

ROLLEN MULLINS 1920 -1942, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

HIRAM MULLINS JR. 1924 -1956, STAFF SERGEANT

U.S. MARINE CORPS, WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR

WRITTEN BY Abbi Smithmyer
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Two brothers, Rollen and Hiram Mullins Jr., left the small West Virginia coal town of their youth to join the United States Marine Corps. Becoming Marines offered them an escape from the Great Depression's struggles while honorably serving their nation. Although their stories of service diverged in many ways, the Mullins brothers rest only a few rows away from one another in Grafton National Cemetery.

Hiram Mullins Sr. and Catherine "Kate" Morgan began their life together on November 14, 1916, when they married in Wyoming County, West Virginia. The couple soon moved to nearby McDowell County, settling in the small Appalachian coal town of Davy. They welcomed their first son, Jesse "Forrest," on August 15, 1918. Over the next ten years, the marriage produced five more children, four of whom survived to adulthood. The couple's second son, Rollen, was born on August 27, 1920, and a third son, Hiram Jr., followed on May 30, 1924. "Junior" as he was known to his loved ones, did not remain the youngest for long, with Howard and Ruby joining the family in 1925 and 1928, respectively.

The Mullins family transformed dramatically in 1930, less than a week after a U.S. census worker visited their rented home on Stuart Street in Welch, West Virginia. On April 8, the Mullins patriarch went to his job in the nearby town of Capels at the New River & Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company's Berwind No. 11 mine. As he worked

outside the mine, an accident fractured Hiram Sr.'s skull and killed him instantly. Hiram Sr.'s death was one of only six fatalities to take place outside all of McDowell County's mines in 1930, and his death made Kate Mullins a widow at the age of 30. Her five children were all under the age of 11.

Now without a patriarch and stable source of income, life during the Great Depression loomed larger and more threatening for the Mullins family. With no reason to remain in Welch following the death of her husband, Kate moved her children north to adjacent Wyoming County.

Throughout the next decade, the Mullins brothers were surrounded by men with military experience. In their new home, Kate met John Cleveland Blevins, a Navy veteran and coal miner. Although it seems the two never married, Kate welcomed a son named Franklin "Frank" Mullins on July 4, 1932, in the small town of Corrine. The two had another son, James Edward Blevins, on August 30, 1933. The family suffered another loss, however, when James died of pneumonia two months later.

Rollen and Hiram Jr. gained two more half siblings at the turn of the decade when their mother gave birth to a daughter named Maxine Wanda on October 4, 1939. Maxine's father, Blane Jackson, may have told the Mullins children about his service as a wagoner in the 315th Field Artillery during World War I. Despite living separately and never marrying, Kate and Blane had another



Rollen Mullins (left) and Hiram Mullins Jr. *TogetherWeServed.com* and *National Archives*

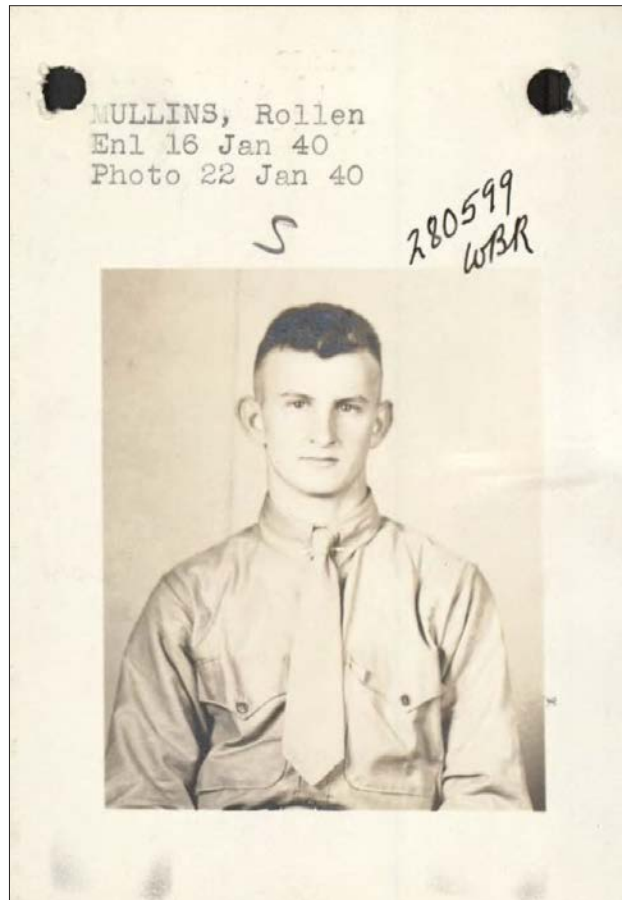
daughter, JoAnn Winifred, two years later. Although it is unclear how much interaction the boys had with their half siblings' two fathers, the men's military experience likely influenced Rollen and Hiram Jr.

By 1940, the blended family resided in a rented home in the town of Baileysville, possibly so Kate could receive assistance from her parents who lived nearby. Financial difficulties are evident, with the three oldest boys placing work above their education. Although Baileysville had two schools, the oldest brother Forrest only completed eight years of grade school, and by 1940 he was living with his aunt and uncle in Logan County and making money as a coal loader.

Rollen, the second oldest, only reached sixth grade before he dropped out of school to support his mother and younger siblings. Highlighting the economic struggle the family faced, the director of the Department of Public Assistance

selected Rollen as one of 17 Wyoming County youth to be examined in Welch for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was one of many government relief programs inaugurated under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and was established on March 31, 1933. Designed to employ young men with families on relief, CCC enrollees had to be unmarried and between the ages of 18 and 25. To further aid their dependent family, \$25 of the \$30 they made per month was required to be sent back home.

Rollen received his initial CCC training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, before he was assigned to work as a truck driver with Company 2586 at Camp Thornwood, located near Durbin, West Virginia. Camp Thornwood was one of the 67 camps that operated in West Virginia from 1933 to 1942. Though the work itself was not military in nature, Rollen's CCC experience resembled life in the Army, with enrollees overseen and organized by the War Department and its officers. Rollen's company



Rollen's first photograph in Marine uniform, taken days after his 1940 enlistment. *National Archives*

helped the CCC plant more than 10 million trees nationwide, improved stream and wildlife habitats to curb soil erosion in Pocahontas County, constructed roads and trails, strung telephone lines, and developed the first recreation areas within Monongahela National Forest.

The maximum CCC term of employment was only two years, however, and by 1940 Rollen was nearing the end of his eligibility. Armed with character references describing him as an “honest law abiding citizen . . . well thought of in his community,” Rollen arrived at a recruiting station in Baltimore, Maryland, on January 16, 1940, where he enlisted for four years as a private in the United States Marine Corps.

Private Mullins immediately traveled by rail to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South

Carolina. Rollen was given a haircut and issued his dogtags, accoutrements, rifle, and service record books, which included the first photograph of him in his Marine Corps uniform. He also received eight weeks of training at the rifle range, bayonet practice, swimming lessons, and instruction in hand-to-hand combat.

Following training, Rollen was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Chelsea, Massachusetts. While on this relatively easy garrison duty, Rollen ran into his first brush with trouble after disobeying an order from a noncommissioned officer on August 11, 1940. The young Marine lost \$5 pay that month for his error.

The next month, Rollen was sent to Charlestown Naval Yard in Boston, Massachusetts—the oldest Marine barracks in the United States. Despite the base's venerable age, change was afoot in the Charlestown Yard. In 1940 and 1941, Congress appropriated \$10 million for improvements. Rollen became one of the “Leathernecks” who guarded the Navy Yard and served on the ships that entered and departed the yard. By November 1940, Rollen was transferred to the Marine Barracks at the Navy Yard in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he remained on duty for the next year.

Twenty-year-old Hiram Jr. was, by 1940, the oldest male still living at home with his mother and younger siblings. Along with Rollen's Marine Corps salary, Junior helped feed the family with his .22 rifle, hunting in the forest around Baileysville. Despite a passion for his grade school music classes, he dropped out in eighth grade to take on work for a local farmer. Junior toiled in the fields raising general crops and learning rough carpentry skills for \$16 a week. His employer Willie Lester certainly provided the young teen with decent pay, but may also have told Hiram Jr. about his soldiering exploits from his time as a private in World War I.

Compelled to seek more excitement than the Mountain State could offer, Junior followed in Rollen's footsteps and traveled to Charleston, West Virginia, to enlist in the United States Marine



Marines training on Parris Island, South Carolina, 1939. *Library of Congress*

Corps on July 29, 1941. Like his brother, newly minted Private Hiram Mullins Jr. was sent to Parris Island for training. Rollen meanwhile requested a transfer *back* to Parris Island, noting a “desire to get a greater variety of duty while in the service.” It was a likely story, but serving at the same base as Hiram was probably the main reason for the transfer request.

The Marine Corps did not grant Rollen's wish. Instead, they transferred him to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, at New River, North Carolina. He arrived on November 17, 1941, a mere three weeks before the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States was now fully embroiled in World War II, and the Marines would play a large role in the Pacific Theater fighting to come.

New River greeted Rollen with a base still very

much under construction. The Marines had picked coastal North Carolina for their new training camp after Congress authorized its construction in February 1941 as part of a larger federal move to increase military preparedness. The 1st Marine Division's historian later described the site that became Camp Lejeune as “111,170 acres of water, coastal swamp, and plain,” which proved perfect for the amphibious landing operations for which Rollen and his comrades were being trained.

A few months later, the brothers were reunited. April 1942 was a busy time for both the war in the Pacific and the Mullins boys. By the first of the month, both brothers were in Norfolk, Virginia. Hiram Jr. had used his childhood love for music to earn the rank of Field Musician First Class, serving as a bugler in the Marine Corps. In case any of the ships on which he was to serve came under aerial attack, he was also trained to crew a 20mm

antiaircraft gun, one of the most common weapons aboard Navy ships during the war.

Hiram was assigned to the Marine detachment aboard the battleship USS *Indiana* (BB-58). Rollen also received his sea legs on April 10, when he set sail aboard the troop transport USS *Heywood* (APA-12). Both ships proceeded separately to the Pacific, where U.S. forces were holding the line against Imperial Japan.

Sixteen days out of Norfolk, *Heywood* passed through the Panama Canal. It was not all smooth sailing for Private Mullins, who was reportedly unwell in the ship’s sick bay for the ship’s first few days in the Pacific. Rollen’s spirits probably lifted on April 23, when *Heywood* crossed the equator and he was “initiated into the mysteries of the deep domain of Neptune Rex.” The accompanying fraternal ceremony, unique to every ship and crew, formed part of a centuries-long naval tradition celebrating a sailor’s first “crossing the line.”

After over a month at sea, the Marines disembarked at Upolu, an island of Samoa. It was here that

Rollen and the other members of the “Magnificent 7th” trained in jungle warfare. A few months of preparation later, Rollen left Upolu at the end of August aboard the USS *President Hayes* (AP-39). He landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands on September 18, 1942. His unit joined the rest of the 1st Marine Division near Lunga Point on the north coast of the island.

Despite American successes at the battles of Tenaru, Savo Island, and Edson’s Ridge that year, the Marines’ tactical situation on Guadalcanal remained tenuous. The Japanese continued to resupply their forces on the island by night, and were preparing for an all-out attack in October. On October 7, 1942, the 1st Marine Division attempted to enlarge its defensive perimeter around Lunga Point with a push across the Matanikau River. While the Americans expected resistance, they were unprepared for what they encountered.

The Marines blundered into Japanese forces massing for their own large-scale assault scheduled for the following day. What began as heavy skirmishing developed into a huge Japanese

USS *Indiana* (BB-58), Hiram Mullins Jr.’s floating home for much of World War II. *Naval History & Heritage Command*



The Guadalcanal landscape in which Rollen Mullins fought. *National Archives*

counterattack on October 8, pressing the Marines hard all along their Lunga Point defenses. Heavy rains transformed the tropical landscape into a slick, muddy, treacherous mess, hampering troop movements and fire coordination for both sides.

The Marines’ perimeter held, and on October 9 Rollen and the 7th Marine Regiment crossed the Matanikau to attack north in a bid to roll up the Japanese right flank. The 2nd Battalion, with Rollens and his Company E, experienced heavy losses. At one point in the confused bushfighting, Company E reported taking eight casualties from machine-gun fire into their left flank. The fighting was too heavy to remove the dead Americans’ bodies, which were buried in the field where they died.

The three-day battle inflicted approximately 700 casualties on the Japanese, but it also led to the loss of 65 Marines. The 7th Marines lost 20 men on October 9, and Rollen was one of the eight Company E men who could not be recovered during the fighting. He had been on Guadalcanal for less than a month.

In November 1942, Rollen’s mother Kate was notified of her son’s death. The Marine Corps letter stated that Rollen “lost his life in action against the enemies of his country,” and expressed “deepest sympathy to you and members of your family in your great loss.” Twelve years after the death of her husband, Kate now grappled with the loss of her 22-year-old son.

Rollen’s untimely death also threatened the family’s ability to keep food on the table. Kate was dependent on his Marine Corps pay, much of which was sent directly to her each month. Amid suffering and grief, Kate wrote to the federal government questioning how her son was sent to the Pacific without insurance. She composed a desperate letter on Christmas Eve to President Franklin D. Roosevelt for answers. “Please Mr. Roosevelt I have to have help....I don’t no [sic] what I shall do. I am a widow.” Rollen had supported the family “since he was 17,” Kate stated.

Kate’s grief was no doubt compounded by fear for Junior, who was far from safe out in the Pacific. The young Marine was still aboard the USS *Indiana* when it left New Caledonia on December 16, 1942, to take part in a patrol cruise around the Coral Sea. At one point, the battleship fired its guns at Japanese troops on Guadalcanal in support of the Marines. If he was unaware of Rollen’s death, Junior may have believed the *Indiana* was lending a hand to this brother.

Back in West Virginia, Kate received notice in late January that \$217.53 of Rollen’s accrued pay and allowances would be forwarded to her. “There is a possibility of your being entitled to receive a pension,” the letter went on to say, encouraging her to contact the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. Later in 1943, letters arrived awarding Rollen the Purple Heart, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation for his service in the First Marine Division.

Hiram Jr. spent another year on the *Indiana*—and in the Pacific—as the Allies “island hopped” toward Japan. Seizing islands ideal for staging future attacks, building airfields, and isolating the most heavily fortified Japanese strongholds, one of the largest American fleets ever assembled employed *Indiana* as a convoy and carrier escort, as well as for offshore bombardment. While Hiram Jr.’s rating stayed at Field Musician First Class throughout this period, he was probably called to his antiaircraft position frequently, since the *Indiana* shot down

several enemy aircraft and participated in naval gunnery support on the islands of Nauru and Kwajalein.

Tragedy struck on the night of February 1, 1944, as *Indiana* bombarded Japanese installations on Kwajalein. In the darkness, the battleship USS *Washington* (BB-56) rammed into the *Indiana*. The accident killed four of *Indiana*’s men and injured another five. Hiram’s damaged ship arrived in Pearl Harbor for repairs on February 13, ending the young West Virginian’s long tenure aboard. Junior would remain stateside, in San Diego and Seattle, for the remainder of the war.

Across the Pacific’s blue waters, the chance to recover Rollen’s remains eventually arrived. Japanese forces withdrew from Guadalcanal in February 1943, which provided an opportunity for the Allies to search for field burials. Using a hastily drawn Marine Corps map dating from the October 1942 battle, a platoon of the 45th Graves Registration Company located dozens such temporary interments, including Rollen and several other 7th Marines from the “Third Action on the Matanikau.” On August 23, 1944, Rollen was reburied in Plot C, Row 98, Grave 10 of the Guadalcanal Cemetery.

Hiram Jr. finished out the war at Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle. The young Marine saw hundreds of thousands of American personnel pass through Seattle’s port, returning from the war after Victory over Japan Day on September 2, 1945. Junior did not join them on their way home, however—he chose instead to extend his enlistment by another two years.

Most of this extended enlistment was spent in Alaska, where the naval base on Kodiak Island formed part of the defensive bulwark against potential Soviet aggression from across the Bering Strait. On February 14, 1947, Hiram Jr. returned stateside, and received his discharge from the Corps on April 30 with the rank of Field Music Corporal. He returned home to West Virginia and found employment as a pipeline worker for the United

Producing Company on a gas mine project in Brenton, very near his native Baileysville.

Hiram Jr. was not the only Mullins who returned home years after the war. In 1947, Kate filed an application for the return of Rollen’s remains. On March 10, 1948, the fallen Marine was laid to rest in Grafton National Cemetery several hours north of their Wyoming County home. The family also received the few items that were found with Rollen’s body on Guadalcanal, which included a badly rusted pocket watch and whistle.

A year after Rollen’s reinterment on American soil, Junior celebrated a new milestone in his

life. On April 4, 1949, he married Beatrice Reed-Rose, a divorcée with three children from her first marriage. The new couple only enjoyed about a year of domesticity together, however, before global events intervened once more.

The Korean War began in June 1950 when Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in a bid to eject the latter’s U.S.-backed government and unify the Korean Peninsula. President Harry S. Truman committed American troops to South Korea’s defense. The Marine Corps swung back into action alongside its sister branches.

Despite having a new bride and a steady job as a



pipeline worker, Hiram Mullins Jr. opted for another stint the Corps. A nationwide draft was back in effect as the federal government sought to supplement the underprepared, understrength U.S. military forces then fighting in Korea. Reenlistment bonuses for veterans of World War II may have played a part in enticing Junior back into the ranks. Although it is unclear how much money was on the table for Mullins, a Marine in the 1st Marine Division later noted he and his friends were each offered \$360 for reenlistment.

Whatever the reason, on October 24, 1950, Mullins traveled to Huntington, West Virginia, and rejoined the Corps as a private first class for a three-year term. His enlistment paperwork reported he was underweight by eight pounds, but the need for recruits outweighed this shortcoming. He was soon transferred to the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia.

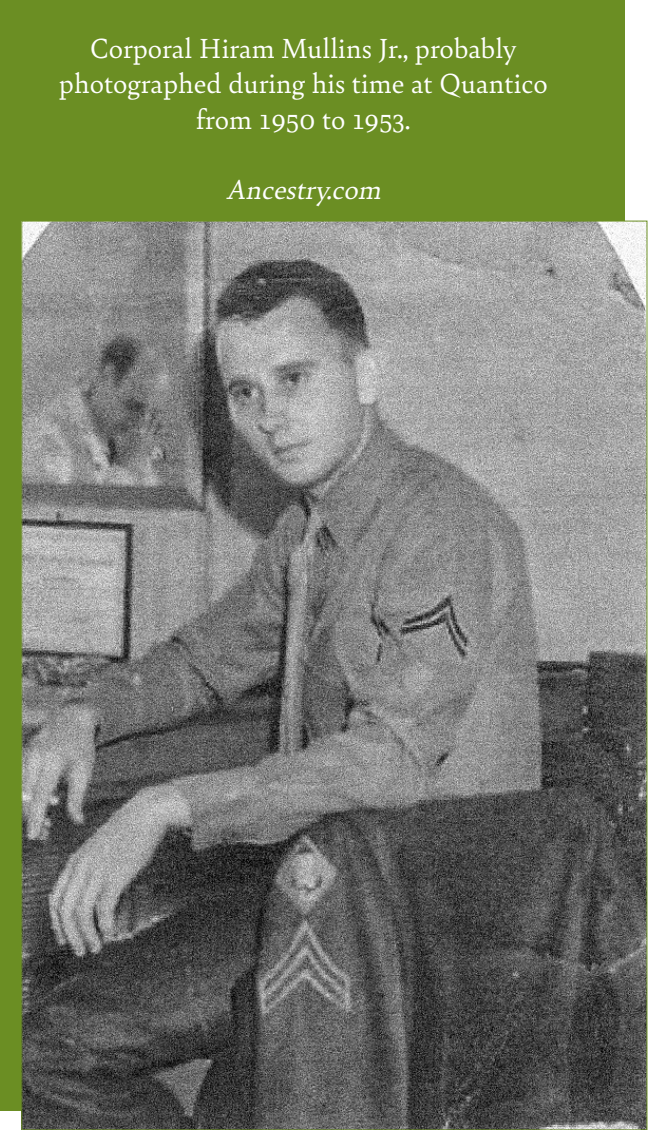
Hiram Jr.’s reenlistment complicated life for Beatrice. While he was sent to Virginia, Beatrice went to live with her younger brother Wayne in McDowell County. Wayne was now housing their father, and Beatrice’s two youngest children, Barbara and Roger.

Hiram Jr.’s second stint in the Marine Corps did not start off well. While awaiting transfer on December 2, he was found “under the influence of intoxicating liquor and thereby incapacitated for the proper performance of duty.” He stood trial on December 12 and was sentenced to a \$40 loss of pay over the course of the next two months, along with ten days of confinement.

The disciplinary measure did not dissuade him from another lapse. From January 8 to 25, he was reported as being absent without authorization. Maybe he went home to visit Beatrice during this time. Whatever the reason, he was once again sentenced, but this time he was confined for a period of one month and ordered to pay \$120 over six months. Hiram Jr.’s sentence was remitted on March 12, 1951, on the condition that he maintain a satisfactory record for a period of three months.

Clearly on thin ice, Hiram Jr. cleaned up his act and maintained such a record for the next year and a half. Throughout this time, he remained at Quantico. From November 1951 to July 1952, Junior served as the unit stockman. He also had short periods of leave, during some of which he probably traveled back home to West Virginia. In July, Hiram was promoted twice, from private first class to corporal, and again to sergeant.

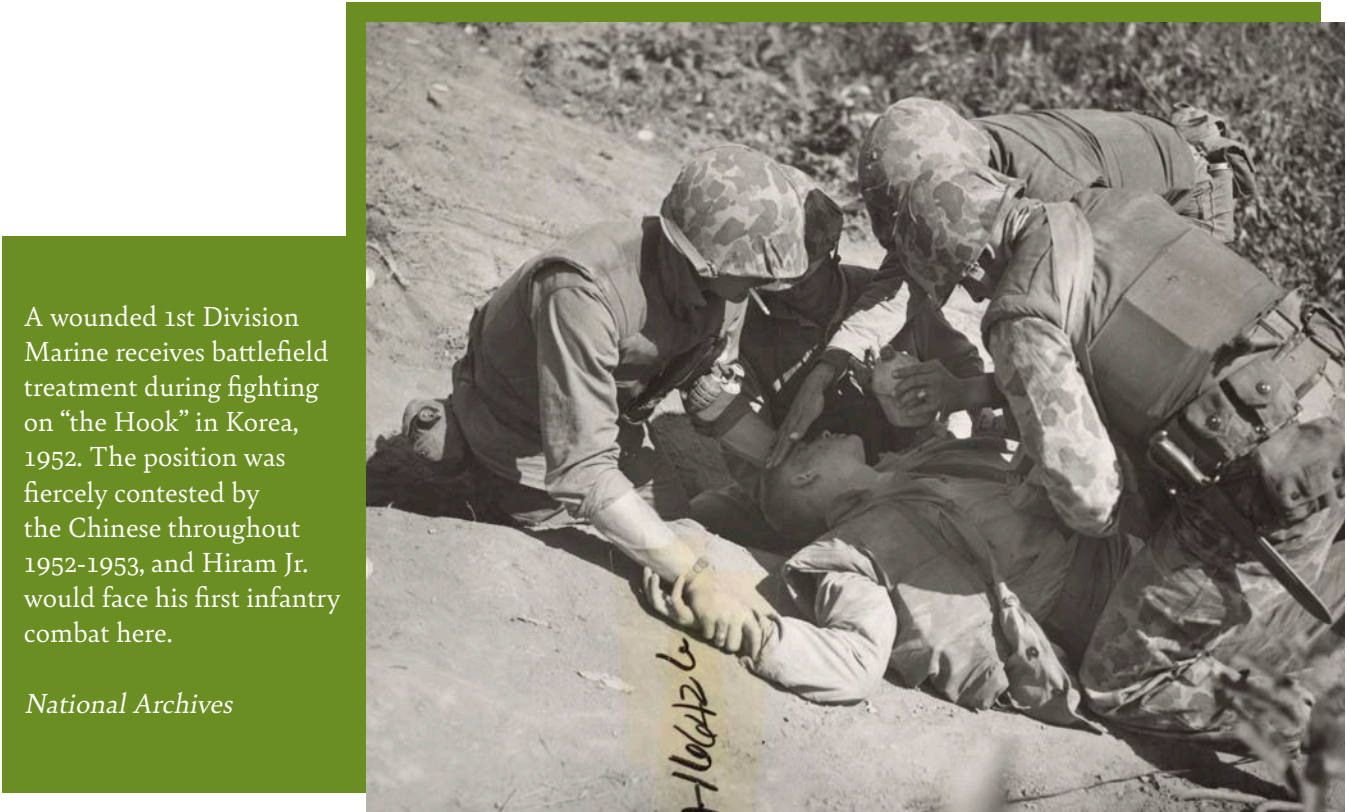
This promotion did not last long, because on August 4, 1952, Hiram Jr. was charged with another unauthorized absence from the period of July 28 to August 4. He was once again found guilty and received a reduction in grade to corporal and restricted to the grounds of the Marine Corps campus at Quantico for a period of one month.



Despite his constant infringements, Mullins enlisted for another six years on January 17, 1953. The following month he was transferred to Camp Pendleton in California, which had become the permanent home of the 1st Marine Division. As it happened, Camp Pendleton was also the site where Marines underwent final training before transit to the Far East during the Korean War. Hiram had missed most of the Korean War’s most famous battles—even though he had reenlisted shortly after the conflict began—but it was not over yet.

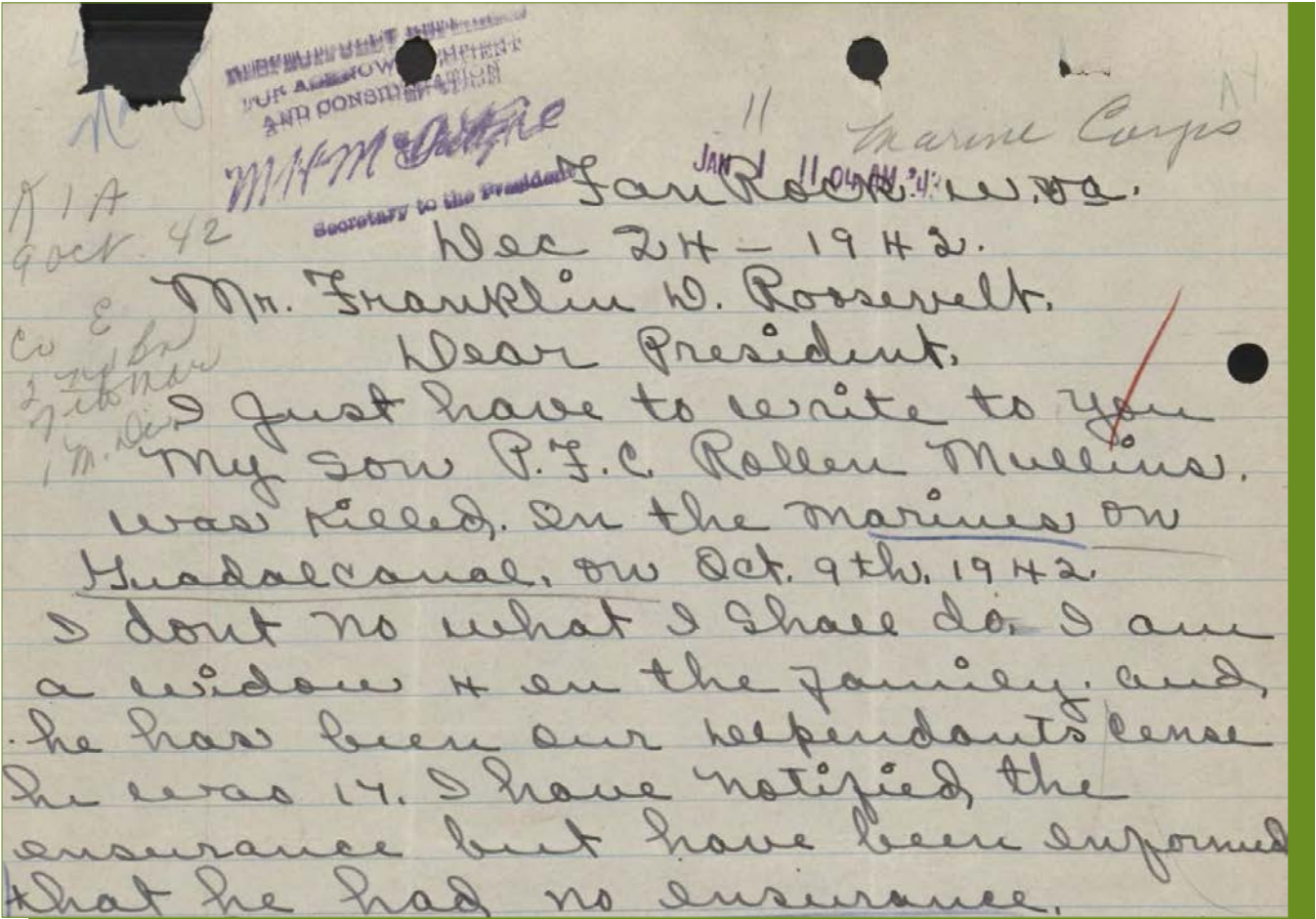
Three months after this latest reenlistment, Hiram Jr. embarked on the USNS *General Nelson M. Walker* (AP-125) and arrived at Inchon (now Incheon), Korea, on May 8, 1953—site of the famed 1950 amphibious landing whereby General Douglas MacArthur reversed the course of the war. Hiram Jr. arrived in Korea as a replacement in the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division—his brother’s old regiment.

Hiram Jr. joined the 7th Marines north of Seoul, along the extreme left flank of the main line of resistance known as the “Jamestown Line.”



This was a fortified, static defensive line whose entrenchments resulted in bloody close-quarters combat reminiscent of the First World War. One particular position—a crescent-shaped set of trenches known as “the Hook,” overlooking a likely invasion route through the Samich’on Valley—was a nightmare for the Marines due to its steep, rugged hills. If captured, the Chinese could cut off the Marines and move toward the capital of South Korea.

The 7th Marines had already experienced intense fighting at the Hook back in October 1952. The Chinese had captured and held the Hook for 36 hours before the 7th pushed them back across the Jamestown Line and resecured the outposts. Although the enemy lost nearly 500 killed, Marine losses also totaled 82 killed, 386 wounded, and 27 missing. More fighting in the Hook was to follow, and would involve other United Nations contingents from Turkey, the United Kingdom, and other countries. Chinese forces maintained heavy pressure on the position throughout the first half of 1953.



Excerpt from the letter Kate Mullins wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Christmas Eve, 1942, following the death of her son Rollen. National Archives

Hiram continued serving as a Headquarters Company stockman while the 7th Regiment remained in reserve. His first taste of ground combat arrived in early July, when the 7th Marines were finally rotated into forward positions. Hiram and his fellow Marines did not know it, but they were about to participate in one of the Korean War’s final battles.

Communist forces were aware of the troop rotation and saw an opportunity to strike when the Americans were most vulnerable. They opened up with artillery and mortar fire onto the deploying Marines. On July 7, the Chinese forces unleashed waves of assaults against the Hook. Fighting developed into a desperate hand-to-hand combat to retake one of the outposts. The 7th Marines sustained over 160 casualties in the battle.

This brutal fighting coincided with negotiations among the United Nations, China, and North Korea. As diplomats from both sides met on July 19, the Chinese launched a new assault against two outposts occupied by Hiram Jr.’s 3rd Battalion. Mortar and artillery barrages preceded infantry charges. Fighting raged over the next several days before the 7th Marines forced the Chinese back on July 26. This proved to be the last combat action for the regiment during the Korean War—a ceasefire agreement was signed the following day.

Hiram was wounded on the final day of fighting, one of 800 casualties suffered by the 7th Marines that July. His wound was not serious and, by August, Mullins had made a full recovery and was serving as a clerk typist for the regiment. Following

the ceasefire, a demilitarized zone was established between the United Nations and Communist forces. The 1st Marine Division was sent to the southwest sector of this zone near Panmunjom. The 7th Marines remained in Korea at combat readiness in case the truce collapsed. Hiram Jr. served the rest of the year as a property accounting clerk and began work as a supply chief in February 1954.

After more than a year in Korea, Hiram Jr.’s participation ended on July 2, 1954. He returned to the United States with an assignment to the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, North Carolina. Mullins was granted leave and traveled home to West Virginia to visit family for the first time in over year.

Tragedy was not yet done with the Mullins family, however. On September 20, 1954, the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph* reported that Mullins and another Marine, Luther Hatten, were severely injured in a car accident outside of Welch, West Virginia. The 1949 convertible the Marines were driving hit a cliff and rolled over on Route 7. Hiram sustained a “serious brain injury,” and was transported from a local Welch hospital to the Bluefield Sanitarium for additional treatment.

He was later transferred again to the Navy Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he was treated until February 1955. While in the hospital he received a temporary promotion to staff sergeant.

Evidently, Hiram made some progress toward recovery. In April, he left the hospital for Quantico, where his promotion was made permanent. Not all of the accident’s scars were visible, however, and in August he was once again in a naval hospital, this time at Bethesda. There, after 10 years, 10 months, and 16 days of total service that spanned World War II and the Korean War, Hiram Jr.’s traumatic brain injury brought an end to his long service in the United States Marine Corps.

Hiram Mullins Jr. was discharged from the Marine Corps due to permanent disability on December

31, 1955. He returned home to West Virginia and his family. With him came the honors from two conflicts: the Korean Service Medal with one star, the United Nations Service Medal, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with one star.

Tragically for his family, and particularly for his mother Kate, who had already suffered so much loss, Hiram Jr. died only a few months after he returned home. Worse still, yet another car accident was the cause. Late on the foggy night of April 3, 1956, Mullins was returning home to Fanrock in the car of his friend Thomas Short when Short lost control of the sedan at a curve in the road. The vehicle plunged over a steep embankment on Davy Mountain. While Short only sustained minor cuts and bruises, Hiram Jr. was thrown from the car. He was killed by a cerebral concussion, possibly exacerbated by the brain damage suffered during his 1954 crash.

His family held funeral services for the 32-year-old, which were conducted by the same reverend who had provided a character reference for Rollen when he went off to join the Marine Corps over a decade earlier. Eight years after Rollen had been reinterred in Grafton National Cemetery, his younger brother Hiram Jr. joined him there on April 6, 1956. The two Marines, veterans and brothers, were once again reunited.



PLACE OF INTERMENT:
Grafton National Cemetery

ROLLEN
SECTION A
SITE 28

HIRAM JR.
SECTION B
SITE 1715

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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As home to one of the nation’s first national cemeteries—founded shortly after the Civil War—the community of Grafton has longstanding traditions of honoring America’s veterans, including the longest continuously celebrated Memorial Day parade in the United States. The Grafton National Cemetery, located in the heart of the city and founded in 1867, is typically the endpoint of each year’s parade. Since the Grafton National Cemetery began to run short of space during the 1960s, the West Virginia National Cemetery was dedicated in 1987, just a few miles outside of Grafton.

The West Virginia Humanities Council is proud to thank the following organizations for their participation in the West Virginia National Cemeteries Project: West Virginia Archives and History, the West Virginia University history department, Taylor County Historical and Genealogical Society, Taylor County Public Library, Grafton High School, and University High School, among many others.

Please refer comments or questions to the West Virginia Humanities Council
1310 Kanawha Blvd E, Charleston, WV 25301
wvhuman@wvhumanities.org
www.wvhumanities.org
304.346.8500



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For readability, bibliographies have been omitted from this publication. Student research for these biographies relies heavily on primary sources—census records, city directories, draft cards, muster rolls, and more—made available digitally through Ancestry and Fold3. Yearbook repositories and the digitized collections of many universities and archives have been invaluable resources. Most newspaper research was conducted digitally via Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchives, and the Library of Congress’s *Chronicling America* database.

Servicemembers’ Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) and Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPFs) are another essential part of project research, provided free of charge in most cases by the National Archives through standard records requests.

As the West Virginia National Cemeteries Project has grown and matured, the team has found that new sources sometimes surface for veterans researched in prior project years. To better maintain a “living bibliography” of all its veterans, a single master document is kept up on the project’s webpage under the “Programs” tab at www.wvhumanities.org.

Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives of the United States, or any other federal agency. For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial and the Veterans Legacy Grant Program, visit www.vlm cem.va.gov.

