

MY SERVICE WITH THE 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION FROM
OCT. 11, 1950 TO AUG 1952 AT CAMP POLK, LOUISIANA,
HOKKAIDO, JAPAN AND IN THE KOREAN WAR
(BY ALVIN E BOESE)

5. EPILOGUE

I believe it was well worth the effort to write this story to show how a group of about 30 men could have had such Incredible good luck as to survive eight months of the Korean War without one fatality and only one man wounded which wasn't a real serious wound. Especially the good luck that myself and the squad I was in had owing to the fact that we seemed to always get involved in some of the most dangerous situations. Maybe it wasn't just all good luck. Someone may have been watching over us.

We had it real tough at times but the guys on the MLR had it worse than we did. For a month or more at a time they were constantly going out on patrols, making sweeps over hills, trying to take hills, turning back Chinese assaults on their positions and coming under mortar and artillery fire. I can see now why so many men who have seen quite a lot of combat come home with nerve and mental problems of which some never completely recover from.

All the incidents in this story actually happened but may not be in the exact order which they happened. It is hard to remember the exact order after almost 40 years. There were many other dangerous situations but I just tried to cover the highlights that I can still remember clearly.

The squad leader from B Company who refused to go back out on Old Baldy the night that we had to take his squad's place was court-martialed and sentenced to 20 years hard labor in a military prison. The men in his squad also received severe sentences but not as severe as their squad leader.

Sergeant Jerome Sears from B Company who was killed while giving his men cover fire was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, posthumously. The Army Reserve Center in the Multnomah area of Portland OR was named the Jerome Sears Army Reserve Center in his honor.

We did have one fatality in our platoon. "Stinky", our mascot.

A short time after arriving home, my buddy, Barney Wilbur was killed in an automobile accident.

I hope this story will share some light on what the Korean War was like, at least one small part of the war. We hear so much about the war in Vietnam (not to take anything away from those who served there) and so little about the Korean War. I am listing some facts which were taken from the 1992 World Almanac on the following page to make some comparisons of the two wars.

United States involvement in the Korean War lasted 37 months which was from the beginning of the war till the end.

United States Casualties only.

Killed in action-----33,629

Wounded in action-----103,284

Other deaths-----20,617

Total casualties-----157,530

Total casualties for the 45 th Infantry Division in the Korean War was 4004. 834 killed in action and 3170 wounded in action.
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United States involvement in the Vietnam War lasted 89 months.

United States Casualties only.

Killed in action-----47,356

Wounded in action-----153,303

Other deaths-----10,795

Total casualties-----211,354

Casualty rates of the two wars:

Korean War-----4258 casualties/month

Vietnam War-----2375 casualties/month

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For photo gallery, [click here](#).