

Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



"Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

Volume 7, Number 8

August 2020

United States Armed Services Day of Observance

The significant days of observance in August are **Coast Guard Birthday** on the 4th and **Purple Heart Recognition Day** on the 7th.

Purple Heart Recognition Day



Purple Heart Recognition Day on August 7 honors recipients of the medal, the oldest American military decoration for military merit. Since 1944, the requirements have been limited to those who are wounded or killed in combat with an armed enemy. The MHC salutes Purple Heart recipients – thank you.

Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday thru Friday: 10:00-4:00
Saturday: 10:00-2:00

Closed Sunday and Monday and on major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00
Members and children under 18 – Free

For more information, call (918) 794-2712

www.okmhc.org

The MHC Salutes Southwest Asia Veterans



Southwest Asia Service Ribbon

The southwest Asia service medal with ribbon was awarded to military personnel who served in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the Persian Gulf region during the period August 2, 1990 - November 30, 1995.



End of World War II Commemoration

Mr. Frank Riesinger, a retired Tulsa businessman and World War II veteran, organized a 75th commemoration of the end of World War II at Broken Arrow's Performing Arts Center on the evening of July 14. That is the day in 1945 on which President Truman announced the Japanese government had agreed to accept the Allies' terms of surrender. Featured speakers were Oklahoma First District Congressman, Kevin Hern, and MG William Holt II, Director Joint Space Operations Development Directorate Headquarters, United States Command at Peterson AFB, Colorado. The 145th Army Band "The Governor's Own", Oklahoma National Guard, provided musical entertainment and Ms. Maggie Bond sang several patriotic songs. MHC Board Secretary Peter Plank set up a display of World War II uniforms, newspapers and other relevant militaria in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center. (See below.)

MHC President, BG Tom Mancino (U.S. Army, Retired) reported, "Event went off without a hitch. Broken Arrow is the only city in the U.S. to have a VJ Day celebration – good crowd with lots of publicity for the museum. Frank did outstanding job. Speakers were short and Peter's display outstanding".

Click on the links below to view the program. The first link is a short news item by Fox23, the local Fox News station. The second link is a full video of the program.

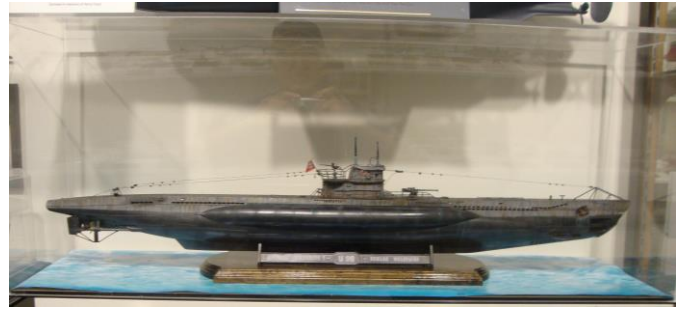
<https://www.fox23.com/video/?id=81c2a68b-af0f-4607-82d5-8917ca6e1851>

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BG Tommy Mancino, Debra Whimpey and BG Tom Mancino, Retired at the VJ Day commemoration - (Photo courtesy of Debra Whimpey)

This Month's Featured Exhibit



Scale model of the World War II German submarine, *U-96*, donated by Ken Miller, who also made the model.

U-96 was a type VIIC U-boat commissioned on September 14, 1940. She was part of the 7th U-boat Flotilla, stationed at Saint Nazaire on the French Atlantic coast. *U-96* conducted eleven patrols, sank twenty-seven merchant ships totaling 180,206 gross register tonnage and damaged four others. She was a member of eleven different wolfpacks. *U-96* was decommissioned in February 1945 and converted to a training boat. U.S. bombers sank *U-96* in the submarine pens at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, on March 30, 1945. In her entire career, *U-96* suffered no casualties to her crew.

German war correspondent, Gunther-Lothar Buchheim, went on a patrol aboard *U-96*, and in 1973, he wrote a novel, *Das Boot* (The Boat), based on his experience. In 1981, Wolfgang Petersen created the critically acclaimed film, *Das Boot*, based on Buchheim's novel with several alterations to the plot and characters. Both the novel and the film had a much darker ending than in reality, where the U-boat returns to port only to be destroyed during an air raid with many of her crew killed or wounded.



U-96 returning to St. Nazaire from a patrol in 1941



Japanese civil and naval ensign during the occupation, 1945-1952

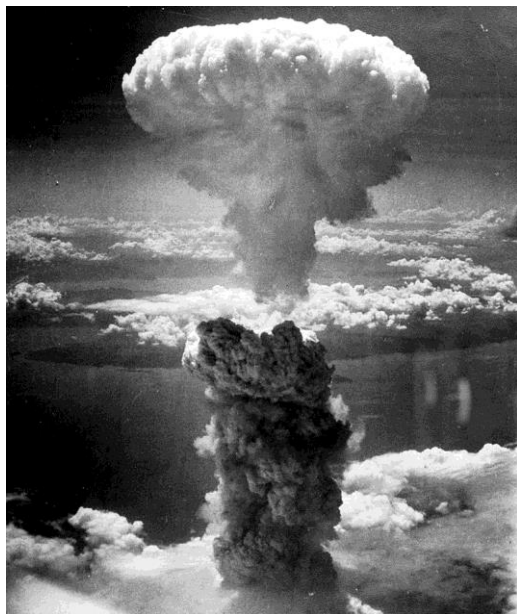
Seventy-five Years Ago, This Month



Crew of the B-29, *Enola Gay*, (with COL Paul Tibbets in the center) delivered the uranium bomb "Little Boy" to Hiroshima – August 6.



Hiroshima after the atomic bomb attack



Mushroom cloud over Nagasaki minutes after detonation



MAJ Chuck Sweeney in the dark jacket, back row, poses with his crew next to the B-29, *Bockscar*.

Captain Frederick C. Bock normally piloted *Bockscar*, but COL Paul Tibbets selected the more experienced Major Charles W. "Chuck" Sweeney to fly *Bockscar* on the mission to drop the second atomic bomb. The primary target was Kokura, but the aiming point, the Kokura arsenal, was obscured by smoke. Sweeney's orders were to drop the bomb only if the bombardier could see the aiming point. He made three bomb runs over Kokura before giving up and heading to the secondary target, Nagasaki. The city was covered by haze, but *Bockscar* was running low on fuel because the reserve tank fuel pump had malfunctioned. Sweeney didn't want to jettison the bomb in the ocean or land with it aboard. Against orders, he and the bomb commander agreed to drop the bomb by radar. "Fat Man", a plutonium implosion bomb, was dropped at 1038 hours local time and detonated forty-three seconds later at an altitude of 1,650 feet with a blast yield equivalent to twenty-one kilotons of TNT. The radar drop missed the aiming point by about a mile. Sweeney, now critically low on fuel, flew *Bockscar* to Okinawa, landing with almost empty fuel tanks – August 9.



President Truman briefs the press on the message from the Japanese government accepting the Potsdam Declaration – August 14 (August 15 in Japan). The people of the Allied nations wildly celebrated the end of the war on that day.

Retrospective on the Atomic Bomb

"When one considers the possibility that the Japanese military would have sacrificed the entire nation if it were not for the atomic bomb attack, then the bomb might be described as having saved Japan."

Dr. Taro Takemi, former President of the Japan Medical Association

From the moment President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the Manhattan Project – the creation of the atomic bomb – there was no question the bomb would be employed, if when finished, the war was still ongoing and if it appeared necessary to use it to end the war.

When Harry Truman was sworn-in as President on April 12, after the death of President Roosevelt earlier in the day, he knew nothing of the Manhattan Project, and nothing of Roosevelt's plans or policies for bringing the war to conclusion. Secretary of War Henry Stimson and MG Leslie Groves, commander of the Manhattan Engineering District, from which the Manhattan Project got its name, fully briefed Truman on April 24. Stimson asked the President if they should continue with the project. According to Stimson's naval aide, Commander George Elsey, who was in the room, the President replied "emphatically 'yes'". When asked if the bomb should be used, according to Elsey, the answer again was "emphatically 'yes'". That was the only input Truman ever made regarding the use of the bomb. Use of the bomb was a foregone conclusion. Everyone operated on the assumption that it would be used. No one in the government or military ever counseled the President not to use it. In fact, only the highest echelons within the State, War and Navy Departments, the White House, theater commanders and the Manhattan Project even knew the bomb was imminent.

At the time, and for several years after the end of the war, Americans overwhelmingly approved the use of the bomb in order to end the war. As people became more aware of the enormity of the destruction the bomb caused and particularly the residual effects of radiation poisoning, they began to think differently. By the 1960s, a generation of Americans had come of age that had no memory of World War II. It was also the divisive Vietnam Era; the Cold War and nuclear arms race were in full force; and leftist, revisionist historians had emerged and had begun creating a new history of the end of the war. Chief among the revisionists was Gar Alperovitz, but included Kai Bird, Craig Campbell, Barton Bernstein and others. They argued that the bomb was unnecessary because Japan was trying to surrender. They argued that casualty estimates had been highly inflated and that the bomb was dropped not to end the war, but to intimidate the Soviet Union. Their arguments are not simply differences of opinion or of interpretation. They distorted documented facts, took statements completely out of context, presented inaccuracies or most seriously, made up new "facts" to support their agenda. Alperovitz's books are perhaps the most baneful as his version of history made it into university history departments and textbooks. Leftist professors have taught his version as uncontested history to, by now, at least three generations of students.

The facts surrounding the end of the Pacific War are well documented in government reports, memoranda and letters. Several of the decision makers including Truman and Simpson,

kept detailed diaries. Since 1921, U.S. intelligence officers had been able to read Japanese diplomatic messages, which they code named MAGIC. From 1943, they had access to Japanese army codes and encryption methods. Those intercepted messages were code named ULTRA. MAGIC and ULTRA have been declassified and available to historians for decades.

The allied policy of unconditional surrender has been one of the enduring controversies about the end of the war. In January 1943, Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in French Morocco to decide the next step in the war with Germany. It was there that Roosevelt first revealed that he and Churchill had agreed they would accept nothing less than unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan. They would not allow a repeat of the end of World War I, when the French refused to require the German army to formally surrender. Thus, was born the myth that the German army had not been defeated but rather had been stabbed in the back by Marxists and Jews. Hitler built on this myth to rise to power and subsequently plunge the world into a war far more deadly and destructive than the first world war. To Roosevelt and Churchill, unconditional surrender meant more than just the enemy armies formally surrendering. It meant that the victorious allies would occupy the defeated countries, bring war criminals to justice, uproot all vestiges of Nazism and militarism and lead the defeated countries into a democratic form of government. There would be no resurgence of militarism as had occurred in Germany after Hitler came to power, or in Japan.

On July 17, Truman, Churchill and Stalin met at Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin, for the last Big Three conference of the war. High on the agenda was finishing the war with Japan. The Soviet Union was not yet in the Pacific War, but at Potsdam, Stalin reiterated his commitment to enter the war within three months from the surrender of Germany. During the conference, Truman and Churchill agreed on the Potsdam Declaration (See below.) as a final warning to Japan that if they did not accept the allies' surrender terms, they would face "prompt and utter destruction". The Declaration was signed by Truman, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek. Since the Soviet Union was not at war with Japan, Stalin was not involved in forming the Declaration, but he agreed with it.

Revisionists and others argue that insistence on unconditional surrender extended the war. This is a fallacious argument. There is no evidence whatever that either government continued the war because of unconditional surrender. They were, if fact, contemptuous of it.

Another major fallacy concerning the war has been that Japan was trying to surrender; therefore, the atomic bomb was unnecessary. The Japanese were looking for a way to end the war, but on their terms, which rejected surrender in any form. Surrender was anathema to the militarists with their Samurai tradition of fighting to the death.

As late as mid-May 1945, the Emperor believed a military victory was a prerequisite to opening peace negotiations. The military was fixated on the concept of a decisive battle before any effort to end the war was undertaken. They did not necessarily have to win the battle, but could achieve the same end by inflicting unacceptable casualties on the enemy. Saipan and

then Leyte and Okinawa had been designated decisive battles, but had not developed as such. The current decisive battle would be the anticipated battle on Kyushu. The Japanese called the operation Ketsu-go (Decisive Operation); the U.S. had designated it OLYMPIC.

By June, it became painfully obvious to the Japanese, that Okinawa was a lost cause. On June 8, at a conference before the Emperor, thirteen senior officials of the government laid out their perception of Japan's current situation. The Emperor remained silent throughout the conference. His silence sanctioned the government's decision to fight to the finish. Yet, the country's bleak situation seemed to help convince Hirohito that it was time to try to find a negotiated settlement to the war. The Marquis Koichi Kido, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Emperor's closest and most trusted advisor, wrote a paper outlining Japan's position, and Hirohito agreed with it. In essence, Japan would return to its status as it existed in 1937, at the beginning of the war with China. Japan would retain Manchuria, Korea and Formosa (Taiwan). She would give up the occupied European colonies only after they secured independence. Japanese troops would be withdrawn from China and the other occupied areas on their own accord. There would be no surrender in any form and no occupation. This remained Japan's position until August 10, after two atomic bombs had been dropped. Meanwhile, the government would attempt to enlist the Soviet Union as a mediator. The Army forbade any contact with the United States. Efforts to get the Soviet Union to mediate an end to the war was an exercise in Japanese self-delusion. Stalin was already committed to war with Japan.

Neither the Emperor nor anyone in the government ever suggested surrender as a means to bring the war to an end prior to August 10. Then, the government dropped all conditions except a guarantee of the Emperor's position. This belies the revisionist assertion that the war could have been ended before the bomb was used if only Truman had agreed to guarantee the Emperor's status.

In the meantime, low-level officers at Japanese embassies in neutral European capitals, namely Portugal, Sweden and particularly Switzerland, on their own accord, began putting out peace feelers. The officer in Switzerland even arranged meetings with Allen Dulles, the chief of the OSS (precursor to the CIA). He duly reported his efforts to Foreign Minister Togo, who gave him no encouragement and soon ordered all such activities stopped as Japan was committed to a war to the finish. Togo had to be cautious as he knew the Army was monitoring Foreign Office transmissions. From MAGIC intercepts, American intelligence officers knew these so-called peace feelers were not sanctioned by the government, nor did any of them contemplate surrender, but that hasn't kept revisionists from insisting that Japan was trying to surrender.

One of the of foremost distortions over the use of the atomic bomb is the issue of casualties. Obviously, if the bomb was successful in ending the war, casualties would be reduced to zero. On June 18, Truman met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) to discuss whether to approve Operation OLYMPIC, or to adopt a program of bombardment and blockade as some officers in the Navy and Army Air Force preferred. Invasion casualty estimates were discussed in detail during the meeting, and

they ranged all over the map. There was no consensus among the JCS. General Marshall projected casualties (killed, wounded and missing) of about 193,500 for OLYMPIC and the follow-up invasion of Honshu – CORONET – tentatively scheduled for March 1946. The fact is, members of the JCS had no idea, but Truman had specifically asked for casualty figures, and they had to give him something. Marshall told Truman that trying to estimate casualties was speculative. Neither Marshall nor any of the JCS ever again discussed casualties with Truman. He never saw any of the future casualty estimates based on updated intelligence of Japanese army units that had been moved into Kyushu. Truman approved OLYMPIC and believed that it was his hardest decision of the war. He was concerned that fighting in Japan would become a series of "Okinawas from one end of Japan to the other". He wrote in his memoirs that he had used the bomb to save 500,000 American lives. Revisionist have accused him of inflating the casualty projections to justify using the bomb. This begs the question: How many casualties would be required before use of the bomb would be justified? The question was never asked.

The JCS rejected blockade and bombardment because they believed it was necessary to secure a lodgment on Kyushu to support future action on Honshu. Furthermore, Marshall believed it would prolong the war and give encouragement for a negotiated surrender. The concept of blockade and bombardment was a chimera. No one could possibly ensure that it would induce the Japanese to surrender. Japanese hardliners were prepared to sacrifice millions of civilians to a "glorious death" in a fight to the finish. One high ranking general went as far to say to the effect, that if the entire population of Japan were to die in defending the homeland, it would be preferable to surrender. Others expressed similar feelings. Millions of Japanese had been rendered homeless by the bombing campaign and the country was existing on near starvation rations due to a poor harvest and the disruption of the food distribution system. Prolonged bombardment and blockade would have condemned millions of Japanese, not to mention the thousands of POWs, to slow death from starvation and disease. These are the factors Dr. Takemi alluded to in the above quote.

The atomic bomb was used for one and only one purpose: to "shock" the Japanese into surrender on Allied terms. Hirohito's Imperial Rescript noted, "The enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives." He made no mention of Soviet entry into the war in his Imperial Rescript. His statement about the bomb should serve as the final confirmation that the bomb was the proverbial straw that finally broke the camel's back.

Sources:

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Gallicchio, Marc, *Unconditional, The Japanese Surrender in World War II*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2020
Giangreco, D. M., *Hell to Pay, Operation Downfall and the Invasion of Japan, 1945-47*, Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2009
Maddox, Robert James, *Weapons of Victory, The Hiroshima Decision Fifty Years Later*, University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO, 1995

Potsdam Declaration

The following is the part of the Potsdam Declaration that set out the terms required of the Japanese government to bring the war to an end. The Declaration was signed by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and President Chiang Kai-Shek. The Soviet Union was not included because it was not yet at war with Japan. The Declaration was signed on July 26, 1945, at Potsdam, Germany, and broadcast openly by short-wave radio. A formal copy was sent to the Japanese through the Swiss embassy.

“Following are our terms. We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.

There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest, for we insist that a new order of peace, security and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.

Until such a new order is established and until there is convincing proof that Japan's war-making power is destroyed, points in Japanese territory to be designated by the Allies shall be occupied to secure the achievement of the basic objectives we are here setting forth.

The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine.

The Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.

We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation, but stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners. The Japanese Government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people. Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.

Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those which would enable her to re-arm for war. To this end, access to, as distinguished from control of, raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.

The occupying forces of the Allies shall be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished and there has been established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government.

We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.”

The Potsdam Declaration was meant, in part, to serve as a warning to Japan of the impending atomic bomb attack without actually mentioning the bomb.

Display at VJ Day Commemoration



MHC Board Secretary, Peter Plank, set-up this display in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center. The top two photos show a selection of uniforms. The bottom photo shows a tribute set-up in memory of Medal of Honor recipient, Command Sergeant Major Paul B. Huff of Cleveland, Tennessee. Huff was a corporal serving with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion near Carano, Italy, when he received the medal.

Korean War – Pusan Perimeter

LTG Walton Walker, commander of Eighth Army established the Pusan Perimeter in the southeast corner of Korea north and west of the city of Pusan, the principal port of South Korea. The perimeter was initially about fifty miles east to west and about 100 miles north to south. The original perimeter was generally bounded on the north and west by the Naktong River until about twenty or so miles north of the Korea Strait, where the river turns sharply to the east and flows east and then south again to the ocean. The Perimeter extended south from the eastward bend of the Naktong to the Korea Strait. By the time of the breakout in September, the NKPA had pushed the northern boundary several miles south.

General Walker set-up his headquarters at Taegu, more or less in the middle of the Perimeter a few miles east of the Naktong. In what came to be called his “Stand or Die” order, Walker made it clear this was the end of retreat. There would be no Dunkirk from Korea. By the beginning of August, the 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii had joined the 24th in Korea. By the middle of the month the 2nd Infantry and 1st Cavalry divisions began to arrive. As in World War II, the 1st Cavalry was dismounted and was effectively an infantry division. The 1st Marine Provisional Brigade also arrived in August.

Walker would use the marines as “fireman”. He advised the brigade commander that the marines should be prepared to move on a moment’s notice. They would be used to plug holes in the line or to backstop army units as needed. They were first used at the southwest corner of the Perimeter, where they stopped the NKPA cold. ROK troops were responsible for the north side of the Perimeter. The Army divisions were strung out along the Naktong on the west side of the Perimeter. The American lines were beyond thin. Battalions held positions, which in normal circumstances, divisions would hold. Commanders had to choose their defensive positions carefully, trying to select the best positions and where they expected the NKPA would likely cross the Naktong. These hill positions were often out of sight of each other without the possibility of mutual fire support. NKPA troops had little trouble infiltrating the American lines through the gaps between the hills. Constant vigilance was necessary but not always done.

When the NKPA closed up to the Pusan Perimeter, they had about 77,000 men in thirteen divisions. At that point, they easily outnumbered the defenders. Yet, they had serious problems. The first was their long supply line from Seoul. By now, UN forces (American and Australian) had control of the air over South Korea. Land-based aircraft from Japan and Navy and Marine Corps air from offshore aircraft carriers constantly harassed NKPA road columns to the point they were reduced to night movement only. During the drive to the Naktong, the NKPA had lost many of its formidable T-34 tanks to both land and air forces. When they arrived at the Naktong, the NKPA troops were tired, short of ammunition, medical supplies and food. They had never had regular food supplies. From the beginning, they had been required to forage for their food, that is steal it from South Koreans. They also snatched young South Korean men from their villages and farms to replace casualty losses.

Korean topography is extremely rugged. Most of the country is hilly and mountainous. Flatter areas, mainly in southwest Korea and along rivers and streams, are were covered with rice paddies. While Korea had a good rail system that the Japanese had built during their occupation, the road system was abysmal. Not a foot of road outside the few major cities was hard surface. “Highways” were two-lane covered with crushed rock. Lesser roads were dirt or sometimes gravel. They narrowed from barely two lanes to essentially trails as they entered mountainous areas. Most ran north to south or southeast and southwest. There were very few lateral east-west roads in all of Korea.

The country was primitive. Most of the population was rural, living in tiny, mud-wall, thatched houses in tiny villages, where they went out during the day to work in rice paddies or other at other jobs. There was almost no motorized transportation other than some commercial in the rural areas. Transportation was commonly leg power or ox cart. Longer distance travel could be made by train. There was no electricity or telephone service in most of the rural areas.

American soldiers entering Korea immediately hated the place. Besides the primitive conditions, and customs quaint to Americans, almost no Americans spoke Korean and only a few Koreans spoke English. Water was unsafe and Korean food was foreign to American palates. Summers in the south were close to sub-tropical with blazing heat, often over 100 degrees in July and August, combined with very high humidity. Out-of-condition Americans suffered until they got into better shape and became somewhat acclimated. Winters were cold, sometimes brutally so, especially in the higher elevations in central and north Korea. Maybe the thing most repulsive to newly arriving American troops was the odor of Korea. The country actually stank. Koreans fertilized their ubiquitous rice patties with human waste, so-called night soil. The rice growing areas of Korea were essentially large cesspools. Soldiers and marines frequently had to wade through this mess when moving to battle and fight in it when in battle.

The first major attack on the Pusan Perimeter came at the Naktong bulge, an area west of Taegu, where the river turns sharply west, then south and then east and south again. This created somewhat of a horseshoe shaped salient roughly three by five miles in area, where the Americans could be attacked from three sides. There the Naktong was about six feet deep in the middle and about a quarter mile wide. The NKPA attack fell on the 5th Marine Regiment on August 17. The marines had been placed in the bulge to support the over-stretched Army units. The Marine infantry, with heavy tank and artillery support as well as air attacks by Marine Corsairs, broke the NKPA attack. Their units fell apart under the combined-arms attacks, and they broke and ran for the Naktong, where they were caught by land and air forces resulting in tremendous casualties.

With their first attempt to break the Pusan Perimeter beaten back, the NKPA were quiet for the next several days, while they decided their next move. In the meantime, American strength was growing as the aforementioned divisions were entering Korea along with the necessary weapons and supplies.

Oklahoma's Fallen Heroes of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars



Daniel Lee Galvan

Daniel Lee Galvan was born at Mercedes, Texas, on August 10, 1974. His family later relocated to Moore, Oklahoma, where he graduated from Moore High School. Galvan joined the Army in 1996. He was trained as a helicopter mechanic.

Galvan was deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Light Infantry Division. On August 12, 2004, he was a passenger in a Blackhawk helicopter that developed mechanical problems and crashed in Khost Province, Afghanistan. He died at Camp Salerno in Afghanistan on the same day.

SGT Daniel Lee Galvan was buried in Resthaven Memorial Park at Lubbock, Texas.



Adam Noel Brewer

Adam Noel Brewer was born on December 26, 1982, at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He graduated from Bartlesville High School in 2000 and joined the Army soon afterwards. Brewer was trained as a cavalry scout and assigned to HHC, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

He was on his second tour in Iraq on February 25, 2005, when on patrol near Taji, he was killed, when an improvised explosive device detonated near him.

SPC Adam Noel Brewer was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Bartlesville. His decorations include a Bronze Star.



Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr.

Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr. was born at Poteau, Oklahoma, on April 4, 1982. He joined the Navy shortly after graduation from Poteau High School. He was trained for construction, after which he was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (Seabees) at Gulfport, Mississippi. He was killed in Iraq after a piece of unexploded ordnance accidentally detonated in the area, where he was working on June 6, 2003.

Petty Officer Third Class Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr. was buried in Oakland Cemetery at Poteau.



John Javier Boria

John Javier Boria was born at Lakeland, Florida, on August 12, 1975. His family later relocated to Broken Arrow, where he graduated from Union High School. After high school, Boria was accepted into the Air Force Academy, where he graduated in the Class of 1998. He underwent flight training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Boria was based at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, where he flew KC-135 tankers in the 911th Refueling Squadron. On September 6, 2001, he was stationed at Doha, Qatar. On that day he died of injuries suffered in an all-terrain vehicle accident near his base. CPT Boria was the holder of three Air Medals and other decorations.

CPT John Javier Boria was laid to rest in the United States Air Force Academy Cemetery.

United States Coast Guard in World War II



Painting of Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro providing covering fire for marines evacuating a position on Guadalcanal – September 27, 1942. He is the only coastguardsman ever to receive the Medal of Honor (awarded posthumously).



On February 21, 1943, USCGC *Campbell* was one of the escort ships for the 48-ship convoy ON-166, when the convoy was surrounded by a U-boat wolfpack. *U-92* and *U-753* torpedoed and sank a whale factory ship. After rescuing fifty survivors of the ship, *Campbell* turned to attack *U-753*, damaging it so badly that it had to withdraw. Throughout February 21 and 22, *Campbell* attacked several U-boats, inflicting damage and driving off the subs. Later, on the 22nd, *U-606* having sustained heavy damage inflicted by the Polish destroyer, *Burza*, surfaced in the midst of the convoy attempting a surface attack. *Campbell* struck the sub a glancing blow that gashed *Campbell's* hull in the engine room below the waterline, but she continued to attack, dropping two depth charges that exploded and lifted the sub out of the water. The crew brought all guns to bear on the sub, fighting until water in *Campbell's* engine room shorted out all electricity. As the ship lost power and the searchlights illuminating the sub went out, the U-boat commander ordered the sub abandoned. *Campbell* ceased fire and lowered boats to rescue the *U-606* survivors. *Campbell*, disabled in the attack, was towed to port nine days later, repaired and returned to escort duty.



Coast Guard manned LCI (L)-83 disembarks troops on Omaha Beach, D-Day, June 6, 1944.



Coast Guard manned LCPV landing craft carry invasion troops to the beaches in Lingayen Gulf, Philippines – January 9, 1945.



Coast Guard manned LSTs landing equipment and supplies on the beaches of Okinawa – April 1945.



Coast Guard Birthday – August 4, 1790

“Lest We Forget”



End of World War II celebration in downtown Tulsa – August 14, 1945
Frank Riesinger was among the celebrants in downtown Tulsa.

Freedom is not free.



THANK YOU