

Image Caption Form

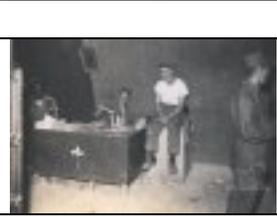
Isaac Mercer



Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember – Korean War Oral History project

Interview # VRK-A-L-2010-054

A black and white photograph showing a group of men in military uniforms on a baseball field. Isaac Mercer is in the center of the group.	Isaac Mercer posing, in the middle, with some buddies at the AAA Baseball Camp in Roberts, California in 1952. (Narrator's photo.)
A black and white photograph of Isaac Mercer sitting at a table, writing a letter. Another man is visible in the background.	Isaac Mercer (left) writes home at the end of July, 1953, following the cease-fire in Korea. They called their temporary home the 'Conrad Hilton.' (Narrator's photo.)
A black and white photograph of Isaac Mercer and a buddy standing behind the lines in a military camp.	Isaac Mercer (left) with a buddy photographed behind the lines in July 1953, following the ceasefire. (Narrator's photo.)
A black and white photograph of Isaac Mercer in the center, receiving a medal from another man.	Photographed at the unit's base camp in late July 1953, Isaac Mercer (in the center) receives U.S. Korean Service Medal. (Narrator's photo.)

	<p>In August 1953, Isaac Mercer is awarded the Good Conduct Medal at the unit's camp, south of Seoul. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>Isaac Mercer sits down to pen a letter home in the unit's Quonset hut in early August 1953. Pictured with him are several of the unit's NCOs. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>Isaac Mercer (on the left) in the CQ quarters in 1953. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>"At last," Mercer remarked, they had "sleeping tents instead of fox holes and trenches; our Conrad Hilton." (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>Isaac Mercer, on the right, writes home from his Quonset hut dining room after the ceasefire in July, 1953. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>Keeping in touch with his family, Isaac Mercer writes home while at the unit's base camp south of Seoul, in August, 1953. Mail call was an important event for the troops. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>In August 1953, Isaac Mercer received the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Medal. (Narrator's photo.)</p>

	<p>Isaac Mercer received the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the United States Army's fourth highest award, in a photograph taken in September 1953. Mercer displayed courage and heroism on July 16, 1953, as he and his unit defended an outpost during "an intense enemy mortar and artillery barrage against enemy troops who had infiltrated into the trenches." (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>On October 21, 1953, Isaac Mercer was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "heroic achievement in connection with military operations against armed enemy." As the document reads, Mercer's "heroic performance demonstrated determination and unwavering courage in the face of grave peril and was instrumental in saving the lives of several of his comrades." (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>On November 18, 1953, the night before Isaac shipped out of Korea and return to the United States, he attended a party given in his honor. Included in the photo are Lieutenants Kelly (with the Combat Infantryman's Badge on his uniform) and Gerke, to Kelly's left. Mercer is in the front, left. (Narrator's photo.)</p>
	<p>Isaac Mercer is pictured with his wife, Earlene Mercer in 2008 while they attended a service at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Rockford, officiated by their son Michael. The two were married on July 19, 1951. (Narrator's photo.)</p>