

TARO



LEAF

FIRST TO FIGHT



**HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Regiment, 24th Division
Mindanao, The Philippines, May 31, 1945**

The TARO LEAF



Vol. 62, No. 1

The Official Publication of the 24th Infantry Division Association

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John E. Klump	1977-1978	34th Inf. Regt.	812-623-4336	IN
Paul F. Wisecap	1971-1972	34th Inf. Regt.	813-936-6103	FL
William C. Muldoon	1970-1971	19th Inf. Regt.	941-743-7179	FL
Donald C. Williams	1968-1969	34th Inf. Regt.	810-566-4627	MI

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Submission Guidelines: Manuscripts, articles, and obituaries may be submitted to the Editor electronically as email attachments in text (word processor) format. They may also be submitted as typed or printed originals. Obituary links are also acceptable. Handwritten material is acceptable but may be incorporated as is in a graphic image. Photographs may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher please) or as prints (**NO XEROX or NEWSPAPER COPIES**); they must show the author's name and where they appear in the article, and they must identify each person in the photo. Articles should be up to one page long type-written and should be of general interest and in good taste. Biographic or personal manuscripts may be two or more pages. Political endorsements not accepted. Copyrighted material must have reprint permission.

TARO LEAF PUBLICATION DEADLINES

VOL	NO	ISSUE	DEADLINE	PUB
62	2	Spring	1-Apr-2008	May 2008
62	3	Summer	1-Jul-2008	Aug 2008
62	4	Fall	1-Oct-2008	Nov 2008
63	1	Winter	1-Jan-2009	Feb 2009



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Cover: I 'retrieved' the flag, which was wrapped around the waist of a dead Japanese soldier, as we moved along a road in southern Mindanao. A photographer spotted the flag, took our photo, names, and hometowns.
George Updike



A Few Thoughts from Your President

Christmas and New Years have come and gone; 2008 is upon us. Let's hope that warm weather and summer are just around the corner.

In the last *TARO LEAF*, I suggested putting a decal on your car, so that people will notice and maybe want to become a member of the Association.

I just received a note along with a Polaroid picture from John J Baker, Monterey, CA. The note was short, but said I was correct. People did notice!

I believe with all my heart that Tom, our *TARO LEAF* editor, is doing a Par Excellent job, and that he has his whole heart and soul in it.

During the last few months, I have made an observation that I can't overlook. Our *TARO LEAF* should be read and enjoyed for what it contains – stories about our members, and their accomplishments during their time of serving with our wonderful Division.

We should not be worrying about whether all of the constitution and minutes were all printed. Let's relax and enjoy our lives, remember neither you nor I will be around in fewer years than we care to think about.



It is always possible that none of our memories of "those past years" are as reliable as they once were. Take the bad with the good and enjoy what few years we have. If you don't believe it's going to happen to you, just look at *TARO LEAF*TAPS.

I've been told that if you want to know how important you are in this world, fill your bathtub with water and stick your hand and arm down in it to your elbow. Then take them out, and see the hole you leave.

During 2007, I have become a Great Grandfather twice. One of my sons, Raymond, just retired from the army with 25 years service.

My youngest son Jeff just volunteered to go to Iraq with the 76th Bde. He is 43 years old, and is finding that age does slow you down some.

He gave up a mechanics slot to be a commander of a Hummer, with a 50 cal on top. They guard convoys from Kuwait to Baghdad. I

wish with all my heart I could have also gone.

Our reunion in Springfield, MO, will be here before we know it. It will be on September 17-21, 2008 (see the Hotel registration form on page 47).

Be there, or be square!

Gene Spicer

Hello! For 38 years, I have been the wife of your 24th Association President. He is one of the strongest men I have ever known. He believes in his country and in the freedom that we have.

I have enjoyed the reunions I've attended, and the men and women I have met there. I've enjoyed the stories I have listened to and can see how brave you all were and are.

We all need to come together as a Division and share stories – to laugh, to cry, to remember.

Let's not put down any man or woman who might have said this, or debate whose stories are true and whose are not.

I know there are rules that we should follow. But I think as we all grow older it doesn't hurt to flex them just a little.

Donnie Spicer



Finds Japanese Flag Wrapped Around Dead Soldier”

from George Updike



“With the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division on Mindanao, May 31, 1945 — (Delayed.) — This hard-fighting group of infantrymen from all over America proudly displays a shrapnel-torn Japanese battle flag captured near Digos as this Victory Division neared the end of its sweep across Mindanao to capture Davao. The banner was wrapped around the body of a dead Nipponese.

Private First Class **George Updike**, RR 4, Lebanon, Ind., holds the trophy. Others in the photo are (left to right) front row: Cpl. Vincent E. Knoy, Rushville,

Ind.; Pfc. Clarence A. Slavinski, Buffalo, N.Y.; Technical Sgt. Walter E. Chipman, Lynn, Mass.; Pfc. Walter E. Bock, Pinconning, Mich.; Cpl. Eugene Cozine*, San Leandro, Calif.; Staff Sgt. Walter Botto* (mostly hidden), Vallecita, Calif.; and Pfc. Mario Cavilli*, San Francisco, Calif.

Rear row: Pfc. Walter E. Bledsoe, Salina, Kas.; Cpl. Tony Beltran, Madera, Calif.; Pfc. Eugene P. Stringfellow, Lexington, Ky.; Pfc. Updike; Pfc. Gerald A. Dunn, San Francisco, Calif.; Pfc. Clifford H. Kurz, San Francisco, Calif.; Pfc. Clifford Owens, Wellsville, Ohio; and Pfc. Chase Morris, Cheyenne, Wyoming.” (* Cozine, Botto, Cavilli, and one other did not survive Zig-Zag Pass in Luzon.) ###

Member George Updike sent us the above article that appeared in the Lebanon, IN, *Reporter*, in an early June 1945, issue. George says: “I ‘retrieved’ the flag, which was wrapped around the waist of a dead Japanese soldier, as we moved along a road in southern Mindanao. It was blood-stained, so I later washed it in a stream, and was drying it on a bush after we stopped for the night. A photographer, apparently assigned to the 24th Hdq., spotted the flag, took our photo, names, and hometowns. I have the flag as my WWII ‘memorabilia.’” George also supplied a small print of the original photo from which the cover photo was derived.

George, who very kindly sent the article and photo at my request, said: “I know you are very busy getting the *TARO LEAF* produced, but please return the photo and clipping when convenient—these are my most valued memorabilia!” Thank you so much for your trust, George! The photo at right is one I took of George at the Columbia reunion, where George was a “first timer!” Ed.



You may reach George at: 38 Grouse Lane, Brevard, NC, 28712, 704-877-4585, gcupdike@webtv.net



Secretary-Treasurer Report *by Don Maggio*



Donors		
Name	Unit	Amount
Albright, Vereda		\$50
Bailey, Otto C.	21st Inf	\$200
Barnett, Lacy C.	34th Inf	\$5
Creigmile, Kenneth R.	34th Inf	\$30
Darke, Donald F.	5th RCT	\$5
Davis, Dayton	34th Inf	\$5
Farmer, Carroll W.	11th FA	\$10
Harris, Richard L.	24th QM	\$25
Hockman, Cletus P.	21st Inf	\$10
Jacketti, Victor	24th Med	\$10
Johnson, Paul E.	Div HQ	\$35
Lang, Louis (CSM Ret.)	724th Ord	\$10
McCourt, Jack G.	24th ID	\$10
Miller, John E.	34th Inf	\$10
Nelson, Richard L.	21st Inf	\$5
Nichols, Herschel E.	21st Inf	\$5
Nunnally, Charles E.	11th FA	\$10
Popovich, Kenneth R.	21st Inf	\$5
Rerko, Jr., Louis	34th Inf	\$5
Rochon, Louis W.	5th RCT	\$5
Schabzmeyer, Bernard A.	19th Inf	\$15
Seiferth, Jr., George F.	6th Tank	\$25
Stock, Rodney F.	34th Inf	\$50
Tomlin, Gerald R.	19th Inf	\$20
Williams, Donald F.	21st Inf	\$5
Total:		\$565.00

New Members		
Name	Regiment	Co./ Batt-Trp
Angell, Christopher L.	24th MP Co.	
Bailey, Otto C.	21st Inf	K
Bissett, Debra K.	Assoc	
Bressler, Jack L.	19th Inf	C
Caldwell, Thomas M.	21st Inf	HQ
Del Mastro, Douglas	3rd Eng	unk
Huntley, Elra W.	3rd Eng	D
Klugh, Robert J.	3rd Eng	unk
Leaf, Charles J.	3rd Eng	A
Minor, Rayford T.	19th Inf	E
Perkins, James N.	3rd Eng	HQ
Petty, John E.	19th Inf	Svc
Salvadore, Roger W.	21st Inf	A
Tassie, Lawrence R.	13th FA	S-3
Tavares, Brenda	Assoc	
Vitale, Michael L.	24th Sig	
Waldschmidt, Marvin	3rd Eng	HQ
Wszolek, Sr., Joseph F.	13th FA	B

New Lifetime Members				
Name	Unit	Company/ Battery	Life No.	Date
Bailey, Otto C.	21st Inf	K	2301	23 Nov 07
Huntley, Elra W.	3rd Eng	D	2302	27 Nov 07
Tomeo, Anthony R.	6th Tank	C	2303	26 Dec 07

Attention!

TARO LEAF Vol. 62, No. 2
Please send your articles
NOW.

Achtung! Attenzione! Atención!

Attention!

TARO LEAF Vol. 62, No. 2
Please send your articles
NOW.

Achtung! Attenzione! Atención!



From Your Editor's Computer, by Tom J. Thiel, Ed.



It's been about a third of a year since I've become your *TARO LEAF* editor. I've enjoyed being editor immensely because of all the many open and frank articles you have provided, and because of your many very nice letters, emails and phone calls.

There is, however, one area where I would like to see the Association improve, and that is with our own Information Systems.

Our management information base is very well maintained by Secretary-Treasurer Don Maggio. But it is not very effective to do a good job of maintaining a base if you all do not provide current information to Don, and if you do not permit your email addresses to be included in our records.

Today, email is a primary means of communicating in society; it should also be so in our Association, but I'm told many of you do not want your emails to be in the Association's membership base.

I've checked our membership base and less than 400 members out of almost 2,400 total members show an email address. Of those 400, a significant percentage is not current or valid. That suggests maybe 15 percent of our members have valid emails in our Association system!

Of course one of our key past leaders maintains an email address list of 24th Division members. But that is his personal address book and is not available for the rest of us to use.

Hence, your Association has a very limited means of electronic communications.

The internet has become a major means of informing the public about an organization, but our Association does not have its own web site either. The one that bears our 24th IDA logo is the personal copyrighted property of its developer and owner.

Putting together a 64-page *TARO LEAF* is not a menial task. I rely on computerized information systems to aid me in this effort.

Periodically, questions arise on what has previously been carried on the pages of the *TARO LEAF*. I have only been a member of the Association since about 2000; I didn't know that it existed before then. That means that I only have the issues of the *TARO LEAF* since then. Even those are impossible to rapidly visually scan.

In my opinion, the Association could benefit from an improved Information System.

One improvement I personally would like to see would be for all of you who are on email to allow your addresses to be a part of the official Association file, and to provide our Secretary-Treasurer with that information. Another is for the Association to have its own Web site.

In addition, I'm undertaking an effort to compile a complete full-text searchable electronic copy of *TARO LEAF* publications. This one will be your information resource, not my personal property, I promise you!

I have been associated with these kinds of computer systems since the 1960's when I first got involved with digital computers at the University of Minnesota.

As time permits, and particularly with the help of some volunteers from among our members, I plan to digitize (make computer readable) as many back issues of the *TARO LEAF* as we can.

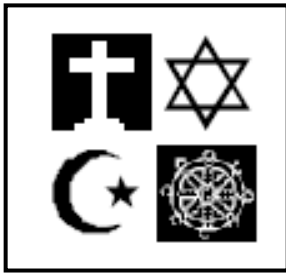
Why do this? Then we could let the computer very quickly scan all these back issues for a character string – like "thiel" or "spicer" or "1620." It will find all occurrences literally in seconds.

It is not a perfect retrieval system, but it is better and cheaper than a lot of other ones, and infinitely better than eyeballs!

Just a few thoughts for you to ponder. Thanks for your time.

Tom J. Thiel, Ed





Another New Year

I have spent most of this afternoon trying to find a book in which there is a poem I wanted to share with you. Of course I can't remember the author (that is one of my many faults) and I was sure it was in an old book in which we have found countless treasures over the years – but I finally found the book and it was not there. I remember part of it and will try to give you at least the basic message it contains. It goes like this:

“A tired old man died today –
And a baby boy was born.
They climbed the stairway – up and down;
And half way here and half way there,
They met, and stopped, and talked a while
On the journey - up and down.”

Now I don't remember just how it went at this point, but it seems the “baby boy” was concerned about the world to which he was coming and hoped the “tired old man” could give him some advice. I remember the old man says:

“‘Go on’ he said, ‘go on. It's good ... and bad.
It's good. Go on.’ And he urged him on -
Down to the waiting earth.”

And so we welcome the brand new “Baby boy – here on the waiting earth.” Another new year!

I guess it is at this point that we need to take a good hard look at the “tired old man” that is leaving us. We need to look at our decisions and activities. No, we can't change any of it – but we can learn from it. What did we leave undone. What opportunities did we miss – opportunities to make the lives of others better, more pleasant, to serve God by “doing it unto the least of these,” His children. We can make up our minds (and ask God for the ability) to do better this year so that when we meet another “baby boy” called 2009 our “to do” list will be much shorter.

On the flip side, we need also to take stock of our blessings and be thankful for them. Too often we act as though we are entitled to all of the wonderful things that come our way just because of who we are or for whatever other silly reason we may come up with. All of the wonders of life – family, friends, sunshine, and joy in little things – are gifts from a loving father.

Yes, I know there are rainy days too, but He gives us a different gift at those times. He gives us the strength to get through and the courage to go forward. And sometimes, when the hurdles are just too high, He picks us up and carries us safely across. So, I look forward with expectancy toward another year. As I wrote somewhere else, I am on tiptoe with joy as I anticipate what He has in store for us. I pray you are excited too.

May your New Year be filled with joy, opportunity, a zillion things to do, and moments to “just sit.”

Love and Prayers,
Lyn Sawyer



The TARO LEAF TAPS

3rd Engineers



Johnson, Billy, Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Johnson, 77, of 2416 Kimberly Drive, Fayetteville, NC, died Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2007, in Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Funeral Services were Sunday, Jan. 13, in Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home chapel in Fayetteville, NC. Burial was Thursday, Jan. 17, in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Survived by: Wife, Elminie; daughters, Julie and Linda; son, James; sisters, JoAnn Oldland and Georgie Williams; and two grandsons. Cards may be sent to: Ms. Minnie Johnson, 2416 Kimberly Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28306-2345. (See also *TARO LEAF*, Vol 61, Nos 3&4.)

5th Regimental Combat Team

Miller, Marjorie Ilene, 85, wife of **Archibald Miller**, Co. H, 5th RCT, Korea, 1950-51, CO passed away on Dec. 5, 2007. Mr. Miller preceded her in death. Cards may be sent to their daughter, Lani Miller Aker, 4629 Baytree Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76137-1515. (Paul R. Garland).

11th Field Artillery

Sampson, Marion. Life Member # 1199, who was with the 11th FA in WWII, passed away about 18 months ago. Cards may be sent to: Mrs. Marion Sampson, 1032 Huffman Ave, Dayton, OH 45403-2906.

19th Infantry Regiment

Albright, Bobby L., 81 of Waterloo, Indiana, died February 20, 2007. He was a proud Life Member #112 of the 24th Division Association, and was a member of the 19th Infantry, "C" Company in New Guinea, The Philippines, Leyte, and the Japanese mainland. He received a Bronze Star for helping save the lives of his comrades during the invasion of Leyte. When their boat was shelled and began to sink, he took off his life jacket and placed it on an injured man, and also helped two others to safety. He was the recipient of the Victory Medal, and a Purple Heart. Bob always looked forward to the *TARO LEAF*, and we enjoyed going to the reunions. He is survived by his wife, Vereda, five children and five grandchildren. Send cards to: Vereda M. Albright, Box 39, Waterloo, IN 46793-0039

Clark, Neil M., 19th Infantry Regiment passed away on 19 February 2006. There is no indication of a surviving spouse, but cards may be sent to the family at: 553 Lane De Chantel, Port Townsend, WA 98368. (Mark Clark).

Goetting, Walter F., Hq Co., 19th Infantry (46-47) and Association Life Member passed away on 10 October 2002. (Michael Goetting).



The TARO LEAF TAPS



Long, Gilbert N., Staff Sgt, 87, died Oct 12, 2007 in Midland, Texas of cancer. Gilbert served in Company E, 19th Infantry during WW II. He participated in campaigns in Luzon, Leyte, New Guinea and the Southern Philippines. He was awarded the Purple Heart, and three Bronze Stars. Cards may be sent to his daughter, Judy Dixon at 3901 Edgebrook Ct., Midland, TX 79707.



Young, Ronald Gene, 75, died of natural causes Dec. 17, 2007, in Reading Hospital, Reading, PA. Ron was a member of "C" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment during the Korean conflict, and was a life member of the 24th Infantry Division Association. He was the husband of Beverly M. (Jones) Young, who survives, along with daughters, Vicki M. (Young) Missimer, Sinking Spring, and Lisa A. (Young) Hughes, Shillington; and two sons, Gary M., Oakland, Md., and Chris A., Shillington. Cards may be sent to: Beverly M. Young, 304 Third St., Wernersville, PA 19565. (See article this issue.)

21st Infantry Regiment



Bray, John A. "Jack," of Ephrata, PA, formerly Arlington, VA and San Antonio, TX died at age 77 on Sunday the 21st of May, 2006, at Ephrata Hospital after a brief battle with cancer. Jack was a member of the 21st Infantry Regiment and served in Camp Wood as a S/Sgt in "D" Company as an Administrative NCO 502 in the Officer Personnel Records Section. He joined the Association in 1999. He is survived by wife Rosita A. Bray, 424 Holly Dr, Ephrata, Pa 17522 (717) 733-2918. (John M. Bray, Jr.)

Williams, George E., Companies E & G, 21st Infantry Regiment, passed away on 20 November 2007, of colon cancer. He was a veteran of WWII and served in Korea from August 1950 into July 1951 as a Platoon Leader & Company Commander. George was predeceased by his loving wife, Patricia. Condolences may be sent to the family at: George E. Williams, Jr., 353 Spenser Rd., Candor, NY 13743-1324. (Joe Mahon).

34th Infantry Regiment

Cain, Florence, Wife for 65 years of Paul J. Cain, Life Member #186, of Company I, 34th Infantry Regiment, WWII, passed away 27 Nov. 07 at home in Urbana, IL. Memorials may be made to Carle Hospice, 206A W. Anthony Drive, Champaign, IL 61821; or St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Cards may be sent to Paul at: 3109 B Chatham Drive, Urbana, IL, 61802-7044.

Montaglione, Angelo, Company G, 34th Infantry Regiment during WWII from 1943 - 1945 in New Guinea and the Philippine Island, passed away on January 3, 2008, in Waterloo, NY. Angelo was severely wounded while fighting on the Island of Leyte. Cards may be sent to his wife Betty and family at 1321 W. River Rd., Waterloo, NY 13165-9735. (Eric Diller).



The TARO LEAF TAPS

52nd Field Artillery

Holton, Dale M., passed away on December 23, 2007. He served with the 52nd FA. Condolences may be sent to the family at 1020 Courtland Drive, Sykesville, MD 21784-8413. (Byrd Schrock)

Division

Eustachy, Roger L., 85, passed away on 22 Dec 2007. Roger was with the 24th Med , Co. "A", 42-45, throughout the Pacific Campaign. He was Life Member #966. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne, at 4216 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94602-2520.

Non-Members

Dreyer, Victor A., Svc. Co. 5th RCT, 1952-53, passed away 5 Jan 08. Husband of the late Nancy E. member of the association 7123-1419. Funeral services was 08 Jan 08, in Buffalo, NY. (P. Garland and Herb Forbach).

Lynch, Don, CWO, 34th Infantry Regiment, either Company C or A, Korea 54-56, passed away in September 2007. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Barbara Lynch, 616 E North St., Ithaca, MI, 48847-1340 (John Schuiling).

Makin, Edward, Battery C, 52^d FA Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, passed away on November 11, 2000, in Hempstead, NY. Edward served with the Battery C from 1941 through 1945 and was a survivor of Pearl Harbor. (Kevin Makin Jr.)

McMullin, Bill, Co H, 19th Infantry Korea, passed away January 25, 2008, at home in Walnut Ridgem AR, after a long battle with cancer. Burial at the Pocohontas, AR cemetery. Bill grew up and went to school in Pocohontus and also entered Army from there. Condolences and cards may be sent to his widow Patsy at: 514 SW 2nd Street, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476. (Bill was my good friend, and my old comrade and squad leader; we served together for 2 years in Korea and Japan - Joe O'Connell.)

Merson, Samuel E. passed away on 15 November 2007. Samuel was a member of Company F, 5th RCT in Korea from August 1951 - June 1952, obtaining the rank of Sergeant. Condolences may be sent to his Wife, Esther and family at 5771 Old Landing Road, Elkridge, MD 21075-5741 (Frank Marcan, Jr.).

Muckala, Richard, I & R Platoon, 34th Infantry Regiment on Leyte, Mindanao, Luzon and Occupation of Japan (44-45), passed away in February 1995 in Bagley, MN.

Phillips, George, who served during WWII, and was at Pear Harbor at the time of the attack, passed away on January 3, 2008. George was the husband of Julie M. (Borella) Phillips, 38 Elm St, Taunton, MA 02780 (508) 822-9792. (Ed Hall).

Please send ALL OBITUARY NOTICES and accompanying PHOTOGRAPHS to:
Don Maggio, Secretary – Treasurer, 411 Concord Road, Fletcher, NC 28732-9734,
Tel. 828-684-5931, Email: tarheeldon0@lycos.com



The TARO LEAF TAPS

ALPHABETIC LISTING

Table provided by Secretary/Treasurer Don Maggio

Last Name	First & MI	Address	City	ST	Zip	Unit 1	Co/Bt
Albright	Bobby L.	PO Box 39	Waterloo	IN	46793	19th Inf	C
Bray	John A.	unk.	unk.	unk	unk.	21st Inf	D
Clark	Neil M.	553 Land De Chantel	Port Townsend	WA	98368	unk	
Dreyer	Victor A.	unk.	Buffalo	NY	unk.	5th RCT	Svc
Eustachy	Roger L.	4216 Fruitvale Ave.	Oakland	CA	94602	24th Med	A
Fortes	Melvin D.	unk.	unk.	CA	unk.	24th ID	
Goetting	Walter F.	3620 Stillwater Blvd.	Maumee	OH	43537	19th Inf	HQ
Harvey	William V.	410 River Shores Ct. NW	Atlanta	GA	30328	21st Inf	HQ
Johnson	Billy	2416 Kimberly Dr.	Fayetteville	NC	28306	3rd Eng	C
Lawrence	Earl E.	1710 Southmont Dr.	Dalton	GA	30720	5th RCT	
Long	Gilbert N.	3901 Edgebrook Ct.	Midland	TX	79707	19th Inf	E
Lynch	Don	616 E. North St.	Ithaca	MI	48847	34th Inf	C or A
Makin	Edward		Hempstead	NY		52nd FA	C
Merson	Samuel E.	5771 Old Landing Road	Elkridge	MD	21075	5th RCT	F
Milkovich	Michael M.	216 Hibbing Ave	Keewatin	MN	55753	21st Inf	F
Montaglione	Angelo G.	1321 W. River Rd.	Waterloo	NY	13165	34th Inf	G
Muckala	Richard	unk.	Bagley	MN	unk.	34th Inf	I & R
Phillips	George	unk.	Raynahm	MA	unk.	unk	
Sampson	Marion A.	1032 Huffman Ave.	Dayton	OH	45403	11th FA	
Sanders	Robert W.						
Sharpe	Edward H.	307 N. Florence St	Maxton	NC	28374	24th Med	HQ
Tenario	Sam F.	PO Box 481	Tunjunga	CA	91043	13th FA	HQ
Williams	George E.	PO Box 85	Brooktondale	NY	14817	21st Inf	G & E
Young	Ronald G.	304 3rd St.	Wernersville	PA	19565	19th Inf	C



Evolution of the Association Name

The original name of the Association was the 24th Infantry (Victory) Division Veterans Association.

As the name states, the original focus of the Association was focused on the WWII, 24th ID veterans who made up the membership.

From the beginning, and continuing up to the present time, the primary activity was the Annual Convention and Reunion, and meetings of the Chapters around the country.

The Korean War would induce change. The Constitution was revised at the 1950 Chicago Convention and the name of the organization became the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Larry Gay, Association Historian



The TARO LEAF TAPS

52nd Field Artillery

Holton, Dale M., passed away on December 23, 2007. He served with the 52nd FA. Condolences may be sent to the family at 1020 Courtland Drive, Sykesville, MD 21784-8413. (Byrd Schrock)

Division

Eustachy, Roger L., 85, passed away on 22 Dec 2007. Roger was with the 24th Med , Co. "A", 42-45, throughout the Pacific Campaign. He was Life Member #966. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne, at 4216 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, CA 94602-2520.

Non-Members

Dreyer, Victor A., Svc. Co. 5th RCT, 1952-53, passed away 5 Jan 08. Husband of the late Nancy E. member of the association 7123-1419. Funeral services was 08 Jan 08, in Buffalo, NY. (P. Garland and Herb Forbach).

Lynch, Don, CWO, 34th Infantry Regiment, either Company C or A, Korea 54-56, passed away in September 2007. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Barbara Lynch, 616 E North St., Ithaca, MI, 48847-1340 (John Schuiling).

Makin, Edward, Battery C, 52^d FA Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, passed away on November 11, 2000, in Hempstead, NY. (Kevin Makin Jr.)

McMullin, Bill, Co H, 19th Infantry Korea, passed away January 25, 2008, at home in Walnut Ridgem AR, after a long battle with cancer. Burial at the Pocohontas, AR cemetery. Condolences and cards may be sent to his widow Patsy at: 514 SW 2nd Street, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476. (Joe O'Connell.)

Merson, Samuel E. passed away on 15 November 2007. Samuel was a member of Company F, 5th RCT in Korea from August 1951 - June 1952, obtaining the rank of Sergeant. Condolences may be sent to his Wife, Esther and family at 5771 Old Landing Road, Elkridge, MD 21075-5741 (Frank Marcan, Jr.)

Muckala, Richard, I & R Platoon, 34th Infantry Regiment on Leyte, Mindanao, Luzon and Occupation of Japan (44-45), passed away in February 1995 in Bagley, MN.

Phillips, George, who served during WWII, and was at Pear Harbor at the time of the attack, passed away on January 3, 2008. George was the husband of Julie M. (Borella) Phillips, 38 Elm St, Taunton, MA 02780 (508) 822-9792. (Ed Hall).

**Please send ALL TAPS NOTICES and accompanying PHOTOGRAPHS to
THE TARO LEAF EDITOR**

**Tom J. Thiel, 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736-7262, Ph: 352-357-3943
tthiel5@comcast.net**

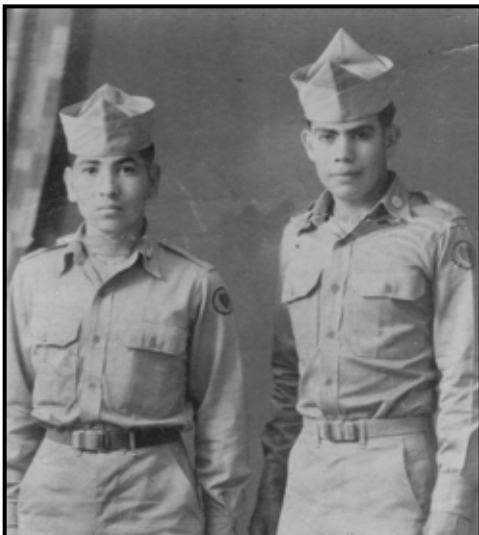



Looking For


21st Infantry Regiment Boxing Team Circa 1949. Goichi Tamaye, M Co, sitting at left side front row. Far right standing is 2nd Lt Jason Cox Hq. 1st. Next to Lt Cox is Anselmo Zamora, B Co. Man at far left could be the trainer Sgt Moratin. Lewis Hurst, Charles Kolady, Miles Doyle could be in photo, but I do not know for certain (Doyle and Hurst were KIA; Kolady was WIA). Cox, Zamora and Tamaye were captured and were with the Tiger group. Zamora and Cox died the first winter; Tamaye survived and lives in Hawaii. If you can identify any of the other members of the 21st Regimental Boxing Team shown in this photo, please contact Shorty Estabrook, 16514 Clydesdale Run, Selma TX 78154



LEFT: Nine men supposedly from the 21st Regiment. Some may be members of the boxing team. Maybe they are Hispanics from around the Regiment; I don't know that as a fact. Anselmo Zamora is on the right and he died in the Tigers group. If you can identify any of the eight others in this photo, please contact Shorty Estabrook, see below.



LEFT: Anselmo Zamora (on right) B Co 21st with a buddy. Who is the buddy?

RIGHT: Two men with Anselmo Zamora who is in the middle. Who are the other two?

Please contact Shorty Estabrook, 16514 Clydesdale Run, Selma TX 78154, 210-267-5243 marites@satx.rr.com



 **Looking For** 

George P. Losio is looking for an April or June 1944, picture of **A Battery, 3rd Battalion, Anti Aircraft Artillery, Fort Eustis, VA**. If you have this photo, he would very much like to make a copy. Please contact George P. Losio, 1 Third Ave., Farmingdale, NY 11735, 516-694-2635.



John M. Tidwell (photo at left) is looking for three of his buddies: Fred A. Puckett from California, Sgt. Mullins from Georgia, and **PFC Darby** also from Georgia. All of them served together in the **3rd Platoon, Dog Company, 21st Infantry Regiment** from April 1945, liberating the Philippines island of Mindanao. Please contact John M. Tidwell at P.O. Box 188, Wickes, AK 71973-0188, Phone 870-385-2563.

Thomas M. (Tom) Caldwell is looking for buddies he served with in the 21st Infantry Officer's Mess 56 - 57 in Korea. He doesn't remember their first names only the last. They are "**Ramey or Ranie,**" "**O'Brien,**" "**Krago,**" and "**Moon.**" Anyone knowing their whereabouts or have information can contact Tom at: 724-547-7427

PVT Kiyomi Minena. The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office is looking for any information regarding PVT Kiyomi Minena, RA 10736334. PVT Minema deployed to South Korea as a member of I Company, 34th Infantry Regiment in July 1950. Official records are unclear as to what happened to PVT Minema on or about 28 August 1950. If you have information about Pvt. Minema, please contact **George "Herb" Artola**, DPMO, Northeast Asia Division, (703) 699-1228, george.artola@osd.mil

Chuck Wayne Wightman, 19th Infantry Regiment 1945, Medic with 1st Bn. Medics, Matsayma and Kochi, Japan, is looking for any of his comrades from that era. You may reach Chuck at 6413 Morton Place, Temple Hills, MD 20748. (301) 894-5691.

Tom Vaughn, is looking for anyone in the **13th FA Service Battery** from Oct. 1955 to 1957, or the **63rd FA Service Battery** during same period. Korea. You may reach Tom at 163 Poor House Road, Catawissa, NY 17820, 570-799-0118.

Tom Cacciola, 955 FA Bn, Korea Jan 51-Oct 51, is looking for any member of the **13th FA Bn** whose Battery was in a firing position located next to or near a portable shower in May 51. When he came out of the shower he talked to a crewman about what unit he was with, and he stated 13th Field. Tom may be reached at: 15 Skyline Drive, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 07632-1815, Ph: 201-567-7279.





Pedro "Pete" L. Echaves, 1st Sgt, 24th Division during WWII in **Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines** between 1942 - 1945. His grandson, Lorenzo Ramirez, is looking for information on his Grandfather, Mr. Echaves. "I know what I've given you is very general, but that's why I am attempting to piece his story together. His great-grandchildren need to know and respect our country by showing them the great sacrifices made by those before us." Lorenzo Ramirez, 972 Nolan Way, Chula Vista, CA. 91911, oldflojo@cox.net , Ph: 619-587-8736.

Joseph A. Cullen who served with the **34th Infantry Regiment** from New Guinea, through the Philippines and Japan. Joseph may have been a medic. He passed away June 23, 1983, in Omaha, NB. Joseph's son, **Pat Cullen**, is looking for anyone who may have known his father during his time in the 34th Regiment. If you have any information, please contact: Pat Cullen by telephone (361) 573-6318, email: pcullen@cullenlawfirm.com or snail mail at P.O. Box 2938, Victoria, TX 77901-2938

James Mims, Division Headquarters, is trying to find anything he can on a **Pvt. Maas**, who was with our MP's, and was killed on the bridge at Palo, The Philippines. Another M.P. named **Carter** saw that whole mess from under one of the houses; the Japanese had some Philippine civilians in front of them who kept hollering "Don't shoot. Me Phillipino!" Contact: James Mims, 811 Lawson Ave., Midland, TX, 79701-4144, Ph: 915-682-1757

Mr. Mims also asked: Do you perchance know where I could obtain a copy of **Verbeck's "Regiment in Action"**? And he also asked about the web site that was mentioned on page 33 of the *TARO LEAF* Vol 61, No. 3&4, <http://www.2id.org/24-casna.htm>., He was not able to access it and asked if it is the correct web site?

James: Here are three sites I could find offering **Verbeck's Regiment in Action**. It's not inexpensive! <http://search.abaa.org/dbp2/detailindex.php?booknr=333707086&membernr=1510&ordernr=56679&source=froogle> , http://www.ilab.org/db/book1785_B02846.html , and <http://www.biblio.com/details.php?dcx=102843438&aid=frg>

The web site only lists Korean War Casualties; it was good when I published it, and just now when I checked it so it appears to be a viable web site.

Ed.

Tom: I have talked to Caliban Book Shop, Pittsburg, PA, <http://www.calibanbooks.com/search.html> They list the book at \$95.00 plus \$5.00 shipping, but he made me a price of \$80.00 and they will pay for the mailing! I told him to send it. Thanks for the help...And "Happy New Year"! James

Correction

Correction

Correction

In the last issue of the *TARO LEAF*, Vol. 61, Nos 3&4, on page 54, **Service Battery, 13th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, Camp Hakata, Kyushu, Japan, 1947**, we **incorrectly listed Gene Allard's telephone number**. The correct number is: **407-359-9950**. My apologies to Mr. Allard, and to anyone who tried to call the wrong number. ED



"Korea, I Was There" by Harold L. Gamble

The 29th Infantry Regiment's Service in Korea with the 24th Infantry Division. Book Review by *Merry Helm, Fargo, ND.*

Publisher: Authorhouse (May 2003)
ISBN-10: 1410708551
ISBN-13: 978-1410708557
Amazon/com: \$ 17.35

Author Harold L. Gamble was a medic with the 29th Infantry Regiment, which was on occupation duty on Okinawa when the war broke out in June of 1950. Like other units of the 24th Division, the 29th was under-strength and less than prepared for sudden combat action when mobilized 15 July, 1950.

On 20 July, the 29th 1st and 3rd battalions received 400 brand new replacements, and immediately set sail for Japan aboard the Tagasaka Maru.

During the trip, men zeroed their weapons and worked on target practice by using C-ration cans thrown off the ship's fantail.

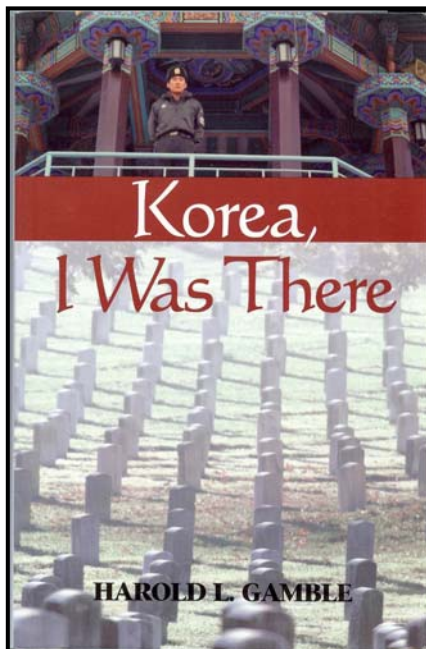
Meanwhile, Gamble conducted crash-course training for younger medics, many of whom had little or no experience.

The Tagasaka arrived in Fukuoka, Japan, three days later. The men were to disembark to receive six weeks of combat field training, but they never left the ship. Additional coal was brought on for the boilers, as well as more equipment; the situation in Korea was so dire the regiment was being shipped directly to Pusan.

In his book, *Korea, I Was There*, Gamble writes, "Those of us who had been in service during World War II knew there was something behind these changes and we were not going on a picnic."

As the Tagasaka entered the Sea of Japan, an American destroyer and a British Corvette came

along side to escort them. That afternoon, the soldiers watched from their rattling ship as these escorts dropped depth-charges that soon brought a dark green submarine to the surface. Gamble writes, "It had the hammer and sickle on its bow. I watched the letters CCF disappear as the submarine sank. Scratch one red submarine!"



The regiment expected one week of intensive training when they arrived in Pusan, but this, too, was not to be. Taejon had fallen, and troops were immediately needed to assist Colonel Ned Moore's 19th Regiment at Chinju.

Gamble ably describes the horrors, the heroism and the heartbreak his regiment endured in the following days and weeks, including the devastating ambushes at Hadong, Anui and Chinju Pass.

(By my own calculations): The 29th (first and third battalions) suffered some 1300 casualties during its 36 days with the 24th Division; 132

were killed in action, and out of 444 who were captured or missing, only 76 survived the war. Many who were captured were victims of the Sunchon Tunnel Massacre on 20 October 1950.

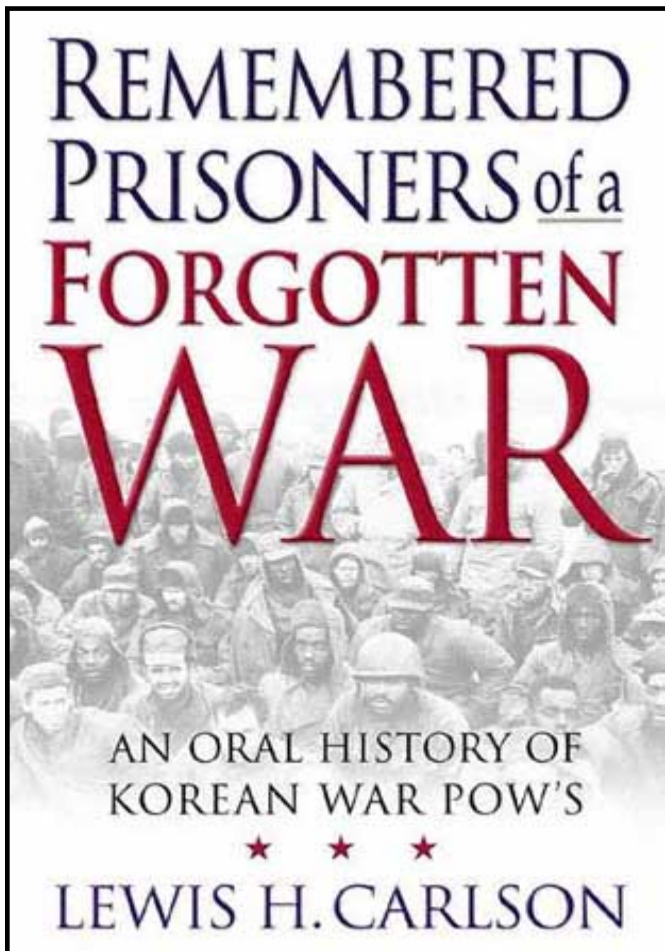
On 4 September, 1950, the 29th's survivors were absorbed by the 35th Regiment.

He writes, "It is...true that many of these men were not as well conditioned for combat as we were during World War II. But they were not soft nor out of shape. Those who died at Hadong and Anui were for the most part found near their defensive positions. These brave men were simply outgunned, surrounded, and overwhelmed by superior forces."

Indeed, the 29th performed honorably during its tenure with the 24th ID, as evinced by its 12 Distinguished Service Cross recipients. *Korea, I Was There* is not only a book about its author, Harold Gamble. It is the story of a proud regiment that, like other units employed in the early days of the war, was made up of many untested soldiers.

This is their story -- and it's a good one. *Merry Helm*





Remembered Prisoners of a Forgotten War - An Oral History of Korean War POWs

by Lewis H. Carlson

Sale Price: \$10.95

Publisher: St. Martin's Press | Date published: 04/01/2002

ISBN: 0312704712

<http://ebooks.palm.com/>

Also offered by Amazon and others – Google the title.

A Brief Review, by Merry Helm

I began reading the book "**Remembered Prisoners of a Forgotten War**" by Lewis H. Carlson a couple days ago. Excellent. Would highly recommend. Written in 2002, the author takes great pains to "un-demonize" Korean War POWs. He explains how McCarthyism made many-an-ex-POW suspect of be-

ing Communist conspirators. He describes how many ex-POWs were hounded for years by J. Edgar Hoover, for fear they had been brainwashed and were subversives (like in the original Manchurian Candidate). He believes history has never been rectified to show how deadly the KW POW experience was, especially for those who were captured in the first months.

The stories the POWs tell are very compelling. Shorty Estabrook's is included.

One example the author gives is the Bataan Death March, which had a mortality rate of about 40%. In stark contrast, he believes the Tiger Death March had a death rate of about 65%.

So many wrongs to be righted in this world...

Merry Helm

From an Online source

The Korean War POW remains the most maligned victim of all American wars. For nearly half a century, the media, general public, and even scholars have described hundreds of these prisoners as "brainwashed" victims of a heinous enemy who had uncharacteristically caved in to their Communist captors or, even worse, as turncoats who betrayed their fellow soldiers. In either case, these boys apparently lacked the "right stuff" required of our brave sons.

Here, at long last, is a chance to hear the true story of these courageous men in their own words -- a story that, until now, has gone largely untold. Dr. Carlson debunks many of the popular myths of Korean War POWs in this devastating oral history that's as compelling and moving as it is informative. From the Tiger Death March to the paranoia here at home, Korean War POWs suffered injustices on a scale few can comprehend. More than 40 percent of the 7,140 Americans taken prisoners died in captivity, and as the haunting tales of the survivors unfold, it becomes clear that the goal of these men was simply to survive under the most terrible conditions.



Sacrificial Lambs – 24th Division Korea – July 1950

By Norm Smith, "E" 19th, Korea 1951

Editor's note: I met Life Member #1640, Ray Colton, "M" Co, 19th, at the Hospitality Room at the Columbia Reunion; he was autographing and handing out copies of his book "*Sacrificial Lambs – 24th Division Korea – July 1950.*" I filed my copy away with a lot of other Columbia materials – and promptly forgot it!

Then I got a letter from fellow "E" 19th, and Association member, Norm Smith, originally from NY, but now living in Owenton, KY.

Norm managed to get his hands on a copy from another "E" 19th and Association member, Ken Dillon of Yellow Springs, OH, who was at the table there in Columbia with Ray and me. Norm wrote:

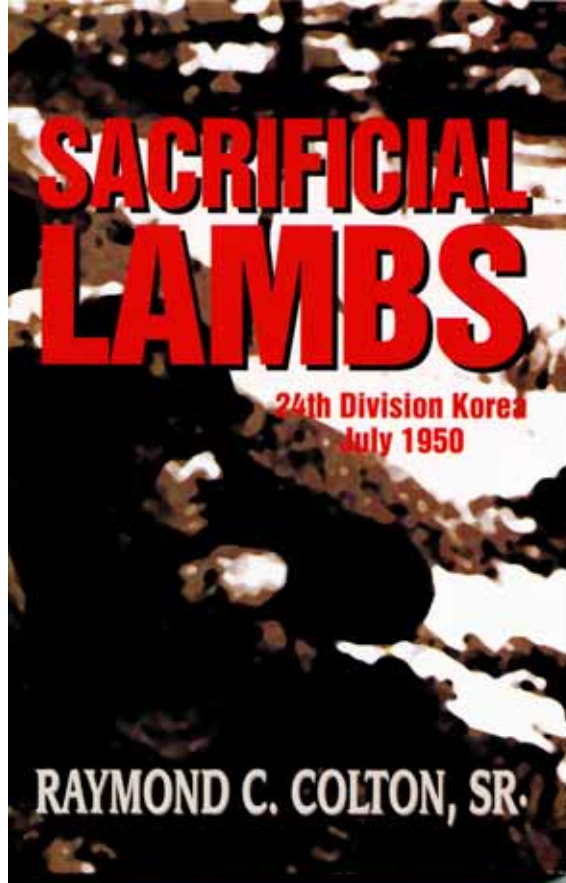
It didn't take me long to get into *Sacrificial Lamb*. Reading it was like running downhill-I couldn't stop.

Ray grew up on a dairy farm in upstate NY just like I did, and our paths were amazingly parallel. Only Ray got to the "Land of the Morning Calm" quite a long time before I did. He says 'we – the 24th – were the first to fight and the first to die.'

He tells of the see-saw battles that General Dean led. And then Ray describes his own battles until he received a direct hit from an enemy mortar, the exact same fate that would befall me during Operation Nomad.

Ron then describes the medical care that he received post Korea – Murphy Army Hospital in Waltham, MA – again the same place that I would be sent in the fall of '51.

Ray tells of the many 'shenanigans' that went



on there at dear old Murphy hospital. He told his recollection of a Dr. Fisher, who was a cut up as well as an Excellent Saw-bones. I believe I had the same surgeon!

I called Ray and we talked in detail about our many parallels.

And now I make you, Ray Colton, Mel Frederick, Ken Dillon, and all my other 19th Infantry Regiment comrades a promise. And that is that if at all possible and I'm not pushing up daisies, I'll be at the Springfield Reunion of the 24th IDA come next September!

My fiancée is also encouraging me to go as well!

Enough said, now time to fix supper!

Norman C. "Smitty" Smith, 3275 Sweet Owen Road, Owenton, KY 40359, Ph 502-484-2892

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LPGA golfer keeps promise to Korean War Vets submitted by Life

Member Paul Wurzer, "A" Battery, 13th F.A. June 1949-May 1951

Rochester, NY, June 2007: Korean golfer Jeong Jang ("JJ"), true to her word of one year ago, again visited our Korean War Veterans Memorial in White Haven Memorial Park in Penfield, NY to pay her respects. JJ, shown in the red golf shirt in the photo below, had visited with Chapter #1, KWVA of Monroe County (Rochester, NY) after winning the 2006 Wegman LPGA Tournament. At that time, she presented us with a check for \$1,000 to help in keeping the memorial updated, and promised to return in 2007.



When she arrived in Rochester for the 2007 tournament, she, along with her father, her manager, and Ms. Byoung Baek, the representative from the Rochester Korean American community, returned to the Memorial.

JJ and Ms. Baek presented a beautiful wreath, and JJ again presented us with a check for \$1,000.

She then invited the Chapter members to join her and her

Seated is Ray Bayley; holding the banner are Jeong Jang, LPGA golfer, and Betty Perkins-Carpenter; back row from left: Gerry Eisele; Jerry Brixner; MGen Norbert Rappi, Ret.; Paul Wurzer; Frank Nicalozzo; Don Cofsky; and Joe Vogel; far right Chaplain Don Anderson. Photo by David Messenger. All except Miss Jang are members of Chapter #1, KWVA of Monroe County (Rochester, NY).

family, and the members of the Rochester Korean American Community, for a delicious brunch at a Korean Restaurant. As a sidebar, JJ's uncle was killed in the Korean War.

The good wishes of the Chapter members go with JJ, as she continues the competition of the LPGA Tour. Adapted from story by Joe Vogel. ###

Looking For Battery "A" 13th Field Artillery Comrades

Paul Wurzer, who submitted the above article, told me on the phone that he misses seeing items about Battery "A" 13th F.A. in the *TARO LEAF*. We've had some other batteries of the 13th, so, "A" members, let's get some articles submitted! Paul is also looking for anyone who served with him in Battery "A" 13th F.A., from June 1949 to May 1951. He was a Jeep driver member of a Forward Observer team. Paul can be reached at: 886 Britton Rd., Rochester, NY, 14616-2911, Ph: 585-663-3153.



Our President Likes His Trucks

His Latest Venture to Get a Truck Nets New Life Member for Association!

Do you know our President, Gene Spicer, likes to restore old military trucks? I mean seriously likes to restore these old critters.

Recently, Dave Frank, a Staff Writer for the Madison, Indiana, *Courier*, wrote a feature article about Spicer's passion for trucks. Below are some portions of Mr. Frank's article.

"Five years ago, Gene Spicer found the truck he was looking for in a magazine that advertises old military supplies. It was a one-and-a-half-ton Army Jeep from 1943 — a model last used during the Korean War. He called the number and thus began Spicer's love for restoring military trucks.



At first the \$500 the owner wanted for the Jeep annoyed Spicer, but shortly he and son, Jeff were on their way to Pennsylvania to pick it up.

Traveling wherever he needed to get the parts, Gene Spicer has been restoring Korean War-era military vehicles like that Jeep for more than 20 years. He said part of the fun is finding the parts; it reminds him of his military days.

Spicer works on the vehicles in a garage on the back side of his barn. An old Camel cigarette sign hangs above a radio, and pile of aluminum and junk sits outside the entrance.

Spicer finished that Jeep by that summer, and has shown it off in a few parades since then. Jeff says people are impressed with the trucks and Jeeps: "They don't normally get to see what the military drove before Humvees."

Gene Spicer was in the military most of his life. He fought in Korea in the early '50s, then came back and drove trucks for the U.S. Army in California. "I was in seventh Heaven doing that," he said.

Spicer enlisted in the Indiana National Guard Reserve after finishing college. He retired as a brigadier general three years ago.

His sons and fixing old vehicles gives him a connection to the military. He gets to talk to people about it when he's at parades showing his Jeeps and trucks.

But it's not all about the military. He said he likes being out in his garage with his two basset hounds and a set of tools.

He said he loves having "a whole pile of parts and figuring out what goes where. I thoroughly enjoy my old trucks," he said.

In 1986, he got his first one, a 1942 GMC (left, Spicer at wheel; same truck below, restored).



He found it in the junk yard and had to drag it home with a tractor when the wheel wouldn't turn.

That was one of his last years as a high school teacher, which was his civilian job. He'd been teaching over 20 years.

He said, "I told my wife the day I die, they're not going to put me in a hearse. They're going to put me in one of my trucks." *END of Mr. Frank's excerpts.*

Gene is still tracking down old military trucks; just after last Thanksgiving he found his latest in Tracy City, TN. But not only did he pick up an old military truck, he also signed up a new Life Member of the Association!

Otto Bailey of Sewanee, TN, who served in 3rd Platoon, "K" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea from Aug. 1950 to June 1951, became a life member, and he also made a substantial contribution in remembrance of his "K" Co. comrades.

So, you never can tell where you may find the next 24th IDA Member! TJT Editor (More at right)





Spicer with sons Raymond (left) and Jeff, about 1997.



1947 Willys Jeep - above before, below after restoration.



1943 Burma Jeep Ford GTB F MVC-004F



1952 GMC M-135 F DUCS MVC-009F

The Eddie Ko Story, Part II

The Graybeards, July-August, 2006, pp. 20-23.

The TARO LEAF expresses appreciation Graybeards Editor Art Sharp for permission to reprint.

Part I of the Eddie Ko Story (*TARO LEAF*, Vol. 61, No. 1&2) began with school boy Eddie finding his dog's pelt drying in a Japanese Occupation Army camp. His rage led him to destroy all the pelts.

With the Japanese looking for him, his Christian missionary father, and his teacher Mother, sent Eddie to live in a remote village miles away until the end of WWII.

After two years, Eddie returned to his home and life was good again. But in June of 1950, the North Korean Army invaded South Korea. Along with many thousands of Koreans, they sought out and killed Eddie's parents.

Eddie was alone. His rage at the North Koreans led him to join a group of teenage Korean spies headed by a South Korean officer with close ties to the U.S. military.

We left Eddie at fourteen years of age, and a spy for the United States Army!

The Eddie Ko Story Part II.

When I was outside a mountain village near a lake known as the Chosin Reservoir, I came across some Chinese soldiers.

One of the North Korean soldiers told me that the Chinese were going to help them crush the Americans. I remarked aloud that I won-

dered how they could possibly win, for there must be thousands of Marines.

The North Korean soldier replied, "Because there are more than 120,000 Chinese waiting in ambush, and that's ten times as many as the U.S. Marines have. The Americans are about to face their doom."

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

I didn't know where the Marines were located, but I knew I must find them quickly and alert them. As I was leaving the camp, a guard stopped me. He took me to the captain's tent. This time they would not believe my story.

The captain ordered one of the other men to take me out and kill me, for he felt I was a spy. My heart was pounding. What could I do now? I truly felt it was over for me.

The guard ordered me to walk ahead of him. He told me not to look back, but to keep on walking. Then I began to hear his gun shots. I knew he was firing the gun at me. I was trembling and walking as fast as I could, but I realized he was firing over my head. He believed my story! He was not going to kill me! I dropped to the cold, wet, snowy ground. I

started to cry, but it was too cold for my tears to fall.

I worked my way carefully down the side of the mountain. An American soldier confronted me and he brought me back into a U.S. camp. I told them about the Chinese soldiers I had seen. I informed them of what I had seen, and the comments the North Korean soldier had made to me. At first, they did not believe me. I soon convinced them that I was giving them facts, and that I was a part of them.

Even though it was the dead of winter, I decided to make my way back to Seoul from the Chosin Reservoir. I figured it would take me a month to reach my destination.

I trudged from village to village, begging for food. I barely managed to survive.

At one home, I met an elderly couple that shared a meager meal with me. They had so little for themselves. When I learned that they were anti-communists, I told them some of my story—at least the part about trying to return to South Korea.

"You can help us solve a problem," said the woman. "We are hiding two wounded American GIs. If the communists find them, they will kill them and us too. You must take them with you until you reach the American



lines. That is about one hundred miles away.”

I let them know I could barely take care of myself. I reminded them of my age. I tried to convince them I could not do this, but they insisted and took me to their cellar where the men were hiding.

They introduced themselves as Al and Harry. They were both in their twenties, and were from the New York area. They had explained how they had been captured, but had managed to escape with gun shots to their legs.

“You're our only hope. The only hope we have,” Al told me. I knew I could not abandon them. There was no way to disguise them, so I decided we should hike only at night, and hide during the day. It was slow going, because the soldiers limped badly and their wounds were infected.

To pass the time as we plodded along, I questioned them about life in New York. I heard about the Dodgers, Giants, and Yankees, and even about some of the famous actors and actresses on Broadway. I noticed how talking about their home town seemed to perk Al and Harry up. Their descriptions made my desire even more real and a goal, to see these sights for myself.

Al and Harry grew weaker. The injuries to their legs were becoming more infected each day. Food was difficult for me to find, and

often we had to do without. I grew to like Al and Harry, and I knew they appreciated all I was trying to do for them.

I'll always hope that fifty years later, the camaraderie that carried me through my most difficult years will remain. Let's enjoy our friendship now - we should stay a band of brothers.

We had traveled about a week when we found an abandoned farm near some railroad tracks. There was an empty vegetable pit which would make an excellent place to hide during the day. As night approached, a freight train stopped about 200 yards away from us. A few North Korean soldiers opened the door to one of the freight cars, revealing pallets of cans. I told Al and Harry they were C-rations. It was food that had been meant for the American soldiers.

Al and Harry moaned, and began mumbling, “Food...., food.” I figured that the C-rations must have been stolen from the Marines during the withdrawal. After the North Korean soldiers walked away, I carefully slipped over to the train and opened the door only wide enough for me to slip inside. I filled my back pack with as many cans as it would hold, not knowing what I was get-

ting, for I could not read the English words on the label.

On my way back, one of the guards saw me, and he started shouting and shooting at me. I felt a sharp jolt in my foot, causing me to lose my balance. I fell and my head hit hard against the icy ground. I heard one of the guards yell, “I got him. Don't worry about this one: I got him.” Although my head was hurting, I did not have any other pain. The guard, thinking he had killed me, disappeared into his warm shack with the others.

The bullet had hit the heel of my shoe, but it did not penetrate my foot. I stayed on the ground, and slowly and carefully crawled toward the pit. As I got closer to the guys, I whispered loudly that I had some food for them. I did not receive any response. I jumped into the hole with them, excitedly telling them that we were going to eat well tonight. I lit a match to find them - and then I saw. I knew immediately as I saw them slumped over. I shook them, but then I knew. Oh yes, I knew for sure.

I sat down and cried. I couldn't help myself. I had learned to care for and respect Al and Harry. It was my aim to have gotten the men to the American lines to get some medical treatment and to get warm food for their under-nourished bodies. Al and Harry had made such an important impression upon me. I knew I would never forget those two



heroic men. I wanted to see their country.

For the next three weeks I plodded in the snow, wind and cold, thinking about one thing: America, America, America. Finally, I reached a Marine base, where I stayed. I told them I didn't want to

So I decided to name our boys Al and Harry

be a spy anymore, but I wanted to be an American. My greatest aim and desire was to be an American.

I remained with the 1st Marines, working as a translator in Seoul. I tried to keep busy, but I was lonely. I did not have any family. In 1955, I turned eighteen. Three Marines with whom I had become acquainted while in Korea befriended me.

They got in contact with me, and let me know they were paying for my way to go to the United States, and live out my dreams.

When I arrived in America, I lived with the families of my Marine friends and went to school. My name was difficult for Americans to pronounce, so I changed it to Eddie Ko.

I eventually became an American citizen. I was now living what I had dreamed and longed for.

I was drafted in the U.S. Army and returned to Korea, where I was a liaison for the U.S. I served two years in the Army in Seoul before returning to the United States,
Page 22 Winter 2008

where I was given an honorable discharge.

I married and we had two sons. My wife Joanna asked for my help in naming each of our children. I could only think of two names I wanted for my boys to be named, so I decided to name our two boys Al and Harry, after the two fallen GIs. Al is a plastic

never adequately repay that sacrifice, but I know I tried with every fiber of my being to be the best member of the Student Volunteer Army that I could be.

I feel that the ordinary American GI is the world's greatest hero. Some people seem to believe that freedom is free, but if you ask the vet-



Taro Leafers meet on Sept 29, 2007 at a Korean War Veterans Assoc., Dept. of Florida, BoD meeting in Largo, FL; from left: **Gene Gillette**, 34th. Reg. HQ Co; **James E. 'Jim' Bradford**, "C" 21st Reg.; **Clarence Dadswell** (21st also I believe); **Eddie Ko**, 24th HQ; and **TARO LEAF** Editor **Tom Thiel**, "E" 19th. Photo by Carol Becker, Clermont, FL

surgeon and has his practice in Boston, and Harry is a lawyer, practicing in New Jersey. Joanna and I own the Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

I have experienced a miracle, for I was given hope and freedom. It became my obligation to strive to make my life amount to something worthy. A great price was paid for what I am today. Therefore, I wanted to make everything I could out of my life.

I feel peace and a deep sense of acceptance from my American friends. The American military fought for my country. I feel I can

erans and their families, they will tell you that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

Freedom always extracts a price; 36,576 American soldiers KIA in the Korean War, and 8,407 are still missing!

I'll always hope that fifty years later, the camaraderie that carried me through my most difficult years will remain.

Let's enjoy our friendship now: we should stay a band of brothers. ###

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



In Retrospect

by Art Lombardi, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret), 63rd and 13th FAB, Korea

I served with the 11th Airborne Division during WWII as a First Sergeant and battle-field commissioned officer on New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and the Occupation of Japan.

When I returned to active duty in May of 1949, and was posted to the 24th Infantry Division in Japan, I had no idea of what the next two years held in store for me.

I was assigned to the 63rd F.A. Battalion, and stationed at Camp Hakata on Kyushu.

I arrived full of energy happy to be back in Army harness. To say that I was disappointed in what I found is an understatement.

This was not the Army I had known during WWII. The troops were, in large measure, in lousy physical shape, lacked motivation, and more interested in romantic pursuits with local ladies than in soldering.

And the logistical posture was nothing to brag about either. Equipment and armament was of World War II vintage, and there were shortages.

In retrospect, it is difficult to imagine the consequence had the North Koreans attacked in 1949 rather than a year later. At least there was that year to improve readiness, but we were still far from up to par by the time of deployment to Korea in early July of 1950.

Over the years I have wondered why in the world the 24th Division was the first one committed to Korea. I assume

it was because of its proximity to Korea, and possibly to the miscalculation that once North Korea recognized that U.S. forces were coming to the aid of the South Korean Army, they would scamper back across the 38th parallel.

Certainly, the readiness of the 24th Division could not have been much of a factor.

On 5 July 1950, Task Force Smith, which included "A" Battery of the 52nd F.A. Battalion, was forced to withdraw from its defensive position near Osan after a severe mauling.

On 7 July, "A" Battery of the 63rd F.A. Battalion, my unit, was hastily moved north by rail, and occupied its first position. Late that evening, it fired its first fire mission, the second U.S. artillery unit after "A" Battery of the 52nd to do so in the Korean War.

The next seven days were a nightmare. It came to a head when on 14 July, south of the Kum River the 63d found itself surrounded by the 16th Regiment of the North Korean 4th Infantry Division.

Isolated, and void of any infantry support, the 63rd was a sitting duck.

As the sole surviving officer of "A" battery on the ground, I can tell you that, given its state of readiness, the battery acquitted itself as well as could have been expected.

The events on the 14th of July, coupled with the additional

losses at Taejon on the 19th of July, spelled the end for the 63rd.

The battalion was inactivated and the survivors of "A" Battery were reassigned to form the nucleus of the newly formed "C" Battery of the 13th F.A. Battalion.

In my following year with "C" Battery, it performed admirably; it was the Army I had known during WW II.

During my 28 years in the Army following Korea, I freely admit that, whether in a staff position or in command through the Corps Artillery level, I was always consumed with readiness.

And I make no apology for that! The painful lesson learned as the result of the disaster that befell the 24th Division in July of 1950 mandates that our military and political leaders be of a mindset that military readiness is to be regarded as a sacred obligation.

Inherent in that obligation is that our forces must be provided all they need, not only in time of war, but in times of peace as well. Our military forces deserve no less.

America must never repeat another initial stage Korea when too many good men were lost, wounded or ended up as prisoners of war.

Art Lombardi
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
533 Georgetown Rd.
Clarksville, TN 37043-4626
615-645-3009



A Look at the 24th Division after Korea

The On Again-Off Again Existence of the 24th for the Last 50 Years; Part II.

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

Editors Note: In the last issue of the *TARO LEAF*, Vol. 61, Nos. 3&4, page 45, Mr. Appler presented a narrative discussion of the on again off again existence of the 24th Infantry Division in Germany, Fort Stewart, GA, Kuwait and Iraq, reactivation as the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Fort Riley, KS, and final inactivation, also at Fort Riley, KS, on 1 Aug. 2006.

In this issue, we are carrying the remainder of Mr. Appler's excellent chronological order compilation of the deployment of the various units of the 24th Infantry Division in Augsburg, Germany from 1958 to 1970.

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**1958** Events: (Mar 58 - Jul 58) 11th Airborne Division deactivated and 24th Infantry Division activated.

Units In Augsburg:

- 11th Airborne Div
- 24th Infantry Div
- 321st Field Artillery Bn
  - E Battery
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1959** Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Infantry Division
  - HHC
  - 2nd Bn, 2nd Infantry Regt
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1960** Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Infantry Division
  - HHC
  - 2nd Bn, 2nd Infantry Regt
  - 13th Field Artillery Bn
  - 24th Military Police Co
  - 24th Quartermaster Co
- 518th Transportation Co
- 533rd Transportation Co
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1961** Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Infantry Division
  - HHC
  - 2nd Bn, 2nd Infantry Regt
  - 24th Aviation Bn
  - 13th Field Artillery Bn
  - 24th Military Police Co
  - 24th Quartermaster Co
- 518th Transportation Co
- 533rd Transportation Co
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1962** Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Infantry Division
  - HHC
  - 24th Aviation Bn
  - 24th Military Police Co
  - 1st Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
  - 7th Field Artillery Bn
  - 24th Quartermaster Co
- 518th Transportation Co
- 533rd Transportation Co
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1963** Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Infantry Division
  - HHC
  - 24th Aviation Bn
  - 1st Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
  - 1st Bn/70th Armor Regt
  - 24th Quartermaster Co
- 21st Evacuation Hospital
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

**1964** Events:

- 1 July 1964, Co C, 508th MP BN was deactivated.

Units In Augsburg:

- US Army Garrison, Augsburg
- 24th Infantry Division
- HHC, 1st Brigade
- HHC, 2nd Brigade
- 24th ID Support Command
- 24th Medical Bn
- 24th Signal Bn
- 24th Supply and Transportation Bn
  - 24th Supply Support Team (Prov)
  - 24th Transportation Det
  - 396th Transportation Co
  - 518th Transportation Co
  - 533rd Transportation Co
- 24th Military Police Co
- 24th Administration Co
- 24th Military Intelligence Det
- 724th Maintenance Support Det (Provisional)
- 2nd Bn, 70th Armor Regt
- 2nd Bn, 71st Artillery Regt
- 1st Bn, 13th Artillery Regt
- 1st Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
- 2nd Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
- Ranger Platoon (Provisional)
- Marksmanship Detachment (Provisional)
- 24th Infantry Div German Language School (Prov)
- 24th Infantry Div Noncom Officer Academy (Prov)
- US Army Hospital, Augsburg
- 21st Evacuation Hospital



- 724th Maintenance Bn
- Co B, 242nd Quartermaster Bn
- US Army Area Command Signal Photographic Facility
- Audio Visual Communications Center, Augsburg
- Augsburg Det, US Army Signal Service Unit, Munich
- 769th Medical Detachment
- Co C, 508th Military Police Bn

#### 1965 Units In Augsburg:

- US Army Garrison, Augsburg
- 24th Infantry Division
- HHC, 1st Brigade
- HHC, 2nd Brigade
- 24th ID Support Command
  - 24th Medical Bn
  - 24th Signal Bn
  - 24th Supply and Transportation Bn
- 24th Supply Support Team (Provisional)
- 24th Transportation Det
- 396th Transportation Co
- 518th Transportation Co
- 533rd Transportation Co
  - 24th Military Police Co
  - 24th Administration Co
  - 24th Military Intelligence Det
  - 724th Maintenance Support Det (Provisional)
- 2nd Bn, 70th Armor Regt
- 2nd Bn, 71st Artillery Regt
- 1st Bn, 13th Artillery Regt
- 1st Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
- 2nd Bn, 34th Infantry Regt
- Ranger Platoon (Provisional)
- 24th Infantry Div Band
- 24th Infantry Div German Language School (Prov)
- 24th Infantry Div Noncom Officer Academy (Prov)
- Marksmanship Detachment (Provisional)
- US Army Hospital, Augsburg
- 21st Evacuation Hospital
- 724th Maintenance Bn
- Co A, 3rd Engineer Bn
- Co B, 242nd Quartermaster Bn
- US Army Area Command Signal Photo. Facility, Augsburg
- Audio Visual Communications Center, Augsburg
- Augsburg Det, US Army Signal Service Unit, Munich
- 769th Medical Detachment

#### 1966 Units In Augsburg:

- US Army Garrison, Augsburg
- 24th Infantry Division
- HHC
- 24th ID Support Command - 24th Signal Bn
- 2nd Bn, 19th Infantry Regt
- 1st Bn, 34th Infantry Regt

- 1st Bn, 70th Armor Regt
- 2nd Bn, 7th Field Artillery Regt
- 21st Evacuation Hospital
- 724th Maintenance Bn
- Military Police Co, 385th MP Bn, 15th MP Brigade

#### 1967 Units In Augsburg:

- US Army Garrison, Augsburg
- 24th Infantry Division
- 24th Sig Bn
- 724th Maint Bn
- 1/34th Inf Bn
- 1/70th Armd Bn
- 2/7 FA Bn
- 507th USASA Group
- USAREUR Avn, S&S Detachment
- MP Co, 385th MP Bn., 15th MP Bde
- 21st Evacuation Hospital
- 724th Maintenance Bn
- Military Police Co, 385th MP Bn, 15th MP Brigade

#### 1968 Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Inf Div (Fwd)
- 24th S and T Bn
- 1/34th Inf Bn
- 1/14th Arty Bn
- 1/35th Arty Bn
- 2/7 FA Bn
- 30th Field Hospital (Flak)
- HQ, USASA Europe
- 507th USASA Group
- USAREUR Avn, S&S Detachment
- MP Co, 385th MP Bn., 15th MP Bde

#### 1969 Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Inf Div (Fwd)
- 24th S and T Bn
- 1/14th Arty Bn
- 1/35th Arty Bn (24th Inf Div)
- 30th Field Hospital (Flak)
- HQ, USASA Europe
- 507th USASA Group
- MP Co, 385th MP Bn., 15th MP Bde

#### 1970 Units In Augsburg:

- 24th Inf Div (Fwd)
- 24th S and T Bn
- 30th Field Hospital (Flak)
- HQ, USASA Europe
- 507th USASA Group
- MP Co, 385th MP Bn., 15th MP Bde

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

Thomas M. Appler, 2136 Herbert Ave.,  
Westminster, MD 21157-6947, 410-876-1451



# Ronald Young Reported Missing in Korea and Then Wounded...

## But He Wasn't

*Extracted from article by Bruce R. Posten, in Reading Eagle Times*

The so-called placid early 1950s weren't so placid for the parents, friends and relatives of **Ronald G. Young** of Cumru Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, who was then an Army private serving in Company C of the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Korea.

In a U.S. Army telegram to his parents dated Feb. 28, 1951 (right), Young was reported missing in action, but he wasn't missing.

Several months later, on July 13, 1951, in a separate incident, he was reported wounded in action, but he wasn't wounded, either.

Anxiety rather than placidity ruled those days for Young's divorced parents, who tried to discover through friends, the Red Cross, and newspaper articles, where their son was, and what condition he was in. They knew there was something wrong because they were still getting letters from Young even though he was reported missing.

As it turned out, ill-fitting boots and frostbite had forced Young to return behind the lines to a collecting station for medical care.

A medic sent him for treatment shortly before his unit had attacked a hill, resulting in seven men being killed, and several wounded, including the medic who handled his case.

"I guess he (the medic) never got a chance to report my situation, so when they were rounding up who was among the killed and the missing, I was counted among the missing," said the 67-year-old Young, who retired as a vice president and Treasurer of the Forest Hills Memorial Park.

Over the years, Young has kept a scrapbook with photographs as well as those alternating ominous Western Union tele-

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CLASS OF SERVICE</b><br>This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its de-ferred character is in-duced by a suitable symbol above or pre-ceding the address.                                                                                                  | <b>WESTERN UNION</b><br>W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT | <b>SYMBOLS:</b><br>DL=Day Letter<br>NL=Night Letter<br>LT=Int'l Letter Telegram<br>VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr. |
| The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination                                                                                                      |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
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| =HARRY WILLIAM YOUNG=                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
| 1145 WEIMAR ST READING PENN=                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
| THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON PVT YOUNG RONALD G HAS BEEN MISSING IN ACTION IN KOREA SINCE 9 FEB 51 UPON RECEIPT OF FURTHER INFORMATION IN THIS OFFICE YOU WILL BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY PD CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS= |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
| :EDWARD F WITSELL MAJOR GENERAL USA THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY=                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                   |                                                                                                           |
| THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                                                                                                           |

grams that read, in part, "The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your son, Pvt. Young, Ronald G., has been missing in action in Korea."

And that telegram was followed several weeks later with one that read, "The Secretary of the Army has asked me to inform you that your son was not missing in action ... as previously reported. I regret that you were caused undue anxiety."

A similar scenario occurred about four months later, in July of 1951 when the Army regretted to inform the Young's that their son was wounded in action. Less than a week later, the Army sent another telegram that said, "... Your son was not wounded in action as previously reported. I hope this good news will compensate for the anxiety you have suffered."

"I don't remember the details of the incident involving the second telegram because I was involved in four offensives and there could have been a mix up somewhere (concerning casualties and those wounded)," Young said.



“At 18, what do you really know?” he added. “I joined the Army July 10, 1950, with the hope of going to Germany, but I wound up for 10-1/2 months in Korea.”

Good fortune apparently shined on Young because he was not hurt in the war. A mortar shell landed within 10 feet of him on one occasion, but didn't go off.

“When I was discharged in July 1953, they took X-rays of my lungs, and they sent me word that I had some type of abnormality,” Young said. “I discovered I had tuberculosis and wound up in a sanitarium for about year. I may have gotten it in Korea, I don't know.

About his Korean service, Young said, “In a way, I'm glad I went through the war, but I certainly wouldn't want to go through it again.” ###

## Ron Young's Last Days

The *TARO LEAF* recently received an urgent appeal from Mr. Young's niece, who wrote: "I am writing on behalf of my uncle, Ronald G. Young, of Wernersville, PA.

He served proudly with the 19th Infantry during the Korean War, and is life member #199 of the 24th Infantry Division Association.

On 26 Nov 2007, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. My son and I are trying to put together some form of tribute to him while he is still alive and able to be aware of it.

We are hoping to do is to find some way to have even one 24th Division member visit him, however briefly, just in an effort to help boost his morale.

Our idea stemmed from when two nurses at the VA Emergency Room in Lebanon, PA saluted him.

Given his pride in the *TARO LEAF* and his dedication while in the service, we think this would be an ideal way to honor him before his death.

Ron, and his brother-in-law, the late **Thomas I. Farrier** (my father), who was also a life member of the 24th IDA, regularly attended 24th IDA reunions.

So, we are hoping that there is at least one 24th Member who lives nearby who would be able to visit with him, even if only for a few minutes.

Very truly yours,  
Pat Impink,  
Reading, PA

**The TARO LEAF**



Ronald G. and Beverly M. Young,  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary,  
Reading Eagle, Sept. 25, 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

Monday, December 17, 2007 8:55 PM  
Dear Mr. Thiel,

Thank you for everything you've done to help us make Ron's last days full with love and tenderness.

He passed quietly and without pain at approximately 9:15 this morning.

Thank you so much.

Pat Impink  
Reading, PA  
[harmony3@fastmail.fm](mailto:harmony3@fastmail.fm)

\* \* \* \* \*

January 17, 2008  
Guest Book for Ronald Gene Young

Tom,

Thank you for your condolences. My dad had gotten several cards and letters, as well as a few personal visits from fellow veterans in his last few weeks, which lifted his spirits. He will be missed by all of us very much.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Young (wife)  
Chris Young (son)



# Carl “Cliff” Jensen, 24th Infantry Division DSC Recipient

by Merry Helm, Fargo ND

Dakota Datebook, July 12, 2007

Carl Jensen, better known as “Cliff,” was born in 1911 to a Danish immigrant who ran a creamery in Kimball, SD. After graduating from South Dakota State College in Brookings, Cliff worked for the ND Agriculture Department, living in Carrington, Devils Lake and Fargo.

Barbara Vanek, Jensen’s daughter, describes him as “brilliant, handsome and a born leader.” She doesn’t know the circumstances of Jensen joining the Army but believes he must have gone through ROTC, because when WWII flared up, he entered the military as an officer. Jensen was first deployed to Greenland to work on a secret project later documented in the book “War Below Zero”; he also served a 10-month tour of duty in Italy in 1944.

Jensen was stationed in Japan when the Korean War broke out June 25th, 1950. As a member of the 21st Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, the 39-year old Lieutenant Colonel was among the very first ground troops to come to the defense of South Korea the following week.

The U.S. was unprepared for war. Soldiers were not combat-ready, armored tanks were nearly non-existent,

and weapons and ammunition – left over from WWII – were poor to useless. Making matters worse, rain kept planes grounded, so front line infantrymen had little support. The results were disastrous. In the first week of ground fighting, seven hundred and forty-four Americans – including high ranking officers – were either captured, missing in action or killed.

Colonel Jensen replaced the commander of the regiment’s under-strength 3rd battalion on July 10th. In desperate conditions, Jensen’s men recaptured a strategic ridge in Chonui, rescued 10 trapped soldiers and recovered most of the equipment lost earlier in battle. They also discovered the first known mass atrocity committed by North Koreans against captured American soldiers. Six men were found with their hands tied behind their backs and shot through the back of the head. The discovery enraged Jensen’s men, giving them the will to continue fighting.

The following morning, Jensen’s men could hear tanks approaching, but couldn’t see them because of heavy fog. The enemy had infiltrated their positions, allowing the North Koreans to execute one of the most perfectly coordinated assaults they ever launched against American troops. At 6:30 a.m. four enemy tanks loomed into the

battalion area, just as enemy mortar fire struck the battalion command post, the ammunition supply point, and the communications center. U.S. forward observers were unable to direct return fire, because their radios didn’t work.

Some 1,000 North Koreans soon had them surrounded. Jensen’s men fought for several hours, but enemy roadblocks prevented retreat, evacuation of the wounded, or efforts to get more ammunition. Less than half escaped with their lives. Sadly, Jensen was not among them. He was reported as missing in action on the 11th, and on this day in 1950, he was reported killed in action.

Lt. Col. Jensen received a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation’s 2nd highest military award, for remaining behind to cover his men during their desperate attempt to withdraw.

by Merry Helm, Fargo, ND

Sources:

Appleman, Roy E. *South To The Naktong, North To The Yalu*. Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 1961.

Blair, Clay. *The Forgotten War: America in Korea 1950-1953*. New York: Random House, 1988.

Correspondence between author and Barbara Vanek, 2007.



# Letters to the Editor

**BILL MULDOON**

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

Dear Mr. Spicer:

My name is Pat Azadi, and my father is Bill Muldoon, member of the Board of Directors of the Association and past president. My father has been involved with the Association since its inception.

Several years ago, at the convention in Albuquerque, NM, he received the Verbeck award, which he considered to be the highest honor possible since he had been a friend of General Verbeck for many years.

While he was unable to attend the last convention, he is still very active, doing crosswords every day, and serving as an active member of the Purple Heart Association in Port Charlotte, FL. A few months ago he made a presentation about the history of the 24th Infantry Division.

Because the Association, and all the friends he has made through the Association, means so much to him, I wanted to let you know that he will be celebrating his 90th birthday on January 27, 2008.

If it is possible, please spread the word and let people know that birthday cards can be sent to him at: 2100 Kings Highway, #259, Port Charlotte, Florida 33980.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
**Pat Azadi**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Tom: I just wanted to let you know that I got a call from a gentleman that served with my grandfather because of the photo and notice in the *TARO LEAF*! I'm very excited about it, and surprised that finally someone recognized him!

**Heidi Edgar**

Tom:

Congratulations on a great issue. Good stories and interesting mix of features and articles. Many thanks for "The Old Soldier," (Vol. 61, Nos 3&4, pg 41). I have already received a half-dozen orders for medallions. What a pleasure to hear from these WWII & Korea vets. My back surgery was not as successful as I had hoped; maybe do another in January unless something miraculous happens. Happy New Year!

**David Valley**

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Tom:

You really made my Christmas. When I looked at the *TARO LEAF* (Vol. 61, Nos 3&4, pg 54&55) and saw **Sv Btry, 13th FA Bn** and all my buddies sitting there just like I remember them. Thank you so VERY much. My phone number is wrong, it should be **407-359-9950**...and I wish my email address was in there --- [g.e.allard@gmail.com](mailto:g.e.allard@gmail.com) - I have not heard from anyone yet, but hope to. So, speaking for all the "troops," thank you for all your hard work on the *TARO LEAF* and we wish you a very Happy New Year.

**Gene Allard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Re: Christmas Eve, 1951**

I was looking through the new *TARO LEAF* when I noticed the Christmas card from the Chinese Army (Vol. 61, Nos 3&4, pg 21). The article took me by complete surprise. I was a Medic with the 1st Platoon, B Company, 19th Infantry on Christmas Eve, 1951. I also had a Christmas card from the Chinese. I had given mine to a wounded buddy in Japan. The reason that the article took me by surprise though, is that until this day I have told people that the Chinese played the Christmas Carols. I suppose that what we were hearing was the Carols from the US side. I do not know where E Com-



# Letters to the Editor

pany was in comparison with B Company that night. We were on an outpost and I believe that it was Hill 747 in front of us. Thanks for the information.

**Tom Donaghy**  
[atomtomd@bellsouth.net](mailto:atomtomd@bellsouth.net)

Tom  
Memories are fuzzy, but I have a definite image of a 6-by with carolers on it. Maybe that was a photo from *24th Forward*, the 24th ID in Korea.

But I was positioned on a narrow dirt road that went up toward 747. Just behind our position maybe 150 yards or so it joined up with a larger dirt road. The sound of the Christmas Carols definitely came from that road behind us - of that I am certain. I remember hollering my displeasure because I didn't want to be there in the first place, I didn't want to be reminded it was Christmas Eve, and I was sure the CPV would hit us that night. ED.

And still more on Christmas Eve, 1951.

Dear Tom: Thank you for the article on the Chinese Christmas Cards. How that brings back memories. I also still have my greeting, plus a yellowed clipping from the weekly paper from my Minnesota hometown relating how the cards were discovered by Easy Co. of the 19th Inf. Regt. How vivid some of the things are from that day 56 years ago; and we cannot remember where we left our car keys!

The worst possible place to be on Christmas is in an open foxhole or bunker on the top of a mountain in subzero weather, with only a deep valley between us and the enemy, in a land we didn't even know existed before we got there. As I recall it was almost 30 below zero, and we were all on 100 percent guard duty as we thought the Chinese would attack us over the holidays. We had to make sure we had an opening to the front of our bunkers, and could

not close them up to keep out the cold. I can still remember how cold we got standing and peering out into the darkness through the openings.

**Mel Frederick**, Vice President, 24th IDA,  
Owatonna, MN.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor

Has MOH winner Sgt. Nelson Britton ever appeared on the rear cover of the *TARO LEAF*? I was in HQ, 24th Infantry Division from Sept 1948 to July 1949, when Sgt. Britton was also there. If he has appeared on the back cover please send me a copy of it; if not then when will he appear?

**Gerald P. Deegan**  
337 Millwood Rd.  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Gerald. So far as I know he has not been. I know he has not appeared in the last five issues, which is all that I have digitized. And I did not see him in a quick visual scan of the *TARO LEAF* publications that I have (back to 2001). As to when he might appear, I have been taking them in the sequence Norm Treadway has them listed in his personal 24th IDA web site.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Tom: I have always persisted that I never volunteer for anything, but here I go: if you can use me, just say so!

Negatives: Age (90), Computer Skills (None), Mobility (cannot travel, no longer have driver's license), limited hearing and vision, no family to help.

Positives: 24th ID 1943-1947 (Div. Artillery Hdq.); Reservist, 1947-1965; Rank of Major; Faculty Military College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS; (at this point I lost all hope of deciphering Dr. Heller's hand written note but here are



# Letters to the Editor

some that I was able to read). Many other credentials cited, including J.D. and PhD of University of Virginia Law School, Roberts Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Law and Political Science at the University of Kansas; Author and/or Editor of many books, including "The Korean War-A 25-year Perspective," and Editor of many Truman Presidential Library pages. Dr. Heller attached a five-page dossier of his credentials.

/S/ **Francis H. Heller**  
1510 Saint Andrews Dr., Apt. G8  
Lawrence, KS 66047  
(785) 749-5511

Dear Dr. Heller:

I don't know where to begin. You, sir, certainly have far more credentials than I to edit the *TARO LEAF*! To accept your nice compliments on my meager two issues is humbling.

Clearly from what you write, age is not a problem. On the other hand maybe lack of computer skills might be a bit limiting as I would need to find a typist to enter any original handwritten material. Any typed material you provide would of course be acceptable. Nothing else you cite as negatives, are negative!

What I would like, if you would, is to be is my oversight person. Tell me where I have gone wrong in selecting materials, in anything that I write, or more importantly, anything that I don't write.

It will for the most part be after the fact for the current issue. But it will hopefully strengthen the next issue(s).

I am almost dumbfounded at the makeup of the members of the 24th IDA. Their kind words for my work are overwhelming. Their willingness to assist wherever they might is encouraging. And, their stories are riveting.

Thank you for your kind words, and for your offer of help.

Sincerely  
Tom J. Thiel  
Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

To the *TARO LEAF* Editor

I just want to call your attention to an incorrect reference in the *TARO LEAF*, Vol. 61, No. 1&2, Winter-Spring 2007, page 10, line 7 from the top of the page. The article uses the term "**Korean Conflict**."

Congress has "**officially declared**" the word Conflict be altered to the word War – **The Korean War!!**

I would appreciate your correcting this, please.

**Tom F. Cacciola, 955th F.A. Bn.**  
25 Skyline Drive  
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-1815

Tom

My apologies, Tom.

As I explained in our phone conversation, the passage you cite is a direct quote from a U.S. Army Press Release.

Nevertheless, I should have caught the fact that its author was not cognizant of the fact that the Korean Conflict has been changed by law to be the Korean War.

Anyone who knows me at all must know that I was aware of that fact, and that the above was an oversight, which I will make every effort not to duplicate!

Thank you for calling this to my attention.

Again, my apologies!

Tom J. Thiel, Editor...



# A QUESTION ON "THE FIRST ATROCITY IN KOREA"

by 24th Division Association Historian, Larry Gay, [lngay@att.net](mailto:lngay@att.net), with a response by Shorty Estabrook

Tom,

Attached is a correction to Esterbrook's article regarding POWs.

Larry Gay

**CORRECTION** to Article in *THE TARO LEAF*, Vol. 61, Nos. 3&4, p.25.

In the article on page 25 of Volume 61, Numbers 3 and 4 of *TARO LEAF*, titled "THE TIGER SURVIVORS STORY, Capture and Beyond," by Shorty Estabrook, **there is a statement** concerning the murder of 2nd Lt. Cordus Thornton on Nov. 1, 1950, **that is not correct** (*emphasis added*).

"His was the first atrocity of the Korean War that was so witnessed. [...]." (Taro Leaf, Vol.61 Nos. 3&4, p.25)

Gugler, in his book "Combat Actions in Korea," [Gugler, Russell A., Washington D.C., Combat Forces Press, 1954, reprinted in 2005], writes about the withdrawal of the 1st Battalion of the 34th Infantry Regiment from positions north of Pyongtack, S.K. on July 7, 1950. The unit had pulled back to Pyongtack.

[Quoting from Gugler] "[...]. About the same time, a member of the 1st Platoon ["A"/34th] joined the group, and claimed that he had been with Lieutenant [Herman L.] Driskell after he walked toward the cluster of houses searching for wounded men of his platoon. Lieutenant Driskell with four men had been suddenly surrounded by a group of North Korean soldiers.

They tried to surrender according to this man, but one of the North Korean soldiers walked up to the lieutenant, shot him, and then killed the other three men. The narrator had escaped." (Gugler 11-12)" End of Gay's statement.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ESTABROOK'S REPLY

Tom,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

**Mr. Gay, and author Gugler, are both wrong!** (*emphasis added*)

Page 32 Winter 2008

Lt. Driskell, Herman L., was Killed in Action (KIA) by the North Koreans. He was a POW with the Tiger Survivors, my group. Lt. Driskell, A/34/24, was KIA on September 7, 1950, while on a train that was taking us to Manpo-jin North Korea. We had just left Pyongyang.

This can be verified with the Defense POW Missing Persons Office in the Pentagon, and also at the American Battle Monument Commission web site, portions of which are copied below:

### *American Battle Monuments Commission*

Herman L. Driskell  
Born 1926 in Richland, Louisiana  
Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army  
Service Number O-2206055  
Died while Prisoner of War  
Died September 7, 1950 in Korea

USNA Class of 1950, Second Lieutenant Driskell was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was taken Prisoner of War while fighting the enemy in South Korea on July 6, 1950, forced to march to North Korea on the "Tiger Death March," and shot by a guard on a train to Manpo, North Korea on September 7, 1950. Second Lieutenant Driskell was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Having said the above, perhaps I should have given more thought to [making the statement that] "Lt. Codus Thorton was the first [atrocity] so witnessed."

**But, Gay is not correct in what he says! And likewise, the writer of that other article [Gugler] is also not correct!** (*emphasis added*)

Driskell was with us; there is no doubt about that. Many of our guys knew him, both in Japan and after capture, especially Colonel John J. Dunn, then a Major, Headquarters 34/24, who was our ranking officer in POW camp. He is still alive at 96!

Shorty Estabrook

***The TARO LEAF***



# Korea P.O.W. – A Thousand Days of Torment

by William H. Funchess, Life # 1725, Companys B & C, 19th Infantry Regiment

*Ed. Note: I copied the following paragraphs from Mr. Funchess' riveting book with the title above. I selected the paragraphs below because they really hit me, but they are not contiguous in the copy.*

Suddenly a small enemy soldier, scarcely five feet tall, burst through the crowd. He wore the same cotton padded uniform as the others except he wore fur-lined leather boots. He walked within inches of me, stopped, reached up and pulled my right arm down and started shaking my hand. Then he spoke in perfect English. "We are not mad at you. We are mad at Wall Street." I was dumbfounded. I didn't know what he meant.

I was confused, not to mention scared stiff, but I was also relieved that we were not killed on the spot.

It was November 4, 1950. China had just entered the war, and apparently one of their missions that day was to take prisoners. I asked the interpreter what his nationality was. He hesitated and finally answered with two words, "North Korean." I knew he was lying.

Soon reality set in. I realized many men in my platoon had been either killed or captured. No immediate help and no counterattacks by the U.S. or South Korean armies were forthcoming that would liberate us from our captors.

We were alone and we were prisoners of a hostile army in a hostile country.

All in all, we were a miserable lot, but we kept believing friendly forces would be coming across the mountain almost any time. We heard either bombing or artillery in the distance on several occasions, and that gave us hope. We thought U.S. forces would soon set us free. But it was never to be.



Bill Funchess on board ship returning

One of their favorite topics of conversation was what they termed "The myth of Christianity." They would say in effect, "Where is your God now? If you ever needed your God, you need him now. Why don't you ask your God to feed you? If you asked Stalin or Mao Tse Tung to feed you, perhaps you wouldn't be starving."

As the snow melted, he added more. Finally he had a pan of warm water. Then Father Kapaun offered each of us about one-third cupful. It tasted so good. It was the first or second day of February and was the first

time I had a drink of water since my capture on Nov. 4.

That struck me like a blow between the eyes. I just couldn't believe that men on both sides of me had died during the night and I didn't even know it until the next morning. Two men out of a dozen in one night—the odds were frightening.

Would I be next to die? Several times I said aloud to others in the room as we lay down for the night, "I wonder if we will see the sun rise tomorrow?"

On another occasion the camp commander stated that it would be quite difficult to control the U.S. POWs if they were healthy and well fed. It was a simple matter, he added, to control the actions of Americans who were starving and in a weakened condition.

When a man stopped killing his lice, the number of little critters really multiplied. Maybe the man was sick or something, but he had to control the number of lice on his body and in his clothing or they would suck enough blood so that he would die.

Several hundred lice, each one-fourth inch long, could suck a lot of blood!

There were several men who wouldn't control





# **KOREA P.O.W.**

## **A THOUSAND DAYS OF TORMENT**

By  
**WILLIAM H. FUNCHESS**



**24th Inf**

their lice. They soon turned ash-gray and died.

The weight of all the POWs fell off drastically. Every part of the body shrank except the head and eyes. Necks were so small it looked as if they were too tiny to support their heads. You could see the outline of ribs showing through. Legs looked like toothpicks. All of us resembled walking dead since there wasn't a single healthy man in camp. I don't know what I weighed, but I estimated it to be less than 100 pounds.

The Communists were masters in the use of propaganda. They decided to provide Frank Noel, a captured Associated Press correspondent, with a camera and film. They also provided a special guard to tag along behind Frank whenever he used the camera. The special

guard, who spoke English, would only allow Frank to take pictures of things that were favorable to the Communist cause. Some of the first pictures I saw were made of POWs swimming in the reservoir near Pyoktong.

The Chinese had what they called "Summer Olympics." The purpose of the Olympics, of course, was to get pictures to portray their so-called "good" treatment of POWs.

General Deng would often lecture us. He would speak to us in Chinese and then it would be translated into English. On several instances, I saw evidence that he either spoke or understood English, but he never let on to us that he did.

The next day an English-speaking Chinese officer separated me from the few remaining POWs and ordered me to get on the back of a waiting truck. I thought it was strange that I was the only POW on the truck. The Chinese officer then got on and sat across from me. There was an armed guard sitting beside the driver. The officer gave the signal to the driver to pull out of the holding area.

The truck moved slowly and did not seem to be headed toward Panmunjon. Instead, the driver seemed to be going in circles. Finally the truck stopped outside a compound surrounded by a fence.

About 20 young POWs approached the truck and told me they were going to refuse repatriation. One of them suggested that I get off the truck and join them. I emphatically shouted, "No Way!"

I told them they were American servicemen and were expected to return home. They laughed and began taunting me. I told them they were making a mistake, and said no more. The truck pulled away.

The truck moved slowly and I had the feeling the Chinese were deliberately killing time. After a while the truck stopped in a wilderness area. The terrain was hilly and covered with trees and brush.

The English-speaking Chinese officer said, "Get off!"

I picked up my few possessions and slid off the back of the truck. I just stood there as I won-



dered what was going to happen. The Chinese officer shouted, "Walk down that path! If you step off the path, you will be killed!"

I saw just a narrow foot path leading into the wilderness so I hesitated. When I hesitated the Chinese screamed, "Move!"

As I cautiously stepped on the path and began walking, I expected a rifle shot in the back. I held my arms in front of my body in order to make as small a target as possible. But there was no rifle shot. There was only an eerie silence behind me as I cautiously walked down the narrow, crooked path. I heard the truck drive away and I realized I was alone.

While I was walking down the path, I wondered if I was free or if I was still a POW. Nobody was in sight and it was a strange feeling, indeed, to be alone in the wilderness. I walked several hundred yards and was careful not to step off the path. I figured it was probably mined on both sides. I realized I was walking in "no man's land." It was a bizarre feeling.

Suddenly, in the distance I saw a U.S. Army ambulance parked where the path widened. The back doors were open and I saw two men in uniform standing at the rear of the vehicle. They were looking down the path as if they were expecting me.

I recognized one of the men as a major, so I saluted. He said, "Lieutenant, you don't know how lucky you are to be here." I answered, "Yes, but what happened?"

The major told me both sides had been holding war criminals. "Last night," he said, "both sides agreed to release war criminals."

My eyes became moist as I realized I was free. My war, the forgotten war, finally came to an end on September 6, 1953.

The pain and misery I suffered at the hands of my Communist captors ended after 1,038 days of torment. ###

Ed. Note: All of the above paragraphs were copied directly from the 139 pages of Mr. Funchess' riveting book. I didn't want to take anything away from his most graphic portrayal of his 1,038 days in captivity!



You may order the book for \$10, postage paid, from:

Lt. Col. E. G. Sturgis  
South Carolina Military Department  
1 National Guard Road  
TAG-DSO-Stop 42  
Columbia, SC 29201-4766  
Ph: 803-806-4440

You may reach Bill Funchess at:  
107 Brookwood Drive  
Clemson, SC 29631  
Ph: 864-654-4617

I discovered that Bill and I have a little in common, we both are Agronomists by training, but I also found that he did not return to the farm he longed for as a POW.

Bill has donated all proceeds from his book to the SC State Military Department for a museum. He told me that some 600 POWs have read his book, and he has not received a single complaint about its contents, which are without embellishment.

But let me warn you – you will not be able to put it down until you have finished – it's that captivating! Ed.

# “A Package From Home Makes Our Day Over Here”

Hello Tina. I just wanted to send you quick email to tell you “thank you so much for the packages, and for what you are doing.” All of the Marines here are so grateful for what you do for us.

People don't realize that a package from home makes our day over here, and even though times get tough and the days seem endless, just one package makes it all worthwhile. THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH.



Jason and Ryan

JASON CPL/USMC, AFGANISTIAN

This is but one of the numerous email messages sent to me by Tina Burnham, of Sidney Center, New York. Let's let Tina tell her story.

Three years ago, my friend, Denise, told me her brother, Travis, was in Afghanistan. He was feeling very homesick, as were many others in his unit. She asked if I could help by sending them a package a month.

She said they mostly just needed basic items that they could not get where they were. She said a lot of it was easy enough to get right in the Dollar Stores. My daughter and I were glad to do the shopping.

We began sending a couple boxes a month. The response from their unit was tremendous. They told us how wonderful it was to hear their name at mail call, and to know that they were remembered in that desert so far from home. Just that someone cared!!

When Travis' tour ended, we really missed sending the packages. After some investigating, we found other soldiers who appreciated our packages. Then my mother began asking our small upstate New York community to help by making both material and monetary donations. Businesses hosted drop boxes for material items, and made a monthly monetary donation to support postage. Our local newspaper dubbed us "Care Packages From Home," and it stuck. We now have eight drop boxes.

A church makes monthly monetary donations for postage. We have one business that makes a sizable donation once a year for postage.

Our local schools have also contributed, and I send a message to several Yahoo Groups. We also list our website address where SECURE monetary donations can be made. It is: [www.countrycomputerconnection.com/carepackagesfromhome](http://www.countrycomputerconnection.com/carepackagesfromhome)

Our local newspaper runs a full page ad periodically and they also host a drop box.

We regularly pick up donations, and take them to my Mom's house where we have renovated one of her storage sheds with shelving units, tables and boxes to sort and pack our items.



Packing Shed

We heat the shed in the winter with propane heaters; propane is donated by two local companies.

A priority flat rate box costs us \$8.95 each to ship; it takes, on average, 7-14 days to arrive in



Afghanistan. We use Copy Paper boxes to ship toys, children's clothes, and shoes to two Hospital Units, and one community outreach unit.



Tina Burnham (left) and Lesley Packing Boxes.

We ship two boxes of personal care items and two food items to each soldier at a time. They share with the other members of their unit. If we know of a need, we use donations or ask our community to help by donating that item.

We send to about 30 soldiers at any given time. Some are from our local area, and the rest are from across the country. We receive a letter or an email from some; others we never hear from.



Delaware County 4H Children have helped But we know they are all in need, and are grateful for what they receive. We receive pictures from some. These are all very heart-warming, and help us show the community what their generous donations provide.

**The TARO LEAF**

We also take these to places where we get free set ups (flea-markets, craft shows, Civil War reenactments, etc.) to solicit donations.

We have 50/50 raffles, and last year we made a home made Patriotic Quilt, which we raffled. The lady who won the quilt donated it to one of the soldiers, and we shipped it to him last fall.

For more information regarding this project or how you can make material or monetary donations, contact Tina M. Burnham (607)829-5928 or Beverly Soldan (607) 829-8627. Email [lestin@wpe.com](mailto:lestin@wpe.com) snail mail to:

Tina M. Burnham 3149 Russell Road, Sidney Center, New York 13839 or check out the Care Packages From Home website at: [www.countrycomputerconnection.com/](http://www.countrycomputerconnection.com/)



Chopper Crew



Liz Eaton



November 1

Don

Just a note to say a good on the TARO LEAF Also a New Address Change. I did have a long talk with MERRY HELM about Oct 1951 Operation Nomad 21st Inf. Well anyway she made my day after 56 years I now have a General Orders Number 96 19 march 1952 AWARE OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. Also a copy of the GENERAL ORDERS OF THE AWARD. She is doing a good job on the Woody Keeble Story. I did send her a lot of Info I had on the 24th. Div.

AS Always  
Frederick E Baker  
*Frederick E Baker*  
Life Member 2146

NEW ADDRESS

FREDERICK E BAKER  
7073 N SHADY ACRES LN.  
STRAFFORD MO.  
65757--8568

**Achtung!**      **Attention!**      **Atención!**  
Your articles for the *TARO LEAF*, Vol. 62, No. 2, NEEDED NOW!  
The Deadline is April 1, 2008, but send them NOW.  
**Aufmerksamkeit!**      **Attention!**      **Attenzione!**

## Gillette Leads FL Food Drive



Gene Gillette, HQ Co. 34th Infantry Regiment in Korea, led the Bradenton, FL Chapter 199 of the Korean War Veterans Association canned foods collection program on October 26th 2007. The 106 pounds of food they collected was donated to the Manatee County, FL, Food Bank.

Pictured left to right are: Ted Czerwinski, Chapter 199 Judge Advocate; Joe Mercado, Director of Manatee County FL Food Bank; Dora Frierson; Chapter 199 Secretary; and Gene Gillette, 199 Commander.

~~~~~



Fentner and Schillaci Return to Korea

Association Life Members Ken Fentner and Sal Schillaci returned to Korea September 9-16, 2007, some 55 years after their first trip there in 1952. The South Korean Veterans Association provides the opportunity for any veteran from any country to return to Korea and tour the country. There were about 200 veterans in their group, including some from France, Canada, Switzerland, and The Philippines. Touring veterans only had to pay for their transportation to Korea; all transportation in Korea, tours, and food was paid for by the Korean Veterans Association.



Schillaci (L) and Fentner (R) at Injimak.



American soldier (front) and N.K. soldiers rear at DMZ



South Korean restaurant at Folk Village



N.K. Soldier with border to his right



Korean woman in native Dress at Folk Village.

Schillaci (L) and Fentner (R) in front of Kimchee crocks



Ken Fentner
1251 Smith Rd
East Amherst, NY 14051
(716) 688-7360

Sal Schillaci
59 Endicott Dr.
Amherst, NY 14226
(716) 812-7312



MEMBERS OF THE 3RD ENGINEERS AT COLUMBIA, S.C. REUNION – SEPTEMBER 2007



Members of the **3RD Engineers** at the Columbia, S.C. 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion, September 2007. Seated: left to right – Dallas Heston, Walt Ackerman, Don Finney, Bill Boyden. Standing: left to right – Bob Kodama, Dan Rickert, Gene Greenwalt, Bob Klugh, Chuck Neverovich, Bill Ladney, Eli Hostetler. Photo by Chuck Neverovich.

Achtung!

Attention!

Atención!

Your articles for the *TARO LEAF*, Vol. 62, No. 2, NEEDED NOW!

The Deadline is April 1, 2008, but send them NOW.

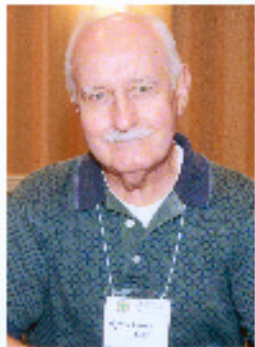
Aufmerksamkeit!

Attention!

Attenzione!



Reunion Columbia, SC



Reunion Columbia, SC



VP Frederick Seeks Verbeck Award Nominations

Association Vice President Mel Frederick would like to receive nominations for the prestigious Verbeck Award.

Frederick stated: "I would like to offer the entire membership an opportunity to nominate a member for the Verbeck Award. In the next couple of months, I will be appointing a committee to make a recommendation on the award, and would appreciate input from the general membership. Please send me your recommendation and a brief write-up on why you believe your nominee should be honored."

Mel also would like to know if you would be willing to serve on the Verbeck Nominating Committee. If so give him a call, email or snail mail.



The Verbeck award is given to a member who has served the Association in an outstanding manner. A list of the past Verbeck Award recipients is on page 49, of the last TARO LEAF, Vol. 61, Nos 3&4.

You may contact Mel at: VP Mel Frederick, 950 W. Barney, Owatonna, MN 55060, Tel: 507-455-1639 MN/760-772-7909 CA, or by email at melfrederick@msn.com

Verbeck Guidelines: The Verbeck Award is presented to that Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck – an unabashed love for the Division and its Association; a member who most furthers the interests of the Association and the Division. It is not intended to reward mere popularity, but more to acknowledge hard work in helping to make the Association more successful. ###

President Spicer Calls for 08-09 Officer Nominations

Association President Gene Spicer, asks that you give some thought now to our Association Officers for the coming year – 2008-09.

If you would like to serve, or would like to nominate a fellow member to serve, please so advise the Chairman of the Nominating Committee right away.

The formal election of Association Officers for 2008-2009 term will be conducted at the Annual Membership Meeting to be held at the Association Reunion in Springfield, MO on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at 10:00 AM.

Only an Active Member as defined by our Constitution and Bylaws may be nominated.

"Active Membership. All persons who have served as members of the 24th Infantry Division, or of a unit which has/is/was at any time attached to the Division, shall be eligible for Active Membership in the Corporation."



There are three (3) positions open for election each year: the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

All nominations must be sent to the Nominating Committee Chair not later than 1 August 2008.

Keith Hagen has kindly agreed to again serve as the Chair of Nominating Committee; members are as of this writing not complete. But President Spicer urges you to submit your recommendations to Keith now.

Keith Hagen, Chair
41091 Ingersol Road
Concrete, WA 98237-9778
(360) 826-3695
hagenka@verizon.net

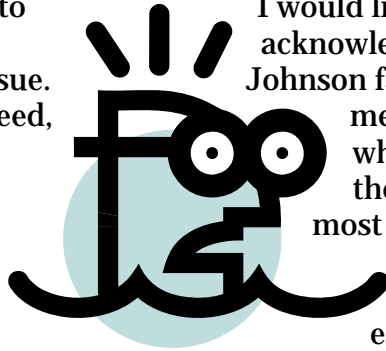


No Article From Your Unit – Who’s To Blame?

Our former Editor, Billy Johnson, held to the very high ideal of having something from every unit in every *TARO LEAF* issue. But I noticed that he didn’t always succeed, and appealed to you in those units not represented to submit articles.

Out of necessity, I have had to go with the flow; choose from the material at hand. While there has been some diversity, I’m sure many units have not yet been represented. But I cannot publish material I do not have; hence, it really is up to you, the members of each Association unit, to see to it that I have materials from your unit to publish.

While I was generally cognizant of the fact that Editor Johnson tried to emphasize units, I was more fully reminded of it when *Ms. Linda Johnson* provided me with not only his philosophy, but also with tools to monitor submissions; a spreadsheet with the Units in the rows down the left, and the Dates of Publishing in the columns across the top. Up until that time I was not even too sure what units have served under the umbrella of the 24th!



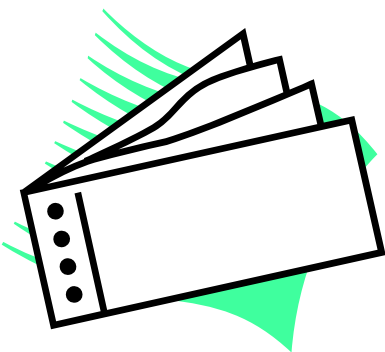
I would like to take a moment here to acknowledge all the members of the Johnson family: *Minie Johnson* who wrote me several very nice emails, *Julie* who initially advised me of her father’s passing, and *Linda* who wrote most recently, and not only filled me in with lots of good information, but also volunteered to assist, especially in the conversion of printed *TARO LEAF* publications to digital computer-readable format. And they also sent two boxes of materials that contained some articles and photographs some of you had sent to Mr. Johnson, but which had not yet been published.

My hat is off to all three for their friendly cooperation and their assistance; and to all I also extend my very best wishes for the future.

So, the bottom line is this – if there isn’t anything in the *TARO LEAF* for your unit, you need to send me some! While I want material from all units, out of necessity I will publish what I have. ED.



24th Reunion Drawing Tickets



Chaplin Glenn Carpenter, Jr., has just sent all members their bundle of tickets for the Cash Prize Drawings held annually at the Reunion.

Please try to sell all the tickets you receive as the Association can use all the funds it can get to publish the *TARO LEAF*, or to pursue other activities.



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
1 Year From Date of
Enlisting in Association

____ Lifetime - \$150.00
Payable in lump sum of \$150.00
or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00

Please make checks payable to:
"24th Infantry Division Association"
Mail with this completed application to:
Donald E. Maggio, Secretary/Treasurer
24th Infantry Division Association
411 Concord Road
Fletcher, NC 28732-9734

Recommended By: _____



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

~~~~~

## **The 3/34th and 2/21st Infantry Battalion Association**

April 23 thru April 26, 2008  
The Ramada Plaza Hotel  
400 2nd Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
Reservations (304) 744-4641  
Deadline for reservations is March 24, 2008

Contact:

Tom Cochran (931) 647-4793  
E-mail [cochran3585@bellsouth.net](mailto:cochran3585@bellsouth.net)

~~~~~

19th and 34th Mini-Reunion – Pigeon Forge, TN

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
bojnjoan@citcom.net

~~~~~

## **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)



# PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

We kindly request that you update your telephone and email addresses in the Association's membership information base.

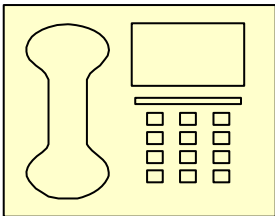
Some Association leaders have been trying to call members to obtain additional information, and are finding that the majority of phone numbers in our directory are no longer valid.

In addition, on page 5 of this issue, Editor Thiel makes a plea for you to also provide and or update your email address.

So, if you know your phone number (including especially your area code) and/or email has changed, or has never been listed, please notify:

Secretary-Treasurer  
Don Maggio  
411 Concord Road  
Fletcher, NC 28732-9734  
Tel. 828-684-5931  
[tarheeldon0@lycos.com](mailto:tarheeldon0@lycos.com)

*Thank You!*



~~~~~

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 Impaired _____

*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

Confirmation Number: _____

Reservations: Phone: (417) 831-3131 Fax: (417) 831-2582

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





24th Infantry Division West Coast Reunion

March 30 thru April 2, 2008

Tropicana Express Hotel & Casino Laughlin, Nevada
2121 South Casino Dr.
Laughlin, NV 89028
(Formerly the Ramada Express)

Room Rates: \$18.95

Call 1-800-243-6846 for reservations.
You **must** book your rooms under **contract #12170** to qualify for
the \$18.95 rate.

Contact Byrd or D.J. Schrock for more information.

1009 Mesquite Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 678-0207 byrd2a@cox.net

Reunion Registration

(Registration Deadline 01 March 2008)

Registration Fee: \$15 per Family Banquet Dinner \$35 (Banquet is April 2nd)

Cut Along Dotted Line

Member Name: _____ Spouse/Guests: _____

Unit: _____ Years Served: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional) _____

Smoked Brisket of Beef \$35 x ____ = ____
Stuffed Breast of Chicken \$35 x ____ = ____
Grilled Salmon \$35 x ____ = ____
Registration (\$15 per Family) = ____
(total) \$ _____

Mail dinner fees, registration form and
fees to:
Byrd Schrock
1009 Mesquite Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Make checks payable to Byrd Schrock



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 W/Gold or Black Chain		15.00	47	Bumper Sticker-CIB		3.00
8	Bolo Tie w/TL Silver Silver w/TL Silver		16.00	48	Bumper Sticker – Proudly Served w/TL		3.00
9	Belt Buckle w/TL Gold or Silver Belt Buckle		15.00	49	6 th Tank BN Cloth Patch	Cloth Patch	5.00
10	29 th INF Cloth Patch (Color)		5.00	50	Purple Heart Medal	HP-754	3.00
11	24 Sig BN Unit Crest		5.00	51	Bronze Star Medal	HP-926	3.00
12	19 th Inf Crest Current Issue \$10 Pr		5.00	52	Good Conduct Medal	HP-927	3.00
13	21 st Inf Crest Current Issue \$10 Pr		5.00	53	Korean Service Medal	HP-929	3.00
14	34 th Inf Crest Current Issue \$10 Pr		5.00	54	Natl. Defense Service Medal	HP-957	3.00
15	11 th FA Crest	\$10 pr	5.00	55	Victory Medal	HP-958	3.00
16	13 th FA Crest	\$10 pr	5.00	56	Silver Star Medal	HP-959	3.00
17	19 th Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	57	ETO Campaign Medal	HP-962	3.00
18	21 st Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	58	DFC	HP-965	3.00
19	34 th Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	59	Korean 8000 Missing	HP-115	3.00
20	11 th FA Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	60	CMB 1 st Award	HP-569	3.00
21	13 th FA Pocket Patch (Color)		5.00	61	US Flag Clutch Back	HP (V-37)	3.00
22	24 ID Crest		5.00	62	24 th Medical Bn Crest		10.00
24	34 th Inf Lapel Pin		5.00	63	Pacific Campaign Medal	HP-963	3.00
25	CIB (1 st Award) 1-1346 (Mini) Mini DRESS MESS		5.00	64	American Campaign Medal	HP-964	3.00
26	CIB (2 nd Award) 1-1347 (Mini) Mini DRESS MESS		6.50	65	Army of Occupation Medal	HP-051	3.00
27	CIB Lapel Pin		5.00	66	Meritorious Service Medal	HP-056	3.00
28	19 th Cap Dark Blue/Crest		10.00	67	UN Service Medal	HP-059	3.00
29	21 st Cap White/Embroidered Patch		12.00	68	Philippine Liberation	HP-361	3.00
30	21 st Cap Dark Blue /Embroidered Patch		12.00	69	Korean Service Ribbon	HP-099	3.00
31	34 th Cap Dark Blue w/Crest		10.00	70	Air Medal	HP-925	3.00
32	24 IDA Cap Dark Blue w/Patch		10.00	71	DSC Hatpin	HP-308	3.00
33	Cap w/TL, Red or White GERMANY		12.00	72	Bring 'Em Home/Back	HP-214	3.00
34	24 IDA Red or White Caps		10.00	73	American Defense Medal	HP	3.00
35	24 IDA Green Cap		10.00	74	Vietnam Service Medal	HP	3.00
36	24 ID White Mesh Cap		10.00	75	24 ID Hatpin		3.00
37	3 rd Eng. Crest		5.00	76	24 ID Tie-Regular		20.00
38	14 th Eng. Crest		5.00	77	24 ID Flag, 3x5 Screen Print	Outdoor Flag	55.00
39	5 th RCT Pocket Patch		5.00	78	63 rd Field Artillery	Cloth Patch	5.00
40	5 th RCT Cap, Red		10.00	79	Army Commendation Medal	HP	3.00
				80	Soldiers Medal	HP	3.00
				81	POW Medal	HP	3.00
				82	Armed Forces Reserve Medal	HP	3.00
				83	1"Decal 24 ID Sell 12 for \$1.00		.10
				84	24 th Christmas Cards	10 ea. Packet	8.00
				85	World War II Tapes (starts Australia)		15.00
				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.
No Phone Orders Please!





The Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award 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 NELSON BRITTIN
Audubon, New Jersey
I Company, 19th Infantry Regiment
7 March 1951, near Yonggong-ni, Korea

Volunteering to lead his squad up a hill, SFC Brittin hurled grenades into enemy emplacements and shot the defenders as they fled. In this attack, he was wounded by an enemy grenade. Refusing treatment, SFC Brittin continued the attack, killing enemy soldiers in their foxholes and destroying enemy machine guns. Less than 100 yards up the hill, his squad again came under heavy fire from a concealed machinegun. SFC Brittin charged this position and silenced it, but was then killed by a burst of automatic fire. Through his actions, he had succeeded in killing 20 enemy soldiers and destroying four automatic weapons.

24th Infantry Division Association
Secretary/Treasurer
Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG
411 Concord Road
Fletcher, NC 28732-9734
Tel. 828-684-5931
Email: tarheeldon0@lycos.com

Check your Dues Date below

Send ALL Dues, Address Change & Obituary Notices to:



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

