

WORLD WAR II-KOREAN WAR MEMORIES PROJECT

**GIFT OF
JOSEPH D. BEAM, JR.**

Date Received - 18 December 2000

Date Acknowledged - 18 December 2000

ITEM: His World War II memoir of his service with the 15th Air Force; a recommendation form signed by Captain Othmar A. J. Kemper, Air Corps; a photograph of him receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross in April 1945, in Foggia, Italy; a brief memoir of his service in Korea, and an information form regarding his service in Korea, 1951-52

Name

Address

Telephone

E-Mail

Gender

Veteran of WW II Theater(s) of Operation Veteran of Korean War

Army Navy Air Corps/Force Coast Guard Marine Corps

Service/Civilian Branch

Description of " Memories" Given

Date Gift Received

Date Gift Acknowledged

Date and Place of Birth

Education Level upon Service Entry

Occupation Before Service

Service Starting Date Location

Discharge Date Location

Highest Rank Achieved

Units Served With Dates

Decorations/Honors

Occupation After Service

Living Service Buddies whom we may contact: (Name, Add, Tel)

1

2

3

Nearest Living Relative(s) whom we may contact: (Name, Add, Tel)

4

5

How did you learn about the Marshall "Memories" Project?

**GEORGE C. MARSHALL FOUNDATION "MEMORIES PROJECT"
DONOR INFORMATION**

(Please Attach to the "Memories" You Send Us)

Name Joseph D. Beam, Jr. **Telephone** 910-256-6412

Address 1739 Signature Place **E-Mail** _____

Wilmington, NC 28405-4131 **Gender** Male

Veteran of WW II **Korea** **Civilian Service** _____

Army **Navy** **Marine Corps** **Air Corps/Force** **Coast Guard**

Service/Civilian Branch _____

WWII Theater(s) of Operation Italy, Europe, Balkans

Description of "Memories" Given: (Story, Diary, Letters, Photographs, Etc.) _____

story, letters, photograph

Date and Place of Birth 17 July 1922 Ellenboro, NC

Education Level upon Service Entry completed 2nd class (Junior) at VMI

Occupation Before Service Virginia Military Institute Cadet

Service Starting Date June 2, 1942 **Discharge Date** October 22, 1945

Highest Rank Achieved 1st Lieutenant

Units Served With & Dates: 352nd Bomb Squadron, 301st Bomb Group, 5th Wing

15th Air Force - 18 October 1944 to 15 May 1945

Decorations/Honors Distinguished Flying Cross, 8 Battle Stars, Air Medal w/ 3 clusters

Occupation After Service Corporate Officer - Executive - Textiles

Living Service Buddies, whom we might contact: (Name, Address, Telephone)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Nearest Living Relative(s), whom we might contact: (Name, Address, Telephone)

1. Judith Ann Beam, 1739 Signature Place, Wilmington, NC 28405-4151 910-256-6412

2. Charles S. Beam, 6125 Green Gables Ct., Sewanee, GA 30174 770-813-8126

**How did you learn about the Marshall Foundation's World War II-Korean War
Memories Project?** from the George C. Marshall Foundation

(See Reverse Side)

AWARDS WWII

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIR MEDAL WITH 3 BRONZED CLUSTERS

ROME-ARNO BATTLE STAR

EAME CAMP RIBBON

NORTH APPENIES BS

PO VALLEY BS

CENTRAL EUROPE BS

AIR COMBAT EUROPE BS

BALKANS BS

RHINELAND BS

I flew various squadron and Group leads. One morning a courier waked me up at my tent at 2 a.m. local time and delivered me to Group Headquarters to make Flight Plans for all navigators in Group. This consisted of Flight Plan, Turning Points, Winds Aloft, etc. Completing this, courier took me back to my tent for a couple more hours sleep. He woke me two hours later and I went to our small mess hall. Mess sergeant said I was late and he would not give me any breakfast. I tried to explain - he would not listen! I followed him back into small kitchen. I saw a meat cleaver and I picked it up. I told mess sergeant that he could report me or whatever but that I was going to have something to eat because I was not going to fly nine hours at high altitude on an empty stomach. The mess sergeant changed his mind and gave me some breakfast which consisted of cold french toast, warm sugar water and black coffee.

The 15th Air Force Commanding General Twining conceived a plan that during periods of bad weather when heavy bombardment could not attack in large formations of heavy bombers, the plan called for single bomber attacks at intervals to go over major German factory complexes so to create air raid warnings in order to interrupt German War material manufacture. These were designated as "Lone Wolf Raids" - later changed to "Lone" Raids. The gamble was that one aircraft would not attract nite fighters or major defense effort but still create air raid interruption. Each B-17 squadron was assigned to furnish one crew/aircraft for each raid. My squadron, 352nd, lost the first and second planes sent out on "Lone" missions. My crew got the third one. We made it back- shot up some - and heavy snow in nose because of broken plexiglass.

The next raid Group Headquarters called for the most experienced "Lone" Crew. Guess what - we were it because we were the only one that came back. Fortunately, General Doolittle came down from the 8th Air Force in England and apparently convinced General Twining of the 15th Air Force that his gains were not worth his losses. General Twining stopped the "Lone" Raids.

In early April, 1945 I was awakened late, after midnight, and taken to Group Intelligence. I was shown several land photographs and it was explained to me that I should try to memorize the landscape and landscape features. This late night exercise was repeated several nights. I was sworn to secrecy and advised this was top secret. I was given no further information. On April 9 and 10, 1945 I found out what the project was.

I was navigator in the lead aircraft in a low level attack by B-17's to support the British 8th Army as they jumped off in the final offensive in Italy. Italy fell soon afterwards and Mussolini and his mistress were assassinated and their bodies hung up by their feet in square in Milano.

Heavy bombardment is not used often in low level attacks in support of ground troops. The missions were successful and I was thankful.

Joseph David Beam

R E S T R I C T E D

NAME JOSEPH D. BEAM RANK 1st Lt ASN 0-555122
ORGANIZATION 352nd Bomb Sq 301st Bomb Gp (H) LOCATION APO 520
LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT Navigator DURATION November 1944 to April 1945

1. Following questions are to be answered yes or no by unit commander:


a. Would you agree to have this officer return to your organization after rest in United States? Yes.

b. In your opinion would this officer, after rest in the United States, be qualified for assignment to a position of fully as much responsibility as he has so far been assigned? Yes.

2. State any observations made or circumstances, good or bad, which have shown themselves which would help personnel agencies in the United States to better evaluate this officer and effect his assignment to new duty. Explain fully.

3. Lt. Beam has flown thirty five combat sorties during his tour of combat duty in this Squadron, three secret missions on lone plane raids and ten Squadron Leads. He volunteered his services on the lone plane raids at a time when there was a shortage of experienced flying personnel, and has proven his ability under combat conditions. He is an excellent navigator with presence of mind and coolness under stress. He has initiative, judgment and skilled navigation technique. For his achievements as a Navigator in combat he has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

4. Lt Beam has an excellent character and excellent military bearing. He is co-operative, well liked and very well versed in Navigation Technique. He would be a decided asset to any military organization.



OTHMAR A. J. KEMPER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Unit Commanding Officer

FAP Form 66-1A

R E S T R I C T E D

U.S.- Korea 2000 Foundation, Inc.

4600 Duke Street, Suite 416
Alexandria, VA 22304-2517

Phone: (703) 212-8128
Fax: (703) 684-0193
E-mail: Info@USKorea2000.org

National Korean War Veterans Database *Please type or PRINT!* See Lists on Page 2.

Please use check (✓) where applicable.

Name and Address:

(1) BEAM, JR. (2) JOSEPH (3) D
 Last First MI

(4) JOE (5) Living Deceased (6) JUDITH A BEAM
 Nickname Spouse's full name

(7) 1739 SIGNATURE PLACE (8) _____
 Street address Apt., P.O. Box, RR#

(9) WILMINGTON (10) NC (11) 28405-4131
 City State Zip

(12) 910-256-6412 (13) 910-799-0058 (14) _____
 Phone Fax E-mail

Service Branch:

- (15) Army _____
- (16) Navy _____
- (17) Air Force
- (18) Marines _____
- (19) Coast Guard _____
- (20) Merchant Marine _____

Unit(s) Assigned to during the war:

- (23) Division 5th Air Force
- (24) Regiment 452ND BOMB GRP
- (25) Battalion _____
- (26) Company _____
- (27) Wing 452ND BOMB WING
- (28) Squadron 730th
- (29) Ship _____
- (30) Other _____

Dates of Total Military Service:

- (32) From 10 MAY '51
- (33) To MAY '52

Dates of Wartime Service
In Korea (if any):

- (34) From SEPT '51
- (35) To JAN '52

Rank:

- (36) Highest Held 1st LT
- (37) Highest in Korea 1st LT

Retired Military:

- (38) Yes _____ (39) No
- (40) Rank _____

Personal Decorations/
Awards for Valor:

- (21) AIR METALS
COMBAT STARS

Major Korean War Campaigns
participated in:

- (31) B-26 Nite Intruders
55 Nite Missions
Low Level Attack

MOS during the war:

- (22) 1034

Personal noteworthy experience(s) during the war: (41) Flying in a B-26 in all weather conditions and this aircraft not equipped for proper de-icing. Ground control approach every mission. Landing at K-9 Pusan air base over all types munition ships in harbor, etc.

KOREA - OTHER AWARDS

AIR MEDAL

AMER CAMP MEDAL

WWII VIC MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

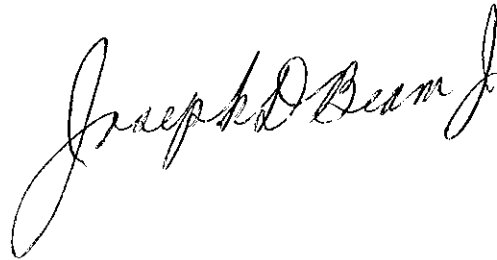
In the writer's opinion, the United States Military Machine was in poor condition when the U.S. entered into the defense of South Korea.

I was called into active duty from the inactive reserves. I had attempted to be active in the reserves but there were no units available for me to be active in. I never received any Reserve Officer pay.

After a very brief training exposure I went to Korea as part of a four man crew on B-26 aircraft. The B-26 was the A-26 of WWII and was a fine aircraft. However, it had very modest de-icing capabilities and this was a handicap in winter flying conditions in Korea.

I joined the 452nd Bomb Group as a replacement. This was an active reserve unit that was badly undermanned and was low in morale because of lack of replacement personnel and had significant losses - some of which were self inflicted.

Fortunately, at the time I arrived in the 730 Bomb Squad, 452nd Bomb Group we got a new Group Commander who was very capable and very tough. He flew all combat crews daytime on training and nighttime combat. He converted us into a very effective, well-trained organization and lowered our losses considerably.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph D. Bean". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

18 December 2000

Mr. Joseph D. Beam, Jr.
1739 Signature Place
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405

Dear Mr. Beam:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your World War II memoir of your service with the 15th Air Force; a recommendation form signed by Captain Othmar A. J. Kemper, Air Corps; a photograph of you receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross in April 1945, in Foggia, Italy; a brief memoir of your service in Korea, and an information form regarding your service in Korea, all of which will be entered into the files of our World War II-Korean War Memories Project. These items are a valuable addition to our project, and we appreciate your willingness to send them to us.

Thank you very much for sharing these war-time memories with us and allowing us to make them available to future generations through the Marshall Foundation Library/Archives and Research Center.

Sincerely,

Joellen K. Bland (Mrs.)
Director, Memories Project
540-463-7103, Ext. 235
blandjk@vmi.edu

cc: Albert J. Beveridge, III, President

31 October 2000

Mr. Joseph D. Beam, Jr.
1739 Signature Place
Wilmington, North Carolina 28405

Dear Mr. Beam:

I would like to make you aware of the George C. Marshall Foundation's World War II-Korean War Memories Project. As Tom Brokaw recently reminded us in his best-seller about your generation, their stories of sacrifice and courage have made a lasting impression on the American public. When he began to collect those stories, he concluded that this was the "greatest generation."

The George C. Marshall Foundation, established by President Truman in 1953, and located on the post of the Virginia Military Institute, honors an individual who helped lead the "greatest generation." Over the years, we have kept alive the memories of those men and women through our Museum and Research Center. We believe that everyone who was in the service, whether Army, Navy, Marines, Air Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, or in a defense-related position, either in World War II or Korea, in battle or supporting combat operations, or as part of the arsenal of democracy on the homefront, has a story to tell.

The Marshall Foundation has embarked on a World War II-Korean War Memories Project to collect, preserve, and make available those personal stories for future generations. I hope you will share this letter and the enclosed brochure with your associates and encourage them to share their personal perspectives of one of the most momentous periods in American history through letters, diaries, photographs, memoirs, histories, or other recollections, that they may be preserved and cherished as reminders of all that we owe them and can learn from them. We are also interested in artifacts such as medals, maps, etc. Regrettably, we do not have space for uniforms or large items.

Memories sent to us will be indexed and kept in the Marshall Research Library, Museum & Archives, and may be featured on-line for the benefit of our visitors, scholars, and researchers. The voices of the World War II-Korean War generation are those that have given so much, yet experience tells us that they have much more to share.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding World War II or Korean War memories. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joellen K. Bland (Mrs.)
Director, Memories Project
540-463-7103, Ext. 235
blandjk@mail@vmi.edu