

# KOREAN WAR VETERAN THOMAS L NORMAND

By Richard Long

In the 14th US Armed Forces draft, Michigander Thomas L. Normand was selected for duty in the United States Marine Corps. On April 30th, 1952, Tom headed for basic training at Camp Pendleton, CA. The base had been acquired in 1942 as a tactical training area for large Marine units. Upon completion of training, Private Normand received orders to report to Korea for duty, traveling via ship.

Tom arrived in Korea to a signed Armistice officially ending the war. However, strife would continue for a while longer as military operatives adjusted to the new peace agreement. As a result, the Marines weren't allowed to off-load weaponry that had sailed with them. Also, they were attached to an Army unit. Consequently, Marine promotions were non-existent even though they did their fair share of patrol duty to ensure safety of US personnel and equipment.

A significant memory was serving as a military witness at the Bridge of No Return on the Military Demarcation Line between North and South Korea -- so named because POW's were given the opportunity to stay in the country of their imprisonment or return to their own country.

Once their individual decision was made, that decision was irrevocable. Tom spent 14 months in Korea doing patrols and cutting hair with a comb and scissors. He laughs when he remembers how awful the haircuts were. After all, he had no training and no electric trimmers!

***Lance Corporal Normand,***

***we honor you and thank you for your service.***