

A Tribute To An American Soldier
Leroy G. Hauger
(March 31, 2008)

Dear Frances and family

I first met your brother Lee in May of 1953 in North Korea. We were both in the US Army and served in combat together in the trenches just north of the 38th parallel in the very central part of Korea. called the "*Iron Triangle*". The north Koreans and the Chinese were about 500 yards in front of us and occupied a very large mountain we called Popasan Mountain.

Lee and I were assigned to the Belgium army because we were trained in a special expertise called "*Counter Fire*". Bottom line it meant that we had the ability to locate enemy weapons and send that information back to our artillery battalions. The artillery unit in turn, using the information we provided, would fire at the enemy weapons in an attempt to destroy them. Both Lee and I enjoyed our time with the Belgians and had no difficulty communicating with them. Most spoke French Flemish and English fluently.

Your brother and I became good friends and we occupied the same bunker. Our bunker was partially destroyed and we both worked on building a new stronger bunker. On June 23rd, 1953 Lee was the first to occupy the new bunker. Unfortunately that day there was a direct hit on the bunker and my good friend Lee was killed. Francis, this might be the first time that you learned exactly how your brother died. I hope I am right to share this with you but I do believe you have a right to know and also know that your brother was surrounded with his buddies when he left this earth plane.

Lee and I talked a lot, sharing stories about our civilian life and home towns. Lee appeared to me to be on the quiet side but I'm not sure that was his true personality. We all were scared and tended to mask our true feelings and personality.

In a matter of a few months, it will be fifty four years since I last saw your brother. Lee has been on my mind, on and off, for all these years because he made such a positive impression on me. Through the magic of the internet I contacted the *Korean War Project Remembrance Organization* and they put me in touch with you.

I feel bad that, in all these years, I could not make contact with you and your family but with the creation of the internet I finally felt that I might be able to locate you and tell you how much your brother was admired not only by me but his American and Belgium buddies as well.

Warmest Regards,
Jack Doxey
San Diego California