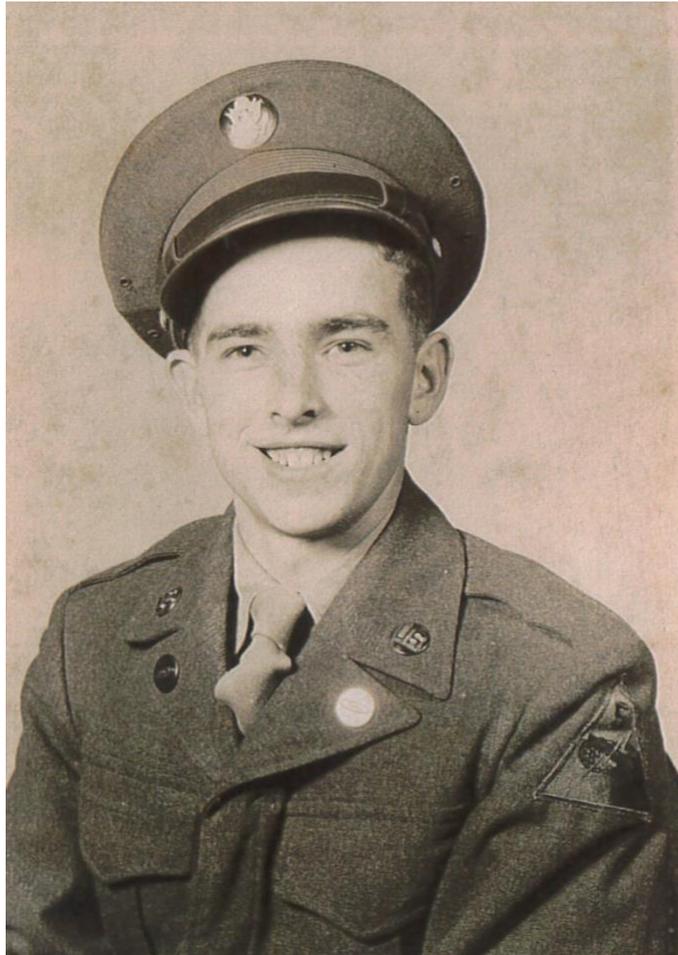


DONALD JOSEPH ORF



USMC 1948-1951

Donald Joseph Orf U.S. Army 1948-1951



Donald Joseph Orf was born 13-SEP 1931. His father was August Louis Orf (1893-1984). His mother was Cecelia Anastasia Echele Orf (1893-1985). He had two sisters; Margaret and Katherine and four brothers; Clarence, Melvin, August and Raymond. Donald was the youngest sibling. All five sons would serve in the military. In 1940 the family lived in Portage des Sioux, MO. Prior to entering the service, Donald was a service station attendant at Bennet Auto in St. Charles MO. Family members called him "Donnie."

Donald enlisted on 15-NOV 1948, when he was 17 years old. At the time of his enlistment, he lived in Portege de Sioux. Donald served in the 17th Regiment, 7th Division. He attended basic training at Camp Chaffee Arkansas. Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, the 7th division was stationed in Japan, and later Korea. He was deployed to Sendai Japan. Donald often reflected on his experience of being a young midwestern man on a *"military ship passing under the Golden Gate Bridge on its way across the Pacific Ocean to a country he really knew very little about."*



Prior to Orf's scheduled discharge, the Korean War began, and Donald was extended for an additional year of service. Donald's service occupation was light weapons, infantry. With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, his division was one of the first units in action. Donald was at the Chosin Reservoir Campaign with 7th Infantry Division, 17th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion E Company. The division took part in the Inchon Landings 15-SEP 1950.

The landing at Inchon was a surprise amphibious landing at the strategic port of Inchon, on the west coast of Korea, about 100 miles south of the 38th parallel and 25 miles from Seoul. The location had been criticized as too risky, but United Nations Supreme Commander Douglas MacArthur insisted on carrying out the bold landing. Afterward, the American-led U.N. force was able to break North Korean supply lines and push inland to recapture Seoul, the South Korean capital that had fallen to the Communists in June.

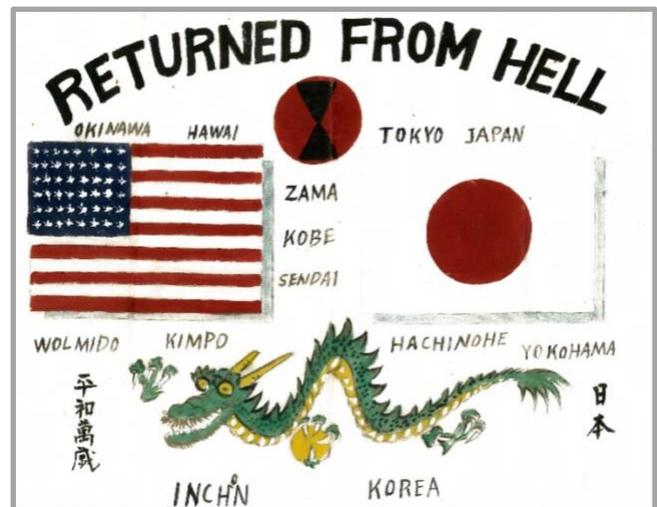


Orf's commander of the 17th Infantry Regimental Combat Team was Colonel Herbert Powell. The 17th distinguished themselves by being the only U.S. unit to reach the Yalu River on China's border during the Korean War. The Yalu forms the border between North Korea and China. The division advanced north until Chinese forces counterattacked and almost overwhelmed the scattered division. The 17th Regiment and 7th Division surely encountered bitter fighting as they fought overwhelming enemy forces, regrouped and retreated.

Donald was promoted to Corporal 20-OCT 1950 and was later wounded 9-MAR 1951 when he suffered a head concussion from an enemy hand grenade. At that time, he was 8 miles south of the 38th parallel. It appears Donald returned to action on 16-MAY 1951. Donald wrote many letters home to his parents and sisters while he served. Donald came home on a thirty-day furlough on 19-MAY 1951. He was with the first group of combat veterans from the Korean War to return home.

Donald Orf separated from service at Camp Carson Colorado 15-NOV 1951. He returned home and lived in St. Charles MO. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean War Service Medal with three Campaign Stars medals. The Campaign Stars were most likely:

- UN Defensive
- UN Offensive
- Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) Intervention



His family would say of Donnie:

“He would rarely speak of his battle experience during the Korean War, but often spoke of the bitter cold during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.” He married Margaret Davis. They had two children: Julie and JoAnn. After returning from service, Donald worked for International Shoe Company, and later lived in O’Fallon MO.

Donald Joseph Orf died on 8-FEB 2014. He is buried at St. Charles Borromeo Cemetery. He was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus #823, VFW, and a 50- year member of American Legion Post #312.