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# VOICES OF THE PAST

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SSG RICHARD TURNER'S LETTERS

KOREAN WAR

*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.*

Dear Mom,

Thought I'd drop a line to let you know I'm all right and hope everyone at home is feeling fine. My outfit is in Corps reserve again for awhile. The 23rd was pulled out after the Chinese tried to cut us off but they failed. Sure hate to retreat but that's the way the rules of the game go.

Big News. I contacted Jim Phillips as we were on our way back and he and I had about an hour and a half together. We talked over old times and breezed and tell I had to leave. He took some pictures of me and said he would show them to you when he got home. It sure was good to see someone from the old home town. He hasn't changed to much except maybe for a few gray hairs. I knew him right away but he had to be given a few clues as to who I was, but that understandable because I'd just come down out of the mountains and hadn't shaved for quite awhile. I would have liked to stay with him longer but the Army said "Let's go" so I had to take off.

We have a pretty fair area here where we're at. A small stream nearby where we can wash up and I finally got a chance to wash some clothes. We operate motor patrols from here to pick up GI equipment that has been lost or thrown away. It seems as tho this war is costing a little more than it should in dollars and cents so we're trying to ease off the pressure a little bit.

I've been getting good mail here and am sure glad. I also got that box of candy and am enjoying it immensely. Those bars sure are big. I gave one to each squad and fed the whole platoon on four of them. If I eat anymore of it I'll burst but I'm just becoming a glutton I guess because I keep right at it every chance I get. We have physical training and drill in the morning. An officer tells us the latest war news and then we're usually all through for the rest of the day. We have a different company commander and things are a lot better than the last reserve we were in. We eat good here in the rear and get lots of sleep. It's really swell to just laze around for a change.

A couple of my old buddies from 8th Army drove fifty miles up here to see me the same day the box of candy got here so it was rather a perfect day for me. I was sure glad to see them and they also brought me some candy bars and books. I got a letter from Sgt Legacy and he said he sent the camera the next day after receiving your letter. Thanks a lot Mom. I knew Leg wouldn't let me down either. He's really a swell guy. One of the best I think I've ever met in the Army.

I'm eligible for rotation now so I just have to sweat out my name getting on the list. If you're lucky you go first, if not last. It all according to how things break for you. I sure hope I'm lucky for once. I got some swell pictures from Phyllis. Diane is really growing up to be quite a young lady. How is the house coming along these days? Fine I hope. I can't wait to see

what it looks like. You should have Bud take some flash bulb shot of the rooms so I won't be like a stranger when I finally get back. I'm getting closer and closer every day. I'll really be sweating pretty soon, the closer I get. Well Mom I'm almost out of paper here and my candle is almost burned out so I'll wind this up.

Lots of Love,  
Dick

Say hello to Dale and Frank

Tell Frank to take some more pics and that he should write