



Korean and Vietnam War in Genesee, Idaho.  
Excerpts from the "Genesee News"

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**Sept. 22 1950, Genesee News**  
**Sturgills On Okinawa Father A Korea Flier**

Little do most people realize how much a young family endures to be together, even for short periods, and what sacrifices are being made by those engaged in the Korean conflict. The News has been privileged to read a letter from Mrs. Stanley Sturgill (Joan) to her father, Henry Lorang, at Genesee.

Lt. Sturgill of the U.S. Airforce, was first sent to Guam where his family later joined him. Since the trouble started in Korea, Lt. Sturgill was ordered for duty over that country. According to the letter, Mrs. Sturgill and son, Bobby, were permitted to move to Okinawa about the middle of May. The family had a joyful reunion Easter. The family had but the one meeting after the mother and son landed at Guam, and then there was another when Lt. Sturgill went over

his family. After Easter there were some “tough missions” and others before that. Lost in action as the Group commanding officer and the squadron commanding officer, also several men with whom Sturgill had flown, one the husband of an intimate friend of Mrs. Sturgill.. On a particular mission a number of men were wounded and some had to land in Korea. “You have probably read of losses this one particular time,” Mrs. Sturgill wrote. “Stan was right in it, but never got a scratch. There was a woman who lived a few houses from us. She had three boys. Her husband was shot down. We listened to the radio. I was afraid to listen and afraid not to listen. If they said there were no American planes lost that night we could sleep, but if they told of the Russian planes downed but didn’t commit themselves on American planes “we knew some where lost. Then we’d sweat it out waiting for a call from the chaplain. I tried to keep so busy I didn’t have time to think.”

### Sturgill Decorated

Lt. Sturgill, winner of the Air Medal and one Oak Leaf Cluster for flying missions over Korea has accepted ground duty for the time being, but does not expect to be returned to the States until about the first of next year. To the Sturgills it seems a long way off, that welcome rotation, which he could have accepted with strings attached, that of having to return to combat flying. On rotation he could bring his family to the United States, but on returning to the Orient the wife and son would not be permitted to accompany him.

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### **June 29, 1951, Genesee News Saw Brother on Guam**

Mrs. Sturgill told of meeting her brother, Dan, when he landed at Guam. It was when Sturgills were ready to leave for Okinawa. They were delayed a few days owing to an infection picked up by the son, Bobby. During their reunion, the four tried to see as much of Guam as possible. She didn’t believe her brother was enthused about Guam, but compared to Okinawa it was paradise.

Home for the Sturgills on Okinawa in a Quonset hut. Other inhabitants can be rats, roaches, mosquitos, ants and fleas, all of which seem to enjoy frightening or biting white people then there’s termites and poisonous snakes, but the most dangerous of all are the snakes, but the most dangerous of all are the snakes and mosquitos. Some of the G.I’s have contacted malaria and some a sort of sleeping sickness or paralysis, called Jap-3, encephomatitis, which is due to the bite of the mosquito. Some of the natives succumb to it, but we have taken the shots and sleep under nets so we will be alright, Mrs. Sturgill writes.

**Dec. 5, 1952, Genesee News**  
**Sturgill On Greenland Run Piloting Big C-47 Transport**

Lt. Stanley Sturgill, who brought his wife, Joan, and son, Bobby, to Genesee four weeks ago to visit in the home of Mrs. Sturgill's father, H. M. Lorang, returned to Genesee Tuesday morning of this week to take his family back to Great Falls, Mont. They left here at 6 a.m. Wednesday.

The visit here of Mrs. Sturgill and son was one of anxiety after the first week. She did not hear from her husband until his return to the airbase at Great Falls. The C-47 transport, which was piloted by Sturgill and another airforce officer, took off for Thule Airbase in Greenland, northernmost of all U.S. bases, delved engine and propeller trouble enroute, demanding replacements twice before the flight was continued.

Lt. Sturgill, who flew 25 combat missions over Korea in two years, prefers Guam and Okinawa to the frozen wastelands of northern Greenland, where quarters for personnel are huge walk-in refrigerators, so to speak, except that the cold boxes are to keep cold out rather than in. ice is scooped out in which to place the heavily insulated buildings, which have triple glass windows to permit the brief period of light at this time of year. He said temperature of 40 degrees below zero were common and airforce men stationed at Thule were prepared for 60 degrees below zero and colder.

Mrs. Sturgill and son lived for over a year on Guam and Okinawa.

**August 30, 1953, Genesee**  
**Jim Lorang Now at Brooklyn in a Supervisory Capacity**

Jim Lorang, who was granted his degree in electrical engineering at Washington State College in June, and who is employed by Western Electric, came home by plane July 23 from Winston-Salem, N.C., where he was on a tentative assignment for the company. He was home to pick up his car and personal effects. He left here July 25 by car for Brooklyn, N.Y. and arrived August 5 to report for duty.

He will be employed at Brooklyn by Western Electric at the Navy Yard to supervise and check radar and other electrical equipment installations aboard various United States ships. He expects to be there for about four months under the present contract.

His father, Henry Lorang receive the following this week from Washington State College:

“It is a pleasure to inform you that in recognition of superior scholarship, James Tobin Lorang, is on the Honor Roll of the State College of Washington for the second semester of the college year 1952-53 –C. Clement French, president.”