

# Taro



# Leaf

# NIAGARA USA



OFFICIAL 2009-2010 VISITOR GUIDE FOR NIAGARA FALLS & NIAGARA COUNTY

**2010 24th IDA Reunion**  
Buffalo, New York, September 26—29







Sunday September 26 to Wednesday September 29. Millennium Airport Hotel 800-323-3331 for reservations. Information for the registration forms, tours, etc., not available for this edition; will be in April 2010 *Taro Leaf*. All questions: Contact: Sal Schillaci, 716-837-1635, [SSchillaci@roadrunner.com](mailto:SSchillaci@roadrunner.com) or the Reunion BRAT—Phone: 360-663-2521; email: [Info@TheReunionBRAT.com](mailto:Info@TheReunionBRAT.com).



Graycliff is an important architectural masterpiece in Wright's career, with similarities to Wright's own home at *Taliesin* and his most famous house design – *Fallingwater*

# ~~~ President's Letter ~~~



As I write this it is Christmas, and Donna and I are back home in Minnesota to spend the holi-

days with our children and grandchildren. A storm is raging outside, and the snow is flying and the wind is blowing. As I gaze out at the snow I am reminded of the similarities with my 1951 Christmas in the mountains near Kumsong, North Korea with Easy Co, 19th Infantry Regiment.

More than a foot of snow is on the ground, and it is below zero and the snow crunches under your feet as you walk. Snow is everywhere and the wind always feels like it's com-

ing right at your front, never at your back.

But that's where the similarities end. Here I can sit in front of a roaring fire and watch the snow-storm outside; in Korea I sat in a frozen, unheated hole in the ground and tried my best to keep warm. Sometimes we got a bunker with logs on the top but always had a hole to the north so we could see out.

Here I can look out over the lights on my deck and see my neighbor's Christmas lights twinkling through the trees. I know that if I trudge through the snow to their house I will be invited in for hot chocolate or a cup of coffee.

We had neighbors in North Korea

too, but across the valley there were no lights, only the occasional flare, some tracers and maybe some artillery or mortar blasts. We didn't know each other and didn't see each other, but when we did see someone we tried our best to kill them. They did the same.

We always stood freezing by the open hole so we could see them if they came to visit. We were determined to hold on to "their land" even at the risk of our lives. I say their land because it was theirs and we took it away from them two months before. Ironically, after the truce, we gave it back to them anyway.

Around the Christmas holidays we were always expecting them to visit

**(President's Letter** Continued on page 17)

## Call for Verbeck Award Nominations

Association VP Sal Schillaci is seeking member nominations for the member you think should be recognized with our Association's prestigious 2010 Verbeck Award.



He has selected the following as members of this year's Verbeck Award Committee: Gene Spicer, Dan Rickert, Keith Hagen and Tom

Thiel.

Schillaci says he would like to offer all members the opportunity to nominate a member for the Verbeck Award. So, please send Sal your recommendation and a brief write-up on why you believe your nominee deserves to be honored.

Contact Sal at: Salvatore Schillaci, 59 Endicott Drive, Amherst, NY 14226-3323, ph: 716-837-1635.

Past Verbeck Award recipients are shown in the *Taro Leaf*, Vol. 61, Nos 3&4, Summer-Fall 2007, page 49. Please add recent year's

recipients: Dan Rickert, Keith Hagen and Tom Thiel to that list.

**Verbeck Guidelines:** The Verbeck Award is presented to that Association member who best displays the ideals of Bill Verbeck—an unabashed love for the Division and its Association; a member who most furthers the interests of the Association and the Division.

It is not intended to reward mere popularity, but more to acknowledge hard work in helping to make the Association more successful. ###



## From Your Editor's Computer *by Tom J. Thiel*



Well, another *Taro Leaf* has come and gone, and we are all three

months older than when the last issue hit our mailbox.

In that three months I have become another year older, 81, and have encountered difficulties dictating more medical tests. But then we all have those.

Also in those three months, I have produced my first web site. This was for my local KWVA Chapter, <http://>

[cid169.kwvachapters.org](http://cid169.kwvachapters.org). It was a neat learning experience that I plan to have take me to launch a similar *Taro Leaf* or 24th IDA effort. I comment a bit more on this effort on page 16.

Then too I should remind you that the Association must not relax in its effort to find a *Taro Leaf* Editor. My commitment to stay on for a while was limited to a year. With this issue I will have completed half that tour of duty.

And I feel that the Association has not made the concerted effort necessary to bring to our ranks more younger *Taro Leafers*. Those who served in Germany,

Lebanon, Desert Storm, and elsewhere the 24th has been after Korea. They are out there; I see them every day on the web! And if you don't think we need them, just look at pages 6 and 7, and 39 and 40!

You say you like the *Taro Leaf*. That it is the glue that holds the Association together.

But the *Taro Leaf*, and other Association activities do not happen by themselves. They take skill sets and energies that us old codgers no longer possess.

Let's do something about it now! Tomorrow may be too late! tj



# ***Taro Leaf*** Editor Needed

## Contact Mel Frederick or Sal Schillaci

507-455-1639 or 716-837-1635



# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

## Association Members

**Jasper D. Blow, Jr., CORRECTION** In The *Taro Leaf*, Vol. 62(2) incorrectly reported that Jasper D. Blow, Jr., Life Member - #2011, "C" Company, **19th Infantry**, had passed away. I am pleased to report that on Nov. 28, 2009, I spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Blow and they are very much alive and well. If you should wish to welcome Jasper and Maryellen back they can be reached at: 1550 Gant Rd., Scottsboro, AL 35769-3507, 256-259-6873, jblow1550@charter.net. The *Taro Leaf* sincerely regrets this significant error. TJT ED.

**Richard H. Chatley**, 81, passed away in Nunda, NY. Richard served in the **21st Infantry Regiment** in Korea. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Janet Chatley, 8360 Short Tract Rd., Nunda, NY, 14517-9771.

**Pomas B. Fasules**, Life# 108, **3rd Engineer** WWII died in 1988. Lucy Fasules, 426 Margaret Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324.

**Victor Martin Gloe**, 87, of Hermann, MO, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 at Frene Valley Health Center, Hermann, MO. Association Life Member 371, Victor served with the **21st Infantry Regiment** in the Philippines and Japan, and was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He is survived by Lillian Gloe, and four children. Burial at St. Martin's Cemetery, Starkenburg, MO, with full military honors. Mrs. Lillian Gloe, 1034 Jefferson St., Hermann, MO, 65041-1260.

**William D. Ladany**, of Silver Spring, formerly of Rockville, MD, passed away on Friday, Dec. 11, 2009. Bill was a S/SGT assigned to Headquarters, **3rd Combat Engineer Battalion**,



Ladany

Medical Detachment in Korea during 1951 -1952. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ethelene Ladany, 15311 Beaverbrook Ct. Apt 1F, Silver Spring, MD 20906-1310.

**Lloyd Robert McCandlish**, 82, of Bre-



men, OH passed away Dec. 13, 2009 in his home. Life Member 604, Lloyd served with the 21st Infantry Regiment in Korea and was a member of Task Force Smith. Interment Dec. 17, 2009 in Grandview Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary McCandlish, 112 S. Broad St., Bremen, OH 43107-9712.

**Orland E. Moncrief**, 19th Infantry WWII, died Oct. 22, 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Linda M. Pitts, 9505 Blom Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71118.

**Niels Eldon Mortensen**, age 83, of Roosevelt, UT, died Apr. 30, 2009 at the Uintah Basin Medical Center in Roosevelt. Life member #1187, Niels served in WWII and Japan with the **19th Infantry Regiment**. His last known address was: 268 S. State #38 Apt 15, Roosevelt, UT 84066-2915.

**Carl H. Oeder**, Life # 1362, 724th Ord WWII died Sep. 11, 2001. Survived by his son, Richard C. Oeder, 2236 E. Armand St., Lake Charles, LA 70611.

**Glenn L. Osborn**, 96, of Portland, OR, passed away Jan. 8, 2010. Glenn was born in

(Continued on page 6)



# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

(Continued from page 5)

Cando, N.D., and served in the **34th Regiment**, 24th Infantry Division stationed in Australia and the Philippines in WWII. Glenn was preceded in death by his wife, Win Osborn.

**William Harold Oslin**, 86, of Muskogee, OK, died Sep. 28, 2009 at Solara Hospital Muskogee. Life Member# 1151, Mr. Oslin served with Cannon Company, **19th Infantry Regiment**, in the Pacific, Philippines and Okinawa from Oct. 1944 to Jan. 1946. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Billye Jean Oslin, 1013 N. Edmond St., Muskogee, OK, 74403-3212.



Oslin

**Jerome Elton Rasmussen**, age 79, of Sartell, MN, formerly of Howard Lake, passed away Oct. 21, 2009 at the VA Med. Ctr. of St. Cloud. Life Member # 1728, he served with Battery A, **11th Field Artillery** in Japan and Korea 1949-1950, when he was wounded by mortar fire. Interment in Howard Lake Cemetery. Jerome is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jean Rasmussen, 2401 Utah Rd., Sartell, MN, 56377.

**Bertie Rose**, wife of Perry W. Rose, passed away Jul. 22, 2009. Contact Mr. Rose at 605 Broadway, Monticello Park #255, Longview, WA 98632.

**Charles E. Rosengrant**, 78, of Fort Pierce, FL, passed away Nov. 9, 2009 at his home. Life Member 2291, Charles served from 1949-1952 with the **21st Infantry Regiment**, Company B and was with Task Force Smith. Charles received numerous medals, including a Bronze Star that he never received, and a Purple Heart that he refused to accept. He is survived by two brothers, a sister,

and (5) children. Ms. Myra Rosengrant, 880 Belle Road, Red Lion, PA 17356-9046.

**Richard Solat**, 81, of Babylon L.I., NY, died Nov. 4, 2009 of lung cancer. Association life member 1760, Richard served with the Division in Korea and Japan with the 26th AAA from Jul. 1951 to Nov. 1952, and was a member of the swim team that won the Division's 1952 swim meet. Richard taught art at North Babylon, NY High School, from 1955-88, and is survived by his wife Arline, and daughters Nancy and Sally. Mrs. Arline Solat, 112 Washington St., Babylon, L.I., NY, 11702-1820.



Solat

**Harley Franklin Welsh**, 77, of Paces Creek Road, Trenton, SC, died Oct. 29, 2009 in Edgefield. Mr. Welsh served with the **19th Infantry Regiment**, Companies C and B from Jul. 1950 to Aug. 1951. Private burial at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. He is survived by Mrs. Betty Louise Welsh, 167 Paces Creek Rd., Trenton, SC 29847-2037.



Welsh

## Non-Association Members

**Clifford Ray Barth**, Colonel, Colorado Springs, CO, died on Dec. 1, 2009. He was in the **19th Infantry Regiment** in the Philippines and Japan; awarded the Bronze Star. His first wife Edmee Boddeker died Jan. 1967; in 1976, he moved to Leadville, CO where he married. Mrs. Louise Barth, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Maynard A. Birkholz**, 87, of Omro, WI died Dec. 9, 2009. He served during World War II with the **24th Infantry Division RCN**, Recognizance Troop in the South Pacific. Mrs. Lois Birkholz, 1701 Springbrook Rd, Omro, WI 54963-1810.

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# The Thirty Fourth Infantry Regiment On Corregidor

by Paul J. Cain Company Commander, I CO, 34th Inf. Regt.

February 15, 1945, the 3rd Battalion, plus A Company, Cannon Company, and a Company of light tanks of the 34th Infantry Regiment left Olan-gapo and Subic Bay on three LST's (landing ship tank) and sailed south to Marivales on the south tip of the Bataan Peninsula.

The 34th Infantry troops were under the Command of Lt. Col. Edward M. Postlethwait, a graduate of West Point class of 1937. Col Postlethwait served three years at Fort McKinley in the Philipines Islands. In 1940 he returned stateside and joined the 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment as a Company Commander, later rising to Battalion Commander.

In Marivales, some 3 years before on 9 April 1942, General King, Commander of the Philippine-American forces had sued for a truce. The Bataan Death March began here at this time .

Some 3 weeks prior to our Cor-regidor landing, B-24 aerial bombardment started with some 3,125 tons of bombs dropped on the island. On 7 Feb, 200 tons were dropped on that day alone. P-38, P-39 & P-51 assaults also occurred.

At 8 a.m. on 16 February 1945, 3rd Battalion, A Company, 34th



Infantry Cannon Company and a platoon of Tanks loaded with troops and equipment on 25 LCM's (landing craft mechanized) for the move of some five miles across north channel of Manila bay to Black Beach on the south bottom side of Corregidor. Each landing craft had a vehicle along with troops, which made said craft loaded to capacity.

As the 34th Infantry crossed the channel, a flight of B-24 American bombers flew over Corregidor and dropped their load of 500 lb. bombs completely covering the island with a cloud of dust and smoke. Following the bombers at 8:30 a.m. came the C-47 transport planes dropping the 503rd paratroopers on topside.

The first wave of 34th Infantry troops were scheduled to hit the Black Beach at 10:30 a.m., they were two minutes early but no one

objected. That wave consisted of K Company Commanded by Captain Frank Cenntanni from Cleveland, OH, and L Company commanded by Capt. Louis Stern from Champaign, IL. They had the mission of securing the top of Malinta Hill.

The second wave, which included I company commanded by Lt. Paul Cain from Ivesdale, IL, followed. I Company lost

its Jeep and driver PFC Cresenzo to a land mine as it left the landing craft. I Company's mission on landing was to move across the beach to clear and secure the north dock area.

A Company commanded by Gilbert Heaberlin had one of Cannon company's SPM'S (self propelled mount) on landing craft with them; it also hit a land mine on leaving the landing craft and ended up on its side on beach.

Bill McKenna, A Company came off the landing craft at the same time and was knocked to ground from the blast. A Company's mission was to clear and secure the landing area.

By this time the Japanese were in action and sprayed the beach as well as the third and fourth waves still offshore with heavy machine

*(Corregidor Continued on page 8)*



gun (MG) fire from caves on both flanks. Fortunately Navy gun boats and a destroyer off shore were able to quiet the guns, at least for a while.

Lt. William Soboleski from Naticoke, PA, a member of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion had a mission with his mine detection team to mark and remove all mines from the landing area. He and his crew were able to crawl under heavy machinegun fire and mark a path through mine field. They later removed 216 mines.

PFC Dan Car, a rifleman with K Company was killed by a bullet from a MG as he crossed the landing beach to Malinta Hill. Dan Valles called for aid man Ray Cash.

Donald Sletten from Thorton, CO., was a member of a dive team that had gone in ahead of us and search the landing area for underwater mines. When he and one other man surfaced they found that the landing boat that brought them had left without them. So, they quietly slipped ashore and hid until the 34th came ashore.

Sgt Personeni spotted a Japanese MG some 500 yds to our left front. It was firing at the C47's as they passed over after dropping the paratroopers. We called up Dwight Dipple from Ludlow, IL with his 60 mm mortars. After placing some rounds in that area

the enemy soldiers disappeared.

I Company Platoon leader, Lt. Phil Nast from NY, was hit two hours after landing with shrapnel from a mortar shell and evacuated on a stretcher to the Hospital ship off-shore. He still had his boots on!

I Company had a man killed and two wounded and were pinned down from machinegun fire from the main tunnel. I Company requested a tank, but was told the beach had not yet been cleared of mines. Some 60 minutes later they were advised that a tank was available; it was brought up and quieted that machinegun.

I Company later again became pinned down by a MG firing from the icehouse in the north dock area. Again the tank was called on; it only took a couple rounds to silence the MG and set the icehouse on fire.

Frank Centani, CO of K Co, which was at the top of Malinta Hill, radioed BN Hdq and reported that the landing beach looked much like a movie war zone. Vehicles were blown up by land mines and casualties were all over the place. All very quiet at that time on top of Malinta in K & L Co's areas.

The first night a Jap slipped into Service Co. area and set off a charge destroying himself and a water treatment plant brought in to convert sea water to drinking water. A second Jap crawled under a truck loaded with demoli-

tions. Fortunately, he blew himself up under the front of the truck and only blew off the truck's left front wheel.

The second day, 17 Feb, I Co found that the area they had cleared the day before had been reoccupied by the Japs, who were hiding in shell holes created by our 500 lb bombs that had left a good sized hole in the coral rock.

Lt. Coleman and the first Platoon, along with Sgt. Ortiz and his MG squad moved from shell hole to shell hole, and by first tossing in a smoke grenade then followed by a couple of hand grenades then assaulting the position. They killed over 40 of the enemy, and captured two MG, one knee mortar and numerous individual weapons.

Meanwhile Sgt. Personni, who's platoon was securing the road around the north side of Malinta Hill, spotted a cave with a large camouflage net hanging over the opening. John Goodin, I Co's flame thrower operator, was called and directed to burn away the net, which revealed a large cave with an 8 in. coastal gun covering the north channel entrance to Manila bay.

On top of Malinta Hill, K Co had two lower areas to their left flank. The lower one was known as goal post ridge since it had a couple of iron pipes sticking up that looked





similar to a goal post used in football.

Dan Valles, Jim Suffivan and three other men from Dan's Plt were sent down to secure goal post ridge. About midnight the Jap's attacked with force. After they had used up all ammo and thrown all grenades, Dan and Jim were able to slip over the side of the hill and work their way around and at daybreak back up to the Company at top Malinta Hill.

Next morning Cpt. Centanni with his messenger Corp Mureau went down to reconnoiter the area not realizing there were still some enemy in that area. Both the Captain and his aid were killed.

K Company's EX officer had been killed in the attack the night before leaving only a Lt. Fugetti. K Co had taken heavy casualties.

I Company was ordered to move to the top of Malinta Hill and replace K Company. Since it was dark by the time it got in place, it did not attempt to occupy goal post hill. The enemy attacked again that night at about midnight until 3 a.m.

We found the primary weapon of defense was the hand grenade. Harry Veick from Oak Park, MI said if you spotted one of the enemy crawling up the hill you just pulled the pin out of a grenade, let

the handle fly off so he would not have time to toss the grenade back, then toss it to the enemy. If he were on the steep side of the hill he usually rolled back down and sometimes took another Jap with him.

One night I looked for my radio operator Sam Sniderman and found out he was out gathering grenades for the men on the perimeter.

Next morning I requested some sort of illumination during these night attacks. The Navy had a shell they fired into the air where it would light up a large area for about 45 seconds. They continued to fire them every 2 to 3 minutes during an enemy attack. They were a great help.

Next day K Company sent up a detail to pick up casualties on goalpost hill and take them down off the hill. I Company Commander went down with them to reconnoiter the area. Casualties were recovered. There was no sign of enemy.

Two hours later Sgt Owen with the 2nd Platoon was sent down to occupy goalpost hill. He found the enemy had moved back in or had been asleep that morning as a tough firefight developed with Sgt Owen and one other man killed and one wounded. As dark came on 2nd Platoon now under Sgt. Shorr was moved back up into Company perimeter for the night.

Next morning Sgt. Shorr had his 2nd Plt reinforced with a section of Sgt. Ortez's Lt. MG. Following a 81mm mortar barrage, they moved onto goalpost hill with no enemy opposition. But, the enemy continued to hit them every night.

One morning we started to receive sniper fire from Infantry Point, a brush covered hill some 150 yds to the northeast of our position. One of Company I's men was wounded. We tried 81 mortar fire which seemed to have little effect.

We next contacted our air liaison officer requesting a napalm drop to burn off the brush. Less than 5 minutes later he called me back advising that planes were already being loaded and that they would be over our target in 15 minutes. Since he was down at Bn. Hdq, he asked me to help direct the planes in. So, by keeping the line open between us and he in touch with the planes, we directed the strike, which was 100 percent successful. We also saw one of the enemy come running out of the brush and was immediately cut down by rifle fire from Malinta Hill.

Joseph Baron from Chicago, IL, a medic with a 4-man litter squad was evacuating a seriously wounded man down off Malinta Hill when the enemy opened up spraying them with heavy caliber MG fire killing one of the litter bearers. The wounded man was dropped off litter and rolled down

**Corregidor** *Continued on page 10)*

the hill for some distance.

Naval vessels setting offshore fired and quieted the Jap MG so the medics could pick up the wounded man and continue on to aid station.

A MG had been spraying the landing area when any gathering had developed. Lt. Bernie an officer on patrol located it in a brush covered cave on the side of a cliff. Bernie then went out to the cruiser located just offshore and helped them spot the entrance to the cave where this gun was located and the Naval guns quickly shut down that heavy MG.

Bill McKenna and Joe Froelich (who represented Austria as a downhill skier in the 1932 Olympics) of A Company settled down for the night in a shell hole.

We were advised by a couple of Naval Officers who had spent time on Corregidor back when it belonged to the U.S., that if the Japs ever blew the ammunition in the tunnels the blast would create a channel across the island. The tunnels held some 35,000 artillery shells, 10,000 powder charges, 2,000 lbs TNT, 80,000 mortar shells along with hand grenades and land mines.

Sgt. Bill Hartman, Plt Sgt Cannon Co 34th Inf, with driver Mike Nolan stripped down a M7 self-propelled mount (105MM & 50 Cal MG) and took a load of medi-

cal supplies up to the 503rd Paratroopers up topside. They had to go up a road which had not yet been cleared of the enemy, and received heavy MG fire at one point.

On return trip they carried wounded men. Hartman and Nolan made a second trip this time pulling a water tank along with medical supplies, again MG fire, however not as heavy and again brought down casualties.

On the 7th night the Japs blew the tunnel. Malinta Hill bounced, fire came out of the tunnels and rose up the sides. A portion of the south end broke off burying six A Company men under rock and isolating Bill McKenna and his MG squad from the remainder of the Platoon.

A couple hours later the Navy moved a destroyer and a PT boat into the area, and shot a rope up to Bill's position and rescued he and his squad one at a time. They took them out to the PT boat in a rubber boat. The remainder of the A Company was rescued at daylight.

Jack Miller and the 2nd Plt. L Company were shaken from explosion and flames, which as observed from above, appeared to cover their position. But they had no casualties

As it got daylight the following morning, the east side of Malinta Hill was covered with the enemy. They were crawling up the hill. L Company spotted them first and

started firing. None of the 300 or so enemy troops ever reached the top of Malinta Hill.

Jack Miller and his Platoon with two tanks attached was given the assignment to attack around the north side of Malinta Hill. He positioned one tank in front of the north tunnel entrance where it was stormed by the enemy in bunches of 10 to 20 all armed with sticks and rocks. They killed a great number of the enemy, but took no casualties of their own.

On 24 February the 503rd relieved I and L companies on the top of Malinta Hill. On 25 February, the 3rd Bn. with attached units were picked up by LSTs and moved back to Subic Bay where they re-joined the rest of the 34th Infantry.

On 2 March Col Postaiwait, his staff and the Company Commanders with about a dozen EM returned to Corregidor for the flag raising with Gen McArthur.

The 503rd Paratrooper Regiment and the 3rd Battalion 34th Infantry were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the job they did on retaking Corregidor.

*Paul J. Cain hometown Ivesdale, IL., drafted a private 1940, commissioned 2nd Lt. Inf October 1942, joined K Company 34th Inf. 24th Infantry Division on Oahu Nov 1942, transferred to I Company 34th Inf as Commanding officer Nov. 1944. After Japan surrender August 1945 relieved and returned to States November 1945. #*

Paul J. Cain  
3109 B Chatham Dr.





# With Task Force Smith at Osan

*By Jack H. Higdon*

I enjoy the magazine very much and have followed the articles closely. I have lost a lot of friends from the Gimlets and occasionally see their names in the magazine. I hope to attend a reunion some day.

This is a story I have never told.

When the Korean War started I had been living the good life in Kumamoto, Japan. I had learned to smoke, drink, gamble and womanize, and had learned to do all very well, even at the young age of 16!

I was assigned to Company M, 21st Infantry Regiment at Camp Wood in January 1949. I was in the 75mm Recoilless Rifle platoon.

In July 1950, I went to Korea with Task Force Smith where my unit was attached to the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, the first American unit into Korea.

We were sent to delay the North Korean advance until other units could be deployed. Colonel Smith selected a site near Osan, South Korea for our stand.

My first experience with combat was there at Osan. That was a day I will never forget.

They sent our 75mm Recoilless Rifle squad because they told us

our weapon would stop tanks.

I was in an emplacement covering the main road with Elihude Bond from Kentucky, Rocky (Clyde T) Rockwell from Nevada and Denton from Arkansas.

We had been told that when the North Koreans saw that we were Americans, they would not shoot at us.

Unfortunately no one told that to the North Koreans!

When they hit us we fired one round and hit the lead tank.

While we were celebrating we did not notice the tank's gun was still operational and that it had been pointed right at our position.

When the tank fired the first round it hit in front of our emplacement! We were pelted with dirt and rocks and became very scared.

At that point the NK ground troops began overrunning our Main Line of resistance and it was total chaos.

G.I.s were walking over to the road and surrendering.

Rocky and Bond said they guessed we were supposed to surrender too.

I said not me. Bond who was a corporal told me I had to if he did.

I told him not me.

They moved out towards the road and I moved out in the opposite direction running as fast as I could.

I ran until my lungs were on fire. I was a very scared 16 year old who had never tossed a grenade or fired my rifle at anyone.

The mortars that were supporting us were good news and bad news. The bad news was the rounds they were firing were landing behind us. The good news was the ammo was so old the rounds were not exploding!

It was pure mayhem when I ran. The last person I saw surrendering was Denton.

All three, Bond, Rockwell and Denton, were POWs. Rockwell and Bond died in captivity. Denton lived and came home, but his health was destroyed.

I ran alone, keeping off the roads. I ran for three days. Several times, I was given food and water by friendly Koreans. Maybe if I had stayed on the main roads I may have gotten back to the troops that had arrived after us, but I was scared and kept to myself because I thought the NK were on the main roads.

Finally I made it back to a river

where our troops that had come later had taken positions.

They took me to their S2 to be debriefed. I told the Major that our positions had been overrun, and that I had run when the others decided to surrender. I told him that if they wanted to court martial me to go ahead.

The Major said that I had not had a chance against the NK, and that I had done nothing wrong.

In later action in Korea, I received the CIB and the Silver Star. I rotated from Korea on June 1, 1951, one of the first to rotate.

I went on to spend 30 years in the Army. That included two tours in Vietnam, 1963-64, and 1969-70. One year in MAAG Sai-

gon/Cholon, and one in the 4th Infantry Division.

I made master Sergeant 1n 1955 in the 11th Airborne Division Honor Guard at age 23. I served in the 101st Airborne and on the J6 staffs at USCINCEUR and US-SOUTHCOR.

During my service after Korea I received four Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service, five Commendation medals, one Joint Service Commendation medal and the Legion of Merit. I retired as a CW4 in 1977.

For years I felt like I was a coward at Osan. Then one day on a web site I learned there were 800 of us and 10,000 NKs!

I no longer felt like a coward! Rather I realized I was simply a

poorly trained, poorly led, very scared 16 year old who used his instincts to survive!

I do not know why I decided to write about that horrible day now. I carried a ton of guilt for years until I learned the odds we faced at Osan that hot July day.

The thing that still angers me is that we had very little training and being only 16 years old I simply did not know what I should do. I responded to a terrible situation using my gut judgment.

I wish I could tell you more.

Jack H. Higdon  
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## Task Force Smith - The Lesson Never Learned

*Conclusions from a Monograph by Major John Garrett \**

In the case study of Task Force Smith, the truth has been hidden by a series of revisionist historians, such as Fehrenbach, with agendas to serve. There are no conspiracy theories here, and many of the historians generally believed that what they were reporting was the truth.

They however have done an injustice to the men that served and their fellow soldiers who need to understand the reason's why.

Uncovering the truth is only the first step. Once the truth is clearly revealed, it must be examined to determine what can be learned.

**In the case of Task Force Smith and the 24th Infantry Division, the message that stands out is that soldiers cannot be employed without the intellect of the leaders being engaged beforehand.**

**The army must learn that readiness of an army is more than equipment and manning, it is the readiness of the leadership to learn the military and operational art of the profession before the first shot is fired. Since, in the end, the arrows drawn on the maps in**

**headquarters represent young men who will never become grandfathers, because the leaders were not ready for battle.**

**That is the lesson of Task Force Smith.** (emphasis added)

\* Infantry School of Advanced Military Studies  
United States Army Command and General Staff College  
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
Second Term AY 99-00  
September 19, 2000, Page 42.  
<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA381834&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>





# A Deadly Reconnaissance Patrol

3rd Combat Engineers, August 11, 1950, 1st Lt. Ward Neville, et al

By Merry Helm, December 13, 2009

The 24th Division was in a retrograde movement on August 11, 1950. Its resources were stretched dangerously thin, and its main supply route was in serious jeopardy. On that date, seventeen 3rd Combat Engineers ventured deep into enemy held territory to assess the location and strength of the opposition. Only a handful made it back, including the Battalion's commander.



1st Lt. Ward Neville

The actual patrol was led by 1st Lt Ward Neville, leader of B Company's first platoon. With the main supply route threatened, Neville volunteered to lead a reconnaissance patrol 5,000 yards into enemy territory. Although his by-the-book leadership style did not particularly endear him to his men, Neville had proven himself a capable soldier, having earned a Bronze Star/

Valor on July 8th and a Silver Star on July 12th. Now, he was about to receive a Distinguished Service Cross, which he would not live to see.

A sketch of what happened can be formulated from the citations that were later issued.

In *Counterattacks on the Naktong*, 1950, Dr. William Robertson writes, "Adding to the 24th Division's woes on the night of 11 August was a report from Eighth Army at 2150 that the North Koreans had pushed another force across the Naktong, this time just beyond the division's northern flank. The sectors held by the 21st Infantry and Task Force Hyzer on the division's right had been relatively quiet for several days, enabling [General] Church to reduce troop strength there in order to reinforce more threatened areas to the south. An infantry battalion, an engineer company, and a 155-mm artillery battery had all moved to Yongsan from the division's right within the past twenty-four hours. Thus, no units were immediately available to respond to the new threat. Lieutenant Colonel Hyzer of the 3d Engineer (C) Battalion, responsible for the 24th Division's right flank, sent a seventeen-man patrol across the Naktong during the night in hopes of discovering the enemy's intentions, but it would be at least a day before an answer could be obtained."

In actuality, documentation indicates Hyzer's patrol took off hours before the 8th Army's report came in that night. In fact, they were walking straight into those same North Korean forces that had gotten across the Naktong, and they were probably responsible for discovering this fact.

From LTC Hyzer's Silver Star: "Colonel Hyzer, a Korean interpreter, CPL Johnson, and PFC Bolster accompanied a Battalion Patrol to the West bank of the Naktong River and part of the way to its objective, Hill 207. After insuring that the patrol was well on its way and that it was not being followed, Colonel Hyzer decided to return with his group to the East bank of the Naktong River. Upon arriving at the landing site of the West bank of the river, Colonel Hyzer's group discovered one of the boat guards lying beside the boat apparently dead and noted enemy movement in the area. By mutual agreement the group decided to swim the river. When they had swum for about ten yards the enemy brought machine gun and small arms fire upon the group. At this point the interpreter decided he could not make it and turned around to return to the West Bank. Colonel Hyzer, realizing the vital information as to the Battalion's disposition and the status known by his interpreter, [ . . . ] turned around and went to the assistance of the interpreter in an attempt to bring him to the East bank. About this time, Colonel Hyzer noticed that Private Bolster, having become ex-

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hausted, was floundering in the water. Releasing his hold upon the interpreter, Colonel Hyzer swam to the assistance of Private Bolster. The intensity of enemy fire and the struggling of Private Bolster made it impossible for Colonel Hyzer to save this man. Colonel Hyzer then swam to the assistance of Corporal Johnson and noted he was apparently capable of reaching the East shore. Colonel Hyzer then turned to go to the assistance of his interpreter and through increasing enemy fire returned to the spot in the river where he had last seen the Korean. Being unable to locate the interpreter at this time, Colonel Hyzer then swam through enemy fire to the East bank of the river. Through Colonel Hyzer's effort and total disregard for his personal safety, the mission of the patrol was accomplished, and the Korean was able to reach a position of safety and prevent a possible source of vital information from falling into enemy hands."

Meanwhile Neville and his men ran into problems of their own. Neville's subsequent DSC citation reads: "At 1700 hours on 11 August 1950, the patrol, consisting of Lieutenant Neville and thirteen enlisted men, was attacked by a force of an estimated two hundred enemy riflemen. Lieutenant Neville, realizing the impossible odds with which his patrol was confronted, decided upon a desperate course of action. He personally led his patrol through a hail of enemy fire to the west, one thousand yards farther into enemy territory, to the east bank of the Hoechon River, without casualties. Upon arriving at the Hoechon River, the patrol was fired upon from the North and South by an estimated one hundred enemy riflemen. Lieutenant Neville was shot through the right leg and immobilized, and three of his patrol were mortally wounded. Vehemently refusing assistance from any of his patrol members, he directed them across the river and, after most had crossed, he dragged himself through the river to the west bank. During this time he was constantly ordering his patrol to shoot into

the areas from which the heaviest enemy fire was coming and urging them on, lest they be captured. Lieutenant Neville, mortally wounded, dragged himself into a rice paddy and was last seen with a grenade in his hand, urging the patrol on to safety. His utter refusal of assistance from his patrol after he was wounded made it possible for five members of the patrol to return to friendly lines and safety."

PVT Jose L. Archuleta's Silver Star citation adds further details: "After proceeding 5000 yards, the fourteen-man patrol was fired upon from three sides by enemy riflemen of vastly superior numbers. In this fire fight the patrol leader was wounded in the right leg and ordered other members of the patrol to withdraw to the opposite bank of the Hoechon River. Private Archuleta, after killing outright five of the enemy riflemen, worked his way to the wounded patrol leader and attempted to carry him across the river. Under a direct order to leave, he crossed the river and gave covering fire to the patrol leader until seriously wounded."

CPL Rosslyn E. Gresens also received a Silver Star, which reads: "Exposing himself, Corporal Gresens advanced on the enemy and killed two riflemen who were directly threatening the patrol from advantageous positions on the opposite bank of the Hoechon River. His effective covering fire during the river crossing accounted for at least fifteen enemy casualties, and he was last seen following the patrol across the river firing his rifle at the enemy."

Neville, Archuleta and Gresens were not among the five men who made it back. Three of the survivors received Bronze Stars/Valor, which offer further details.

SGT Q. Z. Goodwin: "The small patrol of which he was a member, probing deep into enemy held territory, was attacked by a force estimated at company strength and its leader wounded. Assuming command, Sergeant Goodwin personally directed the pa-





trol's withdrawal, and exposing himself to intense enemy fire, he covered its movement by effective fire. He remained in a forward position without regard for his own safety until assured that the patrol had safely withdrawn."

CPL Franklin Pinkerton: "The withdrawal was held up by heavy enemy small arms fire, the patrol leader and several others were wounded. Corporal Pinkerton observing three of the enemy advancing on the patrol, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself and hurled a grenade killing all three. Assuming command, he then directed the withdrawal of the wounded. He continuously exposed himself and remained in a forward position in order to cover the withdrawal of his men to friendly positions by use of effective rifle fire."

Another survivor, CPL Gene Timmerman, was a medic: "During the withdrawal they were held up by heavy enemy small arms fire which had wounded the patrol leader and several others. Corporal Timmerman, with utter disregard for his personal safety, while continuously exposed to heavy enemy fire, administered first aid to the stricken men until ordered to withdraw."

Besides PV2 John Bolster, who LTC Hyzer was unable to save from drowning, other members of the 3rd (C) Engineers listed as casualties on August 11 include CPL Norman Johnson (likely the CPL Johnson mentioned in Hyzer's citation), PV2 Harold Church, PFC Lahue Dillion, PFC John Frost, PFC Edward Heath Jr., CPL Robert Heaton, PFC George Hill, CPL Louis Hirata, CPL Alvis Lawson, PFC Richard Stokum, CPL Gene Timmerman and CPL Bruce Yax. All were listed as Missing in Action, with five listed as KIA on that date, including Neville and Johnson. The three mortally wounded men mentioned in Neville's citation are thought to be Frost, Hirata, and Yax. The remainder of these men were declared dead on December 31, 1953.

One might assume this ends the story – were it not  
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for a small Oakland Tribune article dated Nov. 1, 1955, titled Captain Ward Neville Funeral Services Held. The article reports: "The body of Capt. Ward O. Neville, Oakland Army officer who earned three of the Nation's high decorations for bravery in Korea, went to its final rest today at Golden Gate National Cemetery at San Bruno. Capt. Neville's body was brought to the United States after being returned by the Chinese communists."

Korean War veterans understand the Chinese were nowhere near the Naktong River in August 1950. Although Neville is still officially listed as KIA on August 11, 1950, his citation states he was last seen alive, as were Gresens and Archuleta. Therefore it seems possible Neville was captured and remained alive long enough to reach a prison camp – predominantly operated by the Chinese communists.

In response to a query about the missing patrol members, John Zimmerlee, Vice President of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, writes: "To date I don't have much on MIAs Archuleta, Bolster, Dillion, Gresens, Hill, or Stokum. However, the last names of MIAs Harold Church, Edward Heath, and Charles Royer were found on a blackboard in the Moo Hak girls' school in Seoul 20 Sep 1950. [POWs] were previously housed there, then marched to Pyongyang where they were loaded on train cars and shipped north."

Zimmerlee continues, "Repatriated James Vaughn recalled a 'Lawson' from KY in camp #1 during 1952. Alvis Lawson is the only 'Lawson' from KY still missing, though other 'Lawsons' were POWs. [. . .] One should note that groups often were captured together and marched north to camps. The conditions were brutal. If a man could not keep up with the march, he was dragged to the edge of the road and executed."

Zimmerlee further states, "The North Korean or Chinese captors rarely spoke English and wouldn't know how to record English names. Lists were not maintained during a march. Only when they arrived at



# Your Association's Electronic Communications II

In the last *Taro Leaf* we wrote about initiating electronic communication between the *Taro Leaf* and those members who have email, and who have been considerate enough to provide their email address to their Association.

By now those of you who have been kind enough to share your email address have been receiving regular email TAPS notices and maybe some other messages from **thetaroleaf@gmail.com**.

So far, Gmail has accommodated our bulk mailing need, at least it appears so from this end. However, I have had indications that some ISP's (your email 'postman') have black listed [thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com). If you have that problem, please contact me at [thiel9@gmail.com](mailto:thiel9@gmail.com).

Many of you have been sending TAPS, Letters, Looking For, and

your *Taro Leaf* articles via this email address; and it is working excellently! Thank you.

We of course accept material in all forms, even short handwritten items that you send via USPS that we scan as digital documents.

**Next Step: [www.24th Infantry Division Association.org](http://www.24thInfantryDivisionAssociation.org)**

We would now like to advance the Association another electronic step by creating and operating a viable and up to date web site. I visualize this web site as containing, among other things:

- ♦ materials such as that Norm Treadway maintained when he had a 24th IDA web site,
- ♦ full copies of as many of the *Taro Leaf* quarterly publications as we can locate and scan,
- ♦ extensive historical information about the Division,

- ♦ an internal database management system that would allow maintaining our membership online with access provided only through secured systems,
- ♦ membership itself available to all members again via a password scheme that would ensure no public access,
- ♦ an index of all TAPS notices carried in the *Taro Leaf* and the notices themselves as well,
- ♦ the 24th IDA Honor Roll, and
- ♦ perhaps other such Association information.

Such an endeavor is certainly not trivial. And it is not an amateur endeavor either.

This is an appeal to our members who have skills and talents at information scanning and indexing, as well as other skills necessary to enable this effort. Please contact [thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com) now.

Thank you very much. TJJ

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## **Patrol** *Continued from page 15)*

camps did lists evolve. Since 3 of these MIAs were known to be POWs, it is likely that a number of the rest were lost along the way. These and other cases can be found on the website [www.koreanwarpowmia.net](http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net)."

Despite information such as Zimmerlee's, officials still do not designate Church, Heath and Lawson as POWs, and Neville is still listed as KIA on August 11, 1950.

A query has been submitted to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) regarding the circum-

stances involved in the return of Neville's remains – which might shed light on the fates of other MIAs. At the time of this writing, Major Ramon Osorio, JPAC Public Affairs, has begun investigating the case.

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Merry Helm became interested in this story while researching Ward Neville, who grew up in her home state of North Dakota.



so we were on 100 percent alert. The worst thing was trying to keep our feet warm. They told us it was a court marshal offense if your feet froze. That wasn't much of a threat, if you're a frontline infantryman, in an icy hole in the ground, on top of a mountain in North Korea; a warm Leavenworth cell sounded pretty enticing.

Let us not forget we have some of our young men and women serving our country and living in those same conditions in Afghanistan and Iraq today. They are giving up their Christmas, their families, and sometimes their lives so that we may enjoy the comfort and safety of our homes.

Let us not forget these brave young Americans serving their country around the world and give thanks to them and pray for their safe and speedy return home.

Civilization hasn't really progressed

that much in our lifetimes has it?

Also, as I write this, my oldest granddaughter is on her way home from China where she has been a University teacher for the past two and one half years. We visited her last Thanksgiving and it was amazing to see this petite little brunette sitting in the front of the taxi giving instructions in Mandarin and telling the cab driver we were her ye ye (Grandpa) and nai nai (Grandma) visiting her from America. They always smiled; two of them even sang Happy Birthday to me.

She loved Shanghai and it's people and I told her it was probably best she didn't mention to her students that 58 years ago her grandfather was probably shooting at their grandfathers and vice-versa.

Now I'd like to turn my attention to our Association for a few moments.

The 24th's 2010 Annual Reunion in the Buffalo area is coming together nicely and I hope to see everyone

there in September. Sal Schillaci and his crew have been working nonstop to see that we have a great 64th Reunion.

I have never seen Niagara Falls and am looking forward to that and possibly an extension of our stay to take in a little bit of Canada.

For those of you also planning to go to Canada be aware that while you may enter Canada without one, you must have a Passport to reenter the U.S.

After five years of service our Historian, Larry Gay, has decided to relinquish the position. Thank you for your service and dedication, Larry.

If you might be interested in serving as Association Historian, please contact either me or [thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com).

Finally, Donna and I extend to you our best wishes for the Holidays and the coming New Year.

***Mel Frederick***

## How to Get Copy of DD- 214

The National Archives has a website that allows individuals to request a DD-214 online. You may use this system if you are: 1) a military veteran or next of kin of a deceased, former member of the military, or 2) the next of kin (can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother).

[www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs)

The National Archives can be reached at (866) 272-6272.

TDD lines for College Park, MD: (301) 837-0482.

*Thanks to the Kinseekers Genealogy Society (of Leesburg, FL).*

Send "Your Story"

to

[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)

or

19147 Park Place Blvd

Eustis, FL 32736

**Now!**



# Honoring the 24th's Fourteen MoH Recipients

We have received the below draft of a Resolution submitted during the week of January 17 before the House of Representatives by the Honorable Christopher Lee (NY-26) member of the House. His resolution directly supports the placing of a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery recognizing and honoring the 14 MoH recipients from the 24th Infantry Division.

We have been advised that the above legislation would be greatly aided by each of us contacting our own members of the U.S. House and Senate to ask them to support Mr. Lee's resolution.

Herewith follows the draft resolution:

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Expressing the sense of Congress that a site in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 14 members of the Army's 24th Infantry Division who have received the United States Medal of Honor.

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division was established in the fall of 1941 from the Hawaiian Division in preparation for war on the Pacific Front;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division ascribed the motto of "First to Fight" and a taro leaf for its insignia, and later became recognized

as "the Victory Division" for its valiant efforts;

Whereas during World War II, the 24th Infantry Division was one the first United States Army divisions to see combat in the war and among the last to stop fighting;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division established coastal defenses on the north side of Oahu Island quickly following the attack on Pearl Harbor;

Whereas despite torrential rain and marshy terrain, the 24th Infantry Division quickly seized the Hollandia Airdrome in Dutch New Guinea and three other Japanese airfields, efforts that were critical in securing all of New Guinea and establishing a headquarters for General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division spearheaded the successful mission to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese by securing both Leyte and later the island of Luzon;

Whereas at the end of World War II, the 24th Infantry Division was one of only ten United States Army divisions to remain activated;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division was the first fighting unit deployed to Korea in response to the North Korea's attack on the Republic of Korea in 1950, and the first to engage the North Koreans in the war's first battle at Osan;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division,

with its service in Korea, became the first United States Division to actively serve under the emblem of the nascent United Nations;

Whereas during the Korean War, the 24th Infantry Division was heavily engaged on the front lines defending the Republic of Korea and critical in delaying North Korean and Chinese advances at the Pusan Perimeter;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division remained on front-line duty after the armistice to patrol the demarcation line in the event combat would resume;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division, along with the Marine Corps, were the first United States troops ever sent to Lebanon as intervention forces to provide security assistance in 1958;

Whereas the 24th Infantry Division were was critical in operations in Berlin, El Salvador, Somalia, Kuwait, Haiti, Bosnia, and the first to be deployed to Iraq for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm; and

Whereas 14 soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division, Captain Francis B. Wai, Private Harold H. Moon Jr., Sergeant Charles E. Mower, Private First Class James H. Diamond, Major General William F. Dean, Sergeant George G. Libby, Master Sergeant Melvin O. Han-

**(Congressman Lee** *Continued on page 19)*



drich, Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., First Lieutenant Carl H. Dodd, Sergeant First Class Nelson Brittin, Sergeant First Class Ray E. Duke, Sergeant First Class Stanley T. Adams, Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, and Private First Class Mack A. Jordan, have received the United States Medal of Honor for their sacrificial and intrepid acts on the battlefield in World War II and the Korean War:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That Congress—

(1) recognizes the proud history of the 24th Infantry Division and the soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division who made countless sacrifices to protect the Nation's freedom;

(2) remembers with profound gratitude, sorrow, and respect the 14 soldiers of the 24th Infantry

Division who received the United States Medal of Honor; and

(3) encourages the provision of an appropriate site in Arlington National Cemetery for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 14 soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division who received the United States Medal of Honor, as long as the Secretary of the Army has exclusive authority to approve the design and site of the memorial marker.

End resolution.

## 24th Medal of Honor Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

As was reported in the last *Taro Leaf*, a project is underway to place a monument to honor the 24th's MoH heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

The schematic at right is the design of this planned memorial, which is following the lead and methods employed in placing the 24th Memorial in Hawaii.

Project fund-raising has been going well; Keith Hagen said that before Christmas he had sent over 450 letters to members asking for donations and that up until then around \$6,000 had been raised. As this goes to press, Sal Schillaci said that number is now nearer to \$9,000. If you would care to add your support to the 24th MoH Memorial, please

send your check made payable to The Medal of Honor Fund at the address at the end of this article.

As the article on the previous and above page illustrates, there has been considerable ongoing ancillary support

for the memorial as well. And again, your support of this effort is likely to bear fruition as well. So, we ask you to kindly write your U.S. Member of Congress and Senators asking them to lend their support to Congressman Lee's resolution. Thank you.

Please send your financial contributions to:

The Medal of Honor Fund  
c/o Sal Schillaci  
59 Endicott Drive  
Amherst, NY 14226.



# Call for Officer Nominations for 2010-11

It is already time to begin giving some thought to our Association Officers for 2010-11.

The election of Association Officers will be conducted at the Annual Corporate Convention (Membership Meeting) which will be held at the Reunion in Buffalo, NY, in September after the Members Breakfast.

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

“Active Membership. Any person who has served as a member of the 24th Infantry Division, or as a member of a unit that either is

now or ever has been at any time attached to the Division.”

“The Officers of the Corporation, and one of the two Board Members at Large (these alternate on an even odd yearly basis), shall be elected annually by the Legislative Body (members) at its annual meeting.” All are for one-year terms except for the At Large Director, which is for two years.

If you would like to serve, or would like to nominate a fellow member to serve, please advise the Nominating Committee now.

All nominations must be received by the Nominating Committee not

later than July 15, 2010.

Keith Hagen has again agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee; members are: Dan Rickert, Dan Cretaro, and Tom Thiel.

Keith Hagen, Chair  
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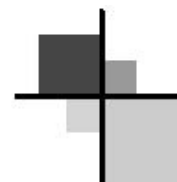
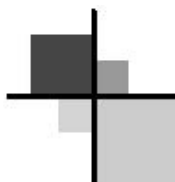
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Maryellen

Mr. Thiel

Thank-you for sending the Taro Leaf  
I have been missing. Enclose is  
a small donation to help pay for  
shipping etc. God Bless,

Thank-you,  
Jeann D. Blom-Ja

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Please send your current email to

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# The Taro Leaf

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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
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John E. Klump	1977-1978	34th Inf. Regt.	812-623-4336	IN
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**PHOTOGRAPHS are desired for TAPs and all articles**, and may be submitted in electronic format (300 dpi resolution or higher, please) 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.**

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## Taro Leaf Deadlines and Publication Dates

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64	2	Spring	Apr. 1, 2010	May 2010
64	3	Summer	Jul. 1, 2010	Aug. 2010
64	4	Fall	Oct. 1, 2010	Nov. 2010
65	1	Winter	Jan. 1, 2011	Feb. 2011





# THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



I desire to be: Enrolled ☐ (or) Reinstated ☐; as a Member ☐ (or) Associate Member ☐  
(please check the proper two boxes)

*of the*  
**24th "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.**

~~~~~

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE+4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

***Served IN the 24th Division, OR was Member of Any Unit Ever Attached TO the 24th at any time.***

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Plt/Bat \_\_\_\_\_ Co \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., 5th, 19th, 21st, 3rd Eng, etc.)

Location Served: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., Pearl H., WWII, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ft. Stuart, Lebanon, Somalia, Desert Storm, Ft. Riley, etc.)

POW: From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit Served With: \_\_\_\_\_ From (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_ To (Yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks in above amount payable to the **"24th Infantry Division Association"**  
And mail with this completed application to:

**John A. Dunn, Secretary/Treasurer**  
**24th Infantry Division Association**  
**9150 Hwy. 51**  
**Westover, AL 35147-9527**

June 25, 2009



## 24th infantry Division Association Quartermaster Order Form

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

Please Detach and Complete Both Sides Continued on Reverse Side

The **Taro Leaf**





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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & ST: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



# Secretary-Treasurer Reports 1 Oct-31 Dec. 2009

by John A. Dunn - Sec/Treas, 9150 Hwy. 5, Westover, AL, 35147-9527, Ph: 205-678-6165, [jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com)

## Booster Contributions

| DONOR NAME              | UNIT     | AMT | FOR       |
|-------------------------|----------|-----|-----------|
| Albrecht, Samuel P.     | 3rd Eng  | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Behrel, H.G.            | 19th Inf | 50  | Taro Leaf |
| Caldwell, Thomas M.     | 21st Inf | 25  | Taro Leaf |
| Davis, Dayton           | 34th Inf | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Donovan, Daniel F.      | 34th Inf | 15  | Taro Leaf |
| Ebert, Clayton W.       | 3rd Eng  | 5   | Taro Leaf |
| Ericson, Russel L.      | 21st Inf | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Fijol, Stanley          | 21st Inf | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Furtado, Vincent        | 26th AAA | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Gaston, Billy C.        | 24th MP  | 30  | Taro Leaf |
| Gavin, Thomas J.        | 26th AAA | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Gosnell, Orvie          | 5th RTC  | 30  | Taro Leaf |
| Harband, Myron J.       | 34th Inf | 5   | Taro Leaf |
| Konkoff, Herbert J.     | 34th Arm | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Lovett, Joel L.         | 11th FA  | 20  | Taro Leaf |
| Marrell, Riley w.       | 24th Med | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| McCourt, Jack G.        | 24th Div | 10  | Taro Leaf |
| Mecca, Donald           | 13th FA  | 25  | Taro Leaf |
| Mock, Michael           | 21st Inf | 5   | Taro Leaf |
| Nunnally, Charles E.    | 11th FA  | 20  | Taro Leaf |
| Schanzmeyer, Bernard A. | 19th Inf | 50  | Taro Leaf |
| Slarskey, Leon R.       | 21st Inf | 25  | Taro Leaf |
| Snyder, Walter B.       | 24th Med | 35  | Taro Leaf |
| Solo, Otis              | 21st Inf | 20  | Taro Leaf |
| Williams, Donald        | 21st Inf | 30  | Taro Leaf |
| Wszolek, Joseph F.      | 13th FA  | 5   | Taro Leaf |
| Zielezinski, John H.    | 19th Inf | 25  | Taro Leaf |
|                         |          | 510 |           |

## New Members

| Name                       | Regiment    | Co/Batt |                       |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Chiarmonte, Cynthia Vella  | Assoc       |         | Father: Vincent Vella |
| Henneman, Martin C.        | Hq Batt     |         |                       |
| Lee, John R.               | 19th Inf    | D       |                       |
| McWaters, Caswell H.       | 24 Recon Co |         |                       |
| Navarro, Peter A.          | Hq&Hq Co.   |         |                       |
| Sears, Robert C.           | 21st Inf    |         |                       |
| Semerau, DeWillo F. (Bill) | 21st Inf    | HQ      |                       |
| Winters, Dennis            | 67th Arty   | A       |                       |
| Bowman, William Larry      | Hq&Hq Co.   | MP      |                       |

## New Life Members

| Name               | Unit     | Co/Batt | No.  | Date     |
|--------------------|----------|---------|------|----------|
| Peter A. Coe       | 5th RCT  | I       | 2362 | 9 Nov 09 |
| Herman A. Westrich | 21st Inf | H       | 2363 | 9 Nov 09 |

Presented below are the operating income, expenses, and cash assets for the first five months of the current fiscal year. As I am learning this job and the accompanying accounting software, these are the basic figures without the usual detail.

Note that the large percentage of the expenses are one time annual expenses, if we continue to develop new membership I feel we will end the year with growth in net assets.

Currently I am working with the Quartermaster so that we can easily exchange information to keep that data up to date in the *Taro Leaf*.

Again, please check your dues expiration date on the address label of the *Taro Leaf* and get those dues in on time. --- THANKS

*John A Dunn*

### INCOME

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Membership    | \$4,335.00 |
| Full Life     | \$1,200.00 |
| Partial Life  | \$350.00   |
| Assoc Member  | \$150.00   |
| Donations     | \$2,105.00 |
| Quartermaster | \$8,140.00 |

### EXPENSES

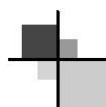
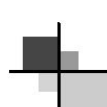
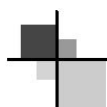
|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Misc. Office Expense | \$1,119.83   |
| Taro Leaf            | \$4,839.25 * |
| Mailing Taro Leaf    | \$1,029.12   |
| Reunion Prizes       | \$4,000.00   |
| Reunion Expenses     | \$2,765.33   |
| Insurance            | \$750.00     |

\$14,503.53

### ASSETS

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Checking Accts | \$32,475.88 |
| Savingd Acct   | \$34,832.30 |
| Quartermaster  | \$67,307.10 |

\* Includes \$189.00 cost adjustment to reprint four pages after proof approval.





## Cpl. Jerold Leonard

I would like to hear from anyone who may have known my brother, Cpl. Jerold Leonard, who was deployed to Korea from Japan on July 3, 1950 with Love Company, the 21st Infantry Regiment. Jerold was KIA on July 11, 1950; his body was found with his hands tied behind his back, blindfolded and shot through the head.

My other brother Bruce was with the 19th Infantry Regiment, Company D; Bruce made it home, but he never talked about the war.

It was a tragic time in our family. Many men made many sacrifices in that undeclared war just so we can have the privileges we have today and I pray that generations to come will never forget.

I appreciate your doing this. I was a kid of 13 when he was killed but I'll never forget how that undeclared war changed our nation and our lives personally.

Myrna Busse, 500 Park Ave., Monterey, Ca. 93940, Ph: 831-646-8393, ggmabusse@yahoo.com

ED Note: I found Myrna on the Blog containing the column at the right.

### Glenn M. Clark

Jacqui Anderson, niece of **Glenn M. Clark**, Hq, 3rd Bn, **21st Infantry Regiment**, who died while a POW in Korea is seeking information from anyone who may remember her uncle Glenn and have information they would share with her. The family has information from a Clifford Bowman but has lost his address. Anyone who has any information may contact Jacqui Anderson, 14219 IL Rte. 127, Butler, IL 62015 217-556-4764 jacqui79@hotmail.com.

## Members Baker and Teruya on Veterans Day

Local Korean War Veteran Reflects,  
Updated: Nov 10, 2009 08:55 PM EST  
Monterey, Calif-

In celebration of Veterans Day tomorrow the Defense Language Institute held a memorial this morning.

It was an emotional day for veterans young and old at the DLI today, "I lost 25 of my 30 men in the first six weeks of the war," said John J. Baker [Life - #2061, 34th Infantry Regiment] a local Korean War Veteran.

He was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery in combat and today he sat down and shared with me one of the saddest parts of fighting a war, facing death: "I pulled his fatigue jacket down pressed on the wound he bled to death. He never came back," said Baker.

Baker and Henry Teruya [Assn Member, 21st Inf] both fought in the 24th Infantry Division in Korea. They didn't meet until recently when Baker started writing a book about the war. After 59 years, he still chokes up thinking about his fallen comrades, "I find myself with tears running down my face when I'm writing it. I remember what happened. I can still see the men's faces," said Baker.

These men may be new found friends, but their bond as veterans runs deep, "I owe him. He was in front of me ten miles in front. He took the brunt force of the enemy and then we got it 8 hours later. He's my hero," said Baker.

See page 46 for photos of Baker and Teruya







Hello Tom,

About 18 months ago you printed a query in the *Taro Leaf* (Vol. 62(3) Summer 2008 Page 13) for me, regarding my Great Uncle **SFC James F. Dolan (Ipswich, Mass), "C" Co, 3rd Engi-**

**neer Battalion** (Combat), 24th Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action at or near Taejon on July 20, 1950. I was wondering if it would be possible to run another query on the off chance it might jog anyone's memory.

Regards,

Sam Dolan, (661) 644-6430  
sam\_dolan@hotmail.com

Tom,

Thanks for Ted's (Jansen) number. Keep up the good work. I just thought I'd give him a call when the spirit moves me. I have only three buddies left.

I was drafted Sept. 8, 1950. Took basic at Ft. Knox. Went to Pusan, Korea Feb. 8, 1951. Served in Dog Co. of the 19th Infantry Regiment from Feb to Dec 1951. Was in heavy weapons 81's, 50 & 30 Cal Machine guns. In August '51 I was First Sergeant. I also was involved with the 555ths 105's.

There was a **Lieutenant Barney Haynes** who was in Dog Co that I lost contact with. If anyone knows where he is please get in touch with me.

Carl B. Gamel  
26431 Williamsburg Dr.  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-6162  
941-495-1586  
cbgamel@yahoo.com

## NOTICE: Mailing Label Expiration Dates

The *Taro Leaf* mailing label contains the membership expiration date. Unfortunately, in converting from our database to our mailing list format for the last issue of the *Taro Leaf*, I inadvertently converted all Regular Member's expiration dates in such a manner that all dates were assumed to be 2009.

Some of you had paid your dues, and therefore were surprised to see your mailing label showing an incorrect year. I believe that we have properly assessed the problem and apologize to all of you who were adversely affected. tj ED

**Hughie Urquhart**, Cpl. ER from Brooklyn, NY, served with the 19th Infantry Regiment. Hugh was seriously wounded in South Korea on Feb. 4, 1951, and returned to duty on Mar. 30, 1951. He was then killed in action in North Korea on Jun. 27, 1951. If you remember Hugh in June 1951, or if you remember action by the 19th Infantry Regiment at that time, please get in touch with me as we were childhood playmates living two doors apart. Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph C Seyfried  
2277 Honeydew Dr,  
Spring Hill, FL 34608, Ph: (352) 688-1388,  
kandj5@juno.com



Help please

The picture at right was taken sometime in 1950 in Korea. It shows several members of the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. It has been



tucked away with my treasures. I need help identifying the first three men from the left side. If anyone knows the names of these men, please contact me. The man on the right is me, Charles E. Unsworth. The Korean boy in the front center was known as "peewee," no other name known. Sincerely

**Charles E. Unsworth**, 715 Horseshoe Loop, Doyune, LA 71023  
Ph: 318-745-2144

**ALBERT DENNIS PFC, 19th Infantry Regiment, KIA** in the Philippines on April 7, 1945. Received the Silver Star and Purple Heart; is buried at William McKinley, Manila, The Philippines. He was my uncle and I am trying to locate anyone who knew him or was in his unit so that I can inform my father what happened to his brother. Thank you. Steve Dennis, 2911 South 42nd St., St. Joseph, MO, 64503. Tel. 816-390-4836, machop@stjoelive.com

**Bill Allen** is looking for former members of **C Company, 19th Infantry** to add to his company history: "My Old box of Memories, Thoughts of the Korean War."

Bill says this is also the name of his book, which is once more out of the box and is available for \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping from the address below.

The money from the sales is used to support Bill's projects in helping those in need, also our active military veterans, abused children and other causes, and spreading the word about the Korean War when he has the opportunity, because so little is known.

It is called the Forgotten War, but only by those that didn't "fight it!"

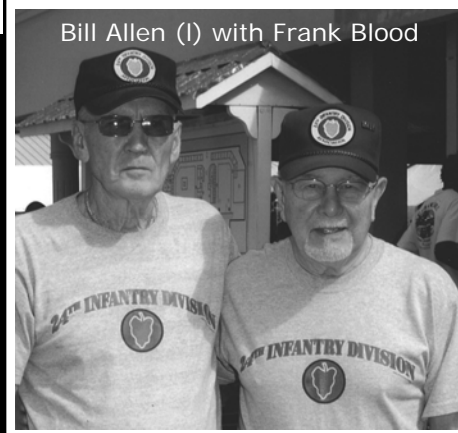
**Bill Allen**, C. Co 1950-53  
421 4th Ave. N.  
Tierra Verde, FL 33715-1730  
wallen2@tampabay.rr.com  
Phone # 727-866-8337

## Digital Photos in *Taro Leaf*

Please be sure to scan and submit all digital photos at a resolution of 300 dots per inch or higher.

Make certain your email program does not compress the files to 72 dpi when you send it; send as attachment.

If a jpg file is less than 400-500 Kbytes it probably is too small!



Tom, Editor - The *Taro Leaf*

I arrived in New Guinea at Milne Bay as an infantry replacement early in 1944. I was assigned to G Company of the 34th which was then training on Goodenough Island.

Shortly thereafter I was summoned by the Regimental Surgeon who asked me if I would like to join the 1st Bn Medical Detachment. I had one semester of college before entering the Army and my records indicated that I had been a pre-med student because that was what I had

intended to pursue. Of course, none of my subjects of study had anything to do with the medical field.

I was assigned to the 1st Bn Medical Detachment and served as a litter bearer in the Hollandia operation. Shortly thereafter I was assigned as the aid man - medic - pill roller in D Company. I served in that position until the end of the War. Learning the location of the five pressure points to stop bleeding was the extent of my medical education. The rest one would describe as on-the-job training.

I was 18 when I entered the Army. I spent 6 months in the States for basic training and then spent 23 months overseas. I was discharged on January 9, 1946 when I was still only 20 years old - too young to vote. Twenty-one was the voting age then (and it still should be!)

I was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal - the latter was not for any specific event but, I learned when it was awarded, it was given to every combat medic.

The foregoing is a brief summary of my life with the 24th I.D. in WW II - a lengthy story just to furnish you with my e-mail address.

Daniel F. Donovan, 244 Baltimore Pike, Unit 218,  
Glen Mills, PA 19342 , Phone 484-574-8420  
dfdonovan01@comcast.net

Hi JOHN - THANK YOU  
SO MUCH FOR THE LIFE  
MEMBERSHIP PLATE - IT  
MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO  
ME. AND I HAVE FOUND A  
SPECIAL PLACE TO DISPLAY  
IT. PLEASE PASS MY THANKS  
TO THE OTHERS - MERRY Helm

Hi Tom, just received my latest issue of the *Taro Leaf* and as always read it from cover to cover. I especially enjoyed the segment that covered our Divisions history. Thanks for all your hard work and for giving us all such a great Association publication. I'd be willing to bet there's none better anywhere. I wanted to be sure you had my E-mail address on record so here it is

Thanks again and God bless.

T. J. Nicholas C/21  
2140 N.E.62nd Court  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308-1301  
954-776-5027  
tjnfltkd@yahoo.com

## Email Addresses

A lot of email addresses are failing

A lot of others are full

Please send your current email to

[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)

or

[tthiel9@gmail.com](mailto:tthiel9@gmail.com)



## Nisei PW Interrogators

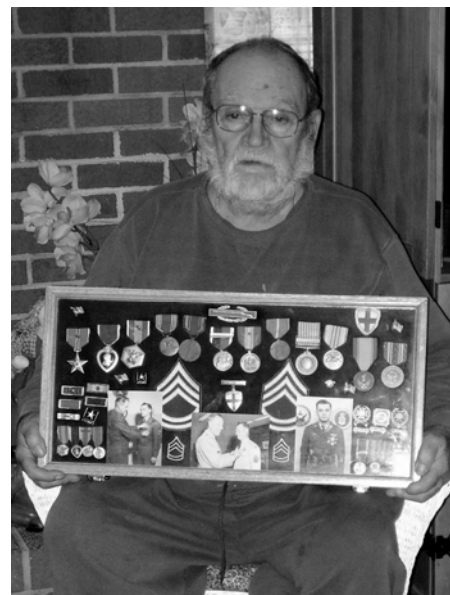
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Tom:</p> <p>Thanks for another good <i>Taro Leaf</i>!</p> <p>I don't ever recall an article about our Nisei PW Interrogators in the <i>Taro Leaf</i>. Those Japanese American guys really took their life in their hands just by being anywhere around!</p> <p>There was a team of about 6 or 8 Nisei Interrogators attached to G-2 at Division Headquarters, where they worked very closely with our three-member Order of Battle Team.</p> <p>I can only remember one name, that of Sgt. Kenny Shimbo.</p> <p>These guys could out dig all of us. I remember seeing this first on Leyte Beach. They were like a bunch of prairie dogs!</p> | <p>They worked as far down in the division as Battalion Headquarters, and provided incredible intelligence for us.</p> <p>I played lots of bridge with a number of the interrogators. One of them would bid three no-trump on only 10 cards—and make it! A very good partner to have.</p> <p>Those guys were special heroes in my book, and certainly deserve to be remembered by all of us.</p> <p>Perhaps a little blurb in the <i>Taro Leaf</i> would bring a response of value.</p> <p>James W. Mims<br/>811 Lawson Ave.<br/>Midland, TX 9701-4144<br/>915-682-1757<br/>mimsjm@sbcglobal.net</p> | <p>-----</p> <p>I did a Google search and found a couple of references that were most interesting. They are:</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Loyal Linguists: Nisei of World War II Learned Japanese in Minnesota<br/>Masaharu Ano<br/>Minnesota History, Vol. 45, No. 7 (Fall, 1977), pp. 273-287 (article consists of 15 pages)<br/>Published by: Minnesota Historical Society Press<br/>Stable URL: <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/20178492">http://www.jstor.org/stable/20178492</a></p> <p>-----</p> <p><a href="http://nisei.hawaii.edu/object/io_1149316451356.html">http://nisei.hawaii.edu/object/io_1149316451356.html</a></p> <p>-----</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

My name is **Jasper D. Blow**. I'm now 78 years old. I was in C Company, 19th Infantry Regiment 24th Div with Ronald ???. I got frostbite but I stayed. But frostbite was not put in my file in the VA. Had to cut the end of my finger off, and they will not pay me for it. I am also on oxygen for bad lungs.

I was wounded on March 12, 1951, and did return to the front lines. I got out of the army in 1969 after putting in 23 years of service.

I am a life member of the 24th Division Association. The photo shows what I look like now. My e-mail is: [jblow1550@charter.net](mailto:jblow1550@charter.net). My wife Maryellen and I live in Scottsboro, AL; we both came from Burlington, VT.

Jasper D. Blow, Jr.  
1550 Gant Rd.  
Scottsboro AL 35769-3507  
256-259-6873  
[jblow1550@charter.net](mailto:jblow1550@charter.net)



*A Special Note...*

10/29/09

Hi Keith—

Good To see some younger ones Takehold,  
Dec. 14-09 I'll be 90  
Was drafted Nov 6, 1941  
for 1 yr 21<sup>00</sup> a month for  
13 wks basic training then  
30<sup>00</sup>. They took \$6.00 out for  
Ins. \$1.50 laundry 75¢ for  
pressing Razor, Toothbrush  
paste Cigs etc you furnished  
yourself. The Japs hit  
Dec 7. Everything changed  
To the Duration 4 six  
I had been at 3 different  
army Posts. Dec. they  
put me in the 400<sup>th</sup> Eng  
Seperate Composite Task  
Force Jan/42 was shipped

out from San Francisco  
I had worked for a  
construction company  
and knew how to handle  
dynamite 38 men Total  
I was demolishing Air  
Canton Is. 110 miles  
south of equator built  
a runway for Planes  
going to Australia  
With them for 10 months  
got a foot & leg broke  
Hospital ship To Hawaii  
3rd Combat Eng 24<sup>th</sup>  
Inf. Div. Dec 1942 and  
with them the rest of war  
Been member 24<sup>th</sup> Ys  
since they started  
Life # 130

*A Special Note...*

I have tried To help  
on the different Memorials  
and War at D.C.  
Hope you can read this  
Arthritis and other things  
have me crippled up.  
We never got into  
computers etc.

Thank all you fellows  
If you don't get enough  
let me know.

1st Sgt John S. Baldwin  
3rd Combat Engs  
24th Inf. Div.

The handwritten note at left was sent to Keith Hagen, a member of the Medal of Honor Memorial Committee, in response to Keith's request for donations. (Keith has sent over 500 letters at his own expense so far.)

It is from:

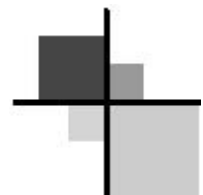
John S. Baldwin  
8929 Stonewall Jackson  
Hwy.  
Front Royal, VA  
22630-5038  
540-635-4474



Thought I'd send you a picture of the Fire Direction Center of the Heavy Mortar Co., 19th Infantry taken on a hot day in May 1951.

I am the shirtless man and the operations Sgt. is ordering Cpl. Garry to put on his jacket. I can only identify the man with his back to the picture as Lou Falvey who ultimately received a battle-field commission. In retrospect, I am sorry I liked going jacketless, as I developed skin cancer later in life.

William (Bill) Garry  
3204 Huntwick Ln.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-3977  
drbillgarry@msn.com





# Re: The 24th Infantry Division History

Dear Tom:

In reading the latest *Taro Leaf* monthly [Vol 63(4) The 24th Infantry Division History, pp 30-34] I noted an error in your history on page 32. You indicated that the Division returned to Japan in early 1955 and returned to Korea in February 1956. Unfortunately that is incorrect.

I arrived in Korea aboard the Gen. Mann in September 1955 and was assigned to the 24th infantry Division, "A" Company 6th Tank Battalion, at Munsan-ni. I left Korea in September 1956. I re-enlisted and was sent to Okinawa, and assigned to the 663rd Artillery Bn. ( 280 MM Atomic Cannon unit) and in the Fall of 1958 the 663rd was re-assigned to Korea just outside of Seoul. While there I decided to hitch a ride up to Munsan

-ni to see if the 6th Tank was still there. It was, so I know the 24th was still there as well.

I hope this helps to clear up that time period. The 24th may have left Korea sometime early 1959.

The picture at right was taken in the 6th Tank Motor Pool in the Fall of 1955. I am on the left and Walter C. Quinn is on the right.

Thank you and I hope you publish more 6th Tank Bn. stories.

Ralph G. Green, 907 Walbash St.  
Salisbury, MD 21804-9326  
410-341-4424,  
choiceman2@aol.com

ED Note: Ralph, you will note at the end of the article that I referenced this as being from "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia © 2001-2006 Wikipedia contributors (Disclaimer)."



Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia that can be contributed to by anyone who has an access code to Wikipedia. It is a self-governed open source encyclopedia that has become one of the most widely-used encyclopedias today.

What this means is that you need to add your first-hand historic experiences to the Wikipedia entry.

Go to Wikipedia.com and then look for the 24th Division. I can help you with this if you'd like. But for history to be correct it should be done.  
Tom

## Another wonderful edition

Thank you for another memorable creation. I wait until after Bob reads the latest copy and then I pick it up to go thru (cover to cover) at my leisure.

The number of veterans now listed in Taps seems to be growing faster all the time. While we are sad to read the many names, we stop to thank God that these men and women came home to lead long lives - hopefully healthy and happy.

It makes us remember those who are gone who didn't get back home - who never lived out their lives - and their families who had to live all of their lives without them.

The *Taro Leaf* is such a vivid reminder, and such a wonderful tribute to all of the 24th Division "warriors."

One has to be so proud that it makes me wonder that there is any room left for criticism and pettiness. Not to belittle anyone else's opinion - and being someone who doesn't skip a word in each publi-

cation - I would like to suggest that it is simple enough to ignore anything one doesn't enjoy reading while going on to read all the other parts.

We hope that you, our Editor, and all the officers and volunteers who keep this organization running so well, will continue to do so and will enjoy Happy and Healthy Holidays. Sincerely, Ann Moncur

Bob and Ann Moncur  
98 Woodland Rd.  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-4220  
908-463-0218





# My "Occupation" of Japan, 1946-47, by Don Van Beck

I had just graduated from Marion Military Academy in Aurora, IL at the age of 16 in 1945. So, with nothing better to do, when the Army offered an eighteen-month enlistment program in 1946 I joined the Army to "see the world."

After four weeks of basic training at Fort Jackson, SC and one week of leave, I was one of 1,700 troops that boarded the USS LEJEUNE, a German luxury liner that had been converted to a troop ship.

The "luxury" sleeping accommodations were pipe racks, with 5 high canvas "mattresses." Gourmet meals were beans and franks for breakfast and on alternating days we had SOS. The "mess hall" had tables where we stood up for all our meals. And 55-gallon metal barrels were strapped to bulkheads throughout the ship.

Shortly after we went under the Golden Gate Bridge we ran into what are called "ground swells," that are long rollers waves that appeared to be over 70 feet high. One moment you're in a trough and there is water all around you and the next you are on top of a swell and cannot see water at all!

An ex-navy man told me two important things, never stand downwind of someone vomiting, and always sleep in a top rack! One day into the trip the use of the 55 gallon



From left to right: Bernie Michaels, John Hastings, Don Van Beck and Royal "Red" Hazlett. This is a US Army Piper Cub that was used for "spotting." Picture taken in the field in front of barracks at Camp Mower in Sasebo, Japan

barrels became clear.

We bypassed Hawaii because there was a typhoon, but unfortunately we did not bypass the typhoon. We were in it for five days.

The only personnel with life jackets were the Navy crew and the Marine guards; this gave us a warm and fuzzy feeling especially with first the bow coming out of the water as we passed over the top of a wave followed by the stern and the props as the ship started down to plow into the next wave!

We finally cleared the storm and three days later the engines stopped and the general alarm sounded. A WWII mine was floating near the ship and the Marines were attempting to sink it with rifle fire. It kept floating nearer to us when they finally sank it. If they had hit one of the "spines" I'm sure we would have been hit with the flak.

We arrived in Japan safe and sound after 25 days, but I left 25 pounds of myself in those damned barrels.

We went to the 4th Replacement Depot at Camp Zama. Each morning we fell out to the parade-ground with our duffle bags for assignment to various units in Japan. There were several thousand of us and they called out about 100 names each day. Those not called went back to the barracks.

I fell out every morning for almost a month until I was the last guy left! I identified myself to the Officer in Charge and after looking through a stack of paper measuring in feet, he said I had been called three weeks before and was AWOL! Welcome to Japan.

My original assignment was with the 101st in Hokkaido, but someone else had been sent. So instead I was to now go to the 24th Inf. Div., 34th Inf. Regiment Headquarters, Cannon Company in Sasebo.

On the train trip to Sasebo, we went through Hiroshima, which was of course still a disaster area. It appeared nothing had been done since the A-bomb was dropped.

Sasebo had received several U.S. fire bomb raids so there wasn't much left of it except for the rail station, a government building and

*(Japan Continued on page 34)*

a two story  
dance hall  
called the  
Kasbah.

They served  
warm Japa-  
nese beer  
wrapped in a  
straw cover.  
The second  
floor was a  
balcony  
wrapped  
around the

whole building and it was a great  
place to watch the "action" down  
below.

Our Headquarters and the rest of  
our regiment was at Camp Mower  
outside of town; Colonel Ralph  
Bing was Regimental Commander.

I was given a rifle and started pull-  
ing "guard" duty on the waterfront  
at Sasebo Bay. There was a large  
cave there stacked high with Japa-  
nese weapons and supplies. With-  
out that A-bomb we might still be  
fighting there.

The most excitement I had was  
when a Destroyer Escort pulled up  
and a shore party came in looking  
for food; they had missed their sup-  
ply ship. We gave them some C and  
K rations and you would have  
thought they had found gold.

After some time there someone in  
Headquarters discovered that I was



34th Infantry Headquarters Staff: Front row left to right: James R. Denman, Denny Main, Royal "Red" Hazlett, Richard Poe, Bernard Michaels, Bill Helfrid and Kent Hoopes. Standing, from left: Victor E. Javier, Bill Barham, Un-  
known, Myron A. Nigh, Donald L. Van Beck (aka Van Glabeke), Cleland L. Whorton, Lloyd H. Wagner, Henry J.A. Bailey, George H. Egan, Bernard Goodman, Bob Kraiman, John C. Hastings , Arthur Doherty, and Tadashi Ogawa.

able to type. I was told to turn in  
my M-1, get out of my 5 button roll,  
herring bone twills, boots and bon-  
net, get into my Class A's and re-  
port to the Classification Section.

I became an understudy to the  
Chief Classification Specialist and  
soon thereafter he went back state-  
side and I was promoted to PFC  
and then T-5, which was the fastest  
thing alive going to an NCO meet-  
ing.

The Classification Section handled  
all the Form 20's (Enlisted Quali-  
fication Record), selected men for  
schools, special training, continu-  
ously updated the records of all  
personnel, etc. My boss was Lt.  
Harlan Gilman

For excitement, we were offered  
the monthly meetings with the  
Chaplin who lectured us on the  
evils of sex with the natives and the  
Regimental Doctor who would then

lecture us on  
STD preven-  
tative measures.  
And, the VD  
slide shows  
were always in-  
teresting.

I took part in  
several night-  
time medic VD  
raids where  
some "ladies of  
the night" were  
picked up and  
tested (I won't  
go into the de-  
tails), had their

ID's registered, were given some  
medicine and then let go. The MP's  
would then declare the area "off  
limits," and the next day these en-  
trepreneurs would pack all their  
stuff in a two wheel pull cart and  
move to the other side of town.

The Japanese baths in the base-  
ment of our downtown Sasebo  
Headquarters were special! You  
would strip off your clothes and sit  
on a little stool while the bath la-  
dies gave you a good scrubbing.

You then crawled to the pool full of  
"boiling" hot water; it took forever  
to finally get yourself completely  
submerged. And, if you stayed in  
the pool very long you needed help  
getting out because you were so  
weak. Ah, yes, I still remember this  
hardship duty.

We were not far from Nagasaki, so



we took several day trips there. One day we were there when they were removing bodies from the vats behind the medical center, which happened to be one of the few concrete buildings in the city.

Each body had a wooden ID wired to its big toe that gave the location from ground zero where the body was found. They were taking them to be examined. The medical building had a concrete balcony that ran all around the building. On the third floor someone had been caught outside when the A Bomb detonated and his "shadow" from the waist up was left on the wall.

In June 1947 we had the dedication of our post as Camp Mower. This was a three day holiday and we had a field day with free drinks.

In August, several of us went on R&R to Karatsu Rest Hotel in Karatsu, Kyushu. There were no beds so we slept on mats on the floor. I played some golf and drank warm beer.

My three close "buddies" and I were basically "running" the paperwork for the 34th. So, we hatched a plot to send ourselves back to the ZI early.

All went well with a going away



party at 34th HQ and then we cleared Division and got to Tokyo. We settled comfortably into our "yacht," and began to breathe easier as we sailed for home.

We arrived in California where a band was playing, and wives and kids were meeting their husbands and dads.

Up to now our scheme had worked perfectly! But that changed dramatically when we got in line to be mustered out!

Jim Denman was first in line. The Officer in Charge looked at his papers and yelled: "What the hell are you doing here? You are not supposed to be discharged for another four months!" *Stand Over There!!*

Next in line was Barney Michaels; same problem, same result. Next was Royal Hazlett. Next was me. By now the Officer was more than a

little pissed. He tore us a new one and threatened to send us back.

Finally, he indicated we would be assigned to MP duty at the Oakland Army Base. This was when they were returning all the bodies from the South Pacific.

So, I spent the next couple of months riding shotgun across the Bay Bridge while my buddies guarded the draped caskets that were awaiting escorts to take them

home.

Since we had not had any milk for over a year we made up for it at the chow hall. It was open 24 hours and served 5 meals a day. There were cases of milk at the door and we all drank at least 3 to 4 quarts a day.

But all good things must come to an end. I was convinced to join the "inactive" reserves before my discharge.

Then in August of 1950 they decided they could not hold a Korean "Police Action" without my help, so back to the Olive Drab, but that is another story for another time.

Donald L. Van Beck  
32004 Harris Rd  
Tavares, FL 32778-4630  
352-343-1529  
seafari.vb@juno.com



# The Voice of the Old

By N. Paul Lund

Is it really so tough for the young to understand  
The words of a man who's grown old  
No one listens to those who took a stand  
And built a country so strong and bold.

They were born in the years of the horse and the cart  
And some are alive today  
To the Depression and War they gave all their heart  
So we could have all that we have today.

They tell us the stories of lives they have lived  
The stories of good times and bad  
The blood sweat and tears and all that they gave  
And how it took all that they had.

They all pulled together when the country went to war

The soldiers had all our support  
Women went to work with men off to war  
And all prayed for a hopeful report.

When the war had ended and the men came home  
They resumed a traditional roll  
The men all went out and worked their fingers to the bone  
And the women kept home under control.

They have lived this life with the strength of stone  
Their lessons were many and their riches

were few  
But they honored their nation, their wives, and their homes

And over the years their wisdom grew.

They are grandma's and grandpa's to a nation in need

Their words are many and actions are slow  
But just take a few minutes and listen to their deeds  
And you'll learn something you didn't yet know.

Find an old man who's words will ring true  
His wisdom is worth more than gold  
My hat is off and my salute is to you  
To the voice of the man who's grown old.

This poem was written by 33 year old N. Paul Lund in honor of this nation's older generation. Like his dearest friend and mentor, Laurence Personni, Life Member 2341, the older generation helped make this country strong, fought in World War II, and gave the younger generations of their children, grand children, and great grand children, an example of highest character, courage, and family values.

Laurence E. Personeni  
10126 Bitney Springs Rd.  
Nevada City CA 95959-9011  
530-273-4507

**Your help is needed** to update and add to our 24th Infantry Division Association files. Only you can help us to make sure our files are complete today and for the future. Send all address, phone and email changes today to:  
[jokdunn@aol.com](mailto:jokdunn@aol.com) or  
[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)

|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                       |                                               |                                                                                               |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                           | Send Dues &<br>Address<br>Changes To: |                                               |                                                                                               |
| <small>24th Infantry Division Association<br/>Secretary/Treasurer<br/>John A. Dunn—2nd Infantry<br/>9150 Hwy. 51<br/>Westover, AL 35147-9527<br/>205-678-6165<br/>jokdunn@aol.com</small> |                                       |                                               |                                                                                               |
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# I remember Hill 1157 *by Eugene Ames, "A" 21st Regiment*

I remember Hill 1157.

We could see it the day before, looming up in the distance. We were told that we were going to move up to where the North Koreans held the top.

It was March 7, 1951.

They said it had snowed up there the night before. But it was thought there was no more than a platoon up there. And it was our job to take it from them. Piece of cake. Sure.

We picked up our gear and during the night hours they boarded us on trucks and then unloaded us just below the mountain.

We began the arduous ascent along a long twisting finger on the right side of the mountain. In single file, with very little banter and just the sound of tromping feet and the equipment rubbing against us.

Day began to break as we neared the crest. We were loaded down with bandoliers and ammo cans for the machine guns. The iced over, encrusted snow became a real problem. In the saddle of the mountain, with the weight of all the equipment, the icy crust would give way and we would find ourselves deep in snow right up to the crotch. We would have to lay prone on the snow and pull our legs out and try to get back on our feet.

It was extremely tiring and cold. The slow progress finally brought

us to the high promontory. There was only a narrow place to get around to where the enemy was dug in. And only room enough for a squad or two to get in position.

Two men were sent out on point to locate the enemy. One was Donald Fortner, the other was a Greek kid named James Tsitsinos. They weren't gone long when we heard some muffled explosions. One was shot and the other had his throat slit, a hand grenade put down his field jacket and both were thrown off the cliff. From time to time, I had to pull point. It could have been me.

We began to receive rifle and machine gun fire. The day began to wane and there was little place to get a foot hold. We would slide down after firing shots and would have to re-position ourselves. It was a hell of a place to be. There was an enemy machine gun nest at the bottom of the rocky knoll and also fire coming from the top. The enemy had us contained. No place to dig in that rocky ground! Only the cover of darkness protected us.

We fought all night, returning enemy fire. My field gloves had three digits worn through and my fingers were exposed to the bitter cold.

The receiver on my M1 rifle was very cold and working the bolt and securing 8 round ammo clips was extremely difficult. After a while I put the clips in with my knuckles

and then tried to put them in with my left hand. But I managed.

As day break came, we heard a wimp, wimp, whup and didn't know what the sound was at first. (Sometimes incoming artillery shells sound like that.) But then, here comes a helicopter.

Over the trees, sideways! Never had seen a helicopter before then. It was very close to us and with its sides open, it fired on the enemy with a recoilless rifle. Man, what a sight! How elated we were to see that!

Shows of disbelief and excitement! It fired on the enemy and knocked them off the knoll. Later a flame thrower was moved up and that took care of the rest. A couple of the enemy came out, waving white flags. But our guys were so incensed and infuriated about Fortner and Tsitsinos, that they all opened fire. No prisoners that day (that I know of).

I believe that this was the first time a helicopter had been used in this fashion. Prior to this, they had been used to transport casualties. This is just one of many incidents burned into my memory that fifty-eight years hasn't faded away.

Eugene Ames, A Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2711 39th Ave. W, Bradenton, FL, 205-3540, 941-756-7623, [sojourners2@verizon.net](mailto:sojourners2@verizon.net)

# Notices

## 24th West Coast Reunion

28-31 March, 2010

Laughlin, NV 89029

Room Rates \$28.00

Room reservations 800-662-5825 under contract #C-WCR10 by 14 March 2010 to qualify for the \$28.00 rate.

Contact Byrd or D.J. Schrock

(520) 678-0207 or (520) 678-0513

[byrd2a@cox.net](mailto:byrd2a@cox.net)

## Korean Defense Veterans of America, Inc.

We express our sincere appreciation to the KDVA for a \$1,000.00 donation in memory of **Norm Treadway**, KDVA National Commander. Facilitated by Tom Murray, 3279 E. Boquillas Dr., Kingman, AZ 86409 928-692-2230.

## 5th RCT Association

18th Annual Reunion—Northern Kentucky

Apr. 28 to May 2, 2010

Drawbridge Inn, Ft Mitchell, KY, (859) 341-2800

800-354-9793 for room reservations mention 5RCT

Deadline Mar. 29, 2010

Anthony C. Kreiner,

5070 Bell Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45242-3804

(513) 891-2870

## 19th and 34th Mini- Reunion

April 26-28, 2010, Pigeon Forge, TN

Bob Taylor

Tel: 828-884-9593 [bobnjoan@citcom.net](mailto:bobnjoan@citcom.net)

## Florida Annual Mini Reunion

### 5th RCT Association (17th) and Central Florida 24th IDA Group (1st)

Thursday November 4 through Sunday November 7, 2010

Holiday Inn, 860 Hwy A1A Beach Blvd, St. Augustine Beach, Florida

Rooms: \$79 plus tax: 904-471-2555/800-626-7263

Reunion registration deadline: October 23, 2010; Contact: Bill Kane, 5023 Andrea Blvd, Orlando, FL 32807, 407-275-7450 or 407-421-4465 cell; email: [kcrabbybill@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrabbybill@yahoo.com)

## Central Florida 24th IDA Group

### Florida 24th IDA Members (and all members in FL then)

Dutch Treat Luncheons, Golden Corral, Leesburg Florida, 11:30 a.m.

Scheduled: Feb 10, May 5 and Aug. 4, November Reunion (see above)

Space limited; contact: Tom Thiel, 352-357-3943 [cf24ida@gmail.com](mailto:cf24ida@gmail.com)

or

Bill Stokes, 352-750-6952 [wsswriter@netzero.com](mailto:wsswriter@netzero.com)





# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

(Continued from page 6)

**James D. "Bill" Cofer Sr.**, Holdenville, OK, passed away Oct. 28. Bill was with L Company, **34th Infantry Regiment**, when he was captured Jul. 20, 1950 at Taejon. He was a Tiger Survivor, being repatriated on August 29, 1953. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Pauline Cofer, 3503 N. 372d Road, Holdenville, OK 74845.

**Edward Joseph Ehrhardt**, of Sulphur Springs, TX, passed away Nov. 3, 2009. He joined the **21st Infantry Regiment** on Dec. 26, 1942, and saw active duty in New Guinea and the Philippines. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Norma Himrod Ehrhardt.

**Andrew R. Garcia**, passed away Oct. 20th 2009 in Kinston AL. He was a member of I Company, **21st Infantry Regiment** when captured on Jul. 12, 1950; he was a Tiger Survivor. His wife Kathleen preceded him to Glory. Cards may be sent to Sandy Reichardt, PO Box 482, Allenspark, CO 80510-0482.

**Forrest Melvin Good**, 87 passed away Dec. 13, 2009, in North English, IA. He was a Sergeant in the **24th Infantry Division** where he was in the first assault wave in the Philippines and rec'd a Purple Heart. He also served in Japan. Mrs. Maxine Good. 221 N Highland St, North English, IA 52316-9600.

**Ira Harris Green, Sr.**, passed away Nov. 23, 2009, in Houston. He served sixteen months in Korea where he served in the **24th Infantry Division** and later in the 1st Cavalry Division. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Margaret Kathryn Green.

**Glen R. Horn Sr.**, 85, of Shippensburg, PA, died Dec. 6, 2009, at Chambersburg Hospital. He served with the **24th Infantry Division** from Feb. 22, 1946 to Feb. 21, 1949. Mr. Horn is survived by his wife, Janet and four children.

**Marshall Farmer**, 80, of Greenville, SC, died on Dec. 2, 2009. A 1950 graduate of Clemson University, Mr. Farmer was a First Lieutenant Infantry Platoon leader with the **21st Infantry Regiment** in the Korean War. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, a son and three daughters.

**Alex French IV**, Staff Sgt., 1st Battalion, **21st Infantry Regiment**, was killed in action in Afghanistan on Sept. 30, 2009. (see page 42)

**Walter Paul Habash**, 77, of Lino Lakes, MN, died Jan. 4, 2010. Walter was born in Steubenville, Ohio, and was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ann. He earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service with the **24th Infantry Division** in Korea.

**Lloyd Preston Johnson**, 80, of Somerset Kentucky, passed away Apr. 25th, 2009 in Somerset. He served in Japan from 1947-1950, and Korea Jul. 5, 1950 to Jun. 1951, with E Company, **19th Regiment**. He was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by one daughter, one son and one brother.

**Gordon Keller**, 82, known to many simply as the "Piano Man," died Oct. 25, 2009 in Alexandria, VA. He was stationed in Japan, serving supply for the **24th Infantry Division** and playing string bass in an Army jazz band. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Alice Keller.

**Sammy B. Lawing**, CO A, **19th Infantry Regiment**, passed away Dec. 4, 2009. He was wounded two times and was POW in Korea for 32 months. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Montez Lawing, 1580 Eddy St, Merritt Island, FL 32952-5733.

**Carl E. Lindberg**, 93, Worcester, MA, passed away Jan. 6, 2010, at St. Mary Healthcare Center. Carl was a Sergeant in the **34th Infantry Regiment**. He leaves his wife of 70 years, Elvira E. (Johnson) Lindberg.

**Arthur H. Marthens**, 84, of Annapolis, MD died on Nov. 19, 2009 in Washington D.C. He served during World War II in the **19th Infantry Regiment**, Head-

# The *Taro Leaf*TAPS

(Continued from page 39)

quarters Company in New Guinea and the Philippines, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Mrs. Marla J. Marthens, 751 Bon Haven Dr, Annapolis, MD 21401-7107.

**Nicholas "Mickey" Matviya**, 92, passed away Nov. 7, 2009 in Latrobe, Pa. He served for more than 3 years with the **11th Field Artillery** in the South Pacific, including Luzon, the Philippines, and New Guinea. He is survived by his wife Mildred, a son, Thomas, a daughter Patricia.

**Robert "Bud," "Bob," McGee**, of Levittown, PA died Nov. 30, 2009, at his home. A veteran of the U.S. Army's **24th Infantry Division**, Bob was a member of the Victory Sport Parachute Team stationed in Europe. Bob is survived by his wife Claire, and three children.

**Ernest A "Ernie" Morfin** died Jan. 3, 2010 in Battle Mountain, NV. He served in the **34th Regiment** from Feb. 1945 to May 1946 and received the Purple Heart. Mrs. Mary Morfin, 74 W 4th St, Battle Mountain, NV, 89820-1973.

**Fred Morse** died on Sept. 23, 2003 in Flint MI. He was with the **34th Regiment**, at Camp Mower in Sa-sebo, Japan, Jan. 1950, and in Korea; after the ambush in Taejon he was placed with the **19th Regiment**. John Tucker, johntucker1@yahoo.com.

**Edward L. Phillips**, Col. Ret., Virginia Beach, VA passed away Dec. 30, 2009. He was the Discom Commander of the **24th Infantry Division**. His wife, Patricia Ann, and son, Edward L., predeceased him, and he is survived by four daughters. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery Apr. 5, 2010.

**Harry A. Putnam**, 81, Bordentown, NJ died on Dec. 11, 2009, in Mt. Holly, NJ. He was in the **24th Infantry Division** in Japan in 1950, and in Korea 1950 to 1951. Mrs. Anne S. Putnam of Bordentown, NJ.

**Wade E. Sanders**, Santa Maria, CA, passed away on Jul. 11, 2009. Lew Howell says he is sure Wade was a **24th Division veteran** from Korea. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Doris Sanders. Santa Maria, CA.

**Aaron Stewart**, 94, of Oklahoma City, OK, passed away Jan. 9, 2010. He served in the Army Air Corps with the **24th Infantry Division** during WWII in the Philippines. Mrs. Ruth Stewart, 1601 SW 119th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73170-4902.

**John R. Szarpa**, Company C, **5th RCT** (53-54), a survivor of the battle for Outpost Harry died Nov. 8, 2009 in Buffalo, NY. Services at the Barron-Miller Funeral Home, 3025 William St., Cheektowaga, NY.

**Royal V Tiner** died Sep. 3, 2009 in Lumberton TX. Royal served in **B Battery, 63d Field Artillery Battalion** at Camp Hakata, Japan and entered Korea on July 6, 1950. He was with the battalion on Jul. 14, 1950 on the Kum River. His home address was Royal V. Tiner 6737 Pepper Lane Lumberton Texas 77657.

**Herbert W. Wilkes, Jr.**, Ltc Ret., passed away on Oct. 10, 2009, in Murrells Inlet, SC. He served in the **63rd Field Artillery BN** in Camp Hakata, Japan, and in Korea in July 1950; awd Silver Star. (*Taro Leaf* 60(1) Winter 2006, pg 32.) Mrs. Mary Wilkes, 26 Evergreen Circle, Surfside Beach, SC 29575.

## Send TAPS Notices

to the

## Taro Leaf Editor

(Please include a photo)

[thetaroleaf@gmail.com](mailto:thetaroleaf@gmail.com)

19147 Park Place Blvd.

Eustis, FL 32736







## General Stanley A McChrystal (photo at left)

Commander, International Security Assistance Force/  
Commander, United States Forces Afghanistan  
United States Army

The following extracted from his long list of credentials.

Nov 82 Sep 84 Commander, A Company, 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Georgia

Sep 84 Sep 85 S3 (Operations), 3d Battalion, 19th Infantry, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Georgia

In July 2008, member **Charles E. Garrett** died in Switzerland. He was interred at Arlington Cemetery, but his wife Margrit was unable to attend. So, **Michael and Candee Doherty** attended on her behalf, and sent the flag and photographs of the interment to Margrit. Below is part of her Christmas card and pictures thanking the Association for its help. Actions like this makes the Association appreciated by our members and illustrates the reason for our existence. With regards, Don Maggio.  
[See: The Taro Leaf Vol. 62(4) Fall Page 42 for article/photo and page 9 for the TAPS Notice.]

*Dear Don,*

*I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and all the good wishes for a Happy New Year. At the moment we still have no snow [in Rorschach, Switzerland] – this is very unusual for this [time of] year...*

*This year I will stay here in the apartment...there...are memories of Charlie. I miss him each day so very much. But I also know that he is with me each day. I sent you...[a] calendar and I would be thankful if you could send it to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Doherty... He was with his wife at the Arlington funeral for Charlie and accepted [the] flag... I am forever thankful for all you and your friends have done for me.*

*With greeting from Bodensee (Lake Constance), Margrit*



Margrit and Charlie

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# Baker and Teruya visit new "Star Wars" rifle range

Tom

Captain Peter Leu of the Military Intelligence group at the Defense Language Institute here in Monterey invited Henry Teruya and me to see their new rifle range. Remember that old rifle range--rain, mud, snow, Maggie's drawers? Well today it is in an old warehouse with a plush carpet! It's Star Wars! Everything on computers. A machine

gun, electronic controls. Henry said to me: "What the hell is this?"

John Baker  
Life member 2061  
839 Newton St.  
Monterey CA 93940-9394  
831-375-3328

(Right) Yoshinobu Teruya, who served with Task Force Smith, at Osan Korea July 1950

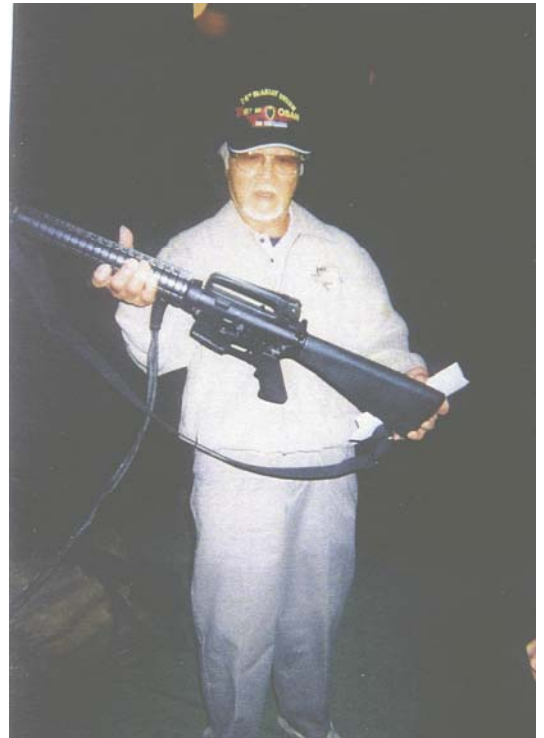
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Salinas, CA 93901-1837



Association members Henry Teruya (left) and John Baker (right) speculating whether they might have been able to stop the North Koreans with this weapon!



Baker (left) with Lisa Metcalf of the Institute. Lisa was a Captain – Pilot flying Apache helicopters during the first Gulf War. She left the service and took a position with the Defense Department. She is now using her skills with computers!



## 21st IR-Staff Sgt. Alex French IV (inset above)

U.S. Soldiers from the Georgia Army National Guard's 21st Infantry Regiment, pay their respects during a memorial ceremony for Staff Sgt. Alex French IV at Camp Clark, Afghanistan, Oct. 4, 2009. French was killed in action by an improvised explosive device on Sept. 30, 2009. DoD photo (above) by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Evelyn Chavez.

The article on the facing page was submitted by Life Member 862, **Joseph A. Mieleszko**, Box 103, North Hatfield, MA 01066-0103, 413-247-5512. Joseph was a member of the Pearl Harbor Attack Veterans, Post #1.





# Western Massachusetts Survivors Group Disbands



Staff photo by DAVE ROBACK

From the left, seated are Joseph A. Mieleszko, and Robert A. Greenleaf; from left standing, are Augie Woickoski, Harry L. Chandler, Charles J. Lockhart, and Chester Stoklosa.

*Editor's note: Following are excerpts from an article, written by Cynthia G. Simison that appeared in the Springfield, Massachusetts newspaper The Republican.*

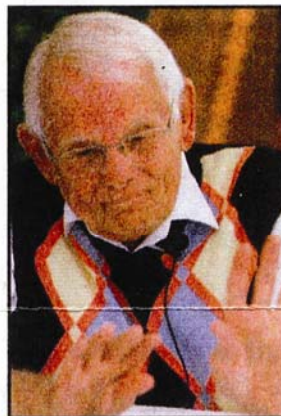
**HOLYOKE** -Unlike the events of close to 70 years ago that bind them together, this day came as no surprise. "We've known for years; sooner or later, this was going to happen," said Robert A. Greenleaf, of Westfield.

Closing in on 86 years, he knows that age, in and of itself, may mean "this" could well have been the last time he'll see some of his compatriots, all of them first-hand witnesses to the events that thrust the United States into World War II. Sadness? No, he said: rather it is yet another acknowledgement that time is passing, even though their recollections of the morning of Sunday Dec. 7, 1941, remain inextricably a part of their daily lives.

Mieleszko's chin still quivers and his voice becomes teary when he remembers what he saw from his "front row seat to history." Caught in a traffic jam in Honolulu as he rushed to the harbor after a night on the town. "As we were passing the harbor, the second wave of bombing began." "We just sat there and watched."

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing," said Harry L. Chandler, 87, of South Hadley, who as a Navy hospital corpsman was trucked from his barracks in his Sunday "whites" to confront the horror of Battleship row. "People who saw the film 'Tora, Tora' ask me if it was like that. I say 'No.' You don't smell the burning flesh, you don't smell the burning

oil," Chandler said halting the interview. Then he added, "You just can't imagine." As they close this chapter of their history, the members of their group called Pearl Harbor Attack Veterans worry less about how they will be remembered and more about whether Dec. 7, 1941 and its lessons will be forgotten. Greenleaf, for instance, remembers the



Staff photo by DAVE ROBACK

encounter he had with some high school girl soccer players at the track at West Field High School some-odd twenty years ago when he was doing some long-distance running. When they met at the water fountain, he asked what any of them knew about Pearl Harbor.

"Who is she," one girl asked me, Robert Greenleaf recalled.

**Robert A. Greenleaf**

Survivors Chandler, Lockhart, Greenleaf, and Mieleszko, are listed as members of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in the January 1, 2009 list of members.







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*Looking Forward*

# 2011 24th IDA Reunion

## Dayton, Ohio September 2011

