

Christopher Hales, Samantha Ramirez

Pd. 3



At the demilitarised zone in Korea
(North Korea in background)

Willy Wennberg
Army
2 years served in Korean war
2018

Willy Wennberg

Willy Wennberg is a US Army veteran who served in the Korean war. He was born in 1930 and raised in the city of Sarpsborg, Norway. Since Wennberg was a kid he knew that he wanted to travel and go to America. At the age of 19 Wennberg finally convinced his mother to let him come to America to visit his uncle for a year. He was especially thankful for this opportunity because of his past childhood .

Wennberg's childhood took place during World War II. When he was twelve Germans invaded his hometown and took over schools to use for barracks. During this time his parents were struggling to provide enough food and Wennberg wanted to help so he would ride his bike to get food from the farmers, but on his way he would have to sneak passed German guards. One day while Wennberg and his friend were walking by the railroad station, he noticed a freight train parked on a siding. Several men were mulling around outside the car. Herman soldiers were guarding them. Obviously, they were prisoners of war. They looked malnourished, and they had not bathed in a long time. The Russian prisoners would stare at them with sadness in their eyes.

He and his friend went home and got as much food as their mothers allowed and took it to the prisoners, the guards gave them a look of disappointment yet had sympathy in their eyes. Moments later a van abruptly pulled up and a group of men including Gestapo came out of the car. They pulled out guns, pointed them to their heads and Wennberg and his friend ran home as fast as they could.

Once Wennberg convinced his mom to let him come to America he went on ship and as soon as he arrived he went through immigration then onto a train to Minnesota. At this time he was 19 years old and was broke with only 10 dollars. While going through immigration Wennberg got stopped because he had a wool coat with a certain material that needed to be taxed which left him with 5 dollars. Eventually he got a job that he very much enjoyed as an electrician. When Wennberg was 21 he got a call on his phone and the government was on the phone telling him he has been chosen to enlist or volunteer into the U.S. Military. Wennberg did not think he had to join the Military because he was a recent foreigner in the U.S. but they told him if he is not willing to join then he would have to leave the U.S. so he ended up joining.

When he first joined he was sent to train in basic infantry training at Camp Roberts for about 16 weeks and after the training Wennberg was assigned to a Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Meade, Maryland. Wennberg was assigned to join a communications group in the 40th infantry division in Korea. Wennberg then went on to become a communications chief in Korea for his training and background in communications.

In Korea Wennberg was transferred to be a light weapons infantry in the Korean war and fought on the 38th parallel. His squad set up underneath a slope of a mountain so when the Koreans shot their artillery all the shots went right over them. Their shelter was a small bunker that they made with logs and a lot of sandbags that was right below the slope so they could feel

somewhat safe during the war. One day the company commander came in saying there was going to be a planned attack on their area so they spent the entire day and night keeping guard of the area and once nightfall came a shot went off and everyone started firing into the dark jungle, but turns out there was no one there in the first place. Wennberg never truly got into combat and was neither injured and was safe till the end of the Korean war.

Finally after the Korean war was over they let Wennberg's battalion go to Seoul and take a load off from the war. When Wennberg was finally discharged they left on a boat and then parted from his fellow soldiers by boat back to the U.S. where his girlfriend was waiting for him to come back. Wennberg is happy and please to have joined the Army and would gladly join again but, now with the Military fully behind him Wennberg went to go to school and went on to marry his girlfriend.