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1. Editorial

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On July 27th veterans, their friends, family and all survivors of the Korean War, pause to Remember the truce. A halt in overt aggression stopped this day. However, limited scale fighting continued for years afterward.

As the Cold War picked up in intensity from 1954 onward, Korea and the waters off Taiwan continued to be hot spots of world interest and fear.

Bill Berebitsky, author of “A Very Long Weekend”, could not have been more prophetic in choosing the title of his book about the war. The war was long and brutal. From the start the war-fighting circumstances were fraught with political tensions as well as extreme climate. (One could debate that most of these tensions continue, unabated.)

By 1952, President Truman’s approval rating for his administration was dipping below 50%. Congressional hearings featured long sessions of finger-pointing about the conduct of the war. The contradictions in official commentary on the war from the Department of Defense and the Truman Administration set the stage for Truman to decide to not run for another term.

Truce talks began in earnest during July of 1951. Three armies “in the field” were the negotiators, not the best situation for timely resolution of issues. The terms set by the Communists and rebutted by the United Nations Forces (chiefly the United States) created a climate for failure.

Large scale bombing runs with subsequent UN offensives to consolidate positions along Line Kansas onto Line Jamestown furthered the stalemate at Panmunjom.

Strategists within the United States Defense Department had decided the offensives had to be undertaken to force the Chinese and North Koreans to acquiesce to a truce. The Iron Triangle area battles ensued: Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge to the Southwest with the US Marine offensives east of the Triangle at the Punchbowl following in quick succession.

Sadly, talks continued to balk over how to handle POW – Prisoner of War repatriation.

It was not until the death of Stalin in March of 1953 that the Soviets began to push China toward serious settlement of the war.

President Eisenhower furthered the climate of negotiation by removing restrictions on the Nationalist Chinese government of Chiang Kai-Shek. The Eisenhower Administration also spread word that nuclear weapons usage was now a real consideration.

Real progress began in April of 1953 with POW repatriation - Operation Little Switch. This was a delicate chess game which was complicated by South Korean President Syngman Rhee. He excoriated ROK leadership and civilians to continue to fight. His release of 25,000 Communist prisoners into the general population of South Korea threw a wrench into the un-steady move toward peace.

The period from April of 1953 until the actual truce of July 27th, 1953 saw a wholesale increase in general warfare all along the fighting front.

Bitter struggles for advantage, both tactical and political, set the stage for massive artillery duels, air strikes and the heart-rending ground battles. Casualties among combatants soared, approaching the horrific rates of the first year of fighting.

The total UN artillery fire from April to July 27th was over 7.5 million rounds. The month of June tallied the highest rate of UN artillery fire of the entire war, 2.7 million rounds expended.

The morning of the 28th of July, 1953 was met with relief, but a cautious relief.

The following decades have seen South Korea emerge from the shadow of war. Long years of strife on the Korean Peninsula were over. A country never before divided was now severed along an unnatural border.

The North has continued a steady economic decline while in the South re-growth transformed the new nation into the 14th largest economy in the world.

Hal and I have had many veterans ask us whether the sacrifice was worth it. We both have urged those men to go and visit Korea for themselves.

Hal took a trip to Korea in 1989 and again in 1994 to try to answer those questions and others. What he found was a vibrant country which he captured in video and still photography. Many of those pictures can be found on the Korean War Project website.

We Remember!

Reference reading: See: Blair; "The Forgotten War", Hermes; "Truce Tent and Fighting Front", Dorr and Thompson; "Korean Air War", Futrell; "The United States Air Force in Korea", Cagle and Manson; "The Sea War in Korea", Department of the Navy; "Naval Operations in the Korean War".

See also: Korean War Project Bookstore for these books and more.

www.koreanwar.org/html/bookstore.html

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2. This Mailing List (going to 39,000 + persons)

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We began this newsletter mailing in December of 1998. The first issue went to just over 2000 persons.

This list is a private list for our visitors and members. A person may join or leave the list at will. It is compiled from our Guest Book and comprises public service messages of general interest to veterans and families.

To join or leave the list: email to: Ted Barker tbarker@kwp.org
Place: Subscribe or Unsubscribe in the subject line.

Consider forwarding the Newsletter to your friends by email or print. Word of mouth is how we grow.

Thanks for being part of the Korean War Project family!

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3. Search for General Orders 9th Infantry Regiment, 2ID

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Lawrence (Larry) Bertrand, author of "Dogging Their Steps", the chronicle of Leo Bertrand's fateful 73 day tour of duty with the 2nd Infantry Division's 9th Infantry Regiment, has been trying to find more documents concerning his brother, Leo who was killed in the line of duty.

Ed Note: Larry is one of our first website visitors and supporters. He donated his book to our reference library. His request echo's many similar inquiries over the past twelve years. Many of our visitors have amassed personal records that often resolve such requests. Use our Looking For and Guestbook departments for establishing contacts with fellow veterans and historians who can assist. Keep Hal and I apprised of efforts. – Ted Barker

Ted and Hal,

Would it be possible to include the following or at least the last two paragraphs in the Korean War Project Newsletter?

I am trying to find the 2nd Infantry Division General Order issuing the Bronze Star Medal to my brother, Leo Bertrand (ER 57 504 337), George Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

Background:

The issuing order would originate from Headquarters, 2d Infantry Division, APO 248, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, CA. (Bronze Star Medals are issued, not by the Regiment, but by the Headquarters of the Division.) The General Order would have been dated from about 20 December 1950 (the day Leo Bertrand joined his unit in Korea) to 2 March 1951, (the date he was KIA) to 9 November 1951 (the date the Quartermaster Corp approved Form 623, "The Application for Headstone or Marker"). The application indicated that he received the Purple Heart (posthumously) and the Bronze Star Medal. (Both designations for medals ["PH" and "BSM"] are indeed engraved on his headstone.) Leo Bertrand's parents (now deceased) did receive the Purple Heart but had never been notified about the issuance of the BSM.

Since the late 1990's, I have attempted to locate documents to justify the application for the BSM for Leo Bertrand. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) stated that his military personnel records were destroyed by fire on July 12, 1973 at NPRC, St. Louis. Confirmation of that came from the offices of two Congressmen. I personally searched the files of the 2nd Infantry Division and 9th Infantry Regiment at the National Archives, College Park, Maryland for the greater part of a week, but found no General Order issuing the BSM to Leo Bertrand. In addition, no DD 214 is known to exist.

One Last Hope!

Many Korean War veterans have copies of the 2nd Infantry Division General Orders issuing them a Bronze or Silver Star. Here is the HOPE. General Orders often have maybe 2-4 Silver Star and Bronze Star medals issued on the same page in the same order.

My request is that veterans who were awarded Bronze Star or Silver Star Medals between 20 December 1950 through 9 November 1951 review copies of their 2nd Infantry Division General Orders to see if a Bronze Star was awarded on the same document to Leo Bertrand (ER 57 504 337), George Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. The General Order number, date issued, and narrative of outstanding service are critical for applying for medals.

Larry Bertrand LarryB931@sbcglobal.net

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4. 93rd Bomber Squadron MIA identified

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Brent Richard Simpson, grandson of USAF Captain Richard Harold Simpson recently posted a Remembrance on the Korean War Project. His grandfathers' B-29A crashed into a mountainside near Sinuju, North Korea on April 12th, 1951. The plane had been attacked by 15 to 20 MIG fighter aircraft.

Brent and his family wanted us to know that the Department of Defense has identified Captain Simpson's remains. They are grateful for the efforts and await the final stages of repatriation.

The entire family looks forward to hearing from members of the 93rd and wishes them to contact Brent.

Brent Simpson
PH: (248) 872-8440
Email: michrugby@yahoo.com

The plane was the Hot Box, 44-69682. The rest of the crew is as follows:

1st Lt George Aaron, (Remains recovered 1994)
Sgt Louis Bergmann (MIA)
Sgt Robert Bevans (MIA)
2nd Lt Elmer Bullock (Remains recovered 1994)
Sgt Ralph Elsman, Jr. (KIA)
SSgt John K. Gant (POW, Big Switch)
LTC Douglas H. Hatfield (MIA)
MSgt Robert W. Jones (Remains recovered 1994)
Sgt George E. Millward (POW, Big Switch)
1st Lt James S. Wilson, Jr (Remains recovered 1993)

Photograph:



Photograph From Earl McGill's B-29's In The Korean War Nose Art.

home.comcast.net/~noseart/hotbox.jpg

Great work by Earl McGill. You can reach him at:
mywebpages.comcast.net/b29sinthekoreanwar/b29koreanwar.htm

mywebpages.comcast.net/b29sinthekoreanwar/0-b29MasterList.htm

Ed Note: the website referenced is a fantastic compendium of B-29 aircraft. The site title is; B-29's in the Korean War.

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5. Marine Night Fighter query by History Channel- Dogfights

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My name is Tony Alunni, I am the supervising producer for the History Channel series Dogfights. I am trying to track down some mission reports for Korean War Marine night fighters?

Any leads regarding the following would be much appreciated.

On the night of 2:3 November 1952, a Sky Knight piloted by Marine Major William Stratton, accompanied by radar operator Master Sergeant Hans Hoagland, shot down what they reported from the exhaust pattern to be a Yak-15 fighter, and claimed a confirmed kill since the Sky Knight flew through debris, narrowly evading damage. Russian records indicate the target was actually a MiG-15 -- the Yak-15 was really not suited for operational use, and wasn't used in combat in Korea or anywhere else -- and though the Sky Knight set the MIG on fire, the pilot managed to extinguish the flames and get back to base. The MiG was fully operational in a few days, a tribute to its rugged construction.

However, five days later, on the night of 7:8 November, another F-3D Sky Knight under the command of Marine Captain Oliver R. Davis with radar operator Warrant Officer D.F. "Ding" Fessler shot down a MiG-15. Russian sources do confirm this kill and that the pilot, a Lieutenant Kovalyov, ejected safely.

On 10 December 1952, a Sky Knight piloted by Marine Lieutenant Joseph Corvi with radar operator Sergeant Dan George spotted a "bogey" on radar. They could not establish visual contact, but since no "friendlies" were supposed to be in the area, they fired on the target.

A kill was confirmed when Sergeant George spotted a wing tumbling past them. This was one of the first times when an aircraft destroyed an enemy that the crew could not see. It turned out to be one of the little Po-2 biplanes used by the North Koreans to harass UN forces at night.

The Po-2 was a difficult target, since it flew low and slow, it was small and agile, and its mostly wooden construction did not show up well on radar.

The Marine Sky Knights claimed a total of at least six kills and no B-29s under their escort were lost to enemy fighters. Two Sky Knights were lost in combat for unknown reasons.

Thanks so much.

Tony Alunni Tony@digitalranch.tv

6. KWP technical issues

Many of our visitors tried to download the link to the CD Sea Services in the Korean War from our May 7th newsletter. The link caused havoc with many of you. Although the link had been tested, many of you could not download the file due to your network settings. The topic was: "Section 15. Marine Corps | Navy History Section".

www.koreanwar.org/html/newsletter_may_7_2007.html

I have been able to download Acrobat .pdf versions of most of the contents of the CD except for the Montross and Canzona files on the USMC.

An announcement will be forthcoming on the availability, locally, of those files.

Email issues: Recent security measures invoked by major service providers have prevented delivery of email from the KWP to our end users. AOL users may not have been getting delivery along with Netzero users. AOL mail administrators could not find the cause for non-delivery.

An alert for many of you who use the Looking For, BBS and Guest Book for networking was sent out in early July. Please be sure to use the telephone and USPS as reinforcements to email contact.

7. Membership, Bumper Stickers

Consider supporting the mission of the Korean War Project by donations in the form of Membership/Sponsorship and our "I Remember Korea" Bumper Sticker campaign.

Membership: www.koreanwar.org/html/membership.html

Bumper Sticker: www.koreanwar.org/html/bumper_sticker.html

Our Pledge Drive is an ongoing process. Many of our previous donors no longer can assist. We are recruiting from those who have not participated, so if you can, jump on in, it will be appreciated.

The site is free for all to use and those who participate help to ensure that we remain online whether the donation is \$1.00 or more!

Some of our site visitors cannot participate due to health or income restrictions.

Sadly, many of our long-term contributors have passed away.

For those persons or groups who cannot participate, we certainly understand.

Donations/Memberships are tax deductible, if you use long form IRS reports. Our EIN: 75-2695041 501(c) (3)

8. KWP Casualty Data and Remembrance

Hal and I have been able to update our files to more completely reflect casualties. Much of that progress has come about from input in our Remembrance area.

All Medal of Honor and DSC recipients have been updated.

All aircraft losses have been updated to reflect those onboard and the tail numbers and/or aircraft type.

In the process of updating we are asking our visitors to help fill in the blanks for our fallen where no unit, birthdates, hometown, or circumstances of death exist.

Please visit the KIA/MIA data files to help and to see the updated work which is still in progress.

We are still going through the thousands of email stored over the past thirteen years along with records provided by our correspondents.

Link: www.koreanwar.org/html/korean_war_databases.html

9. Mapping and Chart project - KWP

Alert:

In the coming weeks a mapping program of battles, casualties, unit locations will be placed on the KWP website. Charts that are interactive (links to dates) are part of that effort.

Each bit of information on battle dates, casualty dates, hometowns, Hill grid points, etc is of great importance to making this project successful.

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10. Letters to the Lost - update

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Hal is almost to the point of using Dragon speech software to read in the hand-written letters we received in November 2006. After that is completed, a revision of the online letters will commence.

The work in progress for the casualty files (see Section 9), is part of the overall editing for the proposed book.

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11. MIA / DNA / Identifications - update

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Response from our May 7th newsletter and the major media articles that followed New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson continued to bear fruit. Hal and I have been able to pass on contacts made to the Service Branch Casualty Offices in Washington, DC.

Media correspondents have been calling to garner information regarding recent Dept of Defense Press Releases on new identifications made. We have been able to facilitate networking for these media contacts to family, friends and Department of Defense staff.

Reference to recent news articles and pending articles will be featured on the KWP very shortly.

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12. Newsletter schedule

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An additional newsletter will be posted on August 1st. This will contain new books, requests for locators and details on our charting / mapping program.

Thanks to all who have made this newsletter and the website possible!

Donors: www.koreanwar.org/html/membership.html

[Hal and Ted Barker](#)