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"Out of every one hundred men, ten shouldn't even be there, eighty are just targets, nine are the real fighters, and we are lucky to have them, for they make the battle. Ah, but the one, one is a warrior, and he will bring the others back." – **Heraclitus**

"Modern war is the most highly developed of all sciences. We have perfected our weapons but failed to perfect the men who use them." **– Rev. Billy Graham**

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons." – **General Douglas MacArthur**

"If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly." **– Colonel David Hackworth**

The speaker for this month is historian Diane Carey, A *New York Times* bestselling author of 55 books. She will discuss her book Banners, centering around the flag that flew over Fort McHenry and the forgotten Americans involved in that struggle during the War of 1812.

MEETINGS *take place the second Monday of every month at the* ***Downtown Holiday Inn,*** *310 Pearl NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 235-7611. Socializing begins at 6:00 (1800 hrs), dinner at 7:00 (1900 hrs), business meeting 7:15 (1915 hrs), and program at 8:00 (2000 hrs).* Ample free parking available

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Military News

Recent name changes for active Army bases: **Fort Rucker**, AL is now Fort Novosel (CW4 MOH recipient); **Fort Benning**, GA is now Fort Moore (named after LTC Hal Moore and wife Julia); **Fort Gordon**, GA is now Fort Eisenhower; **Fort Polk**, LA to Fort Johnson (MOH recipient); **Fort Bragg**, NC to Fort Liberty; **Fort Hood**, TX to Fort Cavazos for Gen. Richard E. Cavazos; **Fort A.P. Hill**, VA to Fort Walker (Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, MOH recipient); **Fort Lee**, VA to Fort Gregg-Adams, after LTC Gregg and LTC Earley {*nee* Adams); and **Fort Pickett**, VA to Fort Barfoot, honoring Tech. Sgt. Van T Barfoot,MOH recipient.

Remembering Samuel B. Morse

Samuel Finley Breese Morse, born April 27, 1791, Charlestown, Massachusetts, U.S. and died April 2, 1872, New York, New York) Samuel Morse was an American painter and inventor who, independent of similar efforts in Europe, developed an electric telegraph (1832–35). In 1838 he developed the Morse Code.

In 1832, while returning by ship from studying art in Europe, Morse conceived the idea of an electric telegraph as the result of hearing a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet. Although the idea of an electric telegraph had been put forward before 1800, Morse believed that his was the first proposal. He probably made his first working model by 1835. Meanwhile, he was still devoting most of his time to painting, teaching art at the University of the City of New York, and to politics (he ran on anti-immigrant and anti-Roman Catholic tickets for mayor of New York in 1836 and 1841). But by 1837 he had turned his full attention to the new invention. A colleague at the university, chemist Leonard Gale, introduced Morse to Joseph Henry's work on electromagnetism, and a friend, Alfred Vail, offered to provide materials and labour to build models in his family's ironworks in Morristown, New Jersey. Gale and Vail became partners in Morse's telegraph rights. By 1838 he and Vail had developed the system of dots and dashes that became known throughout the world as the Morse Code.

In 1838, while unsuccessfully attempting to interest Congress in building a telegraph line, he acquired Maine Congressman F.O.J. Smith as an additional partner. After failing to organize the construction of a Morse line in Europe, Morse alone among his partners persevered in promoting the telegraph, and in 1843 he was finally able to obtain financial support from Congress for the first telegraph line in the United States, from Baltimore to Washington. In 1844 the line was completed, and on May 24 he sent the first message, "What hath God wrought."

Telegraph key and sounder. The key was used for transmitting the message, the sounder audibly operated, and enabled the operator to hear the incoming message.

In his earliest design for a code, Morse had planned to transmit only numerals, and to use a codebook to look up each word according to the number which had been sent. However, the code was soon expanded by Alfred Vail in 1840 to include letters and special characters, so it could be used more generally. Vail estimated the frequency of use of letters in the English language by counting the movable type he found in the type-cases of a local newspaper in Morristown, New Jersey. The shorter marks were called "dots" and the longer ones "dashes", and the letters most commonly used were assigned the

shortest sequences of dots and dashes. This code, first used in 1844, became known as Morse landline code, American Morse code, or Railroad Morse, until the end of railroad telegraphy in the U.S. in the 1970s.

Morse's original telegraph receiver used a mechanical clockwork to move a paper tape. When an electrical current was received, an electromagnet engaged an armature that pushed a stylus onto the moving paper tape, making an indentation on the tape. When the current was interrupted, a spring retracted the stylus and that portion of the moving tape remained unmarked. Morse code was developed so that operators could translate the indentations marked on the paper tape into text messages. In the original Morse telegraph system, the receiver's armature made a clicking noise as it moved in and out of position to mark the paper tape. The telegraph operators soon learned that they could translate the clicks directly into dots and dashes, and write these down by hand, thus making the paper tape unnecessary. When Morse code was adapted to radio communication, the dots and dashes were sent as short and long tone pulses. It was later found that people become more proficient at receiving Morse code when it is taught as a language that is heard, instead of one read from a page.

With the advent of tones produced by radiotelegraph receivers, the operators began to vocalize a dot as dit, and a dash as dah, to reflect the sounds of Morse code they heard. To conform to normal sending speed, dits which are not the last element of a code became voiced as di. For example, the letter l is voiced as di dah di dit. Morse code was sometimes facetiously known as "iddy-umpty", a dit lampooned as "iddy" and a dah as "umpty", leading to the word “umpteen".

Even during Morse’s own lifetime, the world was much changed by the telegraph. In the 1890s, Morse code began to be used extensively for early radio communication before it was possible to transmit voice. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most high-speed international communication used Morse code on telegraph lines, undersea cables, and radio circuits. This advance in communication was a revolutionary event that changed and made more rapid the exchange of information. Even ships at sea could use Morse’s code using a powerful light to send messages

After his death in 1872, his fame as the inventor of the telegraph was obscured by the invention of the telephone, radio, television, and the Internet, while his reputation as an artist has grown. At one time he did not wish to be remembered as a portrait painter, but his powerful and sensitive portraits, among them those of Lafayette, the American writer William Cullen Bryant, and other prominent men, have been exhibited throughout the United States. The number of Morse telegraphic operators has decreased sharply, but his memory is perpetuated by the Morse Telegraph Club (1942), an association dedicated to the history of telegraphy. His 1837 telegraph instrument is preserved by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., while his estate, Locust Grove, is now designated a national historic landmark.

Morse code was used as an international standard for maritime distress until 1999 when it was replaced by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. When the French Navy ceased using Morse code on January 31, 1997, the final message transmitted was "*Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence*. In the United States the final commercial Morse code transmission was on July 12, 1999, signing off with Samuel Morse's original 1844 message, *what hath god wrought.*

As of 2015, the United States Air Force still trains ten people a year in Morse. The United States Coast Guard has ceased all use of Morse code on the radio, and no longer monitors any radio frequencies for Morse code transmissions, including the international medium frequency (MF) distress frequency of 500 kHz. However, the Federal Communications Commission still grants commercial radiotelegraph operator licenses to applicants who pass its code and written tests. Licensees have reactivated the old California coastal Morse station KPH and regularly transmit from the site under either this call sign or as KSM. Similarly, a few U.S. museum ship stations are operated by Morse enthusiasts.

The Boxer Rebellion—The Beginning of America's step into the Quagmire for Commercial purposes

The Boxer rebellion in China in 1900 has many interesting parallels to events in the early 21st century. It saw an uprising in a non-western country against what was seen as the corrupting influence of western practices and ideologies. In some respects a foretaste of the current war against terrorism, in that a basically grass roots organization fought what they saw as a holy war against a technologically superior collection of foreign powers to preserve their values and beliefs. On one side of the rebellion were the so-called Boxers known as the *I Ho Ch'uan* or Righteous Harmonious Fists. This was originally a secret society that dated back before the 1700's and whose origins are cloaked in myths and legends. What is clear is that in 1747 a group of Jesuits were expelled from China due to the Boxer influence. A series of bad harvests, plagues, and harsh sanctions imposed by the Western powers and Japan (after the war of 1894-5) had caused much bad feeling. There was a growing fear that the Chinese would be reduced to servants of the western powers. Into this environment the Boxers started preaching anti-western beliefs. ***Ed. note*** *- the beginning of Chinese Nationalism*. The Boxers saw anything Western as evil and practiced traditional martial arts and used Chinese weapons such as curved halberds and spears. All foreigners were 1st class devils and the Chinese who had converted to Christianity were 2nd class devils, those who worked for the foreigners were 3rd class devils. The Boxers were very superstitious, believing in spells and magic that would make them immune to western bullets. Such incantations would be used to create a trance like state among their followers. The Boxers were not above using printing presses to publish huge numbers of leaflets spreading their propaganda and accusing the Catholic Church of abusing Chinese women and children.

By 1900 the Boxers had many powerful sympathizers in the Chinese court although little official recognition. Their most notable supporter was the Dowager Empress *Tzu His*. China was at this time very vulnerable, struggling to bring an almost feudal society into the 20th century without destroying the traditions upon which Chinese society was based. The Western powers had virtually taken over some areas seeking to exploit China in her weakened state. Military technology for the Chinese army was very slowly improving but it was still far too weak to mount any kind of opposition to the Western powers. For the Empress it was a difficult political situation. It was in her best interest to appease the Western powers for fear that they would just resort to force and take what they wanted to gain trade income and access to new technology. On the other hand she had to recognize the growing anti-western feeling among all levels of Chinese society. She was well aware that traditionally a ruler only held the mandate of heaven if they were seen to be able to rule. To allow Christianity and western beliefs to flourish would undermine her traditional authority that the power of the Chinese court was based on. The Boxers could be the solution as an outlet for rising tensions; if they failed many of the more radical anti western elements would be killed and their influence broken. If by some miracle they succeeded in driving the westerners out then the court could easily deny any Imperial involvement if and when a Western backlash came, even while gaining popularity among the people for their unofficial support of the Boxers.

The Western powers saw China as primitive and ripe for exploitation - in many respects the last area of the world where territorial gains could be made as the days of rapidly expanding empires were over. For the Americans, late to the scramble for an empire, China offered a chance to make up for missed opportunities and create a new market for its goods. At no point did the Western powers see China as an equal despite the fact that Chinese civilization pre-dated their own. When in January, 1900 the Empress released an Edict explaining that secret societies were part of Chinese culture and

not to be confused with criminal elements the Western powers were furious as this gave almost official support to the Boxer movement. The diplomatic protests fell on deaf ears and the Empress even warned one Chinese General about using military force against the Boxers. The Boxer movement started to spiral out of control and the massacre of Chinese Christians began, along with anti-Western riots and destruction of foreign property. At the end of May a riot in *Pao Ting Fu* lead to the death of two British missionaries, the western diplomats in *Peking* gave the Chinese 24 hours to put down the Boxers or they would use force themselves calling up troops from the foreign enclaves on the coast. Riots and acts of sabotage cut the railway and telegraph lines and the Western powers ordered their troops to move up to *Peking* before the Chinese had given their answer. After some delay by the Chinese the Western troops finally advanced in-country on May 31, 1900, with 340 US Marines entering the foreign legation quarter that night with another 90 troops arriving 4 days later. These would be the last reinforcements the Western compounds would receive in Peking until the siege by the Boxer forces was lifted on 14th August.

On June 9, the Boxers burned down the Racecourse, the first attack on western property in Peking, The British minister Sir Claude MacDonald immediately requested a British relief force be sent. Telegraph lines were soon cut and mail stopped - it was clear that the Western delegations would be the next target. Chinese Imperial troops were seen openly aiding the Boxers and on the 11th the Japanese Chancellor of the legation was murdered. Chinese Christians and westerners now sought refugee in the two remaining western areas of Peking, the Legation quarter and the *Pei T'ang* Cathedral. On the 16th the Boxers set a fire and destroyed over 4,000 shops which dealt with westerners. On the 19th the ministers received an ultimatum for all foreigners to evacuate the city in 24 hours or their safety could not be guaranteed. The ministers refused to move and requested an audience with the Chinese foreign office. When no reply was forth coming the German foreign minister set out for the Chinese Foreign office, was stopped and murdered by Chinese Imperial troops. At 4pm on June 20, Chinese forces opened fire on the Legation and the Siege of *Peking* had begun. Within the Legation quarters were troops from Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States, totaling about 400 men and officers, plus 75 ex military volunteers and 50 civilians who called themselves Thornhill's Roughs armed with a variety of hunting weapons and nicknamed the Carving Knife Brigade because of the kitchen knives they used as bayonets. At the Cathedral there were just over 40 French and Italian troops. The siege has been made famous by the historically dubious film 55 Days in Peking, which stared a host of British and American actors. What is certain is that the defenders fought bravely and were highly organized with committees dealing with everything from food to sanitation - no one was without a job. Sporadic fighting took place including the Chinese use of mines to destroy some legations. The 7th Rajputs and British General Gaselee finally lifted the siege on August 14. The Cathedral was also the site of fierce fighting but the skill of the defenders held out against almost 2000 Boxers including one volley of 58 rounds which killed 43 Boxers, although many children died in the Chinese mine attacks on the Cathedral including one group of 66 children in the care of the nuns.

The relief expedition under Admiral Seymour had expected to be in Peking within a day of leaving and only packed rations for 3 days despite having 100 miles of railway travel across hostile countryside. Boxer attacks and destruction of the tracks led to delay after delay and finally the force decided to halt at *Hsiku* when they discovered they had captured a Chinese army depot with food and supplies. They were met by a force of Cossacks on the June 26. Other allied operations were carried out against the forts at *Taku* with the Chinese laying siege to *Tientsin*. The Chinese officially declared war against the allies on June 21. 10,000 Imperial troops surrounded *Tientsin* where they faced 2,400 western troops but the defenders had the advantage of good defenses planned by a young American engineer, the future president Herbert Hoover. Various serious assaults on the Western positions were

beaten back and finally aid was summoned by Englishman James Watts and three Cossacks escaping the besiegers to get to *Taku* and the Western forces there. The Western forces then believed reports of a massacre in *Peking* so felt in no rush to liberate the city. It came as a surprise when a messenger made it through to the Allies in late July informing them that the Legations still held, meanwhile a huge International force under the command of General Albrecht Graf Von Waldersee was on its way but would arrive too late to see much if any action. The relief force from *Tientsin* left on the August 4 and numbered around 20,000 men (over half of which were Japanese) under the Command of General Gaselee. This cooperation didn't last long as the planned four-pronged assault on *Peking* fell apart as the Russians moved early and attacked the wrong gate without support. The Americans under General Chaffee not wanting the Russians to steal the show also broke camp early and the Japanese also competing with the Russians moved out early as well. American forces reached the 30ft wall with no ropes or ladders and were stuck until a young bugler called Calvin Titus climbed the walls to find that section undefended - he was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The final stages of the assault were a confused, unprofessional scramble with some street fighting and some traffic jams of rushing Allied troops.

The relief of *Peking* did not end the Boxer Rebellion as fighting continued throughout September and October while the Allies moped up pockets of Boxer resistance. The official peace protocol was signed September 7,1901 but by that time most Western armies had left China. The price for China was high with a huge bill to pay for the cost of the allied expeditions and memorials built in the honor of the killed diplomats. The foreign powers gained huge concessions to China's mineral wealth and trade. For China it showed her armies to be weak and outdated and sparked a more rapid industrialization of the country and modernizing of her armed forces. The rivalry between the Japanese and Russians was soon to spill over into war and in less than 14 years the Allies that had fought side by side would be killing each other on the battlefields of Western Europe. The Boxer rebellion offers an insight in some respects to recent Western operations in Iraq with the main difference being that the Chinese Government was not replaced by a Western backed one. What it does show is how fleeting gains can be if the political will to sustain the victory and win the peace is lacking.

Our country's attempt to expand our economic supremacy by using our military has seldom, if at all, benefitted our general population. The lost of lives, both foreign and domestic, cannot be compensated for the creation and continuation of jobs. Americans have been squandered in too many endeavors under the guise of "spreading democracy," when in actually our sacrifices have only enriched the few. In 1935 MOH recipient and USMC Major General Smedley Butler wrote in <u>War is a Racket</u>: "I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested. Looking back on it, I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents." American lives lost have gotten less due to the changes in our war-making technology. We count our dead, our allies and their civilians not so much. Our indiscriminate bombing, shelling, and defoliation have left many areas no longer habitable safely. Will this be our legacy?

Vietnam-Korea Repeated

The wars America fought in Vietnam and Korea are similar because we never knew our real enemy or didn't want to know. We were blind prisoners of our own assumptions and neglected to view our actions through the eyes of our declared enemies. The truths we slowly are realizing are as shocking as they are unpalatable to our self-esteem. The common thread that got America involved in both countries was Japan. Their presence in Korea predates Vietnam but our involvement was precipitated by the surrender of Imperial Japan in 1945. At the conclusion of WWII we divided two countries and that laid the ground work for the subsequent death of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and Koreans.

In 1905 Japan annexed Korea as a protectorate abolishing their Choson dynasty. As Bruce Cuming writes in **The Korean War** (Modern Library 2010) "Korea was an ancient nation where territorial boundaries, ethnicity, and language had been consistent for over a thousand years. It had a social structure that persisted for centuries; the last 500 years the vast majority of Koreans were peasants, most of them tenants working the land for one of the world's most tenacious aristocracies. Many were also slaves, a hereditary status from generation to generation." In 1910 the Japanese exchanged the aristocratic Korean-scholar officials, most were either co-opted or dismissed, with their own Japanese elite. They put in place a strong central government replacing many of the old village administrations. The Confucian classics were discarded for Japanese modern education, and they even replaced the Korean language with Japanese. Korea's sovereignty, independence and national dignity were snatched away.

Most Koreans saw the change as illegitimate and humiliating. The very closeness Korea had with China, in geography, in common Chinese civilizational influences and levels of development made Japanese dominance all the more galling to the Koreans. The result being that neither Korea nor Japan has ever gotten over it. In North Korea today countless films and TV dramas still focus on the atrocities committed by the Japanese during their rule. Propaganda banners exhort people to "live like the anti-Japanese guerrillas." To the North Koreans it is less the Japanese than the Korean quislings that matter: blood enemies. They saw the war in 1950 as a way to destroy the top command of the Korean Army, nearly all of whom had served the Japanese. This fact was barely known to the Americans, and when known was deemed to be of dubious import because by then Japan was our ally. As Americans we have never realized the animosity Japan had created in China. Hundreds of thousands of civilians, if not millions, died in the "kill-all, burn-all, loot-all" campaigns over a period of 8 years. When several of Doolittle's B-24s crashed in China the Japanese murdered thousands of Chinese who they deemed may have had the remotest connection to the downed American flyers.

For decades after WWII the descendants of Koreans deemed by the government to have collaborated with the Japanese were subject to severe discrimination. South Korea, however, punished very few collaborators, partly because the U.S. occupation (1945-48) re-employed so many of them, and partly because they were needed to fight against communism. A general term that was used as a foil to protect the current ruling government. The fight for Civil Rights in America at this time was deemed to be communist inspired; returning the government of local villages in Korea back to the people was communism. When the French returned to Vietnam in 1945 they used former Japanese soldiers to help control the Viet Minh, who the Japanese had been fighting since 1940. Any attempt to oust the old colonial regime was declared communistic.

In 1932 Japan established the puppet state of Manchukuo, three provinces in northeast China. This was the start of the Korean War. The Kwantung Army (the name of the Japanese forces in Manchuria) found itself facing a motley army of guerrillas, secret societies, and bandits, the majority of whom were Koreans. The Chinese Communist Party resided in southeast China, far from the center

of conflict. The Japanese occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945 is similar to the Nazi occupation of France in the way it dug in deeply and gnawed at the Korean national consciousness ever since. During Japan's occupation of Korea a certain degree of collaboration was unavoidable given the carrot-and-stick combination of economic development and the ruthlessness that characterized Japan's rule. Ambitious Koreans found new careers open to them at the most oppressive point in their country's history. Koreans came to constitute about half of the hated National Police, and young Korean officers joined the aggressive Japanese army in Manchuria. Pro-Japanese aristocrats were rewarded with special titles and many came out in support of Japan's empire. If collaboration was inevitable, its considerable scale was not. Nor was it ever fully and frankly debated in South Korea or punished, leaving the problem to fester until 2004. That's when the government launched an official Investigation of Collaboration—along with estimates that upward of 90% of the pre-1990 South Korean elite had ties to collaborationist families or individuals.

On August 15, 1945 MacArthur issued General Order Number One, a highly political demarcation that directed the Japanese soldiers to surrender to Chiang Kai-shek in China and North Vietnam (but not to Mao or Ho). This ended up being the first critical act in the Cold War division of East Asia. On August 8, Dean Rusk, at that time a low-level employee at the State Department suggested that the 38th parallel divide Korea for the purpose of accepting the surrender of Japanese troops. No other powers were consulted, least of all any Koreans. The Russians came south from Manchuria and stopped at the 38th without comment. They could have stopped at the Yalu River and eliminated many future problems. U.S. forces didn't arrive in Korea until September 8 and set up a full military government where interference in Korea's internal affairs was prohibited. The State Department instantly determined that Korea was a victim of Japanese aggression but the Army treated the South as enemy territory and declared it as such, especially the southeastern provinces. There they interfered in its politics to the degree that no other postwar regime was clearly so beholden to American midwifery.

The head of US military intelligence, Col. Cecil Nist, went looking for a conservative leader to lead post-war Korea. Of the hundreds he found most would have made great leaders had they not collaborated with Japanese imperialism, but he expected that taint to soon wash away. Why anyone with any knowledge of Korean history would entertain such a ludicrous notion was a reflection of the ignorance that was pervasive among the Americans. In 1945 the U.S. Army suggested Syngman Rhee, an exiled politician, the State Department objected. Rhee was a consummate politico who understood Americans and their reflexive, unthinking, and uninformed anticommunism. He made this his mantra till the Korean people threw him out in a popular 1960 rebellion. Like Vietnam where the CIA replaced another unpopular leader in Diem, they tried several times to rid Korea of Rhee prior to 1960, but he managed to convince the State Department that after him came chaos and beyond his leadership was the abyss. Although Rhee did not have the pro-Japanese taint he was essentially a demagogue bent on autocratic rule.

By 1948 the fledgling CIA stated that "South Korea's political life was dominated by a rivalry between the Rightist and the remnants of the Left Wing People's Committees (a grass-roots independence movement which found its expression in the re-establishment of People's Committees throughout Korea in August 1945. This was an independent movement with no ties to either China or Russia but they so threatened the Right who feared an equalitarian distribution of the Japanese assets that were confiscated and held by the collaborationists." Rhee, with the wealth of the extreme Rightists, controlled the political structure of the South through the agency of the Japanese-built National Police was ruthlessly brutal in suppressing dissension. The structure of the South Korean government was substantially the old Japanese machinery. When the United States proclaimed its intentions on September 6, 1945 to impose its plan against a "Korean People's Republic, independent

of any Northern version, hundreds of "peoples committees" were spawned in the Southern countryside. By early 1946 Korea was effectively divided and the two regimes and their leaders (Rhee and Kim Il Sung) led the respective Korean states which were in place by 1948.

The commander of the occupation, General Hodge, was worried by the political, social, and economic disorder that was everywhere around him. He declared war on the Communist party (the one in the southern zone. He mistook a melange of leftists, anti colonial resisters, populists, and advocates of land reform for "Communists"). In early 1946 Hodge warned Washington of an impending North Korean invasion, his source has yet to be determined. Against direct instructions from Washington Hodge began forming a native Korean army. A slew of military organizations were soon formed. First was the English Language School for officers (December, 1945), then the Korean Constabulary Training Center (May, 1946), which in turn fathered the Korean Military Academy (January, 1948), modeled on West Point. Their graduates were plotters of the ROK's first military coup in 1961 and the subsequent coup of 1989. Most were former officers in the Japanese Kwangtung Army and where instrumental in the future government..

The social and political forces that spawned the Korean Civil War (1950-53) started with Japan's colonial rule and the dislocation of millions who were moved around to service Japan's vast industrialization and war mobilization. Fully 20% of the population ended up abroad. Knowing this America stood proudly by as Rhee was chosen president on August 15, 1948 by a UN-observed election. The procedure was patterned after the limited franchise established by the Japanese where voting was restricted to landowners and taxpayers in the larger towns, in the villages elders voted for everyone else.

In December 1945 the Military Government had issued Ordinance #33, prohibiting self-governing committees at all factories. Quasi-unions running production facilities smacked of Communism. There was no evidence of an outside governing entity that was in control but over 3000 factories and business run by the workers were now vested to the occupying forces. Politically connected people in Seoul were then appointed factory managers, almost all absentee. Elements deemed Leftist were eliminated by 1947. In the southeast and southwest Korean provinces small rebellions were taking place to protest the American peacetime occupation. The Cheju Insurgency was the beginning of a wholesale repression of the people's will.

Cheju was an island south of the mainland with a 1945 population of 300,000. The effective political leadership was provided by strong left-wing people's committees that emerged in late 1945 and continued under the American occupation (1945-48). The Army chose to ignore Cheju rather than do much about the committees. In October 1947 General Hodge, with a group of visiting American congressmen, said that Cheju was a "truly communal area that is peacefully controlled by the People's Committee without any Comintern influence." The people were deeply separatist and did not like mainlanders, their wish was to be left alone. The current governor of the province, Yu Hae-jin, was an extreme rightist mainlander with connections to right-wing youth groups. He was ruthless and dictatorial in his dealings with opposing political parties and thought anyone who did not support Syngman Rhee was automatically leftist and labeled as a guerrilla. It is hard to pinpoint when the U.S. Army turned from ignoring the affairs of the Cheju committees to supporting their elimination but by May, 1948 American trained police forces using Japanese counterinsurgency practices sought out the leftist leaders and their supporters. To avoid arrest and imprisonment the islanders fought back.

This insurgency, more like a civil war and lasted till August, 1949. The American-Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG), assisting the ROK, estimated that 20,000 homes had been destroyed and 27,719 Korean civilians killed. Meanwhile other uprisings were springing up in support of the Cheju islanders. The southeastern part of Korea was their breadbasket. During WWII

almost all the rice from that region went to feed Japanese troops throughout the empire. The major towns were Yosu and Kwangju and they were beginning to show signs of ignoring directives from Seoul. General William Roberts, KMAG commander recommended that the KMAG "handle the situation without intervention of U.S. troops." The most infamous of the KMAG advisors was Captain James Hausman who told his Korean counterpart "to strike hard everywhere…and allow no obstacles to stop him." Hausman spent the next 30 years in Korea and labeled himself as the Father of the Korean Army. Hausman said that Koreans were "brutal bastards, worse than the Japanese." He then sought to make their brutality more efficient by showing them how to douse corpses of executed people with gasoline, thus to hide the method of execution and blame it on Communists." In America hardly anyone had ever of Hausman.

Americans sang the praises of the Rhee regime's counterinsurgency campaign, even as internal accounts recorded nauseating atrocities. They ignored the primary cause of the South Korean insurgency which was the ancient curse of average Koreans—the social inequity of land relations and the huge gap between the tiny elite of the rich and the vast majority of the poor. Most of the middle and poor peasants lived a marginal existence. None owned their own land and most were tenants. The landlord took 30% of tenant produce, but additional extractions—government taxes and various contributions—ranged from 48 to 70% of the annual crop. The so-called rebels tried to rectify this situation but in the end upward of 100,000 Koreans in the southern part were killed in political violence *before* the Korean War; once the war began at least another 100,000 would die.

Dr. Seong Nae Kim has given an eloquent voice to these earlier survivors whose repressed memories of violence surfaced in dreams or in sudden apparitions—ghosts, spirits, the conjurings of a shaman, or fleeting glimpses of loved ones "in blood-stained white mourning clothes." The widows of insurgents were hounded by police and reverted to autism, catatonia, or suicide. Families could not even utter the names of the dead or perform ancestor rituals for fear of blacklisted; if one relative was labeled a Communist, the entire family's life chances were jeopardized under the Law of Complicity (*yonjwa pop*). Forgetting was the immediate cure for such suffering, but its comforts were temporary. Memory surfaces apart from one's intentions, the deceased return in dreams, the terror recurs in nightmares. The mind compensates for loss and adapts to the dictates of the state: if your brother was killed by a right-wing youth squad, say the Communists killed him. Time passes, and the bereaved turns this reversal into the recalled truth. But the mind knows it is a lie, and so physic trauma returns in terrible dreams, or the apparition of an accusing, vengeful ghost.

In 1950, Walter Sullivan, a *New York Times* correspondent was almost alone among the foreign journalists in seeking out the truth of the guerrilla war on the mainland and Cheju. Large parts of southern Korea "are darkened today by a cloud of terror that is probably unparalleled in the world." Guerrillas made brutal assaults on police, and the police took the guerrillas to their home villages and tortured them for information. Then the police shot them, and tied them to trees as an object lesson. The persistence of the guerrillas "puzzles many Americans here," as does "the extreme brutality" of the conflict. The insurrections were inflamed by a brutal Japanese occupation and replaced by the simple justice of the local committees in 1945 until 1948. But the elemental injustice of the Seoul dictatorship that Rhee imposed and that American legal authorities did nothing about—except to aid and abet it was a travesty. On this hauntingly beautiful country the post-war world witnessed American culpability for unrestrained violence against indigenous peoples fighting for self-determination and social justice. Anyone who thinks they know exactly what happened in June 1950 is insufficiently well read in the documentation. There is still much more to be learned from Soviet, Chinese, and North and South Korean archives—and from the U.S. National Security Agency, which still has not declassified crucial signals intelligence on the Korean War."