

Nom

It took a lot of help from

you all but at the end an old soldier

and a family limbo were able to

wonder no more. Mario From an old soldier 1. PS: It's 2 Am but st my age Who extes You Don't have to return the Folder, I have an other

John James Earley PV2 "E" Co. 19th Inf. Chickamauga Regt, 24th Inf. Victory Div. Korea 1951

24th IDA web master Editorial Note: This is Mario Iezzoni's story of how he, nearly 60 years later, was able to identify a fellow GI whom he had carried to an aid station very badly wounded in April 1951 in Korea. It was a GI that Mario had met shortly before when they reported as replacements to the 24th Infantry Division. It was a task exacerbated by Mario's then difficulties with the English language. Its results are most satisfying in that the unknown GI's family was touched by Mario's efforts. I was involved in Mario's search in that I was in E company, 19th Infantry Regiment, in the 4th Platoon with two of the men mentioned in the first paragraph in the below article, Bill Valetta and John Kelly. The following pages are copied of Mario's "book," which he kindly gave me a copy. Not all are legible, for which I am sorry. Tom J. Thiel, Web master. June 18, 2012.

We first met in Sasabo, Japan, the end of February, as a group of four: you (John James Early), John Kelly, William Valetta and me (Mario Iezzoni). We boarded the ship for an overnight trip to Pusan, Korea, where we transferred to a train heading north.

On the train, they gave us 5-in-1 ration. We had to find a fifth person to share the ration. I heated the large can on a cardboard fire between the rail cars. At Division Rear, we were welcomed and assigned to our regiment 19th Inf. "The Rock of Chickamauga". Where we learned the 'Art of War' by those well experienced.

On March 23, 1951, we received our Company assignments: you, Bill and Kelly went to E Company, I went to G Company.

On 10 April 51, we went by road march to MLR (main line of resistance) to replace the current outfit occupy their positions while they went back into reserve.

Some two hours after dark, we moved along the ridge, with interval between us, to a down finger, to a point where we stopped in place for an hour plus. Then, we slowly moved down in the dark to a staging area for the attack at dawn.

Before we arrived to the staging area, freezing rain started, snow - rain, light rain turning to fog later.

The attack started, within a few hours we were on the ridge.

The fourth Plt setup a defensive mortar position, where I unloaded my mortar rounds, some 20 yards below the ridge. I was told to take up a guarding position by" that large rock". The rock was large with a thin crevice.

I positioned to its right towards the up going finger ridge and came under fire and ran for cover to the crevice. The crevice was too thin to fully cover my body and he kept

shooting at me there for a long time. With each shot, I squeezed in deeper... Sgt Alley yelled over to me, "He is after you" I answered, "Yea, I know". Thanks to God he missed every time but the zinging of the bullets hitting the rock are still in me.

With the wet and cold chill, someone stated a fire that turned into a large smoking bonfire that the enemy could zero in on.

Many took turns warming at the fire, some 20 yards from my me. At some point, I too went for a warm up and return to my position where I decided the crevice was safer.

It was not long when two incoming 120mm mortar rounds landed near our gun position causing four casualties:

- Brown Claude S. Pvt2
- Dubois Alfred E Pvt2
- Coleman Ellis Sgt
- McMinn Clark Pfc

Calls went for medic but before any medic could come, we were counter-attacked. The guarding platoon on the ridge started running downhill yelling counter-attack, counter-attack.

I was by the wounded, with no hesitation, we loaded our wounded on their poncho, ran down hill, the enemy shooting at us until we were out of site. Thank God none, of were hit.

At the bottom of the hill, we had to cross a large open field leading to our positions on the mountain. I was the end man going off the hill and at the first two attempts crossing the field where automatic fire caused us to return back to cover along the tree line. We were carrying at least three wounded on ponchos, one walked, McMinn, and two spare carried our belongings.

The two spare men relieved me and a Korean from carrying Sgt Coleman who was very badly wounded and we took over their big bundles. On the third crossing attempt, I went first and sure as hell the enemy had me zeroed in, bullets hitting through me and all around. I tossed the bundle over my head and ran deep into the woods for cover where I noticed a stretcher with a wounded man on it.

I looked him over and noticed that his eyes were closed, had a gashed long deep chin wound. The loose bandage well exposed the open wound that was not bleeding.

He opened his eyes and said, "Please don't leave me."

He is alive. When I saw the gap in his front teeth, I recognized him as one of us on the train. He once more said not to leave him. I called to him "Kelley it's me Iezzoni" and he repeated, "please don't leave me." I said, hoping to assure him "It's me Iezzoni, we won't leave you..."

I called him "Kelley" knowingly not John Kelly who came from Ireland but John J.

Earley whose name I was not able to pronounce to his liking, saying "Hear-ley" not "Earley."

We carried him for hours until just before dusk when a group of supply carriers also making their way back passed the MLR, friendly line, took over the stretcher. I followed them to the Aid Station arriving in the dark within an hour. I must have passed out outside the tent because the next thing I knew it was 8:30 a.m. and went looking for my outfit that had gone to retake the hill. I was greeted with "Where the hell were you?"

Some time passed I went to the aid station asked a medic about Earley, calling him Kelley."

Did Kelly make it?" I asked.

He said, "No" he died three hours after you brought him in. He had lost too much blood. I said, "But he was not bleeding."

He said. "He was also shot in the back."

This explains why he was on the stretcher in the first place.

Notes:

- 1. I noticed a medical jeep with side-stretchers abandoned on a back dirt road, some 70 yards from where I found John. I took it that earlier the enemy had them under fire. In my mind, I hoped to pass this to his family someday and with many helpings, God's will be done, 11 Apr 2010.
- 2. The award came as a result of sometime later on reserve. A guy came to G Company asking me about 11th of April 51. I told him, he wrote it all down. In November, 1951, I was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for Valor.

Tony the Tailor's Son a War Hero By BILL O'GUREK, Times News, May 25, 2010

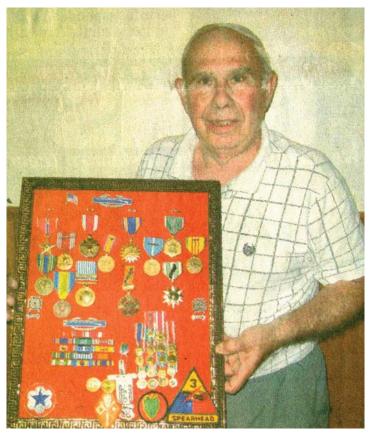
When Mario lezzoni came to the United States from Italy in 1947 he simply wanted to be an "average American." As a teenager, he enlisted in the Army after the outset of the Korean War. A little more than a year later he was exposed to the horrors of war and found himself in a bad situation, one which later resulted in his be-ing awarded a Bronze Star.

Son of "Tony the Tailor," an Italian immigrant who settled in Lansford with his wife, Mario and some of his friends joined the military not long after the first American was killed in action on July 4, 1950.

Sixty years later and now a resident of Summit Hill, the highly-decorated soldier has quite a gripping story to tell about how he came home from the war with a Bronze Star Medal.

"My whole idea was, to come to America, join the Army, get educated and someday go back to Europe to give my friends and family a ride on an Army jeep," he recalled. At age 17, he joined the Army "to get an education," eventually undergoing 14 weeks of basic training and eight weeks both for advanced infantry and armored infantry training. "I was only 129 pounds, but by the time I was done with basic training, I wasn't afraid of anybody," he recalled.

With the war in Korea escalating, Mario, an ammo bearer for a 60-mm mortar team, was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment. As the need to have fresh troops was paramount, he was sent to the front lines near the 38th Parallel in



Mario lezzoni

April, 1951. "It was the 10th when we went to the front line," he recalled. "That night, we moved into enemy territory and got down to the bottom of the hill. There was freezing rain and snow, and fog all over the mountain. I don't know why, but I wasn't afraid. I even wondered if the Army gave you something to not be afraid."

"George" Company eventually advanced down the other side of the ridge before lezzoni found himself retreating to take cover in a crack between two rocks after a sniper opened fire to his right. "For an hourand a-half to two hours I was pinned down. Bullets were zinging and flying everywhere. It was wet and cold, but I stayed there a long time," he recalled. Just a few hours later, 120-mm mortar rounds exploded against the Americans who had been guarding the ridge against a counter-attack, injuring four soldiers.

As they began retreating downhill, Mario and five others volunteered to stay behind and carry the injured down the mountain. With the enemy in close pursuit, they used ponchos to create makeshift stretchers, but continued their retreat amid showers of gunfire.

"The Chinese were shooting wildly," Mario said. We got to the bottom of the hill, crossed an open area and bullets were whistling. They were firing automatic weapons. It was a miracle none of us were hit. "

During the retreat, Mario came across a wounded soldier who had apparently been left for dead. "I looked

at him, his eyes were closed and he had a wound in his chin. When he opened his eyes, I thought, 'Oh my God, he's alive." The soldier begged Mario, "Please don't leave me."

Mario carried the man, thought to be a soldier named Kelly who he had met when they went to Korea traveled together on a ship transport. "He was between 220 and 240 pounds. He was a burden, but I carried him for 6 hours, maybe, 2-1/2 to 3 miles," Mario said. Eventually, Mario was able to get the injured soldier to an aid station after which time he collapsed.

Six weeks later he learned "Kelly" died three hours after making it to the aid tent, apparently succumbing to a loss of blood.

Mario lezzoni, Life Member 1229 29 W. Amidon St., Summit Hill PA 18250-1401 Tel. 717-645-9326

12 Taro Leaf Winter 2011 Volume 64 Issue No. ---- Original Message ----

From: Merry Helm To: mario iezzoni

Sent: Sunday, December 26, 2010 10:48 AM

Subject: Re: Merry Christmas

Good morning, Mario. Who would have ever thought such a chain of circumstances could be set in motion? I feel truly blessed to have been a small part of it, but I am particularly blessed to have a friend like you who knew he had something to make peace with — and did. God bless you and your family, Mario.

Peace and love.

Merry

From: mario iezzoni

Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2010 5:51 PM

To: Merry Helm Cc: mario iezzoni

Subject: Merry Christmas

Merry as I said before THANK YOU. You made an OLD soldier and the families of a soldier that GAVE IT ALL finally close their wounder of something that happened long ago.

My search started after your e-mails in Oct 2006 and concluded w/ this CHRISTMAS...

Pace e Bene da mario

24 December, 2010

Mario,

Thank you so much for your wonderful Christmas Wishes.

I hope this season finds you and your family in the best of health and sprits. Should there be any problems, may I take the liberty of prescribing red wine.

This past year, in particular, 11 April 2010, was a poignant one.

Perhaps the most endearing memory my family has had since 1951. When our uncle, John Earley, was Killed In Action in the Korean War, we never knew what the circumstances were that caused his death. He was to be buried in a Military Cemetery until one of his own uncles wrote to President Truman explaining that the deceased soldier, John Earley, was an only son and the pride of his family. He needed to be entombed in his hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut. In particular,

to give closure to his father's enduring grief.

With grace, you and your family made the long journey from Pennsylvania to Connecticut to join us in a somber, yet great moment of closure. That sunny, warm Sunday April morning at The New Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Waterbury will forever be one of the most memorable and fulfilling days for us. And more importantly, it will be a great memory and source of, respect for the United States, in particular, the United States Army, for our children.

We often dream of heroes, we read of them, we wonder if we could ever be one, imagine what it would be like to be know one...we met a true Hero on 11 April 2010.

For you Mario are a true Hero in every sense of the word. Brave, Chance Taking, Selfless, Determined, Caring, Patriotic, Quiet, and Holy. Your Bravado is one to be emulated by future generations of men.

You committed a heroic act in the spring of April, 1951 in an unknown mountainous range of Korea, to save a wonderful Irish-American Soldier you hardly knew other than as a passing friend you met on a Troop Ship while being transported to War. For years you could not recall his name and the event haunted you.

Finally, in a dream, he came to you, John Earley. And so began the journey. He is at peace now. Now that the young Soldier who so valiantly tried to save him, who carried him to the Aid station for hours under enemy fire, was finally able to say goodbye, and, with his family, pray at John Earley's grave in Waterbury, Connecticut.

So, we have found closure because of you, Mario.

We, the Dolan and Earley family are eternally grateful to you and your beautiful family, especially this Christmas of the year 2010.

Thank you Mario for all you have done. You have served a great nation proudly and made an everlasting, positive impact on a small family from Waterbury, Connecticut.

May God Bless You and Your Family during this Holiday Season and many, many more joyous seasons to follow.

Salute'

Your good friend,

-Jim Dolan

John J. Earley 38th Parallel April 10, 1951

Dear Jimmy & Jackie

How are you boys? I wanted to write you before but boys I haven't been able to do much writing more than I have. I have some spare time today so I'm writing to you and Aunt Ann. We have been moving a lot in the last week so I have been pretty busy the only chance we have to write is daytime as atnight there is a blackout no lights, fires just blackness.

I know that you both are praying for your Uncle John to come home safely please keep on praying as God will surely listen to your prayers. War is really tough and with God's help it will be over soon. Have your Sister (Nun) at school pray for my buddies (John Kelly, Bill Valletta) and me we allneed your prayers as they mean more to us than anything else.

You two boys are fortunate that you live in America where there is everything at your disposal home, clothes, food and education. Here in the Far East in Korea boys your age have a completely different life and have never seen anything but poverty starvation and the majority of them are diseased. Well boys you in America have a great deal to be thankful for.

The weather here is still cold and very windy climbing these rugged mountain is something. It's not like back home flat land or some mountains. Here boys in Korea is one continuous mountain after an other. And all are very high.

They have no radios, cars, television sets or any modern convenience here. The country is the same it was 3000 years ago the homes are made of mud and straws a few homes are made of wood.

Actually there are no cities like back home here there is just small villages scattered here and there.

I know you boys would like to know about the chinese soldiers. They are tough and fight mostly in the nighttime. Most of their weapons are american made given to them by us years before.

Well boys I'll close for now hoping yon'll pray for me and write me. Give my love to Kathy also to your Mom and Dad

Love from Uncle John

Tell Mommy I haven't had (?) mail from home yet! Give my love to Ganlea! (?)

of 380 parallel April 10, 1957 Dear Jim my + Jacker. How me you boys I wanted to write you before but by a distance been able to do house worker more than I have I there some your Asia to don so I'm writing to you and don't any the Kart been morning a ful inter (ast week so the transmity many the surgestance we have to write a layer as not might there is a landout or a test of the great characters. I have you both an one in for your, Music John Freuma home safely shows therey or program so be well only intention from prayer war war that with it will be over the stayout Surles School party for when the star we will med you proper a sing man on he trans buy they is

you two boys are y. The thirty on lev in america where there is everything at you disposal home, clothes ford and and an education. Here in the Fore East in Kopen. boys your age has a completely different life and have never seem any thing but poverty, starration and the majority of them are obsensed. Well Boys you in amore have a great clear to be thankful for. The militar how is till cold and my world and claring these sugged mountains is something It's not like back home flat und or some mountains their tys Koren is one continues mountain of the another work all on an in of high

They have no radios, cars. Television sets it any modern convenies here. The country is the same it was 3000 years ago the homes are made of mud and strong a pero homes are made of wood. actually there are mo entres like back home here there is just small willage scattered here and there about the chinese solutions. They're tough and of yht omath in the mystime. Mest of their weapons are american mack given to them by us years before

Well Bys - I chafer mone proj you'll prop for me and write a Give my clove to Kathy also to outh on and Dad Love from Ynelo John 5. Felt Morning J. Rame 4 Kal o mont from home get! Gue my love to Santea!

april 10,1951 Dear Jim my + Jackie How me you boys? I wanted to write your before but by a haven't been able to do much writing more than I have I have some space. time to day so I'm writing to you and aunt ann. We kare been morning a lot in the last week so I've been gretly bring the only chance we have to write is dayline as at might there is a Hardout mo lights, fires yout downers Word John to come home safely along they on program as bed well surely distinte your prayers. War is really tough and with bod's shop it well be over some stave your Sisters at school pray for my budoles and me we all enced your prayers as they mean more to no than any thing I have.

va 380 parallel

Mario, Let me add my contribution to the pot.

- 1. This has a special meaning to me as we know a Tony Earley, who happens to be from Connecticut and is now head of Detroit Edison. A great guy who moved here a few years ago to take the CEO job. He was leaving town and when we spoke to his wife they were not aware of any relative who had died in Korea. They left on Friday for the west coast and we will be in touch when they return I an sure. Alice (my wife) took most of the mailing lists off my copy and sent it on to them. Wow. Tony is from the Rickover navy so he can appreciate all of this. And he will be following up I am sure.
- 2, In April of 1951 I had just returned from two months in the hospital with an arm wound. I had been released about Good Friday. I was certainly back in Korea and on the hill at about that time but not much sooner. I was with George Company 2nd Platoon.
- 3. I remember an incident and I have used it when talking to Boy Scout leaders in training. We lost out aide man and I was sort of at loose ends just back from the hospital and the squad leader(Garcia?) handed me the aide kit and said put your boy scout first aide training to use. This is what I use in my training of leaders not the rest. I do not tell it in a first person but as a story I had been told.
- 4. I remember a fire fight and and being on the ground. I was called over to a liter. We carried morphine and I am sure I used one and looked at the wound in his front. Not much blood and others were around and we were moving. I told him he was all right and we would get him to the aid station and went on as the litter bearers came by and started to move him.
- 5. What ties this together is that the Aid Man came up in a day or so and asked in very flowery terms who had sent this guy down as he had a hole in his back and died on the way down. He had been triaged out by someone (not me)
- 6. By then I had given the aid kit back and did learn to check all over. It was still winter and we had heavy clothes and tried to cover people with a blanket for shock. I was aware that he was in bad shape and had been evaluated by someone and left for the time. We were a long ways to the medical station.
- 7. Most have been a strong memory to come back after 60 years.

See you in Bufalo? Have you heard from Frank Plato? I am out here in Michigan but expect I wil get back to Philadelphia in a few weeks and will check with him.

Frank M. McIntyre, PhD George Co 19th Regt 248-333-7601, anmfmm@aol.com



IM & Rev. Michael Dolan



Dilan my Mario

Dolan (state trooper)



11 APT 2010



Holy Mass. Catholic troops bowed their heads.

25 March 1951 Easter Sunday



PVT. JOHN J. EARLEY, 26, died of wounds in Korea this month according to a telegram of the Defense Department received by his father, James Earley, 38 Vermont St. Earley, who was inducted last Sept. 21, died of wounds April II in North Korea. He went into the combat area in Korea March 1:

Pvt. John J. Earley Rites Set For Saturday

The military funeral of Pvt. John J. Earley, son of James Earley, a Vernon St. and the late Elizabeth Noonan) Earley, will be held Saturday at 3:15 a.m. from the Mulville Funeral Home. 270 Wes. Main St. to Sacred Heart Church, for a solemn high Mass at 9. Burial will be in new St. Joseph a Cemetery, Friends may call at the funeral home today after 7:15 p.m. and tomorrow from 7 to 10 p.m.

The body of Pvt. Earley will arrive in Waterbury at the railroad station today at 6.32 p. m. Veterans organizations will escert the body to the funeral home.

Pvt. Earley was killed in North Korea April 11 last. He was born in Waterbury and was a graduate of Sacred Heart parochial and high schools. He was employed for seven years in the First National stores before enturing the service.

Surviving besides his father, are three sisters. Mrs. John Dolan. Mrs. John Dolan. Mrs. Edward Reilly, all of this city.

lony The Tailor's Son Is Cited For Valor In Korea

Tony The Tailor's son -- a boy who came to the United States In hope of forever escaping the wreckage and ruined hopes of war -- ls a military hero in Korea.

Yesterday his mother, Mrs. Domenick Jezzoni, of 6 Center Street, Lansford, proudly received the notification that her son, Cpl. Mario Iezzoni, has been presented the Bronze Star Medal. The citation tells of him striving under murderous enemy fire to rescue wounded buddles. There is much of glory in the citation, but more about that later.

t

First, the poignant story of Cpl. Iezzoni. Many years ago his fathcr, best known in this Valley as Tony the Tailor, came to America to create a new home and a new life for his family. He was a very small fellow and his English was never too good. But his ideals were comparable with the best possessed by any person ever born in America.

He opened his business and the word soon went around that Little Tony was a good tailor. He worked and he saved, always planning for the day when his wife and children could rejoin him.

Then came depressions, rumors of wars and wars. The joyful day of reunion was delayed time and time again and as Europe went into the flames of battle the Lezzoni family remained trapped in Italy. They knew hard times, want, destruction, sorrow and disappointment.

The great day finally came in March of 1947 when Tony the Tailor went to New York and met Mrs. Iezzoni and her sons, Tony and Mario as they came off the ship. They came back to ansford and they had a few short years of happiness together then Mr. Iezzoni died.

Mario was educated at the St. Ann High School in Lansford and when be became 17 years of age America was in trouble. America lo him and his brother, Tony, had taken on a meaning beyond the understanding of many Americanborn who are inclined to take their blessings as a matter of course. America was in trouble and Mario and Tony enlisted. They both went to Korea,

As the citation reached Mrs. Iezzoni yesterday tears crept into her eyes and she said

trilay to read this. He loved Amer- little rough at times but it's ica so much, He loved his beys so Okay." much. He would be very proud." Tony, Jr., is still in Korea.

Somewhere, at rest, little Tony the Tailor may know what was in the citation, It reads as follows. above the signature of Major General Bryan of the 24th Infantry Division:

"Cpl Mario Iezzoni, (then private) a member of Company G, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by heroic actions near Chipori, Korea, on April 11, 1951. His comenemy hordes and was forced to withdraw, Pvt. Iezzoni volunteered to remain behind with several others to help evacuate the wounded. The small group worked furiously, in the face of rapid enemy advancing troops, to assemble the wounded, place them on litters, and carry them out under murderous enemy fire.

"Having gone a short distance. Pvt. Iezzoni discovered another wounded man. Although he knew he would have to carry him by himself, and he would be dangerously slowed down, he unhesitalingly picked up the soldier and proceeded to carry him down the hill. He was so delayed that the rest of the group was soon out of sight. Several times the enemy approached close enough to place him under heavy automatic weapons and sniper fire. But with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he relentlessiy continued on. The task became so laborious that he was forced to rest frequently although the enemy was nearly upon him.

"For three hours he plodded on with his human burden, over extremely rough and treacherous terrain and always keeping just ahead of the pursuers. His strength nearly lost, only his determined will kept him going. He finally reached friendly lines and, turning the wounded man over for medical attention, he collapsed.

"Pvt. Iezzoni's heroic action, aclifess devotion to a wounded comrade, and unswerving determination reflect the greatest credit on himself and the United States Infantry."

Cpl. Iezzoni is now enjoying a 30-day furlough at home prior to reporting back to Indiantown Gap for reassignment. The citation caught up with him at his home.

His only comment: "I think I "Ah. my Tony should be here like the Army, it's Okay. It gets a



Hugs,
-Jim Dolan
ps- more to come!

Waterbury, CT.

Since childhood I was told the stories of my uncle, especially from his sister Kathy, who was my Grandmother, as well as stories from my father. It was a devistating blow to the Dolan family when he was killed in Korea, one that I believe my Grandmother never fully recovered from, however, his short life has served as inspiration to all of us.

I've often wondered what actually happened that fateful day in Korea and your posting has certainly given us insight.

I do hope all is well with you. I thank you for your service to our great country and your heroic attempt to save my uncle. May God Bless you and your family.

Should you have the time, I would love to speak with you again, either by e-mail or telephone. Coincidently, I was born April 11, 1968, some 17 years to the day that John Earley died. Respectfully,

-Jim Dolan Southington, CT

I had Major Cooper check in a book put together by Joe Sweeney, who gathered all the morning reports and wrote a book that included all the KIAs in 19th IR. I believe your Kellys both survived the war. Whether or not we ever find them, your sacrifice was worth it. Bless you for saving his life.Merry

Neither Kelli nor Kelly, or anything close, are in Joe Sweeney's book.

(I was told at the Aid Station that "MY Kelly-John J Earley" died 3hrs after I got him there due to loss of blood from a shot in the back) (The spelling difference was in their 1st name John J. and just JOHN. I had been looking for the difference in their last name Kelly, Kelly Etc.)

1. The fol. named EM having been asgd to the 19th Inf Regt fr Hq 24th Inf Div per Par 9 SO 77 Hq 24th Inf Div APO 24 ea(?) are further asgd to orgn indicated. EDCMR 23 mAR 51. John J Earley US51091914 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Jun52 21mon Co "E" John Kelly US51062835 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Juu52 21mon Co "E" Mario Iezzoni RA13353191 Pvt-2 4745 RAU Jul53 3Yrs Co "G" William J Valletta US51091900 Pvt-2 4547 W Jun 52 21mos Co "E"

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1. The fol. named EM having been asgd to the 19th Inf Regt fr Hq 24th Inf Div per Par 9 SO 77 Hq 24th Inf Div APO 24 ea(?) are further asgd to orgn indicated. EDCMR 23 mAR 51.

John J Earley US51091914 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Jun52 21mon Co "E" John Kelly US51062835 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Jun52 21mon Co "E" Mario Iezzoni RA13353191 Pvt-2 4745 Ransgd Jul53 3Yrs Co "G" William J Valletta US51091900 Pvt-2 4547 W Jun 52 21mos Co "E" 19 Robinson St Waterbury CT 06704 ph 203 756 9895 (died 2004?) Mario, I received the packet of information last evening when I arrived home from work that you mailed me.

Wow. Simply...wow.

I can't begin to thank you for all of your life's work. I telephoned my father this morning on my way to the troop and told him of what I read. He was waiting for me to return home so he, too, could put his hands on your words and work and witness and feel his uncle once more. As I write I'm sure he's sleeping and having a pleasant connection to his past.

I went to the now Former St. Andrew's Health Center in Waterbury today and they have no record of a John Kelly ever living there. They checked computer records as well as hard bound books for me. Now on to our next address.

Tis' not the hour but the days events that bring me solace. Thank you again Mario. I'll talk with you soon. God Bless, -Jim

From: JCDubliner@aol.com To: mario7@ptd.net Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 5:06 PM

Subject: Re: Korean War Project From Jim Dolan Mr. Iezzoni, Thank you so much for responding!

I related your posting to my father and he told me how he vividly remembers the last time

he saw his uncle, John Earley alive. He was walking home from school for lunch and saw his uncle

as a passenger in a car being driven to the train station in New Haven after being home for leave. He recalls his uncle waiving at him. Perhaps he was waiving goodbye.

I'm a state trooper in Connecticut and I drive through Waterbury every day during my commute to the Barracks in Litchfield. I'll make it a point to go to St. Andrews Health Center and attempt to find John Kelly.

Do you know if there are any morning reports or other documentation available with regards to 11 Apr 1951? My father and I would be curious to read them.

I will report back to you with an update on John Kelly, hopefully as soon as tomorrow.

Thank you again Mr. Iezzoni,-Jim

on a hillside, saying he was going to drive north all the way to Vladivostok, a Russian City on the coast above Manchuria. I can still hear him yelling, "Vladivostok, Vladivostok!"

We also have a sergeant who has a reputation for slipping off at night. They say he hides along a trail and that when an enemy patrol comes along he grabs the last man and cuts his throat.

April 10, 1951

We moved up the hill on line to replace an outfit that went back into reserve. My squad leader, Sgt. Thomas, had me buddy up with him. Our foxhole was a bunker that had been used by the previous GIs. We got to our positions just before dark. Sgt. Thomas told me to clean up the bunker while he checked on the rest of the squad. A lot of loose ammunition was lying around, the kind my M-I uses, so I gathered it up, thinking we might need it and that it shouldn't go to waste. I threw most of it away the next day because it got too heavy.

We took turns standing guard that night, one hour on and one hour off.

April 11, 1951

We saddled up and moved out before daylight. Our mission was to take a hill and ridge line off to the east. We moved out in a lateral direction, getting to the hill we were to take just after noon.

The hills in Korea are very steep. The only way to take one is to follow the fingers that run from the top to the valley below. This makes a large-force assault impossible. A small force, a squad or a platoon, has to work its way up each finger.

Our platoon was not the assault platoon that day, so we waited in the valley at the bottom of the hill. We were called up later in the afternoon to guard the right flank. Apparently, they thought the Reds might try to circle around behind us. Machine gun and rifle fire was popping over our heads as we crawled up over the edge of this finger on the right flank. Needless to say, we didn't stand up. This was my first encounter with enemy fire in Korea.

The other platoon failed to take the hill that day, so that evening we pulled back and dug in down in the valley. I dug my foxhole, and Sgt. Thomas was my foxhole buddy again. It was a cold night, and Sgt. Thomas was getting pretty cold as he took his turn to stand guard. I had an extra blanket that I gave him to use.

We were not attacked that night.

April 12, 1951

At daylight, it was our platoon's turn to lead the assault. Each finger of the hill had knobs at different points. The machine gun from the fourth squad set up at the bottom to cover the first squad as they crawled and fought their way up to the first knob. The first squad then set up a defensive perimeter and called for the machine gun to set up on this first knob. Then the second squad pulled up through them and assaulted the second knob under machine gun cover.

After they secured the second knob and the machine gun had moved into place, it was my squad's turn to assault the third knob. I was running and crawling, keeping behind rocks and trees, and shooting at everything that moved. As we neared the top of the third knob, we could see a couple of foxholes and a trench, so we threw in hand grenades the best we could. You have to be careful throwing a grenade uphill. If it doesn't hit the hole, it will roll back down and explode in your face.

Tom Theil gave me very good info to follow...

Mario

I have only been loosely been following your efforts, and never understood how everyone fit together.

But I knew John Kelly and Bill Valletta very well, having served with both in the 4th platoon, E/19th from when I arrived in Korea about May 1951 until each of them left, Kelly from injuries and Bill by rotation. Of course the photo of Kelly and Valletta is my photo. I have a lot more with them.

Kelly was badly wounded in the pitch black of the night of July 7, 1951, from a short round of our own artillery as we were withdrawing after taking maybe 5 miles of territory in N.K. The reason I remember this so well is that a fellow basic trainee from Bowling Green OH named Art Schwind was killed also by a short artillery round on the way north.

Kelly was within a few feet of me at the time as we were both in the same squad (actually I think he had made squad leader), I was carrying the 57mm recoilless. I did not know it was Kelly that was hit until some time later as the line kept moving and Kelly was left with medics. He was evacuated by helicopter in the morning. We got a letter from John later when he was recuperating in a U.S. hospital and all that I remember of it was that he said one leg was about two inches shorter than the other.

I searched for John maybe five years or so ago and found him still in NYC. However, my contact was with his son, also named John, who told me his father was badly afflicted with Alzheimer's. But he said that when he showed him the photos I had sent (one of which was the one attached to your email) his father beamed from ear to ear! That is the last I have on that contact because his son has not followed up with me and I got too busy doing other things.

Valletta also was one of my very good friends in E Company. He and I argued a lot about CT and NY Yankees versus OH and the Indians. I remember him telling about catching the train from Waterbury to Yankee Stadium, and how jealous that made me. I remember one summer day we were attacking along with the rifle platoon of Norm Williams (the same one we were with on the Kelly incident), Bill was carrying the bulky 45-pound 57. Norm gave the command "fix bayonets" and Bill in his ever ready humor said to me "this damned thing does not have any bayonet mount!" I also remember going to mass with Bill.

Bill was wounded on November 10, 1951, but I do not recall anything of the action associated with his wound. The site says he was returned to duty but I no longer recall Bill after that. I don't know if he went to Japan with the Division but do not think so as I was on the first rotation home from Japan and he was not with me on the William Wiegal on the trip home. I learned from Merry of Bill's death. I do not think he married.

I of course did not know you then or Early.

Some time ago you sent a copy of a microfilm that has all four of your names; I presume that was when you got to Korea, March 1951. But you state about Kelly having wounds to his chin and back. How did he incur these if he was going north? Since it was March 1951, and both Kelly and Valletta were draftees, he would not have gotten to Korea before then I think.

Also, fyi serial nos between the microfilm and the online casualty base I use verify for Kelly and Valletta

Mario, there is a mention of a book. Is this your book? What does it contain?

And finally as you know I am still doing the Taro Leaf. This sounds like a story and I would like to carry it. What do you think about that?

Thanks for including me with your distribution.

Tom Thiel

Home of Record: LAWRENCE COUNTY, MO Place of Loss: North Korea Born: Year of Birth: 1924 Caucasian Korean War Project Key No: 790 Date Of Final Status: (April 12, 1951) ////// JOE C COMIER 19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV AFHIY Hostile, Died (KIA) Date Of Loss: April 12, 1951 PVT - E2 Service Number: RA19364218 MOS: 04745 Home of Record: ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA Place of Loss: North Korea Born: Year of Birth: 1931 Black Korean War Project Key No: 5734 Date Of Final Status: (April 12, 1951) ///// WILLIAM B EARLS 19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Army Hostile, Died (KIA) Date Of Loss: April 12, 1951 **PVT - E2** Service Number: RA14362213 MOS: 04745 **Home of Record: MARION COUNTY, MS** Place of Loss: North Korea Born: Year of Birth: 1932 Caucasian Korean War Project Key No: 8293 Date Of Final Status: (April 12, 1951) **RUSSELL K LUCAS** 19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Army Hostile, Died (KIA) Date Of Loss: April 12, 1951 PVT - E1 Service Number: RA15423872 MOS: 04745 Home of Record: POWELL COUNTY, KY Place of Loss: North Korea Born: Year of Birth: 1931 Caucasian Korean War Project Key No: 17964 Date Of Final Status: (April 12, 1951) ALLEN L ORD 19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV AFHIY Hostile, Died (KIA) Date Of Loss: April 12, 1951

```
* April 11, 1951 - JOHN J EARLEY
  * April 11, 1951 - CHARLES F FREEMAN
///////////
JOHN J EARLEY
19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV
Hostile, Died of Wounds (DOW)
Date Of Loss: April 11, 1951
PVT - E2
Service Number: US51091914 MOS: 04745
Home of Record: NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CT
Place of Loss: Republic of Korea
Born: Year of Birth: 1925
Caucasian
Korean War Project Key No: 8290
Date Of Final Status: (April 11, 1951)
CHARLES F FREEMAN
19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV
Army
Hostile, Died (KIA)
Date Of Loss: April 11, 1951
PFC - E3
Service Number: ER16255832 MOS: 04745
Home of Record: COOK COUNTY, IL
Place of Loss: Republic of Korea
Born: Year of Birth: 1928
Caucasian
Korean War Project Key No: 9882
Date Of Final Status: (April 11, 1951)
//////////
19 - INF RGT - 24 INF DIV
  * April 12, 1951 - PETER GERALD AREND
  * April 12, 1951 - JOE C COMIER
  * April 12, 1951 - WILLIAM B EARLS
  * April 12, 1951 - RUSSELL K LUCAS
  * April 12, 1951 - ALLEN L ORD
  * April 12, 1951 - JESSE J PAXTON
  * April 12, 1951 - CARTER N PING
  * April 12, 1951 - REGINALD F RIVIERE
  * April 12, 1951 - DEWITT L SLAUGHTER
  * April 12, 1951 - ROOSEVELT TOWNS
  * Aprii 12, 1951 - JAMES B TYNES
////
PETER GERALD AREND
19 INF RGT 24 INF DIV
Army
Hostile, Died (KTA)
Date Of Loss: April 12, 1951
CPT - 03
Service Number: 0-0028402 MOS: 05401
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Search For Casualties By Date 11 to 13 apr 51

19 - INF RGT - 24 INF DIV

19 E Kelly, John

Il must have been Valletto William

St Andrews Health Center LLC 2817 North Main Street Waterbury, CT 06704

203-757-0731

///// KELLY JOHN Rank=PFC Serial Number=US51062835

Branch=Infantry Military Occupation Specialty=04745 Year of Birth=

State of Residence=NY County of Residence=New York Unit=19th Inf Regt Division=24th Inf Div Type of Unit=Inf Regt Place of Casualty=North Korea Date of Casualty (yymmdd)=51 07

09 Type of Casuaity=Evacuated Detail of Casualty=SWA/Seriously wounded in action by missile Group of Casualty=Separated from Army Evacuation Disposition=SFD/Separated for Disability ////// Kelly, John 350 W 53rd St New York, NY 10019-5751 (212) 246-4604

Kelly, John 103 W 122nd St. Apt 1 New York, NY 10027-5512 (212) 280-2439

Kelly, John 22 W 66th St New York, NY 10023-6207 (212) 288-6432

Kelly, John 530 W 147th St New York, NY 10031-4533 (212) 368-3396

Kelly, John 150 W 55th St New York, NY 10019-5305 (212) 581-2085

Kelly, John 218 E 82nd St New York, NY 10028-2724 (212) 628-5708

Kelly, John 39 Jane St, Apt 5A New York, NY 10014-6128 (212) 741-0042

Kelly, John more info 46 W 95th St New York, NY 10025-6717

Page 1

MOS: 04745 Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: April 16, 1951 **LEROY HAYES** 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD **ESCAMBIA COUNTY** State of Residence: FL Rank: PV2 IDNO: RA14270853 MOS: 04745 Casualty Date: April 15, 1951 Casualty Date 2: April 20, 1951 11111111 NORBER KOCZOROWSKI 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD **COOK COUNTY** State of Residence: IL Rank: SFC IDNO: RA16335454 MOS: 01745 Casualty Date: April 11, 1951 Casualty Date 2: November 30, 1951 //////// **GEORGE S MAKI** 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD CASCADE COUNTY State of Residence: MT Rank: PV2 IDNO: US56092014 MOS: 04745 Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: August 6, 1951 JOSEPH J SECOGES 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD SCHUYLKILL COUNTY State of Residence: PA Rank: PV2 IDNO: US52039196

MOS: 04745

Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: May 24, 1951

////////

HAROLD D ZUMWALT 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD BLUE EARTH COUNTY State of Residence: MN

Rank: PFC

CLARK E MC MINN 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD **HAYES COUNTY** State of Residence: NE Rank: PFC IDNO: ER57500335 MOS: 04745 Casualty Date: November 4, 1951 Casualty Date 2: April 14, 1951

JAMES W ARGOTT 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: EVC **PASSAIC COUNTY** State of Residence: N3

Rank: PV2

IDNO: RA12338774

MOS: 04745

Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: December 21, 1951

Country: SK Province: V0 File Number: 12509 //////

TONY DEUTSCH

0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD **BRONX COUNTY** State of Residence: NY Rank: SGT IDNO: US51061460

MOS: 01745

Casualty Date: April 11, 1951 Casualty Date 2: December 14, 1951

//////// **EUGENE HUNTER** 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD LAKE COUNTY

State of Residence: IN

Rank: PV2

IDNO: US55030959

MOS: 04745

Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: April 17, 1951

ROBERT L EARLEY 0019 INF RGT 24 INF DIV Type of Casualty: RTD **MONTGOMERY COUNTY** State of Residence: OH

Rank: PV2

IDNO: RA15431268

MOS: 04745

Casualty Date: April 13, 1951 Casualty Date 2: April 16, 1951

į.,

////////// LEROY HAYES

Pag

Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:38 PM

Mario,

Wonderful! We have April 11 graveside service at 10:30 and luncheon afterwards.

My brother, Father Michael Dolan, will officiate. He found his notebook! It must be a sign! My father, James J. Dolan, will take all to a Waterbury lunch, which I promise you will love.

We're all looking forward to your arrival.

Give me your details and request when you can.

Peace,

-Jim

Saturday, March 27, 2010 8:42 AM

Hello Mario,

Well, we survived the St. Patrick's Holy Day. Acutally, it was quite uneventful falling in the middle of the week. But it served as a great warm up to even better times to come.

It's comical trying to get my brother the priest to commit to a time on the 11th. He's incredibly busy and if he doesn't write his schedule down in his notebook he has no idea where and when he is supposed to be. Then he lost his notebook. I wonder how many brides are still waiting on the alter?

So my wife can plan our meals, what travel arraingments work for you and what time do you plan on arriving? Should I set up a slot machine in my living room?

I have to run now and get the kids ready for their crazy weekend schedule.

Until next time,

-Jim

Mario,

It's funny you ask for a picture of John J. Early. My father recently went to the Waterbury Republican News Paper and spoke with the man in charge of the archives. He researched our project and provided some useful information, including a photo of John J. Early in his uniform. My father will be sending it to you shortly. We're still working on obtaining the morning report.....

Until then, guess which one is me....

Peace,

-Jim

In a message dated 12/26/2009 9:04:08 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, mario7@ptd.net writes: Thank you Jim,

can you possibly e-mail me an Army photo of John J. Earley if there is one available. mario in the coal mines of Pa.

Pace e Bene

PS: Felice anno nuovo

From: jcdubliner@aol.com

To: mario7@ptd.net

Sent: Saturday, December 26, 2009 2:47 AM

Subject: Merry Christmas

Waterbury, CT.

Since childhood I was told the stories of my uncle, especially from his sister Kathy, who was my Grandmother, as well as stories from my father. It was a devistating blow to the Dolan family

when he was killed in Korea, one that I believe my Grandmother never fully recovered from, however, his short life has served as inspiration to all of us.

I've often wondered what actually happened that fateful day in Korea and your posting has certainly given us insight.

I do hope all is well with you. I thank you for your service to our great country and your heroic attempt to save my uncle. May God Bless you and your family.

Should you have the time, I would love to speak with you again, either by e-mail or telephone. Coincidently, I was born April 11, 1968, some 17 years to the day that John Earley died. Respectfully.

-Jim Dolan Southington, CT

1. Email Via TherKorean War Project Remembrance Entries

From: Jim Dolau

Email: jcdubliner@aol.com Subject: John J. Earley

Mr. Iezzoni,

I am the great-nephew of John J. Earley, who was from Waterbury, CT.

Since childhood I was told the stories of my uncle, especially from his sister Kathy, who was my Grandmother, as well as stories from my father. It was a devistating blow to the Dolan family when he was killed in Korea, one that I believe my Grandmother never fully recovered from, however, his short life has served as inspiration to all of us.

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Should you have the time, I would love to speak with you again, either by e-mail or telephone. Coincidently, I was born April 11, 1968, some 17 years to the day that John Earley died. Respectfully,

-Jim Dolan Southington, CT

2. Ciao Jim, You gave me CHILLS ALL OVER w/ this e-mail.

I must ask if your family knows the name of John Kelly, from NY City and Ireland, a good friend of John J Early. I met them on the ship going over and became a trio w/ them. I was assigned to G Co and they to E Co. on the 23rd of march 51.

It was our 1st attack, 11 Apr 51, I carried John J Early to the Aid station that day.

3.Mr. Iezzoni,

Thank you so much for responding!

I related your posting to my father and he told me how he vividly remembers the last time he saw his uncle, John Earley alive. He was walking home from school for lunch and saw his uncle

as a passenger in a car being driven to the train station in New Haven after being home for leave. He recalls his uncle waiving at him. Perhaps he was waiving goodbye.

I'm a state trooper in Connecticut and I drive through Waterbury every day during my commute to the Barracks in Litchfield. I'll make it a point to go to St. Andrews Health Center and attempt to find John Kelly.

Do you know if there are any morning reports or other documentation available with regards to

11 Apr 1951? My father and I would be curious to read them.

I will report back to you with an update on John Kelly, hopefully as soon as tomorrow.

Thank you again Mr. Iezzoni.

-,Tim

4.Mario

I received the packet of information last evening when I arrived home from work that you mailed me : who have the company of the second of the company of t and the late of the second section in the second second

Wow. Simply...wow.

I can't begin to thank you for all of your life's work. I telephoned my father this morning on my way to the troop and told him of what I read. He was waiting for me to return home so he, too, could nut his hands on your words and work and witness and feel his uncle once more. As I write I'm sure he's sleeping and having a pleasant connection to his past.

I went to the now Former St. Andrew's Health Center in Waterbury today and they have no record of a John Kelly ever living there. They checked computer records as well as hard bound books for me. Now on to our next address.

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Tis' not the hour but the days events that bring me solace.

Thank you again Mario.

I'll talk with you soon.

God Bless,

-Jim

5.Ciao Jim,

Please keep me informed of your finds?

For 50+ yrs I had his first and last name confused and thanks to Merry Helm for her help in getting me straight (and, a couple of sleep recalls of my inability to Say EARLY - HEarly and settled calling him Kelley).

Where is he buried?

I don't remember him having a family??

Do you have any photos of him?

Ciao for now Pace e Bene da mario

6.Mario,

Absolutely. My father and I were discussing how we'd like to meet you in person.

We'll make it happen and the 11th of April would be fitting.

I'll get to work on it.

I'm just in from working a midnight shift so I'm off to bed.

I'll talk with you soon,

-Jim

7.Mario.

We're working on things from our end.

My father is ecstatic. As am I.

He's been to the Waterbury Paper to recover the history of John Earley.

Certainly, he was your friend.

We have found remembrances.

All thanks to you, Mario.

Hugs,
-Jim Dolan
ps- more to come!

Waterbury, CT.

Since childhood I was told the stories of my uncle, especially from his sister Kathy, who was my Grandmother, as well as stories from my father. It was a devistating blow to the Dolan family when he was killed in Korea, one that I believe my Grandmother never fully recovered from, however, his short life has served as inspiration to all of us.

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I do hope all is well with you. I thank you for your service to our great country and your heroic attempt to save my uncle. May God Bless you and your family.

Should you have the time, I would love to speak with you again, either by e-mail or telephone. Coincidently, I was born April 11, 1968, some 17 years to the day that John Earley died. Respectfully,

-Jim Dolan Southington, CT

I had Major Cooper check in a book put together by Joe Sweeney, who gathered all the morning reports and wrote a book that included all the KIAs in 19th IR. I believe your Kellys both survived the war. Whether or not we ever find them, your sacrifice was worth it. Bless you for saving his life.Merry

Neither Kelli nor Kelly, or anything close, are in Joe Sweeney's book.

(I was told at the Aid Station that "MY Kelly-John J Earley" died 3hrs after I got him there due to loss of blood from a shot in the back) (The spelling difference was in their 1st name John J. and just JOHN. I had been looking for the difference in their last name Kelly, Kelly Etc.)

1. The fol. named EM having been asgd to the 19th Inf Regt fr Hq 24th Inf Div per Par 9 SO 77 Hq 24th Inf Div APO 24 ea(?) are further asgd to orgn indicated. EDCMR 23 mAR 51. John J Earley US51091914 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Jun52 21mon Co "E" John Kelly US51062835 Pvt-2 4745 W Unasgd Jun52 21mon Co "E" Mario Iezzoni RA13353191 Pvt-2 4745 RAU Jul53 3Yrs Co "G" William J Valletta US51091900 Pvt-2 4547 W Juu 52 21mos Co "E"

Kelley, Kelly, Cully, Culley (HURLEY)

Way back in 1951, when I was 17 years old, on my way to the Korean War I became friends with three guys: an Irishman-John Kell, born in Ireland but hailing from New York City; another Irishman-John J. Earley, born in the USA, Waterbury, CT; an Italian, William "Bill" Valletta, also born in Waterbury, CT.

I had a close relationship with Kelly mostly because we were both foreign-born and our accent and pronunciation of certain words was discussed often. My inability to say "Earley" which I pronounced "Hearley" became a battle between Earley and me. He would correct me for not pronouncing his name, I thought, only to find out 58 years later that it was not "Hurley" but "Earley" where all the time I thought I was being correct on "Hearley". I finally came to terms by calling him "Kelly", the American/Irishman. This name stays in my memory for more than fifty years.

When he was wounded, I called him "Kelly" and, in the aid station, I asked if Kelly made it. All my life I thought that I carried Kelly to the aid station where he died due to loss of blood three hours later. During the fifty plus years I often thought of contacting his family and telling them how he died.

All I knew of him was: He was not married, He was a good bit older, He was from Ohio(not true).

His name was not spelled K-E-L-L-Y but could be K-E-L-L-E-Y or C-U-L-L-Y Once I searched on the internet for 'John Kelley Kelly Cully state of Ohio'. In 2006 I started asking others over the internet and when I went to reunions, asking for someone with the last name of "Kelly" or some variation of that spelling.

I was trying to reach John Kelly from New York City. Only he would be able to tell me where the other Kelley originated.

Bits of information started arriving after everyone had given up on finding the man I knew as Kelley. In a dream it came to me that the difference could be in their first name and not the last. Sure as hell, I checked the daily reports to see who died on April, 11, 1951 and found John J. Earley died of wounds that day. John Kelly was wounded in July and returned to the USA!

In my Company 'G' 19th the roster listed a Robert Earley L from Ohio. He was also wounded but on the 13th of April.

The four G Co wounded 11th April were Coleman, McMinn, Brown, Dubois. I carried running Coleman off the hill w/ enemy shooting at us.

Robert Earley and I went on R&R to Japan 10 Aug 51... reason why my thinking that John J. Early (the other Irishman) was from Ohio?

We all met at the grave site of John J Earley in Waterbury, CT, New St. Joseph Cemetery, April, 11, 2010 and "HURLEY's grave was also nearby" an other reason why Earley was correcting my pronounceation of his last name. (Why it took 58 Years to find his family that is not in the name of Earley!!!)

Mario. PC - 1 nove Video + Photos of 2010 11 Apr in Cemetery

Received. Excellent. Thank you and thank your Perri for me. I will show this to my family this memorial day.

Thank you for your service to my family and, more importantly, thank you for your service to our great country.

Peace,

Your friend,

-Jim

——Original Message——

From: mario iezzoni <mario7@ptd.net>

To: JCDubliner@aol.com

Sent: Mon, May 24, 2010 2:36 pm

Subject: Fw: Fw: Emailing: 0411001047

Ciao Jim,

The file w/ no sound was 3GPPiMovie. My son Perri changed it to AVi, pls try it. It is a little too BIG for e-mailing!!!

mario

---- Original Message ----

From: Perri iezzoni To: mario iezzoni

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:03 PM Subject: Re: Fw: Emailing: 0411001047

Here you go, Dad, this one is converted to .avi. I'm sending another in .mpg format but it is too big to send via gmail so I am sending it through my work email program.

On Sat, May 15, 2010 at 12:08 PM, mario iezzoni <mario7@ptd.net> wrote:

Here it is dad

bouna fortuna - good luck

---- Original Message ---- The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments: 0411001047

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Joe Sweeney P.O. Box 506 Dellslow, WV 26531-0506

August 14, 2010



Mr. Mario lezzoni 79 Amidon Street Summit Hill, PA 18250-1401

Dear Mario,

Per your request for information about John J. Early, US 51091914, Easy Co., 19th Inf. Reg't. from New Haven CT, I haven't found any personal information that you don't already know. Only one Morning Report listed his name, and that was that he Died of Wounds after being wounded on 11 April 1951. A copy is enclosed.

Of the Morning Reports that I copied none listed his joining Easy Co. However, I do not have copies of all morning reports, so that is to be expected. Should you be interested in learning more about the action on April 11, 1951 that information is contained in the records at the National Archives located in College Park, Md. Regimental S-2 and S-3 Staff Journals contain many of the daily messages between the battalion officers while the action was in progress. Map coordinates are listed for the units and actions. Copies of Maps are also available from College Park. Regimental S-3 Unit reports condense much of the action into a short report that includes a map overlay. These are also available from College Park.

S-2 and S-3 Staff Journals are in Group 407, Box 3656

S-3 Unit Reports are in Group407, Box 3553 and Group 338, Box 189

One map covers the area: AMS Series L751, Sheet 6628 II, Korea 1: 50,000 scale, Chip'O -RI quadrangle.

Mario, I was there at the time with Item Company, so I remember the action. We had been chasing the Chinese north for about a month with little to no resistance. And as John Early stated in his letter to his nephews, that led to long days and short nights. We moved forward on foot all day, then just before dark we stopped, established defensive positions, then dug in until midnight most nights and rolled out around 4:30-5:00 in the morning moving out for another day. The Chinese were preparing for their Spring Offensive and had established well fortified defensive positions along the north side of Highway 3A in the those rugged mountains to delay our advance—that is where we were stopped and had to fight for every inch on north. John J. Early was wounded and died in the initial assault.

The Chinese used Mules, Horses, Camels and Cows to move their supplies and munitions. They were so entrenched that WW-II era flame-throwers were used to rout them out of the bunkers and caves.

Had the Chinese not launched their offensive 11 days later on April 22, we would have advanced into their staging area. Undoubtedly we forced their hand.

Mario, I'm sorry that I couldn't be of more help, let me know if there is anything else?

Regards,

Joe Sweeney

1-19", Korea

STAFF JOURNAL S-3 Report

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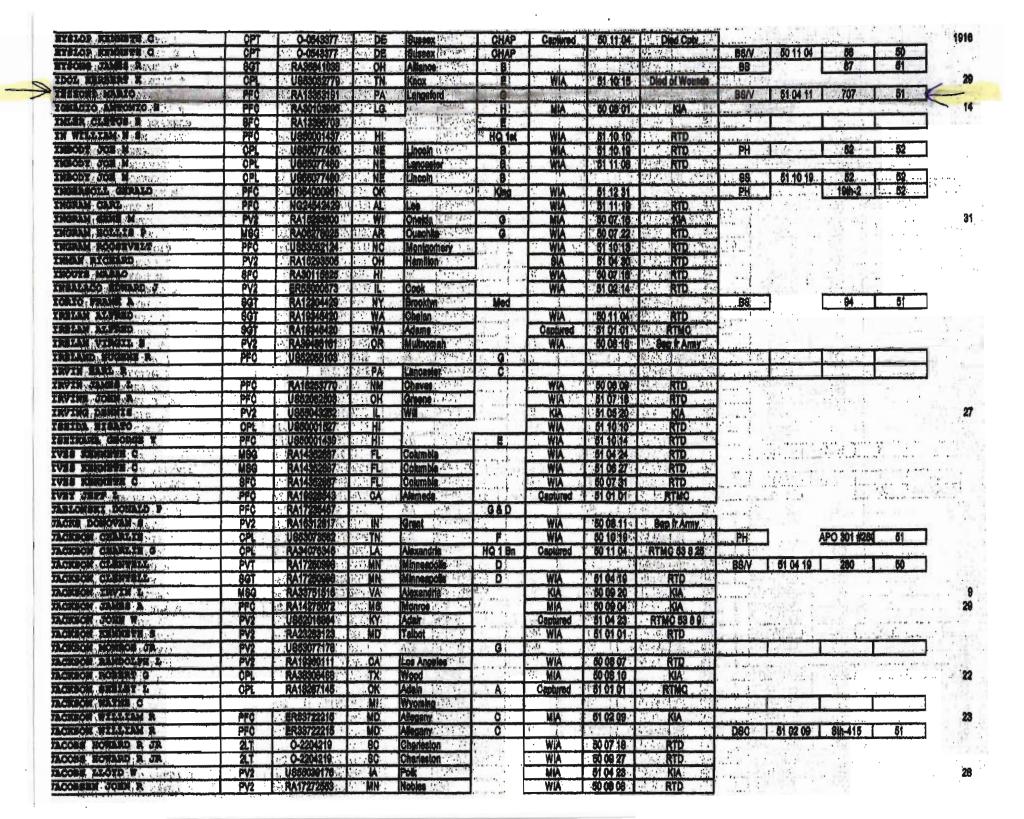
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Mario,

I was just reviewing some of the paper work we've found regarding my great uncle, John Earley.

What a discovery it's been. All thanks to you.

Before the New Year is rung in, I wanted to send you great thanks for your correspondence, Mario. You are truly a wonderful man.

As we approach April 11, 2010, I am pleased to let you know that there will be a graveside service at the Cemetery in Waterbury Ct. My brother, the Reverend Michael Dolan will celebrate.

There will be family from Pvt. Earley's side, as small as we are, however, a celebration of his life and service will follow.

With my father's insistence, you will stay at my house or we will put you and your family up in a local hotel.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, start planning. And Please! Invite the entire family for the weekend! It's all on us. Seriously. Get all of them up here.

Oh, perhaps if we behave, my wife will let us go to the Casino. We have a hook at Mohegan Sun.

Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Mario, my family and I thank you and love you.

Go Army!

Affectionately,

-Jim

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