

THE KOREAN WAR – FORGOTTEN OR IGNORED?

When referring to the Korean War, the media invariably speak of “The Forgotten War.” It would be more accurate to refer to it as “The Ignored War.” During World War II, when I returned home after a year of aerial combat in Europe, all of my friends were still deployed at places around the world. I was greeted, congratulated and questioned by many persons, some of whom I didn’t know.

The local newspaper sent a reporter to my parents’ home to interview me and take a photograph. Both appeared in the paper the next day. A representative of the American Red Cross invited me to speak to a large gathering, which I accepted. I was treated as a celebrity.



Major George Loving, 1951

When I returned to my home town after a year of highly dangerous combat as a fighter-bomber pilot facing a Chinese force numbering three million soldiers and civilians, all of my friends were in town (none served in the Korean War). They were glad to see me, and said so, but none of them had a comment or question about my combat experiences or even acknowledged that I was returning from war.

There was no newspaper interview or invitation to speak. Nor were there questions or comments from anyone outside my family. It was as if the Korean War was being ignored or never happened.

After two days of this, I could take no more. I packed my bags and headed for my next assignment, Eglin Air Force Base, where there would be pilots who had fought in the Korean War; I would be out of the world of ignorance and back with fellow pilots who had experienced and survived the horrors of an ignored war.

– George Loving –