Dear Mr. Barker,

I'm really sorry for not answering your letter sooner, I want to thank you for the maps and pages of "Combat in Korea".

I never knew or heard anything that was written about Korea. For sure, it is like I remember that part yet. I had no idea who or what outfit was where. But dorm was a ball.

I get nervous when I write about this subject, I guess because I see that happened there. Especially all of my lost time.

In answer to your question, No. I never was in the Buffalo VA H. My nearest VA H was Wilkes Barre, Pa.

I read somewhere that captivity had been bounded to 1 day for pow-station. Could be wrong!

I have not heard from the brother of the 23rd.

I did hear from and did join the 2nd Division asst.

with Bill Selvin.
You may see any part of my letter to you. If you think it will help.

I did see an ad in the P.S.V. which you must have put there. I didn't see another such an Army times because I didn't receive it. But by now you have heard from someone.

I went the form in for another shot at my records. But haven't heard anything yet. Also sent form in for medals. They said it would take 9 -12 months to hear from them.

I'm going to be brief about my problem after reaching home. I hope.

It was several days after I got home that I began to realize what had happened in Korea. I have no recollection of the time between being released from the chutes then getting into the 3 1/2 either day or hour later, or my trip from Korea, or my closure and how I got within 7 miles of home. I was so screwed up it is hard to explain. I was just sick, nervous and plain had it not along with anyone. Nightmares chose me and my family meet. The more I could hear and the more I remember about them, the tougher it got to
Face my family. I moved in with my brother and after several weeks he said, he had to ask me to find some where else to live because his wife was afraid of me and couldn't handle my nightmares any longer.

In those days as you surely know, a person might just as well had the plague as to have a mental problem, even I wouldn't accept it or seek treatment. It was shameful and unheard of in our family.

As a result, I dropped my whole family - I was ashamed and guilty to the point that I could not make you believe.

I had and continue to have blackouts. They frighten me because I don't remember what I do. Thank god I have never hurt anyone. Because of what I did in Korea and what I saw as a medic, I hesitate to tell you why.

The ironic thing is, if all the complaints I had after discharge have now been documented by tests which many awaited at that time. Although due to missing and lost Army records - My condition are not service connected. However, I was granted service connection of 30% for Post Traumatic Stress in 1982 but was denied a nervous condition in 1951.
When I got out, I had difficulty with many jobs, I could never work with other guys and always had to take jobs when I could work along. I finally realized that sales would give me that freedom and after many years of bumbling around getting fired, quitting and moving on, I had sold one thing or another since.

My problem continues. I am constantly having bad nightmares, so I'm afraid to sleep which causes more problems. As for working, I retired at age 64 in 1977 because of gangrene toes due to frozen feet, heart disease, hypertension and circulation problems which doctors have attributed to long period of stress.

If you have any particular question, I'll be glad to answer them for you. Because of 2 try to put 32 years down on paper, it would take years. But I can say, I've had a hell of a life since returning. But it's determined to fight it some how. I think I can now that I know I have a problem, yes, until I started at the VA in 1980. I just thought that everyone felt as bad as me, and everyone had nightmares. But now I know it is not normal. I don't have any hopes of ever getting back into the family because of the long separation, and I try to explain why I split in the first place in really hard.
I don't know if everyone felt as me but
I feel guilty to have made it back. That is why
it is so important for me to keep any of the
other guys of the 37th FAB especially Bert C. made it.
It is important for me to know just how bad
the 2nd Div got hurt in that roadside carnage.
I know it is impossible to read
anything I can about the place. I hope you keep me
informed as to what I can get in the future or
what I have missed in the past.
For many years, I hated the word 'Korea'.
Nothing, other than flashbacks and small thoughts.
I didn't care. I developed such a hatred I avoided
anything connected with it.
Now I can't find out enough about it. I'm starved
for info. I really think Vietnam did something to
show my interest to what happened in Korea.
What ever it is I'm not sure. Maybe it was
because I had a chance to really bugged out in the
Open during a social worker visit. Because that was
the first time I even talked to anyone about it. I really
wish I knew. But I am truly interested. Perhaps it
is my desire to find my 53 or 54 days together.

There was a time that I wouldn't even admit that
my uniform belonged to me. I was ashamed to admit
it was mine.
Now it would mean so much for me to have kept it and to have the medals I've earned. To have my record up among records straightened out. Every thing that means nothing for all of those years suddenly means everything to me. I hope this doesn't sound goofy? All of a sudden I became proud, especially after corresponding with you and reading the things you've sent me. Also hearing from the people you put me in touch with. Thank you.

Well this is page 6, just as I thought. I told you that I can't be long.

Thank you for listening. I really appreciate hearing from you. I just know that I will never have my G.P. status and other things. But I sure not giving up yet. Especially after you, Freeman stated that many men were England & Release. I have some hope.

Your Friend also.

Tony Gianaros.