

E-2-5 Korea Association

Easy Company- 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, First Marine Division, FMF Korea, 1950-1953
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Mr. Robert W. Randall
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Worthington, MA 01098

Dear BOB:

I hope this letter finds you and Mary enjoying your wonderful "Home in the Hills". I'm sorry that we were not able to arrange to get together this year as planned, maybe some time in the Fall when we return from Ireland.

As to information about Sergeant Major Ashley O. Dodge, USMC. I do not want to create any misinformation about another Marine, especially one who has served our Corps and country so long and so well.

From the picture that was supplied, he is wearing the following ribbons: Presidential Unit Citation, with one star, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War Two Victory Medal, China Service Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, Korean Service Medal with three Stars and the United Nations Medal.

This indicates that he entered the Marine Corps at the close of World War Two, saw occupation duty in China and Japan, then served in the Korean War. The fact that he only has one PUC, shows that he was not in the original Brigade, The Fifth Marines. Also the top row of ribbons is worn in the wrong order, (The Purple Heart should be first). Also the fact that he was a Tech Sergeant with only one Hash Mark makes me think that he was not an 0300 (Infantry) Marine but rather a specialist grade.

He is not listed in the book, "The Navy Cross in Vietnam" by Paul Drew Stevens nor in any of my reference books as having been awarded a Navy Cross for World War Two or Korea, and as you know it was very rare for any Marine to win two of them. It would also seem to indicate that the award of 13 Purple Hearts is rather high, the most that I have ever heard of being awarded was nine. Also the Letter of Commendation is not awarded for