

The Bridge Over Funchilin Pass:

The Only Option for Retreat

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Junior Division

Individual Documentary

Process Paper: 500 words

Process Paper

While brainstorming for a topic, I asked my Grandpa for ideas since he is a veteran and the American Legion Commander of the Joplin chapter. He suggested the battle of the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. While conducting my research, I realized that the entire battle of the Chosin Reservoir was too broad a topic for a 10-minute documentary. I then looked for an interesting piece of the battle. I decided to research the most triumphant part: the repair of the bridge over Funchilin Pass.

In conducting my research I found many primary sources, but the most helpful and interesting was my interview with Mr. John Newberry about his service in the Korean War. He helped me understand the impact that the Korean war had on the people of Korea and the country itself. He also described how terrible it was to fight in Korea under such terrible weather conditions. His descriptions aided me in the making of my documentary.

Another useful source was the website chosinreservoir.com which has an amazing amount of information and primary sources in it, with things like an interview with General Oliver P. Smith, a list of MIA soldiers and soldiers who died in Korea, and an image gallery. During the scripting process I ran into many challenges deciding what to include or not (you can't fit everything you want into a 10-minute documentary). There were many things I wanted to include that didn't make it into the final product.

Another problem I encountered was picture placement in my documentary. I could only find a limited number of pictures of the broken bridge so I had to use them well. I also had a hard time finding photos with good resolution that fit the entire screen.

I started looking for images and found some amazing footage on Youtube.com under the name, "Korean War 1950 to 1953, Parts 1-3." I also found another video that had great video footage, but it had a watermark: the "PBS39" logo in red on the bottom right of the screen. I couldn't find the same film without the watermark, so I used pieces of that video in my documentary.

Music that fit both the time of my event and the mood of my documentary was very hard to find. My documentary is serious, and most music from 1950 is upbeat and happy. Korean instrumental music from 1950 didn't fit either. I did use the national anthems from North and South Korea and also classical music by the Piano Guys.

The UN forces suffered a great tragedy at the Chosin Reservoir. Forced to retreat, they battled narrow mountain passes, extreme cold, and enemy forces only to have their one escape route, the bridge over Funchilin Pass, bombed. It was a great triumph that military engineers came up with a solution for the destroyed retreat path by airdropping bridge pieces to repair the bridge which allowed the UN forces to finish their retreat from the mountains of North Korea.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Collections:

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum. www.trumanlibrary.org/. The Harry S. Truman library had lots of pictures and documents about the Korean War. I used some of the documents to understand the background of the Korean War.

"Library of Congress." *Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/. The Library of Congress website was very helpful. I found pictures to use in my research, and I viewed a lot of personal interviews from soldiers who fought at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, looking for someone who remembered the bridge.

Documents:

The Truth about Korea. Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. *Harry S. Truman Library & Museum*, www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/koreanwar/documents/index.php?documentdate=1950-00-00&documentid=ki-18-4&pagenumber=1. This document helped me understand the United State's position on Korea and why the US entered the Korean War.

Images:

From Iwon to Chosin: A Photo Essay. *From Iwon to Chosin: A Photo Essay*, bobrowen.com/nymas/from_iwon_to_chosinphotoessay.htm. This website was very useful. It had a lot of images that I used in my documentary.

Joseph Stalin. About-History, 14 Apr. 2018,

about-history.com/the-life-of-joseph-stalin-1922-1952-the-dictator-of-ussr/. I used this picture of Joseph Stalin in my documentary when I explained about the Soviet Union's involvement in forming North Korea.

Kim Il Sung. Waffles at Noon, 19 Jan. 2016, wafflesatnoon.com/north-korea-calendar/. This was an image of Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, that I used in my documentary.

North Korean Flag. CRW Flags, www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/kp.html. The image of the North Korean flag was useful because it helped me show the creation of the country of North Korea.

Robinson, Jenifer. *U.S. Marines march along a mountain road as they withdraw south through the Funchilin Pass in North Korea. Dec. 10, 1950. American Experience: Battle of Chosin*, www.kpbs.org/news/2016/oct/31/american-experience-battle-chosin/. This website helped me find photos and information that I used to make my documentary.

South Korean Flag. CountryFlags.com, www.countryflags.com/en/south-korea-flag-image.html. This image was useful because it helped me visualize the creation of South Korea by showing the image of the flag in my documentary.

Syngman Rhee. Freedom for Vietnam,

freedomforvietnam.wordpress.com/2010/10/12/south-koreas-syngman-rhee-a-descendent-of-the-ly-dynasty/. I used this picture of Syngman Rhee, the South Korean leader, in my documentary.

"Stamp of Joseph Stalin and Chairman Mao." *The American Yawp*,

www.americanyawp.com/text/25-the-cold-war/. This is an image of a stamp that has a

drawing of Joseph Stalin and Chairman Mao shaking hands. This image helped me show the alliance between the Soviet Union and China during the Korean War.

The Bridge over Funchilin Pass. USMC Life,

www.usmclife.com/2017/05/dunford-helps-chosin-dedicate-monument-korean-war-battle/funchilin-pass/. There were very few images of the bridge over Funchilin Pass so I had to use them wisely. This image was one of the few I used in my documentary.

The Bridge over Funchilin Pass. Warfare History Network, 5 Oct. 2018,

warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/military-history/americans-faced-blown-out-bridge-during-retreat-to-38th-parallel/. This image was very useful in the making of my documentary. It was one of the few pictures of the bridge over the Funchilin Pass.

Walker, John. *A U.S. combat team fought against overwhelming odds in late November 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir. It bought precious time for other units. Warfare History Network,* www.kpbs.org/news/2016/oct/31/american-experience-battle-chosin/. This website was very helpful because it had interesting information and good pictures.

We Are the Mighty, www.wearethemighty.com/history/why-the-frozen-chosin-is-the-defining-battle-of-the-modern-marine-corps. These images were very helpful. I used them in my documentary.

Interviews:

Devasher, Billy Gene. "Billy Gene Devasher - Interview with Billy Gene Devasher." Interview by Seth Foley. *Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress,* memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.66119/. This interview was a

helpful source because it gave me a personal story of the battle. It also told the story of the battle from a different perspective than others I read about.

Newberry, John. Interview. By Josef Schuller. 17 Jan. 2019. This interview helped me understand the true impact of the Korean War and the effect that it had on history. I was able to ask a Korean War veteran questions about his tour of duty in Korea, and I heard first-hand accounts of fighting the Chinese. I used parts of the interview in my documentary.

Owen, Joseph. "Joseph Owen Oral History Interview." *C-Span*, 29 Apr. 2011, www.c-span.org/video/?313967-1/joseph-owen-oral-history-interview. Interview. This interview was a helpful source because it gave me insight into a personal experience of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. It helped me understand how much of a tragedy it was during and after the battle when the remaining troops had to retreat.

Peters, Joseph R. "Joseph R. Peters - Interview with Joseph R. Peters." Interview by Sara Wilbur. *Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress*, 1 June 2000, memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.00116/. This interview was helpful because it gave another personal experience of the battle.

Smith, Oliver P. "General O.P Smith Interview." Interview by Ben Frank. *Chosin Reservoir Korea: November - December 1950*, edited by Pat Roe, chosinreservoir.com/smithinterview.htm. This interview was a first-hand account of the events surrounding the bridge repair by the Marine Commanding General in charge of the retreat and at the bridge. I used information from the interview and a quote in my documentary.

Letters:

Barber, Robert L. Letter. 16 Dec. 1950. *Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress*, memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.32004/.

This series of letters from Robert Barber to his family gave me insight about what it was like to be a Marine fighting under the conditions at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

Speeches:

"Truman Reports on Korea(1950)." *Youtube*, uploaded by British Pathe, 13 Apr. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm1bnYX-t-s. This video was very useful because it gave me actual footage of President Truman talking about the Korean War. I used part of this speech and the map of the North Korean invasion in my documentary.

Websites:

"Chosin Reservoir." *Chosin Reservoir Korea November - December 1950*, chosinreservoir.com/.

This website was very useful. It had many things about my topic on it: interviews, images, articles and a list of MIA soldiers. I used many of the images in my documentary.

Talmadge, Bob. "Chosin Veteran Remembers 'the Bridge.'" *Chosin Reservoir Korea November - December 1950*, www.chosinreservoir.com/HawaiiMarineC3.pdf. This article had both of the quotes that I used in my documentary.

Secondary Sources:

Books:

Brady, James. *James Brady: A Memoir of Korea: The Coldest War*. New York, Thomas Dunne Books, 1990. This book had a lot of background information about the Battle of Chosin and the retreat to Hungnam that was useful during my research.

Cleaver, Thomas McKelvey. *The Frozen Chosin: The 1st Marine Division and the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir*. New York, Osprey Publishing, 2016. This book was a helpful source because it gave me very in-depth details about the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir and what happened before and after the battle.

Dolan, Edward F. *America in the Korean War*. Millbrook Press, 1998. This book was helpful in giving me more background knowledge about the Korean War and why America entered the war in support of South Korea.

Granfield, Linda, and Russel Freedman. *I Remember Korea: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Korean War, 1950-53*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003. This book gave me more background information about the Korean War and the different events within the war.

Haruki, Wada. *An International History: The Korean War*. Edited by Mark Seldon, Lanham, Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. This book gave me more information on the background of the Korean War.

O'Donnell, Patrick K. *Give Me Tomorrow: the Korean War's Greatest Untold Story- the Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company*. Cambridge, MA, Da Capo Press. This book gave me more background knowledge about the Korean War and how it started.

On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War's Greatest Battle. New

York, Doubleday, 2018. This is a very informational book about the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir and was very useful for gaining background information on my topic.

Rice, Earle, Jr., and Caspar W. Weinberger. *Great Battles Through the Ages, Korea 1950: Pusan*

to Chosin. Edited by Lee Marcott et al., Chelsea House, 2004. This book gave me background knowledge about my topic. It gave me some more in-depth information about Korea after World War II, how the two different Korea's were established, Russian and U.S involvement in Korea and how the Korean War began.

Russ, Martin. *Breakout: the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea 1950*. New York, Fromm

International Publishing Corporation. This book gave me details about my topic and more insight on what it was like for the Marines fighting in the severe conditions in the mountains.

Interviews:

Yang, Heejung, et al. Interview. By Josef Schuller. 12 Jan. 2019. This interview was conducted

with a couple from South Korea who now live in Neosho, MO. They told me how to pronounce some of the Korean words in my documentary. They also put into perspective how thankful the South Korean people are for the UN and the United States sending troops to fight for freedom in South Korea. This interview helped me understand that the South Korean people are thankful to not be a communist nation.

Magazine Articles:

"General Tunner, Airlifter." *Time*, vol. 56, no. 25, 18 Dec. 1950. This magazine gave me a perspective of the man who organized the bridge pieces to be flown in to North Korea. It also gave me more information about the planes and the pilots.

Sugarman, Joe. "Breakout from Chosin." *Voices of the Veterans: From World War I to Afghanistan, Stories of Air Combat*, Winter 2018, pp. 40-45. This magazine had an interesting article about the planes used to drop the bridge sections, and it gave me the pilots' perspectives of flying in the bridge pieces. This magazine article also led me to other sources.

Maps:

Marines Supply Route. U.S. Naval Institute,

www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2010/december/70-miles-cold-hard-road. This was a useful map that showed me the retreat path of the UN troops from the Chosin Reservoir. I used the map in my documentary to highlight the path between the Chosin Reservoir, through the Funchilin Pass, and to the evacuation point at Hungnam.

Music:

"North Korean National Anthem (Instrumental)." *Youtube*, uploaded by National Anthems Channel, 12 May 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOJBXfBV_gw. I used this music for the part of my documentary about North Korea.

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers Soundtrack. Performance by MASK. Performance. This music gave me background music to use in my project when I showed the video footage of North Korea invading South Korea.

The Piano Guys. Performance by The Piano Guys, 2012. I used a few songs from this album as some of the background music in my documentary.

"South Korean National Anthem (Instrumental)." *Youtube*, uploaded by National Anthems Channel, 3 Apr. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=zN3wzPR0O7I. I used this national anthem when I was talking about South Korea in my documentary.

Newspapers:

"Armistice Signed; Korean War Now an Uneasy Truce." *Amarillo Daily News* [Amarillo, Texas], 27 July 1953. This newspaper showed the end of the war and had background information on how the Korean War "ended." I used a photo of the article in my documentary.

"Truman Orders U.S. Air, Navy Units to Fight in Aid of Korea; U.N. Council Supports Him; Our fliers in Action; Fleet Guards Formosa." *The New York Times* [New York], 28 June 1950. This newspaper was a useful source because it gave me information about the start of the Korean War, and it also had more information about the UN. I used a photo of the article in my documentary.

Videos:

"Chosin Reservoir - Epic of Endurance | Korean War." *Youtube*, uploaded by Ozella Hudgens, www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW4UgDfqIIc. This documentary was very useful. I used parts of it in my documentary. The segments that have the red circular watermark are from this documentary. I could not find the same video without the watermark.

"Korean War 1950 to 1953 - Part 1 of 3." *Youtube*, uploaded by Lumaix, 4 Aug. 2010, www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sJ1R58pQTs. This video had many great segments that I used in my documentary. It also was very informational and overall a very useful video.

"Korean War 1950 to 1953 - Part 2 of 3." *Youtube*, uploaded by Lumaix, 5 Aug. 2010, www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVdCW2CT3VU. This video was very helpful because I used some of the video footage in my documentary.

"Korean War 1950 to 1953 - Part 3 of 3." *Youtube*, uploaded by Lumaix, 5 Aug. 2010, www.youtube.com/watch?v=rL0Hs2R8wKw. This video was very helpful because I was able to use parts of it in my documentary.

"Secrets Of War, Deadly Intelligence 04 Korea, Behind The Bamboo Curtain." *Youtube*, uploaded by AnotherTV, 3 Nov. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkWoXvgErIU. This episode of Secrets of War was very informational, and I used pieces of it in my documentary.

Websites:

"Air Mobility Command Museum Rescues C-119." *Warbird Digest*, 2 Jan. 2017, warbirdsnews.com/aviation-museum-news/air-mobility-command-museum-rescues-c-119.html. This article had some interesting information on the C-119 flying boxcar airplane, the plane used to drop the treadway bridge sections.

"The Battle of Chosin." *The Battle of Chosin*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/chosin-battle/. This website was a helpful source because it gave me more background knowledge about the battle.

Bernstein, Marc D. "American Faced Blown out Bridge during Retreat to 38th Parallel."

American Faced Blown out Bridge during Retreat to 38th Parallel, 5 Oct. 2018, warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/military-history/americans-faced-blown-out-bridge-during-retreat-to-38th-parallel/. This website was a helpful source because it gave me specific numbers about the bridge and how the engineers solved the problem.

"Concentration at Hungnam." *history.army.mil*, history.army.mil/books/korea/ebb/ch7.htm. This article gave me more background information about my project.

Davis, Daniel L. "Battle of the Chosin Reservoir: How China Saved North Korea from Extinction." *Battle of the Chosin Reservoir: How China saved North Korea from Extinction*, nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-battle-chosin-reservoir-how-china-saved-north-korea-23958. This website gave me more details about the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, and it gave me information from the Chinese perspective of the battle.

"Differences Between Capitalism & Communism and why did it start in Russia." *South African History Online*, www.sahistory.org.za/article/differences-between-capitalism-communism-and-why-did-it-start-russia. This article explained the differences between capitalism and communism and helped me understand the causes of the Korean War.

Futini, John Stephen. "The Forgotten War: Bloody Retreat from Frozen Chosin." *Napa Valley Register*, 6 Jan. 2017, napavalleyregister.com/news/opinion/mailbag/the-forgotten-war-bloody-retreat-from-fro

zen-chosin/article_5f418546-c3cb-52f5-8e5c-ec42b9d82701.html. This website was very helpful in giving my information about my topic. The article had some good quotes in it.

"Korean War." *History*, 15 Apr. 2019, www.history.com/topics/korea/korean-war. This article had lots of interesting information about the background of my project and had lots of information on North Korea and why they invaded South Korea.

"The Korean War and Its Origins." *Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum*, www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/koreanwar/. This website gave me more information about the presidential viewpoint of the war, and it gave me some very nice pictures for my documentary.

Lange, Johnathan. "Corporal DeMaret Kirtley, One of the 'Chosin Few.'" *Kemmerer Gazette*, 6 Dec. 2018, kemmerergazette.com/article/corporal-demaret-kirtley-one-of-the-chosin-few. This was a helpful article because it gave me some information about someone who actually fought in the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

Lu, Daniel. "Why Did Communist China Become Involved in the Korean War?" *Quora*, 23 Apr. 2017, www.quora.com/Why-did-Communist-China-become-involved-in-the-Korean-War. This article had lots of information about why China came to aid North Korea during the Korean War.

Martin, Monte. "Marines Instilled Discipline, Respect in 'Rebel.'" *NWITimes*, 21 June 2015, www.nwitimes.com/marines-instilled-discipline-respect-in-rebel/article_0960bdd8-5590-566a-bba0-aebb6c87666c.html. This interesting article had some very good quotes.

Moskin, Robert. "Chosin." *American Heritage*, Nov. 2000, www.americanheritage.com/chosin.

This article gave me more information on the background of my project.

Schaeffer, Brad. "The Battle of Chosin. Part 7: The Final Push/Conclusion." *The Battle of Chosin. Part 7: The Final Push/Conclusion*, 18 Mar. 2018, www.dailywire.com/news/28266/battle-chosin-part-7-final-pushconclusion-brad-schaeffer.

This website was very helpful in giving me information about the bridge and the final part of the retreat after the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. It gave me specific numbers on the bridge and how much each piece weighed.

Seelinger, Matthew J. "Nightmare at the Chosin Reservoir." *Nightmare at the Chosin Reservoir*, 20 Jan. 2015, armyhistory.org/nightmare-at-the-chosin-reservoir/. This website gave me more information and more interesting facts about my topic.

Sides, Hampton. "The Decades-Old Backstory of America's Conflict with North Korea." Edited by Steve Inskeep. *NPR*, 3 Oct. 2018, www.npr.org/2018/10/03/653902719/-on-desperate-ground-explores-origins-of-u-s-conflict-with-north-korea. This article was very interesting and had some useful bits of information about the background/buildup of the Korean War.

Wilderman, Mark. "Combat Airlift Help Dates Back to Korea." *18th Air Force*, 19 Dec. 2014, www.18af.amc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/761434/combat-airlift-help-dates-back-to-korea/. This article gave me more information about the air-lifting of the bridge pieces.

Zhou, Bangning. "Explaining China's Intervention in the Korean War in 1950." *Inquiries Journal*, 2015, www.inquiriesjournal.com/print?id=1069#. This article gave

me background information about why China intervened in the Korean war and forced the UN forces into retreat.