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Woolskin, Gene.

The spirit of the warrior; the story of
United States Military Advisory Group to the
Republic of Korea [transcript of a tape recording
of a radio broadcast from the studios of American
Forces, Korean Network. 1953?]

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HISTORY OF "K-MAG" IN KOREA

donated by COLONEL A. O. CONNOR
Woolakin, Gene

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K-MAG was established on July 1st, 1949, with the mission of assisting the Republic of Korea in organizing and training the forces needed for its security. In building the ROK Army, K-MAG faced a difficult and complex task: under Japanese rule, all key positions in Korea, both Military and Civilian, were occupied by the Japanese. For forty years virtually no opportunity had existed for the Korean people to develop the qualities of leadership required to lead an Army of any size. The small Army of 1950, organized and trained only for Internal Security Missions, was no match for the invading Communists. Though K-MAG Advisors frequently rallied the shattered Units to unbelievable heights of heroism, the depletion of man power, equipment, and particularly qualified leaders left the young force in no condition to carry on coordinated action against the skilled and ruthless foe.

K-MAG began its rebuilding job with training; and, the training has been from the ground up - "wery bad", "v, v, very", "hairy bad", "very bad, very bad, very", "very bad", "good, good, try it again", "badi bad", "no, no, like this, 'very, v'". Two replacement Training Centers processed recruits, giving to all an eight week basic, similar in every respect to the American soldiers. (Korean language). But the training of the Korean soldier must go beyond the assembly and disassembly of the M1 rifle, a neat about face, a properly executed present arms: the man who has lived in an isolated rural village must be taught group living, modern sanitation; the man who has never seen a screw driver or a pair of pliers must be taught to handle weapons, intricate beyond his imagination. And before all, lies the barrier of language: field manuals were translated, training aids redesigned, and terms with no Korean equivalent were assigned Korean names - "headlight", (Korean language) - "Electric light on the front of a vehicle". After eight weeks, the trainees are screened for education, aptitude, and ability; and, assigned to the Advance Infantry Course, or to one of the many branches of schools scattered throughout South Korea: Signal, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Artillery, Military Police, Intelligence, Engineer, Medical; all the specialties required by modern war are taught in schools patterned almost exactly after their American counter-parts.

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"I am Kim Sung Jing, Cadet Captain at Yosu, The Korean Military Academy; I have set my standards by those of your Korean Military Advisory Group Officers; they are from your West Point. I will be from West Point too". Like all Korean Army Schools, the Military Academy is modeled after it's American counterpart. The first class of 200 Cadets, selected from among 1400 applicants, is now in its third year, well along in the studies: Chemistry, Mathematics, English, Russian, Engineering, Ordnance, Tactics, History, that will lead to Bachelor of Science degrees in commissions as Second Lieutenants in the Korean Army.

Music: As West Point has a tradition of the Long Gray Lines, too, must the Korean Military Academy and the Korean Army have a tradition; and, this has not been overlooked in the training supervised by "Song Moo Die", The Spirit of the Warrior, is the ancient spirit of the Korean soldier. Thanks to the incite of its own leaders and its K-MAG Advisors, the Korean Army once again fights with "song Moo Die", the Spirit of the Warrior.

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(Korean language). "Colonel, we have observed enemy activity here on 523; I have sent out the Contact Patrol and alerted the 2nd Battalion of the 36th". "Good, good, and I recommend, General Lee, that you move some tanks up, say, right over here on the right; and, keep them in position on the hill until we see what happens". "All-right". (Korean language). "Have you learned of the ASF, General?" "Yes, I have sent some trucks back and they will stand by until further orders".

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This is Army PFC Gerald Thomas speaking.

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6 copies attached

AIDW-S

History of "K-MAG" in Korea

Chairman, FacGp IV

Secretary

30 June 54

Attached is a transcript of a tape recording on the above subject which Col A. O. Connor donated to the Library. This was transcribed in six (6) copies and five (5) copies are now on file in the Library. This transcript is merely submitted for your information.

1 Incl
a/s

JOHN W. YOW
Lt Col, Armor
Asst Secretary

Copy to Director
ARWC Library

Director - ARWC Library

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JUL 12 1954

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