

TARO LEAF
24th Infantry Division Association
Kenwood Ross, Editor
120 Maple Street
Springfield MA 01103-2278

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



Wells, Richard H.
102 W.Pike St.,
Attica IN 47918

THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

Life Member #720, DAN RICKERT (D 3rd Eng. '50-'51) of Box 418 sends us a page out of "Military History", for which our thanks, Dan.

First Meeting of a New War

A place called Osan was the first holding action that would buy time for Pusan.

Korea, when it is remembered at all, is remembered most often these days for its more spectacular events—the initial invasion by North Korea, Douglas MacArthur's riposte at Inchon, Harry Truman's sacking of the same MacArthur, the entry of the Red Chinese, the Chosin withdrawal and even the dogged defense of the Pusan Perimeter early in the unexpected Asian war (Interview, Page 42).

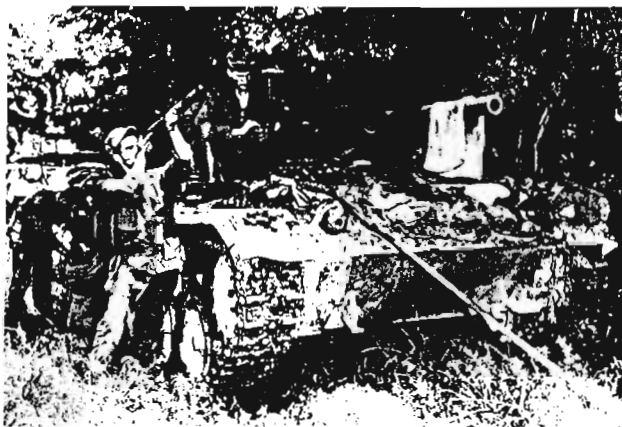
Not so well remembered are the "smaller" stuff, wherein good men also fought and died. And one of those actions, on the invader's road to Pusan, was the unheralded, unenviable job of Task Force Smith.

Named for its commander, Lt. Col. Charles ("Brad") Smith, the task force, all of 540 men strong, was a battalion from Maj. Gen. William Dean's 24th Infantry Division. The division in Japan was MacArthur's initial choice as the stopgap force to feed into battle piecemeal as a desperate effort to slow the invading North Koreans while he built larger forces for his future counterattack.

With the South Koreans reeling before the troops of the Communist North in late June 1950, with the capital of Seoul already lost, all eyes had turned to the port city of Pusan at the bottom of the peninsula as the final prize to be defended or to be taken. Only days after the invasion of June 25, 1950, General Dean sent Colonel Smith and his battalion winging off to Pusan, recalls Robert Leckie in his *Wars of America*.

"When you get to Pusan, head for Taejon," Dean ordered. "We want to stop the North Koreans as far from Pusan as we can. Block the main road as far north as possible."

Thus was the stage set for the first meeting between American and North Korean, at a place called Osan, north of Taejon on the Seoul-Pusan road.



The first American tank to engage the North Koreans in combat was this M-24 Chaffee model, nicknamed by its crew "Rebel's Roost." It—and others like it—were no match for their foe's Russian-built T-34.

Colonel Smith and his 500-plus chose a spot with hills to either side. The road between became a pass, one that they could cover with their small-arms and their handful of somewhat antiquated bigger pieces. And down the road the morning of July 5 came the North Koreans, as anticipated. First there was a column of 33 tanks and then, behind, 10,000 troops.

But Task Force Smith would do its best. "At 8:16 a.m., the first American shell of the war went shrieking toward the enemy," reports Leckie. In minutes, mortars, machine guns, bazookas, 75mm recoilless rifles and Smith's four howitzers all spoke their piece. But nothing stopped the big, Russian-made T-34 tanks.

Finally, the battalion's lone antitank gun fired its total complement of six armor-piercing shells, and two of the lead tanks were stopped, one of them erupting flame. The others, though, bulled on past, while swarms of infantry attacked Smith's tiny force front and flank. Those Americans surviving had to flee as best they could in tiny groups (150 were lost outright).

Colonel Smith, however, had gone 60 miles beyond Taejon to establish his line. And General Dean now would set up a series of blocking forces—all

of them thinly manned, to be sure—in the effort to buy time for Pusan below. Thus, he sent his 24th Division men to Pyongtaek-Ansong, 10 miles south of Osan; and again to Chonan, 15 miles farther south; and once more to Chochiwon, just 15 miles above Taejon. And finally to the South Korean city of Taejon itself.

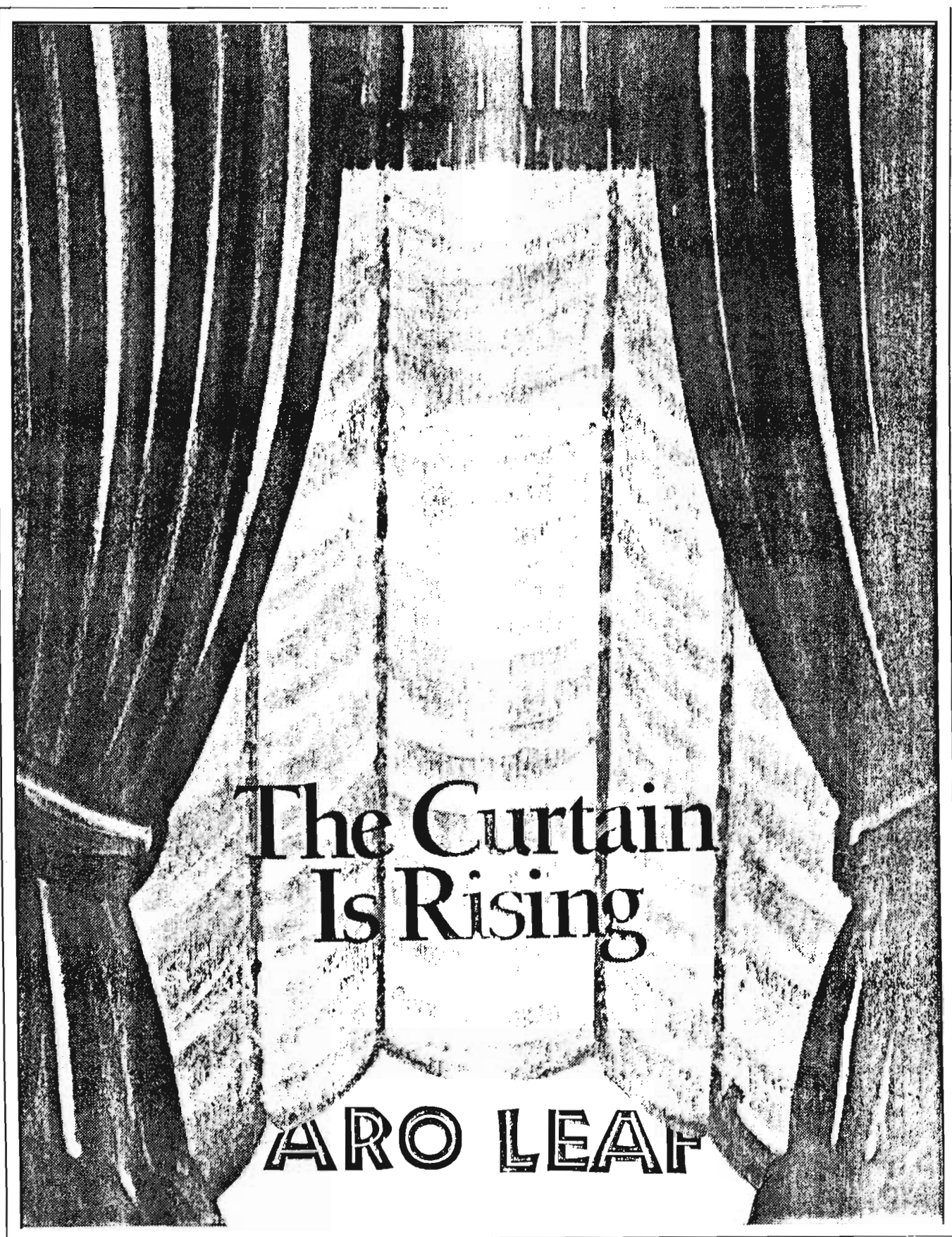
Each time, the Americans gave way, but each time they stiffened a bit more and slowed the supply-extended enemy a bit more. Taejon itself was a real battle, with the North Koreans using their heaviest artillery barrage of the young war and employing three attacking columns of tanks to storm the city on July 20.

That night, while seeking water for his wounded, General Dean took a fall, broke his shoulder and knocked himself out. He awoke the next morning to find himself alone, his forces gone as ordered. He wandered through the mountainous terrain for 36 days before he was captured, to become a POW for the duration (and, later, proud holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor).

But it had not all been pointless. His division's series of holding actions, however futile-seeming at the moment, had been enough—just enough—to delay the enemy while new forces entered the Pusan Perimeter. They, in turn, were enough—just enough—to enable the perimeter to hold while MacArthur laid plans for his Inchon landing far to the north. And Inchon enabled the American forces to roll the North Korean invaders all the way back, through their own country, to the borders of China before the year's end.

That was when the Red Chinese entered the fray—another story, another war, entirely.

C.B.K.



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1989 CONVENTION
Fort Worth, Texas
Hyatt Regency
Fort Worth
815 Main St.
Fort Worth TX 76102
Tel. 817-870-1234
Sept. 13 - Sept. 17

Met in a barber shop -- DELBERT DELONG (13th F '50-'51) of Box 220, Eden GA, and FRANK BLAKE of Rt. 1, Box 285, Ellabelle GA. Del says that Frank had never heard of us. Well he has now. Welcome to our cozy little club, Frankie. Del, by the way, is looking for any 13th Field men.

A letter from FRANK MOYER (19th '41-'44) 70 Snyder Lane, Lot 16, Ephrata PA 17522 goes like this: "Could anyone give me the address of William R. Woodward. He was a 2nd Lt. in L Co. after Dec. 7, 1941 then went to 2nd Bn. and lost his hand when a recruit dropped a hand grenade and he picked it up and threw it away."

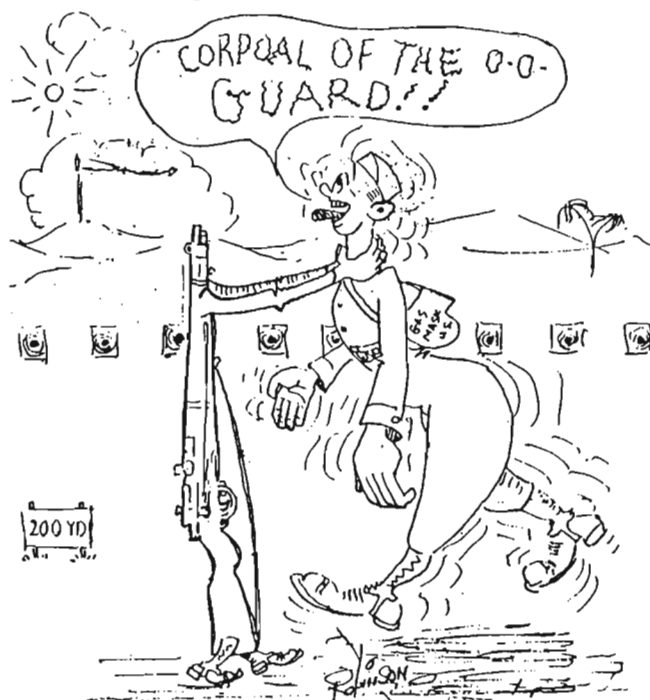
We try to keep a few crests on hand for those of you that might want them. Our supplier has upped our prices and we must up ours in turn:

Crests will now be \$4.00 each.
Decals @\$1.00
Patches @\$1.00
Caps @\$8.00
Lapel pins @\$3.50

Is there any possibility that Ayatollah Khomeini is really Salman Rushdie's press agent?

Only in Washington, D.C., could John Tower and Henry Kissinger be considered ladies' men.

"BUCK" PRIVATE



Don't wait 'till you get on the
RANGE!
"If you can't handle your RIFLE,
We'll Show you how, NOW!
ASK ONLY SENSIBLE
QUESTIONS

MELVIN NICHOLS (A 19th 3/42-7/45) and his lovely mate, Roberta, of 211 NW 4th, Andrews TX, have favored us with a few sketches drawn by a chap in A 19th, C. ROBINSOLL by name. Roberta says that Robinsoll transferred from Division to go to work for Yank - and we can see why. She thinks he came from the San Francisco area. We have no record on him. Does the name ring a bell? Here's a bit of his artistry. Isn't he great? Thanks, Mel, for keeping these samples for some 47 years. We've got more coming - stay tuned.

A Triple Nickel man has just joined -- Lt. Col. JAMES W. WAGNER, CO of Btry. A in '52. Jim, retired now, is at 209 Del Clair, Ft. Collins, CO.

Can't credit-card companies get together and decide which copy is the customer's copy?

A 6th Tanker heard from - JIM HOUTZ of Rt. 2, Columbus KS. He was with the 6th M.T.B. in '49-'51. Welcome aboard, Jim.

A WAKE-UP CALL

CO. "L" 21st Inf. Reg. 30 +9 Reunion

30 + 9 Reunion is being held at the Milwaukee Marriott (414) 786-1100 - Located in Brookfield, WI.

We have arranged some activities which we feel each person will enjoy either all or some part of.

On Friday we have a tour set up of the Milwaukee Domes followed by lunch at Maders award winning German Restaurant. (They are rated as one of the Best 100 Restaurants in America) After Lunch a tour of Miller Brewery.
Back to the Marriott around 3:00 P.M.

At 4:00 P.M. on Friday we will car pool to our home for an out door BBQ. Lets hope for no rain. Return to the Marriott around 7:00 P.M.

Saturday 10 June 1989 8:00 A.M. C.P. Opens

Saturday is an open day on your own.

7:30 P.M. Memorial Dinner

Sunday, 11 June, 1989 - CHECK OUT TIME 12:00 NOON

Activity	Cost Per Person	No. Of Persons	No. Of Days	Total Cost
CP/Hospitality	\$3.00	_____	_____	_____
Friday Tour & Lunch	\$22.00	_____	_____	_____
Memorial Dinner	\$17.50	_____	_____	_____
Total Activity Cost		_____	_____	_____
Contribution to Reunion Fund		_____	_____	_____
Total		_____	_____	_____

Enclose check payable to:

Co. "L" Historial Committee

Note: See you in Milwaukee,
Mary & Roy Powers
Home Phone 786-2811
21405 Birdseye Lane
Waukesha WI 53186

Stocking up on the past

Where's Your
"Get-Up-And-Go?"

"L" Company 21st Infantry Reunion

8 - 11 June 1989

Milwaukee Marriott
375 So. Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI 53005
(414) 786-1100

Thursday - 8 - June 1989
4:00 P.M. C.P. Open

Friday - 9 - June 1989
8:00 A.M. C. P. Open
10:00 A.M. Board Tour Bus for Domes
12:00 Noon Lunch - Maders
1:00 P.M. Reboard Tour Bus for Miller Brewery
3:00 P.M. Return to Marriott
4:00 P.M. Car Pool Our Home - BBQ
Dinner compliments of Mary & Roy Powers

Saturday - 10 - June 1989
8:00 A.M. C. P. Open

Saturday is on your own day.
7:30 P.M. Dinner

Sunday - 11 - June 1989
Check Out Time 12:00 Noon

LATE NEWS

VOICES SELDOM HEARD

And here's where we lead with our chin. We can see our in-basket now. Two historians and a writer are trying to prove that a major work by military historian S.L.A. Marshall, saying foot soldiers in WW II often failed to fire, was based on faked evidence.

Marshall, a brigadier general and a journalist with The Detroit News, served as a military historian in WW II and wrote many books on war.

Professional soldiers have said his influence on individual and small-unit training was strong, especially around the Korean War in the early 1950s. He died in 1977. So right off, you can see that poor "SLAM" hasn't a chance.

Challenging Marshall are Roger Spiller, a historian at the Army's Command and General Staff College and Harold Leinbaugh, who was a rifle company commander in WW II and is the co-author of "The Men of Company K."

Fredric Smoler, a historian at Sarah Lawrence College, draws on their research in an article in the March issue of American Heritage magazine.

Spiller and Leinbaugh attacked Marshall for saying in the 1947 book "Men against Fire" that an infantry commander should know "when he engages the enemy not more than one quarter of his men will ever strike a real blow."

They contend that Marshall didn't have the research data he said he had to support his conclusion.

"The 25% estimate stands even for well-trained and campaign-seasoned troops," Marshall wrote in 1947. "I mean that 75% will not fire or will not persist in firing against the enemy."

He said soldiers who did not fire were motivated by fear, a desire to minimize risk, and a willingness, as in civilian life, to let a minority of other people carry the load.

Leinbaugh called Marshall's charges "absurd, ridiculous, and totally nonsensical."

Why they had to wait 42 years after the book and 12 years after SLAM's death to attack him escapes us. Okay, start your letters.



Regardless of what you may think of the man, consider what he has written. In his book, 1999 - Victory Without War (Simon and Schuster, 1988), former President Richard M. Nixon writes that 120 million people have been killed in 130 wars in this century -- more than all those killed in war before 1900. Just think about that. Read it once, then think. And then read it again. And again. Horrendous, isn't it?

If we have a wrong address on someone out there and you know it - and you also know the correct address, will you please tell us - and not simply blat it around the neighborhood that Association Headquarters is all fouled up?

Eye problems for BOB FOX (19th 1/50-8/50) of 56 Fairmount, Lowell MA. A retired USAF Major, Bob writes: "On LTD - "long term disability" - for 18 months with three major eye operations. Finally back to work."



GENNARO and Luise FISCHETTI. Said Judge, of the Stewart firing demonstration: "It was like putting on the Normandy invasion." Great detail in this one, Philip.

2



NOBODY'S PERFECT.

No longer living in Las Vegas: DWIGHT ROBERTS (B 21st '42-'45) is now at 1310 21st W., Bradenton FL 34205. Seems Dwight was married (again) last December. In his own words, Dwight says: "She was Ruby Gates. We met back in the 40's. Met again last July - and took it from there. Why do I tell you this? You'll never guess. Ruby has planted zillions of pineapples! Reminds me of 'Pineapple Swipe' - near Schofield while we were on field duty. It was called 'Pineapple Swipe' because the guy swiped the pineapples to make it. Captain Lockhart even assigned him to this duty, or so we heard, and loaned him his jeep to perform the 'duty'. I personally knew that when it was ready the officers were there with their cups. I was a 3rd cook then. In the Philippines, it was 'Tuba Juice' from the coconuts. How potent it was I don't know. I never tried it."

And to top off his nostalgic memo, he threw in a beautiful \$24.00 contribution. Thank you Dwight - and let's see you, and "Pineapple" Ruby in Ft.Worth.

We have a "Flash" from JULIUS MINKOFF, (B 19th '43-'45) of Box 120125, Newport News VA 23612-0125. So stop the press! He says:

"News Flash of 1989

"I, Julius Minkoff, after 42 years in the supermarket business, have now retired. No longer will I be selling the soldiers' favorite, SPAM.

"I am now enjoying my time playing golf, fishing, seeing friends, and having no business headaches.

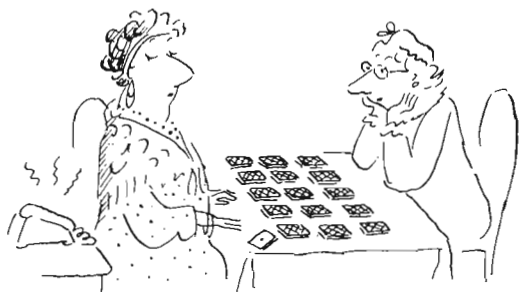
"I plan to be in Ft.Worth in September.

"Looking forward to hearing from you and please keep sending the magazine. I look forward to seeing it in the mail."

And along with the letter is a hefty \$50.00 check labeled, "To keep the T.L. coming". Thank you. Thank you.

May your retirement years be glorious, Julee.

3



WHAT IT TAKES ... SO THE SHOW CAN GO ON

Hundreds of our gang, if not thousands, will want to read these words from WALTER "Shorty" SCHERER, of 3 New, Warren PA 16365. Why not drop our beloved friend a line or two. He was the "Chef" in Div.Hq.Co. from '42-'45. Shorty was a charter member of Division's janissary - and you can go running to your Funk & Wagnell to figure that one out. And now we quote the 'il fella - actually it looks like his lovely Marge wrote it: "Thank you so much for your note. Shorty has had a few problems since '81 but we felt all was going well. We had planned a two week vacation in HI to leave Jan. 11th. Early in the morning of Jan. 11, he had a heart attack and has spent the past two weeks in the hospital. He has a lot of heart damage and at the moment only medication will help him. He has to rest for 6 to 8 weeks and then we shall see. He wants to tell you if at all possible, we will go to Hawaii on the 50th. "Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Love, Marge and Shorty."

From the lips of BILL FRANKE (24 Sig. '42-'45) of 1309 Bridge Rd., Charleston WV 25314: "Katharine and I enjoyed Savannah and are looking forward to Ft.Worth. We are spending the winter in AZ. Will be returning to WV in May. Here's hoping that some of my buddies who served in the 24th Signal will show up at Ft.Worth."

The word is out, Bill and Kate.

Note from GENE MCCORMICK (28th Battle Group '61-'64 of Box 197, Glenwood NJ 07418, "Was very pleased to see a picture of Henry Kaserne in the Taro Leaf. I was stationed in Warner Kaserne from 2/62 until 8/64. Munich was a great city to be in and I have a lot of good memories."

4



TAKING THE SPOTLIGHT



Pictures?
We'd like a
"passport photo"
of each member
for our files.
Then when we
run an item,
we can include
the picture.
CLYDE and Bonny
BOST, (1st Sgt.
M 21st '41-'44)
of 1400 Sedan,
Kannapolis NC
have the idea.
Nov. 2nd was
their 43rd
wedding anniver-
sary. Yes, the
24th, meaning
you, remembered
them with
flowers and
good wishes.

Read what BOB MOSER of 5835 Randolph,
San Antonio TX writes: "Writing as a
Life Member to a great organization -
24th Inf.Div.Assoc.- Haven't been able,
due to many things including hospital,
to make a reunion yet. Hope to do so
this year. Was member Co. B and G, 19th
Kokuro and Beppu Japan '48-'49. Also
member of B 34th in early days of Korea."

Tell us about the hospitalization, Bob.

Moved - DONALD "Pete" PETERSEN
(24th QM '49-'51) to 212 S.Hickory,
Pleasant Hill IA. Pete asks: "Are there
any other bean counters in our club?"

BILL KUSHINA (Cn. 19th '41-'45) of
777 W. 3rd, Runnemede NJ 08078, is the
Sec'y. of Post #3 of the New Jersey PHSA.
Writes Bill: "Now I'm getting a taste of
what you (meaning your Editor) go through.
Wish me luck!" Aw, it ain't nothin' Bill--
nothin' at all. And we do wish you the
best of good luck.

THE COCKTAIL HOUR



The kinda news we love to print. HOWIE
CAMP, (L 19th 6/51-5/52), of 430 S.
Stadium, Xenia, OH, spotted an article in
TL - about ARNOLD ROSE. Happens Arnie
lives about 18 miles from Howie. Contact
was made and lo and behold they were in
the same outfit at the same time in Korea.
Now they're getting together.

Writes WAYNE A. JOHNSON (L 21st 6/49-
10/53; POW 37½ months) of 6050 E.Aster,
Scottsdale AZ: "Although it'll be my
first, but God willing, not my last,
I'll be in Ft.Worth in September."

Each year, Antoinette "Toni"
MARINELLO, widow of HENRY, remembers us
with a hefty \$ contribution. Toni, you
are a treasure. Thank you.

5



6



**NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEOCASSETTES
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT COMBAT FILMS
WORLD WAR II -- KOREAN WAR**

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION

Three great films on one videocassette! Action on land, in the air and on the sea during World War II in the Southwest Pacific.

THE VICTORY DIVISION—THE 24th INFANTRY DIVISION (B & W, Approx. 20 min.) This shows the 24th Infantry Division in jungle warfare from 1942 to 1945.

RETURN TO GUAM (B & W, Approx. 20 min.) The incredible story of radioman George Tweed, who hid out for 31 months on Guam while it was occupied by the Japanese.

BROUGHT TO ACTION (B & W, Approx. 20 min.) Covers the air and naval battle of Leyte Gulf in October, 1944.

APPOINTMENT IN TOKYO

(B & W, Approx. 55 min.)

Discusses the history of World War II operations in the Pacific, from the fall of Corregidor to the Japanese surrender ceremonies in Tokyo Bay. Lots of action, jungle warfare from 1941 to 1945.

Please rush to:

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

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**THE VIDEO COMPANY
112 York St. • Suite 2
Michigan City, IN 46360**

MAC ARTHUR

This videocassette contains two films having to do with the career of one of our greatest generals.

THE GENERAL MAC ARTHUR STORY (B & W, Approx. 30 min.) The highlights of his career, including memorable spoken sequences of his speeches, are depicted through historical newsreel film. It's a walk down memory lane for those who remember him.

WESTWARD IS BATAAN (B & W, Approx. 45 min.) Shows the conduct of the war in the Southwest Pacific under General MacArthur from 1942 to 1944.

A MOTION PICTURE HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR

(B & W, Approx. 58 min.)

This film presents a documentary review of the Korean War. It shows fighting and problems encountered by American and United Nations forces during major phases of the battle. This is a fast-moving, exciting, and visually stunning documentary of the war's triumphs and tragedies. Shows action both in the air and on land.

	NUMBER OF TAPES		
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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION	_____	_____	_____
APPOINTMENT IN TOKYO	_____	_____	_____
MAC ARTHUR	_____	_____	_____
HISTORY OF THE KOREAN WAR	_____	_____	_____
Total number of tapes	_____	_____	_____
Price per tape	_____	_____	x \$39.95
Total	_____	_____	\$ _____
Ind. res. add 5% sales tax	_____	_____	\$ _____
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER	_____	_____	\$ _____

AL "Slim" ROCK (B 21st '44-'46) fell on the ice outside his stillwell OK home and broke his arm - in 2 places. He and Esther celebrated their 50th on Apr.12th. We remembered them with well wishes - in your name. They are at PO Box 203, Stilwell OK 74960.

If the meek inherit the earth, so be it. We just hope they stay meek after they get it.

7



A road map will tell us everything we want to know except how to fold it up again.

New home for Lifer #819, EARL R. HOBNET, (I 5th RCT 7/52-4/53). It's now 19000 NW Evergreen Pkwy, #126, Hillsboro OR 97124

We saw a man dig a woman's car out of the snow today. The age of shovelry is not dead.

8



Our President has some thoughts on our going to Hawaii for the 50th. Here they are just as Bob wrote them:

1991 REUNION(s) - ADVANCE PLANNING - MUCH HOMEWORK TO BE DONE:

Original Plan: Join in 50th anniversary of celebration of Pearl Harbor (not a reunion) on December 7, 1991, sponsored by PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION. Considerations: Tremendous crowds (hotels, planes, outer islands), possible rains, mainly a Navy Show.

Supplemental Plan: The 25th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION and the Commanding General of that division, stationed at Schofield Barracks, have invited our association to hold a joint reunion with them in Hawaii on or about October 1, 1991, which is Organization Day for both divisions, date not as yet finalized. Hotel accommodations would be in one of the better Waikiki hotels, and the management of this joint effort would be in the hands of the Schofield Barracks chapter of the 25th. In the past the army supplied busses to transport members to and from Schofield (two trips), but this would be subject to "possible budgetary restrictions". Considerations: Oahu would be less crowded, weather conditions probably more favorable, we would be among our own Combat Infantrymen, and in our own "back yard".

Future Survey: There will be many ramifications and complications in our 1991 Planning, so we expect to poll our members in one of the future issues of the IARO LEAF, rather than spending all day Saturday at our business meeting hassling this topic on the floor. We must assume that only a small minority of our members will be making the trip to Hawaii; therefore, it seems only fair that we plan accordingly.

Possibilities: If the poll favors the December 7th date, plan our regular reunion for the latter part of September, then the members going to Honolulu could sign up with the PHSA tour, and proceed on their own.

If the October 1st date at Schofield is preferred, we would have to plan for two reunions, one on the mainland and one in Hawaii, in which case we could:

- a. Move the date of our mainland reunion back to Aug. 15th, V-J Day, and let the committee select the city, probably in the East or Mid-West.
- b. Have our regular reunion in San Francisco (we have one very good possibility at a very fine hotel, at very nominal rates) one week prior to the Hawaii affair, after which those continuing on to Aloha-Land would proceed on to the second reunion, probably in a group.

Regardless of how these plans are finalized, one thing is quite certain, and that is the fact that our attendance will decrease at our mainland reunion. Perhaps, financially, the "b" (above) would be the most practical. The coast to coast super-saver fares booked in advance are one of the best values in the travel industry. Also, for years many of members have been asking for a San Francisco reunion, but we have been unable to come up with decent hotel rates.

Please watch for the forthcoming survey. This advance notice is to drum up some discussion among yourselves. Please do not bitch to our overworked and underpaid editor; I hereby volunteer to accept all the flak! Why do I feel that I am either going to be hanged, lynched, or shot at sunrise (or all three!) after this problem is unhappily concluded???

Your president (and servant!)

Bob



"Of course it's fresh. We opened the cans only an hour ago!"

This story, appearing in the paper of the 1st Cavalry Division Assoc., delighted us so that we had to share it with you. It was written by one John F. Foltz. He starts in by telling how he arrived at the Division's 82nd FA Bn. around Christmas Eve '46 - a brand new private direct from the states. Here, read it yourself - it'll tickle you.

"Probably because I was both an Eagle Scout, and somewhat experienced in cooking, I was assigned as acting mess Sarge out of Service battery and within a week or so was made an acting buck sergeant, and we wore a white arm band, some with 3 black stripes to signify our roles.

"I had not been there very long, perhaps 3 weeks, when we were told we faced a personal inspection by the CG, MG William C. Chase. I had never ever seen a MG, much less reported personally to one - but I was told I as mess sergeant would be the one to report directly to him when he arrived in our mess hall.

"All of us worked hard to prepare, to be ready. The cooks were all spic'n span. I was in Class A's with my PFC stripe showing on one arm and the white arm band of acting sergeant on the other.

"As General Chase entered the door, I shouted 'Attention!' We all stood at rigid attention as he strolled in, with 3 or 4 full Colonels, plus the CO of the 82nd, a LTC plus the CO of Service Battery, a CPT. General Chase wore a pink-n-green Officer's jacket over old pre-war style cavalry riding pants, along with riding boots and he carried a 10" long

riding crop. He wore 4 or 5 ribbons, all for high decorations, along with a few campaign ribbons, one for the 1914-16 Mexican Border Campaign, one for WW I and one for WW II.

"He strode directly up to me, and at about 3 feet, I said in a loud voice, 'Acting Sergeant Fultz reporting, sir!' and I saluted him. He returned the salute, said 'at ease troopers', and smiled at us. Every one of us was just 18, and he was at least 50.

"He began to ask us questions. I replied to each one honestly but briefly.

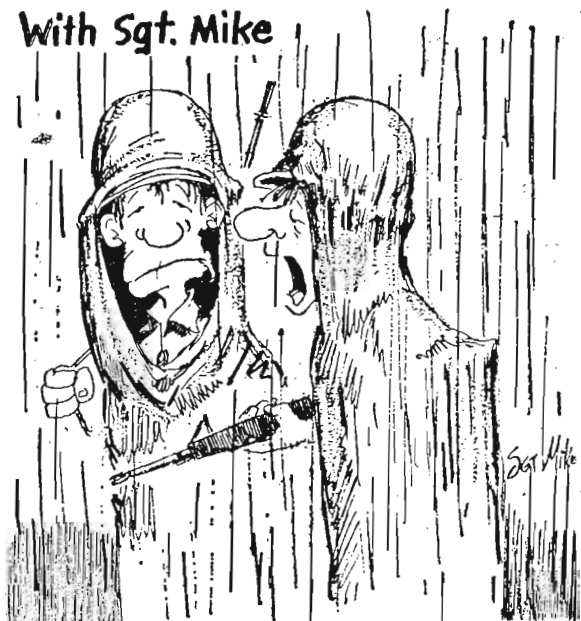
"Then he asked me if we were receiving adequate rations. The fact was we had not - for 3 or 4 weeks, we had been getting very little, no bread, and not enough to feed the 120 men.

"So I replied, honestly, 'No, sir.'

"He ordered me to 'explain what you mean.'

"I began to explain that we had received very little over 3 or 4 weeks, plus no bread, and suddenly the Battalion Commander showed himself up to stand almost in front of us and said, 'General, this boy is too new, too young, and does not know what he is saying.'

With Sgt. Mike



"Rain wouldn't bug me so much if it just weren't so blasted wet!"

"General Chase's face flushed in anger, and he quickly slapped his riding crop across the LTC's chest and very sharply told him 'Colonel, I asked this Sergeant a question, not you, I want to hear all of what this sergeant is trying to tell me, so you shut up! If I want to ask you a question, I will - but for now, you shut up.'

"The Colonel's face blushed and he silently stepped back.

"General Chase then said in a calm voice to us, 'Sergeant, go on - I am out to hear all of what you say.'

"I went on to explain factually how we had had very short rations, no bread,

but how we made bread in our M-37 field stoves, but how it was still not enough for 120 men.

"When I stopped, General Chase turned to a full Colonel, one of his staff men and told him to order full rations for the whole Battalion, and 'to see to it is done' and to let him know later.

"He then took out of his pocket a small note pad and he wrote down his name and field phone number and gave it to me. 'If this is not done by noon tomorrow, you are to phone me directly, Sergeant,' he told me. I said 'yes, Sir, I will.'

"Then General Chase faced my Battalion Commander, the LTC he had rebuked, and asked him, 'Why is this soldier still a PFC? He is doing a staff sergeant's job very well.'

"My Battalion CO began to explain that I and others were in NCO school and might be promoted later - but General Chase then interrupted him. 'I promote him to the next appropriate grade now and I order you to cut the orders and have a copy of it at my desk no later than 4 p.m. tomorrow.'

"The LTC said 'yes, sir', still blushing.

"General Chase then spoke to my cooks, and told us all thanks and 'continue to do your work well.'

"We all spoke at once with a 'yes, sir', and saluted him again.

"He turned and walked out, with the officers following him.

"About 10 a.m. the next day, I was called to Battalion HQ, where the Adjutant handed me the order promoting me to T-5. I was not called in to see the Battalion CO. I thanked the Adjutant, saluted him and went back up to the mess hall as a new T-5 and acting sergeant.

"By noon that day, we had received a huge shipment of rations, with QM bread sent in from Tokyo. There was no need for me to phone General Chase to tell him it was not done, so as his words had been to call if it was not done, I did not phone him. It was done!"

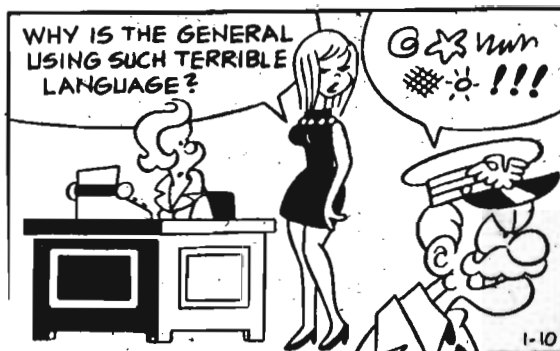
And that's the end of the story. Can't you just visualize the whole scenario?

On her 40th birthday, a woman's husband was teasing her about her age. "You'd better look out," he said, "or I'll trade you in for two 20-year-olds."

"Honey," she snapped back, "You aren't wired for two-20!"

New address for WILBUR SPAULDING (Hq. 21st '39-'44). Try 9850 S.E. 37th, Milwaukie OR 97222. That's Oregon, not Wisconsin.

Life is made up of two phases. In the first you try and make a name for yourself and in the second you try and keep it.



A textbook publisher in Japan has deleted a lesson describing Japanese brutality in WW II after protests from ruling party politicians.

The move drew criticism from educators and opposition politicians who charged that Japan was once again trying to sanitize its past. Unlike the Germans, who teach their students about German atrocities in the war, the Japanese seldom discuss the war publicly. Some Japanese intellectuals, as well as the neighboring Asian nations Japan invaded in the war, fear that young Japanese are growing up with a distorted view of history.

Few Japanese textbooks include references to the Japanese occupation of Korea or the slaughter of civilians by Japanese troops in the Chinese city of Nanjing. Many Japanese students say they never reach the section about World War II in their history classes and do not discuss it in class.

A group of Japanese revisionist historians has been trying for several years to rewrite textbooks to reflect their view that Japan was unfairly termed the aggressor in WW II by the victorious Americans. Attempts to substitute "advance into China" for "invasion of China" in textbooks, for example, have prompted angry and alarmed denunciations from China.

It remains to be seen as to what the government is going to do about it. There is an awareness that the revisionists are having a field day.

We have only one problem with the post office. If "neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" - what does?

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION?



**Don't
Forget!**

RESERVATION REQUEST
24th Infantry Division Association
1989 Annual Reunion
September 14-17, 1989

HYATT REGENCY  FORT WORTH
AT THE CONVENTION CENTER

We look forward to welcoming you on your upcoming visit. The Hyatt Regency Fort Worth is located in the heart of downtown Fort Worth adjacent to the Fort Worth Convention Center on Main Street, 15 minutes from the Museum District, the Historic Stock Yards, D/FW Airport and Six Flags Amusement Park.

In guaranteeing your reservation, we require either:

A) An enclosed check or money order covering the first night's stay

OR

B) Major credit card number, expiration date, and signature

The Hyatt Regency Fort Worth regrets that it cannot hold your reservation

without guaranteeing the reservation with one of the above.

For revisions or cancellations, please call our toll-free number at 800/228-9000 or dial the hotel directly at 817/870-1234.

CHECK-IN TIME: 3:00 P.M. (Accommodations prior to this cannot be assured.)

CHECK-OUT TIME: 12:00 P.M.

Type of Room	No. of Rooms	Convention Rates
Single (1 person)		\$60.00
Double (2 people)		\$60.00
Triple (3 people)		\$70.00
Quad (4 people)		\$70.00
1 Bdrm Suite		\$225.00 and up
2 Bdrm Suite		\$300.00 and up

The above rates are subject to 13% State and local taxes.
Booking #: J-58909

Gold passport number is applicable.

Date of Arrival _____
Time of Arrival _____
Date of Departure _____
Check in Time: 3 p.m. Check out Time: 12 noon
Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
Telephone No. _____
Sharing room with _____

Reservations requested after **August 24, 1989** or after the room block has been filled are subject to availability and may not be available at the conventional rate.

☐ Guaranteed by one of the following:
☐ American Express ☐ Carte Blanche
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners Card
☐ Discover

☐ Check or money order enclosed.

Amount \$ _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Deposits will be refunded only if cancellation notification is received at least 24 hours prior to arrival.

HYATT REGENCY  FORT WORTH

RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT

815 MAIN STREET

FORT WORTH TX 76102

1989

• REUNION •



Downtown Hotels and Attractions

1. Heritage Park Plaza
2. Tarrant County Court House
3. Tandy Center
4. Worthington Hotel
5. Sid Richardson Museum
6. Fire Station #1
7. Central Library
8. Sundance Square

9. Metro Center Hotel
10. Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau
11. Burnett Park
12. Hyatt Regency Fort Worth
13. Continental Trailways Bus Depot
14. Park Central Inn
15. Greyhound Bus Station

16. Fort Worth Convention Center
17. Tarrant County Junior College
18. Fort Worth Water Gardens
19. Santa Fe Terminal - Amtrak
20. Fort Worth Hilton Inn
21. Rodeway Inn



**THIS
COULD
SAVE A
LOT OF
TROUBLE.**

DON'T FORGET! MAIL TODAY

ADVANCE
REGISTRATION

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

42nd Annual Reunion

Wed., Sept. 13 - Sun., Sept. 17, 1989.

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Fort Worth, Texas.

ADVANCE
REGISTRATION

Mail to: Mr. Paul Austin, Chairman
4141 - 6th Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas, 76115

Make checks to:
24th Infantry Division Association
(Do Not Send Cash!!!!)

Name _____
(Please print or type)

Address _____

(Zip) _____

Tel: (____) _____

Unit(s): _____ From _____ To _____

" " " "

Occupation: _____ Wife's Name: _____

Children/Guests: _____

(*includes Gratuity and Tax)

* Per
Person

Number
Attending

Amount

Registration Fee (Wives & Guests Excluded)
(Widows,

\$ 15.00

Friday Aloha Dinner:

\$ 22.50

\$ _____

Saturday Banquet:

\$ 25.00

\$ _____

Sunday Continental Breakfast

Complimentary

Total Paid: \$ _____

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY:

Date Recd.

Regis. #

Fri. Table #

Sat. Table #

CASH IN ON RISING RATES.

American Airlines would like each of us to fly to D/FW via AA.

Now here's the scuttlebutt.

We have a signed "Meeting/Incentive Agreement" with AA.

It says that:

1. They are pleased we have chosen AA to handle our air transportation to and from D/FW between September 11 (a Monday) and September 19 (a Tuesday)
2. AA will make round trip Meeting Saver Fares equal to 40/45% of the full coach fare provided they are purchased at least 14 days in advance based on medium classes of coach availability. They will be valid from any point in the U.S. (inclusive, of course, of Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgins). By AA's system, V stands for a cheapest coach rate, Y stands for most expensive coach rate, and M and H stand for intermediate coach rates. We're scheduled for either M or H rates under this plan. Just why there should be so many coach rates, escapes us -- but ours is not to question why. Why don't you ask when you make your reservation? And we'll compare answers in Fort Worth.
3. Now they go on to say - and we quote:

"Should a lower American promotional fare be available, the Meeting Services Desk will confirm the lowest American fare providing normal qualifications are met. Also, AA offers 5% off the lowest applicable round trip fare, subject to availability of inventory. All fare rules and restrictions apply. This also applies to First Class." We read this to mean that if there's a cheaper fare available, AA will tell you. Agree? We shall see.
4. AA will give the Association com tickets at the rate of one for every 40 passengers booking through the Meeting Services Desk. We intend to raffle or otherwise share this "wealth" with the members present at Fort Worth.
5. When you make your reservations, identify yourself with the AA agent as coming under the "code" - Star 0199RT. We used to call it the "password". Remember?

But let's make a deal. Let's give them a real chance.

If it's at all possible - practical - reasonable - and, of course, most economical - let's each fly AA to D/FW and back.

We'll start the ball rolling. This very a.m. we made our reservations with AA to D/FW and back next September.

Stay tuned. This could be interesting - fun - and rewarding.

Here's what to do. Go direct to AA's Meeting Services Desk by free toll - Tel. 1-800-433-1790 - or have your travel agent do it for you. Give the code: "STAR 0199RT" - and pay a lot. See ya in Fort Worth where we can compare notes.



FORT WORTH

42nd ANNUAL REUNION 24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - 1989

Time: Wednesday, September 13th - Sunday, September 17th, 1989.

Place: Hyatt Regency Hotel (Downtown) (Fort Worth's largest hotel)
815 Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas, 76102
(817) 870-1234

Hotel Reservations: Make direct. Forms enclosed in this issue.

Pre-Registration: Forms enclosed in this issue. Send direct to Chairman.

<u>Hospitality Room:</u>	Soft Drinks	\$.50
(Wed. a.m. to	(Draft) Beer	.75
Sat. p.m.)	High Balls	1.50 (House Brands)
	" "	2.00 (Call Brands)

Accommodations: 530 Large Comfortable Rooms + 40 Suites.

Main Ballroom: Seats up to 1,400

Transportation: "T" Limo from airport (hourly - schedule will follow later).
Rate: \$6.00 per person. Seniors over 65: \$3.00 (ID Req.)
Information on Super Shuttle follows in later editions.

Hotel Food Seniors over 55 - 25% discount in all hotel restaurants.
Discounts: Be sure to wear name plates.

Hotel Rates: \$60.00 single/double. Triple \$70.00. Quad \$70.00
(Plus Tax) Contact a buddy or a "buddy-ee"! and share a room.

Air Line Fares: We have signed a Meeting/Incentive contract with AMERICAN AIR LINES for the travel dates of Sept. 11 through Sept. 19, 1989. 45% discount off regular coach/first class fare booked 14 days in advance. 40% discount off both classes when booked 7 days in advance. OR, 5% discount on lowest super saver fare available. BOOK EARLY. Fares are subject to availability of inventory. Reserve direct or through your travel agent.

For above discounts use following code: STAR # SO-199-RJ

(Note: AAL Will will provide one complimentary ticket for travel anywhere in continental USA (good for one year) for every 40 fares booked under this contract. Committee plans to raffle comp. tickets during reunion. Also, if enough response to this program, we may qualify for two complimentary round trip tickets to Caribbean or Hawaii, which will also be raffled.

Parking: Complimentary under roof parking for all Taro Leafers.
RV and Camper accommodations are 7 to 8 miles from hotel.

Early Arrivals: \$60 rate applies to members arriving early or staying over
Late Departures: after reunion. Come early, stay late!

Activities: Details in future issues. Fort Worth was selected over Dallas because there is "so much more to do in Fort Worth"!

<u>The Committee:</u>	Chairman: Paul Austin	Jim Fredericks	Paula Lamb
(Let's Support Them!)		Gil Heaberlin	Donna Wicks
		Ben Greenfield	

UNFORGETTABLE

Life Member 779, ALBERT J. MCADOO (E 5th RCT 1/52-2/52) of 108 Central, Acton MA 01720, has undertaken to write "A Brief History of the 5th R.C.T. in Korea". And we asked Al for the privilege of using it, by installments in Taro Leaf. Al has graciously assented. So, hold onto your hats; we're about to begin:



ALBERT J. MCADOO

108 Central Street
Acton, Mass. 01720
617-963-9573



THE FIFTH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM NEWSLETTER PAGE, KOREA 31 JULY 1950-27 JULY '53

All tidbits relating to former members of the 5th RCT, 555 F.A. Bn & the 72nd Eng. C.Co(combat), the 24th Inf Division Association or their families, will be greatly appreciated. Former members of the RCT are encouraged to send in Photos, Copies of related articles to the RCT or it's former members, together with any mementoes that may be of interest to the membership.

To start off with we can provide an Official History of the 5th RCT in KOREA. This brief version was taken from the " HISTORY OF THE FIFTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY compiled by the 1st Battle Group, 5th Infantry, April, 1960. Published at Fort Riley, Kansas.

The unit was reactivated on 1 January 1949 as the U S 5th Regimental Combat Team at Seoul, Korea. It maintained combat outposts along the 38th parallel until 29, June 1949 when it moved to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The U S Regimental Combat Team was alerted for "Police Action" in KOREA on July 13, 1950. On 31 July it had arrived at PUSAN and was committed southwest of MASON two days later. The unit fought with the US 25th Infantry Division as part of Task Force KEAN in the drive to HINJU and in the bitter fighting that followed at BOBAK SAN. It was attached to the US 1st Cavalry Division, led the break-out from the PUSAN perimeter and drove to WEAGUAN. It was released from the attachment to the 1st Cavalry Division on 17 September and was attached to the 24th Infantry Division. It secured KUMCHAN in support of the 24th division's counterattack across the NAKTONG River. By October elements of the 5th RCT had driven beyond KAESONG. A coordinated attack of the 24th Division with the 1st Cavalry Division carried the 5th RCT to within 30 miles of the YALU River. (continued next time.)

MOVING

?

**PLEASE ENCLOSE
YOUR OLD LABEL**

PLEASE NOTIFY US
4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

Name (please print)

Address (new, if for change of address)

Apt. No.

City

State/Prov.

Zip/PC



The Company photo journalist on the far left, Dr. PHILLIP HOSTETTER (19th '43-'46) of 821 Poyntz, Manhattan KS 66502, in the company of the gracious Indy SYNDIONGCO, Phil's lovely Helen, and VICENTE SYNDIONGCO (34th I & R 10/44-10/45) of 249 S. Occidental Blvd., #111 Los Angeles CA 90057.



Innocent as a Thanksgiving Tom turkey following sunflower seeds all the way to the kitchen door. That's Dr. TOM BRODERICK (24th Med, Co. B '42-'44) of 565 Broadway, #6A, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706 on the left and with him is our newly-elected Veep TOM UPTON (Div.Hq. '42-'44) of 4 Dartmouth St., Forest Hills NY 11375. The two Toms have been warm friends for more than 45 years. A peachy Phil Hostetter photo.



God hath not promised
 Skies always blue,
 Flower-strewn pathways
 All our lives through;
 God hath not promised
 Sun without rain,
 Joy without sorrow,
 Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
 Strength for the days,
 Rest for the labor,
 Light for the way.
 Grace for the trials,
 Help from above,
 Unfailing sympathy
 Undying love

MARTIN G. HALBERT (34 Sv.Co. '41-'44) of H.C.80, Box 25, Langley KY 41648 reports the death of JAMES R. HAYES, on Dec.29, 1988. Jim was Hq.Co. 21st from '40-'44. He is survived by his wife, Fern Hayes, and two sons, Ralph and Glenn.

BILL KUSHINA brings us the sad news of the passing at Christmas time of his good friend ALBERT "AB" ANDERSON of Cannon Co. 19th. Writes Bill: "AB lived in Mocksville NC. Ran a small farm. Was married and had a couple of children. He was the cook in Cannon Co. I, for one, will miss him as he was a wonderful man and my valued friend."

Deceased: WALTER V. HALSEY (B 13th Field '49-'50) of Banning CA.

LOUIS A. BROWN (Sv.34th '43-'45), of Box 591, Vinita OK, reports the death of LEWIS NALL. Wrote Lou: "I am sorry to report that one of our buddies, LEWIS NALL, was buried here at Vinita the 6th of Feb. He was in Service Co., 34th, '43-'45. Lewis was mentioned in 'Children of Yesterday' for having removed some wounded from an ambushed truck convoy on Hwy. 7 on Leyte.

"I was not in town at that time and did not hear of this until later. Lewis lived in western Kansas but his home was here. We were both in the same section of Service Co. and kept in touch with each other."

Thank you for your memo, Lou, sad though it is. Appreciate your keeping us all informed.

Those who like to look back fondly at the "good old days" are sure to be saddened by the passing of one of our most loyal, most enthusiastic members, BENNY MASHAY (D 19th 3/40-2/43).

Few deaths are as hard to imagine as Benny's; with the next ring of the telephone, one expects to hear his voice, urging us on, giving us a tip, asking a question, or encouraging us not to discourage. He was a genuine friend.

Only a few weeks ago, Benny had sent us this one labeled in his familiar scrawl, "'41 Schofield - shortly after 12/7 - in combat dress". Benny was ready.



If there is an after-life, he is somewhere out there keeping track of his beloved Division and of us, "a few of its parts" (his description). For those of us lucky enough to have shared this life with him, the mere thought of him will always bring a warm smile.

"Bless you, Benny, we miss you.



Attesting to BENNY MASHAY's popularity was the fact that so many of his friends called or wrote us. DICK DIMOND who soldiered with Benny in D of the 19th from '39 to '41 wrote us "with heavy heart." He paid his respects at the funeral home, traveling over from Washington PA. Dick, in closing, added, "Benny was a terrific soldier, a perfect gentleman, and one Hell of a good Chick."

Somehow, we lost track of some LACY BARNETT correspondence. Our apologies, Lacy, please bear with us. You have no idea of the mail volume running through our office.

At any rate, Lacy wrote:

"In May 1988, I submitted the obituaries on LINDSEY W. HALE and CLIFFORD E. BLACK. To date, I have not seen either one of these printed in the Taro Leaf.

"Today I received Taro Leaf No. 2. On the last page is a short 'DECEASED: COL. FREDERICK T. ABT, (34th KOREA) on May 20, 1988.' Freddie Abt was a 2nd Lt. assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 34th Inf. in Sasebo. On 2 July 1950, he arrived in Korea and saw extensive combat action until he was severely wounded on 6 Aug. 1950. Practically all of his time in Korea was spent fighting as an infantryman. During the battle of Taejon on 20 July 1950, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action. I had the distinct pleasure of visiting this outstanding person at his home in San Antonio in March 1988. He died on 20 May 1988 due to Legionnaire's Disease.

"I am enclosing an article from the San Antonio Express-News dated Jan. 1, 1988. This will give you an idea as to the fine family that Freddie had. His daughter graduated from West Point in June 1988. Unfortunately, Freddie died about a month prior to her graduation.

"FREDERICK T. ABT, LINDSEY W. HALE, and CLIFFORD E. BLACK were three of the finest soldiers who ever wore the uniform of the U.S. Army.

"Since they served with the Division in combat, it is my opinion that their obituaries should appear within the pages of the Taro Leaf.

"I am also enclosing the obits covering Hale and Black which I submitted to you in May 1988."

Again, our apologies, please, Lacy.

Col. Bob and Thersa Olson, of Box 441, Seligman AZ 86337, thoughtfully report to us the death of ORVAL K. "Bud" SHERICK on Jan. 17, 1989. Bud was Hq. Btry, 52nd F. in Japan and Korea. Bob and Theresa cared for Bud as he suffered through his cancer problems in his last illness. Say they, "We were very close to Bud; he had no one else. We cared for him as best we could. He was a wonderful man."

GEORGE COX (B 63rd F '42-'44), of 3936 S. Jersey, Denver CO, has advised us of the passing away of JOHN R. RICHARDS, a successful Tulsa OK attorney. John was a 2nd Lt. in B 63rd in Hawaii. He died sometime in December.

Died: CECIL E. FRENCH (D & Sv. '49-'51) of Crestwood KY. Cecil died in March 1986.

LACY BARNETT thoughtfully wrote this obit -- months ago -- and as we've said elsewhere, regretfully his mailings became lost. Lacy's fine tribute went like this:

"CLIFFORD E. BLACK, 60, was pronounced dead on arrival at a New Orleans hospital at 6 p.m., May 18, 1980, after an apparent heart attack. He was born 4/4/20 in New Castle PA. At the time of death, he was employed as a cook in a New Orleans restaurant. He was a U.S. Army veteran of WW II and the Korean conflict. He was interned at the Greenwood Cemetery, New Castle PA.

"Even though Black died in 1980, I just recently learned of it. He was a sergeant with Medical Company, 34th Inf. Regt. from 1948 to 1 Sept. 1950. He was a top-notch surgical technician and a great leader of men. He served in Korea in 1950 as a combat assistant battalion surgeon. On 27 Aug. 1950, he was given a battlefield commission as a 2nd Lt. Medical Service Corps. On 1 Sept. 1950, he and I were transferred to the 3rd Bn. Aid Station, 19th Inf. He was my immediate boss for several months. I have nothing but the highest of praise for his performance of his duties in Korea. Unfortunately, in 1953, with about 12 years active service, he decided to resign from the army."

Following is an obit written by LACY BARNETT which regretfully became lost in the confusion of the Editor's office. As Lacy wrote it, it went:

"Colonel LINDSEY W. "Buddy" HALE, 63, died March 21, 1988, at his home in Charleston SC. He served in Korea and Vietnam during his 26 years of active duty. He was a member of the first group of officers trained at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Training Center, Fort Bragg NC; served as commander of Special Forces C Detachment (Green Berets) in the Central Highlands of Vietnam; provincial adviser to the South Vietnamese Army, and a senior Parachutist. Colonel Hale's decorations include the Legion of Merit with Cluster; Bronze Star with Four Clusters; Purple Heart; Army Commendation with Cluster; Air Medal with three clusters; Korean Service Medal with five battle stars; Vietnam Service Medal with three battle stars; Vietnam Medal of Honor, First Class; and Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star for service in Korea and in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Ramona Westbury Hale.

"Hale was a 2nd Lt. with Co.C, 34th Inf. in July 1950. He was wounded-in-action on 31 July 1950 and was evacuated."

Messages like this one from Catherine M. Fassbender of RD 3, Box 357L, Kingston, NY, really crush us:

"Dear Ken,

"It is with much sorrow that I'm writing to inform you of the death of my husband Albert F. Fassbender on July 2, 1988.

"Al had a 14 month battle with lung cancer and he died at home with his family.

"He was very proud to be a member of your 24th Infantry Assoc. and the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Assoc.

"I shall always remember you and your group most fondly.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Fassbender"

Al, sainted man that he was, was M19th from 3/41 to 10/42.

If some of our death notices creep over onto other pages, forgive us please. It's simply a matter of space. We have a bit of faith that we'll be forgiven.

This time we report the passing - on March 3rd - of OTTO KASSAK - of Grand River KY. Otto was A 34th in '45 and served also as to Regt. Chaplain's Assistant. Otto lost Wilma in the summer of '87 and he is survived by a daughter, Kathleen A. Jenkins, of Decatur IL and a son, John R. Kassak of Wood River IL.

Deceased: GORDON BRENTMAN, (H 21st WW II). Gordon passed on July 19, 1987.

Deceased: DALE R. BRANDT, sometime in 1987. He was Tk.Co. 21st '53-'54. Dale was a cousin of our own BILL HOSLER but as Bill says, "I didn't even know he was in the 24th."

Past Prexy RAY KRESKY (24th MP WW II) now enjoying retirement at 1334 First St., Menominee MI 49858 - can't pronounce it, can you? - reports losing his brother, Joe, on last Christmas eve. Ray ends the message with a nice thought - "the happy memories overshadow the loss". Beautiful thought, Ray.

JOE and Gladys DAWSON, HENRY and Mary GOSZTYLA, JOHN and Stella LAWATSCH, and DICK and Helen DIMOND all represented us as goodbyes were said to BENNY MASHAY.

This thoughtful note from JOHN LAWATSCH deserves being quoted in full.

"I am writing in behalf of the family of BENNY MASHAY who passed away on March 1 at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI.

"He entered hospital on Feb. 15 for heart bypass surgery on Feb. 16. His condition became very critical during and after the surgery. About a week later, one leg had to be amputated.

"I had visited Benny during the Christmas holidays and we had talked about his coming bypass surgery. Then two days before he went to the hospital, he phoned to let me know that he was going in.

"Visitation was at a local funeral home on Friday, Mar. 3. His V.F.W. Post held Memorial Services that evening. Other services and burial were on Monday, March 6 at Pittsburg PA.

"Benny was born 8/29/16 and died 3/1/89. He had many friends in our Association. We have lost a friend and comrade.

"If any of his friends wish more information they can reach me at (313) 268-1685, 33043 Sherwood Forest Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48310."

You were so very kind to write, Johnny. Thank you.

We consider that, in many cases, we are better served if we can read the very words of the bereaved. And here is a case in point - from the lips of poor MARSHALL KATZ (Hq.Co., AT Co. 19th '40-'45) of 12226 Venice, Los Angeles CA: "Dear Kenwood: Sad to relate Mildred passed away Friday, Feb. 3rd. She fought the great fight, but the cancer was too powerful. I would appreciate if you would make note of this in the next issue of the 'Taro Leaf' along with heartfelt thanks to all who gave their support with their prayers and personal notes to us. With deepest thanks to you for your past concerns. Marshall."

Oh Marsh, you were so brave all through Mil's long struggle. Our prayers are with you.

Died Jan. 12, 1989: JOE R. DOWNS, SR. of 7249 Briarwood, Talbott, TN. Joe was Chief NCO in the G-4 Sect. of the 11th Abn.Div. in July of '58 when it was redesignated the 24th at Flak Kaserne, Augsburg. Maj.Gen. RALPH C. COOPER was the Div.CG at the time.

Deceased: MERLE J. SHERAR (Hq. 19th '44-'46) on Aug. 30, 1986.

FRANK P. MANKOWSKI, SR.
C 21st '40-'41

This deserves - and shall receive - a full page. And we set up this moving letter, just as his beloved Marie wrote it from her 29 Lincoln, Kings Park NY home:

"After many months of heartbreak, anxiety and fear, I was finally able last night to sit down and read the Taro Leaf. Frankie and I both enjoyed it. Of course, he more than I because once in a while he was able to see a familiar face, scene or recognize a name or location.

"I was surprised to see the item about him but glad because I had not been able, due to my commuting to the hospital, to keep in touch with his Schofield buddies. Today I wrote to all of them with the sad news of Frankie's death.

"I give you a brief on Frankie. You may use any of it, if you wish, or none of it, if you so desire. I just wanted to let you know what kind of a man, husband, father, grandfather and all around American Veteran he was. He was the very best and I could go on forever about him. I loved him dearly and his death will leave a void in my life that never will be filled. Only my great faith in God and my wonderful family and friends will sustain me and knowing that Frankie is now in HIS care and out of his worldly suffering will help.

"After a 7 1/2 month hospitalization, our dear Frankie went home to the Lord. His heart could take no more after 5 major operations including a 4 vessel heart by-pass. He died in the VA hospital on September 5, 1988 in Northport, L.I., NY.

"After a Roman Catholic Mass, he was interred in the National Cemetery in Caliverton, L.I., NY where his brother, Eddie, who was lost in the Pacific in WW II, has a plaque in the 'Missing in Action' section. His name is on the wall of the missing in Manila.

"Frankie was a very proud American and veteran who devoted much time to the American Legion, the VFW and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in their efforts to raise money to help veterans in nearby hospitals. Leading our Memorial Day Parade, counting cadence, filled him with pride. He had, in the past, been a volunteer ambulance driver at the Northport VA Hospital, transporting cancer patients to other hospitals on Long Island.

"Much of his early post war days were spent keeping young boys (12-16) involved in worthwhile activities. He ran a town sponsored mini-bike program, one of the first in the country, an American Legion sponsored drill team which took part in all our local parades, coached our sons' little league teams and in the last few years umpired our grandson's little league games. He also involved himself in our two sons' boy scout, school and church activities.

"He was dearly loved. His ever-present smile and desire to dance were contagious. I always said, 'If he wasn't near the one he loved, he loved the one he was near.' His happiest times were spent with his family. We had 37 1/2 years of great married happiness and love with our family and after our retirement, 14 years of traveling with dear friends and relatives. We returned to Hawaii twice, the last time in 1981 for the 40th Anniversary. We were looking forward to a trip to Hawaii in December 1988.

"One of his great pleasures was in receiving phone calls, letters and cards from five of his old Schofield Barracks buddies, Jack Brady, Al Cahoon, Bill Mattoon, Charlie Kowalski and Fred Zierath. We were able to visit Bill Mattoon in CA and Charlie Kowalski in HI.

"In addition to his wife, Marie, Frankie is survived by son, 'Dodge' and his wife, Pat, son, Dennis, and his wife, Cathi, grandsons, Danny, and twins, Timmy and Tommy, and granddaughters, Taylor and Carly, and his sister, Regina, all of whom loved him dearly. We will love him and miss him forever.

"Please remember him in your prayers.

Bill Mattoon had written briefly about Jack Brady's granddaughter's winning the Young Miss of America State Pageant Teen Division and I'm sure Jack is wearing his hair pretty high with pride. Your article was more detailed and a pleasure to read. Jack had hoped to visit us when he came to NY to visit some family but Joan's illness and subsequent death devastated him and we haven't gotten together.

Good luck to all the 24th Division members and I would like them to keep in touch with me so that my sons and grandchildren can read Taro Leaf and be informed of the U.S. history, especially WW II. Frankie, along with other VFW members used to go to the schools, present flags and tell the "kids" what WW II, and, of course, Pearl Harbor was all about.

Until next time, Ken, God bless you.

Love, Marie H. Mankowski."

We are going to try to reproduce the news item out of the January 1, 1988 San Antonio, Express-News which LACY BARNETT referred to in a letter concerning the death of Col. FREDERICK ABT. This, of course, was written almost 5 months before Fred's decease. We hope and pray that it will reproduce well.

West Point cadet from S.A. holds high rank

By **BARBIE ANN MARIE DUNN**
Express-News Staff Writer

Needless to say, retired Col. Frederick Abt was more than pleased when each of his five children decided to follow his Army footsteps and enter the Armed Forces.

But pleased doesn't come close to defining his spirits when youngest daughter Patricia, 21, became deputy brigade commander at West Point.

The second ranking cadet in command of more than 4,400 West Point appointees, 1st Class Cadet Abt is only the third female to attain the high position since women were allowed to enter the military institution in 1976.

The first female cadet graduated from the prestigious school in 1980. Today, more than 100 women have been appointed to West Point. Abt graduates next May with an overall academic ranking of 243 in a class of more than 1,000 — 25th among the women cadets.

"I didn't go in with the idea that I was going to be brigadier commander," Abt said from her home in Windcrest.

Home for the holidays, the Roosevelt High School graduate returns to West Point Sunday.

"I just wanted to do the best I could do. Has it been a struggle? It's been a struggle for me. Whenever I have something to do, I always want to be the best; that was a struggle. As for people constantly throwing obstacles in my path, that wasn't. The officers and cadets have been very supportive."

Abt said up until she won her new position, being female wasn't much of a headache. "Up until I got the position, I didn't feel it was. It's a lot more difficult for a girl to be in the position I'm in. You have to prove yourself more. I guess that's the



PHOTO BY JOSE BARRERA

Abt family members above are, front row, Patricia and her parents, De and Fred; back row, (left to right) Michael Hulsey, his wife, Nanette Abt, and John Abt. Inset is Patricia in uniform.

same as life, so it's not any more difficult than that."

Abt is looking forward to the spring semester, in which she says she'll "improve on those things that I didn't do so well this time," and will continue her military career upon graduation.

When she graduates in 1988 with a bachelor of science degree, with an emphasis on international relations, Abt will start on a five-year commit-

ment as a second lieutenant the Army.

"I haven't decided but I think I might like military intelligence," she said.

The last daughter of Frederick and Dolores Abt, Patricia has a twin brother, John, who is a member of the ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin.

Her 29-year-old sisters, also twins, joined the Army nurse corps. Nanette is a captain at Fort Rucker in Alabama, and Tracey, who recently left the Army, was a captain at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C.

Abt's oldest brother, Fred, 32, is a major at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Because of a high respect for Fred, Abt says she knew she would enter ROTC at UT-Austin if she hadn't gotten the West Point appointment.

"Everyone thinks it's great. My friends and I like to exchange 'war' stories. They all went to 'normal' colleges, and their experiences are a lot different from mine."

Though she won't divulge details, Abt says her favorite stories involve her experiences during "plebe" year, the first year at West Point.

"I didn't have any preconceived ideas about West Point, but those family pep talks sure helped. I knew

once I was there, I wasn't going to quit. I had accepted the commitment and was going to finish. Plebe year was no fun at all, but I'm glad I did it. You can really appreciate everything after that."

And Abt hopes the cadets under her command realize and appreciate her respect for them.

"The most important thing I've learned is that when you're in a high position, you must treat those under you with a lot of respect," she said.

"When you give an order, you have to be willing to go out and do it with them. People who want to follow you want to follow you for who you are, not for the position you happen to be in."