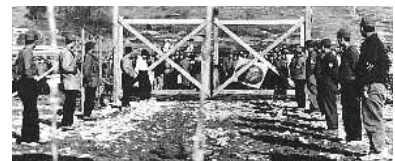




24th Infantry Division

Donald Leroy Xander
Corporal U.S. Army
18 November 1952 – 26 October 1954

Donald was born on 2 November 1931 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school from 1937 to 1945. He attended Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1949. In March 1950, Donald went to work for Allentown-Bethlehem Gas Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, repairing meters until he was drafted into the Army on 18 November 1952. He entered the Army as a Private in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was assigned to Fort Breckenridge, Kentucky, for 24 weeks where he underwent basic training and advanced infantry training for 16 weeks. He also attended the Leadership Course there. He was then assigned to I Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry (“Victory”) Division, which originally had participated in the defense and breakout of the Pusan Perimeter and for nineteen months had fought in seven campaigns in Korea before being ordered to Japan in February 1952 to serve as part of the Far East Reserve. When Donald arrived in Japan he found out the 24th Division had been ordered back to Korea to restore order in Prisoner of War (POW) camps where there had been prisoner uprisings. The Division subsequently was relieved from guarding POWs and was assigned to reserve status at Camp Casey, Korea, near the 38th Parallel. On 27 July 1953, the day the Korean Armistice was signed, Donald caught up with his unit on Koje Island where one of the POW camps was located and where about 170,000 POWs were held. He remained there until the POWs were repatriated back to North Korea and then his unit camped north of Pusan for a while before beginning a series of maneuvers northward to the vicinity of the 38th Parallel. Donald was a Radio Operator during these maneuvers. He returned to the States in October 1956 and was discharged at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, as a Corporal. He returned to Wescosville and to work as a Service Supervisor for Allentown-Bethlehem Gas Company, which later became UGI Corporation and then UGI Utilities, Inc. He retired from UGI Utilities on 1 December 1995. Donald married **Dolores Jean Delong** (born 11 May 1932) on 9 September 1951 in Wescosville Evangelical United Brethren Church, and they made their permanent home in Wescosville. They had four children: **David Luke**, **Daniel LeRoy**, **Danette Jean**, and **Doreen Jane**. Donald’s parents were **Earl Leroy Xander** (29 May 1908 – 9 December 1997) and **Irene Henriette Lambert** (16 March 1910 – 21 January 1996).



Uprising at Koje POW Camp