

TARO LEAF

VICTORY DIVISION
FIRST TO FIGHT



"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." John F. Kennedy

The TARO LEAF

Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 2 The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association**President**

Gene E. Spicer – 19th Inf.
8937 W. 750 N.
Commiskey, IN 47227-9345
Tel: 812 273-6996
Fax: 812 265-6019
Email: gspicer@seidata.com

Vice President

Roger C. Mitten – 34th Inf.
6204 Hogahn Circle
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-3920
Tel: 602 840-5765
E-mail: rcmitten@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG
631 Concord Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732-9736
Tel: 828-684-5931
Email: tarheel00@lycos.com

Taro Leaf Editor

Tom J. Thiel – 19th Inf.
19147 Park Place Blvd.
Eustis, FL 32736-7262
Tel: 352-357-3943
Email: tthiel5@comcast.net

Historian

Larry Gay – 19th Inf.
15335 W Echo Canyon Dr.
Surprise, AZ 85347-2081
Tel: 623-214-6090
Email: lngay@worldnet.att.net

Chaplain

Glenn Carpenter, Jr. 21st Inf.
503 Michigan St.
Buchanan, MI 49107
Tel: 616-695-2934
Email: chaplaincarp@hotmail.com

Membership

Joseph R. McMahon – 34th Inf
4427 Green Valley Drive
Arnold, MO 63010-3407
Tel: 636-295-7385

Quartermaster

Byrd R. Schrock - Assoc.
1009 Mesquite Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292
Tel: (520) 678-0207
E-mail: byrd2a@cox.net

WebMaster

Norman E. Tredway - 24th MP
422 Lincoln Avenue
Dunellen, NJ 08812-1127
Email: kdva.hq@att.com
[http://home.att.net/~ vic-tory24/index.htm](http://home.att.net/~vic-tory24/index.htm)

Reunion Coordinator

Wesley R. Morrison - 21st Inf.
452 Gloria Circle
Marina, CA 93933-4027
Tel. & FAX: 831-883-2156
Email: wesm8@aol.com

The TARO LEAF is the official publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and is published quarterly by and for its members. Opinions expressed or implied are not necessarily those of the Association, the Department of the Army, or the 24th Infantry Division. The **TARO LEAF** is printed in Morrisville, NC, and mailed from the Charlotte, NC Post Office.

Publisher: 24th Infantry Division Association Printer: Classic Graphics, Inc.
Taro Leaf Ed: Tom J. Thiel 627 Distribution Drive
Address: 19147 Park Place Blvd. Morrisville, NC 27560
City: Eustis, FL 32736-7262
Telephone: 352-357-3943
Email: tthiel5@comcast.net

5901-H Northwoods Bus.Pkwy.
Charlotte, NC 28269
www.classicgraphics.com

Submission Guidelines:

Manuscripts and articles may be submitted electronically as email attachments in text (word processor) format, or they may be submitted as typed or printed double spaced originals in near letter quality. Photographs may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher please) or as prints (no Xerox copies); they must show the author's name and where they appear in the article, and they must identify each of the persons in the photo, if known. Very short, quarter-page, handwritten materials may be incorporated as graphic images. Deadlines for submissions are shown below. Articles should generally be about 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Biographic or personal manuscripts should be of interest to the general membership, and be about two pages. Political endorsements will not be accepted. All copyrighted material must have permission to reprint.

BOD – PRESIDENT, VICE-PRES., SEC./TREAS. & PAST PRES.

NAME	YEARS	UNIT	PHONE	ST.
Gene E. Spicer, Pres.	2006-2007	19th Inf. Regt.	812-273-6996	IN
Roger C. Mitten, VP	2006-2007	34th Inf. Regt.	602-840-5765	AZ
Donald C. Maggio, Sc/Tr	2005-0207	24th AG	828-684-5931	NC
Wes Morrison	2003-2006	21st Inf. Regt.	831-883-2156	CA
Billy Johnson	2001-2003	3rd "C" Eng.	910-424-3840	NC
James F. Hill	2000-2001	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Thomas Cochran	1997-1998	34th Inf. Regt	931-647-4793	TN
James F. Hill	1995-1996	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Vincent Vella	1994-1995	21st Inf. Regt.	716-873-7129	GA
Vincent Gagliardo	1993-1994	5th RCT	415-467-2316	CA
Albert McAdoo	1991-1992	5th RCT	813-837-2728	FL
Donald C. Rosenblum	1987-1988	Div. HQ	912-233-6717	GA
Warren C. Avery	1986-1987	21st Inf. Regt.	203-239-3406	CT
Richard C. Watson	1985-1986	19th Inf. Regt.	317-378-3721	IN
John R. Shay	1983-1984	21st Inf. Regt.	708-724-5133	IL
John E. Klump	1977-1978	34th Inf. Regt	812-623-4336	IN
Paul F. Wisecap	1971-1972	34th Inf. Regt	813-936-6103	FL
William C. Muldoon	1970-1971	19th Inf. Regt.	603-882-7248	NH
Donald C. Williams	1968-1969	34th Inf. Regt	810-566-4627	MI

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

VOL	NO	ISSUE	DT PUB	DEADLINE
61	1&2	Win/Spr	Sep 2007	
61	3&4	Su/Fall	Dec 2007	30-Oct-2007
62	1	Winter	Feb 2008	1-Jan-2008
62	2	Spring	May 2008	1-Apr-2008
62	3	Summer	Aug 2008	1-Jul-2008
62	4	Fall	Nov 2008	1-Oct-2008



CONTENTS

REPORTS & BUSINESS:

Organizational Information	2
Thoughts by the President	4
Secretary Treasurer Report	6
Editor's Page	7
Chaplain's Corner	8
TARO LEAF TAPS Narrative.....	15
TARO LEAF TAPS Tabular	21
Looking For	28
Wes' Member Health Notes	59

FEATURES:

24th ID Punchbowl Monument Dedicated	9
Reflections Memorial Dedication Ceremony ...	10
Keynote Speech by BG (ret Irwin K. Cockett, Jr	11
24 th ID at Punchbowl in photos	12
New York Veterans Travel to Hawaii	14
Another 24th Division MOH? Woodie Keeble ..	32
The Eddie Ko Story (Part 1)	36
CANNONIER KOREA .. 63rd Art July 1950	41
24th Infantry Division Action On Luzon	44
24th Infantry Division Commanders	47

HUMAN, SPECIAL INTEREST

"Hey, where ya from, buddy?"	22
WWII Orphans Visit Gravesites	24
Hampton, VA, Memorial	25
Corporal Father Salutes General Son!	25
Springfield, MA, & Sheridan Kaserne	26
Verbeck Gate, Fort Devens	27
Taro Leafers Reunite for First Time at Indy ..	40
17 Year-Old Kyle Nappi Wants Your Stories	45
In Our Members Own Hand	56
Indy Reunion in Photos	62

NEWS, LEGISLATIVE, OPINION, ETC:

Reunion	39
Sec. Army Certificate of Appreciation	51
Free eGroup for 24th IDA Members	51
POWs From Division Treated Unfairly	54
Veteran Salute Bill	55

Cover: Association President Gene Spicer at 24th Infantry Division Memorial in Hawaii, June 25, 2007, U.S. Army, Pacific photo by Kevin Downey.





Thoughts by the President

August 13, 2007

As we start a new era with a new Editor for the *TARO LEAF* all of us should band together to make the 24th Infantry Division Association a stronger, more viable organization. Remember a single string is very weak, but if you intertwine many strings together there is strength. Strength comes in numbers; let's make our number high.

Spring has sprung - summer is here - and before long it will be time for the 2007 reunion in Columbia, S.C.

I wish all of you could be there.

Instead of using 24th members to head up the reunion program, our reunion coordinator, Wes Morrison, is using The Reunion BRAT (don't ask me what BRAT stands for). They are to take the work away so our members have time to relax and enjoy their time there.

By the time you get this *TARO LEAF*, the monument that was dedicated in February has been delivered to the Punch Bowl in Hawaii; the unveiling was July 25, 2007. That's me representing you at the ceremony in the photo at right, and a photo of the monument itself below.

I want to thank the Memorial Committee for all the hard work and diligence for making it happen.



Thanks to D.H.L. for a safe, gratis delivery from New York to Hawaii. And thanks also to the Punch Bowl Cemetery for setting the stone in a prominent place.

I'd like to finish with an article I ran in a newsletter in 1962. Believe it or not, nothing has changed, except the higher cost of living. It is titled "What is an American?" It is on the next page.

Gene Spicer



What is an American?

He yells for the government to balance the budget, and then takes the last dime he has to make the down payment on his car.

He whips the enemy nations, and then gives them the shirt off his back.

He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving, and then won't buy a car if it won't make 100 miles an hour.

An American gets scared to death if we vote a billion dollars for education, but he's cool as a cucumber when he finds out we're spending three billion dollars a year for smoking tobacco.

He gripes about the high prices of things he has to buy, but he gripes still more about the low prices of things he has to sell.

We're the most ambitious people on earth; we run from morning until night to keep our earning power up with our yearning power.

An American will get mad at his wife for not running their home with the efficiency of a hotel, and then he'll get mad at the hotel for not operating like a home.

In America we have more experts on marriage than any other country in the world, and more divorces.

He'll spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer, then he'll drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement to make up for time he has lost.

An American is a man who will fall out with wife over her cooking, and then, on a fishing trip, will swallow half-fried potatoes, burnt fish, and gritty creek-water coffee made in a rusty gallon can, and think it is good.

He knows the line-up of every baseball team in the American and National leagues, but doesn't know half the words in the star spangled banner.

An American will work hard on a farm so that he can move into town where he can make more money so he can move back to the farm.

When an American is in the office he talks about baseball, football or fishing; when he is out at the games or on the lake he talks about business.

An American likes to cuss his government, but he gets fighting mad when foreigner does it.

We're in the country that has more food to eat than any other country in the world, and more diets to keep us from eating it.

We're supposed to be the most civilized nation on earth, but we still can't deliver a payroll without an armored car.

But we're still pretty nice people. Calling a person a "Real American" is the best compliment you can pay. ###



Photo of Punch Bowl Memorial ceremony in Hawaii; from left to right: President Gene Spicer, Alan Sumitomo, BG Irwin Cockett, Jr. (Retired), Wes Morrison, Dan Rickert, Ken Fentner and Sal Schillaci.



Secretary / Treasurer Report *by Don Maggio*

New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Company/ Btry - Trp</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Anderson, Thomas W.	6th Tank	HQ	Sponsor: Wes Morrison
Buckner, David W.	19th Inf	Q	
Christiansen, Andreas H.	34th Inf	HC	Sponsor: Wes Morrison Starting Life Membership
Cibulka, William J.	19th Inf	D	Sponsor: Joseph R. McMahon
Clarke, Robert N.	21st Inf	F	Sponsor: Wes Morrison Starting Life Membership
Debole, Frank S.	24th Sig		Found us on the website
Edwards, John T.	3rd Eng	C	Sponsor: Wes Morrison
Ellison, Llanie	19th Inf	K	Sponsors: Chalres Foster & Robert Taylor
Fergus, Bernard J.	11th FA	B & HQ	Sponsor: Wes Morrison
Goodwin, Mark	82nd Abn		Sponsor: Wes Morrison
Hanlon, Richard L.	Div HQ	G-2	Sponsor: George Updike
Harrison, Richard Lee	24th QM		Sponsor: Wes Morrison
Hetrick, Daniel J.	19th Inf	3d Bn	Found us on the website
Hickey, Robert W.	19th Inf	K	Sponsor: Henry Upfold
Holley, Jessie C. "Cleo"	63rd FA		Sponsored by Mineral Springs Baptist Church
Joseph, Harley H.	34th InfAT/Cnnn/M/Svc	Spnsr:	Wes Morrison Starting Life Membership
Kane, Jr., James T.	52nd FA	C	Recommended by: Wes Morrison
Kane III, James T.	Assoc		Recommended by: Wes Morrison
Mathys, Arthur B.	19th Inf	HQ	Recommended by Wes Morrison
Nederfield, John "Jack"	19th Inf		Sponsor: Charles Barber
Parchesky, Leo A.	24th Admin		Recommended by: Wes Morrison
Parker, Jerry R.	11th FA	B	Recommended by Wes Morrison & Barney Fergus
Robinette, Dan	21st Inf	H	Recommended by: Tom Thiel
Sproul, Joe	21st Inf	I	Sponsor: Billy Johnson
Young, Donald R.	21st Inf	HHC	Recommended by: Glen Carpenter



New Lifetime Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Company/ Battery</u>	<u>Life No.</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ankeny, Gerald	64th Arm	HHC	2194	14 Apr 07
Crouch, Thomas H.	34th Inf	C	2287	07 May 07
Moncur, Rober I.	19th Inf	F	2290	01 Aug 07
Perdue, Ernest R.	19th Inf	A	2289	11 Jul 07
Rettela, Gerald P.	34th Inf	A	2195	11 Aug 07
Riggleman, Gregory A.	3rd Eng	E	2292	06 Aug 07
Rosengrant, Charles E.	21st Inf	B	2291	01 Aug 07
Vaughn, Thomas W.	63rd FA	Svc	2286	09 Apr 07
Walker, Lee A.	34th Inf	Hvy Mortar	2277	14 Aug 06
Watson, Jr., Christopher	3rd Eng	H&H	2288	19 May 07

Donors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Agee, Clarence R.	Div Arty	\$5
Battery "B"	11th FA	\$400 Punch Bowl Memorial Plaque
Blakely, Woodrow		
Carmack, Murrell		
Casey, Russell		
Cheek, Conley		

Continued on page 58.



From Your Editor

Tom J. Thiel



Hello from Eustis, FL, just some 30 or so miles northwest of downtown Orlando via U.S. 441. Why me? Why now? I cannot really answer that.

I was somewhat overtaken when President Spicer called on August 6, but not too much to say I would give the Editor's job a try. Then he said: "Do you think you can have one out in time for the Columbia, S.C., Reunion?" I gulped and said: "I'll give it my best shot," but he really should have asked me that first, I think!

Gene hung up, and then I said to myself: "Tom, what the h--- have you gotten yourself into this time? How are you, a kid that *really* struggled with English in High School at Upper Sandusky, OH in the mid-forties, going to be up for this assignment?"

Well, after my 1951-52 "tour" of the Land of the Morning Calm with "E" 19th, at the 'personal'

request of President Truman, I managed to utilize my GI Bill effectively at The Ohio State University. And I managed to get the only "A" given for a paper in freshman composition English, for the whole class!

It was titled, you won't believe this: "How to Load and Fire a 3.5-inch Rocket Launcher!"

Reality returned, and I wondered "where do I begin?" Soon Sec/Treas Don Maggio was in touch. And we talked about a lot of things, and exchanged some files via the Internet. And I soon began an email exchange with former President Wes Morrison that continues even to today. He helped to get an email message out, and soon many of you began to send me "your stories." Plus, Wes sent me a lot of stuff too – thanks so much Wes and Don.

Don put me in touch with Classic Graphics, and I met our primary contact on printing and mailing the *TARO LEAF*, Mark Davis, who was not only very pleasant, but bent over backwards helping me get going. He soon provided me with the file from the last issue, and I began to go over it to at least get a feel for what I needed to know.

Then there were the phone calls with Dan Rickert, and his express mail package with the two DVD's of the July 25, 24th Memorial Ceremony in Hawaii. We wondered how we might capture photos from that DVD

to use in the *TARO LEAF*; I had never done that before. So, I went to my main source whenever I have a question like that, my wife Jean. She said "I do that all the time," and gave me the software so I could do it on my computer (we graduated to separate computers a bit over year ago after I deleted a 60-page document of hers).

And there was lots of dialog with President Spicer, and materials too. Thanks Gene!

Many of you also contributed your articles; thank you so much.

So, indeed we made it; we met President Spicer's request! It was a lot of work, and I had to set some other things on the back burner, but **by golly we made it!**

I hope you like it; I truly enjoyed working on it.

You will notice some changes though – in formatting, in content, and in personality. Let me know what you think.

I have always liked the *TARO LEAF* for its "Looking For" section, and for its personal stories; I intend to continue and strengthen those.

I've lots more to discuss with you on how I think we can effectively work together, and more. So, please go to page 49 to continue.

Tom J. Thiel



Chaplain's Corner

What Kind of Bird are You???

*by Lynette A. Sawyer, Guest Chaplain **

It seems that God's little winged creatures have been getting my attention again.

It's not as though I just sit around watching them – it is just that I have enough windows so that often, when I sit down to eat lunch or visit with friends, or whatever, the birds put on a show.

For some reason I began to see something like personality traits in them. For example, while visiting with my brother and his wife from Rhode Island, my old friend "the owl" made his appearance again. He swooped across the front yard, across the road, and chose a vantage point at the top of a power pole.

He sat there quietly, looking wise and watchful, seeming to absorb a myriad of details, until he figured out that the funny noises he heard were coming from a couple dogs in a motor home. Then I guess he decided there was nothing he needed to do so, he swooped across the yard one more time and went on about his business.

Hmmm! We could learn from him I think. If we could learn to listen – really listen – then watch carefully and think through whatever seems to be the problem, we might develop enough good sense to remember the old prayer that says:

"Lord, give me the courage to change the things I can change; the serenity to accept what I cannot change; and the wisdom to know the difference."

Over the next few days I noticed other "Personalities." As I went to get my paper, I heard, and then saw, a woodpecker clear at the top of a light pole, busily tapping away to extract dinner for its family.

Woodpeckers are like the hard-working, industrious people we see every day – building houses and roads, working fields, whatever.

Life isn't easy, but they do what must be done to survive, and, just as the woodpecker helps its environment by eating bugs that are causing damage, – so they improve the world around them with their skills and hard work.

Flocks of Robins come and go too. I guess they are like our beloved "Snowbirds." They bring their talents and excitement with them, and life's tempo picks up. They are busy – busy – busy, but soon they move on. Their loyalties are divided between "home" up north and "home" down here – so we enjoy their presence, miss them when they leave, and look forward to their return.

Add to these the Hummingbirds who fascinate us with their speed; the flashy red, yellow, and blue "birds" that brighten our world and our lives as they flit in and out; and of course, the ever welcome "Songbirds" – those creatures – human or feathered – who lift our spirits and help us find joy – who sing "just because" – who "sing when they are happy – and sing louder when they are sad.

So what kind of bird am I? I don't know. Perhaps, hopefully, a little bit of all of them.

And, what about you? Maybe you are a kind of bird I didn't even think of. But whatever we are, God made us just the way he wanted us, he loves us and has a job for us.

Take care.

Love and Prayers, Lyn

* Hi. I am the Chaplain of the 21st Infantry Regiment Assoc., I thought you might be interested in one for the *TARO LEAF*. My husband was Rev. Robert Sawyer, who was a member of Task Force Smith. He passed away May 3, 2004. Lyn



24th ID Vets Dedicate New Punchbowl Monument to Fallen Comrades

By Sara Fishburn and Kevin Downey, U.S. Army Pacific, Public Affairs *

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii, July 27, 2007 -- Paying tribute to the heroics of fallen comrades whose motto was "First to Fight," 24th Infantry Division Association veterans held a memorial dedication ceremony July 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

Dozens of veterans, including two former Prisoners of War and Task Force Smith survivors and their families, stood proud during the formal ceremony as a color guard comprised of U.S. Army, Pacific Soldiers rendered honors to salute the storied unit.

The 24th Infantry Division monument stands as a symbol of the legendary unit's promi-

nent achievements in battle campaigns throughout the history of the United States, according to association president Gene Spicer, a retired brigadier general who spearheaded the unit's reunion and memorial ceremony.

"This is a tribute to the dauntless Soldiers of the Victory Division, and the principle by which they lived -- 'First to Fight,'" said Spicer, who served in the division as a private first class from 1951-52 during the Korean Conflict. "We should never forget the contributions of this unit to the American way of life, for these Soldiers knew all too clearly that freedom isn't free."

Soldiers assigned to the 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command and 30th Signal Battalion provided the color guard and rifle salute. Chaplain Richard Savage, of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command,



Gene Spicer, 24th Infantry Division Association President and a retired Brigadier General, pays tribute to his fallen comrades July 25 at the new memorial in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. U.S. Army, Pacific photo by Kevin Downey.

provided the memorial prayer while Army and Marine buglers played echo taps.

The 24th Infantry Division, also known as the Hawaiian Division, or Pineapple Division, was established at Schofield Barracks on Oahu on March 1, 1921, to provide land defense of the Hawaiian territory.

The unit earned the nickname "Victory Division" in WWII for their sterling combat record without defeat. The division fought in five campaigns in the Pacific, the most engaged in by any U.S. division in the Pacific during the Second World War.

It was among the first units to take up arms against Imperial Japanese forces Dec. 7, 1941,

and the first to engage the North Korean aggressor nine years later. As part of the Army's reduction to a ten-division force, the 24th Infantry Division was inactivated Feb. 15, 1996.

The 24th Infantry Division memorial is situated next to the 5th Regimental Combat Team's monument along the Memorial Walk. The tree-lined pathway overlooking the Pacific Ocean is lined with a variety of memorials that honor America's veterans from various organizations. There are more than 65 such memorials throughout the national shrine, most commemorating Soldiers of 20th-century wars, including those killed at Pearl Harbor.

The 24th Infantry Division monument consists of a glass replica of the unit insignia -- a green taro leaf highlighted in yellow on top of a red circle -- displayed on a flowing iron ribbon. The plaque is an-



chored by a block of marble donated to the association by the Rock of Ages stone quarry in Vermont.

According to 24th ID veteran Daniel J. Rickert, three hibiscus flowers on the plaque represent the three major wars the unit fought in – WWII, the Korean Conflict, and Desert Storm. The Hawaii state flowers also represent where the division was founded. Acorns and an oak leaf depicted on the bottom of the plaque represent strength and renewal, he said.

During the ceremony, Rickert asked audience members and fellow veterans to pray for their brothers-in-arms, many of whom he said were too frail or ill to travel to Hawaii for the reunion to witness the dedication ceremony.

“Our comrades fought and died for our country,” he said. “They deserve your prayers. May God bless our past Soldiers and our current Soldiers who are on duty around the world today.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Release 026-07, Permission to reprint granted.

Reflections of the July 25th Memorial Dedication Ceremony

By Eric Diller, Committee Member, eddiller@earthlink.net

Credit must go to Daniel Rickert, Chairman, for getting the effort started at the September 25, 2004, reunion in Albuquerque, NM. He formed what became a dedicated Committee including Bill Boyden, Ken Fentner, Billy Johnson, Dutch Nelsen, Sal Schillaci, all Korean vets, and Eric Diller, WWII vet.

The outstanding design was created by Danielle Rickert, Dan's granddaughter. The 'three dimensionel' highest quality plaque was produced by Prof. Larry Jones of Saddleback College, CA. And the Stone Art Memorial Company, New York, and Rock of Ages Company, Vermont, not only generated the granite block but also donated it. D.H.L. Forwarding shipped it free of charge to Hawaii.

The 24th Division Memorial occupies a prestigious spot at the Punch Bowl Road, Honolulu among many others from our Armed Forces. The color and raised glass Taro Leaf makes it truly extraordinary.

The Ceremony was conducted by our President, Gene Spicer. Emcee Wes Morrison introduced the several speakers who dedicated the Memorial.

Noteworthy was Dan Rickert's gratitude to all who made this mission a success. Special mention was made of departed Dutch Nelsen, and ill Billy Johnson, both Committee Members.

The program was militarily conducted, including Color Guards and three gun salutes. About forty people attended, approximately half were 24th Division members or associates. Our Memorial will be on permanent display for all 24th veterans, families and others. ###

Left: Soldiers assigned to the 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command and 30th Signal Battalion provided the color guard and rifle salute at the 24th Infantry Division Association memorial dedication ceremony July 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. U.S. Army, Pacific photo by Kevin Downey.





Keynote Speech for 24th Infantry Division Memorial Dedication National Memorial Cemetery of The Pacific, July 25, 2007 by BG (retired) Irwin K. Cockett, Jr.



Aloha, Aloha Ka Kou, and a very special aloha to our comrades who have traveled a great distance to memorialize their fallen comrades.

As is our custom, I begin by offering my respect to Ke Akua, the Great Spirit who has made this special Day, and all other days; and to this special hill of Sacrifice, a place for ancient and modern Warriors, and also to our ancestors, yours and mine, who have given us life and the wisdom of the Ages.

President John F. Kennedy once said that “A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.”

And so we are here today, to honor and remember all of those brave and gallant soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division, who were first to fight and who, now rest in the bivouac of the dead. Glory guards them with solemn dignity, these brave warriors who made the supreme sacrifice.

“Keia make aole; he make makahewa!” “These dead shall not have died in vain!”

The history of our country is written in red in the Unit logs of our Army’s regiments. It is captured on flimsy streamers that fly from regimental colors remembering the fire fights that define the best and worst moments in the lives of so many American soldiers in the last 230 years.

And so today we pay homage to the 24th Infantry Division, which was initially activated here on Oahu at Schofield Barracks on March 1, 1921, as the “Hawaiian Division.”

The history of the three infantry regiments of the 24th Division are chronicled with accounts of valor, courage, need, and unparalleled generosity.

Valor and courage are what the 24th Division is made of, and how they distinguished themselves in World War II, Korea, and Iraq. *(Continued on page 52)*

24th ID at Punchbowl

Volume 61, Number 1 and 2, Winter-Spring 2007



From top left, clockwise: Association President Gene Spicer; Memorial Committee Chair Dan Rickert; MC Wes Morrison; Keynote Speaker, General Irwin Cockett; members of audience; and Rickert and Spicer carrying wreath to memorial stone (photos courtesy U.S. Army DVD).

24th ID at Punchbowl

Volume 61, Number 1 and 2, Winter-Spring 2007



From top left, clockwise: The 24th Infantry Division Memorial at the Punchbowl; Gene Spicer and Dan Rickert placing wreath; President Spicer presenting crystal to Danielle Rickart (accepted by Dan Rickert); Ken Fentner and Sal Schillaci, members of the Memorial Committee; Color Guard, and Wes Morrison presenting a few closing words. (photos courtesy U.S. Army DVD & Commercial Photographer DVD).



New York Veterans Travel to Hawaii for 24th Infantry Division Memorial Dedication.

reprinted from an unknown upstate New York Newspaper published prior to the July 25th ceremony.



Nearly three years ago, a determined group of Korean War veterans set out to create a lasting remembrance for the men and women of the 24th Infantry Division at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the "Punchbowl," in Hawaii.

As a result of their perseverance and unwavering dedication to this goal, a monument honoring their fallen comrades will be dedicated at the Punchbowl on July 25, with full military pomp and ceremony.

Local Korean War Veterans Kenneth Fentner, left, and Salvatore Schillaci, right,

who served on the volunteer committee to create this memorial, will be flying to Hawaii, to attend the dedication. The Korean War has been designated as the "Forgotten War" despite heavy U.S. casualties – more than 54,000 dead (Ed. note: this is the total number of persons killed in service during the years of the Korean War; the actual number killed in combat in Korea is given as 36,576) and 103,000, wounded.

Numerous veterans from the 24th Infantry will be traveling to Hawaii from all parts of the U.S. honor their fellow soldiers who perished in the Korean War.

The Master of Ceremonies for the July 25 dedication will be Gene Spicer, president of the 24th Infantry Division Association. (Past President, Wes Morrison actually served as Master of Ceremonies.)

For veterans Ken Fentner and Sal Schillaci, there is one more step to the "journey" that they began three years ago, that is a trip to Korea.

In appreciation for America's enormous sacrifice on behalf of its People, the South Korean government hosts a number of Korean War veterans each year through an application process.

Fentner and Schillaci have been accepted for this program and will be traveling to Seoul, South Korea in September 2007. (Above photo of Fentner and Schillaci was captured from the Association's DVD recording of the event.) ###

THE TARO LEAF
VOL. 61, NOS. 3 & 4
Will be Published in
Early December.
Please Send Your
Stories, Articles, Pic-
tures, and Any Other
Items You'd Like
Published.
NOW!



The *TARO LEAF* expresses sincere appreciation to Past President Wes Morrison, for compiling, maintaining and providing the context for the narrative portion of *TARO LEAF TAPS*. Information is presented by organizational unit. Similar appreciation is expressed to Secretary/Treasurer, Don Maggio, for the tabular compilation in alphabetic order at the end of this section. Ed.

Harold W. "Corky" Peters



Past Association President, Harold W. "Corky" Peters, age 76, of Rogers, MN, passed away on March 25, 2007, from complications with surgery. He is survived by wife and soul mate of 28 years, Dianna; children, Robert Michael (Susan), Vicki Marie Peters, Julie Anne Eull (Greg), and Randy, Joe (Barb) and Rick (Ellen) McArthur; 12 grandchildren; and his beloved puppy, Harley.

Corky served as 1st Sgt of "G" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment during the Korean War (50-51), and was our Association President from Sept. 1998 through Sept. 2000. He hosted the 24th IDA reunions in Minneapolis, MN, in 1996, Little Rock, AR, in 1998, Tulsa, OK, in 1999 and Covington, KY, in 2000.

Corky will be greatly missed by all his many friends and comrades in the Association, as well as those who had served with him in Korea and civilian life. He was truly a great person and gentleman.

Condolences can be sent to the family at 13791 Dorothy Dr., Rogers, MN, 55374-8899. The family requests any donation be sent to the 24th IDA Association, c/o Don Maggio, Secretary/Treasurer, 631 Concord Rd. Fletcher, NC 28732-9736.

3rd Engineer Battalion

Clifton, Herbert D, Life Member, passed away on Aug 26, 2005. Herbert served with the 3rd Engineer Battalion during WWII. No information on any surviving relatives.

Frank, Laurence V "Larry", Company A, 3rd Engineer Battalion, WWII, Oct 1942 - Oct 1945, passed away on Aug 24, 2006. Cards may be sent to spouse Frances and family at: 1295 S. Cawston Ave., Sp #41, Hemet, CA 92545-9161.

Frazer, Charles, Company C, 3rd Engr Bn, Japan & Korea, passed away on 10 Feb 2007. He was a POW from 20 July, 1950 until his release on 23 August 1953 and was a member of the "Tiger Survivors." Cards may be sent to his family at: 3152 Iroquois Drive, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404-5271.

Fredmonski, John, 3rd Engineer Battalion, WWII and Japan passed away on Dec 18, 2006. John served in the Commo Section. Cards maybe sent to his wife, Genevieve and family, 42 Montgomery St., Piscataway, NJ 08854-2538.

Sawyer, George K., 3rd Engr, Japan & Korea died on 4 Apr 2007. George was a Life Member of the Association. Cards can be sent to this wife Marion at 165 Peter Salem Rd., Leicester, MA 01524-1245



5th Regimental Combat Team

Anderson, Edward S., of Northwest Indiana passed away Mar 8, 2007. Ed was a member of the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea. No address available.

Follis, Wendell D., Company H, 5th Regimental Combat Team, Korea 51-52 passed away on 21 Dec 2006. Cards may be sent to the family at: PO Box 1483, Ozark, MO 65721-1483.

Pangle, Robert L., Tank Company, 5th RCT. Robert served with the 5th RCT from 1949 - 1951. Cards may be sent to the family at: 3011 Park Drive, Columbia, TN 38401-5201

Valvo, Frank A. (Tony), Company H, 5th RCT, 1949-1950. Date of Death is unknown. Frank was the holder of a Purple Heart and Silver Star. Cards may be sent to his wife Gloria, 46 Massachusetts Ave., Buffalo, NY 14213-2132

6th Tank Battalion

Karrigan, Clayton, Company B, 6th Tank Battalion, Korea May 51 - Nov 51 passed away on 11 Apr 2007. Cards may be sent to the family at: 465 30th St NW, Benson MN 56215-1011.

11th Field Artillery

Samples, Ernest L., Battery A, 11th FA Bn 49-51 died on 16 Oct 2006. Last known address was 7250 National TPKE #111, Louisville, KY 40214-6071. Records do not indicate a surviving spouse but the information came from his daughter.

Smith, Robert H. "Bob", 11th FA passed away in his sleep during the night of Jan 1-2, 2007. Cards may be sent to his wife Alice and family at: 7721 Deer Ln, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-9119. Bob was not only a friend and fellow Taro Leafer but was a wonderful person and was a devoted family man, outdoors man and dedicated to the 24th Infantry Division Association.

13th Field Artillery

Peters, William J., passed away on 12 Apr 2007. William served with Battery A, 13th FA Battalion during WWII and Japan from 1943-1948. Cards may be sent to Ruth at 648 NE Muskrat Run, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983-3524.

Mullins, Lois, Associate Member, and wife of Member William Mullins, 13th FA/C, WWII passed away on 6 Oct 2006. Cards may be sent to the family at 3412 Logan View Dr., Baltimore, MD 21222-5948.

19th Infantry Regiment

Brown, Verlyn, Hq, 19th Infantry, Korea 8/50-9/51 had passed away on 10 March 2006. No information on survivors.

Carter, Jack W., 1SG, US Army (Retired) passed away on 8 July 2007. Jack served with Medical Company, 19th Infantry Regiment from August 1950 - November 1951. He was a Life Member of the Association, and attended as many reunions as he possibly could. He always wore his Dress Blues at the Memorial Banquets. Cards may be sent to his wife Alyce at 19 Circle Drive, Brush, CO 80723-2201

Crowe, Harold R., Passed away on Jan 8, 2007. Harold served with Company D, 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea from Oct. 50 - Nov. 51. Cards may be sent to his wife Helen and family at 2813 W. Armour Terrace, Minneapolis, MN 55418-2480

The TARO LEAF

Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 2 The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association

TAPS



19th Infantry Regiment, Continued

Graham, Jerome "Jerry," M & Hq Companies, 19th Infantry Regiment passed away in Apr 2006. Jerry served with the Division in Japan 46-47. Cards may be sent to his Wife, Mary and family, at: 5800 Old Providence Road, #3215, Charlotte, NC 28226-6899.

Hoffman, Major Evert E. "Moose," passed away on 4 Jan 2007 in Batavia, NY. Pearl Harbor Survivor, he was stationed with the 19th Infantry Regiment in Beppu, Japan and deployed to Korea with the Regiment in Jul 1950, where he received a Battle Field Commission. Moose is survived by his wife "Boots." Cards maybe sent to: Mrs. Everete Hoffman 1210 Apple Hollow Lane Haman, NY 14464

Johnson, Thomas H., Headquarters, 19th Infantry WWII & Japan passed away on 18 July 2007 per phone call from his wife Faye. Thomas served with the 219th from February 1943 - November 1945. Cards may be sent to his wife Faye at 66 Glenwood St., Winston Salem, NC 27106-4952

Kemper, Paul R., 19th Infantry WWII & Japan died on May 30, 2007. Condolences may be sent to his wife Vivian and family at: 815 Iroquois Ave., Louisville, KY 40214-1230.

Kadrlik, Robert (Bob) passed away on May 14, 2007, at 6:00 AM, the result of an auto accident and other complications. Bob served with the 19th Inf Regt, 24th Div in Korea in 1951, condolences can be sent to Darlene Kadrlik, 612 4th Ave So, South St Paul, MN 55075. Addendum: August 2007. Received from Bob's friend, Mel Behnen, "Sadly, Bob's wife Darlene passed away in August 2007."

Logan, Colonel Edward O., died on Nov 27, 2006 from congestive heart failure. Colonel Logan served with the 19th Infantry Regiment from 1949 - Jul 1950 in Japan and in Korea from July 1950 - 1951. Ms. Logan passed away in Jul 2006.

Porter, Donald R., 19th Inf. and 21st Inf. Japan and Korea died Aug 3, 2006. Condolences may be sent to his wife Rosalie Porter at 12339 Porsche Ln #111, Weeki Wachee, FL 34614-2647

Rogers, George P., Tiger Survivor of Camps 3 & 7, died Nov 3, 2006. He served with G. Co, 19th Inf. He was a POW from Jul 16, 1950 to his release on Aug 25, 1953. He is survived by his wife and daughters. Cards to 112 Jean Ellen Ave., Houma, LA 70363,

Saunders, William F., 19th Inf, Co's B & E, 46-47, 77, of Marlborough died Nov. 30, 2006), at Youville Hospital and Rehab Center in Cambridge after an illness. He leaves his wife of 36 years Ellen L. (Kiernan) Saunders. Burial in the VA National Cemetery in Bourne. Memorial donations may be made to: Our Danny Cancer Fund, P.O. Box 2795, Worcester, MA 01613.

Stoner, Daniel C., passed away on May 13, 2007. He served in the 19th Infantry Regiment, Korea. The Stoner family was making plans for his attendance at the Indianapolis reunion, but he fell sick and couldn't attend. Cards may be sent to his wife Mary and family c/o his daughter, Kimberly Stoner Short, 501 West Wenger Rd., Englewood, OH 45322-2002.

Vail, Patricia, Wife of Don Vail, Co. H, 19th Inf and Life member. Patricia J. Willard Vail 73, McCordsville, IN. died July 7, 2007. Celebration Of Life: Thurs. July 12 at McCordsville United Methodist Church with burial in McCordsville Cemetery. Don Vail, 6459 W. 800 N, McCordsville, IN, 46055-9767.

Wild, George, passed away on 15 Sep 2006. George served with Company D, 19th Infantry in Japan and Korea from 1948 - 1951. Cards may be sent to the family at 1913 Nearview Ave., Columbia, SC 29223-3729.

Wright, Leonard, passed away on Oct 14, 2006. He served in L Co, 19th Inf with Howard Camp & Danny Stoner in Korea during 1951-52. Cards may be sent to his Widow Cynthia Wright 2615 Embury Pk Rd., Dayton, OH 45414-5101



19th Infantry Regiment, Continued

Wojklewicz, Bernard, Glendale Heights, IL. He served with the 19th Infantry Regiment during WWII. Cards may be sent to the family to the only address we have which is 770 Pearson St., #809, Des Plaines, IL 60016-9219 Chicago Tribune on 1/19/07.

21st Infantry Regiment

Addesso, Harry J., Tiger Survivor of Camps 3 & 7, died Oct 28, 2006. He served with M Co., 21st Inf. He was a POW from Jul 12, 1950 until his release on Aug 26, 1953. He is survived by his wife Carole and son Lawrence, Cards to 43252 Corte Astorga, Temecula, CA 92592-3846

Albert, Michael, Life Member #592, Company H, 21st Infantry WWII passed away on 26 February 2005. Michael was a Pearl Harbor Survivor and was selected to attend the opening of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC but do to his health was unable to attend. He is survived by his wife Eileen and cards maybe sent to 4529 Montclair Ave, SE, Lacy WA 98503-3542

Ales, Benedict J. (Bennie), Life Member, passed away May 12, 2007. Bennie served with the 34th Infantry, Company M in Japan & Korea and then the 21st Infantry, Company H in Korea from 1949-1951. Cards may be sent to the family at 16155 Blue Springs Lane, Clinton Township, MI 48035-5519

Buckner, Frank, Jr., G Company, 21st Infantry, Korea 1953-1954, passed way on Dec 24, 2005. Cards may be sent to his wife Juanita at 99716 Strawberry Plains Pike, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871-1103

Cress, Pat, Company C, 21st Infantry, Task Forces Smith and former POW, passed away on 2 Feb 2007. Cards may be sent to the family at: 8137 Sun Vista Way, Orlando, FL 32822-7537

Elswick, Dan, M, Co., 34th Infantry, H/21st Infantry, Korea 50-51, passed away on Feb 7, 2007. Condolences may be sent to his widow Willa (Willy) Dean Elswick, 102 Harvestwood Dr., Grovetown, GA 30813-2150

Goldpaugh, John J., M Company, 21st Infantry, WWII 6/42-11/45, passed away on 16 Jan 2007. John is survived by his wife Kathryn and Daughter Kathleen. Cards may be sent to the family at 140 Ter Huen Dr., Apr #214, Plymouth, MA 02540-2598.

Grogan, John J., Life Member, passed away on 6 Feb 2007. John served with the 21st Infantry in Japan and Korea. Cards may be sent to the Family at: 129 Brentwood Road, Newington, CT 06111-2512

Jinkerson, Ralph, 21st Infantry Regiment, Medical, Korea, passed away on 23 Feb 2007. Cards may be sent to his spouse, Kolita Jinkerson, at 659 Camelot Manor, Portage, IN 46368-5331

Kachikis, Donald P., 21st Infantry Regiment, Company C, Korea, passed away on Jan 31, 2007. Cards may be sent to his family at 504 Carolyn Court, Eden, NC 27288-6466

Peters, Harold W. "Corky", age 76, of Rogers, MN, passed away on March 25, 2007, from complications with surgery. See detailed article at beginning of this section.

Sliger, Elbert W., Company M, 21st Infantry passed away on 2 Feb 2007 in Citra, FL. Cards may be sent to his sister Treva Fritzen, 4459 Camden Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303-7223

Winstead, Emerson L. "Duke", passed away on 7 Mar 2006. Duke served with Company B, 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea, 1950-51. Cards may be sent to the family at 144 Benjamin Place, Mt. Washington, KY 40047-6008.

Wyrick, Colonel William E. "Bill", passed away Dec 17, 2006. Bill served with Company C, 21st Infantry Regiment as a member of Task Force Smith during the Korean War. Cards may be sent to the family at: 1321 Wildewood Downs Circle, Columbia, SC 29223-4432



34th Infantry Regiment

Carroll, Dr. Murray Lee, 82, of Anacortes, WA died Mar 4, 2007, at the Island Hospital. Dr. Carroll served in the Pacific Theater during WWII and was separated from the Service and obtained a BA degree in Psychology in 1948. He then reenlisted as a career officer in the Transportation Corps and retired as a Lt Col in 1967.
34th Infantry Regiment Continued

Lt Col Carroll was detail Infantry and served with the 34th Infantry from 2 Jul 1950 until 31 Aug 1950 after which he was returned to his basic branch and assigned to a TC unit in Pusan on 1 Sep 1950. No contact information.

Hess, Allen V., 86, Lebanon, PA, passed away Jul 17, 2006. Allen , served with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry during WWII. He was born January 21, 1920, in Lebanon, was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Burial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. From the Lebanon Daily News on 7/19/2006. Cards may be sent to the family at: 590 S. 5th Ave, Lebanon, PA 17042-9196

Manz, Lt. Col. Hans J., (R) (D101) - 34th & 21st Inf, Korea 50-51, Age 84 passed away May 21, 2007 in Myrtle Beach SC. Born in Germany, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 7. He was a veteran of WWII serving in the U. S. Army Air Corps, served as a company commander of the 24th Infantry Division in Korea and assigned to the Special Operations Group in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, two Purple Hearts, the Presidential Unit Citation, three campaign ribbons, and other awards during his career.

Reis, Joseph, M company 34th Infantry & H Company 21st Infantry, Feb 11, 2007. Cards may be sent to his wife Mary and family at 602A Ft. Crook Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005-2963.

Whitman, Bruce, Company A, 34th Infantry, Japan & Korea passed away on 9 Feb 2007. Cards may be sent to his wife Rachel, 11930 SW 31st Terrace, Webster, FL 33597-7703.

52nd Field Artillery

Botzen, Robert R., Hq, 52d FA Bn 49-51 passed away on Nov 18, 2006, at the age of 74. He is survived by his wife Elaine, Daughters Lynette, Nicole, sons Bill, Jim, Guy, 12 Grandchildren and 1 Great-granddaughter. Cards may be sent to the family at 37915 Sheffield St., Mt. Clemens, MI 48036

Gaupp, Alvin G., passed away on Aug 10, 2006. Alvin had served with C Battery, 52d Field Artillery Battalion, WWII and was Pearl Harbor Survivor. He served with the Division from Oct 1941 - Jun 1944. Cards may be sent to his wife, Rose, and family at PO Box 121, West Creek, NJ 08092-012.

63rd Field Artillery

Jenkins, Spencer S., passed away on Jan 4, 2007. Spencer served during WWII and in Japan with Headquarters, 63rd FA Bn. Condolences may be sent to the family at: 1620 Fezzell Rd., Decatur, TN 37322-3274

Poirier, Alfred N., of Monterey, CA, 63rd FA, WWII, passed away on Apr 16, 2007. After being discharged in May 1945, Alfred realized how much he missed the military and reenlisted in 1949. He retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant in 1966 at Fort Ord, CA. Alfred is survived by his wife of 47 year Waltraud "Walli" and a son Michael plus a brother and sister. Card may be sent to: 234 Lerwick Dr., Monterey, CA 93940-54

The TARO LEAF

Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 2 The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association

TAPS



Division

Moore, Colonel Carl G., Headquarters 24th ID, JAG Section, passed away on 22 Aug 2006. Colonel Moore served with the Division from Sep 1949 - Nov 1950 in Japan and Korea. Cards maybe sent to his family at: 177 S. Homewood Dr., Athens, CA 30606-1703

Rasch, MD, Dr George C., passed away on Mar 3, 2007 in Hilton Head, SC. Dr Rasch served with the Medical Corps, 24th Infantry Division from 1954-1956 in Korea. Memorial Contributions may be made to Hospice of the Calumet Area, 521 Otis Bowen Dr., Munster, IN 46321. No address available to send condolences.

Sarpola, Roderick A., Hq & Hq Btry, Division Artillery passed away on Jun 24, 2006. Roderick entered service on Feb 12th, 1942, and served with the Division throughout WWII in campaigns against the Japanese in Hollandia, all the way to the Philippine landing on Luzon. Cards may be sent to his widow Alma at: 101 Forest Dr., Apt #246, Seaside, OR 97138-1604

Unit Unknown

Higdon, Doris, wife of 55 years of Jack Higdon II. Doris passed away on Apr 13, 2007, Fort Meyers, FL. Family requests any donations be made in her name to the Hope Hospice House, 9470 Healthpark Circle, Ft. Meyers, FL 33908-3600.

Irwin, Clyde C., 84, died Jul 19, 2006. He served in the Army as an infantry officer in the European Theatre, and was recalled to active duty in 1950 and served as infantry commander with the 24th Division in Korea where he received the Bronze Star. Survivors include two daughters, Linda Goode, Tampa, and Janie Richey, Alpharetta, Ga.

Slowik, Matthew W., age 85, 24th Division, First Lieutenant - 1942-1946, three years Pacific Theater, 1950-1952, called to Active Duty during Korean War and served from Oct 1950 to Jun 1952. He is a recipient of four Battle Stars as a result of duty in New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and Manila Campaigns. Information: Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, 847-966-7302 or www.skajafuneralhomes.com

Weygandt, Margery, wife of Donald Weygandt, Korea, 50-51, died in a tragic accident 14 May 2007. Margery attempted to light the kitchen stove and her clothing caught fire. Don attempted to extinguish the flames but could not before they completely engulfed her. Don suffered burns to both hands but is OK. Cards may be sent to Don at: 264 North Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-2506.

Zarubi, Roy H., of Sparks, NV died on 1 Jan 2007. Only information available was that he participated in the invasion and taking of the Philippines with the 24th Infantry Division. Information on his unit needed for listing on the 24th Infantry Division Association Honor Roll.

TAPS

*Day is done...
Gone the sun
From the lake...
From the hills...
From the sky.
All is well...
Safely rest
God is nigh.*

*Fading light...
Dims the sight
And a star...
Gems the sky...
Gleaming bright
From afar...
Drawing nigh
Falls the night.*

**24th Infantry Division Association TAPS (in Alphabetical Order)**

Compiled by Secretary/Treasurer as of August 24, 2007

Last Name	First Name, MI	Address	City	ST	Zip+4	Unit 1	Co/Btt	Years	Theater	Spouse	Comments
Ales	Benedict J. "Bernie"	16155 Blue Spruce Lane	Clinton Twp	MI	48035-5519	34th&21s	L&G	50-51	Japan & Korea	Grace	Died 12 May 07 Life Member #846
Anaya	Henry G.	138 Appleton St.	Grass Valley	CA	95945-0203	5th RCT		50-51	Korea	Dolores A.	Died 10 Jan 07
Babb	Howard H.	42609 Lake Hospitality Lane	Altosna	FL	32702-9547	34th Inf		unk	WWII	Maryelle C.	Died 11 Jul 07 per note from wife
Barnes	Henry L.	2006 Rushkin Rd	Salina	KS	67401-3608	19th Inf		unk	WWII	unk.	Died 11 Jul 90 per Wes Morrison
Camacho	Francisco A.	576 E. Sacramento St	Altadena	CA	91001-3024	21st Inf		unk	WWII & Japan	unk.	Died 27 Aug 97 per note on returned mail
Campbell	George S.	3 Buell Court	Clinton	CT	06413-2603	3rd Eng		54-55	Korea	Barbara H.	Deceased per USPS 05 Jul 07
Carbo	Peter	10 Nicholas Dr.	New Haven	CT	06512-1144	19th Inf		unk	WWII	unk.	Died 2005 per Gene Spicer on 29 Jun 07
Cress	Pat	8137 Sun Vista Way	Orlando	FL	32822-7537	21st Inf	Com	unk	Task Force Smith	unk.	Died 2 Feb 07 POW
Crowe	Harold R.	2813 W. Armour Terrace	Minneapolis	MN	55418-2480	19th Inf	D	51	Korea	Helen J.	Died 8 Jan 07
Doherty	James	680 Central Avenue, Apt 10K	Albany	NY	12206-1605	19th Inf	E	49-51	Japan & Korea	Dorothy	Died 1 Feb 06
Elswick	Dan	102 Harvestwood Dr.	Grovetown	GA	30813-2150	34th&21s	M&H	50-51	Korea	Willa	Died 7 Feb 07
Follis	Wendell D.	7693 State Hwy 125 S.	Chadwick	MO	65629-3306	5th RCT	H	51-52	Korea	Freda	Died 21 Dec 06
Frank	Laurence V. "Larry"	1295 S. Cawston Ave., SP 41	Hemet	CA	92545-9161	3rd Eng	A	42-45	WWII	Frances	Died 27 Jan 07
Fredmonski	John	42 Montgomery St.	Piscataway	NJ	08854-2538	3rd Eng	Com	43-46	WWII & Japan	Genevieve	Died 3 Feb 07
Goldpaugh	John J.	140 Ter Huen Dr., Apt. #214	Plymouth	MA	02540-2598	21st Inf	M	42-45	WWII	Kathryn	Died 16 Jan 07
Graham	Jerome	5800 Old Providence Rd. #3215	Charlotte	NC	28226-6899	19th Inf	M & HQ	46-47	Japan	Marjorie	Died 10 Jan 07
Hoffman	Evert E.	PO Box 643	Sunbury	PA	17801-0643	19th Inf	D	unk	Japan & Korea	unk.	Died 4 Jan 07 Life Member #412
Inman	Calvin M.	3114 Clearfield Dr.	San Antonio	TX	78230-3414	13th FA	B	43-46	WWII & Japan	Mary	Died Jan 07 Life Member #2168
Jenkins	Spencer S.	1620 Fezzell Road	Dacatur	TN	37322-3275	63rd FA	HQ	45-46	WWII & Japan	unk.	Died 4 Jan 07
Karrick	Robert S.	612 4th Ave. S. #50	South St. Paul	MN	55075-2818	19th Inf	F	51	Korea	Darlene	Died 15 May 07
Karrigan	Clayton	475 30th Street NW	Benson	MN	56215-1043	6th Tank	B	51	Korea	Lucille	Died 11 Apr 07
Logan	COL Edward O.	5444 Woodford Dr.	Birmingham	AL	35242-4142	19th Inf		49-51	Japan & Korea	Glenmis	Died 27 Nov 06
Manz	Hans J.	PO Box 8134	Myrtle Beach	SC	29578-8134	34th&21s	3rd Bn	50-51	Japan & Korea	unk.	Died 21 May 07
Marshall	James O.	1185 Sraratoga Rd.	Roswell	GA	30075-3850	19th Inf	M	44-46	WWII & Japan	unk.	Died 11 Mar 07
Minkoff	Julius	P. O. Box 12015	Newport News	VA	23612-0125	19th Inf	D	unk	WWII	unk.	Died 24 Jul 06 per d. Julie 08 Aug 07
Moody	Alfred L.	892 E. Walnut St.	Jesup	GA	31546-4044	34th Inf	D	46-47	Japan	Betty	Died 06 Feb 07 per d. 16 Jul 07
O'Brien	Paul J.	PO Box 121	Somerville	MA	02143-0002	34th Inf		unk	Japan & Korea	unk.	Unknown but listed in 21st Inf publ.
Peters	Harold R.	13791 Dorothy Drive	Rogers	MN	55374-8899	21st Inf	G	unk	Japan & Korea	Diane	Died 25 Mar 07 Life Member #1128
Poirier	Alfred N.	234 Lerwick Dr.	Monterey	CA	93940-5412	63rd FA	B	41-45	Pearl Harbor & WWII	unk.	Died 16 Apr 07
Sabala	Tony	608 10th Ave E	Jerome	ID	83338-2027	21st Inf	D	40-44	WWII	Marrella	Died 12 Jun 07 per w. 07 Aug 07
Samples	Ernest L.	7250 National Trpk., H2 Apt 111	Louisville	KY	40214-6074	11th FA	A	49-51	Japan & Korea	unk.	Died 16 Oct 06 per d. 02 Jun 07
Sawyer	George K.	165 Peter Salem Rd	Leicester	MA	01524-1245	3rd Eng		unk	Japan & Korea	Marion T.	Died 04 Apr 07 per w. 03 Aug 07
Scott	Virgil W.	291 Clayton Rd.	Beaver Falls	PA	15010-1319	21st Inf	D	unk	WWII & Japan	unk.	Died 1 Aug 05
Silger	Elbert W.	1414 NE 162nd St	Citra	FL	32113-3161	21st Inf	M	54-55	Japan	unk.	No Data
Simmendinger, Jr.	Marcus A.	351 Centennial St. OBO4	Schwenksville	PA	19473-2355	13th FA		unk	WWII	unk.	Unknown; TL ret by USPS 29 May 07
Slowik	Matthew W.	770 Pearson St. Apt 809	Des Plaines	IL	60016-9219	19th Inf		unk	Korea	unk.	Died 19 Jan 07 Life Member #82
Smith	Robert H. "Bob"	7721 Deer Ln.	Wisconsin Rapids	WI	54494-9119	11th FA		unk	Korea	Mary	Died 5 Jan 07
Stoner, Jr.	Daniel C.	501 W. Wenger Rd.	Englewood	OH	45322-2002	19th Inf		unk	Japan & Korea	Melanie	Died 13 May 07
Szurley	Chester	31 C Street	Beaver	PA	15009-1502	34th&21s	M&H	unk	WWII & Japan	Sara	Died 21 Aug 07
Tolan	Thomas J.	65 Genesee St. Apt 2	Geneva	NY	14458-1732	21st Inf	C	45-46	WWII	unk.	Died 04 Jun 07 per w. 03 Aug 07
Urban	Alton A.	19 Walnut St.	Seymour	CT	06483-3611	19th Inf	M	42-45	WWII	unk.	Died 3 Mar 07
Valvo	Frank A. "Tony"	46 Massachusetts Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14213-2132	5th RCT	H	49-50	Korea	Gloria	Unknown; Rec'd Purple Heart & Silver Star
Van Landuyt	John	1611 Powers Rd.	Woodstock	IL	60098-2770	34th Inf	H	unk	Korea	Alice	Died 14 Nov 05
Vielbig	James R.	2158 NE Irwin Rd	Weatherby	MO	64497-9164	5th RCT	I	unk	Korea	Ethel	Died 25 Oct 06
Whitaker	Charles L.	914 Caugh Pike	Cincinnati	OH	45245-21 Inf	Med		unk	Korea	unk.	Died 15 Jan 07 POW
Whittle, Jr.	Floyd T. "Jack"	900 Shiloh Rd	Saluda	SC	29138-8100	21st Inf		52-54	Korea	Christine	Died 27 Jun 07
Wright	Leonard	2615 Embury Park Rd.	Dayton	OH	45414-5101	19th Inf	L	51-52	Korea	Cynthia	Died 14 Oct 06



"Hey, where ya from, buddy?" The Bob Kadrlik Story, *by Mel Behnen*

I had just finished a very sad email to Wes Morrison advising him that I received a very SAD call from Darlene Kadrlik that her husband Robert (Bob) Kadrlik, an Army Buddy and good friend of mine, passed away on May 14 at 6:00 AM, the result of an auto accident added to other lingering health issues.

I went on to tell Wes the details of Bob's services. But then I left my mind wander back to my friend's Korean War Story.

I first met Bob Kadrlik at Ft. Carson, Colorado, in November of 1950 during basic training. All I knew of him was that he was from some little town south of Minneapolis by the name of Veseli.

We shipped to Korea together, but got split up after getting off the boat one night at Pusan. That was the last I saw Bob until after I came home from Korea, and was assigned to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, when lo and behold, in March of 1952, I ran into him again, this time in McCoy.

Over a couple of beers one evening, he told of finding one of his wounded fellow GI's as his unit was hurriedly "advancing to the rear."

He told the wounded GI that he'd send a Medic for him. But Bob couldn't find a Medic so, he told his Squad Leader that he was going back to get this



Bob Kadrlik, right, meets Jim McCabe, center, for the first time since Bob carried a badly wounded Jim to the aid station 45 years earlier in North Korea. Mel Behnen, author of this article, is at the left. Bob and Jim were both with Fox Co. 19th and Mel was with the 3rd Engineers, all served in Korea in 1951.

wounded man "before the Chinks could get him."

When he got back to the GI, Bob asked the wounded man: "How bad is your leg?" The unknown GI replied: "I might be able to hobble with your help if I can hang onto your shoulder."

Bob slung both their M1's over his other shoulder, got the wounded man to his one good foot, and they began their journey to the aid station, a couple of miles to the rear.

Shells were constantly going overhead and when the eerie whine of one screamed too close, they both hit the dirt. They didn't speak to each other as time after time they had to sprawl flat, except for Bob constantly muttering: "We'll make it Buddy."

Much later, they hobbled into a Medic Station, Bob with two good legs and his buddy with one and a handicap.

There was a Jeep litter wagon at the station, with a driver already in place and the engine running. Bob asked if he had room, and the driver said: "There's room here on this empty litter next to that dead man, put your friend there and hurry."

Bob, slid his new friend on the litter along side the dead GI, and stepped back to catch his breath.

In that instant, the Jeep's driver roared the engine and lurched forward.

Surprised, Bob yelled after the man he had just put on the litter: "Hey, where ya from,



I'm From Minneapolis

buddy?" The wounded man yelled back: "Minneapolis." Bob yelled: "I'm from South Saint Paul!"

Bob and I were discharged July 24, 1952. When I had been home on furlough earlier I had bought a new 52 Chevrolet, and so when we finally were free to leave, I offered to take Bob and a mutual friend, Elmo Arnold, with me to Minneapolis, where I had a dinner date with my girl friend, Bernice.

She had taken off work to prepare dinner for me; it was her 21st birthday!

I dropped Bob off at his parents home in Veseli, and then dropped Elmo off at his sister's place in south Minneapolis. From there I went to 3241 Columbus Ave South, a young ladies rooming house run by a nice widow, Eva, where Bernice was waiting for me with that first scrumptious dinner (we have had many, many more in the ensuing life we shared together).

Over the years Bob would always say: "I just wonder if the wounded soldier I carried out made it back home OK?"

24th IDA MN Reunion

Then in August of 1996, the 24th Infantry Division Association was having its reunion in Bloomington, MN. I called Bob and said: "Come on Bob, let's go to the Reunion. We'll post your name on the Bulletin Board where you can say that you are looking for the Minneapolis GI

you helped off the hill in Korea on July 12, 1951."

Bob took me up on the offer and we both attended the Reunion; Bob indeed posted his "looking for" message on the bulletin board in the Hospital-ity Room.

About a week later my phone rang. It was Bob's wife Darlene. "Bob is still asleep" she said excitedly, "But I want you to know what happened last night. Bob had trouble sleeping so I've not disturbed him this morning."

The Phone Call Bob Wanted for 45 Years!

Bob and Darlene's phone had rung and Bob answered. The caller enquired: "Were you a Medic in Korea in July 1951?" Bob replied: "Well, no, but why do you ask?"

The voice on the phone became discouraged and said: "I was so sure that I had found the guy who saved my life." Bob said: "What do you mean."

The voice on the phone then began to tell Bob about how this GI found him wounded and unable to walk on his own. He said the GI said he would send a Medic, but instead he came back for me himself.

As the caller's story continued to unfold, Bob soon realized that this was indeed the GI he had helped off the hill more than 45 years ago.

Bob interrupted: "Let me finish!"

When I put you in the Litter Jeep, it began to speed away, and I yelled: "Where are you from, buddy?" You replied, "Minneapolis." And I yelled: "I'm from South Saint Paul."

The GI Bob had saved was Jim McCabe, and he indeed was from Minneapolis, and indeed he had made it home OK.

Bob and Jim were both with Fox Company, 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, but they were in different squads and didn't know each other.

They finally met shortly after the telephone call at a Minnesota Korean War Veterans Reunion on the 13th of Sept, 1996. It was Jim's wife, Bonnie's, Birthday.

Jim and Bonnie, who now live in the Anoka, MN area just outside Minneapolis, Bob and Darlene, and Bernice and I have been getting together regularly ever since!

Sorry that this got so lengthy, but I just had to offer one more tribute to my very good friend and Korean War 24th Division friend, Bob Kadrlik.

Sadly, Bob's wife Darlene also passed away in last July (2007), I'm very sorry to report.

May they rest in Peace.

Thanks

Mel and Bernice Behnen
8341 Lyndale Ave. South
Bloomington, MN 55420

Mel served with Co A 3rd
Engrs, 24th Div, Korea, 1951.



WWII ORPHANS VISIT FATHERS' PHILIPPINE GRAVESITES

By Dianne Wiegand Baczynski, Novato, Marin County, Ca.

In 1956, Congress declared nearly 200,000 American children "war orphans" thereby providing college and other benefits similar to what their fathers would have been entitled to – had they returned from World War II.

On May 24, 2007, fifteen of us orphans, whose fathers were killed or declared missing in action, traveled to the Philippines to see for ourselves where our fathers fought and died in World War II. The trip began at the Manila American Cemetery on Memorial Day, where we visited our fathers' graves. Two saw their father's names on the Wall of the Missing for the first time; one brought her mother's ashes to spread on her father's grave!

We were escorted to the Cemetery by Larry Adkison and Hubert Caloud of the American Battle Monuments Commission, and were greeted by U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenny, by Leslie Murray of the American Chamber of Commerce, and members of the American Association of the Philippines.

Most are members of the American WWII Orphans Network (AWON) (www.awon.org) an organization that was formed in 1991 by Ann Bennett Mix, whose father, Sydney Bennett, a member of the 10th Mountain Division, died in Italy in 1945. AWON supports its members through national and regional conferences, a newsletter and accessing military records. For most, just knowing another war orphan is the greatest support imaginable.

We also visited Leyte, Corregidor, Bataan and the Death March markers, as well as the Hellships Memorial, the American POW Memorial and places where POWs were held. ###

Dianne wrote: "I am an Associate Member of the 24th Infantry Division Association, and the daughter of Pvt. Frank H. Wiegand, 24th Infantry Division, 34th Infantry Regiment, Company B. He was KIA on Mindanao, The Philippines, May 9, 1945, and buried in Manila.

"I first went to the Philippines in 1970 with my husband, and joined AWON in 1998. However, this time I carried some of my mother's ashes with me. I dug around his cross and found the soil loose, so put them in there.....what a grand feeling to do that I must say, to join them together after all those years!

"We attended the Memorial Service and presented a floral display in our name (see photo below; I am the only redhead in the back row.....) to the 34,000 American GI's buried there and to the additional 17,000 names inscribed on the wall. AWON helps us find out about our fathers, and to speak their names after all these years of silence. We will never forget the experience of visiting the battle sites, and perhaps walking in our father's footsteps." Dianne Wiegand Baczynski (415) 897-2419 ###





Hampton, VA, Memorial

The Memorial shown at the right was recently dedicated at the Memorial Park in Hampton, VA.

John T. Edwards, "C" 3rd Engineer, a recent new member of the 24th IDA, and Past Department Commander of Virginia Korean War Veterans Association, is pictured with the Memorial.

Chapter 191 of the Korean War Veterans Association in Hampton, VA, collected the donations needed to build it. ###



A Corporal Father Salutes His General Son!

By John S. Elmo, George Company, 21st Infantry Regiment

In Feb. 1954, after serving the obligatory two years in the US Army, I was discharged with the rank of Corporal.

The last months of those years I served as the Company Clerk of George Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division on the island of Koji-Do, Korea, where we guarded the Communist prisoners during the last months of the war, and aided in their release after the war.

Now, 53 years later, the former draftee corporal was proud to salute his son, David, who was promoted to Brig. General in the Army Reserve. David, shown above addressing his troops at the ceremony, assumed command of the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico on September 10, 2006. The "other civilian hat" David wears is for the State Department, as the Management Counselor at the United States Embassy, Nassau, Bahama. ###



Springfield, MA, War Monument

Rudy Kardynal, left, unveiling a Korean War Monument in the Court Square at Springfield, MA. Rudy served in Korea with the 6th Tank Battalion from 1950-1951. His tank was attached to Company F, 21st Infantry Regiment in 1950, and that's where he & I became good friends. Wes Morrison.

Sheridan Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany

Below is an image of Sheridan Kaserne in Augsburg during 2005; the image is from Google Earth. Most 24th Infantry Divisions members who served there will recognize the parade field in the middle. From there, they can remember where they were billeted.

On the right side of the parade field was a mess hall and the HQ Support Command during the period of Jan 1964 through Sept 1966. on the left side was a mess hall for the other side of the Kaserne. The main gate was on the right side of the parade field 1" north and 1" to the right side. The 24th Infantry Division was a reserve division in Germany during this time.

I worked in the Transportation Office on Sheridan Kaserne. We had the responsibility to coordinate convoys to the training areas mostly, Hoenfels and Grafenwehr, that operate to this day. We also had the responsibility to get all military freight moving from the 24th Infantry Division back to the USA.



By July 2007, Sheridan Kaserne has been completely torn down, all 163 acres of it. The City of Augsburg is going to convert this land into an industrial park complex and shopping areas.

The only buildings that will remain on Sheridan Kaserne will be the Chapel and the Officers Club building. Other kaserns in Augsburg that have been torn down are Infantry Kaserne, Flak Kaserne, and Gablingen Kaserne. Reese Kaserne is the only Kaserne remaining.

Thought maybe you would like to know. Thomas M. Appler, Life Member, tom-steph@comcast.net, 410-876-1451 (H)



Verbeck Gate, Fort Devens, Massachusetts



On October 28, 1967, Verbeck Gate was dedicated to the memory of Major General William Verbeck, one of the many commanders at Fort Devens.

Fort Devens Historic District is a fine and well preserved example of the United States Army post planning of the standardized building types constructed between 1929 and 1940. It includes important landscape structures that relate to its broad plan and contribute to the setting of the District. This permanent cantonment gives a sense of time and place. It is a clear connection to the City Beautiful and Garden City planning of that period. There is a pleasing harmony between the Georgian Revival red brick structures and the sturdy, simple, native landscaping of pine, oak, maple, black walnut, elm and other low maintenance material. The 103 contributing properties on the 300 acres at the main Entrance at Verbeck Gate were placed on the National Register of Historic Districts in 1991.

Major General William J. Verbeck Commanded the 21st Infantry Regiment during the Leyte, Mindoro and Mindinao Campaigns, and also served as Chief of Staff of the 24th Infantry Division. General Verbeck, for whom the Verbeck Bowl Award was named, was President of our Association in 1963 - 1964. Picture was furnished by Past President Al McAdoo, and Historical information obtained by Past President Wes Morrison.



Looking For

Manier, Robert S. (aka Bobbie or Floogie) **G Company, 21st Infantry Regiment**, July 5, 1951, North Korea. Family members say: "We've been told that Bobby (we called him Floogie) was severely wounded, and was being carried along a road by four stretcher bearers. They were ambushed by the Chinese, nothing is known of Bobby and the bearers since. We would very much appreciate any information your members might be able to provide us on this incident – where, action, etc.; it would help ease our concerns."

If you have any knowledge of this July 5, 1951, event, please contact: Ted, 352-750-9531, 3457 Carbondale Ct., The Villages, FL 32162, (Or you may contact the Editor, *Taro Leaf*)

Detail: ROBERT SALOM MANIER, G Co. 21st Inf Regt 24th Infantry Division, Army, Hostile, Died While Captured (POW), Date of Loss July 5, 1951, PFC - E3, Service Number US53024555 MOS 04745, Home of Record, Nashville, Davidson County, TN, Place of Loss: North Korea, Year of Birth: 1928, Caucasian, Family DNA Obtained.

#####



Can You Identify Anyone in photo of Company B, 13th FA Bn at Camp Hakata, Japan, Date Unknown, Right side of photo continued on next page.



Looking For

Jeovani Abenoja, Grandson of **Pacifico G. Abenoja**, is looking for information on and about his Grandfather, who was a former member of the 24th Infantry Marching Band. Anyone with any information may contact Jeovani at the following email address: walnut_creeker@yahoo.com

#####

D. Vandergrift is looking for information on his uncle, **Elmer Scroggins** who was from Tennessee and served with the 24th ID on Luzon. Scroggins received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart; his records were destroyed by fire. He can be contacted at: DVandergrift@friscofire.com."

#####



If you can identify anyone from this undated photo of Company B, 13th FA Bn, please contact Wes Morrison, wesm8@aol.com, (831) 883-2156, left portion on previous page.



Looking For

Dale Mansfield is looking for information about his brother **Donald Jensen**, who was 18 when Dale was born in 1951. Dale had a hand-painted scroll picture, which he thinks was done in Korea or Japan; it showed Donald in uniform clearly displaying 24th Division's Taro Leaf patch, a CIB and some ribbons. He also had a picture of Donald with a "**Roman Adrian**;" one of them had a Browning Automatic Rifle. And still another of a tank with a tiger face painted on the front, and a story and picture on the capture of General Dean. Finally, he remembers another picture of two soldiers running along a ditch, the one in front a corporal, and the one following has his helmet tipped at an angle and is carrying ammo boxes. Family lore had it that the one following was Donald. If anyone has any information about Donald Jensen, please contact Dale at **dalemansfield@cox.net**

#####

Gary Morris is trying to find anyone who knew his brother, **John (Jack) C. Morris, Jr. III**, who was in "**E**" **Company, 19th Infantry Regiment** of the 24th Division. His Service Number is: RA 19340024, and he arrived in Korea in Jul 1950. He was listed as MIA on 31 Jul 1950 and this later was changed to KIA on 8 Aug 1950. His status was POW, and his name appeared on the "944 List." Gary has information that while Jack's POW group was being marched to the Pyongyang Prison Camp, they were strafed by American Planes. Jack was wounded, and died yet that night. Some persons possibly with Jack at the time were MSgt. Mistretta, Serial # RA 31 230 077, and another whose name Gary does not know whose Serial No. is RA 6 939 645. Gary says that he has found that his brother's remains are located in the vicinity of Pyongyang, North Korea, but that our Government does not have permission to access the site. He would like to find out if there is anyone left that served with Jack and would have any information or memories that they would care to share with him. He also wishes to bring Jack's remains home for burial. Contact: Gary Morris, E-Mail: Goin-tel@cox.net, 6109 East Campo Bello Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

#####

Chris Davies is looking for information on his father, **Jack N. Davies**, who served with the 24th ID during WWII. Only information he has is that his father received the Bronze Star and was a Radioman during the Corregidor landing. Chris can be contacted by email: cpdavies@localnet.com

#####

Tom Thiel is looking for **Robert W. Wilson**, originally from Alpena, MI, with whom he served with in "**E**" **Company, 19th Infantry Regiment**, from about Apr to Dec of 1951, in the Central Sector of North Korea. Wilson is holding the 57mm Recoilless Rifle in the photo at the right. Please contact Tom at (352) 357-3943 or at tthiel5@comcast.net

#####





Sowers, Kenneth C. I am seeking anyone who served in the 24th Infantry Division, 19th Infantry Regiment, Company "D;" Kenneth was my brother, and I am trying to find out what his MOS was and what he did on 16 Jul 1950. He was killed on that day on the Kum River. You may send me a letter with your phone number, and I will call you so it won't cost you. Contact L.H. SOWERS, 614 S. Garfield, Hastings, NE 68901." From *Military* magazine, July 2007 issue; submitted by Bill Roseboro.



#####

Gene E. Spicer. I am looking for a buddy of mine originally from **Fort Wayne, IN**, whose name unfortunately I cannot recall. We served together with the 24th Infantry's 19th Regiment. The 1951 photo at the left shows me on the left and my friend on the right. Please contact: Gene Spicer, 8937 W. 750 N, Commiskey, IN, 47227-9345, 812 273-6996, email gspicer@seidata.com

#####

Vander Heide, Col. H. J., was Commanding Officer of the 21st "Gimlets" Regiment on and about 4 November 1951. Anyone knowing the current whereabouts of Col. Vander Heide is requested to please contact member **Robert Ruane**, who was with the 21st Regiments "Gimlets" at that time, and who wishes to contact him. He would be most appreciative of your help. Robert Ruane, 323 Ferdinand St., Scranton, PA 18508-2733, (570) 346-6362.

#####

Third Platoon Heavy Mortar Co. 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Division. **Lee A Walker**, who was platoon Sgt., is looking for former members of the unit from 1953 – 1954. Lee says: "I'm proud that as NCOIC on July 26, 1953, at the 38th Parallel, I received the call to "cease fire at midnight." He continues: "Also in January 1954 the Heavy Mortar Co. put up all the squad tents (4 not counting ours) to release the Korean POWs at Freedom Bridge at the 38th. It was so cold we had to use a jack hammer to put the tent pegs in the ground, also the Red Cross found me to inform me that my oldest daughter was born on the 14 Jan. The 34th also guarded Korean POWs at Pusan P.W. Camp #2." Any member of this platoon, please contact Lee A Walker, 3720 Adams St., Apt. 213-C, Riverside, CA, 92504-3329, ggleewalker@hotmail.com

THE TARO LEAF
VOL. 61, NOS. 3 & 4
Will be Published in
Early December.
Please Send Your
Stories, Articles, Pic-
tures, and Any Other
Items You'd Like
Published.
NOW!



Another 24th Division MOH? – The Woody Keeble Story

by Merry Helm, Writers Guild of America

The 24th Division is poised to have yet another hero added to its Medal of Honor recipients. The Secretary of Defense has officially recommended Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble's Distinguished Service Cross be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. The case is now at the Whitehouse awaiting President Bush's final approval.

"Woody" was a full-blood Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (Dacotah Sioux) born in Waubay, SD, on May 16, 1917. When he was a young child, his family moved to Wahpeton, ND, where his mother, Nancy Shaker-Keeble, worked at the Indian Boarding School.

Nancy died when Woody was only nine. Isaac, his father, was so impoverished he decided to permanently enroll his children in the school, so they would be assured three meals a day.

Anybody who knew Keeble will immediately tell you the man was "huge" – tall, heavy and barrel-chested. As one veteran put it, Keeble's arms were "as big around as my thighs."

Brigadier General Duane E. Holly (US Army ret.) also grew up in Wahpeton. He was younger than Woody but fondly remembers him as being a "like a big happy bear."

Fellow Korean War veteran Alva Odle recalls Woody would "wrestle with us and roll us around like a big old bear. He never hurt us, he'd just roll us around."

These bear references are ironically fitting. Keeble's Indian name was Mato Sapa or Black Bear.

Despite his large size, Keeble was surprisingly nimble and was an outstanding athlete. In fact, he was being scouted by the Chicago White Sox when WWII interrupted a promising pitching



career. His fastball wouldn't go to waste, however. As veteran Ervin Koehler says, "He was the hand grenade man. Boy he could hit!"

Guadalcanal

Keeble was a member of North Dakota's 164th Army National Guard, which became part of the Americal Division, fighting in the South Pacific.

The 164th's maiden combat experience took place on Guadalcanal, where they were the first reinforcements for the 1st Marines. The 7th Regiment had fought the Japanese to a stalemate by mid-October 1942 and was woefully low on supplies and men.



Members of the 164th grew up in the dust bowl of the Great Depression. They were tough and they knew how to survive. Most were handy with guns.

Immediately upon their arrival on Guadalcanal, the 164th was thrust into one of the war's most horrific battles. In the first five days, the unit lost 117 men during enemy naval bombardment that one hardened Marine confessed was the most terrifying experience of his life.

Marine Lt. Gen. "Chesty" Puller was holding the 164th's third battalion (including Keeble's Co. I) in reserve; he planned to use them in a "quiet" sector once they adjusted to combat.

However, a Japanese Sendai Division had been quietly moving overland behind them. Their objective was recapturing an American-held airstrip named Henderson Field.

The Sendai's surprise attack came against the Americans' rear perimeter, right where Puller was holding Keeble's battalion.

Historians Jerry Cooper and Glen Smith write, "The night of 25 October 1942 will live forever in the memories of those who fought in the biggest battle waged on Guadalcanal. The Japanese came from both west and south in numbers hitherto unequaled."

The Japanese came blowing bugles and screaming "banzai."

Keeble's battalion, still untested, was brought in to fend off the attackers. Pouring rain made the night black as pitch. Following Marines who knew the terrain, the new men held onto each other's packs to keep from going astray. The Marines placed Keeble and his fellow soldiers all along the rear perimeter, told them where to aim and to shoot until ordered to stop.

Dawn revealed a gory pileup of countless Japanese lying before the new boys. In response to their excellent performance, the 3rd battalion of the "164th Marines" received a Presidential Unit Citation.

Korea, 19th Infantry Regiment

The 164th was recalled in January 1951 to train at Camp Rucker, AL. As his men would attest, Keeble was not a garrison soldier; he was a warrior and a natural born leader. He soon volunteered for a front-line MOS in Korea, saying, "Somebody has to teach those kids how to fight."

Keeble joined George Co, 19th Regiment August 15, 1951. Seven days later, the truce talks broke down, and the autumn "limited objective" offensives began.

MSGT Keeble was leading the 1st platoon when the 24th jumped off on its fall push October 13th. The battle, called Operation Nomad-Polar, was brutal. American casualties per day exceeded the rate of almost all other UN offensives that fall, including Heartbreak Ridge.

The 24th ID (with an attached Columbian Battalion) was flanked by the 2nd and 6th ROK divisions, stretching along a 22-mile front. The overall objective was to capture the Communist supply center of Kumsong.

The second battalion, 19th Reg, jumped off on the 15th. The following weeks would severely test George Company. Keeble told his men it was worse than Guadalcanal.

Morning reports confirm Keeble was wounded on the 15th, 17th and 20th. For his actions on the 18th, he received a Silver Star.

Several men recall that on the 19th, they discovered Keeble wandering into camp dazed, covered in blood and asking for more men.



Dale Dicke says, "I had never seen him look defeated before. It was the first time I ever saw him look his real size, instead of larger than life."

Keeble was almost sheepish about admitting he was hit by a concussion grenade the previous day. Dicke made Keeble strip off his clothes and found his entire body covered with "little splintery holes like buckshot."

Another G Co. man, Mario Iezzoni, recalls it took a lot of pressuring to get Keeble to go to the aid station. Iezzoni says they removed 83 pieces of shrapnel from Keeble's body.

The following morning, 20 October, Keeble's platoon jumped off without him. Medic Dale Selby wrote, in 1955, that he urged Keeble, who everybody called "the Chief," to stay back because he also had a badly injured knee.

But Keeble never let his men go into battle without him at the lead. Dicke ended up giving Keeble a ride to the front, where he began the steep climb up what the *New York Times* labeled "Fortress Mountain" (Hill 770: Objective King).

It was the 2nd Battalion's sixth day of round-the-clock combat. Fox Company had been nearly annihilated the previous day, and survivors had to be joined with George Company for the assault. To their right was Easy Company, and other regimental companies were scaling the mountain to their left. Howe Company backed the second battalion with heavy weapons.

Enemy resistance was maniacal. It would not be confirmed until later, but the enemy command post and winter quarters were dug into the other side of the mountain.

Hill 770 was ringed with deep concentric trenches from bottom to top, interspersed with numerous machine-gun bunkers. The 2nd platoon (assault unit) reached the base of a knoll near the top in the early afternoon. Here, they were stopped by small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and grenades. Within a very short time, the entire company was pinned down.

Keeble crept forward to size up the situation. Above them were three triangulated machine-gun bunkers backed by 2 trenches of enemy riflemen.

MOH Papers Lost; Receives DSC

1st Sergeant Kosumo "Joe" Sagami wrote, in his recommendation that Keeble receive the Medal of Honor: "Realizing the peril of the situation, [Keeble] decided upon immediate action. Hugging the ground, he moved out from the Second Platoon positions toward the enemy emplacements.

"He successfully reached a small bit of cover approximately ten (10) yards from the nearest position, armed a grenade and hurled it into



the emplacement, rendering the weapon useless and killing the three (3) enemy occupants.

“He then continued his one-man assault and succeeded in destroying the second position in the same manner, killing three (3) more enemy defenders. The remaining emplacement brought terrific fire to bear on him, but he continued to advance unscathed.

“In desperation, the Chinese defenders began throwing concussion and fragmentation grenades down on him in an attempt to turn him back. Undaunted, he attempted to heave his remaining grenade into the emplacement, but it missed the mark. He then assaulted it again with his M-1 rifle but was knocked to the ground by a concussion grenade and temporarily stunned. He rolled behind the cover of some rocks until he regained his senses. Then, painfully, he made a second assault, this time successful, killing the three (3) occupants and rendering the position harmless.

“Motioning for the Second Platoon to join him, he began a series of close-in rifle battles with enemy defenders in nearby trenches. By the time the Second Platoon had reached him, he had killed seven (7) more enemy riflemen and practically neutralized the enemy stronghold. The destruction of these key positions was the deciding factor in the battle for the strategic objective and undoubtedly resulted in many friendly lives being saved.”

Sagami later wrote that Keeble’s wounds would have normally sent him stateside, but because the company was so short of men, Keeble was returned to duty. “Upon returning to the Company and reporting to me I could not help but notice that his wounds were still bleeding in the most part,” Sagami wrote. “He had to exert himself to raise his weapon and forced to limp with his crippled legs.”

Eight eye-witnesses signed the recommendation that Keeble receive the MOH. Sagami wrote: “Unfortunately the recommendation

was lost in the Awards and Decoration Section of the Division. Again the Recommendation was submitted in the month of December 51. Again the papers were lost this time during the move of the Regiment to Japan.”

When the men tried to submit the recommendation again, they were told it was too late. The 24th Division had filled its quota of Medal of Honor recipients. Keeble was instead awarded a Distinguished Service Cross a year later.

MOH Resurrected

Much could be written about the efforts to get the DSC upgraded to the MOH in the ensuing years. Many friends, veterans, tribal members, organizations and political figures have joined the effort over the years. Slow – painfully slow – progress has been made.

Sadly, the award will be posthumous; Keeble died in 1982 due to complications from war-related injuries and illness. His first wife preceded him in death in 1956. Earl, their only child, died in 1986.

Woody’s second wife, Blossom Hawkins-Keeble, was determined to outlast Washington’s bureaucratic behemoth to accept the Medal of Honor on her husband’s behalf, but she succumbed to a failed heart June 3, 2007.

It has been predicted President Bush will likely sign off on Keeble’s Medal of Honor within 90 days. Given past experience, this time frame is improbable unless pressure is brought to bear.

Interested parties may write to President Bush and/or First Lady Laura Bush, asking for a quick resolution of this case:

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

© Merry Helm, 2007.



The Eddie Ko Story (Part I), *by Eddie Ko*

(Reproduced with permission from the Graybeards, July-August, 2006, pp. 20-23.)

Editor's note: I first met Choon Kyung Ko in May 2007, at a Department of Florida Korean War Veterans Association Convention in Sebring, FL; I had the very good fortune to have lunch with him. Only I knew him as Eddie Ko.

We met again on July 27, also this year, at a Korean War Armistice Day Memorial at The Villages, FL, where Eddie was the featured speaker (*Right: Eddie Ko speaking at The Villages*).

This time I learned something more special about Eddie – the 24th Infantry Division was in his past. He said he spent two years with the 24th! That will be the subject of a future *TARO LEAF* article; but for now, please let me introduce you to my friend, Eddie Ko!

The Eddie Ko Story as told by Eddie himself.

My father was a Christian missionary and my Mother was a teacher. I loved and respected them dearly. Besides the love I had for them, my next greatest love was for Rex, my playful dog.

From the first to the third grade, Rex escorted me to and from school each day in my hometown near Seoul, Korea. At that time, Korea had not been divided into South Korea and North Korea.

Rex was mostly black, with a white patch on his side that was shaped somewhat like Korea.

Rex would always be waiting for me when I got out of school each day. Our walk home was comforting to me, for I knew that Rex would take care of me. We would run and play together. So, I never gave it a thought that anything or anyone would hurt my dog.

One day I could not find Rex. I searched everywhere I could think of, but I did not have any luck. My father told me I should not worry. However, I had heard some alarming news that the Japanese soldiers were rounding up all the dogs they could find, because the dogs were beginning to bite and attack people due to loud noises caused by the gun fire and bombs exploding all around.

I feel that the ordinary American GI is the world's greatest hero.

I knew that Rex would not bite anyone. I tried to cling to some assurance from my father. On one of my days of searching, I



was walking along the riverbank when I saw a sight that made me sick to my stomach.

I saw hundreds of dog pelts draped over clotheslines and drying in the sun. I asked a soldier standing near by why the skins were there.

"Dog fur," he replied. "We're going to turn the pelts into coats and gloves for the Japanese army in Manchuria." I had to force myself to go farther, for I had to know. Then, across one of the lines, I spotted a black pelt with a white spot shaped like



Korea. I could never express to anyone, not even my mother and father, how my heart ached over the loss of my beloved Rex.

I was not only hurt, but I was livid with anger. That night, I could not sleep. All I could think of was the sight I had seen beside the riverbank. I slipped out of bed, took my father's straight-edged razor, and sneaked out of the house. I carefully and quietly raced to the riverbank. I was crying almost uncontrollable. In my rage I slashed every single pelt, rendering them useless. It didn't bring Rex back to me, but I could never let them use Rex's pelt to keep them warm.

The next day, outraged Japanese officials put up wanted posters, offering a reward for the capture of the person or persons who had done this. Afraid I would be identified and caught; I confessed to my father what I had done. The soldiers were going door to door searching for a young boy, about eight to twelve years old, who someone had described as running from the riverbank.

Father did not want the soldiers to find or question me, so he sent me to live with a family in a remote village 100 miles away.

My parents had built a church and a school for the farmers there. I remained there for two years, until the end of World War II. I came back home, thinking everything would be better, and they were-for a while.

I enjoyed school and learning to speak English from passing American missionaries who of-

ten spent the night with my family.

The more English I knew, the more I dreamed of one day going to America.

However, in June of 1950, the North Korean Army invaded South Korea, slaughtering thousands of innocent civilians, including doctors, lawyers, missionaries, teachers - and my parents.

I was only thirteen years old and all alone. I moved in with friends for comfort and shelter. I missed my mother and father.

I longed to see and talk with them again, but I knew I would never be able to do this.

Hatred possessed me. I vowed to myself that I would one day see that someone would pay for what they had taken from me. I joined the Student Volunteer Army. It was an anti-communist group of 12 teenage spies headed by a South Korean officer with close ties to the U.S. military.

After a two-week training course, my first assignment was to find out the enemy troop strength on an island fortress outside the harbor of Inchon. By pretending to be a hungry orphan, I hung around the fort to gather information for the Americans. The fort was one of several small islands that protected the harbor of the South Korean city of Inchon.

I would offer my made-up stories of how I was orphaned and hungry. This would always catch them off guard. I would then

follow up with innocent questions:

"How long have you been in the army? Where did you come from? Do you have a family?" When I had gained their attention and friendship, I would go further with my questions and remarks. "Gee, I bet there are over two hundred soldiers on this island." There are not many of these small islands, maybe 150 total.

Pretending, I timidly pointed to a bunker and asked, "Can I fire one of those machine guns?" The soldier shook his head. "They're not ready yet," he said. "We still have to bring more of them in and secure them.

Come back in a couple of weeks. Maybe we'll let you look at them and shoot one for fun." I knew I had to remember all this, for I could not risk writing anything down, but I was learning that the North Koreans had yet to set up their full defenses.

Some people seem to believe that freedom is free, but if you ask the veterans and their families, they will tell you that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Later, I slipped away and hopped onto a sampan (a flat-bottomed boat) that took me to another island. There I met with South Korean agent, Kim Nam Sun, who was working for the U.S. Navy. I told him what I had been told by the North Koreans. A few days later, I was



jarred awake. Running outside my friend's home, I saw an awesome sight in the distance. I recognized firepower being unleashed on North Korea.

More than 300 ships, boats and landing craft were unloading an assault force of several thousand troops who took the unprepared enemy by surprise. I felt good to think that I had done my part. The loud machine guns were sounding out everywhere.

With the information we provided, the U.S. military's surprise attack was carried out in September 1950, in the early days of the Korean War. The Communist-led North Koreans had attacked South Korea, crushing most everything and everyone in their path. Rushing to the aid of the poorly trained and ill-equipped South Koreans, the United States' military, with assistance from the United Nations, leapt into the conflict with ground, naval and air power.

The fighting was fierce and more troops were still needed to drive out the North Koreans. The U.S. forces recaptured Seoul and moved west to meet other U.S. forces landing at Wonson. After Seoul was retaken, I was given passwords to identify myself to the Americans. It might be "Yankee Stadium" or "Marilyn Monroe," or maybe "Cherokee Indians." I headed north with another "runner." However, in a short time, he was killed, along with his parents who were Christian missionaries.

Another rage of anger surged through me. I then decided to work alone. I moved very fast and used techniques that worked

for me. I traveled by foot for days, sleeping in barns and covered pits, six feet square and five feet deep, where farmers stored their vegetables.

The weather was cold and snow had begun to fall. In village after village I would tell the North Korean soldiers my tales of woe. Naturally, I would throw in some tears to get sympathy. It worked every time when I told them I was cold and hungry. Aiming his gun at me the soldier growled,

"Who are you and what do you want?"

"My name is Choon Kyung Ko," I replied.

"My parents were killed last month when our village was under attack, and I am hungry and tired. I have no place to go.

Please, oh please, won't you help me?" Tears were flooding down my cheeks.

I haven't eaten in two days. Please?" The soldier took me over to a nearby tent and gave me some rice and dried fish.

I repeatedly thanked him as I wiped my tears with the back of my hand. I actually wasn't suffering from hunger pains or from heartache. This was all a trick to get into the fort of the enemy - a battalion of the North Korean army. I was only fourteen years old, and I had conned my way inside to carry out a dangerous mission as a spy for the United

States Army. (TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE *TARO LEAF*)

Eddie Ko can be reached at P.O. Box 1159, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639 (813) 949-1251

The *Taro Leaf* expresses sincere appreciation to The Korean War Veterans Association, and to *Graybeards* Editor, Art Sharp, for permission to reprint this article.### Below: Eddie Ko, right, with *TARO LEAF* Editor, Tom Thiel.



Night satellite view of the Korean Peninsula.



~~~ Reunions ~~~

~~~~~

## **2008 – 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**

Hawthorn Park Hotel, Springfield, MO.

17-21 September, 2008

Wesley R. Morrison - 21st Inf., Reunion Coordinator

452 Gloria Circle

Marina, CA 93933-4027

Tel. & FAX: 831-883-2156

Email: [wesm8@aol.com](mailto:wesm8@aol.com)

~~~~~

24th Infantry Division West Coast Reunion

Ramada Inn Express, Laughlin, NV (1-1/2 hrs from Las Vegas Airport)

March 2008

Byrd R Schrock, Reunion Coordinator

1009 Mesquite Drive

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292

(520) 678-0207

byrd2a@cox.net

~~~~~

## **2007 – Camp Breckinridge 3rd Reunion**

**Oct. 2-3, 2007, Morganfield, KY.**

For all who were stationed at Breckinridge during its 25-year life,  
and their spouses, families, and friends.

James D. Veatch Camp Breckinridge Museum & Arts Center

[www.breckinridge-arts.org](http://www.breckinridge-arts.org)

Vicki Ricketts (270) 389-4420

[campbreckinridge@bellsouth.net](mailto:campbreckinridge@bellsouth.net)

~~~~~

The Association Quartermaster has a new phone number. Please place all Quartermaster calls to (520) 678-0207. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP. Byrd R Schrock, 24th IDA Quartermaster.



19th Infantry Taro Leafers Reunite for First Time at Indy!

Indianapolis, IN, September 21, 2006.

Taro Leafers from the 19th Infantry Regiment (from left): Don Vail, H. Co., Tom Thiel and Mel Frederick, E. Co., and Joe O'Connell, also H. Co., get together for first time in more than 50 years.

Mel and Tom last saw each other in February of 1952 at Camp Haugen, Japan, when Tom departed for the states, and Tom and Don last saw each other in August 1952 in Camp Roberts, CA, where they shared a cadre room while both were completing their military tours of duty. Joe and Don have been regularly attending H-Co. reunions in Missouri.



All four second battalion members and Association Life Members saw extensive action in the Kumsong, North Korea area, especially during Operation Nomad in October 1951. Don hails from nearby McCordsville, IN, Tom from Eustis, FL, Mel from Owatonna, MN, and Joe from Warminster, PA. Contacts: Mel Frederick, (507) 455-1639, Don Vail, (317) 335-3715, Joe O'Connell, (215) 672 6799, and Tom Thiel, (352) 357-3943.

Journalist Merry Helm Holds On-Camera Interviews at Indy

Merry Helm, a Fargo, ND, free-lance journalist, conducted on-camera interviews with members on their October 1951 experiences in the 24th's Operation Nomad-Polar. While researching the Woody Keeble MOH story (see page 32), Merry became so intensively absorbed that she abandoned a promising career in Public Radio to report on the 24th's actions.



In photo at left, Merry is 3rd from the left, and David Derry, is at far right (the others are identified above). David, also with George Co. 19th, was an eye-witness to Woody Keeble's brave actions during Operation Nomad.

Merry is applying her experience with writing television movies to two film projects about the 24th Division's actions during

October 1951; a documentary about MSGT Woodrow Keeble, and a feature film about Korea in the summer and fall of 1951. If you participated in Operation Nomad-Polar, she would very much welcome your personal story.

With the help of Tom Thiel and Joe O'Connell, Merry is also compiling a comprehensive database of awards, casualties, and company designations of all Korean War 24th ID veterans. She would appreciate any assistance you can provide her for this effort, including copies of unit rosters, and help in identifying men by company. You may contact Merry Helm at: 701-293-5045 or (mhelm@cablone.net), and David Derry, 731-742-4367. ###



CANNONIER KOREA: My Time with the 63rd Artillery in July 1950

James William Bolt

My name is James William Bolt; I am 77 years old and I live in Laurens, South Carolina. I joined the Army in April of 1948, took basic at Fort Jackson, spent some time at Ft. Dix, and then in August 1949, went to the 63rd Artillery in Japan.

I received my Artillery training on the job from a good Sergeant by the name of "Barefoot" who ran a tight Firing Battery. In late August of '49, we went to the island of Kyushu near the city of Fukuoka, to an old seaplane base called Camp Hakata.

We had a movie club and a grand beach, where I spent most of my off duty time. What a great life! I was just going on 21, and a PFC.

But that all changed suddenly in July 1950, when we were called to defend freedom in a place I had hardly heard of, Korea! LST's carried us and our worn-out equipment to Pusan on the morning of July 6.

We arrived in the combat area the next afternoon; it was a dry riverbed just south of Chonan. We moved into a firing position and dug in for the fight that was soon to come.

Our 63rd field Artillery Battalion was armed with 105mm Howitzers, and we were in support of the 34th Infantry Regiment.

On the first fire mission, I was sent to one of the other Howitzer crews to show them how to open

the ammo! I remember thinking "This is going to be a long war!"

The 24th Division was under strength; we received replacements from the 1st Cavalry, and the 7th and 25th Divisions. By the morning of the 21st most of them would be either dead or missing in action. We didn't even learn their first names!

On the morning of the 8th we got our first incoming artillery fire from the North Koreans. This lasted for about two hours until about 1100, when six of our light recon tanks came up the road. We had tanks! Now we would show those T34 tanks that chewed up the 21st and the 52nd (Task Force Smith)!

The North Korean's out-flanked our 34th, forcing it to fall back and so we also had to move back.

I was sent to set up a 2.36-inch rocket launcher anti-tank outpost in an apple orchard. Just before sundown, I heard tanks coming. They were our tanks - the two of the six that were left after engaging the bigger T34's.

We had nothing to stop the T34's. And people wonder why we didn't stand our ground!

Darkness came. I was standing on the side of the road when Major Barter, our S3, came along and told me to get on the jeep.

More troops were moving up and there was only one-way traffic so we spent the night on the

side of road. This was my first day in combat!

The morning of July 9 dawned clear; it was going to be a hot day! Major Barter came by with our new Battalion sites on a Korean 1:50,000 map sheet.

After we reached our assigned area, our Commander came by each Howitzer and told each Section Chief "Dig every thing in deep." The Kum River line was to be held at all cost!

We spent the next three days preparing our positions, putting in outposts and running wire so that our switchboard could talk with a crank of the handle. We dug high angle firing pits for each Howitzer; at the same time we fired a mission on the river line.

Above Kongju, where the Kum River makes a big bend around the city, the 34th was positioned on the left, while the L Company was to the right. There was a big gap between L Company and the 24th Recon along the river. There had been a lot of rain and the Kum River was running full to its banks

We were as ready as we could be. The new Battalion Commander, William E. Dressier, inspected the Battery on the afternoon of the 13th. In less than 24 hours he would be dead, along with his driver, Cpl McCall.

We had a day of rest; it was our first real rest in six days!



We cleaned up the best we could. We changed, washed out the dirt and sweat from our clothing and hung them to dry from the empty ammo boxes we had placed end.

Late in the day, Major Barter stopped by for a short time at the Fire Direction Center. He wanted to be sure we were firing on the same target as the Battalion. This way, all of our fire-power would be brought to bear on the same target.

While I was on Howitzer guard duty around 2300 hours, one of our outpost guards began screaming and throwing rocks at the other guards. Some of the HQ people ran him down, tied him to a stretcher, and carried him back to the rear.

The 3rd Engineers had blown the bridge over the Kum River. While we sat behind our water barrier, one of our outposts reported troop movement to the west bringing the battery to "Full Alert." But it turned out to be just another dry run.

One became edgy after being on alert for 24 hours a day and all the tension in the air. If a frog was croaking in the rice paddy and a crane flew in the frog would stop. You'd strain to see if there was human movement. This builds up over time and you're drained until you become numb to everything that goes on around you.

That morning I had a cup of black coffee, folded the clothing that I had washed the day before, washed my feet and changed my socks. It would be the last time until July 21st.

The Wire crew from HQ Battery came by and stopped for a cup of coffee. They were having trouble with the wire because the lines had been cut leaving us with no direct communications to HQ Battery. One of the men, Jimmy E Henness, told me he had switchboard duty at 1300 hours and would get a few catnaps that afternoon. He was later captured and died at the hands of the NK.

All that morning there was a Korean on the hill above the Battery. When we approached him he would wander away but he would be back on another hill as soon as we went back to our positions. We were told he was just a farmer checking his rice crop. But it seemed to me that his clothing was too clean to be a farmer. He turned out to be an advance scout from the NK 16th Division.

Since we had mistakenly had a fire-fight with the South Koreans, we had become gun shy. Our orders from above were: "DON'T SHOOT TILL THEY SHOOT AT YOU." That was fine; although when they walk into your position, it's a little too late to start a fight when they're right on top of you!

I had Telephone and Howitzer Duty from 1000 to 1200 hours. My job was to get the word out if we had a fire mission. When I was relieved at 1200 hours by one of the new men, I went over to the mess truck for chow. The cook broke open the C-ration carton and put a can of beans and franks in some boiling water to heat and also gave me a can of fruit cocktail.

We lost contact with HQ Battery a little after 1300 hours and the Battery Commander sent a jeep over with one of the new men that had arrived the night before.

Joe Duran was at the wheel and James Thomas was riding shotgun. As they left, Joe shouted, "I will try to find some extra C-rations." I wouldn't see Joe again for 54 years when I retired from the Army in 1969. He told me Thomas and a Lt. were killed in a roadblock and, though shot in the face, Joe was able to fight his way out.

I sat on the trails of the Howitzer to eat; an empty shell casing was my table. I had finished the beans and franks, and began to open my fruit cocktail. But the empty bean can slipped off and fell so, I set the cocktail can on the shell casing and bent over to retrieve the fallen can. In that instant, a sniper's bullet exploded my can of cocktail throwing sticky juice all over me! I thought for a moment that I was hit!

Men in the Battery began screaming "Sniper" and in just a short time some of them would be wounded. After the sniper fire stopped, the wounded were sent on to HQ Battery but all were killed at a roadblock on the way.

A short time later the Battery Commander came to the gun pit with a new guy; he had the bluest eyes I've ever seen! His name was Boyd Tucker. The Commander told us to go set up a 30 cal Machine Gun on the hill behind the Battery to give us covering fire if we had to fall back.



Tucker carried the gun while I carried the tripod and three boxes of ammo. I dropped the ammo and bent down on my knees to pick them up. I heard Tucker grunt. I looked up to see him turn sideways and suddenly drop to the ground.

Then all hell broke loose! Mortar rounds set fires in the pits, and in a Korean house where we had our ammo stored. I was frozen in place and a man had just died!

An NCO rushed up the hill and we set the machine gun. But it was too late. The North Koreans took over the outpost guns and they were raking the Battery with a withering fire. I went back to the Howitzer pit to pick up my small arms.

We were told to "Pull the firing lock and Fall Back." I raised the locking catch and removed the shaft and rotated the firing lock until it slid out of the breechblock.

Then I grabbed my carbine and raced up the hill. When I reached the crest, I dropped to the ground and tried to catch my breath. There were a number of men there, and we left and went down the valley. I had the machine gun in the middle to cover the flanks and we had scouts on either side.

On the morning of the 14th, the North Korean troops from the 16th Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division began crossing the Kum River below L Company on barges. Some 500 had made it across by 0900 hours.

There was an L19 aircraft spotting the troops crossing the

river, but a Yak fighter drove it out of the sky. The 11th field Artillery had been firing at that crossing for a short time until they were blinded as to what was going on in that sector. This left the crossing open for the North Korean's.

L Company pulled off the line at about 1100 hours. A Sergeant from L Company reached the 63rd and told an officer about the crossing, but the officer paid little attention. By 1300 hours, the 16th regiment slammed into the right flank of HQ and A Batteries. After taking over our outposts, they turned the outpost machine guns on HQ and A Battery. Mortars took out all communications with the other Batteries and set fires in both HQ and A Battery. By 1400 hours both Batteries were overrun.

Then the North Korean's turned their fury on B Battery. By 1500 hours the 63rd had lost 11 officers and 125 enlisted men, ten 105mm Howitzers, and 60-80 trucks and trailers. In total, their losses were 23 killed in action, 24 missing in action, and 89 prisoners of war!

We fell back to a roadblock manned by the 21st Infantry Regiment and spent the night. We put a sign on a C-ration box to the side of the road, "63 BN."

I didn't rest much that night; I drifted in and out of sleep all night long. Men were showing up without their boots, shirts or even their small arms, asking, "Have you seen so and so?"

By dawn, trucks and other vehicles arrived with four 105 Howit-

zer replacements, and ammo; we were back in the war!

As the 63rd drove away, these dejected men, with nothing but their memories of what had happened to them - what they did or did not do, only they would know for sure - let them judge themselves! Today, some are still judging themselves harshly after all this time.

We spent the next several days unsuccessfully defending our positions around Taejon. Then on 21 July, we pulled out of combat and retreated to the city of Taegu.

We looked like vagabonds. I slept most of the way. There was a small creek running through our bivouac area creating a large pool of water maybe 10-12 feet deep, just like a large swimming pool.

We dismounted and fell in to listen to the Battery Commander. A small truck drove up and handed out a package from the Red Cross. A Service Battery truck drove up and unloaded C rations. I took my ration and package and walked to the pool of water. I took off my boots and with all my clothes on waded into the water with a bar of soap. I tried scrubbing away the blood, dirt and the memories of the last 14 days.

The blood and dirt I was able to remove, but the memories won't go away. Nor do they fade. They remain with me still today; as strong now as if it had just happened. It's as if time stands still - so long ago and in a place so far away, called "The land of the morning calm." ###



24th INFANTRY DIVISION ACTION ON LUZON

By Larry Gay, George Company, 19th Infantry, 24th IDA Historian

“With the 11th Airborne Division in the drive from Nasugbu to Manila were the Second and Third Battalions of the 19th Infantry, and the Cannon Company of the 21st. Meanwhile the 34th Regimental Combat Team with the 11th and 63rd Field artillery Battalions, and the 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop were to be used in the XI Corps operation on Luzon.

The Cannon Company of the 21st Infantry won the Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding heroism and gallantry in supporting the 11th Airborne Division drive from Nasugbu to Ma-

nila. During the rapid advance its guns time after time neutralized heavily fortified positions.

The Company materially aided in breaching the outer defenses of Manila at the Genko Line (final defensive area) by pushing through heavily mined streets to destroy pillboxes and road-blocks. The men subordinated personal safety to aggressive action despite heavy casualties throughout this entire action. [....].” (24th ID History*)

Note: *Quote taken from a partial copy of a book published following World War II.

The General Order for the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the Cannon Company was in Verbeck's book about the 21st Infantry.

“General Orders
No. 68

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington 25, D.C., 14 August 1945

‘19. CANNON COMPANY, 21ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding heroism and gallantry in supporting the drive of an airborne division from Nasugbu to Manila, Philippine Islands, 31 January to 5 February 1945. On 31 January the Cannon Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, landed at Nasugbu, Luzon. It was the only armored unit in support of the airborne division at that time. When heavy resistance was encountered at Cayungan on 1 February, this company moved forward under hostile artillery and automatic weapons fire to cover the advance of leading units across a deep ravine. By direct fire, promptly and accurately placed, this company neutralized enemy automatic weapons permitting the seizure of the position with minimum losses to our forces. On 2 February at Aga the division advance was held up by another strongpoint. Despite the fact that its vehicles drew heavy hostile artillery, mortar, and automatic fire, this company ad-

vanced rapidly to forward positions and again by direct fire neutralized the enemy positions. On 3 February, during the advance on Tagaytay Ridge, from an area subject to enemy artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire, the Cannon Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, delivered direct fire on enemy relocations, greatly facilitating the seizure of the area. On 4 February, with assault units of the division, this company surprised and destroyed hostile groups in four stone houses guarding approaches to the Imus River Bridge. This action enabled the mined structure to be secured before it could be destroyed. By aggressive action at Las Pinas the same day, the self-propelled mounts reduced pill boxes near the Las Pinas Bridge, permitting this bridge, also mined, to be secured before the charges could be detonated. Capturing these two bridges intact was of greatest importance to the 31 mile advance made by the division that day. At Paranaque 5 February,

encountering main defenses of the heavily fortified Genko Line guarding approaches to Manila and Nichols Field, the company pushed through streets covered by hostile artillery and antitank guns and mined with 250KG aerial bombs, the Cannon Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, subordinated personal safety to aggressive action despite heavy casualties, and by its gallant action earned the admiration of all units it had supported. (General Orders 69, Headquarters, Eighth Army, 25 June 1945 as approved by the Commander in Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific.)

By order of the Secretary of War:
G. C. MARSHALL, Chief of Staff
Official: EDWARD F. WITSELL,
Major General, Acting the Adjutant General’ (Verbeck, 109)

Source: Verbeck, William J. THE STORY OF A REGIMENT IN ACTION.



Seventeen Year-Old Kyle Nappi Wants Your Stories

He Especially Would Like to Contact You WWII Veterans – Wants Autographed Photos!

Your editor received this July 31, 2007, addressed to: Tom J. Thiel, Lake County Veterans Organization; I have no idea how he found me.

Hello. My name is Kyle Nappi. I am 17 years old and I live in Ostrander, Ohio (USA). I was wondering if you could do me a favor.

I have a big interest in history, specifically WWII. I collect military medals, patches, badges, insignia, field gear, and a very unique thing, *veteran autographs*. I have a scrapbook collection of autographs from military veterans who served during WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and the present war in Iraq.

I would really appreciate your putting me in touch with military veterans to request autographs for my collection.

I have been interested in WWII for over 5 years now, and I have collected the autographs and stories from nearly 1,500 veterans in 17 countries. The oldest veteran 111 years old and the youngest is serving in Iraq.

I have autographs from Pearl Harbor survivors, D-Day veterans, airman, POWs, USS Indianapolis survivors, Holocaust survivors, and even German soldiers!



Seventeen-year-old, Kyle Nappi, left, discusses his collection of Veterans' autographs and photographs with Mr. Warren Motts (right), head of the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, OH, and an unidentified person.

WWII is an interesting subject, and one worth the time to study. It is a shame when people my age have no idea about the events of the past. When we were watching the Omaha Beach scene on *Saving Private Ryan* in my social studies class, one my classmates asked if we were fighting the Japanese!

I have recently become interested in the German side of WWII. I have contacted U-Boat captains, Panzer Tank Commanders, Luftwaffe Aces, Conspirators within the Third Reich, and the last people to see Hitler alive in the bunker in Berlin. Some of them were younger than I am when they were being ordered to fight until the last man!

It is interesting because, when most people tend to think of WWII, they think of all the fighting, but there is a human

side to it all. Both friends, and foes, that fought in the war have some amazing stories to tell and it is a shame when people tend to ignore them.

Recently, I have been trying to contact the last surviving veterans of WWI. There are only 23 alive, worldwide, and I have autographs from 13 of them. I was trying to find one in particular who lives in a nursing home in Italy. I came across an article about him and I wrote to the columnist of the article, asking how I could contact the WWI veteran. He gave me his address and printed an article about my collection of autographs...in their Italian newspaper!

Last month, I was interviewed by Warren Motts, head of the Motts Military Museum, in Groveport, OH, about my WWII collection. *Ken Burns* will be hosting a television series in September titled, "The War," and between segments they will show these interviews.

I would especially appreciate it if you and all the veterans you may know would answer the questionnaire on the next page. If you would please provide all veterans you know with a copy, I would really appreciate it.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Kyle Nappi



KYLE'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Name Printed: _____

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____ Hometown: _____

Branch Of Military: _____

Date Enlisted/Drafted: _____ Date Discharged: _____

Rank(s): _____ Division: _____

Dog Tag Number: _____ Your Age When You Entered The Service: _____

Duties:

Stationed:

PEASE SEND AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF YOURSELF

Battles/Campaigns:

Awards Received (Why You Received Them):

Other Information/Comments:

Kyle Nappi

1890 Warren Rd.

Ostrander, OH 43061

Phone Number: 740-363-8095

E-mail Address: knap607@yahoo.com

<http://us.f365.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=knap607@yahoo.com>



24th INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDING GENERALS

Compiled by Larry Gay, 24th IDA Historian

MG Durward S. Wilson	October 1941 – July 1942
MG Frederick A. Irving	August 1942 – October 1944
MG Roscoe B. Woodruff	November 1944 – November 1945
BG Kenneth F. Cramer	November 1945 – December 1945
MG James A. Lester	December 1945 – January 1948
MG Albert C. Smith	January 1948 – April 1949
MG Anthony C. McAuliffe	April 1949 - May 1949
MG William F. Dean	June 1949 – July 1950
MG John H. Church	July 1950 – January 1951
MG Blackshear H. Bryan	January 1951 – December 1951
MG Henry I. Hodes	January 1952 – February 1952
BG Paul D. Adams	February 1952 – March 1952
BG George W. Smythe	March 1952 – October 1952
BG Wilbur E. Dunkelberg	October 7-30, 1952
BG Barksdale Hamlet	October 1952 – November 1952
MG Charles L. Dasher, Jr.	November 1952 – October 1953
MG Carter B. Magruder	November 1953 – January 1954
BG Carl I. Hutton	January 1954 – February 1954
MG Paul D. Harkins	March 1954 – July 1954
MG Mark McClure	July 1954 – June 1955
MG Stanhope B. Mason	July 1955 – October 1956
MG Russel L. Vittrup	October 1956 – April 1957
BG Charles H. Bonesteel, III	April 1957 – May 1957
MG Ralph W. Zwicker	May 1957 – October 1957
Division Inactive	October 1957 – July 1958
MG Ralph C. Cooper	July 1958 – September 1959
BG Albert Watson, II	September 1959 – October 1959
BG Autry J. Maroon	October 1959 – November 1959
MG Edwin A. Walker	November 1959 – April 1961
BG Harry J. Lenley	April 1961 – May 1961
MG Charles H. Bonesteel, III	May 1961 – April 1962
MG Benjamin F. Taylor	April 1962 – April 1963
BG William A. Enemark	April 1963 – May 1963
MG William A. Cunningham, III	May 1963 – July 1965
MG Edward L. Rowny	July 1965 – September 1966

The TARO LEAF

Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 2 The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association



BG Herron M. Maples
MG Roderick A. Wetherill
MG Linton S. Boatwright
MG Robert R. Linvill
Division Inactive

September 1966 – October 1966
October 1966 – August 1968
August 1968 – September 1969
September 1969 – March 1970
April 1970 – September 1975

LG Donald E. Rosenblum
LG James B. Vaught
MG James F. Cochran, III
Gen. John R. Galvin
MG H. Norman Schwarzkopf

September 1975 – September 1977
September 1977 – August 1979
August 1979 – May 1981
June 1981 – June 1983
June 1983 – June 1985

MG Andrew L. Cooley
MG Micheal F. Sprigelmire
MG Horace G. Taylor
MG Barry R. McCaffrey
LG Paul E. Blackwell
MG Joseph E. DeFrancisco

June 1985 – July 1987
July 1987 – September 1988
September 1988 – June 1990
June 1990 – May 1992
May 1992 – June 1994
June 1994 - May 1996

On 25 Apr 96, the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was inactivated and reactivated as the 3rd Infantry Division in a ceremony held at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

On 5 Jun 99, the 24th Infantry Division was reactivated at Ft. Riley Kansas

MG Freedy E. McFarren
MG Robert J. St. Onge Jr.
MG Thomas F. Metz
BG Frank Helmick [Acting CG]
BG Dennis E. Hardy

9 Jun 99 - 4 Aug 00
4 Aug 00 - 7 Nov 01
7 Nov 01- 3 Feb 03
3 Feb 03 - 15 May 03
15 May 03 - 1 Aug 06

On 1 Aug 06, The 24th Infantry Division was deactivated at Ft. Riley, Kansas

-KEY-

BG = 1 Star
MG = 2 Stars
LG = 3 Stars
Gen. = 4 Stars
General of Army = 5 Stars

Issued: 24 Mar 07

Revised:

LWGay: Historian, 24th IDA

Photo at right: General MacArthur wades ashore in the 24th Infantry Division sector of Leyte, 20 October 1944. (National Archives)





Editor's Report (Continued from Pg. 7)

And you've undoubtedly noticed more photos with those stories; I like photos so, if your story also comes with some good photos (more about that later) you will almost assuredly see it carried in your publication.

Enough generalities, now let's get down to some real *TARO LEAF* issues.

TARO LEAF Goals

My goals are to maintain the high standards that Billy Johnson, and the editors previous to him, adopted. It has been one of the top periodicals of its kind anywhere. But we want to make it even better. How?

Photographs

Use more photographs and use them as in integral part of the articles. But we need to use as good a photograph as possible.

Classic Graphics, our printer, would like pictures and other graphics to be *at least 300 dots or pixels per inch*.

You can send me your pictures as prints and I promise to return them after I scan them. PLEASE, NO XEROX COPIES OF PICTURES. I cannot use them.

But if you can, please send me digital pictures. Be sure to first have a photo that is at least 300 dpi, and then send it as an email attachment rather than imbedded in the email itself.

And DO NOT let your email program change its resolution to 72 dpi, which a lot of email programs like to do.

Sending your articles

I'm an email person, so my preference would be for you to send your article as an MS Word attachment, and your 300 dpi pictures as JPG file attachments. That makes it easier for me as all I have to do is reformat and I'm done. Well there usually is some editing to do!

But do not allow electronics to discourage you! I will accept your well prepared documents in typed form also. I don't like that as much as email but I will scan your document and convert it to text with Optical Character Recognition software. Not as easy, but if your copy is good and clear, it will convert at above 95 percent.

But it will not convert poor Xerox or carbon copies at all – so don't send them unless you do not have anything else. If that is the case, then please send them and plead your case by explaining that you have no recourse.

What about hand written notes? I'll take those, especially if they are short and of a personal nature, and clearly written. But be aware, they will be copied and entered as is, that is exactly like it was received.

And finally, please have the consideration to send me a complete idea, thought, or article. Don't just copy some document you downloaded

from a web site and expect me to know what you would like me to do with it!

If you sent material to the previous editor, and you still wish it to be published, please resend it to me. I have none of the earlier materials, I'm sorry to say.

What should our *TARO LEAF* be?

It should be what WE want it to be; not necessarily what it was, and definitely not what I want it to be.

To make it what WE want it to be, WE will need to work together to make it what we want it to be.

So now the WE becomes US – you and me. We have to work together at this.

We have stories to tell. We have buddies to find. We need to keep tabs on our fellow members, even if it is, sadly, in the *TARO LEAF*TAPS section. We need to come together and plan and conduct and attend reunions.

I Could Use Your Help

This issue has taught me that producing the *TARO LEAF* is no picnic! And the typos and editor's overlooks might suggest that I could use some help.

What kind of help is needed?

Copy readers to look for typos, to suggest better wording, etc. How can you be a copy reader? First you need to have some ability with your com-

The TARO LEAF

Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 2 The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association



puter, email, MS Word and Adobe pdf Reader. I will provide you with a draft copy electronically and you make your suggestions directly in place on that copy on your monitor, and send back to me. Not as difficult as it sounds. Give it a try – email me today.

Assistant Editor. Yes, we need, and I would like, someone to be an Assistant Editor. Why? First of all, to move into the job should something prevent me from adequately doing the job.

That is necessary for continuity and *as insurance that there will indeed be four issues each year*, which is absolutely essential in my view. And I would like some editorial help too.

So, again please drop me an email and let's try working together. Requirements include all the above plus some editing skills.

There is one other need I think we have with our *TARO LEAF* and that is what I call “**corporate, or organizational, knowledge.**” I do not have much, having only joined the 24th IDA five or so years ago. I don't even know all of the Units that have been associated with the 24th! I need someone(s) to help me with this area – maybe you would like to serve as a focal point for the Unit you affiliate with. Think about it.

What is the *TARO LEAF*?

It is our Journal. Our means of communicating with each other! For many, it is the only way, because only a small percent attend the reunions and are on the Internet.

It is printed, and that is good, because most of us are not computer people and surf the Internet, let alone iPod, iPhone, or all that new stuff!

So the *TARO LEAF* is the major means that we, members of the Taro Leaf Division Association, can use to communicate with each other, to learn about what is happening in our lives.

I promise you that I will do my very best to make it serve in that role! But I cannot write in a vacuum – I need your stories and articles and notes.

Thank you for wading through all of this with me.

And keep those articles coming! There will be another issue yet this year.

Sincerely,
Tom J. Thiel, Editor
The *TARO LEAF*
24th IDA
19147 Park Place Blvd.
Eustis, FL 32736-7262
(352) 357-3943
tthiel5@comcast.net

History of the 24th Infantry Division

The **Association Quartermaster** still has copies of the ***History of the 24th Infantry Division*** (2nd Edition) available for purchase. The book is a reprint of the 2nd Edition which was first published by Turner Publishing in 1999. This book is hard bound and contains 184 pages of priceless information on your 24th Infantry in action from the South Pacific, to Korea and Desert Storm. Price of the book, including shipping and handling, is \$41.00. Make check or money order payable to:

Quartermaster, 24th IDA and send to:

Byrd Schrock
1009 Mesquite Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

The Quartermaster has a new phone number. Please place all Quartermaster calls to (520) 678-0207. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP.



Secretary of the Army Certificate of Appreciation

Fellow 24th Infantry Division Veterans.

The Secretary of the Army is sponsoring a program to recognize the individuals who served active duty with the US Army with a "Certificate of Appreciation." Personalized and signed by him.

I would like to get every former member of the 24th Infantry Division, and attached units, this certificate of appreciation.

Please send me your full name, address, highest rank/grade held on active duty and the period you served on active duty, indicate by DAY/MONTH/YEAR (Ex: 8 September 1948 -30 June 1976). At the same time, we would also like to update our Association records so we ask that you please also provide the period you served with the First to Fight Division. This information will update our historical files for future generation inquiries.

I would like to start this as soon as possible, so send your information today to: Wes Morrison, 452 Gloria Circle, Marina, CA 93933-4027. Formal presentation can/could be made at future reunions or mailed directly to you.

Wes Morrison Past President F/21st Inf, Korea 50-51, wesm8@aol.com

#####

Free eGroup for 24th IDA Members

Yahoo.com hosts a free eGroup for members of the 24th Infantry Division Association who are on line (WWII, Korea, Germany, USA, Desert Storm, etc). The group currently has 42 members who post messages. These are about Association affairs, veterans benefits, current military matters, seeking comrades, and almost everything that does not deal with politics, race, sexism or religion. Each posting is sent to the following address: 24ID@yahoogroups.com and is instantly e-mailed to all the members, except to those members who choose to receive a weekly digest.



The group is moderated by Bill Garry, K Co. 19th Inf. Reg. 1950 and Heavy Mortar Co, 19th Inf. Reg. 1951.

For further information, contact Bill at DrBillGarry@msn.com, or log on to <http://www.yahoogroups.com> and join the group from there.

The 24th ID logo is copied from the website.



Keynote Speech, by BG (retired) Irwin K. Cockett, Jr. (Continued from pg. 11)



The 21st Regiment is the oldest regiment of the 24th and dates back to the war of 1812, where it distinguished itself at the Battle of Lundy's Lane.

The 19th Regiment was activated in the early days of the Civil War and saw action in such famous battles as Shiloh, Chickamauga, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor and Chancellorsville. The unit took part in many other battles and in 1922 was ordered to Hawaii.

The 34th Regiment was originally an element of the 7th Infantry Division during World War I. On December 7th, 1941, it was enroute to the Philippines but was diverted to Hawaii and became part of the 24th. During World War II, the 34th fought at Leyte, Luzon, Corregidor, and Mindanao in the Philippines.

After the war it was sent to the main island of Kyushu, Japan, as an occupation force where it pulled garrison duty from 1945 to 1950. Many young soldiers from Hawaii enjoyed duty with the 34th during this occupation period.

Life was very good, but all would suddenly change.

June 25th 1950, like December 7th 1941, will live in infamy, among the people of the Republic of South Korea. At 0400 hours on that date, the North Korean Peoples Army launched an unprovoked, massive attack across the demilitarized 38th parallel. Preceded by a long and intense barrage of artillery and mortar fire, Russian-made tanks of the enemy's armored divisions, lunged forward with frightening speed, smashing headlong into totally unprepared and gravely ill-equipped units of the Republic of South Korean Army. It was the beginning of what is often called "The Forgotten War!"

Following President Harry S. Truman's orders for U.S. ground forces to support the Republic of Korea, General Douglas MacArthur instructed General Walker, commander of the Eighth Army, to order the 24th Infantry Division to Korea at once.

General Walker gave Major General William F. Dean, Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division, verbal instruction which took the form of a scratch unit designated, "Task Force Smith" named after Lt. Col. Charles F. Smith, Commander, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment.

His orders were to "Advance at once upon landing with a delaying force, in accordance with the situation, to the north by all possible means, contact enemy now advancing south from Seoul towards Suwon and delay his advance."

Much easier said than done, as the enemy forces raced south to over-run the entire peninsula and capture the important port of Pusan.

Ill-equipped, in a poor state of readiness, and with under strength rifle companies, the 406 men of Task Force Smith were sent in harms way and landed in Korea on July 1st, 1950.



The battlefield was in total chaos, with thousands of South Korean soldiers and refugees cluttering the roads as they retreated south. Friendly air strafed friendly forces and rocketed South Korean trains loaded with ammunition.

Task Force Smith's delaying action at Osan took a heavy toll on his forces and by July 6, only 5 days after landing, his unit had been decimated from 406 to 250.

Here in Hawaii, we are especially proud to have two /three living members of Task Force Smith who survived that living hell, were captured, and suffered the long ordeal as prisoners of war.

Goichi Tamaye and Tomio Tadaki (Susumu Shinagawa) are not well and could not be here with us today, but send their best wishes.

The Division would go on to fight on other foreign battlefields and continue its distinguished history until its colors were cased on Aug. 1, 2006, at Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Today as you walked up this path, called Memorial Walk, one cannot but feel the pride of those who cared so much for their Unit and Fallen comrades, that they were compelled to erect a lasting monument to their memory.

And so it is fitting that the monument you dedicate today, be laid here in Hawaii, home of the 24th.

A project of this magnitude takes dedication, time and money. To Committee Chairman Dan Rickard and his committee of Bill Boyden, Eric Diller, Billy Johnson and Ken Fentner (also Dutch Nelson and Salvatore Schillaci) goes the kudo's for making this dream come true.

Many helped and need to be recognized. Dan's grand daughter Danielle designed the plaque and Professor Larry Jones and his students at Saddleback College in California cast it.

The granite upon which the plaque is mounted was donated by the Stone Art Memorial Company of New York and the Rock of Ages Corporation of Vermont. This represents a gift of over four thousand five hundred dollars. Shipping it this great distance would have been very costly but for the gratis shipment by DHL.

Let me close with these words which are inscribed in the monument to the right of yours.

To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen.

To be missing in war is not the worst that can happen.

To be forgotten is!

We will never forget!

Mahalo

THE TARO LEAF
VOL. 61, NOS. 3 & 4
Will be Published in
Early December.
Please Send Your
Stories, Articles, Pic-
tures, and Any Other
Items You'd Like
Published.
NOW!



POWs FROM THE 24th DIVISION TREATED UNFAIRLY

by Wilbert R. (Shorty) Estabrook, B Company 19th Infantry Regiment

Many men from the 24th were captured in July 1950. Many were killed in action. Many are still MIA. Many were badly wounded and discharged from the service with disabilities.

I was in B Company 19th Infantry Regiment and captured on 15 July 1950. I was a Cpl. at capture.

General Dean was also captured in Taejon and General Church took over the Division.

On 24th November, 4 months after we were captured, General Church decided to write an order authorizing a Bronze Star Medal for the men of the 24th Division who went with the Division to Korea between 1 and 14 July 1950.

In paragraph 3 of that order he stipulated that to qualify a man must be PRESENT FOR DUTY on 24 November 1950. (That is correct—it is not a mistake)

Paragraph 3 of that order effectively eliminated all who were captured, killed, MIA and WIA and separated from the service. This is not right. This is not fair. This is prejudicial.

Some say that it is only a Bronze Star so “get over it.” But once one is denied something he wants it even more.

Remember that you could always find the men in “Off Limit Areas.”

I have tried to reverse this decision of General Church but to no avail. Seems like a no brainer, right?

Defense will not take care of it nor will the Army.

Fifty-nine percent of those with me in captivity were promoted to Glory. No Bronze star for them. Too bad.

PROMOTION:

We were all promoted one grade effective in August of 1950. We were Prisoners and didn't know about it. Just as well because we did not start being paid in that new grade until ONE YEAR LATER. That was not fair either.

COMBAT PAY:

I assume someone in authority decided that life as a POW was a piece of cake because we were only paid for THREE MONTHS of Combat Pay. For most of us captured in July 1950 that meant we lost 34 months of Combat Pay. Not fair again and no body at Army or Defense will listen or take care of this matter. Members of the other services did receive Combat Pay for all the time they were POWs. Only the Army did not pay up.

PURPLE HEART MEDAL:

The Purple Heart Regulations were changed in 1995 to allow people who were beaten while a Prisoner of War to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Some have been successful in getting one. Others were told they had to have “hospital records” to back up their claims. Hey, give me a break here, there were no hospitals in North Korea except where you would go to DIE. Buddy letters are the only source of verification. What ever happened to the “Benefit of the Doubt?” Army Awards Branch is out to lunch on this one. Using current criteria everyone with me in captivity is eligible for a Purple Heart. But most have not received one. There are less than 100 still living now.

(Continued next page)



Treated Unfairly (from prev. page)

PURPLE HEART MEDAL-AGAIN:

More than three years ago Rick and Brenda Tavares, and I initiated action to cause a Purple Heart Medal to be awarded to all who died in captivity as a Prisoner of War from 7 December 1941 to date, and indeed into the future.

This action passed the House and Senate and went to the Defense Department where it still languishes. Several deadlines have been ignored including one by our president.

Thirty-six Veterans groups support this action with a total Veteran population of over 8 million. Senator Boxer and Senator Snowe have introduced yet another amendment to the FY78 Authorization bill to cause the Purple Heart to be awarded to those who died in captivity. Sadly, this too has not passed. The whole presentation case with medal only cost about \$7.00 and now most of the moms and dads have gone to heaven. Not many left to apply but history should record their sacrifices.

Submitted by Wilbert R. (Shorty) Estabrook, Life Member. Joined the Division at Kokura (School Center) in June of 1948. In 1949 we were transferred to Beppu. At only 5 feet I was a member of the Division Honor Guard but I did not march in any parades. B/19/24. Captured 15 July 1950. Wounded twice. Released on 29 August 1953.

~~~~~

An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep.

Arab Proverb

## Veteran Salute Bill

**Status:**

**This bill has been passed in the Senate. The bill now goes on to be voted on in the House.**

**Last Action: Jul 26, 2007: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.**

AN ACT

To amend title 4, United States Code, to prescribe that members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of flag.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**SECTION 1. CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF FLAG.**

Section 9 of title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking 'all persons present' and all that follows through the end and inserting 'those present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.' < BR Passed the Senate July 25, 2007.

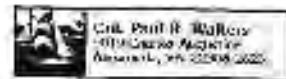


# In Our Members Own Hand



HERE'S \$15.00 FOR BOOS DUES,  
AND \$55.00 IN MEMORY OF  
THE MEN K.I.A FROM \*H\*  
11<sup>th</sup> FA 7/20/50 TEN JON'S HAVE  
A NICE DAY.

STEPHAN KOSTOFF  
\*H\* 11<sup>th</sup> 49-51  
TEL 510-223-0164



5 August 2007

24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
Don Maggio  
631 Concord Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732-5736

Enclosed check \$30 might be membership update?  
It's hard to follow through on these. as one  
ages! August 8, 2007 Paul will be 99 years old  
and seems to be holding his own well enough.  
He's not too active tho! walk a dog short distances,  
attend Church weekly, local shopping and Fort Belvoir  
for Rx + doctor's appts as needed. Lucky am! Paul  
plays the piano daily, to keep me engaged as I  
mentioned before, likely.

Good luck to you all.

Betty and Paul

02-45-27

[illegible]

**Secretary/Treasurers Report** *(Continued from page 6)***Donors**

| <b><u>Name</u></b>                    | <b><u>Unit</u></b> | <b><u>Amount</u></b> |                                                             |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dice, Dr. Gene                        |                    |                      |                                                             |
| King, George                          |                    |                      |                                                             |
| Barbee, Ralph (deceased)              |                    |                      |                                                             |
| Marone, Rocco (deceased)              |                    |                      |                                                             |
| Will, James (deceased)                |                    |                      |                                                             |
| Bauer, William P.                     | 724th Ord          | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Behrel, H. Gordon                     | 19th Inf           | \$35                 |                                                             |
| Bouzan, Edward G.                     | 19th Inf           | \$15                 |                                                             |
| Brault, Charles E.                    | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Breen, Joseph G.                      | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Bruno, Howard J.                      | 34th Inf           | \$10                 | Postage                                                     |
| Byrem, Robert B.                      | 3rd Eng            | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Carter, Alyce                         |                    | \$100                | In mem. of husb. Jack Carter, Life # 1307 19trh Inf Med Co  |
| Cauble, Jakie A. 24th Admin           |                    | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Chavez, Al & Barbara                  | 21st Inf           |                      | K Punch Bowl Memorial Plaque                                |
| Clark, Raymond V.                     | 3rd Eng            | \$25                 |                                                             |
| Clark, William E.                     | 19th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Crist, Claude C.                      | 21st Inf           | \$15                 |                                                             |
| Crouch, Thomas H.                     | 34th Inf           | \$80                 | Postage & general expenses                                  |
| Davidson, Bennie D.                   | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Denman II, James E.                   | Div HQ & 19th Inf  | \$85                 |                                                             |
| Demaray, Dale                         | 19th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Eckardt, Sr., Raymond J.              | 19th Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Federwitz, Wilbur L.                  | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Fischer, James C.                     | 19th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Fletcher, John P.                     | 34th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Fox, Robert G.                        | 19th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Harrison, Edward F.                   | 11th FA            | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Hill, James D.                        | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Holland, Casey B.                     | 34th Inf           | \$10                 | Postage                                                     |
| Hopkins, James H.                     | 63rd FA            | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Irwin, Travis & Virginia              |                    | \$20                 | In memory of Harold "Corky" Peters                          |
| Jacketti, Victor                      | 24th Med           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Johnson, Donald H.                    | 13th FA            | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Jordison, Donald L.                   | 34th Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Kostoff, Stephan S.                   | 11th FA            | \$35                 | In memory of the men KIA from "A" 11th FA 7/20/50 "Ten Jon" |
| Lauro, Ralph A.                       | 19th Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Legacy Professionals LLP              |                    | \$100                | In memory of Harold "Corky" Peters                          |
| Loesch, Herbert C.                    | 24th Med           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| MacNeill, Warren H.                   | 24th Sig           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Marcinko, Joseph J.                   | 21st Inf           | \$15                 |                                                             |
| McCourt, Jack G.                      | 24th Div           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Moritz, Robert J.                     | Div Arty           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Morris, Mrs. Allen W. (Mary A.) Assoc |                    | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Morrison, Wesley R.                   | 21st Inf           | \$50                 | In memory of Harold "Corky" Peters                          |
| Nichols, Herschel h.                  | 21st Inf           | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Nichols, William E.                   | 19th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Nilsson, Roy P.                       | 21st Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| Olson, Jr., Robert A.                 | 34th Inf           | \$10                 |                                                             |
| O'Rourke, Patrick J.                  | 3rd Eng            | \$5                  |                                                             |
| Owens, Roderick                       | 26th AAA           | \$10                 |                                                             |

(Continued on next page)



**Donors** *(Continued from previous page)*

| <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Unit</b> | <b>Amount</b>  |                                                        |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Passwater, Howard S.          | 24th MP     | \$5            |                                                        |
| Peer, Theodore F.             | 24th Admin  | \$10           |                                                        |
| Penland, L.C.                 | 52nd FA     | \$10           |                                                        |
| Reese, Charles H.             | 724th Ord   | \$10           | postage                                                |
| Quesada, Ernest               | 19th Inf    | \$15           |                                                        |
| Rose, Perry W.                | 21st Inf    | \$10           | postage                                                |
| Santoro, Anthony A.           | 24th Sig    | \$5            |                                                        |
| Steinberg, Caleb M.           | Div Trains  | \$75           |                                                        |
| Steinberger, Siegfried        | 21st Inf    | \$5            |                                                        |
| Stock, Rodney F.              | 34th Inf    | \$50           | In memory of Harold "Corky" Peters                     |
| Stock, Rodney F.              | 34th Inf    | \$50           | Herb Carlson                                           |
| Sund, Edward B.               | 21st Inf    | \$5            |                                                        |
| Teamsters Local Union No. 792 |             | \$100          | In memory of Harold "Corky" Peters                     |
| Tominaga, George T.           | 13th FA     | \$5            |                                                        |
| Updike, George G.             | 24th HQ     | \$25           |                                                        |
| Vincent, Gerald G.            | 11th FA     | \$5            |                                                        |
| Welch, Francis H.             | 21st Inf    | \$100          |                                                        |
| Wetterau-Blankenburg, Joan E. | Assoc       | \$5            | Mem. father, John Wetterau, 19th Pearl harbor survivor |
| Worrill, Frederick W.         | 29th Inf    | \$10           | Postage                                                |
| Van Kirk, W.H.                | 19th Inf    | \$10           |                                                        |
| Zahn, Darcy F.                | 3rd Eng     | \$50           |                                                        |
| <b>Total:</b>                 |             | <b>\$1,795</b> |                                                        |

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Wes' Member Health Notes**

**Crouch**, Thomas H., Company C, 34th Infantry was given a clean bill of health by his doctors that his cancer was in remission. Tom served with the unit during 1952-53. As a cancer survivor myself, congratulations to Tom. Cards can be sent to Tom at: PO Box 32877, Tucson, AZ 85751-2877.

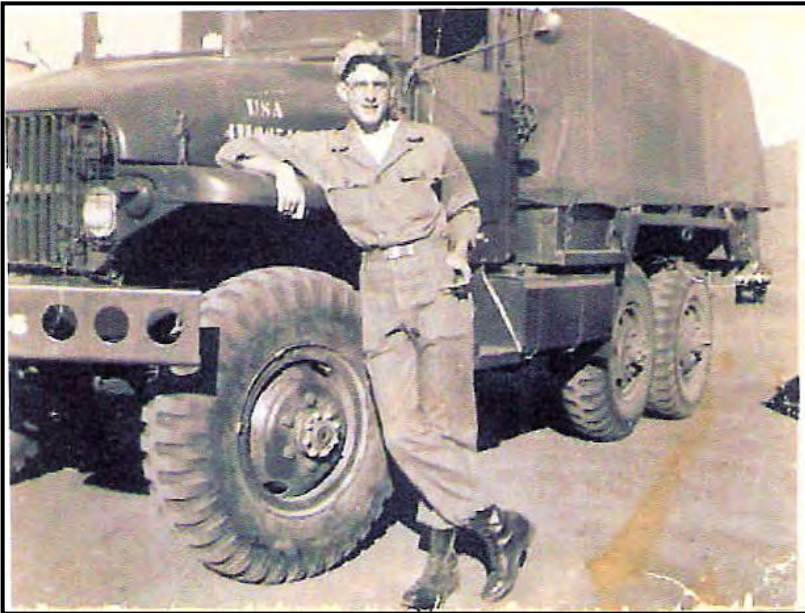
**Kirkman**, Maurice, I received word from Donna Kirkman that her husband Maurice, Company M, 21st Infantry, Korea, is in critical condition in ICU at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis, IN. Doctors have determined he has ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) a very serious but treatable condition. They were looking forward to attending this year's reunion but had to cancel. He would welcome hearing from fellow members, especially the 21st Infantry. Cards may be sent to him at: 5823 Jacksontown Rd., Lot #39, Newark, OH 43056-9391.

**Kostoff**, Steve, Battery A, 11th FA is having some health problems. Steve served with the unit from July 49 - August 51 in Japan & Korea. Cards may be sent to Steve at: N15 Pocono Mobile Home Estates, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-9774





## Can You Name Your Fellow Association Member?



Both above photos were taken in 1951; the one on the left in Korea, and the one on the right at Ft. Ord, CA. Photos of both have appeared earlier in this TARO LEAF.



Here they are again in much more recent photos. They bear the same left-right relationship. Still don't know? Then see page 12; look at the top two photos, in the same order, and you have identified your fellow member then and now!



## **National Personnel Records Center 1973 Fire; Reconstructing Your Records,** *excerpts from their web site and the personal experience of Joe Greco.*



On July 12, 1973, a fire at NPRC (MPR) destroyed some 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files, including all Army Personnel discharged Nov. 1, 1912, to Jan. 1, 1960 (80% lost), Air Force Personnel discharged Sept. 25, 1947, to Jan. 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) (75% lost), and perhaps others.

No duplicate copies of the records that were destroyed in the fire were maintained either on paper or on microfilm. The records had not been indexed. In addition, millions of documents had been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the fire occurred.

Therefore, a complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. Nevertheless, NPRC (MPR) uses many alternate sources in its efforts to reconstruct basic service information to respond to requests.

The site then goes on to discuss Alternate Record Sources and their use in trying to recreate records, and finally, the procedures one must follow to attempt to recreate their military record. (If you will permit me an editorial comment, as one who has dabbled in records management processes and procedures, one has to wonder how bona fide records managers charged to "... ensure, for the Citizen and the Public Servant, for the President and the Congress and the Courts, ready access to essential evidence," could have been so negligent as to have permitted such a loss.)

So, how does the record reconstruction process really work? Let me introduce you to Joe Greco, originally from New Jersey, but he now lives in Southern California. Joe was with the 24th Division with Headquarters Company in the Kumsong area of North Korea from Oct. 1951-Jan. 1952.

Joe says: "In July 1973 there was a fire at the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis. I wonder how many 24th Division Korean War Veterans lost all of their records. I think if you had an article in the *TARO LEAF*, you may find a lot did. I lost all of mine and my history in North Korea and Japan were destroyed.

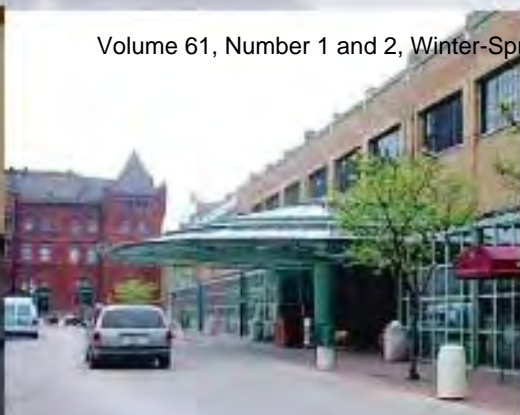
"I have recently tried to get information from the Center. I contacted many people at the NPRC mostly Archives Technicians. They reviewed and tried to reconstruct my folder, but it was fruitless. They said that there was nothing that they could do.

"I finally submitted DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Records, and got a reply from the Chief of the Support Division, at St. Louis, stating that I had been given a Case Number and then they would begin to review my case. But since cases are reviewed in order that they are received, and since they have a large number of applications already, and since my case is complex, it may be as long as twelve months before a determination can be made. I told her I would send a letter to Bob Dole and thanks a lot, but I may not be around for her answer."

Joe Greco

How many *TARO LEAFERS* have had experience with the NPRC, and what have been your results? ###





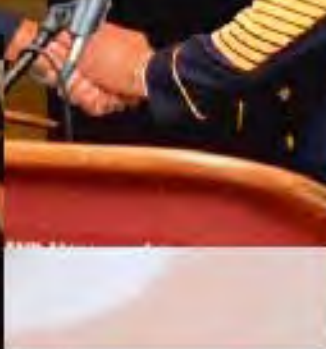
Indianapolis, Indiana















## **If You're Going To Have A Senior Moment, Make It Memorable**

**Sarasota, Florida, police log.**

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then

proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat.

She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her why. For the same reason she did not understand why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12 packs in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces further down the parking lot. She

loaded her bags into her car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing.

He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.



## **Some Internet Sites That I Find Most Useful!**

### Search Engines:

<http://www.google.com/>

<http://www.ask.com/>

<http://www.live.com/>

### Parcel Tracking:

<http://www.ups.com/content/us/en/index.jsx>

<http://www.fedex.com/Tracking>

### Calculate Postage Rate:

<http://postcalc.usps.gov/>

### Favorite Dictionary/Thesaurus:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

### Korean War Sites:

#### 24<sup>th</sup> ID Casualties

<http://www.2id.org/24-casna.htm>

#### Korean War Project – Ted and Hal Barker

<http://www.kwp.org/index.html>

#### Korean War Educator: Lynrita Brown

<http://www.koreanwar-educator.org/>

#### Authentic Korean Music (Arirang, etc)

<http://www.kimsoft.com/kr-music.htm>

#### Of Course Our Own Home Page:

<http://home.att.net/~victory24/>

#### The Korean War Veterans Association:

<http://www.kwva.org/>



**BECOME A MEMBER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RECRUIT A MEMBER**

I desire to be enrolled (or) reinstated as a Member (or) Associate Member of the  
**24th Infantry Division Association,**  
 and thereby be affiliated with the  
**Greatest Combat Division**  
 the United States Army has ever known.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN & AGES \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Relation to sponsor if the Application is for Associate Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

SERVED IN THE 24<sup>th</sup> or was ATTACHED TO THE 24<sup>th</sup>

UNIT.....SQUAD \_\_\_\_\_ PLATOON \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ BN. \_\_\_\_\_ REGT. \_\_\_\_\_ HQ \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT.....SQUAD \_\_\_\_\_ PLATOON \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ BN. \_\_\_\_\_ REGT. \_\_\_\_\_ HQ \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual - \$15.00  
 1 Year From Date of  
 Enlisting in Association

\_\_\_\_\_Lifetime - \$150.00  
 Payable in lump sum of \$150.00  
 or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00

Please make checks payable to:  
**"24th Infantry Division Association"**  
 Mail with this completed application to:  
 Donald E. Maggio  
 Secretary/Treasurer  
 24th Infantry Division Association  
 631 Concord Rd  
 Fletcher, NC 28732-9736

Recommended By: \_\_\_\_\_



## QUARTERMASTER SUPPLY PRICE LIST

| Control # | Item                                              | Description    | Price Ea | Control # | Item                                  | Description    | Price Ea |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1         | 24 ID Colored Patch                               |                | \$3.00   | 41        | 19 <sup>th</sup> Lapel Pin            |                | \$5.00   |
| 2         | 24 IDA Colored Patch                              |                | 5.00     | 42        | 24 ID License Plate (new) w/TL        |                | 6.00     |
| 3         | 24 ID Black Cap w/Patch                           |                | 10.00    | 43        | Desert Storm Cap – Black              |                | 12.00    |
| 4         | 24 ID White Cap w/Patch                           | First to Fight | 10.00    | 44        | Desert Storm Hat Pin                  |                | 3.00     |
| 5         | 24 ID Window Sticker                              | 2" x 3"        | 2.00     | 45        | WWII Cap Black                        | Veteran or CIB | 12.00    |
| 6         | 24 ID Decal                                       | 4"             | 3.00     | 46        | Korean War Cap Black                  | Veteran or CIB | 12.00    |
| 7         | Bolo Tie w/TL Gold                                |                | 15.00    | 47        | Bumper Sticker-CIB                    |                | 3.00     |
|           | W/Gold or Black Chain                             |                |          | 48        | Bumper Sticker –                      |                | 3.00     |
| 8         | Bolo Tie w/TL Silver                              |                | 16.00    | 49        | Proudly Served w/TL                   |                | 3.00     |
|           | Silver w/TL Silver                                |                |          | 50        | 6 <sup>th</sup> Tank BN Cloth Patch   | Cloth Patch    | 5.00     |
| 9         | Belt Buckle w/TL                                  |                | 15.00    | 51        | Purple Heart Medal                    | HP-754         | 3.00     |
|           | Gold or Silver Belt Buckle                        |                |          | 52        | Bronze Star Medal                     | HP-926         | 3.00     |
| 10        | 29 <sup>th</sup> INF Cloth Patch (Color)          |                | 5.00     | 53        | Good Conduct Medal                    | HP-927         | 3.00     |
| 11        | 24 Sig BN Unit Crest                              |                | 5.00     | 54        | Korean Service Medal                  | HP-929         | 3.00     |
| 12        | 19 <sup>th</sup> Inf Crest                        |                | 5.00     | 55        | Natl. Defense Service Medal           | HP-957         | 3.00     |
|           | Current Issue \$10 Pr                             |                |          | 56        | Victory Medal                         | HP-958         | 3.00     |
| 13        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Inf Crest                        |                | 5.00     | 57        | Silver Star Medal                     | HP-959         | 3.00     |
|           | Current Issue \$10 Pr                             |                |          | 58        | ETO Campaign Medal                    | HP-962         | 3.00     |
| 14        | 34 <sup>th</sup> Inf Crest                        |                | 5.00     | 59        | DFC                                   | HP-965         | 3.00     |
|           | Current Issue \$10 Pr                             |                |          | 60        | Korean 8000 Missing                   | HP-115         | 3.00     |
| 15        | 11 <sup>th</sup> FA Crest                         | \$10 pr        | 5.00     | 61        | CMB 1 <sup>st</sup> Award             | HP-569         | 3.00     |
| 16        | 13 <sup>th</sup> FA Crest                         | \$10 pr        | 5.00     | 62        | US Flag Clutch Back                   | HP (V-37)      | 3.00     |
| 17        | 19 <sup>th</sup> Pocket Patch (Color)             |                | 5.00     | 63        | 24 <sup>th</sup> Medical Bn Crest     |                | 10.00    |
| 18        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Pocket Patch (Color)             |                | 5.00     | 64        | Pacific Campaign Medal                | HP-963         | 3.00     |
| 19        | 34 <sup>th</sup> Pocket Patch (Color)             |                | 5.00     | 65        | American Campaign Medal               | HP-964         | 3.00     |
| 20        | 11 <sup>th</sup> FA Pocket Patch (Color)          |                | 5.00     | 66        | Army of Occupation Medal              | HP-051         | 3.00     |
| 21        | 13 <sup>th</sup> FA Pocket Patch (Color)          |                | 5.00     | 67        | Meritorious Service Medal             | HP-056         | 3.00     |
| 22        | 24 ID Crest                                       |                | 5.00     | 68        | UN Service Medal                      | HP-059         | 3.00     |
|           |                                                   |                |          | 69        | Philippine Liberation                 | HP-361         | 3.00     |
| 24        | 34 <sup>th</sup> Inf Lapel Pin                    |                | 5.00     | 70        | Korean Service Ribbon                 | HP-099         | 3.00     |
| 25        | CIB (1 <sup>st</sup> Award) 1-1346 (Mini)         |                | 5.00     | 71        | Air Medal                             | HP-925         | 3.00     |
|           | Mini DRESS MESS                                   |                |          | 72        | DSC Hatpin                            | HP-308         | 3.00     |
| 26        | CIB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Award) 1-1347 (Mini)         |                | 6.50     | 73        | Bring 'Em Home/Back                   | HP-214         | 3.00     |
|           | Mini DRESS MESS                                   |                |          | 74        | American Defense Medal                | HP             | 3.00     |
| 27        | CIB Lapel Pin                                     |                | 5.00     | 75        | Vietnam Service Medal                 | HP             | 3.00     |
| 28        | 19 <sup>th</sup> Cap Dark Blue/Crest              |                | 10.00    | 76        | 24 ID Hatpin                          |                | 3.00     |
| 29        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Cap White/Embroidered Patch      |                | 12.00    | 77        | 24 ID Tie-Regular                     |                | 20.00    |
| 30        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Cap Dark Blue /Embroidered Patch |                | 12.00    | 78        | 24 ID Flag, 3x5 Screen Print          | Outdoor Flag   | 55.00    |
| 31        | 34 <sup>th</sup> Cap Dark Blue w/Crest            |                | 10.00    | 79        | 63 <sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery      | Cloth Patch    | 5.00     |
| 32        | 24 IDA Cap Dark Blue w/Patch                      |                | 10.00    | 80        | Army Commendation Medal               | HP             | 3.00     |
| 33        | Cap w/TL, Red or White GERMANY                    |                | 12.00    | 81        | Soldiers Medal                        | HP             | 3.00     |
| 34        | 24 IDA Red or White Caps                          |                | 10.00    | 82        | POW Medal                             | HP             | 3.00     |
| 35        | 24 IDA Green Cap                                  |                | 10.00    |           | Armed Forces Reserve Medal            | HP             | 3.00     |
| 36        | 24 ID White Mesh Cap                              |                | 10.00    | 83        | 1"Decal 24 ID                         |                | .10      |
| 37        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Eng. Crest                        |                | 5.00     |           | Sell 12 for \$1.00                    |                |          |
| 38        | 14 <sup>th</sup> Eng. Crest                       |                | 5.00     | 84        | 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Cards      | 10 ea. Packet  | 8.00     |
| 39        | 5 <sup>th</sup> RCT Pocket Patch                  |                | 5.00     | 85        | World War II Tapes (starts Australia) |                | 15.00    |
| 40        | 5 <sup>th</sup> RCT Cap, Red                      |                | 10.00    | 86        | 24 ID Neck Wallets                    |                | 4.00     |

Byrd R Schrock, Quartermaster  
 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
 1009 Mesquite Drive  
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292  
 (520) 678-0207

We require \$3.00 Postage and Handling  
 Please allow six-weeks delivery. **No Phone Orders Please!**





The Medal of Honor, the nations highest sward for military Valor is given to those who have acted with supreme courage and to disregard their own safety in the face of most hazardous conditions. It is an award that only a comparative handful of men in the world are entitled to wear. It is bestowed by act of Congress and reflects Democracy's gratitude to those who, in moments of risk, offered everything they had in its defense, including life itself. The medal is but a humble token, a gesture of recognition for sacrifices, which cannot be repaid to its honored holders, their survivors, in worldly goods. Twelve soldiers of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, between 1944 and 1951, so distinguished themselves with sacrificial and intrepid acts on the battlefield and received this highest decoration. Three recipients are from World War II and the other nine received their awards during the Koran War. Only General Dean, Lieutenant Dodd, And Sergeant Adams lived to receive the Medal personally. Sergeant Duke survived combat but died later in a North Korean POW camp. All others were killed in action, and along with Sgt. Duke received their decorations posthumously.

**1st Lieutenant CARL H. DODD**, Kenvir, Kentucky  
E Company, 5th Regimental Combat Team  
30-31 January 1951, near Subuk, Korea

While leading his platoon in an attack on Hill 256, the platoon began being hit with intense small arms, mortar, and artillery fire. Lt. Dodd reorganized and encouraged his men, then single-handedly attacked and destroyed the nearest machinegun emplacement. Inspired, his platoon fixed bayonets, charged the enemy positions, and destroyed them all. After wiping out his first series of positions, Lt. Dodd again reorganized his men and led them onto Hill 256. Firing his rifle and throwing grenades, he advanced at the head of his unit. Two hundred yards from the objective, he destroyed an enemy mortar with his last grenade, killing the crew. With the onset of darkness, armed with fixed bayonets and a fresh supply of hand grenades, Lt. Dodd again took the lead, moving forward until the last enemy positions had been destroyed.

**24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG**  
631 Concord Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732-9736  
Tel. 828-684-5931  
Email: [tarheeldon0@lycos.com](mailto:tarheeldon0@lycos.com)

**Check your Dues Date below**

Send ALL Address Changes & Obituary Notices to:



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

