



John D. O'Connor, Jr.



*Brooklyn, NY
Born 1933*

*U.S. Army
Corporal
Serial Number 12366556*

*Killed in Action
August 14, 1952*



*Corporal O'Connor was a gunner and forward observer with
Company M, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.
He was Killed in Action against the enemy in North Korea on
August 14, 1952.*

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONOR ROLL

That's John O'Connor behind the 81 mm mortar. With me standing beside of him. His real name was John but we all knew him as Joe. We grew up together in Brooklyn New York. We never got along as kids we used to smack each other around almost every other day. Then we met again years later in Korea. Our Lt. told me to go up and report to Cpl. O'Connor in his bunker. We both were flabbergasted when we saw each other. Joe said "Well Bill, we will both be fighting on the same side for a change". After awhile we became good friends, once we both matured a little. This picture was taken 3 days before Joe was KIA. It was one of those bad days; the enemy was throwing everything at us but the kitchen sink; Mortars and artillery....

Joe was up at an out post called Little Nori. It was 500 yards in front of the front line trenches, or called the MLR (main line of resistance). I was told to take 2 men and trace the lines going from our mortars up to where Joe was. On our way up there we were under heavy mortar and artillery barrages. Thankfully none of us got hit; just one guy sprained his ankle falling into a shell hole. We found and fixed 8 breaks in the wire on our way up there. We couldn't locate the enemy FO that was calling the barrages in on us. If we could have found and killed the bastard then it may have been a little different story for Joe and his radio operator PFC.Wright and the Lt. for the artillery and a Rock soldier who got wounded. Their bunker got hit so bad that it was caving in on them. The Lt. helped the wounded Rock soldier out. Then the radio operator was next to get out. Last but not least Joe was last man out. The next shell came in exploded and killed Joe instantly. Sounds like 3 on a match. I had a real hard time trying to digest that because we became such good friends. Joe was only 18 years old....

We were the very first to fight against communism. We were sent to liberate South Korea and that's exactly what we did. Look at South Korea today compared to North Korea. And not to try and conquer all of North Korea and China, as Mc Arthur wanted to do...Truman was right to have fired that hump. General McArthur was responsible for the death for more than 58,000 young American boys. Had he stopped at the 38th parallel as ordered to do so by President Truman! The war would have ended by Christmas 1950. The results were 54,246 DEAD, 8,177 MIAs, 389 POWs died in POW camps a total of 62,812 DEAD in a war that lasted only 3 years, 1 month and 2 days.

Shows the intensity of the so-called forgotten war in Korea. Clinton had a Maj. Bob White monkey the numbers down to 30 some odd thousand so the American people, wont get to upset after seeing another 58,000 American boys die in the 11 year old war in Vietnam.

Some of us had to climb over the bodies so we could climb out of our trenches and they just kept coming. Still having nightmares after 60 years. The shrinks at the VA weren't of much help. How could they? As they weren't there! One tried having me believe the rats in the bunker that were crawling all over me were only marshmallow candies.

Former Address Cpl. Bill Dillon 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. North Korea 1951-1953. email address jb1952@verizon.net