



Thunderbird emblem.
45th. Infantry Division.



25 June 1950 -----27 July 1953

Yang gu, Korea A Pictorial Interlude

by John K. Shank



Taro leaf emblem.
24th Infantry Division

Yang gu, Korea
A Pictorial Interlude

MLR to PLZ

(Main Line of Resistance to Peace and Life Zone).

by John K. Shank

Best regards
John K. Shank
12/2/2011

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John

I received the copy of your Pictorial Interlude in today's mail. It is very well done I think.

This is a request for your permission to scan and post your book on our 24th IDA website, www.24thida.com

I will scan it as it is presented, grayscale for all the b&w pages, and color for those in color. This will be saved as a high quality PDF document, from which I will extract a lower quality (resolution) copy for posting to the above website. It will then be accessible from several places in the website.

This will mean that any one in the world will be able to access it via your name as well as any other key word on all pages; it will also mean that they can download and print it if they wish, but it will be a low quality print at that level.

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Reply

Forward

john shank

OK. You have my permission. John K. Shank
Mel and I are pals. Do you have his...

3:37 PM (20 hours ago)

john shankLoading...

3:37 PM (20 hours ago)



★ Korea ★
1953 – 1954

PREFACE

Every picture has a story, the narration depending on the predisposition of the viewer. This changes with time and cultures.. *Erwartungshorizont*.

Symbolism used in art , advertizing, propaganda, ad infinitum, is used to evoke thoughts, emotions, and action. Icons, banners, posters, flags.

What is the real story as told by the picture showing a truck, a building and workmen? What is your guess? Korea war vets know.

This missive is intended to publish and preserve these pictures and share them with those interested. These events, depicted in a GI's snapshots, show a history slowly slipping into the past.

Generally, the photos are put into a time and place setting, with a short comment or two. A definitive history has been avoided.

A remembrance to some of my many army buddies.

Where ever they may be...

Vincent Burg, Michigan, Ed Haskell, Florida, Earl Ehert, Arkansas, Alan Goodwin, Illinois, Hardy Hunt, Indiana, Robert Rothenmal, PA., Ray Collins, Ohio, Paul Martin, Indiana, "Turner", Chicago, Ill., "Silver", Michigan, Duane Rudy, Oklahoma, Sgt. Burnett Sgt. Bill Brown, Clyde Anderson, Michigan, Mel Yuen, Hawaii, Veach, Indiana, and "Treble", Kennedy, Pa., "Red" Emmon, "Hay", "Gyro", Ed Ban, ROK Kim Jin Kyu, Seoul, South Korea, ROK Oh In Choun, Taegu, South Korea

Dedicated to those other Korean War Veterans who were the wives,
daughters, mothers, sisters and faithful loved ones remaining behind for
many months waiting and supporting those of us in uniform.

We may have gotten a few medals, but they had the mettle.

Special thanks to my amigo,
Howard Bruno, HQ CO 34th Inf. Regt. 24th I.D.
Tucson, AZ USA,
for suggesting I consider publishing some of these select
photographs taken between 1952 and 1954 in Korea

Special Mention to
Motor Sgt. Bill Brown, R.A., 45th I.D.

A tribute to the late Bill Mauldin, famous
World War II cartoonist, member of 45th I.D.

Ligne Maginot en Alsace, France.

M4 Sherman tank sits atop a fortress near Aschbach, Alsace, France. The 157th Infantry Regiment, along with other elements of the 45th. Division , conducted operations in this area in early 1945.

I took this picture while visiting Hatten, Haguenau, and many other places along the Maginot Line.



WWII ENDED IN 1945.
JUST SOME 5 YEARS LATER,
1950, KOREA BEGAN



October 1 , 1952

My Order to Report for Induction came from my Indiana Local Board, Selective Service System.

Basic and advanced training, further classes as an artillery mechanic, MOS 4802 (military occupational specialty) Fort Bliss, Texas , some leave time and then:

I found myself embarked from San Francisco, Ca. on the USNS W.M. Black. It was June, 1953.
After 30 days at sea, the next port was Sasebo, Japan. A week of drill, more training, lots of 30 cal firing exercises, then next port was Pusan, Korea.

An overnight troop train north to Seoul, then another train to Chonchon, the division rear area for the 45th. near the 38th. parallel. It was now July 21, 1953. Artillery dueling could be heard easily. My unit assignment came...Tank Company, 279th. Infantry Regiment, positioned on the MLR (main line of resistance) . Pork Chop Hill, Sand Bag Castle, Line Minnesota. A few clicks north were elements of the Chinese 97th. I.R., 33rd. Division of the 60th. Chinese Communist Forces Army.

While still at division rear I noticed a soldier with both hands heavily bandaged. He told me he had picked up a hot WP (willie peter, i.e. white phosphorus) mortar shell that landed in their bunker, tossing it out. Further, I learned that Paul Winchell, well known ventriliquist , the voice of Jerry Mahoney, was his brother.

When I saw U.N. railroad cars with wounded troops coming from the North, I started to wonder about what was waiting for me up there.

There was a cease fire agreement on 27 July, 1953.

For me, six days of combat ! My company had taken a few artillery rounds. Officially I was now a Korean War combat veteran. My Korean service medal now had a Bronze Service Star.

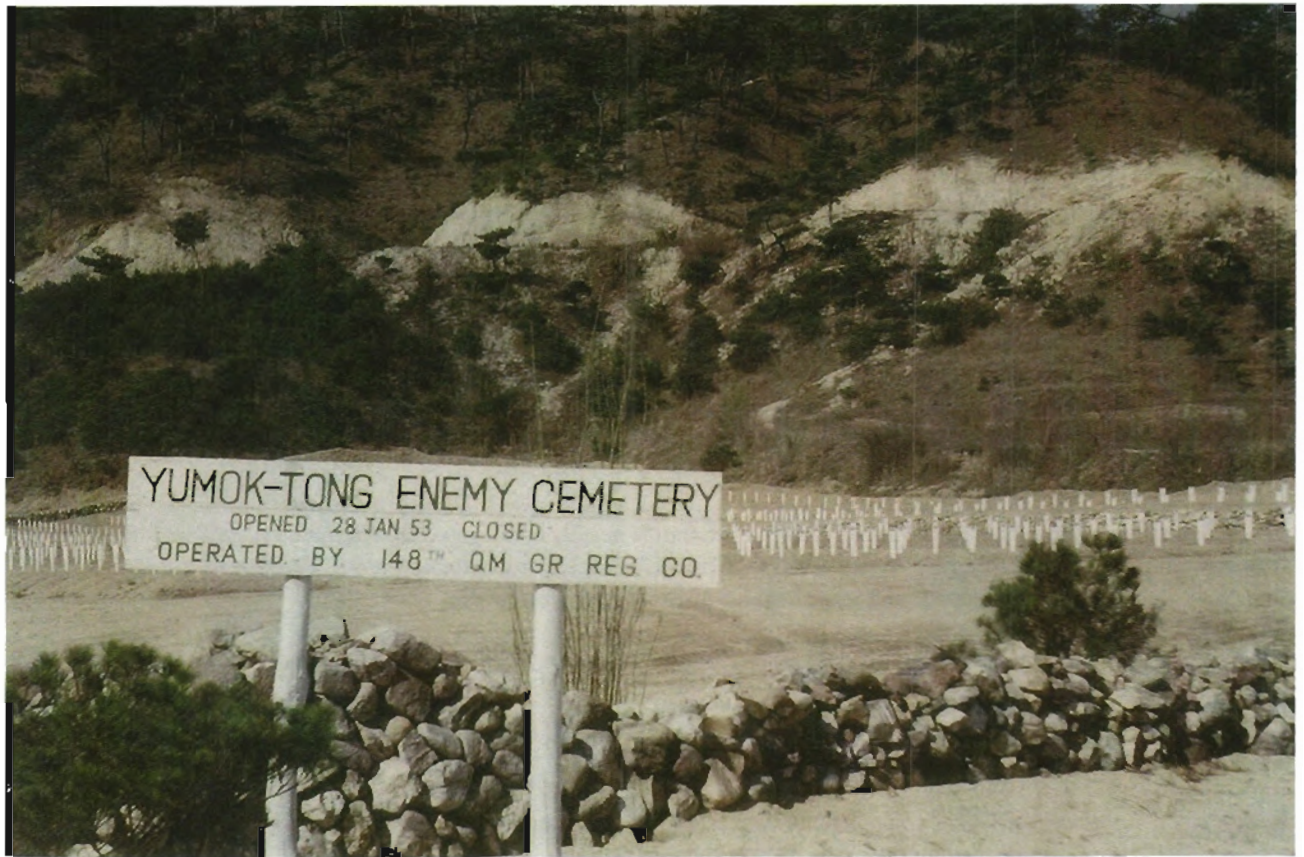
A KWSW was awarded me on the 50th. anniversary of the Korean War. It literally took an Act of Congress. A Korea Defense Service Medal was added later, much less officially.

The 45th. was ordered to remain in position, maintain combat readiness. In October, 1953 we moved off the DMZ into the Yangu Gu valley sector.

In early 1954 the 24th. I.D. replaced the 45th. They left Korea. I stayed. Now I was assigned to tank company, 21th. Regiment, Taro Leafs. Same place, same tanks, for over a year...North of the 38th. line.

It was my chance to see the Yangu Gu valley develop and grow.
Now I did my shooting with cameras. Hence, these pictures.

Although I experienced several dangerous situations, mostly during the first few weeks in Korea, it was over before I realized what happened. I have no real tales to relate. Any stories from those who do, by far exceed anything I would have to say, or write about..





27 July 1953. Cease Fire. North Korea.
Tank Company position 279th. Infantry Regiment, 45th. Infantry Division.
Sand Bag Castle, Pork Chop Hill, Christmas Hill.



Republic of Korea soldier guards going any further north into the MLR. Christmas Tree, Sand Bag Castle and Pork Chop hill are only a few miles away

Korea was the first military action in which Black Americans were first fully integrated into the armed forces.



JULY 1953. 45th. Infantry Division. Bunker... MLR. Notice rocks, logs, sand bags and empty ammunition boxes, filled with sand.



Hot meals were brought
by food containers...
mobile field kitchen
...near christmas tree
hill.. tank company crew,
279th. Infantry regiment,
45th. Division.
Tent with thunderbird
decal belongs to the
company commander.
July 1953.
Bob Rothermal looking
up. Next to Sgt. Byrd.
Eddie Ban, Hardy Hunt,
and Silver are in the
background.



Gyro, Ed Ban, H. Hunt,
Silver and Veach





Shank holds a 7.62 Russian rifle, M-44 ,with a fixed folding bayonet at the POL.





South Korean troops conducting weapons inspection one mile south of the MLR.



Republic of Korea soldiers near Christmas Tree Hill.



ROK bunkers near MLR. Results from Chinese rounds can be seen by the holes on the hill-side.



Priority
Coming from MLR.
M4 tank has 76mm barrel out of travel bracket,
50cal on turret is ready also.



Cpl. Clyde Anderson, Michigan, shown on M4.
Forward area. .45 side arm and 30cal ready at right.



Forward area where armour was re-supplied. Sgt. Kennedy
shown with 50cal belts hanging from 76mm tank barrel.



SFC Bill Brown, seen second from right.



Company barber shop.
Hand-held Clippers.
1953



Discarded 50cal and ammo boxes. MLR, July 1953.



Remains of a bunker. October 1953.



Road leading to the 279th I.R., tank company, main battle positions. Deep horizontal holes were bored into the mountain side here. If need be, explosives would be placed, blowing the road upon leaving,



Looking like a toy model.

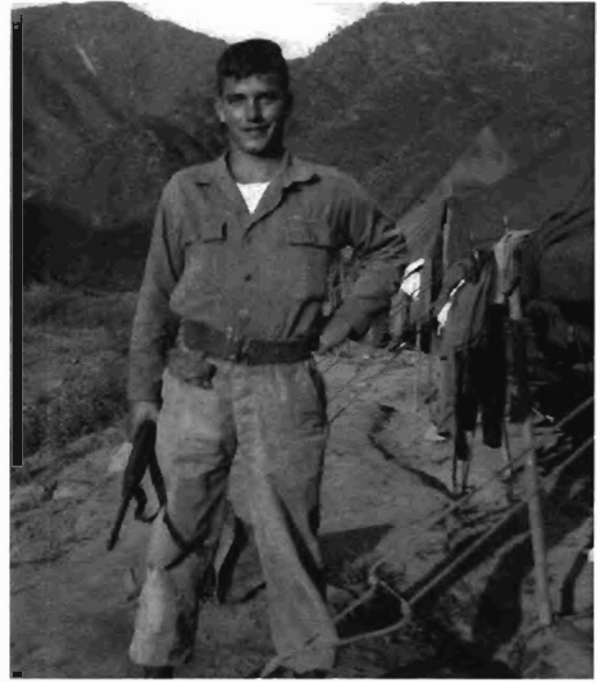
Sherman tanks. M4-s. At MBP. 60 tons, 8 gallons of gasoline per mile, fully combat loaded.



The MLR.



Sgt. Burnett. Notice no stripes? M1 auto fire carbine slung over right shoulder.



Sgt. Hardy Hunt, Indiana. M1 auto fire carbine in hand. Notice no stripes?



Our Company Clerk

45 side arm. Stripes can be seen. Shined brass belt buckle lined up with pressed pants... boots shining.

I took all three of these pictures in the same area, at about the same time. Background and tents verify this.

The clerk and I were good friends, but the M.P.s came by one day and took him with them. I am sure he must be home by now. I hope so. We were pals. I just didn't know where to write him.



The 279th tank company was positioned within about three miles of North Korean implacements. Using binocs, it was easy to see their activities... usually digging and working on entrenchments. Background right shows Christmas Tree Hill.



Late in the fall of 1953, our patrols were still finding things. Lots of small arms, ammo, hidden in holes, under logs, etc. Here Shank and Hunt check two wired flares.



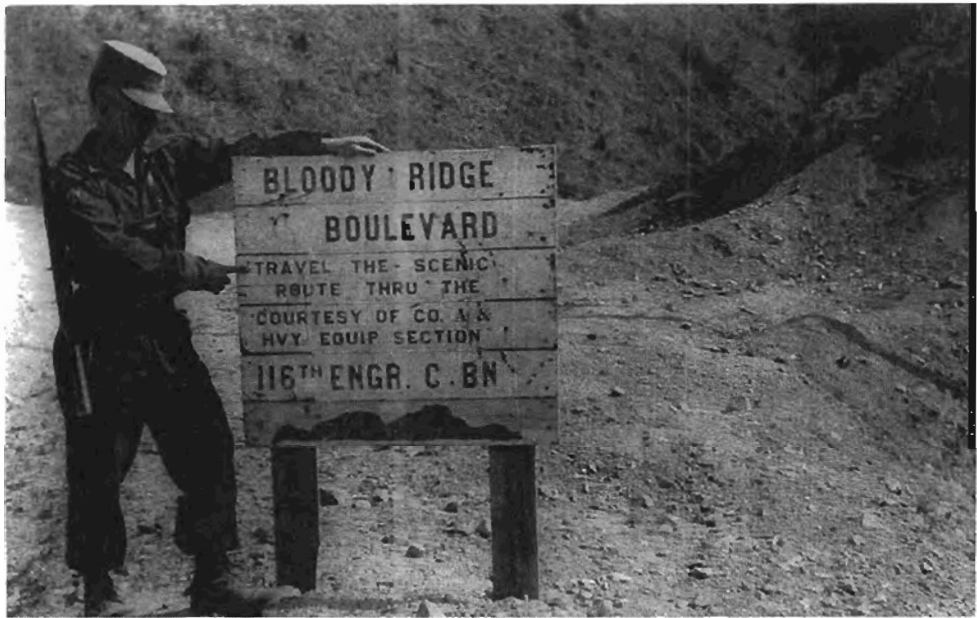
We tried shielding the tank tracks with steel plates. Three holes from rocket shots gave us the answer.



Sgt. "Red" Emmons and Sgt. Hay. New area. 11/53.



Field telephone at the POL storage area.



Bunker for tank crew. Forward area. 7/53.

Full Field Inspection
Nov. 1953



Sienko inspects generator from M-4 tank.
April, 1954

Chinese Field Piece
Aug., 1954





Rothermal, Shank and Hunt. The rifle is a Mosin-Nagant M-91 Caliber 7.62. July 1953. We were not permitted to take these to the USA.



Korean guards at a check point near an ammo dump.



Cpl. Silver displays a Korean radio station sign. August, 1953.



Sgt. Hunt practice fires his fully automatic M1 carbine, Aug. 1953.



TR in the field. (Tank retriever) Cpl. John K. Shank prepares to light up. Sgt. Hardy Hunt on top. Cpl. Silver displays a bayonet is his belt. Sgt. Ray Collins looks on.



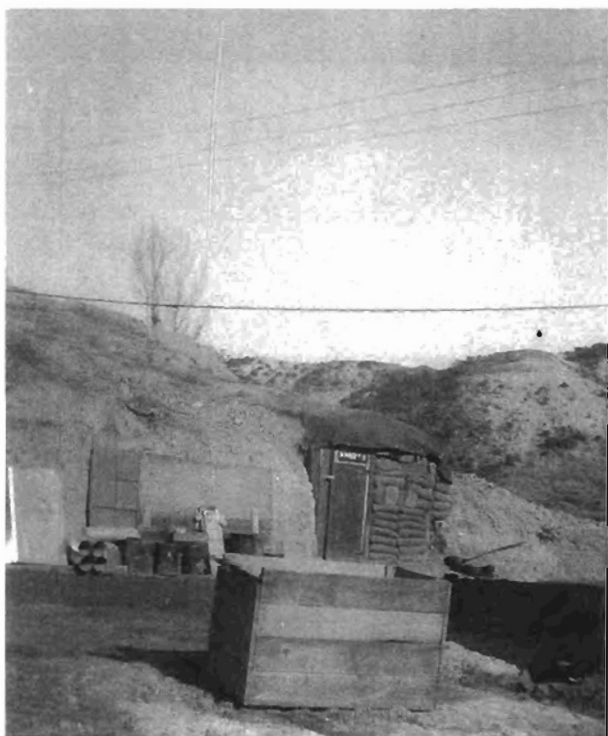
Inside a bunker. Taking a break. Note hanging beer can with a candle. Shank seen in the foreground.



Tank Company, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th. I.D. moving south to their new position. October 8, 1953.. 20 M-4 Sherman tanks on a road march from post armistice main battleline. Personnel carrier, (P.C.) at lower left shows a covered .50 cal machine gun. This picture is considered to be the only known photo graph of this historic event.



The new area. Ordinance company can be seen at top right.



Bunker for small arms ammo.



Another view of the new area.



Our armored vehicles remained fully combat loaded and ready.



Karusa in chowhall. New area.



Once in our new area, patrols were constantly sent out.



Sgt. Fuller leads patrol.



Patrols had a chance for photo ops., but we did find caves, monuments, hidden ammo, a few anti-personnel TNT bricks, a couple of hand grenades etc.



Cpl. Silver, Sgt. Fuller, Cpl. Bob Rothernmal, Sgt. Hardy Hunt. (Artifact).
We uncovered some bricks of TNT, primed, and set with trip wires this patrol





After the ceasefire, people began to return
to the area to begin anew



This Korean had snared a small deer.
Dec., 1953



Dec., 1953



KATUSA... Nov. 1953 Tank Company. New area.





31 year old KATUSA holds part of a .50 cal from a tank.



Square building is a shower. Water was heated by an immersion heater in a barrel of water. Fall 1953. New area.



Company area laundry.



Water was gotten from a dammed up stream.





Clearing out cave where three Chinese were found hiding.



Kim Jin Kyu with a small stove taken from the hide-out.
Holds M1 carbine without a magazine.



Shank with counter-part, Kim Jin Kyu, who was assigned to integrate into the company. It was starting to get cold.



Parka and insulated boots, known as Mickey Mouse boots. Temperatures dropped to minus 40 degrees. We had our feet inspected regularly for frostbite.



Kim learns more about frost bite in quonset hut reading / recreation center. Gasoline generator delivered limited electricity.



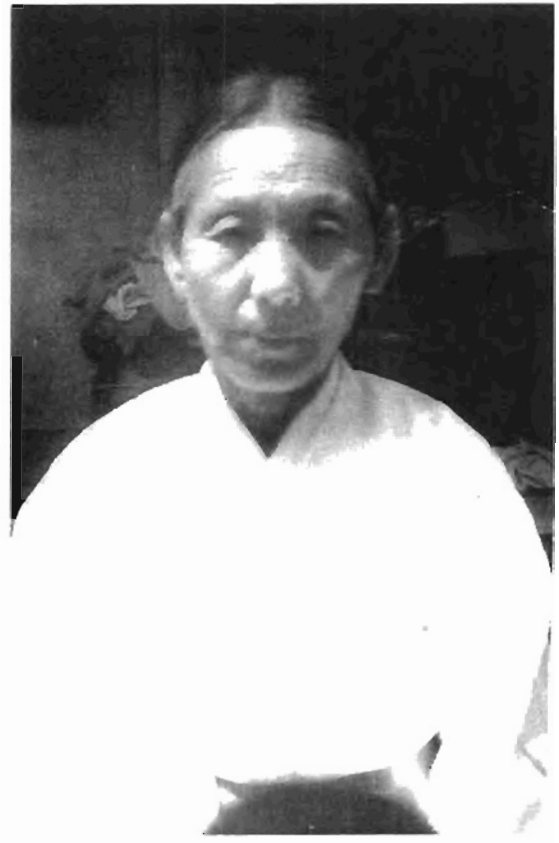
Barrels seen in back of tents are filled with sand, in case of fire. A trench can be seen against side of hill in case any troops couldn't get to tanks safely. Dec. 1953.



Stops on way to Seoul from Chunchon by train. Feb.1954.



Stops on way to Seoul from Chunchon by train. Feb.1954.



KATUSA Oh In Choun, from Taegu, South Korea visits his family while on leave.
 Pictures were given to John Shank.
 These candid pictures reveal a rare insight into the rural life of 1954 Korea.





KATUSA - 24th I.D. On leave. Taegle, South Korea.





Group photo following an inspection.. Tank Co. 21st. Regiment, 24th. I.D.
Lt. to Rt. Jessup (Alabama), Pathenroth (PA), Paul Martin, John Shank (Indiana) Knelling: Earl Ehernt (Arkansas)
and Erlick, who just made Cpl!



Republic of Korea.
23rd. Division
3rd. Corps.



The MLR. Now Silent.
July, 1953





South Korean Bunker, South of MLR. Small building on the right is a latrine.



ROK soldier. He gave me his badge of rank seen on his left pocket.



ROK soldiers. On the way to forward area. DMZ. Near Christmas Hill and Sandbag Castle.



North of MLR past DMZ ("No Man's Land".) Once occupied by Chinese.



Near Christmas Hill and Sandbag Castle.
Two M-4 Sherman tanks...and crew bunker. MLR could be seen just over the hill.





Last stop.. Check point for DMZ.
The star shaped decoration seen by stop sign was made with beer cans, empty.



Sand bags and rocks formed added protection where a tank could use this as a firing position.



Entrenchment.



Chinese troops could be seen here. This was our view looking into the north. Christmas Tree hill!



Beppu, Japan February, 1954

When I arrived in Japan for a week's R and R, I went to a Japanese Travel Agent and booked a train for Beppu together with a traditional hotel. Beppu is a well known hot springs (volcanic) health- spa resort.

Located on the island Kyushu, in Oita Prefecture, Mt Tsurumi is near by.

While walking along the waterfront I took this picture. With the help of a Japanese friend,
I was able to locate this family only recently.

It was a special event for the girl in the kamona. It was her 7th birthday. Joining her was her little cousin, the young adult her aunt. We now correspond and I have received several nice hand crafted works.

They are known as "Tsurushi Bina." It's a kind of lucky symbols related to Japanese tradition.



Over looking Beppu, with bay to the right.



On the the way to school, with uniforms on.
Kamegawa, near Beppu.



Housewife in back yard.



Along the sea wall.



Down town Beppu, Japan. February, 1954.



Cultural Museum, Beppu.





Candid photos along the streets of
Kamaegawa.



At one of the many hot springs.



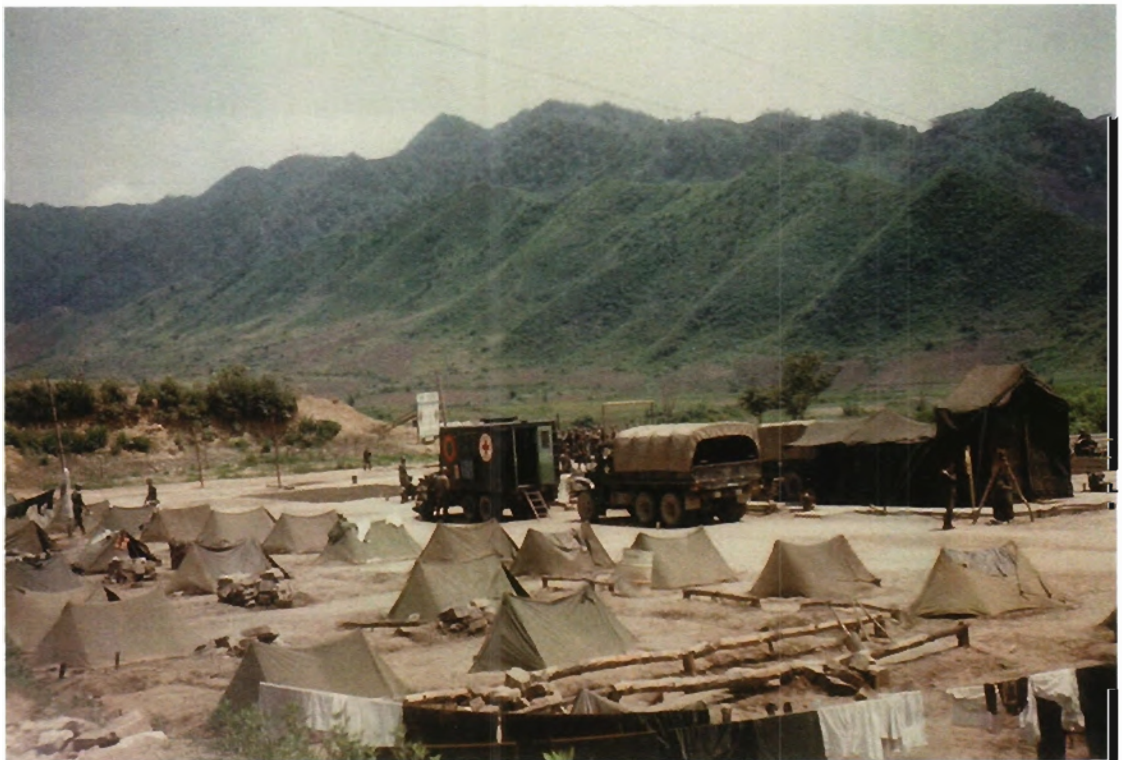
The tour guide for a trip to the hot springs.



Beppu is best known for its resort/hot springs spa.
Thermal-volanic action is illustrated in the park there.



Daibutsu of Beppu.



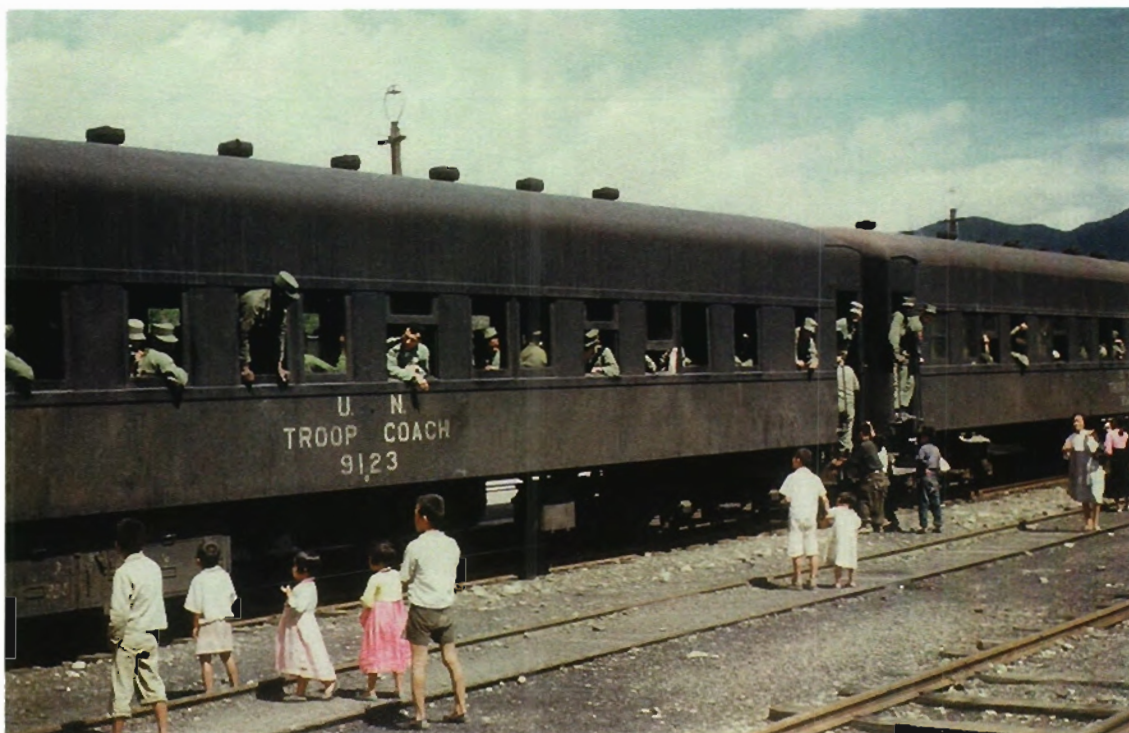
Field kitchen. Lister bag holds potable drinking water seen hanging from a tripod.



USO Show held at the "Kimchee Bowl".

Terry Moore and Penny Singleton "Blondie", were among those who came to entertain.

Marilyn Monroe visited several units while husband, Joe De Maggio, made appearances in Japan.



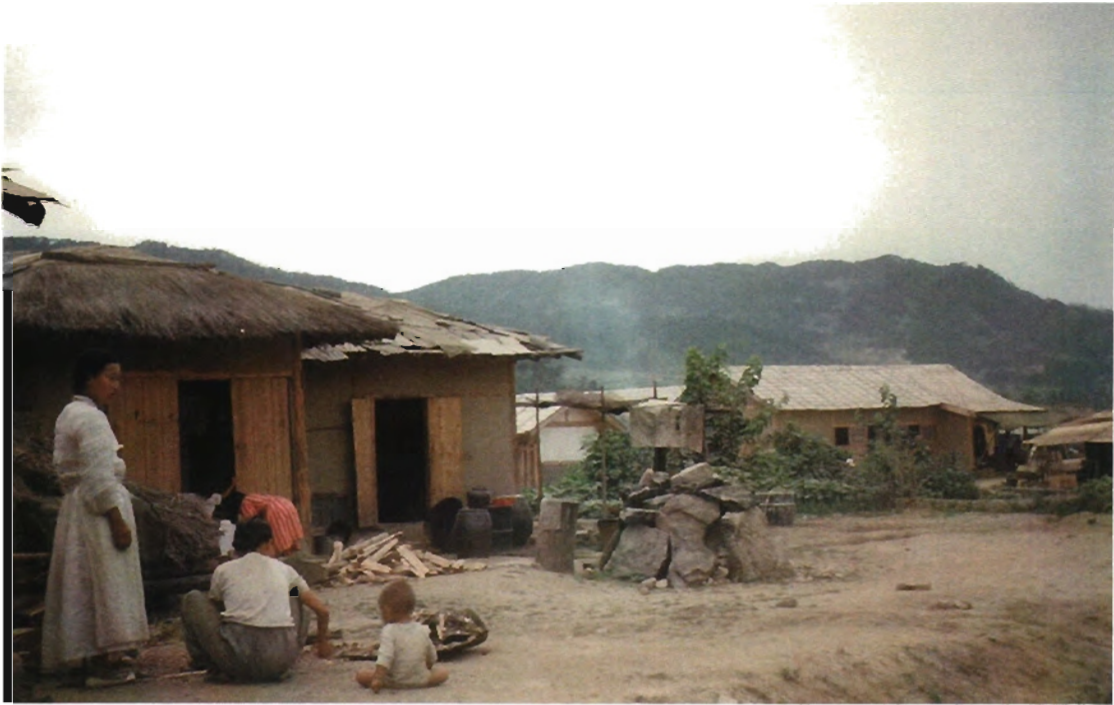
Vendors and beggars were a common sight around troop trains.



In the spring and early summer of 1954 rice paddies were seen again in the Yang gu valley.





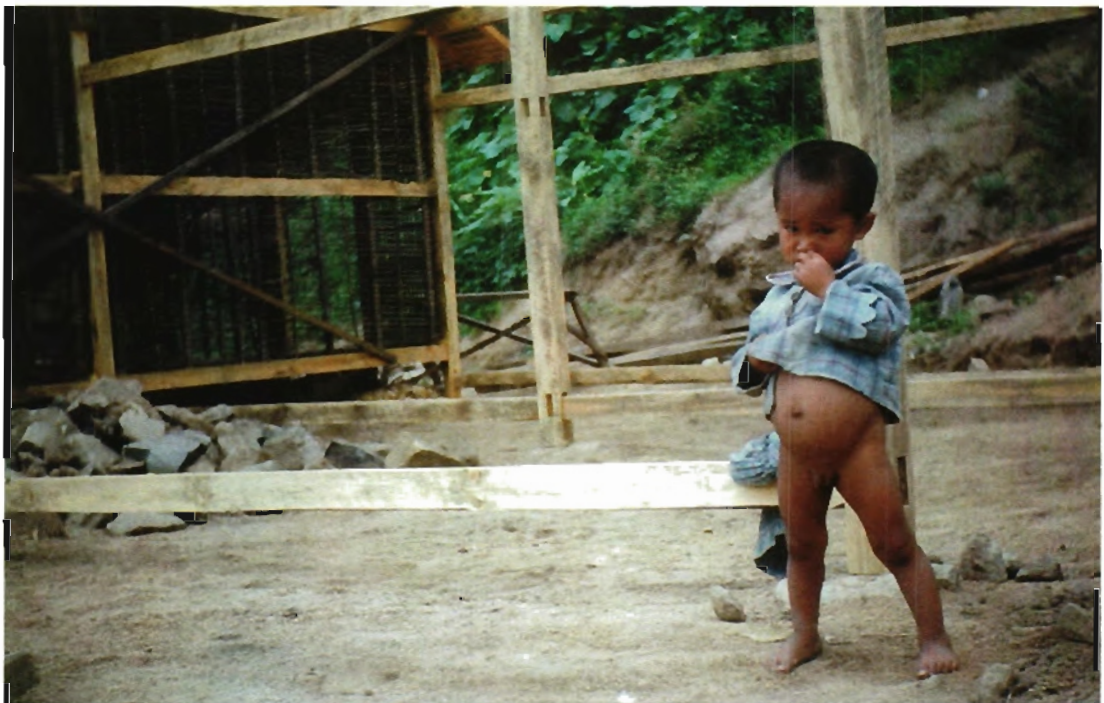


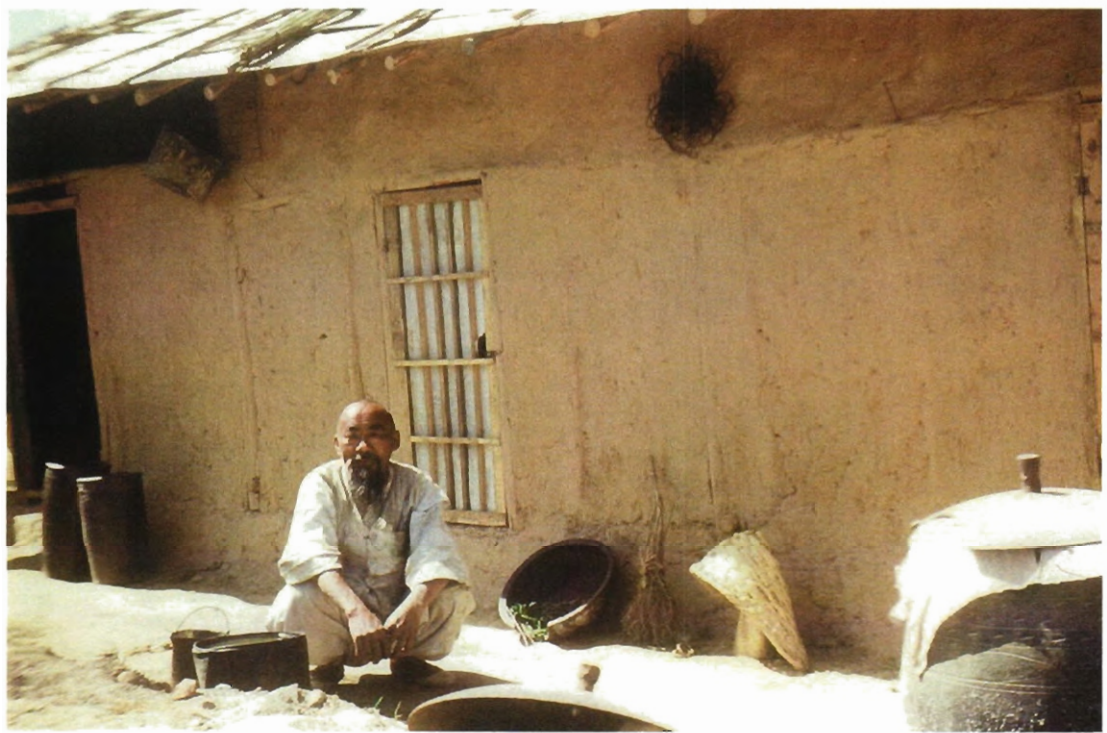
Homes and families began to populate the area once again.





House construction was made from scrap lumber, ammo crates....Roof tops were fashioned with flattened beer and ration cans. Under the floor tubing, for conductive heating was made from artillery shell holder, cases.

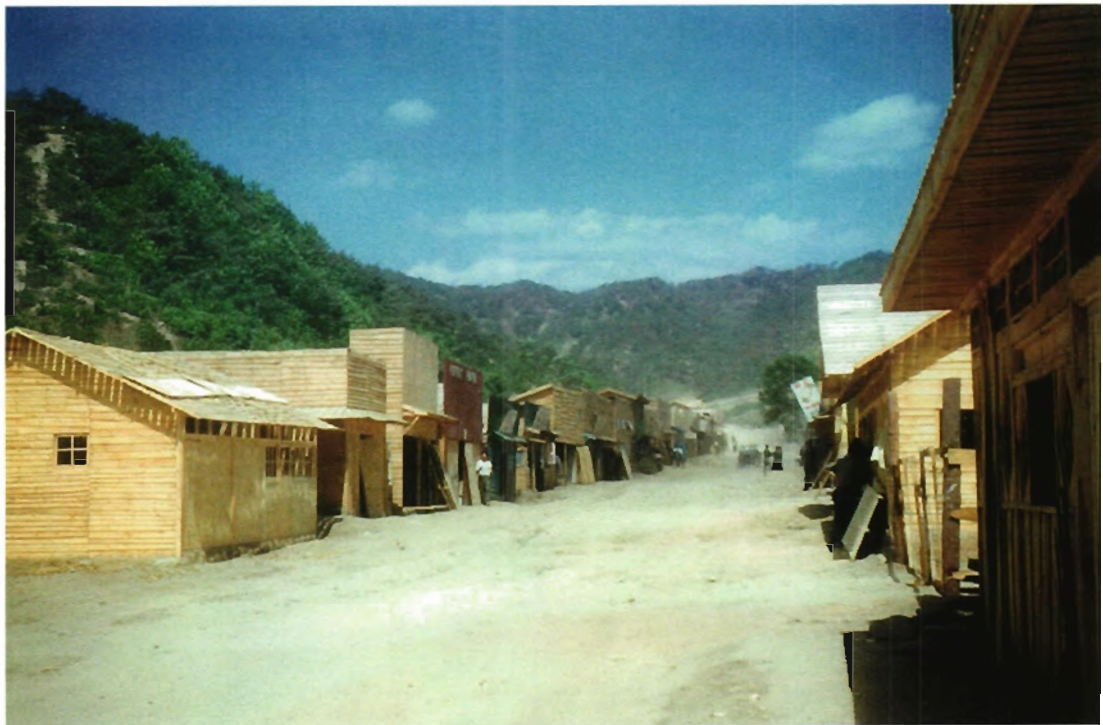




Korea, 1954



Town Water Supply



Yang-gu, Korea 1954



A-Frame



"Slickii - Boy"



Farmer going to field with plow and cow.



Dad's helper. Girl is holding an army issue shovel.



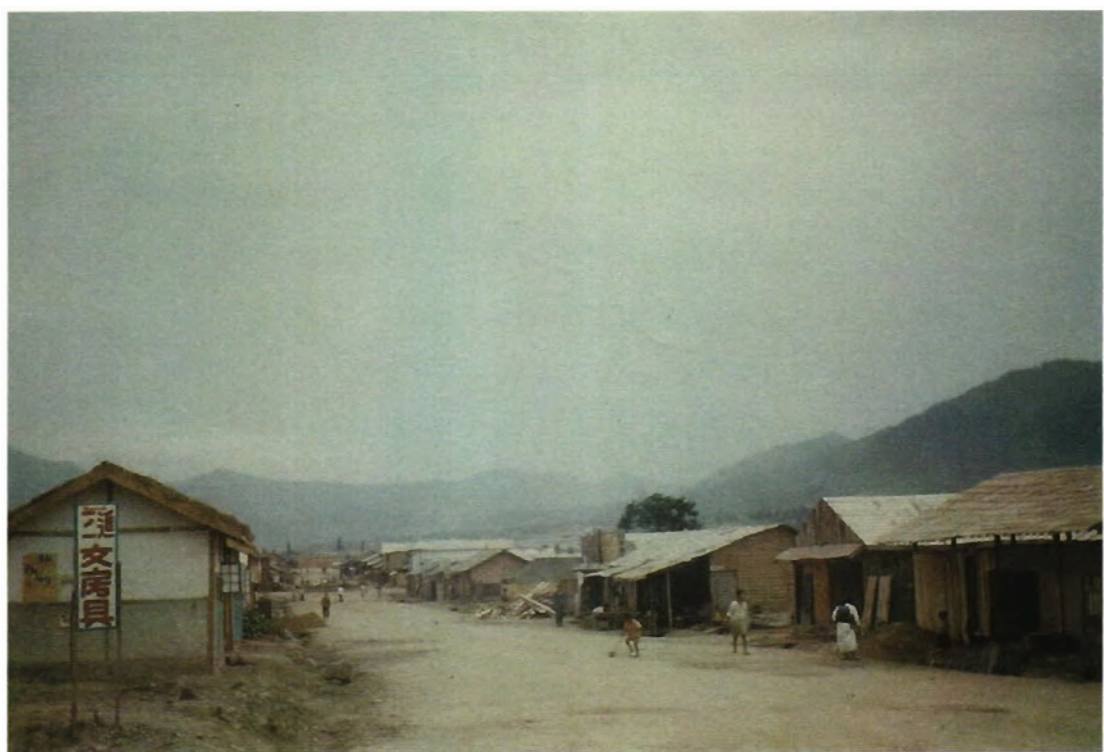
Built from supply - crate wood.

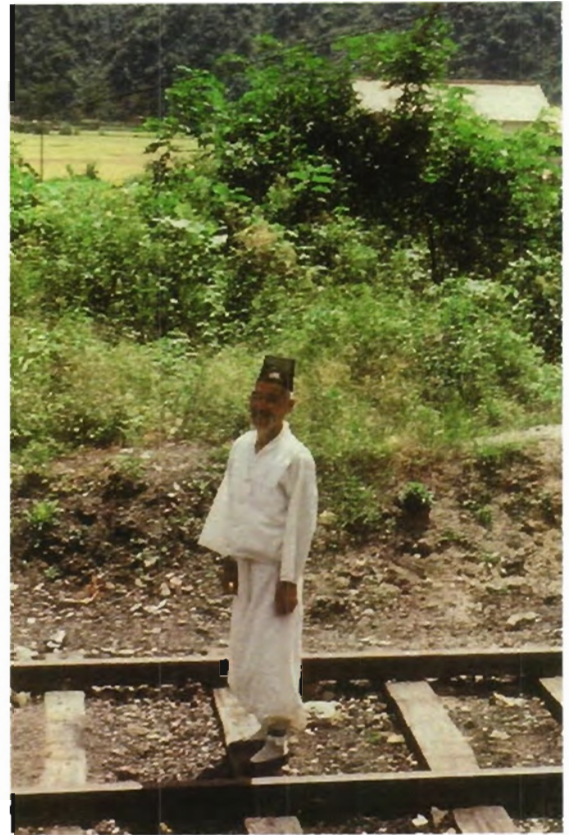






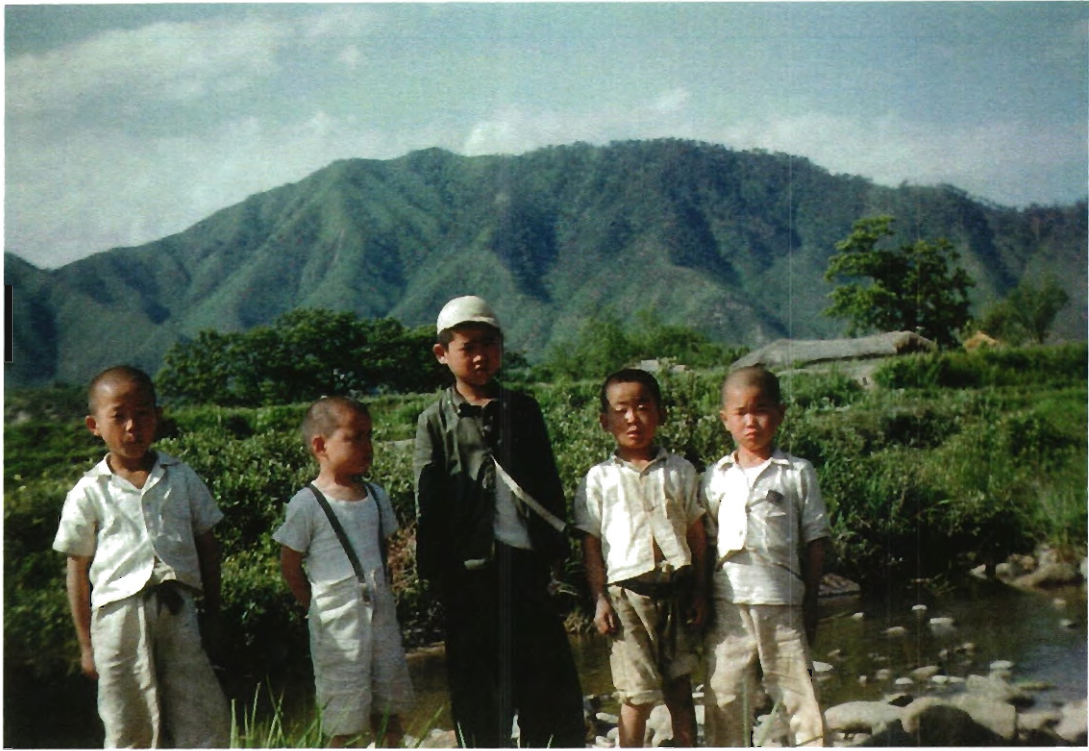
This village was located only a few miles south of the MLR and DMZ.







While encamped during field exercises our tanks would attract local youth.
A rocky area and small stream is used here.





Earl Ehert, Corning, Arkansas, left, helps with T.R cable



Oil change - Lube-job field style.



A real garbage dump.



Unexploded artillery shells, small arms ammo and mortar rounds were found weeks after our moving to the rear area. This was near a railroad car.



ROK check point guarding vital military supplies.



Russian light machine gun.
Finding various enemy small arms was common along the MLR after 27 July.



New area. 1953.

Our tanks were placed in protective bunkers and parked on rocks to prevent the tracks from freezing to the ground. They remained fully combat loaded and were guarded day and night.

M-4 being loaded with 76 mm rounds, seen at corner right.



Armored personnel carrier. (APC)



45-279-1 Tk13. The Company Commander's tank.



Guarding the area.



Mama san mountain seen from company area.



The snow fall was not real heavy, but temperatures got to 40 below.



Company area seen from mama-san.



Mama-san mountain seen from company area.



Quonsets were used for C.P. and company recreation room.
Tank crews used tents. Small arms ammo bunker at right rear.



Getting drums of fuel oil ready for winter of 1953/54.
Yukan stoves were used for heating the tents.



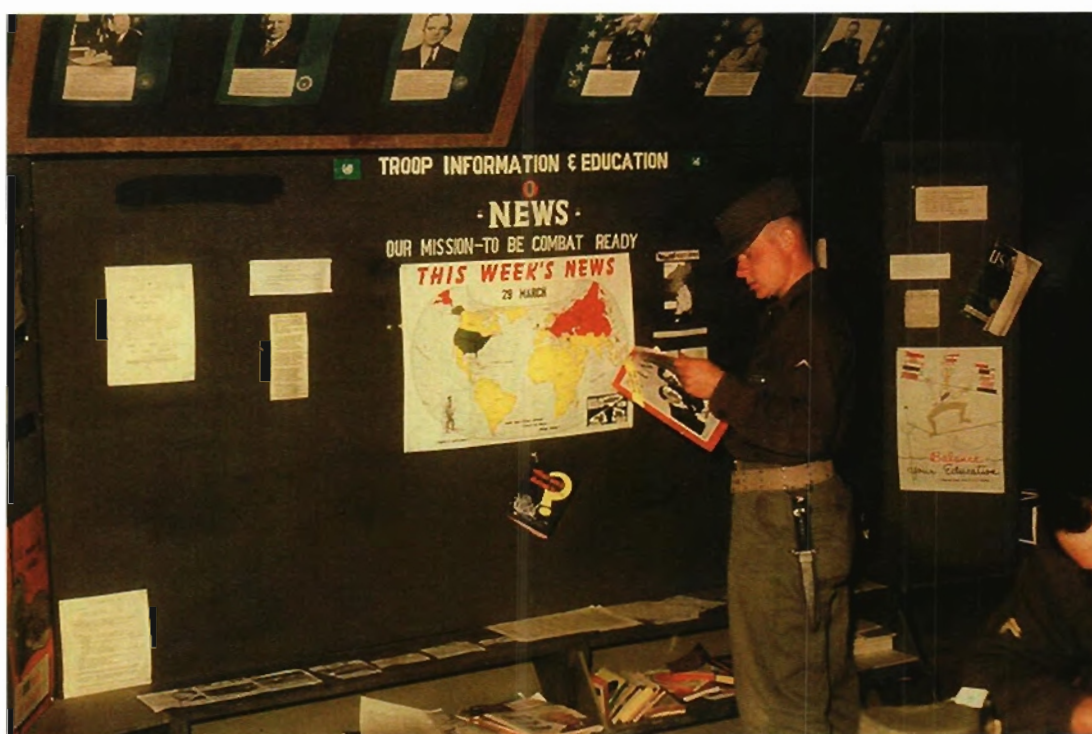
Tank crew classes.. Usually conducted by NCO's with combat time in the company.



An E.M. bar is fashioned at the rear of a tent.
Paul Martin, Kendalville, Indiana and John Shank hold real glasses.
Veach, his new Taro leaf Division patch on.



Tank crew tent.



Company C.P. Quanset Hut



Losing a track.



ROK officer looks from tank commander hatch. Getting ready for a road march.



M-4 Sherman tank crew fires a 76 mm round at a Chinese bunker on hill side.



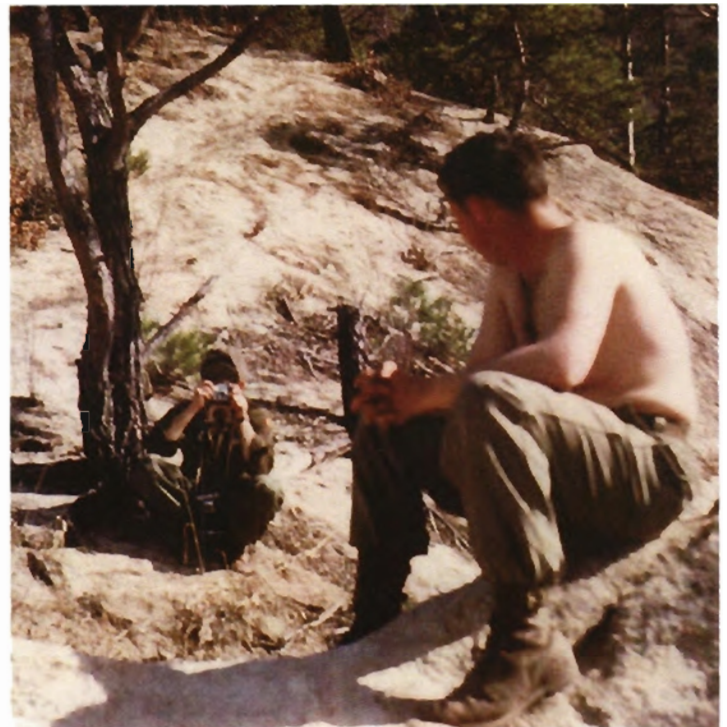
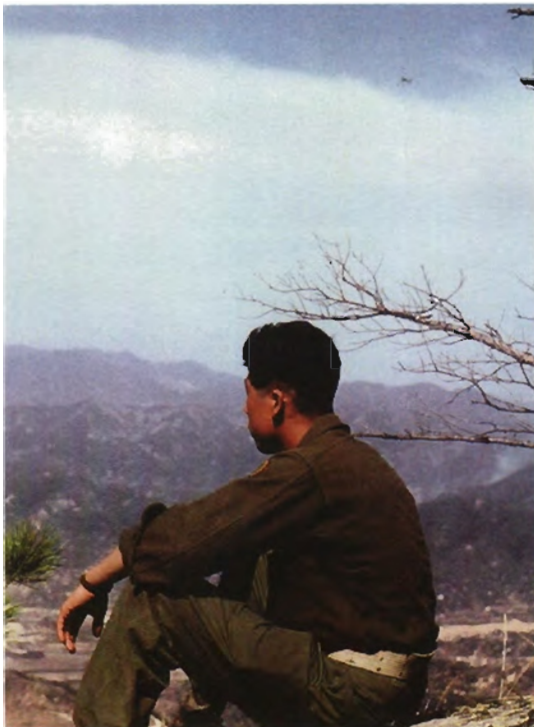
Rocker launcher . 2.36 in.
Aka "bazooka" takes target practice, too.



“Land of the Morning Calm.” Taken while on early morning patrol. Yang gu Valley, Korea, 1953



Looking a few miles north: "Luke's castle", "The Punchbowl", "Sandbag castle" and "Heartbreak Ridge"..No longer being fought over.



Patrolling the sector could be a photo op!!!



Tank company members spent a few days on the coast of the China Sea for training.
Most of the afternoons were free to explore the inlets, harbor beach.
This whole are, north of Mt. Soraksan National Park, is now a developing resort area.



Scenes of Seoul, Korea, August, 1954



Scenes of Seoul, Korea, August, 1954



Scenes of Seoul, Korea, August, 1954
Seoul Station, Main rail depot.



Capitol grounds, Seoul, Korea



Main building had most of the windows still missing. Lots of small holes still visible.



A group of students agree to pose. The young man is in his school uniform.



1954. Thunderbird Field. 45th Infantry Division on parade.



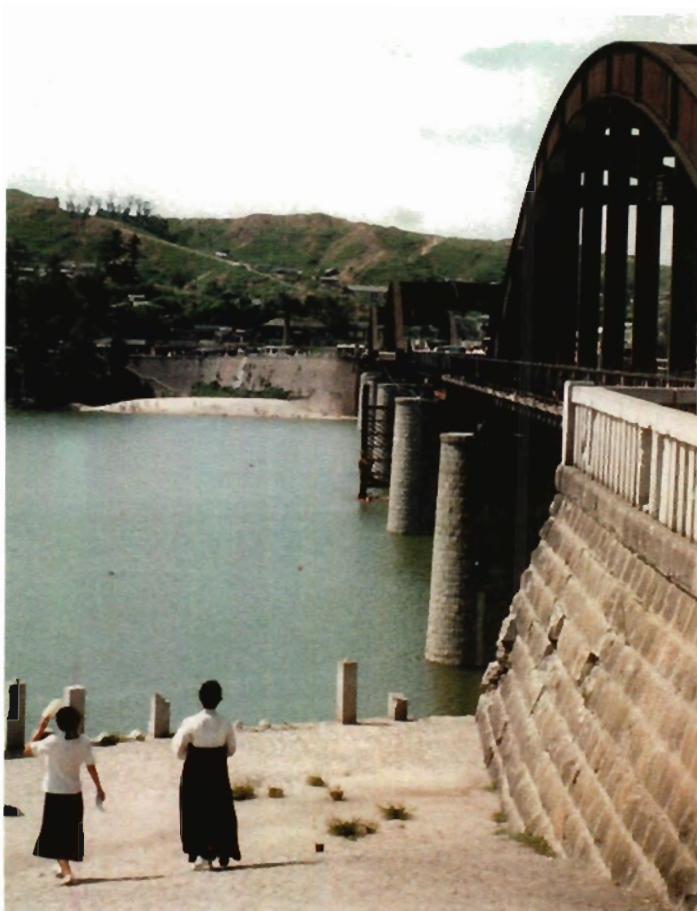
Cpl. J. Shank and Sgt. Ray Collins revisit the MLR. After some 6 months. 1954



Continuing the Mission. "Training and Maintaining Readiness"...1954 AFTER AN INSPECTION. The troop tents reveal mess trays, personal gear, yukon heater stove pipes, wood sidings, trenched and sand bagged sides. Some of the barrels held water for washing, others sand in case of oil fires. The rank on the sleeve seen here is small and yellow. Known as a "combat stripe".



"A" Frame. Brass tipped bamboo pipe is a status symbol. 1954



A bridge ove the HAN river. Seoul, Korea. 1954





CPL John K. Shank Tank Co. 21st Inf. Regt. APO 24 WP o/a 10 Aug 54 to Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan for the purpose of ten (10) days ord lv. Upon compl of lv will trn proper orgn and sta. TVL by air between Korea and Japan and tvl within Korea only on space available basis Auth. Pers bag will be limited to 65 lbs while rvl by mil acft. Tvl performed within Japan will be at no expense to the govt. Time spent in rvl status chargeable as lv. No per diem. Auth: Ltr KGP-M 200.1 AG, Hq 8th Army dtd 14 Nov 53 and 3d Ind, Hq 24th Div APO 24 dtd 5 Aug 54.



Seoul City Air Base.



I ride with U.S.O. group to Tokyo for a 10 day leave.

The rikasha in front of the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, was for tourist photos. The first pose is full of drama...I ask for a second picture taken, and my new Japanese friend making a face. 1954



Two young ladies insist that they shine my boots.
They even furnish a pad for me to sit on.
The 24th I.D. taro leaf patch can be seen.



Down Town Tokyo. August. 1954.





Visit to a shrine



Botanical Garden.



A side trip to Kamakura.
Daibutsu of Kamakura.



A return to
Kamakura
with my late wife,
Mattie.

USNS Marine Phoenix would take 30 days to return to the U.S. after our embarkation at Inchon, Korea. We were processed through The Inchon Replacement Depot, September/October 1954.

While at sea, a furious typhoon on September 26, 1954 sank the 390 foot Toya Maru, a large Japanese ferry boat, off the coast of Japan. (Tsugaru Strait). A major world disaster More than 900 persons, including 56 American servicemen and their families were lost.

This storm was with the Marine Phoenix for several days with very high winds and rough seas. Only a very few of us on board were not seasick. We had our dog tags taken and put on 24 hours a day latrine clean up. It was then that I learned I would never, ever get mal de mer. Ever.

Upon arrival in Seattle Washington, months after the cease-fire, we were greeted with a huge, street welcome home that I shall always remember. We had not been forgotten...Thanks Seattle!

TOOT! TOOT!







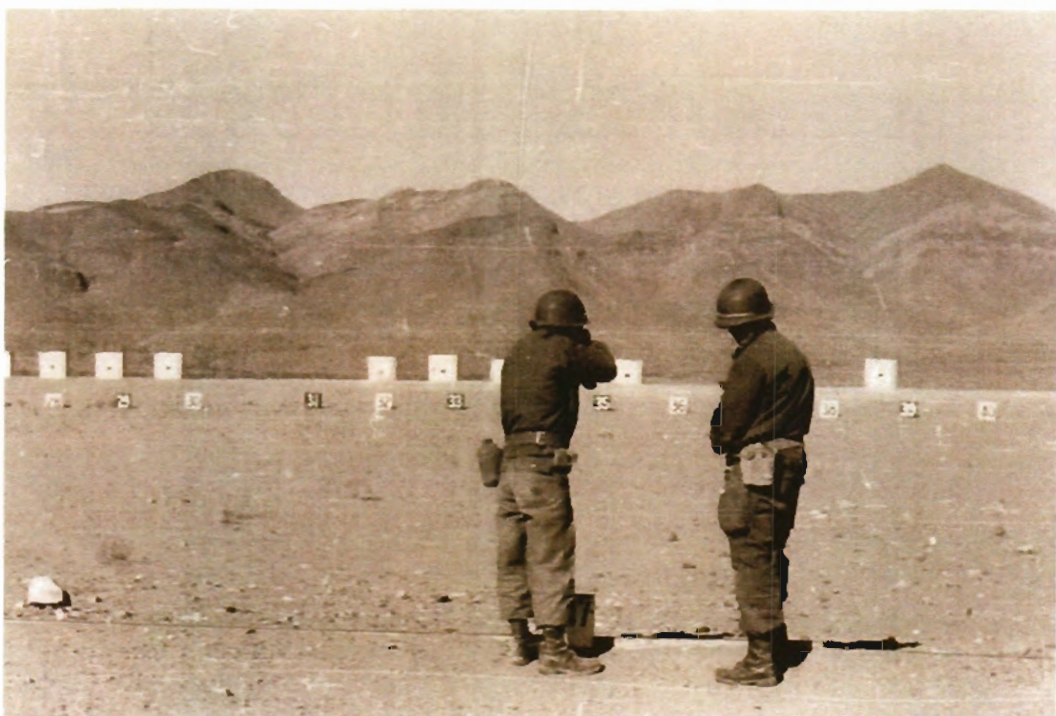


USNS Marine Phoenix. At sea after embarking at Inchon.
September, 1954





Advanced basic. Our class was looking good. We had very good training.



Firing for score with carbine. Fort Bliss, Texas



Basic Training at Fort Bliss, TX
Mel Yuen, left, Honolulu, found the Texas desert cold, while
sleeping in a pup tent. Fort Bliss, 1952



Learning to be an artillery mechanic, MOS 4802 Fort
Bliss, Texas



U.S.N.S. BLACK



Gorey and Weston
Holts-Spencer-Weston-Grandlund
(Paul Weston: San Francisco, Ca.)



USNS Marine Phoenix
September - 1954



USNS Black
June - 1953





Rickisha Driver
Sasebo, Japan
July 12, 1953



Sasebo, Japan
July 12, 1953



Sasebo, Japan
"MIKA", Detroit
July 12, 1953



Sasebo, Japan
July 12, 1953

Protect, defend and maintain security, 1954.
North of the 38th Yang Gu Sector.



This is a song well known by most Korean War Vet G.I.s.
AKA as: "She Ain't Got No Yo Yo"

渡辺はま子 懐かしのアルバム
Hamako Watanabe

1. 支那の夜 3:35
Shina no yoru
2. いとしあの星 2:39
Itoshi ano hoshi
3. 夜来香 2:35
yen rai shang
4. 桑港のチャイナタウン 3:14
Cisco no china town
5. ああモンテンルパの夜は更けて 4:07
Aa Monterupa no yo ha hukete
6. 雨の長崎 3:21
7. Ame no nagasaki
8. 蘇州夜曲 3:59
Soshyu yakyoku
9. 何日君再来 4:26
10. とんがらがっちゃ駄目よ 2:44
Tongara gaccha dameyo
11. 火の鳥 3:06
Hino tori
12. チャンウェイ・チャンウェイ 3:15
Chan-way Chan-way
13. 美わしのサンディエゴ 2:48
Uruwashi no San Diego

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA (EUSAK)
Office of the Commanding General
APO 301

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 52

27 January 1952

BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9396 (Sec: 1, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec: 111, WD Bul. 11, 1942), and pursuant to authority in AR 206-15, the following unit is cited as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction.

The Citation reads as follows:

COMPANY G, 21ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION, is cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Kumsong, Korea, from 14 to 18 October 1951. On the morning of October 14, COMPANY G was assigned the mission of attacking and securing a series of interlocking and heavily fortified enemy emplacements located on a strategic hill. As the friendly forces moved to the precipitous slope, which was almost completely devoid of cover, it became a target for the heavy small-arms and automatic-weapons fire pouring down from connecting enemy bunkers and trenches extending 1500 yards in width. Despite the devastating fire being concentrated on them, the friendly troops advanced with dogged determination. As they reached the outlying enemy positions, a fierce battle ensued which caused numerous casualties to be inflicted among hostile troops and forced them to flee down the reverse side of the hill. Using machine guns and flamethrowers, the friendly forces further decimated and demoralized enemy troops as they attempted to escape. Under continuous enemy artillery and mortar bombardment, the members of COMPANY G. were then deployed in a defensive perimeter which they held despite the numerous attempts made by the fanatical hostile troops to dislodge them. On the morning of October 16, the company was again assigned the mission of taking a hill which was defended by a numerical superior enemy force occupying a network of strong fortifications. As the friendly troops advanced across the open terrain toward their objective, a devastating enemy artillery barrage accounted for many casualties. Undaunted, they continued moving forward and, upon reaching the base of their objective, they fixed their bayonets and charged directly up the hill. With great courage, the members of COMPANY G. fought their way toward the crest destroying each enemy position in their route of attack. Fighting hand-to-hand with the enemy, the friendly troops, with indefatigable persistence, moved steadily forward until the objective was secured and the hostile force was annihilated. Then, from forward defensive positions, the members of COMPANY G. poured a heavy volume of fire into the remaining adjacent enemy emplacements in support of attacking friendly units until the entire area was secured. During this four day period, the enemy suffered approximately 444 casualties with 162 killed and an estimated 282 being wounded. In addition, eight enemy prisoners were captured. COMPANY G. displayed such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart and above other units participating in the action. The indomitable courage and aggressiveness exhibited by the members of this company through this action reflect great credit on themselves and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

KAG-MD 200

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL VAN FLEET

OFFICIAL:

O.C. MOOD
Brigadier General, GS w/Troops
Chief of Staff

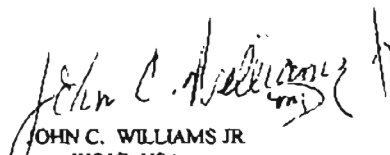
/s/ Lawrence E. Nobles
/u/ LAWRENCE E. NOBLES
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

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- 15 - CINCFE (AG-OP)
- 75 - 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Inf. Div.

"THIS IS A TRUE COPY"


JOHN C. WILLIAMS JR.
WOJG, USA
21st Infantry Regiment



November 1, 2010

Mr. John Shank
PO Box 36051
Tucson, AZ 85740, USA

Dear Mr. Shank:

This year as we commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, we honor your selfless sacrifice in fighting tyranny and aggression. We salute your courage in enduring the unimaginable horrors of war. We pay tribute to your commitment in protecting liberty and freedom.

We Koreans made a promise to build a strong and prosperous country that upholds peace and freedom so that the sacrifices that you made would not have been in vain. We have faithfully kept that promise. Korea today is a vibrant democracy with a robust economy and we are actively promoting peace and stability around the world. Korea transformed itself from a country of received aid to one that provides aid to others. We are proud of what we managed to accomplish and we wish to dedicate these achievements to you.

The Korean government has been inviting Korean War veterans every year as part of its Revisit Korea Program since 1975. This year we will be inviting 2,400 Korean War veterans and their families. We Koreans and myself in particular look forward to welcoming you. We hope that you will see what you made possible and hope that your families will feel renewed pride in what you did for us many years ago.

Please accept, once again, our warmest gratitude and deepest respect. You will always remain our true Heroes and we assure you that we will continue to do our best to make you proud. On behalf of the Korean people, I would like to say "Thank you."

Sincerely yours,

Lee Myung-bak
President, Republic of Korea



Fort Bliss, Texas. Completed advanced
infantry basis training.
4th Army shoulder
1952



July, 1953, Yang Gu, Korea 45th. I.D.,
279 Inf. Reg., Tk.Co.
(Posed picture).



Pictured above is Mel Frederick with John Shank having just received a "50th Korean War Anniversary"
The event took place at a 24th I.D. reunion held in Kansas City, Mo., September, 2002



FT. Bliss, El Paso, TX 1952

About the Author

John K. Shank was born in rural Indiana on November 11, 1930.

Worked two summers as a “gandy dancer” (railroad track gang) while attending college. He served in the U.S. Army between 1952 and 1954. Used his G.I. benefits to get a private pilot's license.

Almost immediately upon returning home, he received a gubernatorial appointment to fill an unexpired term of an incumbent who had resigned. Finding himself in politics, he was the youngest public official in the United States. He was elected to a second term as Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Working closely with Indiana state officials, he formulated and wrote a workable state marriage law that would be implemented in all 92 of the counties. While in office he knew several of the political notables of the time: Ike, Charlie (Hal) Heck, Ev (Dirksen), Dick, Barry, J.F.K..

In 1964 Mr. Shank and his wife Mattie (ne: Quintana) moved their family of four to Safford, Az., taking a position as District Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America. In Greenlee County, Az. he worked with Philips Dodge mine officials in organizing, sponsoring and training adult scout leaders.

In Gila County, Az. he found mine and civic leaders to be equally supportive. Anton ‘Rocky’ Miller, Globe was their first “Silver Beaver” award winner. LDS Ward and Stake leadership was always outstanding throughout the BSA.

Conducting training within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mr. Shank chartered large numbers of Job Corps young-adults into the scouting movement the blending of a United States program and the National Boy Scouts of America required National Headquarters approval from both entities. A first for each.

Prince Emmanuel Liechtenstein, of the Principality of the same name, while observing the Tribal Scouting Program, as a BIA guest, and Mr. Shank became close friends. They continue that relationship.

After five years with BSA, Mr. Shank returned to the University of Arizona, leaving with an M. Ed. While at TUSD, he and his wife Mattie (M. Ed. bi-lingual) took leave from the classroom to travel. They visited and studied schools in Mexico, Central America, Russia, England, and Spain for 15 months. After retirement, he and his late wife continued traveling to 96+ countries, including South Korea. Mrs. Shank missed only one country to which Mr. Shank had been. The one? North Korea.