24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
WARREN G. AVERY, PRESIDENT
836 MIDDLETOWN AVENUE
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06473

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John R. Shay
1129 Shermer Rd.,
Glenview IL 60025

9861

The Commanding General
of the Twenty-Fourth Infantry Division (Mechanized)
and Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield
requests the pleasure of your company
at the

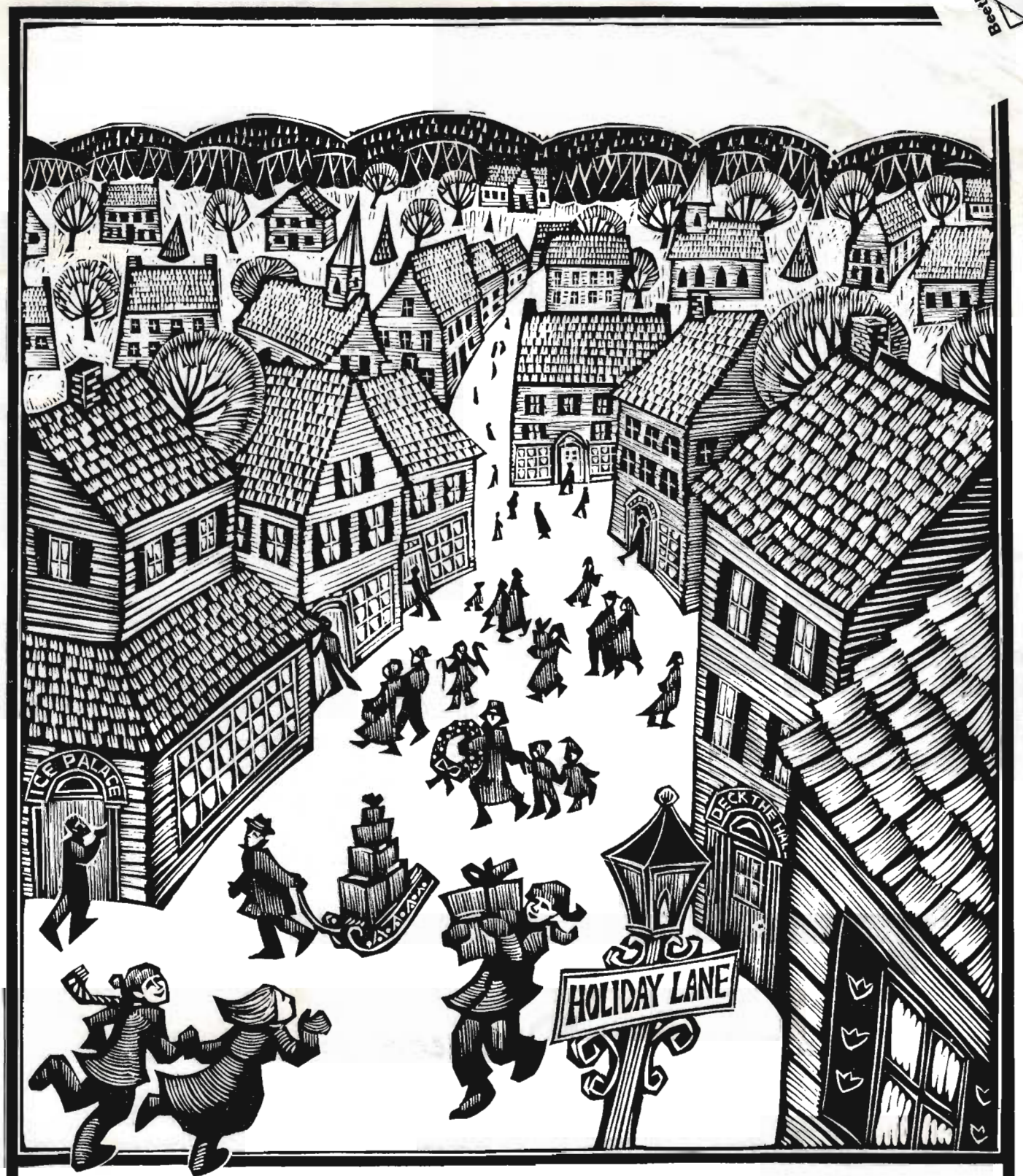
Building One Dedication Ceremony
In Honor Of
MG(Ret) Frederick Irving

on Tuesday, the ninth of December
at ten o'clock in the morning at
Division Headquarters, Fort Stewart

R.S.V.P. By
5 Dec 86
767-8610/7742

Military Duty Uniform
Business Suit

(Reception follows at the Fort Stewart Officers' Club)



taro leaf

Regardless of rank, or age, or size, there's a bit of bustiness about Mort's gals.

AGONY COLUMN

Agony is right. EVERT HARMON made LAX and was looking for 11th Fieldmen. Okay you 155 mm boys, where were you? Why not drop a line to Evert -- nickname "Ed". He was Hqs. Btry., 11th Field '50-'51. He and Renate hang their hats at 23398 Sandalwood, Canoga Park CA. Better still; pick up a phone and go 818-347-7223.

Don't get confused. The 82nd A/B has a 555th Battalion and they call themselves the "Triple Nickles." It's an all-black paratroop unit, the first army unit to be integrated.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON

Most Interesting Impromptu Meeting: Billy Martin and Richard Nixon. Billy, four-time Yankee manager, and Nixon, two-term president, bumped into one another near the Yankee TV booth at the Stadium. Said Tricky: "I always liked you as a manager. When are you coming back?"

Said Billy: "When you do."

Could there be a jowly third base coach in our future? So asks our brand spanking-new member, EDWARD C. OTTO (C 19th '51-'52) of 1009 SW 18th, Willmar, MN.

AN ABOUT FACE

Moved: JOHNNY WHALEN (I, E 21st '51-'52) to 173 Cornell, Roslindale MA. Johnny's Chaplain of VFW Post 1018.

BG SAMUEL McC. GOODWIN (G-4 '53-'55 C/S Fwd. '55), of Crossed Sabers Ranch, Corrillos, NM, wrote a delightfully nostalgic piece which was shared by all at LAX. Sam headed it up as "To All Taro Leafers Who Remember Our Second and Third Return to Korea - '53-'54-'55." It read:

"Division Headquarters was located at a miserable little village called Yang-gu. MG Harkins converted the 45th Division to the 24th Division. MG McClure succeeded Harkins. They were moving the entire Division back to Japan (to the Fukuoka area) to steam heated barracks and gravel roads - when the order came down to return to Korea.

"Only the 21st remained still in Korea. The 'rear party' became the 'advance party.' The first Christmas 1954 attempting to persuade ourselves that Washington must have a plan for such miserable madness.

"Remember?"

Thanks for the memories, Sam!!!

24th Infantry Division Association

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SEC'Y.-TREAS.-EDITOR:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN:

CHAPLAIN:

From the Office of the President...

To The Membership:

I hope you have all returned home safely from the great reunion in LA, put on by Bob Ender, he did a beautiful job! We are now looking forward to Chicago, and I know that Bob Shea, our 1987 Chairman will do a great job, with the help of his lovely wife Mary.

I received a phone call the other day from Ms. Isobel Hinshelwood, who is a researcher for the Thames TV in England. One of the major networks there had started production of a five part series of documentary programs on the Korean War, in conjunction with WGBH in Boston, and the Australian Broadcasting Corp. The series will be shown in 1988 on PBS, ABC (in the USA) and on the Independent TV network in England.

The series will involve extensive filming in Korea and in the countries which were major combatants. In America they are keen to locate people with vivid memories of the war, some of whom they would later invite to contribute to the programs. They are anxious to locate American Veterans who- for example- were witness to the beginning of the war with Gen. Dean; members of the USAF who flew bombing missions, veterans who recall the pullback to the Pusan perimeter, the Inchon landings, the recapture of Seoul, the drive to the Yalu River, and the retreat south; Gen. Ridgeway's 1951 offensive; the conflicts along the line once stabilized; people who were captured, who were witness to the capture and interment of the enemy who saw particular incidents affecting the civilian population.

Korea has been called "The Forgotten War". They would like to ensure that it does not remain so through a vigorous examination of the history and by letting the real story be told by participants who saw it then and remember it now. Anyone interested may contact:

THAMES TELEVISION LTD.
Isobel Hinshelwood, Researcher
Documentary Dept.
306-316 Eustan Rd.
London, NW13BB, England

* * * * * *

Two new books recently published on the Korean War are:

1. Korean War, The First War We Lost, by Bevin Alexander $24.95
   available from Hippocrene Books 171 Madison Ave., N.Y. 10016

2. The Korean War, Challenges in Crisis, Credibility and Command,
   by Burton I. Kaufman $34.95
   available through Temple University Press

3. 2nd Volume of the Korean War, by Donald Knox, will be late in being published due to his sudden death, but I am told that it is 3/4 of the way completed and will be out in 1987.

* * * * * *

Let me take this time to say how happy and proud I am to have been elected President of our 24th Inf. Division Association. I will try to do my utmost during the year to help all our members to promote comradship amongst us all.

Warren

feeling dazzling

Just joined our special pantheon with 100 smackers so as to become Life Member #712 - Maj. ROBERT D. BALL, of 6008 119th St., Tacoma WA. Bob was Hq.Btry.Div.Arty. 10/48-11/49 and Hq.Btry. 13th Field 11/49-4/51. Before that he was ETO from Omaha Beach to the Elbe -- oh we forgot, we weren't going to mention WW II. Sorry! Appreciate your support, Bob -- and Marion.

"GEE, THANKS!"

Interesting note from Lt.Col. JAMES E. ALVATOR (21st '49-'51), of 52 Chestnut, Red Bank NJ: "I was the first Army Aviator assigned to the 21st. At the time, I had an L-5 which could be converted into an ambulance ship to transport injured personnel or pregnant females to the hospital in Fukuoka.

"On the night of 6-30-50, we were all called via an alert to Hq. About 3 a.m. on 7-1-50, the troops left by convoy for Itazuci AFB. I flew up at daylight. The troops loaded in C-54's and I followed in my L-5. This was the start of Task Force Smith -- April of '51 I was pulled off the lines and sent to Sasebo to come home on the First Rotation boat. 200 officers 1200 enlisted men -- How those of us lived from July - April I'll never know -- not too many left."

We are more grateful with each passing day that as many of the TFS men came home as did. Thanks, Jim.

"NOW THAT YOU'RE REALLY HOME ON FURLOUGH, WHAT WOULD YOU REALLY LIKE TO DO?"

The next following pages are reprints of a two-part series run by Army Times. The reprints are with the gracious permission of Mr. Lee Ewing, its Editor.

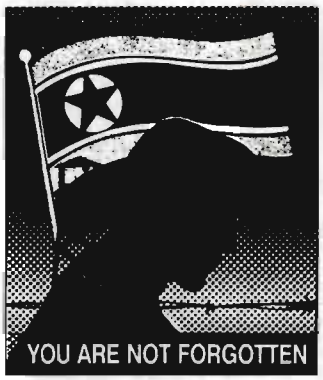
Beetle Bailey / By MORT WALKER

Love this one from JIM MERRITT of 392 Yokeko, Anacortes, WA, in expressing regrets about not being able to LAX it: "My WW 2 outfit, 10th Mountain Division, is holding its reunion in Seattle, and I have been volunteered into helping out. You remember how that went, don't you? "I want three volunteers, You! You! and You!." Anyhow, I shall spend this reunion in Seattle.

"I was a part of the 1st Platoon, E Co., 19th Inf. from Oct. '51 to Feb. '52. I joined the unit on a ridge just southeast of Kumsong, and left them after the outfit moved to Hachinohe, Japan. A relatively short time, compared to the three years of WW 2 in the other unit, and I must admit that that period is pretty hazy in my memory after 35 years. The only thing I vividly remember is owing the Weapons Platoon Leader 20 bucks when I left the unit and losing his address. He was from Detroit."

All right, you Detroit fellas. Line up if you think Jim owes you those two tens.

KOREAN WAR'S POW MYSTERY



Are More Americans Waiting to Come Home?

Eleven years after the chaotic fall of Saigon, the specter is as haunting as ever: U.S. servicemen, gaunt and abandoned, rotting away in Communist cells or slave labor camps.

Across the land, the wrenching image glares, in ghostly silhouette, from black and white flags vowing, "You are not forgotten."

It goads an aggressive movement of organizations determined to resolve the fate of Americans still officially listed as "missing in action" or as "prisoner of war" in Southeast Asia.

It has inspired books and a number of movies, including those that gave the hero-starved pop culture a machine-gun-wielding Vietnam vet named Rambo.

And, inevitably, it evoked a service industry and a new breed of hustler: self-styled POW-MIA hunters exploiting the desperation of families clinging to hope that long-missing relatives are still alive.

To many military veterans over 50, however, the legendary Rambo and the real crusaders seeking to find out what happened to the 2,430 Americans who vanished in Indochina seem to have forgotten or ignored that 8,177 Americans were never accounted for after the Korean War.

More to the point, 2,233 missing members of the United Nations Command — including 389 Americans — were known to have been alive, in Communist custody, before the 1953 ceasefire and repatriation of POWs, but were not among repatriated POWs, according to Defense Department figures. North Korea and the People's Republic of China have insisted for decades that they know nothing of their fate.

"Where were all the activists after Korea?" asks Robert Dumas, who knows the answer better than anybody else. "Where were all the politicians who've suddenly discovered how to get votes with the MIA issue?"

On the other hand, Dumas concedes, he has good reason to empathize with groups that have badgered four consecutive administrations to answer the last lingering question of America's last Asian war: Do any Americans captured in Southeast Asia remain in Communist captivity?

For more than three decades, Dumas himself has been pestering the administrations of seven presidents to answer the same question minus one word — "Southeast."

His was a lone, incongruous voice saying things Washington officialdom did not want to hear and the U.S. public would not believe.

Even after the POW-MIA issue was conspicuously revived in the wake of the Vietnam War, Dumas' dogged pleas on behalf of prisoners lost in Korea remained unheeded. An obstinate, middle-aged gadfly living on retirement and disability benefits doesn't have the glamor of a Rambo.

While he often has turned to the news media for help in his quest, Dumas says he never wanted to become a celebrity — he just wanted to find out what happened to his brother Roger, one of the POWs who never came back from Korea.

Over the years, that single-minded pursuit grew to an obsession, and eventually led Dumas to a chilling conviction — that North Korea, China, or the Soviet Union secretly has imprisoned Americans since the Korean War.

"Call them the legion of lost souls — hundreds of American prisoners of war who today are scattered throughout the Communist world: Russia, North Korea, Vietnam and Laos," declared an editorial-

Five American prisoners of war at a camp somewhere in North Korea play cards in a 1952 propaganda photo, made by AP photographer Frank Noel, who was captured by the Communists. The prisoners are, from left, Lt. Harold E. Stahlman of Nashville, Tenn.; Capt. Anthony Pecoraro of South Windham, Maine; Capt. Sidney Esensten of Minneapolis, Minn.; Lt. Walter L. Mayo Jr. of Watertown, Mass.; and Capt. Harry F. Hedlund of Fullerton, Calif.

page commentary in *The Wall Street Journal* in August. "The U.S. government knows they're there, but it doesn't want the American people to know because they might demand their return, even if it meant paying for them."

Journal reporter Bill Paul, who wrote the column, reached this controversial conclusion after an extensive investigation of the POW-MIA issue. "The American people can't allow their government to continue lying that there is no proof these prisoners exist," he wrote. "They do exist, and ... Washington knows they do."

The Defense Department maintains there is no proof that any Americans now classified as MIA or POW actually survived either the Korean War or the Vietnam War. Yet an accumulation of historic, circumstantial, and eyewitness evidence — compelling to some, tantalizing to others — keeps the mystery alive. Consider a few items:

- Imprisoning military and political prisoners incognito, in violation of international law, is a standard Communist practice.
- A 1972 Senate Judiciary Committee study on Communist treatment of POWs disclosed that captives freed by the Soviet Union had provided evidence "that several hundred thousand of the missing persons [from World War II] were still being held as forced laborers or prisoners" in the 1950s.
- Of nearly 37,000 French Union troops listed as missing or captured in the first Indochina War, fewer than 11,000 were released by the victorious Communist Vietnamese in 1954. A dozen or so Spaniards who had fought for the French Foreign Legion were held by the Viet Minh another 16 years.
- Since the Korean War, there have been many reports, both credible and dubious, of American captives seen in Communist Asia.

Dumas has amassed a huge personal archive documenting his 33-year campaign to corroborate such reports and prove that his brother is one of the reported survivors.

Eventually, he had to sue the Secretary of the Army, among others, just to get his brother's classification changed from "MIA/presumed dead" to "POW." After a three-day trial in Hartford, Conn., during which two Army veterans provided testimony that they had known Roger Dumas in a POW camp, a federal judge ordered the Army to grant Dumas a full hearing.

Three days after the trial, on July 26, 1983, the Pentagon commemorated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice with a reminder that the Communists never had accounted for 389 Americans known to have been captured.

A year later, the Army at last officially acknowledged that Roger A. Dumas was one of them.

The Chosin Few

Since then, Bob Dumas has been hard to ignore. More important, encouraged by Vietnam's recent cooperation in joint efforts to recover remains of U.S. MIAs in Indochina, a group of Korean War veterans has expanded what was long a one-man struggle into a growing cause.

Last year, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger received a letter from the Chosin Few, an association of 2,300 survivors of the epic battle at the Chosin Reservoir, where Chinese Communist forces launched a devastating counteroffensive against U.N. forces moving toward the Manchurian border in November 1950.

The letter asked for an accounting of DoD's efforts "to resolve the limbo status

Associated Press Photo

Times Color Photo by Kate Patterson

American POWs in 1952 line up to get shots at a camp in North Korea, above. Thomas Gregory, left in photo at left, chairman of the Chosin Few's MIA-POW Committee, and Frank Kerr, cofounder of the Korean War veterans' group, have been meeting privately with U.S. and North Korean officials. In another 1952 propaganda photo, below, American POWs entertain other prisoners with songs.
Times Color Photo
by Kate Patterson

of those American POWs reportedly alive but never returned after the [Korean War] armistice.... We are especially haunted by the possibility that any might still be alive."

The letter closed with a defiant tone more characteristic of the Vietnam War generation than of those who came of age in the 1950s: "We have been termed the silent veterans of the forgotten war, but we will not stand silent so long as those 8,177 Americans missing in action and the 389 presumed alive remain forgotten."

True to their vow, the group has been outspoken. It established a POW-MIA committee, chaired by Thomas Gregory of Jacksonville, Fla., who was an Army corporal when he went to Korea and a major when he left. Members have discussed the prickly issue with other veterans groups, congressmen, and POW-MIA specialists at the State Department and the Pentagon.

At first, Frank Kerr, a Marine veteran and cofounder of the Chosin Few, just wanted to float the idea of a reunion at the Chosin Reservoir. Since the United States does not have diplomatic relations with North Korea, he contacted sources with connections to the Communist government in Pyongyang. Somehow, these contacts led to a series of letters and phone calls between Kerr and intermediaries in other countries, and eventually to an unexpected breakthrough: two private meetings in New York City with high officials of the North Korean government to discuss the fate of missing Americans and the possibility of recovering remains of war dead.

According to Kerr and Gregory, the Communist officials tersely denied that any American prisoners remained in their country. More emphatically, they said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would cooperate in efforts to locate and return remains of American war casualties if the United States officially requested it and helped in the search.

The North Koreans also told the American veterans that the Pyongyang government would be willing to discuss the POW-MIA issue and any other pertinent matters in tripartite meetings with the U.S. and the Republic of [South] Korea.

The State Department's response: The United States will not deal directly with North Korea, because the 1953 truce agreement requires that all unresolved issues of the inconclusive war must be handled by the Military Armistice Commission, which has been haggling at Panmunjom ever since the war ended. The commission's United Nations component represents 16 nations that sent troops to fight under the U.N. flag.

A month after Kerr met with North Korea's foreign-affairs minister last October, however, the senior U.N. member of the Military Armistice Commission — a U.S. rear admiral — did write to his North Korean counterpart, specifically requesting that his side search for and repatriate remains of U.N. war casualties.

To describe North Korea's reply to this as "hopeful" would be an exaggeration, a DoD spokesman said. Prodded, however, he did suggest that it was somewhat more encouraging than the routinely negative replies the U.N. has received over the years to all its other demands for POW-MIA accountings.

Governments, of course, do not bend easily. Still, there are other hopeful signs.

Earlier this year, North Korea — historically one of the world's least hospitable places — started welcoming tourists from some noncommunist societies, including South Korea but not the United States.

The International Olympic Committee is trying to mediate an agreement to let North Korea host a few events of the 1988 summer Olympic Games, which are scheduled to be held in Seoul, the South Korean capital.

Associated Press Photo

An American POW at a camp near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang poses defiantly for Hungarian photographer Tibor Merai, who identified the soldier as Capt. Clifford Allen of Los Angeles, Calif. The propaganda photo was made in 1951.

And after a long spell of what seemed to be government amnesia about the fate of Korean War prisoners, nowadays federal spokesmen from President Reagan on down pointedly acknowledge that POW-MIA accountability is an ongoing issue that predates the fall of Saigon by 22 years.

For instance, in response to a U.S. senator's 1985 query about Korean War prisoners who never came home, the Defense Department said, "The U.S. government is continuing to seek the fullest possible accounting for these men and the return of any recoverable remains of Americans who failed to return from Korea."

More recently, during a "study mission" to the Far East last February, a delegation of the House of Representatives' Task Force on American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia spent a day in Seoul. In a briefing on military matters there, the old subject of Korean War POWs came up. The "extended discussion" is summarized in two paragraphs in the 52-page mission report to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

"Members were told that no live sightings have been reported and that there is nothing to indicate that any of the men are still alive," the report says. "However, what may be deemed pro forma activities aimed at obtaining their release still continue.

"North Korea has recently indicated a willingness to work to turn over the remains of missing Americans, but on a bilateral basis. It is apparent that North Korea, in doing this, seems to be trying to create divisions between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea to obtain a political advantage, manipulate public opinion, and improve its international image."

The summary concludes: "The delegation was dismayed to learn about the low-keyed nature of the efforts to obtain an accounting for American POW-MIAs, and urges the Task Force to take up this matter with the Departments of Defense and State for further action."

"That's what they were all saying 30 years ago," grumbles Dumas.

Before Vietnam

Communist behavior after earlier wars may help explain the Hanoi government's attitude toward the POW-MIA issue.

In a 1981 congressional hearing on Vietnam War MIAs, Rep. Robert K. Dornan, R-Cal., asked Air Force Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Eugene Tighe, then director of the Defense Intelligence Agency: "Is it not generally accepted in the intelligence community that prisoners have been held back from every single conflict involving Communist parties of any ethnic background since 1917?"

Tighe replied, "As far as I know, that is absolutely correct."

The scope of the practice was revealed after World War II by a U.N. commission and other international organizations. According to the World Veterans Federation, the fate of an estimated 2.5 million people, mostly Europeans and Japanese believed to have been captured by Communist troops, remained unresolved in the 1950s.

Not until 1957 did the Soviet Union acknowledge it had imprisoned Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who disappeared in Budapest in 1945 after saving more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from Nazi extermination camps. The Soviets maintain that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in 1947. But since then, many former inmates of Soviet prisons have reported he was still alive.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's 1972 POW report disclosed that the Soviets themselves indicated in 1946 "that more than 2 million prisoners of different nationalities were working as laborers on a northern link of the trans-Siberian railroad."

"Many of the missing prisoners have certainly died," concluded the report, "and some of them may have reverted to a civilian existence within the Soviet Union. Nevertheless... most of the prisoners who were still in the Soviet Union in the mid-1950s apparently occupied the status of laborers."

One was a U.S. citizen named John Noble, who had been living in Dresden with his affluent family when Soviet troops occupied the city in 1945. After 10 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps, he was re-

leased in 1955 and subsequently wrote two books about the ordeal.

Although none of his fellow inmates was an American, Noble said, he heard from other prisoners that many U.S. and South Korean soldiers captured in Korea "had been shipped to the Soviet Union for safekeeping" and were being held as "slave laborers."

Other wars had been fought while Noble was imprisoned — and now another Communist regime was disclaiming any knowledge of foreign prisoners known to have been in its custody.

The armistice agreement, governing the tense truce that still exists on the Korean peninsula, required the repatriation of all POWs who wanted to return to their homelands. Accordingly, the Communists returned 12,773, including 3,597 Americans. Twenty-two U.N. "turncoats" — all but one of them U.S. servicemen — defected. But only two of the Americans still live in China.

At the same time, the U.N. Command turned over 75,823 North Koreans and Chinese. But 21,805 others refused repatriation. A few weeks before, South Korea unilaterally had freed some 27,000 North Koreans who didn't want to be repatriated. Three out of four Chinese POWs chose not to return to Communist China.

With world attention focused on Panmunjom, mass rejection of communism by people of many nationalities was a humiliating defeat for the Communist empire. This festering humiliation, some analysts believe, probably was the main reason for the Communists' implacability toward the U.N.'s prolonged efforts to resolve the POW-MIA issue in years to come.

Shortly after the ceasefire and the "Operation Big Switch" repatriations, it was evident that thousands of U.N. servicemen classified as MIA or POW had neither returned nor been accounted for. Consequently, the U.N. Command submitted a list of 3,404 missing U.N. personnel — including 944 Americans — and asked the other side for information about them. (Over the years, the list gradually was reduced as evidence was found proving that missing people were dead.)

Many of the missing had been identified as POWs by repatriated prisoners, mail received from POW camps, Communist radio broadcasts, propaganda photographs, and intelligence reports. Some had died in captivity, according to liberated comrades.

Still, the Communists insisted they knew nothing about the missing men — and they never have budged from that position. For instance, they denied having any information about a prisoner whose mother had received a Christmas message from him in a Chinese radio broadcast. They maintained that a U.S. Army pilot had escaped — though repatriated prisoners reported that he had lost both legs.

Several weeks after Big Switch, *U.S. News & World Report* said the Communists had withheld captive Americans "who could handle the sensitive and complex instruments of modern war, such as radar ... and infrared instruments for night combat." The report was attributed to "U.S. intelligence officials."

In the 1954-55 Geneva Convention — the first international conference in which the People's Republic of China participated — the Chinese used 76 American captives, most of them civilians, as bargaining chips. Eleven were U.S. airmen whose B-29 bomber had been shot down near the Chinese-Korean border. (All but 13 of the Americans had been released by 1957, but the last was not freed until after President Nixon's 1972 visit to China.)

As the U.S. coordinator at Geneva, Johnson tried to get his Chinese counterpart to talk about the POW issue. But the Chinese ambassador routinely insisted that was a matter for the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom.

Johnson's memoir acknowledges that he then doubted any of the missing American POWs had survived: "We took the position that ... the Communist side was obligated to account for all Allied personnel who fell into their hands, either as prisoners or deceased. Thus if a missing man had not been returned from POW camp or declared dead by the other side, we assumed he was still alive and being held prisoner.

"This was a reasonable enough negotiating ploy, but considering the nature of the terrain where much of the fighting was carried on and the casual attitude of the Communists toward accounting even for their own casualties, we had little or no expectation that any of the [missing Americans] were in fact alive. It was cruel to mislead the families into thinking that they might be by raising the subject .... In any case, doing so gave us no effective bargaining leverage."

America Forgets

Apparently, this eventually became the prevailing official attitude in Washington — despite occasional blustering by federal officials — for a quarter-century.

America's costly involvement in the Korean War (more than 54,000 deaths and $18 billion spent in three years), so soon after World War II, never had been fully understood or supported by the public and many political leaders. They had been shocked by the U.N.'s bloody 1950 retreat from northern Korea and President Truman's subsequent dismissal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur as commander of U.N. forces. Public patience was strained further by two years of truce talks while, in the background, bodies piled up in seesaw battles over barren hills.

Congress held hearings and adopted a resolution demanding that the Eisenhower administration make the return of American POWs "the foremost objective of the foreign policy of the United States."

Nevertheless, the Communists remained unmoved.

Rep. John Vorys of Ohio expressed the nation's frustration in a 1957 hearing by the House Foreign Affairs Committee: "We have an embargo on Red China. We have been successful in keeping them out of the United Nations. The pressures short of military force seem to me to be about all the pressures that we could use." Yet even those limited actions, he noted, were "highly criticized by many of our own people. They want us to quit."

As time went by, the mystery of the lost prisoners was all but forgotten by official Washington, by the press, by the public. Histories of the war barely mention the issue. For example, in "Korea: The Untold Story of the War," published in 1982, author Joseph C. Goulden concludes: "Only one portion of the armistice agreement was fulfilled, that of the disposition of POWs."

Through the years, then, intermittent reports of Americans seen in Communist custody were filed away or ignored.

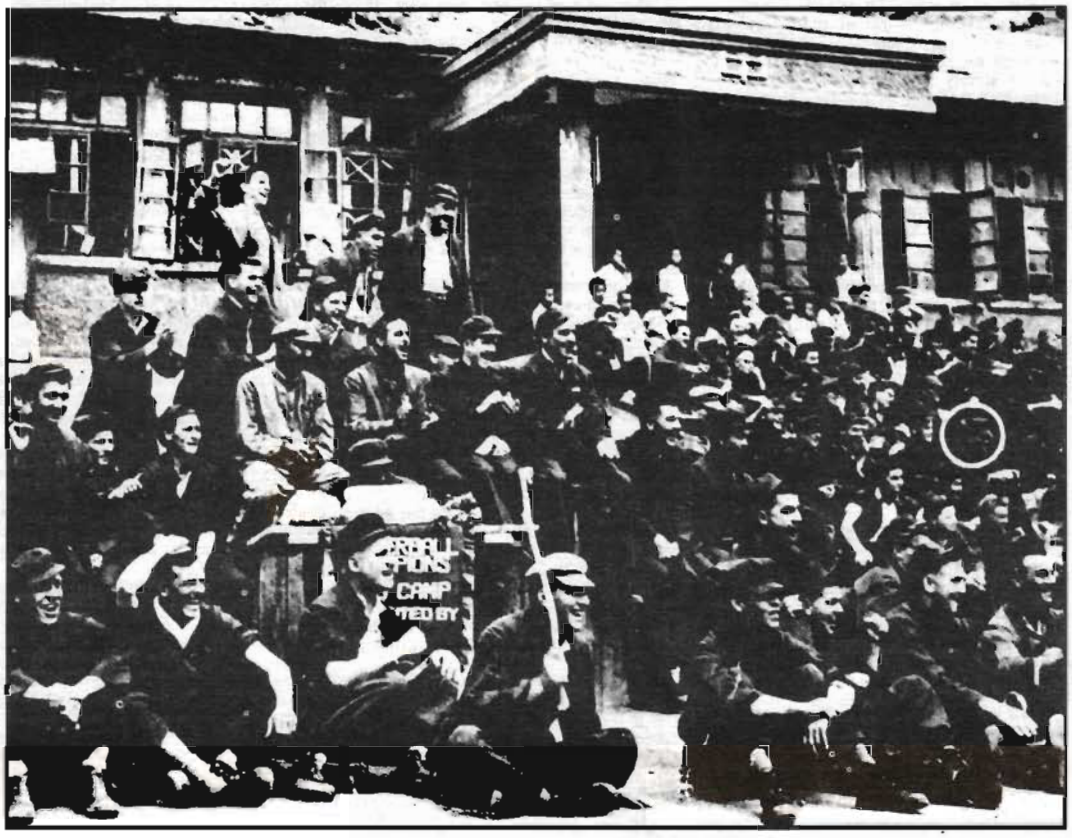
To this day, Air Force Col. (Ret.) Delk Simpson doesn't know whatever happened to a "top-secret" report he said he cabled to the Pentagon in 1955, when he was an air attache in Hong Kong. It was about a Polish emigre who told him he had seen about 700 military prisoners, many of them black, getting off a train en route from China to Siberia. The Pole, who was emigrating to Australia, thought the soldiers were Americans, and Simpson believed him.

Last year, Simpson told Pentagon intelligence officers that he promptly reported the interrogation of the Pole in a cable to the Pentagon, but had been unable to learn what, if anything, resulted. The Pentagon says it has been investigating the matter — but frankly doesn't have much hope of tracking down a nameless Pole who left China 31 years ago.

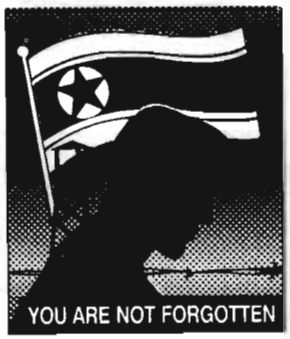
"Did you call 'attention,' sir?"

"HEATED AND SERVED AFLAME, THESE LITTLE CAKES MAKE A VERY SATISFACTORY DESSERT."

KOREAN WAR'S POW MYSTERY



In this Chinese propaganda photo of prisoners watching an athletic contest at POW Camp 5, in North Korea, Robert Dumas believes the man circled in white is his brother Roger.



One Man's Crusade To Find His Brother

(This is the second part of a series exploring the mystery surrounding the fate of 389 American prisoners of war for whom the Communists have never accounted since the Korean War.)

By DANIEL GREENE
Times Staff Writer

From the official record and dimming family recollections, little can be learned that distinguishes Roger Dumas from many other American POWs who never reappeared after the Korean War.

Like thousands of others who came of age in America's first hot war against Communist aggression, Dumas was an affable but unremarkable young man who joined the Army after quitting high school and working for a while in low-paying factory jobs.

Fuzzy, 36-year-old snapshots show a slender soldier in rumpled khakis, with a widow's peak above a bland, hairless face: The kind of nondescript visage that haunts pictorial histories of America's wars — and photo albums of families that provided the citizen-soldiers, typically too young to vote, who fought them.

It's the face of GI Joe's kid brother — too young for World War II, old enough for Korea.

But for reasons beyond his control, Dumas was destined to become more than just a face in the crowd and another name on a list. Dead or alive, he has come to personify the mystery that envelopes the fate of 389 Americans who were known to be in Communist captivity but were not released when all POWs were supposed to be repatriated in 1953.

Over the years, the Dumas case has evoked several official investigations, an unprecedented court trial, and a quixotic one-man crusade bent on resolving the fate of captured U.S. warriors who vanished a generation ago.

The crusader and perpetuator of the mystery: Dumas' brother Robert, a tenacious, 56-year-old Connecticut Yankee who has been goading, nagging, and tormenting Washington officials since Eisenhower was president.

Washington officialdom continues to cover up the truth about unaccounted-for POWs, Bob Dumas says, because it fears the political fallout that would result from admitting that previous administrations knowingly left hundreds of U.S. servicemen, alive but helpless, in North Korea.

Government officials have vigorously denied such accusations. They point out that many people, civilians and combatants alike, vanish without a trace in the devastating chaos of every war.

The Defense Department acknowledges that postwar accountings did not resolve the fate of 8,177 Americans lost in Korea and 2,430 missing in Southeast Asia. In all likelihood, most were battlefield casualties whose remains were never identified or found.

But in Korea, the United Nations Command accumulated substantial evidence that at least 2,233 U.N. personnel for whom the Communists never accounted — including 389 Americans — were in enemy hands before the armistice.

DoD periodically insists that it has no evidence verifying the survival of any American still listed as "prisoner of war" or "missing in action" in Korea, Indochina, or anywhere else.

In particular, according to the Army, Roger Dumas was either killed when Communist forces overran his infantry battalion in November 1950, or died some time later in captivity.

Yet Bob Dumas is convinced that his brother not only was a POW when the war ended, but remains a captive to this day in North Korea, China or the Soviet Union. If so, Roger was 54 last July.

Moreover, Dumas and others believe, countless Americans who have disappeared since World War II are being held, in violation of international law and treaties, in Communist prisons or "slave labor camps."

Dumas, a retired Connecticut state employee, has been trying to prove this for more than three decades. Most of that time, nobody paid much attention to him.

Finally, he took the government to court. In a 1982 suit, he charged that the president and other high officials violated his brother's constitutional rights by not liberating him and other captives, and by refusing to classify them POW rather than MIA.

Since then, the singlehanded crusader for forgotten POWs has not felt so lonely.

Publicity over his suit elicited an invitation for Dumas to appear on "The Donahue Show." And that prompted letters and calls from everywhere — from vets who just wanted to help, from charlatans scheming to exploit the issue, from mysterious strangers with murky tales of top-level cover-ups and secret POW rescue missions.

More recently, the POW-MIA movement that evolved in the aftermath of the Vietnam War has inspired older veterans' groups to revive the long-dormant question of whether any POWs of earlier wars remain in captivity. A leading force in the revival is the Chosin Few, an organization of veterans who fought at the Chosin Reservoir, near the Korea-Manchuria border.

Vietnam's agreement last winter — more than a decade after the fall of Saigon — to cooperate in joint efforts to find remains of U.S. casualties has fueled hope for a similar breakthrough in Korea.

"For over 30 years, the North Koreans have absolutely stonewalled our requests, through the Military Armistice Commis-

125 miles south of the Manchurian border.

Years later, Bob Dumas recalled what his brother wrote: "Roger told us that they were camped in an apple orchard after crossing a river or stream, trying to dry out in freezing temperatures.... [He] said the temperature was 30 degrees below zero and that none of the men had gloves or lined boots. Their water-cooled machine guns were freezing."

Dumas was a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, which had spent the past four months fighting its way from one end of the peninsula to the other. On Nov. 1, elements of the 24th Division had advanced to within 18 miles of the Yalu, but had withdrawn to the Chongchon River, not far from Anju, after a series of ferocious counterattacks stalled MacArthur's northward thrust.

Reports of these sporadic battles in Korea's rugged northern reaches worried U.N. commanders for another reason: The enemy included Chinese troops, many wearing North Korean uniforms.

On Nov. 4 — the day after Dumas wrote his last letter — the 1st Battalion's tenuous beachhead on the northern bank of the Chongchon was overrun by Chinese forces. When the battalion regrouped three days later, 197 soldiers — nearly 30 percent of its strength — were missing. One was Roger Dumas.

That hellish November, which culminated in the overwhelming Chinese offensive that drove MacArthur's army out of North Korea before Christmas, countless soldiers vanished without a trace. Many were blown into pieces too small to identify. Some were captured, summarily executed, and buried in unmarked mass graves. Others died of exposure, hunger, wounds, or brutality on forced marches to northern POW camps. Hundreds who survived the marches never came back.

(Most atrocities in the first few months of the war were committed by North Korean troops, who routinely shot prisoners they didn't want to bother with. In contrast, the Chinese often released wounded prisoners, exhorting them to spread the word about their "humane treatment." And, as a general rule, those they held captive were subjected to relentless indoctrination — "brainwashing" — rather than physical torture.)

What happened to Roger Dumas? The Army simply did not know. It found no physical evidence of his fate or whereabouts; nor did anybody report seeing him killed or captured.

At the Dumas home that year, Thanksgiving was a somber occasion. By then, Bob had joined the Army, too, and was away in training camp. And on Nov. 28, an Army officer delivered a telegram saying Roger was "missing in action."

When Bob left for Korea in March 1951, he didn't tell his mother where he was going. He sent her mail through a friend in Austria, he says, so she wouldn't worry about losing another son in combat. (Of four Dumas brothers who served in Korea, Roger was the only one who didn't come back.)

Bob Dumas, an artillery man, went to Korea hoping to trace his younger brother. In 20 months of combat, however, he found nothing but a soldier here and there who remembered Roger but had no idea what happened to him.

In November 1951, a year after Roger Dumas vanished, the Casualty Branch of the Army Adjutant General's Office reviewed the record of his disappearance, as required by the Missing Person's Act. Consequently, Mr. and Mrs. Dumas were notified that their son was still classified MIA because he "could be reasonably presumed to be alive."

The War Ends

By the time Bob returned from Korea in November 1952 — minus a finger lost in a loading accident — his parents had received no further information concerning their last son.

After two years of seesaw battles over war-ravaged hills just north of the 38th parallel, both sides had been trying to find a way to end the aimless warfare. Yet truce talks, commenced in July 1951, had been stymied by the Communists' refusal to accept a U.N. demand that POWs not be repatriated against their will. Not until June 1953 did they grudgingly concede to this condition.

Under terms of the armistice, then, the Communists turned over 12,773 U.N. captives, including 3,597 Americans. One British and 21 U.S. defectors chose to stay in China.

The U.N. Command returned 75,823 North Koreans and Chinese. But before and after the ceasefire, nearly 49,000 refused to return to their homelands.

The numbers added up to the Communists' final defeat of the inconclusive war. And that widely publicized humiliation, many believe, was the main reason several hundred American POWs never came back.

After questioning all returning POWs, military authorities figured that 3,404 U.N. personnel known to have been in Communist custody, including 944 Americans, had not been accounted for.

In September, several weeks after the ceasefire, the Dumas family received another message from the Pentagon. At last, it brought a gleam of hope.

Roger Dumas, the telegram said, "is one of the 944 men who, there is reason to believe, were at one time in Communist custody and for whom no accounting has been made. This list has been presented to the Communists with an urgent request for such an accounting. All possible efforts are being made to obtain information regarding Corporal Dumas." (Promotions were routinely issued, in due time, to missing servicemen not presumed dead, including PFC Dumas.)

Julia and Joseph Dumas never knew how DoD obtained this information or what it really meant. Bob Dumas did not find out until 24 years later.

"What they didn't tell us then is that they, in fact, had information about Roger," Dumas told a *Norwich Bulletin* reporter. "Hidden in that cold, legalistic jargon is the truth: 'We have talked to prisoners who say they remember Roger in [POW] Camp 5.'"

But the hope aroused by the postwar telegram was dashed five months later by another official notification from Washington. This one, from the Army's Adjutant General, said that in the absence of "information to support a continued presumption of survival," a "presumptive finding of death" was being recorded for Cpl. Dumas.

"The finding does not establish an actual or probable date of death," the letter explained. "However, as required by law, it includes a presumptive date of death [Feb. 26, 1954] for the termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts, and payment of death gratuities."

In 1955, the Army Quartermaster General's Memorial Division convened a board of officers to review all available evidence pertaining to unresolved war casualties. The review included results of efforts by Graves Registration teams to find and recover U.N. remains.

(These searches were severely limited. Searching within the demilitarized zone — a 2½-mile-wide buffer established between North and South Korea — was limited to 45 days. U.S. search teams were not allowed inside North Korea at all. But the Communists agreed to conduct their own search, and eventually handed over the remains of about 4,000 Allied casualties.)

According to the review board, not all Americans "interred" in North Korea were returned, and "a number" of recovered remains could not be identified: "A wide disparity exists between the number of unidentified remains and the number of unaccounted for casualties."

The review board also found that many U.S. servicemen still listed MIA in South Korea "were actually captured and transported to North Korea, where they subsequently died. However, specific information is lacking as to the number, identity, or circumstances surrounding their disappearance."

In light of all this, the board concluded in its January 1956 report to the Dumas family, Roger's "remains are nonrecoverable."

With that, the case was officially closed.

But Robert Dumas didn't believe any of it.

"How could 9,000 guys just disappear in a place the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut?" he wondered. "I wanted to find out."

The Silent Generation

Discharged in July 1952, Dumas worked in Connecticut factories for a few years, then got a job on the state's roadway maintenance crew. He settled down in the Plainfield area — where he had grown up — married, and eventually fathered five children.

In 1959, four years after her husband's death, Julia Dumas died. On her deathbed, she sometimes mistook Bob for Roger. And at the end, Bob recalls, he promised her that he would never stop searching until he found out what happpened to her youngest child.

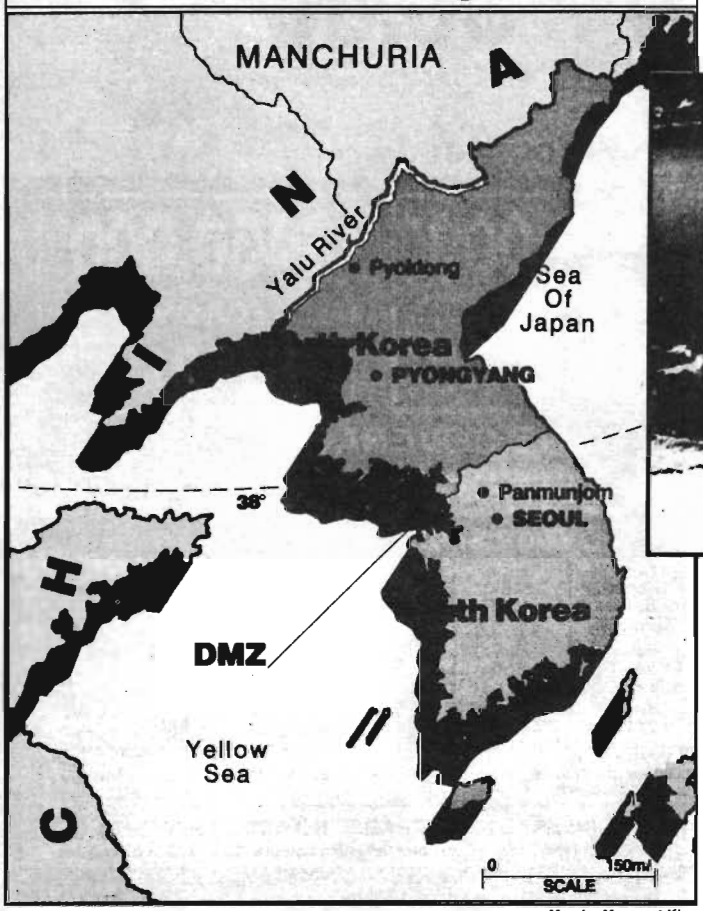
The vow would become an obsession.

Dumas already was collecting information about the war and its aftermath and writing letters about his lost brother to the Pentagon, Congress, and everybody he thought might be of help. Over the years, the phone and letter campaign continued; and the accumulation of research, correspondence, and data in the small Dumas

Associated Press Photo

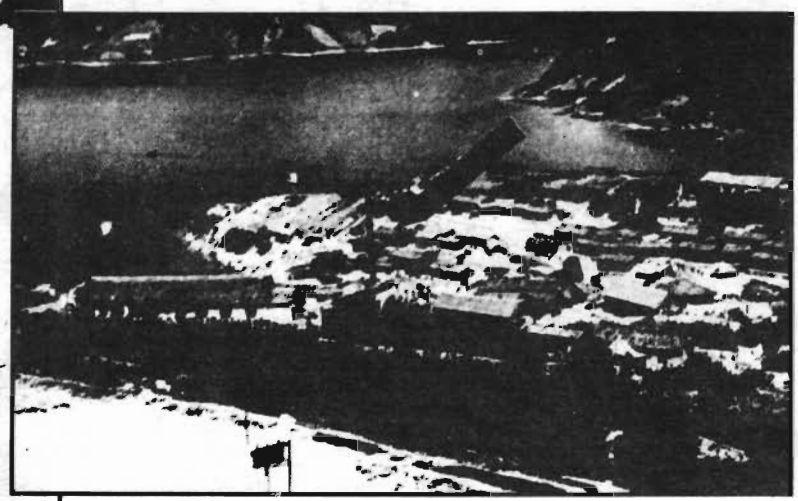
A group of American officers captured during the Korean War march under guard in this 1951 Chinese propaganda photo.

Divided Peninsula of a Forgotten War



Map by Margaret King

According to repatriated POWs who were held at Camp 5, located at Pyoktong, near the Manchurian border, Roger Dumas lived in the hut indicated by the arrow.



sion, for an accounting," said an official in the State Department's Korean Affairs Office. "Now, they have seen how the Vietnamese have used the issue, and they would like to use it the same way — as leverage to establish direct contact with the United States."

North Korea wants tripartite talks with the United States and South Korea to negotiate a peace treaty to replace the armistice that has existed since the 1953 ceasefire, according to the State Department official. Predictably, the Communists would insist that a peace treaty require the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the south.

Officially, the United States maintains that the armistice agreement prohibits such direct negotiations. Unresolved issues are supposed to be handled by the Military Armistice Commission, whose UN component represents South Korea and 16 nations that came to its defense.

But for a year or so, there have been indications that the mutual intransigence perpetuating the enmity between North Korea and the United States since the advent of the Cold War might be softening. Coincidentally, the catalyst of this hopeful trend is the haunting question of what happened to the captured Americans who never came home.

The question Bob Dumas never stopped asking.

A Brother Goes to War

Four of her six sons had joined the Army, so Julia Dumas was not surprised when her youngest, 16-year-old Roger, asked for written permission to enlist in the National Guard. Reluctantly, she signed for him, and did the same when he decided to join the regular Army in January 1949, six months before his 18th birthday.

For high-school dropouts working long hours for little pay in the mill towns of eastern Connecticut, military service offered an exciting alternative.

The six Dumas boys and their sister grew up in Plainfield, where the family lived in duplex housing owned by Lawton Mills, which had employed both parents since their immigration from Canada many years before. The youngest two, Robert and Roger, were especially close.

"We did everything together," reminisces Bob Dumas, who was born 14 months before Roger. "I was his protector. If he wasn't in the house by 6 o'clock, I had to go find him."

But when Roger and a boyhood buddy joined the Army, Bob decided to stay home for a while longer.

Her sons told Mrs. Dumas not to worry about Roger. After all, the United States was not at war. And what the press called "the Cold War" seemed too remote and abstract to worry about.

Most Americans probably were unaware that, eight months earlier, an election had been held in a faraway land their history classes had all but ignored. As a result of the election — supervised by the 3-year-old United Nations — the Republic of Korea was established in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula, which had been liberated from Japanese rule by U.S. and Soviet forces in 1945.

The Soviet Union refused to permit elections in the northern half, which it controlled after World War II, and proclaimed it the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

Both of these new governments claimed to rule all of Korea.

Meanwhile, beyond the northernmost Korean border, Chinese Communists were driving Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces out of the most populous country in the world. And in 1950, a formal alliance was established between the two largest Communist nations, China and the Soviet Union.

On June 25 of that year, the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel, the demarcation line dividing the Korean Peninsula, and swept southward.

The U.N. Security Council quickly adopted a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the invading force. (The Soviet delegate, who certainly would have vetoed the measure, was then boycotting the council in protest of the refusal to admit mainland China.) When this was ignored, subsequent U.N. resolutions recommended that member states provide military forces, under U.S. command, for the defense of South Korea.

By July 2, a hastily formed task force of the U.S. 24th Infantry Division had flown from Japan to Pusan, at the southeastern end of Korea, and was moving northward to meet the onrushing invasion force.

Later that month — 17 months after he joined the peacetime Army — PFC Roger Dumas found himself among the first U.S. forces sent to war against communism.

Most of the U.S. troops were green, inadequately trained, poorly equipped, desperately outnumbered, and largely outfought as the North Koreans pushed them back toward Pusan. But on Sept. 15, a U.S. force made a remarkable amphibious landing at Inchon, not far from Seoul, South Korea's captured capital.

That turned the tide. By the end of the month, U.N. troops had driven the Communists out of Seoul, hooked up with Allied forces that had broken out of the besieged Pusan area, and were routing what was left of the decimated invasion force.

After North Korea rejected a surrender ultimatum by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the U.N. commander ordered his army to cross the 38th parallel on Oct. 8 and press on to the Yalu River, on the northern frontier. MacArthur's high-stakes, high-risk objective: destruction of the Communist regime in North Korea and reunification of the peninsula.

North Korea's giant allies to the north, however, had no intention of letting that happen. So across the Yalu, a mighty Chinese army was massing along the border. And by mid-October, Chinese troops were stealthily crossing the Yalu — moving by night, hiding by day in the hills and gorges of northern Korea.

On Oct. 15, MacArthur personally assured President Truman that China would not intervene and the war would be over by Thanksgiving.

Missing in Action

The last letter his family received from Roger Dumas was written nearly three weeks later, someplace northeast of Anju,

home grew into an awesome paper monument to filial devotion.

Not many countrymen, however, shared his obsession.

Eloquently irate congressmen held hearings on the POW issue, of course, and adopted a resolution urging the Eisenhower administration to make the return of American POWs "the foremost objective of the foreign policy of the United States."

But in Washington, a city of revolving doors, administrations change every few years, agendas and public issues even more frequently. Inevitably, then, as public pressure waned, champions of the missing turned to more popular concerns.

So did the public. The children and younger siblings of the generation that had won World War II became the "silent generation" after their own disillusioning war, and Korea was soon a fading bad memory. Indeed, in the Eisenhower Years, reports of UFO sightings were likely to be taken more seriously than a recalcitrant veteran's monotonous grumblings about "abandoned POWs" and "government coverups."

Meanwhile, far away, the Military Armistice Commission established at Panmunjom to maintain the Korean truce continued to haggle over disputes all but forgotten in America. The Communist side adamantly denied knowing anything about hundreds of unrepatriated POWs.

Eventually, as more evidence and remains were found, the list of missing American POWs was reduced from 944 to 389.

But year after year, the classification of Cpl. Dumas remained unchanged: "MIA-Presumed Dead."

Eyewitnesses Remember

The Vietnam War relegated the "silent generation" to oblivion.

After two frustrating wars the United States neither (militarily) won nor lost; after an era of turbulent antigovernment activism; after Watergate and the Nixon administration's downfall, the "Baby Boom" generation, born after World War II, was far more skeptical of the federal government than its elders had been.

Having come of age in the contentious '60s, many members of this generation reacted characteristically to the government's failure to resolve the fate of Americans missing in Indochina: Families and friends of the missing formed organizations to generate public interest and pressure. And eventually they grew into the nationwide "Forget Me Not" movement.

Though rent by factionalism — the most aggressive splinter group came to be known as "the Rambo Faction" — it was a movement no politician could ignore. Activists ground out letters and newsletters; distributed POW-MIA flags, decals, and bumper stickers; made speeches, and packed congressional hearings.

Yet in rural Canterbury, Conn., Robert Dumas was still waging a one-man crusade for POWs of a forgotten war when, in 1973, he was critically injured on the job. He retired with a disability pension, and thereafter devoted most of his time to the cause.

The first big break in 24 years came in the fall of 1977, while he was convalescing from an operation. In response to a letter another brother had written the president, the Department of the Army sent him copies of the Dumas record. One document was a startling revelation.

It is a typed sheet, dated April 29, 1957, summarizing what was then known about the case. Following several lines of biographical data is this statement: "Cecil V. Preston, after his repatriation on 24 April 1953, stated that a Private Dumas was alive, but in poor physical condition in Camp #5."

The next paragraph says: "Several other statements have been received from repatriated POWs that Private Dumas was captured and held in Camp #5, at Pyoktong, North Korea. These statements are not in agreement as to the date on which Private Dumas is supposed to have died, but are agreed that he was held in Camp #5. Since only one man by the name of Dumas was reported MIA in Korea, there appears to be little chance for a mistake in identification."

Below the subhead "3 Enclosures" are these names: Bobby L. Caruth, George W. Rogers and Paul B. Worley.

Reading the 20-year-old document aroused mixed emotions. On the one hand, it was the first verification that other Americans had seen Roger Dumas in captivity. On the other hand, it was tangible proof of a suspicion Bob Dumas had long harbored — that the Pentagon had withheld vital information supporting the family's prolonged efforts to prove Dumas was not dead.

It also clarified the never-explained telegram of September 1953 raising the possibility that Dumas might be one of the prisoners for whom the Communists had not accounted.

Several weeks later, Dumas obtained a copy of the list of missing POWs to which the postwar telegram alluded. One of the names was Roger A. Dumas.

To many Capitol Hill and Pentagon officials, Bob Dumas had long been a zealous nuisance. Now he was a bulldog.

He asked Rep. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., for help in tracking down the former POWs named in the 1957 summary sheet. In 1978, the congressman's staff found Cecil "Sonny" Preston in Seattle.

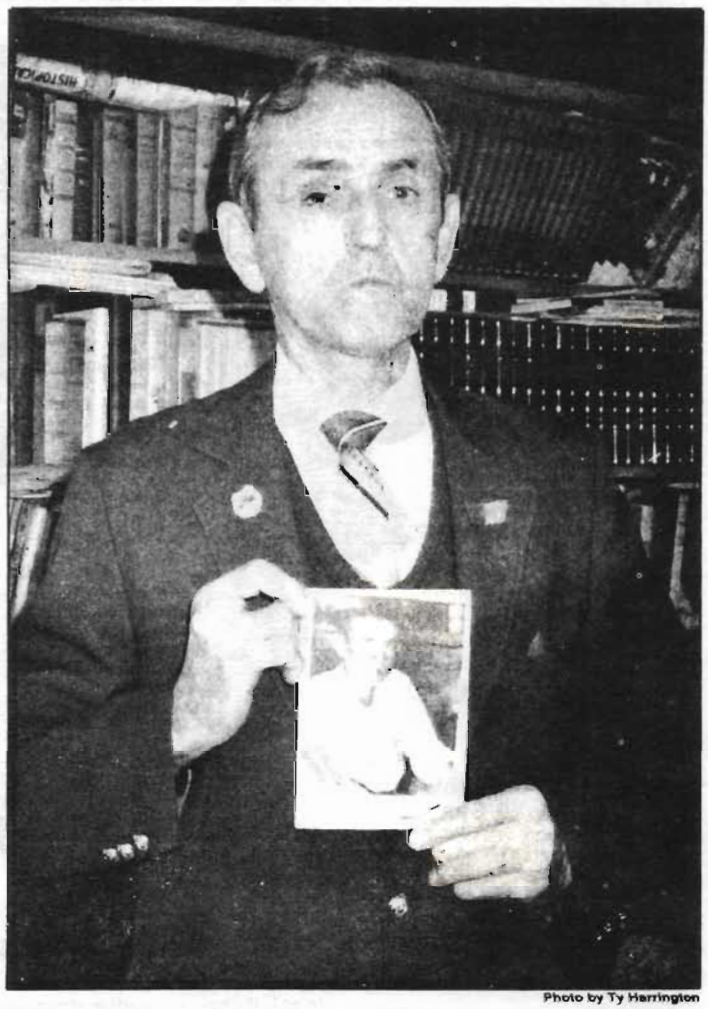
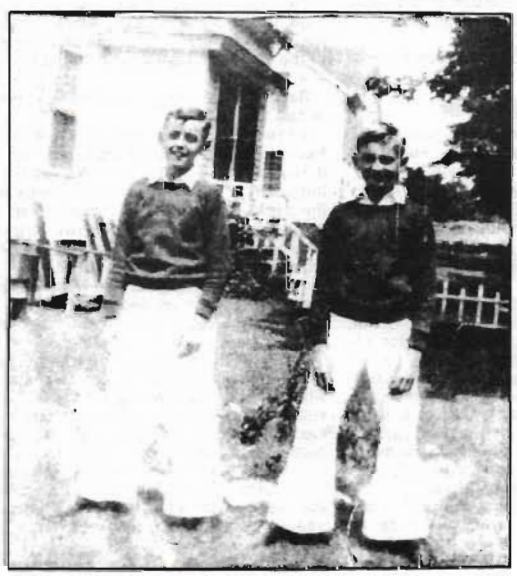


Photo by Ty Herrington



Robert Dumas, top photo, holds a 1950 picture of his brother Roger, above, who never was repatriated by the Communists after the Korean War. The Dumas brothers, at ages 12 and 11, pose for the camera in a 1942 picture, left.

After sending him a photo of Roger, Dumas received a phone call from Preston, who confirmed that he had known his brother in Camp 5, near the Manchurian border. According to Dumas, Preston was shocked to learn that Roger had not come back with the others.

In a subsequent letter to Dumas, Preston said that the last time he saw him, Roger asked him to let people know that he and others were still alive.

(Postwar debriefing records indicate that Preston then made only vague remarks about a POW he knew simply as "Dumas," and described him inaccurately.)

Preston told Dumas he had met a man at a veterans' meeting who said he, too, had known Roger at Camp 5. The man then phoned Dumas, introduced himself as Walter Embom, and proceeded to relate an incredible tale.

After spending the war in POW camps, including Camp 5, he got out of the Army, joined the Air Force, and wound up back in Korea. There, as part of a U.S. patrol in the DMZ, he was captured again in 1956, and spent another year at Camp 5. About 40 Americans were still there. One was Roger Dumas — physically fit but mentally ill.

In response to interrogatories from Dodd's staff, Embom told the same story with some variations.

According to the federal attorney who later defended the Army against Dumas' suit, however, Embom was a member of the National Guard in Washington state during the war, and did not report for active duty until June 1955. The government denies he was ever a POW.

Still, Bob Dumas is more inclined to believe Embom than the government.

"I don't trust them," he says. "In trying to find my brother, I've lost some of my patriotism."

In April 1978, Dumas also received a letter from George Rogers, whose name appears on the 1957 summary sheet, too. Rogers said he remembered a POW named Dumas, but could not recall what he looked like.

Preston sent Rogers a copy of a propaganda photo taken at Camp 5, apparently showing Dumas and himself with other prisoners. When he saw the picture, Rogers later testified, memory "flooded back," and he suddenly recalled both men vividly.

In 1980, Sonny Preston was accidentally killed.

The Trial

In 1979, Dumas filed an application to change the official status of his brother from "MIA/Presumed Dead" to "POW." A year later, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) denied the application.

The board concluded that former POWs who mentioned Dumas in postwar debriefings were referring to a repatriated American prisoner named *Donald Dumas*. "It appears that only a Donald Dumas, not Roger Dumas, is known to have been a prisoner of war in Korea," the board declared.

(Actually, this returned POW was Donald J. Deumas, who had been captured two days before Roger Dumas disappeared. Deumas, six years older than Dumas and much heavier, told investigators that he had no recollection of Sonny Preston, George Rogers or Roger Dumas.)

The ABCMR added: "No prisoners of war taken during the Korean Conflict are known to be currently held against their will."

Associated Press Photo

Two soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division, captured during the Korean War, register with a Chinese officer at a POW camp in this 1951 propaganda picture from the China Photo Service.

Later that year, an investigation of the Dumas case for the House Armed Services Committee agreed with the ABCMR.

A more extensive DoD investigation resulted in a 1982 report concluding that the expanding record did not prove Cpl. Dumas was ever a POW — but that the ABCMR should reconsider the case anyway.

Ultimately, in 1982, Dumas filed suit, charging that the president, Pentagon officials and others had deprived his brother and other POWs of their constitutional rights. A federal judge dismissed all defendants except the Secretary of the Army, and limited the scope of the suit.

After several requests for a rehearing were rebuffed by the ABCMR, a three-day trial was held in Hartford. And finally, a third of a century later, two middle-aged Army veterans graphically refuted what the government had long maintained — that Roger Dumas had never been a POW.

In a deposition, George Rogers testified that he first met Dumas at one of the Chinese indoctrination lectures Camp 5 prisoners had to routinely attend, and subsequently saw him playing volleyball or basketball. He was asked if he could identify two photographs — one of Roger Dumas, one of Donald Deumas. He identified the picture of Dumas as the POW he remembered from Camp 5.

The most vividly moving testimony was given by Lloyd Pate, who retired as an Army first sergeant in 1973. The coauthor of "Reactionary," a book about his ordeal as a POW, Pate recalled ministering to a skinny young man with a festering wound in his left side in the frigid winter of 1950:

"The wound had already turned black, and was beginning to rot. . . . I remembered some of the old home remedies that we used down in South Carolina and Georgia. . . . I went to the latrine and scooped out a handful of feces with maggots, and I placed [the maggots] in the boy's side. I took a rag and tied it up as best as I could. I felt that I couldn't hurt him, because he was almost dead then."

Months later, when the ice melted, the guards let prisoners spend time on the riverbank.

"One day, I was down there swimming and washing clothes and killing lice, and this boy walked up to me and said, 'I think I owe you a heck of a lot. . . . I think you are the man who saved my life.'"

He pulled up his shirt to display the scar of a wound where maggots had eaten away rotten flesh several months before. Printed on his shirt was a name: "DUMAS."

Pate's description of the young man named Dumas, whom he met several times thereafter, bore no resemblance to Donald Deumas.

A few weeks after the trial, the judge contradicted the conclusions of all the government investigations, and ordered the Army to reconsider the Dumas case.

The testimony of Pate and Rogers, he concluded, "establishes Roger Dumas as an individual distinct from Donald Deumas, and in Camp 5, North Korea, at least during part of the year 1951. Such testimony, not contradicted by evidentiary facts to the contrary, presents sufficient relevant evidence to make out a *prima facie* case of probable material error or injustice in the reclassification of Roger Dumas as Missing in Action, rather than as a Prisoner of War."

A year later, Dumas received a two-paragraph letter from a colonel in the Army Adjutant General's office. It began: "The Army Board for Correction of Military Records has asked me to inform you that your late brother's records have been corrected in accordance with their findings." For some reason, the letter did not say that the Army had at last done what the Dumas family had wanted it to do since Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House: reclassify Roger Dumas POW.

But what, besides a different label, had been accomplished?

- The pretrial discovery process unearthed evidence that the Army had long harbored reports by repatriated prisoners indicating that many Americans presumed dead were last seen in POW camps.
- Maps of POW camps and burial sites, introduced as evidence, have been presented to the Communists at Panmunjom to support recent U.N. requests that they locate and return Allied remains.
- The case inspired other Korean War veterans to revive the mystery of their forgotten comrades.
- Although the Army still "presumes" Cpl. Dumas is dead, Bob Dumas argues that, like an unsolved murder mystery, the case of a POW who was alive when last seen cannot be officially closed until it is resolved one way or another.

"If a guy's a POW, the government can't just write him off," he says. "They can't close the case because there's always the possibility that he's still alive somewhere."

And sooner or later, Dumas predicts, the government will have to find and free the prisoners left behind.

KOREAN WAR'S POW MYSTERY

More than three decades ago, the Korean War truce talks started in a cluster of tents at Panmunjom, shown above in a photograph taken in March 1952. Since then, North Korean-Chinese adamancy on the prisoner-of-war question never varied until last year.

U.S. Army Photo

Hope Grows for Answer To Decades-Old Question

This story is the third in a three-part series by Army Times staff writer Daniel Greene exploring the mystery surrounding the fate of 389 American prisoners of war for whom the Communists have never accounted since the Korean War.

For more than three decades, in a grim Korean village of hair-trigger tension, stone-faced North Korean officers glowered, grumbled, and rebuffed demands that they account for thousands of United Nations troops who vanished in the chaos of a long-ago war.

In years of often strident, usually tedious meetings of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom, Communist officers stubbornly denied any knowledge of missing U.N. personnel. Their response to relentless demands by the United Nations Command for information about the missing people was defiantly constant.

What happened to 8,177 missing Americans for whom North Korea and the People's Republic of China never accounted? The Communists insisted they returned all remains of war casualties they could find in 1954.

What about 2,233 U.N. personnel, including 389 Americans, who were known to have been in North Korean POW camps but never reappeared after the armistice? All POWs were repatriated in 1953, according to the Communists.

The North Korean-Chinese line never varied — until last year.

Inconspicuously, sometime in the summer of 1985, North Korea's official intransigence began to give a little. Unofficial hints were conveyed that American bodies might, after all, be found and returned.

Since then, a new generation of military officers, politicians, and diplomats from long-hostile societies has been engaging in an undeclared process, gradual and tentative, that eventually could settle the last festering issues of an unresolved war inherited from elders.

One catalyst in this hopeful trend: The growing activism of Korean War veterans.

The War Dead

The truce agreement signed in July 1953 required the repatriation of all POWs who wanted to return to their homelands and of all casualty remains that could be found. All willing prisoners were to have been repatriated by September 1953 in Operation Big Switch.

Each side was permitted to conduct search-and-recovery operations within the Demilitarized Zone, separating North and South Korea, for 45 days. Not until a year after Big Switch, however, did the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) work out an agreement requiring each side to search for and return remains found in its territory. Casualty search teams from one side were not allowed to enter territory controlled by the other.

The temporary provision enabling these search-and-recovery operations — officially entitled the "Understanding on Administrative Details for the Delivery and Reception of Bodies of Military Personnel of Both Sides" — was dissolved in October 1954.

More than a year later, a U.S. Army board of officers, convened to review all unresolved cases, reported: "Although the Communists turned over approximately 4,000 United Nations deceased personnel [including 1,868 Americans], it is now known that not all of the United States servicemen actually interred in North Korea were returned.... A wide disparity exists between the number of unidentified remains and the number of unaccounted-for casualties."

Through the ensuing years, the U.N. Command regularly asked the Communist component at Panmunjom for an accounting of missing U.N. personnel. But for reasons now unclear, these perfunctory demands did not include specific requests that North Korea and China search for and return remains of U.N. casualties.

Air Force Col. Howard Hill, principal adviser on POW-MIA affairs in the Defense Department, said the U.N. Command did not start asking the Communists to return remains until 1982.

"Prior to that, the agreement called for repatriation of POWs and war dead," he said in a recent interview. "So there should not have been a need for us to specifically ask for them."

Coincidentally, in 1982 something else happened that would have an impact on the course of events subsequently begun at Panmunjom: Robert Dumas — whose 33-year crusade to prove his brother is still a POW was chronicled in this series — filed suit against the president, the secretary of the Army, and other federal officials.

Dumas, one of four brothers who served with the Army in the Korean War, charged that the defendants had violated his youngest brother's constitutional rights by not freeing him from Communist captivity after the ceasefire and by refusing to classify him "prisoner of war" rather than "missing in action."

A federal judge limited the scope of the suit and dismissed all defendants but the secretary of the Army. In a three-day trial in Hartford, two Army veterans refuted the Army's 30-year position that Cpl. Roger Dumas had been killed in action and never captured. Each testified (one by deposition) that he had known Roger Dumas in POW Camp 5, near the Manchurian border.

Consequently, the judge ordered the Army to reinvestigate the Dumas case. In 1984, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records changed the classification of Roger Dumas from "MIA/Presumed Dead" to "POW." But the Army's "presumptive finding of death," recorded in 1954, stands.

Less than a year later, in the summer of 1985, a North Korean officer spoke unofficially with a U.S. major across the truce line at Panmunjom. According to a *Newsday* reporter, the North Korean "suggested something might be worked out on the MIAs."

The Veterans

Bob Dumas' suit and trial, which publicized the long campaign to prove his brother is alive somewhere in Communist Asia, revived the long-forgotten mystery surrounding the fate of American prisoners who never came home. And before long,

the issue that Dumas singlehandedly kept alive for a generation was becoming a cause for Korean War veterans, many now retired and nagged by guilt for having long ignored the possible plight of the lost prisoners.

Last year, another development encouraged the middle-aged veterans. A decade after the fall of Saigon, Vietnam offered to cooperate with the United States in efforts to recover remains of Americans killed in Indochina. This fueled hope for a similar breakthrough in Korea.

Frank Kerr, cofounder of the Chosin Few, an association of veterans who fought at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950, was then trying to promote the idea of a veterans' reunion at the site of the epic battle, not far from the Manchurian border. In a long series of correspondence and phone conversations with foreign go-betweens, he sought North Korean cooperation for the venture. These contacts eventually led to a private meeting with North Korean officials in a suite on the 32nd floor of a nondescript Manhattan apartment building where their government's U.N. contingent lives.

In October 1985, Kerr described what happened in a letter to Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will cooperate in returning the remains of American missing in action of the Korean War if the United States government formally requests a search for and recovery of those war dead," he wrote.

Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's vice premier and foreign-affairs minister, "is sincere, charming, candid, athletically trim, and has a good sense of humor," Kerr said. "For instance, when I said we understand that some of the 389 American prisoners who never returned from the war are now living and working in China by their own choice, he said they probably stayed because of the pretty girls. I agreed that Chinese and Korean women are beautiful, a fact beyond dispute in any forum."

Kerr, a burly former Marine sergeant, said he was a political conservative and "a diehard advocate — not an apologist — of our country, so I was mentally braced to defend the U.S. and our role in the Korean War, if necessary. But [Kim Yong Nam] never made a derogatory remark about our country. In fact, he said his government looked forward to improving relations with our government. . . .

"He said it was not the nature of his country, nor would it serve any purpose, to keep those remains 'through eternity' — as he put it — and expressed his willingness to cooperate toward their return."

Asked if any American prisoners remained in his country, the vice premier replied with one word: "No."

A month after the meeting, the senior U.N. member of the Military Armistice Commission wrote to his North Korean counterpart, again urging his side to search for remains of U.N. war casualties.

But the official U.S. position remained unchanged: All unresolved issues of the war must be handled by the Military Armistice Commission, whose U.N. component represents 16 nations that fought on the side of South Korea. The United States cannot, therefore, negotiate unilaterally with North Korea.

North Korean officials in New York City have met several times this year with Chosin Few representatives and other American civilians. Last month, Bob Dumas and two associates spent more than two hours with some of them. If North Korea would let him in, Dumas said, he would go with a shovel to look for American bodies.

The Chosin Few, which has about 2,300 members, also has offered to mount a search-and-recovery operation in North Korea.

The Diplomats

Meanwhile, ambiguous diplomacy drones on.

Last August, the U.N. Command gave the Communists maps and charts showing the location of 13 former POW camps and a POW hospital where prisoners were buried; a list of seven cemeteries reportedly containing remains of 288 U.N. soldiers, and a list of 291 air-crash sites.

In response, the Communists pointed out that the old "understanding" authorizing the postwar search-and-recovery operations had been dissolved by mutual agreement in 1954. They cited the only paragraph of the provision that was retained: "In the event that either side discovers in its territory bodies of military personnel belonging to the other side after the termination of this Understanding, the delivery and reception of such bodies shall be arranged through the Secretaries of both sides of the Military Armistice Commission."

Thus, the Communists argued, remains could be returned through the armistice commission, but searching for and exhuming remains "did not fall within the purview of the function of the MAC."

Is this a valid argument?

"The provision that requires them to return bodies through the MAC implies a legal obligation to search for and disinter those bodies," said a State Department official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified. "That's the official U.S. government position."

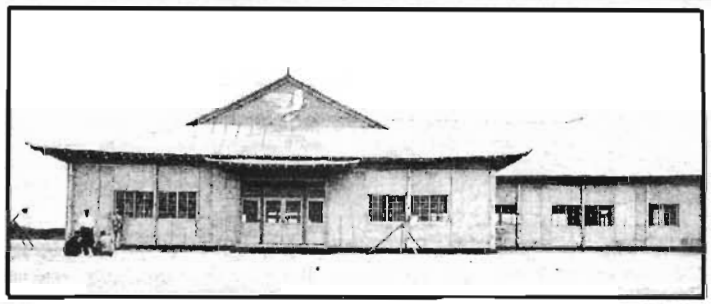
He acknowledged that it is a tenuous argument.

"However, this is not a matter of an objective judge making a decision," he said. "It's a matter of how much political pressure is put on various parties. It's a political decision, despite the fact that both sides hide behind legal arguments."

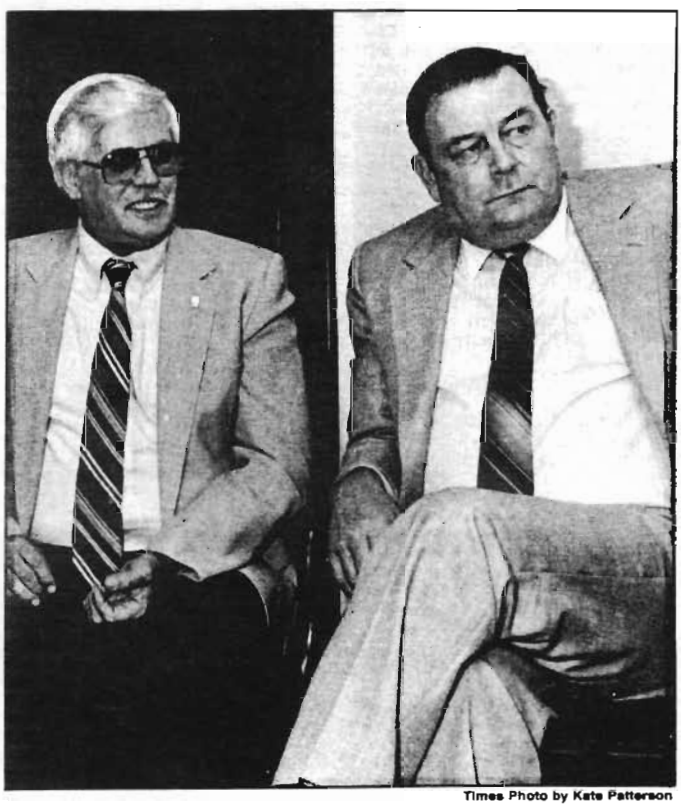
Is the U.S. government willing to seek a resolution of the remains-recovery issue outside the MAC, as North Korea has proposed?

"It's a possibility," the State official said. "All I can say is that we are looking at various options, various middle grounds and compromise possibilities."

U.S. Army Photo



Air Force Maj. Gen. Felix M. Rogers, chief U.N. spokesman, addresses the 310th session of the Korean War armistice commission in December 1970 (above). The Korean War armistice was signed in a building (left) erected by Communist soldiers and workers for that purpose in 1953.



Times Photo by Kate Patterson

Frank Kerr (right), cofounder and president of the Chosin Few association, met privately with North Korean officials in an effort to resolve the issue of Americans missing in the Korean War. He is shown here with Thomas Gregory (right), chairman of the group's MIA-POW committee.

North Koreans Seen Using MIA Issue as a Wedge

East Asian specialists in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs recently met with Army Times *writer Daniel Greene to discuss U.S. efforts to resolve the fate of Americans unaccounted for after the Korean War. Air Force Col. Howard Hill, the principal adviser on POW-MIA affairs, agreed to be named. His responses are introduced by "A (1)". The other specialist quoted requested that he not be named. His responses are indicated by "A (2)".*

Q: There's a long history of POWs secretly held for years by Communist nations. Does our government have any evidence that Americans captured in Korea still are being held after all these years?

A (1): We don't have any evidence to support the belief that there are Americans left behind, that they have been shipped to other countries, or anything like that....

This is unlike the Indochina situation, where we have many unresolved first-hand-sighting reports. We have what we call discrepancy cases — instances where men were captured, yet were not accounted for at the end of the [Korean] war. Neither they nor their remains were returned.

In Indochina, we've had sources, predominantly refugees, who have come out with accounts in which they have described seeing Americans, Caucasians, sometimes in captive situations. We have not had anything like this in Korea....

There are always going to be rumors. We'll continue to check them out. There'll always be a lingering mythology on this issue....

There may be some people who feel that [talking about POW survivors] is a way of stimulating interest in the issue. However, I think that particular approach will do nothing more than contribute to the lingering mythology surrounding the issue. And it will actually become a source of disinformation, or misinformation, rather than putting the issue in proper perspective.

Q: Hasn't Vietnam's recent cooperation in searching for U.S. remains revived interest in the fate of missing Korean War soldiers?

A (2): One difference between Korea and Vietnam is that we have a mechanism for dealing with North Korea on armistice violations and things of that sort. The U.N. side has returned bodies found in the south, through the Military Armistice Commission, over the years. So we have always had an established channel there, whereas we didn't in Vietnam....

In Vietnam, we have emphasized the recovery of American bodies. In Korea, 16 nations fought under the U.N. banner. Nine of those nations have missing men. So any cemetery up north, or any site of a major battle, is probably going to have dead from South Korea, America, and maybe even some of the smaller nations....

A (1): On Aug. 19 [the Communist component of the Military Armistice Commission] was provided by our MAC with documentation on 13 POW camps, a POW hospital, 299 sites of crashes involving 301 men who are unaccounted for, battle sites, and known grave sites in the north.

Q: North Koreans have told the U.N. side at Panmunjom and U.S. citizens who have met with them in New York City that the armistice agreement no longer has a provision authorizing searches for war casualties. They say the Military Armistice Commission has authority to receive remains from either side, and to repatriate them, but not to search for and dig up remains. Is this a valid argument?

A (2): It's not correct. We have an established mechanism to deal with that. What the North Koreans want is to deal directly with the United States. And they are trying to use this issue as a wedge in our relationship with South Korea. Our alliance there is based on defending South Korea against a threat from North Korea.

North

For humanitarian reasons, we certainly want the return of our war dead. But we can't let the North Koreans use that rationale to drive a wedge between us [and South Korea]. That's why we have said we will deal with them through the United Nations Command. And we continue to try to work out a system whereby we can work with them for the return of our war dead.

Q: But what about the North Korean argument — that exhuming remains is no longer a function of the Military Armistice Commission and that, therefore, individual nations have to deal with this issue outside the MAC structure?

A (1): In Vietnam, we have a peace agreement. In Korea, we don't. In essence, we have a state of war, a ceasefire. And this Military Armistice Commission is our channel of communication between the two sides... so we don't have a situation where we or the South Koreans or anybody else is off dealing with the North Koreans, looking out after our own interests and ignoring the others. I think we have an obligation to the other countries.

A (2): In their last public announcement, [the North Koreans at Panmunjom] in effect said they had a humanitarian responsibility to return bodies if found. They claim they have no responsibility to hunt for them....

Both State and Defense are very anxious to find a solution to this problem. We realize the public position that this puts us in. But there are people working the problem very hard, very seriously trying to find a solution by working through the United Nations Command, trying to find a way to bring these bodies home where we feel they should be.

A (1): The North Koreans may tout humanitarianism, but it's interesting that they refuse to deal within an established channel. They refuse to deal with the nations involved collectively. This smacks of trying to exploit the issue, rather than trying to resolve it.

Q: Obviously, North Korea is trying to exploit the issue. Their leaders, like ours, are politicians. And compromise is an integral part of politics. So why don't they sit down and work out a mutually agreeable system for recovering the remains of our casualties?

A (1): That simplistic solution sounds good, sitting here in the United States. But try to apply it to that region, and start thinking through all the implications, and it doesn't work out that simply. There is a larger context, and you can't just pull this issue out and try to resolve it in isolation.

Q: Is it true that for 30 years or so, the United States never specifically asked the Communist side to return remains of our casualties?

A (1): What we were seeking was an accounting of the men who were known to have been captive but were not accounted for.... In 1982, we started specifically asking for the return of war dead. However, prior to that, the agreement called for repatriation of POWs and war dead. So there should not have been a need for us to specifically ask for them.

Q: Why didn't we ask for the return of remains before 1982?

A (1): I have no idea. All I know is that it started under this administration.

A (2): For 32 years, the North Koreans wouldn't even talk to us about this issue. They said all war dead were returned. Only recently have they appeared to have some advantage in trying to deal with the issue.... We had the first indication from them in August 1985 that they were willing to talk about this.

Q: Maybe this is simply another indication of changing times — another indication that North Korea wants better relations with the rest of the world? Shouldn't we encourage this trend?

A (2): Well, we are certainly trying. But you always have to be watching behind you with countries like North Korea.

A (1): Their leaders didn't just say one day, "Let's resolve this issue with the U.S." They're taking into account the fact that their economic situation is deteriorating, and they are disappointed that Seoul [South Korea's capital] was selected for the [1988] Olympic Games....

Americans tend to want quick solutions. Unfortunately, in the world arena, especially that part of the world, quick solutions don't come easily....

One of our objectives is easing tension on the whole [Korean] peninsula. We've been trying to promote north-south dialogue.

"This has been a Christmas when everybody sent us grapefruit."

EXTRA, EXTRA

This one is an "Extra." Don't miss it, please.

One of the accepted characteristics of salespeople is self confidence. Anyone unsure of himself is bound to lack the bravado to take on sales resistance. Sometimes, however, he will overcome the handicap with a miracle drug: booze. Sidney was that sort of salesperson. He propped up his confidence with a couple of drinks before a sales call. Once, after making a successful sale, Sidney was riding high. He was driving home when a highway patrol car came up behind him, flashed its red and blue lights, and pulled him over.

"How do you feel, sir?" the police officer asked politely.

"Terrific!" Sidney roared, "absoloosely marveloosey!"

"Please step out of the car, sir," the cop requested. "I'd like you to walk this white line at the edge of the road."

Sidney was about to try to walk the line when there was a screen of brakes and a thunderous noise on the opposite side of the highway.

Two cars had slammed into each other and came to a halt.

"Wait here, please," said the officer. "I'll be back shortly."

Either Sidney didn't hear, or the liquor had shortened his attention span to about a minute. In any event, he climbed into the car and drove home.

He told his wife that if anyone came asking for him, to say he had been home with a bad cold. An hour later, a highway patrolman was at the front door asking for Sidney. The officer insisted on seeing him.

Sidney came downstairs all bundled up and sneezing into a box of tissues. The officer asked to take a look at the car.

"It's in the garage. Been there all day," Sidney said.

"Could we just look, please?"

Still confident, Sidney led the lawman to the garage.

He opened the door and gasped in horror. Inside was a sleek patrol car, its blue and red lights still flashing.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

First Russian: "What was the nationality of Adam and Eve?"

Second Russian: "There's no doubt that they were citizens of the Soviet Union. They had nothing to wear and nothing to eat but an apple -- and they were told they were living in Paradise."

FROM THE CROW'S NEST

"Back messed up" is all we heard from TOM TUCKER (C 21st '50-'51) of 4754 Tweedy, South Gate CA. Tell us more Tom Tucker.

Where all that glitters *is* gold

If Cory needs $ to keep her P.I. running, why not start with a garage sale on Imelda's shoes?

BIG DEAL!

There are tall people, short people, skinny people and fat people -- and all of them would like to get their hands on the manufacturer who claims that one size fits all.

AGAINST THE WIND

Aviation litigation? Is that what you want -- or need. Try DON MCCABE (Hq. & Hq. Co. & B Co., 5th RCT 6/49-7/51). He's with the firm of Nomberg, McCabe & Parkman, at Daleville AL. Much aviation litigation in Daleville, Don?

This from EARL DOWNEY (21st '49-'51) of 2522 Via Astuto, Carlsbad, CA: "Made LAX and it was fun! Saw about 20 guys from the old outfit. Every one a jewel!

"As I noted to BOB ENDER this outing was the first in about 3 years. Wife, Margaret, is a victem of Alzheimers disease and requires all my time. But it was a great outing and I'm sorry I didn't make the other two days.

"Enjoy the leaf! Best regards, Earl."

SOCOM Chief Sees Military Role in Drug War

WASHINGTON — Calling the drug problem in the United States a threat to national security, the commander-in-chief of U.S. Southern Command says the military should be used more in counter-drug operations.

Gen. John R. Galvin told *Army Times*, in a Sept. 29 interview at the Pentagon, that the military has already participated in several anti-drug operations, including an ongoing operation in Boliva.

The military, he said, should be used even more providing "the resources are available and the military can still maintain its other responsibilities for the security of the nation."

He said the U.S. military was used "successfully" last year to smash a large drug operation in the Carribean.

More than 1,000 people were arrested and many aircraft and boats were seized, he said.

Galvin said there are 150 soldiers and six Army aircraft in Bolivia right now helping to eradicate "some of the cocaine production areas, especially in the northern and eastern parts of the country." The U.S. military will remain in Bolivia at least through Nov. 15.

"We do not have any indication, at this point, that the U.S. military will be involved in any other country besides Bolivia in Latin American," Galvin said.

"I think that the drug trafficking situation in the U.S. right now represents [a]... threat to the country. I think that when you have a threat to the nation, it is logical to assume that the military will somehow be asked to respond to the threat. And if we are ordered to help out, we will certainly do it to the fullest extent of our capabilities."

An edited version of the interview with Galvin follows:

Q. Gen. Galvin, could we start off by having you provide a short description of Southern Command's major components and areas of responsibility?

A. Yes. Southern Command covers the land mass south of the United States. There are 17 countries involved and it is the responsibilty of Southern Command to make the military contacts and provide the security for the south flank of the United States. Southern Command has about 10,000 troops located in Panama, 1,000 in Honduras with the task force there, and then it has a small military group in each of 16 countries, operating under the U.S. ambassador. That's the basic mission with the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines trying to protect the south flank of the U.S. Most of that mission is carried out by trying to enhance the stability of the area working with the various host nation military institutions.

U.S. Army Photo

Gen. JOHN R. GALVIN

Q. What kind of Army units do you have in Panama?

A. Well, in Panama, we have 11 battalions, including the 193d Infantry Brigade. This is quite a mix that we have, actually. We have an airborne battalion, a light infantry battalion, we have special forces, we have engineers, artillery, signal, medical and a variety of different battalions. These units provide not only security for the canal but work with other nations in the area, recognizing that the true security of the Panama Canal is based on the overall stability of the entire region.

Q. I notice that the 193d is commanded by a major general. Does this mean that the 193d is bigger than the average separate infantry brigade? Why don't we make tbe 193d a division?

A. In past years, we actually had the equivalent of a division stationed there. We had two regiments stationed in Panama and one regiment stationed in Puerto Rico. At one point, when I was a young lieutenant stationed in Puerto Rico, that was all combined together as the 23d Infantry Division. The question comes up sometimes as to whether we should station a light division in Panama. With 11 battalions you have what might be considered a division minus, the 193d Brigade plus other Army units there in the area. The job is a great responsibilty and does require a two-star general. In fact, it is quite a heavy load for him. In addition to commanding the units, he has eight major installations in Panama and has the responsibility for overwatching U.S. military units in the 17 countries in the region. So, when you put that all together, he has some responsibilities that bring difficult problems for resolution every day of the year. I would say that, in my own experience at least as a division commander at Fort Stewart, [Ga.] that he has about the same level of responsibilty that I had.

Q. What is the general size of the 16 military groups that the U.S. operates in South and Central America?

A. These military groups are small. The Congressionally mandated limitation is six personnel. In fact, they are quite a bit smaller than they use to be. When I was stationed in Columbia in 1957, there were 780 officers stationed in the military groups. In those same positions today, there are 88 officers. So we have been cut back to very small organiztions in almost all of these countries. El Salvador, of course, is at a level that is somewhat higher. We still are operating with the 55-man military group in El Salvador, helping with the war that's ongoing there.

Q. Does the Army still send mobile training teams to countries in South and Central America?

A. Yes, we provide a large number of mobile training teams to almost all the countries in Latin America every year. We have a wide variety of these teams and that is why we moved from a mechanized infantry brigade to the current brigade structure within the 193d in order to give us a wide variety of units from which we could draw mobile training teams and other kinds of expertise to work with our allies in the region.

Q. Have Army forces in Panama been reorganized because of the Panama Canal Treaty?

A. The Army forces in Panama were reorganized partially because we will be looking at a new kind of defense of the canal when the year 2000 comes and the Panama defense forces take over a significant portion of the defense responsibility in accordance with the treaty. But also, the reorganization took place in order to allow us a greater flexibility in our efforts throughout the region.

Q. Do you think there is going to be a U.S. Army presence in Panama after the year 2000 when the Panama Canal Treaty is completed?

A. The Panama Canal Treaty calls for the U.S.to turn over, entirely, the function of operating the canal to the Republic of Panama. That includes all military bases and all facilities. The treaty also envisions a mutual defense of the Panama Canal. We have not worked out any details with the Republic of Panama concerning precisely how that mutual defense would be carried out. Those details are going to have to be worked out at some point in the future. I would stress that the U.S. government is absolutely committed to carry out the letter and the spirit of the Panama Canal Treaty.

Q. Press reports indicate the U.S. is discussing with Columbia, Ecuador and Peru the possibility of using U.S. troops to aid in drug eradication like we've done in Bolivia. What can you tell us about these efforts?

A. As you know, we are working with the government of Bolivia to eradicate some of the cocaine production areas, especially in the northern and eastern parts of Bolivia. That work consists of our support for the Bolivian police. The command and control of the operation rests with the government of Bolivia, and specifically with the police of that country. The Drug Enforcement Agency is the U.S. representative for the operation and we [the Army] are supplying air mobilty by way of our UA60 Blackhawks, six of them, to help out in this case. Also, there are Bolivian helicopters involved in these operations, which I might add, have been pretty successful to date. We do not have any indications, at this point, that U.S. military forces will be involved in any other country besides Bolivia in Latin America.

Q. How many U.S. troops are involved in the Bolivia drug eradication program?

A. We have six helicopters down there and with the support that goes along with them, fueling for the helicopters, logistical support, a certain amount of administration. We have a total of a little over 150 troops in Boliva.

Q. When do you think the U.S. effort in Boliva will end?

A. Well, we are in there, of course, at the invitation of the Bolivian government. As soon as that government feels that we've accomplished what they would like to see done, we'll be right back out again. I believe that we'll be in there at least throught Nov. 15, the date that was agreed on between the government of the U.S. and the government of Bolivia. Whether we proceed beyond that point would be a matter for the Bolivian government. We're flexible on that, we're standing by to see precisely what it is that the Bolivians would like us to do.

Q. Besides Bolivia, do you foresee a growing role for the military in drug eradication efforts in general.?

A. I think that the drug trafficking situation in the U.S. right now represents a national threat to the country. I think that when you have a threat to the nation, it is logical to assume that the military will somehow be asked to respond to the threat. In this case, as usual, as a military leader, I do what I'm told. And if we are ordered to help

out, we will certainly do it to the fullest extent of our capabilities. I would add that on a personal basis, I hope we are because I think this is a terrible threat to the nation and I think that somehow we have to respond to that threat. I should state emphatically that I don't believe we can draw off our Army forces from the missions currently assigned in order to put them into counter-drug operations. We must look very carefully at this. Every Army organization and every single individual in the Army has a mission. There are no people in the Army just standing around, waiting for some kind of mission and there are no resources in the Army that are waiting to be applied to anti-drug tasks. Everything is totally committed. We need to resource this effort. We cannot simply talk about stopping drugs without providing the appropriate capability to the military forces in order for them to accomplish this if they have to be used in counter-drug work.

Q. Is the military trained and prepared to participate in anti-drug operations?

A. Well, the military is already participating, not only in Bolivia, but in drug operations in the Caribbean. In the past couple of years, those operations have been fairly successful. You may remember that last year, over 1,000 people were arrested as a part of the operation involving mostly the Navy and the Coast Guard, but also some Air Force and Army in the Caribbean. Many aircraft and boats were picked up as a part of those operations. I think that it's logical to assume that the military role may expand, providing that the resources are available and the military can still maintain its other responsibilities for security of the nation.

Q. Now that the School of the Americas has moved to Fort Benning, do you think we're providing enough training to Latin American soldiers? If not, why not?

A. I believe that the stability of Latin America and of this hemisphere is greatly dependent on the interaction of military institutions throughout the region. These institutions form a vital part of the overall governmental structure. The more that we can interface and coordinate with military institutions in Latin America, the more, I believe, we can have an active role in the stability of the area. We are looking for a military in Latin America that is nonpolitical, highly professional, supportive of democratic development and subordinate to civil authority. This is the kind of military that the United States always has had and the U.S. Army can be proud of its role ever since 1775. If we get a greater opportunity to make this interreaction with our counterparts throughout the region, we can be even more successful in the overall stability and security of the hemisphere. I therefore think that enrollment in the School of the Americas should be greatly expanded, perhaps as much as 100 percent.

Q. Do you have a housing shortage in Southern Command particularly in Panama, where the majority of troops are located? What are you doing to improve the shortage?

A. We have a housing shortage in Panama, especially on the Army side where we're short about 900 units. We are trying to improve that through several methods. We are looking at leased housing, we're looking at modular housing construction, and we are studying some other ways to get immediate alleviation of the shortage. I hope that within the next couple of years we will be much better off than we are right now.

Q. Some people say that the way that we're getting started in El Salvador is much like the way we got started in Vietnam. Do you think our involvement in El Salvador will ever reach the level that we reached in Vietnam?

A. I think that some people obviously have fears concerning that, but I think that their fears are not well founded. We learned a lot of lessons in Vietnam and we are fighting a different kind of war in EL Salvador. We have 55 military people working as trainers as part of the military group in El Salvador. That level has not gone up. It has remained the same for several years. We have no intention of expanding the U.S. military presence in El Salvador. In fact, the war has gone very well and the guerrilla strength is down by about 40 percent over what it was a couple of years ago. Little by little, the Salvadorans are driving the guerrillas out and I would say that if the governmental intrastructure and economy improve over the next few years, that war will come to a successful conclusion. We are definitely working this one the right way.

Q. In the 1970s, there was much anti-American feeling in Panama. Does this anti-American feeling continue to exist or has it been eliminated?

A. The relationship between the two communities is excellent. The Panamanians and the Americans get along very, very well in Panama. I also think there is great respect between the government of Panama and the government of the U.S. Our soldiers are free to go anywhere in Panama and they almost universally find a friendly reception. We are having no administrative problems to speak of in Panama now. Exercises have taken place not only withing limits of the old canal zone but also in other areas within the republic. I think that we could hardly ask for a better relationship than we have now.

Q. If you were to go out and ask soldiers to volunteer for duty in the Southern Command, what would you tell them?

A. I would tell soldiers that the Southern Command represents a tremendous challenge in terms of understanding the threats to the U.S. in the future and our response to those threats. I personally believe myself that although we have a great confrontation in Europe where NATO faces the threat, the threat in the Latin American is just as serious. The Soviets and their surrogates are moving in the Third World to challenge western democracy. This challenge is represented in many subtle ways but it is also evident in the guerilla organizations, the terrorism and even to some degree, in the drug trafficking within the hemisphere. I would say to a soldier that if he comes to Latin America, he will have the opportunity to help save democratic institutions in our allied countries in this hemisphere.

Q. Do we have a shortage of soldiers who are qualified in Spanish or Portuguese?

A. We do not fill every available slot that we have in terms of qualified linguists. We have a very great number of those, I'm happy to say, and this has been an enormous help in carrying the mission in Latin America. But we still need to do more in terms of preparing officers and NCOs and soldiers so that they are fully qualified in the language when working in Latin America.

Q. What kind of training do you conduct at the Jungle Welfare Training Center in Panama? Is the training on the increase and can you tell us how often units come down from the States?

A. The Jungle Warfare Training Center is as busy as Grand Central Station in New York City. We have 15 battalions coming through there every 12 months and courses are overlapping all the time.

Locations of U.S. Military Groups in Central and South America

Times Illustration by Tim Woods

The U.S. Southern Command is one of the largest of the joint military commands with an area of responsibility covering Central and South America. The command operates eight installations in Panama, and small military assistance groups in 16 Latin American countries. Nicaragua, Chile, Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana are not listed as having U.S. military assistance groups.

BOB LONGFELLOW (52F '52-'54) of 12731 Poplar, Garden Grove CA sent us this one with the note: "This guy was not one of ours, but he sure had the smell of Korea in his nostrils." We liked the comment and the article so very much that we're using it here.

Korea: The forgotten war

This guy was not from our Division, but he sure had the smell of Korea in his nostrils. Bob

Thirty-six years ago this month I graduated from college. I was to become a newspaperman. I was 21 years old, and it was all arranged. Back in 1950 we never had doubts about anything. You decided what you were going to do, and America let you do it.

A week or so later, in a stinkpot little country in Asia, a war broke out. And from Sunday, June 25, 1950, nothing would ever be quite the same again.

In many ways Korea wasn't a modern war at all. It was more like Flanders or the Wilderness Campaign than it was Vietnam or the "real war" of 1939-45.

Anyone who fought there could tell you that. There were planes and ships and tanks, of course, and big guns. But mostly Korea was fought by infantryman with rifles and BARs and machine guns and mortars. And barbed wire. And mines, always the mines.

There was no rock music in Korea. You never heard a song, not even an anti-war song. It was a war without tunes. There were no drugs. Oh, there was the occasional medical corpsman who got a kick out of morphine. How old-fashioned it is now to realize how odd he seemed to us then. Take integration: Truman had officially integrated the military, but in my 45-man Marine rifle platoon there was one black. There was one American Indian, whom we called "Chief," never pausing to consider this might be insulting or racist. Consciousness had not yet been raised.

The enemy, the North Koreans, were "gooks." The Chinese were "chinks." It never occurred to us to call them anything else.

Korea exploded so swiftly after the demobilization following World War II, the expansion of the armed forces so forced and sudden, it became an amateur's war. My rifle battalion of the 7th Marines had about 45 officers. Forty of us were reserves. It was on-the-job training.

You know about the West Point class of '50, decimated in the war. True. Raw troops and young officers are a deadly combination. Second lieutenants think they have to do everything. It is how they got killed.

In one replacement draft our battalion got a freshly minted lieutenant from the Naval Academy. This was classy stuff indeed, our very own "trade school" man, and we were all excited. The second or third day he was there a mortar shell killed him. Four years of Annapolis and four more months at Quantico and he was dead.

I never even got to meet him.

I was there for the second year of the war, from the fall of 1951 into the summer of '52. We lived under the ground. For one 45-day stretch I never washed, never changed my underwear. When we got off the line that time they burned our clothes. We fought at night. Daylight was too deadly. We raided them at night, trying for prisoners, tossing grenades and swinging shovels. They raided us. And in the dawn there would be bodies hung in the wire.

One patrol was caught by daylight in the valley of the Soyang-gang. The Koreans hit them there. We went down to get them out. It took us nine hours to climb back up to the ridgeline in the snow, carrying stretchers. One man kept rolling off the stretcher, or we kept dropping him. We couldn't help it. By the time we got in through the wire he was dead. No one's fault. You can't climb 2,000 feet in the snow any faster than that carrying a dying man.

One December afternoon there was sun, and three Marines lazed atop their bunker. A mortar shell, a single shot, arched in and hit them. Two died and one lost his legs. No one ever hits anyone with a single mortar shot, without ranging. But it happened.

Late in the winter a patrol coming back in messed up the password and we machine-gunned two of our own men. In the morning a Marine flipped out. He sat over the body of his pal with a Browning Automatic Rifle, threatening to kill anyone who came near.

We set up ambushes, carrying shotguns. Everything was up close and in focus. You lay in the snow, shivering, trying not to make a sound, hoping they would come. Hoping they wouldn't.

On a December night the North Koreans hit us with maybe 400 rounds of artillery and mortar in 15 minutes and then came up through the wire. We killed most of them, including one on the roof of a bunker where he was trying to shove a grenade down the stovepipe. At dawn we set out after the survivors, tracking them in the snow the way New Englanders hunt deer or rabbits in winter.

James Brady

The spoor was easy to follow. One of them was bleeding. You just followed the dribbles of blood on the white snow. At one point he stopped to defecate. We came on his stool, still steaming. And full of blood and worms. Here was this son of a bitch, wounded and rotten with worms and piles, and we were tracking him.

We never caught him. Maybe he died under a tree in the snow. I don't know. I sort of hoped he got away.

My best man was a sergeant called Fitzgerald from Flint, Mich. He was a regular. He had been hit twice. He liked to go out at night in sneakers and with a blackened face and wait for them. After the war, he said, he wanted to go to work for Ford. As an armed guard. That was what he wanted to do with his life.

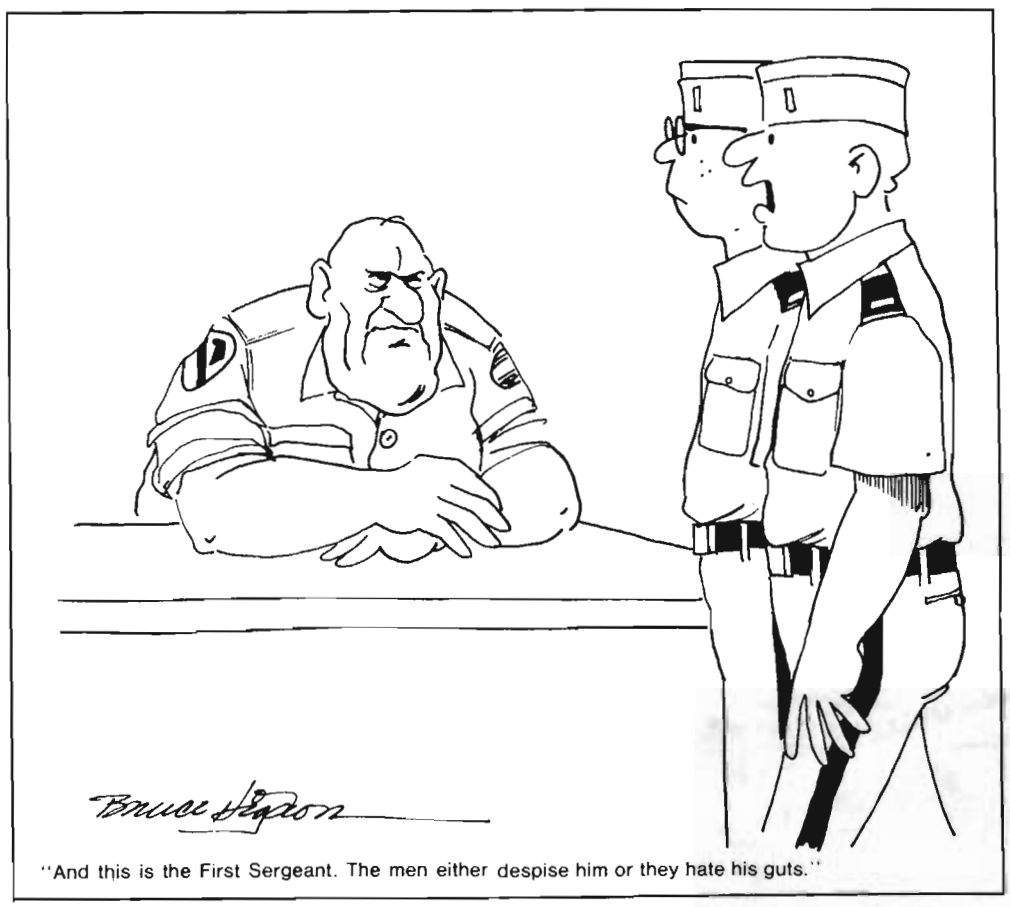
One morning three Marines did a stupid thing. They went out in front of the line to fetch water from a clear mountain stream. The Koreans had set an ambush, and they grabbed them. In the firefight that followed

WHERE TO IN '87???

It'll be a Hyatt Regency operation -- Remember them in Louisville? -- And in Savannah? This time around, it'll be the Hyatt Regency Woodfield -- 15 minutes from O'Hare. Technically, it's in the village of Schaumburg, IL -- at the corner of Rt. 53 and Golf Road, across from the Woodfield Shopping Mall. BOB and Mary SHAY are hard at work with the initial planning. Stay tuned! Oh yes, the dates? FRIDAY, Aug. 14 and SATURDAY, Aug. 15. We'll break camp Sunday a.m. And if you wanna arrive early, say on Thursday, Aug. 13, or Friday, the 31st of July, that's okay. That's your business. But you'll be strictly on your own. The party won't begin until the fat lady sings.

Faithful BOB JOHNSON (19th, 21st, 34th 3/51-12/53) of 24 Whipple, Somerville MA 02144, pops a good suggestion: "Remind the boys that the DAV and AL magazines are good places to run ads when you're trying to locate buddies." Bob, there it is. Bob, by the way, never fails to clip such an ad and mail it in to us when it's a Taro Leafer involved. Thanks, Bob.

Won't you please give us your changes of address. As is, using the system we are using with the friendly postal people, it costs us 30¢ every time the little man in gray comes in with a report of a change. He doesn't do it for peanuts. Since our last mailing went out, the little fella has been in 31 times, each time with his paw outstretched for a quarter and a nickel. That's $9.30 for information you might have given us in the first place. Thanks for listenin'.



"And this is the First Sergeant. The men either despise him or they hate his guts."

they got away with two Marines as prisoners, but the third was killed. Maybe we killed him. The dead Marine fell in the stream and before we could get to him, he had been frozen in. My platoon guide, a salty old regular with a reputation for demolitions, was dispatched. When he came back that night he looked old and pale and wasted. He had gotten the body back.

"It took me two blasts to work him free of the ice, lieutenant. We got him back. In two pieces. I couldn't help it. When we was finished, I threw up."

On Memorial Day, 48 of us attacked a hill called Yoke. The Chinese were up there. They rolled grenades down on us. That stopped us. We kept crawling up, and they just rolled them down. Thirty-two of us were hit.

Every infantryman who fought there in the mountains and the paddies has his stories. None of us will ever forget the war — small, deadly, personal, with men fighting like when they lived in caves and fought with clubs. It began 36 years ago this month. It lasted three years. It killed 54,000 of us. □

HE SAYS

CHARLES "Bill" MENNINGER, (A & K 34th and 2nd Bn. 21st '47-'51) faithfully signals from 5009 N.Madera, El Monte, CA, reminding us of the unknown sergeant who said, "No man, no matter how he may talk, has the remotest idea of what the ordinary infantry soldier endures."

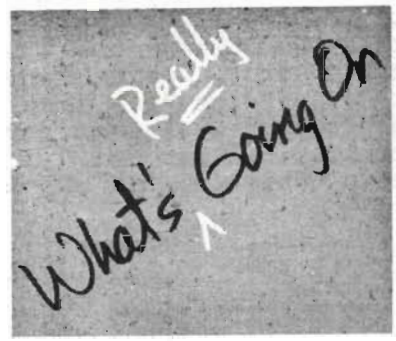
Bill also quoted from something General of the Army Omar Bradley wrote: "The rifleman fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river, there is another hill -- behind every hill, another river. After weeks and months in the line, only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter, and a bed. Those who are left fight on, evading death, but knowing that with each day of evasion, they have exhausted one more chance for survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, this chase must end either on the litter, or in the grave."

Ponder that one, fellas. It's poignant.

"LET'S EAT IN TOWN TONIGHT."

Return with us now to yesteryear

Well, maybe not yesteryear -- maybe back to '83, the massacre of 241 Marines in Beirut. RR seems to want to assume the blame for that one. But what about the CO on the scene? What'd they ever do with him?



BILL BRADLEY, an L Co. Chick in '51 -- wounded in Apr. '51 at Pogan Dong, and now at 12 Sunset, Troy NY, has requested that we publish this list of names of L 19th men of 2/51 vintage. Your wish is our command, Billy Boy; that's what we're here for. And away we go:

Bradley, William F.	SFC
Zapata, Joseph	PFC
Watterson, Kenneth F.	SGT
Wright, George F.	CPL
Muze, J.E.	CPL
Robertson, Richard B.C.	PFC
Wilson, Orvil W.	PFC
Watson, Stephen A.	PVT
Rick, William M.	PFC
Gollegos, Loy	CPL
Nickol, Andrew J.	PVT
Parrow, Arthur F.	CPL
Chames, William	SGT
Wallick, Don E.	CPL
Flanigan, Paul	CPL
Scharnhorst, John P.	PFC
Overay, Robert L.	CPL
Rhodes, Edward D.	CPL
Bendler, Eugene R.	PVT
Belfke, Harold H.	CPL
Smith, Carroll E.	PVT
Wagner, Walter	PVT
Lopez, Victor M.	PVT
Vargas, Elias H.	PVT
Barnhart, Boyd R.	PVT
Wetz, Robert D.	PVT
Babyak, Steve C.	PVT

Open heart surgery for WALTER E.BRAY (34th & 19th '49-'53 - POW '50-'53) of 84 Chestnut St., Lodi NJ 07644. Happily reports, "Doing okay now" -- for which our thanks.

Sometimes Mort Walker gives them to us in pairs. (Ed.Note: we fully expect at least 3 letters to arrive reminding us that we might have called them "a pair of pairs").

ED BONDS (Hq.Co. 1st Bn. 21st '49-'51) of 807 West Av. I, Lovington NM 88260, thoughtfully sends us this wonderful cartoon.

Notice anything unique -- or significant -- about this issue. First person to spot it and write in to us and tell us what it is will get a prize -- a handsome clock -- valued at $60.00.

It's basic training

Like bread left too long in the toaster, this is nothing to be shrugged off lightly. In comes a hefty $ contribution and this note from GENE and Donnie SPICER, RR 1, Commiskey IN: "Would love to hear from any Hq. 19th men of '51-'52 era or anyone who was in the 24th Signal C.W. School in the spring of '51." There it is, Gene, just as you asked for it.

FELIZ NATAL E PRÓSPERO ANO NOVO

FELIZ NAVIDAD Y PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO

BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO

JOYEUX NOËL ET BONNE ANNÉE

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

UND DIE BESTEN WÜNSCHE ZUM NEUEN JAHR

We like the kind of letter CHUCK STARRING (A 78th Tk.Bn., Tk.Co. 21st, Tk.Co. 5th RCT 1/50-11/52) of Box 54, Fennville MI writes:

"Just a few lines to let you know how much my wife and I enjoyed our first outing at Louisville with men and women of the 24th Div. This was my first get-together since November '52 when I left Division rear near Teagu.

"I had reservations about making the trip because I felt I would be among a lot of strangers who had one thing in common. I was wrong! Although most of the guys were from the 'Big War', some were also both 'Big war and Truman's Cops.' I saw a lot of familiar faces that I had not seen for many years.

"The one thing that really got to me was the amount of men from my adopted regiment (5th RCT). We really had a ball. I was glad I made the trip and will hope to see more of the fellows at LAX.

"Now for a plug or two.

"Some of the older generation guys said us 'kids' have to help fill the ranks for our missing comrades. We lost a mighty fine man when Gen. 'Rocky' Throckmorten passed on a few weeks ago. Heard from Gen. L.L. Wheeler and others who attended his funersal. (Also three cheers for L.L. who is doing his thing for 50th Anniversary of his class of West Point.) I was proud to serve the command of both of these gentlemen.

"Liked Ed Smigel's article about the Vietnam and Korean Memorial efforts.

"Now for the kicker -- Ed Smigel, Guy E. See, Bob Hardin, Dick Lewis, and many others who got together at 24th Reunion also belong to the 'Korean War Veterans Assoc.' All of these men were with me in Korea. That's why the plug. I realize that everyone has their little axe to grind, but I feel it is a very worthy cause.

"Since 24th Reunion we have signed up over 600 persons (we have women too). I mean more specifically 600 charter members as of 31 Dec. We have the same problem as other Associations; money and operating costs. I hope we can make it fly.

"So much for that --

"Ken, you are really doing a fine job for us members of the 24th. I'm proud of you. You weren't an officer were you? I'm sometimes allergic to brass (only kidding!).

"Keep up the good work and don't wear out before we are ready to get rid of you. (Another mark on the wall!) Well, buddy, you know we can't be perfect. This note proves it. Once again, keep up the good work and may God bless you and your family. (No pun this time.)

"Chuck, the Old Tanker."

Our Poet Laureate, at least for this issue, is FRANK WILCZAK (24 QM '58-'59), of 224 Shanley, Cheektowaga NY who gives us this pregnant dish of wisdom:

ON SECOND THOUGHT

Monday morning, moan and groan,
  another week's begun.
Why did it have to come around
  and spoil my weekend fun?

Wednesday morning, half a week
  is almost gone and then,
If I can make it two more days,
  I'll come to life again.

Friday morning, hip hooray,
  another weekend's nearing.
Two days off and payday, too.
  It makes me feel like cheering.

But wait a minute, something's wrong.
  It really is annoying.
I've wished away five days of life,
  I should have been enjoying.

You'll have to admit it -- our Prexy is a veritable taxonomy of the Taro Leafers of a couple of wars and the in-betweens, of the men of the infantry, of the artillery, of the engineers, of the signalmen, of all the others who know the real meaning of the number "24". Where to this time? He and Ann were off to Canada where the Canadian forces who served in Korea were having a pow wow. Warren sent us the list of their involved units. Impressive list, isn't it? But we digress. Let Warren Avery do the honors.

Here's my report on our trip to Cornwall, Ont., Canada.

We were met by Mrs. Claudette McCarthy, wife of the Canadian National President, J.W. McCarthy and welcomed to the 2nd National Convention at the Armory.

In terms of man-power Canada's contribution totalled 26,791, of which 3,621 served in the RCN; 22,066 in the Army; and 1,104 in the Air Force. Five hundred and sixteen of those who served were fatal casualties and their names are perpetuated in Canada's Korea Book of REmembrance.

There were about 1,000 veterans and their wives in attendance, and 10 American couples. We were treated royally by all the Canadiams who were very honored that we all travelled up to Canada to attend their reunion.

On Saturday morning there was a memorial service. I was honored to carry the American flag in this parade, I want to bring to note that this flag I carried had only 48 stars depicting the flag we fought under during the Korean War.

On Saturday evening we attended a banquet at the Armory where among the honored guests were representatives from the Korean government and a General in the Korean army who sang the Korean National Anthem "Ah-Di-Dong" and we all joined in.

Sunday were good-byes and many Canadian Vets were looking forward to the trip to Arlington next July for the US Korean Vets Convention.

Warren

Canadian Forces Participation in the United Nations Operations, Korea, 1950-1953

Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)
- HMCS *Athabaskan*
- HMCS *Cayuga*
- HMCS *Sioux*
- HMCS *Nootka*
- HMCS *Huron*
- HMCS *Iroquois*
- HMCS *Crusader*
- HMCS *Haida*

Canadian Army
- Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
- 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA)
- 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA)
- 81st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA)
- The Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE)
- The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals
- The Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR)
  - 2nd Battalion
  - 1st Battalion
  - 3rd Battalion
- Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)
  - 2nd Battalion
  - 1st Battalion
  - 3rd Battalion
- *Royal 22e Régiment (R22eR)*
  - 2nd Battalion
  - 1st Battalion
  - 3rd Battalion
- The Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC)
- The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC)
- Royal Canadian Dental Corps
- The Corps of Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps
- Engineers (RCEME)
- The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical
- Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps
- The Royal Canadian Postal Corps
- The Royal Canadian Army Chaplain Corps
- The Canadian Provost Corps
- Canadian Intelligence Corps
- Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)
- No. 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron
- (in addition, 22 RCAF pilots flew with the U.S. Fifth Air Force)

Staying well

Nothing we like more than a rambunctious old soldier who writes the Editor of his local paper. Example -- Lt.Col. HAROLD E. DILL of 47-459 Hui Iwa, Kaneohe, HI, had this to say to his Editor:

LETTERS to the Editor

Footnote to History

SIR: ,The enclosed item (Today in History) was clipped from your July 3 edition. The information concerning 1950 and the Korean War is incorrect.

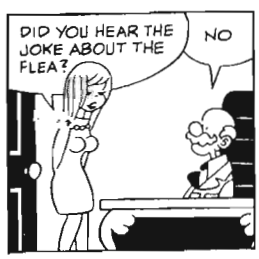
The first contact between U.S: ground troops and the North Korean Army occurred at approximately 0730 hours on July 5, 1950 north of the South Korean town of Osan.

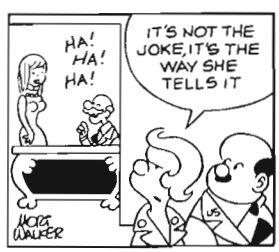
The U.S. Army units involved were Companies B and C, elements of Headquarters 1st Battalion, Companies D and M, Heavy Mortar and Medical Companies, 21st Infantry Regiment, and Battery A, 52d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. This collection of units was known as Task Force Smith, named for the 1st Battalion Commander, LTC Charles B. Smith. The task force numbered approximately 400 and defended against a North Korean motorized division supported by 33 to 36 Russian-built T34 tanks.

The engagement ended at mid-afternoon on July 5 in a tactical defeat for the task force which paid the price usually exacted from the U.S. Army when our Nation's defense posture fails to match our international political commitments.

As a lieutenant (rifle platoon leader) in Company C during this first and subsequent combat, I am endeavoring to keep the record straight for those seemingly few Americans who are interested in the accomplishments and history of their armed services and their nation. I also assume your publication is concerned with presenting information, factually and objectively, hence this letter.

HAROLD E. DILL
LTC, Infantry





Off the Air

We'll go off the air and show you just who supported our LAX party, by states— the first figure following the state stands for the members in that state; the second figure stands for the number making LAX.

AL	19	2	NM	10	1
AK	1	-	NY	83	5
AZ	50	7	NC	47	1
AR	31	-	ND	4	1
CA	181	67	OH	106	5
CO	21	1	OK	24	3
CT	21	5	OR	22	3
DE	3	-	PA	142	5
DC	7	-	RI	9	1
FL	123	11	SC	33	4
GA	69	6	SD	6	-
HI	16	4	TN	20	2
ID	3	1	TX	99	9
IL	108	13	UT	4	1
IN	44	2	VT	4	-
IA	30	2	VA	45	6
KS	27	4	WA	29	4
KY	48	3	WV	21	-
LA	16	-	WI	26	1
ME	7	-	WY	2	-
MD	32	2			
MA	76	7	Japan	1	-
MI	65	7	Can.	2	-
MN	35	1	Guam	1	-
MS	10	-	PI	2	1
MO	61	3	Arabia	1	-
MT	2	1	St.Vincent, WI	1	-
NB	11	1	APO	3	-
NV	13	1			
NH	12	2			
NJ	58	4			

With sorrow do we report the death of VETAL VALANDRA. He passed away last Sept. 24th according to good friend, LACY BARNETT. Vetal, a retired police officer and rancher in Mission, South Dakota, was 34th in Sasebo and Korea '48-'50, subsequently going over to the 21st.

Terrific suggestion passed on to us at LAX. Regretfully we forgot who made it. Apologies please. He -- or she? -- said "Why don't you ask every member for a small photo (passport size perhaps -- and black and white preferred) of himself -- and maybe his 'better half' -- so that each time you run an item you can use his or his/her photo along with it?" Wonderful. We'll do just that. It'll help our items come more alive; will help you recognize folks more readily. Okay, pals; you're on. Send those photos in. Dare ya!

RAY KRESKY's high school class recently held a reunion and drummed up a little enthusiasm for its party with the release of a little advance notice devoted to the times-have-changed theme. It so warmed the cockles of our heart that we reproduce it here just as Ray sent it to us:

We were before the pill and the population explosion which, inexplicably, went hand in hand. We were before television; before penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and frisbees; before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Xerox, Kinsey. We were before radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ball-point pens. For us, time sharing meant togetherness, not computers; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for coming out of; and a book about two young women living together in Europe could be called "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay." In those days, bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. We were before Grandma Moses and Marilyn Monroe, and cup-sizing for bras.

We were before Batman, Grapes of Wrath, Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Snoopy; before D.D.T. and vitamin pills, vodka (in the United States) and the white wine craze, disposable diapers, Jeeps and the Jefferson nickel; before Scotch tape, Grand Coulee dam, M&Ms, the automative shift and Lincoln Continentals.

When we were in college, pizzas, Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonald's were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent.

We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, Muzak, electronic music and disco dancing. Almost no one flew across the Country and Trans-Atlantic flight belonged to Lindberg and Amelia Earhart. We were before Israel and the United Nations; before India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iceland, and the Philippines were independent countries. Since our beginning, 92 countries, 48 of them African, have become independent nations.

We were before pantyhose and drip-dry clothes; before ice makers and dish washers, clothes dryers, freezers, and electric blankets; before Hawaii & Alaska became states; before men wore long hair and earrings, and women wore tuxedos. We were before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastics, hair dryers, the 40-hour week, the minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was something you drank and pot was something you cooked in. We were before coin vending machines, jet planes, helicopters and interstate highways. In 1931 American schools were not desegregated and blacks were not allowed to play in the major leagues. In 1931, "made in Japan" meant junk, and term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam.

In our time, there were five-and-ten stores where you could buy things for five and ten cents. For just one nickel, you could ride the subway or ride the ferry, or make a phone call, or buy a Coke, or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for $659, but who could do that in 1931? Nobody! A pity, too, because gas was 11¢ per gallon.

If anyone in those days had asked us to explain CIA, NATO, UFO, NFL, JFK, ERA or IUD, we would have said alphabet soup. We were not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but were before sex changes. We just made do with what we had. AND so it was in 1931!

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

FRANCIS HOWARD (L & K 34th G 21st '48-'51), of 801 S.Babcock St., Melbourne FL 32901 (Tel. 305-725-1653) wants to know if he can run an ad in our little paper. Consider it done, Frankie. Interesting business!! Do you have a catalog? Some of your wares ought to be of special interest to some of our clowns. Hold onto your hats, folks -- here's Frankie's ad:

Cheers for EARL DOWNEY (21st '49-'51), of 2522 Via Astuto, Carlsbad, CA. Earl, a retired Lt.Col., is now at home caring for his beloved Margaret suffering from that dreaded Alzheimer's Disease. A card or telephone message (714-729-3252) will help to brighten Earl's day. We all have a bit of an idea of what he's enduring.

For all who have come to believe that Red Sox fans were put here on earth to suffer, then the 6th and 7th games of the World Series were the ultimate heartbreakers.

This from Mr. Charles D.Spurlin, Victoria College, 2200 E.Red River, Victoria TX 77901: "I am in search of photographs taken by participants who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. My purpose for collecting the photographs is to publish a pictorial history of the Korean War from a G.I.'s perspective. If any of your members have pictures taken during the Korean War they would permit me to copy, please ask them to write me.

CHARLES D. SPURLIN, Chairman
Department of Social Sciences
(512) 573-3291"

THE EYES HAVE IT

Another G Co. Gimlet heard from, this one of '53-'54 vintage. '53 was a good year, but '54 was better says OLIVER C. SIMMERS, of RD 1 Snyder Av., Phoenixville, PA.

"HE'S WHAT IS KNOWN AS AN 'ENLISTED MAN'."
—Sgt. Jim Weeks

Making Juan Ponce Enrile her Defense Minister is like taking an airline vice president and sticking him in the cockpit on a stormy night. This buster was Ferdinand's defense minister for 16 years, epitomizing the tradition of acute jealousy in Philippine politics. Then he saved his political skin by ditching Marcos at the last possible moment then switched to Corazon Aquino's side and almost at once started his own grab toward the presidency. Prediction? He'll make it yet.

We have lost poor little JIM ERWIN. Death took Jimmy on Sept. 21st. He was in his 59th year. He is survived by his ever-so-faithful Mary, of Morongo Valley, CA., by his son, Steven, of Yucca Valley, CA and by his daughter, Phyllis Rose Groon of Jaymul, CA, and by two grandchildren.

Wrote Mary after it was all over:

"I just don't know how to thank you and the 24th for all the support and encouragement you gave to Jim.

"I know it gave him courage to fight (and he was a fighter) and to carry on.

"Going to the convention was his last goal and he made it through his determination and the encouragement from his family and friends.

"It took its toll as he was a very sick man.

"He is now at peace, no more suffering or pain. His family will miss him, as will his friends.

"God bless one and all.

"Mary Erwin."

Came this fine report, gratefully acknowledged, from BOB ENDER who made the JIM ERWIN funeral:

"Roberta and I went down to Riverside to the National Military Cemetery, just adjacent to March Air Force Base, to attend Jim Erwin's funeral.

"Jim and Mary's family were there and our good friend, Jesse Murga, flew all the way out from Augusta GA on a Tuesday night flight to be there to pay his respects to his old buddy, Jim; then return on a night flight on Wednesday. Quite a tribute! The Navy chaplain from the Loma Linda Veterans Hospital, where Jim was confined, gave a touching eulogy. Then, following the volleys, the chaplain removed the flag from Jim's coffin and handed it to Mary and it was at that moment, especially, that our hearts went out to her...a very helpless feeling. However, she was a trojan through it all.

"A local florist made a beautiful floral arrangement mounted on an easel. It was a Taro Leaf in flowers, copied from the patch. Just magnificent. I will send you a photo after the roll is developed. Am enclosing a memorial card, as well as a copy of the card we attached to the floral arrangement.

"The last thing Mary said after the ceremony was that she sends all her love to you and all Jim's friends in the Association.

Yours,

IN MEMORIAM

HE IS JUST AWAY!

I cannot and I will not say
That he is dead—he is just away!

With a cheery smile and wave of the hand
He has wandered into an unknown land.

And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be since he lingers there.

And you—Oh, you, who the wildest yearn
For the old-time step and the glad return.

Think of him faring on, as dear
In the love There as the love of Here.

Mild and gentle as he was brave —
When the sweetest love of his life he gave.

To simple things: Where the violets grew
Blue as the eyes they were likened to.

The touches of his hand have strayed
As reverently as his lips have prayed.

When the little brown thrush that harshly chirped
Was as dear to him as the mocking bird.

And he pitied as much as a man in pain
A little honey bee wet with rain.

Think of him still as the same, I say—
He is not dead—he is just AWAY!

—James Whitcomb Riley.

How to pay a unique tribute to a unique man -- JIMMY ERWIN???
It occurred that quite possibly, the reproducing of AL KITCHEN's moving letter to the Editor just might do it. And so...

Mr. Kenwood Ross
Secretary-Treasurer
24th Infantry Division Association
120 Maple St.
Springfield, MA 01103-2278

Dear Ken:

Enclosed is a check for $100 which I would like to contribute to the Association as a memorial for Jim Erwin.

Jim was attached to my company during the Korean War and even then he impressed as having a wisdom far beyond his years. After over thirty years, Jim made contact with me and got me into the Association even though he was in California and I was in Georgia. He loved the Association and I'm happy he made the effort to get me, and several others, into the organization. I'm also pleased that the convention was held in California before his demise and I was able to attend. It appeared to be quite a strain on him, even though he survived that long just to make it to the convention. It was quite a psychological strain also-- it was his reason for survival and yet knowing it was almost the final act made him sad.

I believe we have all lost a genuine friend, "Gimlet," and "Taroleafer," and I would like to honor him in this way.

Sincerely,

Albert B. Kitchen, Jr.
2713 Smith Creek Rd.
Augusta, GA 30909