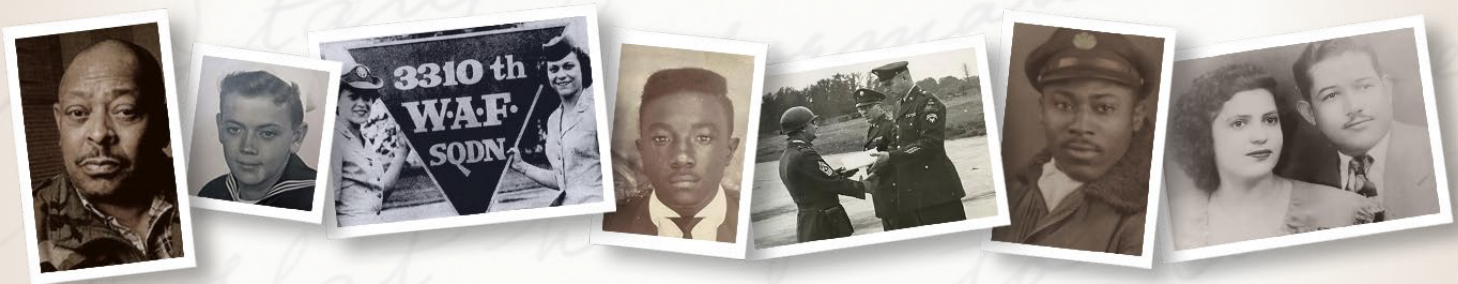


National History Day®

Silent Heroes®:

Untold Stories from the Korean War



RESEARCHING THE KOREAN WAR VETERAN EXPERIENCE



NHD
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HISTORY DAY

About the Program

Since 2011, National History Day® (NHD) has led a variety of programs to engage teachers and students in the study of Silent Heroes®. Silent Heroes are the untold stories of history. While the majority of historical scholarship focuses on the leaders, NHD recognizes the value of studying the history of ordinary people.

In *Untold Stories from the Korean War*, NHD students and teachers study the stories of Korean War Veterans—their lives before the war, their communities, their military service in the Korean War era, and their experience as Veterans in their communities. This process helps students understand the role of the military and the conflict through the eyes of a Veteran. This is a powerful opportunity to personalize history and help students see the past through the eyes of those who lived it.

The program engages students and teachers in historical inquiry, using secondary sources to establish historical context and content. Students and teachers seek primary sources to help document their Silent Hero's life experiences. This can include manuscript census pages, birth certificates, school records, military files, newspapers, photographs, oral histories, materials from local libraries, historical societies, or families, and obituaries. When possible, students and teachers connect with family members, and with their consent, interview them to learn details about their loved ones that are often only recorded in the memories of those who knew them.

Throughout the process students and teachers learn how to identify sources, determine the validity of sources, supply evidence to support their claims, and properly track and cite their sources. Their research is synthesized and the students and teachers visit the cemeteries where their Silent Heroes are interred to offer eulogies to honor their lives. Sometimes family members will accompany the students. Their work is synthesized and cross-listed on NHD's Silent Heroes website (NHSilentHeroes.org) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Legacy Memorial (vlm.cem.va.gov).

This program is a powerful tool to help connect students with their home communities. As citizens of that community, they learn the importance of recognizing and honoring those from that community who served and sacrificed for the good of others.

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Need help? Have questions?

Please reach out to your research mentor! We're happy to help you through this process.

Introduction

What did your Silent Hero's life look like when they returned from war? A complete picture of your Silent Hero also includes how they reintegrated. Incorporating this aspect into your Silent Hero's story provides better context to the post-war years and creates a richer story.

Some Veterans might have re-enlisted for another posting after the war; others, due to injuries, could not continue their service. Many were ready for discharge. Every story is unique. To understand their first step after the Korean War, you must start with their military records, which will have information about which of these paths they took.

From there, you should be able to piece together a story of their post-war life. Did they settle down and start a family? What career did they have? Were they active in their communities? What type of impact did they have before they passed away? You should be able to find most of this information using the resources you have already found on Ancestry. Your local newspaper office will also be helpful, as well as any family records or interviews you can get.

Teacher Tip: We realize that not every group has military files at this time. If you have them, give them a read. If not, skip to the next section. We can always add in research later. If we received files, we've added them into the Military Experience subfolder. If we receive them after the module launches, we'll email the teacher to let you know they are there.

Military Records

There are two paths that your Silent Hero could have taken after the Korean War. Each is shown differently in their records.

Re-Enlistment

If you are fortunate enough to receive an Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), you might be able to determine the exact dates your Silent Hero served and where they were stationed.

The following example shows that the Veteran's service extended well beyond the Korean War. To capture the entire story, we will need to include his military experiences following that conflict as well.

Discharges

When Veterans are discharged from the U.S. military, they are issued a DD-214 document. The official title of the document is the "Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States." Essentially, it is a record of their service in the military.

Within the DD-214, you can see why your Silent Hero separated from the military. There are several reasons for separation, and can range from completed time served, discharge for medical reasons, or discharge under less-than-honorable or dishonorable circumstances. Finding out when they separated and why can give clues to their life after the war.

CHARACTER OF SEPARATION HONORABLE		REPORT OF SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES		DEPARTMENT ARMY	
1. LAST NAME — FIRST NAME — MIDDLE NAME MAULTSBY COLIN ALEXANDER		2. SERVICE NUMBER US 53 080 104		3. GRADE — RATE — RANK AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT CPL (T) 17Jan53	
4. COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS AUS ARTY		5. QUALIFICATIONS SPECIALTY NUMBER OR SYMBOL 1603		6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPARATION DAY MONTH YEAR 5 Jun 53	
7. TYPE OF SEPARATION Trans to USAR		8. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION PETS (ACTIVE) SR 615-363-5 & Par A Sec VI DA CIR 6 dtd 6Jan53		9. PLACE OF SEPARATION Separation Center Ft Jackson S C	

On the top left-hand side, I see that my Silent Hero was Honorably Discharged. In Box 7, I see that he was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, and in Box 8, I see a 'Reason and Authority for Separation' listed with some codes. After doing some research, I was able to break down each piece:

- ▶ **PETS (ACTIVE)** stands for 'Prior to Expiration of Term of Service,' a voluntary early release from active duty.
- ▶ **SR 615-363-5** refers to the Army Service Regulation number that describes the guidelines for this type of separation.
- ▶ **Par A Sec VI DA CIR 6 dtd 6Jan53** refers to Paragraph A, Section VI of the Department of the Army (DA) Circulars used to issue temporary policy or procedural changes, like separation adjustments. The date is the date of that particular circular.

From this, I can see that he was successful enough in his position that the Army released him early and honorably from active duty but kept him under the Reserves to allow him to fulfill the rest of his commitment in a reserve capacity rather than active duty.

I also see that my Silent Hero separated in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Checking news articles for that area around the date of separation could help me find stories about him or his unit.

40. V. A. BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY APPLIED FOR (Specify type) COMPENSATION, PENSION, INSURANCE BENEFITS, ETC.		None		CLAIM NUMBER None	
41. DATES OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT FROM TO 50 51		42. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION Milkman 7-35.100		43. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST CIVILIAN EMPLOYER Melville Dairy Raleigh N C	
44. UNITED STATES CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		45. MARITAL STATUS Married		46. NON-SERVICE EDUCATION (Years successfully completed) GRAM. MAR. HIGH SCHOOL COL. LEGE. DEGREE(S) 8 4 0 None	
47. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER SEPARATION (St., R.F.D., City, County and State) 928 Harp Terrace Raleigh (Wake) N C		48. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Colin A. Maultsby</i>		MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD None	

At the bottom of his form, I see that before he entered the Army, he worked as a milkman at the Melville Dairy in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was married, so it is reasonable to assume that he may return back to that city and perhaps that job.

Post-War Resources

Ancestry or Ancestry Classroom

Using the clues the military files have given you, go back to Ancestry to start filling in the details of your Silent Hero's life. Marriage certificates and birth records can help you construct your Hero's family.

SEPARATION FROM THE S OF THE UNITED STATES		DEPARTMENT ARMY	
2. SERVICE NUMBER US 53 080 104		3. GRADE — RATE — RANK AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT CPL (T) 17Jan53	
		4. COMPONENT AND BRANCH O CLASS AUS ARTY	
6. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SEPARATION DAY 5 MONTH Jun YEAR 53		7. TYPE OF SEPARATION Trans to USAR	
5- 53		9. PLACE OF SEPARATION Separation Center Ft Jackson S C	

Newspapers

If your local newspaper was in print after the Korean War, it can be an excellent resource for discovering the significant life events of your Silent Hero. You can learn about an individual's involvement in civic affairs, community organizations, or charitable work, see announcements for life events including weddings, graduations, and births. Many local papers publish court records, property transactions, and other business dealings.

Obituaries

Obituaries can be a wealth of information about the post-military life of your Silent Hero. You will often find the names of family members, including spouses and children, the key milestones in their life, and their community involvement. These can all be jumping-off points for your research. Web-based obituaries also often have "Tribute Walls" now where people can post remembrances. These are also great places to check for hints about your Silent Hero.

What do we do if we uncover information that is not flattering to the Veteran or their family?

It is important to remember that Silent Heroes were still human beings. Many Veterans have stories that include facing disciplinary action in the military or readjustment issues back home. These events impacted the Veterans, their families, and their communities.

When we write about history, we want to write honestly, but with sensitivity.

Consider the example of Private First Class Vito John Junevicius. Take a minute to read his story at nhdsilenthheroes.org/profiles/vito-john-junevicius/.

During his time in the military, Private First Class Junevicius faced multiple disciplinary actions for poor decisions. In the military experience section, we were honest about his behavior and the consequences he faced as a result. We did not dwell on each detail, but it is part of his story.

However, when the teacher read his eulogy (there were no students in this program) youtu.be/gUesYLeoDnw, she made a choice to focus on his heroic actions, not his mistakes. Generally, when we honor people, we want to focus on the better days of their lives, not the worst.

If you encounter this in your research, please reach out to your research mentor if you have questions or need guidance.

Identifying Family Members

Try to contact your Silent Hero's family using the names of their siblings or other descendants. If the families are willing to share their stories, you can have the opportunity to access different types of sources such as diaries, letters, family genealogy, family stories, war souvenirs, military uniforms, medals, military citations, photographs, newspaper articles, obituaries, scrapbooks, wartime telegrams, albums, and unit histories. Teachers should make any attempts to contact family members for safety reasons. Here are some tips to make contact:

Identify potential names using census records or obituaries.

- ▶ Post about the person you are trying to find on social media and encourage your school, family, and friends to share the post.
- ▶ In addition to social media, a direct email or handwritten letter can be effective.

If you succeed in connecting with one of your Silent Hero's relatives, you will have to follow some principles that will help make this experience productive and respectful:

- ▶ **Ask permission to record or film the interview.** Pick an appropriate location for the interview (away from loud noises such as pets, TV, or air conditioning.)
- ▶ **Generate a list of questions** and consider practicing the interview process ahead of time. Consider starting with our generic list below and adding more specific questions about your Veteran.
- ▶ **Establish a comfort zone.** Help the person feel relaxed and as comfortable as possible. If you can, interview in surroundings familiar to him or her.
- ▶ **Do your research.** Thoughtful research before the interview will help your work immensely. Get to know the person you will interview and the events about which he or she will be speaking.
- ▶ **Practice good listening skills.** Careful listening is critical to this process. Let the interview be guided by the person you are questioning. The best way to know what question to ask next is to follow up on what the person just said. Follow-up questions are necessary to enrich the story.
- ▶ **Be patient and understanding.** Do not put the person on the spot about dates and places.
- ▶ **Be respectful.** If the person becomes emotional, have tissues on hand and allow the subject to compose him or herself. Pause the recording if needed. But remember to press record again when the person is ready. Never record someone secretly or without their consent.
- ▶ **Be a quiet listener.** A good interview happens when the interviewer says the least and the interview subject says the most. Ask open-ended questions. Hold back your natural inclination to add comments. Respond by nodding or making affirmative eye contact. Having someone share their story with you is one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have.
- ▶ **Establish trust** with your Silent Hero's family members. Share the information you collected during your research and keep them posted throughout the process.

Note: To include materials shared by a family member (i.e., photographs) on our website, we must secure permission. NHD placed a permission form in your Silent Hero research folder. If you identify family members, print the form and bring it to them to sign. Please scan a copy of the signed form and drop it into your Silent Hero folder – we'll need that in the end to use those materials.

Post-War Interview Questions

- ▶ Can you tell us about their family life after the war?
- ▶ Did they share any stories about returning home and adjusting to life after the war?
- ▶ Can you tell us about what they did for work when they returned home?
- ▶ How did the Veteran feel about returning to civilian life, and were there any particular challenges they faced?
- ▶ Did they marry after returning home? How did they meet?
- ▶ What made them settle down where they did? What brought them there?
- ▶ What would you say they most enjoyed about their life after the war?
- ▶ Did they stay in touch with any fellow service members after the war?
- ▶ How did they feel about their military service later in life? Did they ever participate in veterans' events or organizations?
- ▶ Did they ever face any health challenges related to their time in the military?
- ▶ What impact, if any, did their service have on their life goals or plans?
- ▶ Can you share how they contributed to the local community?
- ▶ Was there a specific cause or community organization they were passionate about supporting?
- ▶ What were their interests or hobbies?
- ▶ Was there a specific accomplishment they were particularly proud of in their post-war life?
- ▶ Do you think their military experience influenced how they raised children or interacted with younger generations?
- ▶ Do you have any letters, photographs, or keepsakes from their time in the service that could help tell their story?
- ▶ Are there any ways their legacy is preserved within your family or the community?
- ▶ What would you say is the biggest lesson or value that they left behind for your family?
- ▶ What do you think they would want people to remember most about them?

Email/Letter Template

Subject: Request for Information on [Silent Hero's Full Name]

Dear [Family Member's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a [Title] at [Name of School]. I am guiding students through a project called *Silent Heroes: Untold Stories from the Korean War* in collaboration with National History Day. This project is sponsored by the Veterans Legacy Program, which is part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Over this school year, we have been tasked with researching two Veterans who served in the U.S. military during the Korean War, came home, and continued to serve their community. After extensive research, we will visit our local national cemetery this spring to honor our Veterans and read eulogies we crafted at their graves. These will be filmed and posted to the National History Day Silent Heroes website and the Veterans Legacy Memorial, along with our written research.

We have chosen [Silent Hero's Full Name] as one of our Veterans because [insert reason]. In our preliminary research, we have found some information about [his/her] service, but we believe that learning more about their life after the war will help us tell a fuller story.

If you are open to speaking with us, we would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss [Title] [Veteran's last name]'s post-war life and any stories or experiences you feel comfortable sharing. We would also like to share our research findings with you as we continue this project.

We completely understand that certain memories may be private or difficult to discuss. Please know that any information you share will be treated with the utmost respect.

Thank you very much for considering our request. We are happy to answer any questions or provide additional details about our research that you might have.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your School]

[Your Contact Information]

Organizing Your Information

As you find information, add it to your Silent Hero folder (linked in Google Classroom). In the third subfolder, Veteran Experience, we have placed an organizer file.

Just like before, there are two parts to this graphic organizer.

In the first part, you organize the information that you learn. Add in the answers to the questions, the source of your information, and, where possible, links to the images or files. Add any files you find to your folders (photograph of the town's main street or newspaper articles). **If you cannot fill in a row, that is ok.** If you find the information later, come back and add it. If you find additional information that is not contained in one of the prompts, add rows at the end of your organizer to add that information. You also have a section where you can add questions that you have. That helps us because if we know what you are looking for, we might be able to help guide you to the answers.

Silent Hero Research Organizer - Veteran Experience

Prompt	Response	Source of information	Link to Image/File
<p>Part A: If you have received military files, start here.</p> <p>If not, skip down to Part B (we can always come back later if/when we receive files).</p>			
When did your Silent Hero leave the military? What was their last military duty station?			
Did your Silent Hero serve in the Reserves or in the National Guard after their time on active duty? Did they re-enlist in another branch of service later? If so, which branch? When? What was their job / rank in this branch of the service?			
Was your Silent Hero wounded in the conflict?	No.		
<p>Part B: Life After Military Service</p>			
What do you know about your Silent Hero's family life after the war? Did they get married? Divorced? Have children?			

In the second part of the graphic organizer, you input and track your sources. We have provided some of the most common sources you will find. For each source, mark if you have found it (yes or no), and then update the citation on the right. Follow the format of these citations. If you have something you do not know how to cite, please ask!

Document Review List:

Here is a list of common documents that might help you answer the questions above. No one will have every one of these sources, but they might lead you down pathways to learn more.

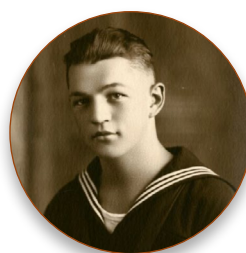
When you find a source, please save a copy and write down all the information you'll need to cite it in your bibliography.

Source	Yes/No	Sample citation for this type of source:
Sources from the National Archives in St. Louis		
Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)		John Smith, Official Military Personnel File, Department of the Air Force. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.
Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) - PARTIAL FILE		John Smith, Official Military Personnel File (partial), Department of the Air Force. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.
DD-214 (separation document)		John Smith, DD-214, Department of the Air Force. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.
Final Pay Voucher		John Smith, Final Pay Voucher, Department of the Air Force. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.
Discharge Special Order		John Smith, Discharge Special Order, Department of the Air Force. National Archives and Records Administration - St. Louis.

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National History Day® (NHD) is honored to help students and teachers across the nation to honor and tell the stories of American men and women who served their nation and lost their lives either in service to the United States of America or after living as Veterans. We seek to teach the historical research process through these biographical profiles. The stories contained on NHDSilentHeroes.org are gathered from NHD programs from 2012 to the present. To learn more about the program and discuss bringing it to your classroom, contact programs@nhd.org.



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