



1982

Floyd L. Stone of Walhalla: North Korea, Korean War

Floyd L. Stone

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PRISONER OF WAR

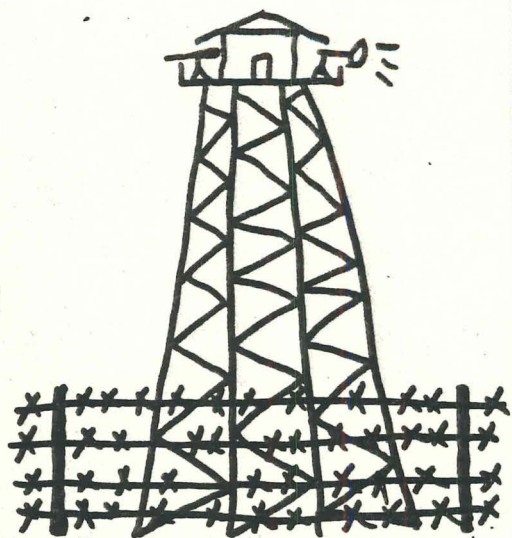
A TRUE STORY

BY: FLOYD L. STONE

WALHALLA, N. DAK.

AMERICAN PRISONER IN
KOREAN PRISON CAMPS
KOREAN WAR 1950-1955

THIS BOOKLET PREPARED
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1204

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

FG GOVT PAID

WASHINGTON D C 216 AM AUG 7 1953

MR AND MRS ALBERT STONE
DELY IMMY
CALVIN NORTH DAKOTA

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON CPL STONE FLOYD L WAS RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL IN KOREA AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES BY SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AT AN EARLY DATE-

WM E BERGIN MAJOR GENERAL USA
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY---925A

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: Floyd L. Stone
Box 95
Walhalla, ND 58282
Current Address:

Address at time you went into service:

Same as above.

Birthday:

February 12, 1929

2. Family: (spouse and children)
Romana J. Beaudion Stone
Candace Marie Stone, Daughter
Dean Arthur Stone, Son
3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?

I only went through the eighth grade. At the time of entry into the service, I was working as a second man in the Farmers Elevator Company at Walhalla, ND.

4. Dates and place of entry into service?

March 26, 1951
Fargo, ND

5. Summary of events from time of entry into service and until just prior to capture or entering status as a POW?

I left Fargo and went to Fort Lewis, Washington; was there for approximately two weeks, then was sent to Camp Roberts, California for my fourteen weeks of basic training. After this, I was given a ten day furlough at which time I reported back to Camp Stoneman, California; from there to a receiving station in Yokohama, Japan by ship, and then on to Injon, Korea, which was on approximately September 5, 1951. At that time I was assigned to the third platoon of Company F of the 8th Cavalry Division. We were engaged in battles in regaining the Main Line of resisting, which was the 38th Parallel.

6. Unit, Country, time, area, weather, etc., at time event occurred which resulted in POW status?

Company F, Third Platoon of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, near Sonbyok, Korea. The weather was cold. It was the night before Thanksgiving, which was on November 21, 1951. We were sent out to an outpost in which the whole platoon participated. The platoon included 48 men and one officer.

7. Describe military or other events that resulted in your POW status? At approximately 10 o'clock that night, we were hit with a direct artillery fire which hit the platoon command post. At this time the Chinese preceeded the attack on Company F outpost area with an intense concentration of artillery and mortar fire which cut gaping holes in the barbed wire around our outpost. We fought them off on the first attack but were attacked the second time in larger numbers. They came right thru their own mortar and artillery fire. At this time, we were over run, and this was approximately two o'clock in the morning.

8. Following your capture, describe what happened. How many men were involved? Where did you go? How did you go? What type of personnel (military or civilian) took control of you?

When I was being led off the hill by a Chinese soldier, I tried to make my escape. I threw him on the ground and fell on top of him. I tried to get his pistol which he was lying on. When I reached for it, he bit me on my left hand and I still have the scar. At this time I couldn't knock him out so I was going to jump up and kick him in the face when two more Chinese came down the path, so I surrendered. At this time I was pistol whipped in the face and body. Then they tied a rope to my belt and chased me ten feet ahead of them. I was brought in to a dugout the next day, and who was there but my Platoon officer, Lt. James L. Stone, and later that

same day five more of our men were brought there. There were only seven out of the forty eight men alive after that nights battle of November 21 and 22, 1951.

9. Were you able to hide or escape? If so, tell what happened. Where did you hide? Food? Clothing? Water? Weather? Sleep? etc.

No

10. How did your escape end? Returned to U.S. control? Discovered by enemy?

No

11. Could you describe in sequence the various places you were inter-rogated and the methods of questioning the enemy used?

Two or three days after my capture, they started to walk us by night away from the front lines, and during the daytime they would question us about our Company; how many men were on the front and so on. They never got any information but our name and USS number - mine was 55110466. This made them pretty upset. They kept us in huts with no heat and we were darned cold at times for the climate in North Korea was about like North Dakota at that time.

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment?

No

13. Were you at any time considered a civilian or an enemy spy or a wrong nationality? If so, how did this effect your treatment?

No

14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?

All I had was a G I Fatigue outfit, a wool sweater and a field jacket.

15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on?

15. The first food was a bowl of rice and some snails. From then on it was rice, green turnips or soybeans. Mostly rice and soybeans twice a day at 8 AM and 5 PM.

16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy?

No

17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?

In my own mind I think they were troubled and confused. I do believe it was my good fortune that it was an honor for them to bring in a Prisoner of War. If it hadn't been for that, I would have been killed.

18. Were you alone or with others? How many? Same unit? Other units? Other services? Other nationalities, etc.?

There were seven of us captured that night and as they marched us back behind lines, we were put with more men from different companies and so on that had been captured. We walked approximately one hundred fifty miles to our first camp which was a big building out in the country. From there we spent a day and a half on trucks going to Camp 5 which was Ponjang, Korea, just across the Yellow River from Manchuria.

19. At time of your capture, did you have higher or lower ranking persons with you? Did the difference in rank effect you?

Yes. I had a lower rank which was PFC.

20. Following your capture, how did you feel about your family at home, and at what point or time did you feel they probably knew about your POW status?

At this time I was really worried for I did not know if my family knew what had happened to me and there was no way of them knowing if I was dead or alive.

21. When did you receive your first letter, package or information that your family knew of your capture?

I received my first letter in April of 1952 from my girl friend. At this time is when I knew for sure that my girl and folks knew that I was a prisoner.

22. In regards to your interrogation or questioning--was this conducted formally at a special camp or location? Did you have special or skilled interrogators? What did they want to know? How long were you there? Then where did you go?

No, this was not done formally. They questioned us whenever they felt like it; all about our life in the States. We always told them we were Capitalists and we loved it, and so on, like one fellow worked in a whore house putting wheels on miscarriages.

23. How did you feel the war was going when you were captured?

In my own mind I thought we would be going home soon for they had started talking peace.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

Yes, I did.

25. Did you have an opportunity to observe the enemy in combat, training, camp, or moving from one place to another?

No, I did not.

26. Did you suffer any injury at the time of your capture? What was done about your injury or illness following your capture?

Yes, I had bamboo shrapnel in my face and other shrapnel in my neck and legs. Nothing was done about it, it healed up on its own.

27. At your permanent camp or camps, would you describe your conditions. Food? Living area? Beds? Food ration? Health? Water? Weather? Number of men? Guards? Size and location of camps? Organization in camp by enemy and by U.S. forces?

In our permanent Camp No. 5, there were about twelve hundred men of different nationalities, and we were segregated. I was in the Third Company, which consisted of all white men from USA. We lived in straw huts, four men to a room. We slept on the floor which was heated from an outside fire place with flues running under the floor, and this is how we got our heat. After we had to put the fire out for the night, we took the coals and put them in a pan and set them in the room for the night. Our food rations were a bowl of rice and soybeans twice a day. This camp was run by the enemy which was Chinese. The location of camp was in the Northern tip of Korea, known as Ponjang, Korea.

28. While in your permanent camp, did you know what was going on in the war? What did guards say about the ending of the war?

- 2
Nothing for sure. We heard a lot of rumors which I believe kept our spirits up.

29. If you worked in camp or lived in work camps, please describe your daily transportation, work, food, punishment, etc.?

They tried to make us work and go to lectures which was teaching us communism, but they couldn't get any cooperation from us, so finally gave up on it all together. We had no transportation as we were right on the bank of the Yellow River. In the winter we would cross the ice and get fire wood for our Squad.

30. Was your camp or camps ever bombed or damaged by the enemy or friendly military action?

No, I was not.

31. Could you describe your roll call or counting procedure in camp?

Every morning they would have us assemble for roll call by Company at 8 o'clock.

32. What type of guards did you have? Age? Rank? Weapons? Number? Service, etc.?

A Chinese soldier station around camp at different areas and each platoon had a Chinese guard and intrepeter.

33. Could you describe your camp? Size? Fences? Guard towers? Latrine? Ration distribution? Hours? Lock-up? Heat? Recreation, etc.?

There was no fence for we were on the bank of the Yellow river and the town was to the South of us. This was where they had guards stationed on the hill. Our bathroom was just a trench in the ground.

34. Could you describe the men close to you or the men you knew best? How did you get along with them?

I was very fortunate for the men in my squad were very good American Patriots. We stuck up for the "Good Old USA."

35. Could you tell about epidemics or sickness in camp? What were the medical facilities? How were you medically treated in camp?

At first we had no medical facilities. At the end they had some which was very poor. Those of us whose health was strong had no trouble, but those boys that were weak soon died of malnutrition and dysentary.

36. Were any prisoners killed in camp or taken from camp and disappeared?

Not to my knowledge.

37. Could you describe the ration or food distribution system? How much? Fresh, canned, stale, dried, etc.? Local foods, Red Cross parcels, parcels from home, trade with guards or civilians?

Twice a day - one bowl of rice and one bowl of soybeans.

38. Describe the type of work or responsibilities you were assigned within the camp from friendly or USA prisoners?

None. Most of all the American prisoners worked together.

39. What were some of the things that kept you going while in camp? Your health? Age? Faith in U.S. Armed Forces? Religion? Family? Aid from other prisoners?

The faith in our government which was the USA, and hope and our religion. We never gave up hope for if we did, we were done for.

40. Did any prisoners become mentally sick or irrational in camp and were they removed?

Not to my knowledge.

41. Did you have any secret radios, newspapers or outside news sources in camp from which you received information? What information did the enemy give you?

No, we didn't.

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

Yes, I got yellow jaundice shortly after I became a prisoner, but my health was strong enough to fight it off.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

Yes. The Turks and the Colored people had a few riots among themselves.

44. How did you first know that war was coming to an end?

I did not know for sure until I saw our MP's at Panmenjon.

45. What were some of the tricks you played on guards?

Sitting out in the middle of the compound on a pail with a stick and string - we were fishing; or riding double on a motor bike going to the bathroom, and many others.

46. What about escape procedures and methods used by you or others that you have knowledge of or direct information about?

There was none for we did not have the strength left to climb the hills in North Korea.

47. Were you ever bombed by friendly or enemy aircraft?

No.

48. Describe any special train or ship trip you took while a prisoner?

The only time we were on a train was when they moved us from Camp 5 back to Panmenjon for our release. There were fifty men to a box car and if one turned, they all turned.

49. When were you close to death or felt all was not worth living and you probably would die or be killed?

There was never a time I felt close to death.

50. Could you tell about any special religious observances by the enemy or special occurrence when they relaxed or tightened security rules?

The Chinese would relax their guard at Christmas Time. I think it showed they believed in the Sabbath Day as well as us instead of Communism.

51. Would you describe in detail any particular holiday, if observed, by enemy or prisoners, such as, New Years or Christmas.

Christmas. We as prisoners would try to make it as cheerful for all our buddies as possible by singing, making trinkets and such.

52. How did you feel about food in camp? How did enemy food agree with you? What was food? What were utensils? What did you make to eat with? Pots, pans, cups, plates?

I did not like it but I had to make the best of it. At first the Chinese did the cooking. We finally talked them into letting us work in the kitchen. The GI's took more pains with the food so it tasted better. We had a bowl and a spoon and that was all the utensils we had in the kitchen. There were three steel pots to cook the rice and soybeans for the whole Company.

53. Were you aware of any other American or Allied POW camps in your area? Civilian camps?

We heard rumors of other POW camps, but we really didn't know for sure.

54. In reference to your mind or yourself, how do you feel you held up in camp? Did you suffer periods of depression, crying, hysteria, headaches, loss of memory, etc.? How about the other men in camp? How do you feel you and others were able to live without nervous breakdowns?

My personal feeling is that I held up pretty good. There were times that I suffered periods of depression and headaches. Over all I felt the Good Lord was with me to bring this ordeal to an end. I think most of us tried to make a joke of it to keep up our hopes that some day we would see good old USA again.

55. How do you feel other American POW's behaved or acted while in enemy hands? Please do not name an individual by name if you feel their behavior was not correct or up to the standards you set for yourself.

On an over-all base, I feel the boys were really super. We had a few turn-coats, but that is to be expected in that many fellows.

56. Towards the end of the war, what were first signs that the war was coming to an end in our favor?

They began bringing some pork for our rations. They gave us one pig for three hundred men, so that night we had pork and beans instead of just beans.

57. How did the enemy guards or administrative personnel treat you towards the end of the war or when it was apparent the enemy would lose the war?

There really was no difference as far as I could see.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

My POW status ended August 7, 1953. On August 1, 1953, the Camp commander called the whole camp out to parade field and stood before us and told us the peace treaty had been signed. We would be repatriated in the near future, which most of didn't have much faith in for we thought it was just more propoganda. I left camp on August 2, 1953, by barge down the Yellow River for a mile or two, then loaded on trucks and taken to a rail depot about 8 hours away. Then we were put on a train for the Panmenjon trading area, which was the morning of August 7, 1953. That was when we saw the MP's of our government which was a beautiful sight for a pair of sore eyes. At this time we were given showers and clothing to wear. From there we had our first US meal. After our meal, we were loaded on a helicopter and flown to Injon, where we were issued our uniforms and sent telegrams home and oriented on what had taken place in USA during our absence. After all this was done, we were loaded on a ship and sailed for home. I will never forget this the rest of my life for the USA treated us like kings. While on ship we were interrogated by Intelligence, given a complete physical and so on. On arriving at San Francisco we were ready to leave for home.

59. When or where did enemy guards leave? Did guards say or do anything at the end of the war?

59 thru 64. These questions were answered in question #58.

60. What did the American staff at the camp do at the end of the war?

Your health? Your morale?

62. Could you describe some of the confusion that took place when you were liberated at the end of the war? Time, place, friendly or enemy forces involved, food, health, morale, POW discipline in camp, contact with U.S. military forces, etc.?
63. After liberation or the war ending, what happened? Did you move as an individual or group, go by foot, train, bus? Where did you go, to another U.S. camp?
64. What happened at your camp prior to returning to the States? Did U.S. military officials interrogate you, examine you physically, give you food, clothing, etc.?

65. How, when and where did you arrive back in the United States? Did you stay at some camp? Did you go home by train?

Arrived at San Francisco August 21, 1953 by ship, then flew from there to Camp Carson Colorado to pick up our papers, and then on home for thirty days.

66. What things today remind you of prison life in your day to day living?

Nothing, Period!!

67. Do you have any complaints about how you have been treated since your POW days?

None what so ever.

68. Do you have a picture of yourself prior to being a POW, preferably a picture in uniform? Do you have a picture of yourself following the war? Do you have a picture of yourself and your family recently taken, or taken within recent years? Any or all of these pictures would be appreciated. They will be returned to you after we have made copies of them.

69. Do you have any copies of telegrams from the War Department or the U.S. Government regarding your becoming a POW? Or your release, or war time status as a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. If you wish them returned, they will be sent back to you.

70. Do you have any letters or copies of letters you sent home or received from home during war or during period you were a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. They also will be returned if you so indicate in your reply.
71. A few POW's were able to return to the U.S. or home with a few articles they may have made, been given or in some way secured in POW camp. Some of these could be: paper notes, camp regulations, clothing, cigarette lighter, insignia, hand made pans or pots, special cans used in camp, small tools, etc. If you have any of these, we would appreciate a picture of them. If you desire they could be sent with this report and we will take a picture of them and return them to you if you so desire.
72. The above questions or suggestions are limited and you may write or explain many items not included; therefore, feel free to express yourself in any manner you desire.

Dear Ex-Prisoner of War:

It has been recommended and officially encouraged by our North Dakota Ex-Prisoner of War Organization and the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota, to gather information concerning the part North Dakota Ex-POW's played in past wars.

It was determined the most logical way to secure the information would be to prepare a questionnaire to which each POW could respond in writing.

This questionnaire is rather lengthy, however, when you read it, you will note your answers tend to write a story. Your story, be it based on service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or as a civilian, is equally important and interesting to others.

The story or the answers to your questions are important to your family and friends. Your story is a part of a special or unique part of warfare in the 20th Century.

Your story, in addition to its family values, is of value to University students. Consequently, the University will take an active part in aiding the project.

It would be logical to put these various stories together in a book or manuscript form. Your section and writing would remain intact, rather than attempting to incorporate the stories together into one large story.

One story in itself may have minor value but all the stories together will form a valuable panorama of past wars.

You may answer the questions as written or asked, or you may change the questions. They may be answered by typing or in hand writing in pencil or pen. If you wish, you may not want to use the questions, and may want to write your own story concerning your POW experience--this would be equally valuable.

Whatever you may do will be appreciated by all concerned.

Sincerely,

Elmer Lian

P.S. Please return your questionnaire to:

Elmer T. Lian
2520 Chestnut Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201

The question comes up if one should use a tape recorder to answer the questions. We would prefer you answer the questions by using a pen, pencil or typewriter or that it is in writing. If you feel insecure in writing perhaps some other person could write the answers when you dictate the replies.

If you do use a tape recorder, please read the question and then give the reply. This will aid in transcribing the tape recording. To change the tape recording to a written report takes a long time and is more subject to mistakes. If you use a tape recorder, it would be appreciated if you could locate a friend or family member who could transcribe the tape recording to a written record.

It is important to note that the University of North Dakota Library has a special section where POW documents, books, records, or articles could be permanently stored in your name. That is, you could make a loan of material to the University and could secure the material at any time you wish.

Since World War II, a number of books have been written about POW camps and individual experiences. Most of these books are out of print and no longer available. If you have any of these you wish to give or loan to the University of North Dakota Library, they would be appreciated.

The completed questionnaires will be converted to a type or printed report as soon as possible. That is, as soon as questionnaires are returned we will start preparing the final printed copy.

It would be appreciated if your reply could be received within four (4) to six (6) weeks. If not, we would appreciate a card or short note stating any unusual delays or problems you may have in answering the questions.

In reference to your particular story, we hope to be able to send you copies separately or your own story.

I hope this project does not seem to large. All persons concerned with the project know, that, what you have to say is important. It would help to try and do a few questions each day or each weekend.

Please do your best and we wish you good luck.

"A Prisoner of War"

The prison camp, in many ways, is a unique testing ground. The equality among men is pitiless and unparalled from any other type of organization. Family, culture, religion, wealth, education, and station in life makes no difference. A prisoner is on his own. Nobody will help or save him from the consequences of his behavior if it is deliberately wrong. He is forcibly placed among his peers in the most elemental circumstances and sparse environment. Here he is tested to see what he is made of. If the prison barracks he lives with prisoners of all types, course and refined, brutal and sensitive, rich and poor. He need not like them but they must all become a part of his life. Being a prisoner in a prisoner of war camp is a special way to participate in the affairs of ones time. The war was the common experience of my age and time. As history passes by, the least I can say is that I had a part of it.

Elmer T. Lian

NARRATIVE OF ACTION
3D PLATOON COMPANY F
8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT
21-22 NOVEMBER 1951

It was to have been a happy, festive Thanksgiving Day for the men on the line. On 21 November, the cooks in the company kitchens had already begun the preparation of the extensive and varied menu for the traditional Army Thanksgiving Day meal.

The day was cold, but crystal clear, and in the Company F area, men's breath steamed as they talked among themselves.

The situation was relatively stable along the 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment front. At the close of "Operation Commando", the battalion had moved to occupy positions along Hill 334, which it had taken after a stiff, one-day action during the opening days of the offensive.

Here for four weeks, the companies had been strengthening their positions, installing barbed wire, mines, trip flares, and building bunkers and other defensive facilities. Continuing, aggressive

patrolling was carried out by platoon-size patrols, and an outpost had been established 1500 hundred yards to the front of the Main Line of Resistance.

The outpost itself had been made as nearly impregnable as was possible in the short period of time the men of the battalion had to establish and strengthen it. Bunkers and fighting holes with overhead cover were inter-connected with deep, reinforced trenches. Multiple aprons of barbed wire and concertina ringed the position, a compact hill mass rising abruptly from the valley floor.

Roads and logical approaches to this outpost were heavily boobytraped. To man the position, the companies took turns in furnishing one platoon at a time. At the time of the action, the platoons were being furnished by Company F.

At 1120 hours 21 November, the 3d Platoon of Company F had effected relief of the 1st Platoon on the outpost. The men, commanded by 1st Lt. James L. Stone, set to work immediately further improving and strengthening the existing positions, a continuing action on the outpost.

At 1315, Lt. Stone reported receiving sporadic fire from estimated 76-millimeter artillery which was also observed from the MLR. Although the rounds struck in his perimeter, there were no casualties. Desultory enemy artillery fire continued throughout the afternoon along the MLR and in the outpost area.

As darkness fell, the perimeter on the outpost was closed, and the platoon settled down for the night. Reports received during the early portion of the night were largely negative, continuing negative until 2200 hours.

Abruptly, at 2205, the enemy unleashed a tremendous preparatory barrage. Reports of heavy artillery concentrations were telephoned to the Battalion CP by all the companies. At 2212 the outpost reported extremely heavy shelling, and the nature of the barrage indicated that an enemy attack would soon follow. Some 1,000 rounds struck the outpost in the first terrible fury of the barrage. Another estimated 2,000 rounds struck along the MLR.

Landlines blasted by the first terrible fury of the heavy shelling, the platoon manning the outpost was forced to rely on radio communications. At 2215, Battalion received the report that the positions were being attacked. The hostile troops struck in a two-pronged assault, storming the southeast and southwest fingers of the hill mass. Hostile artillery had blasted the barbed wire, and hundreds of screaming, grenade-throwing Chinese swarmed up the slopes, blasting lanes through the wire with bangalore torpedoes. The defenders, vastly outnumbered, found that the incessant blasts of high explosives had made many of their automatic weapons useless and inoperative, the operating mechanisms jammed and clogged with earth and gravel.

The Chinese came in waves, flinging hundreds of concussion grenades at the cavalrymen, who fired rifles, carbines and what automatic weapons they could muster steadily from their trenches.

At the Command Post of the 2d Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Wallace, commanding, ordered immediate supporting fire from organic heavy weapons on the MLR. Caliber 50 machine guns and 75-millimeter recoilless rifles and mortars fired steadily, raking the advancing hordes from the flanks, as tanks, attached to units of the battalion, maintained a steady fire with their 76-millimeter weapons. This fire had been prearranged against just such an eventuality and fields of fire were carefully plotted and all gunners were "on target".

Supporting artillery and mortars threw a steady, merciless ring of steel and high explosive around the embattled position, but the tremendous numbers of enemy involved made it impossible to do more than slow the advance. Lt. Col. Wallace arranged for further supporting fire from elements of the 3d Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment on the left flank.

Flares, fired by artillery lit up the valley floor, and from the battalion OP, observers could see the red hell of war coiling and swirling below them as the defenders of the outpost maintained a steady, desperate fire. Flare ships were called for and flew

back and forth over the area, dropping their brilliant illuminating bombs. Supporting artillery fired all available flares in the course of the action.

Typical of the unreasoning fanaticism of the Chinese soldier, the enemy troops advanced through their own artillery fire, many of them being blown to bits by their own shells. Friendly artillery fired steadily until dawn, hammering the assaulting troops.

In the outpost, the men cut down the foe in windrows. Soon, the Reds were forced to clamber and claw their way over mounds of their dead and wounded comrades in order to move within grenade range of the defender's trenches.

Succeeding waves of enemy rushed the positions, and while those who went before them had confined their activity mainly to throwing huge numbers of ear-shattering concussion grenades, these ranks carried sub-machine (burp) guns, which they fired steadily as they advanced. Despite the deadly curtain of steel which had descended around them, the troopers of Company F closed with the enemy who reached their trenches, and wild, terrifying hand-to-hand combat surged through the shell-blasted trenches.

In the first stages of the attack, which was initially launched by a Chinese battalion at approximately 2215 hours, the enemy had hurled an estimated 1,000 rounds of high explosive into the narrow,

confined area occupied by the 48 men of the platoon.

"It was butchery," one of the few, badly wounded, survivors said later. "We cut them down, killing them by the dozens, but they kept on coming. There was no stopping them."

Two flame throwers guarded approaches to the defense line, and these were used with telling effect, the livid bursts of searing fire clearly visible to the men on the MLR.

Finally, after hand-to-hand combat had raged in the perimeter for almost an hour, the full fury of the Communist attack was slowed at about 0030 hours and the few battered, dazed survivors of the first assault waves, withdrew through the wire, only to be cut down by the defenders still alive in the outpost.

The platoon had been badly hurt, many men had been killed either by the preparatory barrage, or during the intense fighting. But there was not even time to count the dead or tend to the wounded. Hardly had the last Chinese soldier fallen into the wire cradles before the positions, to hang like some limp, grotesque rag dolls, when the Chinese again poured a devastating artillery barrage into the outpost.

Not even waiting for the fire to lift, the Reds committed another, fresh battalion into the battle, and this time, realizing

that the defenders were decimated, they attacked from three sides. Two screaming, blood-mad columns struck in the same directions as the first battalion of attackers. Another wave poured onto the northwest finger of the hill. At about midnight, the moon rose, giving more light for the defenders.

Organic battalion weapons, together with supporting artillery continued to pour heavy caliber bullets and explosives into the advancing swarms, and the assault was slowed, but only momentarily.

Only one machine gun now remained operative within the outpost. Lt. Stone, realizing the desperate straits in which his unit found itself, and though himself wounded, personally helped carry the heavy weapon around the perimeter, bolstering the defense of that portion of the perimeter which seemed most gravely threatened.

Men burned out rifle barrels, and the seriously wounded jammed clips into magazines and handed the loaded weapons up to their comrades who were still able to fire at the enemy. The last of the automatic rifles burned out in the early morning hours, and the cooled troops used rifles and carbines, and even stripped the bodies of fallen enemy within the perimeter for weapons.

Crazy Chinese would stagger wildly to the very muzzles of the guns, only to fall, their faces a scant few inches from the men

who had killed them. Hit again, Lt. Stone frantically cleaned jammed and clogged weapons and handed them back to his men, alternately propping himself up in the trench and firing at the enemy with his carbine. Survivors relate that the young officer continued to shout directions and warnings to his men until, weakened by loss of blood, his voice grew fainter and fainter.

The floors of the trenches became slimy and soggy with blood and the bright merciless glare of the flares lighted a scene of horror and carnage visible even from the battalion OP. In the stark, uncompromising light of the magnesium flares, men could be seen, sharply silhouetted, grappling in a fight to the death, and would struggle until one would fall.

As troopers died in their tracks, or fell in the trenches grievously wounded, the defensive fire from the outpost became less steady, less heavy, but the few survivors doggedly continued to fight.

By 0330, less than ten men remained alive and unhurt, and they had moved into a tight defensive perimeter near the top of the hill and maintained their fire upon the advancing enemy.

At approximately 0430, the Communists threw additional forces into the fray, and began the final advance which would overrun the

pitifully few remaining defenders. Whether by design or through some miscalculation, as the hostile forces reached the positions occupied by the surviving cavalymen, Chinese artillery hurled an earth-shaking 500 to 600 rounds TOT directly upon their own troops. While large numbers of the enemy fell, the remainder continued forward in a fit of seeming madness until they had engulfed the last of the defensive forces.

Soon after, friendly fire from the outpost faded to a sporadic crackle of small arms, and then died away, almost reluctantly, as though even the inanimate weapons had a spirit of their own and wanted to continue the fight.

Survivors, who reigned death after the enemy finally overran the position, relate that the next hour and a half was filled with horror. In the vast charnel house that was once the outpost position, screaming Chinese ran wildly up and down the slopes, stripping bodies, desecrating corpses and shooting the wounded in a macabre display of the ultimate of hysterical barbarism.

For almost two hours, the Reds continued their hellish show of blood-mad slaving idiocy, kicking and stabbing the bodies of dead and wounded Americans, looting weapons, supplies, ammunition and personal belongings. Large numbers worked feverishly to remove wounded and dead Chinese, whom they carried out of the

perimeter on litters, their rubber-shod feet treading on the bodies of the men who lay in the trenches in mortal agony.

The wounded dared not groan. Those who did were found quickly by the enemy soldiers, and were shot with submachine guns. The slightest movement, the faintest sound was sufficient to send the groups of enemy into crazy orgies of killing as they sprayed the area from which the sound came with bullets.

At the CP, it was debated whether a VT TOT should be delivered on the position, but Lt. Col. Wallace refused to order it, believing correctly that friendly wounded remained in the perimeter and that the fire might kill them as well as the enemy.

However the supporting fire which provided a ring of steel around the outpost was maintained without letup.

The surviving wounded prayed for the coming of dawn. The Reds continued to move their dead and wounded from the scene of battle, and the troopers who remained alive conservatively estimated that the enemy had taken over 200 of their own dead and wounded away with them.

The hours until dawn passed in what seemed like years to the men who lay in the bitter cold, their torn and shattered bodies in a welter of blood and debris. Gradually, the blood-lust of the

Chinese died away, and, shortly before the first light of the new day would break upon the scene of carnage, they withdrew.

Before daybreak, Lt. Col. Wallace dispatched a strong patrol to the outpost, led by 1st Lt. Charles F. Carlton, Co. C, consisting of infantry supported by tanks. The patrol reached the outpost at approximately 0800 hours. Only when the patrol had come within close range of the outpost was the supporting artillery fire lifted on order of the patrol leader.

Here, men broke down and wept at the sight of destruction, death and horror which faced them. The entire hill mass a crater-pocked mound of death. Corpses and parts of bodies carpeted the outpost and its approaches. Great patches of red covered the ground where men had bled their lives away in the trenches. Cavalrymen lay where they had fallen in the holes and trench positions they had held until death had claimed them.

Dead Chinese lay in layers in the trenches, on the open ground, and caught, like flies in a spiderweb, on the barbed wire, their wide staring eyes giving no indication of the ferocious, Godless cruelty which possessed them in life.

Hands trembling with mixed emotions of pity and horror, the troopers moved swiftly to remove and aid the wounded who lay in confused heaps with the dead, or were partially covered with earth

and logs which artillery had blasted upon them. Fifty Chinese dead, in the trenches with the cavalymen bore mute testimony to the ferocity of the hand-to-hand combat. Another 42 remained within the narrow limits of the perimeter.

Slowly, the staggering casualties became apparent. Of the 48 men who had held the positions, 16 remained alive, all badly wounded, some mortally. Twenty-four had died, all of them, according to testimony of the survivors, while firing upon the enemy or grappling with Chinese in the positions. Eight men, including the gallant Lt. Stone, were missing, carried away by the enemy.

For more than six hours, 48 men had held a position against more than two battalions of enemy. The casualties they had inflicted upon the foe were staggering. The troopers counted and buried 195 Chinese dead in the immediate area. Another estimated 160 to 200 had been carried away during the night. Scores and even hundreds of others lay in surrounding draws and depressions in the ground in groups of 4 and 5. At least 1,000 hostile soldiers had been wounded by the withering blasts of fire directed upon them.

Prisoners of war taken later confirmed that two entire Chinese battalions had been engaged in the two assaults, and

that the defending platoon had killed or wounded the overwhelming majority of the attacking troops.

Outnumbered 20 to 1, the 3d Platoon of Company F had fought a valiant battle, refusing to retreat or surrender and had added a glorious page of courage and determination above and beyond the call of duty to the annals of American Military History.

Battered by artillery, decimated, forced to rely only on small arms, grenades and their bare fists, the men had held off a vastly superior force of enemy for a protracted period. And, although, they were ultimately overrun, they had made the enemy's dubious victory so costly that the foe was forced to retire without exploiting or consolidating his gain.

In the words of the battalion commander, "No group of men has ever fought more gallantly."

HEADQUARTERS
2D BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation

THRU: Channels

TO: Commanding General
Eighth United States Army
APO 301

1. Under the provisions of AR 260-15, it is recommended that the 3d Platoon, Company F, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, be awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for action against the enemy on 21-22 November 1951.

2. The following pertinent information is furnished:

- a. Operations orders given verbally by the Battalion Commander.
- b. Copies of Daily Unit Operations Reports and Battalion Operations Reports for the period 21-22 November are inclosed.
- c. Sketches showing disposition of enemy and friendly troops, plan and execution of hostile thrusts and defense are inclosed and lettered a thru f.
- d. A map of the area in which the action took place is inclosed.

3. Casualties sustained by enemy and friendly troops for the period are as follows:

- a. Enemy. It is to be noted that final count of enemy dead was made only in the area immediately surrounding the outpost and within the defensive perimeter itself. Due to continuing hostile artillery and mortar fire which swept the surrounding draws and valleys, it was considered too dangerous to order patrols out to count enemy dead which lay strewn in these places. Probing tanks which moved short distances from the outpost location passed many enemy dead. Tank commanders reported that Chinese corpses lying in groups of five or six and lightly covered with earth or leaves were commonplace. These, however, were not tallied in the count which was forwarded to Regiment. Only those bodies which lay in the perimeter and in areas immediately adjacent thereto were counted and reported. Patrols dispatched on succeeding days continued to report locating large numbers of enemy dead. In addition, it should be noted that the Chinese removed large numbers of their dead after overrunning the position.

Killed (Counted, see above):	195
Estimated (See above):	350
Total	545

Wounded (Estimated, based on
Survivors' statements and
POW interrogation): 1000

Total Enemy Casualties 1545

b. Friendly Casualties:

Killed:	24
Wounded:	16
Missing:	8
Total:	48

(Note that platoon
suffered 100%
casualties)

4. There were no units other than the 3d Platoon, Company F, 8th Cavalry Regiment assigned, attached or present for duty during the action for which recommendation for award is being made.

5. The following additional data is furnished:

a. Enemy Weapons destroyed:

Unknown

b. Enemy Weapons captured:

- 306 Grenades
- 8 sub-machine guns (unusable)
- 16 "Eurb" guns (unusable)
- 1 machine gun (unusable)
- 21 Danaglor's Torpedoes
- 17 Russian style carbines
- 10 Russian pistols

c. Other enemy materiel captured:

- 54 Chinese type entrenching tools
- 6 Chinese winter jackets
- 1 Soviet book printed in Chinese

d. Terrain: Hilly

e. Weather: Clear and cold.

f. Morale of Platoon: Excellent.

g. Morale of Enemy: Excellent.

i. Strength of Enemy: At least two full battalions of infantry as later confirmed by POW interrogation, supported by heavy artillery, mobile or pack howitzers, mortars and tanks.

- j. **Enemy Tactics:** To assault, overrun and seize outpost.
- k. **Location:** Coordinates GT268-337, vicinity Sokkogae, Map sheet 6628 IV
- l. **Strength of Company F was as follows:**
 - (1) 21 November 1951: Officers: 6; Enlisted 197.
 - (2) 22 November 1951: Officers: 5; Enlisted 149.

6. There are inclosed herewith a Proposed Citation naming the participating unit and a Narrative of Action covering the period for which award is being made.

ROBERT W. WALLACE
Lt Colonel Infantry
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 2ND BATTALION
EIGHTH CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO 201

24 November 1951

ACTION COVERING PERIOD FROM 202200 HOURS NOV 1951 TO 210815 HOURS 1951

At 202200 Nov 1951 2nd Bn OPLR position vic CT 2680338 manned by 1 Platoon of F Co was attacked by est 2 En Battalions (Later confirmed by captured PW).

Attack was preceded by a heavy barrage of mortar, artillery and tank fire. The enemy's first attack wave was launched from the south and the east simultaneously, overrunning friendly positions. The enemy jumped into friendly trenches and after hand-to-hand combat, the enemy was ejected. The enemy continued shelling OPLR position with mortar and artillery as their infantry withdrew. At 0200 hours the enemy fired another heavy barrage of mortar and artillery fire of about 30 minutes duration. The enemy then committed their reserve Battalion in their second attack wave. The attack appeared to be launched from three sides the North, East and South with the main effort coming from the north. The enemy in their first attack, succeeded in gaining a foot hold on the OPLR hill mass at CT 265-335 and from there they supported by AW fire this second attack. In their second attack the enemy completely overran friendly positions. In each assault the enemy attacked through their own artillery fire. The enemy remained on the OPLR position from 0300 to 0430 using this period to evacuate their dead and wounded and police their equipment, after which time the enemy withdrew.

During the period 202200 Nov 1951 to 210430 Nov 1951 the 2nd Bn sector received a total of about 3500 rds of mixed mortar, artillery and tank fire, 2500 rounds of which fell on OPLR positions.

Enemy artillery cut large gaps in friendly defensive wires creating corridors of entry into friendly OPLR perimeter.

At 0630 hours a friendly tank infantry patrol departed to secure OPLR. At 0815 hours, OPLR was secured by friendly elements.

Results of action:

Counted En KIA 195 (47 of which were found inside OPLR perimeter)
Estimated 200 en KIA's and 1000 WIA's
Friendly KIA ____, WIA ____, MIA ____
Enemy equipment sighted and policed by friendly patrol is as follows:

306 enemy grenades
8 sub-machine guns (useable)
16 un-usable burp guns (knocked out by arty)
1 destroyed bren gun
28 bangalore torpedos

- 17 Russian type carbines (mostly destroyed)
- 3 Destroyed Mauser pistols
- 54 Chinese type entrenching tools
- 1 Soviet book (printed in Chinese)
- 6 Chinese winter jackets covered with blood

WALLACE
Comdg

OFFICIAL

JOCHUM
S-3

PROPOSED CITATION FOR AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

THE 3D PLATOON, COMPANY F, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, United States Army, is cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy near Chobakkol, Korea, on 21-22 November 1951. While occupying an outpost (1500 hundred yards) ahead of the Main Line of Resistance, the 3d Platoon of Company F, consisting of one officer and 47 enlisted men was attacked by two full battalions of enemy troops. Subjected to an intense preparatory barrage which blasted gaps in the barbed wire obstacles around the outpost perimeter, the platoon held firm against fanatical attacks by swarms of the enemy. Despite tremendous losses inflicted upon them by the American troops, the Chinese continued to pour high explosives and men into the perimeter. Completely cut off from aid, the platoon continued to fight with unbelievable courage and determination, although its losses were heavy and its automatic weapons were made inoperative by artillery blasts. Fighting hand-to-hand in the complete darkness of a bitter cold night and early morning, the platoon repulsed one threat, and continued to hold in a last ditch stand against a renewed assault by a fresh battalion of enemy supported by massed artillery. With only ten men remaining, the outpost continued to resist the hostile onslaughts, until the position was completely overrun in a final melee of hand-to-hand fighting, and the platoon had suffered one hundred percent casualties. In its gallant stand of more than six hours, the 3D PLATOON, COMPANY F, had inflicted over 500 killed and more than 1,000 wounded casualties upon the enemy. In its gallant defense, it had, in turn lost 24 men killed, 16 wounded and one officer and seven men missing in action. The unbelievable heroism and tenacity of this unit in its intrepid stand against a numerically vastly superior enemy caused heavy loss to the enemy, and prevented the foe from consolidating and exploiting its gain and controlling the strategically-vital outpost position..

The individual and collective heroism and intrepidity of the members of the platoon in their fight to the death transcends the normal demands of duty and reflects great credit on themselves and the military service of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
APO 201

COPY

12 February 1952

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO . . . 64)

AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Dal 43, 1918) and pursuant to authority contained in AR 600-45, the Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to the following named enlisted man:

Private First Class FLOYD L. STONE, US55110466, Infantry, United States Army, Company F, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, is cited for gallantry in action against an armed enemy on 21 - 22 November 1951, near Sonbyok, Korea. The Chinese preceded the attack on Company F's outpost area with an intense concentration of artillery and mortar fire which cut gaping holes in the barbed wire entanglements around the friendly positions. As the hostile troops assaulted through the breaks in the wire, Private STONE fired with deadly accuracy, taking a heavy toll in dead and wounded. Although wounded himself, Private STONE displayed remarkable courage by remaining at his post and firing his weapon. The Chinese were forced to withdraw without penetrating the friendly perimeter, but a short time later they attacked again, walking through their own mortar and artillery fire in their fanatical determination to capture the friendly positions. This time, the enemy assaulted in overwhelming numbers, over running Private STONE's position. His gallantry reflects great credit on himself and the military service. Entered federal service from North Dakota.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HARROLD:

OFFICIAL:

NORMAN MOORE
Colonel, General Staff with Troops
Chief of Staff

L. A. HERBON
Lt Col, ASC
Adjutant General

COPY

312 Belding Ave
Hot Springs, Ark
14 Dec. 1953

Dear Floyd,
I was glad to hear from you again. Particularly I was happy to learn or hear about your farm. That sure is swell, Floyd. Farming is the finest life to follow or work at. I know that you will be successful and most important I'm sure that you will be happy there.

Enclosed is a copy of the Platoon's citation. It

(over)

is the first ever to be awarded to a platoon in the history of the Army, but I'm positive that the men deserved more than this. I made a personal trip to the Records Center in St. Louis to obtain a copy of who is alive and dead. The information will be furnished soon.

If you know of anyone who is alive or dead—that I can send the Citation to please let me know their address. You are the first to have this.

I know that this year will give you your merriest Christmas ever. Sincerely,

Jim

Lt. James L. Stone
O-65096
A. P. O. - 100
% Postmaster
San Francisco
California
11 Sept. 1953

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stone,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about your son - Floyd. There are no words which will give true praise for his heroic gallantry. As you know best, Floyd is not the type of man to tell of his bravery.

On 21-22 November 1951, 3rd platoon - "Fox Company - 8th Cavalry Regt. was defending a combat outpost position. The outpost was attacked by two battalions of Chinese Infantry. Throughout the night and early morning hours, the platoon of less than 50 men held off a numerically vastly superior enemy force. The platoon suffered one hundred percent casualties during the action. The men fought desperately, inflicting considerable casualties upon the enemy. The platoon gave a magnificent

account of itself in holding against two thrusts early in the evening, and three thrusts early in the morning. All the men defending the outpost were killed or wounded by an overwhelming Chinese mass. So costly was the enemy's loss of men, they were unable to consolidate the gain or exploit it further.

Floyd's preformance of duty that night was outstanding in many ways. It would be hard to say which man done the greater work; however, Floyd was certainly one of the bravest.

Later on Floyd was captured along with six other men in the platoon including ^{myself}. The interesting or most unusual incident was that all of the men wanted to go down fighting, no one was going to give up or surrender. Floyd was one of the last to go down.

I came across him in a Chinese dugout behind their lines - rather, he was led into the dugout that I was in. I was wounded in the neck, causing a loss of blood. Floyd personally watched over me and took me to the hospital. His kindness -

gave me a great help. I checked
at Inchon and learned that he
had passed through there when
he was on his way home.

You should be very proud of your
son. His bravery, courage are
found only in the best of men. It
was an honor to serve with him.
I'm doing my utmost to see that
he and others are rewarded for
their exemplary conduct under
extreme combat fighting. There
is no finer man than your son on
the earth today. Respectfully yours,
James H. Stone

Home Address:

312 Belding Ave
Hot Springs
Arkansas