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# VOICES OF THE PAST

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SSG RICHARD TURNER'S LETTERS

KOREAN WAR

1951

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*The following letters from Staff Sergeant Richard Turner can be found in the Korean War Veteran Survey Collection at the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. The letters are presented here unedited and contain words and phrases that were in common use among Soldiers at the time of the Korean War. While these words may be offensive to some they accurately reflect the attitudes and standards of the time.*

Sunday 15-April 1951

Dear Mom,

Just a line to let you know that I'm still OK. Been rather busy the last couple of days and haven't had the opportunity to write. Our outfit has moved about ten miles north of the 38 parallel and were going back someplace behind today. They didn't say where and it doesn't make much difference anyhow. We'll be here a couple more hours and then load onto trucks. The weather here is hot now and very dry. Having a little trouble getting water up in the mountains but we're by a big river now so I had a chance to wash and shave for the first time in about 2 weeks.

There doesn't seem to be any enemy very near here. No one can figure it out. One day twenty three enlisted men and one officer from the Chinese Army surrendered to us. They all seem to suffer from shell shock and shrapnel wounds. We have the 23rd tank Co with us when were on the roads and they can really give a mountain a going over. We lost three of them the other day to mines until we brought our mine sweepers up and that stopped abruptly. Those tankers were really burned up about it too. The next day they really got on the ball and shellaced the devil out of them. Its pretty comforting to have the tanks with us and everyone breathes a little easier with them around.

About twenty guys are leaving soon on rotation and I don't think will be too very long before I get out of here. Sure would be great to get back home for awhile. I hope everyone is feeling alright at home. I feel great and my cold is even leaving me. I just hope I don't get spring fever. I'm lazy enough now without getting that. Well Mom I just wanted to write and assure you that I'm OK. Better sign off for now as this new stationary we have isn't any too large. You have to be a young magician to fold the thing about to read it too.

Lots of Love,  
Dick