

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

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## A 1952 Korean War Christmas Story

I had arrived at Kimpo Air Force Base, Korea in early December 1952 and was living in a tent, eating C rations, bathing out of a helmet, using an outside john, and freezing my butt off because the Air Force didn't have any cold weather gear. That wind blowing down from North Korea was truly as cold as a well digger's fanny in Alaska. We were being promised that on Christmas Day we would get a hot meal that included turkey, and everyone including myself was pretty excited about the prospect of that. The rumor was that some canned or frozen turkey was being flown in from Japan for the occasion.

Christmas Eve morning our squadron command post received a radio message that one of our remote homing beacons near the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel that was used by our aircraft when flying missions North was down and they needed radio maintenance assistance. I was the most senior and experienced radio technician in the unit, and it was my job to respond to all such emergencies for all our remote sites in the Northern part of South Korea. I hated the thought of the long drive to the remote site in an open jeep and the cold, and most of all missing that hot Christmas meal.

My buddy, who was a power specialist, and I reluctantly grabbed our carbines, a box or two of C rations, some cartons of cigarettes, and a couple bottles of Canadian Club Bourbon and hit the road. The CC and cigarettes were for recreational use plus trading material. In the Air Force we could get all the booze we wanted and plenty of

cigarettes but few of the more practical necessities. On the other hand the Army had plenty of necessities, but little or no booze and cigarettes. So barter was the name of the game if one were to survive more comfortably.

The homing beacon site was typical of the many remote communication sites throughout Korea. A couple of mobile radio vans, gasoline generators, vehicles, and 12 to 15 guys sleeping in tents. The site was surrounded by a high fence with tents and equipment protected by sand bags and there were plenty of fox holes. It was not uncommon for these sites to be bombed at night by civilian type aircraft from North Korea dropping mortar shells. These bad guys were called Bed Check Charlies because they usually came about bed time to keep one from sleeping as well as to do material damage. Guerrillas were also an ever present danger, and the fence was also needed to keep locals from stealing supplies.

When I arrived on site, we immediately started working on the radio equipment. During the late afternoon, I noticed a lot of Korean orphan kids were standing outside the fence begging for food. The guys didn't seem to be paying much attention, and were even sort of sheepish about the situation. GIs are usually so generous, I couldn't understand what was happening. After the equipment was restored and working properly, I finally asked the NCO in charge, a very young sergeant, what was going on with the

(turn the page)

### 75 Years Ago . . .

December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise bomb attack on Pearl Harbor and other U.S. bases in the Pacific. 2,403 Americans were killed and 1178 more were wounded. The attack led the U.S. entry into World War II.

### Celebrating An NBA Great

*"Push yourself again and again. Don't give an inch until the final buzzer sounds."*

Larry Bird, born December 7, 1956

## Rave Reviews!

*"To whom it may concern, we had our house fumigated last week.*

*A week before, Skip Haffke came over and explained everything that we had to do. He was very clear on everything that we had to do. He was very clear on everything. After the tent was removed, he came by and repaired some holes in our wood and painted it. We really enjoy Skip. He did a great job."*

J.R. Ferrara  
Los Alamitos

*"I would like to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Skip Haffke. I was in total panic when I first spotted termites in the house and the prospect of tenting stressed me so much since I am a clean freak! When Mr. Haffke came to the house to do the inspection, he was knowledgeable and also explained to me in detail how the cost of the tenting was calculated. Even though I got a much lower quote from another termite company, I decided to go with your company because Mr. Haffke earned my trust. I also had a hard time getting my neighbor's signature since it is a landlord/tenant situation but Mr. Haffke met the landlord and easily got her signature! He even kept his promise by showing up at my house when the fumigators first arrived to make sure I was okay! Everything went well and I am happily referring your company and Mr. Haffke to all my friends! Thank you again!"*

Lisa Ruei  
Tustin

Kids. He told me they were orphans living in caves up above the site and fending for themselves. He said they come everyday begging for food, and we have given them everything we could spare plus more, and now we really don't have enough left for ourselves. I asked why don't you go to the Army supply point and get more rations. He told me they were only allowed to get supplies once a month at the Army supply depot, and it would be three days before they could get more.

So instead of celebrating Christmas Eve with those two precious bottles of CC, we took off for the supply point. We traded for two bottles of CC for a jeep load of rations and headed back to the site. On Christmas day the guys invited the kids in, and we heated up the C rations and all had a Christmas feast of sorts with Spam, lima beans, etc.. We had a communications receiver tuned into Armed Forces Radio playing Christmas tunes loudly and some of the guys were trying to teach the Korean kids to sing hymns with them. Every box of C rations had cookies and the guys gave those to the children for Christmas presents.

Christmas was a cold and snowy day, and as I looked around at all the fellows there that day, it dawned on me that I was the senior person in rank as well as the oldest person on the site. I had turned 22 three weeks before. We were all just a bunch of kids, Koreans and all. I would spend another Christmas in Korea in 1953, but the war was over by then, and I finally got that hot Christmas meal with fresh turkey and stuffing, but it didn't measure up to the one with the orphans.

This story was shared with us by  
Charlie Nelson, USAF Retired

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

## A Fun Look At "Giant Bugs"

We've all seen bugs of different sizes. Some are larger at one or two inches long, and others are so small that you can't see them without a magnifying glass. Now, it's time to have some fun and talk about some giant sized bugs!

### How Big Is The Largest Insect That Ever Lived?

One of the largest insects known to have ever existed is an extinct genus of griffinfly, known as the *Meganeuropsis permiana*. These had a wingspan of up to 28 inches and a body length of 11 inches long. Think about the size of this insect for a minute and you'll realize that it could easily block the view of your 27 inch TV screen!

The fossil of this giant insect was found in Kansas, in the year of 1937. It is believed to be about 290 million years old.

### Giant Moths!

The white witch moth has the largest wingspan of any insect living today, at 11 to 12 inches. This beautiful moth is a native of central and northern South America.

The Asian Atlas moth is about the same size but has an even greater wing area of 62 square inches. That's larger than a typical DVD box, which is 44 square inches!

### Giant Spiders!

The giant huntsman spider is considered to be the world's largest spider by leg span, which can reach up to one foot. In 2001, it was first discovered in a cave in Laos.

Most huntsman spiders are native to Asia but they are prevalent in Africa, Australia and South America. They have also be spotted in California, Florida and Texas. If you ever meet up with one, watch out because they move fast! The good news is that their venom is not believed to be deadly

to humans.

The Goliath birdeater has a slightly smaller leg span of 11 inches but is the largest by mass and can weigh as much as 6.2 ounces! They are part of the tarantula family and can be found in northern South America. Their venom is relatively harmless to humans.

It may interest you to know that these spiders are part of local cuisine in northeastern South America where they are roasted in banana leaves. It is said that the flavor is "shrimplike".

### The Largest Butterfly

Queen Alexandra's birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world with a wingspan of 9.8 inches. It can be found in the forest of Papua New Guinea.

### The Heaviest Insects

The giant weta is the heaviest reported insect. It is a member of the cricket family and can be found in New Zealand. They have an overall length of 8 inches and can weigh as much as 2.5 ounces. That is heavier than a sparrow!

Even heavier yet is the larvae of the Goliath beetle, which weighs in at 4.1 ounces. An adult Goliath beetle can be measured at up to 4.3 inches long and is among the largest insects on earth. They can be found in many of Africa's tropical forests.

### The Longest Insect In The World

A *Phryganistria chinensis Zhao* was recently declared as the world's longest insect and measures at 24.5 inches long! These walking sticks really do look like a stick from a tree with six legs.

This specimen was found in southern China and was placed in a museum, where it laid six eggs. Even the smallest offspring measured at more than ten inches long!

## President's Economic Stimulus

The presidential election is over and President Termite Terry is working with his transition team to deliver on his Economic Stimulus Plan. It has been very successful and he believes it is what we need to bring our economy back.

Here are just a few of your fellow citizens who have benefited from his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Albert Eurs of Cypress recommended our service to Jeorjii Colby of Orange.
- Lea Harris of Costa Mesa referred us to Carole Lionberger of Costa Mesa.
- Craig Gilbert of Fountain Valley recommended us to Bruce McCraig of Huntington Beach.
- Craig Gilbert must really like getting free gas because he also referred us to Sean Welch of Huntington Beach.
- Nina Diamont of Corona Del Mar referred us to her neighbor, Amy Allred, in Corona Del Mar.
- Dan Bean of Huntington Beach recommended our services to Patti Fogarty of Huntington Beach.

The President's plan is easy! All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we'll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!

## Fun Facts About Christmas Trees

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Here are some fun facts about Christmas trees to share with your family and friends:

- Approximately 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold each year. Fake tree sales average between 10 and 15 million per year.
- In 1856, Franklin Pierce was the first American President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- The use of small candles to light Christmas trees dates back to the mid 1700's.
- 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms. There are more than 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the U.S.
- Approximately 100,000 people are employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry.
- Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, New York and Virginia are the top Christmas tree producing states.
- 93 percent of real Christmas trees are recycled in community recycling programs.
- Artificial trees will usually last six years in a home, but for centuries in a landfill.
- The most popular Christmas trees are: Scotch pine, Douglas fir, noble fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir, Virginia pine and white pine.
- Edward Johnson, Thomas Edison's assistant, came up with the idea of electric Christmas lights in 1882. They were first mass-produced for sale in 1890.
- An acre of Christmas trees provides the oxygen requirements of 18 people.
- It takes six to ten years to grow a mature tree.
- In 1930, U.S.-based Addis Brush Co. created the first fake tree. The company used the same machinery that it used to make toilet brushes.

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## What Can We Do With 102 Million Dead Trees?

The U.S. Forest Service has been conducting aerial surveys and is now telling us that more than 102 million trees have died in California's forests since 2010. They are also saying that more than half of those trees (62 million) have died this year alone. Here's the big question; what are we going to do with all of these dead trees?

Our officials tell us that they don't have the resources to deal with 102 million dead trees. So, they are going to have to concentrate on what they call "high-hazard areas". In other words, the removal of dead trees which are located close to power lines, roads and areas where people play, will be the first priority. Other concerns, such as the dead trees being a major fire threat, will have to be put on hold.

Cutting down these trees is easy, but getting rid of them is hard to do. They would like to have the mills purchase the dead trees and turn them into lumber. Unfortunately, the mills aren't buying dead lumber from California.

Another option would be to take the trees to a facility where the dead timber gets turned into biomass to produce renewable energy. The bad news is that most of these wood wood-processing facilities are far away and the transportation costs are too high.

The last option would be to have the crews burn them, but that creates air-quality issues for the forests.

As you can see, there are no easy answers. More than 423,000 dead trees were removed in the past year and over \$200 million spent to cope with the problem.

Scientists believe that five years of drought are to blame for much of the destruction. The good news is that our recent rains will help a lot. In the northern Sierra, they have already measured 16.2 inches of rain. That's more than twice the normal amount. Let's hope the rains continue and that the trees stop dying.



"Termite" Terry Singleton