

Korean War Veterans feature

#43 Vernon Walter Hinners (2 pictures and some basic information)



SP-3 (T) Hinners was inducted into the Army on December 7, 1955. He received his basic training at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and then attended helicopter mechanics school in Morton, Pennsylvania. He was later stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and served as a helicopter mechanic. He was discharged from the Army on September 6, 1957, and served in the Reserves until December 6, 1961.

Vernon recalls that it was the easiest two years of his life. Vernon and his wife, Margaret had two children when he was drafted. He could have received a military exemption but felt it was his civic duty to serve his country. He went to Boot Camp at Fort Smith, Arkansas for six weeks. After two weeks, Margaret was able to visit him.

One experience Vernon shared that really shook him up, was when he was in a helicopter on a test flight and they hit a sudden air pocket. The helicopter dropped quite rapidly until they were out of it and regained control.

Once Vernon was stationed in Virginia, Margaret, along with their two children, Dan and Denise were able to join him and live on base. Vernon was given a two-day weekend pass and he was given strict orders that he could only travel 200 miles from base, but he drove all the way to Chicago to pick up his family and drive back to base. On the return trip the wheel fell off the car. Vernon walked several miles to a gas station and bought a used (crooked) wheel that barely got them back to base on time. In December 1957, Liesa was born while they were still stationed in Virginia.



One of the Chinooks on base that Vernon worked on.

I was visiting with a friend the other day and told them how I have pictures and information for many of Manning's Civil War Veterans, and yet I have no pictures or information for a lot of Manning's Korean and Vietnam era Veterans.

Hopefully more of these more recent era Veterans come forward or there will be a lot of them missing from the Manning Veterans' history book.

For this next Veteran, fortunately I was able to get together with his mother, Mil Horbach, in 2004 and she let me scan some of her family pictures. Since then both her sons died and then Mil died, and from my understanding her pictures were discarded after she died.

While it is good to have some military pictures for both of her sons, I have basically no information about Don. Fortunately I can gather some basic time-frames from the captions I was able to obtain for some of his pictures, and at least the name of one ship he was on from a Christmas card.

At this point I don't have his obituary and probably will never find it. I'm saddened by the continued loss of so much history of our Manning Veterans and citizens...but at least I'll have a few pictures for Mil's sons in the Veterans' book.

#44 Donald Horbach (several pictures, no information)



This is a badly deteriorated Kodak photo of Don in the Navy.



The caption I had for this picture is Don in boot camp 1951.

Don was the son of Joe & Mildred (Mescher) Horbach. He had one brother, Robert, who served in the Marine Corps. Their father, Joseph served in the Navy during WWII.

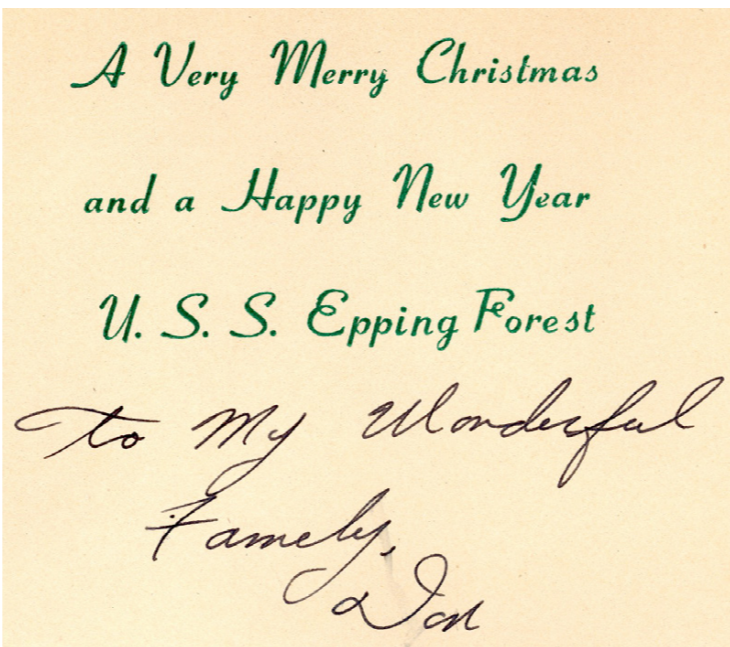
Robert's obituary doesn't mention his brother, Don, at all. I don't have Joe's obituary and Mil's obituary says nothing about Don's service, so all I have are some pictures.



Robert, Donald, Joseph



1951 Christmas - from Don to his family on the USS Epping Forest



Joe and Mil Horbach - operated the Gambles store in Manning.

#45 Charles Hughes (several pictures, very short write-up)



Charles, the son of Fred and Maude (Garner) Hughes, was born in Sewanee, Tennessee, on November 19, 1931. Charles, 2970723, was inducted into the Navy on December 18, 1950. He trained at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California, and became an Airman. He served at the Navy Air Station in San Diego from 1951 to 1953 and on the aircraft carrier, USS Boxer from 1953 to 1954. ANIC Hughes was discharged on October 19, 1954.



Chuck's leather patch from his uniform



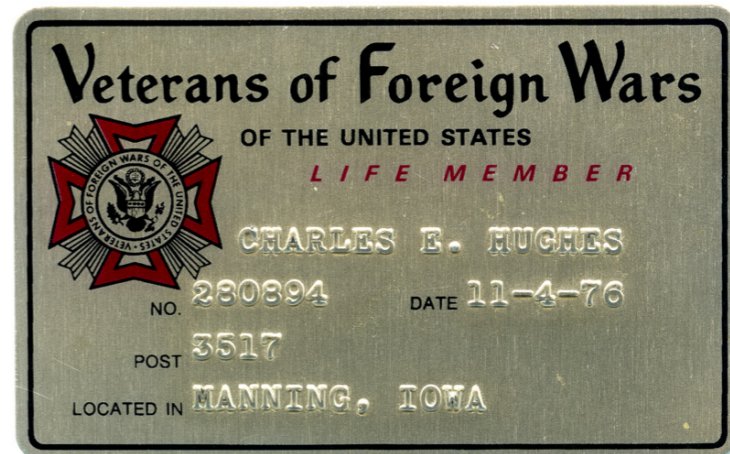
1952 Chuck (middle) scrubbing the floor of the USS Boxer CVA-21



Official patch of the USS Boxer CVA-21



On leave: Bill Manes & Chuck Hughes (right) in Yokosuka, Japan



Aluminum - lifetime VFW Post 3517 membership card



Left: 50th Anniversary pin of Manning VFW Post 3517
Right: Chuck's US Navy Honorable Discharge pin



Chuck in front of one of the Navy planes on the USS Boxer

Korean Veteran feature continues next week