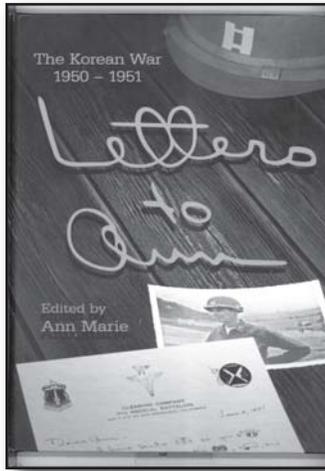


Book Review

Ann Marie, Ed., *Letters to Ann: The Korean War, 1950-51*. Ann Marie, Denver, CO 80246, 2013. 176 pp. ISBN 978-0-9893788-0-2.

By Rego Barnett



Captain John F. Hughes had a problem in Korea. “How do I write to my four-year-old girl Ann Isabel and explain to her why I am here, what I am doing, etc?” Hughes, a medical doctor attached to the Clearing Company, 7th Medical Battalion, had a simple solution: print messages and draw lots of pictures. His novel approach (not in the literary sense, for everything he wrote was fact, not fiction) is what makes this book highly entertaining and well worth reading

for people of all ages.

Ann Marie (not the Ann to whom the letters were written) juxtaposes copies of the letters and excerpts from published reports such as *The History of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps*, books, command reports et al to give the reader an accurate picture of where Hughes was and what was going on in Korea when he was there. The drawings are clever. The dialogue is simple. The results are amazing.

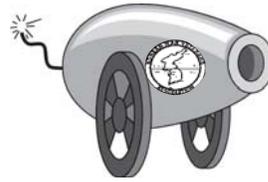
There is no better way to illustrate Hughes’ approach than to mention several excerpts from the book. Some of them display Hughes’ sense of humor. Some taught Ann Isabel about the culture of Korea. And some depicted what Dr. Hughes did in Korea. Whatever the purpose, Hughes gets his points across concisely and clearly, and the clever drawings complement his text in an innovative fashion.

The odd thing about this book is that even though it was written for a four-year-old girl it is valuable to readers of all ages. It is more than a collection of letters and drawings; it’s a primer for students of the Korean War. Everyone can learn a lot about the war from this book. Hughes may have concocted his approach for a specific person, but it is definitely suitable for all ages.

As Hughes did for his daughter, *Letters to Ann: The Korean War, 1950-51* should draw a lot of interest. Simply put, it is a picture book worth reading.

To order the book, go to amazon.com.books or barnesandnoble.com. You can reach the editor, Ann Marie, at annmarie83@mac.com or (303) 399-1261.

Visit the Korean War Veterans
Association Website:
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Misfires

Occasionally, we make mistakes in *The Graybeards*. We try to be as accurate as possible, and we apologize for any errors that slip through. We do not have the funds for a fact checker, so we miss a fact or two now and then. Here are a couple clarifications. Incidentally, we rely on readers to inform us of any “misfires” that need correcting. We will print corrections in the next available edition.

Wrong Email Address

Thanks for the nice layout on the steel strike. I got 10 feed backs on it—all telephone calls. I wondered why there were no e-mails. Simple answer: wrong e-mail address. My correct email address is agbi49@aol.com

Al Gonzales, Commander, CID 216 M*A*S*H 4099 [NJ]

Right Chapter Name, Wrong Number

I express my gratitude for your efforts in getting articles and pictures of our Arden A Rowley Chapter [AZ] in *The Graybeards*. The articles identify us as Ch 222. We are Ch 122!

Lew Bradley, lew.bradley@gmail.com

Off Track On This One

The Sept/Oct 2013, issue, p. 41, needs a correction pertaining to the Central Kentucky chapter report about James Marshall.

According to the article, Mr. Marshall was assigned to the 724 PROB RWYBN, where he spent two to three weeks up north replacing new track for diesel engines before moving to Pusan.

Actually, he was assigned to the 724th TROB S&D, aka 724th Transportation Railway Operating Battalion (Steam & Diesel), or later as 724th Transportation Battalion (Railway Operating), where he spent two to three weeks up north replacing bad track with new track for the diesel locomotives before moving to Pusan.

The 724th, a reserve unit sponsored by the Pennsylvania Railroad, was activated 19 August 1950. This was one of the first reserve units activated for service in the Korean War.

William L. (“Bill”) Seigford, billseigford@aol.com

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