florida Powwow with boards dedicated to Native-American veterans



Joe Wilcox, Vice Commander of Ch. 106, with Native-American princess

though they didn't have the right to vote. It wasn't until 1957 that all Indians had the right to vote. WWII saw over 44,000 serve in the military. Among the more famous Indians to serve were the 400 Navajo Code Talkers who were crucial to the U.S. victory.

Medal of Honor recipients include the legendary Marine Corps fighter ace and original Flying Tigers pilot "Pappy" Boyington. The first American Indian Medal of Honor was awarded to Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish, a Pawnee scout. Not to be for-

gotten, one of the ‘Two Jima’ flag raisers, was an American Indian, Corporal Ira Hayes. Many know this story from the famous book and movie, ‘Flags of our Fathers.’

During the Korean War, 29,700 American Indians served in Korea. Three Medal of Honor recipients and their tribes were U.S. Army Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. (Winnebago), PFC Charles George (Cherokee), and Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson Keeble, the first full blooded Sioux to receive the MOH, for his actions on Oct. 20, 1951. (See Red Cloud’s story on p. 11) There are 273 MIA American Indians still remaining in North Korea.

Vietnam service included over 42,000 American Indians; over 90% were volunteers. Call it a true ‘warrior culture.’ Despite the ongoing anti-war protests, whenever American Indians in the U.S. military returned home from Vietnam, they were welcomed

as warriors. Some Vietnam vets were spit upon and called ‘baby killers’ even if they were drafted. While 90% of Americans Indians who fought in Vietnam were volunteers, their people still welcomed them back home.

Native Americans continue to serve in the armed forces. As of 2017 more than 24,000 service men and women are American Indians. Twenty percent have served in combat zones. Some 30 have been KIA and 188 wounded in ‘Operation Enduring Freedom.’ In ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom’ 43 American Indians died, while 344 were wounded. In total, to date, there were 27 Medals of Honor awarded to Native Americans.

Harold Trieber, KWVA National Secretary

Adventures of a Marine Corps Machine Gunner

We will reach the top together

By Arthur LaPorte (USMC, I/3/7)

I was tough on my men when I led in Korea, for a very good reason. When we were in the attack going up a mountain and one of them would say they couldn’t make it I would tell them to go ahead and fall out there on the side of the trail. We would probably be dead before we reached the top and didn’t need him anyway.

I said this in a very sarcastic way to get them angry, and when I saw the anger in their eyes and they kept up with me to the top I knew what they were thinking: that they would go as far as I did and would step over my body when I dropped. Maybe I wasn’t very good to my men, but they were there all the way to the top of the mountain, giving the riflemen the cover fire they needed.

I had a good crew who were tough and courageous—and never let me down once. Being truthful, I think anyone of them had more courage and guts than I did, but I wasn’t about to let them know that. I got chewed out real good by the Captain once about being too tough on my men, and I told him my gun was always there to protect the platoon and my men were there with me regardless of how tough the battle and that was why I was tough.

We were very lucky despite the many battles we were in from May till September. I never lost a man. When I got back to the states I asked my men who were there in the hospital with me if they knew why I had been so tough on them. I told them they could speak their minds now; I was no longer in charge. To a man they said I kept them alive by doing so.

There were times when we moved out over the mountains at night, one of them would start to complain after we had gone for many exhausting miles and I would tell them to shut up. I did this for three reasons. One, I didn’t want them to think too much about how badly they were hurting. Then they would make it to our destination. Second, I did not want the enemy to hear them in the dark and start shooting. Finally, I did not want Little George to think too much about how much he was hurting because I wanted him in particular to make it because he had had

battle fatigue already and I did not want to have to send him back to the hospital again. I wanted him there with me. He was a good Marine, always trying to do his best.

One time two of my men who were close buddies were walking side by side up a dusty road on one of our long marches north. One was a BARman and the other was a rifleman. Their weapons, which they carried across their packs, happened to hit as they marched, making a metallic sound. This struck them as funny, so they deliberately hit the muzzles together several times as they marched.

Unfortunately the forward movement of the bolt on the B.A.R. will cause it to fire, which it did. The bullet struck the jaw of the rifleman, taking off part of it. The rifleman cracked up upon seeing what he had done to his buddy, so we lost two good men because of horseplay.

A lot of times when rations were short because of road conditions or some other cause we would ask the Koreans for rice. Even though they had barely enough for themselves they would give us what they could spare. Sometimes they would take clothing we might be able to spare and they particularly liked white, which they wore a lot of. That is where our white coats that we were supposed to wear in the snow to blend us in against the background went.

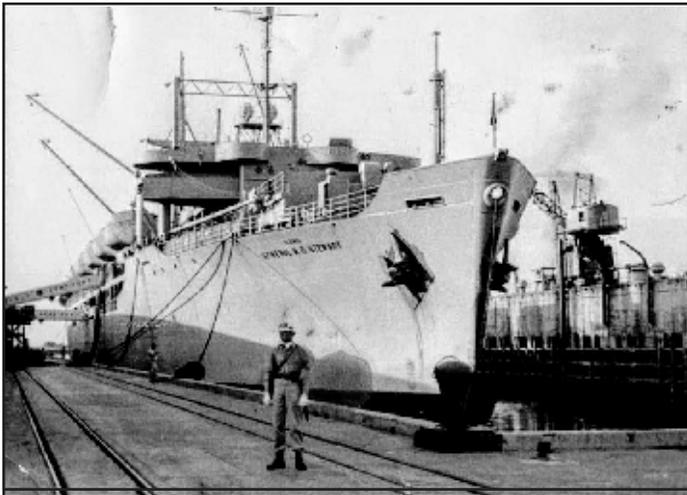
We would get issued new helmets when we went into reserve with the warning that if we threw them away we would get court-martialed. We kept them long enough to make stew in them, then threw them along the trail as we went into the attack. I didn’t like them because when you were in the attack and hit the deck the helmet would plop down over your eyes, pushed by the pack. Then, for several vital seconds, until you took it off, you could not shoot at the enemy who was still shooting at you, so we defied orders and threw them away.

NOTE: Art LaPorte went to guard the gates of Heaven on August 15, 2019. He left us with a treasure trove of memories in his written accounts, though.

Luck of the Draw

By Robert H. Lewis

In December of 1952, I shipped out to Japan. On the voyage we took the Northern Pacific route. The ocean was very choppy, causing most of the GIs to suffer from seasickness. There were 2,700 seasick GIs on a ship with a capacity of 1,700. It got ugly until we got our Dramamine pills. Garbage cans were rolling all over the ship.



Troopship General M. B. Stewart that transported Robert Lewis to war

We were on the ship during Christmas, so the officers planned a show for the GIs and appealed to anyone who could play a musical instrument to sign up for the performance. In the military, there was a plethora of talent for producing this type of program. One of the GIs was a professional show producer.

I signed up to play tenor sax in the band, (played my cards) and we rehearsed on the officers' deck. Being able to rehearse there helped me deal with being seasick. (Luck of the draw.)

The band played some popular chart hits during the floor show. Included in the show was a chorus line of GIs dressed in drag. There were some excellent singers, and the band played big band arrangements. We put on one hell of a show for Christmas. The GI's stomped and hooted in appreciation.

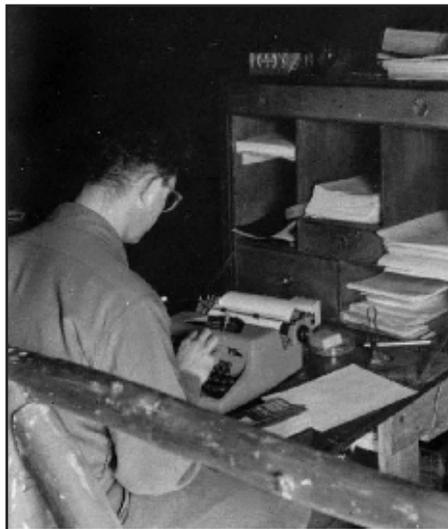
The Army transported us by boat from Japan to Pusan (Busan) and then boarded us on a train to travel to our designated unit. We were assigned to a particular outfit and sent there to meet an officer. While on the train, they warned that we could be attacked by North Korean guerillas when we stopped for refueling. If that happened, the officers instructed us to form a perimeter around the train with fixed bayonets. I did not have a bayonet to fix. (Luck of the draw.)

When we arrived at our stop, five of us disembarked from the train as replacements. A second lieutenant met us and introduced himself. He was from Battery B of the AAA anti-aircraft unit. The officer asked, "Can anyone here type?"

I said, "Yes, sir, I can."

He replied, f'Good, you're the battery clerk replacement." (Luck of the draw)

One of the replacements who arrived with me in Korea



Robert Lewis hard at typing work

became a jeep driver for an officer. A GI had fallen off of a half-track, which supports four 50 caliber machine guns. His platoon leader, an officer, was ordered to pick him

up and take him back for medical treatment. While the soldiers were loading the injured GI into the jeep, a North Korean mortar hit the jeep, killing the officer and one of the GIs. The injured GI, one of the five replacements who arrived with me, did not have a scratch. If I hadn't been able to type, I could have been in that jeep. (Luck of the draw.)

While I was in Korea, we were at war, and soldiers were dying. I experienced several events that could have caused my demise. One opportunity available to me was to go up on the line in a deuce-and-a-half truck to help load brass from expended ammunition to bring back to the base to be recycled. The military paid combat pay, \$45.00 a month, for living on the line. If you were not always on the line, you could qualify for the extra payment if you went up on the line at least six times a month.

Every time a supply truck went up, the driver asked if I wanted to go. I would go on to the line and look out at desolation and emptiness. There were times when we moved to a different loca-



Robert Lewis in Korea

tion. You could wave to the North Koreans if there wasn't any military action going on at the time.

On one of my trips back, I rode in the back of a deuce-and-a-half truck with expended ammunition and several other GIs. We were driving on a winding mountain pass. Signs on the road read "CAUTION: UNDER ENEMY OBSERVATION." We drove the truck at night using cat eyes. At one point, going downhill, the driver was going to downshift the vehicle.

"Don't put your foot on the clutch!" his partner yelled.

Had the driver not listened, the truck would have gone out of control, rolling down the steep incline. Yours truly would have been another statistic in the files of soldiers killed by friendly accident, and I would not be writing this memoir. He listened and we made it back safely. (Luck of the draw.) Our unit suffered the loss of several fellow soldiers killed on the line.



"Halt!" Sentry Robert Lewis

One wounded soldier said, "This ain't no police action. It's a damn war."

When you are in combat, you hear stories of other outfits experiencing devastating tragedies. One of the stories was about a general who decided to show how well his troops could take a hill. Unfortunately, everyone knew his plan, including the North Koreans. The enemy was waiting, and hundreds of our finest soldiers paid dearly for this travesty. Being transferred to a lesser command was his only punishment.

There were events that were on the lighter



Robert Lewis in front of his "home" away from home



Robert Lewis sitting on half-track

side of my experiences in Korea. Soldiers had to practice with the anti-aircraft equipment. The officers loaded us up in a deuce-and-a-half truck and drove us to the firing range, located in a small Korean town overlooking a body of water. All UN forces with anti-aircraft artillery units lined up, side by side, facing in the same direction, in a long line. The equipment faced the target over a body of water. Each unit had a long white pole on each side of their equipment, facing the target range, to eliminate any mishaps.

The target was a white sleeve towed by a military airplane. When the sleeve arrived in the designated area between the two white poles, we were to fire at it. The soldiers were instructed not to exceed the white poles on each side when they fired.

We were in half-tracks, equipment where the front is like a truck and the back has tank treads, with four fifty caliber machine guns mounted on the back. The operator sits just behind the machine guns so they can move the machine guns toward the target. When it was my turn to qualify in this equipment, I had no difficulty shooting at the designated sleeve, as it moved from one white pole to the other.

I heard a story about another unit performing this exercise. The officer in charge received a call from the pilot of the plane.

"Tell the soldiers firing their equipment to be more careful because I see tracer bullets in front of my plane," the pilot demanded.

Later, when I revisited Korea and passed by the rows of crosses in the national cemetery, I was reminded of how grateful I am for the price paid by soldiers who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met. Freedom is not free.

This poem by Peter De Gaetano of Staten Island, printed in a previous issue of the *Graybeards* magazine, reflects my thoughts on that phrase.

FREEDOM IS VALUED-BUT NEVER FREE

Bless all our veterans, alive and dead
When things looked hopeless, they forged ahead
They never failed to do their part
Some came home, some did not.

Some traded a limb for a Purple Heart.

Fellow veterans from coast to coast
Enjoy the freedom you love most.
But remember the ones who deserve your toast
Those veterans whose spirits remain at their post.

In the final agreement we have to agree
Though freedom is valued - it never is free.

When it was time to go on R&R (rest and relaxation), I opted to go to Tokyo. Negotiations for a ceasefire were going on at that time, but I didn't think much about it.

PX in Japan

When my R&R was over, there was a five-day schedule for rotating GIs back to Korea from Tokyo. The plane that had flown back to Korea just before my designated flight crashed, and all were lost. The Army canceled all flights back to Korea until further investigation of the accident was completed. The Army sent us back to Korea by train to the southern part of Japan, then to Pusan by boat. I could have been on that flight. (Luck of the draw.)

When I returned to my outfit, I learned about the ceasefire. Just before the truce took effect, both sides, the UN and North Korea, were ordered to empty their ordinances at each other. Luckily, no one in our unit was injured or killed. (Luck of the draw.)

Another story I heard was about a first sergeant who proudly wore the infantry rifle badge. He had crawled under the tables in the mess tent when there was incoming fire. This was a sign of cowardice to the regular army soldiers. After this episode, the soldiers removed their infantry rifle badges from their uniforms. They did not want to be associated with him.

Life in the military after the ceasefire was just like life stateside. Soldiers on the line were brought back as sergeants and assigned to drill the squad under their command. They had no formal military

training on how to do this. They looked like the Keystone Kops drilling troops.

The Army used our battery to rotate officers who were getting out of the military. Our battery commander received a promotion to a higher command. A captain who was bucking for promotion was assigned to fill that position. He went around threatening to downgrade any soldier who didn't meet his expectations.

One Friday night, an army chaplain came into the mess tent to hear grievances from the GIs about the captain. He wrote feverishly in his notebook and left. The officer's quarters were in a separate tent, right across the road from my tent. That Sunday morning, I was in bed when I heard the screeching brakes of a vehicle, and a one-star General jumped out.

He pulled the flap back from the tent and yelled, "Just what the god damn hell is going on here?"

For the rest of my tour of duty, butter would melt in the captain's mouth. Justice served.

I finished my tour of duty unscathed (luck of the draw), although several men in my unit were killed during my service in Korea.

*Robert H. Lewis (Korea, 1/1/1953-10/1953),
908A West Church St., Champaign, IL 61821, 217-898-7897,
emilyandboblewis@gmail.com*



Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2024

Is it too early to say "Bah, humbug?"

It's your first holiday away from home. You miss it, but... You are in a new place with new customs, new holidays, etc. How did you handle your first Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, or other late-year holiday away from home? Let us know for our end-of-the year holiday special edition.

Christmas and late-year holiday stories enhance the contents of our magazine. It is also an example of the stories we like to see for our holiday issue. We are soliciting holiday stories for the November/December 2024 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, Kwanza... 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 sharparthur@aol.com.

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. (Note: Submissions to our ongoing series might appear in other sections of the magazine such as Feedback when conditions warrant, i.e., to fill a hole or complement another story.)



Members in the

Exact spot of *Graybeards* cover

I'm at the exact spot as the March-April 2023 *Graybeards* magazine cover. With me is retired Sgt. Nakasone, from Hawaii. He located the names of eight buddies on the wall who didn't make it home. They were right beside him, but he survived. So sad.

Joe Wong, joewon2@gmail.com



Joe Wong (L), holding copy of *The Graybeards*, and Sgt. Nakasone at Korean War Memorial

Speaking of Stanley Nakasone...

He joined the KWVA in 2021 and noticed immediately the need to update some information. This is what he wrote:

I just joined the KWVA and received my first magazine, May-June 1951. I was shocked to find an article on page 67 which stated that the contingent was an advance unit from Hawaii "with minimal capability." Here is the paragraph:

ASA, the Army's cryptologic organization, was caught just as flat-footed as everyone else. Initially, Walker had little or no SIGINT support. The first ASA contingent did not arrive until 9 September, six days before the US landing behind enemy lines at Inchon. This contingent was an advance unit from Hawaii, with minimal capability. ASA's plan was to support 8th Army with one communications reconnaissance battalion at Army level, and a battalion assigned to each of the three subordinate corps; however, it took the first designated Army SIGINT unit—the 60th Signal Service Company at Fort Lewis, Washington—three and a half months to arrive on the scene.

This was an independent and tactical regiment based in Hawaii. It had tanks, half-tracks, artillery, 60, 81, and 4.2 mortars, 57mm recoilless rifles, machine guns, and flamethrowers to stop the enemy. This was the 5th Regimental Combat Team, Hawaii, the most respected and most decorated unit during the war.

The 5th Regimental Combat Team stopped the North Korean Army at Masan, at the Pusan Perimeter, from overtaking all of South Korea in time for the Inchon landing. In the meantime, sol-



diers stationed in Japan joined the 5th RCT and started the push all the way to the Yalu River.

Today there lies a huge monument at Seobook San honoring the men from Hawaii, going up north, passing the 38th Parallel. There is a huge bronze bell on the

hill named White Horse that honors the 5th RCT. During the 50th anniversary of the Korean War a special revisit was made to honor all the veterans and spouses from Hawaii who were able to attend, with all expenses paid by the Korean government.

A special ceremony was held at Seobook San Monument for all the members from Hawaii who fought there. Special parades and events were held there to honor veterans from Hawaii.

NOTE: Stanley Nakasone was a member of the 5th RCT, USA 25th Div., 5th RCT 3rd Bn Co K. Reach him at 61 Nanea Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786, 808-621-6135



Herbert Ohio of Hilo, T.H., views the battered remains of the Communist defenders of Hill 268, which was taken by men of the 5th RCT, in their advance on Waegwan Korea. 21 September 1950. Korea. Signal Corps Photo #FEC-50-9327 (Chang)

RED CLOUD from page 11

to their comrade and the flag which covered his casket was presented to Mrs. Red Cloud. Finally, she wept. She was not alone. Americans everywhere wept for him—and continue to do so today.

Several years after the MOH was bestowed on Red Cloud the Army renamed the headquarters of the U.S. 1st Corps after him. President Syngman Rhee of South Korea seized upon the honor to criticize the killing of Native Americans in American films. He suggested that people of other countries might like Americans more if Hollywood would quit making movies about cowboys killing Indians.

The then 82-year-old president, an old friend of the United States, spoke at the ceremony honoring Red Cloud. He called for an end to "Indian killing pictures," claiming they helped the Communists in their attempts to paint the United States as a colonial nation.

"Why," Rhee asked, "while we are trying to tell the world the United States is not a colonial power, do people make all the times these movies of killing, killing and killing? It is very unwise." (Nome, AK, Nugget, May 20, 1957, p. 2)

Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. is lying at rest at the Decorah Cemetery, Black River Falls, Komensky, WI. His medal rests at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, WI. His memory is everywhere.

NOTE: This article is reprinted from the 1st Quarter 2023 Taro Leaf, the 24th Infantry Division Association's magazine.

Life in North Korea

“The majority of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” Henry David Thoreau

Occasionally a Korean War veteran will ask, “Why did I fight there?” The answer boils down to this: to save the South Korean people from having to live the lives of quiet desperation that their northern cousins do. In that, they succeeded. No wonder the South Koreans are eternally grateful.

The Ministry of Unification, Center for North Korean Human Rights Records recently released its Report on North Korean Human Rights. Reading it is difficult. It is obvious that the citizens of North Korea do not lead lives blessed with freedom. You be the judge based on the excerpt we reprint here.

This report was written based on the testimonies of 508 North Korean defectors who described the human rights situation in North Korea since 2017.

Special Issues

It has been found that political prison camp inmates, Korean War POWs, abductees, and separated families are particularly vulnerable to severe human rights violations. Based on the investigation conducted by the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records, a total of eleven political

prison camps have been identified, of which five are reported to be currently operational. While the treatment of inmates may vary among facilities, inmates are generally exposed to cruel treatment.

Korean War POWs, abductees, and separated families are subjected to surveillance and discrimination. However, given that few North Korean escapees have recently experienced or witnessed life in a political prison camp, it is difficult to obtain a detailed account of the current status of the camps and how inmates are treated. As for Korean War POWs and abductees, obtaining a detailed understanding of the extent of human rights abuses has also been challenging due to the limited number of testimonies available.

It is known that there are specialized facilities in North Korea designed for the confinement of political prisoners. Based on the investigation conducted by the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records, a total of eleven political prison camps have been identified, of which five are reported to be currently operational. Political prison camps are typically located in remote, mountainous regions that are difficult for ordinary citizens to access, which makes it extremely challenging for inmates to escape. Moreover, the size of these camps can be quite large, with some spanning an area equivalent to several

‘ri’s and ‘gu’s combined.

The reasons for confinement in these camps are varied. These include having a poor Songbun (background), participating in activities perceived as insulting the authority of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il (such as verbal treason), participating in espionage, practicing religion, being involved in power struggles or embezzlement within North Korean institutions, having family members who have escaped to South Korea, attempting to flee to South Korea, engaging in human trafficking, communicating with South Korean residents over the phone, and other issues related to South Korea.

In most cases, family members of political prisoners are also subjected to confinement. It has been found that the arrest and detention of individuals in political prison camps are carried out without following due process of law. When an individual is arrested by the state security institute for an alleged political crime and subsequently goes missing, it is commonly assumed that they have been sent to a political prison camp, and the family members are often informed of this by institutional officers.

While the treatment of inmates may vary depending on the facility, it has been found that political prison camps execute prisoners and subject them to forced labor. According to testimonies, those who attempted to

Thanks for Supporting *The Graybeards* and the KWVA

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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escape from political prison camps but were caught were executed. Some executions were conducted in the presence of mobilized camp inmates, while others were carried out in secret.

Inmates are typically assigned to physically demanding work in coal mining. Only those who are pardoned and released are given relatively easier jobs, such as leading work groups or performing tasks that do not involve working in the underground mine, such as blasting. According to testimonies, inmates usually lived in communal housing units known as harmonica blocks, which were cramped and in a state of severe disrepair, with extremely poor living conditions.

While families were reportedly allowed to live together in political prison camps, there have been testimonies indicating that inmates were not allowed to form relationships or get married. However, there has been a report indicating that life inside the political prison camps was not significantly different from the lives of regular North Korean residents, implying that the level of control and treatment may have varied from camp to camp.

There were testimonies of discrimination in healthcare and education between inmates and officers and their families in political prison camps. Some testimonies indicated a severe shortage of medicines available to inmates. Additionally, while education was provided, there were separate schools for the children of inmates and the children of officers with different curriculums.

South Korean prisoners of war, civilian abductees, and those who have been separated from their families due to political, eco-

nomie, or other reasons should be protected by the state and safeguarded against discrimination based on their background and other reasons. Although there are limited testimonies on South Korean prisoners of war, it appears that they are under constant surveillance and face discrimination. Many of these prisoners were forced to work in coal mines or farms, and there have been testimonies of several dozen of them living in Musan County in North Hamgyong Province and Tanchon City in South Hamgyong Province.

North Korean authorities classify South Korean prisoners of war as Category 43 and manage them separately, subjecting not only the POWs themselves but also their immediate family members to surveillance. Testimonies indicate that children of POWs face discrimination in practically all aspects of life, including college admission, job placement and promotion, party membership, and military service.

According to testimonies, the prisoners of war were constantly monitored and had to report separately to state security officers even when moving with permission. Most POW children were unable to pursue higher education, join the military or become party members and were often assigned to work in coal mines or farms as a group.

North Korean authorities have repeatedly denied the existence of abductees. However, there have been testimonies claiming that individuals who were abducted as part of the North Korean Voluntary Army experienced discrimination and surveillance. There have been testimonies indicating that during the Korean War, abducted civilians lived in a variety of locations, but many were assigned

to work in coal mines in groups. These abductees and their families were under constant surveillance through the Inminban system. Due to the limited number of available testimonies, it is challenging to gain a comprehensive understanding of the human rights violations committed against abductees.

The issue of separated families involves two groups: families of those who fled to South Korea and families of defectors to North Korea. However, these two groups were not subjected to the same kind of discrimination, and the degree of discrimination also varied. Some testimonies indicated that individuals whose families had defected to South Korea were barred from becoming party workers or legal workers, while others stated they could become civil servants.

Another testimony indicated that the person was unable to gain admission to a military officer school or a state security college because of a family member or relative's defection to South Korea. Defectors to North Korea and their families also faced difficulties finding employment in the party job, military, or certain universities. Some testified that, after meeting their families from South Korea through South-North family reunion events, their children were subjected to surveillance and discrimination.

2023 Report on North Korean Human Rights. Published in April 2023.

Published by The Ministry of Unification Center for North Korean Human Rights Records Address: 42, Jong-ro 1-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

*Tel. +82-2-2135-7059
Fax. +82-2-2135-7063*

Reunion Calendar: 2023

NOTE: Some contributors 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., Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV. Aug. 13-20. Group/Event FMDH23C; Hotel Reservation Number: 800-675-3267; Hotel Direct Number: 702-365-7111. Cut-off date for Group is 14 July or once the room reservations are full. After cutoff date it will be the regular rate, which they cannot quote until reservation is made.

SEPTEMBER

13th Engineer (C) Bn. Assn., Huntsville, AL, Sept. 20-22. Holiday Inn Express Huntsville – Space Center, 5101 Governors House Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35805, 256-562-3400. Earl Shatzer, 707-689-0874, shatzer@pacbell.net/Gene Reed, 317-268-6455, genereed@genereed-ins.com

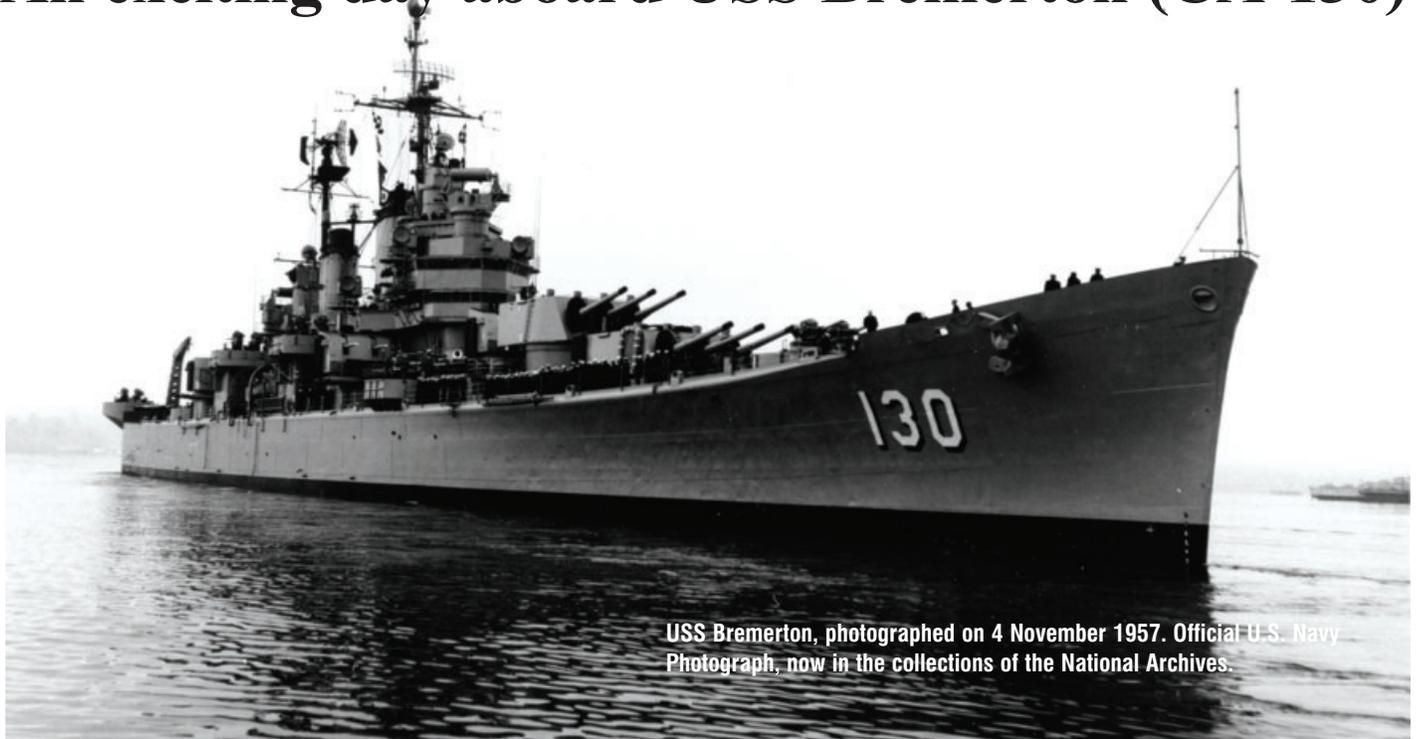
OCTOBER

Korean War Veterans Assn., Orlando, FL, October 25-29. Holiday Inn Orlando-International Airport, 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822. Call 1-800-465-4329 and reference the group code KRW. The cutoff date for reservations is Sep. 25, 2023.

NOVEMBER

Chosin Few, Inc., Nov. 1-5, Hilton Arlington National Landing, Arlington, VA, 2399 Richmond Hwy., Arlington, VA, 22202, 703-418-6800. Gerald Wadley, Headquarters@chosinfew.org. Please call the number above and reference the Chosin Few or book directly at <https://book.passkey.com/go/2023Novchosinfewreunion>

An exciting day aboard USS Bremerton (CA-130)



USS Bremerton, photographed on 4 November 1957. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

I am a ninety-two-year-old Navy veteran who served aboard the heavy cruiser *USS Bremerton*. As I was reading the story “1,127 Days of Death” in the December 2020 issue, p. 11, I was reminded of an event I witnessed. This, however, was not of anyone’s death, but of one of the lucky ones who survived. It is described in the *Bremerton Breeze*, At Sea, Vol. I, 24 May, 1952.

It was a major event. We had entered Wonsan Harbor for various reasons. I was a YN2 serving as the captain’s yeoman. At general quarters, I was in the After Con with the Exec as his radioman. We watched breathlessly as the *USS Boxer* pilot came out of his bombing run trailing black smoke. He was risking an explosion and circling around the harbor. He made a textbook landing within a block of our ship. The plane sank imme-

diately. But, within ten seconds he popped to the surface in his yellow Mae West. Our helicopter was already aloft to retrieve him

I hope he survived the rest of the war. Here’s the account from our ship’s newsletter *Bremerton Breeze*.

With task force 77 off East Coast Korea, 22 May [1952].

Navy blue planes from the carriers *Boxer*



Two F4U-5N Corsair fighters of squadron VC-3 fly past the carrier, during combat operations off Korea. Photo is dated 4 September 1951. These planes are Bureau #s 124537 (left) and 124539. Their pilots are Lt. John D. Ely, USNR, and Lt(JG) J.G. Stranlund, USNR. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.



USS Philippine Sea (CVA-47)

and *Philippine Sea* took advantage of today's lifting fog to launch a concentrated strike at strategic battered Wonsan. Heavily laden Skyraiders, Corsairs, and Panther Jets poured 150 tons of bombs into troop billeting and supply areas.

Philippine Sea strike leader CDR. C. H. Carr said that the 108-plane strike was reminiscent of World War II strikes. With Wonsan obscured by an immense pall of smoke and dust swirling up to 6,000 feet. Panther jets from the *Boxer* led by LCDR William A. Jernigan Jr., and from the *Philippine Sea* made strafing runs on enemy positions during the attack, knocking out six and silencing three others.

Although a fire was kept to a minimum by the jets, a *Boxer* Corsair piloted by ENS Delma D. Dunn of West Monroe, LA was hit and damaged severely. The fighter-bomber pilot managed to bring his plane out over the sea and made a perfect emergency water landing. Minutes later a helicopter from the cruiser *Bremerton* picked him up and delivered him to the cruiser, wet but uninjured.

One division of *Boxer* Corsairs and Skyraiders led by LT, Ralph E. Flotz fired and destroyed five warehouses and damaged six others in one area. One bomb started a raging fire on a nearby hillside, and black oily smoke indicated a fuel storage area must have been hit. Incomplete reports indicate that 26 supply buildings in the area were destroyed and 30 barracks buildings demolished. Task force fliers also damaged six storage buildings and eighteen barracks.

Ronald Wasnock, 224 Columbus Ave.,
Port Angeles, WA 98362, 360-451-3117

Remembering Kapyong

Dear Korean War Veterans, family, friends and advocates,

As we commemorate "70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice," there will be many commemorative events in Canada, the U.S., and Korea. It was our honor to organize the "United Nations 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong (now known as Gapyeong)" ceremony at the Korean War Monument, the City of Lake Alfred, Florida and "Veterans Appreciation Luncheon" at the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven on April 21, 2023 to honor and remember fallen UN soldiers.

The Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol recently visited the U.S. and we are very glad that the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Korea) selected 10 Heroes of the Korean War, including 4-Star General James Van Fleet, Commander of UN Forces, who awarded 2PPCLI (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 2nd Battalion) the "United States Presidential Unit Citation" for their gallant bravery.

His son, Capt. James Van Fleet, JR served with the U.S. Air Force as a pilot of a B-26 Night Intruder. He was declared Missing in Action during the Korean War and he is presumed dead. He was a forgotten hero until we presented the Ambassador for Peace Medal at the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong on April, 23, 2021. They both were from Polk County, Florida and they will be remembered.

Please see the short you tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-9brOhh05Q>
Thank you, and Best Regards,
HooJung and Don Kennedy

Bitter Memories

By Dillon Staas

Cold and wet and miserable, I sat upon the hill.
The wind and snow were blinding but the night was deathly still.
The enemy would surely come before the light of day, And in my heart I knew
that death was but a breath away.

With eyes that burned, I strained to see the valley there below, My thoughts of home
and family, of where I longed to go.
I wondered when the charge begins, if I would stand and fight, Or would I lose my
courage and run off into the night.

I'm reaching for the photograph and hold it to my breast. I see her face; my heart
begins to leap within my chest.
Excitement gives the mind an edge and sleep is hard to find, But days on end of con-
stant fear will dull the keenest mind.

Heads will nod and eyelids droop and sleep will overcome, I dream of distant battle-
fields and rolling of a drum.
Then suddenly the dream is real and terror fills the air. Shots ring out and shells
explode and blood is everywhere.

The enemy is coming, they are charging up the hill.
We must have killed a hundred men but they keep coming still.
Now out of ammunition, I looked about to see. The figure of an enemy,
looking down on me.

The enemy raised up his gun, then dropped it to his side.
The soldier smiled and walked on by. I thought that I had died. Then out of nowhere
came a sound, a screaming in the night.
The mortar round exploded in a flash of blinding light.

Now two of us are walking in a warm and peaceful land Where flowers bloom and
bluebirds sing and friendship rules again.
Where nevermore the sounds of war will touch a soldier's mind.
Where all the bitter memories of war are left behind.

A lesson in persistence: the story of Major Ronald Rovenger

Ronald Rovenger was born into a Jewish family. His father, Leopold, was a piano prodigy as a child and gave recitals in NYC at the age of 11. He would be discovered at one of them by George Gershwin, who later on, gave Leopold his first job, managing the Gershwin manuscripts. Leopold would eventually leave the Gershwin job to teach young people to play the piano and rearrange classical music so that young people could better learn to play them. His manuscripts can still be found today in music stores and on Amazon.

Ronald's mother, Beatrice, had her own private catering business cooking up delectable favorites and serving them at public functions or private homes. Ronald had 2 siblings, his sister June and older brother Walter. June had several teaching jobs throughout her life and also dreamed of directing on Broadway one day. A long time native of Greenwich Village, she directed small productions at The Cherry Lane Theatre and was "in" with several Hollywood actresses, most notably, Ellen Burstyn.

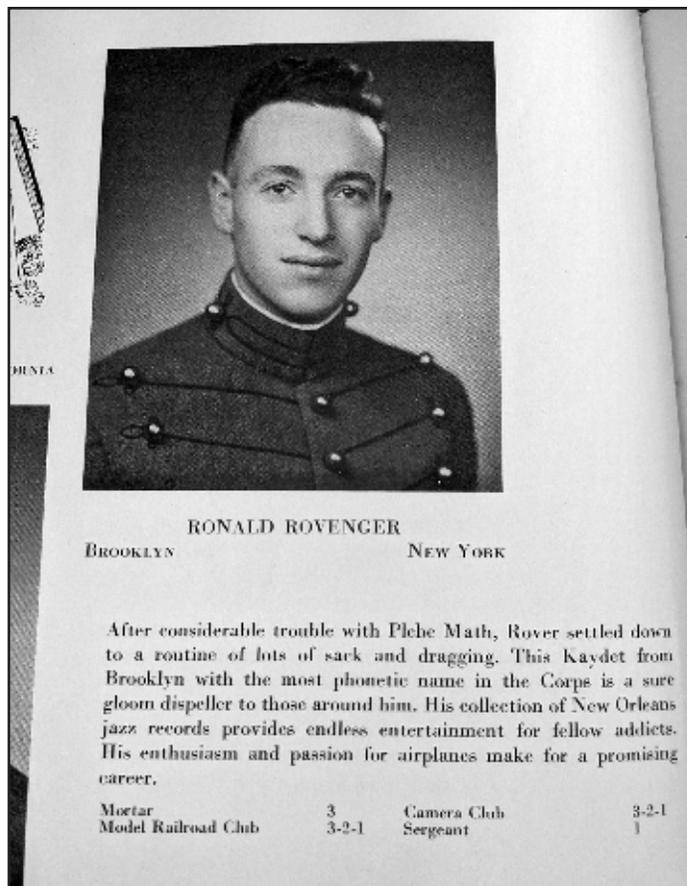
As a young woman working at a NYC camp, she tried her talents at putting on plays and having all her friends play the parts. One day, a young fellow asked to play one of them and June told the fellow that he needed to find another career as entertainment wasn't his. That young man was Paul Simon, soon to meet Art Garfunkle.

In 1941, just before war broke out with Japan, Walter enlisted into the Army and was subsequently sent to the European Theatre. A clerk typist, Walter's role in WW2 was to get the orders to the front lines. His assigned unit, the 771st Armored Tank Division, would be sent in after the initial fighting to mop up. When Walter returned home, young Ronald got a taste of a guy in a uniform and decided that's what he wanted to be. He wished to attend West Point and fight in Korea.

To his family's dismay, he had to overcome a hurdle, religion, and an appointment from a senator or congressman. He converted to Catholicism and his father, being a man of means, called in a favor. In 1947, Ronald was accepted into West Point Military Academy. He majored in Military Science. Ronald, like his father, enjoyed music and had a lengthy collection of jazz records and would play them as often as possible to entertain the other cadets and himself while they knuckled down with their studies. His friends nicknamed him Rover.

Ronald completed his courses, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, graduated West Point in 1950 and went off to Korea. He was assigned to a Field Artillery unit as its Commander and attached to the 57th FA Bn. Just over one year later, Ronald was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. His unit was in numerous engagements. By November 1950, the Army began using him as a Forward Observer and then an Aerial Observer.

According to the citation from his war records, on 30 May 1951, Lieutenant Ronald Rovenger distinguished himself by heroic achievements near Kwanungsa, Korea. On this date, he was assigned Company C, 31st Infantry as a Forward Observer. He accompanied a rifle platoon ordered to hold a center sector extending 600 yards into enemy territory. Lieutenant Rovenger,



Ronald Rovenger's West Point class photo

with complete disregard for his personal safety, set up his radio in an outpost on a nearby hill and maintained contact from that exposed position after his wire communications were knocked out.

When the enemy forces attacked in large numbers, Lieutenant Rovenger elected to stay and assist the leader of the rifle platoon, exposing himself to heavy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire to maintain adequate communications with headquarters and directing artillery fire against the enemy. By his courageous action, Lieutenant Rovenger inspired the men to hold their positions against repeated attacks by the enemy. The heroic actions displayed by Lieutenant Rovenger reflected great credit on himself and the military service. For this action, my uncle was awarded The Bronze Star w/ Distinction and Valor.

After his active duty, Lt Rovenger was sent to numerous schools and military bases for higher learning, Anti-aircraft Artillery, Special Weapons training, Civil Engineering and Artillery and Missile training. He also did a year in FECOM, Far East Communications, both in Korea and Japan and all with the General's staff. Ronald was involved with the National Guard and the Army Reserves and received two more promotions, one to Captain and the other to Major. That rank wasn't official until Sept '64.

While attending an Army Navy game, he met Kathryn Churchman on a blind date and they were married in Cambridge, Ohio on 27 Dec 51. Ronald and Kathryn went on to have three children, Kathryn, Gregory, and Barbara.

From 1955 to '57, he was a Research Associate through Ohio State University, organizing and directing a project which did original research on high temperature concrete, the material from which our rocket platforms contain. For the next four years, he worked for various companies, all associated in some way with the U.S. Army with regards to its missile program in Ohio and Alabama as Development Engineer, Engineering Assistant to Project Manager to Resident Manager.

From Feb '61 to Oct '62, he was affiliated with The Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He managed the Resident NASA Office for Marshall and reported to the Centaur Project Manager. Centaur was a rocket developed by the Air Force. It was thought to be a better choice for long range rockets than the Atlas V, but initial testing failed.

Due to NASA wanting to increase its management efforts, the program was transferred to Lewis Research Center and Ronald elected to transfer with it. From Oct '62 until Feb '71, he was the Resident NASA Plant Representative and Senior NASA Official at General Dynamics in San Diego, California. He managed the Resident NASA Office for Marshall and reported to the Centaur Project Manager. Centaur was designed to be the rocket booster for the upcoming Apollo missions. In the end, NASA chose the Atlas V instead. The entire team of scientists and engineers were awarded medals from NASA and recognized for their work.

From 1972 till Dec 1981, Ronald was self-employed, owning a general contractor and construction site. He built multi-unit apartments, single family houses, room additions, and did remodeling. He handled every aspect of construction from cost estimating, contracting and design, grading and supervision of all construction trades and finishing.

Towards the end of 1981, Saudi Arabia was finishing a pipeline from its oil fields and needed housing for its employees as well as a maintenance and training facility. The Saudis sent out requests for help to the U.S., primarily to the states where oil was drilled, looking for technicians in all required fields. Ronald was hired as a Site Superintendent and supervised daily activities of the contractor for ARAMCO, the Arabian American Oil Company, which in time became wholly owned by the Saudi Govt.

From Jan 1983 to Feb 1987, Ronald remained in Saudi Arabia working for Ralph M. Parsons Company as a Resident Construction Engineer, supervising daily activities of several contractors for the Royal Commission in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia, one of the oldest cities in the world. In 1985, he became the Principal Civil Engineer, working primarily in the civil area, but also did inspections of mechanical, electrical, plumbing equipment, and landscaping.

He enforced the California building code on all types of construction. That included apartment complexes, single-family housing, shopping centers, power plants, roads, landscaping and all other items which make up a new city. He pointed out deficiencies to contractors and then re-inspected to insure compliance. He conducted site investigations and wrote reports as warranted.



Ronald Rovenger, far right, at Centaur Team meeting at General Dynamics in 1964

My family knew that Uncle Ronald had worked at NASA, but because it was classified, it was all we knew. My repeated attempts at contacting West Point, the Army, and NASA went unanswered. It wasn't until I'd seen a film called *October Sky* and got the idea of contacting the gentleman whose life was depicted in the film, Homer Hickam, that NASA gave in and sent everything now declassified about Ronald's work there. Only then did I realize the scope of his training and where it took him.

A couple years ago, while doing a family tree, I stumbled upon Uncle Ronald's headstone and saw the Bronze Star etched into it. I began digging into his military life. I hit roadblock after roadblock as not being "next of kin." Technically, I wasn't entitled to see anything. It was late last year that I came across the KWVA and wrote to its Board of Directors—every one of them. Their outpouring help completed his life story, from the advice, to mentoring, and addresses to contact. They continued following up with me and kept it going to its conclusion.

On April 13th, the NPRC released Major Ronald Rovenger's complete war record. I immediately contacted his children, my first cousins, and opened their eyes to a world they never knew: that their father, my uncle, was a bona fide war hero. In his spare time, Uncle Ronald enjoyed learning and speaking French and German. He was an avid reader and loved historical novels. His favorite sport was baseball. He enjoyed photography, gardening, Turk Murphy jazz and of course, the grandkids.

Acknowledgements

I was able to add my uncle's name and specs to the KWVA Memorial Honor Roll for his family to view and appreciate. For the unlimited help given to me from the Korean War Veterans Association, I want to thank John Mallon, Michele Bretz, Thomas McHugh, and the entire Board of Directors of the KWVA, along with the incredible assistance from Tom Moore. Without his never-ending advice, I'd still be searching for the truth about Major Ronald Rovenger.

Thanks also to my first cousins, Uncle Ronald's daughters, Kathryn and Barbara, whose help and assistance allowed me to finish this amazing story. This is for you, Uncle Ronald.....Major Ronald Rovenger.

Stephen Rovenger, stephenrovenger@gmail.com

2023 FUNDRAISER UPDATE

THANKS TO MANY MEMBERS AND SEVERAL CHAPTERS THE FUND RAISER IS NOW AT 54%.
THE GOAL OF \$100,000 IS ATTAINABLE WITH SUPPORT.

Many individuals think the KWVA was involved in the Wall of Remembrance disaster. Because of this misconception, normal donations from individuals have been heavily reduced so far this year. Please pass on the fact that the KOREA WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION totally controlled everything from start to finish. Other than making several large donations, the KWVA was not involved.

We ask all members to be extra generous this year as this is our only source of income. Dues income barely covers the *Graybeards* costs.

If your chapter has not made a donation to the 2023 fundraiser yet, please do so soon. Just put your chapter number on the tickets. Help us keep dues low and maintain the number of *Graybeards* issues per year to remain as scheduled presently.

A donation of \$25 for each ticket submitted is requested for this "MEMBER ONLY" Fundraiser.

As our members age we wish you all good health. We look forward to seeing you in at our annual meeting in October.

Tom McHugh, VP
Fundraiser Chairman

QUESTS & QUERIES

Did being injured in a POW riot merit a Purple Heart?

If a warfighter was injured during a riot at a POW camp in Korea, did that qualify him for a Purple Heart? The injury was incurred in a non-combat situation, after all. Or, was serving at a camp like Koje considered a combat assignment? Koje's guards were members of combat units, such as the 27th Infantry Regiment and the 187th Airborne Regiment. Was that just considered temporary duty?

Please let the editor know.

Carlos Tapia

My best friend, Carlos Tapia, born May 14, 1929, fought as a paratrooper in the Korean War, in which he suffered a battle injury. I lost track of him after his wife died about nine years ago.

I have tried everything to locate him without success. I realize he may have died. Perhaps you can tell me if his death is registered with you, as he was a veteran. I would appreciate any information you can give me. Carlos Tapia was living in California, but I believe his son may have taken him to Ohio.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Guillermo (Bill) Bonilla, lomasdecocoyoc2012@yahoo.com

Canadians arrested for trying to join U.S. Army

There was an interesting blurb from a Canadian friend recently that struck a chord. Did you know...well, read it here:

The Korean War Veteran
April 26, 2023

Bernard Cote, who served in the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951, recently discussed his participation about the Battle of Kapyong and other battles he served in during his many months in the war. His comments appeared in the Canadian newspaper, the Windsor Star. Here's the interesting part:

Not mentioned in the article is the fact that Mr. Cote signed up to serve in Korea almost as soon as he heard that North Korean forces had invaded South Korea. At the time Canada had not yet made a commitment to send troops to Korea, so he crossed the border into the United States and hitchhiked to Toledo and joined the U.S. Army.

On the train to Fort Benning for training FBI agents came on board and rounded up all the Canadians. None of them had proper visas to work in the United States. They were all arrested and returned to the border in Detroit in custody.

They were released to voluntarily leave the country. Time magazine published a story about the intrepid Canadians who had jumped the gun and unwittingly committed an immigration laws crime by signing up.

As soon as Canada announced it was forming a special service brigade of volunteers specifically to serve in Korea, Cote hitchhiked to London, Ontario and enlisted in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Do any of our readers remember incidents like those described in the article in which Canadians—or people from other nations—tried to enlist in the U.S. military and were arrested for their efforts? We'd like to know.



Membership is Our Strength

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





2023 KWVA FUNDRAISER



THIS IS A MEMBERS ONLY FUNDRAISER. ONLY PAID MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

WINNERS TO BE DRAWN AT ANUUAL BANQUET IN OCTOBER 2023. Donation is \$25 per ticket.
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Thomas Mc Hugh, 2nd Vice President Chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : tmmchugh@msn.com
Albert McCarthy 1st Vice President Co-chairman Fundraiser Committee Contact : mccarthyalbert@live.com

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Return this ticket with donation of \$25

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The KWVA National Board Meeting Arlington, Virginia



President Jeff Brodeur at Korean War Veterans Memorial



KWVA Board of Directors at Korean War Veterans Memorial KWVA



BOD with U.S. Congressman Brian Mast, FL-21st District



KWVA Vice President Al McCarthy (L) with ROK President Yoon at Harvard University



Director Al McCarthy, Secretary Treiber, President Brodeur, and Director McHugh (L-R) at Korean War Veterans Memorial

KWVA National Director Rocky Harder with Cub and Sea Scouts at White House



National Director Rocky Harder with DPA Team Deputy Director Fern Winbush and USMC Capt. Ganski (L-R)



Chorus from Frankfort County H.S., Frankfort, KY, Singing the National Anthem



ROK President Yoon (C) with Colonel Ralph Puckett (L) and Elmer Williams

KWVA BOD at Walter Reed at Bethesda with representatives Sue Wortman and Ryan Kules from the Semper Fi/America's Fund and Wounded Warrior Project



U.S. Armed Forces Honor Guard at White House Reception

President Yoon and President Biden at White House ceremony



KWVA National Officers with DPAA Director Kelly McKeague (2nd from Left) at Hilton 70th Anniversary Reception



KWVA Wreath at KW Memorial

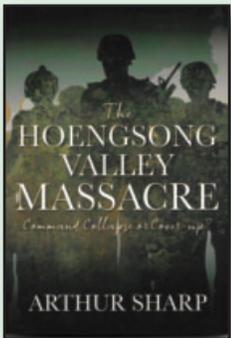


KWVA National BOD on the 7th Floor TBI Ward with Dr. Williamson and staff

KWVA National BOD Meeting Arlington, Virginia



Thanks for Hoengsong Valley Massacre book support



My book, *The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Cover-up?*, is still available. KWVA members have been very supportive. Sales have been significant and comments from readers continue to be positive (mostly). I thank everyone who has purchased a copy and encourage those who haven't to act now, as supplies are running out.

It's not too late to your collector's copy, though. To get your signed copy, send me a check for \$22, which includes postage and shipping.

Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573 and I will get your copy out immediately.

Thanks again.





A case of international cooperation

159 SUNSHINE STATE [FL]

Dear Mr. Jeffery Brodeur, President, and Ms. Sheila Fritts:

We hope that you are doing well. Thank you very much for your dedication and leadership for KWVA. As you are aware, 2023 marks the “70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.” There will be many commemorative events in Canada, the U.S. and Korea. It was our honor to organize the “United Nations 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong (now known as Gapyeong)” ceremony at the Korean War Monument, the City of Lake Alfred, Florida and “Veterans Appreciation Luncheon” at the American Legion Post 8 Winter Haven on April 21, 2023 to honor and remember fallen UN soldiers.

Currently, The Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol is visiting the U.S. and we are very glad that the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (Korea) selected 10 Heroes of the Korean War, including four-star General James Van Fleet, Commander of UN Forces, who awarded 2PPCLI (Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry 2nd Battalion) the “United States Presidential Unit Citation” for their gallant bravery. His son, Capt. James Van Fleet, JR served with the U.S. Air Force, as a pilot of a B-26 Night Intruder. He was declared Missing in Action during the Korean War and he is presumed dead.

He was a forgotten hero until we and Consul General Young-jun Park presented the Ambassador for Peace Medal at the “United Nations 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong” on April, 23, 2021. They both were from Polk County, Florida and they will be remembered. Please see the short You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-9br0hh05Q>

We helped to present over 230 Ambassador for Peace Medals to the Korean War veterans in Canada and the U.S. thanks to the South Korean Consul’s general office in Atlanta, the Consul General office in Toronto, and Korean embassies.

At our recent event, we met several Korean War veterans, including Korea Defense veterans and we actively promoted the KWVA. They were interested in joining the KWVA. We scanned the membership form and emailed it to them.

Best Regards,

HooJung Jones Kennedy, Major (Ret’d) Don Kennedy, Co-Chairs “United Nations 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong”

KWVA Chapter 159 Sunshine State, Co-Chairs Korean War Veterans Adorates of Canada, 863-215-7807 (US), 905-769-0486 (Canada), <https://koreanwarveteransadvocates.com/>

Peter Palmer, P.O. Box 5298, Largo, FL 33779, 727-584-7143, Palmersp@verizon.net

44 MISSOURI #1

We held a 2022 Christmas meeting/dinner with Korean guests.

*Sydney (Sid) Staton, Secretary/Treasurer,
73 Sparrow Point Cir., Fenton, MO 63026*



Members of Ch. 44 with guests at 2022 Christmas meeting/dinner



Ch. 44 members with Korean guests at Christmas gathering



Korean guests at Ch. 44’s 2022 Christmas dinner

51 RICHLAND COUNTY [OH]

The ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice is set for July 27, 2023 at 2 p.m. at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield. We are hoping to have dignitaries including Governor Mike Dewine and all veterans and families.

We are welcoming all KWVA members in Ohio and the Korean community in Mansfield and environs. An RSVP is rec-

ommended due to limited seating. A Korean pianist, Ms. E. Lee, from Michigan, has promised to perform during the ceremony and the Korean Drum Team will entertain us in the second half of the program with drums and dances and more. Snacks will be provided during the intermission.



Armistice ceremony set by Ch. 51



Korean Drum Team such as that seen here to entertain guests at Ch. 51 observance

What will we be commemorating? UN troops, led by the U.S., got the country back to the people of South Korea. The invasion was unannounced and so brutal that it can never be forgotten. The people of Korea are grateful for all those who came and fought, including so many who gave their ultimate sacrifice.



The armistice agreed to on July 27 included the exchange of POW and civilians who wanted to go to either side. There was a problem, though: so many civilians of North Korea wanted to come to South Korea. Threats were made to them and many were

killed during the screening process.

China played an enormous role by pouring millions of ill-equipped foot soldiers into the fields and mountains. They suddenly disabled our forward movements. The Chosin Reservoir battle was one example of the fierce battles that went on. Sadly, withdrawal was the only choice in that situation. Thirty-two months later the truce was signed. A truce was better than fighting on.

Jay Haar, jhaar2011@gmail.com

54 THOMAS W. DALEY, JR. [NJ]

Commander Richard Daucunas led a group of Korean War veterans attending a ceremony in Philadelphia on June 25, 2022 hosted by Philadelphia Councilman David Oh and the Korean Veterans Association of the Philadelphia Region Veterans; Commander Richard Dacunas, Ex Commander Andrew Jackson, Frank Brown, Mrs Brown, Chaplain Kenneth Mills, Roger Ryder, and Jerry Fine were accompanied on the bus provided by the Korean Methodist Church of Cherry Hill by Pastor Will Kim.



The crowd gathered at the 2022 Philadelphia ceremony featuring Ch. 54

Guest speaker Daucunas talked about the endurance of the commitment by South Korea and the United States protecting the freedom of the South Korean people and how important it was to continue this relationship between the two countries.

Councilman Oh spoke about the Korean Memorial Ceremony and the importance of veterans devoting their time to civic activities and the need for them to step up in political leadership.

Hee Jung Park, President of the Korean Veterans Association, spoke about the Armistice and the gratitude the Korean people endure for the American Soldiers who fought for their freedom.

Keynote Speaker Eathan Cho, a high school senior, spoke about his efforts to educate his peers about the Korean War and the need to know history to avoid future mistakes. After the ceremony the Korean Methodist Church and Korean Veterans Association treated the chapter attendees to lunch at Ruby's Buffet in Philadelphia.

Andy Jackson, 856-424-0736, captjack71@comcast.net

72 OREGON TRAIL [OR]

We had a very interesting March meeting, to which we invited several Korean War orphans who were adopted by U.S. families. Each of the three ladies had very interesting stories to tell.

The first speaker was Brenda Proctor, who was one of four Korean girls adopted at different times through HOLT International. Next was Suene Waldman Fisher. She was born in Seoul in January, 1957 and adopted by an Army family working in Korea. Jenifer Jacobus talked at length about her early childhood in Korea and being adopted by a wonderful family.



At Ch. 72 meeting: Bernie Jarvis, Brenda Proctor, Pres. David Penafior, Suene Waldman Fisher, Jennifer Jacobus, 1st VP Richard Rye, 2nd VP David Lee, Honorary Consul General Greg Caldwell (Back, L-R); Front: Hannah Hitz-Korean adoptee.

Many other Korean adoptees were in attendance at the meeting also.

Mary Gifford, 521 Charman St; Oregon City, Oregon 503-655-2778

155 FLORIDA GULF COAST [FL]

1st VP Joseph (Joe) DeLuca was selected as Veteran of the Day while visiting Disney World in Orlando, FL on March 22,



"Honor Guard" at Disney World with Ch. 155 member Joe DeLuca

2023. Disney honors a veteran each day at the closing ceremony of retreat.

Robert S "Bob" Kent, 239-945-3018, rkent9000@aol.com



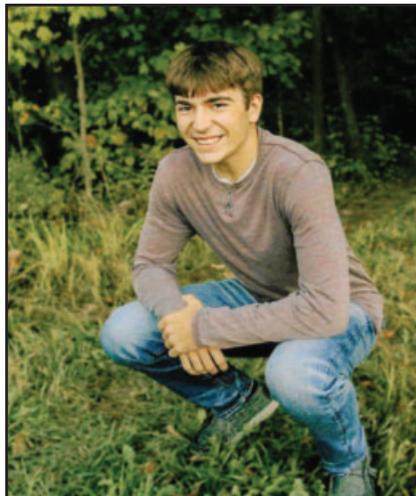
Joe DeLuca (L) oversees flag folding ceremony at Disney World (



Joe DeLuca of Ch. 155 holds Colors at Disney World

172 HANCOCK COUNTY [OH]

Jared Griggs, the great-grandson of member Don Riker, is our Rose of Sharon scholarship recipient. He is a senior at Arlington High School. Jared is a member of the football, basketball and baseball teams, carries a 4.0 grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, volunteers with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is a member of the Bible Fellowship Church.



Jared Griggs, Ch. 172's Rose of Sharon scholarship recipient

Jared has been accepted to the University of Cincinnati and will major in Medical Sciences. His career goal is to become a gastroenterologist and to remain in the Findlay-Hancock County area.

Larry Monday, Secretary, 419-387-7532, mondayL9@aol.com

189 CENTRAL FLORIDA EAST COAST [FL]

We were honored recently by the J.J. Martin Military Veteran, First Responder Appreciation Day February 25th, 2023 at Ormond Beach, FL Rockefeller Gardens. This special program was sponsored by Debbie Kruck, President of Ormond Strong organization, a major support group for all veteran groups. The celebration had a large turnout of Korean War Veterans from Volusia County, Flagler County and Orlando.

The celebration opened with a Fly-Over of four aircraft in formation with smoke trails provided by the Spruce Creek Property Owners Association, headed by retired U.S. Navy fighter pilot, James Stone, Spruce Creek airport manager.

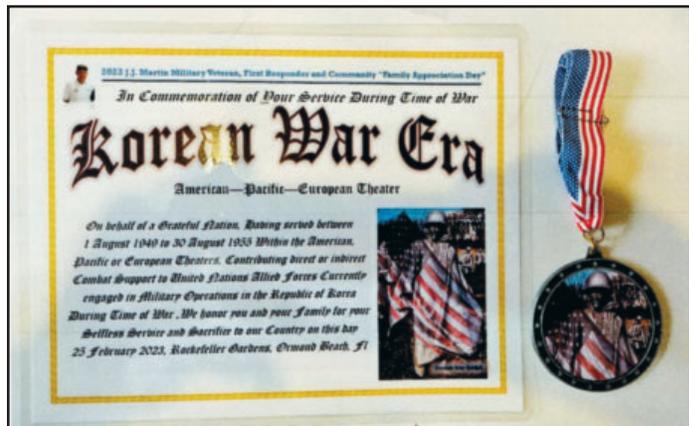


Commander Joseph Sicinski of Ch. 189 (L) presents KWVA DOF challenge coin and a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Albert Helfrick



Flyover in honor of Ch. 189

Below, Joseph Sicinski, Debbie Kruck, and James Stone, Spruce Creek Airport Manager, at event honoring Ch. 189



The Certificate of Appreciation and medallion presented to Ch. 189 members

Each Korean War veteran was decorated with a special Medallion and Certificate of Appreciation. The City of Ormond Beach gave special recognition to Korean War veterans with a proclamation presented by Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington. The four-hour celebration included live entertainment, presentations by Central Florida Police & Fire Pipes and Drums, flag ceremonies by VVA 1048, food trucks, vendors, vehicle displays, a traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, and more.

General Ernie Ordino, guest speaker, spoke to the horror of the Korean War.

We were honored at our April 2023 monthly meeting by having Dr. Albert Helfrick as guest speaker. Dr. Helfrick, professor emeritus, is the former chairman of the Electrical and Systems

engineering department at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. With more than 50 years engineering experience he has designed many electronic systems, authored 12 books, holds 5 patents and contributed to more than 100 technical papers. Also, he has a remarkable education background.

Dr. Helfrick spoke in great detail about the MARS program (Military Auxiliary Radio Program) to which he contributed during the Vietnam War while serving as NCOIC of the DONG BA THIN MARS Station in Vietnam. The MARS Program was created jointly by the U.S Army and U.S. Air Force and dedicated licensed volunteer Radio Operators providing a communication network for military personnel to speak with family from anywhere in the world.

MARS members work by the slogans “Proudly Serving Those Who Serve” and “Proud, Professional and Ready.” His presentation was of great interest.

Joseph Sicinski, sicinskij@aol.com

258 NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND [RI]

During our April meeting we were honored by a visit from the National Guard. Our Commander, Dick Mende, presented Colonel Sharon Harmon, who is the Joint Resiliency Director for the RI National Guard, with \$1000 in gift cards for Stop & Shop grocery store.

Colonel Harmon was joined by Sgt. First Class Paul Panakis and Raymond Viens from the Military Assistance Program. Many of our young veterans’ families are living below the poverty level and certainly appreciate these gift cards.

On May 6th a few of our members attended the first Korean Festival held at The Korean American headquarters in Cranston, Rhode Island. They had food, games, and music, and we got to celebrate Korean culture with our Korean-American Association, which is always enjoyable.

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



Col. Sharon Harmon, Ch. 258 Commander Dick Mende, and Sr. Vice Bob Jaworski (L-R)



Members of Ch. 258 with Korean friend at Korean-American festival



Fun is the order of the day at the Rhode Island Korean-American festival attended by Ch. 258 members

Below, kids and Korean in traditional dress at Rhode Island festival



267 GENERAL JAMES A. VAN FLEET [FL]

The C. B. Parker Elementary School of Gainesville, Florida held its annual Veterans Day Patriotic Assembly on Nov. 13th, 2022 as the original date of Nov. 10th was cancelled due to the hurricane. This event is held each year by music teacher Jenny Freeman.



Music teacher Jenny Freeman and chorus at Parker Elementary School, Gainesville, FL



Students, teachers and parents at Parker Elementary School, Gainesville, FL



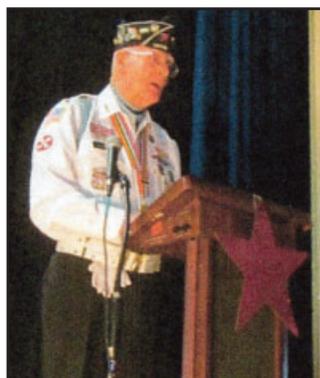
Ch. 267 Color Guard at Parker Elementary School Assembly



Ch. 267 Color Guard presents Colors at Parker Elementary School



National anthem being played at Parker Elementary School



Commander Ron Carbaugh of Ch. 267 addresses Parker Elementary School Assembly



Members of Ch. 267 Color Guard enjoy show at Parker Elementary School: Terry Fitzpatrick, Garry Giles, Eddie Thomas, Don Sherry, and Norm Tankersley (L-R)

Ms. Angela agreed to come to sing for us, in her Korean voice, the nationally known Korean “Arirang” folk song. Before singing, Ms. Angela told the story and origin of the “Arirang.” While not a national anthem, The “Arirang” is regarded as a national symbol of the life and history of the Korean people. It is a Korean Folk song with possibly more than 3,000 variations and 60 different versions with all including or ending with the familiar refrain “Arirang” “Arriang,” “Arariyo,” translated by some to mean “My beloved one,” making it a love song to some.

The “Arirang” is a collection of stories told, taught, and passed down by everyday Korean people for possibly over 600 years. Most all the stories, in some way, include themes that speak of sorrow, separation, return, joy, happiness and love. The stories depict the life and struggles for independence from a long history of occupation, oppression by the threats of communism, and adjustment to today’s modern history.

The Korean descendants that we know today remain a most resilient people. Because of their history they learned to pull together in everything they do like family. Although quiet in their adjustment to American culture they are the most gracious, appreciative and generous people to know.

Because Ms. Angela loves to sing, she also offered to sing two of her favorite love songs, “What is love?” and “Promise you will love me when I am old.”

The Foothills Chapter #301, while down by half of its previous membership, no thanks to Covid and natural age concerns, still meets on the 2nd Thursday each month except July when we have our family picnic in the park. All Korean War veterans and following Defense veterans are welcome, including spouses and friends. For information or directions call President Tom Comshaw at 864-472-4236.

Lew Perry, lewperry@aol.com

315 SOUTHERN OREGON [OR]**

Members participated in the annual Boatnick Parade.

Albert Pule, appule@q.com

*** 315 is not listed as an active chapter.*



Members of Ch. 315 in the back of a military truck at the Grants Pass, OR, Boatnick Parade: Buck Woodburn, Henry Morgan, Bruce Pence, Gary Orton, Dick Traugh, and Norman Nussbaum

323 PO2 TAYLOR MORRIS [IA]

The Korean American Society of Iowa (KASI) hosted the Korean War Veteran Appreciation and Chuseok Event at the Dodge House, Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa to remember and honor chapter members. The program included remarks from the Consul General Junghan Kim of the Republic of Korea in Chicago, chapter President Jake Chapman, KASI President Erin Kim-Cho, and other guest speakers, including Colonel Harris of the Iowa National Guard. A meal was served, accompanied by entertainment from the KASI children’s group. Each veteran was presented a plaque honoring their service to the United States and South Korea.



Ch. 323 members at Korean War Veteran Appreciation and Chuseok Event



Above, Consul General Junghan Kim of the Republic of Korea in Chicago speaks at Iowa event



Chapter 323 President Jake Chapman addresses Iowa audience



Right, Erin Kim-Cho, President of the Korean American Society of Iowa, makes remarks at Ch. 323 gathering

Rami, the photographer for the Project-Soldier organization, took a group photo of the chapter members who attended the event. Rami has been traveling throughout the United States, interviewing and photographing Korean War veterans for a book to be published and used in the schools in South Korea.

Ed Pagliai, President, Eddee@mediacombb.net

327 GEN JOHN H MICHAELIS [PA]

Our monthly membership meeting was held on April 19, 2023 at the Woodcrest Villa Lancaster, PA. The speaker for the day was one of our associate members, Mrs. Jeanne B. Ritter. Her husband, Harry E. Ritter (deceased), was a Korean War veteran who had served in the U.S. Navy. Her brother, 1st Lt. Robert G. Brobst Jr., served in the U.S. Army until he was killed in action on July 10, 1953 at Pork Chop Hill. He was a member of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.



Mrs. Jeanne Ritter surrounded by Ch. 327 members and guests

Due to her relationship to 1st Lt. Robert G. Ritter she was given the opportunity to visit South Korea at the expense of the Republic of Korea. She was able to make this trip because of the Korean Veteran's Program. She was accompanied by Gary Ritter and Eric Samuelson.

Mrs. Ritter's presentation or talk was entitled "A Modern Day Visit to Korea" because of her recent visit to Korea. Her presentation/talk was assisted with a video of all the places and events that she visited or was a part of. She said that they received excellent care everywhere that they went.

The conclusion of her visit was a very special dinner with Korean entertainment.

Mrs. Ritter was also given the "Ambassador of Peace Medal."

Forgotten War??

Some call it "the forgotten war", but that's not true you see for those who served or bled and died, or for their family In fact, that war has had no end, our troops serve there today

defending as they have for years, the hard won peace each day
Korea never has forgot the cost of liberty, or those who
Served, or serving still, to keep their country free
"Forgotten War"? No! not a chance! for many still remain
To faithfully pass on the torch, and keep alive the flame
Written by Korean defender Reverend Donald Kitchen, chap-
ter chaplain, Lancaster, PA

*Shirley McBride, Director
219 Perry St., Columbia, PA 17512-1718*

328 LOS ANGELES COUNTY [CA]

Members attended an event at the Grand Hotel in Los Angeles to honor Mrs. Lee as the newly appointed President of the Choong Chung (Chungcheong) Province Society of Los Angeles.** The majority of the retired Army officers of the Korean Veterans Association are from this large province.

Chapter President Bob Son and member Joe Wong were there to congratulate Mrs. Lee, as were retired Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and his wife Carol.

*Joseph Wong, 2870 Gainsborough Dr., San Marino, CA 91108,
213-250-3818, joethe417@yahoo.com*

**There are 9 provinces in South Korea: North Chungcheong, South Chungcheong, Gangwon, Gyeonggi, North Gyeongsang, South Gyeongsang, North Jeolla, South Jeolla, and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. Provinces are one of the first-level divisions within South Korea.



Attendees at Los Angeles meeting attended by Ch. 328 members



Guests, including Ch. 328 members to right of speaker, at Los Angeles meeting to honor Mrs. Lee



Attendees render salute at Los Angeles luncheon



President Bob Son of Ch. 328, Joe Wong, and Carol and Lee Baca (L-R) at luncheon in Los Angeles



The guest of honor speaks at Los Angeles function

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. @ \$18 plus \$10.20 S/H.
- Minimum order is 20 doz. @ \$65 plus \$12.50 S/H.
- Orders for 21 to 100 doz. @ \$3.25/doz. plus S/H
- Order for 400 doz. or more @ \$3.00/doz. plus S/H

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



Q1. The distance from Seoul To Busan:

- a. 199 MI
- b. 99 MI
- c. 88 MI
- d. 299 MI
- e. 300 MI

Q2. The distance from DMZ (West To East):

- a. 110 MI
- b. 160 MI
- c. 170 MI
- d. 180 MI
- e. 190 MI

Q3. The distance from Seoul TO DMZ:

- a. 50 MI
- b. 40 MI
- c. 30 MI

d. 20 MI

e. 10 MI

Q4. What country is the world leader in ship building?

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. U.S.A.
- d. South Korea
- e. Canada

Q5. Which country has the tallest women in Asia?

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. Hong Kong
- d. Mongols
- e. South Korea

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

COURTESY OF CHAPTER 51

Outpost International Hosts 6th Korean War

Submitted by **Monika Stoy**

OP International hosted its 6th Korean War historical seminar at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. 14-16 March 2023. The event was co-hosted by the Korean Defense Attaché, Major General Kyung Koo Lee, and was conducted in conjunction with the 72nd anniversary of the final liberation of Seoul by the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st ROK Infantry Division on 14 March 1951. The seminar commemorated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice and the ROK-US Alliance. The outpost had previously hosted five seminars between April 2017 and October 2019 to gain recognition for the “Forgotten War” but the seminars went into hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This seminar featured a broad array of speakers and topics. After welcome comments from Monika Stoy and Major General Kyung Koo Lee; the Korean and U.S. national anthems performed by COL Park, Jong Seo, the ROK Air Attaché; and a POW-MIA ceremony conducted by Monika and Tim Stoy, LTC, US Army, ret. Tim Gilhool from the Logistics Center of Excellence at Fort Lee, Virginia led off in the morning of 14 March with an outstanding briefing on how logistic support was provided during the Korean War and now the lessons learned then still shape how logistics are provided today. He was followed by Dr. Bob Oliver, who provided a detailed overview of the air campaign in Korea. Next, COL Arthur Romanillos introduced an excellent documentary film covering the important contribution the Philippines made to UN forces in the Korean War, with first person accounts from several Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK), including from former Philippine President Fidel Ramos. The 10th Battalion Combat Team of PEFTOK was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division while following combat teams served with the 45th Infantry Division.

Colonel Matt Churchward, UK Royal Marine Attaché in Washington, D.C., began the afternoon with a very interesting presentation on the 41st Independent Marine

Commandos who fought as part of the 1st Marine Division in Korea. It was very interesting to learn how this unit was recruited from UK Marine units serving in Malaysia, Hong Kong, and other locations in Asia. Sadly, these brave Marines are seldom mentioned when reading about the 1st Marine Division at the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir.

He was followed by COL Maxime Do Tran, the French Military Attaché, who presented the story of the French UN Battalion commanded by “LTC Montclar,” who was actually a French Lieutenant General named Charles Magrin-Vernery, a French Foreign Legion officer. The battalion had 39 officers, 172 non-commissioned officers and more than 800 enlisted soldiers and was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. The unit arrived in Pusan 30 November 1950.

The next presenter was Major General

Odd-Harald Hagen, the Defense Attaché of Norway, who spoke eloquently on the Norwegian contribution of a mobile field hospital which saved many soldiers’ lives. This was Norway’s first post-WWII overseas commitment. He was followed by Dr (COL) Kathleen McHale’s in-depth presentation on the impact of “foot” injuries and maladies had on soldiers in Korea. The afternoon concluded with reminiscences from SFC, U.S. Army, retired Don Christiansen who served with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Korea 1952-1953. He was only 16 years old when he was sent to Korea in 1952!

The seminar continued 15 March with COL Se-Geun Chang’s presentation on the Republic of Korea Army’s fighting in the Korean War and today. Monika Stoy then spoke about the Korean Partisans and her father’s service with Army Unit 8240, UN Partisan Forces Korea. Grayson Rowny,



Top: Day one seminar participants. Bottom: Day two Participants

Historical Seminar

The three day observance and commemoration was a great success and re-awakened the interest of the attaché community in Washington, D.C. in their country's role in the Korean War.

grandson of Lieutenant General Edward L. Rowny, spoke about his grandfather's service on the FECOM staff under General of the Army MacArthur before the war and as the X Corps Engineer under MG Almond for the Incheon Landing, the evacuation of the Marines from Changjin Reservoir, and the evacuation and demolition of Hungnam. SFC Don Christiansen spoke about his service with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, which included participating in the suppression of the Communist takeover of several of POW camps on Koje-Do.

Major General Michel-Henri St-Louis, the Defense Attaché from Canada, gave an excellent briefing on how Canada's initially reluctant support of the UN mission in Korea became a serious contribution of military force. LTC, retired, Bill Latham, from Fort Lee provided a thoughtful discussion of the background of the armistice negotiations and the factors which caused the process to take so long. After lunch, Major Nikolaos Stasinakis, from the Greek Defense Attaché's Office, gave an outstanding briefing on the Hellenic Expeditionary Force in the Korean War. Tim Stoy covered the 3rd Infantry Division's Korean War service and was followed by Colonel Peter Moon, commander of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division who spoke about one of the division's outstanding soldiers in Korea, Hiroshi (Hershey) Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient. The seminar concluded with an illuminating multimedia presentation on the outsize role Korean culture, particularly K-POP music and K-Drama, play world-wide by Mr. Adam Wojciehowicz. Adam pointed out the ROK's soft power may be able to contribute to the peaceful reunification of the two countries.

The seminar was well-supported by several attaché offices with personnel attending the seminar sessions, including Brigadier Mike Shapland from New Zealand; BG Canli from Turkey and several of his officers; the Greek Defense Attaché was represented by several of his attaché officers both days.

On 16 March, the outpost hosted a com-

memorative ceremony at the 3rd Infantry Division Monument in Arlington National Cemetery beginning at 1000. It was a beautiful, sunny, and cool morning and an illustrious group of attaché personnel and other guests participated in a deeply moving ceremony with COL Park, Jong Seo performing the Korean and U.S. national anthems and included a POW-MIA ceremony assisted by SSG Joshua Johnson from the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Springfield, VA; remarks by ceremony co-hosts Monika Stoy and COL Chang, Se-Geun; COL Peter Moon representing MG Costanza, Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division; and with Major General Hagen from Norway serving as the guest speaker. Joining the attachés who had already participated in the seminar were Brigadier Kelly from Australia and Brigadier Sharma from India. Mrs. Karin Gillis represented her husband, Rear Admiral Carl Gillis from Belgium. LTC Evangelos Zacharis and Major Nikolaos Stasinakis represented the Greek Defense Attaché. 2LT Philip Molnar, Staff Sergeant Joshua Johnson, Staff Sergeant Louis Deludos, and Sergeant Katelynn Manseray from the Springfield, VA U.S. Army Recruiting Station also attended. From the Armed Forces Retirement Home, two Korean War veterans, SFC Lee Smith and CW3 Charles Daniels, attended and they were joined by two other residents, Milton and Kay Stark. Mr. Tom Portman delivered the invocation and benediction. Tom heads the committee for veterans' affairs at his church, Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Virginia. The star of the show was Lieutenant General, USAF, retired James D. Hughes. LTG Hughes is 100-years old, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1946, and flew 101 combat missions in Korea, including the first mission in June 1950 from his base in Japan. He was accompanied by his daughter, Karen, and son-in-law, COL, US Army, retired, Richard Marchant.

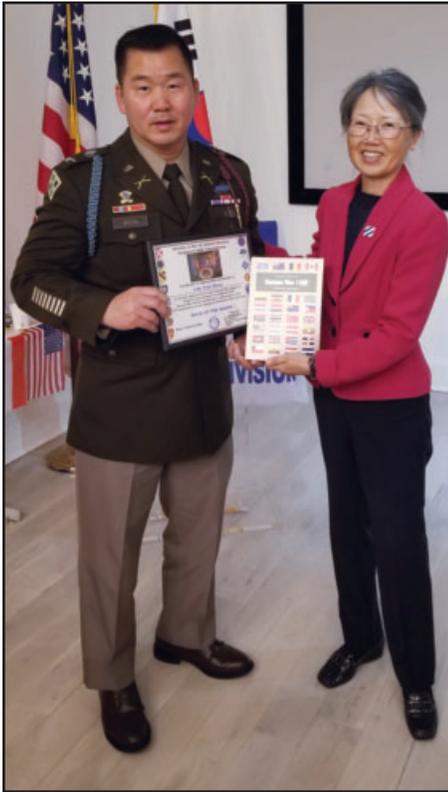
Other guests included COL, US Army, retired, Ashton Ormes, who was on the last U.S. mission to North Korea to retrieve remains for POW-MIA accounting and has



Maj. Gen. Hagen of Norway presenting on the Norwegian hospital



MG St-Louis of Canada presenting on Canada's UN contribution



Presenting certificate of appreciation to Col. Peter Moon



Col. Romanillos presents the PEFTOK video



Col. Do Tran presenting the French UN Infantry Battalion



Attendees at Historical Seminar in Washington, DC

been a mainstay in our Korean War historical seminars; and Mr. Grayson Rowny, the grandson of LTG Edward L. Rowny who served on X Corps staff and later commanded the 38th Infantry Regiment (The Rock of the Marne!) in the Korean War. Grayson served with the 10th Engineers of the 3rd Infantry Division and was attached to 3-15 Infantry for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003! COL, retired, Jerry Krueger, Commander of the Alexandria VFW Post; Mr. Bill Keeth and his wife, Carol, from the Alexandria office of Morgan-Stanley, who came to honor her father who served in the Korean War; the Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent,

Mr. Charles R. Alexander; LTC Jayme Hansen, CFO of Fort Belvoir Community Hospital; Mrs. Haesook Choi, Society and Outpost International stalwart and Korean War refugee; Mr. Ed Mize; Mr. Stephen Briefs, Supervisor of Recreation Services for the Armed Forces Retirement Home; and Mr. George Turak and his wife Michelle, directors of the Mount America Foundation in Pennsylvania, also attended the ceremony.

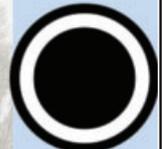
The commemoration concluded with a hosted luncheon at Ted's Montana Grill in Alexandria, Virginia, during which Monika Stoy recognized event supporters with certifi-

cates of appreciation. SFC, retired, Don Christiansen, presented Mrs. Haesook Choi and Monika Stoy with a Green Beret and original Special Forces Trojan Horse insignia in recognition of the Special Forces' role in training Korean partisans during the Korean War (Don served in Bad Toelz, home of the 10th Special Forces Group, in Germany). He also presented a framed picture of General George Patton to Tim Stoy for his work in recognizing veterans. This picture had originally been presented by Patton himself to a soldier who had served on his personal staff and later presented it to Don.

The three day observance and commemoration was a great success and re-awakened the interest of the attaché community in Washington, D.C. in their country's role in the Korean War. It is hoped the next seminar and commemorative ceremony in October 2023 will generate even greater participation. As Monika Stoy stated in her speech at Arlington National Cemetery, "Freedom is not Free!" Many United Nations members paid a price supporting the Republic of Korea, not just the United States. Each deserves recognition. It is our responsibility to preserve history, honor veterans while they are still with us, and to educate the younger generation on the outstanding combat service of their forefathers.

The 70th Anniversary of the Signing of the Korean War Armistice

The 7th Korean War historical seminar hosted by OP International, Society of the 3d Infantry Division and the Korean Defense Attaché's Office



What: A Historical Seminar to remember lesser known or understood battles and aspects of the Korean War in the 70th anniversary year of the signing of the Armistice

Who: Korean War veterans, their families, friends, and fans of Korean War history

Where: Armed Forces Retirement Home
140 Rock Creek Church Road Northwest
Washington, DC

When: 3-5 October 2023

3 October – Seminars 0900-1600

4 October – Seminars 0900-1500

5 October – Commemorative Ceremony
Arlington National Cemetery 1000-1100

NOTE: Due to restrictions imposed by venue administrators, this seminar is open only to attendees who are pre-registered.

Points of Contact: C. Monika Stoy and Timothy R. Stoy

Registration Date: NLT 25 September 2023

Email: timmoni15@yahoo.com, **Phone:** 571 419 8915



The Harry Paston story

It is often said that veterans of the Korean War fought to save a country they had never heard of and couldn't find on a map. That was true for the bulk of them, but not all. There had been many U.S. military personnel in Korea before June 25, 1950, when North Korea attacked its southern neighbor. One of them was 1st Lt. Harry Paston, U.S. Army.

In early July 2022 Commander Henry Grimes of Chapter 329, Tibor Rubin MOH, Las Vegas, NV, was contacted by Mrs. Kathy Swanker, who told him that her 96-year-old stepfather, Harry Paston, had passed away. She asked if we could do a memorial service for him at the VA cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. Henry agreed and met with her to get more information about her stepfather.

Henry and chapter 1st Vice Commander Lee Mowery met with the family. After looking over Harry's records they discovered that this gentleman was a unique veteran. 1st Lt. Harry Paston had been part of a three-man team headed by Brigadier General Le Roy Stewart and which included a U.S. government Japanese interpreter that went ashore on September 7th at Inchon, Korea to accept the surrender of the Korean colony from the Japanese commanding officer on the following morning. Harry Paston was a witness to a historic event, the creation of a new nation—South Korea. Here is his story,

With The 7th Infantry Division-Okinawa To Korea 1945-1946: World War II

By Harry Paston

As the battle for Okinawa was winding down for the 7th Infantry Division after 89 days of combat and approximately 7,100 casualties, in the summer of 1945 I was serving with the 7th Division artillery. With hostilities declared ended except for pockets of scattered Japanese resistance in caves, our thoughts were turning to the impending invasion of the Japanese homeland. Germany having surrendered in May, the conquest of Japan would end the war.

Training for the invasion, code named Olympic, scheduled for November 1st, was to start soon. With the first phase landings on Kyushu with up to half million troops involved. High casualties were anticipated as the Japanese had demonstrated throughout the war in the Pacific their commitment to fight to the death for their emperor.

The 7th Infantry Division, battled hardened on the Alaska Aleutian islands of Attu and Kiska, on Kwajalein and Eniwetok, Leyte in the Philippines and Okinawa, was one of the units that would be involved. In late August, while sitting in my tent, I was visited by Lt. Col. Dahlstrom, the Division Chief Signal Officer. He told me to pack my gear and report to the 7th Signal Company.

While my training as a medium tank crewman qualified in firing the 75mm cannon got me assigned as an artillery forward observer, the transfer to the Signal Company was as a result of my being an amateur radio operator before the war. I never found

out how the Army knew that, but the 7th Signal needed men to replace those being rotated back to the states. However, the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima on August 6th and then Nagasaki on the 9th and the surrender of Japan on August 14th changed everything for us.

The Division was ordered to accept the Japanese surrender of Korea and occupy the country. The formal surrender of Japan took place September 2nd aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay and the occupation of Japan started August 28th. Russia had declared war on Japan on August 8th and one million troops invaded Japanese-held Manchuria and were proceeding towards the Korean peninsula.

An agreement had been reached that the Russians would occupy Korea, which had been a Japanese colony since 1910, north of the 38th parallel; the U.S. would control south of the parallel, which would be the demarcation line that effectively established the border between what would become North and South Korea. While the United States encouraged a Korean self-government in the south, the Russians established a communist government in the north. Little did anyone imagine then how this would turn out.

The occupation of Korea by the Division was scheduled for September 8th. Before I could get settled in the 7th Signal, I was assigned as the radioman for a three-man team that would land in advance of the main body, charged with a mission to meet Japanese representatives and ensure the surrender would occur, as arranged in Tokyo.

The Division sailed from Okinawa in a 37-ship convoy on September 5th, bound for Inchon (Japanese name was Jinsen) on the west coast of Korea. H-hour for the main landing September 8th was scheduled for 1500 (3 p.m.). My team, headed by Brigadier General LeRoy Stewart, the Division artillery commander (who was to become the Provost Marshall in Korea), a military government Japanese interpreter and me, loaded down with a portable radio and weapons, landed at 4:02 a.m. the morning of September 8th.

We were to await the arrival of a Japanese contingent who we were told would meet us in the harbor area and confirm the surrender. Needless to say, we were quite nervous not knowing if they might arrive with guns blazing! (I carried with me top secret maps of the Inchon harbor area, which I kept for 75 years!) A Japanese contingent in company strength led by a general arrived in the morning. In a formal action, the Japanese general handed his sword to General Stewart and confirmed the surrender ceremony for the following day in Seoul.

I radioed the command ship with the news and the disembarkation began, with the first units ashore the 7th Recon Troop, equipped with light armored vehicles. Their mission was to drive the 20 miles to Seoul to make sure the road was clear and no hostile forces were observed. When they returned, they told us they were amazed to find thousands of Korean civilians lining the road waving American flags, apparently all homemade. They also told us the Koreans kept on running across the road in front

of their vehicles, barely missing getting hit. We later found out the Koreans had a superstition that evil spirits were following them and this was a way to get them killed!

The Koreans were friendly and happy to see us; the Japanese soldiers were stoic and, unlike during our combat experiences with them, they appeared to accept the fact they had lost the war. They, together with the majority of the 800,000 Japanese “colonists” living in Korea, were returned to Japan in the following months. In fact, we used Japanese trucks driven by their soldiers initially to move units around Inchon, while our equipment was coming ashore.

As the Division units starting coming ashore, I was ordered to set up a division radio net from a position atop the Munitions Building near the harbor utilizing a Signal Corps Radio Model 284, the workhorse of infantry units. I was then assigned to the 17th Infantry where, while stringing a long wire radio antenna, a most memorable event occurred: while walking backwards I managed to fall into a Japanese latrine dug in the ground. Fortunately, my fellow soldiers used their helmets full of water to clean me up.

The 7th Division, when landed, had the three infantry regiments active since the start of the war: 17th, 32nd and 184th, originally a California National Guard regiment, which was shortly replaced by the 31st Regiment. With troops being rotated home in large numbers we soon became way understrength by 1946, losing 7,500 men. At the end of WWII there were 89 infantry divisions in the Army; by 1950 only ten remained, one of which was the 7th.

The mission in Korea was to act as a security force, assist in the establishment of a self-governing democratic government, and to patrol and maintain outposts along the 38th parallel DMZ, a job rotated among the three infantry regiments. Other division units were garrisoned in different parts of South Korea, from Pusan, the southernmost city, to Seoul, the capital. Unlike the occupation of Germany and Japan, which had been devastated by bombings, there had been no hostilities on the Korean peninsula, so the cities and rural areas had been untouched by war.

A week after the landing, I rejoined the Signal Company, bivouacked on the outskirts of Seoul adjacent to government buildings. Unfortunately, the troops were not functioning well, having liberated a Japanese officer club liquor supply and nursing huge hangovers. Eventually, Quonset huts erected by Army engineers replaced temporary tents, providing comfortable barracks for living quarters.

Division headquarters was established in Seoul in government buildings formerly used by the Japanese, from which they had ruled the country as a colony, suppressing Korean culture and requiring the Japanese language to be taught in schools and used by the Koreans. Occupation duties soon became routine and somewhat boring. Seoul was a large city and passes allowed us to visit and explore it. Despite the friendliness of the Koreans, the language barrier limited us to mostly sightseeing, eating and drinking. GIs sought other unnamed recreational activities.

Unlike the Korea of today, for GIs seeking R&R away from our bases, there was not much of interest. Initially, following our occupation, Russian troops were stationed in Seoul. We would meet them while in Seoul, exchange souvenirs but the language

barrier limited our interface. Unlike us, their weapons were always loaded with live ammo, and we observed many confrontations with Korean citizens, who were fair game for the Russians threatening them and taking watches and jewelry. We always looked the other way. After a few months, the small Russian contingent withdrew north of the 38th parallel.(1)

Interaction with the locals was minimal. We employed Korean civilians to work at tasks inside our garrison area, such as cleaning and performing kitchen and maintenance tasks. Since I was the sergeant in charge of the Radio Section, despite orders from Tokyo forbidding amateur radio operations in Korea, I set up my ham radio station in an SCR-399, a Signal Corps truck mounted radio station, which I located on blocks on a hill adjacent to our area.

With the end of the war, amateur radio stations came on the air again throughout the world and I was able to communicate regularly with stations in the states relaying messages to family members of company personnel. I also regularly contacted a couple of stations on Tinian operated by amateurs identified by their handles, James, Curt, and Barry. Turned out Curt was Air Force commanding General Curtis Lemay and Barry was a fellow who went on to be a U.S. Senator and presidential candidate by the name of Barry Goldwater. Years later, as a resident of Arizona. I renewed my friendship with him.

While the Division troops continued training exercises as a peacetime army, we left garrison areas on patrols, testing equipment and tactics, throughout rural Korea, which was most of the country at that time. On one such patrol, we stopped in a small village on the route used by the Russian soldiers returning north. The locals told us stories of Russian troops taking delight in breaking glass windows in homes and shops. Glass was not a readily available commodity, so this was particularly offensive to the citizens.

Our unit was called upon to supply communications to the Pauley Reparations Commission during their visit to Korea and Manchuria. This commission had been established by the Allied powers to obtain reparations from Germany and other axis powers as compensation for their wartime activities. One of the Commission’s members was Colonel Gail Carter, who was to become head of the National Electronic Distributors Association. While an executive in the electronics industry many years later, I was able to renew a friendship with him.

Finally, after nearly a year in Korea I sailed for home on the S.S. *Sea Star*, arriving under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco at 1:40 in the morning of September 1st. Following my discharge as a Tech Sergeant I returned to college to earn my degree. I was commissioned an officer in the Army Reserve, serving in the 84th Airborne and 7th Infantry Divisions before leaving the service. (NOTE: 1st Lt. Paston was discharged effective January 28, 1959.)

My years in military service were well spent, rewarding, scary at times, and full of memories, some of which I have shared in this narrative.

(1) See the story starting on p. 62 detailing relationships between U.S. and Russian troops in post-WWII Korea.

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Chapter 329 held the requested memorial service on September 4, 2022. Here is his obituary:

HARRY PASTON OBITUARY

Harry Paston June 2, 2022 Harry Paston, 95, formerly of Fayetteville, passed away June 2, 2022 in Las Vegas, NV. He was an infantry veteran of WWII and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He was CEO of consumer electronics marketing firm Paston-Hunter Company in Syracuse, and an officer of electronics industry associations.

Moving to Scottsdale, AZ, in 1990, he was a vice president of real estate developer Desert Troon Companies, chairman of the Scottsdale Planning Commission, and the first member president of the Troon Golf & Country Club. After moving to Las Vegas in 2005, he continued in real estate property management. He also volunteered with the Maricopa County (AZ) Sheriff's Office lake patrol, and at Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department headquarters.

Predeceased by his wife, Mary Rose in 2018, he is survived by son, Jeff Paston of Manlius; daughters, Stephanie Knight of Jacksonville, FL, and Kathleen Swanker and Michele Colaiani, of Las Vegas, NV,



1st Lt. Harry Paston



Michele Colaiani takes photo of guests honoring Harry Paston: Han Su Cheong, Alex Kim, Kevin Kim, and Robert Davison (L-R)



Korean government banner at Harry Paston memorial



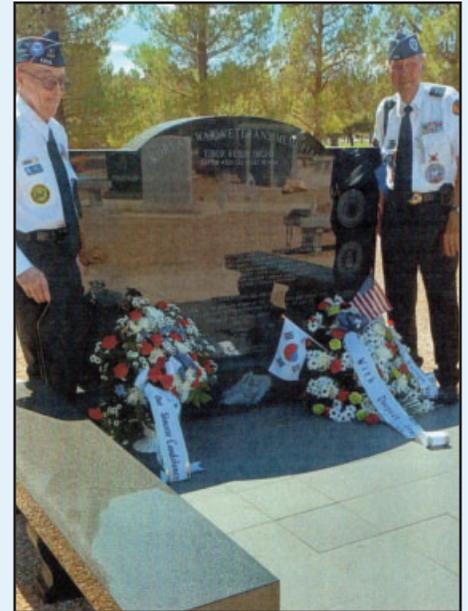
Paston-3 Kathy Swanker, Han Su Cheong, Michele Colaiani, and Alex Kim (L-R) honor Harry Paston



Michele Colaiani (L) and guest pay respects to Harry Paston



Nevada National Guard members at Harry Paston ceremony at VA Cemetery at Boulder City, NV



Commander Henry Grimes of Ch. 329 (L) and 1st Vice Commander Lee Mowery at Harry Paston memorial

How No Name Hill Was Named

By Ernesto Sanchez

We had learned the way the enemy made their attacks. The enemy was not very smart; they sent the order of the attack over the radio. They didn't know that while they were communicating over the radio we could hear everything.

On March 8th, 1953, the enemy dropped 2,500 artillery shells on our 2nd Battalion front. We knew it was not an attack. They just wanted to destroy the minefield and fences to clear a path for their attack.

The following day George Company GIs went to fix the fences and replace the mines. It was an unlucky day because the company commander and his first sergeant stepped on a mine and they lost their lives. On the following day, hell broke loose and thousands upon thousands of the enemy came toward our front. But with the light of flares and our floodlights, the battlefield was illuminated, allowing our artillery and bombers able to see the enemy. It was unbelievable. The enemy looked like an army of black ants coming toward us. It was one of the scariest nights of my life.

We had orders not to shoot the enemy because we'd give away our position. Many of our soldiers were crying and some were deserting from the front. It seemed that the night would last forever, but at around 3 a.m. the enemy began to disappear. Many of the enemy soldiers decided to surrender. We took them as prisoners, interrogated them, and sent them south to Chunchon, South Korea.

After the battle was over a reporter from *Stars and Stripes* came to inquire about it. He asked what was causing so much commotion. This was due to a bunker that was blown up, which belonged to Sergeant John Tyson, who had a life-size

After the battle was over a reporter from Stars and Stripes came to inquire about it. He asked what was causing so much commotion. ...The reporter also wanted to know what the name of the hill was.

picture of Marilyn Monroe. The reporter also wanted to know what the name of the hill was.

We told him that we had just gotten it from the enemy and it was not named yet. The reporter labeled it "No Name Hill," and that's how it got its name.

Sergeant First Class Ernesto Sanchez, 40th Infantry Division, 1307 E. Stewart, Laredo, TX 78040, 956-251-3041



Ernesto Sanchez (R) on Revisit Trip to Korea in 2012

Roseville, Ohio Post Office Named After Korean

By Monika Stoy

The United States Postal Service hosted a dedication ceremony in Roseville, Ohio's Frederick J. Mumford American Legion Post on 10 April 2023 naming the Roseville post office the Ronald E. Rosser Post Office. Rosser was a long-time resident of Roseville and had served in the post office. The well-attended ceremony included Rosser's surviving family members, along with many of his friends and neighbors who shared their stories of Ron from over the years.

The naming of the post office required an act of Congress. Congressman Troy Balderson, whose district includes Roseville, sponsored the bill authorizing the naming. Congressman Balderson brought with him members of his staff who had performed the heavy lifting in shepherding the bill through Congress.

The ceremony was simple, but meaningful, with the post's color guard presenting the colors and Miss Lauren Moorehouse of Philo High School singing the National Anthem beautifully. Congressman Balderson was the initial speaker, followed by Captain, US Army, retired, C. Monika Stoy, a longtime friend of Rosser's, who had escorted him to South Korea in 2013 to receive the Republic of Korea's highest valor medal, the Taeguk Medal of Military Merit.

Her remarks concentrated on Rosser's four guideposts in his life: duty, honor, country, and family, and how he lived up to each of these. She was followed by LTC, US Army, Tim Stoy, also a longtime friend of Rosser's, who spoke about how Ron was an ordinary man who was called upon in the hour of crisis and performed an extraordinary feat in mortal combat and what this means to soldiers as they read his Medal of Honor cita-



No mistaking who the Roseville, OH, Post Office is named for.

Ron was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on 12 January 1952 with L Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division near Ponggil-Li, South Korea. He received the Medal of Honor from President Truman in a ceremony at the White House on 27 June 1952.



Plaque honoring MOH recipient Ron Rosser

tion.

Jim Savage, Ron's brother-in-law, related how Rosser was a strong family man. He was followed by George Rosser, Ron's nephew and traveling companion for the past 25 years, who spoke of how dedicated his uncle was to teaching children the importance of being good citizens and Americans. Finally, Mr. Andrew Glancy, USPS Customer Relations Manager, who was serving as master of ceremonies, shared with the group his impressions as someone who had never met Rosser but was amazed at Ron's military accomplishments and touched by the many great memories shared by his friends and family.

Next, Ms. Kathleen Patrick-Marchi, Post Office Operations Manager, and Congressman Balderson unveiled the bronze tablet which will be mounted in the post office naming the facility the Ronald E. Rosser Roseville Post Office.

Ron Rosser was one of 17 children of a coal miner and his wife. He enlisted in the Army after WWII and served in the occupation of Japan with the 11th Airborne Division and in Germany. He left the service but enlisted again in 1951 after his brother, Richard, was KIA with the 5th RCT in February 1951. Ron was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on 12 January 1952 with L Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division near Ponggil-Li, South Korea. He received the Medal of Honor

from President Truman in a ceremony at the White House on 27 June 1952.

After the Korean War Rosser remained in the Army and was a Sergeant First Class when another of his brothers, Gary, was KIA in South Vietnam on 20 September 1966 while serving with the U.S. Marines at Da Nang. He requested assignment to South Vietnam to avenge Gary's death, but the Army denied his request. Rosser opted to retire in 1968.

War Medal of Honor Recipient Ron Rosser



Monika Stoy speaks at Ron Rosser tribute



George Rosser, nephew of Ron Rosser, addresses crowd at remembrance



A visit to Ron Rosser's grave site



The Ron Rosser Memorial



Ron Rosser's daughter, Pam Rosser Lowell, displays plaque

Rosser served as pall bearer for the Unknown Soldiers from WWII and Korea at their interment at the Tomb of the Unknowns in 1958.

After the dedication ceremony, Rosser's youngest surviving brother, Larry, twin brother to Gary, showed us a memorial erected to Ron, Richard, and Gary outside the police station in nearby Crooksville. We then visited Ron

Rosser's grave and the graves of Richard and Gary, both of whom were not 20 years of age when they fell in combat in the service of their country, in Illif Cemetery in McLuney, Ohio. Rosser's parents are also buried in Illif Cemetery.

Ron Rosser served as a sheriff, a car dealer, and a postman after his Army service. He was dedicated to educating and motivating American youth and

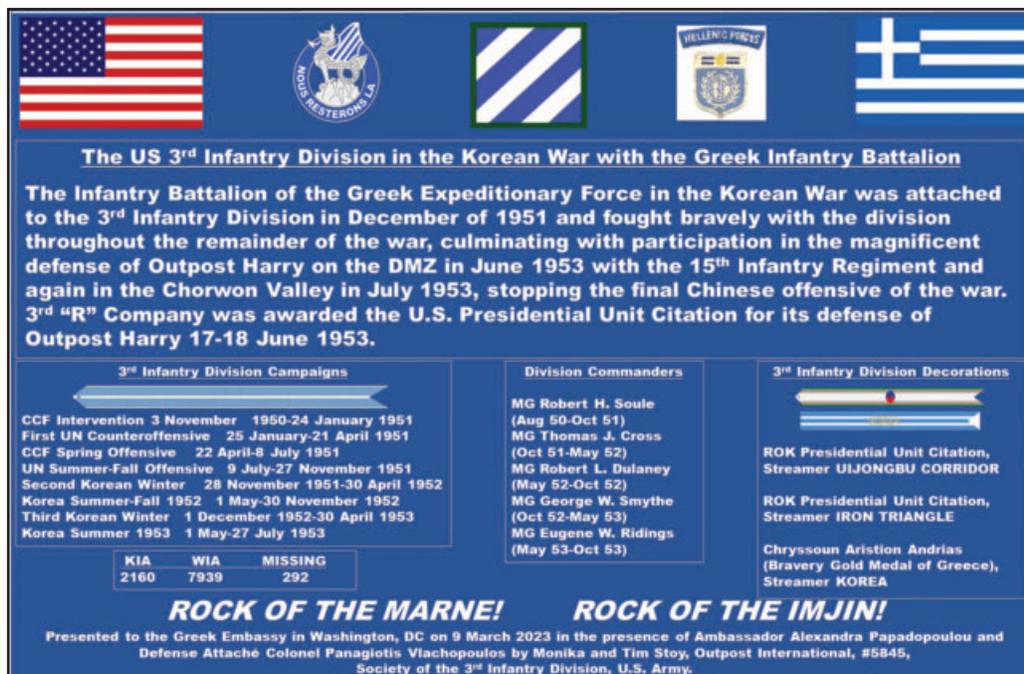
often visited schools to speak to students. He was an engaging character who easily communicated with any audience. We were greatly honored that he considered us his friends and members of his extended family. We are grateful to Ron's daughter, Pam Lovell, who invited us to this historical event, and her daughter, Melody, who took pictures for us during the event.

Greek Embassy Latest Recipient of 3rd Infa

Submitted by **Monika Stoy**

On 9 March 2023, Outpost International, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division President C. Monika Stoy presented a 3ID commemorative plaque to the Greek Embassy honoring the historical ties between the Hellenic Expeditionary Force Infantry Battalion and the 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War. President Stoy presented to the plaque to the Greek Ambassador, Her Excellency Alexandra Popodopoulou and the Greek Defense Attaché, Colonel Panagiotis Vlachopoulos in a ceremony held in the reception hall of the Greek Defense Attaché office's building across from the

The Greek Defense Attaché building has half a floor dedicated to the Korean War and the plaque presented by President Stoy will be added to that display...



The US 3rd Infantry Division in the Korean War with the Greek Infantry Battalion

The Infantry Battalion of the Greek Expeditionary Force in the Korean War was attached to the 3rd Infantry Division in December of 1951 and fought bravely with the division throughout the remainder of the war, culminating with participation in the magnificent defense of Outpost Harry on the DMZ in June 1953 with the 15th Infantry Regiment and again in the Chorwon Valley in July 1953, stopping the final Chinese offensive of the war. 3rd "R" Company was awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for its defense of Outpost Harry 17-18 June 1953.

3 rd Infantry Division Campaigns		
CCF Intervention	3 November 1950-24 January 1951	
First UN Counteroffensive	25 January-21 April 1951	
CCF Spring Offensive	22 April-8 July 1951	
UN Summer-Fall Offensive	9 July-27 November 1951	
Second Korean Winter	28 November 1951-30 April 1952	
Korea Summer-Fall 1952	1 May-30 November 1952	
Third Korean Winter	1 December 1952-30 April 1953	
Korea Summer 1953	1 May-27 July 1953	

Division Commanders	
MG Robert H. Soule	(Aug 50-Oct 51)
MG Thomas J. Cross	(Oct 51-May 52)
MG Robert L. Dulaney	(May 52-Oct 52)
MG George W. Smythe	(Oct 52-May 53)
MG Eugene W. Ridings	(May 53-Oct 53)

3 rd Infantry Division Decorations		
ROK Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer UIJONGBU CORRIDOR		
ROK Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer IRON TRIANGLE		
Chryssoun Ariston Andrias (Bravery Gold Medal of Greece), Streamer KOREA		

KIA WIA MISSING
2160 7939 292

ROCK OF THE MARNE! ROCK OF THE IMJIN!

Presented to the Greek Embassy in Washington, DC on 9 March 2023 in the presence of Ambassador Alexandra Papadopolou and Defense Attaché Colonel Panagiotis Vlachopoulos by Monika and Tim Stoy, Outpost International, #5845, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

Greek Embassy 3rd ID plaque

Greek Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. The Republic of Korea Defense Attaché, Major General Kyung Koo Lee, represented the Republic of Korea Ambassador. President Stoy was accompanied by several mem-

bers of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and Outpost International of the society – Tim Stoy, Mrs. Haesook Choi, Mr. Paul Pratt, and Colonel, U.S. Army, retired John Insani who served with the 3rd Infantry Division's 7th Infantry



Amb. Popodopoulou delivers her remarks



Col. Insani speaking with Amb. Popodopoulou

3rd Infantry Division Commemorative Plaque



Col. Viachopoulos delivering his remarks



Maj.Gen. Lee delivers his remarks

Regiment 1950-1951 in the Korean War. Paul Pratt's father, LTC, U.S. Army, retired Sherman Pratt served as a company commander and regimental operations officer with the 2nd Infantry Division in the Korean War but had served with the

3rd Infantry Division in WWII.

Major Nikolaos Stasinakis, the Executive Officer to the Defense Attaché, narrated the ceremony which began with the playing of the Greek and U.S. national anthems. Ambassador Popodopoulou

then delivered comments emphasizing the important relationship between the Republic of Korea and Greece and the importance of the Hellenic Expeditionary Force's combat contributions to the Republic of Korea's freedom during the

Korean War. Colonel Vlachopoulos further emphasized the military relationship of the two countries and thanked Outpost International for the plaque which educates and informs on the timeless relationship between the Greek soldiers who served in the Korean War while attached to the 3rd Infantry Division and the Rock of the Marne soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division. The Division has always taken great pride in having had the Hellenic Infantry Battalion serve so valiantly while in its ranks.

Major General Lee thanked the Ambassador and Colonel Vlachopoulos for Greece's continued



Monika Stoy with Col. Viachopoulos after plaque unveiling



With Madame Ambassador after the ceremony



With the assembled Greek attaches and Maj. Gen. Lee

"Frozen Chosin" Reunion, 1-5 November 2023

Veterans and their families of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, in November and December 1950, are cordially invited to attend our annual reunion in Arlington, Virginia this November. For details please visit our web site at: www.chosinfew.org

**Fraternally,
Warren Wiedhahn, Col USMC (Ret)
National President, The Chosin Few**

interest in and support of the Republic of Korea. He also expressed his appreciation to Outpost International for its continued efforts to preserve Korean War history. President Stoy thanked the Ambassador and Colonel Vlachopoulos for their kind remarks and emphasized the importance of continuing to preserve history, honor veterans, and educate future generations on their forefather's sacrifices in the Korean War. Once all remarks were concluded, President Stoy and Colonel Vlachopoulos unveiled the plaque and the ceremony. John Insani addressed the gathering after the unveiling, telling the story about his Greek "foster father," a Greek immigrant living in their home in Massachusetts who had served in WWII with the U.S. Army. He had returned from the war with much of his individual equipment and as a boy John would play Army wearing some of that equipment! After John's comments, a group photo was taken with Her Excellency, Colonel Vlachopoulos, Major General Lee, the attaché personnel who attended the ceremony, President Stoy, Tim Stoy, Mrs. Haesook Choi, Mr. Paul Pratt, and Colonel, U.S. Army, retired, John Insani.

Colonel Vlachopoulos and his staff hosted a post-ceremony reception in the attaché spaces with delicious Greek food. The Greek attaches especially enjoyed speaking with Colonel Insani who was happy to relate his Korean War experiences with them. The Greek Defense Attaché building has half a floor dedicated to the Korean War and the plaque presented by President Stoy will be added to that display where all who visit the Defense Attaché will see it and be reminded of the 3rd Infantry Division and Hellenic Expeditionary Force brotherhood of war during the Korean War!

QUIZ ANSWERS

Here are the answers to the quiz questions on page 37.

1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d, 5-e

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From the Crossroads of America: An Editorial on

By James Patterson

After reviewing numerous newspaper editorials on the tenth anniversary of the Armistice Agreement for the Restoration of the South Korean State (1953), I found this one from the Indianapolis Star, published in Indianapolis, Indiana, to be an excellent example of America's frustration and anxiety over the agreement. The editorial references other international events related to the armistice agreement.

First, "the nuclear test ban treaty" mentioned was the Limited Test Ban Treaty. According to the National Archives: "On August 5, 1963, the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed [in Moscow] by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. After Senate approval, the treaty that went into effect on October 10, 1963, banned nuclear weapons testing in the

atmosphere, in outer space, and under water." In 1964, China became the fifth nation to have nuclear weapons.

Second, on July 30, 1963, Pvt. David Seiler, 24, of Theresa, WI, and Pfc. Charles Dessart III, 19, of Drexel Hill, Pa., were killed by North Koreans. Pfc. William Foster, 26, of Baltimore, MD, was gravely wounded but survived. This incident is referred to as the 1963 Jeep Ambush. According to Korean War Educator: "Dessart and Seiler died July 29, 1963, when a North Korean infiltrator ambushed them more than 20 miles south of the DMZ." UPI reported that this incident "was the deepest known penetration that North Korean soldiers have ever made in U.S.-guarded South Korea in the ten years of uneasy truce."

In the same incident, Corporal George F. Larion was killed. According to Korean

War Educator: "Corporal Larion was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division. As a result of his heroic actions on the day he died, Corporal Larion received a Bronze Star Medal posthumously." Sgt. Abraham W. McManus also received a Bronze Star Medal during the same attack.

The AP described the 1963 Ambush in an August 25, 1963, news story:

It is believed now that the Communist patrol thought the Jeep was either looking for them or was about to cut their escape route. The Reds opened fire as the Jeep crossed at the small bridge on Zulu Road, within sight of the tape string along the barbed wire marking the southern boundary of the buffer zone.

The first blast blew Seiler from behind the wheel. His body was found an hour later punctured by 14 bullets.

Dessart was hit, but not so badly he

Grim statistics

These statistics are presented in sincere, recognition, remembrance and honor of our fallen comrades and veterans of the 3+ year Forgotten Korea War, during which over 2 million* perished, including civilians on both sides. Hopefully my KOREA WAR AND DEFENCE VETERANS STORY can be included as a centerfold in the July/August GRAYBEARDS, of the 70th anniversary of the July 27, 1953 Cease Fire Agreement of our Forgotten Korea War *(www.historyguy.com/korean_war_casualties_and_statistics.htm)

This story is, and has been since May, 2020, honorably displayed on a 4'x 8' poster, along with a 4'x 8' Vietnam War poster at the patriotic Margarita Grill, Homosassa, Florida.

Semper Fi, Richard Kwiecienski, USMC Sgt., Korea War Veteran, Citrus County Chapter #192 member, (352)382-4237, rkwiecie@tam-pabay.rr.com

KOREA WAR and DEFENSE VETERANS' STORY



THE 3 YEAR FORGOTTEN WAR. Politically Called – Korean Conflict – Police Action.

Though others have forgotten, we shall never forget our fallen comrades



KOREA WAR SUMMARY*
25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953

UN Country	Dead**	Wounded	M.I.A.	P.O.W.	Total
South Korea	227,800	717,100	43,500	?	988,400
United States	54,246	103,284	8,196	3,746	169,472
(33,652 Killed in Action)					
United Kingdom	710	2,278	1,263	766	5,017
Turkey	717	2,246	167	217	3,349
Australia	297	1,240	43	23	1,591
Canada	309	1,055	30	2	1,396
France	288	818	18	11	1,135
Greece	169	543	2	1	715
Philippines	92	299	57	40	488
8 Other UN	636	2,801	95	37	3,569

COMMUNIST CASUALTIES

	Dead**	Wounded	M.I.A.	P.O.W.	Total
North Korea	320,000+	303,000+		300,000+	925,000+
China	400,000+	448,000	25,000		900,000+
U.S.S.R.	299				



Above KOREA WAR SUMMARY is from www.historyguy.com/korean_war_casualties_and_statistics.htm
 **Many civilians, and the Dead in the above KOREA WAR SUMMARY*, perished from freezing in -40°F. As of 3/1/2020, U.S. Defense Troops continue defending South Korea's northern border.

Sandwiched between WWII & Vietnam, millions of military & civilians on both sides perished in the bloody 3 year Forgotten Korea War. President Truman, U.S. Congress, and the news media of the time, called the WAR a "Police Action" or, "Korean Conflict."

South Korea's 65+ years of Positive Growth after 3+ years of U.S. and UN War Involvement:
 1950: South Korea was the 3rd poorest country
 2018: With everlasting gratitude, The Republic of Korea awards Korea War Veterans, the Korean "AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE" Medal
 2020: South Korea is the 20th wealthiest country, 3rd most forward looking, and 8th best for entrepreneurship. www.asnews.com
 Story design: 5/1/2020 by Richard Kwiecienski, USMC, Sgt. Korea War Vet.

USMC Vietnam Vet Charles Townsends LLC Leesburg 352-365-1960

The Deadly Truce

couldn't get up and try seeing where the fire was coming from. The Communists gunned him down in the ditch behind the overturned Jeep.

Foster partly penned under the jeep played possum. He had four wounds including a slug close to his spine. The Communists picked up one U.S. M-14 rifle and one .45 caliber pistol. Then the three of them took off northward.

Indiana's motto is "Crossroads of America." The below Indianapolis Star editorial from August 1, 1963, captures the American frustration over the armistice. I saw the editorial as expressing a Middle American view on North Korea's violations of the terms they agreed to when they signed the armistice. The editorial's 1963 question "Do you think there is peace in Korea?" is timely under the nuclear and cyber-terrorist state of the Kim Regime.

The Deadly Truce

(Reprinted with permission of the Indianapolis Star)

The tenth anniversary of the armistice in Korea occurred a few days ago. The Communists have celebrated it by killing three American soldiers and one South Korean.

Did you think there is peace in Korea? The attacks in which these soldiers died were only the latest in a series occurring

sporadically and all through the 10 years of the "truce."

Have you been rejoicing over the nuclear test ban treaty as a step toward peace through agreement with the Communists? The Korean situation is a characteristic example of the value of agreement with the Reds.

The history of these 10 years is a story of the terms of one violation after another of the terms of the 1953 armistice. There is scarcely a major item of the agreement which the Communists have not broken. About the only thing that they have not done is to resume open warfare.

They keep testing to see if the time has come to do that. They want to know how soft the United States has become. They want to be the first to know when we Americans have reached the point at which we would rather avoid war than defend ourselves.

American soldiers are dying in the process.

The Communists can afford to keep it up because it cost them absolutely nothing. Once in a while they may lose a few of their own soldiers, as in the current incidents in which four North Korean soldiers were hunted down and killed by American and South Korean patrols. But human lives mean little to them.

All of these killings occurred well to the

south—on the American side—of the supposedly demilitarized zone which marks the truce line. Earlier incidents also have occurred on the American side of the line. This time the North Koreans were deeper in American territory than any previous time in the truce period.

The Reds will keep on testing, keep on pushing farther and a little farther, keep on killing Americans, until the U.S. starts punishing them for the attempts. They need to be made to pay with a piece of territory every time they invade ours. They should be forced to give up two outposts every time they attack one of ours.

The matter of career should be put back on the agenda of the United Nations. It should be pointed out insistently that for more than 15 years the Communists of North Korea have successfully defied the orders and frustrated the decisions of the U.N. The U.N. went to great lengths to enforce "peace" in the Congo. How about doing something to enforce peace in Korea?

The Reds will not keep the peace just because an agreement says it is to be kept. They will do it only when they are forced to it.

James Patterson, a former U.S. diplomat and frequent contributor to The Graybeards, resides in the Washington, D.C. area.

Missing Photos

We ran a story on page 56 in the Nov/Dec 2022 issue titled "Hold the Line," by George Bjotvedt, who was assigned to the S-2 position 1st Battalion, 65th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in January 1953. We did not, however, include the photos. Here they are.



Lt. Bjotvedt outside his mortar company bunker with non-GI tee shirt



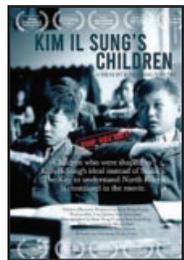
Lt. Bjotvedt with face hidden, but attired in a GI parka in Chorwon Valley

Handling of war orphans by two Koreas

By Therese Oark

In the recent past, the news of nearly 10,000 North Korean war-orphans sent to six Eastern European countries—Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Eastern Germany—only temporarily—for shelter and education—between late 1950 to 1956, was revealed. Thanks to South Korean film producer and director Kim Deog-Young, the dark world behind the Iron Curtain during the war and the postwar period of communist North Korea is revealed. It was the period when Europeans were still recovering from the wounds and nightmares of World War II they lived through.

In 2004, Kim was working on a television documentary when he received a phone call from a South Korean fellow film director regarding an old Romanian woman who'd been waiting for her North Korean husband to return for over 40 years. Kim found the story heart-breaking and worthy of a documentary film, so he immediately flew to Romania to meet her.



Through Georgetta Mircioiu, the former teacher at the school the North Korean orphans had attended in Romania, Kim found the great political mysteries surrounding the “Great Leader’s” reasons to bring the orphans back shortly after his December 1956 visit to Poland, during which he visited many places “his children” lived and attended schools.

The actual forced repatriation of the North Koreans began in early 1959. Some children who didn’t want to return to their communist homeland attempted to run away but were caught and sent back, with the rest of the children, never to be seen again. Mircioiu fell in love with the school’s North Korean supervisor named Cho, married him, and they had a daughter together in 1959. Then, Cho received the order from Pyongyang to return, and the family complied, arriving with their 2-year-old daughter in 1961.

Cho was arrested almost immediately, and Mircioiu was left alone with their daughter, without the ability to communicate or to deal with losing her husband without knowing why or where he was. Months later, their daughter became ill, probably from the poor daily diet, leaving Mircioiu no choice but to return to her home in Romania so her



daughter could be treated. There, Mircioiu received a letter from her husband Cho for the first time after a long separation, telling her he was sent to a coal mining town the day after she left Pyongyang.

Through Mircioiu, film producer Kim learned that thousands of North Korean orphans were sent to those European nations between late 1950 and 1956, and they had deeply touched their European teachers, their classmates, and the foster parents who took the Korean children into their homes. Kim made the trips to those countries nearly 50 times within 15 years making several documentary films. The most well-known one is “Kim Il-Sung’s Children,” which has been presented at the Polish International Film Festival in 2019, Nice International Film Festival in 2020, Pyongchang (South Korea) International Peace Film Festival (June 2020), and more.

South Korea also sent its war orphans to the U.S. and 15 other countries around the world after the war ended in 1953. The process lasted until the mid-1980s. According to Maggie Jones, New York Times reporter, at least 200,000 South Korean children — roughly the population of Des Moines, Iowa — have been adopted into families in those countries, with a vast majority living in the United States.

The article revealed that some children living with their parents were kidnapped by child traffickers employed by the international adoption agencies that congregated in Seoul; some orphans were sent to their adoptive parents abroad with other orphans’ name tags, the owners of which might have died or were too sick to make the trip to their new homes. Even today, according to the news, nearly 400 South Korean adoptees-of-long-ago demand that the South Korean government acknowledge its fraudulent handling of their identification in adoption papers.

Overall, South Korea never kept her “export of orphans” secret, nor did she plan to bring them back later. South Korea opened its door to the world and let her war orphans and homeless children go to their adoptive parents of other nations who offered their love and care and opportunities. But North Korea sent its war orphans to those eastern European countries with “chains” on their feet to bring them back to their original cage where they had been born and forced to sing “Great Leader Song” daily throughout their lives, without the privilege of finding anything with their free wills.

Let us remember that North Korea is ruled by a “One Nation, One Leader, One People” policy, but South Korea has been a free nation since the end of the war in 1953. Its citizens could set their life goals and follow their dreams within the laws that modeled after those of the U.S., “...one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



Therese Park, tspark63@yahoo.com, is a frequent contributor to The Graybeards. She is the author of “A Gift of the Emperor,” “When a Rooster Crows at Night,” “The Northern Wind,” & “Returned and Reborn?”

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, sharparthur@aol.com We can all use a laugh once in a while, just as the troops in Korea did.



Raising the Bar

While stationed at Osan Air Force Base (K-55) in 1968 as an E-5, I thought it would be a good stunt to bluff my way into the "O" Club." There were so many transients present that many people were virtual unknowns to the permanent staff. This was especially true on many days when the cap badge was obscured by a rain cover and many officers didn't bother to affix their rank badges to their raincoats.

One rainy day I entered the club and encountered my company commander. He asked, "Lunt, what do you know about bartending?"

I responded that I had been one at my college fraternity.

He said, "Well, since you like the O Club so much, you're going to tend bar for four hours. One of the Korean bartenders has gone AWOL." The company commander snatched my cap off my head, unbuttoned my raincoat, pulled it off me, tied a white apron around my waist, and pushed me behind the bar.

Needless to say, I didn't pull that stunt again.

Gerald Lunt, 1621 Lockes Mill Rd.,
Berryville, VA 22611, 540-409-1243

The snake that started an imaginary battle

By Joseph Cirillo

I shared my bunker with three other buddies. We were BAR (Browning automatic rifle) men. I was the assistant to Corporal Huey, whose weapon was the BAR. I carried the clips and fed them to Huey when he needed them. The other two men were a team also.

The bunker was our home. We relaxed in the bunker, we slept in the bunker and that is where we positioned our weapons. We slept according to what was going on. If we were in a firefight all of us would be at our weapons. It was called an alert system. One hundred percent alert, no one slept. Fifty percent alert, two men sleep, two at the ready. For a twenty-five percent alert, one man is up and the other three slept.

I recall one very quiet Sunday morning at about 7 a.m. It was twenty-five percent alert, and I was at the BAR observing the enemy lines while my three buddies slept among the sandbags. It was very quiet and all you could hear were birds chirping and the rustling of leaves. In front of our position was a large tree about 25 feet from where our weapons were positioned. I was looking at the tree when all of a sudden I saw a large snake slithering down the tree.

I hate snakes. The snake had a thick body and must have been at least ten feet long. To me it looked like an Anaconda, but I know it could not have been. The snake then moved on to one of the branches.

I didn't take my eyes off of that snake. The enemy could have been right behind that tree but my eyes were only fixed on that snake. As it slithered on the branch it suddenly fell from the tree and was now on the ground making its way towards me. As it got closer I aimed the BAR right at it and I let go a clip of ammunition.

The next thing I heard was the next bunker above me start to fire and then another bunker started firing. My buddies then jumped out of their sleeping bags and were right next to me firing away. In a matter of moments the whole front line opened up with gunfire. It wasn't long before artillery fire was screaming over our heads and exploding in enemy territory. I can't believe a snake created what felt like the start of World War 3.

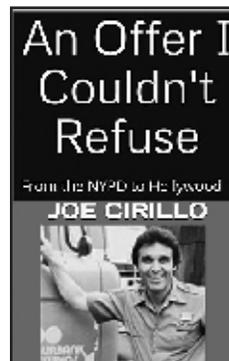
I didn't take my eyes off of that snake. ...
As it slithered on the branch it suddenly fell from the tree and was now on the ground making its way towards me. As it got closer I aimed the BAR right at it and I let go a clip of ammunition.

My buddies asked me what happened. They thought the enemy was attacking us, as I guess the rest of the front line assumed. The barrage went on for about a half hour and then it calmed down. I never told them it was me who started the whole incident. Nor did I mention I was shooting at a snake.

NOTE: Joseph M. Cirillo, who served in combat with the Wolfhounds, Company I, 27th Inf. Reg, 25th Division in Korea from 1952-1953, had an interesting post-war career. After his discharge he became an NYPD police officer and a movie actor. He worked in several movies, including *The Godfather*, *Splash*, *Ghostbusters* and many more, and two TV series, *Kojak* and *Eischeid*, in which he starred with Joe Don Baker. Telly Savalas employed him as his "right-hand man."

He also had his own security company, Filmworld Security Inc., which provided personal security to many of Hollywood's biggest stars, e.g., Robert DeNiro, Tom Hanks, Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Jackie Gleason, Jerry Lewis, and many, many more.

His autobiography, *"An Offer I Couldn't Refuse: From the NYPD to Hollywood,"* published in 2021, is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) books. You can reach him at Joseph M. (Joe) Cirillo, 2630 Rachel St., Bellmore, NY 11710, 516-781-5963, JoeActor27@gmail.com.



The ultimate maturing process

By Stanley Levin

NOTE: We often hear about the under-trained soldiers sent to Korea from Japan in the first couple months of the Korean War. Did the Army over-correct after that? Was the training too extensive? Here's a memoir that focuses on that post-Task Force Smith boot camp.

This 90-year-old Korean War veteran has vivid memories of his Army service. Most importantly, that service, beginning in late 1952, was the ultimate maturing process for me.

From the time I was 15 years old in 1947 until I was drafted at the age of 20 in 1952 it could be said I was a poolroom bum. I could well relate to the movie "The Hustler," as I spent all my free hours, six days per week, at one of the local poolrooms in West Philadelphia. Looking back, although my father did not like that interest, he was most permissive. I was unaware that there was a cure for gambling awaiting me.

When the Korean War broke out in mid-1950, I was a student in college. My family was happy that being a student enabled me to be draft deferred. Unbeknownst to them, studying accounting was a total bore to me. Being irresponsible in those long ago days, I quit school in the middle of my sophomore year; a decision I made without discussing with my parents. It could be said "Uncle Sam" was waiting for me when I took my last walk down the steps of the main building at Temple University. My father's hair seemingly turned white overnight.

After I was drafted my father drove me to the draft board for my induction into the army, a ride which my mother could not face. She did not go with us on that seemingly last ride. When we arrived at the draft board, my father looked at me and said "goodbye, son." Wow, in my 20 years to that time he had never called me son. This day would be a life changing, or life losing, event for me and my family.

His comment was a complete wake-up call for me as the Korean War was still raging. The casualty lists were published every day in the local newspapers, often

listing 1,000 K.I.A. per month. That was quite a reminder for families of young men between the eligible draft ages of 18 to 26.

Hundreds of we draftees were herded onto buses and sent to Camp Meade in Maryland for processing army style. Within a week of K.P duty, inoculations, experiencing stern orders by non-coms and paper processing on one rainy, chilly night in that December we were called out to a large field. It was our first realization that the army does not check out weather forecasts.

A burly, gruff master sergeant standing under a large umbrella held for him by a recruit handled a large group of papers in his hands and started calling out names and assignments... so many men to be assigned to Fort Sill/artillery, so many men to Fort Knox/armor, so many men to Fort Gordon/MPS, and so on and on to Signal Core, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Finance, etc. And then, he came to a list that included my name.

He barked out, "101st Airborne Division and may God have mercy on your soul."

God surely had mercy on my soul as at this writing I am 90 years old with vivid memories of my 23 months in the army, including over 16 months in Korea. I suppose I should have been scared, but as I recall, at this writing, I was excited.

My group of 200 men who would now face 16 weeks of infantry training were boarded onto buses en route to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. We were young men from all walks of civilian life, including college dropouts, a few college grads, bakers, cops, postal workers, laborers, carpenters, electricians, business guys, and a bunch of "ne'er do well" wise guys. We were a mix of Fitzgeralds, Monahans, O'Neills, O'Haras, McCafferys, Izzos, Colontionios, Iaconas, Pacettis, and on and on. I thought I was either in the Italian or Irish-Republican army. I was the only Jewish man in the entire company.

As we began to mesh into a homogeneous groups of men becoming as one I earned the nickname H.H.H.....short for "Hot Headed Hebrew." I then knew I was

accepted as one of the guys. I had been an excellent athlete with strong physical attributes, enabling me to earn respect from my fellow recruits.

On one of our first days in front of the barracks, lined up in order, a tough sergeant addressed us in the following manner. He said, "I don't care if you guys were murderers, pimps, clerks, cab drivers, or whatever. Here you ain't dick."

That's exactly what the typical drill sergeant was like. But, he surely was a soldier who fully intended to make us disciplined soldiers. As training progressed the fat guys soon became lean and muscular, the thin guys became toughened as we gradually became uniform in demeanor with pride when marching to each training event.

A week before we began our training there was another training company on our narrow, paved street. A company well into their sixteen-week training cycle would be marching past our barracks in perfect marching cadence commanded by their drill sergeant. It was a beautiful scene to witness. How proud the men were while marching to their drill sergeant's cadence.

I remember thinking I can't imagine our yet untrained guys being so disciplined and proud. The army knows exactly what it is doing by instilling stern discipline in the men, marching with pride, as exemplified by the looks in the eyes of the men who were marching past our barracks as though they were showing off.

Infantry basic training not only included the purpose of instilling stern discipline unknown in civilian life, but it included constant physical training, survival skills, and know-how in not only firing various weapons on the shooting ranges, but also in learning how to take apart and cleaning the weapons after they were fired. We learned how to do that in the classroom.

We learned how to be proficient in firing the M-1 rifle, 30 caliber carbine, Browning automatic rifle, and either 30 or 50 caliber machine guns, 45 caliber pistols. We were taught how to load and fire 60mm mortars and to fire an anti-tank

As we began to mesh into a homogenous groups of men becoming as one I earned the nickname H.H.H.....short for “Hot Headed Hebrew.” I then knew I was accepted as one of the guys. I had been an excellent athlete with strong physical attributes, enabling me to earn respect from my fellow recruits.

bazooka, a long-tubed lethal weapon effective in destroying tanks. And we trained and learned how to toss hand grenades.

The first time I tossed a grenade was an anxious moment, as the thrower was to pull the pin which activated the explosive charge. The thrower then had three seconds to toss the grenade. The concussion from the explosion was dramatic and traumatic for the first time thrower. I still remember my fear when I pulled the pin and quickly threw it.

During a field training exercise we were instructed how to fire a flame thrower. When loaded with the jellied gasoline napalm the weapon weighed about 70 pounds. During the class the instructor fired the weapon onto the open field and we could feel the intense heat. That was an eye opener.

Most of us had never held a weapon in our hands, let alone fired one. My first experience on the firing range was approached with a combination of anxiety and anticipation. While I was holding the M-1 rifle in my hand awaiting the order to fire, my hands became sweaty. I was surprised in the extreme when I fired the first round, both at the sound of the shot and at the feeling of shock power in the weapon.

With repetition, I grew to like the feeling of power in my hands and the challenge to fire accurately. With training in each infantry weapon I grew in proficiency and confidence and no longer felt anxiety. The powerful Browning automatic rifle, commonly known as the B.A.R., fired six hundred rounds of 30 caliber ammunition per minute. That deadly weapon had a lot of shock power for that era. It had to be held tightly or the weapon would rise up out of your hands when firing.

I was assigned to carry the weapon many times during training. Its weight of

20 plus pounds, including the ammunition, became easy for me to carry even when wearing my field pack on my back, which weighed about 50 pounds. Bayonet training, hand to hand judo combat techniques and the flame thrower instruction all were courses we had to progress through. Interspersed were long marches, both day and night, more physical training (PT), additional classes and tactical training.

Looking back to that long ago era, now approaching 70 years, it is fascinating as to how a civilian such as me was transitioned into a proud, efficient soldier in spite of his rebellious self-distaste for discipline or any type of uniformity in behavior. Finally, we 200 young men graduated from training and were given a week-long furlough prior to shipping out for Korea. It is a certainty my parents saw me as a person with a totally different proud demeanor after the experience of that grueling 16 weeks wherein we had no choice but to fall into line, so to speak.

The sad time came for us all when my short leave ended. My parents drove me to the small airport in Northeast Philadelphia. Several dozen of us boarded a small four-engine prop driven plane destined for Fort Lewis in the State of Washington, the facility where processing took place prior to boarding the ship that would take us to our Far East destination, which was not specifically Korea.

We took various shots with dull needles and shot crap on the barracks floor. I had a fistful of dollars won in the game and my friends begged me to stop playing. I was stubborn, kept playing until I lost all the money; asking where I was going to spend my winnings knowing where we were shipping out to.

We had a brief respite from completing documents and were permitted to go into the town of Tacoma. Eventually, though,

we had to board ship. A crowd of 3,700 of us were herded up the plank to board the small *U.S.S Sturgis* berthed at the Seattle dock. We were stuffed in like a herd of cattle and assigned to our individual hammocks with our equipment. We were stacked up three deep with our weapons and back packs. Fortunately for me I was on the bottom hammock and did not need to climb up over the other two hammocks filled with their occupants.

We had no idea the ship would eventually run into a typhoon, forcing all the seasick men to stay in their bunks for several days. When we were on deck the ship was so crowded that if you wanted to find a friend to reunite with it took hours to do so. The ship was that stuffed with the men.

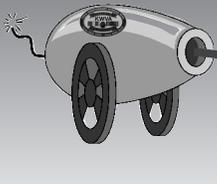
A most memorable incident occurred in mid ocean. While the men were noisy and boisterous, all of a sudden a giant white ship was passing a few miles away going in the other direction, either towards Hawaii or the U.S. mainland. There were large red crosses painted on its sides. At that point the entire ship full of boisterous men suddenly grew completely silent... completely silent.

The ship obviously contained the bodies of men killed in action and the wounded heading for a hospital as their destination. We now became acutely aware that we were heading into the unknown; a world of combat. Seventy years later my memory of that scene is still haunting.

Although the seemingly endless voyage was miserable, I was completely venerated when staring at the beauty of the mighty, deeply purple colored, Pacific Ocean. When I had finally adjusted to the rocking ship's movement I would stand at the ship rail and just stare with wonder at the mysterious eternal depth of the ocean.

At the completion of our miserable voyage we landed at Yokohama harbor in Japan. Although we had become closer than brothers, I was now separated from the men I had lived with and trained with for sixteen weeks, just about all of whom I would never see again except in my mind's eye. Too soon, most of us were destined to become Korean War veterans.

Stanley Levin, 115 E. Kings Hwy., Unit 251, Bldg. 10, Maple Shade, NJ 08052



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: sharparthur@aol.com, or phone it in to (813) 614-1326. Whatever the medium you choose, we welcome your input.

Fly the flag on July 4th

I believe all veterans should fly the American flag on Independence Day, July 4th. They should take notice, and pledge to honor, our beautiful American flag. The national flag may only be a piece of cloth material to many people, but it symbolizes this great nation of ours for which so many have given their all in making the supreme sacrifice.

Our nation's flag has a long tradition and heritage, starting with seamstress Betsy Ross, who helped design and fashion it for all to admire and cherish. She did not do so just to make it a piece of cloth, but to be a symbol representing our long history dating back to the continental armies of their commander and future first president, George Washington. It has endured ever since.

God bless our national flag, which represents our military personnel who are its—and our—protectors.

(Cpl.) John Messia, Jr., 9 Emory St.,
Brockton, MA 02301, 508-587-5858

Tough passing through Hoengsong

I was in Baker Co., 5th Regt., 1st Marine Div. I believe we were the first ones through the valley after the Hoengsong Massacre. Our company picked up bodies for two days and put them on trucks. It was tough when we passed through.

Lloyd Lassere, 639 Lang St.,
New Orleans, LA 70131

NOTE: The full story to the event that Mr. Lassere references is available in a best-selling book named *The Hoengsong Valley Massacre: Command Collapse or Cover-up?* To obtain a signed copy send \$22 to the author, Arthur G. Sharp, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. The payment covers handling and shipping.

Inaccurate Numbers

On April 27, 2023 South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol stated in his address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress:

The U.S. 1st Marine Division miraculously broke through a wave of 120,000 Chinese troops at the Battle of Lake Changjin. Sons and daughters of America sacrificed their lives to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met. In the Battle of Lake Changjin alone, 4,500 American service members lost their lives. Over the course of the war, almost 37,000 U.S. soldiers fell. The late Colonel William Weber fought in the Battle for Hill 324 in Wonju.

He lost his right arm and leg. Yet, this American hero dedicated his life to honoring the noble sacrifice made by the Korean War veterans.

The number "4,500" was not correct. Actually, from November 25, 1950 to December 24, in the CCF Second Phase Offensive, about 4,700 U.S. military personnel lost their lives in Korea. This number is based on the comprehensive Korean War Project statistics, where each casualty had name, hometown, unit, time and mostly location record.

The total of 4,700 included KIA, DOW, MIA who never made it back, POW who never made it back, and non-battle deaths. So it is obvious to me that President Yoon mistook the total casualty during the Second Phase Offensive with the casualty near Chosin Reservoir (Lake Changjin).

In particular, 2,600 U.S. Soldiers who were in the 8th Army under General Walker lost their lives on the west front, and about 2,100 U.S. Soldiers and Marines who were in X Corps under General Almond lost their lives on the east front. Among the 2,100 cases, there were 780 U.S. Marines, about 1,100 Soldiers from the 31st RCT (TF Faith), and about 200 from other units such as the 3rd Division under X Corps.

It is unfortunate that President Yoon mixed up the Chosin casualties with the total casualties during that period. The feat of the Chosin Breakout does not need the incorrect inflation of casualty numbers.

Unfortunately, this was not the only incorrect number President Yoon cited. In his tribute to the late Colonel William Weber, who was the CO of K/187ARCT in Feb 1951, it's actually "Hill 342," not "Hill 324," which was in the northwest outskirts of Wonju, a central hub in middle South Korea. Weber's company retook Hill 342 from one battalion of CCF 360th Regiment of the 120th Division.

Regards,

Jing Zhou

The Busan fire

I read the article on page 60 of the Jan/Feb 2023 issue "When was the Busan Fire?" Here is what I know: I arrived in Korea on November 10, 1953 and was assigned to the Hdq Co of the 44th Engineer Group Construction. It was located on the MSR in Pusan west of the only stop lights at that time.

On November 27th there was a massive fire that broke out in refugee shantytown in downtown Pusan. The fire burned a very

large area and was progressing in the direction of our compound. Our company was on alert to evacuate the base if the fire could not be arrested before reaching us.

The article mentions a fire on January 1953 and also January 1954. I have no knowledge of those, but a distinct memory of the massive fire on 11/27/1953. Could it have been that there were 2 or 3 big fires?

I have pictures in my book (1954 Korea) taken by air, and the caption states that the fire burned down a large area of Jung-gu, including Pusan Station, post office, and broadcast station.

General Whitcomb opened the Army Depot and supplied many tents and supplies to support the people displaced by the fire.

Regards, Clifford L. Strovers (Hdq Co. 44th Engineer Group, Pusan), 703 Maple St., Grinnell, IA 50112-2206, cliffstrovers@gmail.com

Answers to Questions About the Busan Fire in 1953

In the Jan-Feb. issue of *The Graybeards*, I read a clip from the Washington D.C. Evening Star published on Jan. 30, 1953 (page. A-9) which confirmed the “Busan fire” that burned much of the center of the port city I described in my article “Busan Fire...” in the Nov-Dec. 2022, issue.

The *Evening Star* article titled “Square mile burned in Heart of Pusan” also answered a former chief radio operator of HQ CO. POW Command’s question that the fire occurred after his duty ended in South Korea (north of Busan) between the first of November and December 1953 during which he visited Busan many times but never heard of any fire.

The article describes “...an estimated 500 shops and framed houses were leveled... thousands (of Korean people) were left homeless... Refugees fled...the fire burned out one square mile of this port city on the southern tip of Korea.” But these sentences—”Its cause was not immediately determined ...All Pusan was plunged into darkness when street lights failed during the conflagration...” shows the reporter’s lack of knowledge about the living conditions in South Korea in those gloomy days. Then, South Koreans depended on North Koreans for electric power and a small spark from a candle flame or an oil-lamp could not create a hellfire in a matter of minutes in an area in which refugees lived in their temporary dwellings built with flammable materials like army blankets, flattened cardboard boxes or beer cans, brushwood...anything that could protect them against rain or cold winter breeze. The wind made the situation far worse, and Busan is known for strong winds blowing from the Pacific Ocean.

As far as I know, no one who lived in Pusan in those gloomy days had the luxury of walking under street lights or eating dinner under ceiling lights in the comfort of their homes. It was a time before South Korea had its own hydroelectric power plants and was totally at the mercy of its other half, Communist North Korea, which had the only power plant on the entire peninsular region, known as Cheongpyeong Dam, located 25 miles north of Seoul, built during Japan’s occupation of Korea in 1943.

It was two years before the 38th Parallel came to exist on the Korean peninsula in August 1945, the invisible line which still

stands between two Koreas—Communist North Korea and my motherland South Korea, that are still sworn enemies with the DMZ in between them. It is one of the world’s most heavily armed borders, with chain-link fences, landmines, empty of humans that stretches 160 miles from sea-to-sea.

Though seventy years have passed since the fire created a quagmire, I still vividly remember our ceiling lights going off while our family of nine (our parents and seven children) ate dinner, and our father grumbling about Devil Kim Il-sung playing dirty tricks with South Koreans as he reached for the oil lamp hung on the wall to light it.

As an adult living in the U.S., I read articles about American soldiers finding South Korea dormant in complete darkness at night, besides being shockingly behind civilization—all roads turning muddy when it rained, no sewer systems available, requiring that human waste had to be hauled away by men.

No matter how unpleasant our past is, history is the teacher that reminds us how far we have come and how to gauge our future. Being at the sunset of my life, I won’t see much of South Korea’s future ahead but I positively say South Korea has come a long way!

Once again, thank you Korean War veterans for granting us freedom!

Therese Park, tspark63@yahoo.com

NOTE: Therese Park, a regular contributor to our magazine, is the author of “A Gift of the Emperor,” “When a Rooster Crows at Night,” “The Northern Wind,” & “Returned and Reborn?” Reach her at <http://www.theresepark.com>. She can be reached at tspark63@yahoo.com.

1st Radio, Broadcast and Leaflet Group

I couldn’t believe my eyes when I read about this group in your Jan-Feb 2023 edition of *The Graybeards*. This because, at about the same time, I was a member of the 301st RB&L Group in New York! We had the same duties, i.e. demoralize the enemy by using propaganda and psychological warfare. (Check out POVA, of which I am a lifetime member.)⁽¹⁾

Ultimately, the 301st wound up in Mannheim, Germany to face off the Russians if they came west. However, early in my Army service, I was transferred to the 5th Loudspeaker and Leaflet Co. at Ft. Riley KS, as a leaflet writer. The 5th L&L would be assigned to do similar work, but at the front line. (Among its members was another writer named Jim Klobuchar, father of Sen. Amy!)

While the 5th wound up near Stuttgart in Germany, I believe the 1st went to Korea and the 2nd, which also was at Ft. Riley, went to Ft. Bragg. Not sure about that. Subsequently I was transferred to 7th Army Hq. as an editor of its newspaper. Ever since, I have been in editing and marketing.

Mike Paschkes, mikepaschkes@gmail.com

(1) The US Army Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA) is the oldest continuous serving veterans’ Association providing membership support, reconnection, reunion and philanthropic support to America’s military PSYOP soldiers and veterans. Founded in 1988, POVA continually seeks to support and assist our fellow PSYOP veterans.

What does UNCACK mean?

On page 54 of the March-April 2023 *Graybeards* there was a question regarding the meaning of UNCACK. The 8201st Army Unit was known as the United Nations Civil Assistance Command, Korea (UNCACK). When millions of South Koreans (ROK) refugees crowded into the Pusan Perimeter in mid-1950, the desperate situation caused the creation of the UN Public Health & Welfare Detachment. With over six million refugees jammed into the Pusan Perimeter, Brigadier General Crawford F. Sams was given the job of housing, food, medical care and immunizations.

Sams began with 29 officers, 16 enlisted men, and 16 civilians. Later, to rebuild South Korea (ROK), UNCACK got electrical power and started textile manufacturing and other industries and supervised fishing, shipbuilding, mining operations, and transportations, as well as agriculture with crop acreages and production quotas. They also donated cement to rebuild the ROK.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Bringing results once again

Editor's note: It is always gratifying to learn that publishing stories in The Graybeards most often brings positive results. We published a piece about Bill Ellingson's book, "KIA in Korea," the story of South Dakota native 2Lt Robert K. Thompson, who was killed at Hoengsong in February 1951. (See "Wars Spawn Generations of Sacrifice," March-April 2023, p. 70.) Here's Mr. Ellingson's response:

My friend Luther Dappen called me as soon as he saw the article I submitted for publication in The Graybeards.

Thank you for including it. I called Sheila and ordered three copies of the issue. I will give one to Bob Thompson's daughter who was born while he was in Korea.

It's always nice to know readers keep in touch with one another.

Soldier in picture identified

Delbert Farmer saw the photo on page 64 of the March-April 2023 issue in which Jimmie Greene was standing with a friend whose name he could not remember. "That's me," Delbert Farmer said. Jimmie was going up to the front lines and didn't have any need for the whiskey he exchanged for the burp gun.

Delbert explained that he was at Ft Bliss when the Korean War broke out. They asked for volunteers. "Volunteers, my..." he said. It wasn't long before he was in Korea.

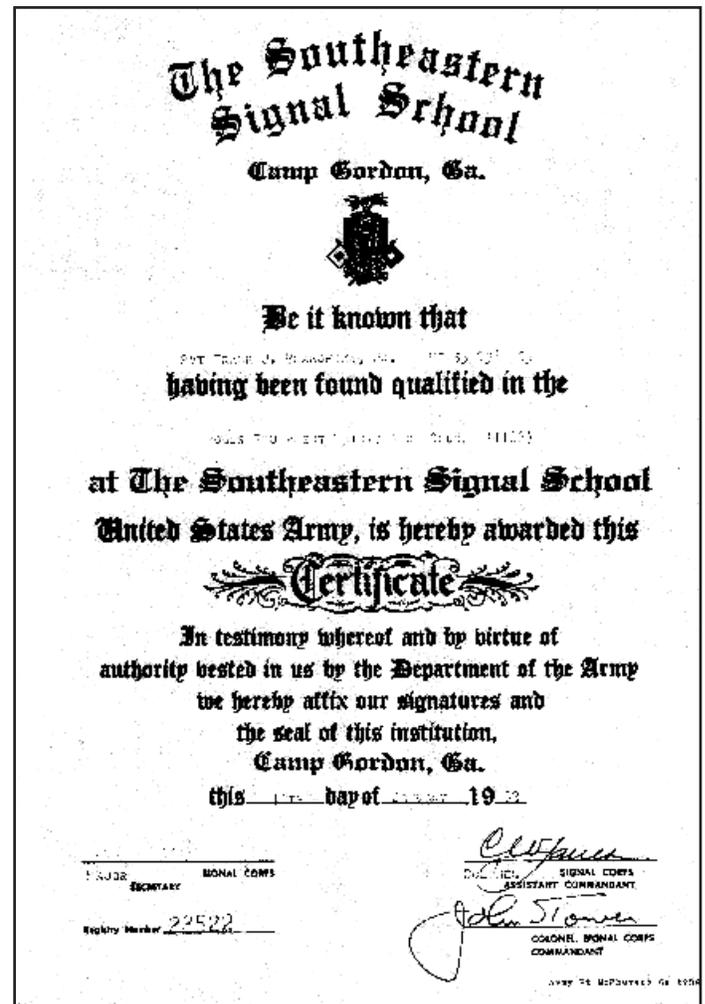
"I was in the Army for a little over three years," he noted. "I spent more time on ships than most Sailors do."

If anyone remembers the exchange between the two soldiers Delbert Farmer would like to hear from you. He can be reached at 6345 63rd Street, Sacramento, CA, 95824, 916-381-5747.

Accept no substitute for your bedding?

Frank Blahofski, of Springfield, IL, served in the U.S. Army from July 25, 1952 to July 10, 1954. He was in Korea in 1953 and 1954 with the 518th Sig Co. (Rad Rel), earning the Korean Service Ribbon, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service medal.

Among his documents is a form for bedding with a statement saying, "Your Company, Building, and bunk number are shown below. Take no substitutions under any circumstances." He signed for 1 Blanket, cot; 2 Sheets, Cotton; 1 Mattress Cover; 1 Pillow Case; and 1 Pillow. Why would that statement regarding substitutions be included on such a form? (The form is too blurry to be reproduced here.)



Frank Blahofski's Signal School certificate



Frank Blahofski's Domain of the Golden Dragon award

Well played, Syngman

By Tom Moore

From the very beginning of the Korean War armistice negotiations, South Korean President Syngman Rhee (1875-1965) had forcibly expressed his opposition to “any” compromise agreement with the Communists. Rhee’s terms for a settlement, as stated publicly in September of 1951, were forthright and simple, but impossible to accomplish: the Chinese should withdraw from Korea and the North Koreans should be disarmed.

Once those two terms were satisfied the North Koreans would be given full representation in the National Assembly. That, presumably, would settle the question of unification of Korea. If the enemy did not accept this neatly packaged proposal within a given time limit, the negotiations would be terminated. It was just as simple as that.

As it became clear to President Rhee that his proposal would not be adopted, demonstrations were organized in Seoul. Students carried place cards with such slogans as “No Armistice Without Unification.” Such demonstrations arose “spontaneously” whenever a truce agreement appeared imminent.

The United States, as the designated agent of the United Nations, had the legal right to negotiate an armistice, but there was no simple way to force an unwilling ROK government to abide by its terms. On April 24, 1953, the South Korean Ambassador in Washington D.C., through the State Department, informed President Eisenhower that President Rhee was preparing to withdraw the ROK forces from the U.N. Command if an armistice was signed that permitted Chinese troops to remain south of the Yalu River. That did not sit well with “Ike.”

He told Rhee in a letter “that we would continue to seek a settlement of Korea’s problems, but that this would be nullified if the ROK government took any action that could not be supported by the United States, and other friends of Korea, in the United Nations.”

President Rhee backed down from his offer.

We know now that President Rhee was bargaining for a security pact and increased

Before dawn on June 18, 1953, approximately 25,000 North Korean prisoners of war broke out of four U.N. Command POW camps located on the mainland near Pusan and Masan. It was clear that the simultaneous outbreaks were carefully and secretly planned by the ROK government.

economic aid. Some changes were made. U.S. Ambassador John J. Muccio was replaced by Ambassador Ellis O. Briggs (1899-1976), and the U.N. Chief Negotiator, Vice Admiral Charles Turner Joy (1895-1956), was replaced by Lt. General William K. Harrison, Jr. (1895-1987).

When President Rhee learned that all enemy prisoners of war who had not exercised their right of repatriation would be turned over in their existing camps to the custody of a Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission comprising representatives from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and India, and prison camp guards would be replaced by Indian troops, he declared that rather than let any Indian troops enter Korea he might, on his own, release the non-repatriates “without” involving the U.N. Command.

Before dawn on June 18, 1953, approximately 25,000 North Korean prisoners of war broke out of four U.N. Command POW camps located on the mainland near Pusan and Masan. It was clear that the simultaneous outbreaks were carefully and secretly planned by the ROK government. ROK guards did little or nothing to prevent the escape.

Rhee readily admitted his responsibility. Officials in Washington were shocked. President Eisenhower sent Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Walter S. Robertson, Sr., (1893-1970) from Virginia (a WW-I Pursuit Pilot) to Korea to attempt to bring President Rhee into line. Communist Chief Delegates General Kim IL Sung, North Korea (Russia), and General Peng Teh-huai, CCF, would not accept the armistice agreement unless the U.N. Command could guarantee that President Rhee would comply with all of its provisions. At this point the armistice was solely an agreement between the military commanders, to be followed later by a political conference.

Secretary Robertson arrived in Korea

and met every day, for sixteen days, with President Syngman Rhee. The wily old President obtained five main pledges from the United States.

1. The promise of a mutual security pact.
2. Assurance of long-term economic aid, with an initial installment of \$200,000,000.
3. Agreement that the U.S. and ROK governments would withdraw from the post-armistice.
Political Conference after 90 days if nothing substantial was achieved.
4. Agreement to implement the planned expansion of the ROK army to 20 divisions, with modest increases in the navy and air force.
5. Agreement to hold high-level U.S.-ROK talks on joint objectives prior to the Political Conference.

These pledges included some important concessions, but when Secretary Robertson left Korea on July 12, 1953 he carried an extensive letter from President Syngman Rhee to President Eisenhower assuring our President that he would “not” obstruct in any way the implementation of the terms of the armistice. General Harrison informed the communist delegates of the ROK collaboration. General Kim IL replied that was not enough.

He was stalling for final attacks to improve their positions before the armistice. When their drive was blunted, at a cost of over 28,000 casualties, the Communists announced they were ready to go ahead with the final arrangements for the cease-fire. That happened. But, it raised two significant questions: why did the United States pay for all five of the main pledges? Shouldn’t this extortion have been shared by the members of the United Nations?

Well, maybe three questions: did President Rhee outplay the U.S. negotiators?

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

Welcoming U.S. Occupation troops to Korea

Did you ever wonder what it was like for American occupation forces who entered Korea after World War II? Or even how Korea was connected to that war? Wonder no more: here is an account of what the occupation was like as published in the December 7, 1945 edition of YANK, Tokyo edition. The short article at the end reveals that there were Russian troops in Korea toward the tail end of the war and explains why they were there. Less than five years later it all changed—again.

What happened to the friendships that were formed between American and Russian troops immediately after the occupation troops from both countries entered Korea? In less than five years they were at war with one another? Was that because of political ideologies? Did the individual soldiers share those? Was it because the leaders of the two countries could not see eye-to-eye on the ideologies or were they swayed by third parties? What caused everything to fall apart? After all, the Americans and the Russians were allies during WWII and directly thereafter.

If the politics had been left up to the individuals who shared their vodka, beer, sake, ginseng wine, etc. so liberally when they first arrived in Korea, would there have been a Korean War? Who is more responsible for a war, the leaders of a country or the citizens? There are no answers to these questions, which have dogged scholars for eons. And there never will be.

Answers will continue to be elusive as the letter at the end of this article shows. The writer, Cpl. Griffin A. Atkinson, is simply wondering why we can't all get along.

Why can't we?

§ § § § §

By Cpl. Ralph Izard, Yank Combat Correspondent

Korea was a pleasant surprise to GIs used to nipa huts and bomber towns; its capital is modern and its people sing "Auld Lang Syne"

SEOUL, KOREA – As the GIs scheduled for the occupation of Korea rolled along the choked macadam highway to the capital city of Seoul soon after disembarking, they met elements of the seven divisions the Japs had garrisoned in Korea to maintain order. The Jap GIs were very sad sacks, hauling at the ropes of gun carriages, or clumping along with their rifles on their shoulders and their eyes on the ground.

Other Japanese civilians rode gondola cars along the modern, wide-gauge railroad to Chinson. They passed the Yank veterans of the 7th Division, who were going the other way to occupy the city the Japs had left: the Jap goal was embarkation for the trip to a homeland many of them had never seen. They passed by the Americans in silence, but the greetings of the native Koreans were something else again.

As jeeps, trucks, recon cars and railroad coaches sped the GIs north to Seoul, Koreans along the way cheered them on with shouts, grins, lifted arms, bows, and cries of "Hubbah, hubbah."

The 'hubbah, hubbah' importation, popularized by some member of a party which had preceded the main body of troops,

was varied with long-drawn cries of 'Hello..o....oh-!' Both greetings were to remain popular until just after the official Jap surrender. Then, perhaps because more GIs had been around to spread the language. "Okay!" became the cry which greeted men of the 184th Infantry Regiment as they issued from the grounds of the Governor's Palace to swing down the main drag of Seoul.

This Governor's Palace, which was to be the site of the surrender signing, turned out to be a limestone and marble building which put most of the state capitals of the U.S. in the shade. It is three stories high and a good city block long. Within it, on the day of the surrender, offices were vacant and disordered with dirty teacups still standing on the desks where fleeing Jap petty officials had left them.

When the Americans arrived for the surrender ceremony, the only Japanese left in the building were Nobuyuki Abe, Imperial Governor General (very recently retired), Lt. Gen Yoshio Sozuki, C-I-C of the Jap17th Army Group and of Korea, and Adm. Gisaburo Yamaguchi, Sozuki's naval opposite number. They crossed the room to the surrender table under the eyes of 11 American generals, and sat down at the broad table where documents were to be signed.

Someone called, "Ten..SHUN!" Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid and Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge strode into the great room, formerly used only for audiences with members of the Japanese royal family, and sat down facing the Jap brass. Gen. Hodge briskly introduced Adm. Kinkaid and himself, read the terms of surrender, stated that strict compliance with the terms would be exacted, told the Japs to sign, and then announced that the meeting had ended.

Outside the palace, a brief retreat ceremony was held around the flagpole. The 184th formed a hollow square of fatigue-clad men, and the 7th Division band played "Americans We." The Jap flag was hauled down, displayed briefly for the inevitable photographers, and replaced by the U.S. flag as the band played the U.S. national anthem. English speaking Koreans turned to Americans standing near them to shake their hands and bow.

"We thank you, we thank you," one Korean said, his voice taut with emotion. "Soon—soon the Tai Keug Ki, our Korean flag, will fly there."

The American troops marched out the gates of the palace. "The Bringers of Justice" whom the Koreans had welcomed to their ancient Land of the Three Kingdoms had begun their occupation duty.

"And I'm beginning to think it's not a bad deal," T-4 Walt Russinko of the 184th Recon Troop said. "There's a big dance on down here every night. I hear, at a place called International Civilization. So I'm studying up on my Korean..."

"Kachi kai bishita. How's that? Means, Let's get together."

The welcome the GIs got continued to live up to their best expectations. It had begun, in fact, even before the American convoy docked. The first spontaneous celebration at Chinson ended only when the Japs killed three patriots, breaking up the libera-

Another aspect of Korean gratitude, which puzzled GIs at first, was the melody sung by people along the roadsides. It was a tune that was tantalizingly familiar, yet somehow strange. One of the men finally recognized the tune, after learning that it was the Korean national anthem. It was—at least approximately—the Scottish melody, “Auld Lang Syne.”

tion rally with rifle fire.

“Communist riot,” the Japs hastily explained to the Americans when they landed.

The Koreans had plenty to cheer about. A Korean doctor is authority for the statement that five to six Koreans were killed daily from the acceptance of the Potsdam ultimatum by the Emperor of Japan to the Seoul surrender, 25 days later. A “Welcome to the U.S. Army” handbill, distributed by the Chemulpo Korean Labor Union, proved that even this had not been unexpected. Paragraph D of the “Welcome” read:

“We shall be checked by Japanese soldiers and policemen to shake hands with you, the heroes who help the independence of the Korean people. We will welcome you whatever there may be so much blood.”

The cheers on the road to Seoul and in the capital after the surrender were a new experience to the men in the battle-stained fatigues, many of whom had begun their own active part in the war in the Pacific at Kiska and Attu. They had fought at Eniwetok Atoll, on Kwajalein, Leyte and Okinawa, and now they were beginning the occupation of Korea in soft autumn weather that reminded them of September back home in California or Iowa or Pennsylvania.

They shook the hands offered them and watched as the people of Korea bowed three times in the manner decreed as etiquette by some long forgotten Emily Post of the Orient. The constant wide grins, the smiling faces, the unmistakable gratitude voiced by those Koreans who can speak a little English have had an effect on the Yanks.

“It gets to you after a while,” Pfc. Early Bailey of Watsonville, California said. “We went through a lot, but I can’t think of a better way to wind it up. These people—well, what can I say? It’s a wonderful feeling.”

Another aspect of Korean gratitude, which puzzled GIs at first, was the melody sung by people along the roadsides. It was a tune that was tantalizingly familiar, yet somehow strange. One of the men finally recognized the tune, after learning that it was the Korean national anthem. It was—at least approximately—the Scottish melody, “Auld Lang Syne.”

Seoul was the first city untouched by war that the Seventh had seen during its Pacific campaigns. To many GIs who had expected to find a larger version of Tacloban (a 1st class highly urbanized city in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines), the modern brick concrete and stone city came as a shock. The city contains over a million people. Its buildings are modern in design; many of them would almost qualify as skyscrapers in America. The streets are in poor repair now, but most of the Seoulese ride the electric cars or the charcoal gas buses.

Some of the most impressive buildings which momentarily awed the GIs were erected by the Japanese. There are a number of movie houses as modern as anything stateside. Inside the

movie houses, however, any attempt at modern, functional architecture has been abandoned, and most of them are finished off in flimsy beaverboard. Other buildings have the same impressive exteriors, but inside they, too, are shabby and flimsy, with inconvenient corridors and blind doors.

In the entertainment department the first occupation troops managed to do pretty well. It was tough, at least in the beginning, to get passes in Seoul, but some outfits found a way of getting around the ban. Certain COs took their platoons out on hikes and marched them innocently into the city, up and down the streets, thus letting them see all the sights without violating regulations. The only trouble with this arrangement was the inability of GIs to gather souvenirs.

“Seems like the brass gets all the souvenirs,” one EM sight-seer complained. “I want a kimono for my girl and one of them black tables for Mom, but I got to wait. They tell me I’m inflationary.”

Before long, the rigor of the early regulations abated somewhat, and a lucky few of the many GIs who wanted to participate in a social whirl could do pretty much to their hearts’ content. There were parties each night in Seoul and in other parts of liberated Korea, and there were quite a few get-togethers with the Russians who occupy the northern zone.

While the Korean parties of welcome were elaborate affairs, complete with kee-sang girls, beer-oh and warmed sake, the Russian clambakes tended to a boisterous spontaneity which was even harder on American participants. As might be expected vodka flowed in considerable quantity.

One impromptu Russian celebration was staged in honor of a small party of U.S. correspondents, GIs and officers by a Red Army cavalry detachment. At this shindig gin-seng wine was substituted for vodka, with no noticeable depreciation in the merriment.

The American group had taken off from Songdo, which means Pine Tree Capital in Korean, for the 38th-degree dividing line with the Russian zone; their express purpose was to establish liaison.

The road north to Song-do (Keijo on the Japanese maps) had been decorated at intervals with pine-bough arches, topped by Russian and American flags flanking the Korean national emblem. In all the towns along the way, correspondents and troops were greeted with the same up-flung arms, bows and long, drawn-out cries of “Hell-o-oh” that had been the unflinching welcome of the Korean people ever since they landed. The streets of Song-do itself were lined with the city elders, plain citizens, and little girls. The girls, with their black hair uniformly Dutch-bobbed, seemed to have been exactly selected for size, different heights in successive blocks.

The “Ekuk Boy scouts” were on hand with a wide banner which proclaimed their “Welcome” to the Americans. One shy and frightened little girl with Dutch-bobbed black hair was scold-

The Americans have found the kee-sang as adept at dancing, American-style, even to modified jitterbugging, as the most popular girl fresh out of bobby socks. The kee-sang are very fond of rhumbas and any other music with a heavily accented beat, such as boogie-woogie.

ed by her mother until she finally presented a bouquet as big as herself to the Americans.

About 25 miles beyond Song-do the Americans found the first Russian outpost. Here the tire of Jeep went flat. Almost immediately, 30 Russians materialized out of the hillside, lifted the vehicle in their hands while others changed tires, then dropped it again, as good as new.

A young, blond, ramrod-straight Russian officer raised his hand and shouted something that sounded like “Come-ski!” and the Americans noticed a long line of Russian soldiers mounted and afoot. All of them looked hard and tough, and their uniforms were stained and dirty from the sweep that had carried them across Manchuria and down into Korea.

Crossing the river into the Russian camp, the Americans met the youngest Russian tankiste, Sasha, an 11-year-old veteran of the campaign who had come down with the Red army from his home in Siberia.

Upon presentation to the major commanding the Russian unit, the New York Times man was immediately selected by him as the tovarisch, “may-yor” of the American group. Similarly, and because he wore a Navy-accredited correspondent’s oak leaf with superimposed “C,” the Associated Press representative was greeted as “Tovarisch Amerikanski Kommissar.” The conversational uproar grew louder as the two groups sought to make themselves understood to each other in different languages, but this was solved by another “Come-ski,” and the Americans followed the Russians into a typical Korean house.

Chairs were brought in as the Russians showed by hand gestures they scorned the floor-sitting that is the Korean custom. Bottles of gin-seng wine were accumulated on the table to the accompaniment of voluble talk in Russian, probably apologies for not producing vodka. Bowls of beef, chopped and hot from the oven, were laid out. The mess sergeant strolled into the room to look over his handiwork.

Standing beside the Russian “may-yor,” the big mess sergeant gently patted him on the head. Instead of preferring charges under AW 96 for such familiarity, the “may-yor” turned and patted his mess sergeant on the head in turn. Then with loud cries of joy, both embraced. The party was on. Then the toasts began. “Tru-mahn, Sta-leen—hoo-rah, and “Amerikanski, “Russki—hoo-rah...”

These were repeated again and again, to be accompanied each time by a full cup of gin-seng wine, a bone-crushing handclasp and, as the evening wore on, bear-hug embraces.

A little later one of the Americans, attempting to dance a kazatska, fell over backwards through one of the flimsy interior walls. A Russian immediately put him at his ease by walking through another wall. From that time on, anyone who wished to leave the room walked straight through a partition.

By this time the room was clamorous with conversation no

one understood, music from an accordion (no Russian party is complete without one), singing by both groups, and the squad of stamping feet as the Russia’s champion weightlifter from Magnitogorski danced for nearly two hours without stopping. Sometimes he had an American competitor in the AP commissar, who danced all the Irish jigs he’d ever seen and a few he made up.

The warmth of the meeting increased with the noise, until it ended on the order of the Russian Commissar Pyotr Famish. With the American tovarischi bedded down on mattresses on the floor. Commissar Famish bade them goodbye by kissing his AP colleague full upon the lips.

Back in Seoul, parties long continued to be the order of the night. Each of the Korean political organizations budding in the capital views to present the best entertainment. Apologies are always made that chopsticks must be used, since the Japanese carted off all the silverware, but about three parties are all the training that is needed to learn their manipulation. A typical dinner runs like this:

The speeches come first, and thus escape the quality of American dinner speaking. Then the dinner, on tables about 12 inches high, the guests sit on mats around them. The first course is usually served about 5 p.m., along with the first drinks of “beer-oh” and warmed rice wine. From then on there are long intervals between servings, which continue as long as the party lasts—fruit, salad, meats prepared in various ways, fish and vegetables.

Meanwhile, on a raised stage, the kee-sang present the classical dances of Korea—the Love Dance, the Buddhist Dance, and the Assassination Dances are those usually performed. They are full of slow, strange graceful gestures done to heavily accented drum beats and music in the strange five-tone scale used in Korea and China.

Many of the kee-sang—they are the original models of the Jap geisha girls—are married women. All of them have a definite and privileged standing in Korea as entertainers trained in the ancient songs and dances. The Americans have found them utterly charming as dinner companions, with their accented femininity and always graceful gestures and movements. Some few have labored under the wrong impression as to a kee-sang’s function and station, but this is always corrected by the entertainer herself. Without ostentation or even a scornful glance, the kee-sang will simply move gracefully away from any American bursting with youth and ideas.

Between their stage appearances, the kee-sang mingle freely with the guests, sometimes even feeding them when the Americans simulate chopstick incompetence. Invariably their first words on sinking gracefully to a kneeling position on the mat beside a guest are “I love you-oo.”

This is not as romantic as it sounds, since it has much the same depth of feeling as “darling” when used by the Hollywood-

Broadway set.

The Americans have found the kee-sang as adept at dancing, American-style, even to modified jitterbugging, as the most popular girl fresh out of bobby socks. The kee-sang are very fond of rhumbas and any other music with a heavily accented beat, such as boogie-woogie.

The capstone of social success was put on a party given by one Korean committee unaccountably left behind in the general Japanese exodus that has been going on since the American entry. These two characters showed the same bland inability to understand their position in the new Korea as they have shown in Japan itself since the surrender.

When they were courteously told by the committee's Dr. Kim that they were not wanted at the party, both backed out the door, bowing and repeating in English, "So sorry. So sorry."

§ § § § §

Road to War

Dear Yank:

"I say now that were I a Korean, I should sooner be under the Japanese domination than Russian. Korea, free from Japan, should be liberated...Certainly, the Bulgarization of Korea is not a suitable conclusion to this war."¹ The above statements were made by a columnist in my home town's leading newspaper a few weeks ago.

What in hell is going on in our press back home, anyway? For the past six months I have observed more than a sprinkling of articles and editorials making stabs at Russia in the same vicious tone. Two of our leading digest magazines and certain New York and Chicago newspapers, among other publications, were bent upon smashing any respect for the Soviet Union that may have increased in Americans during the war years. The attacks are variously subtle and bold, but taken together they form too clean and cohesive a pattern.

It smells like a coordinated campaign to smear Russia. Here are some of the tricks being used by editors and columnists: magnifying unfortunate incidents all out of proportion, lining up Stalin in a plane with Hitler and Hirohito, ignoring Russia's part in Germany's defeat, ridiculing the Russian people and her fighting men, twisting and deleting facts in carefully planned articles—anything to create mistrust of Stalin and the Russians.

Could it be that a combine of powerful moneyed groups is engineering this gigantic snow-job right in our own front yard? Are they secretly thinking that the world is too small for both the United States and Russia? And are they insane enough not to realize that this time, with the atomic bomb and other late refinements, a possible war with Russia brought on by their campaign of taunting and sniping could mean conceivably wiping out even them and their families?

Good God, haven't we all had enough of deceit and trickery? Let's hope that the American public, guided by its honest instincts, realizes when it's being hoaxed.

Philippines, Cpl. Griffin A. Atkinson

§ § § § §

Did you know the Russians had troops in Korea at the end of WWII?

Soviet Columns Push Ahead In Korea Drive

LONDON, Aug. 24. (UP) Soviet flying columns raced down the Korean peninsula opposite the main Japanese home island of Honshu Friday after completing the liberation of Manchuria.

Aadio Khabarvosk, voice of the Soviet Far Eastern Command, said Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Trans-Baikal Army was rolling toward the port of Fusan, at the southern tip of Korea, 110 miles across the Tsushima straits from Honshu.

The liberation of Manchuria, including Russia's long-lost ports of Port Arthur and Dairen, was proclaimed officially by Generalissimo Stalin Thursday night in his first order of the day of the two week eastern war. (El Centro, CA, Imperial Valley Press, August 24, 1945)

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The occupation article and the corporal's letter were in a publication sent to KWVA 1st VP Al McCarthy, who forwarded it to our KWVA editorial offices along with a couple other valuable WWII/Korea-era documents. They were sent to him by a deceased member's family who believed—rightly so—that we might find something of interest in them.

How many other documents of historical interest to Korean War veterans—or veterans of any war, for that matter—are buried in individuals' piles of mementos to be pulled out...when? And then, when these individuals/veterans die, what happens to their mementoes. All too often they get trashed simply because their families do not see the value in them or don't know how to get in touch with the people who do.

I urge KWVA members who have kept mementoes of their services for many years, just waiting for the right time, to break them out to refresh old memories, to donate them to organizations that might like to obtain them for historical purposes. Or, at least tell loved ones what to do with them or leave behind instructions re their dissemination. We at the KWVA editorial offices are always happy to try to find homes for such items of historical interest.

¹ A number of government policies are considered to be examples of Bulgarisation, including the attempt of the former communist leadership in the 1980s to assimilate a Turkish population of Bulgaria. During the Communist period of Bulgarian history, the Turkish minority (mainly across Bulgaria's east) of the country were forced to change their names from Turkish or Arabic to Bulgarian in 1984, during Todor Zhivkov's rule. Back then, as well as nowadays, the supporters of this policy refer to it as the "Revival Process," while critics call it "the so-called V zroditelen process." Turkish culture and language as well as Islamic beliefs were also suppressed. The argument was that the Turkish population of Bulgaria were allegedly Bulgarians forced to convert to Islam during the Ottoman rule.[1] This project met forceful resistance in the form of large-scale protests, international pressure and cases of terrorism. After the end of Communist rule, people were free to revert to previous names or adopt the names they wished, Arabic/Turkish or other. Some people continued using both names. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarisation>)

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition

By Tom Moore

At the end of World War II the U.S. had a tremendous inventory of ammunition on hand. Unfortunately it was not balanced. There were no proper inventories or proper care. The U.S. Army drew freely from the big stockpile, but did not replace the consumption.

Powder in cotton bags and fuses deteriorated. Ammunition was expensive, but no one seemed to care. The lack of postwar orders sent the ammunition industry to convert to civilian goods, where the money was. When the Korean War began, the industry and the U.S. government believed it was a six months or so war. Complacency pervaded the nation.

Even when China came into the war, no large-scale mobilization of industry took place. It would take from 18-24 months, after funds were voted, to produce finished ammunition. That meant no ammo until late 1952 or early 1953. In the meantime, the U.S. and ROK forces had to live off of the stockpile that later brought on ammo rationing.

Ammunition production seemed to be up in the air during the Korean War. The National Security Resources Board (NSRB) had an effect on U.S. ammunition production. This board was created by the National Security Act of 1947. Its purpose was to advise the president on how to mobilize. It was made up of eight members, who had a huge effect on U.S. production during the Korean War.

Seemingly, this board did not understand prewar planning, industrial mobilization, and theater logistics. They were at a huge loss when it came to altering programs for the “change to static warfare in mid-1951.” They didn’t understand that artillery warfare, which required extensive ammunition use, would accelerate. The board, which was hung up on the limited aspect of the war and controlled the military, continued to assume the war would be very short. That had a crippling effect on effective logistic support from the Zone of Interior (ZI).

Small arms ammo was always plentiful. In Korea, the U.S. Army operated under “the day of supply” principle which, for some unknown reason, was based upon WW II experience. The Pentagon could not figure out that the World War II Corps had far more artillery battalions assigned to them than did the Corps in Korea, and that WWII artillery could maintain a lesser rate of fire per gun, on comparable missions than the Korean War Corps, with fewer guns. (Fewer guns will shoot more rounds per gun.)

So, the day of supply was way off and never changed, even though General Ridgway pushed for an increase in the day of supply for his 8-inch, 105mm and 155mm howitzers, and his 155mm guns. He also wanted to raise the reserve of these shells from 75 to 90 days, augment the supplies in Korea from 30 to 40 days, and keep 20 days’ supply in the pipeline, leaving only 30 days reserve in Japan.

As the war ground to a slow pace in mid-1951, artillery assumed a new importance because of the static warfare. It was known there were increased demands upon the stockpiles, and the knowledge that there was no possibility of replenishing, until at least late 1952 or early 1953. Concern really began to rise during the battle for Bloody Ridge in August-September 1951.

2nd Division artillerymen fired over 153,000 rounds and the 15th Field Artillery Battalion set a new record for light battalions by firing over 14,425 rounds in 24 hours. At the end their reserve was really reduced, but no rationing was introduced, except for illuminating shells, which were in very short supply. This made General Ridgway send the following to the Joint

Chiefs of Staff (JCS):

Whatever may have been the impression of our operations in Korea to date, artillery has been, and remains the great killer of Communists. It remains the great saver of soldiers, American and Allied. There is a direct relation between the piles of shells in the Ammunition Supply points and the piles of corpses in the Graves Registration collecting points. The bigger the former, the smaller the latter, and vice versa.

In December 1952, General Mark Clark, when he learned there was sufficient supply of ammunition in the 240mm caliber, ordered the 159th Field Artillery Battalion and the 213th Field Artillery Battalion converted to 240mm battalions to lessen the drain on 155mm howitzer ammo. The Eighth Army resorted to substitutions to tide themselves over the period of shortages. When the supply of 81-mm mortar shells became low in January 1953, line units were directed to fire 4.2-inch mortars instead of 81mm.

The new Secretary of Defense, Robert A. Lovett, thought he would get his two cents in on the Korean War, so he advised General Clark that the Far East Command (FEC) would return brass cartridge cases from expended 105-mm rounds. Soon, troops were falling over salvaged cases in collection points. GIs wondered if any got back to the ZI, but Korean salvage collectors did great business on them after the war.

The American industrial mobilization for the Korean War just seemed to chug along. President Truman tried to jump start it by a declaration of a National Emergency, which eased constraints on military procurement. The

The American industrial mobilization for the Korean War just seemed to chug along. President Truman tried to jump start it by a declaration of a National Emergency, which eased constraints on military procurement.

Finally, in April 1953, Congress got around to showing some interest in the Korean War. It only took them about 34 months. What would have happened to you if you had waited 34 months to report for duty?

military could make contracts without advertising for competitive bids.

China's entrance into the war didn't trigger an emergency mobilization. It was 1951 when businesses began tooling up. They found many skilled workers had been taken in the draft. With the mobilization very slow in the U.S., a few things kept our military going. The war was in Korea, and it spread no farther, with no radical reorganization of the logistical system. The supply from the U.S. could not meet the needs of the FEC.

The ace in the hole was Japan. It provided the UN with an industrial base. Much of the U.S. supply deficit was made up with purchases from Japan, which tooled up. There were large quantities of WWII military equipment in Japan. In 1950, over 30,000 rebuilt vehicles rolled off Japanese production lines. By May 1951, we employed 30,000 Japanese on rebuild work. A year later, the number of general-purpose vehicles was 100,000.

That program saved the tactical situation in Korea, and saved our nation over \$9 billion dollars. We purchased many things from Japan, like rope, lumber, sandbags, wingtip gas tanks, dynamite, gasoline drums, railway equipment, etc. U.S. purchases in Korea were considerable, although Korean industry was more primitive than that in Japan. We also used Japanese bases, and employed hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians. The war may have been another story if North Korea had enjoyed that Japanese edge.

Finally, in April 1953, Congress got around to showing some interest in the Korean War. It only took them about 34 months. What would have happened to you if you had waited 34 months to report for duty?

The Preparedness Subcommittee No. 2 of the Senate Armed Services

Committee held nine days of hearings on ammunition shortages. It heard from Lt. General James A. Van Fleet and Lt. General Edward M. Almond, as well as Washington defense officials. The testimony given revealed the confusion that existed, at the time, on the cause and effects of the shortages. Much of the confusion stemmed from the lack of background information on the subject. The result was over 700 pages of printed testimony and related material. (All of this ammunition talk, makes me think of the WWII song, "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," by Frank Loesser (1910-1969).

The huge ammunition stockpile left over from World War II was a blessing and a curse. While it provided a substantial backlog, from which the U.S. could draw to meet the demands of Korea, the imbalance in its stocks had gone unnoticed, and the vary mass of the stockpile had introduced a dangerous sense of complacency. The expectation of a short war had fostered this complacency and permitted the rebuilding of the defunct ammunition industry to be delayed.

Compounding the situation, the lack of industrial mobilization that followed the outbreak of the war led to further setbacks in the battle for ammunition production. In the meantime the imbalances had come to light and, as it happened, many of these were in the mortar and howitzer ammunition that were most in demand for the artillery war, that set in from mid-1951, and on. The tremendous costs of the ammunition program, that were reached in late 1951 and early 1952, reflected the decelerated pace of the war and served as an excuse for reducing the rate of expenditure of ammunition. A lower rate of daily fire, in turn, would help alleviate the problem of dwindling ammunition reserves in the essential categories.

On the other hand, restrictions in the

number of rounds that could be used each day caused the troops at the front to complain, and brought the whole matter to the attention of Congress and the public. Despite the charges and counter-charges in the ammunition free-for-all, the principal enemy was time. Until production could begin on a scale that would replenish stocks, as well as supply current needs, the ammunition crisis would go on.

The rationing which was adopted in the winter and spring of 1952 was a temporary expedient to bridge the gap between the decreasing stockpile and new production, but until the transition was complete, shortages would be the rule. The disadvantages of fighting even a limited war without an adequate production base being capable of quick expansion were readily discernible in the ammunition situation of 1951 and 1952.

Feeding the FEC drained the reserves in the U.S. and led to reductions in allocations for the U.S. Army units in Europe. An expansion of the war might well have been catastrophic, for no amount of money or effort could buy the most priceless commodity: time. Fortunately, the Communists matched the United Nations Command in their disinclination to press the fight on the battlefield or to broaden the war. It appeared that as long as the moderate pace of the war continued, U.S. ammunition supplies would be sufficient. That, of course, did occur.

*Reach Tom Moore at
tm103ps@yahoo.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.

History of the USS Consolation (AH-15)

USS Consolation (AH-15) was a Haven-class hospital ship originally in service with the United States Navy from 1945 to 1955. In 1960 she was chartered to the People to People Health Foundation and renamed SS Hope and served for another 14 years until being scrapped in 1975.

Consolation was built as Marine Walrus in 1944 by Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Chester, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Mrs. H. C. Wilson; acquired by the Navy 30 August 1944; converted at Bethlehem Steel Co., Hoboken, New Jersey; and commissioned 22 May 1945, Cdr P. S. Tambling in command.

With a bed capacity of 802 and a complement of 564, *Consolation* joined the Pacific Fleet to provide hospital services, consultation, preventive medicine and casualty evacuation. Arriving on station in the Pacific after Victory over Japan Day, *Consolation* was assigned to establish a shore screening station and field hospital to screen Allied POWs at Wakayama, Honshū. She transferred 1,062 POWs to Okinawa and returned to serve as the base hospital for Honshū and then Nagoya, Japan during the Allied occupation of Japan. *Consolation* returned to San

- **Commissioned22 May 1945**
- **Decommissioned 30 Dec. 1955**
- **Honors and awards 10 Battle stars for Korean War service**
- **FateScrapped 1975**
- **Capacity802 beds;**
- **Complement564**



USS Consolation (AH-15) off Korea in May 1952

Francisco to undergo a brief overhaul from 23 November 1945 until 6 December 1945. From March until October 1946 she served as a transport from the canal zone to New York. From October 1946 she remained in commission, although inactive, until the outbreak of the Korean War.

Departing Norfolk 14 July 1950, *Consolation* arrived at Korea 16 August to care for the wounded until 6 April 1954.

During this conflict she was the first hospital ship outfitted with a helicopter landing pad, 60 feet (18 m) in length, during 1951. In August she participated in Operation "Passage to Freedom" to return French troops from Vietnam to France, then returning to Korea until March 1955. She was decommissioned on 30 December 1955. *Consolation* received 10 battle stars for Korean War service.

On 16 March 1960 *Consolation* was chartered to the People to People Health Foundation and renamed *SS Hope*, an acronym for Health Opportunity for People Everywhere. She sailed in September 1960 on her first cruise to Indonesia, bringing modern medical treatment and training to that country. Later cruises to underdeveloped areas of the world included South Vietnam, Peru, Ecuador, Guinea, Nicaragua, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Jamaica, and Brazil.

Hope was retired in 1974 after eleven voyages.



Navy nurse and patients in Ward C-3, 1950

MIA's ID'd

Sgt. Richard E. Crotty. The DPAA announced that Sgt. Crotty, 22, of Geneva, Illinois, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for.

In late 1950, Crotty was a member of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On 1 September 1950, Crotty was reported missing in action after his unit was engaged by the Korean People's Army near Yongsan, South Korea.



Sgt. Richard E. Crotty

There is no indication his remains were recovered after the battle, and he was never recorded as a prisoner of war. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953, and his remains were determined to be nonrecoverable in January 1956.

Crotty's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted

for. Crotty was buried in Peoria, Illinois, on April 29, 2023.

Pfc. Harry J. Hartmann, Jr., 19, of Mays Landing, New Jersey, who died as a prisoner of war during the Korean War, was accounted for July 13, 2022.



Pfc. Harry J. Hartmann, Jr.

In the fall of 1950, Hartmann was a member of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2 during fighting near Unsan, North Korea. Repatriated POWs reported he had been captured and held as a prisoner of war at Camp #5, Pyoktang, North Korea, where he died on or around March 31, 1951.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, or find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or [https:// www.linkedin.com/ company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency](https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency).

How do you say blitzkrieg in Russian?

By Tom Moore

The Soviet Far East Command's offensive of August 1945 against the Kwantung Army (the Japanese Army units stationed in Manchuria) shattered Japanese defenses around the periphery of Manchuria in seven days, and achieved total victory in less than two weeks, ending Japanese domination of northeastern Asia. The Russians commenced their strategic envelopment operation by attacking shortly after midnight on 09 August 1945 across three separate fronts, with a total of ten armies, one cavalry-mechanized group, the 128th Mixed Aviation, which consisted of two Fighter Regiments of 70 King Cobra aircraft, one Bomber Regiment with 30 Bastion "Flying Fortress" aircraft and the 53d Bomber Aviation Division with 80 IL-4 aircraft, and more than one million men.

On 8 August 1945 the Soviets declared war on Japan. One week later, on 15 August 1945, Japan surrendered. Stalin wanted this so he could grab land in Asia. He was afraid that the United States nuclear bombings would end World War Two before he could get his foot in the door. He did, and the seed for the Korean War was planted.

Three combined-arms armies, one tank army, and a single cavalry-mechanized group of Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Malinovsky's Trans-Biakal Front swept into Manchuria from the desert wastes of Mongolia. Simultaneously, four combined-arms armies of Marshal of the Soviet Union K.A. Meretskov's 1st Far Eastern Front smashed Japanese defenses in eastern Manchuria, while two combined-arms armies of Army General

Advancing in the dark along a broad front, across rough terrain in drenching August rains, the advancing Soviet forces exerted unbearable pressure on the surprised Japanese defenders.

M.A. Purkaev's 2d Far Eastern Front struck and overcame Japanese defenses in northern Manchuria, completing the ring of fire around the beleaguered Kwantung Army.

Advancing in the dark along a broad front, across rough terrain in drenching August rains, the Soviet forces exerted unbearable pressure on the surprised Japanese defenders. By tailoring their forces to advance rapidly in all types of terrain, and by leading the advance wherever possible with armored forward detachments, the Soviets generated requisite speed and offensive momentum to overwhelm Japanese defenses and preempt Japanese defenses in the depths of Manchuria. (That was the same strategy the Russians taught the North Koreans with their T-34 tanks in the Korean War).

The surprise Soviet offensive achieved immediate spectacular success. The three attacking fronts penetrated western, eastern, and northern Manchuria. By overcoming or bypassing the formidable Japanese defenses and covering forces along the border, the Russians paralyzed Japanese command and control and entered central Manchuria with astonishing ease, while the Kwantung Army struggled in vain to survive. The massive scale of the Soviet attack was matched by the relentlessness

with which it was conducted.

After Manchuria, the Soviets were on to the Sakhalin Island, where the Soviet 16th Army and the Soviet Northern Pacific Naval Flotilla resorted to joint operations to overcome Japanese defenses with multiple amphibious assaults. Then, in the Kuril Islands chain, Soviet forces overcame the strong Japanese defenses of rocky, barren Shumshir Island, and captured the remainder of the northern Kuril Islands by exploiting the element of surprise. Stalin really wanted the Japanese home island of Hokkaido, and was very upset that he did not obtain it, but the clock ran out on him with the end of World War Two.

Before the campaign was over, Stalin had expanded his ambitious offensive beyond the confines of Manchuria to encompass vital Japanese-occupied territory in a place you may have heard of—Korea. Stalin had pushed to the 38th Parallel, conquered the southern half of Sakhalin Island, the entire Kurile Islands chain, and postured menacingly against the northernmost Japanese home island of Hokkaido.

Stalin and the Soviet Union had emerged as a significant power in Northeast Asia and the Pacific Basin by getting into the fight against Japan—on the last click of the clock. But, the big question here that hasn't been answered is why the United States didn't go into Manchuria on this two-week clean-up. The U.S. had the troops and materials, the war in Europe was over, and it could have brought democracy to Northeast Asia, and the Pacific Basin. Instead of letting the Soviets spread communism, there would have been no Korean War.

Tom Moore, tm103ps@yahoo.com

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: Sharparthur@aol.com

FLASH BACK

We are starting a new feature in this issue. We will be reprinting articles from past issues. The reason is simple. There has been a lot of turnover in our membership since the first issue of *The Graybeards* was printed. Newer members will benefit from seeing veterans' timeless stories for the first time. Older members will most likely read them and recall their experiences, which might generate new stories for upcoming issues. And, these stories never get old.

Our first story appeared in the January/February 2000 issue, pp. 40 and 41.

Beyond the call of duty

By Robert Harper

"After almost an hour the lieutenant asked the question that is seldom asked by tankers because the answer is too gruesome to think about. "What if my tank is engulfed in flames?"

His picture would never be featured on a recruiting poster. Lt. William Trinen always looked as though he had dressed in total darkness and put on somebody else's uniform by mistake. Nothing seemed to fit. During World War II Bill had served with 66th Tank Regiment, 2nd 'Hell-on-Wheels' Armored Division. The 66th did not hand out any points for neatness. They did award Purple Hearts and bestowed medals for valor. Bill had some of both.

A few days before the attack to break out of the Pusan Perimeter I saw Bill's jeep drive into my platoon area; he had come to show me some pictures of his family he had received that morning. He did not get out of the jeep and walk back to where my tanks were parked. That was unusual. I had not yet learned about his bleeding ulcer, and how weak he had become from the loss of blood. He and the other members of his tank crew were trying to keep that a secret from the company commander, who would have ordered a medical evacuation. Later I would learn that sometimes he was so weak a crew member helped him climb onto the tank and into his commander's position in the turret.

Bill wanted to wait until after the attack to seek medical help. Shortly after Bill arrived, a young lieutenant from one of the regimental tank companies drove up. He had tracked Bill to my area to hear his comments about tank warfare. The lieutenant's uncle had served with Bill in the 66th. The lieutenant was not sure that he could hold up under the stress of battle. He said, "Sometimes I do not feel very brave." Lt Trinen told him the troops would accept some caution and reasonable fear in a leader. But they instinctively mistrust a rash commander, filled with a mindless thirst for glory, because they know he will eventually get them killed.

Bill suggested to the lieutenant that he act just a little brave now and then. "If you act kind of brave often enough it finally ceases to be an act and becomes a habit."

After almost an hour the lieutenant asked the question that is seldom asked by tankers because the answer is too gruesome to think about. "What if my tank is engulfed in flames?"

Bill was silent for a few seconds. He began by reminding the lieutenant that he would be going into battle with explosive ammunition stored all around him; even the deck where he stood

inside the turret was a cover for ammo storage. The gasoline tanks are only a few feet away.

Bill seemed undecided about continuing the discussion. After a long pause he said, "If an anti-tank round hits the gas tank you will not have time to think." There was a change in his tone of voice; now, he was relating a personal experience and the lieutenant could search for the lesson on his own.

Lt. Trinen told him that if his tank burst into flames he would bolt out of the tank and his instinct for self-preservation would cause him to run away. Then he would spend many sleepless nights haunted by guilt and shame convinced that he, not the enemy, was responsible for the deaths of his men. Some of them will be mortally wounded by the enemy round; others scream and beg for help. "You will hear those screams for the rest of your life."

During the attack on 16 September, C Company, 72nd Tank Battalion, supported 23rd Infantry Regiment. The plan was for my platoon to attack down the road and exploit any breakthrough. Bill's tanks were to follow us across the line of departure, then when the terrain permitted, his platoon would deploy in line on our flank, and become the primary base of fire to support the infantry assault.

Early that morning when we were approaching the line of departure I saw Bill's tanks parked just off the road; he was not in the turret of his command tank. I saw him down beside his tank lying on an army blanket spread on the ground. I stopped the column and walked over to check on him. His face was so drawn and pale I asked if he had been wounded. He said, "No. My ulcer is acting up." Then he began to discuss the coming attack.

I encouraged him to seek medical help and told him I could work with his platoon sergeant. He said, "No. I have to go; my men need me." That was true. The whole truth was that all of us needed him. I could have contacted the company commander by radio. I did not. I wanted him to be on my flank directing fire as we advanced toward that heavily fortified enemy line.

We battled the North Koreans all day. Just before dark they fled from their positions and we raced to the Naktong River. After dark the company commander told me that Bill had been killed. He was walking in front of his tank guiding it through difficult terrain to a position that would allow his gunner to fire into the enemy's flank. A North Korean soldier jumped up in front of him and fired a burst from his burp gun. The stream of bullets knocked Bill off his feet and cut him almost in half. He died where he fell. The enemy soldier lived only a few seconds longer.

I was deeply saddened by his death. I felt I was to blame—just as Bill had predicted the lieutenant would feel guilty for the

Lt. Trinen told him that if his tank burst into flames he would bolt out of the tank and his instinct for self-preservation would cause him to run away. Then he would spend many sleepless nights haunted by guilt and shame convinced that he, not the enemy, was responsible for the deaths of his men.

deaths of his men. With time, I realized that I would have lost him, regardless of what I did that morning. If I had called the company commander, the medics would have pulled him away from his troops just when they most needed his combat leadership.

Bill would have considered the call an unpardonable act of personal betrayal; that would have destroyed our friendship. But there was still the reality that when I saw him lying ill on a blanket beside his tank, he was so pale and his voice was so weak I asked if he had been wounded; I did nothing.

The only memory I had to ease my sense of loss were his words to the lieutenant he had spoken with a few days before. Clearly, Bill had considered the risk, and had accepted the hard fact that death is an occupational hazard in a combat unit. As the lieutenant was preparing to drive away Bill said, "Pretend that you are unafraid. If your luck runs out, die without screaming."

Those of us who knew Bill during the last few weeks of his life watched the growing bonds of confidence and respect he was developing for the members of his platoon, and they for him; he probably inspired that same high esprit de corps in every unit he had commanded. Good combat leaders have that gift.

Until the day of his death I did not suspect the true strength of his devotion to the welfare of the men entrusted to him. I came to understand why an uncle would want his nephew to talk with Bill before his first combat experience. And eventually I understood the irresistible call of duty that sent him into battle on that fateful day.

NOTE: Robert S. Harper reported to the tank park on March 18, 2018 for his final assignment.

Have a Mini-Reunion?

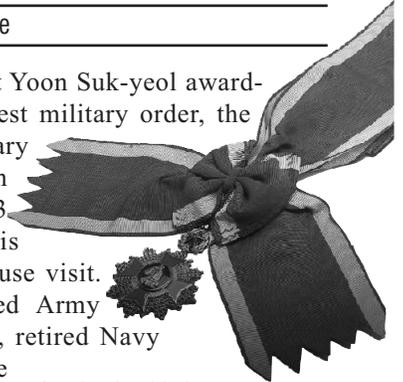
Send your photos and a short write-up to
The Graybeards editor
for publication!

Sharparthur@aol.com

Three U.S. veterans receive The Taegeuk Order of Military Merit

By Correspondent Tom Moore

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol awarded his country's highest military order, the Taegeuk Order of Military Merit, to three American veterans of the 1950-53 Korean War during his April 26, 2023 White House visit. The recipients are retired Army Colonel Ralph Pickett Jr., retired Navy Captain Elmer Royce Williams, and the late Marine Corps First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez. The war's veterans, and all Americans, should hear what President Yoon said:



The Korean War is not the forgotten war, but a victorious war, and a war that must be remembered. All of you are heroes, and our true friends, who made the Republic of Korea, of today, possible. If it had not been for the sacrifice of Korean War veterans, the Republic of Korea, of today, would not exist.

The South Korea - U.S. alliance forged in blood has built the most successful, and powerful alliance relationship in the world, over the past 70 years. We will forever remember the dedication and friendship of all of you who fought together for the Republic of Korea's freedom.

I promise the South Korean government's continued efforts to recover the remains of U.S. service members, killed or gone missing, during the Korean War, and vow to fulfill the country's responsibility and role for freedom and peace in the world.

In attendance at the ceremony were General Paul La Camera, the grandson of General James Alward Van Fleet, commander of the U.S. 8th Army, from 1951-53, and the daughter of General Paik Sun - yup, the commander of the South Korean Army's 1st Division.

Colonel Pickett, who was born in 1926, grew up in Tifton, Georgia and graduated from West Point in 1949. He led the Eighth Army Ranger Company (8213 A U) through the Battle of the Chongchon River for Hill 205, on November 25, 1950.

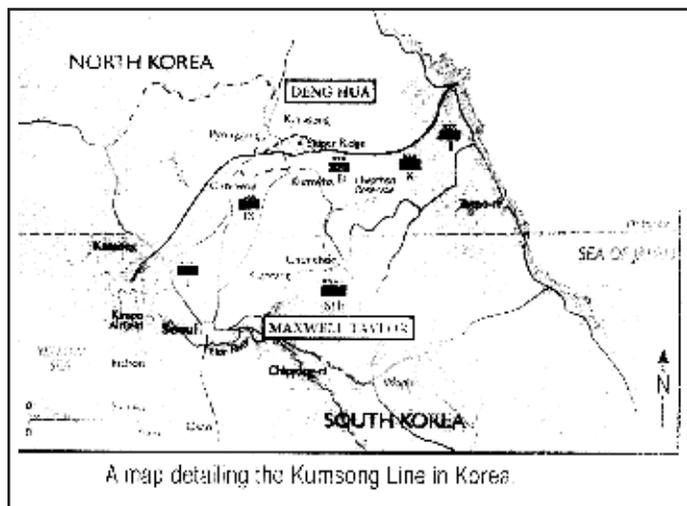
Captain Williams, born in 1925, grew up in Wilmot, South Dakota. He served with VF-781, USS Oriskany (CVA-34), Task Force-77. In November 1952 Williams engaged in a 35-minute dogfight with seven Soviet MiG-15 aircraft, during which he downed four of them. His F9-F aircraft plane had 263 enemy bullet holes in it.

First Lieutenant Lopez, also born in 1926, grew up in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida. His family had come to the U.S. from Spain. He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1947. As a member of the 5th Marines during the Incheon Landing on September 15, 1950 Lopez smothered an enemy hand grenade with his body, saving many Marines' lives. His nephew received the award on behalf of the late Lopez.

Korea: The Forgotten War

My fellow members of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion and friends. On July 27, 1953, North Korea and South Korea signed the Korean Armistice Agreement. Although the two countries are technically at war since no peace treaty was signed, the armistice brought about the end of the hostilities. I was there as a member of the Third Infantry Division, 9th Field Artillery Battalion when the fighting stopped. Those of us who were there recall that early in June 1953, the tempo of action stepped up, and the 3d Infantry Division withstood heavy enemy attacks all along the front.

The bitterest fighting took place on Outpost Harry on the Division's left center, and against the Boomerang on the right flank. Despite determined enemy assaults, preceded and accompanied by heavy artillery and mortar barrages, the line held firm and the Chinese withdrew, defeated. During the intense Chinese attacks the 9th Field Korea Artillery Battalion fired thousands of rounds in support of front-line infantry units inflicting great losses upon the enemy each time.



The largest and fiercest battle since 1951 began on the morning of July 14, 1953, when over 60,000 Chinese Communist Forces (CCF), an estimated seven Chinese Divisions, launched a massive attack against the Republic of Korea (ROK) Capital Division, located in the Kumsong River valley between Sniper Ridge, on the west, and Christmas Hill, on the east.

On July 15, the 9th Field Artillery Battalion moved into position near Kumsong; it was four or five days later that members of Headquarters Battery began learning details about the attack. Much of what we heard was that two 105mm battalions, the 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion and the 555th ("Triple Nickel") Field Artillery, had been hit hard. Because the CCF offensive commenced on a cloudy day, it was shielded from aerial bombardment.

A day later, the skies cleared and the Air Force started their attacks, but not before the 92nd and the 555th had been overwhelmed. Those battalions provided direct artillery support for the Capital Division. Shortly after the offensive began, the Capital broke and made a hasty retreat—too late. The 92nd and the 555th had been overwhelmed. Those battalions provided direct artillery support for the Capital Division.



155mm. Howitzer in Korea

Shortly after the offensive began, the Capital broke in a disorderly retreat. Some batteries of the 105mm units were not even notified that there was no infantry between them and the CCF.

One battery received orders to bore sight and fire at point blank range. The crews looked up and saw CCF streaming down the mountain in front of them.

A mortar round landed on the breech of one piece, disabling it and killing and wounding crew members. A CCF group had pulled a 90mm piece to a mountain top and were firing down on hapless gun pits. Only about 30% of the 92nd's Charlie Battery got out safely by the end of the day. Even worse, the Triple Nickel was overrun, suffering 22 killed, 19 wounded, and 46 captured. The captured had to march northward for several weeks and were not freed for two or more months after the truce was signed.

After the 3d Division, including its artillery and tank units, was in position by the evening of July 15, it staunchly the flow of CCF, who had penetrated several miles. The 65th Infantry Regiment stood firm despite thousands of enemy mortar and artillery rounds; the 15th Regiment inflicted heavy casualties.

On July 18, the 64th Tank Battalion routed a mass of CCF gathering for battle. In its counterattack, the 3rd Division tried several times to cross the Kumsong River and hold its north bank; but it abandoned the effort after July 20, when the battle wound down.

Though the fighting continued along the front until the final minute prior to the cease fire at 2200 hours on 27 July 1953, the Chinese advanced no further. The enemy drive in the Kumsong sector had been stopped. On July 27, 1953, the Armistice was signed and all fighting stopped.

After 37 months of combat, total UNC casualties reached more than 550,000, including 95,000 dead. American losses included 33,686 killed and 103,284 wounded. United States Army casualties alone totaled 27,728 dead and 77,596 wounded. The bulk of these casualties occurred during the first year of fighting. The estimate of enemy casualties, including prisoners, exceeded 1,500,000 of whom 900,000 were Chinese.

The Army deployed eight divisions to Korea—the 1st Cavalry Division; the 2d, 3d, 7th, 24th, 25th, 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions; and the 5th, 29th and 187th RCTs. U.S. Army personnel received 78 of the 131 Medals of Honor awarded to military members who served in Korea.

Ronald G. Hill, Sr.

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 35 and Under: \$600 Ages 36 - 50: \$450 Ages 51 - 65: \$300
Ages 66 - 79: \$150 Ages 80 & up: \$75

Please Check One: New Member Renewal Member # _____

Please Check One:	<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	

(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) From: _____ To: _____
Regiment _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	Without Korea were: (See criteria below) From: _____ To: _____
Battalion _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	
Company _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	
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.

"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: _____

Adopted 3/13/2019, R3 Approved 10/27/2020

[KWVA Membership Application Form Page 2]



Membership is Our Strength

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



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, or
 - c. Said service was as a member of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) any time September 3, 1945 to Present, who has relocated to and become a citizen of the United States of America.
2. **Medal of Honor.** Any person qualifying to be a Regular Member, who is a Medal of Honor recipient, is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.
3. **Prisoner of War.** Any person qualifying to be a Regular Member and was 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.

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. Gold Star Parents. Any person whose son/daughter was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

D. Gold Star Spouses. Any person whose spouse was killed in action, or was missing in action, or died as a prisoner of war while serving within Korea including territorial waters around and airspace above during the Korean War (June 25, 1950 to the present) is eligible for free life membership. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership must be provided for approval.

E. Honorary Members. Any person of good character may be elected as Honorary Member by vote by the NATIONAL Board of Directors. A signed statement of their eligibility for membership [Application Form page 2] must be provided for approval.

F. 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.us

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.

'LIGHTNING LANCERS'

Combat Highlights of the 68th Squadron in Korea

BY STANLEY J. GROGAN

The author was squadron historian for the 68th Fighter (AW) Squadron 1951-53. He flew with them as a radar observer in both F-82G and F-94B type aircraft in Korea and Japan.

The sleepy Japanese summer sky at Itazuke Air Base, Kyushu, June 25, 1950, noisily reflected a build-up of all-weather fighters that, in the brief span of a few days, would set the stage for an F-82 of the 68th "Lightning Lancers" to score the first air-to-air kill of the Korean War.

"Red Alert" was the order of the day. Armies from North Korea had already crossed the 38th parallel. The invasion of the Republic of South Korea had begun, sparking evacuation and clogging escape routes to the south.

The 68th was part of a series of moves that would make it first to begin interdiction, first to escort evacuees from the Korean peninsula, first night fighters in Korea, and the first to use an all-weather jet fighter in combat.

By June 26, 1950, the 339th Fighter (All-Weather) Squadron, Yokota Air Base, and the 4th Fighter (All-Weather) Squadron, Naha Air Base, Okinawa, were forming at Itazuke to combine with the 68th Fighter (All-Weather) Squadron to form the 347th Provisional Fighter Group, commanded by Lt.Col. John F. Sharp.

That same morning four F-82s of the 68th were "scrambled" to the Korean peninsula to provide air cover for the Norwegian freighter *Rhineboldt*. The ship was to evacuate allied personnel from Seoul. Mission conscious 68th pilots did not pursue a North Korean aircraft that attacked one of their formation. Adequate protection for the evacuation was primary.

Flight Chief Sergeant James A. Mehring, Flint, Michigan, was sent to Suwon June 25, 1950, to repair an airplane. "The night the whole deal started the 68th was having a squadron party," Mehring said. "The next day a pair of Russian fighters flew low over the strip, dropping two 500-lb. bombs. They got the



Capt. Bill Munson, operations officer of the 68th, while flying FQ-383, hit a small ammunition supply dump with one of his rockets and flew through the blast. The "sieve" that was able to fly some 300 miles back to base amazed everyone.

F-82 I was repairing, and the C-54 that took me to Korea."

Squadron history of the time noted: "The following day, June 27, 1950, 1st Lt. William G. Hudson, shot down a YAK-11 of the North Korean Air Force at 1150 hours."

The second aerial victory came only minutes later when 1st Lt. Charles B. Moran bagged an LA-7. Both victories occurred a few miles east of Seoul. Aircraft of the 339th (AW) Squadron downed two more the same day. According to 1st Lt. Samuel Goldstein (now Major), then a radar observer of "Blue Flight" in the 68th: "When the Korean conflict erupted in June, 1950, aircraft FQ-383 (Hudson's F-82) was one of the first to take part in battle. Because of the lack of adequate overall firepower and the versatility of the F-82, it was used for every type of air warfare in Korea—air-to-air bombardment, close support, weather reconnaissance, air control of ground fire, and intruder missions, in all types of weather, day and night."

Goldstein added: "Aircraft FQ-383 was one of the F-82s which aided the UN Forces in the breakout of the Pusan Perimeter by daring close support missions. On many such flights the valiant aircraft almost had her wings clipped."

"Closest call of all," he indicated, "was soon after the Chinese Communist intervention. The Chinese Communists were only 12 miles north of Kimpo Air Base which the 68th was using as an advanced operating location. At the time the "Twin Mustangs" were carrying ten 5-inch H.V.A.R. rockets or two napalm bombs plus a full load of 50-cal. ammunition for their six guns used primarily for close support. Capt. Bill Munson, operations officer of the 68th, while flying FQ-383, hit a small ammunition supply dump with one of his rockets and flew through the blast. The "sieve" that was able to fly some 300 miles back to base amazed everyone. Since aircraft were urgently needed, the old war bird was repaired and placed back in operation.

Pilots noticed a change in FQ-383 after that performance. She had to be flown in an approximate 5 degree crab in order to maintain straight and level flight. Putty was used to fill dents in leading edges of the wings. Each fifth or sixth flight the temporary expedient had to be replaced

The reputation of FQ-383 as a "lucky plane" grew with each mission. It was common for the F-82 to limp home with combat damage. On one such occasion Capt. (now Major) Rayford Jeffrey with his Radar Observer, 1st Lt. (now Capt.) Charles Phillips, returned from a mission during which they were completely enveloped by ground fire. Neither could understand how they could have come through without a scratch. After landing, inspection revealed a spent 50-cal. slug under the radar observer's foot rest. The path of the projectile showed it would have struck the Radio Operator if it had not first entered the main wing spar.

Old FQ-383 was phased out of Korean action to a defense role in Japan when the F-94B all-weather jet fighter was placed in the squadron. The F-82 first to gain an



The F-82 "Twin Mustang"

air-to-air kill in Korea was the last to leave Misawa Air Base, northern Honshu, Japan. There she played a key role with one other F-82 on strip alert, armed with ten 5-inch H.V.A.R. rockets and drop tanks for added range. As radar observer, I would occasionally fly in the right cockpit of the aircraft. Putty would sometimes fly off the leading edges, giving the impression that the bird was struck by flak, since it hit the fuselage with a loud crack. When sufficient F-94s joined the 68th, FQ-383 was sent to Itazuke Air Base. The lucky lady was the last of the "Twin Mustangs" to leave.

In April 1952, Major (now Lt. Col.) Donald E. O'Neil, squadron commander, with pilots, radar observers and crew chiefs, gave the venerable war horse a royal sendoff to Tachikawa, where she was refitted for Alaskan duty. During the

Korean War she amassed a total of more than 800 combat hours.

Although the "Lightning Lancers" distinguished themselves as the first night fighters in Korea, the first "kill" of the war was made in daylight using day-fighter tactics, indicating the adaptability of the F-82 aircraft.

The swift action of the hectic early months of the Korean War saw F-82s of the 68th engaging in interdiction activities throughout the Korean peninsula. In July 1950 "Twin Mustangs" of the squadron escorted General Douglas MacArthur's "BATAAN" to an airfield in Korea.

On June 21, 1951 Major (now Lt. Col.) Donald E. O'Neil took temporary command of the squadron. On July 3 his permanent appointment as squadron commander was effected. During his command the F-94B all-weather jet fighter

was first phased into operation. The jet interceptor was crewed by both a pilot and a radar observer and operated at night from K-13 near Suwon. Missions were flown alternately with a Marine night-fighter detachment using conventional aircraft.

Intercepts against "Bed Check Charlie" occurred occasionally. The low-flying North Korean light aircraft would come in over the East China Sea to harass American installations with small grenades and bombs. Overtake rate of the fast jet presented a tactical problem at first, but practice against slow-flying aircraft improved abilities of crews to intercept.

"Bed Check" aircraft were eluding the F-94s by flying in valleys, thus being lost in radar ground clutter, but the effectiveness of the new fighter was proved since a number of the North Korean aircraft were shot down at low altitude by conventional fighters waiting for them.

The F-94 was used for weather reports and for escort missions both day and night. The deterrent value of the F-94B all-weather interceptor with its two-man crew was great. Coupled with GCI (Ground Controlled Intercept) teams the aircraft was a highly effective air defense weapon throughout the Korean War.

On February 20, 1947, when the squadron's designation was changed from the 421st Night Fighter Squadron, AAF, to the 68th Fighter (All-Weather) Squadron, the build-up of events marking the "Lightning Lancers" historically significant in the Korean War, began. Then the North American F-82 "Twin Mustang" was in use as a night fighter, having been converted from the long-range escort configuration by the addition of radome, electronic intercept gear, and radar observer.

Later the E-94B all-weather fighter became the 68th's primary weapon. These two fighters made a permanent niche for the squadron as part of the United Nations forces in Korea.

FIRST-Air-to-Air Kill

FIRST-To Begin Interdiction

FIRST-To Escort Evacuees

FIRST-Night fighters In Korea

FIRST-To Use All-Weather Jet Fighters In Combat



68th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron Lockheed F-94B-5-LO 51-5353



Last Call

All of us in the Korean War Veterans Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

ALABAMA

WILLIAM S. GUTHRIE

ARIZONA

JAMES J. BRITT III

WILLIAM E. HAMILTON

ROBERT J. KANE

NELSON S. LADD

JOSEPH P. O'HALLORAN

ARKANSAS

CARL BUSHFIELD

CALIFORNIA

ROBERT F. ABELS

ANGEL AVILES

EDWARD S. BALLESTEROS

RAYMOND C. CESARETTI

MASAHIKO H. 'MAS' KONATSU

GUIDO MARTELLO

GEORGE H. MCNALLY

JOSE ANGEL TORRES

JOHN M. VALLERGA

ARMANDO VASQUEZ

JOHN D. VOHS

ROBERT A. WATERS

DAVELIN WILSON

CONNECTICUT

ARMAND J. AUDET SR.

LEONARD M. FELDSTEIN

SAMUEL JACOBELLIS

NORMAN K. SANTA

KENNETH C. WHITE

DELAWARE

WILLIAM K. SCOTT JR.

FLORIDA

ANTHONY J. CASACCIO

HAROLD B. CRAPO JR.

JOHN M. DANKO JR.

OLIVER L. GREEN

PHILIP J. HICKS

WILLIAM R. HUGHES SR.

HAROLD A. KRAUSE

OTTO M. KRIZEK

STANLEY L. MERCK SR.

BERNARD M. O'BRIEN

MILTON W. SABEL

CORNELIUS 'BUD' SAMPSON

ROY WALTER SANDAGE

DR. ROLAND V. STOODLEY

RICHARD E. WARD

JOHN WELIVER

GERTRUDE J. WHITE

HAWAII

RICHARD AMARAL

HIDEO GUSHIKEN

JOSEPH K. KALEIKINI JR.

EMILE W. WERY

ILLINOIS

JOHN L. BUCKLEY JR.

RICHARD A. COON SR.

ROBERT H. ERICSON

GORDON L. ESSINGTON

RODOLFO R. 'RUDY' GONZALEZ

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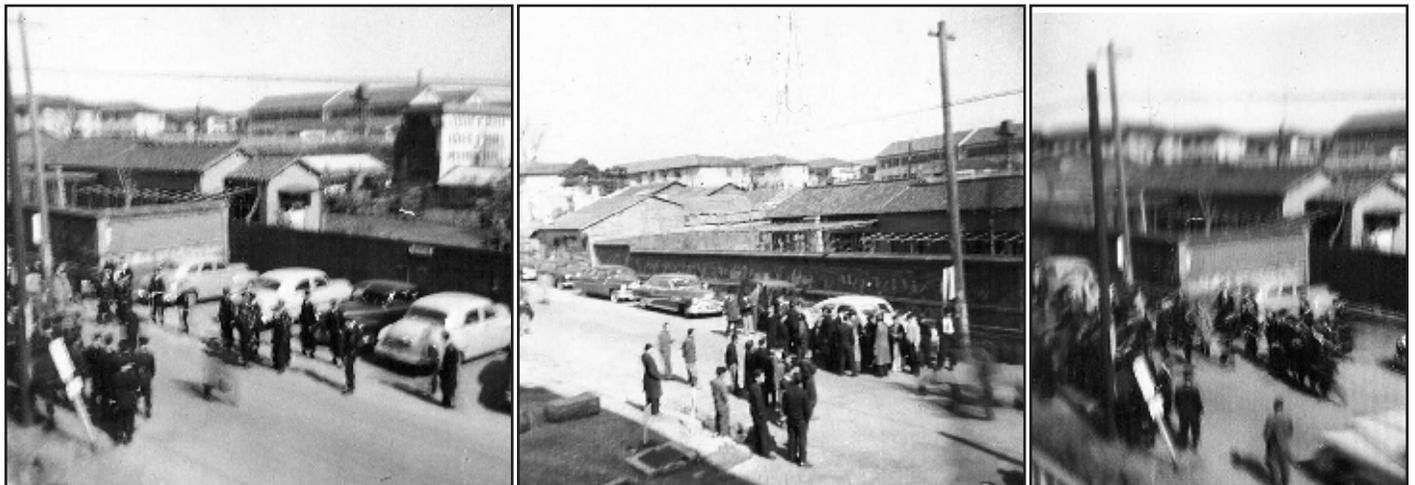
Spy trials 1952

I was stationed with MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo from 1949 to 1952. Among my pictorial memorabilia were these pictures labeled "Angry spectators at spy trials 1952." It was not related to the May Day riots of 1952 but I have no other recollection of the event. I thought others might find them interesting.

Anyone remember those trials?

Donald Killmeyer, timkillmeyer@verizon.net

Angry spectators at spy trials 1952





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BUSAN, Republic of Korea (March 28, 2023) U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Sicola, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), presents a gift during a welcome ceremony. Nimitz is in U.S. 7th Fleet conducting routine operations. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with Allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Samuel Osborn)