

The WORLD of OKLAHOMAJACK™ at SEVEN

DEAR MR. AND MRS. READER—

IT IS 1952 in the Kodak Brownie snapshot at right. An okay Texan and General of the Army will shortly be president. In 1953, he will smartly wind down U.N. involvement in a 3-years running Korean civil war—and just as smartly avoid jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire of the **12-YEARS RUNNING VIETNAMESE INSURGENCY**. In the meantime, the **OK 45th Infantry Division** is engaged in the Battle of Old Baldy. I'm but seven years old though—having forever lost my exquisitely beautiful **OK Mom**,



Birdie Fay (at left). Christmas Eve 1951 has come and gone—she, having succumbed to a pneumonia-induced heart attack in the intensive care ward at the army's Camp Adna R. Chaffee, A-R-K. A few months have now passed, and I and my 31-year old **OK Dad**, Harv (now remarried) are seen leaning against his tan 1951 Chevy at the home of his half-brother, Roy, and wife, Iris, at Stillwater, **O-K-L-A**. Naturally, I have no idea of

the adventures awaiting me in the post-World War II Europe of 1952-53—after what will be a wild ride aboard the USNS General H.F. Hodges! Likewise, I can't possibly know that 1966 will find me (as a newlywed) wearing the uniform of a young army staff sergeant of **THE BEST AND FINEST OF US™** in the **25TH YEAR OF THE VIETNAMESE INSURGENCY**. I would become one of hundreds of thousands of middle and working class disabled Veterans who would participate in a counterinsurgency that Eisenhower avoided (but Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon sought out)—and that the Vichy/Free French fought until being defeated in 1954 at the north's Dien Bien Phu. The south's Saigon would fall in 1975—the House and Senate saying "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" to further military assistance or supplemental military appropriations for **VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA** (using the **CONSTITUTIONAL "POWER"** inherent to **ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 12**).

BACK in uniform with **THE BEST AND FINEST OF US™** for the first time since 1943-46, Harv will soon ship out for U.S. Forces Austria at Salzburg. Later, he will wrap up his final active duty tour at Livorno (Leghorn), Italy. Along with millions of **THE BEST AND FINEST OF US™**, Harv, a World War II Vet, made the perilous 1944-45 trek from London to Berlin as an infantry second lieutenant. Birdie Fay gave me life as Harv risked his, deploying east across the English Channel in the ultimate allied push against Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany by way of Belgium during the Rhineland Campaign. Interestingly, Harv participated in an expedition roughly corresponding to the reverse of his great-great-great grandfather's New World passage—exactly 200 years before Harv departed for Salzburg. My 27-year old ancestor left Germanic Europe and its internecine warfare for Pennsylvania colony, via Dutch Rotterdam and English Cowes. At Philadelphia on **OCTOBER 20, 1752**, he walked down the gangplank (or was rowed ashore) from the wooden sailing ship, Duke of Wirtemberg, Daniel Montpelier commanding. Not long after, he married a girl named Anna, and headed south to Loudoun County, Virginia. He was farming there when the Declaration of Independence was signed on **JULY 4, 1776**—and twelve years later on **JUNE 25, 1788**, when Virginia ratified the Constitution. He died in 1789. His son then journeyed west to Ohio. Harv's father, Ike, concluded a 5-generation covered wagon migration near Stillwater, Payne County, **OK**, in 1895.

I AM VERY TRULY YOURS — **OK Jack™** FOR **OKJACK™GROUP™**

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