



From the Trenches National Military Heritage ★ Museum

Over the Top

As Executive Director of the Museum, I am always pleased to be able to show evidence that we are fulfilling our mission. Specifically, that we educate our younger generation about the military heritage of our nation. I feel that it is important that school kids (and adults) learn the crucial role that our veterans and the patriotic Americans play in maintaining our freedom. Without our military, this nation would be the whipping boy of the world. Take a minute to look at the faces of these very pleased youngsters on page 2.



I think you'll agree that kids enjoy their visit to the museum.

Sincerely,
Franklin A. Flesher, Lt. Col. (Ret.)
USA

*Executive Director, National
Military Heritage Museum*

Our Military Heritage *Featured Editorial*

The Chosin Few, by David Ward

Why did I chose this subject to write about? Our Museum is housed in the building used by the 1st (later the 4th) 105mm Howitzer Battalion, United States Marine Corps, Reserve. This reserve unit was activated in 1950 and sent to the 1st Marine Division and fought in this battle. We think that is significant and historic.

Beginning in November of 1950, the 1st Marine Division advanced up the east side of Korea to the area of the Chosin Reservoir. Soldiers and Marines had encountered Communist Chinese troops but General MacArthur did not feel that they were a real threat. His intent was to put American forces to the northern areas of Korea to prevent the Korean army from escaping into China. The 1st Marines were divided between Yudam-ni, Hagaru-ri, and Koto-ri. On November 27th, the Marines at Yudam-ni were to advance west in an attempt to meet the Army that was to have advanced up the west side of Korea. The marines met strong resistance and pulled back to Yudam-ni. The Communist Chinese IX Army Group deployed 8 Divisions with the intent of destroying the 1st Marines. That night 3 Communist Chinese Divisions attacked

Yudam-ni while 2 more divisions attacked each Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri. An attempt to support the trapped Marines was made by sending a detachment of Royal Marine 41 Independent Commando, a company each of Marine and Army infantry, 2 companies of Marine tanks, and a Headquarters "train". Chinese ambushes tore them to shreds and only a small portion arrived. An airstrip was cleared at Hargaru-ri that allowed some supplies and 500 Marines in and the removal of wounded. On December 3 the withdrawal started and the Marines fought over 60 miles of icy, twisting mountain roads in snow and temperatures of 25 degrees below zero wearing stiff heavy clothing and carrying heavy packs. Neither side was well equipped for these extreme conditions. Reports of early waves of Communist troops armed with firearms followed by waves of soldiers with primitive weapons. Chinese soldiers were found to be wearing canvas shoes. The Marines, including then Colonel Lewis B. (Chesty) Puller walked out as all the vehicles were used to remove the dead and wounded. When the Marines arrived at the coast, they were shipped to Masan for rest and

Veterans History Project: *Leave A Legacy*



This young man is from Italy. He came to visit from Ft. Leavenworth, KS.



Young visitors are allowed to sit in the vehicles and imagine what it would be like to fly/drive them.



"Yes, I think I could drive this M-37, ¾ ton Dodge pick up." You should come see this beautifully restored WWII veteran.

The National Military Heritage Museum Veterans History Project is an ongoing, dynamic project that will continue to provide for the recording of the history of those who have served in our armed services and those who served on the home front. This project will be continued for as long as there is funding, interest, and there are veterans willing to participate.

Our veterans can provide a unique perspective to our *Leave a Legacy* project by volunteering to become public speakers. They will be able to share their experiences by speaking to schools, civic groups, guiding museum tours or speaking at special events held at the museum.

Leave a Legacy is designed to preserve the first hand accounts of those who served in uniform and on the home front, *in their own voices*. The Museum will do this through state of the art audio/visual digital technology. The Museum's goal is to preserve their historic insight for today's public and future generations. To carry out this mission we will engage the public, veteran's organizations, civic groups, historical societies, military websites, ongoing veterans history projects, educational institutions, retirement communities, nursing homes or wherever veterans and those that supported them



Who is this aviator and what did he do in WWII?

are found.

Please join us in this historic, ongoing event to preserve this vital part of your history. We have several ways you or your organization can contribute:

- Volunteer to interview or transcribe
- Provide equipment
- Donate funds
- Assist in training interviewers
- Develop educational programs
- Organize fundraisers

The National Military Heritage Museum is committed to honoring our nations veterans and those who served on the home front. We would like you to join us in our mission. Please write, email, visit our website or visit the Museum for more information on how to help "tell their story."

Upcoming Events You Don't Want to Miss!

Sept. 20, 2009, 3 p.m., US Air Force Birthday

Sept. 26, 2009, 8-4 p.m., 16th Annual Model Building Contest

Sept. 26, 2009, 5th Annual Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

Oct. 11, 2009, 3 p.m., US Navy Birthday

Nov. 8, 2009, 3 p.m., US Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11, 2009, 2 p.m., Veterans Day Parade

Dec. 6, 2009, 3 p.m., Pearl Harbor Day and Christmas Lights

Free admission on the above events.

The Chosin Few, by David Ward

Continued from cover

relaxation. The 1st Marines were back in the field fighting by New Years Eve!

USMC

- 15,000 went north in this campaign
- 718 died
- 3508 were wounded
- 192 were missing
- Almost all suffered pneumonia and/or frostbite

Communist Chinese Forces

- 8 Divisions comprising hundreds of thousands of soldiers
- 25,000 died
- 12,500 were injured

Some great Chesty Puller lore came from this battle. Col. Puller was informed at the beginning of the campaign that he had been accepted for Brigadier General at age 52 and after 32 years in the Marine Corps. Gen. Puller would receive his 5th Navy Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor in significance. Gen. Puller is the only Marine to have received 5 Navy Crosses.

“Sir, do you know they've cut us off?”

“Those poor bastards, they've got us right where we want them. We can shoot in every direction now.”

“You're the 1st Marine division, and don't you forget it. We're the greatest military outfit that ever walked on this earth. Not all the communists in hell can stop you.”

“You're the finest regiment in the finest division in history. We're not retreating. We've about faced to get at more of the bastards.

This information was extracted from the following books which are highly recommended.

The Marines, E.H. Simmons and JR Moskiu, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, 1998. Marine! The Life of Chesty Puller, B Davis, Bantam Books, 1962.

Links of interest:

- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chosin_Reservoir
- www.koreanwar.com/the_battle_of_chosin_reservoir_one.htm
- www.bob-west.com/2CHO-MARPHOTO.html
- www.chosinreservoir.com/
- www.marines.com/main/index/winning_battles/history/missions/chosin_reservoir

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Tax Deductible Donation

We would like to remind everyone that tax planning is very important. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt not-for-profit organization. What better way to show your support and respect for our military heritage than with a tax deductible donation.



B-25 Aviation Exhibit

National Military Heritage Museum



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Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



The National Military Heritage Museum honors all branches of the United States military. Military of other nations are represented occasionally if they were attached to or otherwise involved with United States Forces. The NMHM also honors those who served on the home front.

Our Mission

The National Military Heritage Society and Museum was founded in 1989, as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The Museum's mission then, as it remains today is:

"To preserve, educate, enhance, and promote the history and heritage of our Armed Forces and the sacrifices made by all patriotic Americans."

The National Military Heritage Museum's vision is to be a foundation for a national program of education, preservation and promotion of military heritage in the United States. A top priority to preserve our heritage is the National Military Heritage Museum's Veterans History Project: *"Leave a Legacy."* For more information, please call: (816)233-4321.