

TARO LEAF

VICTORY DIVISION

FIRST TO FIGHT



Billy and Elminie Johnson

29 December 1958

The TARO LEAF

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Cover: Billy and Minie Johnson on their wedding day. December 29, 1958. Photo provided by daughter Julie Lynn Johnson.

A Few Thoughts by Your President

It is with a great deal of sorrow that I reflect on the passing of our mutual good friend, colleague, and comrade in the 24th Division Association, Billy Johnson.

Billy passed away peacefully on November 21, 2007. While we feel great sorrow, let us likewise celebrate his life!

Billy was a giant of a Taro Leafer, and an enormous influence on our Association. He served as Vice President and then President for multiple terms. But perhaps, his greatest impact was with the *TARO LEAF*, which he has so excellently edited for the last six years. For all his numerous contributions, we were happy to have presented him the Verbeck Award just this September!

And lest we forget, Billy was a soldier's soldier!

Thank you Billy Johnson, *Taro Leafer, par excellence!*

And it is also with great sadness that I report to you that our Vice President, Roger Mitten, has submitted his formal letter of resignation. Roger likewise, has been a great asset to the Association, and therefore it is with much regret that I accept his resignation, and extend to Roger my personal, and the Association's, best wishes for his future.

That does not, however, mean that we are left with a vacancy at that important



position. At our Member Corporate Business Meeting in Columbia, SC, we nominated and elected a very capable Taro Leafer, Mel Frederick of Owatonna, MN, as Assistant Vice President.

I am hereby removing the word "Assistant" from Mel's title, and naming him to fill the vacancy created by Roger's resignation. Welcome Mel and Donna!

Well, fall is here, and winter and Christmas Day are just around the corner.

The 24th's memorial at the Punchbowl in Hawaii is finished, thanks to Dan Rickert and his committee.

The 2007 Reunion in Columbia, S.C., was terrific, thanks to our excellent reunion coordinators.

For those of you who made it to Columbia, I hope you derived great satisfaction from meeting old comrades, and making some new ones too.

Next year's Reunion will be in Springfield, MO. September is not that far away so, plan now to be there. Let's all try to attend if we can.

And, if you have not been able to get to the Annual Reunion, may I suggest that you try making it to the West Coast Reunion. It is held in Laughlin, NV, every March. The guys say it is very laid back, very inexpensive, and lots of fun.

We have a new editor for the *TARO LEAF*, Tom Thiel. Things are looking up for our main means of communication; we will continue looking for words of wisdom from Tom; continue sending him your stories.

Let's all try to recruit new members. I found two Taro Leafers that live just a mile from me; they have both become members. One is a 3rd Engineer from Korea, and the other served in Desert Storm.

Put a 24th decal on your car window. Or put a 24th bumper sticker or a 24th license plate on your car's rear. People will notice and ask questions.

I'll try to be a better president than I was last year. At times I wondered if I had done the job like I should have. But I must have done something correctly, or you wouldn't have asked me to do it for another year.

The year 2008 should be bountiful; we are all getting older and wiser. Just don't get too wise or they won't be able to put up with us.

Gene Spicer



CSM Billy Johnson – US Army Retired

President, *TARO LEAF* Editor and Verbeck Awardee 2007

CSM Billy Johnson died 21 November 2007, in Fayetteville, NC

Funeral Services will be held on 13 January 2008 at Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home, 545 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301 (910-483-1331) at 1400. Visitation with the family will begin at 1300.

CSM Billy Johnson will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday 17 January 2008 at 1100 with full honors



He is survived by his wife Elminie (Artillery) Johnson, his daughters Julie Lynn and Linda Jeanne Johnson, his grandson/son PFC James Johnson (currently in Iraq), and his two grandson's Griffin James DeJaco and Harrison James DeJaco.


Friends may contact the family at: 2416 Kimberly Dr., Fayetteville, NC, 28306-2345, 910-424-3840

24th Infantry Division Association


First to Fight ~ Victory Division

Billy Johnson

Taro Leaf Editor / Past Prez 2001-2003



2416 Kimberly Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28306-2345



Billy Johnson's Business Card, provided by Dan Rickert.
This is front; rear is at right enlarged for readability.


BILLY JOHNSON, CSM (Retired) 1946 – 1976
24th Infantry Division, 45th Infantry Division,
Special Forces Group(s), 82nd Airborne Division

MEDALS

Legion of Merit
Bronze Star with V and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Bronze Star for Meritorious Service
Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal
Good Conduct Medal with 8 Bars
American Campaign Medal
WWII Victory Medal
Army Occupation Medal with Clasp –Japan
Nation Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star
Korean Service Medal with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Stars
Armed Forces Expeditionary with 2 Bronze Stars
Viet Nam Service Medal with Bronze Star
RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm
RVN Campaign Medal with 60 Bar
UN Service Medal –Korea
Combat Infantry Badge with Star
Presidential Unit Citation – United States
Meritorious Unit Commendation
Presidential Unit Citation – Korea
Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation

WINGS

Master Parachute Badge – U.S. Army
Halo – U.S. Army
Chinese
Viet Nam
Philippines
Thailand
Korea



Billy Johnson – 2007 Verbeck Awardee

by Roger Mitten, Vice President.

Billy Johnson, Life Member #198, is the 2007 recipient of the 24th IDA "Verbeck Award for Excellence."

I have been asked to discuss why the Verbeck Award Committee recommend Billy for this coveted award.

Ed Farmer summed it up best, when he said without hesitation: "Because Billy was one of the most decorated and dedicated soldiers the Association has ever had within its ranks. He always did a superb job."

Continued on Page 22.

The TARO LEAF



Summer-Fall 2007 Page 5

Secretary-Treasurer Report *by Don Maggio*

New Members

Name	Regiment	Co.-Bat. Trp.	Sponsor/Remarks
Alloppenna, Christine	Assoc		Anthony Santoro
Duff, Dan	3rd Eng	H & S	Dallas Heston
Ebert, Clayton W.	3rd Eng		Dallas Heston
Gayle, Raymond E.	3rd Eng	A	Gene Spicer
Heston, Dallas T.	3rd Eng	HQ	Wes Morrison
Hooper, Sam P.	34th Inf	A	Larry Gay
King, Gene W.	34th Inf		Frances Wittman
Ko, Edward	HQ		Tom Thiel
Lyons, Jack E.	21st Inf	K	
Marchetta, Leonard	34th Inf	unk	Found us on the web
McCabe, James L.	19th Inf	F	Melvin Behnen
McCurdy, Joe	2/9th Cav	HQ	Found us on the web
Raines, Mrs. James D. (Dorothy)	Assoc		Husband - 5th RCT Korea 49-51
Tremblay, Roland Henry	3rd Eng	H & S	Dallas Heston
Tyboriski, Melvin S.	Band, Recon & Signal		Alfred Gonzalez



Donors

Name	Unit	Amt	Remarks
Behnen, Melvin J.	3rd Eng	\$25	Thanks for TARO LEAF Copies for the Kadrluk and McCabe families.
Blood, Jr., Frank H.	19th Inf	\$20	Taro Leaf
Brooks, Allen	34th Inf	\$5	
Clemons, Cecil C.	27th Inf	\$10	
Danhoff, James W.	13th FA	\$5	13th FA expenses
Deegan, Gerald P.	21st Inf	\$5	
Delgadillo, Margarito	19th Inf	\$100	Punch Bowl Memorial
Donovan, Daniel F.	34th Inf	\$10	
Fecko, John J.	3rd Eng	\$25	In memory of WWII 3rd Engineers
Garceau, Alfred J.	3rd Eng	\$20	Taro Leaf
Carcia, Tony M.	24th Med	\$10	Postage
Gibson, Wesley J.	34th Inf	\$15	
Helseth, Stan	19th Inf	\$10	Postage
Hoffmann, Ulrich V.	34th Inf	\$20	
Irvine, Orrin R.	24th Sig	\$5	
Le Blanc, Reginald A.	19th Inf	\$10	
Lowry, Charles R.	21st Inf	\$15	
Martin, Robert K.	63rd FA	\$5	Postage
McDevitt, Paul E.	19th Inf	\$10	
Mennona, Edward	13th FA	\$100	
Millender, Mack	52nd FA	\$10	
Montcalm, Russell D.	19th Inf	\$15	
Oklaire, Earlwin C.	21st Inf	\$5	In memory of MIAs
Owens, James R.	34th Inf	\$15	
Schlarb, Beryle A.	34th & 21st Inf	\$10	
Silverstein, Alfred J.	21st Inf	\$35	In Remembrance Osan, Korea July 5th, 1950
Slaney, Maurice R.	34th Inf	\$35	To honor and thank the 24th Div Medics for 57 years of life after 20 July 50 and Taejon.
Westrich, Herman A.	21st Inf	\$15	
Whisler, John	724th Ord	\$5	
Wood, Jewel	52nd FA	\$30	In memory of COL "Dutch" Nelsen
Total:		\$250.00	

New Lifetime Members

Name	Unit	Co./ Batt.	Life No.	Date
Fergus, Bernard J.	11th FA		2295	22 Sep 07
George, Leonard L.	24th Sig		2297	01 Oct 07
Hoffmann, Ulrich V.	34th Inf	E	2300	10 Oct 07
Temple, Sr., Alfred R.	Div HQ	G-2	2221	10 Apr 06
Scott, Joan K.	Assoc		2296	22 Sep 07
Trendell, George M	19th Inf	B	2293	13 Sep 07
Weiler, Richard L.	34th Inf	I & R	2298	05 Oct 07
Williams, David M.	29th Inf	C	2299	29 Sep 07
Wood, Jewel	52nd FA		2294	07 Sep 07



From Your Editor's Computer, by Tom Thiel



Eustis, FL, November 23, 2007: Well, I have most of the *TARO LEAF* pages done so it's about time that I jot down a few lines to bring you up to date on events here at the editor's computer.

Thank you all for keeping me on board after that first issue. Apparently,

most all of you were anxious to get the *TARO LEAF* since nobody complained, and an awful lot of you wrote, emailed, or called with very nice words.

There are so many thoughts now. The main one is the fact that Billy Johnson is no longer with us. His daughter, Julie, called me on Thanksgiving Day with the news of his passing the day before of kidney failure. My thoughts and prayers go to Minie, and all the family, in their time of sorrow. Julie said that they were also going to celebrate her father's life, and so should we. I know he certainly set a high standard as my predecessor, and in all that he did. Because his son is in Iraq, the services will be delayed until January 13 in North Carolina, and January 17 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Your feedback from the last issue was terrific! Thank you so much. And thank you for your articles and items for the *TARO LEAF*. I learned something from that last issue; I need a larger supply to respond to special requests!

Let me apologize to many of you right up front, for having to so drastically edit your copy. I set a limit of 64 pages (multiples of 16) and found that many articles had to be shortened even more than what we had agreed upon. I had to remove or rescale photos, and cut up to a third or more of your text. I know that material was important, but one has to make hard decisions. If it is any consolation, I have moved some of that material to the folder for the next issue!

There are a lot of good stories in this issue; Shorty's description of life as a POW, and Norm Fosness' description of July 5, 1950 at Osan, were especially gripping. Those are the kinds of stories we want for the *TARO LEAF*.

On page 9, Al Silverstein points out that 1,500 WWII Vets are departing each day, and that their "slices of life" are departing with them. I join Al in appealing to you to get your stories to me so that they can be recorded in the *TARO LEAF* for posterity.

After this issue, which I've labeled Vol. 61, Nos. 3&4, I plan to get back on our established schedule of one issue per quarter. In reality, I have a lot of material already going for Vol. 62, No. 1, which is to be published in February. It takes me the better part of a month to put one together, and the printer adds about three weeks to that process.

One thing that has been suggested is that somehow we acquire a *TARO LEAF* archives. I know I certainly would find one useful now! What I'm talking about is an electronic, key word searchable file for every issue of the *TARO LEAF* that has ever been published. Imagine being able to search all pages of all copies of the *TARO LEAF* for the word "Verbeck," or of "Zig-Zag Hill," or, well you get the idea.

I don't even know if a complete set of hard copies exists anywhere. If it does, then the individual pages could be scanned as intelligent Adobe portable document format, pdf, pages where the words are recognized as the document is scanned, so that all text strings can be quickly found with a computer.

Do you have a complete set of *TARO LEAF*s? Or know where one exists? Or do you possess the skills and equipment to help me with the scanning, or might you want to learn? Let me know, please.

Now please turn to page 22 for a couple of more points I'd like to discuss with you. (Continued on page 22)



CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

*by Rev. Dr. Jesse James, State Chaplain, Michigan American Legion
Submitted by 24th IDA Chaplain, Glenn Carpenter, Jr.*



The noise of political debate may rage in Washington during this campaigning year, eroding the confidence of the American people about the means and methods that this War on Terrorism has taken. But for each of us who has served, comrades in the defense of our country, our support of our troops has never wavered.

From the continued support of our troops at the local home post, through to the national organization, support for those who serve has been our cry, not only for those who obediently serve, but also the families and friends who stand in support of those who defend.

As this journey continues, it may seem easy to falter, to disconnect from the price that is being paid by those who serve, their families and friends. Yet, each flag-draped coffin that comes home is a stark reminder of the price of the liberties we enjoy.

Regardless of your opinions on the war, or U.S. Foreign policy, continue to show YOUR troops that you support them; send a letter, call your congressman, stay involved in your post and continue to be counted. For no matter when we served our call of duty, the call to serve never stops.

**“Veterans Serving Veterans.”
“Do not weary in Well Doing” 2 Thessalonians 3:13**

If I ever go to war...

If I ever go to war Mom, please don't be afraid.
There are some things I must do, to keep the promise that I made.
I'm sure there will be some heartache, and I know that you'll cry tears.
But your son is a Soldier now, Mom, there is nothing you should fear.

If I ever go to war Dad, I know that you'll be strong.
But you won't have to worry, cause you taught me right from wrong.
You kept me firmly on the ground, yet still taught me how to fly.
Your son is a Soldier now Dad, I love you hooah, even if I die.

If I ever go to war Bro, there are some things I want to say.
You've always had my back, and I know it's my time to repay.
You'll always be my daybreak, through all of life's dark clouds.
Your brother is a soldier now, Bro, I promise I'll make you proud.

If I ever go to war Sis, don't you worry bout me.
I always looked out for you, but I can't do that anymore, cause I'm a big bro to all in America.
I love you so much, and you know that, your brothers a soldier now, Sis.
So wipe your eyes, I'll be fine even if I die.

If I ever go to war my Friends, we'll never be apart.
Though we may not meet again, I'll hold you in my heart.
Remember all the times we had, don't let your memories cease.
Your friend is a Soldier now, Dear Friend, and I'll die to bring you peace.

And when I go to heaven, and see that pearly gate.
I'll gladly decline entrance, then stand my post and wait.
I'm sorry Sir, I can't come in, I'm sort of in a bind.
You see, I'm still a Soldier Sir, so I can't leave them behind.

*By PFC Jonathan W. Guffey, Alpha Company,
101st Airborne 2/506th Infantry Air Assault Iraq,
2006. ###*



Your "Slice of Life" Urgently Needed

by Al Silverstein, "E" 21st Inf. Reg., 1945-48

Hello Tom:

I just want to send a note of appreciation, and a few loud "oo-rahs," on your handling of the *TARO LEAF*.

I like the clean format, and you are typographically on solid ground and with 4-color repros that really pop out at the reader. You did one hell of a job!

As I am sure you know--or will soon discover--the toughest part of an editor's assignment is finding readable content and not just space fillers.

Here are some suggestions, if I may: As you probably know, 1,500 WWII veterans die each day, and their histories and experiences go with them. Not far behind are those who were in the Korean War.

How about making a big push, editorially, in an attempt to have our members submit their own personal stories, not only of combat, but of their entire military experience?

I cannot speak for others, but I have always found these "slices of life" reports extremely interesting. Include as many photographs as you can to enhance these stories, but with the proviso that these photos are explained as to who and what the reader is viewing.

Frankly, I fear that what you would be asking may not come to pass simply because of physical and other liabilities on the part of members. One such liability is that not too many members have access to a computer, or have deficits in their ability to physically write in long hand.

This would particularly be so in the WWII members, who like me, are in or approaching their 80th decade.

It's a tough nut to crack, and my biggest fear is that unless something can be done to attract membership, in the not too far distant future the Association will find that the scales have



PFC A.J. Silverstein, Easy Company, 21st Infantry, winter 1945 near Kumamoto, Kyushu, Japan, on one of our constant overnights to assure that we still remembered nighttime combat infantry tactics & maneuvers--as if we could ever forget!

tipped and the passage of years will take its toll--more members will be checking out than are checking in--and there goes the neighborhood!

I wish I had an answer, but in the meantime your work with the *TARO LEAF* will provide the glue to keep the Association going and for that, you deserve a hand salute!

Best regards. **Al Silverstein**, E 21st, '45-'48
89 Harding Drive, New Rochelle, NY 10801
joan.silverstein2@verizon.net ###

***TARO LEAF* GOALS**

Editor's Note: Al's words say far more eloquently than any that I could ever express, my goals for the *TARO LEAF*; to carry your stories, your experiences, as best you and I can present them, into history, in the pages of the *TARO LEAF*, where everyone can view them.

Al expresses a concern about your inability to get them to me; PLEASE do not let that bother you. Just be sure to get them to me however you are able.

Together we have a mission; to tell our portion of history, for the rest of the world to see, into perpetuity, in the *TARO LEAF*! TJT Ed.



Birth of the 24th Infantry Division Association

from <http://home.att.net/~victory24/> author not identified

"It was mid-August 1945 and the Division was in the midst of its last campaign of World War II. They were on Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Although the Japanese surrender had been announced on August 15th, fighting continued on Mindanao into mid-September and the Division was still taking up defensive positions.

The Division Commanding General, Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff called a meeting somewhere around August 19th or 20th to discuss the organization of a Division Association. They met in a grove of palm trees along the beach. The gathering of about 15 officers and men sat on fallen logs and developed a plan for giving birth to our Association.

Best recollection has the following present: Commanding General Woodruff; Asst. Div. Commander, Brigadier General Kenneth F. Cramer; Chief of Staff, Colonel Bill Verbeck; Colonel Kenwood Ross, Ordnance; G-3, Lt. Col. Bill Crump; Asst. G-3, Lt. Col. George Dickerson; Asst. G-2, Lt. Col. Bev Reed; G-1, Lt. Col. Tom Compere; Asst. G-1, Lt. Col. Robert Daniel; AG, Lt. Col. Bill Craig; Asst. AG, Major Walter Cunningham; IG, Major George Gaynor; JAG, Major John Mason; Lt. Col. Jim Purcell, Signal; and Asst. J.A., Warrant Officer Edmund F. Henry.

The objectives of the Association are to: preserve the memory of the fame and glory of the Division, maintain and strengthen the bonds of comradeship, and provide for gathering and dissemination of information concerning those men. Here is what they wrote on that far away beach in 1945.

The Purpose of the 24th Infantry Division Association shall be to:

- Electrify and unify the invisible current of fellowship molded in the throes of war, and preserve the comradeship common to the veterans of the Division;
- Honor and perpetuate the memory of the men who distinguished themselves by their services and sacrifices while with the Division;
- Memorialize the valiant acts and patriotic deeds of the Division;
- Encourage and aid historical research in relation to the activities of the Division; acquire and preserve records of the Division and its personnel; and
- Celebrate, with appropriate ceremonies, the anniversaries of events in the history of the Division." ###

~~~~~

From: **James Mims**

To: Thiel, Tom J.

Sunday, September 23, 2007,

Subject: New TARO LEAF

Tom:

Congratulations on your first issue of the TARO LEAF. It is a beauty! You certainly follow some wonderful fellows who have kept that going over the now more than half a century. I have a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1, so I have to be one of your oldest subscribers! Would you like to have a copy of that? If so, let me know and I will mail you one. (see full text of Mr. Mims' letter in "Letters to the Editor" section.)

James W. Mims, 811 Lawson, Midland, Texas 79701, (S/Sgt. 114th Photo Interpretation Team, G-2 Section, Div. HQ, October 1944 to June 1945) ###

I replied immediately, saying: "No, I don't want a copy, I want the Original to scan and then to return to you." Kindly, Mr. Mims did exactly that, and one of the results is on the next page! TJT Ed.







# THE TARO LEAF



24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans' Association

VOLUME I

AUGUST 1947

NUMBER 1

## N. E. QUICK TO FORM ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

The New England chapter of the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division, Veterans' Association, launched its career with a reunion dinner at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, R. I., on March 15th. About seventy veterans from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts attended. The affair was stag. There was a fine spirit displayed by all present.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth F. Cramer, a former commanding general of the Division and President of the Association, was the principal speaker. He reviewed the exploits of the Division during its campaigns in the Pacific and urged support for a move to enlarge the membership of the Association. He was introduced by M/Sgt Neil Young, Hqs. 19th Inf., now at 220 Washington St., Whitman, Mass. Edmund F. Henry, formerly of Division Hqs., Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, was chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Combat films of the invasion of Leyte were shown. Messages of greeting were dispatched to Generals Irving, Woodruff and Lester.

A committee to carry out plans for the New England Chapter was named as follows: James G. Fairbrother, Hqs. 2nd Bn 34th, 143 Sayles Ave., Pascoag, R. I.; Raymond G. Ford, Div. Arty, 181 Cabot St., Newton, Mass.; Richard H. Friedman 19th Inf., 193 Hobart St., Newton, Mass.; Ben. A. Govan, Hqs 34th, 102 High St., Everett, Mass.; William J. Hynes, 19th Inf., 32 Arnold St., Methuen, Mass.; John F. McQuil-lan, 34th and Asst. G-4, 24 Stevens St., Methuen, Mass.; F. X. Randles, 34th Inf., 137 Milbrook Drive, East Hartford, Conn.; James Russell, Cn Co., 19th, 40 Cottage St., Pawtucket, R. I.

Others who attended were: August Baccari, 19th Inf., 286 Saw Mill River Rd., Briarcliff, N. Y.; James A. McGaffigan, 19th Inf., 548 LaGrange St., West Roxbury, Mass.; Jos. Ciccio, Div. Hqs., 1550 Center St., Roslindale, Mass.; John F. Leddy, 24th Med. Bn., 12 Pine St., Pawtucket, R. I.; Guerson D. Silverberg, Div. Hqs. 257 Main St., Norwich, Conn.; John F. McKenney, 19th, 15 Third St., Old Orchard, Me.; Sherwood C. Haskins, 21st Inf., 200 Harris St., Revere, Mass.; Wm. H. Muldoon, Co. E, 19th, 59 Mt. Vernon St., Brighton, Mass.; Jos. H. Bellhumeur, 21st Inf., 261 Burnside St., Woonsocket, R. I.; Jack Griefen, Div. Hqs. 470 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass.; Victor Pugliesi, Co. C, 21st, 33 Mass. Ave., Quincy, Mass.; Nello DiTullio, L Co., 19th, 104 Lancaster St., Quincy, Mass.; Hugh Eramo, AT Co., 34th, So. Artery, Quincy, Mass.; James DiDonato, Co. B, 21st, 64 Richardson St., Wakefield, Mass.; Peter DiGiacomo, Co. C, 21st, 110 Lancaster St., Quincy, Mass.; Jos. Iosua, Hqs Co., 19th, 9 Wiley Place, Wakefield, Mass.; Walter Bennett, 24th QM Co., Brookfield, Mass.; Henry Olson, 19th Inf., 50 Prescott St., Readville, Mass.; Wm. D. Burleson, 266 Walnut St., Williamantic, Conn.; Gus Doras, 21st Inf., 134 Lockwood St., Providence, R. I.; Wm. F. McGuirl, 21st, 138 Royal St., Providence, R. I.; Edgar St. John, K Co. 21st 46 Terrace Ave., Warren, R. I.; James Maguire, 19th Inf., 193 Newfield Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.; Charles J. Flanagan, AT Co., 34th, 80 Chapin St., Holyoke, Mass.; Nino DiGregorio, AT Co., 34th, Wappingers Falls, N.

## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The 24th Infantry Division has a proud record of accomplishment on many fields of battle.

During the years in which it served, many close friendships were formed only to be temporarily dissipated as we were scattered far and wide on demobilization.

Formed to preserve these ties of comradeship, your Division Association affords the best possible means of maintaining these battlefield friendships.

This little publication will bring you news of many.

We ask you to support the publication and your Association. Tell us what you are doing; give us news of your friends; and join the Association. Help us to preserve those friendships and to perpetuate the achievements of the 24th.

Cordially,

KENNETH F. CRAMER,  
Major General  
President.

Y.; Wilbert A. LeCours, Cn Co., 34th, 465 Newton St., So. Hadley, Mass.; Frederick L. Cole, 34th Med. Det., 109 Middle St., Riverside, R. I.; Robert W. Griswold, Div. Hqs., RFD No. 3, Attleboro, Mass.; Arthur Mitchell, Co. E, 21st, 17 Haverhill St., Brockton, Mass.; Robert Johnston, 21st, 598 Turnpike St., Stoughton, Mass.; W. T. Desmond, Sv Co., 34th, 30 Putnam St., Somerville, Mass.; Lawrence M. Neylon, Hqs. 2nd Bn, 34th, 10 Laurel St., Somerville, Mass.; Michael Demyan, 34th Inf., 530 Jane St., Bridgeport, Conn.; Christopher Arndt, 24th Recn Troop, No. Scituate, R. I.; Leo Robidoux, Hqs. Co., 34th, 32 Quequechan St., Fall River, Mass.; Harold L. Cohen, Hqs. Co., 34th, 173 Sumter St., Providence, R. I.; Frank Zenga, 34 Inf., Forge Rd., East Greenwich, R. I.; Walter Redfield, 19th Inf., 42 Black Rock Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.; Carl Schank, 19th Inf., 443 Union Ave., Bound Brook, N. J.; Albert Roehrig, Div. Arty, 265 Greendale Ave., Needham Heights, Mass.; Howard Richardson, 724th Ord. Co., 244 Park St., Attleboro, Mass.

## JAP SABER DEAL

In January 1945, while the Division was in Matsuyama, the CG set aside 5000 Jap sabers for veterans whose service was prior to the occupation. They were not age-old samurai swords, but they were fine souvenirs. The news was given considerable publicity in the USA, and many requests were received. However, before the sabers could be boxed and mailed in any large number, a directive from higher headquarters clamped down on the mailing of souvenirs. The Division Ordnance Officer was able to beat the dead-line in some cases, to keep faith with those who had sent the money for postage, but the number was actually small.

If you were one of those disappointed, please understand that everyone had the best of intentions, but performance was rendered impossible by these circumstances, after the offer was made.

## FIRST ISSUE OF THE TARO LEAF; NEXT UP TO YOU

This is the first issue of "THE TARO LEAF". It will be issued quarterly. The name was really sweated out. We received many suggestions such as The Poi Leaf, The Taro Leaflet, The Alang-alang Clarion, Hoi-Poi, V-Mail, Veescripts, Oahu Wahoo, Tarogram, Tarograph, etc.

We also were in receipt of several ribald suggestions. The name chosen seems appropriate, but we have no pride in authorship. If you have a better one, let's have it.

We also invite suggestions as to form and substance and welcome contributions of material. If you want to locate a friend, use our columns at no charge, so long as we have the space. We feel that "Call Me Mister" will be a popular feature. Please help us to keep it up by sending in names and addresses—yours and your friends. Marriages, births, news of your present business and occupation—these are the things we want, because we think that you will like to read them. Our editorials and pronouncements will be kept at a minimum. News of what is going on in the old outfit and news of your old buddies will be emphasized—and always, names and addresses.

THE TARO LEAF will be mailed to all members of the Association. If you have received a copy and are not yet a member, it was sent in the hope that you will fill out the application blank elsewhere in the paper. The membership is not yet on a sufficiently broad base to justify the expense and the tremendous amount of work required to print the paper. If you think it is worthwhile, the editors and officers, who are all volunteers in the task of trying to maintain, through the Association, the comradeship engendered during the war years, earnestly solicit your support.

So, "Comment Invited". Let's hear from you—and send in your membership application if you want to hear from us.

## NATIONAL CONCLAVE IN 1947 IS URGED

Many of the members have expressed a desire for a Convention this year. This may be a large order but it certainly has desirable features.

The present officers are serving on a temporary basis. Only a Convention can elect permanent ones.

Moreover, the Constitution provides for an executive board to function as the prime governing body between conventions, and only a convention can implement this. Besides, only a convention can authorize expenditures over and above those necessary for publishing and promoting the Association.

It may be that Organization Day, October 1st, would be an appropriate time. As to the place, there would certainly be any number of suggestions. But this is merely thinking aloud. If there is marked sentiment for it, we would like to hear from you at once, since arrangements would have to be underway very soon.



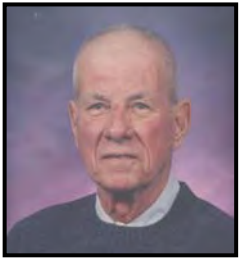


# *The TARO LEAF TAPS*

## **Correction**

TAPS, Vol. 61, No. 1 & 2, incorrectly included **Bernard Wojtkiewicz** of Glendale Heights, IL, in its listings. I was most pleased to receive Mr. Wojtkiewicz's telephone call advising me of our error. Your editor confused Bernard with Matthew W. Slowik, who is listed again this time properly with his 19th Regiment comrades.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team**



**Gottshall, Arthur C.**, (left) 78, Life #896, 2246 Nelson Ct., Milton, WV 25541-1027, went home to be with his Lord Thursday, February 22, 2007 in Sun-bridge Care & Rehab for Putnam. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II and Korean Conflict. He is survived by his loving wife, Velma E. "Jean" Cruce Gottshall and family. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Velma Gottshall, 2246 Nelson Court, Milton, WV 25541-1027

**Raines, James D.**, passed away 4 October 2007. James served with the 5th Regimental Combat Team from 1949-1951 in Hawaii and Korea. Cards may be sent to his wife Dorothy at 5705 Helmsdale Lane, Alexandria, VA 22315-4136.

**Rickert, Beverly**, passed away August 26th. Beverly, wife of Life Member Dan Rickert, was very active in the Association, West Coast Reunions and the 3rd Engineer Reunion prior to her becoming ill. She will be missed. Beverly was the Grandmother of Danielle Rickert, designer of the Memorial Monument recently dedicated at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Hawaii. Cards may be sent to Dan and his Family at 28099 Calle Valdes, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1551.



**Vargo, Joel S. Sr.**, Association Life Member who served in the 5th Regimental Combat Team from 1953-54, passed away September 23, 2007, at St. Charles Mercy Hospital, Oregon, Ohio. Joel resided in Curtis, Jerusalem Township, OH, and enjoyed spending winters in Palmetto, Florida, with his wife, Frances. Joe was a proud Korean War Veteran, serving in the U.S. Army's 5th Regimental Combat Team, 24th Infantry Division, Tank Company. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Mrs. Frances Vargo, 10550 Jerusalem Road, Curtis, OH 43412.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**

**Jenkins, G.W.**, Battery A, 11th FA Bn passed away on 24 September 2007. GW was a POW from July 20, 1950, until his release August 26, 1953. He had suffered for a long period from cancer and Parkinson Disease. No information on a surviving spouse address. From Shorty Estrabrook.

**Kidder, Arthur R.** Battery A, 11th Field Artillery Battalion had passed away on January 2, 1989 in Christiansburg, OH. Arthur served with the Battalion in Japan and was a member of Task Force Smith. No other information is available.



# *The TARO LEAF TAPS*

## **13<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**

**Lennon, Patrick J.**, passed away 4 July 2006. Patrick served with the Headquarters, 13th Field Artillery Battalion in Germany from December 1961 - July 1964. Cards may be sent to his wife Mary at 18 Florian Way, Boston, MA 02131-2108.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**Carter, Jack W.**, 1st SG, US Army (Retired) passed away on 8 July 2007. Jack served with Medical Company, 19th Infantry Regiment from August 1950 - November 1951. Cards may be sent to his wife Alyce at 19 Circle Drive, Brush, CO 80723-2201. Jack and Murl Ring served together as Navy Medics with the Marines during WWII. Both enlisted in the US Army and joined the 3rd Bn, 19th Infantry Aid Station in September 1950. Ring was seriously wounded on February 4, 1951 and Jack literally carried him out on his back saving Ring's life. Lacy Barnett who was also with the 19th as a Medic believes Jack was awarded the Silver Star. Ring died 12 June 1995 in Arkansas. (Barnett, Major, US Army Retired).

**Dosch, Robert A.**, Association Life member, passed away on 21 May 2006. Robert served with the 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea. Cards may be sent to the family at 178 N. Main St., Pearl River, NY 10965-1805

**Graham, John J.**, Company M, 19th Infantry Regiment from March 1951-December 1952, passed away on 28 February 2007. Cards may be sent to his wife, Hazel, at 1036 SW 53rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73109-4404.

**Hartman, Herman C.**, Life #2136, passed away on 17 April 2006 at the Countryside Christian Community Home, 520 N. State Rte. 934, Annville, PA 17003-9039. Herman served with the 19th Infantry from August 1944 through September 1946 during WWII, and in Japan. Notice published in the Lebanon Daily News on 8 April 2006, no listed Spouse or other relative. Punch Bowl letter returned to Dan in August marked "Deceased," no further information. by S/T Don Maggio



**Hitzeman, Eugene Edwin** (left), 83, 19th Infantry Regiment, and Life member, of San Mateo, CA., died Jan. 23, 2006, in Palo Alto, CA., after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was drafted in 1942, serving in the newly formed 24th Inf. Div. until 1945, in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He deactivated many Japanese mines and booby-traps for his unit, and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. "Gene attended his first 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Reunion in 1991; this lead him to talk more about his war experiences. He was proud to serve his country. You will have honored Gene's wish by putting his obituary in the *TARO LEAF*." Miriam Hitzeman, Oct. 10, 2007. Cards may be sent to Ms. Miriam M. Hitzeman, 600 W. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Mateo, CA, 94403.

**Hassenboehle, Roland E.**, Company I, 19th Infantry in 1945 and was a WWII veteran, passed away on May 30, 2007. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Olga Hassenboehle, 400 Rue St. Ann, #111, Metairie, LA 7005-4631.





# ***The TARO LEAF TAPS***

**Irwin, Clyde C.**, 84, died Jul 19, 2006. His passing was reported on page 20 of Vol. 61, Nos. 1&2, *TARO LEAF TAPS*. Survivors include two daughters, Linda Goode, Tampa, and Janie Richey, Alpharetta, Ga. [Recently, I got a letter regarding Captain Irwin from Tom Evans, which said in part: "Captain Erwin was with 'E' 19th in Korea, and at Camp Haugen, Japan, when the 24th was reassigned there. Captain Irwin was our Company Commander, and I was Plat. Sgt. of 2nd Platoon." (See full text of Mr. Evans' remarks in Letters to Editor later on in this publication.) Evan T. "Tom" Evans, 2121 Loop Road, Keeling, VA 24566.

**Kushina, William J.**, passed away on 16 November 2006. William served with the 19th Infantry Regiment during WWII. Cards may be sent to his wife Jane at 777 W 3rd St., Runnemede, NJ 08078-1206.

**Munoz, Jose L.**, passed away 21 October 2007. Jose served with Company H, 19th Infantry Regiment in Japan and Korea from 1949-1951. Cards may be sent to his wife Carmen at 9011 Lady Di Loop, Laredo, TX 78045-8043

**Santo, Ciro**, Company C, 19th Infantry. Ciro served in Korea and was a Prisoner of War from 4 November 1950 to 24 August 1953. Cards may be sent to his surviving family at 65 Putman Avenue, Ormond Beach, FL 32174-5329. Received from Bill Allen.

**Shoe, Charles W.**, see listing under 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment

**Slowik, Matthew W.**, Des Plaines, IL, age 85, 19th Regiment, 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. 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.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment**

**Carr, Winford M.**, passed away on September 3, 2007. Winford served with Company H, 21st Infantry Regiment during WWII, and with the Military Police in Komumoto, Japan, from 1945 to 1947. Cards may be sent to the family at Rt 6, Box 189A, Fairmont, WV 26554-9116. E-mail from Diane Wagner.

**Crosson, Jr., Hugh S.**, passed away on 18 October 2007 in Jacksonville, FL. Hugh was a Major, and was CO of H Company, 21st Infantry Regiment during WWII, where he served for four years. Hugh is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris, two daughters, Patty and Fran, four grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to his wife Doris and family at 1424 Avondale Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32205-7821. 904-388-1633 (Jane Ford and Ed Farmer)

**Denton, Leo**, Company M, 21st Infantry Regiment, passed away on 27 August 2007. He was 77. Leo was with Task Force Smith, and was one of the first captured by the North Koreans on 5 July 1950. He was a Tiger Survivor having endured the Tiger Death March. Leo was finally released on August 23, 1953. Cards may be sent to his widow Mrs. Leo Denton, 37 LAW 243, Powhatan, AR 72458-8517. (Reported by Shorty Estabrook).

**Fortes, Melvin D.**, (See listing under 34th Regiment listings.)



# *The TARO LEAF TAPS*

**Giannini, Gerald J.**, passed away on April 5, 2007. Gerald served with Company A, 21st Infantry Regiment during WWII. His wife had predeceased him. Last address available was 81-D Whimthrop Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831-6693.



**Gorski, Frank**, (photo at left) died April 15, 2007, of cancer. He served with the Medics of the 21st Inf. Regt., was wounded in Hollandia, and spent sixteen months in Army Hospitals. "Ski" was a proud Life Member of the 24th Inf. Div. Assn. for 58 years, attending almost every reunion and enjoying the camaraderie of all of his buddies. Condolences may be sent to Ms. Irene Gorski, 2228 Terry Lane W., Broadview, IL 60155. (Sent by Richard F. Draus.)



**Harvey, William V.**, (photo left) 21st Infantry Regiment, HQ 3rd 50-51, died on 6 Nov 07. Mr. Harvey was a veteran of World War II and the Korean. After being honorably discharged from the military, in the early 1960's he started his own construction company called CCI Custom Craft Incorporated, where he was a successful entrepreneur specializing as a home builder in Georgia and a condominium developer in North Florida. No family contact information available; last known address is: 410 River Shores Ct. NW, Atlanta, GA 30328-3701. (Submitted by Phyllis Burke, 21st RCT Assoc.)



**Kirkman, Maurice**, (photo at left) Company M, 21st Infantry, Korea, passed away at 6:30 AM, 28 August 2007, at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. He retired as a First Sergeant after 22 years of service with the U.S. Army. Cards may be sent to the Donna Kirkman & family, 5823 Jacksontown Rd., Lot #39, Newark, OH 43056-9391

**Murphy, James F.**, Captain, 21st Infantry Regiment during WWII, Life Member #441, passed away on 25 Aug 2007. Participated in campaigns in New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon, and the Southern Philippines. He received Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Cards may be sent to his wife Ara Neil Murphy, 720 Latta Road, Apr. 246, Rochester, NY 14612-4166. Reported to Sec./Treas.

**Ragland, Helen**, wife of John Ragland, Company D, 21st Infantry Regiment, WWII, passed away on Wednesday Evening, September 5, 2007. Helen was regular attendee at our reunions until her illness took over. No further information available. Cards may be sent to John and his family at 6321 Gonzales Ct., Groves, TX 77619-5245. (received from John and Fran Frey)

## **34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**



**Fortes, Melvin D.**, 97, Master Sergeant, US Army passed away on November 7, 2007, at the Community Hospital of Monterey, CA. MSG Fortes joined the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment. Sgt. Fortes was later with Company L, 34th Infantry Regiment, and subsequently transferred to Company G, 21st Infantry Regiment on 1 Sept. 1950. He was predeceased in death by his wife of 54 years, Paz Fortes. Cards may be sent to his son, Mel Fortes, PO Box 51907, Pacific Grove, CA 93950



# ***The TARO LEAF TAPS***

**Griffin, Wenzel B.**, Company C, 34th Infantry Regiment passed away on January 31, 2004. Wenzel served as an Infantry Rifleman for 18 months obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant and 4 months Antitank Gun Crewman from 14 December 1944 until 26 May 1946. He received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat participation in Mindanao, Philippine Islands, on 21 June 1945. He also participated in the Southern Philippines and Luzon Campaigns. He was separated from Active Service on 5 June 1946 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. No spousal information is available.



**Johnson, Charles William**, S/Sgt., 76, of 3103 Trent Road, New Bern, North Carolina, died August 30, 2007 Of Lymphoma. He served in the Korean War in Company A, 34 Infantry Regiment, BAR Squad Leader, CIB, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct, Korean Campaign, with one bronze star device, Occupation Medal with 'Japan' clasp. Korean Service Medal with 'rosette device', Presidential unit citation USA, ROK Presidential unit citation. He also served in General MacArthur's Honor Guard. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Irene, and five children. Cards may be sent to: 3103 Trent Road, New Bern, NC 28560-5736 (David Baillie Life member 24th IDA 34th Inf Regt)

**O'Sullivan, John L.**, passed away 7 September 2007. John served with both Companies A & K, 34th Infantry Regiment in Korea and Japan during 1952-1953, and was a life member of the Association. Cards may be sent to his wife Bess at 334 3rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60515-5265.

**Shoe, Charles W.**, passed away October 26, 2007. Charles was with the 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment in Japan and went to Korea at the beginning of the hostilities. When the Regiment was zeroed out on paper and sent back to Japan he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry. Cards may be sent to his family at 3924 Harrisburg Dr., Harrisburg, NC 28075-8406 (Lou Repko and Tom Cochran)



**Szurley, Chester**, passed away August 21, 2007, in The Medical Center, Beaver, PA, following a brief illness. Mr. Szurley was with "M" Co, 34th Infantry Regiment in Korea, and was later assigned to "H" Co, 21st Infantry Regiment. Chester, a Purple Heart recipient, had retired as an elections and registration director at the Beaver County Court House, where he had worked for 27 years. Cards may be sent to his wife Melanie and family at 31 C Street, Beaver, PA 15009-1502 (reported by Charles & Martha Andrews (3/34th & 2/21st)).

## **52<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery**

**Opfer, Theodore**, passed away 14 July 2006. Theodore served with the 52nd Field Artillery Battalion during WWII, and was a life member of the Association. Cards may be sent to the family at 31 Pumpkin Center Road, Finleyville, PA 15332-3106.





# *The TARO LEAF TAPS*

## **187<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 24<sup>th</sup> Airborne Brigade**

**Gozick, Richard**, passed away July 5, 2007. Richard served in Company D, 1st Airborne Battle Group, 187th Infantry, 24th Airborne Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, in Germany and Lebanon in 1958. He is survived by his wife Connie and their 3 sons. Cards may be sent to 16 Snowden Rd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4161

## **Division**

**Sharpe, Edward Howell "Hal"**, Headquarters Company, 24th Medical Battalion, died Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at Scotland Memorial Hospital, Maxton, NC. He served with the Japan Occupation Forces at Kokura, Kyushu, during 1946-1947. He was commissioned after graduating from college and served as a Captain in Europe during the 1950's. Cards may be sent to his widow, Marjorie, at 307 North Florence Street, Maxton, NC 28364.

## **Unknown Unit**

**Ames, Bert L**, Veteran of WWII passed away on 17 Dec 2006. Cards may be sent to his wife Vi at PO Box 418, Loomis, CA 95650-0418.

**Dumas, Joseph**, "Laid to rest with honor;" 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Member, **Joe O'Connell**, never knew Joseph Dumas, but on Thursday he helped put the fellow Korean War veteran to rest. O'Connell and other veterans from Warminster township (PA) 's VFW Post 6493 helped to bury Dumas, who died with no family present, in a donated grave. "He served his time honorably," said O'Connell, "You do not allow a veteran to become ashes and essentially thrown out." Dumas died on Sept. 14 at Briarleaf Nursing & Convalescent Home in Doylestown, PA.



**Morales, Victorino S.**, (photo left) age 88, passed away on October 15, 2007 at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Victorino was a retired Sergeant First Class who served in the US Army during WWII and was a POW of the Japanese in the Philippines. He served with the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War. Funeral services were held on October 19, 2007 at the St. Jude's Catholic Church in Marina, CA. Cards may be sent to the family c/o Mission Memorial Park, 1915 Ord Grove Avenue, Seaside, CA 93955. Monterey Peninsula Herald

**Sommerhof, Earl T.**, Died in Japan of wounds received in Vietnam. Earl served with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea 53-54. Spouse surviving but only have Mrs. Earl Sommerhof.

## **Where to Send TAPS Notices.**

We request that you send TAPS notices to the Secretary-Treasurer, address on page 2 or on rear cover. He will then promptly forward to the Editor. You may send them as word processing attachments to an email or as printed copies; you may also include a *web link* to an online obituary.

**Photographs**; You may also attach a photograph to accompany the listings in The *TARO LEAF* TAPS section if you would like; please submit either as a jpg file email attachment (300 dpi is best), or as a photo print (**NO XEROX COPIES**). Ed.



# The TARO LEAF TAPS

| Last Name     | First & MI   | Address                  | City            | State | Zip+4      | Unit 1    | Co/Batt  | Yrs Srvd | Theater       | Surv     | Dt/Death   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
| Ames          | Bert L.      | PO Box 418               | Loomis          | CA    | 95650-0418 | 3rd Bn    |          | 42-46    | WWII & Japan  | Vi       | 17 Dec 06  |
| Arakawa       | Jack C.      |                          |                 |       |            | 19th Inf  |          | unk      | WWII & Korea  | unk.     | 30 Mar 73  |
| Barnish       | Carl F.      | 3823 Lawndale Dr #323    | Greensboro      | NC    | 27344-1605 | 339th Eng |          | unk      | WWII          | unk.     |            |
| Bomberry      | Robbie O.    |                          |                 |       |            | 26th AAA  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | 17 Apr 92  |
| Brady         | Thomas L.    |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | 15 Oct 94  |
| Cables        | Myles A.     |                          |                 |       |            | 34th Inf  | H & H    | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | 09 Apr 93  |
| Carr          | Winford M.   | Rt 6 Box 189A            | Fairmont        | WV    | 26554-9116 | 21st Inf  | H        | 46 - 47  | Japan         | unk.     | 03 Sep 07  |
| Cerino, Jr.   | Joseph T.    |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | 04 Feb 02r |
| Craig         | Arlton       |                          |                 |       |            | 19th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | Mar 74     |
| Crosson, Jr.  | Hugh S.      | 1324 Avondale Ave.       | Jacksonville    | FL    | 32205-7821 | 21st Inf  |          | unk      | WWII & Japan  | Doris    | 18 Oct 07  |
| Denton        | Leo          | 37 LAW 243               | Powhatan        | AR    | 72458-8517 | 21st Inf  | M        | 50 - 53  | Korea/POW     | Mrs.     | 27 Aug 07  |
| Dosch         | Robert A.    | 178 N. Main St.          | Pearl River     | NY    | 10965-1805 | 19th Inf  | B        | 50 - 53  | Korea         | Florence | 21 May 06  |
| Eggen         | Burdett      |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | Feb 74     |
| Giannini      | Gerald J.    | 81-D Whinthrope Rd       | Monroe Township | NJ    | 08831-6893 | 21st Inf  | A        | unk      | WWII          | deceased | 05 Apr 07  |
| Gottschall    | Donald L.    | 37637 Landis Ave.        | Zephyrhills     | FL    | 33541-9311 | 5th RCT   |          | unk      | Japan & Korea | unk.     |            |
| Gottshall     | Arthur C.    | 2246 Nelson Ct.          | Milton          | WV    | 25541-1027 | 5th RCT   | Hvy Mrtr | 11/51    | Korea/POW     | unk.     |            |
| Graham, Jr.   | John J.      | 1036 SW 53rd St          | Oklahoma City   | OK    | 73109-4404 | 19th Inf  | M        | 12/52    | Korea         | Hazel    | 39141      |
| Hartman       | Herman C.    | 934                      | Annnville       | PA    | 17003-9039 | 19th Inf  |          | 09/46    | WWII & Japan  | unk.     |            |
| Hassenboehler | Roand E.     | 400 Rue St. Ann #111     | Metairie        | LA    | 70005-4631 | 19th Inf  | I        | 1945     | WWII          | Olga     | 39222      |
| Jenkins       | G. W.        |                          |                 |       |            | 11th FA   | A        | unk      | Korea         | unk.     | 24Sep 07   |
| Johnson       | Thomas H.    | 66 Glenwood St.          | Winston Salem   | NC    | 27106      |           |          |          |               |          |            |
| Kirkman       | Maurice L.   | #39                      | Newark          | OH    | 43056-9391 | 21st Inf  | M        | 53 - 54  | Korea         | Donna R. | 28 Aug 07  |
| Kushina       | William J.   | 777 W. 3rd Ave.          | Runnemed        | NJ    | 08078-1206 | 19th Inf  |          | unk      | WWII          | Jane     | 16 Nov 06  |
| Lennon        | Patrick J.   | 18 Florian Way           | Boston          | MA    | 02131-2108 | 13th FA   | HQ       | 07/64    | Germany       | Mary     | 04 Jul 06  |
| Makarounis    | Alexander G. |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 31 Jul 94  |
| Morales       | Victorino S. |                          |                 | CA    |            | 24th Div  |          | unk      | WWII & Korea  | unk      | 15 Oct 07  |
| Mounce        | Aaron W.     |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | WWII & Korea  | unk      | 21 Feb 03  |
| Munoz         | Jose L.      | 9011 Lady Di Loop        | Laredo          | TX    | 78045-8043 | 19th Inf  | H        | 49 - 51  | Korea         | Carmen   | 21 Oct 07  |
| Murphy        | James F.     | 720 Latta Road, Apt. 246 | Rochester       | NY    | 14612-4166 | 21st Inf  |          | unk      | WWII          | Ara Nell | 25 Aug 07  |
| Opfer         | Theodore C.  | 31 Pumpkin Center Rd.    | Finleyville     | PA    | 15332-3106 | 52nd FA   |          | unk      | WWII          | unk      | 14 Jul 06  |
| O'Sullivan    | John J.      | 334 3rd St.              | Downers Grove   | IL    | 60515-5265 | 34th Inf  | A & K    | 52 - 53  | Japan & Korea | Bess     | 07 Sep 07  |
| Parsons       | Auvil        |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | WWII & Korea  | unk      | 20 Apr 93  |
| Raines        | James D.     | 5705 Helmsdale Lane      | Alexandria      | VA    | 22315-4136 | 5th RCT   |          | 49-51    | Korea         | Dorothy  | Oct 2004   |
| Riddle        | Arvel        |                          |                 |       |            | 21st Inf  |          | 50-51    | Korea         |          | 14 Apr 06  |
| Rindels       | Raymond M.   |                          |                 |       |            | 19th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 15 Aug 97  |
| Rookstoll     | Melvin D.    |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 16 Feb 06  |
| Rufatto       | Barney P.    |                          |                 |       |            | 34th Inf  | I        | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 04 Feb 79  |
| Santo         | Ciro J.      | 65 Putnam Ave.           | Ormond Beach    | FL    | 32174-5329 | 19th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk      |            |
| Sommerhof     | Earl T.      | unk                      | unk             | unk   | unk        | 24th Div  |          | 53 - 54  | Korea         | Mrs.     |            |
| Stamper       | Theodore F.  |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 13 Oct 98  |
| Sweat         | Leonard B.   |                          |                 |       |            | 19th Inf  | F        | unk      | Korea         | unk      | 20 Aug 70  |
| Volturo       | Sylvester    |                          |                 |       |            | 29th Inf  |          | unk      | WWII & Korea  | unk      | Dec 80     |



## Looking For

**Victor Jacketti**, from Pottstown, PA., is looking for anyone with the **24th Med. Bn. Hqs**, Kokura Kyushu, Japan. He was attached to Co "C" 24th Med Bn. from June 1947 to June 1949. Victor says: "Do you know of anyone who was there at that time? I sent in the picture on page 5 of the Spring issue 2006. I've yet to hear from anyone who was there at that time. It seems as though I fell off the EARTH, never to hear from one fellow." Victor Jacketti, 1255 Maple Street, Pottstown, PA 19464-5821, 610-326-3922, [Margevic@msn.com](mailto:Margevic@msn.com)

**Donald L. Crocker** is looking for **Charles Day**. They served together in Battery A, **52nd FA Bn** on the DMZ in 1955. Charles could be from Ohio. If you should have any information you can contact Donald Crocker at [dcrocker@nctv.com](mailto:dcrocker@nctv.com)

**Richard I. Lane** is looking for anyone who served with him in the **3rd Engineer Battalion** during the end of WWII. He served for a short time in the Philippines and then in Japan until August 1946. Anyone who knows and remembers Richard can contact him at [nj1156@verizon.net](mailto:njl1156@verizon.net).

**Andrew Larsen** is looking for information on his Stepfather Technical Sergeant **Kent Rawlins Merideth** who served with the **3rd Engineer Battalion** on Oahu and helped build the road over Kole Kole Pass between Schofield and the Navy Fleet Munitions Depot in Lualualei. Kent was on Oahu when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941 and deployed to the South Pacific with the Division. If you have any information contact Andrew Larsen at [clarsen3@earthlink.net](mailto:clarsen3@earthlink.net), 309 East Rand Road Suite 165, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, 847.577.7200, 847.828.5250 - Cell



Dear Tom, Attached (see left) is a picture of my uncle, **Andres Contreras**. He was assigned to **Company D, 34th INF Regt.** He was KIA on October 20, 1944. I appreciate your assistance in finding anyone who may have been associated with my uncle. Thank you, **LTC Andres Contreras**, 541 E. Southlawn Blvd, Birmingham, MI 48009, 248-593-9018, [andynalex@comcast.net](mailto:andynalex@comcast.net)

**Joseph LaPalm**, is looking for **Robert LaLonde**. Both served with "**C**" **Company, 19th Regiment**. "Bob and I dug in together from Dec. 1950 to Jul 1951. He was from Michigan and was called back as an Enlisted Reserve to Korea. He had served as a seaman prior to Korea. Bob was wounded in Feb. 1951 and later returned to the company." Please call Joseph at 727-736-9161 or [ajlapalm@verison.net](mailto:ajlapalm@verison.net)



**John T. Edwards** (photo at left), is looking for a buddy of his with a last name of **Butler**. He is not sure where he was from. He was a Spec 3. They served together in Korea in 1957 with the 24th Infantry, **1st Platoon, Co "C," 3rd Engr**. In the photo at left, Edwards is on the left and Butler on the right. Please contact: John T. Edwards, 14370 Mill Swamp Rd, Smithfield, VA 23430, 757-357-2331, email: [kvetedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:kvetedwards@yahoo.com).





## Looking For



I am looking for information about, or anyone that may have served with, my grandfather **PFC. Elden Lloyd Broadfield** (photo at left) who was from Yates City, Illinois. He was with **Company "A," 34th Infantry Regiment** from 1943-1945.

He was on "current active duty" in 1944, and he *died February 21, 1945, on Corregidor*. We only have the Individual Deceased Personnel File as official information; all of his records were apparently lost in the 1973 St. Louis fire. Thank you for your time. **Heidi Broadfield Edgar**, 797 Ames Barineau Rd., Havana, FL 32333, 850-576-4984, email: [bravo29\\_98@hotmail.com](mailto:bravo29_98@hotmail.com)

**Diane Dreger Penix** is looking for information on her father **Captain Richard W. Dreger** who passed away on 15 March 1975 in Grand Rapids, MI. Captain Dreger served with the **724th Ord (LM) Company** from 1943 – 1945, and was Company Commander of the 724th Ordnance Maintenance Company on Leyte. Diane may be contacted at [GBPenix@aim.com](mailto:GBPenix@aim.com)

**Janet Proccess** possesses letters dated September 2, 3, 5 & 6, 1958 written by **William R. Scott** that she would like the family to have. The return address on the envelopes showed **24th Infantry Division AG Section New York**. Letters were written to **John A. Waefle, Sr.**, who she believes was his father-in-law, since the letters mention his wife joining him. Janet may be contacted at [janut24@yahoo.com](mailto:janut24@yahoo.com).

**James Conger** would like to find **Frank Chandler**, or information about same. The Conger family lived on Oahu in 1951 when Mr. Chandler was wounded and evacuated to Hawaii. Frank spent many weekends with the

Conger family. James believes that Frank is in a famous photo holding and comforting another soldier after his buddy was killed, and further states that his father worked at the Castner's garage across from Schofield Barracks. You can contact James Conger at [conger@cox.net](mailto:conger@cox.net).



**Raymond D Gayle** (left), **Co. A 1st Bn. 3rd Eng.**, 1951-52 Korea, Is looking for anyone who served with him. Please contact Raymond Gayle, 7346 North 1000 West, Commiskey, IN, 47227, 812-873-6234

**Joseph A. Greco** needs help in establishing a claim with the VA. He is looking for anyone who served with him in the **24th Signal Company** in Korea. Joseph joined the unit in October 1951 and was wounded by shrapnel on 30 Nov 1951. His records were destroyed in the National Records Center fire. He can be contacted at: 924 Encinitas Blvd, Encinitas, CA 92024-5391, (760) 943-1370, [josepha184@cs.com](mailto:josepha184@cs.com)

My name is Terry, I know my grandfather was in the 24th Infantry Division, under the 19th infantry Regiment. I don't have much information, only what I can find under the casualties. His name was **Francis S. Raubiskis**, Serial Number ER55000251. I would love to find out more information on him. I appreciate any help you can give. Thanks, **Terrance Krueger**. Ed. Note: From Korean War Casualty file shows him as a Corporal and that he was a member of the 24th Infantry Division's 19th Infantry Regiment. Date of casualty as March 20, 1951, and that he was returned to duty. Wounded in South Korea. He may have been a heavy weapons infantryman. Contact Terry Krueger at: [yugo\\_racer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yugo_racer@sbcglobal.net)



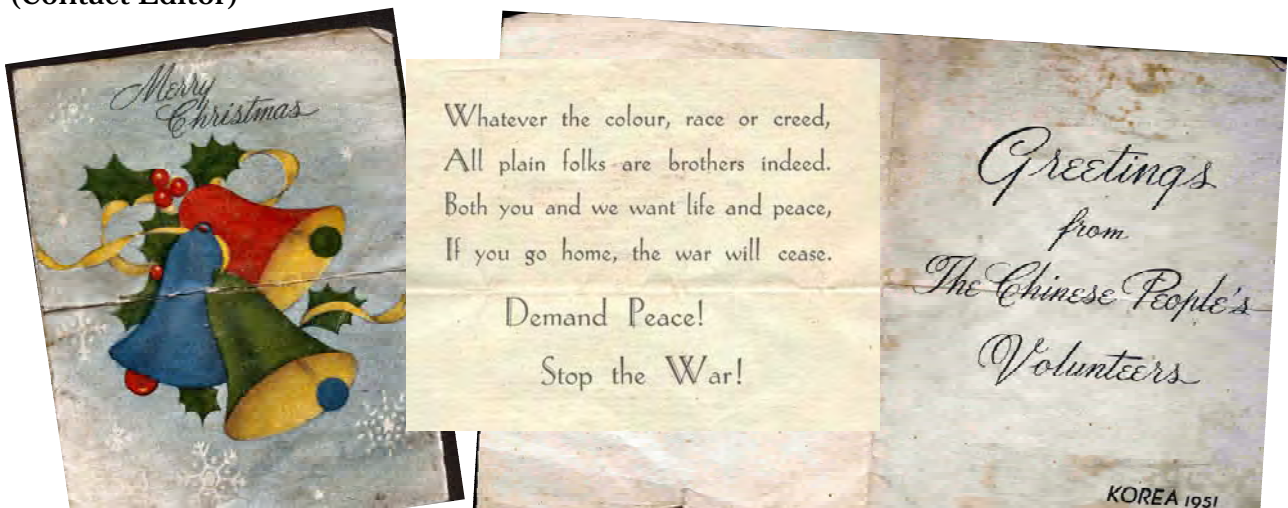
## Looking For



**Jim Allen, Jr.**, is looking for information about his uncle, **Cpl Leo Allen** (listed as PFC, RA 18263145), who was KIA on 16 July 1950, on the south banks of the Kum River [possibly Nakton River]. CPL Allen was in "C" Co. 19th INF, which was overrun by the NKA who took the Americans as prisoners. The NKA bound the prisoner's hands behind their backs with wire, and later began shooting them. A soldier who witnessed the event, informed CPL Allen's brother, George, and his son Jim (Jim Jr's father), but unfortunately they do not remember the name or whereabouts of this soldier. This soldier also was shot by the NKA and fell over an embankment where he was left for dead by the NKA. He said Leo was shot in the head and died instantly. The Army sent the Allen's a letter telling them Leo was captured, but then later telephoned to report that Leo had been killed. He was sent a Purple Heart, but no one knows what happened to it. And they do not know where Leo is buried. (Contact Editor)

**Mel Fortes**, would like information about his father, Master Sergeant, **Melvin D. Fortes**, time in service. Mr. Fortes joined the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment to help liberate the Philippine Islands from the Japanese, and then was with the 24th Infantry Division when it was sent to Korea in 1950. Mr. Fortes passed away November 7, 2007, and his photo and obituary appears in the TAPS Section of this TARO LEAF. Contact Mel Fortes, PO Box 51907, Pacific Grove, CA 93950-6907.

**Richard L. Harris, 24th QM Company** Korea 50-52, is looking for **Lt. Mazarole** who was from Maine. Mr. Harris is also looking for **anyone who knew him** or heard of him from the **typewriter repair unit at Kimpo Air Field**. He was there with a southern fellow called Whitey. You may contact Mr. Harris at: 5219 Grape St., Houston, Tx, 77096, Ph. 713-664-1872. ###



It was Christmas Eve, 1951. With my light infantry weapons section, I was online on a Korean road of sorts with a very large quite dark hill where the Chinese PV were dug in looming over us. After dark, a 6-by drove up to our rear, and soon we were treated to quite nice Christmas Carols. This was just what we didn't want to hear right then – it reminded us of the day and where we were, and we were betting we would be "hit" that night for sure! Soon after the singers left, there was a most obvious disturbance on the road to our front. When finally the ensuing ruckus ceased, and daybreak arrived, we found to our surprise that our Chinese Santa had come, leaving us a poncho filled with gifts and things. Among these was the above Christmas Greeting, which I still have.

Merry Christmas, fellow Taro Leafers! Editor **Tom Thiel**, "E" 19th.



# My Schofield Barracks Project 70 Years Later

Tom: Just a few lines to say that the latest volume 61 of the *TARO LEAF* was great.

I went to Hawaii and Schofield Barracks last year to see one of the projects I worked on when I first



arrived when I was stationed there from 1938 to 1941. I served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineers, and this is a photo of a backstop for a baseball field that we built. When I took this photo the bleachers were being overhauled; they usually are on the other side of the backstop. That's me sitting on the bleacher.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineers Unit was called the Eager Beavers, as we did a lot of construction on Oahu, as well as the other islands. Note the 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineers crest on the backstop.

Bob Maher, Sr., 14419 Holiday Drive  
Kpn, Gig Harbor, WA 98329, Oct. 11, 2007 ###

## Billy Johnson, *cont'd from page 5*

Billy served as Association Vice President in 1999 and 2000, and as its President from 2001 to 2003. In 2001, Billy assumed the duties of *TARO LEAF* Editor, and he and his family continued publishing it until just this August, when he was no longer physically able to continue.

During his tenure as Editor, the *TARO LEAF* received many accolades for the manner in which it was written and published. Many consider it to be the best military magazine.

One of my duties as Association Vice President is to ask for nominations and send out ballots to the Officers, and the BoD. Billy Johnson became the Verbeck Award recipient by acclamation. The Association has done very well, thanks to Life Member #198, Billy Johnson!

I wrote this before I knew of Billy's passing. I knew he was very seriously ill and talked with the family. I am most happy to report that Billy was thrilled to be the 2007 Verbeck recipient!

###

*Roger Mitten*

## Editor *(Continued from page 8)*

Last issue I invited members to join with me and become readers and Assistant Editors. I'm pleased to say that three good folks stepped forward to be readers: Heidi Edgar, Vince Rybel, and David Valley. Thank you Heidi, Vince and David; I promise to get more material to you next issue.

But I didn't get anyone to share the Editor's job with me. What I'd like to do is send you some of the manuscripts and let you work them to completion. Also, I'd like someone to take over in case I couldn't go on. And some times I feel that way!

Oh, I just remembered that to those of you who have sent me books, I promise to get to those next time. BTW would anyone like to read and review some of these books? Let me know.

I'd like to close this with a wish for you and yours to find Peace and Happiness in this joyous Christmas and Holiday Season. Share it with you family and friends, or maybe a Vet!

**Tom J. Thiel**

***The TARO LEAF***





# THE TIGER SURVIVORS STORY

## Capture and Beyond

*by Shorty Estabrook, Founder, Tiger Survivors*

When the Korean War began, the 24th Division was on Occupation Duty in Southern Japan. On 25 June 1950, the Communists crossed the 38th parallel enforce. On 29 June 1950, the first Tigers arrested/ captured were American civilians.

On 5 July 1950, the first American soldiers (part of Task Force Smith) from the 24th Division were captured.

Capture is such a horrible and terrifying event. You don't know what will happen to you. We had already seen men with their hands tied behind them and shot in the back of the head.

You think that you, too, will be shot after being tortured. All of us were beaten soundly as we moved back through their front lines. Their front line troops attempted to hit or stab us.

The summer of 1950 was very hot and humid, and the smell of battle and flesh was all around.

We were fed twice a day with millet and maize grains, a little rice, and a thin soup of Chinese cabbage and egg plant.

But the worst thing was being thirsty. We drank from highly polluted sources such as rice paddies. Soon, we

were all sick with stomach pains.

Thirst can drive a man crazy.

We were marched from the various battlefields and snowballed into a larger group to Seoul the capitol of South Korea.

This is where the Tiger Survivors became a group.

Major John Dunn, Headquarters 34 Infantry Regiment, was the ranking officer. He had seen tough times before as a Company Commander with the famous Merrills Marauders, who were in Burma during WW II. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for that service.

We were in school buildings on the outskirts of the city, and could see our planes bombing and strafing the city every day.

Medical treatment was primitive and lacking. The poor men who had been severely wounded were between a rock and a hard place.

No one had died at this point, but the smell of the wounded was sickening.

We departed Seoul in the third week of August 1950, and traveled by rail to Pyongyang, the capitol of North

Korea. We traveled at night to avoid our planes.

Conditions were beginning to worsen. Food, and especially water, was in short supply.

No medicine was available, and the injured wore the bandages they already had.

Some of the men started to die.

The weather was turning cold as winter comes early in North Korea.

We arrived in Pyongyang on 24 August 1950, and were housed in a school on the outskirts of the city. We watched as U.S. planes destroyed the city.

We were still in the clothing we wore when we were captured. Some had no shirts, and some were without shoes.

I had no shoes because my size fits all North Koreans, and they took my boots the day I was captured.

In the middle of the night of 5 September 1950, we were suddenly ordered to move to the train station. Later we learned that U.N. forces were fast approaching.

At the train station we got our first look at the group of 81 civilians who would join our group. The youngest was



under one year old, and the oldest was 83.

We boarded a train made up of animal cars and coal gondolas. There was only one coach car and the civilians were placed in it. All the windows had been broken.

Again we moved by night to avoid U.S. planes.

Several died during that trip.

We had lost a lot of weight, and had little energy. But we had to go on or be shot!

On 11 September 1950, we arrived at the frontier town of Manpo-Jin, North Korea.

The letters "-jin" at the end of a town's name means "near water," and "-ri" or "-ni" means "small place."

We were housed in the center of the town in Japanese Army buildings. Remember, the Japanese occupied Korea for 40 years. All Koreans spoke Japanese then since the Japanese had banned the Korean language, and it had gone underground.

The weather was starting to turn into late fall, but we didn't mind it much because we were inside.

A few died there. Our diet did not improve at all, neither did our medical care.

The Chinese Army – all 400,000 of them – joined the war about then. They poured into North Korea from Manchuria. They said they were all volunteers.

They commandeered our buildings and then we be-

came street people – out in the cold.

On 9 October 1950, we departed Manpo and began sleeping in fields.

When it started snowing, we were in dire straits, and the death rate began to soar.

We moved around that area through the towns of Kosan and Donakhon.

On 25 October 1950, we went to a place we now call the "Corn Field," which is just a short distance from Manpo.

The winter wind was blowing, and the chill factor began to plummet. We would collect into groups of about five guys, and dig as best we could, or rather scrape, a shallow hole in the earth.

We would jam together there below the force of the wind, and lie down side by side in an effort to share each other's body heat.

We thought this was as bad as it would ever get, but it wasn't.

On 31 October 1950 (Halloween), a North Korean Major from the Security Forces assumed command of our group.

We later gave him the nickname "The Tiger," because he was so brutal, and enjoyed killing.

We departed the corn field that day on our death march – the "Tiger Death March!"

We were not in any shape for marching. We did not have proper foot gear or winter

clothing to protect us from the cold.

Our new North Korean Major started us marching toward the distant snow-capped mountains of the Kosan Pass.

On 1 November 1950, the line of POWs and civilians was stretched out, and The Tiger, now at the head of the column, looked back and spied several POWs sitting beside the road.

He had issued an order that no one was to fall out of the march. The sick and the dead were to be carried.

We were in 13 sections with an American Officer and a Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of each section.

The men beside the road were too weak to proceed, and the North Korean guards had told them to stay beside the road, and transport would be provided.

The Tiger went ballistic, and asked his guards what happened. They denied they had given any such order.

The Tiger then ordered Major Dunn, our Commanding Officer, to come to the front. Next, he ordered officers from each of the sections having men who dropped out to come forward.

Six officers came forward and stood at attention on a knoll beside the road.

Commissioner Lord of the Salvation Army of England, who was The Tiger's interpreter, announced that The



Tiger would execute all six for disobeying orders.

Then, the Commissioner started to beg for their lives, and The Tiger threatened to shoot him as well.

Finally, the Tiger said he would shoot one officer. He said the section that had the most men beside the road would determine who would be shot.

Lt. Cordus Thornton from Texas was that unfortunate officer. He was in charge of the 7th Section.

The Tiger asked Thornton if he had anything to say, and the gallant lieutenant replied that, in the American Army, there would be a court martial to determine guilt or innocence.

The Tiger asked his guards if the lieutenant was guilty. The guards said "Yes ... kill him ... kill them all."

The Tiger then shot Lt. Thornton, or I should say executed him, in front of all of us. He shot him once through the back of the head.

The lieutenant did not beg, and he did not flinch or cry. He stood like a man, and showed us all how to die.

His was the first atrocity of the Korean War that was so witnessed. Lt. Thornton is our hero, and we have dedicated our work and rosters to his memory.

The Tiger Death March ended on 9 November 1950

at Chung-Gang-jin, North Korea.

We left 89 persons behind who were shot to death by The Tiger, and his men.

One was a helpless French Nun; another an elderly White Russia woman. The only sin these women committed was that they were too tired to go on, and they tried to seek privacy to relieve themselves.

Strong men became weak because they had to carry the sick and dying, as well as the dead, until they were told to leave them beside the road.

At Chung-Gang-jin, we could see the war across a field just to our south. We were hoping to be rescued but that was as far north as the United Nations forces came.

I really think that if they had come across that field, we would have all been shot.

On 16 November 1950, we were suddenly ordered to move out in the middle of the night.

It was here that my best buddy, Jack Samms, was brutally beaten to death. I was powerless to do anything about it, and had a terrible sinking feeling in my gut.

The next morning, we came to a place that was to become our home until 29 March 1951. It was a small place called Hanjang-ni, North Korea.

There was a large one story school building with several outbuildings and a central

well. We thought that things would improve, but we were dead wrong.

I won't go into the terrible description of life there. Suffice it to say that 222 brave people were promoted to Glory at that hell hole of all hell holes.

The dead were stripped of clothing, such as it was, and carried to a nearby hill. The clothing was for the living.

We had no other choice. We were not allowed to dig a grave. And we didn't have the energy or tools with which to dig.

We all weighed less than 100 pounds by now, and were sick and consumed by lice.

We were mental basket cases. The dead were left in shallow indentations in the earth. "God, please take care of our brothers," we would say.

Spring came, even to that ungodly place, and the warm sunshine was most welcome.

The Tiger was replaced by a kinder North Korean Major, and we believed that things were really going to get better.

But we were still starving to death; there was little food even for the North Koreans.

We would catch frogs to eat as well as other things that I won't mention.

On 29 March 1951, we moved from Hanjang-ni to Andong to an old Japanese Army Camp.





As we approached Chung-Gang-jin, the sky became full of B-29 bombers – the first we had seen since Pyongyang.

We were happy to see them, but suddenly their bellies opened up and the bombs started to fall. Now, we were not so happy! Miraculously, only one POW was wounded.

Summer passed at Andong, but 50 more died!

In October of 1951, we were ordered to move again. The civilians went to a different place, and we did not see them again.

We were put on river barges and moved down river to Chang-Song, North Korea, where we were turned over to the Chinese Army Prisoner of War Camp system, also known as Camp #3.

The Chinese took us to a parade field of sorts, and brought out huge amounts of rice and steamed bread.

We couldn't believe our eyes. What a meal! We were in the "tall cotton," so to speak.

The next day was the same. More food! We were given new clothing – the first since our capture. Some tobacco was also issued, along with sugar. From then on, we started to gain weight.

But 10 more of our brothers died at Chang-Song. They died as a result of the treatment under the North Koreans. All of them were returned to our side and sent home to their loved ones.

Life became boring. The Chinese tried to make Communists out of us by using so-called brain-washing methods, but they did not have much luck.

In August 1953, we came to freedom. But it was not a quick plane ride to the states for most of us. We were put on ships that took 16 days to get to San Francisco.

And, much to our amazement, we were treated on-ship as if we were still in prison!

We were then sent home, which was a horrible mistake.

We should have been taken to hospitals, and given thorough mental and physical examinations.

We should have had the worms removed from our systems.

The rest is history and I hope that I have explained how it really was.

Fifty-nine percent of the Tiger Survivors group died in captivity.

It was a terrible price to pay when a simple medication could have saved many of our brothers and sisters. ###

*In memory of all the people who did not make it out of that terrible place, I dedicate my life and the ongoing work that I do.*

*May God Bless America!*

*In love, freedom, and peace,  
Shorty Estabrook  
Company "B" 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment*

## **TIGER SURVIVORS PUBLICATIONS.**

*LIFE MAGAZINE*, May 11, 1953.

*A CAPTURED NORTH KOREAN FILM*, Four minutes of our group in captivity.

*NO OTHER CHOICE*

By George Blake

*IN ENEMY HANDS*

By Larry Zellers

Larry was one of the civilians with us. He has been promoted to Glory.

*AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS*

The story of Bishop Patrick Byrne, an American and Apostolic Delegate to Korea from Rome. He was raised in a house that sat where the Supreme Court now stands in Washington, D.C. He was with us and died at An-Dong, North Korea.

*I SHOULD HAVE DIED*

By Philip Dean (His real name is Phillippe Gigantes.)

He has since died and was a Senator in Canada for many years. He was a war correspondent for the London Observer and was with our group.

*CAPTIVE IN KOREA*

Another book by Philip Dean.

*MARCH TILL THEY DIE*

By Father Philip Crosbie

*IN MORTAL COMBAT*

By Pulitzer Prize winner, John Toland.

*VALIANT DUST*

by Commissioner Herbert Lord of the Salvation Army of England.

*DIARY OF SISTER EUGENIE*

A French nun who was with us. She died several years ago at her convent in France.

*REMEMBERED PRISONERS OF*

*A FORGOTTEN WAR.* An Oral History of Korean War POWs. Chapter 2 Tells of the Tiger Death March. St Martin's Press- NY

With Love, Peace, and Freedom,

Shorty Estabrook

16514 Clydesdale Run

Selma, Texas 78154

Founder of the Tiger Survivors

USA Retired E-7

POW 37 months and 13 days



# **“POW Kenneth Charging Came Home to a Rodeo”**

*by Merry Helm, Writers Guild of America, © 2007*

Kenneth Charging grew up in the Lucky Mound District of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota; he graduated from Elbowoods High School in 1946.

The Chargings were ranchers, and Kenny and his brothers were well known for their rodeo skills. Kenny's specialty was calf roping.

Kenny entered the military in late 1950 or early 1951. After training, he spent a short furlough with his family and then headed for Korea. He was assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment (company unknown).

On April 26, 1951, Kenny disappeared in battle, but Charging's family didn't learn he was listed as missing in action until some six weeks later. His brother Arnie, of Roseglen, ND, recalls they were in limbo until right before Christmas, when Kenny's name appeared on a list of POWs being held by the Chinese in Chiangyong.

Kenny later told Arnie that he and a few others had actually managed to escape soon after they were caught. Traveling by night toward friendly lines, they survived by eating stolen chickens. Their freedom was short lived, however. After only a few days, they were recaptured and imprisoned.

The Charging family received a surprise letter from Kenny in February 1952. Arnie says it was written on what looked like a piece of paper bag, and it was censored. The young POW reported he “was getting along fine” and asked his family “not to worry.” He said the “committee” had given him food and clothing.

**“You had to want to survive.”**

In reality, Arnie says, his brother's native Hidatsa upbringing had prepared him to survive in ways many other men couldn't. Kenny told him many others starved to death.

Kenny's father, George, refused to give up hope that his son would survive and return home. As a testament of faith, he began planning a rodeo to celebrate his son's homecoming and began building huge corrals for the event.

A few months later, on July 8th, 1952, the 59-year-old father took a rest while branding cattle. Sadly, he was found dead a short time later of an apparent heart attack.

Arnie says his family and neighbors decided to carry on his father's vision; they constructed the rodeo grounds on his brother Duane's nearby ranch. They built an arena with a dance

bowery and powwow grounds, and constructed six south-facing chutes, with the roping box on the west end of the chutes.

Meanwhile, Kenny was participating in another type of sports event – the POW “Inter Camp Olympics,” which were held at Pyuktong, North Korea in November 1951.

During the 10-day event, Kenny competed in a tug of war. Available records do not indicate whether his team won or lost.

During this same period, the truce talks were stalling out on the topic of POW repatriation. The Communists were aware a great number of POWs being held by UN forces who had no desire to return to North Korea or China upon their release.

Also widely known was the brutality visited upon UN POWs by their Communist captors. To counter bad press, they staged the Inter Camp Olympic as a propaganda tool to demonstrate how *well* they treated their POWs. Some have claimed POWs who participated in the games were therefore collaborating or aiding the enemy.

Lloyd W. Pate, a US POW, took a different view when interviewed by researcher Lynnitia Brown.





Charging in the Olympic tug of war. He is the middle man with dark hair, head turned downward. Photo credit unknown.

"You have to understand, this was the first time in two years that prisoners were allowed to intermingle with each other. It was the first time they had the opportunity to travel to different camps to check on each other. There were guys vying to get on the teams to get a chance to see their buddies. To find them and actually get to talk to them was a morale booster for our men. At the same time, the Chinese got to pass out their propaganda material, so both sides won. Oh, there might have been a few who were collaborators, but the majority of men who participated in the Olympics were not collaborators."

Despite high hopes for a quick resolution of the repatriation issue, it would be another year before the newly constructed rodeo

grounds back in North Dakota would be put to good use.

After 908 days in captivity, Charging sent a telegram to his family from Tokyo on August 26th, 1953; he was coming home. It wasn't until he arrived in San Francisco that he learned of George's faith in his return, as well as the sad news of his father's untimely death.

The *McClean County Independent* reported Kenny's mother was meanwhile ecstatic that her boy was coming home. Like her husband, she too had recently suffered a heart attack. But upon hearing of her son's release, she was energized to supervise the plans and finishing touches that would bring her husband's dream to fruition.

The Kenneth Charging homecoming rodeo, with

shows and traditional dancing, began exactly one month after his release.

The *Montrail County Record* reported, "Indians came from the Standing Rock reservation in South Dakota, from Fort Peck and Wolf Point, in Montana, from other reservations in North Dakota, as well as various other places to attend the three-day event."

In the midst of the celebration, a large crowd coaxed Kenneth to try his hand at his former specialty, calf-roping.

The *Montrail County Record* reported, "Although a little rusty with the lariat, he showed that he was still a good horseman."

The rodeo was held annually for the next four years, with Kenny and his two brothers each competing in at least three events. In 1954, Kenny had recovered sufficiently to place 2<sup>nd</sup> in calf roping. The following year, he took 1st place.

Like his father, Charging spent the rest of his life ranching on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. He passed away at his home near White Shield on January 3, 1991.

His family says the only thing he ever really said about his POW experience was, "*You had to want to survive.*"

Sources: *McLean County Independent*, 3 Sep 1953; *Newtown News*, 10 Sep 1953; *Montrail County Record*, 1 Oct 1953; Baird, Phil. *The Cowboy Chronicle*. North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, Nov 2006. ###





# Osan, South Korea, July 5, 1950

By Norman Fosness, "B" Company, 21<sup>st</sup> Inf. Regt.

I was seventeen when I enlisted in the U.S. Army on Nov. 29, 1948, at Minot, N.D. I took my basic training and a six-week leadership course at Fort Riley, KS.

In June 1949, I found myself in Camp Wood, Japan, where I was assigned to Co. B, and 1st. Platoon 3rd squad of the 21st. Infantry Regiment. I was a Corporal, and was a Browning Automatic Rifleman (BAR); my assistant was a draftee named George Pleasant.

Pleasant, the only draftee in our company, was small in stature and was about 3 or 4 years older than me. He made a good foxhole buddy; I don't think I would have made it out without him.

We were quite isolated at Camp Wood; all the media we saw or heard was in Japanese. By June of 1950, we had begun hearing rumors of war; but we really never thought we'd be involved. But the girls in town thought differently as they listened to Japanese radio and read the newspapers.

Camp Wood went on Red Alert on June 25th after the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel. Late on the night of June 30<sup>th</sup>, we were told to pack our gear, and go to the armory and withdraw 240 rounds of ammunition and two hand grenades each.

"----, all that will be left of this unit by morning will be a handful of dog tags"

The following morning we were loaded on trucks and taken to Itazuki Air Force Base. It was late afternoon when we boarded the plane and headed to Korea, but after we had been airborne for some time, we turned around because we were unable to land at the Pusan runways.

Rather than spend a night in the airport hanger, we decided to head to a nearby town. But as soon as we arrived, the M.P.'s found us and sent us back. When I got back I discovered my helmet and 45 handgun had disappeared. I managed to find another 45, but not a helmet.

We again boarded planes the next morning. I remember Wolford Ransome Jr. being excited because he had been filmed as he boarded the plane (this scene appeared in the movie "*Korea, the Forgotten War*").

This time we landed, and loaded on some old army trucks that took us to a railway station. We weren't at the station long, but it was long enough for me to win \$450 in a crap game! This was unusual as I didn't usually gamble for that high a stake.

The luckiest dice player in our unit was Benjamin Jordan; he won \$1,400 in one night! But even though he won a lot of people's money, he was still well-liked. Jordan dreamed of buying a farm, and we didn't mind donating to his cause. (Unfortunately, Jordan never got his farm!)

On the train to Pyongtaek I overheard a WWII Sergeant say: "A few bandits crossed the 38th parallel; when they see the American uniform they'll run back." That helped ease me some.

We arrived at Pyongtaek that afternoon and dug in for the night near a schoolhouse. On the afternoon of July 3, I heard the roar of airplanes and saw three coming toward us with their machine guns blazing. I dove into my foxhole. None of us was hit.

We moved to new positions later that same afternoon. As we walked out of the schoolyard, I saw two dead South Korean soldiers in a ditch about four feet from the road. The planes had mangled them pretty bad. One had a hole in his head about the size of my fist, and the other's arms and legs were just dangling.

I quickly turned my gaze away from them.



This was the first dead person I had seen; it was my first 'real' scene of war!

I wondered what was going to happen to us next; could this soon be me? The other men in our group were thinking the same as they walked past the two dead soldiers. No one spoke. Everyman was in his own thoughts.

We stayed at our new positions that night and the next day, July 4. We had C-rations that evening. This would be the last time I would eat or sleep for two days!

About midnight we loaded on trucks. "Pop" Thornton, my squad leader, told us, "We're going north to set up a road block, and we are to hold it until reinforcements arrive."

Vincent Vastano replied, "S---, all that there will be left of this outfit by morning will be a couple handful's of dog tags for them to pick up."

Charles Hendrix said: "I wish I would have written to my mother, I haven't written to her in a long, long time. Now it's going to be too late." (It was.)

Alton Christie and my best buddy, Haden Lacey, were also having somber thoughts. For some reason I didn't feel quite like that.

I stood in the back of the truck as we traveled with the lights out through mountainous roads. We unloaded about 3 a.m., and walked a short distance down the road. It was pitch-black; we couldn't see anything as we stumbled to our positions.

I was only a BAR man in a rifle squad so I didn't know where the rest of the units were positioned.

Chapman, from the weapons squad, and Jimmie Mien and Charles Hendrix of the 3rd squad were all assigned to positions down by the road.

Thornton positioned Pleasant and me about 40 ft. in front and a little to the right of a 75-mm. recoilless rifle; we were to protect it.

I couldn't see another GI or foxhole anywhere around us. I could hear the guys on the 75mm gun talking behind us though. We were spread really thin.

The ground was hard and rocky, and we had to chip away with our trenching tools. It began to rain -- real hard.

I couldn't see very far; there was a hill in front of us.

Suddenly a T34 tank came into sight as it came around a curve in the road maybe 1,500 yards away. Then another and another!

I started to count the tanks. I quit at 16! I knew we were in big trouble!

I knew then that this was not just a few bandits crossing the 38th parallel! And they didn't run when they saw American uniforms!

At about 1,000 yards, the North Korean Infantrymen walking along with the tanks peeled off to the right along the hill.

I aimed high and opened fire on them. They ducked, but then they continued on. I heard Pleasant say, "Don't shoot, you'll give them our position."

As the tanks got nearer, the 75mm started firing. It made a huge BOOM, and the backblast knocked rocks and dirt splattering on us. I then thought of my missing helmet; I felt like a turtle without a shell!

Down by the road, an intense fire-fight between the tanks and our infantry soon developed. I could hear the tanks' cannons firing, the chatter of machine-gun and rifle fire and bazookas going off. (But although I didn't know it then, our 2.36-inch bazookas were as effective as a bb-gun against those Russian-built T-34's.)

I really felt sorry for the guys who were down by the road-- Allen, Hendrix and Chapman!

The tank column continued passing on through our positions. When the end of the tank column came through, two of the rear tanks peeled off to the right side of the



road, and the another tank just stopped on the road.

They began to rake our hill with their 85- mm. cannons and machine guns. The 75 mm continued to fire. . . . BOOM! BOOM! The tanks returned fire; they had spotted the 75- mm. recoilless rifle and were trying to take it out.

Then artillery and mortar shells began to hit our area. They were definitely trying to knock out that 75.

Shells were landing all around us, and all we could do was get down in our fox-hole and pray that we would not be the victims of a direct hit.

Then, Pleasant and I started wondering: "What if the NK infantry overruns our position?" We took turns looking over the edge our hole.

There were bushes 2 to 4 ft high in front of our position; soon I discovered that the North Koreans had camouflaged themselves to look like a bush. It was still raining, which made them even more difficult to see. But when I saw a bush move I opened fire and sometimes I just fired at anything in front of me.

All the while that 75 continued firing. Then it stopped and I heard someone yell that it was hit, and to destroy it.

At about 3 in the afternoon, a company runner came down the backside of our positions hollering

"Retreat.... retreat... every-man for himself . . . retreat!"

I fired my BAR as Pleasant jumped out of the foxhole and headed to the backside of the hill. I then pulled the pins on my two grenades, and threw them down the hill. I jumped out of the hole and ran to the rear side of the hill where I thought I would be safe from rifle and machine gun fire.

But as soon as I arrived, we were again under small arms fire. It was coming from the hill on the west side of the road, where, unknown to us online, the North Koreans had overrun earlier. We ran down the hill straight back to the rear under heavy small arms fire. Pleasant was running in front of me.

We came across some boxes of C-rations. He ran toward them but as he approached, a hail of fire tore the C-ration boxes into shreds. We decided we weren't all that hungry after all, and continued on down the hill empty handed.

At the bottom of the hill there was a ditch where the hill met the rice paddies. It was about 8 to 10 feet deep with about 2 feet of water in the bottom.

I dived into the ditch in a hailstorm of small arms fire. Sgt. Schellenger, who was one step behind me, was not so fortunate.

He got hit in the knee by a bullet and fell head first into the ditch. We pulled him out of the water and propped him up against the bank.

There were about 10-12 guys huddled in the ditch. We wondered what we should do. I heard Sgt. Thompson say: "We can't stay here and be taken prisoner."

I thought the longer I stayed the more chance I had of being killed or captured.

Someone yelled: "We got to do something, we can't just stay here and be captured!"

Then, I heard Pleasant yell "Come on Fosness," and he took off running in the rice paddy.

He hadn't gotten more than 75 ft. when a machine-gun opened up on him. He fell head-first in the paddy with a hailstorm of machine gun bullets spraying the water around him.

He lay motionless in the paddy. I was sure he was dead! Then, after maybe a couple of minutes, I saw him unhook his ammo belt and push his rifle to the side. He began crawling away on his stomach through the paddy.

Someone else decided to make a try for it. He took about three steps from the bank. Again the machine-gun splattered the paddy water a couple of feet in front of him. He froze and then came back.

Then, I decided to make my break. I ran as hard as I





could into the paddy determined to make it through. But after only about 50 feet, I fell flat on my face; running in that rice paddy was impossible. I sank in mud and water almost to my knees.

I crawled on my stomach in about eight inches of paddy water for about 100 yards all the while bullets spraying the paddy around me.

I came to a ridge about two feet high, and found I was able to crawl without exposing myself too much. I couldn't see anyone else around me; for all I knew I was the only one left!

I didn't know where I was going, and didn't know what the hell I was going to do when I got there!

I ran and crawled on my hands and knees for what seemed like a mile. Eventually, the paddy's ridge I was on turned toward the road.

I didn't want to go that way, so I jumped up and ran forward, and a little to my left. I saw four other guys running crouched by another embankment. I crawled up the embankment where I had seen them.

By this time, I was further from the North Koreans range of fire so I took the chance of running in an upright crouched position.

Then, I came on a group of about twenty men in a drainage ditch. Was I ever glad to see them! Pleasant, Fasnacht and our platoon Sgt.

Thompson are the only ones I remember. I was the last one to arrive there.

I still had my BAR. But it was caked with mud and jammed. And it seemed even heavier.

It was then that the shock of the last eight hours hit me. The horror seemed unbelievable.

I reached in my pocket for a cigarette, but the packages were all crumpled up and wet. Fasnacht took off his helmet and retrieved a dry pack and gave me one.

We could still hear rifle fire from the hill we where had been. But, it was very sporadic now.

I think they were shooting the wounded and prisoners.

I don't know how many men were killed or wounded crossing the rice paddies. The ones that made it out were mostly walking wounded. One guy had four bullet holes through his trousers and shirt but he didn't have a scratch. Another one had the tip of his nose shot off.

We headed south with Sgt. Thompson in the lead; we kept to the rice paddies and hills.

None of us had a map or compass. We talked about going to the coast and hijacking a boat back to Japan.

We didn't know if there were any more American troops coming over, or what was going to happen to us few GI's that were in Korea.

Would we all be overrun before we found our way back to Pusan?

Late that afternoon we came across about 40 Korean soldiers; we couldn't tell if they were North or South. We watched them from the drainage ditch.

We decided that if they came our way we would have to surrender since only half of us still had weapons, and we had hardly any ammunition. They took off in a different direction and we continued.

Shortly after that, we decided to dismantle and throw away our remaining weapons; we were exhausted and they would be of no use to us anyway since we didn't have any ammunition. I kept my 45 though.

As we were dismantling our arms, one GI accidentally shot himself in the upper part of his leg and was unable to walk. Two guys volunteered to stay with him and take him to a village a short distance away. I didn't know any of them, and I never heard of them again.

Soon we came to a road. We decided we were far enough ahead of the North Koreans so we took the road.



We came to a village where we found a large building and decided to rest for a while. About an hour later a South Korean civilian yelled that North Korean tanks were entering the town.

So off we went again to the rice paddies and the hills.

That night was pitch-dark. We stopped for a short break. I laid down along side the paddy terrace to rest--and fell asleep! A bit later the column took off, but I didn't know it!

The last man in the column slipped off the muddy terrace and stepped on my head wakening me! God, what if he had not slipped; I would have awakened hours later all alone not knowing where I was or what the hell to do. I still shudder at the thought!

We continued walking all that night and into the next day. We were close to a road now and could see an endless line of refugee's fleeing south.

Pleasant and I, and another soldier whose name I can't remember, went down to the road and mixed in with the refugees. We were able to get on some carts being pulled by oxen and rode. The rest of our group continued walking the paddies and hills.

Late that afternoon the refugee column came upon a group of GI's. When we saw them, the three of us left the column and went to the GIs. It turned out to be "A" Company, 21st, and they were

getting ready to go into battle.

When we arrived, a couple of officers quickly took us to a tent and began questioning us. I can't remember who they were or what ranks they held.

They asked if there were any more with us. I told them there were around twenty in my group and that the others we were with were still going south and walking in the paddies and hills.

They wanted to know how many escaped.

I told them as far as I knew, we were the only ones.

They asked about Colonel Smith, and if he escaped, and if he was bringing out some more men.

Again I didn't know.

I told them that we were almost surrounded and under heavy fire when we got the word to retreat. And that we were told that it was every man was for himself. They brought us C-rations.

I hadn't eaten in two days, but I couldn't eat. I took about three spoonfuls of the beef stew and just couldn't eat any more.

I thought about the last two days and felt like throwing up. It was hard to hold my emotions.

We were then taken to Taejon rejoin Task Force Smith. Late afternoon of July 7, we fell into formation to get a head count of survivors.

Only eight were there from the first platoon: one from the 1st squad, three from the 2nd squad, and four from 3rd squad (the squad I was in). There was none from the 4th squad, the heavy weapons squad.

Thomas Santiago and Pop Thornton rejoined our unit two or three weeks later. They had been slightly wounded.

Replacements arrived, but it was really hard for me to see another man standing in my friend's place. I had nothing against the replacements, but it just hurt too much. They did not fill in the emptiness I felt inside.

I lost a lot of good friends.

A part of me died July 5, 1950, at a place called Osan, South Korea!

Norman Fosness, "B" Co, 21st Inf. Regt. 24th Div., as written by his daughter, Lisa Sholl, [Lisasholl59@hotmail.com](mailto:Lisasholl59@hotmail.com) in the *21st Gimlets Newsletter*, Fall 2007, permission granted. ###

Editor's note: I checked most of the names Norman mentions in this article in the 24<sup>th</sup> Division Casualty Database on the web, <http://www.2id.org/24-casna.htm>.

Almost all are listed! I think the author wanted to show his fallen comrades names.

Mr. Fosness himself is listed. That date is February 14, 1951. It states: Seriously wounded in action by a missile; Returned to duty. ###



# Catfish Dunn “Finally” Comes Home

TARO LEAFER RETURNS TO NEW MATAMORAS, OH, AFTER 57 YEARS

By Fancie Smith, New Matamoras, Ohio

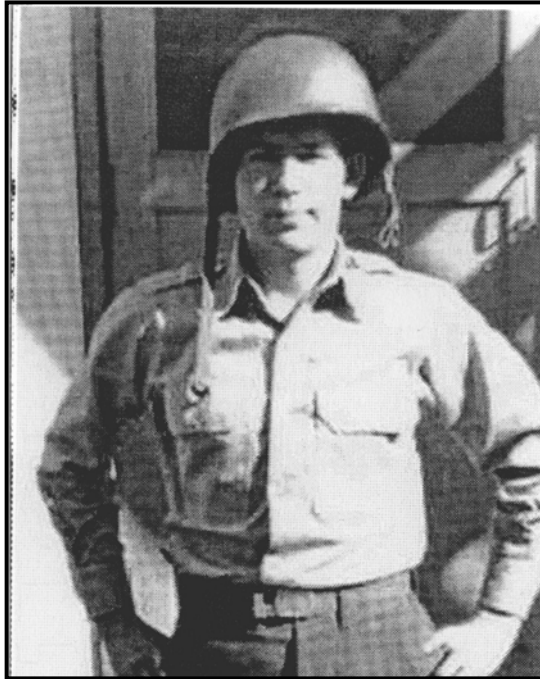
My hometown, New Matamoras, OH, is a small Washington County town along the Ohio River in southeast Ohio. According to the most recent census, about 950 people choose to live here.

Larry Dean “Catfish” Dunn (right) truly came home to New Matamoras, July 16, 2007; almost 57 years to the day that he met his misfortune in that Land of the Morning calm half-way around the world, Korea.

I’ve worked many long months trying to find the truth about what really happened to Larry. I looked in the Korean War Project, worked with those in “The Freedom Act” office, especially Col. Badger, in Arlington, VA, and followed many overseas connections as well.

I first met Larry’s brother, Donald, about a year ago. Donald, his parents Iva and Amon, and all of this extensive family, still had many questions about how Larry died, and whether indeed Larry’s remains were in the casket.

Donald (right, in Korea) also was the subject of a November 12, 2007, Veterans Day story in the *Marietta (OH) Times*. It explained how Donald served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in Korea, and how he suffered frostbite that required hospitalization. It also told of how Larry was missing all the while Donald was in Korea, and that his mother wanted him to look for the missing Larry.



And the article also told how another New Matamoras man, William Smith (next page), had died after being taken prisoner in Korea.

My purpose is to give the dead a voice. So, on a hot rainy July 2007 afternoon, I knocked on Donald’s door. I held in my hands an envelope containing the long awaited truth of what happened on July 16, 1950.

I had chills all over. I wondered how Donald was going to handle what the papers said. He stood speechless as I told him; when I finished, he only

uttered a weak “after all these years.”

He stopped in to see me at work the following Sunday, and told me he read the papers twice to make sure he didn’t miss a detail. He expressed his disbelief at how the uncensored military documents explained how the bodies of Larry, and the men killed with him, were recovered, and then buried again still in Korea.

It was then that I saw in Donald’s eyes, the relief and closure to 57 years of grief.

There no longer was any doubt that his brother, Larry, was indeed laid to rest on New Matamoras’ Cemetery Hill. For Donald, his parents, and many others, their biggest fear was that the sealed coffin was full of shrapnel and rocks, and not Larry’s remains. Many have said: “Why

would the coffin be so heavy?” “Why would it be guarded?”





These questions also troubled Donald. And now he was relieved to find that Larry was killed by bombing, instead of at the hands of the brutal North Koreans.

Larry was the second man recovered by Cpl **Carl F. Zehner** on August 17, 1951. Five others were buried there with Larry. Cpl. **Michael Doran** of the 19th Infantry Regiment was the first recovered. Catfish was second. Pvt. **Douglas D. Jackson**, 3rd Eng BN, was third. Next was PFC. **Antonio T. Gagon**, 19th Infantry. And last Pvt. **Gene Ingram**, also of the 19th.

All of these men were with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. All were found 400 yards of Taepjong-ni Taejon; 50 yards of 2nd floodgate.

Larry was believed to have been KIA around July 16, 1950; that was the last time anyone had contact with him.

He, and the men found with him, left us with dignity. Larry still wore his combat uniform, and had his boots on; part of his serial number, "D-8512" was stenciled three times on his drawers.

They were all reburied at the UN Military Cemetery in Tangg ok, Korea. Jackson was interred to the left of Larry and Gagon to his right. There were many white crosses there; I think a lot about those white crosses!

On April 23, 1952, Larry's remains were placed on a train in Jersey City, NJ, and carried to St. Mary's, WV, across the Ohio and just a bit upstream from New Matamoras. It was then delivered to Corum Funeral Home here. SGT. Herbert A. Benedetti accompanied the casket.

Contributing to the family's grief was the fact that Larry's effects had been shipped home in October 1951, six months before his remains. Among his effects were a special ring his brother had given him before he left, his soldier's deposit book, a pearl necklace, a prayer

book, some pictures, a few small souvenirs, \$2.71 in American money, 2 keys and a billfold.

"Catfish" was a good man; he was loved, and will be missed by many. I was happy to have helped relieve the remaining family member's doubts. They all expressed their sincere appreciation; Floyd hugged me tightly, and whispered a very emotional "thank you."

## LOOKING FOR

Now I want to find **Cpl. Carl F. Zehner**, the man who found these soldiers.

And I would like to find anyone who knew: **Larry Dean Dunn, Michael Doran, Antonio T. Gagon, all of the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry; Douglas D. Jackson, 3rd Eng BN; and**

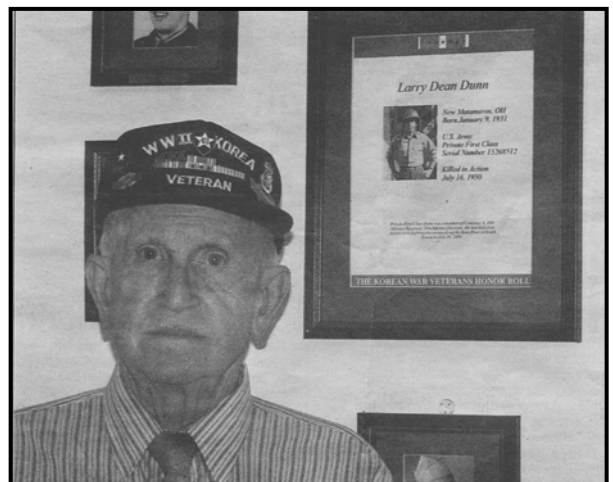
**Gene Ingram.** I would be most grateful if you would contact me.

And if you might have known **Corporal William Dean Smith** (left), HQ and Service Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Engr. Combat Bttn, 24<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., who died while a POW at Camp 5, Feb. 14, 1951, I would also greatly appreciate your contacting me.

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Below Donald Dunn from a recent news article.



# MY RETURN TO KOJI-DO

*By John S. Elmo, George Company, 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, '52-'54*



Author at Koji Do – August 2007

**I**n late August 2007, I was most fortunate to be able to accompany my son, Brigadier General David Elmo, on a trip to South Korea. Soldiers from the 65<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command Group in Puerto Rico under David's command are stationed in South Korea.

The trip from Los Angeles to Incheon on Korean Air took twelve hours. We drove on clean, fast-moving but crowded roadways another forty-five minutes to the capitol city of Seoul.

We were all aware of the tremendous economic strides South Korea has undergone since the "police action" ended in July 1953, but I was totally unprepared for what I saw.

With some 10 million inhabitants, Seoul ranks as one of the twelve outstanding cities of the world. It is easy to see why; clusters of forty (or more) story residential buildings, all new and modern, with many bordering the Han River, are interspersed between low rise buildings, all eager to gain space and light.

Instead of the slow, stop-start rickety trains we remember from the war, we traveled from city to city on new bullet trains at speeds of up to 290 KM per hour. Travel is very easy, and the trains are universally on time.

Few thatch roof houses or dirt wagon width path villages remain compared to what we encountered more than half a century ago. South Korea, with America's help, entered the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with new thinking--redo and rebuild was their belief.

But if one wants to see what country life was at one time there are half-day bus tours to "Feel the Old Korea in a Korean Folk Village," where villagers wear traditional Korean clothing. But teenage girls in Seoul and other big Southern cities wear short, short skirts and high heel shoes!

As the bullet train whisked us past the countryside, outside I could still see the innumerable rice fields planted wherever the ground is somewhat level. But now they are tended with exacting care.

In the distance, between the valleys and rolling hills where our forces once fought, I saw the low hanging mist that gives the vistas a look of calmness.

The hills and mountains are now lush green, as far as I could see the forests were all vegetated. Gone were the images still in my mind of scrub dirt with the vegetation destroyed by mortar fire or by peasants chopping away trees for the wood to be used as heating or cooking fuel.

This is in stark contrast to what we saw through binoculars from the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) when we looked toward North Korea. There we viewed that the vegetation had been cut away on the lower rim of the hills.

Korea still follows a centuries-old tradition resulting in changing the names of some cities: Pusan is now Busan, the second largest city, Taegu, is now Daegu, and Koji-do is referred to as Geoje-do.

With all its sorrowful history, I can appreciate why the Korean authorities wanted to change the Koji-do name. The island first served as a location for a leper colony and then as a prison island holding 160-170,000 men. The island



boasts six sand-filled beaches, and the present desire is to establish it as a vacation spot.

My anticipation of returning to Koji left me more anxious than actually being there.

We took an hour-long hydrofoil ride from Pusan harbor to Koji taking us by all the small islands scattered nearby. All looked similar after all those years.

One of the promotional brochures describes Koji as "A Beautiful Island with Mysteries of the Ancient Times." It did not mention the white crosses in the island's cemeteries, which obviously are not part of the tour.

The drop off point on Koji is a water-logged, water-rocking dock. The ticket sales office for the hydrofoil's return trip to Pusan looked like an American temporary construction trailer.

But the harbor has some tall buildings, some of 20 stories, but drive up from the harbor and the town is made up of mainly low, one or two story buildings.

A quick taxi ride up a short hill brought us to the entrance of the "Historic Park of Geojje POW Camp." And that is what it is; a theme park filled with dozens of buses unloading Korean tourist parents with children in tow. We were the only three non Koreans present. What was the POW camp had been completely razed years ago.

We followed a directional path up a hill before entering the various separated buildings that feature different dioramas of events that occurred at the camp during its use as a U.N. prison from 1950-1953.

The entry building was designed as an overscaled tank, with an escalator taking us past eight-foot high cutouts of historical figures of the war years. The more prominent ones were Joseph Stalin, Kim IL Sung, and Mao Zedong on one side; President Truman, and Generals MacArthur, Walker and Ridgeway, on the other.

Some of the dioramas were well done, others makeshift. A few of the exhibits had file footage from the 1950 to 1953 era, which was inter-

esting. The diorama depicting the prisoner's capture of Brigadier General Francis T. Dodd, the American commander of the prison in 1952, was nicely displayed.

The exhibits were careful not to judge the North Korean or Chinese Communist prisoners. There were no bad guys, no infiltrators from the North who led and were responsible for the riots, and no diehard Communists who insisted that the prisoners in their compounds toe the line. Instead, the exhibits claimed that the POWs were allowed to "self administer," which is nonsense.

The U.N. command aspect of the prison administration was played up and the U.S. role was negated. All U.S. Army figures were dressed as MPs and carried a weapon. The room with the vignette showing captured communist women prisoners who were held in a separate compound could have been better presented.

There was one thing that was authentic though; that was the siren used to sound trouble in a camp. When one went off, it startled me for the moment and brought back many memories.

The gift shop at the end of the park had pretty items for sale, but they had no reference to the camp or the buildings we had just passed through. And there were no books about the war years.

These half-truths are presented specifically to avoid alienating the North Koreans! South Korea wishes to eventually unify the country. But the North Korean Communists still harbor the desire for total control of the country.

We took the hydrofoil back to Seoul.

We also took a very nice trip to the DMZ, but because of space limitations here, that portion of my trip to Korea will have to wait for another issue. It was an outstanding trip, my only regret was that I had to return the DV pass, which allowed me to accompany my son, David, on this tour.

John S. Elmo  
908 North Broadway  
Yonkers, New York, 10701-1245  
George Company, 21<sup>st</sup> Reg. 24<sup>th</sup> Div. '52-'54





# 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment Hurdlers Find Each Other After 40 Years!

*By Frank Blood, Regimental Headquarters, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.*

Back there in the spring of 1950, Bill Allen and I ran together on the 19th Infantry Regiment track team in Japan. He ran the 110 meter high hurdles; I ran the 200 meter low. We competed all over Kyushu, and once up in Kyoto. Our team finished second as I recall. That's a photo of our track team at the right – Bill is in the middle of the back row and I am fourth from the left in the front row.

Bill had a knack of making us laugh; he was one of those guys you couldn't forget.

Then the Communists invaded South Korea, and our good times ended.

The 19th Regiment soon found itself defending the Kum River area. I was in Regimental HQ in S3; Bill was with Charlie Co.

In its withdrawal from the Kum River, Bill's Company passed through the rice paddies where my unit was pinned down. I spotted Bill, and made my way to him. I was out of ammo and had nothing but an empty M-1 rifle; he gave me a hand grenade and pistol.

Charlie Company, and Bill moved on.

Later that afternoon, I was still in the rice paddy with a small group of enlisted men from my platoon. We decided to find some high



19<sup>th</sup> IR Track Team: from left, front row: Koepp, Lucas, Negrelli, Blood, and Nieve; second row: Smith, Smith, Miller and Sweet; back row: Coach Lt. Taylor, Allen, and Lt. Kille.

ground and try to hold out until dark.

We drew no fire climbing a hill. When we got to the top, there were fox holes everywhere; some unit had been there.

Suddenly, we started drawing fire. We scattered, and I jumped into a two-man fox hole; Norwood Swift from Coatsville, PA., the company clerk, was right behind me.

We could see a group of North Koreans coming up the hill headed right for us. Since I had no M1 ammo, there was only one thing to

do. I pulled the pin on my sole grenade and told Swift to get ready to run. I lobbed the grenade right into the middle of them, and Swift and I high tailed it down the hill the same way we had come up.

We never drew a shot, so the grenade must have done some damage.

We ended up back down in the rice paddies. I don't know what happened to the rest of our group – I never saw any of them again. It soon was pitch-dark and we headed south. We got back



to Regiment in Taejon late the next day.

I never saw Bill again and never knew what became of him, but I didn't forget him!

I left the service, and worked most of my life with the Massachusetts Department of Employment in the unemployment insurance area.

During my very last year on the job, I was interviewing a man by the name of Don LeGay, of Lunenburg, MA. I asked him to return the following week, but he said he couldn't because he had a POW reunion that week, and his friend Bill Allen would be disappointed if he didn't attend.

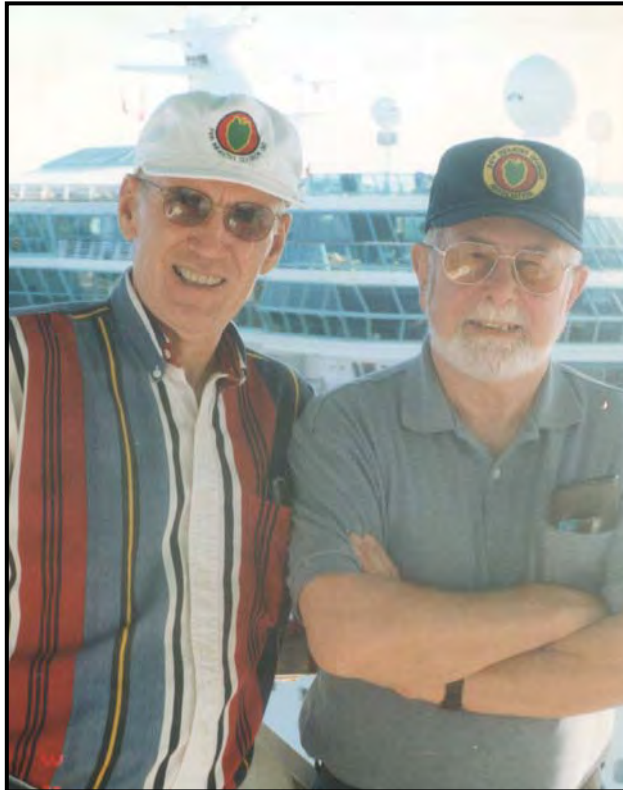
I said "did you say Bill Allen? I had an Army friend in Japan and Korea by that name."

I sent a short note with Don on the chance his Bill was the Bill who helped save me by giving me a grenade. But forty years had passed and this was a long shot, I thought.

But the long shot paid off; Don's friend was indeed the Bill Allen I ran hurdles with in Japan! We began communicating by phone and letter.

Then we decided to meet at the 24th IDA's Reunion in Colorado Springs, where we

tried to catch up on the events of the last 40 years. Bill told me he was captured on New Years Day 1951, and subsequently released in operation Big Switch in July 1953.



He has written a book about his years in captivity (My Old Box of Memories). Bill sold all his copies, with all proceeds going to underprivileged high school seniors.

The following year, we met again at the Association's Little Rock reunion. This time my wife, Aggie, and Bill's wife, Helen, also attended.

To our mutual glee, they instantly liked each other and they too have become very good friends! Now the four of us take a week's cruise in

the Caribbean each year together!

Bill and I talk on the phone most every week, and of course we email each other frequently too.

That chance comment by Don LeGay was one of the greatest moments in my life!

A chance interview, the dropping of a name, a bell went off, and the rest is history. And it is very good history too!

The photo left is of Bill on the left and me on one of our cruises.

Frank Blood, HQ, 19<sup>th</sup>

Frank and Aggie Blood can be reached at PO Box 367, Gardner, MA, 01440-0367, 978-632-8121;

Bill and Helen Allen live at 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL, 33715-1730.

Both Frank and Bill are Association Life Members. ###

## 24TH IDA REUNION

September 17 – 21, 2008

HAWTHORN PARK HOTEL  
2431 N. Glenstone Ave.  
Springfield, Missouri 65803

Local Reunion Coordinator

The Reunion BRAT  
50721 State Hwy. 401E  
Greenwater, WA 98022  
Phone: 360.663.2521  
Email:

[Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com)





# I Too Was a Red Leg in Korea

Looking for GI Named "Cook," by Bill Roseboro, 11<sup>th</sup> FA Bn.

I read with interest the story "**Cannoneer in Korea**" by **James William Bolt**, which appeared in the latest "*TARO LEAF*," (Vol. 61, Nos. 1&2, page 41).

For a brief time, I also was a Red Leg in Korea, having served as a cannoneer in "A" Btry 11th FA Bn from August 1950 until mid-December 1950. I then went to "G" Co., 19th Infantry.



Mr. Bolt's story ended with the situation in late July, 1950, after Taejon. Later, due to the heavy casualties and equipment losses, the 63rd FA Bn. was reduced to paper status. The remaining personnel and equipment were transferred, effective 26 August 1950, to the 52nd FA Bn. and to the 11th FA Bn.

One of the men in the gun section to which I was assigned in the "A" Btry 11th FA came from the 63rd, and he and I became good buddies for the short time that I was in the unit.

His name was **Cook**, and that's his photo above. Unfortunately I cannot remember his first name, nor can I remember where he was

from, or which battery in the 63rd he came from... I do have some pictures taken of our gun section in the 11th FA, however, and Cook is among them.

Perhaps Mr. Bolt, or other former members of the 63rd FA, will recognize him. There may be former members of the 11th Field who will be interested, also.

I am sending you some of the pictures and if you like you can publish them and this letter in *TARO LEAF*.

Regards,

Bill Roseboro,  
605 Marlboro St., Hamlet, NC, 28345-2306,  
(910) 582-1189, [wroseboro@webtv.net](mailto:wroseboro@webtv.net) Above:

Photo below: Second Gun Section, "A" Battery, 11th Field Artillery Battalion, Mid-November 1950. From left: Cook, Keegan, Swann, McColgan, Roseboro, Baron, Murphy, and Owen.





# “Old Soldier” General Douglas MacArthur

*By David J. Valley\**

*MacArthur Medallion Available to Those who served in the 24 ID from 1941-1951*

General Douglas MacArthur was a brilliant battlefield commander. He “earned his stripes” in Europe during WWI where he rapidly advanced from the rank of major to brigadier general. He changed the concept of command whereby field grade officers (majors and above) traditionally remained far from the fighting.

MacArthur believed he needed to be with the front line troops to deal with the challenges of combat; he needed to see what they were facing.

His instincts were founded upon the experiences of his father, Major General Arthur MacArthur, the most decorated soldier of the Civil War. Arthur volunteered to serve in the Union Army after rounding up young men in Wisconsin. By the young age of 19 he was a colonel in command of a regiment. Later, he had a distinguished career in the Army as a frontier commander. During the Spanish-American War, he liberated the Philippines and initiated the long-term relationship between our two countries.

Douglas eclipsed his father’s career, which was curtailed by an untimely heart failure. After Douglas’ WWI exploits, he was named Commandant of West Point where he extensively updated the school’s curriculum. Later,

***The TARO LEAF***



David J. Valley, as General Douglas MacArthur, at the 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Reunion in Columbia, S.C., on Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, at the Aloha Dinner.

after other high level assignments he rose to the Army’s highest position as Chief of Staff.

He retired from the Army in 1936, but at the urgings of President Roosevelt and President Quezon of the Philippines, he accepted the position of Field Marshall of the Philippines.

After Pearl Harbor and the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, MacArthur’s strategy for the protracted defense of Luzon critically delayed the Japanese takeover of the Pacific. Although some detractors still parrot “Dugout Doug,” historians report MacArthur most reluctantly left the Philippines

under direct order of President Roosevelt.

The success of the Pacific War was the culmination of masterful logistics and planning and courageous attacks executed by marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Adm. Nimitz and Gen. MacArthur as co-commanders of Allied Forces, worked as a team to break the Japanese offensive. The 24 ID had key roles in the taking of New Guinea and the Philippines.

Eventually, atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki abruptly ended WWII. Though many have decried the use of atomic weapons, they precluded the loss of millions of lives, Japanese and American.

After the Japanese surrender, MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of Allied Powers for the Occupation of Japan. In this, MacArthur dealt with the practical problems of salvaging the country by instituting recovery programs and crafting constitutional reforms that propelled the country toward viability and democracy.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean Communists forces with Russian T-34 tanks overran the meager defenses of South Korea. Truman’s State Dept. had not allowed South Korea to have heavy



weapons for fear they might provoke a war.

Some say the Korean War was MacArthur's debacle, but if it were not for his brilliant strategies with the Pusan Perimeter and Inchon invasion, all Korea would be communist today.

Our forces defeated the North Korean Army and would likely have prevented the Chinese incursion had MacArthur been allowed to launch massive bombing raids against the Chinese in Manchuria and bombed the bridges giving them access to North Korea.

### **MacArthur Medallion Struck**

The General MacArthur Honor Guard Association, whose members served as the General's security unit from 1945-1951, commissioned a Special General

Douglas MacArthur medallion, which was first issued during their 2007 reunion at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA, earlier this year.



The medallions are serialized and registered to the recipients. As stated on the medallion they are issued "to those who served in his command from 1941 -1951." All soldiers of the 24th ID of that period are eligible for this medallion.

You may order your medallion by sending your dates of service and unit designation with a fee of \$10.00, please make check payable to "Sector," to:

Sektor Registry,  
P.O. Box 501005,  
San Diego, CA 92150.

*\* David J. Valley served in Korea with the 19th Regiment from July '50 to March '51 when he was selected to serve in Gen. MacArthur's Honor Guard. He may be reached at: 15633 Caldas De Reyes, San Diego, CA 92128, (858) 485-6616, [dvalley1@san.rr.com](mailto:dvalley1@san.rr.com)*

## **Robriquez gets Purple Heart** *by Shorty (Estabrook) the Tiger, Oct. 19, 2007*

Our old Prisoner of War Buddy, Lupe Robriquez, Medical Company 34th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, received his long overdue Purple Heart Medal today, 57 years after he earned this coveted medal!

Lupe escaped with two other guys; both of them were shot and killed. Lupe was wounded and brought back to our encampment at Kosan, North Korea, where he was forced to kneel with a stick between his legs and hold a big rock above his head. Whenever he lowered the rock the North Koreans would start beating on him. They threatened to pour kerosene over him and light it; for some reason they never did that.

Lupe was denied the Purple Heart on his first attempt. But, thanks to the many buddy letters that came from the Tiger Survivors, his second application was approved.

It was not until 1956 that Former Prisoners of War were authorized to apply for the Purple Heart for wounds received while a Prisoner of War, regardless of the circumstances.

His grandkids are going crazy over this medal. It is wonderful to have success for a change.

My hope is that the Purple Heart will also become official for those who died while a Prisoner of War. Freedom and Peace. ###



# Letters to the Editor

Aloha Tom

Received your beautiful publication in the mail yesterday.

The cover picture with Gene is fantastic and the memorial granite jumps right out at you. The photographer did a wonderful job.

Needless to say, the entire booklet is very professional and reflects great credit upon you as the Editor.

Great job. Thank you for sharing this bit of history with me.

Irv

**Irwin K. Cockett Jr.**, President HBC Management Services, Inc., 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2204-A Honolulu, HI 96813

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Tom

Congratulations on your first issue of the *TARO LEAF*. It is a beauty! You certainly follow some wonderful fellows who have kept that going over the now more than half a century.

I have a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1, so I have to be one of your oldest subscribers! Would you like to have a copy of that? If so, let me know and I will mail you one. I also have a little mimeographed "Taro Leaflet" that was tried for awhile.

It is such a demanding job to be a publisher of such like. All of us like to read about the others, but none of us will get off our rear ends and contribute anything. Unfortunately that is just the way things are! Best wishes for the future of your publishing endeavors!

Let me share an interesting thing that happened last Thursday. I had a call on our answering machine from a fellow who identified himself as being our former mailman back in the 1980's, and said that I had enrolled him in the 24th Assn. He had seen my *TARO LEAF* when he would deliver it, so he identified himself to me as a former Taro Leafer. He asked if the *TARO LEAF* was still published, if they still had conventions, etc.

I assured him that the answer was "yes", and that I was about due a new magazine. He asked me to call him when I got it and that he would come by and get it. I think he was in the 19th in Korea, and he would like to try to find some old buddies. Then I

got your latest edition Saturday. So I will call him shortly and let him come by and pick this up. I will also ask him to re-up his membership. He must have been psychic!

Best wishes....

**James W. Mims**, 811 Lawson, Midland, Texas 79701, (S/Sgt. 114th Photo Interpretation Team, G-2 Section, Div. HQ, October 1944 to June 1945)

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Hi Tom

Congratulations and Special Thanks for stepping up in filling the shoes as Editor of our *TARO LEAF*...

Just received my copy last night, and you can be very proud on your first publication, so well done.

I've only done a first glance at my copy and the story about Bob Kadrlik, the caption that you chose is so fitting.

Hope that the Reunion was a good turn out, I would have loved to attend but my wife's health doesn't permit it.

Thanks again for all that you do for us Veterans

Sincerely, **Mel Behnen**

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Tom

Your initial *TARO LEAF* is superb. It will be a hard act to follow.

I think you have set some great objectives, and if I can squeeze my aging brain cells to say anything, I'll contact you again.

Best regards,

**Lew Howell** (life member 01757)

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Tom

Just a note to let you know how much Virginia and I enjoyed being at our first Reunion. We found everyone to be most friendly and have made new friends.

When I got home last night I started reading the *TARO LEAF* and I could not put it down until I got too sleepy to read. This is one of the finest publications I have ever read and I will tell you again you have done an outstanding job on this, and we are blessed to have you doing this.

Best regards, **John T. Edwards**





# Letters to the Editor

Hello Tom

It took me over an hour to sit down and read the *TARO LEAF*. Wonderful; one of the best! Vol. 61 Nos. 1 & 2; good job and well done.

Here is a pic of my battery guys, I hope, if it is published, I will receive some email from a few of them. We all came back to the States in March of '48, so fortunately, we missed the "conflict."

Hoping to hear from you--I live in Oviedo, Fl., just down the road from you. My son lives in Altoona, Fl., very near you, where he has built a log cabin.

Sincerely,  
**Gene Allard**  
\*\*\*\*\*

October 15, 2007

Tom et al

Just a note that 50 Years ago today the 24th Infantry Division was re-designated as the 1st Cav in Korea. I was there that day and I really hated to see it happen.

I am really proud that I am a member of the 24th Div Association.

Have a great day.  
Best regards,  
**John T. Edwards**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Tom:

Kudos on the latest edition of the *TARO LEAF*. Terrific job! As more and more of our membership find it difficult to travel to reunions, the *TARO LEAF* is the link that holds our organization together.

All of us appreciate can appreciate the work involved. Many thanks!

**Bill McKenna**, [Billjomac@aol.com](mailto:Billjomac@aol.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

To the Editor

This is a belated note of thanks to the Guardian Angel who anointed my husband and me with the Blessing of Kindness.

In September 2006, we attended the five-day Reunion of the 24th Infantry Division Association in Indianapolis, IN.

When we received our Hotel Statement, it indicated that it was Paid in Full!

So again we thank the generosity of the person who decided to Bless us with this kind act! We appreciate your kindness, and thank you Sir!

**Charles (724th Ordinance) and Betty Reese**  
100 E. 205<sup>th</sup>, Euclid, OH 44123  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Tom

**Harry Rubin**, Life Member Number 242; retired from the Army after 33 years of service from 1942 to 1975. Three of those years were with the 24th ID. After retirement he started a second career as a writer and has two adventure novels recently published and is working on the third in a trilogy about the US Navy. He invites all Victory Division members to visit his web site at <http://www.bardofhinesville.com>. By the way, he served in our sister division the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi in Vietnam.

I'll thank you in advance.

Best regards, Harry  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Tom:

Congratulations on the Winter/Spring 2007 issue of *TARO LEAF*. I have been a life member for many years; this issue is one of the best I can recall.

I also was with "E" 19th in Korea from Jun 51 until Jan 52 when 24th was reassigned to Japan. I was Plat. Sgt. of 2nd at the time and had to stay on line a few days with the 40th Div. before joining the company at Camp Haugen. Captain Irwin was our company commander at that time. (Please see page 20 of Vol. 61, Nos. 1&2, *TARO LEAF TAPS*).

Captain Irwin worked for the Kellogg Company in Michigan. I tried to make contact thru the years (before internet white pages) but was unsuccessful! If you were in Haugen I'm sure you will remember him. A great officer. I will now try to contact his daughters in Florida and Georgia to express my sympathy, and share with them some of the good guidance and advice their father gave to me.

My wife and I visit Disneyland frequently. Will try and make touch on next visit and maybe we can recall some mutual friends or incidents. Sincerely,

Evan T. "Tom" Evans, 2121 Loop Road, Keeling, VA 24566.



# A Look at the 24th Division After Korea

The On Again-Off Again Existence of the 24<sup>th</sup> for the Last 50 Years.

*by Thomas M. Appler, Life Member, 24th S&T Bn, HQ Co.; 333 FA Bn, 'G' Btry, 64-66*

## Germany and then De-Activation

The 24th Infantry Division left Korea when the United States reduced and realigned its divisions in the Far East in 1957. (See John T. Edwards' Letter to the Editor, in this issue.) Eventually, it replaced the 11th Airborne Division in Germany.

While in Germany, in addition to its standard infantry mission, the 24th fielded airborne units for about two years.

The Division remained in Germany until 1969 when it redeployed to Fort Riley, Kansas, as part of the REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany). In April 1970 the "Victory Division" was inactivated at Fort Riley.

## Re-Activation at Ft. Stewart, Georgia

Five years later, in September 1975, the 24th was reactivated at Fort Stewart, Georgia, as part of the program to build a sixteen-division force. Because the Regular Army could not field a full division at Fort Stewart, the 24th had the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard assigned to it as a round-out unit. Targeted for a NATO role, the division was reorganized as a mechanized infantry unit in 1979.

## The 24th in Kuwait and Iraq

When the United Nations decided to halt aggression in Kuwait in 1990, the 24th was chosen for deployment to Southwest Asia. Serving in the Defense of Saudi Arabia and Liberation, and Defense of Kuwait campaigns, the Division helped to arrest the Iraqi war machine.

In the XVIII Corps' mission of envelopment, the 24th Infantry Division had the central role of blocking the Euphrates River valley to prevent the escape north of Iraqi forces in Kuwait. It then attacked east in coordination with VII Corps to defeat the armor-heavy divisions of the Republican Guard Forces Command.

Maj. Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey's Victory Division came to the theater better prepared for combat in the desert than any other in Army Central Command.

Designated a Rapid Deployment Force division a decade earlier, the 24th combined the usual mechanized infantry division components-an avia-

tion brigade and three ground maneuver brigades, plus combat support units-with extensive desert training and desert-oriented medical and water purification equipment.

When the attack began, the 24th was as large as a World War I division, with 25,000 soldiers in thirty-four battalions. Its 241 Abrams tanks and 221 Bradley fighting vehicles provided the necessary armor punch to penetrate the Iraqi Republican Guard divisions. But at the same time, with 94 helicopters, and over 6,500 wheeled and 1,300 other tracked vehicles-including 72 self-propelled artillery pieces and 9 multiple rocket launchers, the division still was highly mobile and had ample firepower.

Battalions of the 24th Infantry Division moved in 'battle box' formation in their movement across the line of departure, and when not engaging enemy forces. This formation consisted of: a cavalry troop screening five to ten miles to the front, and four companies, or multi-platoon task forces, dispersed to form corner positions with the heavier units of the battalion, whether tanks or Bradleys, occupying one or both of the front corners.

Company and smaller units advanced outside the box to provide flank security. Vehicles carrying ammunition, fuel, and needed water were placed inside the box.

The box formation advanced in jumps of about 40 miles at a time. It covered a front of about four to five miles and extended about 15 to 20 miles front to rear.

The 24th was reorganized and returned to the United States in the spring of 1991. All of its elements were in the Regular Army--two brigades at Fort Stewart, and one brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In the fall of 1994 Iraq again menaced the Kuwaiti border, and two brigades from the division returned to Southwest Asia.

## Inactivated in February 1996

As part of the Army's reduction to a ten-division force, the 24th Infantry Division was inactivated on 15 February 1996.

Three Army divisions were re-flagged as the Army restructured from 12 to 10 active divisions. The



2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas, was re-designated as the 4th Infantry Div., and the 24th Inf. Div. was re-designated as the 3rd Inf. Div. The 3rd Inf. Div., stationed in Germany, was re-designated as the 1st Inf. Div. The re-designations occurred during fiscal 1996.

The Army's restructuring plan was announced in December 1994. It called for the inactivation of the headquarters and division support units of the 1st Inf. Div. at Fort Riley, Kan., and the 4th Inf. Div. at Fort Carson, Colo.

The re-designation plan was to ensure that two of the Army's most famous and decorated divisions remain in the active force. The plan designating the divisions to remain was developed by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, which maintains records of Army unit lineage and honors. The center prepared an order-of-precedence list based on unit age, campaign participation, and awards and decorations. Units were then rank-ordered by category, providing a framework for the Army leadership to make its decision.

### **Reactivated Once Again**

On June 5, 1999, the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was once again activated, this time at Fort Riley, Kansas. The "Victory Division" consisted of an active component headquarters at Fort Riley, Kansas, and three enhanced separate brigades: the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade at Clinton, North Carolina, the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade at Columbia, South Carolina, and the 48th Separate Infantry Brigade in Macon, Georgia. Thus the 24th Infantry Division became the U.S. Army's first integrated active duty National Guard division, consisting of three National Guard brigades.

Early in 1999, the Department of the Army announced the creation of two active component/National Guard integrated divisions - the 24th Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS, and the 7th Infantry Division Fort Carson, Colorado. These organizations combined both active-duty and reserve-component soldiers in one military headquarters. Their division headquarters were commanded by active component major generals.

### **Final Inactivation**

The 24th Infantry Division (Mech) was inactivated on 1 Aug. 2006 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Portions excerpted from [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org)

*Note: The author compiled a tabular listing of Units in Augsburg, which is too lengthy to be included this issue; we anticipate publishing in the next issue of the TARO LEAF. Ed.*

## **Purple Heart for POWs**

*Shorty Estabrook Provides Bill's Inspiration*

August 30, 2007, Chula Vista, CA 91910: Congressman Bob Filner's bill, Honor Our Fallen Prisoners of War, to present a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of POWs who had previously been overlooked, has been approved for implementation by the United States Department of Defense (DoD).

Currently, only POWs who die of wounds inflicted by an instrument of war during their imprisonment are eligible for posthumous Purple Heart recognition. Those who die of starvation, disease, abuse or other causes while imprisoned are not eligible.

Congressman Filner's bill corrects this injustice. "This distinction is arbitrary, and it does not make any sense. Every soldier who dies while imprisoned by an enemy of war should be recognized and honored!" said Congressman Filner.

His bill was included as a section in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, which passed in October of 2006 and directed the President and the DoD to review the criteria used to determine eligibility for the award of the Purple Heart for POWs.

The review has been completed, and the report has been released to Chairman Ike Skelton of the House Armed Services Committee and to Chairman Carl Levin of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The report says that changing the eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart has merit for POWs who die while in captivity and who are eligible for the Prisoner-of-War Medal, which includes virtually all POWs," said Congressman Filner. Senator Barbara Boxer introduced the companion bill in the Senate.

The inspiration for the bill came from Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook of Selma, Texas, who was imprisoned during the Korean War for over three years, and Rick and Brenda Tavares of Campo, California. Brenda's uncle, Corporal Melvin Morgan, died of starvation and beatings in 1950 at the age of 20 in Korea.

Congressman Bob Filner serves California's 51st Congressional District, Contact: Amy Pond (619) 422-5963 or (619) 889-5963. ###





# Meet Mel and Donna Frederick



Vice President Mel, and Donna, Frederick

At our Columbia Business Meeting, Mel Frederick was elected Association Assistant Vice President. However, with VP Mitten's resignation, President Spicer has elevated Mel to full VP. I asked Mel to send me a short bio; he replied minutes later with: "Hi Tom. This will be quite brief as we are momentarily leaving for China (where his granddaughter is a teacher)."

In 1948, I enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard, and served with that unit at Camp Rucker, AL. I arrived in Korea in July 1951, and was assigned as 4th (weapons) Platoon Sergeant in "E" Co., 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, in Korea, and Japan. I was promoted to Master Sergeant while in Korea.

In March of 1952, I left Camp Haugen and also the service. My brother and I purchased and ran a hometown Supermarket. Eventually, I sold my portion to my brother, and successfully ran for the Minnesota State Senate, serving there for 20 years. I became a stockbroker with RBC Dain Rauscher and served with that company for 30 years, retiring as Senior Vice President, Investment Officer.

Donna and I have been married for 51 years; we have 3 Children, and 8 Grandchildren. We reside in Owatonna, Minnesota, in the summer, and in Palm Desert, California, in the winter." Photo is of Mel and Donna at the recent Reunion in Columbia, SC. ###

## Al Chang Brought War Home With A Camera.

By Gregg K. Kakesako, [gkakesako@starbulletin.com](mailto:gkakesako@starbulletin.com) [Submitted by member Alfred K. Bode, P.O. Box 676, Hauula, HI 96717], permission to reprint granted by Mr. Kakesako October 16, 2007.

Al Chang, who saw the horrors of three wars through the lens of a camera and was twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, died September 30, 2007, at the Spark Matsunaga Center for the Aging at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. With two Nikon cameras hanging from his neck and his ubiquitous cigar in his mouth, Chang was known by both privates and generals alike. He made it a point to be on the front lines and was wounded three times in Vietnam.

After Dec. 7, 1941, Chang enlisted as an infantry soldier, but later became a combat photographer covering the Pacific campaign, the surrender of the Japanese on the battleship USS Missouri in 1945, and an assignment with the 5th Regimental Combat Team, with the 24th Division in Korea. Chang is best known for an Aug. 28, 1950, photo (right), which appeared in "24<sup>th</sup> Forward" ###



# THE WILLIAM JORDAN VERBECK AWARD

*By Larry W. Gay, 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Historian*

At its Nineteenth Annual Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 1966, The 24th Infantry Division Association began a new phase in its history by implementing the William Jordan Verbeck Award.

This award, symbolized by a large silver bowl that is called the “Verbeck Bowl,” was conceived to encourage excellence, to emulate the values of William Jordan Verbeck.

Verbeck took command of the 21st Infantry Regiment at noon on November 7, 1944, during the battle for Leyte, PI, and later became the 24th Infantry Division’s Chief of Staff.

Association President Edmund F. Henry, said: “Verbeck demonstrated in myriad ways—and consistently, from his Division days of ’44 and ’45 to the day of his death on November 4, 1965—an unparalleled love for, and devotion to, the Division. It was an obsession with him, a magnificent one.”

“The name ‘Verbeck’ is synonymous with ‘Excellence’ in many areas, and for many things,” said President Henry, “but to Taro Leafers, particularly, the name represents special excellence in all matters germane to the 24th Infantry Division, and its appurtenant parts.”

The Award also had another objective- to replace, in part, the tradition of proclamations and plaques that were the custom prior to 1966.

Photos: Bowl Don Maggio, Gen. Verbeck 1963



As former members of the 24th Infantry Division, we may become members of the Association, thereby remaining a part of the Division. Our service in the 24th Infantry Division in war and in peace ensures us the opportunity to each strive for excellence as we enter service in the Association.

Though no longer with us, General Verbeck remains among us in spirit. He is here in the form of a large silver bowl on which are engraved the names of the 37 awardees. Men who have striven to excel in sustaining and advancing the memory of all those men who are joined to all of us by their service and sacrifice as a member of the 24th Infantry Division.

Even though the surface of the silver bowl contains an engraving of the name “Billy Johnson,” the 2007 and 38th recipient of the Verbeck Award, the need for excellence does not vanish.

For without a vision and a desire for excellence by today’s members, the 24th Infantry Division Association will wither and die.

Although demographics is a force that could eventually overtake us, it would be folly to believe that lowering our standards and values will brighten the future of the 24th Infantry Division Association. Over the years, the life of the Association seemed to hang in the balance at times.



Following his election to the Association's Presidency at the 1963 convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Verbeck wrote: "Like all of our energetic past presidents before me, I shall grapple with the problem of trying to determine why the tens of thousands of men whose service in the Army was in the 24th Division are not now members of this Association. ... We could assume that the majority of ex-Taro Leafers do not know of our Association, but that would not explain why hundreds of former members of the Association have let their membership lapse. It is my problem now and I shall see what I can do about it." (*TARO LEAF*, Vol 17, No. 1, p. 9)

Decaying membership, a problem Verbeck recognized in 1963, is still a major problem for the Association today. While it may be elusive and beyond the grasp of a single individual, I believe that with teamwork, we can overcome this hurdle.

It was fitting that the first name engraved on the Verbeck Bowl was that of Kenwood Ross. He never gave up, and kept the Association alive in difficult times. The other names on the Verbeck Bowl are of those men who strived to achieve excellence in all that the Association undertook.

With the addition of Billy Johnson's name, the surface of the large silver bowl, the tangible symbol of the Verbeck Award, became completely filled, and the Association grappled with the question: "What should be the future of the Verbeck Award?"

After using the lamp that had helped it find and advance into the future, it would have been tragic for the Association to extinguish the lamp now, to toss it aside and struggle along the uncertain path without light and vision the Verbeck Award represents.

Fittingly, at its September 21, 2007, meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, our Association's Board of Directors decided to continue the "light" that has guided the 24th Infantry Division Association for the past 41 years. It approved the addition of a wooden base to support the original silver bowl, and that would provide an attractive and efficient means to

carry the names of those who are to follow, those who demonstrate the values and excellence of William Jordan Verbeck. LWG

## Verbeck Award Recipients

- 1966 – Kenwood Ross\*
- 1967-68 Not Awarded\*\*
- 1969 – Edmund Henry\*
- 1970 – James Spike O'Donnell\*
- 1971 – Thomas H. Compere\*
- 1972 – Joseph I. Peyton\*
- 1973 – Victor Backer\*
- 1974 – Aubrey S. Newman\*
- 1975 – Robert J. Duff\*
- 1976 – Frederick A. Irving\*
- 1977 – Samuel Y. Gilner\*
- 1978 – Gerald R. Stevenson\*
- 1979 – William Sanderson\*
- 1980 – C.G. Hanlin\*
- 1981 – Howard R. Lumsden\*
- 1982 – Paul A. Harris\*
- 1983 – Donald E. Rosenblum
- 1984 – Bert F. Lowry\*
- 1985 – John E. Klump
- 1986 – Lee B. List\*
- 1987 – Dallas Dick\*
- 1988 – John R. Shay
- 1989 – Warren G. Avery
- 1990 – Not Awarded\*\*
- 1991 – Robert Ender\*
- 1992 – Not awarded \*\*
- 1993 – Brig. Gen. Lester Wheeler\*
- 1994 – Joseph J. McKeon
- 1995 – Joseph P. Hofrichter\*
- 1996 – Wallace F. Kuhner\*
- 1997 – Rodolph Mullins\*
- 1998 – Philip H. Hostetter, MD\*
- 1999 – Henry J. Gosztyla
- 2000 – Ellsworth "Dutch" Nelsen\*
- 2001 – Harry L. Wittman\*
- 2002 – Harold "Corky" Peters\*
- 2003 – Ben H. Wahle, Jr\*
- 2004 – William H. Muldoon
- 2005 – Edward S. Farmer
- 2006 – Wesley R. Morrison
- 2007 – Billy Johnson

\* Deceased

\*\* Not listed on Bowl

by Larry W. Gay, 24<sup>th</sup> IDA Historian





# RETURN OF THE WAR DEAD PROGRAM

## Sixth Army Escort Detachment, Oakland Army Base, Oakland, California

*By Major Edward S. Farmer, Commanding Officer*

The Sixth Army Escort Detachment was established in 1948 at Oakland Army Base; its mission was to furnish escorts to accompany remains of military forces killed overseas during WW II, and the Korean War. It was initially commanded by a Brigadier General.

My first connection with the detachment was March 1950, when I was transferred from the 23rd Infantry, 2nd Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, to be the Adjutant. At that time the detachment was commanded by a Colonel. In May 1950, he was transferred to Georgia, and I assumed command.

The story of how I happened to assume control of the Escort Detachment may interest you. The Army had been trying to bury a soldier whose remains had been in the Mortuary for almost two years. The father refused to bury him until the Army would send a Company of Paratroopers to parade for his son in Sacramento. My first assignment upon taking Command was an order by the Quartermaster General in Washington to "GET HIM BURIED!"

I went to Sacramento on a Friday to visit with the parent to understand his reasoning. I discovered he wanted more than a Corporal as an escort for his son.

Quickly assessing his con-



cerns, I said: "I'm the Commanding Officer of the 6th Army Escort Detachment, and I will assign myself as your son's escort. And, I will bring two more of my officers on the day of the funeral."

On Sunday morning, the three of us arrived with the remains at the Church in Sacramento. Have you ever been to a High Mass Church Service in a Greek Orthodox Church on a Sunday morning dressed in a full dress woolen uniform when the temperature was 102? We left Sacramento Sunday afternoon.

On Monday morning I arrived at Golden Gate Cemetery for the Service. After the ceremony the Superintendent said "we will cover the Casket later." I said "Like Hell you will. Do it now!"

I returned to Oakland Army Base, called the Quartermaster General in Washing-

ton, and said "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

That's the reason I remained as Commander of the Escort Detachment during the Korean War. I was the only Infantry Officer on Transportation--Quartermaster Base. Also, it was the reason I was promoted to Major, I guess. The General told me that I was able to accomplish something that even a Brigadier General couldn't! "YA HOO!"

After the Korean War started in June 1950, things remained static until around September when all the Korean War Dead started being returned. Then the Unit increased to 750 to 800 men—all NCO's.

My Chaplain was transferred to Korea, so in addition to my regular duties, it became my responsibility to personally inform the Next of Kin in the Bay Area that their father-brother-husband or son was killed in action. I told General Swing, C.G. 6th Army, "I'm not trained for this." He said "Get used to it, Major, you are not getting another Chaplain."

My Escort Detachment was the first military unit to be fully integrated in DoD. All our NCOs were housed in the same barracks – I demanded it, because Black, Spanish-speaking, and other races, wanted someone from their own race as escort. I had to

*The TARO LEAF*



bust a couple of white and black Master Sergeants before they took me seriously. A Foul-up on an escort mission meant immediate transfer to Korea!

Each remains being returned to his home town was assigned an escort. No escort was below the rank of the remains he was escorting. Most remains Corporal or lower had at least a Sergeant as escort.

My escorts at times received abusive treatment from some of the "Next of Kin." Some expected him to have the \$10,000 check with him. Some even refused to accept the remains.

We had special railroad cars (Pullman type) rebuilt to carry several caskets each for all remains buried East of the Mississippi. Each railroad car had its own escort assigned in case of a breakdown. He would stay until it was fixed, so the car would get to join any train going to New York. Brooklyn Army Base handled all escort functions east of the Mississippi.

I remained in command until February 1953, at which time I was transferred to Air-Ground Liaison School, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, with further assignment as an Air-Ground Liaison Officer in Germany.

That "Didn't Happen." Upon arriving in Bremerton, Germany, I was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Wurtzburg, Germany, arriving there in May 1953. In June 1953 the East Germans re-

volted believing the U.S. and Allies would back their revolt. We all know the outcome of that.

Now I would like to leave you with several true escort stories.

### ESCORT STORY I

This is a very disgusting story about the attitude of some so called "Self-Serving Americans."

One of my Escorts was a M/Sgt. who escorted a remains of a Sgt. 1st Class who had 2 Distinguished Service Crosses, 3 Silver and Bronze Stars and 5 Purple Hearts. He was such a Distinguished Soldier that the Commanding General 5th Army and Commanding General 4th Army were dispatched to attend the Ceremony, which was being conducted at a Civilian Cemetery in Sioux Falls, S.D. All newspapers, including U.P., and A.P., were there.

After the graveside ceremony was held, and just before the casket was to be lowered into the grave, the Superintendent of the cemetery rushed out and yelled: "STOP! You can't bury him here; he is an Indian."

The M/Sgt rushed to the phone, called me at Oakland Base and said "Major, I want to beat the hell out of that guy! What should I do?" I said "Stay by the phone and no punching out!"

The story was already on radio and TV. A few minutes later my Sgt. Major came into my office and said, "You

better take this call. It is from the President." I said "sure!" He said, "No kidding, Major."

When I answered the phone, a voice said, "Major, I want that Sergeant buried in Arlington National Cemetery tomorrow afternoon at 2 PM."

I'm in Oakland, CA, and the remains are in Sioux Falls, SD.

Fortunately, my Sgt. was still on the phone in SD. I told him to find out which General was still there, and whether his plane would be available.

A General's Aide came in and said: "Who wants to talk to the General?" I said "Major Farmer, in Oakland, California."

He said: "I'll relay the message." I said: "Colonel this is an order--GO GET THE GENERAL!"

When the General answered, I said: "I just received an order from President Truman to have the Sgt. buried in Arlington tomorrow, or else. Unless you want to be a Private with me tomorrow, I advise that his order be carried out. You know President Truman!" WOW! My first Direct Order to a Four-Star General! He said: "The Sgt. will be there on time!"

### ESCORT STORY # 2

In January of 1952, I was told to take an Escort Mission to resolve a problem that had developed in Bemidji, MN. It seems a minister would not allow a



soldier to be buried in a plot in the cemetery (owned by the family) because the soldier's family was Jehovah's Witnesses. See my point? Many people can be very biased.

I was the Escort for the remains of an Indian Sergeant who was to be buried at Red Lake on an Indian Reservation.

The Funeral Director and I left Bemidji to go to the Reservation. When we arrived, the family wanted the casket delivered to the deceased parent's home for a special ceremony.

But, we were soon to discover that the casket was too large to go through the doorway of the home. One of the members said: "Wait." And he went next door and soon came back with a chain saw. He cut an opening large enough to get the casket into the front room. They said, "We'll see you in 3 days."

I returned to Bemidji three days later, put the casket in the hearse and drove to the church. I asked the minister if he would need the hearse to move the remains anywhere?

The minister said: "Major, his friends are digging a grave site now." I said: "But, it's 35° below zero; how are they going to do it?" He said: "I didn't ask."

While the service was underway, a huge blast shook the church. We went outside to see what had happened, and found that they had used dynamite to make the hole. You could have driven a 2-

ton truck into the hole.

I said to the Funeral Director: "It's time we get the hell out of here," and he said: "We can't go fast enough!" If you wonder why I'm goofy, I can give you several more good reasons!

### ESCORT STORY #3

I sent a Corporal to escort an Indian boy to a reservation in Arizona. When he arrived, several tribe members were there to accompany the remains to their tribal lands. They had a travois to carry the remains. They also had a horse for the Escort to ride (bare-back) to accompany. The only horse this poor Corporal had ever seen was in a Cowboy & Indian picture. He kept falling off the horse so they tied his legs together under the horse.

Three days later after the ceremony, a Guide came with the Escort's horse, and led them back to the train station.

When they arrived at the station, the Escort said to his Indian Guide: "Here's your horse." The Guide said: "No, it's Your Horse." The Escort said: "I don't want the horse!" The Guide said: "He was given to you by the Chief, and it was his son that we buried. If you don't take the horse, he will probably be insulted, and kill you!"

The Escort said: "Excuse me a minute," and went into the station and said: "Where is the nearest town where I can catch the next train?" The Station Master answered: "About 20 miles away."

Fortunately, a taxi was nearby, and the Escort grabbed the cab and left right then – without the horse!

When he got back to Oakland, this poor Corporal burst into my office and demanded to be transferred back to Korea immediately.

He would not accept a transfer anywhere else except Korea because he felt safer there.

### WIERD ISN'T IT!

Unfortunately, there are many other sad stories like these. IT WAS A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT! Some old time soldiers even broke down on escort missions.

A TRIBUTE: I would like to offer a tribute to all the Officers and Enlisted Personnel of all Branches of the Service who served with me during my three years as commander from March 1950 to February 1953.

You should all be very highly commended for your Dignity and the Dedicated Service you gave as representatives of all branches of the Services. You had a great pride of your duty and also great pride in yourselves. Your devotion to duty should be recognized by all fellow service members, and by the Department Of Defense Officials.

I wish to thank all personnel of all Services for your devotion and dedication to duty during this period you served with me. YOU WERE THE BEST!

*Edward S. Farmer*  
*21st Infantry Regiment*  
***The TARO LEAF***





# 19<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Mini-Reunion – Pigeon Forge, TN

*by Robert E. Taylor*



Pictured above are former members of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry, who met April 25-27, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Express at Pigeon Forge, TN. From left to right, kneeling: Bob Taylor, Don Perrin, unidentified, Woodie Bryant, Gene Webb, and Bob Heise; standing: L. Runde, Clark McMinn, unidentified, Hugh Hewitt, Herb Mason, unidentified, unidentified, Harold Palmer, Gene Downum, Joe Abernathy, Leo Gosnell, Larry Gay, L. Ellison, and Jack Shuell.

Bob writes: "Since time passes so fast, our reunions hold more and more meaning. Each year we seem to enjoy being together just a little more. This year we had a great turnout.

Charles Shoe started this 19<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 1994 at Myrtle Beach, S.C. From 1995 to 2005 we met in Nashville, TN, in 2006 in Kissimmee, FL, and of course in 2007, in Pigeon Forge.

Treas. Joe Abernathy, the only officer, manages our finances. Funds are obtained from donations and a raffle at the reunion. I send notices to all who have attended any of the previous reunions.

We will meet in the same place next year, Holiday Inn Express at Pigeon Forge, TN, from Mon-Wed, April 28-30, 2008." Persons interested in attending may contact Robert "Bob" Taylor, see notice below.

## ~~~~~ **19th and 34th MINI-REUNION**

April 28-30, 2008

Holiday Inn Express at Pigeon Forge, TN  
No registration fee; Donations and a Drawing

Contact:

Bob Taylor

302 Thunder Road  
Brevard, N.C., 28712

Tel: 828-884-9593

[bobnjoan@citcom.net](mailto:bobnjoan@citcom.net)

## ~~~~~ **24th ID West Coast Reunion**

March 30-April 2, 2008

Tropicana Express Hotel & Casino  
Laughlin, Nevada

Contact:

Byrd R. Schrock

1009 Mesquite Drive  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292

Tel: (520) 678-0207

E-mail: [byrd2a@cox.net](mailto:byrd2a@cox.net)



**SERVICE BATTERY, 13th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION \***  
**24TH INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**CAMP HAKATA, KYUSHU, JAPAN – 1947**

FRONT ROW (L-R): PFC Herbert Gardner, CPL C. Brumit, CPL J. Topolski, PVT R. Ailbaugh, PFC W. Rewis, PVT K. Patton, PVT K. Yamamoto, SGT R. Hogg, PFC Silas Hodges, CPl Charles Lirot, PFC J. Barnard, PFC Gene Allard\*, PFC Ernest Boon.

SECOND ROW (L-R): PFC Thomas J. King, Arthur Fails, PVT Gallaher, PFC Clifton E. Rhodes, PVT H. Ogate, PFC Chun, PVT Kurnano, 1 Lt. Harold D. Wilson, CPT Arthur L. Travis (Battery Commander), 1 LT R. A. Smith, SLT James T. MacLachlan, PVT Phil Hawldnson, PVT Ross, PFC Charles Brower, PVT J. Schaferkotter, T5 R. Watkins

THIRD ROW (L-R): T4 C. Hofer, PFC Whitlock, CPL R. Smith, SGT Paul Nemeth, PVT R. Reed, PFC D. Love, PVT E. A. Shepherd, PVT Anthony Scuderi, T4 Jay Noble, CPL Bowles, T5 Charles W. Lawson, 1SGT McVey, TSGT Szczepanski, T4 Edward W. White. PFC Howard J. Porter.

FOURTH ROW (L-R): PFC Jim Walkenspaw, PFC David J. Nicholas, PVT Stan Lokken, PFC D. Steffen, PFC Jim Norbert, SGT Warren Magnuson, PFC Grace, CPL T. Josey, PFC Robert A. Suchsland, PFC James E. Neuroth, PFC J. Hanley, SSGT R. Vermillion, SGT Eugene McCoy, MSGT Harold D. Titus, 1SGT Joseph O. Vanderpool.

\* Sent by/contact: Gene Allard, 761 Lagoon Drive, Oviedo, FL 32765-8408, 407-539-9950  
 (\* second from right in front row on facing page)

**Left half below – (right half is on facing page)**





## Email and us Old Fogies

Do you wonder why you are singled out to receive all those Viagra ads, insurance ads, or maybe even to be advised that you are indeed the fortunate person selected to help dispose of some deceased count's immense wealth?

Do you wonder how in the world they found your address? Well, in a nutshell, they got it from you!

Well they really buy it, but who do they buy it from? Reasonably legitimate fellow web users who mine emails for addresses! Yes mine addresses. From whom? Why you, of course!

How do they do it? I'm not sure of the detail, but they mine them from all those emails you forward or send to 10's, 100's or more recipients whose names and/or email addresses you place in the "To:" field of your email software program—IE6, AOL, or whatever. They then sell them on the open market; I'm told for up to \$0.50 each – that's how important your address is to them!

Since I've become Editor of the *TARO LEAF*, my junk/spam email has skyrocketed. Part of this also came about when I became our KWVA Chapter 169's email contact too!

So, I beg you, do not place all those email addresses in the "To:" field! Please! Never put more than two or so there at most.

You ask: "But how then can I send/forward all these terrific jokes to everyone in my address book?" Well, if you really must, here's how.

Put your own email address in the "To:" field. Then find the "BCC:" field. That is **Blind** Carbon Copy, and I am told that for some reason that field is not harvestable, or certainly not as easy to harvest. So, you send it to yourself, and blind copies to everyone else! The miner does not mine where there is no gold – one address!

It's as simple as that, folks. And please do it, or at a minimum, please remove me from that large batch emailing next time. Thanks.

Tom Thiel, Editor

~~~~~

13th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Right Half (See facing page for names)



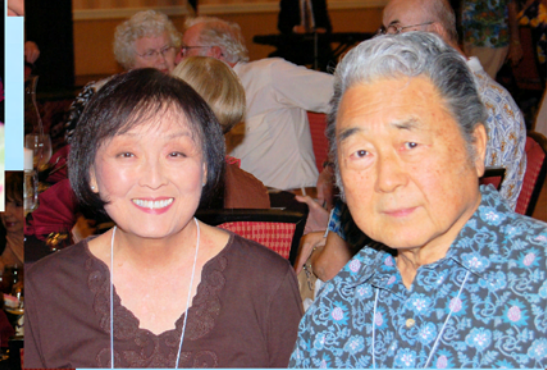


Aloha!





Aloha!



Reports of the 24th Infantry Division Association

Business Meetings at the 60th Annual Reunion, Courtyard Columbia at USC, Columbia, South Carolina, September 2007

22 Sept. 2007 Corporate Convention*

The meeting was called to order by President Spicer at 0940 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a Prayer offered. Seventy-five members were present. The Minutes of the 2006 Corporate Convention and the Financial Reports were read and accepted.

Punch Bowl Committee Chair Rickert thanked Committee Members: Schillaci, Fetner, Boyden, Diller, and Johnson. He expressed appreciation to the Rock of Ages Quarry, Stone Art Memorial, DHL Air express, the VA, and to all members who provided support. He also described the ceremony, which was captured on film and has been published on DVD.

Reunion Coordinator Morrison announced that the 2008 reunion will be held at the Hawthorne Hotel in Springfield, MO, on Sept. 17 – 21, 2008, and that the 2009 reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City, South Dakota, from September 9–13. Members were asked to help promote the 24th IDA reunions in their local papers.

President Spicer introduced new *TARO LEAF* Editor, Thiel, who said he intends to focus on stories from the membership, Looking For arti-

cles and of course TAPS. He also is looking for a volunteer member to be an Assistant Editor to help edit copy, and to ensure against a lapse in publishing such as that recently experienced.

QM Schrock has volunteered to put information about the Association on the internet.

Nominating Committee Chairman Hagen, and members: Valley, Hosler, Rives and Cauble, presented their recommendation that all current officers be re-nominated. All have agreed to accept nominations for their current offices for next year; however, VP Mitten, later said he would withdraw his name if necessary due to his current health problem. Chairman Hagen asked for nominees from the floor. Mel Frederick, Life Member from Owatonna, MN, was nominated as Assistant Vice President. This slate of officers was then elected by members with a show of hands.

Get well cards for Roger Mitten, Billy Johnson, and Dorothy Lloyd were passed for member signatures.

Meeting adjourned at 1048 hours. ###

21 Sept. 2007 Board of Directors Meeting*

Meeting called to order by President Spicer at 0900 hours. A blessing and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag were rendered.

Present were: President Spicer, Secretary-Treasurer Maggio, Past Presidents Morrison, McAdoo, and Klump, Editor Thiel, Historian Gay, QM Schrock, and Chaplain Carpenter. A quorum was established.

Minutes of the 2006 Board of Directors Meeting and the Financial Report were approved.

VERBECK AWARD: President Spicer read a letter from VP Mitten voting Billy Johnson to

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be the 2007 Verbeck Award recipient. The BoD then voted to continue the Verbeck Award. However, since there is no more room on the bowl itself for engraving names of future recipients, Sec/Treas Maggio will obtain quotes for a round base with curved plates for future engraving from Western North Carolina area woodworkers and present to the BoD. A motion to provide \$1,000 effort was approved.

MEMBERSHIP: Our declining membership was discussed extensively; consensus was that the Association needs to reach former mem-



The TARO LEAF

bers of the Division who served in Germany, Ft. Riley, Lebanon, Desert Storm, Ft. Stewart, and Somalia. We need to place articles in newspapers, veteran's publications, and on the internet. Publications suggested were: DAV, Retired NCOs, VFW, AMVETS, AUSA, Army Times, Greybeards, etc. QM Schrock volunteered to put information about the Association on the internet during the next year. Byrd Shrock was appointed Membership Chair.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS: Chairman Hagen reported that the Committee recommends that all current officers be nominated for their same positions next year. All have agreed to accept this nomination. VP Mitten offered to not run again due to his health, but the committee desired to nominate him and have him serve as best he can. Committee's recommendations were approved.

REUNION SITE SELECTION FOR 2009: Coordinator Morrison compared several proposed sites for the 2009 reunion. Based on cost, local transportation, parking, airport shuttle service, and local sites of interest, Rapid City, South Dakota, Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza, September 9 through 13, 2009, was selected.

TARO LEAF: Editor Thiel desires a member volunteer to be Assistant Editor to avoid a possible repeat of the recent lapse in publishing. The BOD advised Editor Thiel he has complete editorial control of the *TARO LEAF*. A sugges-

tion was made that obituaries include pertinent service information. Spouse obituaries will be included, but illness reports will not.

PUNCH BOWL: A discussion ensued on making a donation to VA Cemetery of the Pacific for maintenance of the Punch Bowl, but since the Punch Bowl Committee gave the Veterans Administration the balance of the funds in the memorial plaque account, it was decided to not provide any additional funds. President Spicer will recognize Chmn. Rickert and Committee members.

Reunion Donation Chairman Carpenter indicated planning for prize drawing at the Aloha Dinner is complete.

Secy/Treas Maggio asked if Merry Helm, Journalist of Fargo, ND, could be mailed a *TARO LEAF*; she will not be put on the official roster, but will receive a copy of each issue.

Editor Thiel said that Ms. Helm was developing a base of 24th ID medal awardees, and asked if the Association could consider a means to assist her financially with the project in return for her providing articles for the *TARO LEAF* on same topic. He was advised that she would need to establish a not-for-profit organization to receive such compensation.

Meeting adjourned by President Spicer at 1140 hours. ###

** Extracted from Minutes of the above two meetings at the 60th Annual Reunion, Courtyard Columbia at USC, Columbia, South Carolina, which were written by Secy-Treas Maggio. Copies of full transcribed minutes will be provided to members upon request to Editor--email copies are free, USPS requests must be in writing, and provide a **self addressed stamped** return envelope.*

24th IDA Constitution and By-laws

It has been suggested that the August 15, 2006, version of the 24th Infantry Division Association Constitution and By-laws be published in the *TARO LEAF*. Since it would cost the association more than \$3,000 to publish this seven-page document in the *TARO LEAF* we would prefer instead to offer copies of these to interested members following the same procedure as above.

You may request from the Editor; email copies will be provided for free to valid receiving email addresses, and requests for copies by USPS must be in writing, and must provide a **self addressed stamped return envelope with TWO FIRST CLASS MAIL STAMPS** affixed. ###



**24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT
01 Aug 07 - 31 Jul 07**

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
40-Membership Dues	15,142.00
41-Full Life Pmt	1,200.00
4100-Reunion Donations	16,761.56
4120-Reunion Registration	36,443.53
4180-Interest Income	1,984.54
42-Partial Life Pmt	2,065.00
43-Donations	2,264.00
44-Assoc Member Dues	540.00
49-Misc Income	70.00
499-Discounts	82.00
Total Income	76,552.63

Expense

General Office Expense	
505-Computer/software Expense	807.97
508-Misc Office Expense	687.46
6100-Bank Fee Expense	21.60
6120-Engraving Expense	103.41
6200-Office Supplies Expense	1,864.62
6230-Postage & Delivery	2,331.29
6300-Phone/Fax Expense	582.39
510-Returned Mail Expense	165.45
52-Refund Expense	65.00
Total Gen'l Expenses	6,629.19

Taro Leaf Expenses

6280-Taro Leaf Printing Expense	20,281.40
6285-Taro Leaf Mailing Expenses	2,464.37
Total Taro Leaf Expenses	22,745.77

Reunion Expense

542-Reunion Prize Expense	5,000.00
543-Reunion Meal Expense	13,617.93
545-Reunion Travel Expense	3,000.00
6250-Reunion Hotel Expense	332.91
6265-Reunion Expense (Other)	9,492.62
Total Reunion Expense	31,443.46

55-Tax/License	1,475.00
58-Misc Expense	504.89
6150-Insurance Expense	750.00
6320-Travel Expense	501.06
Total Expense	64,049.37

Quartermaster Activity

8105-Income	4,380.64
8110-Purchases	-1,198.50
8115-Shipping	-131.47
Total QM Activity	3,050.67

TOTAL INCOME \$15,553.93

**24th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
As of July 31, 2007**

ASSETS

Checking/Savings

HomeTrust Bank-Checking	7,763.41
HomeTrust Bank-Money Market	30,441.07
Fifth Third Bank-Checking	14,146.54
Fifth Third Bank-Savings	2,933.37
Chase Bank Checking	2,971.12
Wells Fargo Bank-CD	30,918.65
	89,174.16

Inventory 3,000.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$92,174.16

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Opening Balance Equity	10,391.52
Net Assets	66,228.71
Net Income	15,553.93
	<u><u>\$92,174.16</u></u>

Looking for Korean Map

Dear Tom

Greetings and Salutations

I need your help. Please ask your readers if anyone out there has a copy of the Korean Map issue 3 July 1950, by KAMG in the area of Kongju.

It was on an 8" x 10" sheet of rice paper; I remember one of my men saying "if we ever get lost we can eat the map." On the bottom of the sheet, in Japanese (Kanji) it had the symbols shown in the graphic at below.

I need the map for my book, "Waiting for Dawn."

Please contact me at:

John J. Baker,
839 Newton,
Monterey, CA
93940
831-375-3328.



REUNION DRAWING WINNERS

Name	State	Status
Davis, Ray	Florida	Member
Guyod, Gerard	California	Member
Jay, Eileen T.	Delaware	Assoc Member
Johnson, Donald	Michigan	Member
Mennona, Ed	North Carolina	Member
Quintero, Robert	Michigan	Member
Reddish, Jr. Art	Nebraska	Member
Russell, David C.	Virginia	Member
Shuler, Betty R.	Pennsylvania	Member's wife
Spicer, Gene	Indiana	Member

NOTICE

**SEND MATERIAL NOW
for**

TARO LEAF 62(1)

WINTER 2008

DEADLINE - Jan. 1, 2008



2007 Reunion a Success *by Wes Morrison, Coordinator*



Well, the 2007 24th IDA Reunion is now history. This year we used The Reunion Brat reunion planner for the first time. Everyone seemed to be well pleased.

Geri Glass, left, our planner, provided exemplary service, for which she received many compliments, especially in the Hospitality Room, where cold and hard drinks, and appetizers were plentiful.

We thank member David Valley for his outstanding rendition of General Douglas MacArthur. David also bore a striking resemblance to the General!

If you have suggestions for the 2010 reunion, let me know soon; The Reunion Brat will begin in February to select a site.

24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION

September 17 – 21, 2008

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM HAWTHORN PARK HOTEL

2431 N. Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, Missouri 65803

Room Type Requested	Rate	Number in Party
All Rooms	\$89.00	_____

*Note: Current room tax is 8%, plus an occupancy tax of \$2.00 per night and is subject to change.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____ Connecting Room _____ ADA Room _____ Hearing Im-
paired _____

*All special requests will be noted but cannot be guaranteed due to the overall hotel availability.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 17, 2008 TO ENSURE ROOM AVAILABILITY. (After this date, rooms will be on space and rate, availability only.)

The discounted room rate will be extended 3 days prior and after the reunion.

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ No. of Nights _____

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

If guaranteed to a major credit card, please give the following information:

AMEX: _____ VISA: _____ MC: _____ DISCOVER: _____ OTHER: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expir. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail this form to:

Hawthorn Park Hotel
2431 N. Glenstone Ave.

Springfield, Missouri 65803

Reservations: Phone: (417) 831-3131 Fax: (417) 831-2582

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

Confirmation Number: _____

And we thank our twenty-five First-timers too:

Water Ackerman, 3rd Eng,
Japan

Philip A. Betette, 2/9th Cav.,
Germany

Sawyer Burns, 3rd Engr, Korea

James W. Caldwell, 34th Inf,
Korea

Mike Cherry, 34th Armor,
Germany

Andreas H. Christiansen, 34th
Inf, Korea

Michael Doherty, 1/21st Inf,
Germany

John T. Edwards, 3rd Engr,
Korea

James Ewers, 63rd FA

Bernard J. Fergus, 3rd/11th FA,
Germany

Benedict T. Gross, 19th Inf,
Korea

Richard L. Harris, 24th QM,
Korea

Harley H. Joseph, 34th Inf,
Japan

Dallas T. Heston, 3rd Engr,
Korea

William D. Lane, 34th Inf, Korea

George F. Lance, 21st Inf, Korea

Jerry R. Parker, 11th FA,
Germany

Ernest R. Perdue, 2d/19th Inf,
Germany

David C. Russell, 34th Inf, Korea

Charles F. Sugg, 24th Med, Korea
George G. Updike, 34th Inf,
WWII

David J. Valley, 19th Inf, Korea
Thomas W. Vaughn, 63rd FA,
Korea

George Vlasic, L/21st Inf, Korea
Harley F. Welsh, B/19th Inf, Ko-
rea ###



THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I desire to be enrolled ☐ (or) reinstated ☐ as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐

of the

24th Infantry Division Association
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 24th or was ATTACHED TO THE 24th

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

REMARKS _____

Dues: ____ Annual - \$15.00

____ Lifetime - \$150.00

1 Year From Date of

Payable in lump sum of \$150.00

Enlisting in Association

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 th 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 th 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 th 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 th 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 st 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 th Inf Crest		5.00	59	DFC	HP-965	3.00
	Current Issue \$10 Pr			60	Korean 8000 Missing	HP-115	3.00
15	11 th FA Crest	\$10 pr	5.00	61	CMB 1 st Award	HP-569	3.00
16	13 th FA Crest	\$10 pr	5.00	62	US Flag Clutch Back	HP (V-37)	3.00
17	19 th Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	63	24 th Medical Bn Crest		10.00
18	21 st Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	64	Pacific Campaign Medal	HP-963	3.00
19	34 th Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	65	American Campaign Medal	HP-964	3.00
20	11 th FA Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	66	Army of Occupation Medal	HP-051	3.00
21	13 th 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 th Inf Lapel Pin		5.00	70	Korean Service Ribbon	HP-099	3.00
25	CIB (1 st 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 nd 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 th Cap Dark Blue/Crest		10.00	76	24 ID Hatpin		3.00
29	21 st Cap White/Embroidered Patch		12.00	77	24 ID Tie-Regular		20.00
30	21 st Cap Dark Blue /Embroidered Patch		12.00	78	24 ID Flag, 3x5 Screen Print	Outdoor Flag	55.00
31	34 th Cap Dark Blue w/Crest		10.00	79	63 rd 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 rd Eng. Crest		5.00		Sell 12 for \$1.00		
38	14 th Eng. Crest		5.00	84	24 th Christmas Cards	10 ea. Packet	8.00
39	5 th RCT Pocket Patch		5.00	85	World War II Tapes (starts Australia)		15.00
40	5 th RCT Cap, Red		10.00	86	24 ID Neck Wallets		4.00

Byrd R Schrock, Quartermaster
24th 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.
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The Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest sward for military Valor. It is given to those who have acted with supreme courage and disregard of their own safety in the face of most hazardous battlefield conditions. Only a comparative handful of men in the world are entitled to wear the Medal of Honor. 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 of Honor is a humble token – a gesture of recognition – for sacrifices that cannot be repaid to its honored holders and their survivors in worldly goods. From 1944 to 1951 twelve 24th Infantry Division soldiers so distinguished themselves on the battlefield and received this highest decoration. Three recipients received the award from World War II action, 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 the others were killed in action, and along with Sgt. Duke, received their decorations posthumously.

Sergeant First Class RAY E. DUKE

Whitwell, Tennessee

C Company, 21st Infantry Regiment

26 April 1951, near Mugok, Korea

Sfc. Duke led a small force to rescue several of his soldiers who had become engaged with the enemy and were pinned down. He and his small force were successful in recovering the position and the isolated men. When the enemy again attacked, Sfc. Duke was wounded by mortar fragments, but he continued to lead his men in their defense and repulsed the attack. After yet another assault by the enemy, Sfc. Duke's platoon began to withdraw. Wounded for the third time, he was unable to walk. Refusing to be carried out, Sfc. Duke remained, and he was last seen pouring devastating fire into the advancing unit.

24th 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

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