

## **Korean War Veteran**

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**Merry Christmas to All!**

This greeting should have been sent out much earlier.

One hopes the below sad reminder of some of those who fell in Korea will not dampen this wondrous day, when Our Saviour was born and in Whose Name we celebrate the Holy Day of Christmas.

**Climb every mountain!**

A Christmas card sent from Korea in 1952

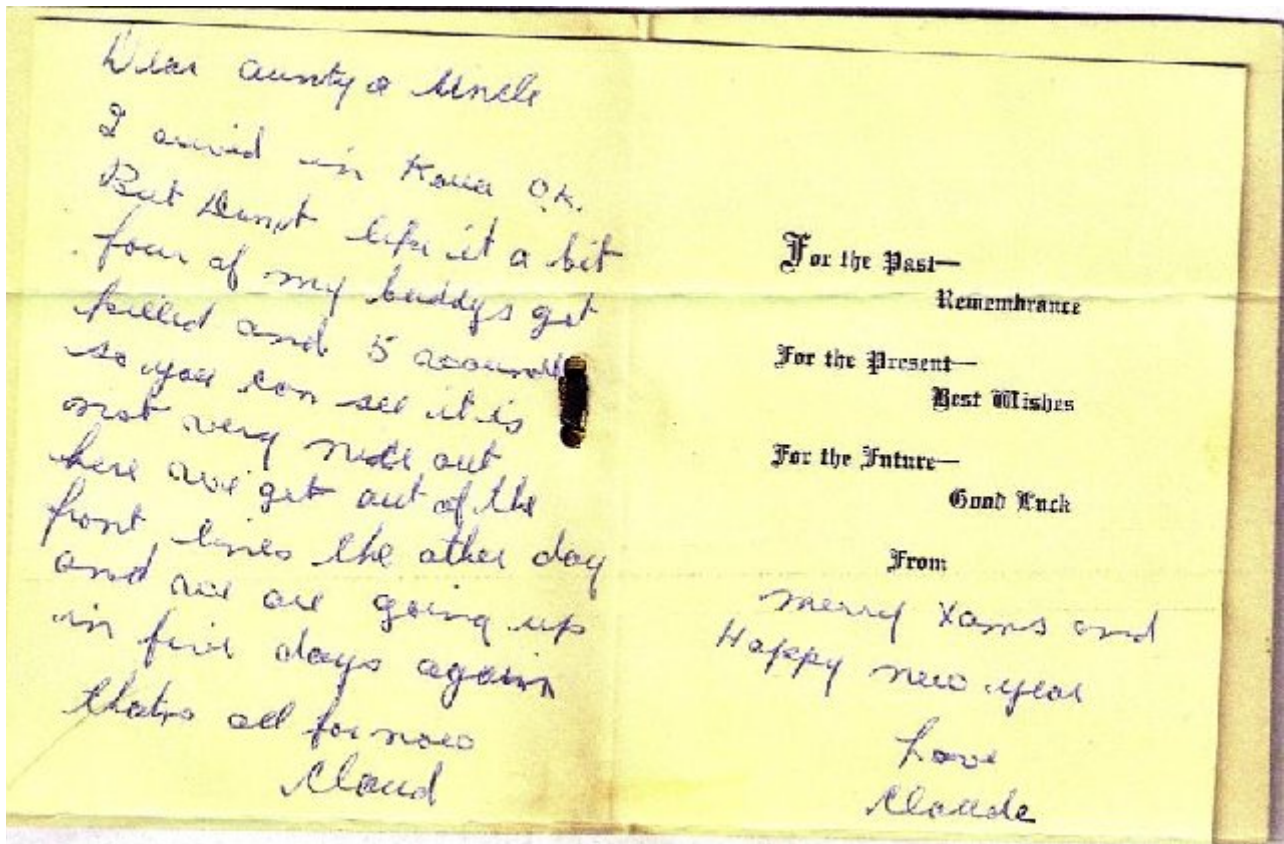
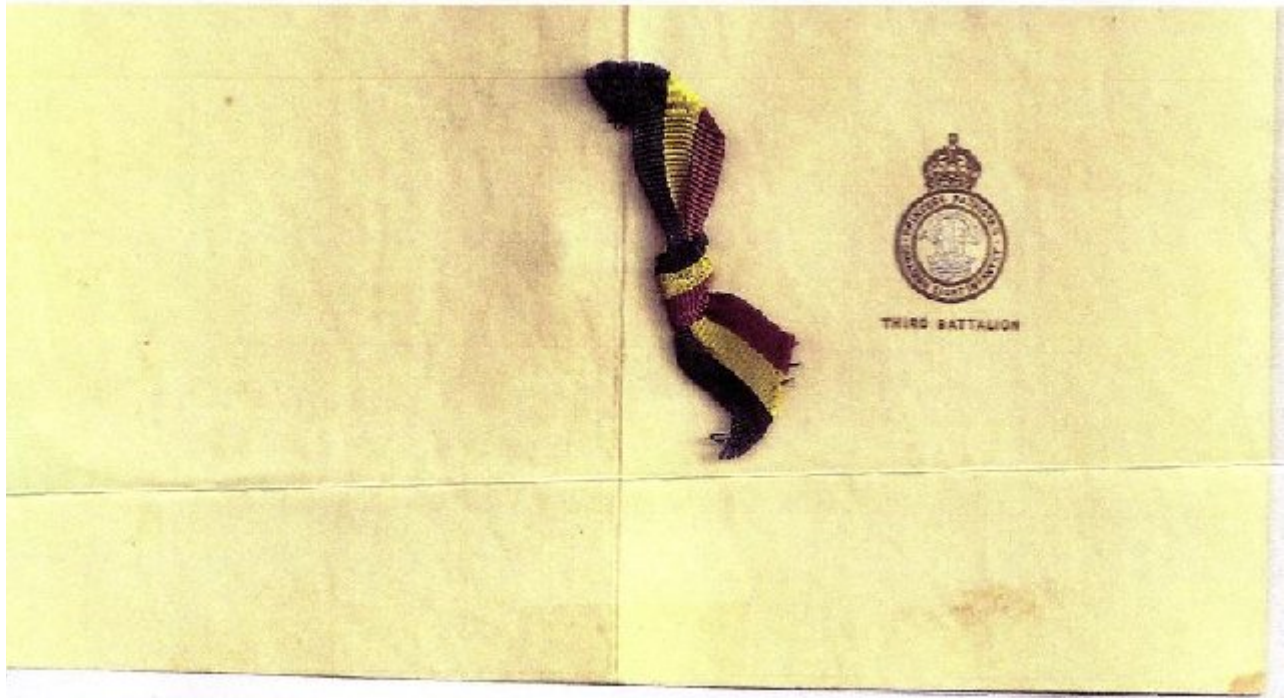


*Claude Petit, 16, a few days before going into the front lines in Korea.*

At times I think of a friend from the Korean War. His name is Claude Petit. He was much younger than he looked and acted.

He had turned 16 on the ship that took him to Korea. I publish below a Christmas card that he sent home to his aunt, not long after his ship arrived at Busan. He had been taken right to the front and in a few days, on November 19, 1952, his

company was sent to counterattack a position called the Hook.



Claude and his C Company, less than 70, had taken over the Hook position from the Black Watch and held it for three days and nights, then had a one-week rest,

at in trenches that were about a mile behind the U.S. Marine Corps positions. Claude purchased the Christmas card and mailed it during the rest period.

They soon returned to the Hook and were welcomed by the first bitter cold night of the winter. First it had rained, then the rain turned to sleet, then to snow. Soon everyone was coated with a rind of ice. One fellow had his toes frozen solid (they were later amputated).

Claude did well until the eighth or ninth day. Then he was wounded in the shoulder by mortar bomb shrapnel. He was treated at Normash, the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, then a couple of weeks later was returned to the lines. By then, he was 16 years-and-two months of age - and never again to know even the wisp of boyhood.

There was a song that he used to sing, boisterously, of course – although by nature he was really a gentle man.

When you walk through the storm  
Keep your head up high  
And don't be afraid of the dark  
At the end of the storm is a golden sky  
And the sweet silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind  
Walk on through the rain  
Though your dreams  
Be tossed and blown  
Walk on  
Walk on  
With hope in your heart  
And you'll never walk alone!  
No, you'll never walk alone!

He faced much adversity after Korea. But he persevered. Some decade ago he was invested in the Order of Canada for his work with aboriginal youth, and a little later with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for his work with the Metis communities.

He held his head very high. He raised the funds for, managed the sculptor's work and had erected in Confederation Park in Ottawa, the Aboriginal Veterans Memorial.

Without getting into details, he had spent some 12 years in the Canadian Army and saved his money by working on the side. He had become the heavyweight champion of the Canadian Army and the Commonwealth forces.

He had gone into the sporting goods business and excelled, and made a considerable amount of money.

He does hold his head high.

He should hold his head high.



The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa



Claude Petit after receiving the medal for the Order of Canada.



Reunion in Vancouver, 1998. Forty-five years after Claude Petit (right) was wounded in action in Korea, he met Sergeant Bill "Newt" Newton at a ceremony in Vancouver. Newton had treated Claude soon after he was wounded, sent him by jeep ambulance to the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital "Normash" for surgery. Newton was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches for treating Claude and 20 other members of his company who were wounded. Corporal Newton, later a sergeant, also examined and tried to help most of the soldiers listed below, who still rest in Korea. All were killed in action on the Hook. All but two came from C Company, 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Please note their particulars, including those of Private Edward Power, who was killed in action on Christmas Eve, 1952.

Let us remember them, and not forget them.





Private Adelard Joseph Farand, from Winnipegosis, Manitoba, served in Sergeant Lockmanetz's platoon. He was killed in action by mortar shrapnel shortly after moving into the fighting trench on the Hook in the sector that faced toward the Warsaw outpost feature and was closest to the next position, called the Sausage.



Private Donald Ralph Jones, born in St. Catherines, Ontario also served in Sergeant Lockmanetz's platoon and was killed by mortar shrapnel shortly after

securing the fighting trench.



Private Raymond MacDonald, who came from Runnymede, Saskatchewan, was killed in the fighting trench adjacent to the Ronson outpost position when mortar bombs hit directly in the trench where he and Private Roger King were digging. Both men were killed outright. Because of the heavy incoming fire it was necessary for comrades to crawl beside their bodies in the trench bottom until later when the firing abated. Earlier during the operation, when the platoon moved onto the hill, Private MacDonald had been the acting section leader. The platoon consisted of less than 20 men.



Private Roger Falcon King, whose home had been in Montreal, had returned to the unit from the hospital after undergoing an appendix operation. He was classified as being on light duty, but was sent to the front. He was with Private MacDonald when they were both killed in action. They both served in a platoon that had two sergeants. Staff Sergeant Vern Cole had never been in combat and was understudying the experienced sergeant. Staff Sergeant Cole later would be awarded a Military Medal for bravery in the field and in successive years would be commissioned and retire as a captain.



Private Jacob Wensel Batsch and Corporal Francis Mullin both volunteered to go on a series of dangerous wiring party patrols, led by Lieutenant Herbert Pitts. Herbert Pitts would later be awarded the Military Cross for bravery and leadership under fire, and would serve until his retirement as a major general. Private Batsch had been under fire on the Hook during the counterattack but bravely volunteered for the mission, although he could have stayed safely in the rest position with the other soldiers from his company. He left a wife and daughter behind to grieve for him.



Corporal Francis Austin Mullin, from Montreal, was the lead soldier on the first wiring party taken out by Lieutenant Herbert Pitts. Pitts had been leading but stepped back to speak with his signaler. Corporal Mullin stepped onto a land mine which exploded in the air, killing him instantly. Private Batsch, the next soldier in line, was struck in the heart by shrapnel and died in Lieutenant Pitts' arms.



Brave Stanley Richard Mudd, from Moosomin, Saskatchewan, was a soldier's soldier. He had once said something to the effect that no matter what came he would never back down, always take the offensive. He had been on many patrols on the Hook, was always aggressive. On the night of the 6th of December he was on a fighting patrol led by Staff Sergeant Vern Cole. A small enemy force had crept into the slopes above them and raked the exposed men with machinegun fire for a prolonged period. Stanley Mudd moved forward toward the enemy and was hit by several machinegun bullets.



Roger Conway Leach, from St. Catherines, Ontario, was one of the oldest soldiers in the company, outside of the company commander. He had served in France and Germany in the infantry during World War Two. It was a very cold night with much snow. He saw Claude Petit shivering in the fighting trench, told him to go into a bunker and get warm. Within a few minutes, still standing in the same footprints that Claude Petit had made, Private Leach was directly hit by a mortar bomb. A second mortar bomb also exploded directly on him. It was dark, probably around 9 p.m., maybe later.





Private Leonard Allen Stewart, from Carstairs, Alberta, had been on duty in the fighting trench at the sector where it faced toward the Warsaw outpost position, which was then held by the enemy. He was struck by mortar shrapnel and quickly taken by stretcher to the medical aid post, but likely had died either in the trench or en route. It was the dinner hour and other soldiers were on the reverse slope eating food that had been brought to them in insulated containers. A Korean porter received fatal head wounds and walked to the aid post, where he died.



Private Russell Oscar Haraldson had been born in Brockington, Saskatchewan, and had served in the platoon of Lieutenant Peter Worthington of D Company. The company had relieved C Company and would hand over to a company from the Royal Canadian Regiment. He had been killed when fatally wounded by mortar bomb shrapnel as he held a position along the trench that faced the enemy held Ronson outpost. The shrapnel had pierced his throat. The bleeding could not be controlled. Lieutenant Worthington was much aggrieved as he had asked Private Haraldson, one of his older soldiers, to stay in the hot position and give confidence to the other men.



Private Edward Power, of North Sydney, Nova Scotia, lost his life on a frivolous patrol on Christmas Eve, 1952. The patrol was carrying a Christmas tree to be set up at the base of an enemy position and festooned with safe conduct passes. Of course, the enemy soldiers were not amused and not ready for a truce. They sent mortar bombs down on the patrol and Eddie Power was killed when hit in the head by shrapnel. His body was driven to A Echelon the next morning, where the soldiers who worked there were preparing to have Christmas dinner in the mess tent. The commanding officer of the battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Wood and some of his officers shared a meal of turkey with the men there. They circulated from place to place that day to essentially visit all companies and detachments, save those who were serving on the Hook. Eddy's family said that he was much younger than the 21 years listed on his army documents and the grave marker. He had a large family of 12 brothers and sisters. Eddie often used a pseudonym "Joe Dowey" and both names are embossed on the bases of the Memorials to Canadian Fallen that stand in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan and in Ottawa, Canada.

**May they all rest in peace. Peace be with all of you.**