

## **Kenneth Radnitzer**

**\*World War II  
U.S. Marines, Pacific  
1st Marine Division**

**\*Korean War  
U. S. Army, 7th Infantry Division  
Lieutenant Colonel**

## **Kenneth Radnitzer**

**Veterans  
History  
Project  
Transcript**

**Interview conducted  
January 8, 2009**

**Niles Public Library  
Niles Public Library District  
Niles, Illinois**



Niles Public Library District  
Veterans History Project Transcript

Veteran: **Kenneth Radnitzer**

Rank: **Lieutenant Colonel**

Branch of Service: **U. S. Marines  
U. S. Army**

Theater: **World War II - Pacific  
Korean War**

**Units: 1st Marine Division (Pacific), Army 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Korea)**

**Interview Dates: 7/2/2008 2008 2-3:30 p.m.  
(1/8/2009 2009 2-2:45 p.m.)**

**Place: Group Study Room,  
Niles Public Library**

**Equipment: Philips Digital Pocket Memo Recorder**

**Interviewer: Neil O'Shea**

*This Veterans History Project interview is interesting in that we're conducting it for a second time on Thursday, January the 8th, in the year 2009 - again here at the Niles Public Library. My name is Neil O'Shea, and I am a member of the reference staff here. And I have the privilege of talking once again with Mr. Kenneth Radnitzer. Mr. Radnitzer was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on the 7th of February, in the year 1926, where he still resides. He learned of our Veterans History Project through his son who lives in Des Plaines, and his son had seen an article describing our Project in a newspaper article. Mr. Radnitzer consented to be interviewed and came into us last July 2nd. It's such a great story of service in two wars that in the interests of getting the interview as exact as we can make it and to endow it with a kind of flow, we've revised it and so we're meeting here again this afternoon. (*Italics indicate interviewer's words*)*

*And we are very appreciative that he was able to journey again a fair distance to come in and the fact that he prepared for the interview and also has documented his military service in World War II and in Korea with an album of documents and photos, some of which we have scanned and have appended to this transcript.*

*So, we'll begin this interview at this time. Mr. Radnitzer, when did you enter military service?*

I was drafted on June 20th, 1944. There were twenty-one of us that went down to the draft board in the city of Chicago. I had planned to go in the Navy, but there was a very aggressive Marine sergeant that needed some volunteers for the U. S. Marine Corps. Instead of going to Great Lakes Training Center near my home, four of us went to San Diego boot camp in California.

*What did your family at home think when you came back and said I'm going in the Marines and not the Navy?*

They were really surprised.

I had been living with my uncle and aunt for several years. My mother was deceased. My father had remarried and moved to New York.

Being surprised about this change, they knew I was more a soldier than sailor.

*You were born in 1926, so you were only eighteen when you went into the Service?*

Eighteen years old in February of 1944.

*Had you finished high school at that time?*

I was born in February, I hadn't finished high school. I was given a deferment until June. As soon I graduated, I was supposed to report to my draft board.

*And where you attended or where you graduated from high school is relevant, also, isn't it? It is of interest to the story.*

It seems to be the time that I started my military career.

My father had asked me if I would be willing to go away to military school. I was living with my uncle and aunt, and things were not going to well there so I thought it would be better if I accepted my father's offer.

I enrolled at Northwestern Military and Naval Academy in the fall of 1942. This school was located in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. It was a change of life as I learned the discipline of military life. The first year was the plebe year as it is in West Point. I was homesick at first, but eventually learned and accepted this change for two years. It was really worthwhile for a teenager. It was quite the thing getting up early in the morning, taking care of our rooms, and everything had to be clean, and spit and polish, and everything in that order. I had to do all of those extra activities for the upperclassmen. And every day we would march to mess with the bagpipes. It was something real different. But it was a real help. After a while, I enjoyed it.

Now I go back to the school which is located in Delafield, Wisconsin. It now has been united with St. Johns Military. The school is now called St. Johns Northwestern Military Academy.

*So when you, if this the term, graduated, or finished at military school, you probably expected to be called into the Service?*

Right! I really did expect that.

*Would you have considered going into the Service if you weren't drafted, given your military-- given the military character of your high school?*

I really don't know. I certainly never thought about it. I enjoyed the discipline of the military. Many people when they do serve their time, they usually get out right away.

*I wonder if it was easier for you to endure boot camp, and adjusting to military life after having all that previous training at a military high school?*

Yes, it was. I served my time and came home, and I was released from the Marine Corps so I could attend college. I joined the ROTC in college, and received a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in U.S. Army Reserve and later I served in Korea.

*So your boot camp for the Marines, was it Camp Pendleton?*

Camp Pendleton was the advanced training. San Diego where I went in the beginning was the boot camp.

*And was that pretty tough?*

Well for a young kid, it was tough training. The sergeants kept us busy with forced marches with full packs and rifles. You needed good training that was needed if you were going into combat in the near future.

*How did you feel about going into combat?*

We were all young kids, and we were excited and really didn't think of combat. We trained over on the islands before we found out that our destination was Okinawa. We did the best we could in our training for combat and adjusted accordingly.

*You were drafted on the 21st of June, 1944, and then in April of 1945 you were sent to Okinawa. This was your first combat experience. Was that your first destination overseas?*

That was our first destination overseas. As soon as we finished our training at Camp Pendleton, California we joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in the Solomon Islands. Later we learned that we were training for the invasion of the Japanese island of Okinawa.

*Now, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945 that was an important day for the invasion of Okinawa, wasn't it?*

It was said that it was a bigger invasion than the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944 invasion of Europe. We had many ships for this invasion. Many of the ships were hit by kamikaze planes, causing casualties in the U.S. Navy After we went across the island in three days, we were sent down to the southern part of the island where most of the Japanese were holed up in the caves.

*When you have a lot of Marines fighting alongside U.S. Army divisions, is there any difference in how the units are going to be used?*

Well, it depends on the tactics of the different organization. The U.S. Army seemed to have more artillery before they sent the troops ahead, whereas the Marine Corps seemed to specialize in the fact that their infantry didn't need that much artillery preparation.

At this time when I was involved in this, I was a demolition person. And many times we were trying to close up the caves with the demolition. We were trying to get the Japanese soldiers out before we closed up the cave.

War is a terrible event especially for the young soldiers. You are scared like everybody else. You see so many of your friends injured and killed, and you really don't know when it is your turn. You just keep praying.

*So you were in the First Marine Division?*

Yes, that is correct.

*When you were in combat on Okinawa, did you get enough sleep?*

You never get enough sleep when you are under the conditions of battles, and the weather and the terrain.

There was a period when it rained for about 2 weeks, and it was a challenge to keep dry when you are living out of a foxhole.

You did the best you could because many soldiers didn't keep their socks dry. when they needed them. That was important because there was a lot of trench foot when you didn't take care of your feet

*Were there flame throwers used in Okinawa?*

The platoon I was in was called the Assault Platoon. In the Assault Platoon we had flamethrowers, bazookas and demolition personnel. The personnel then were assigned to the line companies when needed.

*Did the Japanese fight bravely on Okinawa?*

The Japanese really did fight bravely. It was a tough job (the infantry) to dig them out of the caves so we could secure the island. There were about 30,000 Japanese troops on the island. They had years to build connecting caves in the hills on the south end of the island. We lost a great deal of our soldiers and marines defeating the Japanese on this island. Toward the end of the campaign when they realized that they were losing, many of the Japanese committed suicide by jumping off the hills into the sea.

It was somewhat similar to Iwo Jima. The Japanese soldiers were told by their leaders that they had no reinforcements, and this was their "tomb."

*Did the sustaining of so many casualties on Okinawa, did that affect the thinking about the invasion of Japan theory?*

After the victory in Okinawa, they knew that in order to defeat the Japanese they had to plan for the invasion of Japan. Our great president who had the opportunity to save lives by dropping the bombs on Japan saved many lives. This action saved both ours and Japanese lives. Thank you, Harry Truman!

*Mr. Radnitzer, you received a medal for bravery in Okinawa, didn't you?*

You are correct. The U. S. Marine Corps awarded me a Silver Star for blowing up caves there that were holding up our units. As a young kid, you do a great deal of things that are very daring. I don't remember the details. There are so many soldiers there that do such brave acts and really don't get recognized. I was one of the fortunate ones.

*At that time, you had the rank of private?*

I was a private for 14 months. It was tough during World War II to make P.F.C. in the U.S. Marine Corps.

*Do you recall where you were stationed when the Japanese surrendered or say when the bomb was dropped in August, 1945?*

I was stationed in Okinawa when the Japanese surrendered, and when that occurred we knew that we had to stay in Okinawa a little longer because we didn't have enough points. In order to get more points they sent the 1st Division over to China to help protect Chiang Kai Shek from the Communists.

*Did you have a big celebration when you heard the good news?*

Well, I think we did. We were very relieved that the war was over. No more shooting the enemy, and the enemy wasn't shooting at us.

*Did you-- so did you stay in touch with your family while overseas?*

I wrote a great deal of letters to my father and a girlfriend that I had. Many times I would get cookies from my girlfriend and also letters from my father and maybe even some types of food from my aunt and uncle

*Did you see any famous entertainers while you were overseas?*

Not many. It seemed like we were too busy fighting the war. Remember the infantry does all the dangerous acts against the enemy. Sometimes we didn't have time to go to the rear and see all that entertainment.

*After Okinawa, you were sent to China?*

Yes, we were sent to China to fulfill our point category and there we were sent to Peking where Chiang Kai Shek had his headquarters. Our unit was located in the Austrian Embassy in that city. We collected all the weapons from the surrendering Japanese. We were there protecting Chiang Kai Shek until about May of 1946.

*Did you find the Chinese people interesting and pleasant?*

Yes, many of the families would invite us out to their homes for meals. We were able to go out and shop in the stores when we were off duty. Later when I became acting Sergeant of the platoon but I never got promoted because they wanted to sign over for another four years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

*They wanted you to extend your tour of duty?*

Yes, but they wanted me to stay in the U. S. Marines Corps, but I wanted to go back to school and get a degree.

It was a good thing that I didn't stay in the Marine Corps because several years later all the US Marine Corps reserves were called up for the Korean War, and they ended up in Northern Korea where we lost so many soldiers and Marines.

*So you graciously declined the promotion?*

Yes, I thought it was more important that I return home and go back to school.

*Then you were sent home from China by ship so you that could get discharged from the service.*

Yes. They finally sent me back to the Great Lakes Training Center after a long trip through the Pacific, to Hawaii, to California and there at the Great Lakes I got my discharge. from the Marine Corps.

*So was it difficult readjusting to civilian life?*

No, I had the experience of being away from home for two years when I was at military school so I think I adjusted very well after going through all that military service in the islands.

*So you used the G.I. bill at that time?*

Yes, I did. It was a great opportunity to get a good start on my education.

*And you chose to go to which school?*

I went down to the University of Miami for a year and got basic credits and then the last three years I went to Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.

*Did you major in history?*

I didn't major in history to begin with because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I finally decided that Finance was my field and I took many accounting courses while I was at the school.

*When did you go to work?*

Well, before I was called back in the Army, I worked at the Harris Trust and Savings Bank in Chicago. When I came back from the Marine Corps, they took me back there, and I worked there for a while at this same bank.

*How was it that you wound up back in another hot spot – in Korea?*

Well, I went to school at Knox College, and when I graduated from there in 1950 – I had enrolled in the ROTC program there, and I graduated with my degree and also as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

When I graduated from Knox with a BA degree, I was an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. I worked for three months, and then after that when I was called up, I was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, near St. Louis, for training.

*So when you were called up, that was in the Army not the Marines?*

I was called up in the U.S. Army, and I was sent down to Fort Leonard Wood to train soldiers for their service in Korea

*You were training troops because of your own experience?*

Yes, the lieutenants were the instructors with capable sergeants and you trained these new recruits.

*How did you get to Korea? By airplane?*

At that time all the troops were going to Japan first by boat. We received some training in Japan, and then we were assigned to our respective infantry divisions in Korea.

*Did you come in at Pusan, Korea?*

Yes, I believe that was the port that was open then. Then we were sent up to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel by train. I joined Fox Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It had just returned from northern Korea, and it was now taking replacements.

*Was this near the Iron Triangle in Korea?*

Yes, and this was at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. We were there for a number of months, keeping the North Koreans and Chinese soldiers at bay. We were sitting on one of the many hills watching the Chinese across a broad valley. After several weeks we would go in reserve for a while to take showers and relax from the stress on the front lines. On these front lines there was usually an American division between each South Korean infantry division.

We always had this American division on either side of the South Korean division to make sure that they had help from our soldiers. There were some good troops there, and there were some that weren't too reliable. But they helped us many times in many ways.

*It's wintry here today. I bet it was cold up there in Korea at that time!*

Yes, up there in the hills we were very cold. We had good winter equipment and the troops kept warm as best as possible. We rotated our troops from foxholes to the rear so they could have heat and not get any frostbite. We had coal stoves for our heat in those bunkers.

*You were decorated in Korea?*

Yes, the U.S. Army gave me a Bronze Star with a V (Valor) for one of the patrols I was on. I am no hero. The heroes are the soldiers, marines and sailors that never came home.

*So they called you back in the service and you spent a number of months in Korea then?*

When I got my commission in the U.S. Army Reserve in June, 1950, they decided they needed infantry lieutenants, and so they sent a number of us down to Fort Leonard Wood Missouri, and there we were able to spend some time training new recruits

*Then when did you come home from Korea?*

I came home by boat in May or June in 1952.

*There must have been a big difference coming home then, it was a forgotten war!*

Well, in those days we came home in the ship to California, and nobody recognized us with bands, celebration, or any kind of extra activity. We got off the ship, and they put us on a train and I finally got discharged from active duty at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

*Korea was a United Nations effort with troops from many countries?*

Yes, it was a great effort by many nations to withstand the North Korean troops from overrunning South Korea. We had Puerto Rican and Turkish troops in our area. The Chinese were really afraid of these Turks and their long knives.

*The Chinese didn't like the Turks. Was it only for that reason?*

The Turks were tough and very noisy when they attacked, and it really scared the Chinese soldiers.

At the beginning of the war the North Koreans invaded South Korea and almost pushed the South Koreans into the sea. Truman sent American troops from Japan, and we stopped the enemy at Pusan. Gen. MacArthur in charge of the U.S. Army in that area surprised the North Koreans, and he made a successful invasion at Inchon in the rear of the North Koreans which pushed the North Koreans back to the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel – that was about the time I joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

*Were you frightened in both those wars?*

Yes, I believe that if you're not scared, there is something wrong with you. You're taken, and being shot at, and you're in harm's way and you really are stressed and really shook up, knowing the fact that you have to learn to take care of yourself and not be too much afraid.

*Because somebody seems to be shooting at you all the time?*

You never know if you are going to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. In Okinawa my foxhole buddy was killed while I was on a work party in the rear. It could have been the opposite way. I could have been in the foxhole and he was working the lower part – so you never know.

*So you were never wounded?*

I was wounded in training while in the Solomon Islands, but I received no Purple Heart because I was not in the combat zone. I got a little shrapnel in my leg - just a little blood.

I was very fortunate. I received no other wounds in either of the wars.

*Do you recall any entertainers showing up in Korea? Did you attend any U.S.O. shows?*

I don't remember any entertainers while we were in reserve, relaxing and getting cleaned up.

*Were there any humorous or unusual events that stand out from the time in Korea or Okinawa?*

The one thing I remember was that in our squad on Okinawa we had individuals who were always looking for souvenirs. This one guy was always going into the caves looking for souvenirs, weapons, swords or anything else from the dead Japanese that were in these caves. After a while the guy smelled so bad, we just took and moved his pup tent

outside the regular area and let him stay out there because he smelled so bad. The caves smelt of dead bodies which didn't bother him, but it sure bothered the rest of us. That was something really different.

*When you were in Japan, were you surprised to be there before you went to Korea?*

I think that we were surprised. There were a couple of other lieutenants that I knew and myself were assigned to go to this camp in Japan and there we had three weeks of CBR training. I think maybe it may have saved our lives because before we got to our units, the U.S. Army had a big drive, an attack, against the enemy. CBR meant Chemical, Biological and Radiological training. I really helped us to enjoy a little bit of R & R before we went to Korea.

*Were the Japanese people friendly to you?*

Yes, we had a great time visiting the Japanese restaurants when we received a leave from our training.

*Did you develop a taste for any oriental foods as a result of your time in the Far East?*

I don't think so. We were really used to the American food, and even while we were in Japan that's what we had most of the time – steak and eggs! How about that!

*When you came back home the second time, were you able to go back to your former job?*

I went back to the Harris Trust and Savings Bank in downtown Chicago where I worked before. I spent a number of months there before I took another job with a decal company, selling decals. This where I met my future wife, and it was the time I learned how to go out and sell decals.

I was very fortunate during my active military service. I had no real family to worry about like many of the servicemen. I was very active taking care of myself at that time. I had no worries about kids and my wife.

*So when you came home did you stay in contact with some of your wartime buddies? And were these servicemen you had met in the U.S. Marine Corps or the U.S. Army?*

There were two lieutenants I had spent some time with in Ft. Leonard Wood and Camp Gifu in Japan. When we did get home, we got together a little bit and went to each other's homes every other year. We would really sit down and discuss the many experiences we had when we were in the military.

*Are you a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars?*

I am a life member of the V.F.W., the American Legion, the Korea Veterans Association and the ROA (Reserve Officers Association.).

*That's quite a few!*

*We always ask, how do you think your military service or your experiences in the military affected your life?*

I think the military experience played an important part in my life. You learn to discipline yourself, you learn how to organize your life, and you appreciate the many friends you have in this life.

My wife says, "How come you stay in the military?" I tell her that I enjoyed the military because I think it made me a better person. Those thirty years I spent in the military were really a very important part of my life.

I joined the U.S. Army Reserve when I was released from Active Duty. I stayed in for twenty-six years, going from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. I enjoyed it even though I had drills once a month, and my wife had total control of our three boys every time I went for the two weeks every year.

*And Once a month you would have a Saturday and Sunday drill?*

Yes

*So you had been in ROTC at Knox College, and then you were called up for Korea. When you came home, did you have an obligation to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve Program?*

No. I volunteered to join the U.S. Army Reserve program. It was like a second job for me as I was now raising a family, and I needed an extra source of funds. I put in my thirty years, and now it helps me to get that retirement check every month.

*Do you think your military experiences have influenced your thinking about war or about the military in general?*

I believe that every citizen of this country who becomes 18 years of age should serve at least one year in the military service. President Eisenhower presented an idea similar to this when he was in office. I remember my wife saying that her father who was raised in Sweden had to serve in the army when he was younger. . He even had to get permission to leave Sweden to come to the U.S.A. Switzerland is another such country.

*Should we have the requirement of military service in the United States?*

Now that we are in two wars we should start the draft, and get these students and "gang bangers" in the cities to serve time in the military service. We should have a strong reserve, and not just the volunteers from the small towns in the country The National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve are asking two or three tours for their personnel, and that

is not fair for these soldiers. As stated before, all citizens of this country should have a year or two of military training.

*Mr. Radnitzer, you mentioned that your wife's father did military service in Sweden.*

Yes, he was required to serve so many years in the reserve in Sweden.

*And was your own father in the service?*

Yes, he was an artillery officer in World War I.

*Did he see combat?*

No, he never told me too much about it.

*Was he in the Army?*

Yes, he was in the U.S. Army in Europe.

*May I ask was there anybody else in your family that had military service?*

My cousin was in the United States Air Corps, but I don't know when he served. He was in after World War II.

*We are coming to the end of the interview. Is there anything else that we haven't talked about that you would like to add to the record?*

The military has been an important part of my life. I spent over thirty years with the military, either active or in the U.S. Army Reserve. I still enjoy being with fellow American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars members plus I still belong to the Reserve Officers Association. We used to go to Washington, D.C. and talk to our Congressman about the caring of active military and their families. Congress doesn't have many members who have prior service in the military, and they need to be reminded that our active members of the military have to be taken care of by the U.S Government.

I believe Senator McCain has a son in Iraq.

*Yes, and, on the other side of the aisle in the Senate, Senator Webb from Virginia has a son in Iraq.*

We would like to get all our boys out of this conflict but it has to be a slow withdrawal.

*It is an interesting part of the world with a great deal of history.*

I believe that many religions are involved with these countries in this area of the world.

*It goes way back!*

*Yes, you saw and experienced a great deal of history being involved in two wars.*

In Peking I saw the Forbidden City and also outside of Peking, we went and saw the Great Wall.

I wasn't happy with some of the Chinese food. When we took that the train to the Great Wall, we bought some cookies, and they did not agree with us. They were really too greasy. Other times when we were invited to families' houses, the food wasn't spicy and tasted better than the Army food.

*Did you get taller when you were in the service, or put on weight, or were you about the same? Did people recognize you when you returned home?*

I think I might gotten a little heavier and taller, but I didn't change much as far as a physical change. The only thing that got bigger were my feet which became wider after all the marching up and down the hills in Korea.

I know I also became wiser after all the travels in the Far East.

I was about 160 lbs. when I went in the service, and I believed I felt better after all the travels with the military.

I now work out several times a week, walk a great deal, ride the bike, and I have gained a little weight.

*Do you work out on your own?*

I go to a health club 3 times a week on my own, and I try to get out other times of the week to walk or ride a bike. I still am able to fit in my military uniform, the one that I wore when I was discharged in 1977.

*It seems like that decision to go to military school was important, wasn't it?*

It really started the military part of my life. I really didn't regret leaving civilian life and being isolated up in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin for two years. My father would visit me occasionally, but most of the time I would have few visitors. I really never became homesick like many other cadets. Those two years were worth the experience.

*You enjoyed staying in the Active Reserve for 26 years.*

I enjoyed the part-time soldier role as it was like a part-time job along with my full-time job at the banks. Many of my friends could not understand why I didn't get out right after I was released from active service. Now the retired pay helps supplement my retirement.

When you were an enlisted person, you took orders, but when you get up in rank, you are the one who is giving the orders – what a change!

I have three boys, and they never went in the service because it was period of time when they were not of age, and the draft was no more. One of my boys wanted to join the U.S. Marines when he got out of high school as he got a great deal of “flack” about the service when he was in school. I said “no way” until you get your education. That was it!

*So did any of your sons go into military service?*

No, they all went to college, or they followed up in what they wanted to do in life. I never pushed them to the military service or into my field of banking. Two of the boys went into the education field, and the other one became a carpenter as he always liked to build things. They are all successful in what they are doing, and they are all married and living a happy life.

*Well, Mr. Radnitzer, thank you very much for coming in a second time..*

Yes, it has been an interesting interview. Things that I had forgotten about were brought up and remembered. I appreciate your time on this project. I look forward to completing this project and getting a copy to the files in Washington, D.C. and also retaining copies for me and my family.

*Thank you. And, as I say, if something comes up, or some story at home that you recall and you want to add, we can do that.*

Yes, and with this write-up I have added a little more information for this interview. I felt more comfortable this time in doing the interview.

**Reader's Note:**

Please continue on to view 8 pages of scans of photographs and memorabilia provided by Mr. Radnitzer to illustrate this transcript of his oral memoir of service to his country in two wars.

## Private Radnitzer receives his Silver Star on Okinawa.



**Marine Pvt. Kenneth Radnitzer** (right), 19, grandson of Mrs. Alfred E. Barr of 423 Lenox and son of Adolph Radnitzer of New York City, received the Silver Star medal from Marine Col. J. N. Frisbie, commanding officer of the Fifth Regiment, First Marine division, at ceremonies on Okinawa.

Pvt. Radnitzer ran through enemy machine gun fire to blow up a Jap cave on Okinawa in which the enemy had a machine gun position which had held up the advance of his unit. He is now stationed in China. Brought up in the village, he is a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Barr.

9/11/1951 Newspaper map of Korean War

IS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1951



(NEWS map by Staff Artist)

Over northwest Korea, 30 U. S. Sabre jets and 80 Communist MIGs fight 30-minute battle. Two Red jets damaged, no American fighters reported downed. On the east-central front (B), Russian-type rockets have been falling behind Allied lines for several days. On the ground, Allied forces have advanced in several sectors around Yongchon. UN warships (ship symbols) struck at Reds on the east and west coasts. U. S. destroyer escort Seiverling reported hit off Wonsan by Red shore batteries but returns under own power to base in Japan.

Secret Order  
for an Ambush Patrol in Korea, led by Lt. Radnitzer

**SECRET**

Co 2nd Bn 31st Inf  
Sungdong-gol, Korea Via BT 071377  
13 November 1951

2nd INF

AMBUSH PATROL

- A. **MISXEN:** Ambush patrol, KILL and Capture Enemy.
- B. **SEX:** Two (2) Squads Co "F" 2nd Bn 31st Inf
- C. **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** Patrol will depart Co Pens no later than 1730 hrs and proceed to selective vantage point. Ambush and surrounding Area Pens will be carefully scanned prior moving into Pens. Move into final Pen just as darkness sets in.
- D. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Two (2) SCR 300 radios on Channel 7 22. Call sign will be ~~SECRET~~ AMBUSH. One (1) sound power telephone. If sound is broken and cannot be regained, patrol will return to Co Area by prearranged route.
- E. **PATROL LEADER:** Lt. Radnitzer
- F. **ETD:** 1730 In Pen by 1900 hrs.  
**STR:** 0730 Depart ambush point 0830 13 Nov 51.

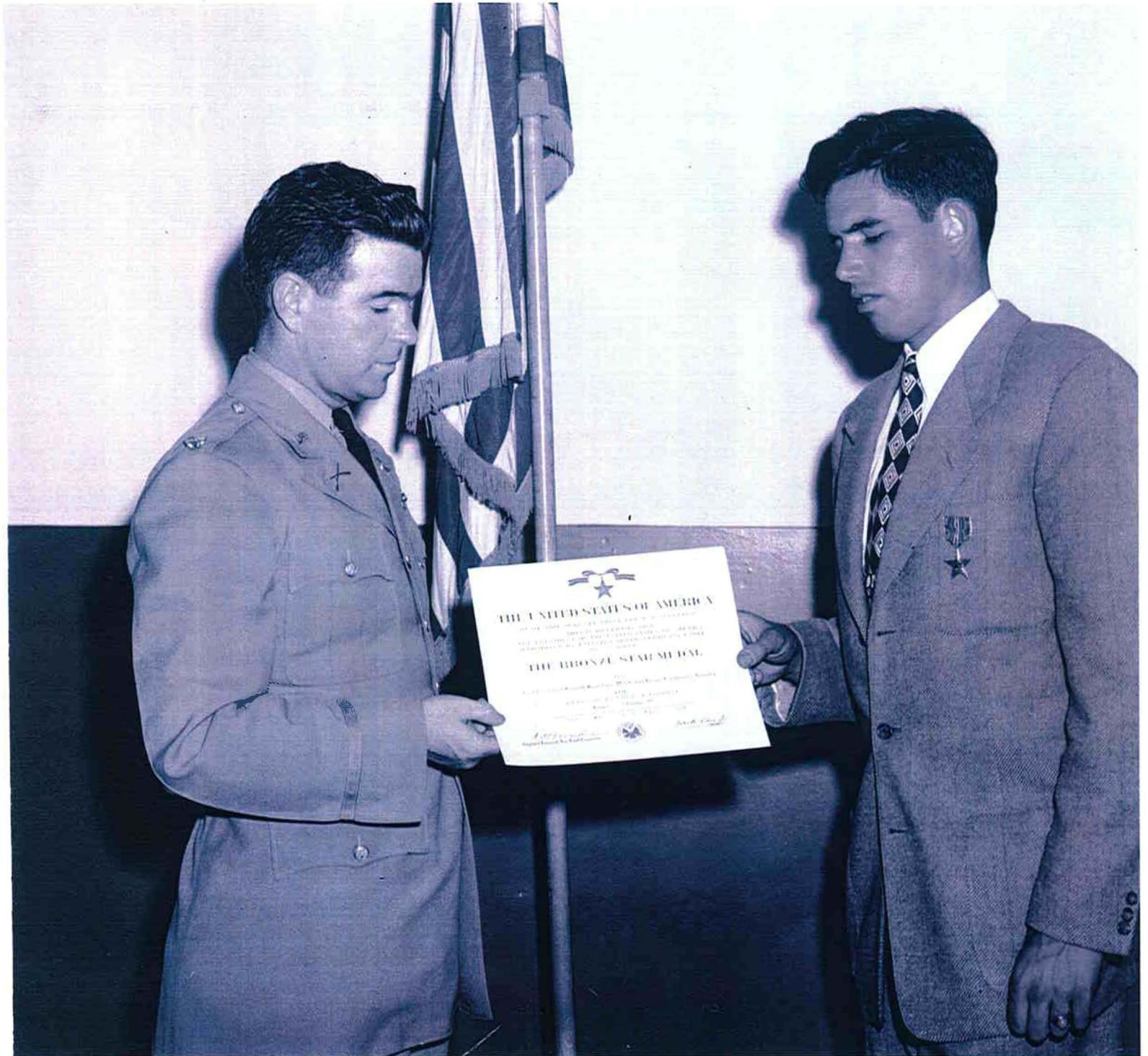
OFFICIAL

MILITARY

3-3

CASUALTY  
Command

Bronze Star  
received Stateside  
as a civilian at a U.S.  
Army Reserve Cen-  
ter probably in 1953



# Entitlement to Awards, issued April, 1972

TRANSMITTAL OF AND/OR ENTITLEMENT TO AWARDS			DATE <i>April 7, 1972</i>
NAME <i>Radnitzer, Kenneth</i>	SERVICE NO./SSAN	BRANCH OF SERVICE <i>USMC</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THE RECORDS SHOW THAT THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE IS ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING MEDALS. <input type="checkbox"/> THE FOLLOWING MEDALS AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE ARE ENCLOSED.			
<i>* Silver Star Medal</i> DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/LETTER "V" DEVICE AIR MEDAL PURPLE HEART DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD RIBBON AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION - <i>1st Mar Div (Penawa)</i> NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL _____ AIR FORCE _____ ARMY (See Note 5) _____ COAST GUARD _____ MARINE CORPS _____ NAVY LOGPS: _____ BRONZE _____ SILVER STARS: _____ BRONZE _____ SILVER (Note 1) OAKLEAF CLUSTERS: AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL WITH _____ FLEET CLASP _____ BASE CLASP _____ BRONZE LETTER "A" (Note 1) _____ FOREIGN SERVICE CLASP	OAK LEAF CLUSTER BRONZE   SILVER	AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (Note 1) ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL (Note 1) EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (Note 1) WW II VICTORY MEDAL ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL WITH _____ GERMANY _____ JAPAN CLASP _____ BERLIN AIRLIFT DEVICE NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL _____ EUROPE _____ ASIA CLASP NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (Note 1) KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL (Note 1) UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL (Note 1) CHINA SERVICE MEDAL (EXTENDED) ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL WITH <i>2</i> HOUR GLASS DEVICE(S) NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL ORGANIZED MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL MARINE CORPS RESERVE RIBBON EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (Note 1) _____ ARMED FORCES _____ MARINE CORPS _____ NAVY GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON _____ PIN _____ CLUTCH PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Note 2) REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL (Note 3) PHILIPPINE RIBBON (Note 4)	

- NOTE:**
1. Clasps and/or Stars for these awards are not issued by this Center but may be purchased from stores which sell military supplies.
  2. This is an award of the Philippine/Korean/Vietnam government and is not issued by the United States government. There is no medal which accompanies this award. The ribbons may be purchased from the stores which sell military supplies.
  3. This is an award of the Vietnam government. The medal is not issued by the United States government but may be purchased from stores selling military supplies.
  4. This ribbon is not available for issuance by this Center, however, you may purchase it from stores which sell military supplies.
  5. Air Force enlisted personnel who qualified for the award of the Good Conduct Medal on or before May 31, 1963, is awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal. The Air Force Good Conduct Medal is awarded for qualifying service completed on or after June 1, 1963. Since the above named person qualified for the Good Conduct Medal before June 1, 1963, he is entitled only to the Army Good Conduct Medal.

MEDALS THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ISSUED ARE INDICATED BY AN ASTERISK.

ENCLOSURE *2*

*John*

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, GSA  
 (Military Personnel Records)  
 9700 Page Boulevard  
 St. Louis, Missouri 63132  
 NCPM/CA

Mr. Radnitzer's Korean War Service Medal  
awarded on the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War





Sept 19, 2010

Korean War Anniversary  
at

Veterans Memorial  
Waywood Park,  
Waywood, N.C.

Presentation of remembrance of  
Korean War

Mr. Radnitzer speaking in Oak Park on November 11 for a Veterans Day Observance, probably in 2004.

