Return-Path: <JorstadR@osd.pentagon.mil>
Received: from ddsmttayz003.osd.mil (ddsmttayz003.osd.mil [134.152.184.7])
        by mail2.rcsntx.swbell.net (8.8.5/8.8.5) with ESMTP id QAA02821
        for <tbarker@kwp.org>; Thu, 3 Sep 1998 16:27:35 -0500 (CDT)
Received: by ddsmttayz003 with Internet Mail Service (5.5.2232.9)
        id <SADV6BAR>; Thu, 3 Sep 1998 17:29:33 -0400
Message-ID: <C1247170B74FD11180E80020AF3CBE4D2FFE72@DDSMTTAYZ037>
From: "Jorstad, Roger, CIV, WHS/DIOR" <JorstadR@osd.pentagon.mil>
To: Ted Barker <tbarker@kwp.org>
Subject: RE: Telecon 8/31/98
Date: Thu, 3 Sep 1998 17:24:38 -0400
Importance: high
X-Priority: 1
Return-Receipt-To: "Jorstad, Roger, CIV, WHS/DIOR"
        <JorstadR@osd.pentagon.mil>
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2232.9)
X-UIDL: 421ad8c3882c7e05dc93a9ea9b599772

Ted,

I will be working the Puerto Rico document up the line next week. Will keep
you posted on other developments related to our Korean Conflict file.

Have a good weekend,
Roger
> ----------
> From: Ted Barker[SMTP:tbarker@kwp.org]
> Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 1998 12:41 PM
> To: jorstadr@osd.pentagon.mil
> Subject: Telecon 8/31/98
> Importance: High
>
> <<File: Puerto Rico.doc>>
> Roger,
>
> Thank you for the extended telephone conversation yesterday. It was
> really nice to visit like that and I apologize for the long period of
> silence.
>
> The original information you and your staff sent to me in July of 1996
> for the Korean Casualty File has been of great value in our attempt to
> create a useful online toolset for our visitors. That tool is evolving
> as the attached word document will advise. We shall be sending it by
> surface mail as well.
>
>
>
> Regards,
>
> Ted Barker

```
>
> Attached is a document in Word.
>
>
>
>
> ----------------------------------------------------------
> 'Ted Barker:
> The Korean War Project          (Online since 1/15/94)
> http://www.koreanwar.org/       (Website since 2/15/95)
> ---09/01/98-------------------11:41:48-------------------
>
```

Korean War Project

P.O. Box 180190
Dallas, TX 75218-0190

FAX – 214-327-1768
Email – hbarker@kwp.org
www.koreanwar.org

September 1, 1998

Roger Jorstadt
Directorate For Information Operations and Reports
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204
Arlington, VA 22202-4302

RE: Korean War Casualty Databases

Dear Mr. Jorstadt,

Ted suggested writing you to give you more of an idea what the Korean War Project has been doing since our last contact with you.

Two weeks ago, we placed our improved Korean War casualty database online. Advances in software have allowed us to create database scripts and calls without the necessity of hiring outside software programmers. Our old database access was very primitive due to programming costs.

Thankfully, last year, we received a technology grant from the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, allowing us to set up our own Windows NT 4.0 Server on a dedicated ISDN connection. The technical end of the Korean War Project is now under control.

Now begins the Second Phase of the Korean War Project.

Visitors to the site can now access under the following calls:

- Name
- State
- Unit
- County or City
- Date and Unit
- Date and Service
- Ethnic
- WIA/MIA/KIA/RTD/EVC – Army

An added function is the ability of visitors to enter new information on a casualty, information we automatically add to a secondary database. We've received several hundred additions and corrections in less than two weeks. Two comment sections allow friends and family to enter specific data. A frequent comment is that we do not have a specific name listed. We flag those comments and have created a database of missing names for future research. In addition, we are working on the present DIOR database for integration into the existing online database we now have available.

We are also working with individual state and unit organizations to identify errors and omissions. Ted has developed thousands of contact email addresses in our Looking For section. We routinely receive unit rosters, casualty lists, and other primary documents we use to correct obvious errors. Unfortunately, we have not been able to develop funding to obtain copies of primary casualty records.

As you know, a problem with the NARA databases and other databases is the Hispanic question. A simple search using our 65th Infantry Unit URL shows the missing first names, the truncated surnames, and the odd problem of race classification.

We have been thinking through the special problems with Puerto Rico and also with Hawaiians (I was born in Hawaii, so I have a special interest .). It appears that finding certain primary records is a problem of logistics and funds. Luckily, the number of records in relation to the overall casualties from the war makes the racial designation problem within grasp.

As a research historian with many hours of time at NARA and at various other depositories, I consider the race classification question a very interesting and challenging project. I feel it is by no means certain that a full accounting can ever be made. Only a reasoned attempt can be made.

Since most of the losses were Army related, if I had the chance, I would examine the records at Army Mortuary Affairs, where certain primary death records are located. It is my understanding these records are intact and have not been copied to any extent, if at all.

If I had the chance, I would examine birth records in Puerto Rico. However, I have no direct knowledge how well such records are kept, so this may not be a viable or reasonable avenue. Examination of contemporary newspaper records from Puerto Rico would also be effective in obtaining name spellings and home towns.

A third source would be contacting surviving families of those lost. It is well within possibility that at least a substantial percentage of these families could be reached through media and organizations in Puerto Rico. Again, only a reasoned attempt can be made.

All of this costs money. I think it is reasonable to assume that your office does not have the personnel or funding to go through birth records in Puerto Rico, or to engage in large-

scale off-premise research into the Puerto Rican casualties, or even the general grouping of casualties.

Unfortunately, in the private sector we have found that research into the Korean War has the very lowest priority in terms of funding. The Korean War Project survives from very small individual donations. A quick visit to our website will give you an indication of just how dedicated we are to remembering Korean War Veterans, especially in light of our funding experience.

We would like to propose in the event any DOD funding becomes available to conduct contract research on the Puerto Rican data and/or the databases in general, that we be considered for such work.

The Korean War Project is a 501(c)(3) registered Texas nonprofit corporation. Our financial controller is Chaplain (Colonel) Wesley Geary, United States Army Retired. We recently obtained the volunteer services of Mr. Richard Cooper, a newly retired Army Corps of Engineers programmer and database expert.

We also have a cordial relationship with the Puerto Rican Hispanic Genealogical Society and many members of the 65th Infantry Regiment and the 3rd Infantry Division Association.

Sincerely,

Hal Barker
Director