



The Ontario County Historical Society Museum and Research Center

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Connecting our Community with its Past



October 26, 2021

To the Pulitzer Prize Board:

I am writing in support of *The Canandaigua Letters*, whose submission we are sponsoring in the category of Biography/Memoir. This book, we believe, makes a significant contribution to American history from the mid-20th century in ways that, at first blush, may not be evident, which we respectfully detail as follows:

- What is now termed “*The DMZ War*” (i.e., the conflict fought on the Korean DMZ by the U.S. Army’s 2nd Infantry Division in the late 1960s)—the existence of which was vigorously suppressed by the Johnson and Nixon Administrations—reveals a hidden chapter of the Vietnam War heretofore unknown to the American public.
- Moreover, the close coordination between North Vietnam’s 1968 Tet Offensive and the simultaneous North Korean military offensive—resulting in their attempt to behead the South Korean government (the *Blue House Raid*), in tandem with their seizure of the *USS Pueblo*—yields a snapshot of this moment in American diplomatic history as a far more complicated piece of the Cold War chessboard than was previously understood.
- The author’s wartime relationship with his Korean girlfriend—herself, the offspring of a Japanese military officer and a Korean *comfort woman*—lends a tragic gloss to a story still very much current in international politics.
- And finally, while most military memoirs of that era jump the reader immediately into the battlefield, *The Canandaigua Letters* (drawing on the author’s remarkable eidetic memory) carries the reader through the entire process of being drafted and inducted into the military, detailing every phase of infantry training and deployment in a combat zone and, ultimately, providing a vivid mosaic of the Vietnam era that we have never seen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Christopher Hubler—President of the Board of Trustees/ Ontario County Historical Society.

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