



# Digitization Project: Snapshots from The Korean War!

Tony Bandy examines a great resource for anyone researching Korean War ancestors

**K**NOWN AS THE “THE FORGOTTEN WAR”, THE KOREAN CONFLICT still resonates with many today. Yet as veterans struggle with advancing age, many of them are at last opening up to friends, family, and yes, genealogists, to tell their stories and get back in touch with their fellow service members. I came across one such project lately called Snapshots From the Korean War that is doing just this. Let me share with you what I found out.

## Searching

With over 150 photographs placed online, you’ll find getting started quite easy. For general purposes, you can scroll quickly down the webpage, browsing as needed until you find what you are looking for. As you do this, you will notice that the photos will “flip” around so that you can view additional details on the back. The images themselves are very good, scanned quite clearly, and comprise a wide range of topics. From gun crews serving with field artillery units to aircraft crews, infantry and even civilians, it’s an eye-opening look at something that too often is left for a few paragraphs mentioned in a history book.

These captions themselves will vary, but include original wording and facts as attributed at the time the images were taken. You can assess the images in standard format or you can also use the “large format” which puts together a shadow box approach to viewing.

If you’re looking for something specific, say a subject, keyword, name, location, or date, then the search box at the top of the page is easy to use. Since the pictures were scanned both for the image and caption, with optical character recognition or OCR used on the text, I found it pretty easy to narrow down to specifics.



Homepage for the “Snapshots From the Korean War” site. (Courtesy Democrat & Chronicle newspaper, Rochester, New York)

## About the Project

The project is a partnership between the owner of the photos, Betty Perkins-Carpenter, (also a Korean War veteran) and organizations ranging from the Rochester-based newspaper *Democrat & Chronicle*, *Kodak Alaris*, and *Warrior Salute*. Perkins-Carpenter, according to the story put together by the paper, originally received the photos from other veterans and their families, and hopes to bring together additional friends, veterans and family members through them. Using current technology in a unique method, you’ll find a great start at the large gallery placed online at [koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com](http://koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com). Originating from Department of Defense official photography taken during the war, these images focus specifically on the first part of the war, 1950, according to the story.



## Using Results

Once you've found the image or series of images that you are looking for, then you can use the special link at the bottom of each image to view both the front and back in large scale size. This in-depth approach is great for pulling out specific facets or just examining each photograph in greater detail. From here, it's also possible to download the full resolution image for use or identification in your own work.

Because the project's goals, among others, is to help identify veterans who might have served as well as to bring these photos to the individual families, there's a contact form listed that you can fill out for each photo, with the goal of identifying everyone in this set of photos if possible.

## Scanning Details

One of the interesting details about the project is that the photographs were digitized in con-



Photo of maintenance crew working on a Superfortress vertical stabilizer at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, CA (now the Castle Air Museum). (Photo courtesy the U.S. Department of Defense)

## more information

While I've only revealed a bit about the entire project, try these links for details as well as the organizations and persons involved:

Democrat & Chronicle story:

[www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2014/07/25/finding-connections-korean-war-photos/13184977](http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2014/07/25/finding-connections-korean-war-photos/13184977)

Internet Genealogy back issues (for the Aug/Sep 2013 print copy on the Kodak Alaris PS80)

[www.internet-genealogy.com/shop.html](http://www.internet-genealogy.com/shop.html)

Kodak Alaris Picture Saver Scanning System,

[www.graphics.kodak.com/DocImaging/US/en/About\\_Us/News/2014/141110a.htm](http://www.graphics.kodak.com/DocImaging/US/en/About_Us/News/2014/141110a.htm)

Snapshots from Korea, Kodak Alaris and Gannett Share Korean War Photos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjsNVN0rx3k>

U.S. National Archives, [www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war).

Warrior Salute, [www.cdswarriorsalute.org](http://www.cdswarriorsalute.org)

junction with Kodak Alaris and one of their high-speed photo scanners, the PS50. The complete package is known commercially as the *Kodak Picture Saver Scanning System*. You might remember this from my own review of this same type of system in a previous issue of *Internet Genealogy* (Aug/Sept 2013). At that time, I had the opportunity to use the PS80, which is an advanced version of the PS50.

Overall, for my review, I had found the PS80 system quite impressive and speedy, scanning over 918 regularly printed photos in just over 31 minutes. Included with the hardware scanner was a software package as well, where you could gallery the photos together or make image corrections as needed. Given this, the PS50 would be fairly comparable.

While I found the overall system quite useful, it was a bit more expensive than a standard desktop scanner or even portable device.

However, if you are planning on a digitization project with various people or your local historical/genealogical society, sharing the costs might be a possibility.

## Final Thoughts

For any of us who might have the Korean War as a part of our family heritage, you will find that information can either be plentiful or scarce, depending on the source materials we have or the people we've already identified. If you're having trouble, and hitting that genealogy-based "brickwall", consider this project and see if it can work for you. If not, try the links above and perhaps you just might find the missing key! ©

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