

Korean War Veterans feature

#48 Dale W. Johnson (2 pictures, very basic write-up)



Dale served with the 40th Infantry Division, 980th Field Artillery Battalion Battery C in Korea, joining in July 1952. He returned from Korea August 27, 1953. Sergeant Johnson was discharged October 1953 and earned the Commendation, Korean, and UN Service Ribbons. Dale was a member of Emil Ewoltd Post 22 of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3517.



SGT. Dale Johnson Returning from Korea August 27, 1953

With the 40th Infantry Division in Korea, Sgt. Dale W. Johnson, son of Mrs. Lena Johnson of Summit, is returned to the U.S. after serving with the 40th infantry division in Korea. Sergeant Johnson, a member of the 980th Field Artillery Battalion's Battery C, joined the division in July 1952, and earned the commendation ribbon, Korean and UN service ribbons. Before entering the army he was employed by the Milwaukee railroad.

SGT. Dale W. Johnson of Summit has returned to Seattle, Washington, where he will be discharged from the army sometime in October of 1953.

Dale and Mary Johnson were married on June 4, 1955 and are the parents of 4 boys: William (MHS 1974), Robert (MHS 1977), Steve (MHS 1980), & Tom (MHS 1982).

What to do when a Veteran passed away in 1978 and he did not write about his service or tell his family much about his experiences?

Most of the Veteran histories I work on are of deceased individuals. I can fully appreciate family members who tell me that they wished they would have had more time to ask questions, or simply would have asked questions in the first place.

This next Veteran was only 49 when he passed away. I knew Casey and his wife, Marlys, and their children who I went to school with at Manning. The youngest child was only 10 years old when Casey died, and at that age he wouldn't be thinking about asking his dad military questions.

I can relate to the children in the Karsten family...my dad died in 1970 - I had just turned 14. My grandpa, August Kusel, died when I was 1 year old and my grandpa Louie Ehrichs died when I was 12...my grandmothers passed away when I was a young adult, so I had more time with them to ask questions.

This is why it is difficult to understand why more people don't take the time to talk with their parents and grandparents who are living and ask them about their military and other family history...if they don't now, then someday they too will make the comment "why didn't we ask?"

Fortunately for Casey, he took a lot of pictures during his service and wrote notes on the backs of his pictures...and fortunately his family kept his scrapbook. So many times I find out that once a family member passes away, things (especially pictures and history) start getting thrown away.

I have asked the family to look for Casey's discharge papers which will help to write up a story about his service...this along with his comments on the pictures and some information from one of his basic training buddies will be what is used.

It would be so much better and more thorough if a Veteran would tell his own story and write it down but for the over 1000 Manning connected Veterans, for the most part, I have to work on their history without their first-hand information.

#49 Wilbur Albert Karsten (many pictures, no write-up)



Wilbur Karsten on the USS CHARA December 25, 1951

From Donn Kelsey: Casey Karsten, Bill Strathman, and Frank Wegner joined the Navy in the spring of 1948 and took boot camp in San Diego. In June Charles Schumann, Jim Farrell, Glenn & Alvin Kuhse, Willis Lohmeier and I joined them. After boot camp those three continued going to school at the same base so we often got together. Upon graduation we six left for submarine school in New London, Connecticut, and I had no contact with any of the three men until they were discharged.



Wilbur Karsten, Bill Strathman, Frank Wegner - boot camp



From Donn Kelsey: Casey was a Yeoman First Class and yeomen did clerical work.

Donn didn't think that Casey was an official photographer, based on his classification, but this picture above, that I assume is Casey's office shows lots of official looking photos. He took well over 200 photos, most of which were captured while on the USS CHARA, so for now I'll show some of Casey's photos and insert comments that he wrote on the pictures.



RODGERS - F SEXTON - G BASTIAN - G TODD - Coach KARSTEN - F COLTER - D SPRINGER - F
Above: Rodgers (forward), Sexton (guard), Bastian (center), Todd (coach), Wilbur Karsten (forward), Colter (guard), Springer (forward)

One of the interesting aspects of Casey's time during boot camp is he played on a Navy basketball team. They were apparently very good because they won several trophies.



1949 basketball champs - Casey back row 2nd from left



1949 basketball champs - presentation



Written on back of the picture: This is our dog "Backula" We raised her from a pup. Purebred German Shepherd, 9 months old.



Saturday and Sunday on base - Casey 1st one in full view



Casey Karsten with Louis Schwiesow. Louis also served in the Navy and apparently met up with Casey in San Diego. Louis served from 1947 through 1968 and this is the only picture I had of him at the time I scanned Casey's military scrapbook. This is why I always want to go through people's scrapbooks myself because I'll find history I'm looking for and the owner won't even know they have.



Casey in his bunk



Casey with Alvin Kuhse. I have very few pictures of the Kuhse family so it was nice to find this picture in Casey's scrapbook.

Wilbur "Casey" Karsten continues on page 2