

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Marion Waddington.

Marion was drafted into the Army in July of 1952, one month before he would have been too old for the draft. He graduated from Rosamond High School in 1944. Marion received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood as well as his advanced training as a heavy equipment operator as part of the 6th Armored Division.

In January of 1953, Marion was shipped to Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, CA, a staging area for Army troops during WWII and Korea for deployment overseas. While on the transport ship on the way to Korea, he volunteered for KP duty. As he told his family, there was plenty of food available if you felt like eating it.

Upon arriving in Korea, Marion was stationed on Cheyu Island about sixty miles off the southern coast of Korea where a POW camp was located. Many of the prisoners were Chinese. Cheju is a volcanic island, dominated by Hallasan, a dormant volcanic mountain, 6,400 ft high. It is the highest mountain in South Korea.

Marion's group built prisons, barracks at Camp Marshall, Engineer Yard, and a small landing strip for small planes which included the mail plane. Because the Island is so rocky, rocks were their main building material. Today, the Island is spelled Jeyu. Jeyu Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes is a World Heritage Site. Jeyu is now a vacation mecca with many hotels and condos. It is a popular destination for honeymooners from Korea and the rest of the world.

Marion received the United States Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal. So he could return in time to farm, Marion was discharged in April of 1954. He farmed the rest of his life near Rosamond, Nokomis, and finally Assumption. He married Shirley Robb Waddington. They have four sons: Alan, Tracy, R. D., Larry, and ten grandchildren.

Thank you, PFC Marion Waddington, for what you gave for us.