

LAYED DEAD AS RED LIFTED WATCH

# Survivor Tells of N. Korean Attack



Pvt. David E. Bibee, 17, sits in wheelchair at the Army Hospital in Ascom and tells newsmen about the ambush in which six of his buddies were killed Wednesday south of the DMZ in Korea.

121ST EVACUATION HOSPITAL, South Korea (AP) —A shaken 17-year-old American soldier who played dead during a savage communist attack which left six of his buddies slain said Thursday, "We just didn't have a chance."

"After it was over," said Pvt. David E. Bibee, of Ringgold, Va., recalling Wednesday's pre-dawn battle south of the demilitarized zone, "I crawled over to my buddy. There was nothing I could do for him. He was sucking blood. I started praying for him, but there was nothing I could do. We just didn't have a chance. They seemed to come from behind. The only thing I could make out was that there were at least six of them."

Still suffering from shock but not seriously wounded, the black-haired youth who has been in Korea only three weeks, told the story of the battle—the first of two near the demarcation line in the last hours of President Johnson's visit Wednesday—from a wheel chair in the 121st Evacuation Hospital at Ascom City, 15 miles west of Seoul.

Bibee, his eyes downcast and looking haggard from the experience, said he pretended to be dead after the concussion of a grenade knocked him out.

"They caught us off guard," he said.

"A grenade hit near me and rolled me down the hill. I was out for four or five seconds. Then when I came to, they were picking up the equipment. One guy came over and shined a red light in my face and then he took off my watch. He almost pulled my arm off as he took my watch. I went back to the rear and tried to get to my grenades and rifle but I couldn't get to them. I didn't move when they took my watch off. I played dead. I don't reckon it lasted more than 15 or 20 minutes."

Asked how he knew the attackers were north Koreans, Bibee said he heard them talking and that they wore American-style uniforms with earflaps on their caps like his own.

(The north Koreans wear Chinese-style uniforms, usually made of light cotton).

Bibee told how one of his friends died a hero's death.

"He was a brave guy. He could have run away but he stuck with us."

Bibee said he had had the first watch of the patrol action then woke up Pvt. E. Hasty, 20, of Palestine, Tex., and went to sleep.

## Slain GI Described As Hero

THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, South Korea (UPI) — Testimony by the lone survivor of a north Korean sneak attack Wednesday has led to a Medal of Honor recommendation for one of the slain Americans.

U.S. military authorities here revealed that one of the six dead American soldiers had been recommended for the nation's highest award but did not reveal his name.

However, the sole survivor of the ambush, Pvt. David E. Bibee, said the hero was Pvt. Ernest D. Reynolds, of Kansas City, Mo.

Maj. Gen. George B. Pickett Jr., commander of the 2d Inf. Div., said "The nominee was one of the killed soldiers who preferred to stay and fight although he had a perfect opportunity to get away."

Bibee, 17, of Ringgold, Va., said that "we had one pretty brave guy in the crowd. He could have got away, but he stood up and shot at 'em until they killed him."

An American military hospital spokesman said a bullet proof vest Bibee was wearing apparently saved his life.

The spokesman said Bibee had "many small puncture type wounds in his right leg and right shoulder and arm." He said that because of the bulletproof vest there were no wounds in his chest.

"There was no indication that he suffered any wounds from a gun," the spokesman said. "These were all fragmentation grenade explosion wounds."

The spokesman said the grenade explosion knocked Bibee head first over a 50-foot embankment. He struck his head on a rock, but apparently did not suffer any serious head injuries, the

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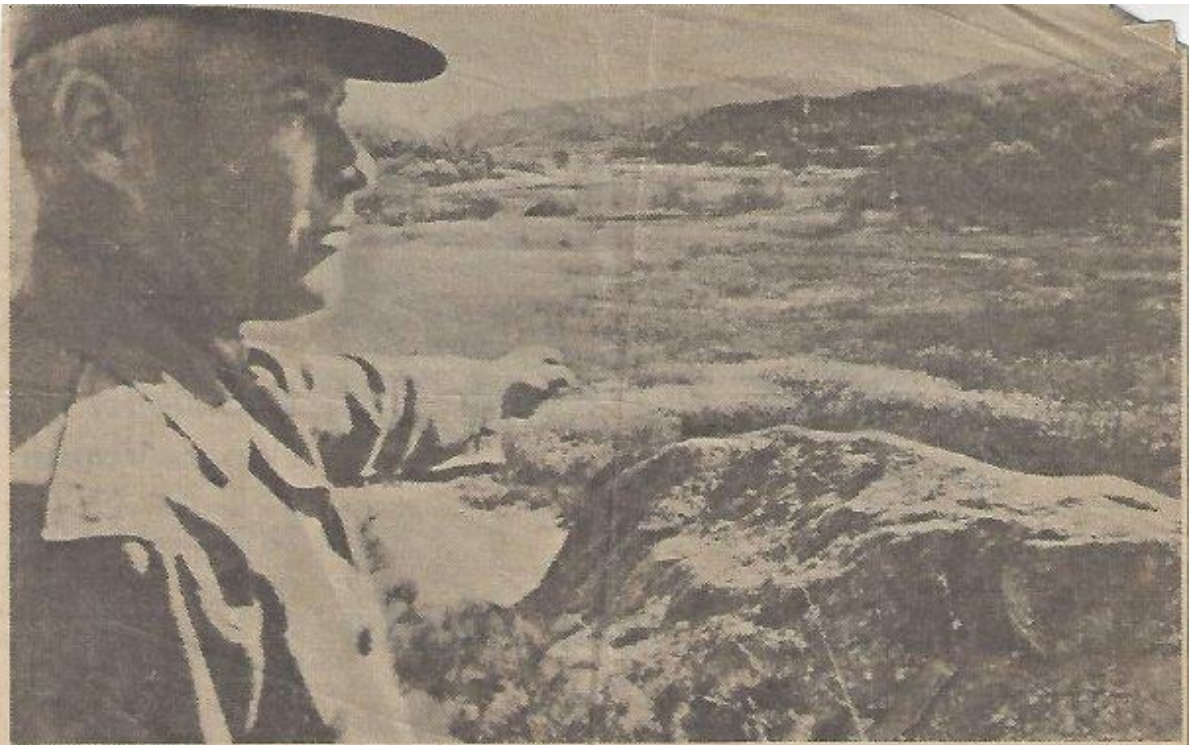
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## Army Names 6 DMZ Dead

SEOUL (AP) — Eighth U.S. Army Thursday identified the six U.S. soldiers killed in the DMZ attack:

- PFC Johnny W. Benton, 21, of Concord, N.C.
- PFC Robert W. Burrell, 21, of Rensselaer, Ind.
- Pvt. Morris L. Fischer, 17, of Seattle, Wash.
- Sgt. James Hensley, 19, of Stockbridge, Mich.
- Pvt. Ernest D. Reynolds, 20, of Kansas City, Mo.
- Pvt. Leslie L. Hasty, 20, of Palestine, Tex.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 5  
Saturday, Nov. 5, 1966



COL. ALAN W. JONES, 3D BRIGADE, 2D INF. DIV. COMMANDER, POINTS TO KNOLL WHERE AMBUSH OCCURRED.

AP Radiophoto.

## N. Koreans Wounded In Attack

SAS Korea Bureau

**ALONG THE DMZ, Korea—**Investigation into Wednesday's attack by north Korean soldiers on a United Nations Command patrol here has revealed that one or more of the attackers was wounded or killed during the skirmish.

Maj. Gen. George B. Pickett, commander of the 2d Inf. Div., Thursday showed newsmen the

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incident area and told of the latest evidence regarding the attack.

"There were two or three-hundred yards of good, copious blood and footprints leading from the area back into the DMZ to the military demarcation line. We also found two bloody bandages," the general said.

The military demarcation line divides north and South Korea  
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