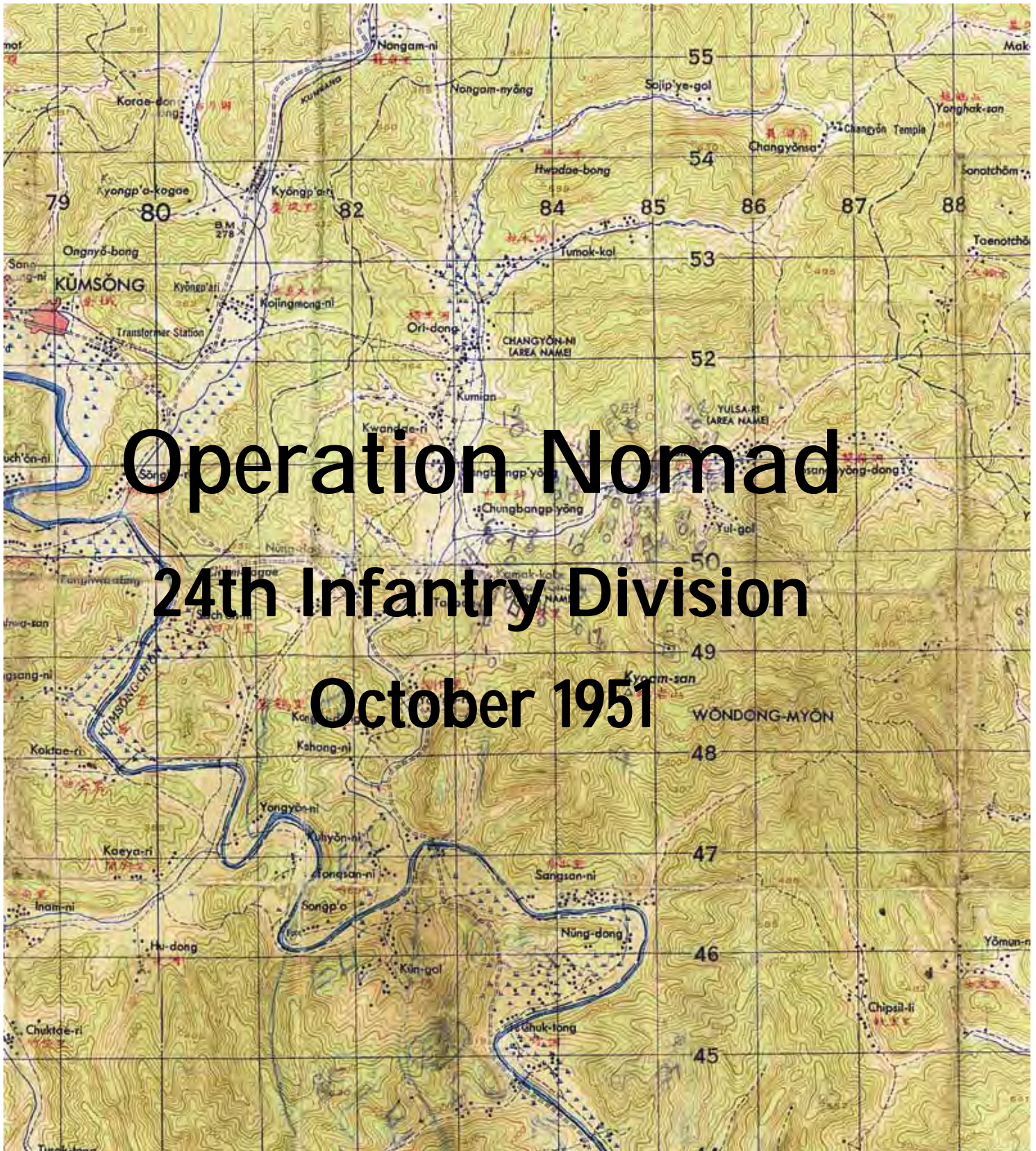


TARO LEAF

FIRST TO FIGHT



The Taro Leaf

Vol. 62, No. 4 Fall 2008 The Official Quarterly Publication of the 24th Infantry Division



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James F. Hill	1995-1996	19 th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
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Albert McAdoo	1991-1992	5 th RCT	813-837-2728	FL
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John E. Klump	1977-1978	34 th Inf. Regt.	812-623-4336	IN
Paul F. Wisecap	1971-1972	34 th Inf. Regt.	813-936-6103	FL
William C. Muldoon	1970-1971	19 th Inf. Regt.	941-743-7179	FL
Donald C. Williams	1968-1969	34 th Inf. Regt.	586-566-4627	MI

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PHOTOGRAPHS are desired for TAPs and all articles, and may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher) as email attachments, or as prints (Note that *Xerox* or *Newspaper* Photos do not copy well; prints are much preferred). For all photos please provide the photographer's name and where they appear in the article, identify each person or other subject in the photo, and if you wish it returned. Copyrighted material should have permission to reprint. **Please include your current correct full name, address, phone number and email with all submissions.**

***Taro Leaf* Deadlines & Publication Dates**

VOL	NO	ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
63	1	Winter	Jan. 1, 2009	Feb 2009
63	2	Spring	Apr. 1, 2009	May 2009
63	3	Summer	Jul. 1, 2009	Aug 2009
63	4	Fall	Oct. 1, 2009	Nov 2009



~~~ President's Letter ~~~



The 2008 Reunion is over and what a success it was. The programs were enjoyable and the side trips were well received. I am sure everyone that went on the dinner cruise is still greeting everyone with "Welcome to Wal-Mart!" It's still a mystery how he could get live dogs to open and close their mouths when he wanted them to look like they were talking.

I would like to thank you for electing me your President. It is indeed an honor to represent an association with such a glorious and distinguished history that has had so many great leaders, both in the Division and in the Association. I promise to do my best to warrant your trust in me.

For those of you who may be curious I'll give you a little background on myself. I served as a Platoon Sergeant in Easy Co, 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea in 1951 and 1952. Upon arriving home in April of 1952, my brother and I purchased a Supermarket, which we operated for 21 years. I served as a Minnesota State Senator for 20 years and was an investment advisor for 30 years until retiring. In case you're adding up the years and saying how old is this guy, being a Minnesota State Senator is not a full time position so the time was spent simultaneous with the other two jobs.

Donna and I have been married for 52 years; we have 3 children, and 8 grandchildren. We reside at 950 W. Barney, Owatonna, Minnesota, in the summer, and in Palm Desert, California, in the winter.

We are facing a serious problem in our membership. Due to the advancing age of our members we are seeing a decline in membership. We are making this one of our priority projects this coming year. I would urge each of you to contact one of your friends or acquaintances that you know is eligible to be a member but for one reason or another does not belong. Maybe even pay his dues for one year to let him see what we are doing today. Membership application forms are printed in each issue of the *Taro Leaf*.

We have already begun planning for the 2009 Reunion next September in Rapid City, South Dakota, home of the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore and the Badlands. I hope to see you all there and renew acquaintances and meet new friends.

Mel Frederick





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Cover: In October 1951, the 24th Infantry Division was engaged in one of its bitterest battles of the Korean War—Operation Nomad. This Fall issue of the *Taro Leaf* is dedicated to the memory of the Division's 1,784 casualties (288 KIA) suffered in this little publicized but nevertheless very bloody battle! The cover and page 12 are digital renditions of an actual map used during Operation Nomad. Nine other articles are also included.



Secretary-Treasurer Letter

by Don Maggio

Since illness prevented me from presenting our Association's Financial Reports at the Board of Directors and Corporate Annual Meeting, I would like to share some of my thoughts concerning our declining financial health (The Annual Financial Report is published on page 23 in this issue).

- We continue to lose members because of death and lapsed dues, most of which may also be the result of death. As an organization we have not done the work necessary to recruit post-Korean War members of the 24th Infantry Division. In part, I think it is because we have too many internal issues that cause division among us. This greatly inhibits focus on recruiting new members. An effort and commitment similar to that which saw our memorial placed in the Punch Bowl will be required.
- As of 30 September 2008, we had 2,204 members of which 1,241 (56%) are Life Members. The remaining 963 members pay \$14,445 in annual dues. Assuming our contributions, other income and expenses remain about the same as in 2008, and we publish the *Taro Leaf* for \$30,000, we will lose approximately \$7,000 for fiscal 2009 (see table at right). We need a minimum of an additional \$5 per year per active member. Two Life Members who originally paid \$100 have recently donated an additional \$50 to "bring their membership up to date." Both annual dues and Life Membership fees need to be increased in line with other Veterans groups.
- It has been suggested that we reduce the *Taro Leaf* expenses, reduce the number of issues per year, reduce its "size", or even make it a leaflet as published when Kenwood Ross was the Editor. I can assure you that the only positive comments I hear or receive about our Association are about the *Taro Leaf*. In all of the notes and letters accompanying dues payments, no other activity or service of the Association is ever mentioned, only the *Taro Leaf*. So we need to define our expectations and develop funding to support them. This too calls for an effort commensurate with the Punch Bowl memorial.
- Currently there is a committee looking to refine or change our Constitution and Bylaws. Its recommendations need to be discussed and refined with possible compromises. Everyone must participate. We must consider changes to the structure of our Board of Directors; this year we did not have a quorum to conduct business. If the changes adopted are not supported by the entire Association membership, it will be our death knoll.

While the Officers and Board of Directors are responsible for the Association's operations and well-being, it is important that more members become involved in determining just how this Association will continue. Increased funding and decreased spending will help us only in the short-run; increased numbers of members and a unified, cohesive membership will be needed to sustain us in the long-run. Sincerely,

Projected Income & Expenses August 08—July 09	
Income:	
Member dues	\$ 15,000
Life Dues	4,500
Reunion donations	18,000
Donations	5,000
Interest income	1,500
QM sales	5,000
Income	\$ 49,000
Expenses:	
Office expenses	\$ 6,900
Engraving expenses	260
Postage & delivery	1,800
Phone expense	50
Returned mail exp.	190
QM purchases	3,400
QM shipping	450
Reunion prize	4,000
Taxes/license	1,600
Insurance expense	750
Gen'l exp.	\$ 19,400
Taro Leaf Expenses:	
Printing expenses	\$ 30,000
Shipping expenses	6,500
TL expenses:	\$ 36,500
Total exp	\$ 55,900
Loss	\$ (6,900)

Don Maggio



Meet Your New Vice-President



Hello; my name is Salvatore "Sal" Schillaci, and I am your newly elected Vice President. I cannot tell you how proud I am to have been selected for this position in such a great organization.

In the near future, I will try to contact many of you to ask for your help in expanding our membership and keeping our Association strong. If you have any suggestions that you feel will help us grow our membership, please write to me at: 32 Ivyhurst Rd, Amherst, NY 14226. I want to assure you that I will do everything in my power to justify the trust that you have placed in me. Thank you. - Sal.

Ed. Note: I received the above note from Sal via email from his daughter. I do not know very much about Sal, other than he was one of the movers on the Punch Bowl Memorial Project Committee. That's Sal and Rita at Friday night's Aloha Banquet at the recent Reunion. *Photo by the editor.*

Dan Rickert Receives the 2008 Verbeck Award

Dan Rickert, left, of Mission Viejo, CA, receives the Association's highest award, the prestigious William Jordan Verbeck Award, from President Gene Spicer at the 2008 Annual Reunion in Springfield, MO. Rickert, who served in Korea with the 3rd Combat Engineers attached to the 5th Regimental Combat Team in 1951-52, was recognized for his tireless efforts in leading the committee that conceived, planned, financed and placed the beautiful permanent memorial to the 24th Infantry Division at The National Memorial Cemetery in Oahu, also known as the Punchbowl Memorial (see *Taro Leaf* Vol. 61(1&2) Winter-Spring 2007). *(Photo by the Editor.)*



Dan was nominated by his fellow members who cast their choice of this year's recipient by ballot to then Vice President Mel Frederick, who in turn submitted the nominees to his Verbeck Award Committee members, Ed Farmer, John Klump, Wes Morrison, Eric Diller, Ken Dillon and Joe O'Connell. Dan was the overwhelming choice!

The Verbeck Award was created in 1966 to recognize excellence among the members of the Association, and is symbolized by a large silver bowl, the "Verbeck Bowl," that emulates the values of William Jordan Verbeck, who took command of the 21st Infantry Regiment on November 7, 1944, during the battle for Leyte, PI, and later became the 24th Infantry Division's Chief of Staff, and served as the Association's president in 1963.



Some Final Thoughts from your Past President



In September 2006, I was asked by the Nominating Committee to consider being a candidate for Association President. I told them I would consider it an honor.

Since then, I have represented the 24th Association at three very special events: the un-

veiling of the 24th Division Monument in Buffalo, NY; the actual setting of the Monument in Hawaii's Punch Bowl; and last but not least, the memorial to Medal of Honor recipient Woodrow Keeble in the Dakotas.

During my two terms as your President, I met some most honorable and heroic comrades:

- The members of our 24th Monument Committee, especially Dan Rickert, chair.
- Tom Thiel, your *Taro Leaf* Editor.
- Salvador Schillaci, your new Vice President.
- Mel Frederick your new President.
- Don Maggio, Sec.-Treasurer – what a thankless job he has done, and he does it quite well.

(All of these gentlemen are doing a thankless job because they are proud of the 24th Infantry Division, and its past history. They want people of the present to know its proud history.)

- The Woodrow Keeble family.
- Merry Helm the guiding force that made Woodrow Keeble's Medal of Honor happen.

There are many, many, more but it would take several pages to name them.

Things should not stay the same if they are not correct. An example is our Bylaws that say that the Board of Directors has the final say on matters of membership in our organization. My thoughts are the members should have the final word in these matters.

I wanted to make Merry Helm an Honorary Member, but my request to do so was turned down by the Past Presidents on the Board. And at our Springfield Annual Convention, the members present also wanted to make Ms. Helm an Honorary Member, but again could not because of the way our Bylaws read. In my opinion the Board of Directors should not override the members, the comrades and soldiers that make up the body of the Association.

Ladies and gentlemen it has been an honor!

Gene Spicer



From your Editor's Computer

I'll start this issue's column with the Springfield Reunion. Those of you who missed

it; well, I'm sure you had a very good reason, but you missed a fine event. I won't go into specifics; this was my best ever Reunion!

For me, there was some sadness though; Gene Spicer stepped down as our President. In over a little more than a year since he asked me to serve as your Editor, I have learned a lot about the man, and about Donnie as well, and I will miss them.

But there is great promise for our future; Mel Frederick, my Easy Company 19th 4th Platoon Ser-

geant in Korea, has been given the reins of the Association. And he will do very well; he has already begun! And so has our new VP Sal Schillaci!

Next, I need to talk a bit about the *Taro Leaf*. Several other articles in this issue discuss it extensively, and I'll not duplicate that.

(Continued on page 43)



The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

Vincent A. (Jim) Vella, Association Past President 1995-96



Association President 1995-96 and Life member 320, Vincent A. (Jim) VELLA, passed away on August 24, 2008, at age 88, in Buffalo, NY. Jim served with Company K, **21st Infantry** in WWII. He was the beloved husband of 64 years to Frances E. (nee Croglia) Vella; loving father of Barbara S., Gerald J. and Cynthia C.; and cherished grandfather and great-grand-father. Jim owned Velson Tool Works for 36 years. Photo shows Jim receiving Buffalo, NY, Ambassador Award for his efforts to bring the 1990 24th IDA Reunion to Buffalo. Condolences may be sent to Frances E. Vella, 107 Homer Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216-2367. (Paul Garland and Wes Morrison)

3rd Engineers

Parker Sykes, passed away on April 5, 2008. LTC Sykes served with the 3rd Engineer Battalion in Korea from July 1950 - August 1951. Condolences may be sent to: Carol Sykes, 115 Kaywood Dr., Sanford, FL 32771-8838. 407-323-2233 (Don Maggio)

5th RCT

Clarence Kiichler, passed away on May 2, 2008 at Osmond General Hospital, Osmond, NE. Life Member #1443, Clarence served with the 5th RCT from Nov 15, 1951 to Aug 14, 1953 in Korea. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Shirley and family at 815 N Logan St., Osmond, NE 68765-5530.

Melvin John Moser, 79, CASPER, WY, life member #734, died Saturday, May 5, 2007. He served in Korea as an SFC. He was a wire line specialist for 28 years. Burial was May 10, 2007 in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Condolences



may be addressed to: Mrs. Anna Marie Moser, 541 Thelma Drive, Casper, WY 82609. (Mrs. Moser, photo courtesy of New Comer-Cannon Funeral Home)

Francis E. Patenaude, Life Member #637 of Dorchester, MA, passed away on May 1, 2008. Francis served during the Korean war receiving the Purple Heart. He was preceded in death by his wife, the late Vivian B. (Purdy) Patenaude. Interment was at the Massachusetts National Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family c/o Frances Eremita, 72 Westglow St., Dorchester, MA 02122-2527. (Don Maggio and Wes Morrison)

Jack B. Shaner, Life Member #608, passed away on Nov. 8, 2004. Jack was a member of Company A, 5th RCT, from 1948 to 1951, with service in Korea. Jack's last known address was: 801 Tom Tim Drive, Paulding, OH 45879-9244. ("A friend, Ann F.")

13th Field Artillery

Walter H. Daugherty, WWII & Korean Veteran (also 26th AAA Bn) passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 in Simi Valley Hospital, Simi Val-



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ley, CA. Walter became ill at the Springfield, MO Reunion, on Saturday, September 20 and was hospitalized in the intensive care unit until the doctors gave approval for him to fly back to CA, via a Medvac plane. He entered the Simi Valley Hospital on Oc-

tober 1. A private funeral was held October 11, for family and a few close friends. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Atsuko Daugherty, 2142 Sebring Ave., Simi Valley, CA 93065-2742. (Wes Morrison)

Harold V. Heffner, 86 of Dillsbury, PA passed away on July 15, 2008 at the age of 86. Life Member #1310, he was buried on July 21 with full Military Rites. He was a WWII veteran and a Pearl Harbor survivor and served in the South Pacific, New Guinea and the Philippines with the 13th FA and the 52nd FA. He received two Bronze stars. Condolences may be sent to his daughter: Ms. Patricia Stetler, 27 Furman Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019. (Ms. Stetler)

19th Infantry Regiment

Bobbie R. Bickford of Noble, OK, passed away on January 6, 2007, per January 2008 letter from Mrs. Bickford to Chaplain Carpenter. Life member #2048, Mr. Bickford served with the 26th AAA and "E" Company, 19th July 1949 to March 1951. Cards may be sent to: Mrs. Norma R. Bickford, 4701 E. Maguire Rd., Noble, OK, 73068-8478.

James W. Chrismond, of Baltimore, MD, passed away in April 2006, per message from Mrs. Chrismond to Chaplain Carpenter. Mr. Chrismond, Life member #1191, served in the 19th Infantry Regiment in Japan. Messages may be sent to: Mrs. Joan Chrismond, 1531 Weyburn Rd., Baltimore, MD, 21237-1522.

Charles E. Garrett, 19th Infantry & 724th Ordinance, Japan & Korea passed away July 2008. Charles was working for the United Nations in Switzerland at the time of his passing. His ashes were interred in Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 3, 2008 (also see page 42). Margrith Garrett, Promenadenstrasse 13, CH-9400 Rorschach, Switzerland. (Don Maggio)

Judy Rae Goulet, wife of Jerry Goulet, Company C, 19th Infantry, Korea-1950, passed away on September 16, 2008 after a two-year battle with cancer. Condolences may be sent to Jerry at: 7271 Katella, Sp #22, Stanton, CA 90680-4308

Carl R. Juntilla, of Lake Linden, MI, passed away July 6, 2007, per message from Mrs. Juntilla to Chaplain Carpenter. Mr. Juntilla served with "E" Company, 19th Regiment from 1946-48. Messages may be sent to his wife: Mrs. Angeline Juntilla, 52480 Mink Farm Rd, Lake Linden, MI, 49945-9618.

James W. Lender of West Newton, PA, passed away on January 29, 2008, per note from his wife Mary Anne to Chaplain Carpenter. Mr. Lender served with the 19th Infantry Regiment from October 1944 to January 1946. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Mary Anne Lender, 365 Vernon Dr., West Newton, PA, 15089-2701.

Allan C. McGill, 90, passed away July 17, 2008 at Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, Md. He saw 31 months of combat in the South Pacific with the 19th Infantry Regiment in assaults at Hollandia, New Guinea, and Leyte, Mindoro, Romblon and Mindanao. Interment with honors was at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Jennie Louise McGill,



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and two sons. Condolences may be sent to: Jennie L. McGill, 2608 Chapel Lake Dr. Apt. 405, Gambrills, MD 21054 (Ms. McGill)

Bobbie J. Regnier, "D" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, Korea, Life Member No. 1403. Letter returned "Deceased Dec. 2008." No further information. Last known address: 8494 Surrey Cir., Bloomington, IL, 61704-6865 (Tom Thiel)

Frank Jay Robinson, 86, of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii died May 14, 2008, at the Life Care Center of Kona. Life member #775, Frank joined the 19th Reg. in Aug. 1941, and was there on Dec. 7. He was a graduate of the Univ. of Pittsburgh, a psychotherapist for Kaiser Permanente in California, and a professor at the University of N. Colorado and at Pepperdine University. Interment at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery. He is survived by wife, Vera, two daughters and one son. Condolences may be sent to: Dr. Vera M. Robinson, 75-181 Hualalai Road A212, Kailua, HI 96740-1797. (Ms. Robinson)



21st Infantry Regiment

Charles E. Kaefer, of Bennington, NY; passed away on August 24, 2008. Association Life member #498, Charles was a Pearl Harbor survivor, and saw action in the South Pacific. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Rena (Cotton) Kaefer. Private interment at Cowlesville Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Rena Kaefer, 177 Clinton St., #24, Cowlesville, NY 14037-9714. (Ken Fentner and Wes Morrison, Charles Meyer Funeral Home Inc.)

34th Infantry Regiment

John Thomas Feightner, 74, of Howard,



OH, passed away on Monday August 25, 2008 at his home. John served during the Korean War in 1955-56 as a member of the 34th Regiment Tank BN. He held a Masters Degree from Xavier University, and worked for General Motors and as a professor at North Carolina State Uni-

versity. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rev. Dr. Connie Feightner, and is survived by a daughter, Kathleen, and son, John W. Burial with military honors in Mound View Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Kathleen Feightner, 453 Floralwood Dr., Howard, OH 43028-9142. (Kathleen Feightner and Wes Morrison, photo Snyder Funeral Home)

52nd Field Artillery

Harold V. Heffner, please see 13th FA.

John S. Roussel of Baton Rouge, LA, passed away on October 30, 2006, per message sent in January 2008 by his daughter to Chaplain Carpenter. Mr. Roussel was Life Member #904 and served with the 52nd Field Artillery in WWII from 1943-1945. Mr. Roussel's wife, Grace, passed away on September 22, 2007. Messages may be sent to his daughter: Gwendolyn R. Emick, 1657 Patrick Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

63rd Field Artillery

Stanley T. Fairbrothers, of Ligonier, PA, died Sept. 26, 2003. Stanley, life member #271, was a Tech 4 with the 63rd Field Artillery in WWII, serving in the Southern Philippines, Luzon and New Guinea. He was preceded in death in



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July 2002 by his wife Cornelia "Jerry." Condolences may be sent to his daughter: Barbara F. Smith, P.O. Box 215, Laughlintown, PA 15655, (Ms. Barbara Smith)

Division

24th Signal Battalion, Augsburg, Germany

Edward M. Manderville, 65, Life Member #1078, 24th Signal Battalion in Augsburg, Germany from 1961 to 1964, passed away October 27, 2006, at Marliere Care Center, New Port Richey, FL. He is survived by his wife Marcia, and sons Christopher and Jason. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Marcia Manderville, 8843 York Dr., Hudson, FL 34667-6578. (727) 697-3184 (Don Maggio)

Assoc. Non-Members

Jean Elizabeth Adams died at her home in Corvallis, OR on Aug. 14, 2008. She was the wife of Col. Stanley T. Adams, Medal of Honor recipient for action with "A" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 2 Aug. 1951, near Sesim-ni, Korea. Memorial contributions may be made to Schools of Sinkunia, c/o 2625 S.W. Whiteside Drive, Corvallis, OR 97333.

Salvatore (Sam) Ernest Bonomo, died Sept. 15, 2008, in Bridgeport, CT. Sam was member of Cannon Company, **21st Infantry during WWII**, and received several medals including Bronze Star. Condolences may be sent to his wife Carmello Millie Bonomo, 129 Pleasantview Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606-3767. (Wes Morrison)

Claude H. DeBord, 89, died on July 7, 2008 in St. Petersburg, FL. He served in WWII with the **19th Regiment** with five invasions and five Bronze Stars awarded. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor. He is survived by his wife Betty (no address). (Donald Lennon)

Vincent Di Gironimo, West Newton, MA, died on August 20 2008; he was a member of H/S Co, **3rd Engineer**, "C" BN, May 1949 to Aug 1951, serving in Japan and Korea. Condolences may be sent to: Mary Di Gironimo, 115 Adams Ave. West Newton, MA 02465-1045. (Bill Boyden)

Valdor W. John, Company B, **21st Infantry Regiment**, Korea, died on August 19, 2008, in Green Bay, WI. Valdor was taken prisoner on July 20, 1950 and returned on October 21, 1953; his story appears in *The Sunchon Tunnel Massacre Survivors* by Pat McGrath Avery and Joyce Faulkner. Condolences may be sent to his family at: 1050 Pleasant Lane, Green Bay, WI 54313-5200. (John Kirby)

Albert Loffredo, Sr. CORRECTION—previously reported incorrectly in *Taro Leaf*TAPS Vol 62(3) Summer 2008, page 11, as Laffredo. Albert, of Providence, RI, passed away on March 21, 1993. He served With **M Company, 19th Infantry**, in Papua, New Guinea, Dutch New Guinea and Philippine Islands and was wounded on Luzon.

Abner Skinner, 13th Field Artillery, Korea, 1950-51, passed away July 19, 2008. Condolences may be sent to the family at: 4512 Tipton Court, Fort Worth, TX 76135-2342. (Charlie Andrews and Wes Morrison)

Ambrose J. Thompson, 85 passed away on September 8, 2008, at his home in St. Michael, ND. He served in WWII on New Caledonia and Espirito Santos Islands, and with Company B, 1st Battalion, **21st Infantry Regiment** in the Korean War, where he received the Silver Star for action near Chupra-ri, Korea. Calls of condolence may be made to his son Calvin Thompson (701-766-1889). (Harold A. Smith)

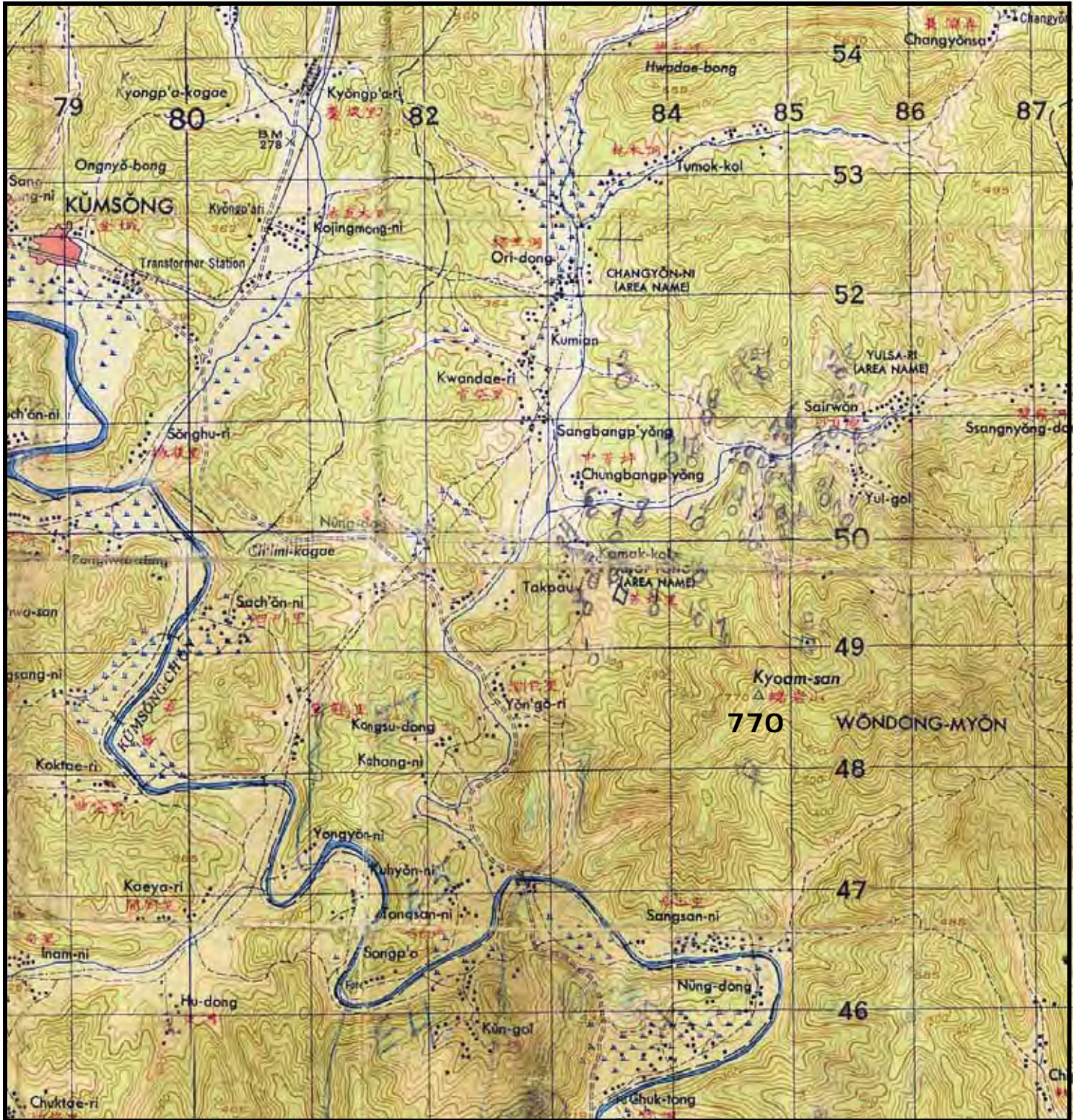
Donald Mu Chung Wong passed away on April 16, 2008. He was with the **3rd Engineers** during WWII. (Eugenia C. Wong and Don Maggio)

**Please Send TAPS Notices to
the *Taro Leaf* Editor, see pg 4.**



Original Marked Map Used in Operation Nomad

Digital image of map used by 81 mm Mortar Forward Observer Don Vail, who was with Co. "H" 19th, and was positioned with Co. "E" 19th, during Operation Nomad. Note that Hill 770 is immediately above the special notation on the map below. The pencil markings near the middle right are points Don had zeroed-in during Nov. and Dec. 1951. He is unsure about the E1 through E5 markings but we think that they may have identified where E Company was during Operation Nomad. This digital map is especially useful for studying the Kumsong area. Don Vail, 6459 800 N, McCordsville, IN 46055-9767, Ph: 317-335-3715, donvail3@aol.com



Operation Nomad-Polar: The Last Major Allied Offensive of the Korean War

By Merry Helm, Writers Guild of America, February 12, 2007

Copied with permission of the author from http://www.koreanwar-educator.org/topics/operation_nomad.htm

Operation Nomad-Polar was one of a specific series of Allied offensives against Communist forces in North Korea during August, September and October 1951.

Truce talks between Communist China, North Korea, South Korea and the United States had begun on July 10th of that year but had broken down August 23rd. Allied Commander General Matthew Ridgway wanted to apply military pressure to persuade the Communists back to the negotiation table.

Additionally, General James Van Fleet, Commander of the 8th Army, felt the potential for peace was softening his troops. A series of limited -offensive actions could keep the men sharp and also provide combat -hardening for thousands of new replacement troops arriving in Korea. Although many consider(ed) these battles disastrous, they nonetheless continued, one after another, throughout the fall.

The last of these was Operation Nomad, which took place in the central sector of the Korean peninsula south of Kumsong, North Korea. The operation began October 13, 1951, overlapping the final days of the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge to the east.

AP Newspaper accounts of Operation Nomad drastically underplayed the reality of what happened, espe-

cially during the opening days of the offensive. History books, too, give only abbreviated nods – if any – to this battle. Yet, it was one of the most brutal, and most costly, the US 24th Infantry Division endured during its historic tenure in Korea.

During the first week of October 1951, the 24th Division moved into IX Corps' Line WYOMING sector to relieve the 7th Infantry Division. Sandwiched between the 2nd ROK Division to the west and the 6th ROK Division to the east, the 24th ID's 5th RCT took positions on the left; the 21st Regiment was positioned in the center; and the 19th Regiment moved into positions on the right, next to the 6th ROK. Also attached to the American regiments was the Columbian Infantry Battalion.

On October 13, these Allied troops launched an aggressive push against Chinese Communists deeply embedded in the mountains before them. The objective was to push the Chinese off their fortified winter line and also to take the city of Kumsong, a key supply center for enemy troops.

Between the Allied positions and Kumsong stood a series of forbidding objectives, including the "pearl", Hill 770, inside of which the Chinese Command Post was built to withstand heavy attacks and also house and supply Chinese soldiers

during the coming winter.

The terrain was extremely steep, barren and slippery with rubble; cover for attacking troops was nearly non-existent. Allied troops became easy targets as they climbed upward under hails of gunfire, mortar, and so many grenades it "looked like flocks of blackbirds coming over¹."

By each day's end, many 24th ID platoons were left with only a handful of men. By morning, they'd be back up to strength; the "pipeline" of replacements was running with the tap wide open for the first days. After that, anybody who could carry a gun or a stretcher, including cooks, were brought in to replace the fallen.

The 24th Division reached Line NOMAD by October 17, and after five straight days of fighting, the troops hoped for a chance to rest. But they were immediately assigned a new objective, Line POLAR; they secured it five days later, on October 22.

Operation Nomad-Polar came at a high price; at least 1,784 24th Division casualties in 10 days. Of these, 288 were killed in action, died of wounds, or were later declared dead. (These figures do not include the many casualties in the following days and weeks, as the Chinese tried to regain their positions.)



One must wonder, why would such a key battle be underplayed in the press – and nearly vanquished from histories of the Korean War?

One possible reason may be that “Operation Nomad” was not a term the Army shared with the press, the public, or even with the soldiers themselves. In fact, many or most veterans who survived the battle remember it only as the Big Fall Push.

In contrast, battles that were given labels by journalists grabbed the public’s imagination, such as Bloody Ridge, the Punchbowl, Old Baldy, Iron Triangle and Heartbreak Ridge. Battles known for their hill numbers did not grab similar attention.

According to published statistics, the 24th Division averaged 178 American casualties per day during Operation Nomad-Polar. In comparison, Heartbreak Ridge average of 113 casualties per day; and Bloody Ridge averaged 146 casualties per day. The only autumn battle more deadly than Nomad was Operation Commando, which averaged 377 casualties per day².

Regarding the seemingly deliberate attempt to downplay the realities of Operation Nomad-Polar in AP newspaper reports, one could point to the inexperience of the reporter, who was in fact not a journalist, but an Associated Press photographer. The following are excerpts of AP reports:

- AP photographer Bob Schulz reported from the front that Ameri-

can and South Korean foot soldiers made gains of 3,000 yards in the first four hours of their attack Monday.

- Schulz said that the gains of almost a mile and a half were made “against an astonishing lack of Chinese resistance.”
- In the assaulting forces were troops of the U. S. 24th Division, and the South Korean Second and Sixth Divisions.
- The lack of intense infantry fighting in this sector contrasted sharply with the recent raging battles on the Western and Eastern fronts. There, Chinese and Korean Reds contested every yard.
- AP photographer Robert H. Schulz reported from the Central front that Sunday’s gains on the approaches to Kumsong brought to nearly three miles the ground taken in the three-day push. Kumsong is a Red supply and staging depot area well protected by mountains some 30 miles north of Parallel 38.
- The Allied Force – the U. S. 24th Division and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Second and Sixth Divisions – has seized nineteen hills in the advance, two of the most important Sunday. One is 2,000 feet high.
- Schulz reported the most noteworthy aspect of the advance was the “only moderate” resistance from what are apparently unusually poor quality Chinese troops.
- Whether these teen-age and middle-age scrapings from the Chinese military barrel are the main defense of the Kumsong sector or whether they are only a forward screening force remains to be seen.

Schulz failed to report the 24th suffered some 750 casualties in those first three days; and the public was not informed that 115 of those casualties resulted in death. And, he certainly did not accurately portray the viciousness of the battle.

There is another, possibly related, factor to consider. During this time period, American journalists were frustrated and angry, because they were being denied access to facts surrounding ground fighting and truce negotiations. In his excellent account of the Korean War, Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Toland writes:

The fighting along the front continued to be bitter and inconclusive. On October 15, [1951] Heartbreak Ridge, just north of the Punchbowl, was finally secured – after 3,700 American casualties. On the Eighth Army left flank, Operation Commando reached its objective in four days but also with heavy losses. In the United States, the public responded in a poll, with two thirds describing the Korean conflict as “an utterly useless war.”

While the liaison officers at Panmunjom were thrashing out an agreement, General Ridgway was attempting to pacify the correspondents. Hanson Baldwin of The New York Times protested that

“embellished adjectives had replaced facts.” The military communiqué of World War II had been simple, often terse. In this war it had become “a grab bag of service claims, so-called ‘action’ verbs and descriptive phrases.” And the result was “all the more serious since censorship in Korea had been serious and often captious.”

At a press conference on October 16, Ridgway acknowledged that “full and timely information” had not been supplied and promised “steps would be taken to correct the situation.” At the same time, it would be “bad faith” to release certain kinds of information. As for the fighting, Ridgway acknowledged that the situation from some standpoints “could readily be con-



strued as a military stalemate. It all depends on how you look at it.³

Whether “full and timely information” was being withheld for military – or for political – reasons remains unclear, at least to this writer. We do know American sentiments against the war were having a notable affect on the Truman administration.

Unquestionably, the truth of Operation Nomad-Polar was skewed and buried. Participants were cheated of honor by the media, overlooked by historians and, perhaps worst, were treated with total indifference upon returning home.

The men who participated in this operation – both friend and foe – fought a gut-wrenching battle. The

24th Division, the Korean War’s most veteran American Division, not only achieved its objectives, but did so with magnificence. The Allies ended up driving the Chinese some 10 miles from their winter line, captured the enemy’s fortifications, and destroyed Kumsong, along with its rail/supply capabilities. It was a resounding victory.

Yes, the Korean War may still be unfinished. But, even after their WWII patriotism and idealism was mashed into the ground forever, American soldiers successfully fended off Communist aggression on that blood-soaked peninsula!

© Merry M Helm
mhelm@cablone.net

Footnotes:

[1] Private Al Moore in interview with author, 2006.

[2] **Operation Nomad-Polar:** 1,752 casualties 13 to 22 Oct 1951. **Heart-break Ridge:** 3,745 casualties sustained between 13 Sep to 15 Oct 1951. **Bloody Ridge:** 2, 772 casualties from 18 Aug to 5 Sep 1951. **Operation Commando:** 2,643 casualties, 3 to 9 Oct 1951. Taken from A Chronology of the Forgotten War's remembered battles. www.vfw.org. As published in APG News. Aberdeen Proving Ground. 30 October 2003; p 5. Three American Divisions, for which casualty records are available, carried out Operation Commando. In contrast, casualties sustained by the Columbian Battalion and the two ROK Divisions during Operation Nomad are not readily available and are not factored into the daily casualty statistics noted above.

[3] Toland, John. In *Mortal Combat: Korea 1950-1953*. New York: William Morrow. 1991: pp 487-488.

3rd Engineers and 5th RCT near Kumsong

Submitted by Dan Rickert, 3rd Combat Engineers

Tank attack on Chinese storage bunkers near Kumsong, North Korea in October 1951 during Operation Nomad. Members of the 5th



RCT and of the first squad of “D” company, 3rd Combat Engineers accompanied the tank attack. Sorry I do not know the tank unit.

Photo by Dave Murray, Life #1344, and submitted by Dan Rickert, Life #720, both of the 3rd.

Dan says that they blew up many Communist supplies. He also said they were cut off for a while, but were able to return successfully.

I’m glad someone got to see Kumsong! (Editor)



Operation Nomad from my view as a Runner

By Bob Juni, George Company, 21st Infantry Regiment

My name is Bob Juni; I live in Willmar, MN; that's me at right in a foxhole in Korea. I was drafted on Nov. 30, 1950, and took basic training at Fort Riley, KS. I crossed the Pacific on the U.S.S. Anderson, and arrived at Inchon, South Korea on May 9, 1951.



next, or what I had heard at Battalion (I never knew anything special).

Usually I had about ten South Korean

the Company on line. This time I moved with Battalion.

I began taking supplies, mostly ammo, up the hill to my Company. For the next few days, I was on the go almost all day and night, taking ammunition and supplies up, and bringing back KIA's and wounded.

I can still see some of the wounded that we carried out and to this day wonder if they made it or not. Some didn't, I know. Some made it back to Battalion and that was it.

Sometimes I would take the fellows all the way back to the Aid Station, and sometimes a jeep or halftrack would meet me at the base of the hill and then take them on to the Aid Station. We then took different litters and would go back up.

I was assigned as ammo bearer for the 30-caliber machine gun section in "George" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

Around the middle of July 1951, I stepped on some loose rocks at the side of a trail and fell about 20 feet, hitting my shoulder and my knee. Blood poisoning developed in my knee and I was returned to the Battalion Aid Station, where I received a lot of penicillin.

After a while at the Aid Station, I was assigned to be the Battalion runner and messenger for George Company; I replaced the current one who was rotating home.

The fellows on line were always glad to see me, especially when I brought mail. They asked if I knew what may happen

"chiggie" laborers in my group. They would take up litters, plus what they could put on their backs, including barbed wire rolls, ammo, water, food and the like. We took C-rations, and sometimes food stored in insulated containers. I never could believe the loads they could carry.

Operation Nomad began on Oct. 13, 1951, when George Company and the Battalion moved into a new area from several weeks in reserve. Sometimes I moved with Battalion, and other times with



Fellow George Company members. Standing top from left: Lexvold, Stubbs, Wells, Bob Juni (the author), Weimmer, West, Carczisso, and Valle. Kneeling front from left: Freeman, Brown, Greenwald, Thompson and Coleman.

One fellow thought each time the litter bearers talked in Korean, they were Chinese, and that he was captured. I held another fellow's butt together all the way down the hill; there was blood all over. Usually, they did not talk much, except maybe they would say thanks, but the look in



their eyes told it all.

The hardest part was to see someone I knew, and those who died on the way down.

About 3:00 am. on a Monday as I recall, all runners were told they were take an important message to their companies. In the event of our capture, we were to destroy the message by eating it. We were to go into the Kumhwa Valley, and follow the tanks. We were given the general hill area where our companies were located.

I joined with the E Company runner since they were next to George on line and we set out together.

When we got to the Valley, we found that our tanks were coming back instead of going out. An officer stopped us, and told us to wait until daylight as it was a very dark night and the area we were entering was still no man's land.

We set out at daylight walking on flat land for a while and then started our climb up the hill. We had no idea where we were, but kept making lots of noise.

As we neared the top of the hill, we ran into a lot of barbed wire, and to our surprise, were faced with a machine gun, and about a half dozen GIs, ready to fire.

We had arrived in Fox Company's area; fortunately, they had been alerted that we would be in the area, and they thought we must be GIs because we made too much

noise to be Chinese.

I followed the ridgeline to G Company, and then reported to Battalion by radio. I was told to return to Battalion to take up more supplies. It was up to me to find my own route back to Battalion, one I hoped would be more direct. I set out alone.

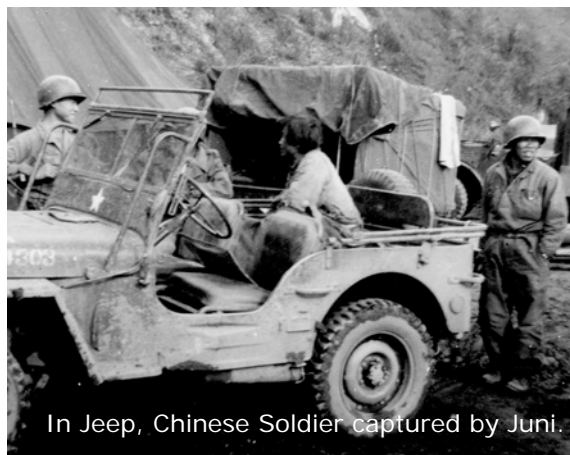
About halfway down the hill I saw a Chinese soldier coming toward me; we were on the same path! I ducked behind a tree, and called out the only two Chinese words I knew — Tow Shong ("Too Song") — surrender.

He had a burp gun, and raised it as if to fire. But he couldn't see me! I yelled "Too Song" again and this time he dropped the gun and put his hands on his head.

I had him walk in front of me, and we continued on down the hill. I was glad we did not meet any more of his fellow Reds along the way, and I don't know why he was there alone in the first place.

When I turned him in at Battalion, he gave a lot of helpful information. He was from the 58th Regiment. He said that the Communists would have killed him if he had not gone to Korea. It was Oct. 23, 1951.

For years after Korea, I would wake up at night in a cold sweat thinking about what happened there. I never could watch "M*A*S*H," it was more than I



In Jeep, Chinese Soldier captured by Juni.



Photo of Chinese Woman On the Lline, taken from Prisoner

could handle. A lot of the kids we carried out were new replacements from California; some were only in the Company a few days.

I will always remember the rough, long, busy, and hard days of Operation Nomad. And I still think of things that happened then. I discovered I could sleep while standing up and go five days and nights without any sleep except for a few winks here and there.

I slept for a day and a half when Operation Nomad was over.

Bob Juni
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Nomad—Press Reports vs. Reality

Tom J. Thiel, "Easy" 19th

Merry Helm, in her excellent introduction to these articles, talked about the disparity between actuality and what was reported in the press during Operation Nomad.

While Nomad began on Oct. 13, I have no recollection of what happened to us that day. However, our 19th Regiment suffered 80 casualties that day with 10 of those killed in action. I did not recognize any as being from Easy Company.

For me, Nomad began on Oct. 14, when "E" attacked a significant hill¹. Our rifle platoons had split, one attacking up each of two fingers that rose rather steeply to join together perhaps three-fourths of the way to the ridge top.

My fellow 4th platoon squad leader's (Bob Wilson, Alpena, MI) 57 mm recoilless rifle squad was attached to the platoon going up the left finger, and my 3.5 rocket launcher squad was with the one on the right. We were close enough to easily see each other. We had taken a couple of lower-lying enemy positions, but the Chinese had several machine guns where the two fingers joined. Neither platoon could advance.

My squad was asked to try knock out the guns, but there was no way we could get in a position to fire; every attempt we made was met with a withering spray of machine gun bullets only inches from our heads!

We learned that an air strike was eminent, and marked our position and pulled back slightly.

Soon four P-51 Mustangs came streaking in very low from our rear. They strafed the left finger, and dropped their shinny napalm bombs in the ravine between our two squads, close enough to feel the heat! I don't believe they even fired a shot at the Chinese machine gun!

E Company suffered at least one KIA that day, Tatsuo Arai, whom I did not know. According to the Korean War Casualty Internet site² Arai died on Oct. 14, 1951. The Regiment suffered 132 casualties that day; 21 of which were KIA, including Arai. Ken Dillon (current member) of Yellow Springs, OH was wounded. Dusk approached and we withdrew.

The next day, Oct. 15, we attacked again. It likely was the same hill, but the perspective was different. Again, we were not able to advance. In mid-afternoon the enemy began to shell us heavily, and we were again told to withdraw.

Our route back was through an open and rather flat soybean field. Little gray puffs of smoke told me we were under mortar fire.



After Operation Nomad, from left standing: Ray Salyers and Lindsey Lewis, both from IL; Whitey Barnette, AL; Dwayne Fitch, CA. Kneeling from left: Tom Thiel, OH (FL) and Don Jeffers, Duluth, MN. All from "E" Company, 19th Reg, 4th Platoon, October 1951.

At the end of the field, there was a low saddle through which everyone was going. One of our tanks was in the middle of the saddle providing cover fire for us.

Dave Zollman, a new ammo bearer from Michigan, and I decided to temporarily occupy a small foxhole in the saddle area. We began to make it a bit larger and deeper. I was bent down getting a shovel of dirt and Dave was up tossing his over the side.

There was a huge explosion! I felt an enormous pressure all about me. My helmet flew off and hit the side of the hole and came back and hit me in the head. Dave uttered a low moan and collapsed directly on me! A Chinese artillery round had landed just a couple of feet away!



Dave was quickly evacuated on a litter; the medics also told me to go. On the road back I learned that he had died.

My ears were ringing loudly (they still do), and my clothes were a mess. My rifle stock was full of tiny slivers of shrapnel. I was examined at the aid station and told that I was OK to go back to the line, but it was late and I stayed overnight.

The Regiment suffered 137 casualties that day; 25 of these were KIA's, including Zollman and Louie Petro from our mortar section. Among the wounded I could identify were Whitey Barnette (Mobile AL) also of the recoilless section, Padilla from mortars, and a couple of riflemen named Idol and Simpson. The Casualty web site showed that all of them were returned to action.

This was the third day in a row that Easy Company was repulsed by the "teen-age and middle-age scrapings from the Chinese military" (a quote from an AP report).

Early the next morning I caught a ride back up to the hill; I didn't get a clean set of fatigues. I was warmly welcomed back by Captain Rehm, selected a Carbine from the large stack of available weapons, and rejoined my platoon.

I do not recall Easy Company's action during the next three days. But, the 19th suffered 67 casualties (6 killed) on the 16th, 24 (5 killed) on the 17th, and 22 (1 killed) on the 18th! I could not identify any

as being from E company.

But there was one event that likely happened on one of those days that I want to relate. We had been walking since before dawn and were "dead" on our feet tired. The order came back to break in place and eat a C-ration. There was a very young (maybe 17) youth named Jesse Gilliam from NC next to me. It think it was his first time under fire.

We began to eat; soon I heard him say to no one in particular:

"I wonder what my mother would say if she could see me now."

I looked at him, and saw what he meant. Dead Chinese soldiers were strewn along the trail, one quite close to him.

I hadn't given that any conscious thought; I had seen dead Chinese soldiers since my arrival several months earlier. Sometimes they were piled on top of each other where they fell. Maybe I was just getting callused to death; it made it easier to cope when we didn't define them as humans – so we used words like gook, chink, etc.

I do, however, clearly remember Oct. 19! We were trying to cross a river and occupy a finger of land on the opposite side. The Chinese held the high ground above.

Some members of the rifle platoon were able to cross the river, but they could not advance because the slope was too steep, and there was deadly automatic weap-

ons fire.

We had taken cover in an ox bow, an old dry stream channel, on the launch side of the river. I told my men to dig foxholes, and proceeded to build my own, mostly from rocks.

I got in mine, and then noticed that my new gunner, Nelson Able from one of the Carolina's, had not made a foxhole. He was lying outside mine. When I told him again to dig a foxhole he emphatically told me what I could do to myself!

Before I could react, a Chinese round hit inside the oxbow and shrapnel ricocheted all around off the rocks.

Able, let out a cry. He had a small puncture wound in his upper back. It didn't appear to be massive, and he was not losing blood externally at least, but he said he could hardly breathe.

There were no medics with us so four of us rigged up a poncho litter between two M1 rifles, and began carrying Able to the rear.

We forded a stream, and took the road, but after traveling a short distance we heard, or rather felt, machinegun fire. Instinctively we began to spring for cover, but before we could move at all, a spray of bullets twanged off the dusty road about a foot from Able.

He hadn't said much of anything at all until then, but he turned his head and said weakly: "Get me the hell out of here."



Ray Salyers of IL grabbed the front of the litter, and I the rear, and we ran with it for several hundred yards. We got Able to Company rear. I learned later that he was returned to duty in the Far East Command, and that he died not too long ago in Cleveland, OH.

In Jul. of 2002, I learned that fellow member Norman C. Smith of Mexico, NY (now Owenton, KY) was also seriously wounded later on that day. Smith was with Tatsuo Arai when he was killed on Oct. 15.

The 19th Regiment incurred 152 casualties on Oct. 19; fortunately, there were only 14 KIAs. In addition to Able and Smith, Max Liming of Xenia, OH, was also listed as being wounded. (Max passed away a few years ago.)

On the next day, Oct. 20, we were again moving fairly early in the morning. This was the day that Woody Keeble did his heroic MOH action near Sangsan-ni. So, E Company would have been nearby.

I had been assigned enough men to man a 3.5-inch rocket launcher squad again; Jim Kloentrup of KY was my gunner. Jim and the assistant gunner were in front of me, and the ammunition bearers followed behind.

We were walking in single file along a ridge at the tail of the rifle platoon members. The ridgeline was very steep and fell off sharply to my right.

It was a beautiful clear sunny fall day. Then, without warning, there was a violent explosion about 5 feet to my immediate right and down the hill from the trail. A mortar round had made almost a direct hit in our midst.

Fortunately for me, the round dropped just behind a rather small single rock protruding out from the hillside. I was spared even though the round struck nearest to me.

However, the other members of my squad were not so fortunate! Again the scream "Medic, Medic" went out; they were there in moments.

Both men in front of me, and the man behind me were down on the ground. The assistant gunner was evacuated by litter. Gunner Kloentrup, who was immediately in front of him, was less severely wounded and was able to walk out. Sadly the man behind me, Frank Pillion of NY, was killed instantly!

One round and I lost almost my entire squad! Again! And this was two days in a row! And Dave Zollman had been killed in a foxhole with me only five days previously. Nobody wanted to be in my squad, or anywhere around me!

My platoon Sergeant (Association Pres Mel Frederick of MN, right in photo) was having a hard time keeping the squads replenished and more or less equal.

This wasn't the end of our Oct. 1951 tragedy, and there were still a

number of lives and casualties to surrender to Nomad's folly. But it is enough to tell you just a bit what it was like—at least for "Easy Company!"

It was nothing like what the AP reported! From their description, you would have thought we just waltzed into Kumsong³.

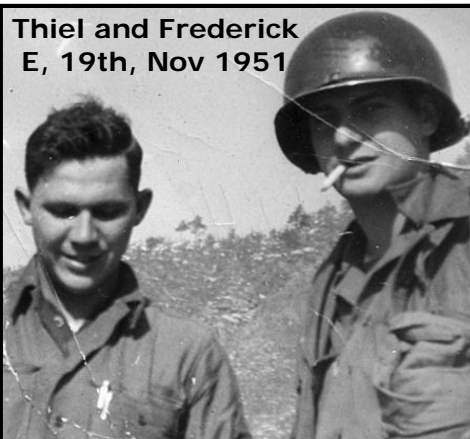
Since the AP largely received its information from the Army and the Division, I must conclude that for reasons that Ms. Helm likely correctly surmised, Army officials decided to "color" the real events of Nomad!

Footnote 1. I never knew where I was in Korea. I really had no need to know; my job was to do what I was told, and to worry first about my tail, and the tails of my buddies around me. Since becoming *Taro Leaf* editor I have found most of us "cannon-fodder" GIs had no idea where we were at any time!

Footnote 2: <http://www.2id.org/24-casna.htm> I downloaded and compiled casualty statistics from this source for my Regiment, the 19th.

Footnote 3: To read all of the AP reports for Oct. 13-22, 1951, please go to [Korean War Educator](http://www.koreanwar-educator.org/topics/operation_nomad.htm) or see http://www.koreanwar-educator.org/topics/operation_nomad.htm

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Operation Nomad With the 26th AAA

Pete Magana, 26th AAA, Battery "D"

Enclosed are two photos taken in Korea. I don't remember the names of my crew members, but we were supporting the 19th Regiment by spraying the hills in front of them when they moved forward.

Our Quad-fifties had a lot of fire-power; 2,400, 50-caliber rounds per minute at maximum. I just hope we saved some lives with our firing support. I don't remember if this was Operation Nomad (The October 1951 dates align it with Nomad. Ed).



Photo (Above). I hit my first land mine October 21, 1951. I lost my hearing for about 3 days. We continued fighting on another Half-Track. Hit my second land mine about 4 days later. This time I was sent to a field hospital a.k.a. "M*A*S*H" Unit with a battle causality- "Wrenched Back."



Photo (Left). October 1951 resting with 24th Infantry, 19th Regiment before we gained ground above the 38th parallel our last time.

Peter Magana, Life # 2203
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Korea, April 1951 to Jan 1952.
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Bouzan, Edward G.	19th Inf	\$10		Banarbi, John	19th Inf	\$10	Mem. Wendle R. Vaughn
Brault, Charles E.	21st Inf	\$5		Behnen, Melvin, J.	3rd Eng	\$20	Taro Leaf
Breen, Joseph G.	21st Inf	\$5		Behrel, H. Gordon	19th Inf	\$35	For postage
Brooks, Allen	34th Inf	\$5		Berube, Hubert	6th Tank	\$20	For postage
Byrem, Robert B.	3rd Eng	\$5		Brown, Gerald F.	34th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Caldwell, Thomas M.	21st Inf	\$25		Brown, William E.	Spc Svc	\$20	Taro Leaf
Cauble, Jackie A.	24th Admin	\$5		Buzzell, David S.	6th Tank	\$20	Taro Leaf , mem. Bob Kaison, 6th Tank
Coles, Dewey L.	13th FA	\$10		Cintron, Sr., Joseph R.	21st Inf	\$10	Our brothers in arms & their families
Darke, Donald F.	5th RCT	\$5		Clark, William E.	19th Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Davidson, Bennie D.	21st Inf	\$5		Costello, Joseph K.	19th Inf	\$20	Taro Leaf
Davisoworth, Norm R.	13th FA	\$5		Crouch, Thomas H.	34th Inf	\$200	Taro Leaf
Deegan, Gerald P.	21st Inf	\$5		Daughtery, Walter H.	13th FA	\$25	Taro Leaf
Denman II, James E.	Div HQ & 19th Inf	\$35		Donaghy, Thomas J.	19th Inf	\$25	Taro Leaf
Dennis, Lee	3rd Eng	\$50		Duhon, Edsel F.	21st Inf	\$5	For postage, etc.
Deutsch, Rudolph A.	34th Inf	\$30		Dunkin, Delwyn	19th Inf	\$20	Taro Leaf
Donovan, Daniel F.	34th Inf	\$15		Erwin, Gary L.	2Bde	\$10	Mem. brother, Allen Erwin
Engler, Daniel D.	19th Inf	\$10		Fantino, Frank	19th Inf	\$50	"Upgrade" Life Mem. to current fee
Farmer, Edward S.	21st Inf	\$30		Fecko, John J.	3rd Eng	\$25	Taro Leaf
Fisher, Donald R.	5th RCT	\$5		Fijol, Stanley	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Flynn, Jr., James W.	3rd Eng	\$20		Frey, John W.	21st Inf	\$15	Taro Leaf
Frederick, Melvin	19th Inf	\$100		Geraci, Carmello F.	24th Recon	\$25	Taro Leaf , mem. Charles Foster
Harband, Myron J.	34th Inf	\$5		Heiles, James R.	24th Med	\$25	Taro Leaf
Harrison, Edward F.	11th FA	\$35		Holland, Casey B.	34th Inf	\$10	For postage
Johnson, Dewayne :L.	24th Sig	\$5		Howard, Warden L.	24th Med	\$15	Taro Leaf
Koschak, Lawrence W.	52nd FA	\$20		Jackson, Wilfred	34th Inf	\$25	General fund.I
Kucharski, Raymond E.	724th Ord	\$10		Jones, Ivins E.	24th QM	\$20	Taro Leaf
LeBlanc, Reginald	19th Inf	\$10		Ladany, William D.	3rd Eng	\$25	To defray expenses
Lennon, Donald E.	24th Recon	\$50		Lee, Curtis F.	21st Inf	\$5	Taro Leaf
Link, Kenneth E.	Assoc	\$5		Lomax, David	5th RCT	\$25	Taro Leaf
MacNeill, Warren H.	24th Sig	\$35		Lowry, Charles R.	21st Inf	\$5	Taro Leaf
McDevitt, Paul E.	19th Inf	\$10		Mathis, Jackie		\$50	Mem. husband, Jim E. Mathis
Moritz, Robert J.	Div Arty	\$10		McAdoo, Albert J.	5th RCT	\$50	"Upgrade" Life Mem. to current fee
Nederfield, John	19th Inf	\$10		McCaughy, Wayne M.	21st Inf	\$10	For the general fund
Newwill, Jr., Linwood C.	19th Inf	\$10		Mock, Michael D.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Olson, Robert A.	34th Inf	\$10		Moncur, Robert I. & Ann	19th Inf	\$50	Taro Leaf
Owens, Roderick	26th AAA	\$10		Mozeleski, Joseph P.	19th Inf	\$10	For postage
Parker, Robert S.	24th QM	\$5		Nelson, William B.	19th Inf	\$5	Mem. Joseph A. Hammond
Petkac, John	3rd Eng	\$20		O'Connell, Joseph P.	19th Inf	\$100	Taro Leaf
Redcay, Rufus W.	11th FA	\$10		Poynteer, Eugene A.	34th Inf	\$30	For postage
Reid, Roger L.	34th Inf	\$5		Reese, Charles H.	724th Ord	\$10	For postage
Riddle, Arnold E.	21st Inf	\$10		Rose, Perry W.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Rochon, Louis W.	5th RCT	\$5		Schallaci, Salvatore "Sal"	24th Recon	\$50	Taro Leaf
Sanchez, Jesus "Jess"	34th Inf	\$20		Schreiber, Dale L.	5th RCT	\$100	Taro Leaf
Slaney, Maurice R.	34th Inf	\$5		Shiroishi, Robert K.	24th HQ & 19th Inf	\$20	Taro Leaf
Sund, Edward B.	21st Inf	\$5		Silverstein, Albert J.	21st Inf	\$35	Taro Leaf
Uyechi, Thomas	19th Inf	\$25		Smith, Sr., Bill J.	26th AAA	\$20	Taro Leaf
Verhulst, Frederick P.	unk.	\$5		Steingass, Lloyd F.	21st Inf	\$10	Taro Leaf
Vincent, Gerald G.	11th FA	\$10		Tabor, Racy	52nd FA	\$25	Mem. CPT Boyd & SGT Dawling
Wainwright, Maurice r. "Dick"	Assoc	\$10		Vihlidal, William	21st Inf	\$5	Taro Leaf
Wetterau-Blankenburg, Joan	Assoc	\$5		Vogl, William F.	6th Tank	\$10	Taro Leaf
Willis, Willard P.	19th Inf	\$10		Wadding, Harry J.	19th Inf	\$15	Taro Leaf
Wode, Robert S.	19th Inf	\$5		Weir, Warren J.	19th Inf	\$15	Taro Leaf
Wolak, Norman E.	21st Inf	\$10		TOTAL		\$2,660	
Young, John T.	21st Inf	\$5					
Zimmerman, Harry	5th RCT	\$20					



New Members

Name	Reg	Col/Bat/Trp	Sponsor
Arnold Jr., William M.	21st Inf	I	Doyle H. Brewer
Butler, Roger D.	24th Sig		Wes Morrison
Cofer, Mary F.	Assoc		John T. Cofer "A" 19th Inf WWII
Hill, Sue W.	Assoc		James f. Hill, 19th Inf Korea
Schamberger, Alvin M.	3rd Eng	C	Gene Spicer & Linda Jackson
Wider, Edward J.	41st FA	HQ	Frank Ryan
Young, John T.	21st Inf	Hvy Mtrr	Tom Thiel

New Life Members

Name	Unit	Col/Bat	Life #	Date	Sponsor
Behnen, Melvin J.	3rd Eng		2329	30 Aug 08	
Clark, Raymond V.	3rd Eng		2327	01 Aug 08	
Freshcom, Billy L.	19th Inf	Svc	2323	11 Jul 08	Tom Thiel
Gann, Orvil H.	34th Inf	HQ	2325	22 Jul 08	"Dutch" Nelsen May 2001
Mika, Aloys P.	21st Inf	I	2321	08 Jul 08	
Millender, Jr., Mack	52nd FA		2324	18 Jul 08	
Sexton, Roy	19th Inf	L	2328	28 Aug 08	
Smith, Clifford H.	19th Inf	B	2326	01 Aug 08	
Uyechi, Thomas	19th Inf		2322	08 Jul 08	

Income & Expenses

Aug. 1, 2007-Jul 31, 2008

07/31/08

INCOME	(Actual)
40-Membership Dues	14,315
41-Full Life Pmt	3,910
4100-Reunion Donations	20,368
4180-Interest Income	1,347
42-Partial Life Pmt	1,580
43-Donations	7,007
44-Assoc Member Dues	840
49-Misc Income	60
499-Discounts	25
Total Income	49,452

EXPENSES

General Office Expense	
505-Computer/software Expense	679
508-Misc Office Expense	5,892
6100-Bank Fee Expense	39
6120-Engraving Expense	259
6200-Office Supplies Expense	1,057
6230-Postage & Delivery	1,692
6300-Phone/Fax Expense	54
510-Returned Mail Expense	176
52-Refund Expense	120
55-Tax/License	1,605
58-Misc Expense	11
6150-Insurance Expense	750
6320-Travel Expense	2,196
Total Gen'l Expenses	14,528

Taro Leaf Expenses

6280-Taro Leaf Printing Expense	44,287
6285-Taro Leaf Mailing Expenses	5,954
Total Taro Leaf Expenses	50,242

Reunion Expense

542-Reunion Prize Expense	5,000
543-Reunion Meal Expense	735
6265-Reunion Expense - Other	50
6265-Reunion Expense - Other	729
Total Reunion Expense	6,514
Total Expense	71,284

Quartermaster Activity

8105-Income	4,871
8110-Purchases	-3,243
8115-Shipping	-391
	1,237

GAIN (LOSS) **-21,831**



THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I desire to be: Enrolled ☐ (or) Reinstated ☐; as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐

(please check the proper two boxes)

of the

24th Infantry Division Association

“Victory Division”

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 Member of Any Unit Ever Attached TO the 24th at any time.

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

UNIT.....SQUAD ____ PLATOON ____ COMPANY ____ BN. ____ REGT. ____ HQ ____ FROM ____ TO ____

REMARKS _____

Dues: ____ Annual - \$15.00 ____ Lifetime - \$150.00

Payable Yearly on the Anniversary Date of Payable in lump sum of \$150.00

Entering in Association or in 5 yearly payments of \$30.00

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



24th infantry Division Association Quartermaster Order Form

Item #	Description	Price	Quan.	Amount
1	Philippine Liberation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
2	National Defense Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
3	Good Conduct Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
4	Silver Star Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
5	Pacific Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
6	Armed Forces Reserve Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
7	Army of Occupation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
8	POW Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
9	Distinguished Service Cross Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
10	ETO Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
11	The Soldiers Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
12	Meritorious Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
13	United Nations Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
14	American Defense Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
15	Vietnam Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
16	American Campaign Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
17	Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
18	U.S. Flag Pin	\$5.00		
19	Distinguished Flying Cross (Army) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
20	Korean Service Ribbon Hat Pin	\$5.00		
21	Army Commendation Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
22	WW II Victory Ribbon Hat Pin	\$5.00		
23	Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
24	Korean Service Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
25	WW II Victory Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
26	Bronze Star Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
27	Purple Heart Medal Hat Pin	\$5.00		
28	Air Medal	\$5.00		
29	24th Infantry Division Hat Pin	\$5.00		
30	Korea 8000 Missing Hat Pin	\$5.00		
31	19th Infantry Regiment Hat Pin	\$5.00		
32	Remember our POW/MIA Hat Pin	\$5.00		
33	POW/MIA Bring 'Em Home Hat Pin	\$5.00		
34	Combat Infantryman Badge (Mini) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
35	Combat Infantryman Badge Hat Pin	\$5.00		
36	Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award) Hat Pin	\$5.00		
37	Combat Medic Badge Pin	\$5.00		
38	U.S. Army Desert Storm Hat Pin	\$5.00		
39	Vietnam Heaven & Hell Hat Pin	\$5.00		
40	19th Infantry Regiment Ladies Necklace	\$5.00		
41	19th Infantry Regiment Ladies Bracelet	\$5.00		
42	24th ID Color Patch	\$5.00		
43	24th ID Association Patch	\$6.00		
44	Cap, 24th ID Black Taro Patch	\$15.00		
45	Cap, 24th ID White w/ Taro Patch (First to Fight)	\$12.00		
46	24th ID Window Sticker (2.5" x 2.5")	\$2.00		
47	Taro Leaf Bolo, Gold with Gold Braid	\$15.00		
48	Taro Leaf Bolo, Gold with Black Braid	\$15.00		
49	Taro Leaf Bolo, Silver with Black Braid	\$15.00		
50	Taro Leaf Belt Buckle, Silver	\$15.00		
51	Taro Leaf Belt Buckle, Gold	\$15.00		
Total This Page (Include on rear of this form)				

Please Detach and Complete Both Sides

The ***Taro Leaf***



Continued on Reverse Side

Item #	Description	Price	Quan.	Amount
52	24th Signal Battalion Unit Crest	\$9.00		
53	19th Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		
54	21st Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		
55	34th Infantry Regiment Unit Crest	\$9.00		
56	11th Field Artillery BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
57	13th Field Artillery BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
58	19th Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
59	21st Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
60	34th Infantry Regiment Color Patch	\$6.00		
61	11th Field Artillery Battalion Color Patch	\$6.00		
62	13th Field Artillery Battalion Color Patch	\$6.00		
63	24th Infantry Division Unit Crest	\$9.00		
64	Cap, 19th INF Dark Blue with Crest	\$12.00		
65	Cap, 21st INF White with Embroidered Patch	\$15.00		
66	Cap, 21st INF Dk Blue with Embroidered Patch	\$15.00		
67	Cap, 34th INF DK Blue with Crest	\$12.00		
68	Cap, 24th IDA Dk Blue with Taro Patch	\$15.00		
69	Cap, 24th ID White with Taro Patch (Germany)	\$12.00		
70	Cap, 24th ID Red with Taro Patch (Germany)	\$12.00		
71	Cap, 24th IDA Red	\$15.00		
72	Cap, 24th IDA White	\$15.00		
73	Cap, 24th IDA Green	\$15.00		
74	Cap, 24th ID White Mesh with Taro Patch	\$12.00		
75	3rd Engineer BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
76	14th Engineer BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
77	5th RCT Pocket Patch	\$6.00		
78	Cap, 5th RCT Red with Crest	\$12.00		
79	24th ID License Plate with Taro Leaf	\$8.00		
80	Cap, Desert Storm Veteran Black	\$12.00		
81	Cap, POW MIA Black	\$15.00		
82	Cap, WWII Veteran Black	\$12.00		
83	Cap, Korean War Veteran Black	\$12.00		
84	Combat Infantryman Badge Window Sticker (3"x7")	\$5.00		
85	Combat Infantryman Badge Window Sticker (2"x5")	\$3.00		
86	Bumper Sticker, 24th ID Proudly Served	\$3.00		
87	6th Tank BN Color Patch	\$6.00		
88	24th ID Neck Tie	\$20.00		
89	24th Medical BN Unit Crest	\$9.00		
90	24th ID Flag, 3' x 5' Outdoor Screen Print	\$65.00		
91	63rd Field Artillery BN Color Patch	\$6.00		
92	24th ID Sticker, 1" Taro Leaf, set of 12	\$1.50		
93	24th ID Christmas Cards, Set of 10 with Envelopes	\$8.00		
94	24th ID Neck Wallet, Green	\$5.00		
95	24th ID Keychain	\$10.00		
96	History of the 24th Inf. Div., Book, 2nd Ed. Rpt.	\$41.00		
97	Patch, 24th ID Korean War Veteran	\$5.00		
98	CD-Audio, 24th Division Song and March	\$10.00		
99	DVD, 24th Division Memorial at Punchbowl, Hawaii	\$15.00		
	Add Shipping and Handling (see below)			
Grand Total (Include Totals From Page 1)				

Mail to:
Byrd Schrock, QM
1009 Mesquite Dr.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 678-0207

Shipping and Handling is \$3.00
Cap orders S & H is \$5.00
No phone orders accepted
Please allow 4-6 weeks for
delivery

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & ST: _____

Zip: _____



My Operation Nomad

by Joe Abernathy, 4th Platoon, "K" 19th

In early October, 1951, rumors began circulating that we were about to jump off on a fall offensive known "Operation Nomad."

The first big battle was attacking Hill 460, known as "Baker," was on Oct. 13, 1951. After securing the hill we continued to get occasional machine fire from the high ground to our right flank.

I was 4th platoon Sgt. in "K" Co. 19th Regiment. We were a heavy weapon platoon consisting of 57mm Recoilless Rifles and 60 mm Mortars.

A 57 Recoilless team was attempting to knock out a machine gun; the 57 gunner, Arthur Hartnanft, address unknown, was shot in the head. The round went through his helmet, but luckily he only received a flesh wound.

Charles Foster, of Escalon, CA (See 62(3) Summer *Taro Leaf* TAPS page 9) received a "States-Side" wound that day, possibly by that same machine gun.

It was late afternoon and we began digging in for the night. We heard that a battalion-sized Chinese Force was headed in our direction, and that we would probably get hit about midnight.

Sure enough, about 11:45 we began to smell garlic, and we knew they were getting close. All hell



Front kneeling/sitting from left: Robert O'Brien, Francis Medvetz, Robert Whiteside, Laverne Oltrogge, Joseph Abernathy. Rear standing from left: Hoy Wong, Harold Cooley, Unknown.

broke loose about midnight.

After about two hours of continuous firing, we began to run low on ammunition. I called Company Commander Capt. Bridges, and told him our situation, and that we needed to withdraw.

He said that artillery had been called in, and Battalion would have to authorize withdrawal. A few minutes later he called back and told me to begin withdrawing back to "I" Company on the higher ridge line to our rear.

Our artillery began coming in so close you could hold a match up

and strike it on the rounds. It kept the Chinese down long enough for us to withdraw.

As we went down the hill, we suspected that the Chinese had us surrounded. But we were lucky; there was a full moon that night and we could see almost as clearly as day.

When we finally proceeded thru "I" Company, I learned that Capt. Bridges had been wounded just after we had talked on the phone. I saw him on a stretcher; he told me that Lt. Perkins and Lt. Schauss had also been wounded; he asked me to help carry him to the Aid Station.



When I hesitated, he said "I Order You." He said these SOBs (Korean Carrying Party) will get down this hill and shoot me.

But as we were going down the hill, I turned and went back to my men, and never saw him again. I learned later on that he returned to the Company after the Division went to Japan in February.

After regrouping, getting a re-supply of ammunition, a new CO, Lt. Andros, and other officers, we again jumped off.

This was probably on Oct. 14, 1951, at or near a place called Chip-o-ri, North Korea. We headed down a hill and across a valley toward our next objective.

At the same time "I" Company secured the hill from which we had withdrawn the night before; they received little resistance.

One of my men cracked up while we were going up the valley. After getting him settled down, we moved on and came upon a flat field about 50 yards long.

When I was about in the middle of the field, a Chinese machine gun fired on us; bullets and dirt flew everywhere.

I hit the ground, and the firing stopped. How he missed me I will never know.

A rifle platoon that was bringing up the rear sent a squad up the edge of the field and took out the

machine gun. It was in a shack.

We approached our objective in early morning, and were told that the hill would probably be easy to secure. But the Chinese had other ideas. We fought all day, and then dug in for the night, which we spent on full alert.

The next day the fighting got even worse. We received lots of heavy mortar and artillery fire. The hill was steep on both sides of the finger we were on.

A young kid, from a rifle platoon, and I were lying close together. I told him to move about ten yards so that we could see better. He replied that he couldn't; he was too scared. I yelled: "Do it!"

We moved, and almost immediately an artillery round landed right where we had been lying.

After heavy fighting all day, we finally reached the top of the hill in late afternoon. There were trenches, head deep, all around the hill.

It was about then that four of our jet fighters came in for an attack – on our hill! The first one strafed the hill, and the second dropped a bomb. By then we were set to try to shoot down the third. Thankfully, the pilot of that plane pulled out quickly. The flag man did not have his flag down until the third jet started his approach and saw it.

We did not have to do much dig-

ging that night as we used the trenches the Chinese had dug.

The next day we were on the move by daylight. We went down the hill into a valley, crossed a plateau, and began receiving artillery fire.

We took cover in a dry creek bed. PFC Lloyd King, Jr. from Kern, CA. and PFC William D. Aviles, from Pima, AL and I were lying close together. I was in the middle.

As we were looking up the hill toward our next objective, an artillery round landed just behind us. Both King and Aviles were killed instantly!

A large piece of shrapnel from that round hit my shovel; it cut the handle and split my steel shovel blade. I'm sure that shovel saved my life; I took King's.

In addition to King and Aviles being killed, Mitchell Mulhem and Richard McDonald (12 Peace Ct., Plainville, CT 06062-2836, 860-747-4281) who were Section Leaders, Richard Mohler, Robert O'Brian, Canton Warren and Sylvester Beverly; all were from the fourth platoon.

I was with Mohler while Medic Dan Foskey treated his wounds, which looked very serious.

For forty-eight years I wondered what happened to him. Then we met each other in 1995, at a reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. That



was a great day; Dan Foskey, the medic, was there along with five other men who also were in the 4th platoon of "K" Company that terrible October 1951 day.

The fighting continued to be tough for the next few days; combat flared around the clock! But the enemy seemed to be about ready to head north until we crossed the Kumsong River and got on the ridge line leading up to hill 770.

Bob LeBlanc from my platoon came to me that night and said he was afraid to go out the next day. He only had two days before he was to be rotated home. I talked to the Company Commander, and we agreed he should go back with

the carrying party.

I saw him in 1998, and he said the Chinese fired on the carrying party as they were going down the hill. He thought he was going to be killed while leaving. We stayed in touch until he died in 2005 of cancer.

Hill 770 was a fortress with deep trenches, bunkers, and machine gun encampments. The Chinese fought hard not give up 770 and the long mountain range leading from it.

The 3rd Battalion finally secured hill 770 about the 21st of October. After all units secured their positions, we began improving and setting up defensive positions for

the winter.

I arrived in Korea on May 5, 1951, and got my first hot shower in late November, 1951. During warm weather we washed in creeks. This was also our drinking water; we used water purifying tablets. The entire country had a terrible odor and polluted water because they used human waste for their rice paddy fertilization.

It is amazing how much weight a soldier can lose in 15 or 20 days - of continuous combat, trying to live on C-rations and little or no sleep. Food and sleep was secondary; survival was primary!

Joe Abernathy, Jr.
695 Center Point Road
Carrollton, GA 30117

3rd Combat Engineers Mess Company

Taegu, South Korea, October 1950

Top, standing from left: Roy Duke, Theriot (Louisiana "swamp man"), Stettler (handyman), Pratte, Spranger (loved farming), Leo Raymond (Maine), and William P. Hanks (jolly). Middle three, from left: Sgt. Woodley (skilled baker), Digironimo (hand on table), and Joe Dupis (Fitchburg, MA). Front, kneeling, from left: Unknown (new from Hawaii), Harold Fite (liked poker), and Unknown.

Photo by: William F. Boyden, Life # 426; 1 Faith Way, #5; Norton, MA 02766-3215;
PH: 508-285-9963



Operation Nomad-Hill #633

"D" Company, 3rd Combat Engineers & 5th RCT

By Dan Rickert, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, "D" Company, 3rd Combat Engineers



Left: PFC **Dan Rickert**, CPL Hoffman, and PFC Dave Murray (who took the photos shown here), after ammunition issue and ready to start for the line of departure to Hill 633.

Below: "D" Company, 3rd Engineers jump off for Hill 633.



Above: 5th RCT casualties returning from Hill 633.

Right: Crest of Hill 633. Shown are men from both the 5th and the 3rd digging in and repairing the entrenchments just taken from the enemy.



"Love" 19th, Operation Nomad

by Howard Camp, Life Member #1765

Tom

Enclosed are copies of Company "L" 19th Regiment, Morning Reports of October 13-15, 1951, and a little later. These cover the period that I was involved in Operation Nomad. You will notice on the first page (portion copied below left) that Company "L" jumped off into attack at 06:30 AM hours on Saturday, October 13

CONTINUATION		DATE		MONTH	
TODAY'S		DAY		YEAR	
TIME		HOUR		MINUTE	
3:53 PM		10		Oct	
MORNING REPORT		10		Oct	
ORGANIZATION (DB, CO, BATT, ETC.)		19th Inf Regt		Inf	
POSITION OF LOCATION		Camp's R1 Korea			
NAME	SERIAL NUMBER	GRADE	DOB		
12 Oct 51 Company, moved from defense position in the vicinity of 033	343 at 1630 hrs and traveled approx	3 miles. The company arrived in the	assembly area in the vicinity of	Camp's R1 at 2045 hrs. Weather Fair	Morale Excellent.
13 Oct 51 Company, moved from the	assembly area in the vicinity of	Camp's R1 into the attack at approx	0630 hrs. 4 MIA. The company	captured 23 prisoners at 1900 hrs.	the company set up a perimeter of
defense for the night in the vicinity	of Morill. Weather Fair. Morale	Excellent.			

Four enlisted men were wounded, and Hector Rodriques was Killed In Action, on October 13. We took 23 prisoners.

On Sunday, October 14, 1951, we proceeded again in the attacking of our objectives. We captured another 15 prisoners.

Between October 13 and 15, **Hector Rodriques, Joe Blevins, Wayne Holland, Louis Kelly, Henry Parker and Ben Yates** were all Killed in Action, and nigh onto fifty two or more were Wounded in Action including yours truly on the 14th (see arrow below).

Love Company, as did all of the Regiment and Division, suffered some heavy losses during Operation Nomad.

I was away from the Company until the first week of January 1952 (which accounts for the existence of MRs for only this period of October 1951), when I was returned to action with Love Company.

I know that you cannot place all these Morning Reports in the *Taro Leaf*, but you can mention the young boys that lost their lives.

Thanks for the good job you are doing. ➡

Howard W. Camp
430 South Stadium Dr.
Xenia OH 45385-2162
937-372-6403

<p> Mr dy to SNA near Nodong-N1 North Korea eff 14 Oct 51 Thomas Wade R Pfc Smith R Donald Pfc Stiller Wesley A Pfc Above 3 EN Mr dy to SNA near Nodong-N1 North Korea eff 14 Oct 51 Smiley Herman Pfc Mr dy to SNA near Nodong-N1 North Korea eff 14 Oct 51 Wale Robert A Pfc Boykin Benjamin Pvt2 Camp Howard Sgt Rodriguez Pedro Col Above 4 EN Mr dy to SNA near Nodong-N1 North Korea eff 14 Oct 51 Hamilton James Pfc </p>													
<p> ASSG 1 000000 LOEAPB </p>		<p> TOTAL 000000 </p>	<p> ATCD PL/PO/PA 000000 </p>	<p> PRESENT FOR NOT FOR DUTY DUTY (01) (01) </p>		<p> PRESENT T O S E (01) (01) </p>		<p> CONF SE (01) (01) </p>		<p> SE CONF (01) (01) </p>		<p> SE CONF (01) (01) </p>	





Bobby Evans, Augsburg, Germany, 1965-66

I represent an Army veteran, Bobby Evans, who has filed a claim for service-connected benefits with the VA. To substantiate the claim, we are trying to track down anyone who served with Mr. Evans as part of the 24th Infantry Division between 1965-1966. Specifically, we are looking to find anyone who has information regarding, or was present at, any of the following events,

all of which occurred at or near the Headquarters Medical Corps, in Augsburg, Germany during the Vietnam era.

1. The accidental shooting of Sergeant Swamie, First Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, Headquarters Medical Corps in the Spring of 1965 or 1966.

2. The death of a Private Bobby (surname unknown), who was in

the radar/comm/signal corps.

3. The death of Roy Rogers' son, John David Sandy Rogers, in Spring of 1966 If you know anything about these incidents, please contact me. Thank you

Gregory Acquaviva
LATHAM & WATKINS LLP
885 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022-4834
Direct Dial: +1.212.906.1264
Fax: +1.212.751.4864
Email: gregory.acquaviva@lw.com

PFC Grady Lamar Chambers, Company B, 19th Inf. Reg.



Charlotte Chambers is looking for information about her brother, **PFC. Grady L. Chambers**, 19th Regiment, who was killed in action in North Korea on **Oct. 13, 1951** during **Operation Nomad**. Grady who was an enlistee member of **Company "B"** at the time of his death, was from Coconino County, AZ. He was born in 1933. Ms. Chambers is searching for information on the circumstances of Grady's death. If you have any knowledge, please contact: Charlotte Chambers, 1190 South Dixie Blvd. #54, Radcliff, KY 40160, Phone(270) 351-4891, Email: Crafts4u2@aol.com

Pvt. Harold Lavala, "E" Company, 19th Infantry

Looking for anyone who may have been with, or who knew of, my cousin, **Pvt. Harold Lavala, "E" Company, 1st Bat., 19th Infantry Headquarters, 24th Division in Korea on July 31, 1950**. He first was declared MIA, and then declared KIA, two years later. Pvt. Lavala was the second one listed as missing from Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Walt Hinrichs, whinrichs24@comcast.net

"B" Company, 19th, Oct. 19, 1951, Kumsong, Operation Nomad

Looking for anyone who knew my step-father, **Jesse Alton Andis**, who was wounded on Oct 19, 1951, near Kumsong, N.K., or who has any information on the action "B" 19th was engaged in on the above date. Jesse Andis enlisted Nov 29, 1950, served in Korea from April 5, 1951 to Oct 19, 1951, with "B" 19th. After being wounded on Oct 19, he was sent to the Army hospital in Osaka, Japan. He was awarded two Purple Hearts. He presently lives in Paoli, IN 47454. Please contact: Randy Jessie, 552 Edwards Drive, Odenton, MD 21113, (410) 874-8727.





Looking For



19th Regimental Pictorial History at Camp Chickamauga, Japan, pre-1950. Billy Freshcorn recalls that there was a pictorial history made of the 19th Infantry Regiment at Camp Chickamauga, Japan, sometime prior to the North Korean invasion in June of 1950. Billy says that he had one, as did many of his companions, but that when he left for Korea it was lost. It contained many photos of his unit. If you have one, or know anything about it, please get in touch with **Billy L. Freshcorn**, 5541 Pocklington, Tecumseh, MI 49286 (517) 423-2267, or the *Taro Leaf* Editor.



Members of Company "A", 34th Infantry Regiment, Sasebo, Japan, fall 1947. From left, starting at arrow in upper left corner: Boggs (OH); Unknown; Chet Preston, Salem, MA (BAR); Willie Wilson; Sleafby (CA); and unknown Corporal. Note that Sgt. Gaspar is behind and between Sleafby and the unknown Corporal, and Lt. Col. Foster with back to camera is doing the inspection. I am the GI being inspected. I now suffer from the effects of radiation exposure from training exercises and bivouac at ground zero, Uranami, Nagasaki, and need advise on how to improve VA services for radiation exposure. I would like to hear from anyone in "A" 34th, or "L" 34th after First BN deactivated in fall 1947, or any 34th soldier from 1946-48. **Please write or call collect: James Norton, 83 Landseer Rd., West Roxbury, MA 02132-3436, Phone 617-323-7427.**



2008 BOD Meeting Minutes

61st Annual Reunion, Springfield, Missouri, September 20, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Spicer at 8:15 A.M.

Chaplain Carpenter offered the blessing.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Attendees: (note that the quorum requirement of five was not fulfilled)

- Gene Spicer, President*
- Mel Frederick, Vice President*
- Wes Morrison, Past President*
- John Klump, Past President*
- Tom Thiel, Editor (Recording Secretary for this meeting)
- Larry Gay, Historian
- Byrd Schrock, Quartermaster
- Glenn Carpenter, Jr., Chaplain
- Sal Schillaci, Member

* BoD Members

Absence of Secretary/Treasurer:

President Spicer reported that Sec/Treas Maggio had been advised by his physician to not travel and was not in attendance. He asked Editor Thiel to take the minutes.

Minutes of 2007 Meeting: President Spicer read the minutes of the 2007 Board of Directors Meeting. Dir Morrison asked that the phrase "complete editorial control of the publication" be struck, stating that the BoD has control of what appears in the *Taro Leaf*. It was pointed out that this refers to editorial control and that Editor must have freedom to make these day-to-day decisions. Mr. Morrison said he was not saying that BoD wished to review publication before going to printer but that certain items, e.g., minutes and bylaws should be carried. President Spicer said that it was his decision to not carry bylaws. Dir. Morrison withdrew his objection and minutes were accepted as read.

Financial Report: Only the July 2008 was available and discussed. There was extensive discussion of travel expenses incurred. There was no action taken on the financial report.

Taro Leaf Editor Report: Editor Thiel presented a report on the *Taro*

Leaf. There was extensive discussion about cost of the *Taro Leaf* and financial status of the Association. Dir. Morrison had accumulated examples and associated costs for various veterans' publications. While most of these were lower than the current \$2.56 cost of the last issue, they also had distributions from twice to several times the distribution of ours making comparison difficult. Hist. Gay suggested that the production of the *Taro Leaf* be handled like any business. Ed. Thiel took the example copies, and will continue to explore means of lowering costs, but reported that membership has overwhelmingly said to keep type size and quality and do whatever else is necessary. Finally, he said that the Association should begin thinking now about a new editor. For personal reasons he needs to begin winding down.

Membership: Sal Schillaci suggested we could increase membership through a regional or local effort to issue press releases to local media. In response to a question, he proposes that these press releases center around a local function, a meeting or social get together. His concept is that most former 24th Division members are not aware of the Association and would join if they were.

Quartermaster Report: Quartermaster Schrock gave a verbal report of his activities.

Aloha Banquet Prize Drawing: Chaplain Carpenter reported that donations for the prize drawing were approximately \$18,000 with \$5,000 obligated for the ten prizes. V.P. Frederick suggested that next year we offer ten \$400 prizes. Agreed.

Nomination of Officers: Nomination Committee Chairman Hagen (not present) had emailed his Committee's (Tom Thiel, Dan Rickert, Dave Rives and Billy McFarland) recommendations. For President; Mel Frederick; for V.P., Sal Schillaci; and for Secretary/

Treasurer, none (the committee could find no one). It was agreed to accept the committee's recommended slate and to ask current Secretary/Treasurer Maggio to stay on until a replacement can be found. We will continue to advertise in the *Taro Leaf*.

Verbeck Award: V.P. Frederick chaired the Verbeck Award Committee, (Ed Farmer, John Klump, Wes Morrison, Eric Diller, Ken Dillon and Joe O'Connell). V.P. Frederick asked for nominations from membership, and then forwarded these to the committee for review and acceptance. Four members were nominated; this year's winner was the overwhelming choice.

Reunion Site Selection for 2010: Sal Schillaci offered Buffalo, NY as the reunion site for 2010. Accepted. Reunion Brat to continue to manage.

Membership Dues: President Spicer recommended that dues be raised to \$25 annual and \$200 life. Deferred to the new officers.

Association Supplies: Dir Morrison said that Sec/Treas Maggio has an accumulation of easels, charts, and maps etc., which were formerly used at Reunions. QM Schrock will contact Mr. Maggio about sending them to Schrock. Dir Morrison said he thought that the use of the push pin map to enable attendees to mark their homes at the reunion was good and should be reactivated; Editor Thiel suggested that this might be automated from the registration forms and displayed on a video screen. [We also should have a means of finding one another at the reunion.]

Wine Auction: President Spicer asked for members to assist in the auction of the wine donated by an Indiana winery near him. The labels had the 24th insignia and identified all the campaigns of the Division. President Spicer adjourned the meeting at 11:25 A.M.

Submitted by: Tom J. Thiel



2008 Corporate Convention Minutes

61st Annual Reunion, Springfield, Missouri, September 20, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Spicer at 8:45 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Spicer.

Prayer offered by Chaplain Carpenter.

Fifty-three were in attendance.

Absence of Secretary/Treasurer:

President Spicer reported that Sec./Treas. Maggio had been advised by his physician to not attend. He asked Editor Thiel to take the minutes.

Minutes of 2007 Convention:

V.P. Mel Frederick read the minutes of the 2007 Corporate Convention. Dir. Morrison said that the 2009 Convention at Rapid City, SD will not be at the Holiday Inn due to difficulties dealing with the hotel. Motion and second to accept with correction; motion passed. (Note: the hotel will be the Best Western Ramikota Hotel in Rapid City, SD.)

Financial Report: Pres. Spicer apologized because he did not have the current report. Reporting waived.

How Different Things Would Be:

Pres. Spicer read with much emotion a few lines from a very special article supporting our troops in Iraq. His son is serving there now.

Bolo Tie From Keeble's Family:

While attending the MOH Woody Keeble Memorial Ceremony, Pres. Spicer had been given a bolo tie by Keeble's family. He entered this in a drawing to be awarded by lottery to one of those in attendance who knew and served with Keeble. The tie was won by Al Moore.

President's Award to Merry Helm:

- President Spicer then read a resolution awarding Merry Helm of Fargo, ND, a special President's Award and plaque made at his own expense, acknowledging Ms. Helm's vital role in researching, writing and promoting the Medal of Honor for Woody Keeble.
- Tom Thiel then asked to be recognized to speak in support of the President's Award and offered a mo-

tion enabling the members to recognize Ms. Helm with Association Honorary Membership. He based his argument on the following: 1) Ms. Helm had given up a promising career in Public TV/Radio to follow the Keeble award effort; 2) without her effort in all likelihood the award would not have materialized; 3) Pres. Spicer had asked for BoD approval, which was declined by the Past Presidents; and 4) he believed that the members have final voice based on the Association's Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order.

- Mario Iezzoni seconded the motion, and spoke in support of Ms. Helm's contributions and the motion.
- Dir. Morrison objected on two points: 1) the BoD had agreed to discontinue all Honorary Memberships because of some past management problems, and 2) the Bylaws state that Honorary Members must be approved by the BoD.
- There was extensive discussion, and reading appropriate portions of the Bylaws.
- Iezzoni and Thiel then reluctantly withdrew their second and motion, respectively; members did not vote on the question.

Special Constitution and Bylaws

Review Committee: A recommendation then came from the floor for a Special Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws. President Spicer asked for volunteers; the following responded: Dan Rickert, Joe McMahon, Mario Iezzoni, Dan Cretaro, and Tom Thiel. He appointed the above as members of the Special Committee, with Thiel as Chair.

Reunions: President Spicer announced that the 2009 Reunion will be in Rapid City, SD (at the Best Western Ramikota Hotel); and that the 2010 Reunion will be in the Buffalo, NY area.

Nominating Committee Report

and Election of New Officers: President Spicer read the Nominating Com-

mittee (Keith Hagen, Chair, Thiel, Rickert, Rives and McFarland) recommendations. They were: for President; Mel Frederick; for V.P., Sal Schillaci; and for Sec./Treas, None (the committee could find no one). He announced that current Sec./Treas. Maggio will stay on until a replacement can be found (will advertise in the *Taro Leaf*), or until the 2009 Reunion. A call was then made for nominations from the floor; when none was offered, Thiel moved that nominations be closed and Ed Leak seconded. Frederick, Schillaci, and Maggio were then elected by a show of hands.

Editor's Report: Editor Thiel gave a status report on the *Taro Leaf*, and its costs. The first issue he did, Vol 61(1&2) Punch Bowl Memorial cost \$5.24/copy despite the fact that he used all the same criteria as the previous editor. The "Johnson Issue" 61(3&4) cost \$4.68, and the Japanese Flag issue 62(1) cost \$4.39. He then changed printers to Leesburg Printing, FL, and produced the Keeble issue 62(2), which cost \$3.40/copy, and the 24th Song and March issue, 62(3) that cost \$2.56/copy. This latter was half black and white. He stated this is about the lowest cost we can achieve without further lessening the publication. He expects to limit all copies to 48 pages, of which at least half will be black and white (like the last issue). Finally, he said that the Association should begin thinking now about a new editor; he needs to slow down.

2009 Member Drawing: Chaplain Carpenter reported that the Aloha Night drawing for 2009 will be ten prizes of \$400 each.

Open Discussion/New Business:

There were several comments from the floor. One suggested that the *Taro Leaf* be by subscription, and another suggested that Life Member dues be raised. Noted but no action was taken.

Adjournment: President Spicer adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

Submitted by: Tom J. Thiel



June 2008

Donald E. Maggio

Enclosed please find my check for dues for the division for the year, plus a little extra to offset a few of the ever growing expenses of doing business.

Sorry that I'm late, it slipped up on me until I received the current issue of the magazine. I certainly appreciate receiving it and always look for names of old friends from back in Korean War days.

I would like to meet Shorty Estabrook sometime as I was in about the same area as he was in July 1950 and recall the days about that time when we were losing a lot of people, not knowing many times whether they had been killed or captured,

just gone.

After reading the magazine it brought back a lot of memories, last night in particular, had it on my mind I guess, of a lot of the guys by name, seems those names will stay with me until I'm gone. We were too close for too long.

I doubt that I will be able to make the reunion in Springfield this year as my wife is now in a nursing home and I wouldn't want to be away for several days at one time.

Thanks again and I'm sorry to have been late.

John Paul Fletcher

"D" 34th/"M" 19th April 1949 to June 1951,
8831 E. Maryland Ave.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
480.895-8824
jpfletcher1@aol.com

August 10th, 2008

Dear Tom:

I really appreciate your work for the 24th Inf. Div., *Taro Leaf* publication. It's one of the best out there, and I have been going to write you for sometime about the contents. If Kenwood Ross could see the job you are doing, he would be as proud as a peacock. As an old soldier of the 1950's in Korea, I can assure you that many of us are looking forward to seeing this copy on publication dates.

Some years back Earle Downey, Ken Ross and I were speaking of the Division and it's memories, and Ken stated it will be around when we are pushing up daisy's. Now I realize it is still in good hands, and the troops are in the field with the thinking and happenings of the: "First to Fight."

What more can we old timers be thankful and

contented with, than reading of the stories of years gone by of which we were a partner too. Tom: keep up the good work and "GOD" be with you and yours.

Put this \$100 in the upturned helmet and let it be a part of the cost of this operation.

D. L. Schreiber LIFE-885
7163 Argonauta Way.
Carlsbad, Ca 92009-8587
ph. 434-357-3043

Thanks for the nice words, Dale,
It's for members like you that I do it!
But, I'm an Old Timer Too!
And, special thank you also for the \$\$\$!
Tom





Frank Fantino's story of the 19th Infantry's "Lost Battalion" [*Taro Leaf* Vol 62(3), page 41-42] was of special interest to me.

I joined the 24th Division in January of 1945, and was assigned as a rifleman to "A" Company of the 19th. When the Div. found out I knew the Morse code, I was transferred to the Radio Section of Headquarters Radio Company.

We were concerned when we heard of the plight of our 2nd "Lost" Battalion. I was told to take a radio, and join several others aboard a plane loaded with supplies. When one of the fellows asked: "where are the parachutes?" he was told, "Oh we only have them for the pilot and co-pilot!"

When we reached the drop area, I contacted the men on the ground so they could tell us when to drop, and we made our first run. They radioed to say that most of the supplies fell outside their lines and went to the enemy. So, the pilot decided to go lower on the next run.

Just before we were to make our second drop, he yelled that the co-pilot had been hit, and smoke began drifting from the cockpit! He then said: "we'll have to go back."

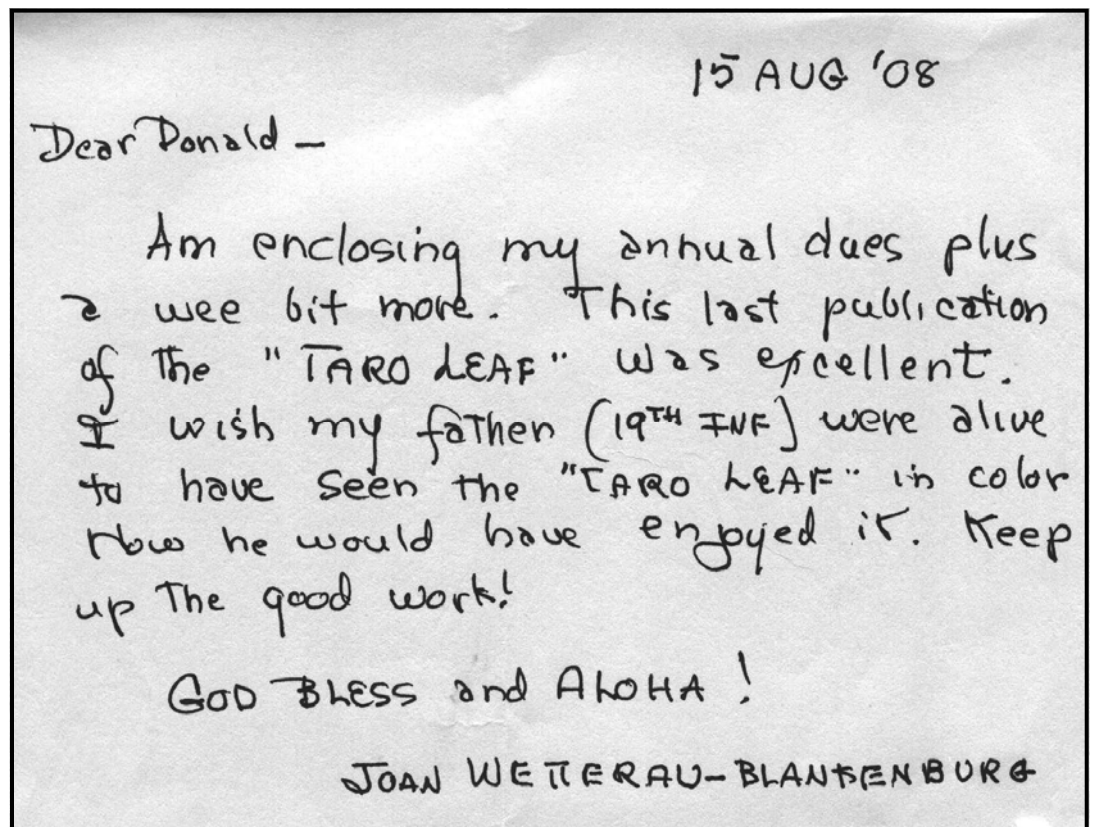
As we approached our landing strip, the wheels would not come down, and the pilot told us to "sit down and hang on!" But there was nothing to hang on to.

A few seconds later, he said one wheel was down but he could not tell if it was locked. He then proceeded with landing. Upon touching down, the plane suddenly spun around tossing us and supplies in all directions; I don't know if the wheel collapsed or a wingtip caught.

As we skidded to a stop, the pilot exited the cockpit, and yelled for us to jump before the plane blew up. He was carrying the co-pilot. Fortunately the plane did not catch fire and everyone escaped.

But we were disappointed that we were unable to help the members of the "Lost Battalion." Others, however, succeeded in dropping supplies to the Battalion, and we were greatly relieved when we heard that they were out.

John (Ned) Nederfield
Former SFC Hq. Co 19th Inf.
201 Kibbe Hill Rd.
Westfield, Pa. 16950
Aug. 4, 2008



To All my fellow 24th Infantry Division Association Members

by *Daniel Rickert*, October 8, 2008

There are times in life that we as Americans have an opportunity to contribute in the process of righting a terrible injustice. Well my comrades, such an opportunity has come before us, and I want to enlist all of you in an effort to properly honor one of our own, and recognize the person that is most responsible for bringing the issue to light.

Most of you are aware of the Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble story, which has been written about in the *Taro Leaf* [see especially Vol. 63(2) Spring 2008] and discussed at previous meetings.

To review, MSGT Woody Wilson Keeble was posthumously awarded The Medal of Honor by President Bush at the White House, March 3, 2008. MSGT Keeble, already severely wounded from the previous day's fighting in Operation Nomad on Hill 765 near Sangsan-ni, North Korea, single-handedly took out three successive Chinese machine gun nests while under heavy fire and grenade blasts. For the last nest, he was armed with only his M1, as he had run out of grenades.

Unfortunately, it took almost 60 years for Keeble to be recognized; the paperwork was lost, and Army regulations allowed the issue to be passed over by the powers that be.

Woody's story of heroism and bravery during the Korean War

was lost for too many years until a few years ago when Merry Helm discovered Woody's story and its injustice.

Merry was so impressed by Woody's story that she left her promising Public broadcast career to totally devote her life researching the historical events and pursuing the matter, assuring that The Medal of Honor be finally awarded.

MSGT Woodrow Keeble was born in Waubay, South Dakota and lived most of his life in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Therefore, I feel it extremely appropriate that the 24th Infantry Division Association dedicate our next Reunion meeting and Memorial Program in Rapid City, South Dakota, to MSGT Keeble, and that we properly recognize Merry Helm for her selfless work.

I propose that we invite Merry Helm and Russell Hawkins (Woody's stepson), as our Guests of Honor to the meeting, and make every effort to show our appreciation and respect.

We have assembled a special committee of dedicated members to assure that the 24th Infantry Division Association affords these honored guests that proper treatment.

In a telephone discussion with Association President Mel Frederick, I also volunteered to serve as Chair of the 2009 Reunion Program, including the Memorial Banquet, and that the members of



the committee that has agreed to work with me will also address this effort.

As Chair of this committee, it is my pleasure to represent our fine Association. I know that all of us will be proud to participate in the effort, and to contribute to a fund to defray the cost of hosting these most deserving "Guests of Honor."

Your contributions in support of this worthy cause would be most appreciated.

Please mark your contributions for the 2009 Program, and send them to Sec/Treas Don Maggio, 411 Concord Road, Fletcher, NC 28732-9734, Tel. 828-684-5931.

Or please call me (949-215-7553) or write: 28099 Calle Valdes, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1551.

With kind regards,

Dan Rickert



“Miracle Mel” Tyborski Trades Trumpet for M1!

Mel Tyborski of Milwaukee, says he had been “recruited” as a member of the 24th Division Band in June of 1950. That’s Mel at the right on the trumpet in a 24th Band concert for General Dean.

June 1950 changed the scene dramatically for Mel (and a lot of others); Mel traded his trumpet for a cosmoline-coated M1. Even though he had no M1 training, Mel soon found himself immersed in the battle to defend South Korea against the Communist invaders from the North.

Mel has not provided us much detail on the story of that conversion; suffice it to say that he presently is under VA treatment for PTSD!

Mel’s civilian career took him in the service of the State of Wisconsin as an emission tester and supervisor for Wisconsin’s Motor Vehicle Department, where he often went out of his way to personally work with both customers and inspectors. In his community efforts, Mel worked with public officials to secure land for a baseball park “where the little guys play.” Mel ensured that the park was named after his personal friend, Ken Keltner, former third-baseman for the Cleveland Indians, who until then had no park so named. Sister Mary Joyce, principal of Notre Dame High School, dubbed Tyborski “Miracle Mel” for his efforts to keep his alma mater operating.

Because of his reputation as an organizer, Mel was asked to help welcome home Desert Storm troops at Mitchell Field. “Mel did a terrific job organizing a parade, complete with music, to welcome back our Gulf War veterans. He is truly a man of varied talents,” recalled Sylvia Anderson, a south side Democrat. Although on opposing sides of the political system, they worked to pull together a patriotic event. “We need more people like him to promote patriotism,” she added.



Mel enjoys entertaining elderly patients and veteran groups with a karaoke machine. He provides the audience with songs of yesteryear, reaping smiles from the faces of his aging listeners.

I recently asked Mel if they had a 24th Division March and Song back there in Japan prior to Korea; he said they didn’t, and is most interested in the one we described in the last *Taro Leaf* Vol 62(3).

Mel can be reached at: Melvin Tyborski, 4367 S. Austin St., Milwaukee, WI, 53207-5011, Ph: 414-744-2211, kvvet@wi.rr.com TJT, Editor.

Below: Mel Tyborski, right, with fellow Wisconsin *Taro Leaf*er, Leonard Jablonski of Ladysmith; they served together in Korea.



Life with the 3rd Engineers—1939

By Bob Maher, Sr.



That's me, Bob Maher, Sr., upper left in 1939 at Schofield Barracks, and also me at right in center above with friend, and standing for field inspection "C" Company, 2nd. Engineers again at Schofield.



Robert Maher, Sr.
14419 Holiday Dr. Kp N
Gig Harbor, WA
98329-5126
253-884-4392



Our vehicles: at left a 1934 or 35 Dodge 2-Ton Truck. Above: one of my friends, James Gordon, May 1939, on maneuvers at Ft. Ruger on side of Diamond Head. That's me at rear "jimmying" my truck.

2009 West Coast Reunion

Mar. 29-Apr. 1, 2009, Aquarius Hotel and Casino, Laughlin Nevada

Contact Byrd or D.J. Schrock

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



2008 Reunion Drawing Winners

Harold L. Cohen, Providence, RI
Hugh A. Hewett, Odessa, TX
Robert W. Hickey, Blanket, TX
Arthur L. Kemp, Myrtle Beach, SC
Herbert W. Kenz, Kalamazoo, MI
Richard J. Mercy, Middle Island, NY
Robert Quintero, Hazel Park, MI
Walter P. Roduner, Merced, CA
Bernard A. Schanzmeyer, Jefferson City, MO
David L. Stanley, La Jolla, CA

We want to thank everyone who participated in this year's drawing; your generosity has greatly aided your Association's funding status. Please be as generous when the 2009 appeal goes out. Glen Carpenter (FYI, all above are Association members!)

Honor Your Division

24th Division March & Song CD-Audio Disc



Donation \$10—QM Item # 98

24th Division Memorial at the Puchbowl—DVD Video



Donation \$15—QM Item # 99



From Piscataway to Arlington—To Represent Us!



Michael J. and Candee Doherty, seated at left, of Piscataway, New Jersey, standing in for Margarit Garrett of Rorschach, Switzerland, at her husband Charles E. Garrett's interment ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Sept. 3, 2008 (see pg 9). Mrs. Garrett's health precluded her from traveling to the US for the ceremony. Wes Morrison was instrumental in locating Michael and Candee. Sub. by Don Maggio. ("Mike and Candee Doherty certainly went 'above and beyond' in their service to a fallen Association member, and to his family." Bill Roseboro).

— W A N T E D —

Member to Serve as Association Secretary/Treasurer

Computer skills needed — Desired now but no later than Reunion 2009

Contact any of the Officers or a Member of the Nominating Committee

Association Life Member in Afghanistan



The photo at left is of Association Life Member, LTC Ken Braddock (left), and COL Jeff Dill (right) taken at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, in May 2008, just before both returned to the States.

The two of them served together in 2-7 Infantry during the Gulf War. Braddock was Commander of E/2-7 Infantry, and Dill was the Battalion Maintenance Officer (BMO) for the 2-7 Infantry.

During their tours in Afghanistan, Braddock served as the Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, and Dill served as the Chief, Training Assessment and Validation team for CJTF Phoenix. Ken Braddock, Life - #2025



Dutch Nelsen Chapter KWVA



Colorado Springs, CO: The Dutch Nelsen Chapter KWVA, recently conducted its 55th anniversary Commemoration of the of the Korean War cease fire. These ceremonies are held annually at the Chapter's memorial stone in Colorado Springs' Memorial Park . Pictured from left, are: Robert Roper, USMC Korea 1954-55; Gary Stroud, of Topeka, KS., 24th Div. Band 1952-53; **Scott L. Defebaugh** LT.COL. (RET) 24th Med BN 1951-53; and **Margo Nelsen**, widow of Dutch Nelsen. Defebaugh and Nelsen are Life Members of the Association. (Submitted by Defebaugh)

From Your Editor's Computer

(Continued from page 7)

But through all the dialog at the Reunion and elsewhere, I have come to the conclusion that our last issue, which cost \$2.56 per copy to produce because we converted half of it to black and white, is about the best we can do with the present layout. Overwhelmingly, you have said: "Keep it as it is, definitely do not make the font any smaller, and do whatever you have to do to ensure that the *Taro Leaf* keeps coming. It is the cement that binds us!" So, in light of Treas. Maggio's letter, we need to do some serious assessment!

We have received some very gratifying comments on the *Taro Leaf* content. A great deal of credit must go to my proofers;

David Valley, Vince Rybel, and most especially, Heidi Edgar, who really gives the copy the thorough review it requires! Thank you!

If your article wasn't in this issue, please be patient-I had a GREAT deal of difficulty fitting everything in 48-pages.

And have faith in the power of our members. Al Silverstein used some special talents to find Roscoe Owen for me (see Looking For section in the last issue of the *Taro Leaf*!)

Finally, please do not format materials you send for the *Taro Leaf*; I must reformat everything to make it fit so it will always change on the final copy.

One thing that I wish I had was a file of member photo-

graphs; at least one for every member. There are many times I wish I had them. So please consider sending me a photo of yourself.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has made a special contribution in support of the Association and of the *Taro Leaf*; and for your letters and notes of appreciation. Thank you all very much! It makes the many hours and days I spend at my Gateway keyboard worthwhile! ###



Former Editor Vonnice Mullins with Editor Thiel at the Springfield Reunion



Annual Reunion, Springfield, Mo.

"Welcome to Wal-Mart"



Branson Belle



Bus #1 (Bus #2 did not have photo taken)
(These two photos from Norman Smith, as were two photos below.)



VP Sal and Rita Schillaci



Pres. Mel and Donna Frederick



PP Gene and Donnie Spicer



Above Row: Chap. Glen and Mary Carpenter, Speaker Parkinson, Reunion Brat Jeri Glass, Prize Drawings.



This row, from left: Pres. Spicer and Al Moore Sioux Bolo, Color Guard, Wine Auction. All photos by Editor except four by N. Smith above. Sorry if I missed your table or you.











The Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for military Valor. It is given to those who acted with supreme courage and disregard of their own safety in battle. Only a handful of men are entitled to wear the Medal of Honor. It is bestowed by Act of Congress, and reflects Democracy's gratitude to those who offered everything they had in its defense, including life itself. The Medal of Honor is a humble token for sacrifices that cannot be repaid to its honored holders. From 1944 to 1951 fourteen 24th Infantry Division soldiers so distinguished themselves on the battlefield, and received this highest decoration. Four received for action in World War II, and the other ten for their action in the Korean 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; Sergeant Keeble likewise survived but died 30 years before being recognized in 2008. All the others were killed in action.

Private First Class MACK A JORDAN

Collins, Mississippi

K Company, 21st Infantry Regiment

15 November 1951, near Kumsong, Korea

A squad leader with Company K's 3rd platoon, Pfc. Jordan was participating in a night attack against a key position, which was defended by a fanatical enemy force. Halted by vicious enemy fire, Pfc. Jordan left his platoon, crawling forward to destroy an enemy machinegun emplacement with hand grenades. Pfc. Jordan then charged the other enemy positions, killing several and forcing the remainder to fall back. As he attempted to move even further forward, both of his legs were severed by explosives tossed at him by enemy soldiers. Though now mortally wounded, Pfc. Jordan continued to fire on the enemy, holding them at bay long enough for the rest of his platoon to attain his position and continue the fight.

24th Infantry Division Association

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