

# Image Caption Form





## Donald Meier












Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Veterans Remember—Korean War Oral History project*



Interview on December 1, 2009








Interview # VRK-A-L-2009-037








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|   | Staff Sergeant Don Meier, while he served in the Illinois National Guard, circa 1951. (This image is considered to be in the public domain.)   |
|  | Major General Joseph Martin congratulates SSG Don Meier in 1952 after Meier was named the honor graduate of the Chief Medical Aidman Course in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. (This image is considered to be in the public domain.) |
|  | MAJ Dye, Commander of the local forces in the Far East Command Liaison Detachment, SSG Meier's unit, dedicates the hospital on Paengnyang Island South Korea in late 1952. (Narrator's Photo)                                  |
|  | SSG Meier's orders assigning him from the 44th Infantry Division to Camp Stoneman on October 9th, 1952. The assignment was en route to South Korea. (This image is considered to be in the public domain)                      |
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|    | <p>A car sticker purchased by SSG Meier while assigned to Camp Cooke, California, where the entire 44th Infantry Division (Illinois National Guard) trained prior to being reassigned to various units serving in South Korea and other parts of the world. (This image is considered to be in the public domain.)</p>  |
|    | <p>Sixty years later, SSG Meier and the daughter of a Korean Chaplain who served with the first Partisan Infantry division. Mrs. Park was sponsored by Don to come to the U.S. to complete her college studies (1971). She is now a U.S. citizen. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|   | <p>Mr. Meier, now 80 years old, poses in front of a picture of his children and grandchildren. His parents are featured on the left. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>"These orders entitled me to a free trip to the Orient abroad the U.S.S. Gen. Meigs," wrote Meier for his scrapbook. (This image is considered to be in the public domain.)</p>  |
|  | <p>Rev. Hong was chaplain for the partisan forces in 1952. After the war, he came to the U.S. several times for advanced studies. He visited Don and his family in Geneseo, Illinois. Rev. Hong later moved to the U.S. and became a U.S. citizen. He traveled many times to North Korea lecturing at the Christian Seminary in Pyongyang. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>Staff Sergeant Meier relaxing on top the roof of a motor junk while traveling to another island in the Yellow Sea. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |








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|    | <p>Two Korean women (one with an infant on her back) picking oysters from the rocks at low tide. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>SSG Meier tries carrying a Korean A-Frame. The box contains medical supplies. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>SSG Meier chats with a boat captain as a motorized junk carries him to another island. Note the towed boat for going ashore. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|   | <p>SSG Meier poses with two donkey leaders (compare to company commanders). The Korean partisans were organized in groups called "Tahg-nah-ghee" or donkey in English. These donkey troops would conduct raids into the mainland destroying North Korean positions or equipment. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>SSG Meier and SSG Matasik pose with an elderly resident of the village. (Note: a long smoking pipe in his right hand; children are probably begging me for chocolates saying "chocolate give-a-me") (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>Left to Right: Mr. Cho, SSG Meier, Dr. Lee (the unit's medical doctor) and Dr. Lee's son Mr. Lee (dentist) pose in front of the main building (Quonset). The tent was used as a ward for patients. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>With Cpl Goldbloom, Meier's American assistant at the hospital, now living in Washington, D.C. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
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|    | <p>The kitchen crew; the man in the back is wearing an army shirt was in charge of the group. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>Eating canned rations on a sun lit rocky slope. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>Korean barber works his hand operated shears with an unidentified soldier. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|   | <p>Donkey leader with his wife and child. They were North Koreans who had fled from North Korean Communists. (Narrator's Photo)</p>                            |
|  | <p>Seven school boys at recess time; the boy on the left is wearing clothes made from Army blankets. (Narrator's Photo)</p>                                    |
|  | <p>In the village market, South Korean Marines pose as Meier holds up a string of small fish that are for sale at this open air market. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>A man, posing with his wife, worked as a carpenter (handyman) at the hospital. His pay was a scoop of rice. (Narrator's Photo)</p>                          |








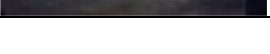
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|    | <p>Gae Soo, Meier's truck driver, with his bride. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>Two young orphans do this dance for Meier's benefit. (Note their rubber shoes) (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>A small lake on the Island of Taech-on-do. In peace time, this island was a resort frequented by the wealthy. Meier's interpreter warned him to stay away from certain parts of this island, although he never found out why. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|   | <p>Always interested in Geology, Don had to take a picture of this proof that the earth's surface is sometimes upended. We were heading to another island. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>The community well was located in the center of this wide valley. The path winds across the rice paddies. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>Wheat was planted on the higher ground. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>The poorest of the poor, these refugees dried seaweed for food, at Amnin-do. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
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|    | <p>Woman carrying a child on her back while she balances a large package on her head. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>Cluster of houses or village on the high ground across the rice paddy field. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>High tides (up to 30 feet) make parking your boat an option. Six hours later, they will be floating again. (Narrator's Photo)</p>                               |
|   | <p>A woman grinds grain between the two rocks. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>The ancient flail was still used to thrash the wheat out of the stalks. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>Two women washing rice before cooking it. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>Laundry was washed in the stream, and clothes were placed on the rocks and pounded with a stick (or club) to get the water and dirt out. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |

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|    | <p>These farmers had a threshing machine and a small gas engine for power. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>Don poses with a group of children at a Christian orphanage. Mr. Pak, on the right, was the hospital's office manager. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>A school on Paengnang-Do. The headmaster is standing in center rear. The man on the right is a donkey leader. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|   | <p>School boys, without playground equipment, make up a recess activity. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>This man was weeding the young rice plants. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>Rice is started in seed beds and later the young seedlings are pulled up and tied in bundles. The bundles are then carried to the paddy where they are separated and individual plants are pushed into the mud about six inches apart. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>The soil in a rice paddy is stirred with a plow pulled by oxen. The houses were in groups of three to five - a tiny village. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |

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|    | <p>Meier's interpreter, Quan, watches as a worker weaves a length of fence or wall in the house behind. Notice the additional rope is wound around the stones for ease in handling. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>Partisan troops line up for the "shots". All partisan troops had escaped from the Communists of North Korea and were serving with the partisan (donkey) forces, assisted by the United States. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>SSG Meier, Mr. Lee and Meier's interpreter Mr. Quan are ready to give shots to the troops (North Korean) partisans. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|   | <p>The beautiful island of Taechan-Do. Since the partisan's activities were supposed to be covert, Meier was surprised to meet an American civilian one day on this island. They exchanged only enough words for him to determine that he was from the U.S. Meier is pictured with one other U.S. soldier. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>Quan liked to demonstrate his physical ability on the parallel bars. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>The harbor and a village on Paengyang-Do. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|  | <p>LST ships brought supplies to Paengnang-Do. They beached and unloaded at low tide. Curious children and town folk always showed up begging for candy or cigarettes. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |



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|    | <p>SSG Meier in front of the hospital ward tent with a little boy who had his hands damaged by an explosive device he may have picked up. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|    | <p>Seven of our patients are resting on the hillside behind the hospital. Sam, a helper, and Corporal Goldbloom are in back. At one point in time, they had thirty patients. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|    | <p>The hospital's medical staff (from Left to Right): Quan (the interpreter), Mr. Pak, Mr. Lee (assistant Dr.), Dr. Lee, Mr. Pak, Miss Kim, Mr. Kim (medical record keeper), Miss Pak and Miss Song (head nurse). Since all of the patients were Korean, Meier did no medical work. (Narrator's Photo)</p>   |
|   | <p>From Left to Right: Mr. Pak, laborer, SGT Meier, 'Shorty,' laborer, Mr. Pak, laborer, and chief cook kitchen helper one and two. Don often ate Korean fare with patients and staff. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>Plowing a rice paddy with a team of oxen. A rescue helicopter is in the center background. Their pilots lived and ate with them. Background right is the compound, home for about twenty officers and men of the Far East Command Liaison Detachment FECLD. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
|  | <p>A good view of the entire hospital complex, with (from left to right) the patient ward, with the next Quonset serving as the office, examining operating room and equipment room. (They had a small autoclave for sterilizing surgical tools.) The next building was storage and then a building for the doctors' quarters. Next was the kitchen/dining tent, and the last building was for general use. (Narrator's Photo)</p> |
|  | <p>The staff's basketball area. The small building on the right is our well. Straight up and over the hill would be close to the hospital. (Narrator's Photo)</p>  |
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The hospital's bomb shelter was located close to their sleeping quarters (quonset building). A North Korean plane came over and dropped small bombs a couple times. There was no damage to the compound. (Narrator's Photo)