

Tony Buday



Enlisted in the U.S Marine Corps on 14 December 1952, during the Korean War, My recruit training took place at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California. After graduation I was selected to attend the prestigious "Sea School." This also took place at San Diego, California- Upon completion of Sea School I was assigned as a member of the Marine Detachment, USS ROCHESTER (CA-124). The ROCHESTER was a World War II vintage heavy cruiser and was considered a capital ship which rated Marines, While stationed aboard the ROCHESTER I participated in two tours in Korean waters, providing naval gunfire support against targets on the Korean peninsula. Our primary armament was the 8 inch naval gun; they had a range of over 23,000 meters and their shells were capable of knocking out tanks. With three dual gun turrets, our ship could provide quite a whallop. When not in Korean waters we sometimes frequented the Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan. There was still much evidence of World War II with underground bunkers and storage revetments, (NOTE: Much of this evidence - complete with pockmarked entrance ways from US air and naval gunfire attacks "• was present even as late as 1980,) The photo which I provided was taken in front of some of these old WW II Japanese bunkers at Yokosuka in 1953, during a brief port call and ammunition resupply. (Notice the old sea-going dress blues?) At the conclusion of my sea duty, I was discharged in 1958, and entered the reserves.

This story took place in 1953. Our cruiser, the USS ROCHESTER,

had just returned from from naval gunfire support duty along the Korean coast to peaceful Japan. The Marines at the embassy wanted to thank us for our participation, so they invited the entire Marine Detachment to their Marine House. When we got there what we found surprised us " they had a giant vat filled with ice and Champaign bottles. What a treat. We enjoyed the brief stay and became good friends with the embassy Marines. One Marine, living downstate, managed to come up to the Traverse area each year as part of this lasting friendship.