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THE 38TH PARALLEL

A publication to thank, honor, and remember the Korean War Veteran

KOREASO™

DoD highlights 50th anniversary of war

By Lt. Col. Anita Minniefield
Director, Public Affairs

To honor and thank our veterans during the golden anniversary of the Korean War, the Department of Defense formed a commemoration committee to support a host of events over a four-year period.

From 2000 to 2003 events will take place throughout the United States, Republic of Korea and the Pacific that reflect U.S. military, its allies and United Nations concerted efforts during the conflict known as the Korean War.

The war, stemming from

Communist aggression by the North Koreans, lasted from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. During that 37-month period more than 54,000 Americans died; 33,651 were killed in action. There were 103,000 Americans wounded, 8,177 missing in action and 7,000 prisoners of war. Technically the war still continues since no peace agreement was reached. An armistice was signed to stop the fighting.

More than 35 events are scheduled to show that a Grateful Nation still remembers their countless contributions. The official

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Courtesy Photo

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Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Republic of Korea Minister of Defense Cho Sung Tae, center, lays a wreath at the Korean War Memorial Nov. 22 as a token of appreciation during his visit.

MASH Museum Opens

By LCDR Jeff Bender
Korean War 50th Anniversary
Commemorations Committee

A tribute to the men and women who provided medical assistance during the Korean War took place at the Aviation Hall of Fame in Teterboro, N.J., May 15. The Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M.A.S.H.) museum was dedicated by members of the Chorwon Chapter, American-Korean War Veterans of N.J.

The museum — constructed using more than 5,000 hours of volunteer service from chapter members — features a mock surgical unit, cots, tents, and other equipment used to care for those in combat. A jeep and helicopter used for transporting wounded servicemembers are also on display.

The Chorwon Chapter was also recognized as an official Commemorative Community in the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration in a certificate signed by Secretary of Defense, William S. Cohen.

The certificate was presented by Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter (Ret.), then Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs, along

with a commemorative flag, to chapter commander Dick Bozzone.

“Long after we are gone, we hope this museum is still standing,” said Bozzone. “We have labored long and hard to make this museum worthy of the sacrifices of those who served in the Korean War.”

Bozzone offered special thanks to the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame for donating the space where the museum is located. He also recognized Lt. Col. Donald Kuehn, Air Force Auxiliary and chairman of the project, and Joe Poggi, commissioner, co-chairman.

Kicklighter, who was the guest speaker, and other members of the commemorations committee were pleased to attend the dedication.

“Your work will go a long way towards our goal of ensuring that the Korean War veterans realize that a grateful nation does remember their service and sacrifice,” Kicklighter said. “Working together, we can make sure they receive the proper recognition they so rightly deserve.”



Courtesy photo

A Mobile Army Surgical Hospital was on display at the museum in Teterboro, N.J. The tent was first used during the Korean War.

50th Anniversary Events

Major local, national and international events for the first commemorative year.

May 28, 2000

National Memorial Day Concert
Dedicated to Korean War vets:
U.S. Capitol

May 29, 2000

Memorial Day Breakfast and
Wreath Laying: Washington, D.C.

June 23, 2000

Korean War 50th Anniversary
Commemoration Symposium:
University of Pittsburgh

June 25, 2000

National Commemoration Opening
Ceremony: Seoul, Republic of
Korea/Washington, D.C.

Women in Military Service for
America Memorial Commemora-
tion: Women's Memorial, D.C.

Dedication of Korean War
Memorial: Columbia, S.C.

June 28, 2000

Task Force Smith Commemoration:
Arlington Cemetery, D.C.

July 5, 2000

Task Force Smith Commemoration:
Suwon, ROK

July 26, 2000

Twilight Tattoo, D.C.

Sept. 13, 2000

Breakout of Pusan Perimeter
Taegu, ROK

Sept. 15, 2000

Inchon Landing
Norfolk, Va./Inchon, ROK

N. Korea repatriates remains to delegates

WASHINGTON (AFIS) — A Department of Defense delegation has returned from North Korea with remains believed to be those of four American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War.

Led by Robert L. Jones, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Person Office, the delegation arrived at Yokota Air Base, Japan Oct. 25, for a brief ceremony which included U.S. and U.N. Command honor guards.

Jones led a delegation of DoD officials to Pyongyang, North Korea, to accept the remains that were located during joint excavations earlier this year.

The four soldiers, thought to have been killed at the battle of the Chongchon River between late November and early December of 1950, represent only a few of hundreds killed in that region during a period of fierce fighting. More than 8,200 Americans

remain missing from the Korean War.

Since joint recovery operations began in North Korea in 1996, the United States has recovered remains believed to be those of 39 American soldiers. Of those, three have been positively identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Jones will accompany the remains to Hawaii where they will be transferred to the Army's Central Identification Laboratory. There they will undergo a complete forensic review, including the use of mitochondrial DNA, if appropriate, to make identification.

A U.S. recovery team is currently in North Korea, conducting the final joint recovery operation for 1999. Discussions concerning recovery operations in 2000 are expected to take place with North Koreans in December.



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

During a repatriation ceremony at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Oct. 25, active duty military salute fallen comrades. The remains were flown from North Korea to Yokota on a C-17 aircraft.

This Date in History

1950

October – Arrival of first Greek Army forces in Korea.

Oct. 24 – Arrival of first Netherlands forces in Korea.

November – First jet-to-jet air combat in history.

Nov. 20 – Arrival of India's 60th Field Ambulance and Surgical unit.

Nov. 25 – Chinese forces enter combat in Korea.

Nov. 29 – Arrival of first French forces in Korea.

Dec. 9 – Arrival of Greek Battalion at Pusan.

Dec. 16 – President Truman declares State of National Emergency.

Dec. 23 – General Mathew B. Ridgway replaces Lt. Gen. Walton Walker, killed in a motor accident, as 8th U.S. Army Commander.

Dec. 31 – New Chinese offensive begins.

1951

Oct. 25 – Truce talks transferred to Panmunjom.

Nov. 12 – General Ridgway orders end of U.N. ground offensive military action and implements "active defense" strategy.

Nov. 27 – Agreement reached at Panmunjom on line of military demarcation and Demilitarized Zone. Agreement subsequently invalidated Dec. 27.

1952

November – Dogfight between U.S. Naval aircraft and Soviet MiG-15s near carrier Oriskany; it is the only known direct attempt by Soviet airpower to attack U.N. sea forces.

Nov. 4 – Dwight Eisenhower elected President of the U.S.

Dec. 2-5 President-Elect Eisenhower tours Korea to fulfill his election pledge, "I Will go to Korea."

1953

August-23 December – Operation Big Switch exchanges all POWs willing to be repatriated.

Korean War vets on Capitol Hill honored

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- At the Retired Officers Association headquarters near the Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., Korean War Veterans received justified recognition from the Defense Department Oct. 21.

The ROA, aimed at supporting U.S. military policy that provides national security since 1922, honored members from the 106th Congress who are Korean War veterans. Of the 23 veterans, six are senators and 17 are from the House of Representatives.

In addition, ROA received the official flag of the 50th Anniversary the Korean War Commemoration. Its designation certificate highlights its formal identification as a commemorative community. Army, Maj. Gen. Paul C. Bergson, Reserve Military Deputy to the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army, International Affairs, presented the flag to Jayson Spiegel, Executive Director of ROA.

The flag reflects the effort between the United States, the Republic of Korea and our allies to stop Communist aggression. It features a light blue and white streamer running through the center signifying the United Nations, 22 stars representing the number of nations that fought under the U.N. flag and the words "Freedom is not Free" in bold, capital letters, rest at the top of the flag.

The gold-colored words, added by veterans are written in Hangul and English languages. The stars border the flag's seal. The red and blue symbol of the Korean flag, or Taeguk, stand for peace and harmony.

Maj. Gen. Paul Bergson (left), Reserve Military Deputy to the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army, International Affairs, unveils the Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration flag at the Retired Officer Association.



U.S. Air Force Photo

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commemoration period begins on June 25, 2000, in Washington, D.C. The commemoration officially closes Nov. 11, 2003.

In addition to the events, commemorative communities around the world will recognize veterans and their families by developing annual programs that host three events a year or support school programs in teaching the war's history.

The commemorative community program was the foundation for the World War II commemoration where more than 7,800 communities actively participated. That C-2 program continues in the Korean War commemoration, where communities can use products developed by the committee— maps, posters, books, fact sheets, stickers, flags, etc.— about the Korean War for people of all ages.

This bi-monthly newsletter will also be published and posted on the Internet.

Congress has authorized DoD to organize the committee. The Secretary of Defense has designated the Secretary of the Army as the executive agent for this commemoration.

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Navy ship named in honor of Sen. Chafee

WASHINGTON – The president named a new ship Nov. 1 in honor of a passing Korean War veteran.

President Clinton named the 40th ship of the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers after Sen. John Hubbard Chafee of Providence, R.I.

Chafee, a former Navy Secretary, Rhode Island governor, and a Marine in both the enlisted man and commissioned officer ranks, was a rifle company commander during the war.

Long remembered as a leader on environmental issues, he was also a veteran of World War II.

Arleigh Burke Class destroyers are equipped to operate with battle groups in high-threat environments and conduct a variety of missions, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of national military strategy. They also provide essential escort capabilities to Navy and Marine Corps amphibious forces, combat logistics ships and convoys.

The ship will carry standard surface-to-air missiles and Tomahawk missiles launched from forward and aft vertical launching systems; two fully automated, radar-controlled Phalanx close-in weapons systems; harpoon anti-ship missiles; two torpedo launchers; one five-inch gun; and electronic warfare systems.

(Courtesy of Navy News Service)



Courtesy photo

Teamwork

Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating receives a plaque from Lt. Gen. John A. Dubia, Director of the Army Staff, proclaiming the state as the first official Commemorative Community state for the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration. The plaque was presented in Oklahoma City on June 1.

Our eyes and ears are open

If you have photographs or a story you'd like to tell, whether it's a commemorative community event or an account of a personal experience in the Korean War, contact us at the address and telephone number below. To keep abreast of events and activities honoring and thanking our veterans, visit our website address at <http://korea50.army.mil>.

Become a Commemorative Community

Military and civilian communities, schools, businesses and corporations can become a Commemorative Community when they agree to develop annual programs and host a minimum of three (3) events each year. Events can range from honoring veterans and their families, to supporting school programs that teach the history of this era. With a better understanding of this period in our history we can learn and ensure a safer, more peaceful and democratic world.

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Remembering the Korean War Veterans *Freedom Is Not Free* **‘Straight Into Hell’**

As told to Navy Chief Journalist Milinda D. Jensen,
50th Anniversary Korean War Commemoration Committee

Private First Class Clyde H. Queen, Sr. enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in July, 1950. Four days later he was activated. For two-weeks he trained and then out-processed at Tent Camp Two, Camp Pendleton, Calif. In between processing, there were a few days of ‘hands on’ firing of the water-cooled machine gun, the only training Queen would receive before entering combat. He, and the rest of Weapons Company 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division FME, embarked onboard the APA President Jackson (APA-18), a troop carrier. The machine gun squad he was in, was attached to ‘Dog Company,’ 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment. On September 15, 1950, his unit disembarked the LST on an AMTRAC a few miles off the shores of Inc’on. The AMTRAC became stuck, and the Marines had to jump out and wade in the mud up to, and over the sea wall, initiating Queen into combat and sending him straight into HELL.



Courtesy photo

“Our squad was getting our machine gun set up, as the lieutenant in charge of our platoon snapped out orders to set up our positions. I could hear the small arms fire off out in the distance. By now the beach was black from smoke and darkness was setting in. Someone yelled there were snipers in a hut, sitting up on the side of the hill to our right. A flame-thrower torched it off. We heard screams from inside the hut. No one came out.”

Queen stayed awake that night as his unit continued firing illumination gerandes. He could hear continuous shooting in the distance. A thousand questions about the future, and what was going to happen next were shooting through Queen’s mind as he heard weapons from his platoon being fired. Queen had still not seen the faces of the enemy he had been sent to fight. His unit continued to push on to Seoul.

The second day over a small hill, Queen heard a lot of gunfire and explosions. The battlefield was becoming more personal.

“We were cresting a hill, where I could hear a tremendous amount of gunfire and explosions on the other side. As I topped the hill, I met several Marines being assisted to the rear by Navy Corpsmen. One Marine had his

hand blown off, and others were being carried on stretchers. Most were trying their best to keep from crying out from the pain. One of the Marines from my platoon got hit very badly and was losing a lot of blood. I heard later that he died. The ‘first loss’ of a close friend that I been joking around with a day before... it really hit me hard.”

Queen’s unit continued onward to Sosa-ri.

“We stopped and dug in on a hill known as (‘186’) in Sosa-Ri. There was a defile in the hill that the road ran through. Dog Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines took up position on the right side, while Fox



Courtesy photo

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Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was on the left side, and Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was behind us. Anti-tank mines had been placed in the road between the two companies. Sometime in the early morning hours, I heard the 'clank, clank, clank,' of what sounded to me to be caterpillars working on a road somewhere. I was told it was the engineers behind us, digging in gun emplacements for the artillery. But the sound got louder, and closer. Suddenly, all hell broke loose. The darkness turned to daylight from the thunderous explosions of tank ammo aboard a North Korean truck, which had been preceding five T-34 tanks. The North Korean Armored Infantry started climbing up the hills, right into our lines. A lieutenant was going from foxhole to foxhole shouting, 'fix bayonets, and prepare to charge!

"PFC Walter Monegan, a Marine from Fox Company fired, his 3.5 'Bazooka' at point blank range, knocking out two of the tanks. But before he could return to safe cover, the enemy gunned him down. The Medal of Honor was bestowed upon him posthumously for his brave, heroic acts. Later, another T-34 tank was captured intact with its crew."

Having defeated the North Koreans in this battle, Queen's battalion moved on to Yongdungp'o where another battle ensued, and the Marines captured a very important town, not to mention a prize of war... 'a brewery.' Even in the worst of times, Marines find a way to make the best of it. Queen's unit set up camp in the brewery yard.

"One innovative lieutenant found himself a keg of beer, secured a surgical rubber tube as a siphon hose,

and drank his beer as he laid in his foxhole. The brewery was next to a stream, so a few of us went down to try and wash up. Since all the heavy fighting was farther up the road, and we were being held in reserve for the time being, a few of us decided to take a bath in the stream. There we were, buck-naked as a single engine observation plane with a passenger in the back, circling above us was looking for a place to land. The passenger kept waving at us and we continued to wave back. Much to our surprise, I learned later that it was the famous movie star, Jennifer Jones, who had come to Korea with the USO, and was being shown the battle area."

Continuing to push forward, Queen's unit moved into Seoul to assist in re-capturing the city. After Seoul was secure, Queen was put aboard the USS Noble (APA-218) and transported to the Port of Wonson, North Korea.

"After Seoul, I was put on the USNS Noble, a troop transport, for what seemed like weeks, where we floated up and down the Port of Wonson, while mines were being cleared from the harbor. We sailed up and down. Up and down. We called it, 'Operation Yo Yo.' After we made landfall, we were sent up into the hills to root out some North Korean soldiers holed up there. From there, we were loaded aboard a slow moving train around sundown. The train moved off slowly and as it got darker, the train moved even slower. We passed over a long, rickety railroad trestle that was popping, and creaking as the train crept along. We were all concerned that the North Koreans would try and blow up the trestle with the train on it. The moon brightened up for a while, but even so... we could not see the bottom of the ravine we were

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crossing. The North Koreans didn't disappoint us. They blew up the track at Anbyon, but thank God, we got across that rickety old railroad trestle."

Queen's unit finally arrived at a place called "Koje." There, they dug in on the beach. The mortars fired all night long into the hills where about 800 of the enemy were dug in.

"Since the only weapons being fired were the mortars and artillery, there was nothing for me to do but try to get some shut eye. The beach was so crowded; my sleeping bag was right near an 81 mortar. I was lulled to sleep by the sound of the rockets being dropped into the mortar tubes, 'katink,' and the rocket being fired... KABOOM, all night long. Pretty soon the USS Missouri, 'Big Mo,' was belching her big guns. Each time a shell from 'Big Mo' hit the hills, the earth would quiver like an earthquake. The next morning we went up into the hills and found some Americans up ahead of us. They had been bayoneted in their sleeping bags. That told me what kind of enemy we were dealing with."

From there, Queen's unit was sent into Hamch'ang, and then proceeded up the narrow, winding icy road to a place called Kot'o-ri.

"I recall that I was riding in the back of a 6x6 truck. As the truck climbed higher and higher, I would look over the edge at the deep, bottomless ravine. I prayed all the way up... 'Oh Lord, please don't let this truck slide over the edge of this road.' If my memory serves me correctly, I remember we were behind a truck, and the tracks seemed to be breaking the ice well enough for the tires to get good traction. When we arrived at Ko'to-Ri, I remember seeing dead bodies of the enemy scattered all

around. The 7th and 5th had preceded us, and had continued on up to Hagaru-Ri and Yudam-Ni."

Queen was soon to discover he would be faced with "two" new enemies: 120,000 Communist Chinese Forces and sub zero freezing weather and **BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!**

"The temperature had dropped 35 to 40 degrees below zero, and it started snowing fiercely. Ko'to-Ri is a valley between surrounding mountains, just a few miles below the Chosin Reservoir. The freezing wind whipping down on us cut like a knife. There were numerous casualties from frostbite and other cold weather related injuries. Wounded Marines were dying because the blood plasma was frozen, and there was no way to thaw it. Navy Corpsmen walked around with vials of morphine in their mouths to keep it from freezing."

"Food rations were so frozen that just to get one bean it had to be stabbed with a bayonet. Marines were eating sugar, candy, and charms out of their C- rations (currently known as MREs or meals ready to eat) to get energy. They ate snow for moisture."

"Even some of our weapons froze up and would not fire. Although the weather took its toll on the Chinese as well as us, they swarmed down upon our positions like ants. Life, not even their own, seemed to mean anything to them. Our units were totally surrounded by the Chinese Forces. The only way we could receive food and supplies was via airdrop. We were to learn later that the Chinese had entered the war with one mission... 'to kill every American Marine down to the lowest ranking man.'"

The rest of Queen's story can be found on the website at <http://korea50.army.mil> under special features section.