

# Sleepless Nights

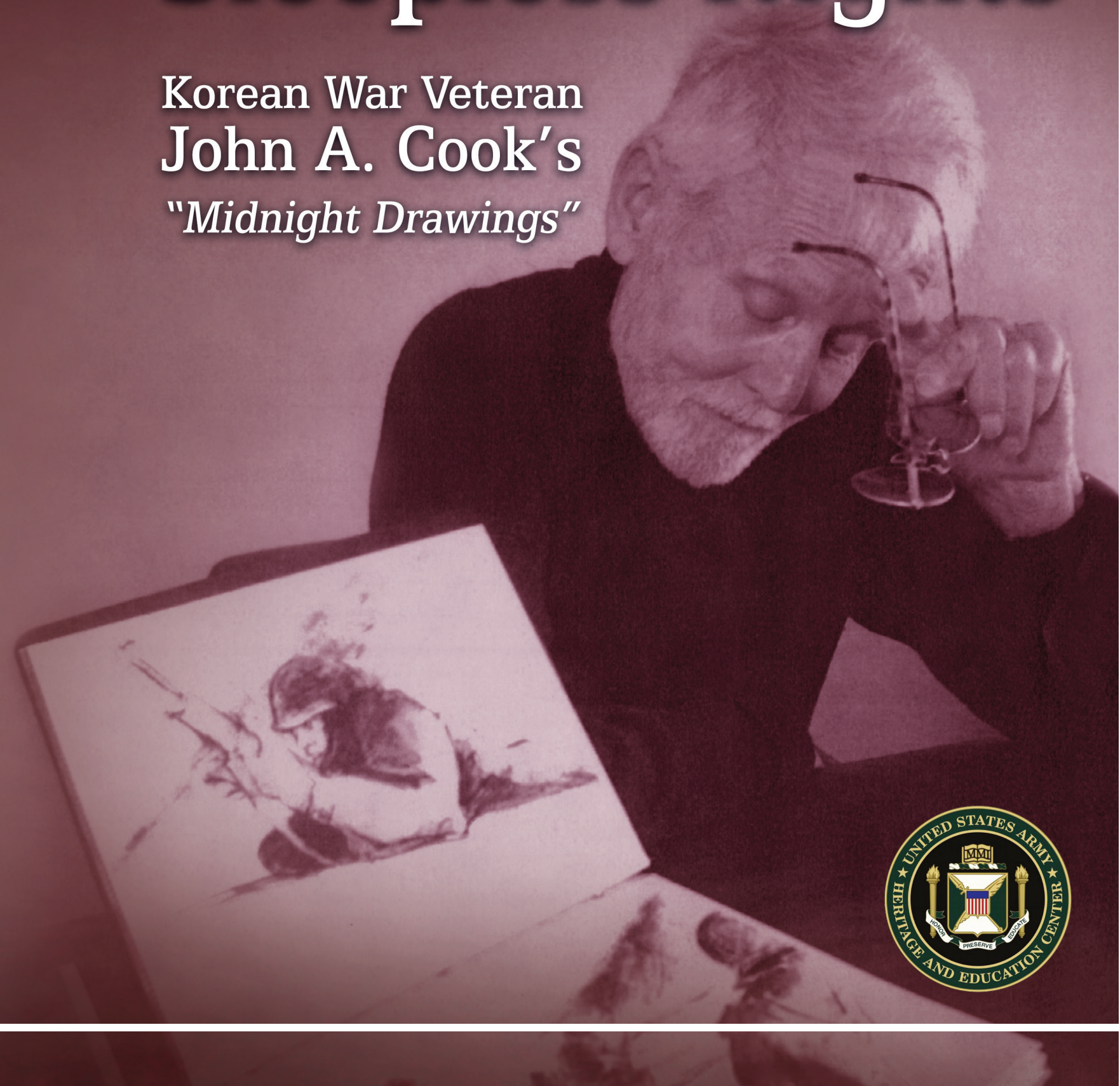
Korean War Veteran  
John A. Cook's  
"Midnight Drawings"

The Army Heritage Museum at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center/U.S. Army War College developed *Sleepless Nights*, an exhibit of John A. Cook's artwork created over a forty-six year period following his Army service in the Korean War. His "*Midnight Drawings*," as he called them, were his way of dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The exhibit was featured in the Omar N. Bradley Memorial Art Gallery at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in 2016. Research and exhibit development was provided by the Army Heritage Center Foundation.

Cook's artwork is part of the Army's Historical Collection at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, whose mission it is to make available contemporary and historical materials related to strategic leadership, the global application of Landpower, and U.S. Army heritage to inform research, educate an international audience, and honor Soldiers, past and present. Telling The Army Story...One Soldier At A Time.



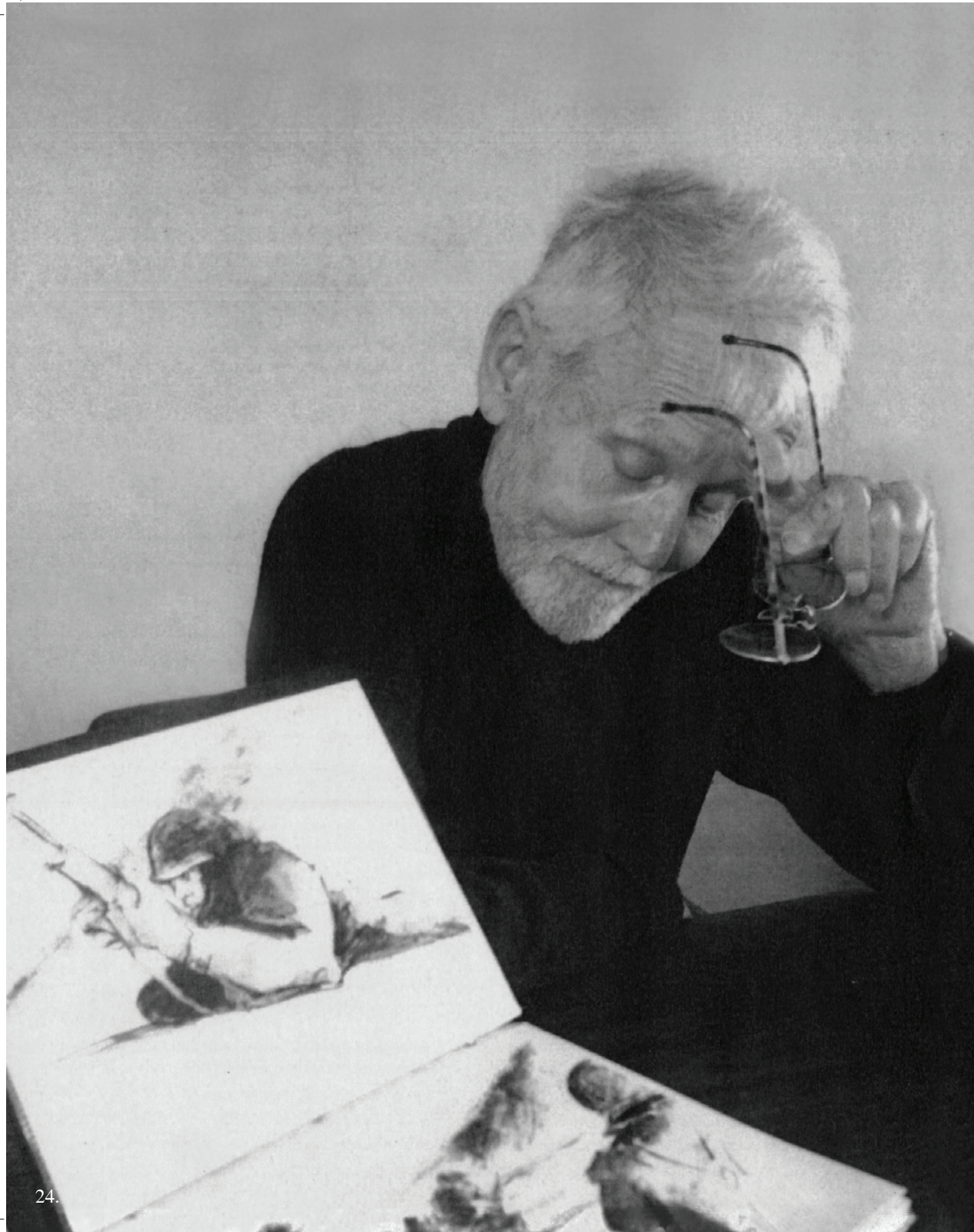
The Sleepless Nights exhibit was made possible through the generosity of the Army Heritage Center Foundation with financial support from The Richard C. von Hess Foundation.











## Korean War Veteran John A. Cook's *"Midnight Drawings"*

Working intermittently for forty-six years, Korean War veteran John A. Cook, who served a sergeant, Company G, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, coped with his Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)\* through what he called his, *"Midnight Drawings."* The Korean War cost the United States 33,686 lives, with over 4,000 Soldiers Missing in Action (MIAs). Mr. Cook's vivid and haunting memories came to him in the middle of the night, prompting him to draw as a means of release. The young sergeant served from mid-September 1950 to June 1951 and was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds he received. Cook intended his drawings to serve, not only as a tribute to American veterans of all wars, but particularly to those who served in Korea.

\* In his interview with the *Centre Daily Times* newspaper, Mr. Cook stated that he suffered from PTSD after returning home from Korea.

Photographs and artist's biography provided courtesy of the *Centre Daily Times*.





**Kenny Gehman \***  
**"Dining Out"**

*He would trade almost anything for a can of peach cocktail!*

**September 1950**

**Using Our Tanks as Artillery Support**

*Spotting enemy bunkers on the ridge line, we pointed them to the gunners by using their 50 cal MG with tracer ammo. It worked well but is hard on the grunts who do the firing and even harder on the PRK infantry on the ridge line.*

*After rear tank fired, the recoil caught me and I landed about here I think.*

*It took me a bit to come around! And I couldn't hear anything for over 48 Hrs. or more.*

**October 12, 1950**



**Bowling Alley**

*That week every ascent turned to a descent by days end!*

**September 15, 1950**



\*Note: Transcriptions are the exact words of the Soldier.



***Untitled***

*Unsan*

November 2, 1950



***Outflanked / Bugging***

*Waegwan*

September 15, 1950



***Waiting for the Jump Off***

*Central Mountains*

March 1951

***SGT Clarence Koch Down***

*North of Chip Yong Ni*

March 1951





## *Going for the Ridgeline*

*Near Kaesong, PPR  
Oct. 12, 1200 HRs.*

**October 12, 1950**



## *Ambush*

*Taegu, Waegwan Road*

**September 16, 1950**



## *Damn Those Flies*

*Rice Paddy  
Near Waegwan*

**September 1950**

## *A Learning Experience*

*Caught in an explosion.  
Lost my rifle when I was  
thrown into thick brush.  
Thereafter I kept it tied  
to my harness.*

**November 28, 1950**





***Mortar Fragment***

*Near Sunchon, PRK*

**Circa 1950**



***The Creek Bed***

*Unsan*

**November 2, 1950**



***Cresting Hill 174***

*A cherry reaching the crest after a difficult climb.*

**October 12, 1950**



***Held Hill 254***

*Dug in on north side with 2 ROK soldiers who couldn't speak a word of English. Some communication was made through our medic who spoke Japanese.*

**September 20, 1950**





*Digging In - A Near Daily Chore*

Circa 1950



*Untitled*

February 1951

*Scrounging Ammo From Our Casualties After Attack*

*Our Chaplain. I believe a Jesuit preformed the same support when after a hilltop was gained he would come to give last rights to the badly wounded and also bring extra ammo cases! P.S. My father was a chaplain throughout WWII in the European campaigns. I would like to think he would do likewise in similar circumstances.*

Circa 1950



*Clean Up After the Assault*

*Across open field to Bugel Hill. Unsan*

November 2, 1950





## ***When the Front Rank is Women and Children***

*How long can you hesitate  
before you rake the line?  
(I never witnessed this but  
was assured that it had  
occurred in the early days  
of the PRK invasion???)*

**Circa 1950**

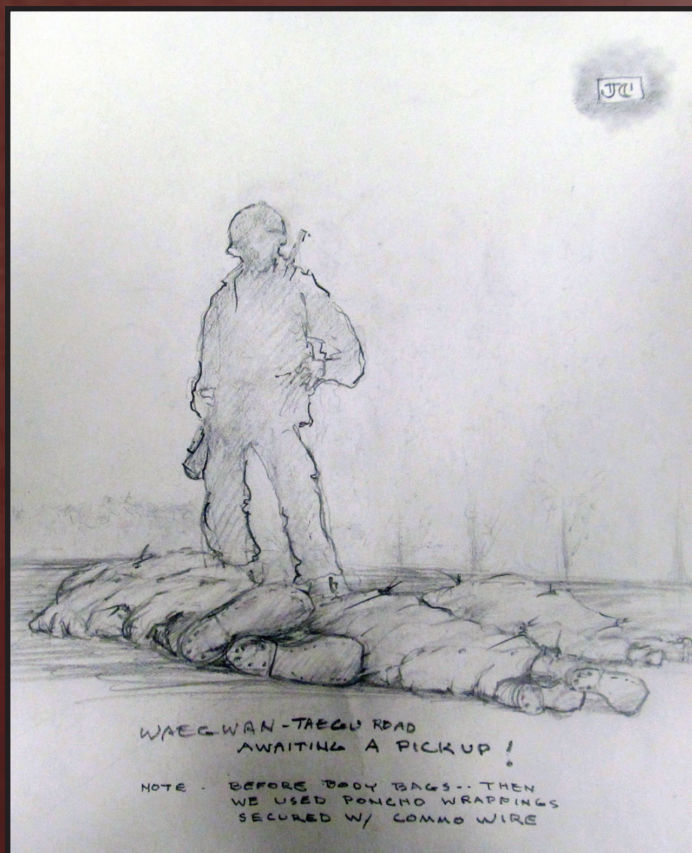


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## ***Untitled Unsan***

**November 2, 1950**



## ***Awaiting a Pick Up!***

*Waegwan-Taegu Road.  
Note. Before body bags..  
Then we used poncho  
wrappings secured w/  
commo wire.*

**Circa 1950**

## ***SGT. 1/c1st Platoon SFC Black***

*At 1210 hrs, 28 Nov '50 KIA. We were  
squatting no more than 3 feet apart  
among the scrub pine. We wondered  
why the delay was in the jump off  
of our assault which had been set  
for twelve noon. This would be the  
second and last in Korea, and probably  
others from his combat time with the  
First Infantry Division in the European  
Theater. Rest in peace old friend!*

**November 28, 1950**



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REST IN PEACE OLD FRIEND!





### *Dismounting*

*Unsan*

**Circa 1950**

### *Rifleman Truelove's Last Morning*

*His first firefight with only three days in the company and two Willy Peter grenades which detonated on is chest. KIA - a hard way to go.*

**November 28, 1950**



### *John Mattson - Head and Back Wounds, (Spinal)*

*28 Nov. '50 1600 Hrs  
We got him home but some fifteen years - late '60s he committed suicide.*

**November 28, 1950**



### *Aftermath of Ambush*

*0830 Hrs - We passed through a pickup crew aftermath of ambush on an 8th Cavalry platoon. Mid-September 1950/ Wa egwan-Taegu Road.*

**September 1950**



*The Bowling Alley*

September 20, 1950



*Fatigue at Wagwan*

Sept 1950

Morning after the night assault on Hill 304 (3?) Sep 19. Longitude East 1143 Lat. 1254 N SE of Waegwan.

September 19, 1950



*Road Before the River Crossing*

October 12, 1950

*Noel Patterson*

Unsan

November 28, 1950





**Ken Gehman w/  
Blisters Repeatedly**  
Circa 1950



**Cpl. Ried Down**  
Hill 174 near Kaesan.  
October 12, 1950



**"Lefty"**  
September 1950

**Replacement from  
San Antonio**  
Hill 254 night of 19 Sept '50. Made it almost to the ridgeline - threw grenade upward + gravity killed him. Waegwan

September 19, 1950







Waegwan ←      → Taegu  
 ←                      →  
 circa 1950

**PFC Reed Replacement**  
 Destined for 2nd P LT 5th CAV-G  
 Company  
 Circa 1950



**Waiting for the Assault**

About 800 Hrs near Kaeson Hill 174  
 Note: The Wehrmacht P-38, a standard German officer sidearm cost this souvenir hunter his life. We also came upon Mauser BroomHandles, grenades and other weapons possibly collected by Russian veterans for souvenirs & they confiscated an sent east to the Peoples Republic Korea ???

Circa 1950



**Breakfast Interlude**

And I thought I was hot stuff joining up at age sixteen.  
 Hill 254

Circa 1950



**"Cherry"  
Replacements**

*Having finally seen the  
elephant...*

Circa 1950



**Waiting Jump Off**

*900 Hrs. Before creek crossing  
for assault on Hill 174.*

October 12, 1950



**New Man in the  
Platoon**

*Seeing body parts for  
the first time.*

September 16, 1950

**No Complaints**

*They beat "K" rations  
from WWII!*

circa 1950

