It was a shock to discover myself as the unidentified soldier in the USO poster. I was rehearsing a play inside the Cadman Plaza World War II Memorial not far from where we live here in Brooklyn Heights. All the walls but one listed the names of the service personnel from the borough of Brooklyn who'd served in World War II. No such memorial listing the names of the men and women who served in the Korean war existed anywhere in The U.S.

I filled in that blank wall with the names of the men with whom I'd served in Korea. I wound up hospitalized with a severe case of depression. A year later I began the highly autobiographical, though fictional short story about the dedication of a blank fourth wall inside that memorial — filled with the names of the service personnel from the borough of Brooklyn who'd served in Korea.

All this is part of the story which Jan Jackson passed on to General Stilwell, which in part explains my invitation to the Korean War Memorial gala where I sat next to you at Jackson's table 49.

So you see, in many ways we're kindred spirits. You know, of course, you won't be alone when you make that trek up the Korean peninsula. If you have the proper P.R. a lot of Korean vets will be right there with you — in spirit at least. I hope you'll keep me abreast of your plans.
War Silhouette

PFC Richard Coate, of Trenton, Ohio, is silhouetted in the doorway of a Korean house as he scans the hills in the background for evidence of enemy activity. He is with the U.S. Third Division in the Seoul area of the western front. Heavy Chinese losses are reported as the Reds fall back before UN drive toward the 38th Parallel along the western front.
about. Now that I reflect back, I copied the name down from a card which had been passed on to another Korean War veteran. I stuck it in my wallet with intention of transferring it to the cork board above my desk. When I cleaned out my wallet I apparently mislaid it. I hope to see the veteran who passed the information on to me in Arlington next week so I'll ask him if he'll give me the address again.

However, it may be a false run. I don't know if he can do anything for you or not.

Korea was back in the news again today. Apparently there is talk of permitting a five day opening up of the border so that Koreans can cross in either direction at Pannumjam. I understand such plans have been laid before only to fall apart at the last minute.

It sounds like your well on the way to putting the package together. Sounds great. I hope it works out. And give me a progress report.

Thanks for the info on the two doctors. I'm going to wait until after I get back from Arlington to write to either.

I'm curious - when in 1984 were you involved with John Kenny? I read an article in the New York Times way back in '84 about the conflicts within the committee which was forming to fund the drive. A man with a long Greek name was involved.

For what it's worth - Tom Maines and John Kenny are good friends.

Thanks for the call. Keep in touch.

Richard Coate