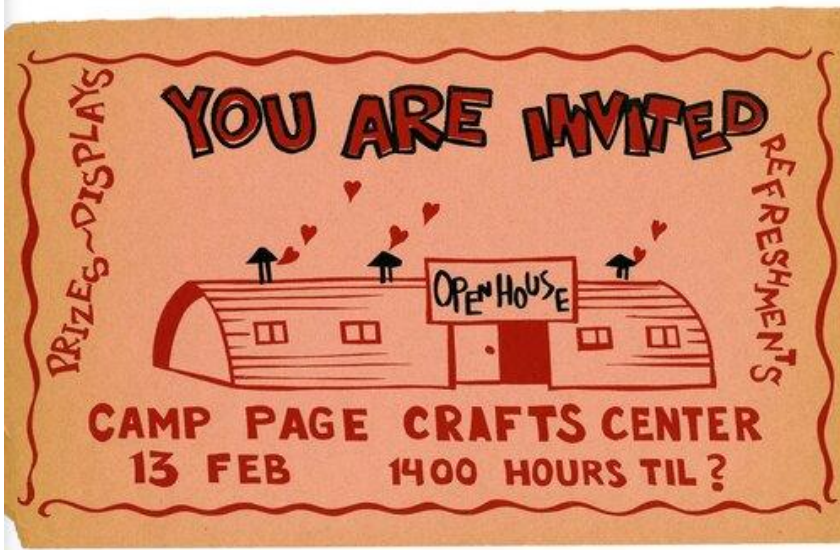


March 30, 2020

Civilian Helps Boost Soldier Morale in Korea

Photo of poster, MM2018.2.9

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, J. Gleim, Museum Curator)



This orange paper poster was created and used by Pennsylvanian Gail Mercey (Getz) during her service in Korea as a civilian employee in Army Special Services.

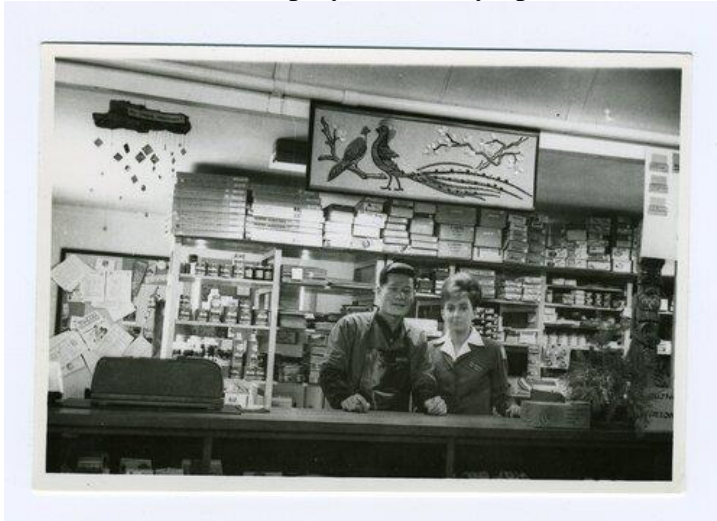


Photo of Gail Mercey, MM2018.2.6

Originally a branch of the Army Morale Division formed in 1918, US Army Special Services encompassed the Army's Recreation Services, the Army Exchange (better known to many as the "PX"), and the Army Soldier Show. These organizations sought to provide supplies, morale-boosting entertainment, and activities to US soldiers serving abroad. Special Services used soldiers with unique training, civilian employees, and local talent to provide entertainment ranging from theatrical and musical performances, comedy shows, libraries, and facilities where soldiers could practice crafts and hobbies.



Photo of Gail Mercey, MM2018.2.4

Gail served as Crafts Director, a civilian position, at Camp Page, 4th Missile Command in Chuncheon, Korea near the 38th parallel from April 1965 to September 1966. In 2018, she donated a collection of photographs and posters that documented her time and work in Korea. Gail's work helped provide soldiers stationed far from home with meaningful activities during their time off duty, an important service that ensured morale remained high.

Today, the services originally provided by US Army Special Forces are carried out by the G9 Division of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command. The "MWR" (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) provides support and recreation activities to soldiers and their families including libraries, intramural sports programs, musical entertainment, and more.