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Rubin learned early about the depth of cruelty his fellow man was capable of.

He was captured and taken to Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Austria.

Though his parents and one of his sisters were killed elsewhere during the Holocaust, Rubin survived.

Rubin

A Hungarian Jew, he was only a teen when his family tried to smuggle him to safety after the Nazi occupation in 1944.

None of you will make it out of here alive.

In 1945 he was liberated by American GIs.

In the rugged mountains of Korea, American forces were often outnumbered by Chinese and Korean Communists. To withdraw under fire and make their way out of enemy traps, it sometimes came down to one man.
A free man again, Rubin was determined to repay the country that had freed him.

He made his way to California where he joined the U.S. Army.

though not yet an American citizen, Rubin was deployed to Korea in 1950 as part of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Outnumbered by North Korean forces, the regiment’s third battalion began withdrawing to the Pusan Perimeter.

Rubin alone remained behind to cover the retreat.

As the enemy approached, Rubin moved from one foxhole to another to give the impression that this lonely hill was well defended.

With carbine...

...and machine gun...

...and grenades.
HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY BLUNTED THE ADVANCE OF THE NORTH KOREANS.

THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES HE INFlicted WAS STAGGERING.

His one-man rear guard action gave his unit time to re-group and saved American lives.

As they advanced north, Rubin continued to fight brilliantly.

HE SAVED A FELLOW SOLDIER PINNED DOWN BY SNIPER FIRE.

LENNIE!

TED, THAT YOu?

AND HELPED CAPTURE HUNDREDS OF NORTH KOREANS.
But it was in the shadow of the mountains of Unsan, in North Korea, that he would face his greatest test.

On November 1, 1950, Rubin had been in the field for months.

Volunteers from the People’s Liberation Army of China had entered the war with nearly four hundred thousand troops.

Rubin’s unit prepared for an assault.

Rubin alone crawled out to man the Browning.

The far-off trill of a bugle sounded in the hours after midnight.

Then all hell broke loose.

Out of the darkness, the enemy charged at division strength to wipe the Americans from their position.

A machine gun crew fell to enemy fire.
WHILE THE REST OF HIS UNIT RETREATED, ONCE AGAIN, RUBIN STAYED BEHIND TO COVER THEM.

COME ON, TED! WE'RE PULLING BACK!

YOU GO! I STAY!

RUNNING THROUGH BELT AFTER BELT OF AMMO, RUBIN KEPT FEEDING THE .30 CAL.

EVERY ROUND HE FIRED, EVERY MINUTE HE COULD BUY, WAS ALLOWING THE REMNANTS OF HIS UNIT TIME TO GET AWAY.

HE INFLECTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE CHINESE, SLOWING THEIR ATTACK.

INSTEAD OF MINUTES, RUBIN BOUGHT THEM HOURS.

HE HELD OFF THE ASSAULT THROUGH THE NIGHT AND THROUGHOUT THE NEXT DAY.

RUBIN HELD ON UNTIL HIS LAST ROUND.

INEVITABLY, HIS POSITION WAS OVERWHELMED BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS.
BADLY WOUNDED, HE WAS TAKEN PRisoner.

ONCE AGAIN, HE WAS TAKEN TO A PRISON CAMP.

ONCE AGAIN, HE RECALLED THE WORDS OF THAT SS OFFICER.

“NONE OF YOU WILL MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE.”

HE WAS OFFERED HIS FREEDOM BY THE CAMP COMMANDANT.

YOU ARE HUNGARIAN, NOT YOUR PEOPLE ARE OUR COWARDS. YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO HOME.

RUBIN’S RESPONSE WAS STEADFAST AND IMMEDIATE.

AGAIN, RUBIN THOUGHT OF HIS BUDDIES IN THE THIRD BATTALION.

MY HOME IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

HE COULD NEVER LET THEM DOWN.
Instead he used the knowledge learned from his bitter experience.

At the risk of torture, he stole from the guards' food stores.

He looted their vegetable garden.

He boiled snow to make soup from grasses and medicines for the sick.

But, more than anything, he shared his indomitable will to survive.

Those who were imprisoned with him attest that Rubin saved forty of them from death within the camp.

In the spring of 1953, Rubin was released in a prisoner exchange.
TIBOR "TED" RUBIN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES A FULL CITIZEN.

HE WENT TO WORK IN HIS BROTHER'S STORE IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

OLD SCHENLEY, PLEASE.

NEVER FORGETTING HIS DEBT TO THE PEOPLE WHO FED HIM ALL THOSE YEARS BEFORE, RUBIN WAS A FREQUENT VISITOR TO HIS LOCAL VETERANS HOSPITAL.

HE WOULD SPEND OVER 20,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS WITH WOUNDED SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES.

THE FACILITY WOULD POSTHUMOUSLY BE RE-NAMED THE TIBOR RUBIN VA MEDICAL CENTER IN HONOR OF HIS SELFLESS WORK.

IN SEPTEMBER 2005, MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE KOREAN WAR, TIBOR RUBIN WAS AWARDED HIS ADOPTED NATION'S HIGHEST MILITARY HONOR IN A WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY.

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