

2.5 THE COLD WAR ERA 1954-1963

The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States, its NATO allies and others) and powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Pact).

Historians have not fully agreed on the official government dates 1954-1963. An informal range of 1947–1991 is common. It was termed as "cold" because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two sides. There were major regional wars, known as proxy wars, in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan that the two sides supported.

—https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War



Sharp-shooter mittens.



Russian belt and buckle.



This POW uniform made by Russia, was intended for German political prisoners after World War II.

Spy versus Spy?

U.S./NATO camouflage polar parka and insulated over-pants for spies going across the Polar Cap to Russia, through 1987.



Russian and East German Special Forces Arctic Circle polar parka and insulated pants with pine branch camouflage for spies going over the Bering Sea to Alaska, through 1987.

A Wide Atlantic, A Cold War

The Navy was very active, enough so we were all extended a year during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a Sonar Class 3, I was trained to search for submarines from the air. I didn't do a whole lot of sightseeing from my vantage point; that's not what we were there to do. We were to be vigilant. It was my job to find Russian submarines to prevent them from entering our territorial waters. We knew what we were looking and listening for: subs quietly, regularly ping, whereas whales make a *lot* of noise—they are always vocalizing.

Day-to-day work was OK. Almost pleasant.
Then we lost a sister plane in the Atlantic.
Lost lots of our school on that flight.
We were supposed to watch each other's tails.
It was a Crisis alright.

But nothing like the action my older brother saw in the second wave of Iwo Jima (WWII). Even besides coming home with Dengue Fever and Malaria, he was never the same person. He'd seen too much. And he never talked about it.

My advice? Give your returning service personnel time to heal when they come back. There is a significant adjustment no matter the assignment. That set of memories will always be a part of him, but most guys are able to eventually adapt and return to the expectations of civilian life. The ones who talk about it a little seem to adjust more quickly.

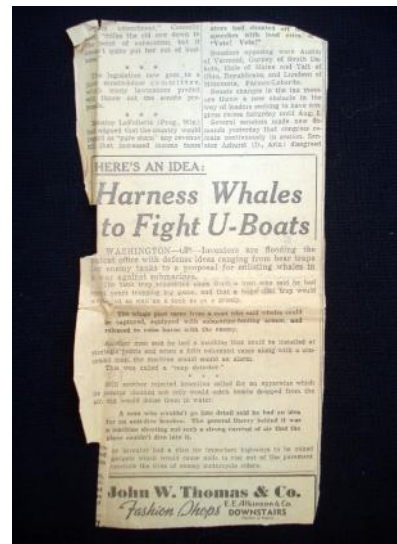
Focus first on coming back alive.
Then determine to come back to living.
Take part in family events.
Hear people when they greet you,
When they thank you,
When they want you around.

—Butch Illig

Over-sight

He sent from above,
He took me,
He drew me out of many deep waters.

—Psalm 18:16



The U.S. Government considers harnessing whales to pull submarines so they can't be detected by the Soviets. Circa, 1960.

Rollin Dasen's memorial flag; Rollin, center, and his Air Force buddies.



Spy in the Sky

Rollin was stationed at Biloxi/Keesler AFB in the Electronics Training Center of the USAF as a private.

Then he was promoted to staff sergeant stationed in Darmstadt, Germany as head of a barracks. The guys in the barracks made wooden cabinets for speakers and electronic parts for the base sometimes, or for the locals at other times, but that was just their cover. They were really non-coms trained as a secret service unit to fly spy missions over Russia 1952-55. All 13 in his squadron flew the missions and lived together in the same barracks. No one else on base ever knew.

For a long time Rollin would not talk about it, but many years later, he happened to see a TV documentary about the times. When he heard his own unit discussed, he realized the information had been declassified, and he was willing to talk about it a little after that.

His training as a radio operator provided him an opportunity to work in FM radio the rest of his life.

—In memory of Staff Sergeant Rollin Dasen



1954 Corvette
www.buyavette.net/
Unfortunately, not from family archives.

Motorama New York Auto Show

His core orders: ferry vehicles of army drab
Day in, day out. Day in, day out.
Day in, day out. Day in, day out.
Day in, day out. Day in, day out.
On release from corps captivity
The Vet ordered himself a brand new corpse-red Corvette!



Corvette Rally Jacket
is from family archives.

*C'est la vie, avoir froid*¹

The French could never quite forgive America
Because it restored Germany—to the disadvantage of the French.
De Gaulle felt America's policies were making France vulnerable again.
Arguments could be made.
Then 18 years later, the French, ever gracious, *les avocats, les counselors*, said:
“Stay away from Vietnam. It will be *un mistake grand*.”
So America *trompe l'oeil*² right in there.
Are the French cold people?
Well..., they've been **forthright**, *sur le point de paraître*,³
But like a teenager, the U.S. hasn't received the counsel.

—With thanks to *Jacques*

¹*C'est la vie*: that's life, that's the way it is.

avoir froid: to have coolness toward; to remain aloof.

²*trompe l'oeil*: realistic imagery to create an optical illusion; painted in a way to look like a real object; the art of illusion, to camouflage an eyesore. Related words:
se tromper (m): to delude, mislead; to deceive with a façade; betray; to be wrong, take the wrong road; make a mistake.

la trompette (f): turned-up nose, self-assured trollop.

³*sur le point de paraître*: to come out undergirding a point.

Smart Alec

A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the American, English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries.

Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks, but a French Admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, “Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?”

Without hesitating, the U.S. Admiral replied, “Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.”

You could have heard a pin drop.

—ChuckExAnon, Answerbag. Excerpt from his Blog, 3/25/2008.
<http://www.answerbag.com/qview/1354354#ixzz3lboJq1H>

Boogie-Woogie Bugler

Joyce could throw a 50-pound bale up' the hayloft,
Sing alto or tenor in the little Methodist Church choir,
Do chores and walk like a farmer;
Had that tenacity and a perpetual smile on her face.

Joyce could pick up any instrument in our small school band
And play a recognizable tune in a couple-a minutes.
She advanced to State with a trumpet solo,
Worked the snare drum with precision,

Made the baritone wail in a saxophone quartet.
She strapped on an accordion or bounced on the tuba for fun.
When she graduated with honors and got her track team trophy,
She headed for the Army in her wavy chestnut hair.

Joyce had no trouble with the obstacle course or the weight-lifting bench,
But maybe had issues with the narrow uniform skirt and the regulation
high heels.

I heard she earned a chair in the U.S. Army Corps band—
A marriage made in heaven.

—In honor of Joyce S., “Hometown Girl Makes Good”.



1959: 49 star flag,
only viable for 6
months between
Alaska and Hawaii
statehoods.



The Marshall Islands, site of 23 U.S. nuclear tests from 1946-1958. The 15-megaton Bravo shot vaporized 3 islands.¹ www.washingtonpost.com/



Boxes of Civil Defense emergency food stored since 1962 in an old city building designated as a Fallout Shelter.



Chemical Warfare Hazmat Boots. NBC: Nuclear, Biological, Chemical.

In 1951 forward there were 700 designated fission and nuclear tests in Nevada and the Marshall Islands. In the 1980s the author's brother-in-law David Weiman successfully lobbied to compensate virtually the entire population of at least 2 of the Marshall Islands for the effects of radiation, cloud drift health problems, and loss of crop land. While visiting the island, he observed an horrific number of birth defects per capita.

Made Memories

Anyone

Who has ever used

A bombed-out building as a playground

Or has unwittingly played catch with a live grenade,

Anyone

Who has taken a wheelbarrow of currency

To buy groceries for supper,

Or has ever been rationed

Not at all enough to eat,

Anyone

Who has tried to get the attention

Of a grandparent staring toward the horizon,

And is caregiver

Because Mama and Papa never return,

Anyone

Who has lived

These things,

Or remembers,

Will never seek another war.

—Ericka C., MN war bride, born in Germany.



Stalking Feat

During the Cold War years

I was an officer under water on the Pomfret,

A ship about 2/5 as large as a fleet-type submarine.

Due to potential conflict with Soviet submarines,

We would go deep, stop propulsion, turn off

All unnecessary equipment,

And at these times of silence,

All of us removed our shoes

And walked—only when necessary—

In stocking feet.



Children's socks with "USA", an eagle, biplanes, and what looks like an atom bomb in the woven decoration on the cuffs. Cold War Era. Family archives.

—Former President Jimmy Carter, based on A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety ("The Navy Years"), pp. 41-49.