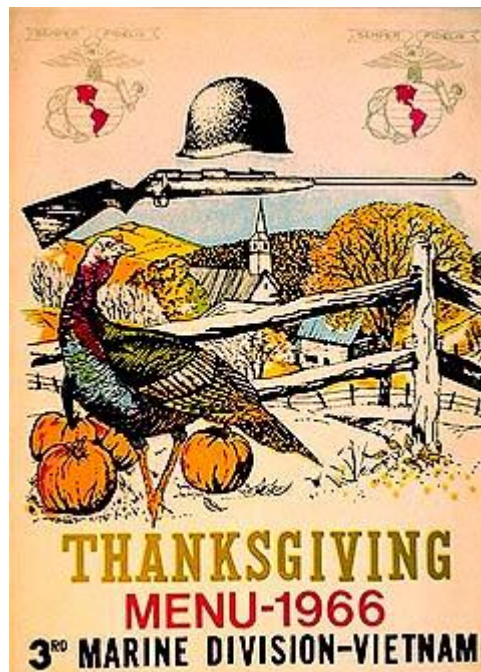


THE COLD WAR: KOREA TO VIETNAM

World War II brought a shifting balance of power. The military draft, allowed to lapse for a year in 1947, was revived as the "Cold War" intensified. The U.S. and the Communist bloc met in combat in Korea during the 1950s and in Vietnam during the 1960s and 1970s. North Korean Communists invaded South Korea in 1950. Ultimately, North Korea was driven back by American and United Nations forces. President Eisenhower signed a cease-fire in 1953.



THANKSGIVING DAY, 1953

By the President of the United States: a Proclamation

As a Nation much blessed, we feel impelled at harvest time to follow the tradition handed down by our Pilgrim fathers of pausing from our labors for one day to render thanks to Almighty God for His bounties. Now that the year is drawing to a close, once again it is fitting that we incline our thoughts to His mercies and offer to Him our special prayers of gratitude... Especially are we grateful this year for the truce in battle-weary Korea, which gives to anxious men and women throughout the world the hope that there may now be an enduring peace.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

An "advisory" involvement in the war between non-Communist South and Communist North Vietnam grew into a heavy American military commitment in the 1960s. The war against North Vietnam was protracted and inconclusive, ending in 1975 with the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the fall of Saigon.

Combat rations in Korea and Vietnam were an improved version of World War II rations. Even for the front line troops, however, combat rations were not served at Thanksgiving. Troops were rotated off the front so that they could enjoy a full, hot Thanksgiving dinner behind the lines. The services made an intensified effort to serve hot food in the field whenever possible. During the Korean conflict, men in combat areas were usually given two hot meals a day. By 1967, 93% of the meals served to the troops in Vietnam were hot and primarily fresh.

A new coordinated research effort aimed at improving both nutritional content and food preservation was led by the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Command, Natick (Massachusetts) Research Development & Engineering Center ("Natick Labs"). This coordination led to the creation of the Armed Forces Recipe Service in 1968. The resulting standardized recipes did away with separate cookbooks for the various services.

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1967
By the President of the United States: a Proclamation

...Over the years, we have made Thanksgiving a unique national occasion. Thanking God for His goodness, we thank Him as well for the promise and achievement of America. Our reasons for gratitude are almost without number.... Much as we are grateful for these material and spiritual blessings, we are conscious, in this year, of special sorrows and disappointments. We are engaged in a painful conflict in Asia, which was not of our choosing, and in which we are involved in fidelity to a sacred promise to help a nation which has been the victim of aggression. We are proud of the spirit of our men who are risking their lives on Asian soil. We pray that their sacrifice will be redeemed in an honorable peace and the restoration of a land long torn by war...

LYNDON B. JOHNSON