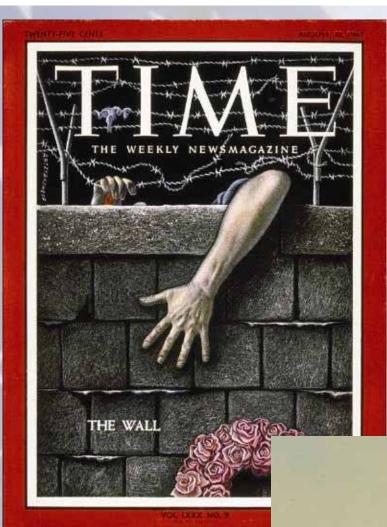




LEAF



The Cold War

Desert Storm

Rapid City Reunion, Aug 26-30

# The Taro Leaf



Vol. 63, No. 2 Spring 2009 The Official Quarterly Publication of the 24th Infantry Division

<u>President</u>

Melvin L. Frederick – 19<sup>th</sup> Inf. 950 W. Barney Owatonna, MN 55060-3800 Tel: MN 507-455-1639 Summer

CA 760-772-7909 Winter Email: <a href="mailto:melfrederick@msn.com">melfrederick@msn.com</a>

**Vice President** 

Salvatore Schillaci— 24th Recon 59 Endicott Drive Amherst, NY 14226-3323

716-837-1635

Secretary/Treasurer

Donald E. Maggio – 24th AG 411 Concord Road Fletcher, NC 28732-9734 Tel. 828-684-5931

Email: tarheeldon0@lycos.com

Taro Leaf Editor

Vaccant Taro Leaf Editor Needed Please Contact President Frederick

**Historian** 

Larry Gay – 19th Inf. 15335 W Echo Canyon Dr. Surprise, AZ 85347-2081 Tel. 623-214-6090

Email: <a href="mailto:lngay@worldnet.att.net">lngay@worldnet.att.net</a>

**Chaplain** 

Glenn Carpenter, Jr. 21st Inf. 503 Michigan St. Buchanan, MI 49107 Tel. 269-695-2934

Email: chaplincarp@hotmail.com

**Membership** 

Joseph R. McMahon – 34th Inf 4427 Green Valley Drive Arnold, MO 63010-3407 Tel. 636-296-7385 Email:

Quartermaster

Byrd R. Schrock - Assoc. 1009 Mesquite Drive Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-1292 Tel: 520-678-0207

E-mail: byrd2a@cox.net

2009 Reunion Program Chair

Daniel L. Rickert—5th RCT 28099 Calle Valdes

Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1551

Tel: 949-215-7553

**DIRECTORS** 

NAME	YEARS	UNIT	PHONE	ST.
Gene E. Spicer	2006-2008	19th Inf. Regt.	812-273-6996	IN
Wes Morrison	2003-2006	21st Inf. Regt.	831-883-2156	CA
James F. Hill	2000-2001	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Thomas Cochran	1997-1998	34th Inf. Regt	931-647-4793	TN
James F. Hill	1995-1996	19th Inf. Regt.	770-998-3749	GA
Vincent Gagliardo	1993-1994	5th RCT	415-279-1982	CA
Albert McAdoo	1991-1992	5th RCT	813-837-2728	FL
Donald C. Rosenblum	1987-1988	Div. HQ	912-233-6717	GA
Warren C. Avery	1986-1987	21st Inf. Regt.	203-239-3406	CT
Richard C. Watson	1985-1986	19th Inf. Regt.	317-378-3721	IN
John R. Shay	1983-1984	21st Inf. Regt.	708-724-5133	IL
John E. Klump	1977-1978	34th Inf. Regt.	812-623-4336	IN
William C. Muldoon	1970-1971	19th Inf. Regt.	941-743-7179	FL
Donald C. Williams	1968-1969	34th Inf. Regt.	586-566-4627	MI

**The** *Taro Leaf* is the official quarterly of the 24th Infantry Division Association, a 501(c)19 non-profit organization, and is published by and for its members. Opinions expressed or implied are solely those of their author(s), and not necessarily those of the Editor, the Association, or the Department of the Army. The *Taro Leaf* is printed in Leesburg, Florida, and mailed from the Leesburg Post Office.

Editor: Address:

City: Telephone: Email: Taro Leaf Editor Needed Please Contact President Frederick Printer: Leesburg Printing Company 3606 Parkway Blvd.

Leesburg, FL 34748 800-828-3348

www.leesburgprinting.com

<u>Publication Guidelines</u>: Please send all **TAPS notices**, **Manuscripts**, **and Articles to the Editor** at above address. You may send either electronically as email attachments in text (word processor) format, or by USPS as typed or printed originals. Short handwritten material is acceptable, but may be incorporated as is in a graphic image. Articles may be limited to **two or three pages typewritten**.

<u>PHOTOGRAPHS</u> 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.

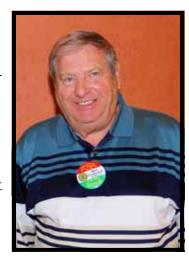
Taro Leaf	Deadlines	and Dub	dication	Dates
Tatu Lear	Deadimes	and Pub	nica non	Dates

VOL	NO	ISSUE	DEADLINE	DELIVERY
63	3	Summer	Jul 1 2009	Aug 2009
63	4	Fall	Oct 1 2009	Nov 2009
64	1	Winter	Jan 1 2010	Feb 2010
64	2	Spring	Apr 1 2010	May 2010



# ~~~ President's Letter ~~~

I am writing this from Laughlin, NV, where nearly one hundred members and guests turned out for the West Coast reunion. There are no official meetings. It is just a good chance to visit and renew old acquaintances, and make new friends.



An alternative of course would be to reduce the quality of the *Taro Leaf* to newsprint, which I am reluctant to do.

The second item is an even more somber one; it is possible that this may be the last issue of the

Taro Leaf you will ever receive!

But I now must turn my attention, and yours, to a couple quite serious matters facing our Association: we are expending funds faster than our membership dues generates them, and we are losing our *Taro Leaf* Editor.

Regarding our funds issue, part of our problem is the age of our members, and our dues structure. Years ago when the lifetime dues were set, we did not have the benefit of an actuary. Inflation and ever-increasing life spans were not correctly considered.

Our costs to publish and mail the *Taro Leaf* alone are greater than our income from member dues.

While you have been most gracious in your recent donations, which we greatly appreciate, we nevertheless need a more reliable income stream.

Our fine Editor, Tom Thiel, is no longer physically able to continue with editing the *Taro Leaf*. We have been fortunate to have had him this long; he spoiled us with the quality product he produced!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Tom; we can only wish his health could allow him to continue. Our thanks for the time he has given us.

We urgently need an Editor, and until we have one, we will not be able to publish the *Taro Leaf*, the glue that holds the Association together.

If you have the time and talent to help out your Association by serving as Editor, I appeal to you to give me a call; my number is on the opposite page. The Association needs you now.

We will need to address both of

these issues at the Corporate Convention Meeting in Rapid City this August.

Plans for our Reunion are falling into place, and it is shaping up to be one of our finest ever. We will honor the hero's of our great 24th Division — our 14 Medals of Honor recipients!

So, grab your cowboy boots and hat, and join us in Rapid City, South Dakota and the Black Hills where the west began.

One of the featured Reunion events is an old fashioned chuck wagon dinner and program, and the only thing missing is you.

Visit historic Mount Rushmore, ride an 1870's train, and even visit where Wild Bill Hickock played his "dead man's hand." His grave is nearby.

One of the saddest duties of being your President is receiving the TAPS notices of our former buddies that have passed on to glory.

While it is a sad reality, it still is difficult to accept the ravages of time.

Please join us in South Dakota so we may enjoy each other's company while we are still able!

Mel Frederick



# The Taro Leaf

Vol. 63, No. 2 Spring 2009 The Official Quarterly publication of the 24th Infantry Division



# **Table Of Contents**

#### **REPORTS:**

Association Information	2
President's Letter by President Frederick	3
Table of Contents	4
Secretary-Treasurer Report	
So "Which wolf wins?"	6
From Your Editor's Computer	
Taro Leaf TAPS	
Vincent Gagliardo, Association President 1993-1994	24
Rapid City Reunion	25-27
Membership Application Form	
Quartermaster Order Form	
Looking For	
Letters	
Taro Leafer Instrumental in New Vets Memorial	53
Photos etc	54

#### **FEATURES:**

Out of the Desert Darkness1	2,13,23
Mindoro Beach Landing Question Solved! 1	2,13,15
Korean Rain	14,15
Hoyt's War—A Lighter View of the Army	16-17
The 21st Regiment on the Philippine Islands	
Story of a New Infantryman—April 1951	20
Waiting for Dawn	
Spicer Discovers Book of 24th "Jody Calls"	22
I Served in Augsburg, Germany, and I'm Damn Proud	24
"A" Co. 2nd Battle Group, "A Lasting Bond"	37-39
Sport Parachuting "Formed" in the 24th	40,39
My Tour with the 24th in Germany 1959-1962	41,45
Christmas 1959, w/the 24th Div, Gablingen, Germany	42
The 24th Division to—the Congo?	43
You Will No Longer Be Alive!	. 44-45
Operation BlueBat	46-47
Augsburg, Germany—My "Duty" Station in 1967!	. 48-49
"A" BTY, 11th FA, Bad Kissingen, GR	50
The Coldest Winter	51-52
"A" Co, 2nd BG, 2nd Infantry, Branson 2008 Photo	
Carl V. Sheridan, Medal of Honor	56

**Cover:** This edition of the *Taro Leaf* extends our focus to the 24th Division in The Cold War and in Desert Storm. We were indeed fortunate to have obtained several articles from our members who served in Germany in the Cold War era, and also to have one from Desert Storm. The Association needs to extend its family to these important members and potential members in order to survive. We hope that this will be only a first step. ED.













Damara	1		1			
Donors Name	Unit	Amt	Statement of In		-	
Aastrup, Delmar P.	19th Inf	\$10	- 01 August 2008 - t	hrough	n 05 April 2	2009
Allen, John T.	63rd FA	\$20	1 1			
Barnabi, John	19th Inf	\$10	Income:	_	•	
Brandon, Ernest R.	63rd & 13th FA	\$10	40 Membership			750.00
Brault, Charles E. Brice, Trinnie A.	21st Inf 52nd FA	\$5 \$10	41 Full Life Pm			100.00
Caldwell, Thomas M.	21st Inf	\$10 \$10	4100 Reunion Do		-	580.00
Clayton, Richard S.	5th RCT	\$5	4180 Interest Inco			709.24
Cochran, Thomas F.	34th Inf	\$20	42 Partial Life	rmis		960.00
Conway, James F.	Div HQ	\$10	43 Donations	)	-	923.02
Cullen, Leo R.	19th Inf	\$25	44 Assoc Mbr I 45 Dan's Keebl			465.00
Curtis, Gilbert	19th Inf	\$10 \$10	8105 QM Sales	e Diive	,	581.00
Davis, Andrew J. Demaray, Dale	3rd Eng 19th Inf	\$10 \$10	Total Incom	0		915.29 <b>983.5</b>
DeMoss, Alan D.	Div Arty	\$50	Total Incom	C	Ψ31,.	303.3
Ericson, Russell L.	21st Inf	\$10	Expenses:			
Farmer, Carroll W.	11th FA	\$10	50 Gen'l Ofc		\$5.5	965.96
Fischer, James C.	19th Inf	\$10	51 Taro Leaf P	ub - 3 F		168.60
Fox, Robert G.	19th Inf	\$10 \$10	510 Returned Ta		,	77.9
Furtado, Vincent O. Gibson, Wesley J.	26th AAA 34th Inf	\$10 \$25	54 Reunion Ex			670.7
Hay, Sam	21st Inf	\$5	54 Drawing Pa	•		0.000
Howell, Lewis R.	21st Inf	\$10	58 Misc	,	-,	18.0
Huss, Jr., Mathew M.	21st Inf	\$5	6150 Liability Ins.			750.0
Irvine, Orrin R.	24th Sig	\$5	6080 Accounting	Fees		115.0
Jensen, Norman A.	34th & 21st Inf	\$5	8160 QM Expens			955.7
Kahle, Melvin	19th Inf	\$5 \$5	Total Exper		<del></del>	722.0
Keller, Rodney A. Lane, Willaim D.	21st Inf 34th Inf	\$25	Net Income:		-\$1,7	
Lee, Richard E.	Div Arty	\$15	rtot income:		Ψ.,,.	00.0
Lodge, William E.	24th Med	\$10				
Luedy, Clarence G.	21st Inf	\$35	New Members			C
Marcinko, Joseph J.	21st Inf	\$15	Name		Regiment	Bat
Mecca, Daniel	13th FA	\$25	Ada Maltar		5th RCT	
Nichols, Herschel E. Owens, Roderick	21st Inf 26th AAA	\$10 \$15	Ade, Walter Bradley, James L.		34th Inf	
Personeni, Laurence E.	34th Inf	\$50	Burkhardt, Philip A.		299th Eng	
Quick, George C.	19th Inf	\$50	Buscaino, Peter J.		11th FA	
Repko, Jr., Louis	34th Inf	\$5	Castner, James N.		Assoc	
Roberts, Clinton A.	34th Inf	\$30	Deyton, W. Audrey		21st Inf	
Rumboa, Prudencio E.	19th Inf	\$10	Dudley, Ronald		2/9th Cav	
Santoro, Anthony A. Shields, Alan J.	24th Sig 21st Inf	\$5 \$5	Haprer, Daniel E.		2/9th Cav	
Spero, John J.	34th Inf	\$15	Johnson, Paul F.		21st Inf 21st Inf	
Stuben, Richard A.	3rd Eng	\$5	Kraai, Henry C. Lane, Charles T.		34th Inf	
Sugg, Dr. Charles F.	24th Med	\$25	McAninch, Janis D.		19th Inf	
Susak, Sr., Joseph L.	34th Inf	\$10	Perkins, Al		7th FA	
Swanson, Myron J.	19th Inf	\$10	Sebasta, Nicholas L. "Nicholas	ck"	Assoc	
Toomey, Charles T. Trinca, John G.	52nd FA	\$10 \$20	Tourbin, John F.			
Turner, Ted D.	21st Inf 34th Inf	\$20 \$10	Walker, Theodore R.		19th Inf	
Westrich, Herman A.	21st Inf	\$25				
Youngblood, Carl D.	6th Tank	\$5			ifetime Membe	ers
Albrecht, Samuel P.	3rd Eng	\$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	Name		
Baglama, John	24th Recon	\$50	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>		William F. James T.	
Bradford, James	21st Inf	\$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>		iss, Carl R.	
Bruno, Howard J.	34th Inf	\$10	Postage	Duffy, [		
Davenport, Leon DelPizzo, Julius A.	21st Inf 19th Inf	\$25 \$20	For the general fund For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	Ferretti		
Frederick, Melvin L.	19th Inf	\$100	For the <b>Taro Leaf</b>	Frey, B		
Frederick, Melvin L.	19th Inf	\$25	In mem. of John Klump, Jr.		o, Roberto on, Paul E.	
Garland, Max	34th Inf	\$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>		s, Roy Allen "T	ex"
Griffin, J.C.	21st Inf	\$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>		Dane P. "Pat"	
Hamilton, John F.	19th Inf	\$35	For the "kitty"		ra, Thomas G.	_
Hession, Sr, Paul J.	3rd Eng	\$25	In mem of PFC Joseph Hession "B" 19th	Person	eni, Laurence	<u>E.</u>
Inman, Mary	Assoc	\$100	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	1		
Kucharski, Raymond E.	724th Ord	\$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>			
Lance, George F.	21st Inf	\$25	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	. ]	Tare	<b>.</b> /
Lovasz, Edward T.	19th Inf	\$10 \$10	For the "kitty"	. ]	Taro	) L
Millie, Robert J.	19th Inf	\$10 \$10	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	. ]		
O'Meara, Thomas G. Parker, Jerry R.	34th Inf 11th FA	\$10 \$10	In mem. 34th Inf Reg For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>	. ]		P
Pinnell, Floyd J.	21st Inf	\$100 \$100	For the <b>Taro Lear</b>	. ]		
Rains, Jack R.	21st Inf	\$15	For the <b>Taro Leaf</b>	. ]	_	
Sherman, Gary R.	5th RCT	\$15	For the <i>Taro Leaf</i>		Pi	re
Stock, Rodney F.	34th Inf	\$50	In mem of James E. Newdick			
	TOTAL	\$1,455	G-2 Div HQ.	L		
TT) 777 F				1		

# **Secretary-Treasurer Reports**

by Don Maggio

Statement of Financial Pos	sition
As of 05 April 2009	
Assets:	
1100 HomeTrust Bank-Checking	\$17,802.43
1101 HometTrust-Money Mkt	5,828.95
1112 Fifth Third Bank-Checking	5,598.70
1113 Fifth Third-Svngs	3,435.13
1115 Chase Bank-QM	1,738.79
1210 Wells Fargo-CD	34,441.10
1500 QM Inventory	3,000.00
Total Assets	<b>\$71</b> ,845.10
Liabilities:	
3000 Opening Bal Equity	\$15,068.49
3900 Net Assets	58,543.74
Net Income	-1,767.13
Total Liab & Equity	\$71,845.10

New Members		Company/	
Name	Regiment	Battery/Troop	
Ade, Walter	5th RCT	K	Sponsor: George Pempek
Bradley, James L.	34th Inf	HHC	Sponsor: Dan Cretaro
Burkhardt, Philip A.	299th Eng	Α	Sponsor: Joe O'Connell (Served in Lebanon)
Buscaino, Peter J.	11th FA	HQ	Sponsor: Ben Allen
Castner, James N.	Assoc		Father was Louis Castner, WWII, "C" 19th Inf
Deyton, W. Audrey	21st Inf	Α	Sponsor: Leon Davenport
Dudley, Ronald	2/9th Cav	В	Sponsor: Wes Morrison (started Life payments)
Haprer, Daniel E.	2/9th Cav	Α	
Johnson, Paul F.	21st Inf	HHC	
Kraai, Henry C.	21st Inf	HQ	
Lane, Charles T.	34th Inf	D	
McAninch, Janis D.	19th Inf	Н	Sponsor: Donald Vail
Perkins, Al	7th FA	Α	Sponsor: Vernon Annis
Sebasta, Nicholas L. "Nick"	Assoc		Sponsor: Tom Thiel Grandfather "G" 21st Inf WWII
Tourbin, John F.			Sponsor: Sal Schillaci
Walker, Theodore R.	19th Inf	Α	

\$8,750.00

2,100.00

12,580.00

709.24

960.00 5,923.02 465.00

2,581.00 3,915.25 \$37,983.51

\$5,965.96

22,168.66 77.95

> 670.77 5,000.00

> > 18.00 750.00

1,115.00 3,955.72

\$39,722.06 -\$1,738.55

New Lifetime Members		Company/	Life		
Name	Unit	Battery	No.	Date	Comments
Borer, William F.	19th Inf	D	2336	04 Feb 09	
Brown, James T.	19th & 34th Inf		2343	24 Mar 09	
Douglass, Carl R.	3rd Eng	С	2337	09 Feb 09	
Duffy, Donald	34th Inf	F	2332	17 Jan 09	
Ferretti, Louis	21st Inf	С	2342	11 Mar 09	Sponsor: Alvin Dorfn
Frey, Brian J.	24th Avn		2344	25 Mar 09	
Fortuno, Roberto	21st Inf	unk	2335	02 Feb 09	
Johnson, Paul E.	21st Inf	HHC	2334	27 Jan 09	
Manous, Roy Allen "Tex"	34th Inf	G	2339	28 Feb 09	
Nash, Dane P. "Pat"	Div Arty	Avn	2340	21 Feb 09	
O'Meara, Thomas G.	34th & 21st Inf	I&E	2333	22 Jan 09	
Personeni, Laurence E.	34th Inf	I&E	2341	26 Feb 09	

# Taro Leaf Editor Needed **Please Contact President Frederick**



# So... "Which wolf wins?"

Lyn Sawyer, Guest Chaplain

I guess you could call this a "once upon a

time" story for grown-ups, so here goes.

Once upon a time there were two wolves who lived in the same den. Now they looked very much alike and if you didn't look too closely, they even seemed to be exactly the same.

However, as time went by their differences became much more apparent. For example, one day a wolf who lived next door found a really delicious meal someone had just lost on the path nearby.

The one wolf was furious. "What did that guy do to deserve such a treasure? After all," he said to himself, "I am much more important and worthy than that guy. I should just go over there and take it away from him."

The other wolf had a whole different response. He was so pleased with his neighbor's good fortune that he could hardly wait to drop over and congratulate the lucky wolf.

Another time, another wolf in the same forest became ill and many of his family were ill too.

"Ha!" said the first wolf. "I've met that guy and he is getting exactly what he deserves! He always

causes trouble at work, he cheats. he ..." (well, you know how the

story goes on and on.)

But the second wolf whipped up a big pot of "chicken soup" and took it to the ailing family. He picked up their paper and mail, prayed with them, and even cleaned up their kitchen before he left.

Hmmm! Now do you begin to see how they are different? Or perhaps, you may even know some wolves who are similar to one or the other.

Now, as a famous news commentator used to say, "Here is the rest of the story."

You see, according to an old Indian legend, both of these wolves live in the heart of every human being.

The one wolf is evil. He is hateful. jealous, envious, arrogant and filled with false pride. He cares about no one but himself and is always looking for the "easy way" to get by.

The other wolf is good. He is happy with what he has and rejoices in the good fortune of others. He cries when others hurt and seeks to help them and lift them up. He has faith in the goodness of others and is filled with hope for the future of all people.

So . . . if this "legend" is true, and the two wolves



live in each one of us, then it follows that they must be constantly battling inside of each of us, and how we act and react tells the world who is winning.

So the question for each of us is this: "Which wolf wins?"

The answer is simple - the wolf that wins is the one you feed! The other one will eventually starve to death!

I don't know about the legend, but the Bible calls these conflicting forces inside each of us the "old" man and the "new" man - meaning our old sinful nature and our new nature we find when we let God have control.

I don't know about you, but I think I like the "second" wolf better than the first and pray I have sense enough to "feed" the good guy. I know – I don't always succeed, but be patient, God isn't finished with me yet. (Or you either, for that matter.)

Love and Prayers,

Lyn Sawyer

Chaplain, 21st Infantry Regiment, Assoc., (Mrs. Rev. Robert Sawyer, Task Force Smith. He passed away May 3, 2004.)



# From your Editor's Computer

**G**od grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

The Serenity Prayer has served me well during my term as your *Taro Leaf* Editor, which ends with this issue.

My health simply cannot sustain the kind of work load that editing and assembling the *Taro Leaf* demands. And I know of no way to reduce it to manageable levels.

While the therapy program I am currently following has produced some striking results, I can no longer sit at this old Gateway computer all day every day.

When Gene Spicer asked me to take the Editor's job, I had no idea what it entailed, or its magnitude, or the acrimony my taking it would unleash.

The editing, writing, production, photo editing and layout of the *Taro Leaf* was, for me at least, a major undertaking.

Thanks to everyone for tolerating my learning curve — from the rather crude first issues that I did with MS Word to the last few done with pride in MS Publisher.

My greatest rewards were the letters, emails and phone calls of appreciation from the newlywidowed spouses of our recently-The *Taro Leaf*  departed brothers in arms!

Very close behind were the associations I formed with many of our members, especially those that gave positive suggestions and moral encouragement.

I probably should not, but will mention at least a few.

Al Silverstein gave me encouragement, the "slices of life" suggestion, and described the *Taro Leaf* as the "glue that holds our Association together."

And I also want to mention Heidi Edgar, Gene Spicer, Don Maggio, Mel Frederick, John Edwards, Norm Smith, Anne and Bob Moncur, my fellow Constitution and Bylaws Committee members, Dan, Dan, Joe and Mario, and dozens and dozens of you who provided my ego with the salve it needed after each *Taro Leaf*!

And much thanks to those of you who expressed your appreciation with your generous contributions for the *Taro Leaf*!

So, it is with a heavy heart that I leave the Editor's job, for I too know the *Taro Leaf* <u>IS</u> the glue that holds us together.

And I also know that there is a low probability that any of us old horses has the necessary computer savvy to maintain this "glue" tradition. Maybe there might be with one of the younger stallions who served in Germany or Desert Storm, but so far we have not done very well at corralling them. But



maybe that is about to change.

The Association, and this issue of the *Taro Leaf*, is indeed fortunate to have had a major input from a number of the 24th's Cold War and Desert Storm soldiers.

Google Alerts introduced me to Pete Gamet; we really appreciate Pete's and the paper's quick approvals of his Desert Storm article that begins on page 12.

The Cold War group submissions were championed by John Dunn of Westover, AL, who brought in about ten new members, about an equal number of individual articles for this Taro Leaf and maybe most importantly identified for us more than 50 of his fellow Cold War 24th ID soldiers who will have the opportunity to also become affiliated with our Association. These excellent articles begin with "A Lasting Bond" on page 37, and includes their 50th reunion photo on page 55. And there are also excellent contributed articles by Don Maggio and Sean Harper included in this group.

See Editor (Continued on page 19)



## Paul Franklin Wisecup, Association

President 1971-72, of Apopka, Fla., died March 18, 2009 at his residence; he was 87. Life Member #61, Mr. Wisecup served with the 34th Infantry Regiment in WWII. His wife Dorothy Wilson Wisecup, died on April 20, 2008. He is survived by his son, Curt Wisecup of Apopka, Fla.; three grandchildren, Joshua, Amyand Jacob Wisecup; and one brother, Don Wisecup of Bangs, Texas. Graveside services, with military honors presented by the Highland County Ohio Honor Guard, were held March 31 at the Lynchburg, Ohio, Masonic Cemetery. Curt Wisecup, 2168 Majestic Woods Blvd, Apopka, FL, 32712-3200.

## 2nd Infantry

**David G. Seay**, of St. Charles, MO, passed away Feb. 25, 2009. David served with "A" Company, 2nd Infantry, at Gablingen Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany 1959-60. He is survived by his wife Louise and children. David and Louise were strong supporters of the biannual "A" Company reunions in Branson, MO. Mrs. Louise Seay, 2925 Thrush Drive, St. Charles, Mo 63301-1280.

## 3rd Engineers

William A. Harbin, of Davison, MI, age 77, passed away Monday, May 21, 2007 at his residence. Life member 2118, Mr. Harbin served with Company "B" 3rd Eng, Korea 1950-52. Last known address: 8174 Kensington Blvd. #797, Davison, MI 48423-3170, 810-654-9951.

**Charles Joseph Leaf,** 78, of Vanport, PA passed away January 24, 2009. Charles served with Company "A," 1948–1951 in Japan and Korea. Full military honors were provided by the Beaver County, PA Special Unit. Frances Meredith Leaf, 52 A Street, Beaver, PA 15009-1547.

## 11th Field Artillery

**David "Dave" Post Ammons** died on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at his home in Ventura, CA from complications consequent to lymphoma. He was with HQ Battery 11th FA in Japan from June 1953-June 1954. Mrs. Victoria Ammons, 58 Loyola Ave, Ventura, CA 93003-2314.

## 19th Infantry Regiment

**Marvin R. Johnson,** Life member 1578, who served in Korea with "B" 19th Infantry passed away December 2, 1998, per note from his wife, Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson.

Vincent A. Suilman, 91, passed away Febru-



ary 20, 2009 in Wabasha, MN. He was Life Member #308 and a SFC serving in New Guinea and the Philippines. He received the Bronze Star. Mrs. Bernice Suilman, 1226 River Dr, Wabasha, MN 55981-1700.

**Granton Earl Wilson**, 87, of Helmetta, NJ, died Friday, January 23, 2009 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge, NJ. Mr. Wilson, Life Member 207, was a Pearl Harbor Survivor and WWII veteran. Mrs. Emily Wilson, 2000 State Road 18, Apt 412, Old Bridge, NJ 08857-1111.

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

**Anthony (Tony) Corio**, companies C and E, 21st Infantry in Korea, passed away on February 15, 2009, in New Port, MI. Condolence may be sent to his wife, Ms. Katherine Corio, 8751 Ashlyn Dr., Newport, MI 48166-8849.

**Thomas E. "Tot" Grady**, 91, of Hartford, CT, passed away December 12, 2008. Life member 126, he served with Company H, 21st Infantry from 1942-45 as a Staff Sergeant in the South Pacific. His



wife Helen and also his daughter predeceased him. Funeral Services were held December 16, in Hartford, CT. Burial followed at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Rd, Bloomfield, IN.

Leon Heatherly, 77, Monmouth, IL, died Oct.



13, 2008 at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He served with "M" Company, 21st Infantry, with Task Force Smith. Heatherly married Louise Lucille Thornton on June 18, 1953 in Monmouth; she preceded him on Nov. 14, 2004. Condolences may be sent to

his daughters, Ms. Linda Hawk, 815 West 3RD Ave, Monmouth, IL 61462, and Ms. Lu Anne Grant, 31 Pecan Lane: Nauvoo, IL 62354-2011, (who would love to meet someone from her Dad's 24th division.)

Eugene E. Hitzeman of San Mateo, CA passed away January 23, 2006. Association life member 1299, Mr. Hitzeman served with the 21st Infantry Regiment during WWII. Mrs. Miriam M. Hitzeman, 600 W. 39th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403-4105.

Richard A. Humphreys passed away on November 15, 2008. He was with Company "M" in Japan and Korea from February 1951 through March 1952. Mrs. Elizabeth J. Humphreys, 115 Mar-Kauf Dr.. New Holland, PA 17557-9348.

Walter August Kramer, 90, "G" 21st Inf



Jan. 1945 - May 1946, and in Japan, passed away in Hotchkiss, Colorado on March 16, 2009. Walt worked in electronics, and served with Civil Air Patrol's Search and Rescue. He is survived by his wife, Helen, who wrote: "Another

'Buddy' gone. Walt was very proud of his service; and enjoyed the *Taro Leaf*. Thank you." Mrs. Helen Kramer, 14493 2900 Rd., Hotchkiss, CO 81419-7511.

John W. "Jack" Tait, 1st Battalion October 1944-December 1945 lost his battle with Cancer in Gulf Breeze, FL, March 7, 2006. Services were at the United Methodist Church of Gulf Breeze with interment at the Barrancas National Cemetery Pensacola, FL. Mrs. Ruth Tait, 1373 Green Vista Ln., Gulf Breeze, FL 32563-3488.

#### 24th Recon

**Donald E. Lennon** of Safety Harbor, FL, died on February 10, 2009. Life Member 1811, Mr. Lennon served with the 24th Recon from April 1950 -August 1951 in Japan and Korea. A full military honors funeral was held Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at Memorial Park Cemetery, 4900 54th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL. Ms. Jean Lennon, 3044 Egret Ter., Safety Harbor, FL 34695-5309.

## 34th Infantry Regiment

Willie P. Ellett, 86, died July 21, 2008 in



Burkeville, VA. He served from Oct 1942-Jan 1946 with Hq Co, 1st Bn, 34th in New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon. At discharge from the Ashford General Hospital in 1946 Ellett he returned to Burkeville, became a farmer and raised his family. He only

recently began talking about his wartime service, and looked forward to the *Taro Leaf* and passing it on to us. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Blanche Saxtan Ellett. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Blanche S. Ellett, 2987 Lone Pine Road, Burkeville, VA 23922-2320.

Rueben A. Engle, Life Member 682, of Aurora, CO passed away on September 24, 2005. Rueben served with the 34th Infantry Regiment during WWII and in Japan.



Roy L. Frost Sr., 85, died September 16,



2006, in Hutchinson, Kansas. Life member 315, Mr. Frost served with the 34th Infantry Regiment in WWII. He was wounded on Leyte Island, Philippines, and received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry-

man's Badge. Anyone wishing to may contact his daughter, Ms. Jane Horn, 110 Countryside Dr., Hutchinson, KS 67502-4456. Photo courtesy of www.elliottmortuary.com

Harold M. Hammond, 77, of Belvidere, IL and formerly of Mountain View, Mo., died Saturday evening, Feb. 21, 2009. Life Member 2006, Harold was a veteran of the Korean War serving with "A" company 34th, and then with "I" Company 19th Regiments. He was a former POW. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Patricia Hammond, 1320 Maryland Ct., Belvidere, IL 61008-2422.

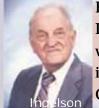
James "Jim" Owens, 83, died January 28, 2009 at his home in Lake City, Iowa, following a long fight with cancer. He enlisted in 1946 and attained the rank of Sergeant with the 34th Regiment. Mrs. Katie Owens, 3911 Jennings Ave., Lake City, IA, 51449-7620.

Walter B. Westmoreland, Life member 1672, with service in Japan with HQ 34th Infantry August 1946 to October 1947. Date unknown. Last known address: 8106 Highwood Dr., Apt Y331, Bloomington, MN, 55438-3049, PH:612-921-0310.

William L. Wilhelm, Sr. passed away in South Bend, IN on August 21, 2008. He was in HHC, 34th Infantry Regiment from September 1945 to June 1946. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Florence M. Wilhelm, 729 S 32nd St, South Bend, IN 46615-2313.

#### **Division**

Leslie A. Ingelson, 99, Moline, Illinois, died



February 10, 2009. Life member 1041, Les served as a surgical technician with Company D, 24th Medical Battalion in the Philippines and New Guinea. He received two bronze battle stars, and a bronze arrowhead for be-

ing in the first wave to land in the Philippines in 1943. Burial with military honors was in Moline. His wife Verna Evelyn passed away in 1987. He is survived by a daughter, Jeannine E. Ingelson, 5610 34th Ave. Apt. 4D, Moline, Il 61265-5706.

James Ellwood Newdick, age 79, Divi-



sion's G2 Section May-November 1953, passed away on December 15, 2008, in Columbus, OH. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia Tittel and also his second

wife, Janet Troyer. He is survived by daughters, Karen Schneider, Kristin Tweed, and Karla Mlachak, addresses unknown. Jim and member Rod Stock, played on the same Ohio high school football team.

#### **Association Non-Members**

**George M. Bingham,** "M", **21st Infantry Regiment**, of Lima, OH, died December 07, 2008. He was a POW from Jul 12, 1950 to Aug 1953 in Camps 3 & 7. He is survived by his wife, Martha Bingham, 1495 Fetter Rd., Lima, OH 45801.

**John Norman Carter** passed away in 1964 in Old Washington, OH. John served with "L" Co, **19th Infantry Regiment** in Korea, June 1951 until January 31, 1952, receiving two Purple Hearts and the CIB.

**Richard Chavez,** Company M, **21st Infantry** Regiment in Korea, passed away on August 28, 2008.

**Clarence M. Coster**, A and C Batteries, **555th FA** passed away on October 13, 2008 in McLean, VA.

Donald B. Cunningham, of Stratton, OH, died



(Continued from page 10)

March 24, 2007. He served with K Co **21st Infantry Regiment**, and was a POW from Feb 6, 1951 to Sep 1953 in Camps 1 & 4. He is survived by his wife, Mary Cunningham, PO Box 74, 204 2nd St., Stratton, OH 43961.

**David A. Dawson**, of Newport, TN died February 21, 2009. He served with D Co **5 Regimental Combat Team** and was a POW in Camp 1. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Dawson, 237 Chilton Rd, Newport, TN 37821.

**Harold Eugene Dill,** Lt. Col. U.S. Army (Ret.) of Summerville, SC died February 24, 2008 at Trident Medical Center. He served with the **21st Infantry Regiment**.

**James T. Evans**, 84, of Upland, PA died Friday, August 5, 1994, in Wallingford, Nether Providence. Mr. Evans was a staff sergeant in the **13th Field Artillery** Battalion serving in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He is survived by a brother, Gilbert Evans and a sister, Hannah Bell Fraker both of Upland.

**Joel L. Grantham**, Company E, **5th RCT**, Korea 1053-54, passed away on October 13, 2008 in Opelika, AL. Condolences may be sent to his wife: Mrs. Beatrice Grantham, 269 Lee Road 632, Opelika, AL 36804.

**Gerald R. Heichel** age 74 of Metamora, MI, passed away on March 18, 2009. Beloved husband of 52 years to the late Bonnie Heichel, Gerald served in the Army during the Korean War in the **24th Inf. Division**. Interment Ridgelawn Cemetery, Oxford, MI.

**Benjamin O. Hurley,** Sr, Company A, **5th RCT** passed away on February 5, 2009 in Hawaii. He served in Korea 1950-51.

**Raymond W. Korn**, Company E, **5th RCT** in Korea 1951-53 passed away on June 20, 2008 in Cashton, WI.

Thomas Joseph Patrick McKenna Jr., 75, of

Milton, NH, died at his home on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009. Mr. McKenna served in the **Division** during the Korean War. 34 Heron Circle, Milton, NH 03851.

John Muscatello, passed away on June 11, 2003, in Wynantskill, NY. John served with "D" Company, 21st Infantry Regiment from 1949- 1951. He was a member of the undefeated 1949 regiment football team. He leaves his wife Gerri, 1-518-283 1888.

William Woodrow "Woody" Nunley passed away January 21, 2009, from prostate cancer, according to a letter sent by his daughter, Betty Ann White, to Life Member Bill Stokes, Lady Lake, FL who served as supply clerk with SGT Nunley in HQ. Co, 1BN, 34th Infantry Regt, Sasebo, Japan, in 1947. Contact: Mrs. Geraldine Nunley, 17375 Highway 64, Anderson, AL 35610, or daughter, Betty Ann White, 387 CR 519, Anderson, AL 35610.

**Daniel E. O'Connor**, "L" Co, **21st Infantry Regiment,** 1950-1951, 78, of Palmetto, FL, passed away January 13, 2009. He is survived by his wife Eunice O'Connor, 4108 13th ST CT West, Palmetto, FL 3422 1-5701.

Felix John Puciarelli, of Brooklyn, NY died December 26, 2008. He served with K Co 19th Infantry Regiment and was a POW from Apr 23, 1951 - Aug 53 in Camps 2 & 3. He is survived by wife Sandra Puciarelli, 8714 21st Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11228.

**Euel L. Roberts**, of Elizabeth, WV passed away on February 25, 2009. After serving in Germany, he was recalled October 1, 1950, and served until July 1951, in the **24th Infantry Division** in Korea. He lived in east central Florida from 1961 to March 1982, when he moved to Elizabeth. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Jo Roberts, 272 Wells Lock Rd, Elizabeth, WV 26143.

**Bernard J. Rothwell** of Vero Beach, Fla., formerly of Weston, MA, died Thursday, December 18, 2003, at his home. He was 81. Mr. Rothwell was a second lieutenant in World War II in the **24th Infantry Divi** 

See TAPS (Continued on page 52)



# Out of the Desert Darkness

By Kate Hessling, Huron MI Daily Tribune Staff Writer Published: Monday, Feb. 2, 2009 11:01 AM. Reprinted with permission.

GAGETOWN, MI — Pete Gamet didn't feel like a hero following his tour of duty in Operation Desert Storm. Instead, he calls it an experience that resulted in "the lost innocence of youth; it gave me a different perspective on life," he said.

Gamet enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1988, a year after graduating from Cass City (MI) High School.

"I didn't really want to milk cows

— and it was harder than (heck) to get into any of the local factories," he said. "(Plus), I just wanted to get out of the area." Gamet's Military Oc-

cupational Specialty (MOS) was 63W, which was classified as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, he said.

He went through basic training at Fort Dix, N.J., an experience he said that wasn't just physically enduring, but psychological as well.

"In a nutshell, it was a mind game
— the drill sergeants would play



mind games with you," Gamet said. "Part of it was to break you down and get you in the proper mindset of the military." He said the goal was to break habits learned in civilian life and "retrain you for military life." When asked whether he grew a lot during this period, Gamet replied, "My mom

**Desert Storm** (Continued on page 13)

# Mindoro Beach Landing Question Solved!

January 2, 2009

I'm sending this in the hopes that you could perhaps help my father, Julius Delpizzo, Sergeant, K Company, 19th Regiment, 24th Division, WWII.

In late December 1944 in the Philippines he was part of the Mindoro beach landing starting on December 15. After advancing a few miles inland, they were on a bluff overlooking the bay.

The large Allied naval battle group in the bay was under attack by Japanese planes. One of the ships was a large cargo ship. My father recalls seeing a plane fly toward

Rich and Julius Delpizzo

the cargo ship. Soon after that, there was a flash from the area of ships and the cloud that erupted went into the sky and leveled off — a mushroom type cloud.

After several seconds, the ground under my father began to shake

and they were all thrown to the ground. When they got up the ship had vanished!

My father has been wondering all these years if anyone has information on this incident, particularly the ship's name, and what happened to the crew.

Rich Delpizzo

I suggested Rich use the internet to search Google for "Mindoro beach cargo ship liberty class." ED.

Jnauary 4, 2009

Thank you for such a quick response. I tried your suggestion to

See Solved (Continued on page 13)



Page 12 Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009

#### **Desert Storm** ((Continued from page 12)

says I did." "I don't think I changed until I got back from Desert Storm," he added.

But Desert Storm wasn't on the radar yet when Gamet graduated basic training in 1988 and went on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"It was the basic advance training for being a mechanic," he said, noting skills he learned included vehicle recovery, how to pull an engine and make minor repairs.

Gamet said AIT proved to be good training. "I could pretty much tear apart a Humvee and put it back together," he said.

Gamet then headed to Fort Ben-

ning, Ga., which was his permanent duty station, in 1989. There, he was cross-trained to work on everything — gas and diesel, and wheeled and track vehicles.

Then came August 1990, when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

"At first, the military asked for volunteers, then after negotiations with the Saudi government, my company ... was deployed," Gamet said.

Gamet was in the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, and when his unit was deployed, it was made part of the 24th Infantry Division, the third division to get deployed. "We got there the first week of September," he remembered.

After leaving the U.S., Gamet's

destination was in Saudi Arabia. Though he spent time at the border of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Gamet said he was fortunate to have never had to actually go into Kuwait. "I was lucky," he said.

Instead, he was on a contact team which supported the 2-18 Infantry Battalion, Gamet said.

Though combat only lasted five days, those days took their toll on Gamet and his fellow soldiers in the form of sleep deprivation, he said.

"From the time we jumped the border Thursday night, I didn't get any sleep until Saturday— and that was only because we ran into a sand storm, so I got four hours of sleep while we were waiting for

**Desert Storm** ((Continued on page 23)

**Solved** (Continued from page 12)

search Google — and we found our answer! Here are some extracts.

WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRA-TION (Washington); ADVANCE RELEASE — "Two Liberty ships were blown up by enemy attack off Mindoro with the loss of all on board. Sixty-eight merchant seamen were killed on the SS John Burke while 71 died on the Lewis L. Dyche. Both disasters occurred during the Mindoro operation."

I then searched for "SS John Burke," and found the following from the log of the 8-12 watch onboard the USS BUSH (DD 529) for 28 December 1944:

• "1020 - Enemy planes attack-

The **Taro Leaf** 

ing various units in rear portion of convoy. Two enemy planes crash dived on S.S. WILLIAM SHARON and S.S. JOHN BURKE (liberty ships).

- 1020-Tremendous explosion in center of convoy followed by minor explosions. S.S. JOHN BURKE was blown clear of water. Huge column of smoke obscured center of convoy.
- 1021-Enemy planes withdrew. Convoy ceased firing.
- 1104-Received visual message from LST 751 reporting that S.S. JOHN BURKE had blown up at 1020 when crash dived by enemy plane. (E. E. Sechrist, Lt.(jg)"

A further search found, quite incredibly, actual time-lapse photos

of the event (see http://www.ussbush.com/slotow.htm).

The images on this site were filmed on the morning of December 28, 1944 as the USS BUSH helped to escort a number of transports and supply ships bound for Mindoro Island in The Philippines. The supply ships were filled with ammunition, fuel and other materials.

The photos clearly show the mushroom cloud that my father recalls, as the ammunition ship SS JOHN BURKE explodes after being hit by a Japanese suicide plane. All 68 hands aboard the BURKE were lost. All images were shot on 16MM newsreel film from the

**Solved** (Continued on page 15)

0

Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009 Page 13

# Korean Rain

By Mel L. Frederick, "E" 19th Korea, 1951-52

Any infantryman who served in combat has so many experiences he can never forget — the constant artillery barrages raining on you daily, the machine gun tracers lighting up the night sky, the mortars silently dropping their teardrops of death, your friends and buddies that never made it home, and

some who did who would never be the same, your best friend dying in your arms. These are things you will not forget.

But there are some other things that you may not think about that are still entrenched in my memory for nearly 60 years. Two of these are what I write about here.

I was fortunate to be a Sgt 1st class when I boarded a ship to Japan on my way to Korea. Another Sgt and I shared a cabin — with beds that had innerspring mattresses, and a fresh water shower!

We arrived at Inchon where we were greeted with a scene of total devastation. We then went through Seoul on our way to the replacement center; the city was in shambles, narrow streets, shacks turned into piles of rubble, the President's Palace just a burned out shell, buildings and light poles pockmarked by bullets, bridges collapsed in the river, just



total chaos.

We finally arrived at our destination. I can't say where it was but it was just a stopping off place so we could be shuffled out like so many playing cards to various outfits as re-

placements. We left friends we had made on the voyage and joined our new units.

That's when I learned my first reality — infantrymen in Korea didn't have beds. The "room" in room and board did not exist. You slept on the ground in whatever spot you ended up at dark, or you dug a hole or found whatever shelter you could find, but, in all my days in Korea I never slept in a bed.

My first night in Korea was at the replacement center. We were pointed towards an empty field beside some bombed out buildings and told to pitch our tents for the night. I carefully trenched around my tent to keep water away, and settled down for a well deserved rest after a long day.

During the night it began to rain and continued to pour for the rest of the night. The trench around my tent soon filled, then the water crept up under my ground tarp. Soon I was floating in water.

All of us left our tents and headed toward the bombed out buildings to seek shelter. But there were no roofs and all we could do was huddle next to the walls and wait for dawn and continue to get soaked. I don't know why we were so anxious for dawn as that did nothing to keep us dry.

That was my first encounter with Korean rain, but not my last!

We had many rainy times in Korea, but I only have vivid memories of some. Another of these was an indelible night in late October.

We were on the front lines and my Lt and I were sharing a foxhole on the front slope of the hill. It was nice and deep, almost three feet or so.

It began to rain, and finally turned into a real downpour. We had a poncho and rigged it so we could trench around the back and still leave the forward side open so we could keep watch for the enemy.

The rain finally washed out the back of the foxhole and water poured in. We could not cover the hole and still see out so all we could do was huddle together to keep warm, and continue our outlook. The cold, and the rain coming down on us and pouring into the bottom of the hole, made for another memorable Korean night

(See **Rain** Continued on page 15)





The ammunition ship SS JOHN BURKE explodes after being hit by a Japanese suicide plane December 28, 1944. All 68 hands aboard the BURKE were lost.

(For scale, see ships in lower right).

**Solved** (Continued from page 13)

decks of the USS BUSH, by the ship's Medical Officer, LT George Johnson.

My father's memory of the resulting shock wave was accurate as it was noted that inside the Combat Information Center (CIC) on USS BUSH, former Executive Officer Tony Lilly recalled, "The shock was so fierce that I (in CIC) thought we had been hit."

Thank you for your help; after 64 years (almost to the day), my father finally got his answer.

What are the chances of a medical officer filming a news-reel using 16 mm film when the explosion happened? The internet is an amazing thing!

It will be interesting to see who else recalls this incident when this letter gets printed in the *Taro Leaf*; my Dad loves reading it.

Very Respectfully,

Rich Delpizzo Julius Delpizzo 5410 Charlottesville Road, Springfield, VA 22151, rdelpizzo@eagle.org Ph: (703) 354-3210

(**Rain** Continued from page 14)

in the rain.

I also remember Thanksgiving Day 1951 — just two days before my 22nd birthday! Our Company was in reserve.

We had been in continuous combat in Operation Nomad for almost a month and a half, and this was our first chance to get out of our filthy clothes and take a shower.

A large platoon tent had been erected for us, the first time we were not sleeping in our own poncho shelters. And, we also had new down sleeping bags and we thought we would be cozy that night.

And in addition to all that, I had just been given the Platoon's beer ration — three cans per man. We

were really in hog heaven!

But a few hours before dawn we got word the Chinese had broken through the line and we were to move up and plug the gap. On our way out we passed the mess tent. The smell of the turkeys roasting and the other foods being prepared tempted our taste buds — just like home on Thanksgiving mornings as our mothers prepared a feast for us.

But we had to leave our dinner behind, along with our sleeping bags and the almost unheard of tent over our heads. We got our Thanksgiving dinner online later; I don't recall if it was later that day or the next.

And guess what came with it—rain! We stood in the rain and ate our special Thanksgiving dinner; the rain turned our feast into a soggy, wet, cold mixture of food

and rainwater!

That was about the last of the rain as late November in North Korea, snow, lots of snow, and bitter cold, replaced the rain.

We were then in a holding pattern and traded our open foxholes for bunkers. Though not heated, they kept out some of the wind. But the fronts had to be open so we could be vigilant for the enemy, but it sure beat an open hole in the ground.

I love the smell of a Minnesota rain and sometimes like to walk in a light one, but my memories of Korean rain still linger — somewhat poignant and sometimes humorous, but a memory that I still have.

Mel L. Frederick 950 W. Barney, Owatonna, MN 55060-3800



## HOYT'S WAR—A LIGHTER VIEW OF THE ARMY

Hoyt F. Overcash, Battery B, 13th FA, 1942-45

I was drafted in September 1942. Since my dad was in Field Artillery, that's what I asked for. I was assigned to the 308th Field Artillery Battalion, 78th Division, the same Division that my dad was in during WWI.

I had played trumpet in my high school band. So, the First Sergeant gave me the bugler manual and said, "You will be the Bugler of the Guard, check the bulletin board."

I remember the first time I blew TAPS, someone told me to "blow it out of my home-sick barracks bag," and some other places too!

One day I went to my bugler station for Retreat; I was a little early, but I went ahead with first call. Man was that a screw up! I had a lot of people scrambling to get to their stations. When I got back to my barracks, I had to report to the General's office. He worked me over royally, and told me the next time that I was Bugler of the Guard to come to his office and set my watch with his.

After I returned home I played TAPS for many funerals and memorial services for men killed in Europe. One was for an old friend, Albert "Ham" Sloop, I still think of him often.

As a bugler I had some weekends free, and I would go home every

free weekend I had. But when I got back to camp after Christmas 1942, my bags had been packed, my bed rolled up, and I found myself on the train going west. We boarded a ship and the next landmark I saw was the big pineapple at Honolulu.

We loaded on a little train and went to Schofield Barracks and Baker Battery, 13th Field, 24th Division.

The next morning we moved to our camp in the Eucalyptus Forest. Sergeant Fisher said a few words but mostly he said to be sure and check the bulletin board. I knew what that meant.

Sure enough, I was on guard duty. But, I had not had Basic Training and had never fired a rifle. So, I told the clerk that I could not pull guard; the Handbook states no rifle firing, no Guard Duty. So, I was sent to KP instead! In two days, I was on the firing range!

My first breakfast in Hawaii was creamed beef on a great big, thick slice of toast covering my whole mess kit, and I wondered what I was going to do with it. But I ate it all and liked it. We always had good cooks; men who could make a meal out of almost anything.

Sgt. Brafford was my Supply Room sergeant. He and others, including Sgt. Snow Redwing, our



Cardine (left) and Hoyt Overcash in Dutch New Guinea

medic who was Native American, were all regular Army and were at Schofield Barracks at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl.

I felt lucky to get to know these men, and also our First Sergeant Fisher, Sgt. Bradford, Sgt. Gibson, Sgt. Gentry. We had a hundred or more men and I feel bad about not remembering all of them. We were family.

We shipped out to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, where we stayed one or two nights and then went to Rock Hampton and set up a new camp on a hill.

We traveled by train on the way from our amphibious training on the coast of Queensland. The train stopped at every Outback station where the people would be wait-

(Continued on page 17)



ing for us with cakes, cookies and pies — all kind of things to eat. Everything had raspberry icing. Every one bought something.

I had breakfast at the Red Cross on my first pass to Rock Hampton. I heard somebody holler, "Hey, Hoyt Overcash!" It was Harry Dayvault, a life-long friend and high school classmate. It sure did us both a lot of good.

We got some new men at Rock Hampton; one was Cal Inman from South Dakota. Cal and I hit it off right from the start and became friends for life. He married a young lady by the name of Mary from Texas; they taught winters in Texas and spent their summers at Hill City, SD. Cal was like a brother; he died in January 2007, and I miss him.

When we were to load on the LST going to Mindanao, I was supposed to load my Jeep on first so I

would be last off. But it turned out I loaded last. So, I was first off when we landed at Mindanao. I scrunched so far down in my Jeep I could barely see where I was driving.

Then we moved on to Dutch New Guinea where we were in what they called a rest period. We were unloading ships and sleeping in jungle hammocks.

One day we were resting in our hammocks, when quite surprisingly my brother, Cardine, came by. It was great seeing him there in New Guinea, and we had many visits, but it didn't last because I soon shipped out for the Philippines. We did see each other again on Leyte. Cardine Overcash died in May 2007, and I miss him.

The Mess Sgt. was a good friend so I became a cook! Me a cook? Well my mother had no daughters and she taught me to cook. I make First Cook. My specialty was sheet cakes, biscuits, and pies.

I made a nice cool drink from ice cream mix. My buddy knew the man in Davao who ran the ice plant and Cal was an agent for the whiskey the iceman also made. Cal would go to Davao to get ice, and his supply of whiskey. And that is how I was able to make the cool drink!

Cal and I had been to a movie the night we heard that the war was over, and on the way back to our camp all of the ships out in the harbor were firing machine guns and making all kinds of racket. It was a wonderful night, one that I will never forget.

We learned that an air craft carrier was going to pick us up, but we didn't know where it was to take us. It turned out to be to Japan.

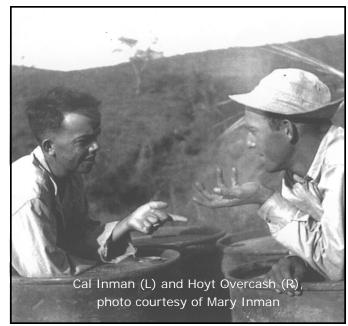
Just think, if I had had basic training no telling where I would have gone, probably to Europe. I am glad I got to go to Japan.

I had my share of combat. I drove a Jeep mostly delivering food and batteries for the forward observers. I also hauled ammunition for our 105 howitzers. I ran over a hand-thrown torpedo that knocked out my head light and beat up the grill of my Jeep. I got that Ford Jeep brand new, and wore it out completely!

On my route home, we landed at San Pedro and took a train back to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and a discharge. I got home about eleven at night. It snowed the next day and that was a treat. I had not seen snow in over three years!

This all happened to a guy who never had *BASIC TRAINING*!

Hoyt F. Overcash 772 Ideal Dr. SE Concord, NC 28025 Ph: 704-786-1522



The **Taro Leaf** 



# The 21st Regiment on the Philippine Islands

From a typed, half-inch thick spiral-bound well-illustrated book by Life Member 507, Guy E. Sheppard, Sr.



We, the 21st Infantry Regiment, encountered the formidable center of the Japanese line on April 30 for seven weeks of hard and continuous combat. The 1st Battalion, that's us, commanded by Maj. Nick Sloan, bypassed Libby Airdrome on our west and drove directly on to Mintal, arriving there on May 3.

The rest of the 21st Regiment took Libby Airdrome on May 5, but could advance no farther up Route 1D. That put our 1st Battalion at Mintal in the serious position of being surrounded and possibly annihilated. Fortunately, we held 'em off.

Then on May 8, we crossed the Talomo River near Mintal but enemy artillery, mortar and machine -gun fire put us back across the river two days later.

The east bank of that river looked like the walls of the Grand Canyon. Machine-gun fire was coming right down on us from up there. The river was only about waist deep but the current was so swift you could not stand upright without something to hold on to.

No sooner had we stretched rope and secured it to hold on to, the Japanese would open up on us with their machine guns and woodpeckers. It was the pits — we lost a few guys with wounds but we made it across.

But when we did all kinds of hell broke loose. Artillery and mortar rounds bursting all around, and those infernal machine guns wouldn't let us hide anywhere. After two days of this we went back across the Talomo to regroup.

The 52nd Field Artillery was then brought in, but their first round was no help at all; it fell short, right on one of our guys. After the artillery barrages, we left to cross the river again. I saw a GI boot with part of a leg still in it. Those short rounds happened, just one of the bad breaks in war.

On May 12, the 1st and 2nd Battalions started north along the east bank of the river toward Mintal. Over the next three days we cleared Route 1D. to Mintal.

We then fought our way into Mintal but when we did the fighting even intensified. Holy cow, where did they all come from!

When we left Mintal there were Japanese bodies lying everywhere in the streets. The severe temperatures caused the bodies to swell until the arms were extended. It was common to see the enemy dead like this everywhere. There was no organization left in their Army—no one to pick up their dead, and no one to notify their families of their misfortune.

That's the horrors of war. If the men in government who start wars had to do the fighting, there would be no war, and you can bet your ass on that.

We started our march to Davao, and dug in for the night. Before daybreak I was summoned to the Headquarters area in the center of our perimeter. Capt. Irons asked Sgt. Land, Smitty and me to check out an intersection in the road ahead. A patrol had reported hearing digging, and Irons wanted to know what was there before he moved the company up the road.

He told us to go through the edge of the jungle beside the road, and figured three men could travel faster with less. We arrived at the intersection as light was breaking

(Continued on page 19)

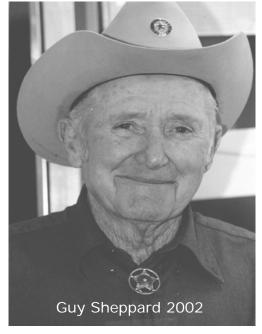


and saw a pillbox bunker in the edge of the jungle; its slits directly pointing down the road.

Sgt. Land waited outside the bunker to cover us while Smitty and I lowered ourselves into it. There were two Japanese asleep inside. Our Thompsons ensured that they went to permanent sleep.

A 20mm anti-aircraft gun was pointed down the road that our company was about to come along. Smitty and I removed the gun and handed it to Land, who put it over his shoulder, and we returned to the Company. Irons was glad to see us, and even happier when he saw the cannon.

He said we had saved the lives of some of our Company men, and that he was going to put us in for a Silver Star. But it never happened. I was 23 years old then; I am 78 now, and my Silver Star still has-



n't been awarded.

The Company moved to the area of the bunker, formed into a skirmish line and started moving on through the area. But the area was still lousy with the enemy; Smitty was killed by the first volley!

I was easing along in a crouch when I spotted the trunk lid of an old car. It was being used as a Japanese foxhole lean-to cover. I looked in and saw three bodies in the hole and started to move on.

But then I noticed that some did not have any blood on the bodies. I stuck my Thompson in there and let loose a burst. The guy in the middle nearly jumped out of the hole with his rifle in his hands, but the Thompson's .45's had done their job and he fell back motionless. I often wondered what would have happened to me had I turned my back and kept on walking.

I did not sleep well that night, I knew for sure that I had taken the life of another human being. I prayed to God about it but don't know if I will be accountable at judgment day or not—I pray not.

Guy E. Sheppard, Sr. 13340 Willow Springs Road Haslet, TX 76052-2819 Ph: 817-439-3397

**Editor** (Continued from page 7)

I would also like to extend special note of thanks to all the others contributing to this, my final *Taro Leaf*, and to everyone who ever submitted material. Not all of it got into copy, for which I am sorry, and for material that did, it never got into final copy as it was submitted; after all, an Editor edits!

The *Taro Leaf* is what it is because of your experiences, and your willingness to share them.

The **Taro Leaf** 

Thank you all very much!

I tried to do the best I could. I did not go beyond the printing standards I inherited, instead, I reduced them enough to shave costs by up to a third. I only requested the Editor's use of a Director's Association resource; he refused to share it. I believe the Association must manage its information, not trust it to individuals acting unilaterally and uncooperatively. And there were no smoke screens.

I'm proud to say that the Special Constitution Committee was a collaborative team effort. It was not the product of one person and "approved" by the other members. To so claim, and then label the Committee's product dubious, is discourteous and scornful.

Regrettably, I must change what I can change — being your Editor.

Thank you again very, very much.

I hope our paths cross somewhere on down the road.

God Bless! Sincerely, Tom

Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009 Page 19

# Story of a New Infantryman—April 1951

By Harold G. Palmer edited & submitted by Larry Gay, Historian

**P**rivate Harold G. Palmer joined Company "L" of the 19th Infantry online just east of the town of Chip'ro-ri, NK, which was located about nine miles above the 38th Parallel on Apr 21, 1951. Palmer, and another replacement named Kline (see footnote) were assigned as ammo bearers in a light machine gun squad of the 4th Platoon. Their Squad Leader, Sgt. Schmith, positioned them down-slope from the crest of Hill 543. They were to dig-in and not to fire their M-1's to the their front because King Company was located about 100 yards in front of their position.

The Chinese began the 1st Phase of the 5th Campaign the night of April 22 across the central front. They hit the 24th Infantry Division across their entire front with a focus on regimental boundaries located on the ridge lines. King Company was on the 19th's right flank and joined the 2nd Battalion of the 5th RCT on the ridge leading to Hill 795. The north-south ridge on which Hill 795 was located was one of the routes the Chinese used to try to attack the 24th.

Palmer and Kline began receiving enemy mortar and artillery on the nights of April 22-23, and they were ordered to move to the reverse slope and dig-in. But even there, enemy artillery rounds were hitting the tops of the trees and wood splinters and metal shards were hitting all around them. Kline could not take it any longer; he ran

to the top of the ridge and threw a grenade toward the enemy. But the grenade hit one of the men from "K" Company, and Palmer remembered the man cussing Kline and Palmer as he was placed on a litter.

The Chinese overran King Company, which pulled back through Love Company positions during the early morning of April 23.

Palmer picks up the story from there. Sgt. Schmith came up to our hole and said: "I'll see you in the morning," and threw something on the ground. It got quiet about this time and Kline and I relaxed some before daylight. Kline got out of our fox-hole and said: "Here comes a carrying party." We knew they used Koreans to carry supplies. He hollers at them and they started to shoot at us. They were Chinese! If they could shoot as good as GI's, we would be dead. The bullets kicked up dirt all around us and I jumped back in the foxhole; Kline ran up the trail to the top of the mountain.

I told myself: "Hell, if he can make it up there so can I." When I ran from the foxhole, I saw the two boxes that Sgt. Schmith had thrown down. I picked them up and ran to the top of the hill. But there was no one there, so I picked the trail to my right. Luck was still with me as I came off the ridge a ways and a GI hollered at me and asked what I was carrying. I told him I didn't know for sure. He told me to come over. I did and he told

me it was ammo for their gun. He was glad to get the ammo, and told me to stay there and put me on the machine gun. He told me the Chinese would be coming through the gap between the mountains in a little while.

Hell, he had no more finished saying that when the Chinese came. He told me not to fire until he told me to fire. I figured that I had about 300 rounds and I thought he was letting too many of enemy through. Looked like 50 or more.

He said open fire! And told me to run when I ran out of ammo. Well, I shot the hell out of them as they were marching and running about four abreast. But, they did not stop. They just continued to come forward even though the bullets were hitting them. Those that got through ran up the mountain.

Later the Major told me that although it was my first combat it came natural to me.

The two men from Love Company's machine gun were named Singleton and Pendleton. If you go to war, these are the kind of men you want with you in battle.

Harold G. Palmer, "L" Company, 19th Inf. Regiment 2216 Glenraven Avenue Gastonia, NC 28052

Footnote. A Pfc. Donald G. Kline was wounded on 27 Jun 51. This was the day after Sgt. Roberts was wounded. Could Donald G. Kline be the one who joined "L"/19th with Harold Palmer on 21 Apr 51? Edited by Larry Gay, Historian, 30 Sep 08.



# Waiting for Dawn

By John J. Baker, Life Member 2061, 34th Inf, HQ

"Hear the patter of our feet, It's the 24th in retreat."

"As MacArthur's plane came in low over us, I took off my helmet and dropped it to the wellfertilized rice paddy we were crossing and stood at attention. I then proudly saluted with my five fingers to my nose, and yelled "Where's the Ammunition? — Give us some ammo so we can get back to what we were sent here to do — fight — not retreat!"

passages that struck me as I glanced over the handwritten pages of John J. Baker's rough draft of his memories of Japan and Korea — and of his three Cedarville. NJ childhood friends. Lawrence J. Capelli, Harry R. De Nofio, and Romaine Howey, all of whom served in the Korean War.

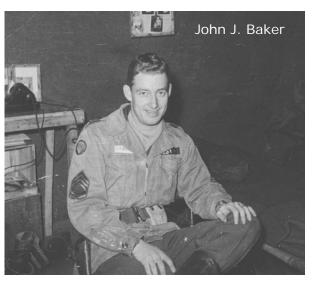
Some of John's recollections are amusing. One of these is his recounting of receiving a threatening letter from his local draft board for his failure to register for the draft (he joined at 18). He says "I was ten thousand miles from home, in the middle of a war. We were running low on ammunition, food and water. And I just got a threatening letter from my draft board. Could the situation get any worse? Yea it could; I could get killed!"

The Army was not going to send me back to register for the draft. Well, nature was also calling, so, I did the next best thing. I went to some bushes, unbuckled my belt and dropped my fatigues; at least the letter would be good for something, I mumbled to myself. "God Bless the Cedarville Draft Board!"

And John presents some very somber times as well. "Harry and I These are but two of the numerous met on a North Korean battlefield about four in the afternoon. Temperature was minus 30. And it was windy. We were standing in about two feet of snow, cold and hungry. Harry was wounded. He had been shot by a Chinese. We were lost, without a compass and no sun to help us gauge direction. Dusk engulfed us. It was then that Harry and I began to reminisce about our childhood — all night while "Waiting for Dawn."

> Author Baker then launches into these memories — sometimes it made a difference what side of the tracks you lived on, building a raft on Lumis Lake, the Pickle Factory, etc.

Although Harry R. DeNofio was reported as missing in action on November 27, 1950, and presumed dead in January of 1954, Baker explains how he died and



that his dog tags, which were left with a medic, also were lost when the medic himself was killed.

Waiting for Dawn's dedication page reads: "To Harry R. De Nofio, Company F, 27th Regiment, United States 25th Infantry Division. In memory of a dear childhood friend, 1941-42-43. Harry go with God, and rest with the Angels."

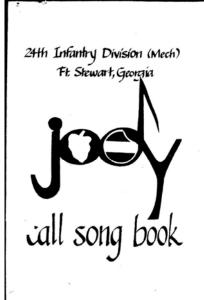
Baker says he has about another year of work yet on the book, but is determined to see it published.

And he is not without experience in book writing as he has two previous books published — "Shadow," and "Peanut Butter or a Soup Sandwich," both published by Carlton Press, Inc., New York City.

John J. Baker 839 Newton St. Monterey, CA 93940-9394 Ph: 831-375-3328



# Spicer Discovers Book of 24th "Jody Calls"



**P**ast president, Gene Spicer, and his wife, Donnie, were in Daytona Beach, FL recently for the 500 Auto Race. As most of you know, Gene restores old Army trucks, and that passion led him to a place in Ocala, FL, where he discovered a pair of mirrors for one of his trucks.

While there, Gene also discovered a little book; the cover is reproduced at left. "Jody Calls" were those cadence calls we drilled to that helped make those long boring marches seem a bit shorter. This book was done by the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Stewart, GA, and contains 27 Jody calls, many of which specifically mention the Victory Division in their verses (one is

shown below right). The book is undated and fragile with quite a lot of the text only very faintly visible. Gene loaned it to me and I converted the contents to digital format.

05 VICTORY DIVISION IS NUMBER ONE.

Victory soldier is number one; we run two miles just for fun. Make three miles, it's gettin right; we run until we're out of sight.

Hey, Ft Bragg you can hide your face, 'Cause Victory Division will set the pace. Old Ft Campbell can hide-em, too, Victory Division's coming through.

While I cannot send a printed copy, I would be happy to share an electronic file copy if you wish (email request to tthiel5@comcast.net). TJT

## Please Send Your Tickets and Donations Now!

24th Infantry Division Association Drawing Ticket 10-\$400 Cash prizes	NameAddress
\$5.00 Ticket Donations Appreciated	CityStZip
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN	email:

## **Rules for the 24th Infantry Division Association Drawing:**

The prize drawing will be conducted by the 24th Infantry Division Association at the <u>Annual Reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota</u>, on <u>Friday, August 28, 2009</u> immediately following the Aloha Banquet. No purchase required. Winners will be notified by phone or mail. You do need not be present to win. Donations gratefully accepted. Complete and return the ticket stubs you received in the mail. Send to: 24th Infantry Division Assoc, Glen Carpenter, Jr., 503 Michigan Street, Buchanan, Ml 49107-1428.

## Thank you very much for your financial support!



**Desert Storm** (Continued from page 13)

the storm to pass," Gamet said.

It was 130 miles into Iraq before he saw any Iraqi soldiers, Gamet said. "Most of them were surrendering (even though) a few of them still had some fight left in them," he said. But U.S. soldiers had different training and better technology, which gave them a huge advantage.

Besides the less-than-a-week of combat, Gamet said what he remembers most about his tour in the Middle East were the cultural differences.

"We were told to have as little contact with the Saudis as possible because of the cultural differences," he said. That was especially true regarding the female Saudis. Gamet noted.

"We were told because of the Saudi culture, women would wear veils and not make eye contact," he said. "We were allowed to talk to men, but not women. That's their society's rule ... women are second-class citizens, you could say. The males come first in the society, and they're very protective of their women." Six months after he arrived in the Middle East, Gamet had another shot of good luck in the form of a competition that served as his ticket home.

"Toward the end of October 1990, morale was low. So (our commander) had a competition," he said. "I won for best Humvee in the company, got a certificate and was one of the first to come home."

And Gamet really wanted to go home. In fact, when asked about his overall experience, he replied, "I wouldn't go through it again." Once home, he didn't feel like a hero.

"I was bitter as hell," Gamet said. It started his first night back in country when he saw CNN talking about the Highway of Death.

"We just came from there, and that just ticked us off (because) their reporting was biased."

It really angered him when he'd hear Americans say the military was only involved in Operation Desert Storm so the U.S. government could get oil.

"My daughter's history book said this too," he said. "That's a crock — someone doesn't know their history. The UN asked us to remove Saddam (Hussein) from Kuwait." Americans at home didn't see how Iraqis looted Kuwait, Gamet added.

"We were hearing stories that Iraqis would go into hospitals and kill newborn babies and bayonet pregnant Kuwaitis," he said, noting those who resisted were "rounded up and executed in a public setting. So we had our reasons and we tried to do it as humanly as possible."

He said it took some time for him to feel any satisfaction about serv-

ing his country.

But there was a light during this dark time for Gamet in the form of his daughter, who was born 21 days after he returned to the U.S.

Gamet left the Army in February 1992 as an E-4 specialist. He was 22 years old. "At first, I came home to Cass City, then moved to the Kalamazoo area for a few years," Gamet said.

He moved back to this area in 1998. After earning an associate's degree in architecture from Baker College in 2001, he got a job in the engineering department of Active Homes in Marlette in May 2001. Unfortunately, it closed in 2003.

So, Gamet went back to school and is a full-time student. He runs an online business on the side where he sells designs for hunting blinds, www.greenleaf-designs.com.

He also keeps busy with his family, which include his wife, Kathy, and children, Amber, Joshua, Jacob and A.J.

Gamet recently was VFW post commander in Cass City where he started a support group for past, present and future soldiers. The group sends care packages to soldiers overseas. Pete Gamet said to call Kris Gamet at (989) 872-8382 if they would like to donate.

Pete Gamet PO Box 174 Gagetown, MI 48735 (989)665-0183



# "I Served With the 24th in Augsburg, Germany, and I'm Damn Proud of That Service!"

#### **Editor**

I've been reading the letters to the editor, and looking at the Association's finances in the *Taro Leaf*, and I just have to ask "how long can this continue?"

With the loss of members either by death or just not renewing, the bottom line of the report can only continue to go up within the brackets. A little less color in the pictures would help with the cost.

The only way to correct this is to get new members.

Some people have to swallow their pride and go after the Cold War Vets who were in the 24th in Germany and elsewhere. It's only common sense.

I was in the Army from 1963 to 1966 and served most of that with the 24th in Augsburg, Germany and I'm damn proud of it.

There are so many untouched possible members and leaders out there. The Association needs to reach them.

#### Membership:

In the *Taro Leaf* just before the annual reunion, there is a press release asking persons to attend the reunion. If a few words were changed, it would be an excellent ad for membership. The person who puts it in the newspaper could put his/her name as a contact person. Cost? Nothing, if you put it in as a letter to the editor or under club and social news. The word has to get out or the organization will not live. (**See next page**.)

Another suggestion for getting new members is to send a copy of the *Taro Leaf* to Veteran's Administration Medical Centers and the Outpatient Clinics. There are a 11 VA medical centers in just Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. And there are also 24 Outpatient Clinics in these same states.

While I'm waiting to see the Doctor I see many hats with KOREAN WAR VETERAN and WORLD WARII VETERAN on them.

What if they picked up a *Taro Leaf* and read it?

I know it is tough to get people to join. I was the State Commander of the Department of the Massachusetts AMVETS and busted my rear to get members. Sometimes what we did worked, other times it didn't.

All I ask is that the Leaders of this Great Association to take a look at promoting membership and balancing the budget.

I'll get off the soap box now. I wanted to express my opinion and now I have.

May God Bless "all" those who served in the 24th and every other Military outfit in the past and in the future.

Alfred R. Temple, Sr.
Life - #2221
109 Causeway St.
Hudson, MA 01749-3222
Ph: 978-568-8492
atemplesr@verizon.net
24th Div, HQ G2 Jan 1964-Aug.
1966.

## Vincent Gagliardo, Association President 1993-1994

Mr. Gagliardo called me in mid-March to advise me that his cell phone is his preferred telephone; the number is: 415-279-1982.

During our brief visit, I learned that he is a long time hospital or nursing home resident.

I'm sure that Vince would welcome a phone call from some of his Association friends.

According to our membership roster, Vince welcomes his *Taro Leaf* at: 90 Burnaham Place, Fremont, CA 94539-3057. ED.



# Rapid City Banquet Seating

Banquet table seating arrangements will be designated at time of registration; if you have a group that wishes to be seated together, be sure to have the person who registers first at the Reunion Registration Table make the arrangements for all desiring to be seated at that table.



Aren't you glad you came to the Reunion, Ed? Yep Chuck, I wouldn't have missed it for all the bucks in the stimulus package!

#### **Hotel Information**

**Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City**, 2111 N La Crosse Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Call 605-343-8550 no later than July 26, 2009 to make your hotel reservations. Room rates are \$82 per night, plus tax. Be sure to mention you are with the 24th Infantry Association Reunion to receive the group rate.

http://rapidcity.ramkota.com/index.php

Located off of Interstate 90 at Exit 59.

Free hotel parking and airport transportation.

These prices are available 3 days prior to and after the Reunion, should you choose to extend your stay.

# **Send the Following Notice to Your Local Paper!**

## 24th Infantry Division Association to Hold Annual Reunion

The 63rd Annual Reunion of the 24th Infantry Division will be held on August 26-30, 2009, in Rapid City, SD. Master Sergeant Woodrow Wilson Keeble, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously on March 3, 2008 for actions while a member of the Division in North Korea, will be the honoree of distinction.

Founded in a grove of palm trees on a Mindanao, Philippine Islands beach in August 1945, the 24th Infantry Division Association was formed to honor and perpetuate the memory of the men and women who served with the Division and to memorialize their valiant acts and patriotic deeds. If you have ever served with the 24th Infantry Division, or with one of its many units ever assigned to it whether in Germany, Desert Storm, Korea, WWII or stateside, you will be welcomed by the 24th Infantry Division Association.

For rooms at the reunion, contact the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, (605) 343-8550, www.rapidcity.ramkota.com by July 26, 2009, to get the special \$82 rate.

For more information about the Reunion, or to register, or to join the Association, contact: [<u>your name and phone number here please or if you do not wish to use your name then use the following</u>:] President Mel Frederick at: summers 507-455-1639 or winters 760-772-7909; Vice-President Sal Schillaci, 716-837-1635.



### 24TH IDA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

#### YES, SIGN ME UP FOR 24th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION 2009 REUNION!!!

UNIT	YEARS_		_LOCATIO	N
ADDRESS				
CITY		ST	ZIP	
PHONE	EMAIL			
GUESTS NAMES				
IN CASE OF EMERGE	ENCY NOTIFY			
	REUNION? YES:			
MEAL SELEC				
ALOHA		FISH	VFO	CETARIAN
	BEEF			
•	ANY SPECIAL NEEDS:_			
		GISTRATION FEE		
REGISTRATIO	ON FEE (REQUIRED)	# PERSONS	X	\$20 =
ALOHA BANG	QUET	# PERSONS	x	\$44 =
MENS BREAK	KFAST	# PERSONS	x	\$15 =
LADIES BREA	AKFAST	#PERSONS	x	\$15 =
MEMORIAL I	BANQUET	#PERSONS	X	<b>\$45</b> =
COSMOS/MT	RUSHMORE TOUR	#PERSONS	x	\$29 =
CHUCKWAGO	ON DINNNER	#PERSONS	x	\$41 =
THUNDER M	T GOLD MINE TOUR	#PERSONS	x	<b>\$35</b> =

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN JULY 26, 2009

#### PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT 50721 State Hwy 410 E Greenwater, WA 98022 (360) 663-2521 Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 10, 2009. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Best Western at 605-343-8550 no later than July 26, 2009 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the 24th Infantry Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$82 a night, plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay. We'll see you soon in Rapid City, South Dakota!!



# 24th Infantry Division Association Reunion Itinerary

August 26-30, 2009

## ~~ Rapid City, South Dakota ~~

To be held at the Best Western (Ramkota Inn). Room rates are \$82 per night, plus tax. Parking at the hotel and airport transportation are free. A hospitality room stocked w/snacks, beverages and cocktails will be provided each day.

## **Wednesday August 26**

2 pm Registration and Hospitality Room opens

## **Thursday August 27**

9 am – 3 pm Tour of Cosmos Mystery Area and Mt. Rushmore
5:15-9 pm Chuckwagon Western Dinner Show

## Friday August 28

9 am a of Directors Meeting

9 am – 3:30 pm Tour of Big Thunder Gold Mine and Gold Panning 6-10 pm Aloha Banquet Dinner and Dance

## <u>Saturday August 29</u>

9 am Member Breakfast, to be followed immediately by the
Annual Corporation Convention Member Meeting

TBA—New Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

9-11 am Ladies Breakfast & Entertainment

6-10 pm Memorial Banquet Dinner and Program

Call the Best Western Ramkota Hotel at 605-343-8550 no later than July 26, 2009, to make your hotel reservations.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~

#### COME JOIN U.S. AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!

For More Information, Contact:

Mel Frederick—Phone: MN 507-455-1639 Summer; CA 760-772-7909 Winter

email <u>melfrederick@msn.com</u>

Dan Rickert—Phone: 949-215-7553

The Reunion BRAT—Phone: 360-663-2521; email: Info@TheReunionBRAT.com





# THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



| I desire to be: Enrolled $\Box$ (or) Reinstated $\Box$ ; as a Member $\Box$ (or) Associate Member $\Box$ |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (please check the proper two boxes)                                                                      |

| 24th "Victory Division" Association The Greatest Combat Division the United States Army has ever known.  Annual Dues - \$15.00 (1) Year From date of joining in The Association.  Life Member - \$150.00 Payable in one sum or 5 yearly payments of \$30.00 each. |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |
| ADDRESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |
| CITY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |
| PHONE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | EMAIL                 |                        |                             | _@              |                            |
| OCCUPATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                       | SPOUSE'                | S NAME                      |                 |                            |
| Served <u>IN</u> the 24th Division, <u>OR</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | was Member of         | Any Unit E             | ver Attache                 | ed <u>TO</u> th | e 24th at any time         |
| Unit:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       | Squad                  | Plt/Bat                     | Co              | Bn                         |
| Location Served:(e.g., Pearl H., WWII, Japan, Kore                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ea, Germany, Ft. Stua | Fı<br>art, Lebanon, So | rom (Yr.)<br>omalia, Desert | 7<br>Storm, Ft  | To (Yr.)<br>. Riley, etc.) |
| POW: From (Yr.) To (Yr                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | )                     |                        |                             |                 |                            |
| Other Unit Served With:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       | From                   | (Yr.)                       | То (            | (Yr.)                      |
| Sponsor:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |
| Comment:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                       |                        |                             |                 |                            |

Please make checks in above amount payable to the **"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

Dec. 10, 2008 ver

The **Taro Leaf** 



## 24th infantry Division Association Quartermaster Order Form

| tem # | Description                                               | Price              | Quan. | Amoun |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| 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 Black 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 Taro Leaf Belt Buckle, Gold | \$15.00<br>\$15.00 |       |       |
| 51    |                                                           | i cir oo           |       |       |

Please Detach and Complete Both Sides 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 Write Cap, 24th IDA Green                     | \$15.00           |       |        |
| 74       | Cap, 24th IDA Green Cap, 24th ID White Mesh with Taro Patch | \$13.00           |       |        |
| 75       | 3rd Engineer BN Unit Crest                                  | \$9.00            |       |        |
| 75<br>76 | 14th Engineer BN Unit Crest                                 | \$9.00            |       |        |
| 77       | 5th RCT Pocket Patch                                        | \$6.00            |       |        |
| 77<br>78 | Cap, 5th RCT Red with Crest                                 | \$12.00           |       |        |
|          | 24th ID License Plate with Taro Leaf                        |                   |       |        |
| 80       |                                                             | \$8.00<br>\$12.00 |       |        |
| 80<br>81 | Cap, Desert Storm Veteran Black                             |                   |       |        |
|          | 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 To | otal (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:      | <br> | <br>_ |
|------------|------|-------|
| Address:   | <br> |       |
| City & ST: | <br> |       |



#### Hi Tom.

I just read the last *Taro Leaf* and am sorry to hear that you are unable to continue. What an outstanding job you have done.

These are photos of the GI's I am trying to identify. They were all taken at Camp Hakata Japan about 1949. The main reason I am looking for these men is to give the photos to whomever they belong. I am hoping to get all of them back to the GI or to a surviving spouse, a child of, or any interested relative of each of these men.

Thank you very much,

Iris Hall, daughter in law of Cpl. David Earl Hall

4057 Galenez Way

Antioch, CA 94531-9343

Ph: 972-240-1310

Email: imsh73@yahoo.com

















**724th Ordnance in Korea:** I was a member of the 724th Ordnance in Korea during 1951-52, and am interested in forming a "724th Unit," but have not succeeded. I have a complete roster of 724th. members dated Sept 30, 1951; if anyone might be interested in it, I will be happy to share it.

I was a watchmaker along with optical sight and small arms repair, and worked out of a van. We were in the Hwachon area of Korea, June 1951 at the time of the picture at the right.



George W. Soemann, 2458 Hess Rd., Appleton, NY, 14008-9653, Ph:716-778-7685

# DNA Sought from Familes of 24th Div. Men

Harold Davis trying to find the families of men still unaccounted for in Korea. "Our government has absolutely no contact with the families of these men," Davis said. Family members wishing to provide DNA to aid identifying a family member will receive a swab by mail. The family member will swab their mouth and send it back for identification. Family members should contact the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at (808) 448-1934 or Davis at (910) 791-2333.

Some that Davis is seeking are:

### **Joseph Sotero Morales**

Of Cambria County, PA, served with "L" Co, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment. POW July 20, 1950, near Taejon, S. Korea, and died while a prisoner at Hanjang-ni on Nov. 26, 1950.

### **Edward George (Dallas)**

Of Cambria County, PA, Born 1930, POW July 20, 1950, "L" Co. 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division

#### **Peter Kitt**

Davis is also looking for the family of Peter Kitt, Born: July 30,

1931, Trumbull County, OH. Missing in action July 27, 1950, "K" Co., 29th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

## **Joseph Kenneth Evans**

Born: Oct. 18, 1921.
Date of loss: July 12, 1950 POW.
Unit: "I" Co., 21st Infantry
Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

## **Eugene F. Tross**

From St. Louis, MO, Born October 17, 1925, Caucasian, 21st Infantry Regiment, POW, August 12, 1950, Died while a POW.

Erwin J. Krause, Life #2055, an 88-year old veteran who served with the 34th Infantry Regiment, Third Battalion, "K" Company, served as a front-line Combat Medic Tech 409, at Mindanao, July-August 1945.

Mr. Krause is looking for two members of "K" Company that he treated and rescued during action at the

Erwin J. Krause 100 West Avon Road Unionville, CT 06085 Ph: 860-673-3787 above place and time; they are: 1) a **1st scout named Fox**, and 2) a **rifleman by the name of Mullins** (exact spelling may be incorrect). He would also like to locate his Battalion Surgeon, 1st. **Lt. Higgins** (or **Haynes** perhaps).

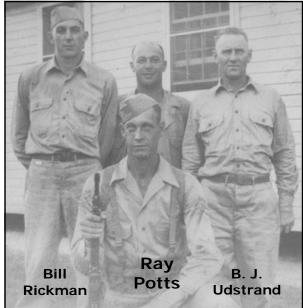
He is trying to find these men relative to an award he had been promised.





**Ray E. Potts**. Nick Sebasta is looking for anyone who knew his grandfather, **Ray E. Potts**, during WWII. Mr. Potts, center, kneeling in 1942 photo at right, served as a rifleman with **Company "G" 21st Infantry Regiment** from May 26, 1942 until Nov. 1, 1945, when he was discharged. He was born in Lake Odessa, MI in 1914, and entered service in Kalamazoo, MI in May 1942. Nick would also like to find the others in the photo; he has not been able to identify the man standing directly behind his grandfather.

Nick says "My grandfather passed away when I was three, but I have always felt a strong connection with him, and would like to write a book about his time in service. I would greatly appreciate any information you may have about my grandfather, or the other men in the photo. Thank you so much for your time."



Nick Sebasta, 3515 Hollywood St., Holland, MI 49424. Ph: 616-796-0632, quick-nick@live.com



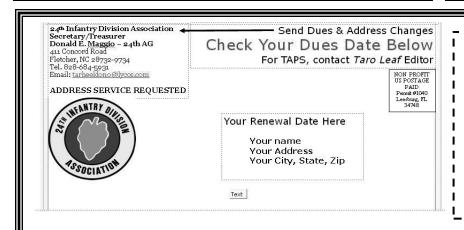
John T. Allen (left) wants to hear from any old Army buddies who served with him in the 24th's "B" Battery, 63rd Field Artillery BN from 1951-1953. Allen graduated from XVI Food Service School in Sendia, Japan, and was assigned as Battalion meat cutter in South Camp Fuji. John's address is: John T. Allen, 1925 Sipes

Ave., Memphis, TN 38127-8854, Ph:901-415-6454.

Mario Castellan is trying to find his buddies Dick Farr from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Jim Cummings from Montana.

We joined the 24th Infantry Division as replacements on Leyte at the end of the campaign, and were assigned to Fox Co. 2d Bn 34th Infantry Regiment on Luzon.

Mario Castellan 1700 Broadview Dr. Glendale, CA 91208 818-249-8650



See back cover for your renewal date—
Please renew promptly.

Thank you!





Date: 12/22/2008

TO: Don Maggio, Sec/Treas, and Daniel Rickert, Program Chair

I am a fellow North Dakotan like MSGT Keeble, having been raised in De Lamere, a small town 35 miles west of Wahpeton. I was also in

Leslie L. Blouin, Life Member # 1457 13 George Cir. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-4708 717-697-8455

13th FA 19th Inf

Korea having served with the Hq Btry of the 13th FA Bn. I was lucky to have rotated back to the U.S. in July 1951, but I'm sure my battery mates that I left behind were involved in supporting the 19th during Operation Nomad-Polar, as we were the direct support battalion for the 19th.

I followed with great interest the effort of Merry Helm to right the wrong and assure that MSGT Keeble's heroic actions during this operation were properly recognized by the subsequent award of the Medal of Honor. I wholeheartedly support that the 24th Infantry Division Association recognize Merry Helm for pursuing this effort to the award of the Medal of Honor by giving her unit recognition through making her an Honorary Life Member of the 24th Infantry Division Association. I will be at the Rapid City reunion to support a motion from the floor for such action. Should such a motion be contrary to our Constitution and By-Laws, then we must exercise the provisions in Robert's Rules of Order to set those rules aside on a temporary (or one time basis) to clear the way for the motion to pass, thereby properly recognizing Ms. Helm.

Enclosed is a check for the fund to defray expenses in support of your Program to support Merry Helm and Russell Hawkins attending our reunion in Rapid City, SD, and for the printing and distribution of the Taro *Leaf.* I look forward to the Rapid City reunion.

Sincerely, Leslie Blouin, CW3 U.S. Army Retired

To: Don Maggio

"Thank you for all you do. Don't know if we will make the reunion; our last one was in Reno. Walt is 91 now and has health problems. (Walt's TAPS notice this issue. ED)

We have a daughter in Belle Fourche, SD, whose husband, James Michael Maher, is a sculptor. He did many of the presidents statues on the streets of downtown Rapid City. Maybe some of our members will take the 'President's Tour' of the downtown area. We are very proud of his work."

Thanks again. Walt and Helen Kramer 14493 2900 Rd.

Hotchkiss, CO 81419-7511

Ph: 970-872-3038

Right: President Ronald Reagan by James Michael Maher "Presidential Walk" downtown Rapid City, SD

You may view all of the presidential sculptures at:

http://www.galenfrysinger.com/

Feb 14, 2009, Don Maggio,

This is a long delayed honor for a fine soldier from S.D. and member of the 24th I.D. We honored M/SGT Keeble locally by naming a new Army Reserve Armory in his name. Good luck on this venture. See you in Rapid City.

Harold Hanson, 2900 E. 21st St., Sioux Falls, SD, 57103-3308, Ph: 605-334-7474, 19th Inf, "L" Co.





This is from www.thepurpleheart.com [National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New York]. My Uncle **Corporal Melvin H. Morgan** is listed on the website. Melvin died in a North Korean Prisoner of War Camp on 6 December 1950. Now he is entitled to a Posthumous Purple Heart Medal. This is the fight that Rick Tavares, Shorty Estabrook and I fought for nearly five years. The living relatives of the 17,000 to 21,000 Military Members who DIED in Enemy Captivity from 7 December 1941 to the present, can now apply for this Posthumous Purple Heart Medal. **Brenda Tavares**, 1805 LaPosta Rd., Campo, CA 91906-2206, sgt1@sciti.com

#### Time Does Indeed March On!

I keep many clocks in my home to remind me that each and every time a second ticks off, or that clock chimes, that is one less second that any of us have to live or to really get something done!

Delay is, after all, the true friend of those who procrastinate, as well as the ally of those who go thru life merely to kill time.

"Time Lost is Opportunity Lost, Opportunity Lost is Life Lost, and Life Lost is the greatest insult that one can give to the Creator!"

H. Rick Tavares 2-25-2009

Feb. 16, 2009 Thanks Don!

This was the first time I found a contact from the *Taro Leaf*.

**Robert Hickey** put his phone number in the article. On Sunday, Feb. 15, I put in a call and we talked for a while. We had no knowledge of each other, but we were at Kachi about the same time. It was good hearing from Robert. Thanks to you and the *Taro Leaf*.

**C.S. Weightman**, 6413 Morton Pl., Temple Hills, MD, 20748-4940, Ph:301-894-5691, 19th Inf, 1st BnMed, 1945-1946,

#### Dear Tom:

I am most grateful for the information you placed in the *Taro Leaf* (Looking For **Captain Thomas Foster Ball**, Co "F" 21st Infantry Regiment, Vol. 63(1), page 32).

Robert L. Clarke of Charlestown, RI, wrote me; he was in F Company, and remembers both of us.

Capt. Ball's wife was told by someone who received the *Taro Leaf*, and sent me a card and also called telling me that her husband passed away in 1998. He retired in 1979 as a Colonel.

I sent her a chapter of my history that mentioned Capt Ball several times, including that he was promoted to Major and transferred to Division Headquarters, and that they were married while he was there.

Her address is: Mrs. Jane S. Ball, 4275 Owens Rd, Evans, GA 30809, Ph: (706) 855-8057.

Thank you again.

## George F. Edwards

Life #2145, The "Little Gimlet" P.O. Box 643 Waynesboro, Va 22980 540-942-5670

# **URGENT!**

Taro Leaf

**EDITOR** 

**NEEDED** 

Please Contact

**PRESIDENT** 

MEL FREDERICK





#### Tom:

Thought I would give you an update on the results of your review of my book, TALOMO BEACH (Taro Leaf, Vol 63(1) page 46). I have received orders for 11 books to date, but more important, most also included a message about their service in World War II.

**John Nabor** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, sent me a book he had written of his experiences.

Nicholas Marasco, who is 90 years old and has failing eyesight and arthritis, wrote a note with his order, and after receiving the book, wrote a hand printed four-page letter on legal size lined paper of some of his experiences after landing with the 34th in the second wave on Red Beach at Leyte. I was amazed and really appreciated the effort he must have put into that letter.

**James Mims** of Midland. Texas has corresponded on a regular basis with some of his wartime experiences.

I wondered if there were that many

of us left from that era in our Association.

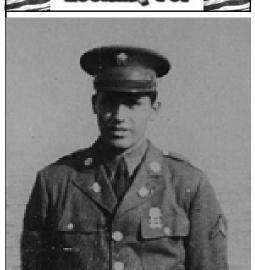
I am grateful for your help and your review, and I have been blessed to have these folks and you for friends that I would never have known otherwise. It is a great feeling. We are a band of brothers. Thank you.

Jack

#### John P. Jorgensen

1481 S. Danube Way #104 Aurora, CO 80017-6393 Ph: (720) 535-4285 jorgcj@msn.com





Louis L. Castner served in WWII with the 19th Regiment, Company C, as a 50 caliber machine gunner. He trained in Schofield Barracks, and then fought with Company C. Louis died April 28, 2008 (see Taro Leaf TAPS, Vol. 62(3) Summer 2008, Page 8).

Louis never talked about his service days until near his death. His son, James N. Castner, never understood his father's nightmares as a child; now, after getting his father to talk, he does.

He woke him one night at 3 am and said: "Dad. don't let the truth not be told." His father then talked freely.

Louis Castner spoke of: medals earned but never received, all seven campaigns he was in from New Guinea to Mindanao, finding 3,700 of his fellow American soldiers "torched beyond belief" in a Japanese POW camp, watching Japanese jump off cliffs and do hari kari, losing sight in one eye but continuing to fight anyway, being led through the jungle by the Moro natives, having very high respect for his Company Commander Thomas Clifford who was killed in action, and living with a fear derived from his having been told he could be charged with murder. He lived with this his whole life, but he said he would volunteer again.

Louis also had three brothers who served in WWII, and prior to WWI his great uncle Joseph Castner worked on the construction of Schofield Barracks.

His son, James N, Castner is working on his father's story for a book. He plans to name it "Beyond Belief." James has a museum of stuff his father had hidden all those years, including the leggings of one of his dad's best friend who was killed on Romblon.

James says: "I hope someday I'll find the families of the men who fought with my father... I am a proud son of a 24th Infantry Division WWII combat solider."

If you served with Sergeant Louis L. Castner, "C" Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, in the South Pacific during WWII, please get in touch with his son James.

James N. Castner, 411 C ST S, Glen Ullin, ND 58631, Phone: 701-348-9190, shrek411@westriv.com



# "A" Co. 2nd Battle Group, "A Lasting Bond"

By **John Dunn**, 9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527, Ph:205-678-6165 and **Bob Boyles**, 1107 Runneberg Rd, Crosby, TX, 77532-5939, Ph: 281-328-2672, both of "A" Company, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, Fort Riley and Gabligen Kaserne

Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas. June 1958.

Recruits as varied as the places they came from arrived daily from induction centers all across mid-America. From Minnesota to Texas, Nebraska to Ohio, and a few places in between; drafted college graduates to high school volunteers, newly married to newly singles that had lost their deferments, and even a few national guardsmen seeking a real Army experience—they all arrived at Ft. Riley in June 1958.

Master Sergeant John F. Willingham, with a cadre of battle hardened WWII and Korean War veterans, had the onerous task of whipping these raw recruits into a combat ready infantry line company.

We were to be "A, 'Always First'" Company, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry.

Training was tough, intense and continuous. Those war hardened vets that made up our cadre were trying to ensure that this unit was going to be ready for combat should the Cold War suddenly not be cold.

Winter field gear was new with the latest style parkas and thermal boots. There was no shortage of training aids and ammunition. We spent many hours cleaning and maintaining equipment, but if something needed replacing, it was.

Field rations were the only shortcoming; as late as 1960 we were still eating C and K rations dated 1943 and 44! They probably tasted no better back

then than they did in 1960.

Many memories and special bonds were formed during these weeks of Basic Training. But, our world was moving into a crisis that would shortly affect us all. And to respond to these crises, the Army was restructuring into "Battle Groups," that consisted of many companies.

Such orders were received at Fort Riley; we were to become the 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, and assigned to Germany. And, much to the surprise of the cadre, they were now called upon to become a part of this Battle Group along with the trainees.

Everyone received their orders, and a short leave of absence. Upon their return they received new patches that they sewed on all their uniforms, the patch that would identify them as a part of this Battle Group—this patch was the *Taro Leaf* of the 24th Infantry



Division.

Our new Battle Group boarded a troop train at Fort Riley and three days later we arrived in New York City to a waiting troop ship, the MSTS Gen. Simon Buckner, that took us to Bremerhaven, Germany. From there we boarded another train taking us through the beautiful Rhine River valley to our new post, Gabligen Kaserne near Augsburg, Germany.

Unlike the two-story wooden barracks at Ft. Riley that would house perhaps two rifle platoons, our new home was a three story building that held the entire company, including day room, armory, supply room and the CO's offices, plus a German laundry contractor. Our class room and storage area, and company mess hall were across the street.

Gablingen is a small German village, about a twenty minute drive north of Augsburg, the principle city in this part of southern Ger-

**Bond** (Continued on page 38)



### **Bond** (Continued from page 37)

many. On a clear day, we could see the German Alps to the south.

The base had been a German air base in WWII; the runway was still intact, as were several hangers that were being used for other purposes.

The southern portion of the base was a 200-300 acre level field that was being used as a drop zone by units of the 11th Airborne Division. Every few months a large herd of sheep appeared to keep it mowed; fortunately we did not do any training in that area.

After about five weeks at Gablingen, were given passes and allowed to go into Augsburg and see all the pretty German girls.



For company level and smaller, tactical training, we would march 2-3 miles through several small villages into large forested areas. Vehicle use was limited, and track equipment was prohibited. Of course there were no live fire operations and firing blank ammo was prohibited after 10:00 p.m.

It was rather amusing to be in a platoon simulating an attack and in the process need to avoid a couple of elderly German women picking up limbs and sticks for fuel to heat their houses.





Or to be firing blanks at the oncoming aggressors and have a young German boy right behind policing up the brass casings.

Hohenfels and Grafenwhor were our two large field training areas; they were near the Czechoslovakian border. By convoy it gener-

> ally took the better part of a day to get there from Gablingen. Of course we got to see Germany—from the back of a Deuce and a Half!

A trip to one of these ranges usually lasted at least two weeks. We had

the opportunity to train with tanks, personnel carriers, and artillery, and the mortar and bazooka teams were able to get in live fire training. Riflemen had the chance to fire live rifle grenades to develop some degree of accuracy by watching the trajectory of the round.

On several live fire exercises the line of advance would be facing into an artillery impact area. We were instructed not to fire into "dud" rounds that were clearly marked on the up slope of the fac-

ing hill. Either the artillery rounds were inert or our marksmanship was lacking, at any rate we were never able to get one to explode.

Despite the ongoing training, there was plenty of opportunity to travel and see

the sights of Europe. This was limited primarily by the amount of money one won or lost on payday, or the amount of robust German beer consumed!

Some of the men were able to visit every country in Western Europe during our tour.

Though we were Cold War warriors, we believe that the 24th Infantry Division was thoroughly prepared to carry out the assigned mission.

This tour of duty allowed many young men to grow and mature, and to assume responsibilities beyond anything they had previously experienced. Training, working, living, and playing together as a unit for three years created an "esprit de corps" that bonded some for life!

But by mid-1960, the service time of many "A" Company men was approaching completion. Mostly,

**Bond** (Continued on page 39)





**Bond** (Continued from page 38)

only cadre and the Regular Army men would continue service.

So they returned to the states and were discharged. Most returned to the life style they had left two years earlier, and did not think much about all the bonds they made in the 24th in Germany.

But there were a few who gave it much thought, and by letters and phone calls they explored the viability of getting the members of Company "A" back together for a reunion. There indeed was interest and St Louis, Missouri, was chosen as the first reunion site.

Now the bond that was formed many years ago in Ft. Riley and Gabligen Kaserne was about to enter a new phase. From that first gathering in May 1985, at St. Louis, Company "A," 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry,

24th Infantry Division, was united in the truest manner.

Last year, 2008, marked the 50th year since the group first formed at Ft. Riley! In addition to St. Louis, we have met in Kansas City, Springfield, and Branson.

This group of soldiers, along with their spouses, has shown a dedication to each other that words cannot explain. Many travel great distances from their various states to share time with each other, and to maintain very close friendships.

They love to share information about spouses, children, grand-

children and all facets of their own personal lives.

These men who formed this bond fifty years ago went into all walks of life when they left service — factory workers, auto builders, truck drivers, law enforcement personnel, educators at all levels, business owners, and a District Attorney of great prominence, just to name a few.

Yet whatever their lives required, all felt the strong "bond" that was formed from the beginning, and that became an important part of their lives.



Parachuting (Continued from page 40)

panels to direct the helicopters to the correct landing site. In essence we were making tactical airborne training jumps without the benefit of jump pay or airborne wings — but it sure was fun and exciting!

During the first part of 1960, many of the club members qualified for the Expert Infantryman Badge. Apparently Gen. Walker liked this combination of skilled infantry troops with jump experience, and brought the club's infantry members to Division Headquarters to act as a long range recon platoon.

As the sport developed, the club participated in competition all over the European Command.

Some club members that left the service in 1960 - 61 continued jumping in civilian life, and helped spread the fledgling sport throughout the United States.

# 21st Gimlet Reunion

Oct. 5-9, 2009

St. Louis

Phyllis Burke, Treas. 15322 Edgehill Dr. Dumfries, VA 22025-1037 703-298-8529 swingingate@gmail.com



# Sport Parachuting "Formed" in the 24th

By John Dunn, SGT, "A" Company, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, 9150 Hwy. 51, Westover, AL 35147-9527, Ph:205-678-6165

Gablingen Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany, June 1958: The 11th Airborne Division that had been stationed in southern Germany was deactivated and redesignated as the 24th Infantry Division. Its 187th Parachute Regiment stationed at Gablingen

Kaserne was deployed to Lebanon (see later article). And other parachute regiments were returned to the states and assimilated into existing airborne divisions.

Nevertheless, a number of support units with a significant number of airborne troops attached were made a part of the 24th Div. Because of this large contingent and the need to keep them on jump status (probably as a result of the officers that wanted to continue to collect jump pay) the 11th Parachute Maintenance Company maintained their facilities on Gab-

lingen Kaserne.

In January 1959, I arrived with 2nd Infantry at Gablingen Kaserne, to become a part of the 24th Infantry "Victory" Division.

Early in 1959, the Division Commander, Gen.



Walker authorized a 24th Division Sport Parachute Club.

Sport Parachuting or Sky Diving was still in its infancy. The initial club membership was made up of the Division's airborne qualified troops. The 11th Parachute Mainte-

nance Company packing shed was used as the club meeting and training facility while the adjoining Drop Zone at Gablingen Kaserne was the jump site.

A late summer edition of the division newspaper, "The *Taro Leaf*" featured an article on the club activities and stated that membership was open to all Division personnel. I attended the next meeting and started the training routine yet that night.

We learned how to pack parachutes, make parachute landing

falls and hold a stable free fall body position. Within three weeks I made my first parachute jump.

By the end of the year there were more non-airborne troops in the club than military qualified jumpers. "A" Company had more than ten members in the club.

Three airborne NCOs, Bobby Ledbetter, Coy McDonald and Phillip Vander Weg, who started their sky diving careers with the club, later became members of the Army's "Golden Knights." They won international championships and set world records. But, sadly, Ledbetter and Vander Weg were both lost in Vietnam.

In the spring of 1960 as the Division was conducting helicopter training, club members were tasked to act as pathfinder teams. This team was equipped with standard military T-10 parachutes and related equipment.

The static line jumps were made from 1.000 feet and were over-

seen by a qualified airborne jumpmaster. The lowest altitude any of us had jumped from previously was 2,500 feet, our eyes were quite large as we left the plane at that low altitude.

On landing we set out the

Parachuting (Continued on page 39)



Jumpers Bohn, Garrett, Katzenburger, McAvoy & Dunn



# My Tour with the 24TH in Germany 1959-1962

By John Herren, Colonel, USA, retired, Bethesda, Maryland

In February 1959, I was part of a group of young 2nd Lieutenants fresh out of Airborne and Ranger schools checking into our first Army assignment, the 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, 24th Infantry Division. We were stationed in Gablingen on an old German Air Force base about a 20-minute drive from Augsburg. The Division was spread between Augsburg and Munich.

The Division replaced the 11th Airborne Division, which had been demobilized (Our NCOs told us that the reason they brought in the 24th was to repair relations with the local German populace, which were pretty bad because of the airborne troopers off-duty conduct).

"A" Company was like a number of companies in the Battle Group. Company commanders were Reserve Officers who had fought in Korea and had been promoted but were subject to reductions in force (riffed) when the Army downsized.

They were old, experienced Captains who, with the help of some good career NCOs, knew how to run an infantry unit.

Although most companies had an Executive Officer, there was a shortage of officer platoon leaders. I found myself as the only one in my company, which was the case throughout the Battle Group.

My First Sergeant, Willingham, was old school, having fought in

WW II and Korea. Most of the troops, and definitely the NCOs, were more scared of him than they were of the CO. He would sit at his desk with his feet propped up, a cigarette dangling out of his mouth, and read the riot act to NCOs and soldiers he had summoned to his office.

I don't think he had much use for brand new 2nd Lieutenants, but he gave me good advice, and he told me when he saw me doing something dumb; he really taught me a lot about soldiers and leadership.

The enlisted men in my company were generally from the Midwest. They had been drafted in 1958, and joined the Division right from Ft. Riley.

Many of them were single. The married ones were not authorized to bring dependents over, but some did anyway. They lived on the economy with no Army support.

They were a good group of men and in their short two years in the Army became real soldiers.

We all were tested many times by our field training at Hohenfelds and Grafenwohr, and at Wintershield I and II. Those days bring back memories of freezing cold, long marches, C-rations, and a mess hall that always seemed to arrive late.

We trudged across frozen and snowy terrain carrying our sleep-

ing bags and wearing heavy thermo boots. This was during the era when the Berlin Wall went up and we were preparing for a possible Russian attack on Germany.

There were also Army Training Tests (ATTs), Unit competitions, Spartan barracks, and the isolation of Gablingen where German bus service was the only way for enlisted men to get into town when they were off duty.

My platoon had one of those ATTs shortly after I arrived, and we came out tied for first place in the Battle Group, which boosted my standing, and the platoon's, with the First Sergeant and CO.

When we weren't in the field, there were the daily inspections, morning runs, weapons cleaning and training, and classroom instruction on various subjects, including the prevention of venereal disease.

One particular subject got our Division Commander, Gen Walker, relieved when he pushed an anticommunist "Pro-Blue" program on the Division. He had purchased the books himself and ordered the officers to read them and teach classes to the troops.

One kind of inspection our NCOs and the officers always dreaded was the short-notice drop-ins by our Assistant Division CO, Gen Maroun. One time he came to "A" Company, which we had hustled to (See **Herren** on page 45)



# Christmas 1959, with the 24th Division, Gablingen, Germany

by Loyal Vincent, "A" Co, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, 24th Division

Christmas 1959 was the first time I had ever been away from home for the Holiday. It was the same for many of the men of "A" Company, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, 24th Division, serving at Gablingen Kaserne Airbase, about seven miles outside of Augsburg, Germany.

That was when I first realized that being away from home on special days was the norm for the dedicated men and women that serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Our little group of six was feeling glum and sorry for itself, when someone suggested we go to a local German church for mid-night services. Even though most of us spoke very little Deutsch, we believed attending Christmas Eve services might help our spirits.

We chose one of the larger churches in the town of Gablingen. Even though we sat through a sermon we could not understand, the meaning of Christmas seemed to come through.

Near the end of the service the organist began to play "Silent Night, Holy Night," and we all stood up with the congregation and sang with all our hearts and souls.

The German people around us approached and gave each a warm hug and soft smile. The

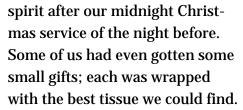


Lord truly spoke to each of us in that church, it made us feel like we were really at home on that Christmas Eve in Gablingen, Germany! What a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

But wait, there was more!

About a dozen of us from Headquarters Platoon lived in a small room where we were bunked twohigh way too close together. There were three cooks, William Mercer, Sydney Bryant and Sgt. Powell, the company medic, Public Information Officer Don Bruner. supply clerk Bob Boyles, company clerk Max Bertram, HQ company clerk Loyal Vincent (that's me), Sgt. Waddell who had served in Korea, the weapons supply clerk Clarence Preston, and a couple others that shared our smoky air each night.

We were really in the Christmas



After a great Christmas Dinner, courtesy of Mercer and Powell, we decided to have our gift exchange.

As the gifts were being passed around, Bill Mercer, a tough little red head who also had served in Korea, was just sitting there making small talk, smoking and joking as he generally did. Then Don Bruner handed him a small package. But Mercer said he had not gotten any one anything and did not deserve a gift. Don insisted he open it. Finally Mercer did; it was a pair of dress socks. Mercer just sat there staring at the socks. Tears began to roll down his cheeks, and he looked up and said, "It has been many years since anyone has given me a Christmas gift—this reminds me of the Christmases with my sister and family many years ago!"

I will never forget Christmas 1959—the Christmas Eve Church service, the warmth of the people of Gablingen, singing Silent Night, and the gift exchange that gave a lonely Bill Mercer some fond memories of his youth and family at Christmastime.

Loyal Vincent 5120 N 159th Circle Omaha, NE 68116-4079 402-496-6570



Page 42 Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009

# The 24th Division to—the Congo?

By John Slattery, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

**D**uring the early 1960's, the 24th Infantry Division was deployed to Germany to defend against a potential Soviet attack on the West.

The Division's troops were garrisoned in both the Munich and Augsburg areas. In particular, the 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry was garrisoned at Gablingen near Augsburg.

Gablingen had been a Luftwaffe base during the WWII and had the buildings and infrastructure to easily accommodate the Group's two thousand troops.

The 24th maintained its edge through rigorous training. Under the leadership and example of Maj. General Edwin A. Walker, every soldier was required to run five miles a day, six days a week.

Every two or three weeks the Division, or an individual unit, went on alert. And there also were the usual war games such as Winter Shield, Summer Shield and Frosty Lyon.

There are many stories about sleeping in the cold, cold snow while on these exercises, or on border patrol. These were the ordinary times of a Cold War soldier.

But this is about a little-known diversion for the men of the 24th — our assignment in the Belgian



Congo! Yes the Belgian Congo!

On Saturday, July 8, 1960, the 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry was placed on alert status and all troops were called back from passes and leave. Such a Saturday alert was quite unusual and calling everyone back from leave was even more unusual.

The base was locked down and transportation began moving the entire unit to Furstenfeldbrook Luftwaffe Base which is located just to the west of Munich.

As we arrived at this base we could see scores of U.S. Air Force C-130s landing. All-in-all there were more than twenty of these big birds.

During our briefings we learned we were going to the Congo. Apparently there was an undeclared war going on in what had been the Belgian Congo.

War broke out when the Belgians granted independence and left, and some U.S. citizens were trapped in our embassy.

Our job was to get them out.

In preparation for this mission we spent the next three hours getting numerous inoculations and updating our wills.

Meanwhile back in Gablingen no one knew where we had gone. Family members were

very concerned because nothing like this had ever happened before, and they were not told anything.

Even the Soviet Military Mission could not locate us; security was that tight!

During the next two weeks, we spent numerous hours loading the planes, taking off, landing, and then unloading the planes. But we never left Furstenfeldbrook!

Planes took off and landed around the clock. It was like a shell game with C-130s.

After about two weeks of this strange adventure, the mission was ended and we returned to Gablingen.

Rumor has it that some of our troops actually deployed to Leopoldville, The Congo, and successfully completed a very secret mission. Time will tell.

John J. Slattery 7924 SE Double Tree Dr Hobe Sound, FL 33455-8123 (772) 283-7810 jjsstf@aol.com



# You Will No Longer Be Alive!

Winter Shield Graffenfer, by Loyal Vincent, "A" Co, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, 24th Division

Each Army must be prepared for the worst possible situation.

Thus those of us with the 24th Infantry Division in Germany had the pleasure of experiencing Winter Shield, an exercise to better prepare us for the reality of war.

Winter Shield was held in the mid of winter in the dark, cold, snowy and windy forests of Bavaria.

I was assigned to Personnel and of course was not as exposed to the cold and many hours of armed movement through the forests as was the infantry soldier.

Winter Shield began for me and my fellow troops when we packed up all the Personnel records onto duce and half trucks.

We also packed all our duffle bags with items we thought we'd need for a four week trip out in the forests of Bayaria.

While the foot soldiers spent the entire time in pup tents and sleeping bags and any other type of shelters that they could find, we were housed in a very large tent at the Battle Group Command Post where all the paperwork kept coming and going as if we were still back on the post.

We slept, ate, typed records, filed records, took baths, and lived in this tent for the duration of the Winter Shield operation.

About 30 of us shared this tent, along with all the records and equipment. But at least we were inside with a small space heater.

Winter Shield was not all fun and games; the Battle Group had several fatalities. Company D had a small truck with seven men aboard overturn on a mountain road. Several were killed, including a special friend who had graduated from a university and taught school before being drafted.

Three other men were killed when they were run over by a tank in the dead of night; they had cast their sleeping quarters outside the timbered area and tank drivers did not see them in the dark.

In the Command tent where we operated, we carried on as if we were back at the post matriculating new men directly from the States.

One new soldier said he had heard that things in Germany were primitive, but this was much worse than he had expected. We never told him this was just a 30 day exercise.

We also processed men that had been marked as wounded or killed to make the actions seem more realistic. But when one of our clerks had a real appendicitis attack the hospital didn't know what to do with him as they were busy processing fake sick and wounded. He finally got to a hospital and was treated properly.

The Group's mess tent was about three-fourths mile away and we were supposed to get our meals there. The Germans locals exploited this situation by selling us large long cured smoked venison sausages, dark rye bread, beer and wine. Many of us substituted these for some of our meals rather than walking to the mess tent. But a good hot meal by our famous cooks was a real treat too.

Personnel clerks were not exempt from guard duty during Winter Shield. I pulled night duty a couple of times.

One night I had watch from 11:00 PM until 1:00 AM out in cold with no light other than what moon light filtered through the trees.

About thirty minutes into my watch, I thought I saw a movement in the trees. We had been told to be alert to possible East German or Russian infiltrators.

Moments later I was sure I saw a shadow that moved from one tree to another about 50 yards away. I continued to focus on the area and this time I definitely saw a person moving slowing from tree to tree.

Alive (Continued on page 45)



### Alive (Continued from page 44)

The claims of guards being clubbed or killed on guard duty crept into my mind and this was getting to be a bit scary. I shouted "Come forward, be recognized and give the password."

There was no response. Time seemed to stand still in the dark, cold, snow covered forest. This seemed to have gone on for hours, but it was only a few short minutes.

Finally the shadowy figure moved again and this time I rammed a round into my rifle allowing it to close loudly in the still cold air.

The shadow then came out with his hands up. He yelled that he was an American soldier from Company C, who was on his way to a Gashouse down the road a bit. Apparently there were a bunch of

guys having a party. It was warm and they had plenty of beer, bread and brats to eat, and perhaps more.

I let him go; he said he would be coming back this direction to his company area in about 3-4 hours, and that he would stay out in the open so he would be seen.

I told him I would tell the next guys on guard duty. He was very appreciative, and said that probably a few more would be using this route. One of the other guards said that several fellows came back through the lines from the Gashouse and that they appeared to not notice the cold at all.

We all griped and groaned about how bad we had it out in the cold, but since most of our duty was inside it of course was not bad at all. Not at all like the ground pounder infantry soldiers who were doing the nasty work to protect the German and European people and our American liberties and our way of life, from the true enemy in the Cold War!

I remember a lecture series and being told that the 24th Division was the forward guard that would need to hold the Eastern Block countries at bay until additional troops and equipment would arrive from the United States.

Someone then asked: "What will we do when the replacements arrive, will we be attached to the new units or what?"

The answer he received was short and simple; "You will no longer be alive!"

Loyal Vincent 5120 N 159th Circle Omaha, NE 68116-4079 402-496-6570

(**Herren**—Continued from page 41)

prepare, making sure the troops and barracks were in pristine condition.

The only soldier who didn't measure up was a redheaded PFC who had just joined us; he needed a haircut and didn't have a clean uniform. We made sure he was not in sight of the General.

Gen Maroun seemed pleased with the inspection. But as he and the CO were walking outside the building after the inspection, who should the General see carrying garbage out the back but the redhead! Gen Maroun zeroed in on him, and on our CO.

Sports were big in the Division and I was assigned to coach the Battle Group basketball team for a couple of months before a Special Services "jock" lieutenant showed up to take over.

Our team eventually won the USAREUR championship that made our Battle Group Commander, Col Ward, very happy.

For a young lieutenant on his first assignment with troops, my days with the 24th Division in Germany

were a great learning experience that got me off on the right foot in pursuing an Army career.

I owe that good start to the officers, NCOs and the young soldiers I was privileged to lead.

Some years ago I learned that the men of "A" Company had started having biennial reunions. This is an example of the bonding effect that serving together in a good division like the 24th had on these young troopers.

I salute them for their effort and for their service during the Cold War!



# **Operation BlueBat**

### The 24th Infantry Division's Airborne Brigade's July 1958 Deployment to Beirut, Lebanon

By SFC SEAN HARPER, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Airborne Battle Group, 187th Infantry For a related story, see also "First Battle Group of the 187th Infantry—Holds Reunion," The Taro Leaf, Vol. 63(1) Winter 2009, page 44.

**A**ll hell was breaking loose. Someone was pounding on my door, Sgt. Mathis was yelling, whistles were blowing and what-all. It was 3:30 the morning of July 15, 1958; I had been sleeping in my quarters at Gablingen Kaserne.

Just another grandiose alert, I grumbled as I quickly slid into my herring bone twill fatigues, laced on my jump boots, grabbed my steel pot and duffel bag and headed out.

Our first platoon members got some items from supply, retrieved our firearms (all WWII and Korea vintage) from the weapons room, and picked up some C Rations.

We loaded our General Purpose bags with these items (these weigh up to 120 pounds, and are placed between our reserve chute and toes prior to jumping. They are to be cut loose when the trooper is about tree-top level, but they didn't always work and then the trooper had to ride it to the ground—an excellent way to break both legs).

Commanding Officer Alves briefed us on the Mid-East situation, so, it looked like we might be going there, but no one said so! DeFazio, the Company Clerk, passed out small boxes for us to place wallets, IDs, photos, etc. We boarded vehicles and headed for Furstenfield-bruk Air Force Base at Munich.

Our dinner at the Furstenfieldbruk

mess hall was roast chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, cake, but before dinner we made out our Wills!

Aircraft were arriving by the dozens—C-124s, C-54s, C-119s, C-130s (our normal jump planes), and even some C-47s and C-119s.

My platoon was assigned to a double-decker C-124. The rest of the Company boarded other planes. Because an entire unit had been killed in a crash two years prior, our whole unit was not allowed to travel together. So, there were five platoons from different companies on our plane.

On July 17, we flew to a U.S. Air Force base on the east coast of Italy. We stocked up on smokes, snacks, etc., at the Base Exchange (BX); a couple of men (unit unknown) sent letters to their wives in Augsburg telling where we were. A few days later Regiment Commander Col. Sharkey chewed us out royally for disclosing our location!

We next went to Incirclit Air Base at Adana, Turkey where the temperature was 130 degrees in the shade and the only shade we had was under the plane's wings. There were no visits to the BX!

We learned we were going to Lebanon after leaving Turkey at four AM on July 19. We also learned we would be going to the airport, but not be jumping.

"A" Company set up outposts, sentry posts, and dug two-man holes at the South end of the airport. Our command and radio tents were in the middle, but no mess tent—cold C rations again!

Aircraft were bringing all sorts of supplies day and night, including food and water. But no water to wash in! Our fatigues were so stiff from sweat and dirt they could have stood by themselves, and we stunk like hell!. Mathis said "Don't worry, you will have clean clothes when your bags arrive."

And the C rations were so old the paper products were yellowed, the chocolate bar was white, the candy hard, the instant coffee evaporated and the cigarette ration powdered. But we ate the wet rations!

Squad-sized patrols went out each day—four during the day and two at night. I liked nights because it was cooler. I only got one!

But I didn't like the fact that we took the same patrol route every day. The rebels knew this! So did the civilians; they constantly followed begging for food and tobacco. The Lebanese we saw were living in poverty, shacks of tin, cardboard and wood. Children begged. My men saved chocolate and candy for them.

**BlueBat** (Continued on page 47)



### BlueBat (Continued from page 46)

No matter where soldiers go in this world, poverty follows. They come face to face with mothers wanting something for their children. Hungry kids touch the hearts of all dogfaces, mainly because they have their own children. The average soldier will give up their own meal so that a child can eat. I saw it often.

After 10 days we left the airport, and set up outposts on four hills near the village of Babaal. This was where the Turks had fought in WWI.

Our duffel bags finally arrived and we changed immediately. We had patches from both the 11th and the 24th.

We got new uniforms because of a very unpleasant situation that affected us all—diarrhea! Some blamed the water, some the food, and some dehydration. Guys were keeling over right and left, and rank didn't matter to diarrhea!

We had the runs so bad we often didn't make it to the latrine! Besides the smell, we had chapped-red testicles, butts and legs. It was pure hell when they blistered from the uniform rubbing. Finally, we were allowed new uniforms as often as we needed; one day I went thru six, literally!

Mail began arriving regularly; everyone looked forward to it, especially the goodies. Some guys bought guitars and harmonicas from peddlers, and Calibo got a radio.

Patrols increased and included many more villages. Babaal was still the main area because it was controlled by rebels.

One day while on patrol near Sayda, we formed a diamond to have a defense perimeter while stopping for lunch. Quite soon, our BAR man, "Beetle" Bailey, pointed to the hill in front of him where several men had opened a garage door and rolled out a 37mm AAA gun. They traversed the gun down toward us, and we all got ready to return fire. After several minutes where no one fired, they wheeled the gun back inside. Capt. Alves, who was on the radio with me, said to continue but change the route. When we got back Sgt Mathis said a bazooka team would go on all future patrols, which was fine with me.

This was also the end of our giving goodies to the locals; they would no longer be allowed near us.

In early September we received a six-hour pass to Beirut. We arrived at our drop off point at noon, and were to be back there at 6PM sharp. All the platoon went together, except for Sgt Tryon, Cpl Baiza, Cpl Williams and me; we were to serve as Security Patrol to keep an eye on the troops. Not much happened except for a brief skirmish with the Marines versus some Army and Navy guys.

The route back to the drop off point took us by the Hotel Bristol, and a swimming pool filled with tanned, beautiful, bikini-clad young women! We agreed to be good ambassadors and said hello.

There was a diving board to the sea below. After talking to the ladies for a while, Bob Tryon dove off the board. He yelled "Air-borne," and I followed immediately. Baiza and Williams joined us seconds later. We climbed up the rope ladder where the ladies were—one said "Crazy Americans!" We went on to the pick up point.

We moved to a rear area where we spent our time cleaning weapons and equipment, doing laundry, writing letters—and sewing on 24th ID patches!

Near the end of October, we gave the Lebanese all of our equipment except for our packs, rifles, duffel bags, and the CO's jeep and radio, and headed back to Germany. "A" and "C" Companies flew back to ready the garrison while everyone else went by ship.

We arrived at Gablingen in early November; the rest arrived two weeks later. There was one hell of a celebration when passes were issued. In addition to our regular pay everyone received money they had in their clothing fund!

The 24th ID remained in Germany for many years after its brief stint to Lebanon. The two Airborne Brigades joined the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft Bragg, NC.

Thus ended the short but important period of the life of the 24th Infantry Division's Airborne troops—Operation BlueBat!

Sean Harper, Life Member 1671 Kildare Rd. Ponca City, OK 74604-6938 Ph: 580-401-3249



# Augsburg, Germany-My "Duty" Station in 1967!

By Don Maggio, 24th Adjutant General

Augsburg, Bavaria, Germany was the home of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Headquarters and major elements when I arrived in May 1967. There were also a significant number of troops in Munich. Many of us Cold War Era veterans remember the Rathaus (Town Hall) as Augsburg's symbol (see photo at right).

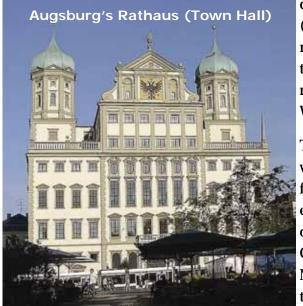
Augsburg has a long history dating back to 15 BC as a Roman camp under Caesar Augustus' soldiers. Its location at the confluence of the Lech and Wertach Rivers made it a major Roman trading center.

Augsburg has seen the wrath of the Huns, and been a part of the Holy Roman Empire.

Thanks to Anton and Jakob Fugger, Augsburg became Europe's banking center in the 1500's. In 1521 they established the Fuggerei, the oldest social settlement in the world. It still exists today and provides apartments to Augsburg Catholics who have fallen on hard time.

In 1530 the Augsburg Confession occurred in an attempt to reconcile the religious schism between Martin Luther's Protestants and the Catholics. In 1806 the city became part of Bavaria.

Rudolf Diesel, an engineer for the



Augsburg Maschinenfabrik, invented the first internal combustion engine in Augsburg in 1897.

The U.S. 5th Infantry Division was stationed in Augsburg at the end of World War II, being replaced by the 11th Airborne Division during Operation Gyroscope, 1947-1956.

The 24th Infantry Division was reactivated July 1, 1956, and replaced the 11th Airborne Division at Augsburg. The 11th Airborne Brigade became a part of the 24th. In the early 1960's the 24th Infantry Division was reorganized into the 24th Infantry Division Mechanized, with the mission to patrol along the Czech Border and defend against a possible Warsaw Pact invasion.

The 24th Infantry Division was rotated back to Ft. Riley, Kansas from June to September 1968 un-

der Operation REFORGER (REturn of FORces to GERmany). Equipment was positioned in Kaiserslautern for rapid deployment in case of a Warsaw Pact forces invasion.

Twenty-Fourth Division troops were deployed back to Germany for at least two REFORGER exercises for joint training with other NATO troops. Units of VII Corps Artillery and the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade took over some of the Kasernes.

Those of us stationed in Germany during the mid- to late 1960's had a very pleasant time, despite the frequent alerts and cold winters.

There were times troops had just returned from their assigned staging areas only to be "called out" again on alert from a higher command. The Armor Battalion on Sheridan Kaserne had to load partially-repaired engines into their compartments and tow the vehicle behind a tank retriever.

One U.S. dollar would get about four German Marks, so our purchasing power was good. But those who had "unsponsored" dependents (family not authorized to accompany a soldier) had it much more difficult as rent at private homes was very expensive relative to the authorized housing allowance.

**Augsburg** (Continued on page 49)



This was when the German economy was changing from capital intensive to consumer intensive as most of the post-war reconstruction had been completed.

German citizens were beginning to make major improvements in their quality of life. They began to buy Volkswagen Beetles, Gogomobiles, Messerschmitts, Mercedes Benzes, Porsche's, BMWs, Autounions, DKWs, and other cars.

Many of us were impressed that the standard taxi was a black Mercedes diesel. But most Germans still utilized the Strassenbahn (street car) or buses.

Many Germans only drove their cars on the weekends and in good weather. Road and highways became crowded on Sundays after church as families drove to the country for a picnic or to a rural Gasthaus.

On the Autobahn, "Kamerad" drove with abandon! Passing on hills, curves, and narrow bridges seemed commonplace to them while unnerving to most of us.

Most of us stationed at Sheridan Kaserne had our favorite Gasthaus. There was the Pink Haus west of the Kaserne and the "Gasthaus zum Lamb" where trolley #1 turned around in Stadtbergen. Across from the east gate were a couple of more GI spots

and a bistro or two.

Hasenbräu and Riegelebräu were produced in Augsburg and served in most of the local "Gasthäuser" along with Spatenbräu, Löwenbräu, Pauliner, Franziskaner, and Hofbräu from München.

With our beer, we ate Schnitzels mit Pommes Frites, Spätzele, Bratwurst, Knockwurst, Curriewurst, Semmel, rye bread, and mixed green salads. The cakes and other bakery items were also very delicious.

Augsburg had a "bierfest" each summer. Hasenbräu and Riegelebräu would set up large tents with a band platform in the middle. We

would order liter steins of beer, eat roasted chicken, cheese, pretzels, "steckelfisch," lox and onion sandwiches, and radi (the large white radishes spiral-cut and soaked in brine). We tried to sing along with the Germans as they swayed to the music. Often we could barter American cigarettes for more beer.

The Germans were very friendly as long as we behaved with some measure of civility. They often began a conversation with a tale of their recent visit to the U.S. or talking about a relative who lived there. A few steins of beer seemed to improve their English and our understanding of the German/Bavarian/Swabish language.

All-in-all, our duty in Germany was most enjoyable. Those of us lucky enough to return have seen significant changes in the city.

Augsburg celebrated its 2000th anniversary in 1985 with major

renovations of the Rathaus, Perlacherturm (Perlach Tower), Augustus Platz (across from the Rathaus), and other major fountains and buildings. They opened the newlyrestored Grand Hall in the Rathaus for the event and had docents dressed in period costumes leading tours of the city.

Augsburg's downtown area is now a pedestrian only zone with only street cars and buses allowed. The sidewalk cafes are still busy and good places to

watch people. Beer is still the popular drink and Gemütlichkeit is still a way of life in this wonderful city.

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



# "A" BTY, 11th FA, Bad Kissingen, GR





Bad Kissingen



"A" Battery, 1st Howitzer BN, 11th Field Artillery, in Germany

From left: Sgt. Owen, Paulson, Dennis, Walk, Payton, Cawton, Joe Garza, and Kaus. Shoebridge is holding the banner.



Submitted by: Joe Garza 7021 Georgia Ave Lansing, MI 48911 517-242-0253









Joe & German Soldier Friend



Page 50 Vol. 63(2) Spring 2009



The **Taro Leaf** 

### "Far Greater Than Anything Bestowed On Them in Their Native Land"

Excerpted from THE COLDEST WINTER by David Halberstam. Copyright © 2007 The Amateurs Ltd. Published by Hyperion. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Available wherever books are sold.

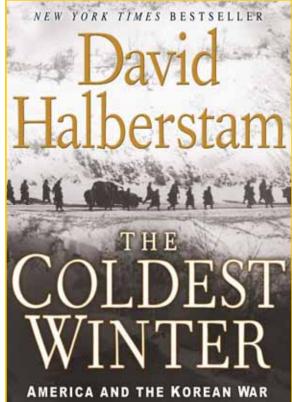
Submitted by Prudencio E. Rumbaoa, "A" Company, 19th Regiment, Life Member 2234

"For the Americans and others who had fought there [Korea], who had more often than not felt the lack of recognition in their own country, and who had not particularly liked the country when they were there, the success of South Korea as a nation brought a sense of belated validation to their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of others who had not come home, and granted them a legitimacy and honor that they had not always felt.

"So many of them had for so long kept it inside themselves. No one wanted to hear about the war when they had first come home, and so they never talked about it, not to their families or to their oldest friends.

"Or when they did, no one understood—or, worse, wanted to understand. Their children more often than not would grow up knowing only that their fathers had served in the war, but almost nothing else—units they had been with and what battles they had fought in. They would complain about their father, that they were never willing to talk about the war.

"It was all bottled up. What they had done and why they had done it were still important to them—they were proud of having gone, and proud also of how well they The *Taro Leaf* 



had done under dreadful conditions. They mourned those who had not come back, but they shared it only with one another.

More than half a century later, this was still the defining experience in so many of their lives, and a number of them had become, in their own way, amateur historians. Late in life they wrote their own memoirs sometimes privately published or simply Xeroxed and stapled together, done often somewhat belatedly at the urging of their children and grandchildren.

"A surprising number them had, in effect, their own history rooms with small libraries devoted to the Korean War, and with large maps of the country showing selected battle areas pinned to the walls. But the rooms, like so many of the experiences and the memories, were effectively closed off to outsiders. No one, save the others who had gone, had offered the proper respect for what they had done and why they did it back when it had mattered. It was as if a critical part of the experience, the validity of it as judged and valued by others, had been stolen from them.

"They shared, then, this one great bond—that they could talk to one another and that

those who have been there would always understand. They kept in touch by phone or by letter, and then in life by the magic of the Internet, a wonderful means of locating old buddies who had been lost in the shuffle of time. Their alumni associations were important, and they took their divisions and regimental newsletters seriously, as well as their annual conventions.

"Friendships were sustained, and sometimes new ones flowered between men who had been in adjoining units but had not known each other in Korea itself. At the reunions they gathered in small

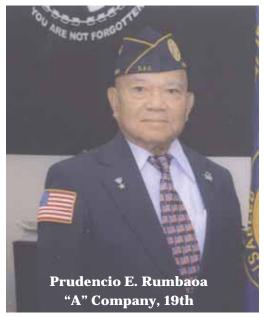
(Continued on page 52)



groups, often men who had been at a particular battle, summoning their past through the haze of half a century of memories.

"In the words of Dick Raybould, an artillery forward observer in the Ninth Regiment of the Second Division, 'You go to the reunions and you find yourself trying to remember what you've spent the last fifty years trying to forget.'

"Gradually some of them began to go back to visit South Korea. At first it was something of a trickle, and then more of them went and came back and they talked about it, and they went on organized tours with other veterans. They visited places where they had fought during the Naktong battles and certain battlefields like Chipyongni. They did not visit the area around and above Kunuri and The Gauntlet, where the terrible defeat



had first been inflicted on them, that was the other side of the parallel and could not be visited.

But they, many of whom had hated the country when they first served there, were impressed, first by the success of the country itself, its remarkable modernization, but also the sense of gratitude that they felt on the part of the local people—far greater than

anything bestowed on them in their native land. (emphasis added)

"And they took pride in one additional thing that if it had not been a victory in the Classic sense, in some way what they had done had worked because it was the crossing of an existing border in the Cold War and because they had made their stand, it had not happened again."

Mr. Rumbaoa says: "I found these statements very eloquent in expressing my innermost thoughts and (they) probably reflect the feelings of other veterans, who have served in the Korean War. I have been profoundly absorbed in reading the book."

Prudencio E. Rumbaoa 21128 S. Menlo Ave. Torrence, CA 90502-1725 Ph:310-320-0108

TAPS (Continued from page 11)

sion. The Boston Herald, December 24th, 2003.

**Melvin B. Salber**, Company I, **5th RCT** in Korea in 1953, passed away on December 9, 2008 in Elgin, NE.

Clifford A. Simmons, "D" Co. 19th Infantry passed away January 17, 2009, in Bristol, TN. He served in Korea from 1948 to 1950, and was a POW in Camp 5, from November 4, 1950 to September 1953. He received the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. Provided by Bill Borer, who said: "Cliff was a member of my squad until we were captured; he was a fine soldier." Ms. Lena Simmons, 728 Taylor Street, Bristol, TN. 37620.

Joseph K. Vrabel, with the 5th RCT in Korea in

1953, passed away on January 26, 2009 in Poland, OH.

**Alfred Austin Wetmore**, 82, of Andover, NJ, died on January 9, 2009. He was a member of "C" Co **21st Infantry Regiment**, receiving the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife of 19 years Carol (Papps) of Andover, as well as his ex-wife, Yuriko (Tsutsumi) of Whiting, NJ. Arlington National Cemetery.

Floyd David Williams, Commander of the **52nd**Field Artillery Battalion in Korea and Japan for 33 months during the Korean War, passed away on April **3**, 2003, in Utah. Burial Bluffdale, Utah.

**Joseph C. Yanek**, **5th RCT** in Hawaii and Korea in 1950, passed away December 30, 2008 in Tucson, AZ.

"Requiescat in pace"



# Taro Leafer Instrumental in New Vets Memorial

Leesburg, FL: It's envisioned as a tribute to Lake County's veterans, the likes of which has never been seen in this area.

At about 7 feet tall and 2,800 square feet, the Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park is poised

to be one of the largest veteran's monuments in the Southeast U.S.

They've got the land, the plans and the ambition. Now the organizers are obtaining the money to build it. But even when charitable dollars are hard to come by, that doesn't worry the war veterans putting this together.

Association member and Korean War veteran Don Van Beck, said he knows the local community will quickly donate the estimated \$525,000 needed to build the

VETERANS MEMORIAL AT FOUNTAIN PARK

> granite structure. Organizers expect it will be completed later this year.

> "It's really just a monument for all of the people who served," Van Beck said. "This is something that will go on forever."

> Plans for the memorial have been in the works for nearly a year. Van Beck, 80, said he and fellow members of the Lake County Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 169 in Leesburg initially decided to make a memorial for

> > Korean War veterans. After more brain storming, the Memorial Board decided the memorial should commemorate all veterans.

Leesburg city officials donated the property at Fountain Lake Park behind city hall. Tests have been done on the land to ensure it would handle the 85ton structure.

The Memorial will be about 60 feet in diameter and engraved with about 30,000 names of Lake County

war veterans. Van Beck said it would be one of the biggest veterans memorials in this part of the country

The Memorial has an H-type configuration that will allow visitors to walk around it and view the names. A computer kiosk will allow visitors to look up names. It is to be flanked with 12,500 engraved granite bricks, lit at night and surrounded by security cameras.

"The people on the walls will have served during the wars," Van Beck said. "The people on the bricks will have been in the service, but not necessarily in war."

The group has opened an office at 600 Market St., Leesburg, FL 34748, and are now identifying qualified veterans. For more information call 352-314-2100, or visit www.lakeveterans.com.

Adapted from article by Amy C. Rippel Special to the Orlando Sentinel, Lake Edition.



Don Van Beck, 34th Infantry HHC, left, Memorial Executive Director



# Still serving at 81!

**Bill Garry**, Life - #593 K/19 and Hvy Mtr Cos., 19th Infantry 1950-1951

Bill serves the USCG as a vessel examiner and public information officer.

3204 Huntwick Ln. Virginia Beach, VA, 23451-3977 SKYPE drbillgarry7786



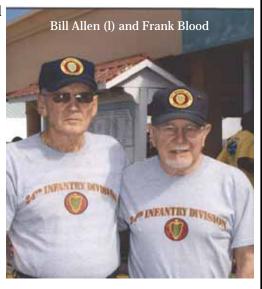
James Garner (originally Bumgarner) served with the 5th RCT, 24th Infantry Division for 14 months in the in the Korean War. He was wounded twice, first in the face and hand from shrapnel fire from a mortar round, and second in the buttocks from friendly fire from U.S. fighter jets as he

dove headfirst into a foxhole April 23, 1951. Garner was awarded the Purple Heart in Korea for the first injury. He received a second Purple Heart ("As the result of friendly fire while actively engaging the enemy"), in 1983, 32 years after his injury. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\_Garner

**Bill Allen**, C Company, and **Frank Blood** of H & H Company, both with the 19th Regiment in Korea, on their recent cruise to Belize. Bill was a POW in Korea.

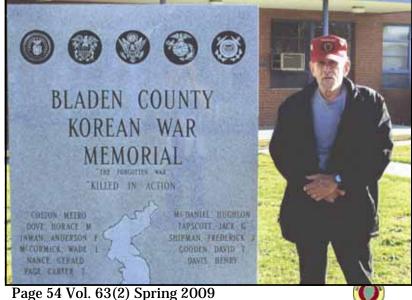
William M. Allen, 421 4th Ave. N., Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730.

Frank H. Blood, PO Box 367, Gardner, MA 01440-0367, 978-632-8121



See related story: "19th Regiment Hurdlers Find Each Other After 40 Years!" The *Taro Leaf*, Vol. 61, Nos. 3 & 4,

Summer-Fall 2007, Pp 38-39.



Left: **Barney Fergus**, at Bladen County North Carolina Korean War Memorial.

Barney Fergus, Life 2295
"B" 11th FA
9820 Hwy 41 E
Harrells, NC 28444-8832
Ph: 910-876-6068
bernardf@intrstar.net



The **Taro Leaf** 

# "A" Company, 2nd Battle Group, 2nd Infantry, 24th Inf. Divison



Pictured from left to right at the Biannual Reunion, 50th Year, September 17-21, 2008, held at Branson, MO.

Front Row: John & Judy Phillips, Donald Woods, Frank & Kathleen McCorkle, Bob & Anice Stanton, Wally & Ida Robb, Don & Linda Bunner, Loyal & Linda Vincent, David (deceased) & Louise Seay, Richard Kohler, John & Kathleen Dunn, and David &

Marilyn Long.

Second Row: Marlin & Arlys Reynolds, Robert & Nancy Barnes, Willie & Darlene Hiatte, Gary & June Sechrist, Jack & Carlyn Dull, Bob & Linda Drews, and Bob & Joyce Boyles. Back Row: Ronald & Laura Hinson, Kenneth Andrus, Michael & Dixie DeCarlo, James & Carolyn Knight, Donald & Betty Peterson, Paul & Leithea Epperson, Elvis & Betty Lemmon, Lionel & Jenel Thibodeaux, Sidney & Patsy Bryant, and Clyde & Betty

0

# **Check Your Dues Date Below**



Send Dues & Address Changes To: NON PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit #1040 Leesburg, FL 34748

24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Secretary/Treasurer Donald E. Maggio 411 Concord Road Fletcher, NC 28732-9734

Tel. 828-684-5931

Email: tarheeldon0@lycos.com

# Carl V. Sheridan, Medal of Honor

Rank and Organisation: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company K, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Place and Date Frenzenberg Castle, Weisweiler, Germany, 26 November 1944. Entered Service at: Baltimore, Md. Birth: Baltimore

Pfc. Sheridan was a Bazooka gunner with K

Company, which was in an attack on the Frenzenberg Castle.



His company had captured two courtyard buildings, and the 35 remaining K Company members were now engaged in a furious fight with nearly 70 enemy paratroopers occupying the castle gate house, a solidly built stone structure surrounded by a deep water-filled moat. The only approach was across the courtyard and over a drawbridge leading to a barricaded oaken door. Pfc. Sheridan, realizing that his bazooka was the only weapon powerful enough to penetrate the heavy oak planks, and with complete disregard for his own safety, crossed the courtyard to the drawbridge entrance. His first two rockets only weakened the door, but his final rocket blasted a hole through the heavy planks. Turning to his company he shouted, "Come on!" and charged into the gaping entrance with only a 45 revolver, only to be killed by a withering fire that met him. The final assault on Frezenberg Castle was made through the gap that Pfc. Sheridan gave his life to create.

Why is Carl Sheridan's Medal of Honor on the back cover of the *Taro Leaf?* Because many of our members served their time with the 24th Infantry Division at Sheridan Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany. Editor