

Some Things Considered

Life With Platoon Leader in Korea-Lt. Cabaniss Reporting

By CLAYTON SELPH Battalion Co-Editor

AN AGGIE probably was the first United Nations ground force officer to see North Korean soil during the Allied Northern push just previous to the Red Chinese Spring offensive.

Second Lieutenant Charles D. "Chuck" Cabaniss '50, lays claim to being the first officer of the Third Division to see North Korea on the UN drive toward Parallel 38.

Chuck was co-editor of Aggie and sports editor of The Battalion last year.

In a letter to this writer dated April 16 and written from a hill overlooking the small North Korean city of Yonchon, Cabaniss said:

"On Wednesday, March 28 at 11:20 a. m. my platoon (the farthest advanced unit of the First Battalion that day) reached the top of a ridge five miles South of the 38th. From there we could see the distant ridges North of the parallel since a river valley between us and the ridge provided a longer view than is usual in Korea.

"Since we had advanced unopposed and much faster than more Easterly units of the Third Division—I lay claim to commanding the platoon in the division which first saw North Korea on the current offensive.

"At any rate, the 29th British Brigade relieved the battalion on March 31 and we went into reserve for a 10-day period until April 10 when we again moved to a position North of the parallel to begin our current offensive (which is due to end about day after tomorrow since we have only a few more miles to go to our 'limited objective'.

"I'll tell you about this offensive in my next letter."

Cabaniss' letter was written on Monday, just 7 days before the big Communist drive began a week ago Sunday. I referred to Chuck as "Second Lieutenant Cabaniss" in an earlier paragraph, but it may be "First Lieutenant" by now. He reported also that his recommendation for promotion had been submitted and he was expecting it to become effective about May 1.

Called to Duty Last December

Readers who knew Cabaniss here last year may be interested to know that he was called to duty from inactive reserve status on December 16, 1950. It was just two months later that Chuck found himself assigned to a unit immediately behind the front fighting lines in Korea.

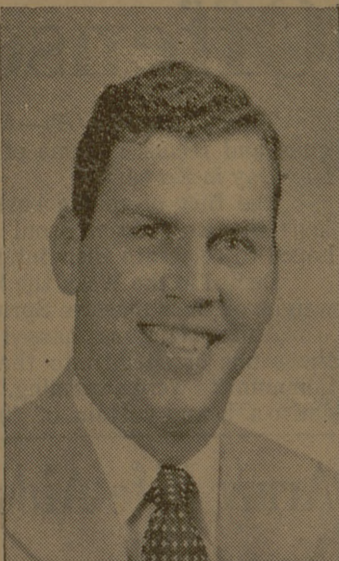
During that interval he had spent several days being processed, received a hasty '96 hours of refresher training' administered over a period of 20 days, and then waited until Jan. 24 when he was shipped out of California bound for Japan.

Arriving in Yokohama after a near two-week Pacific voyage, Chuck was moved by train, boat and truck to the Korean front.

There he was assigned commander of a rifle platoon in the 65th Regiment composed of Puerto Ricans.

"The 65th is a Puerto Rican regular army outfit and because many of the enlisted men speak little or no English, command discipline is a little more difficult than in an ordinary outfit. It means the platoon sergeant has to assume some of the duties of the non-Spanish speaking platoon leader.

"Actually the 65th is rated the best regiment in the Third Division and one of the best in Korea because (1) it has received more training than most units (the 65th has mostly 5-to-10 year army veterans while many units depend on 19-20 year old enlisted men) and (2) it is (all) American, while many others have to use ROK's (South Koreans) as replacements.



Chuck Cabaniss First to See North Korea

"The ROK replacements can't speak English and have only two or so week's training . . ." Patrolling villages and terrain in his regimental sector was Chuck's first assignment as platoon leader. "Such patrols check areas where troops are not located, searching for infiltrating enemy disguised as civilians . . ."

Gets River Crossing Training

Later his unit went into reserve and began river crossing training in preparation for the drive toward Parallel 38, mentioned earlier.

Of the river crossing training, Chuck reports: ". . . practically every day until March 15 we were working on some phase of such a crossing. We held lectures and 'tactical walks' to show the complete operation (assembly areas, attack positions, initial objectives, precautions to be observed during operations, etc.) and attended an engineer demonstration on the actual boat crossing in an M-2 (three engineers, 12 'passengers' and equipment, hand paddled) assault boats.

"We were practicing on a small tributary of the Han, where the 65th was scheduled to make the initial assault crossing in the Third Division sector.

"All of this time the regiment was in reserve in order to complete this special training, the other two regiments being the front line regiments for the Third (which were) in positions along the South side of the Han.

"The division East of the Third crossed the river on about the 12th, and on the 15th patrols reported the Chinese and North Koreans had withdrawn from the area to the Third's front and an unopposed crossing was made by the 65th's second battalion on the 16th. Then the First Battalion crossed on the 17th in 'Duks' and the Third (Chuck's battalion) came over the following day.

"The First (with our company farthest up) took up positions Northeast of Seoul (we could see Seoul from our hill-tops) and began patrolling. Other patrols had covered the area so we were strictly 'second-hand' arrivals.

Enemy Contacted on Hill

"However, a platoon patrolling some two and one half miles North on the 19th ran into 25 to 40 enemy entrenched on a hill and had to withdraw after reporting the positions to artillery liaison officers.

"The hill the company was holding all of this time had been fortified by approximately a battalion (or more) of enemy and if they had chosen to defend it—whoo. Although no one can be sure, the enemy forces appear to have withdrawn because of one or a combination of several reasons:

"(1) The threat of being outflanked and cut off by the advance of the division next to us, (2) supply (ammo) was hampered by extended lines and air strikes, (3) food was very scarce (the enemy live off the land they are occupying), and (4) the artillery had been pounding them continuously for some 30 days.

"On the 21st, two platoons of Charlie Company (Chuck's) went back to the hills where enemy had been seen, and my platoon occupied Hill 97 (numbers are the height of a hill above sea level some 1500 yards from Hill 114 (occupied by the enemy). The other platoon observed the enemy from Hill 104 (500 yards East of us) and after calling artillery in, withdrew. About this time battalion headquarters radioed for my platoon to dig in on Hill 97 as we were to hold that hill which was to be part of the line of departure for three other battalions attached to the 65th.

"Although we saw enemy in dug-in positions on Hill 114, fired 57-recoilless and 60-mortar rounds at them, and had artillery fired at them, they never returned the fire, probably to avoid an all-out barrage and infantry assault by us if they became too active.

"That night we expected them to attack infiltrate, toss hand grenades, etc. (but the only firing was artillery we placed on them during the night and a single grenade by one of them at a listening post (four men midway between the two hills to warn of an approaching enemy) and the three rounds the 'listeners' fired in return.

"It was cold and uncomfortable, but that was about all."

'All Hell Broke Loose'

"We have been moving along behind the three front line battalions since the jump-off on the 22nd. Day before yesterday the division was rushing ahead pell-mell when it hit the small city of Uijongbu—and all hell broke loose.

"Rear echelon troops were beginning to move into the city when Chinese artillery and mortar fire began to tear the place apart. The motorized rear-echelon boys turned around and passed us heading South. We were marching some five miles from the area ourselves.

"We were halted and took up positions where we were. Eventually, it took some 24 to 36 hours to take Hill 337 (high ground from which the Chinese were firing and observing for artillery).

"Now the advance has begun again. On the night of the 23rd two platoons from Charlie Company had to move to the small hills overlooking an artillery battery and clean up the place—(we) killed a couple of Chinese. They were by-passed and had fired on the battery, but most had withdrawn to the other side of the hill by the time we got there.

"Sure enough, the next morning 27 Chinese came down out of the hills (where Filipinos had been moving that night) and surrendered. They were probably the same ones we were hunting, but after seeing all the equipment the forces (UN) below had, they may have decided to throw in the towel.

No Real Action Yet

"Today (Easter Sunday) we are sitting around waiting to move forward again. Sooner or later the First will become a front line battalion . . . but until then I probably won't see any real action.

"Yesterday while we were sitting around by the road,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Students For Warm Welcome

To the Student Body:

The Citadel Varsity Rifle Team wishes to express their feelings of gratitude for the enjoyable week-end spent at your college.

Never before have we been impressed by as warm a welcome as was given us by you. Through your efforts to make us feel at home, we felt as if we were part of your own Corps of Cadets.

We sincerely hope that the rifle team of the Texas Aggies will have

the opportunity to fire another match with us here at The Citadel in the future and that we can have the privilege of showing them the same hospitality and welcome feeling given us.

Bert Bookout Rifle Team Captain The Citadel

Bible Verse

IN THE beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

—John 1:1

MacArthur, Ridgeway, and Milburn (I Corps Commander) drove by in a jeep. So evidently the battle for Hill 337 was Korea's hottest action for the day.

"Right now the front line is some 10 miles from the 38th—I only wonder what will happen, if anything, when we get there."

Chuck knows the answer to that one now, and so do we. Unless his unit made some amazingly fast moves since his April 16 letter, Chuck probably is in the thick of fighting during this present Chinese offensive.

Outstanding Record At A&M

Chuck wrote for himself a top-notch record while at A&M. Ironically, had his performance here been a little less outstanding, he might be attending classes now instead of leading a platoon in Korea.

It looks now as if Fate, knowing the Korean crisis was coming, shoved Chuck through college quickly between wars. Cabaniss came here in 1947 and by taking some 20 to 24 hours each semester he completed his history degree in three years. He jumped out of service, into college, out of college and into war.

It was to prepare for law school that Chuck came to A&M after serving in the Army following WWII. He went straight out of high school into the Army and earned his commission in OCS. Cabaniss and senior civil engineering major Joe Fuller went through officer's school together. Fuller graduates this June.

During his first "tenure" with the Army, Chuck distinguished himself as a trial judge advocate and his superiors asked him to stay in service. The tall blond officer had his eye on college, however, and "mustered out" only three months short of a promotion to first lieutenant.

While at A&M Chuck was particularly active in student government, serving as student senator, student life committeeman and president of the Arts and Sciences Council.

He was named Who's Who in both his junior and senior years and amassed a collection of campus activity keys that would be difficult to match.

In recent letters I have asked Cabaniss for opinions from some of the front line troops on MacArthur's dismissal. His reports on those opinions and on the present heavy fighting will be published here as soon as received.

Do You Have Two Strikes on Your Clothes, Now ??? It Need Not Be So . . . .



Don't let your clothes get two strikes on them before you do something about it. . . . We can give your best the very best in cleaning care, and keep them from being "called out" . . . Think about it awhile and you will see the value of protecting those clothes with expert cleaning from our modern shop. . . . Aggie Cleaners, North Gate, College Station. Do it today!

AGGIE CLEANERS

N. Gate College Station

Be Happy-Go Lucky!

The upperclassmen kid me so; I think that they are mean; For of my twenty Lucky Strikes, They get at least fifteen!

Paul E. Moore Indiana University

LUCKIES TASTE BETTER THAN ANY OTHER CIGARETTE!

Fine tobacco—and only fine tobacco—can give you a better-tasting cigarette. And L.S./M.F.T.—Lucky Strike means fine tobacco. So, for the best-tasting cigarette you ever smoked, Be Happy—Go Lucky! How about startin' with a carton—today?

L.S./M.F.T. - Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco



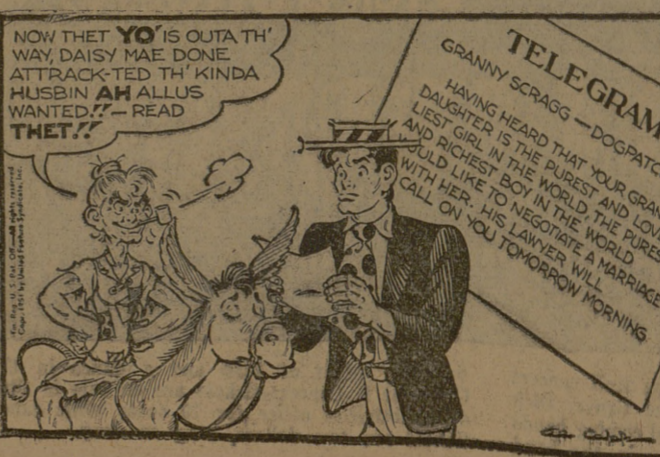
We pros are absent minded; To that we must agree. But one thing that we don't forget is L.S./M.F.T.!

Richard A. Yocom University of New Mexico

Some students drive their cars to school, Some walk, some ride a bike, And yet it's true that on the way They all smoke Lucky Strike.

Paul H. Asklind Clark University

L'I'L ABNER To Each His Own



By Al Capp



The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

CLAYTON L. SELPH, DAVE COSLETT, Co-Editors John Whitmore, Dean Reed, Managing Editors Andy Anderson, Bob Hughson, Campus Editors Fred Walker, Sports Editor Joel Austin, City Editor Vivian Castleberry, Women's Editor

Today's Issue

Joel Austin, Managing Editor Bob Hughson, Campus News Editor Dean Reed, Sports News Editor Allen Pengelly, City News Editor

T. M. Fontaine, Carter Phillips, Editorials Allen Pengelly, Assistant City Editor Leon McClellan, Jack Fontaine, Ed Holder, Bryan Spencer, Bob Venable, Dale Watson, Bee Landrum, Frank Davis, Phil Snyder, Art Giese, Crispy Orth, James Fuller, Leo Wallace, W. H. Dickens, Fig Newton, Joe Price, Pete Hermann, Wesley Mason, R. F. Roland, Ivan Yantis, Sid Ragsdale, Bill Aaherg, Ide Trotter, John Hildebrand, Chuck Neighbors, Bob Selleck, Bill Strick, Curtis Edwards, Howard Heard, Staff Writers Jimmy Ashlock, Joe Blanchette, Ray Holbrook, Joe Hollis, Sports Staff Writers Pat LeBlanc, Sports Staff Writers Sam Molinary, Bob Alderice, Staff Photographers Sid Abernathy, Page Make-up Dick Kelly, Club Publicity Co-ordinator Joe Gray, Photo Engraving Shop Manager Tom Fontaine, Johnny Lancaster, Charles McCullough, R. R. Peoples, Photo Engravers E. D. Witter, Photo Engravers Aubrey Frederick, Advertising Manager Russell Hagens, Bob Haynie, Advertising Representatives